



Canadian Tamil Congress
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Congrès Tamoul Canadien
"Voice of Canadian Tamils"

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Tamil Canadians Welcome Proposed UN Rights Abuses Panel on Sri Lanka

Tamil Canadians welcome the proposed plan by UN Secretary General Ban Ki-Moon to appoint a panel of experts on "accountability issues" related to human rights abuses in Sri Lanka.

"The plan, if implemented, is the first step in ensuring justice for the tens of thousands of victims killed during the last phase of the war," said David Poopalapillai, National Spokesperson for the Canadian Tamil Congress.

"In that spirit, we welcome this development and further call for an independent international investigation into war crimes committed so that all responsible will be held accountable." The call from Ban came after the UN Special Rapporteur on Extrajudicial, Summary, or Arbitrary Executions, Philip Alston, recently verified the authenticity of Britain's Channel 4 video. The footage had depicted the inhumane summary executions of Tamils, who were naked, bound and gagged. The video is part of the mounting evidence showing that war crimes were likely committed in Sri Lanka.

In October, the U.S. State Department detailed reports of abuses that took place, including government shelling in the No Fire Zone, the abduction and murders of Tamil civilians and the forceful reduction of medical and food supplies to Tamil areas during the conflict.

In May, the Times of London revealed more than 20,000 Tamil civilians were killed in the latter stages of the war mostly due to government shelling. The paper's finding was in stark contradiction to statements from government officials, who had repeatedly claimed no civilian had been killed.

The Canadian Tamil Congress (CTC) is a non-profit organization which serves as the voice of Tamil Canadians. Headquartered in Toronto, the CTC has 11 chapters across the country and an elected board of directors. The non-partisan organization works as the community's spokesperson on the municipal, provincial, federal and international levels.

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