

Joint Letter from the Members of the Northern Provincial Council and the Eastern Provincial Council, Sri Lanka

August 17, 2014

The Hon. Navanethem Pillay
United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights
Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR)
Palais Wilson, 52 rue des Pâquis
CH-1201 Geneva, Switzerland

Dear Honorable Madam High Commissioner Pillay,

Our Request Related to OHCHR Investigation on Sri Lanka War-Crimes

It is with utmost respect and gratitude we, the democratically elected Members of the Northern Provincial Council and the Eastern Provincial Council in Sri Lanka, jointly write this letter to you as you prepare to conclude your highly fulfilled and exceptionally accomplished service as the High Commissioner for Human Rights. On behalf of the Tamil people, we would like to thank you for your dedicated work towards justice and accountability to the victimized Tamils in Sri Lanka. We are confident that the exemplary investigative team that you and your office have put together will ensure justice to the victims.

We would like to submit the following requests to your kind consideration and would be obliged, if you could share our request with the investigative team and also with the incoming High Commissioner:

1. We request that the OHCHR investigative team, using the authority of the OHCHR, to look into all the past violations against the Tamil people at least from 1974 when the killings of Tamil people by the Sri Lankan forces started. There were several major incidents of massacres of Tamils in the 1970s, 1980s, 1990s and 2000s, and none of them were properly investigated by the Sri Lankan government.
2. The Tamil people strongly believe that they have been, and continued to be subjected to Genocide by Sri Lanka. The Tamils were massacred in groups, their temples and churches were bombed, and their iconic Jaffna Public Library was burnt down in 1981 with its collection of largest oldest priceless irreplaceable Tamil manuscripts. Systematic Sinhalese settlements and demographic changes with the intent to destroy the Tamil Nation, are taking place. We request the OHCHR investigative team to look into the pattern of all the atrocities against the Tamil people, and to determine if Genocide has taken place.
3. If the Government of Sri Lanka continues to reject entry for the OHCHR investigative team, we request that the team considers conducting its investigation in the State of Tamil Nadu, India.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely yours,



M. Kanagalingam Shivajilingam
Member of Northern Provincial Council
[Former Member of Parliament, Sri Lanka]



Ponnuthurai Ayngaranesan
Minister of Agriculture, Agrarian Services,
Animal Husbandry, Irrigation, and Environment,
Northern Provincial Council

Balasubramaniam Deniswaran
Minister of Fisheries, Transport, Trade, and
Commerce, Northern Provincial Council

Thambirajah Gurukularajah
Minister of Education, Cultural Affairs, Sports,
and Youth Affairs, Northern Provincial Council

Dr. Pathmanathan Sathiyalingam
Minister of Health and Indigenous Medicine,
Northern Provincial Council

M. Antony Jeyanathan
Deputy Chairman,
Northern Provincial Council

Dharmalingam Sithadthan
Member of Northern Provincial Council
[Former Member of Parliament, Sri Lanka]

Niththiyanantham Indrakumar
Member of Eastern Provincial Council

Thavarajah Kalaiarasan
Member of Eastern Provincial Council

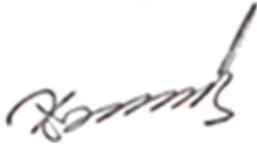
Gnanamuththu Krishnapillai
Member of Eastern Provincial Council
[Former Member of Parliament, Sri Lanka]

Kumarasamy Nageswaran
Member of Eastern Provincial Council

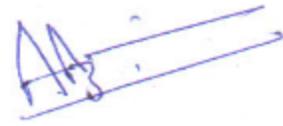
Rassiah Thuraireththinam
Member of Eastern Provincial Council

Ananth Sasitharan
Member of Northern Provincial Council

Pasupathy Ariyaratnam
Member of Northern Provincial Council



Emmanuel Arnold
Member of Northern Provincial Council



Ayoop Azmin
Member of Northern Provincial Council



Balachandran Gayatheepan
Member of Northern Provincial Council



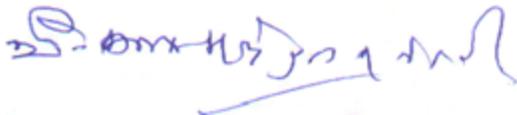
Dr. Gnanaseelan Gunaseelan
Member of Northern Provincial Council



Ramanathar Indirajah
Member of Northern Provincial Council



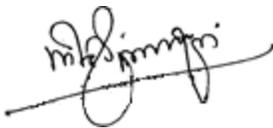
K.N. Vinthan Kanagaratnam
Member of Northern Provincial Council



Veerawahu Kanagasundraswamy
Member of Northern Provincial Council



Marykamala Kunaseelan
Member of Northern Provincial Council



G. Thamotheerampillai
Member of Northern Provincial Council



Ariyakutty Paramsothy
Member of Northern Provincial Council



Subramaniam Pasupathipillai
Member of Northern Provincial Council



M. Thiyaka Rajah
Member of Northern Provincial Council

Thuraijah Ravikaran
Member of Northern Provincial Council

Dr. Kandiah Sarveswaran
Member of Northern Provincial Council

Kesavan Sayanthan
Member of Northern Provincial Council

S. Primus Siraiva
Member of Northern Provincial Council

Dr. Sivapragasam Sivamohan
Member of Northern Provincial Council

Velupillai Sivayogan
Member of Northern Provincial Council

Santhralingam Suhirthan
Member of Northern Provincial Council