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NATIONAL JOINT COMMITTEE

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22nd February 2019.

Hon. President Maithripala Sirisena,
The Presidential Secretariat,
Colombo 1.

Dear Mr. President,

The people did not elect you or your government to prosecute the war heroes that defeated the LTTE which was designated by none other than the American State Department as the world's most ruthless terrorist organization. However since your government came into power it has enacted several laws with the aim of prosecuting our war heroes and to fabricate evidence against them. Office of the Missing Persons Act is one such law. Your government appointed individuals who openly canvassed against Sri Lanka before the Human Rights Commission to hold office in the Office of Missing Persons. Treacherous politicians who were of the view that the security forces of Sri Lanka could never defeat the LTTE were behind this move.

It is well known that these treacherous politicians had secret discussions with the TNA that identified the LTTE as the sole representative of the Tamil people and also with the Tamil diaspora supportive of the LTTE not only to prosecute our war heroes but to put Sri Lanka on the dock so that the International community could interfere in our internal affairs which will pave the way for a federal state. These were the treacherous politicians that ridiculed the Sri Lanka Army by saying that the Commander of the Army was not fit to even command the Salvation Army and when the Army advanced to Kilinochchi said that it had only advanced to Madawatchchi. When Sri Lanka Army advanced to Alimankada they said that it had only advanced to Pamankada. Their leader who knew nothing about military strategy condemned Thoppigala a ground of tactical importance as just another unimportant hilltop covered by dense jungle.

We also regrettably note that you and your government appointed a foreign minister who cosponsored UNHRC Resolution 30/1 against his own country either with or without your knowledge. This is an act that no self-respecting nation will ever sanction. In the event that the foreign minister acted sans your knowledge to cosponsor the said resolution it is yet not too late for you as head of state and the Commander in Chief of the Armed Forces to withdraw from being a cosponsor of the said resolution when it next comes for review at the UNHCR. The said resolution is being made use of by the treacherous politicians in the government for a witch hunt to not only discredit the security forces but also to prosecute war heroes the latest effort being to arrest the war time Sri Lanka Navy Commander Admiral Wasatha Karannagoda (Retd.)

Therefore at the UNHCR next scheduled review the NJC request you to table the second mandate of the Maxwell Paranagama Presidential Commission report that was prepared by Right Honourable Sir Desmond de Silva, QC. (UK) who was Chairman of the legal Advisory Council together with Professor Sir Geoffrey Nice QC. (UK) and Professor David M. Crane (USA), who contributed specific legal opinions that collectively became a legal bedrock of this Report. The final distillation of the law was that of the Chairman of the Advisory Council working together with the members of the Commission. The Advisory Council was ably supported by Mr. Rodney Dixon, QC. (UK/ South Africa), Professor Michael Newton (USA) Vanderbilt University who formerly served as the Senior Advisor to the United States Ambassador-at-Large for War Crimes, Commander William Fenrick (Canada), Professor Nina Jorgensen of Harvard and the Chinese University of Hong Kong, and Major General John Holmes, DSO, OBE, MC (UK) former Commanding Officer of the Special Air Service (SAS), who provided the advisory council with an independent Military Report. This second mandate of the Paranagama Commission report that has been meticulously prepared will counter all unsubstantiated allegations made against the government of Sri Lanka and its security forces including those mentioned by the Darusman Panel.

United States of America the main sponsor of the said Resolution has pulled out of the UNHRC calling it a cesspool of political bias while UK another sponsor has been criticized by Lord Naseby during a debate in the British Parliament wherein he said that no one in the Sri Lankan Government ever wanted to kill Tamil civilians. Therefore he requested UK to get the UN and the UNHRC in Geneva to accept a civilian casualty level of 7000 to 8000 based on the information that he researched and presented and not the present speculated figure of 40000. He also further pointed out that this war in Sri Lanka was against terrorism and that therefore the rules of engagement should be based on International Humanitarian Law and not on the European Convention on Human Rights. The National Joint Committee therefore request you not only to table the second mandate of the Maxwell Paranagama Presidential Commission report at the next UNHRC review but also to make use of the Lord Naseby revelations to the British parliament to withdraw from being a cosponsor of Resolution 30/1 of the UNHCR.

Yours faithfully,

Anil Amarasekera/-

Lt Col. A.S. Amarasekera. Retd.

Co-President National Joint Committee.

