



I.B.R.O.  
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11<sup>th</sup> January 2021

Rt Hon Dominic Raab MP  
Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs  
Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs Office  
King Charles Street  
London SW1A 2AH

Dear Secretary of State,

**Re: Tamil Diaspora in U.K.**

I understand that some organizations representing the extreme elements of the Tamil Diaspora in the UK have requested the UK Government to bring a resolution calling for an **International Independent Investigative Mechanism (IIIM)** relating to Sri Lanka at the forthcoming session of the UN Human Rights Council in Geneva in March 2021. While this call is nothing but a sinister motivation of the extreme Tamil Diaspora, I must say that the silent majority of British Tamils of Sri Lankan origin does not support such action.

As a Buddhist monk based in Birmingham, I associate closely with faith leaders in Birmingham and British citizens of various origins including Tamils from Sri Lanka. While the extreme elements of the Tamil Diaspora which is quite vocal but represents the minority make such demands, the silent majority of Tamils want to live with other communities in harmony and move forward rather than dwelling in the past.

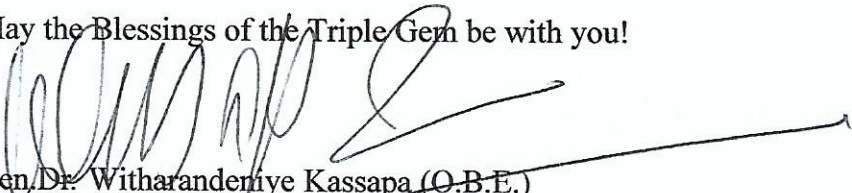
What the Tamils in Sri Lanka need is to rebuild their lives after the end of the terrorist conflict in 2009. What they expect is a shelter above their heads, schools for their children, good education and healthcare facilities as well as livelihood.

Unfortunately, none of the British Tamil organizations who demand action against Sri Lanka and collect funds for promoting terrorism, has done anything to assist the Tamils back in Sri Lanka. Only the other hand, other associations of Sri Lankans in the UK, including British Sri Lankan Forum, our two organizations Midlands International Buddhist Association in the UK (MIBAUK) and the International Buddhist Relief Organization (IBRO) and few other professional genuine charities which represent all Sri Lankan ethnic groups are working with the Government of Sri Lanka for the benefit of all Sri Lankans, implementing various projects for the needy Sri Lankans. I suggest that you encourage the Tamil Diaspora organizations that call for action against Sri Lanka to contribute to the development of the North and the East of Sri Lanka, if they are genuinely concerned about the welfare of the Tamils in Sri Lanka.

Today, Sri Lanka is a peaceful country where Sri Lankans of all ethnicities live in harmony. Bringing action against Sri Lanka will not help the inter-ethnic harmony and reconciliation among the ethnic groups that make Sri Lanka their home and not augur well for the multi-ethnic British Sri Lankan community. Such action will only contribute to further division among and polarize our society. As responsible citizens and community leaders of this country we should act wisely and honestly to heal wounds and spread loving kindness, unity, harmony and friendship amongst people rather digging old graves and create more anger, hatred and continues fighting amongst ourselves.

As a religious leader working for the interfaith and inter-ethnic harmony in the UK, I wish to emphasize to you that heeding to the demands of the extreme elements of the Tamil Diaspora to initiate action against Sri Lanka would only be counterproductive. Sri Lanka is a responsible member of the international community and a founding member of the Commonwealth. It should be given the space to manage its own affairs and issues relating to the terrorist conflict internally. The UK Government should support Sri Lanka in that endeavour. It is dangerous to allow the UK's policy towards Sri Lanka to be driven by the agendas of the extreme elements of the Tamil Diaspora.

May the Blessings of the Triple Gem be with you!



Ven. Dr. Witharandeniye Kassapa (O.B.E.)  
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