



To:

The Honorable Minister of Justice,
The Honorable Minister of Foreign Affairs,
of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka,

Submitted through the good offices of his Excellency the High Commissioner
of Sri Lanka in Canada.

Honoured Ministers,

We, as a group of concerned Sri Lankan Canadians, across Canada appeal to you, as our leaders and as the leaders of Sri Lanka, to take note of the falsification of history by diaspora groups who have manipulated three Canadian Municipalities (Toronto, Brampton and Pickering) to declare May 18 as the Sri Lankan "Tamil Genocide commemoration day". There is also a Bill tabled at the Ontario Legislature named "Bill 104: Tamil Genocide Education Week in Ontario" by Hon MPP named Vijay Thanigasalam.

No such "Genocide of Tamil people" ever occurred in Sri Lanka. The Tamil population at the 1946 census, just before independence was 734,000, increasing to 2.3 million Tamils at the 2011 census, just after the Eelam wars. Even if we leave aside the emigration of some 0.9 million Tamils out of the country, the Tamil population has increased by a factor of more than three,, exactly in step with the increase of the Sinhalese population. So the claim of a "Genocide of Tamils" is clearly false

There were many deaths during the Eelam wars, equally affecting ALL ethnic groups living in Sri Lanka. The specific claim that some 40,000 Tamils were killed during the last days of the Eelam wars is a matter under consideration by the UNHRC, and contested by many knowledgeable authorities including a British House of Lords investigation group led by Lord Neseby who, using information from diplomatic dispatches and other evidence, estimated casualties at the level of less than 7000. No mass graves corresponding to 40,000 dead has been found. If 40,000 were killed, a typical figure of some 160,000 injured people are expected, but no such injured were discovered at the end of the war.

Foreign Minister Marapana's speech at Geneva this year covers all these matters succinctly and authoritatively. We take heart in his masterly presentation.

So we as Sri Lankan Canadians submit to you that certain politically motivated diaspora groups who hope to derail the process of ethnic reconciliation have exploited the relative lack of interest of non-Sri Lankan Canadians to legislate a "Tamil Genocide Day", and attempt to sow ethnic disharmony in a manner inimical to Sri Lanka's national interests.

We urge you to use your good offices and convey to the Canadian government, the official position of the Sri Lankan government on the claim that there has been a "genocide of the Tamils in Sri Lanka".

We urge you to take all steps possible to ensure that falsified history does not become a main-stream belief set by default, by making clear public statements on the matter.

We urge you to move, in the Sri Lankan Parliament, a statement on the matter of claimed Tamil genocide, as a corollary to Minister Marapana's authoritative presentation in Geneva this year. We also request you to move, in the Sri Lankan Parliament and in next session of UNHCR a statement to denounce foreign municipalities such as City of Toronto, Brampton and Ontario making false Tamil Genocide claims and also the false mis-information contained in the Bill 104 tabled in Ontario province.

As discussed in person with Hon. Minister Thalatha Athukorala and Deputy High Commissioner Mrs. Sithara Khan in Ottawa on the 31st of May in Ottawa, we need to make every effort in maintaining ethnic harmony.

Thank you

Sri Lankan Canadian Action Coalition

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