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15<sup>th</sup> July 2009

To: The Editor,  
The Times, London,

We thank you for your editorial of July 10, titled “Doctor’s orders,” high lighting the crimes under international laws being perpetrated, without witnesses, by the Sri Lanka government against its Tamil citizens. A seldom commented aspect of the Sri Lankan situation is its genocidal nature--- with the victims being Tamils while the perpetrators are security forces drawn almost entirely from the majority ethnic Sinhalese. The genocidal policies have continued even after the demise of the LTTE.

Your call for a worldwide boycott of Sri Lanka is timely because, there is a real danger of the world losing interest in horrific events in Sri Lanka. We urge you to continue to keep reporting on Sri Lanka in order to keep the pressure of public opinion not only on the Sri Lankan government, but also on the world’s democracies and the UN, to live up to their responsibilities under international laws

In mid May, Prime Minister Brown threatened SL with “consequences” if his call for restraint in its military offensive and to protect Tamil civilians was not met. SL’s response was to intensify its indiscriminate killings and to lock up the surviving 300000 Tamils in de facto concentration camps. Sadly, the UK government has remained virtually silent, to date.

The experience of the Obama administration and EU has not been much different. Equally tragic has been the failure of the UN Security Council even to meet on SL, under pressure from China and Russia. What has been particularly disappointing has been role played by the Secretary General and his senior staff in unquestioningly accepting the clearly baseless promises and denials of the SL government (eg non use of heavy weapons in safe zone), and even holding back evidence unfavorable to the Government ( number of civilians killed and wounded, and conditions in detention camps)

It is high time for the UK and other democracies as a group ( e.g. Sri Lanka Co- Chairs) to implement a robust set of economic, financial and diplomatic steps to pressure Sri Lanka to end the ongoing crimes and to ensure full accountability through an international investigation., and to press the UN Security Council and the Secretary General to take an active role on Sri Lanka. It is hoped also that a determined effort will be mounted to reverse the seriously flawed Resolution on Sri Lanka approved by the UN Human Rights Council in May.

So far the only meaningful step taken by them has been to hold back approval of the \$ 1.9 billion loan from the IMF. It is important for the hold to remain in place, and also for bilateral and multilateral aid to be suspended, with the exception of humanitarian aid. These should remain until the SL government allows unrestricted access and monitoring of detainees. by international humanitarian agencies, ICRC and UN agencies, and also agrees to an international investigation. The Government's plans for detainees after their “ release” must also be first ascertained. There

are credible reports that the Government is currently building semi- permanent "welfare villages" in the same location, while increasing its army by close to 50% to " ethnically cleanse" the depopulated Tamil villages.

Yours faithfully

Signed.

Director, TAG