

TAMIL STUDIES AND HUMAN RIGHTS TRUST, NZ (INC.)



"Every country is my country; All the people are my kith and kin" - Tamil ideal



"ONE IS HUMANITY ONE IS GOD"

"LET THE WORLD ENJOY WHAT I ENJOY"

"I KNOW NOT OF ANYTHING OH MY GOD EXCEPT THE WELLBEING OF ALL BEINGS"

"LET THERE BE GOOD GOVERNANCE. LET PEOPLE LIVE WITHOUT WANT"

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25 July 2006

IMMEDIATE MEDIA RELEASE:

FROM BLACK JULY TO BLACK RULE **The continuing horror of unalloyed Genocide**

The month of July has gained importance because of its significantly eventful nature, in the history of the liberation struggle of the Tamils of Sri Lanka. It is not to deny that the other months are not important.

Now let us examine the important events of July.

4 July 1977:

The Tamils of the North-East, a contiguous land mass, where Tamils have been living in large concentrations for centuries mandated the candidates who contested the General Election under the Tamil United Liberation Front which sought the peoples ratification for the Vaddukoddai declaration of 14 May 1976. The said Vaddukoddai declaration of the TULF explained in unambiguous terms the commitment of the TULF and the Tamil people to work towards the re-establishment of the sovereignty of the Tamil State of Eelam lost to the Portuguese after a bitter and bloody battle in 1619, because all talks and non-violent agitations of the Tamils with the Sinhala leadership ended in square one like the merry-go-round since 1918. The continuing ruthless indifference of the Sinhala leadership to the demand for Tamils rights coupled with oppression by military might has brought on the Sinhala leadership zero credibility.

In short, having miserably failed to achieve anything from the Sinhalese leadership through talks, pacts and co-operation, the Tamils finally publicly opted to exercise their sovereignty that was lost to the Colonial Masters. If 4th July is precious to the Americans as Independence Day, it is equally important to the Sri Lankan Tamils as the day **they were forced by the Sinhalese** to declare their salvation by resuscitating the sovereignty of their

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own State. It is the survival syndrome, the alternative or corollary to the imagined State of Sinhala Buddhist Sri Lanka.

5 July 1987:

Black Tigers Day. Captain Miller makes the first suicide attack on a Sri Lankan Army Camp causing extensive damage to the life and property of the army along with inflicting psychological trauma.

6 July 1982:

Tamil Eelam Congress (Peravai) was inaugurated in New York, USA. A Conference followed the inauguration.

India facilitated Thimpu Talks started in Bhutan.

12 July 1990:

First attack on the ~~rs~~ fully fortified Elephant Pass Army Camp that emphasized the need for Sea Tigers.

15 July 1986:

Conference on Provincial Councils commenced in Colombo and lasted four days.

20 July 1983:

J. R. Jayawardene commences Round Table Conference to find a solution to the ethnic crisis in Sri Lanka viz. the Tamils struggle for their rights.

This is just one of his make-belief shows for international consumption. He had his All Party Conference and Political Parties (represented in Parliament) Conference. All aimed at showcasing his pretended search for peace.

26 July 1957:

Bandaranaike - Chelvanayakam Pact was signed - on behalf of the GOSL by the then Prime Minister, Solomon West Ridgeway Dias Bandaranaike and on behalf of the Tamils by S.J.V. Chelvanayakam It was hailed as a great step forward in healing the ethnic wounds.

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The Pact was unilaterally abrogated the next year. Incidentally, this is the third of such Pacts to be unilaterally abrogated.

The first Pact was the Arunachalam = Samarawickrema - Peiris Pact of December 7, 1918. and the second Pact was the Arunachalam - Peiris Pact of 1920.

Eighty eight (88) years on, it is the same story with every round of Talks and Pacts with the Sinhalese leadership - unceasing tantalizing mirage. The same story of Merry-go-round with each new head of State.

EACH SUCH TIME THE IRRESPONSIBLE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY THAT ALWAYS OPTS TO SIT ON THE FENCE, WITHOUT HESITATION OR REFLECTION, BLAMES THE TAMILS AND NOT THE SINHALESE THAT HAS EMBOLDENED THE SINHALESE TO PURSUE GENOCIDE AT AN UNRELENTING SLOW PACE WE ARE YET TO SEE THE DAWN OF THE DAY THAT THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY GATHERS GRASSROOT KNOWLEDGE AND COURAGE WITH COMMITMENT TO STOP THE GENOCIDE IN SRI LANKA.

29 July 1987:

Indo - Lanka Accord was signed in Colombo whereby GOSL agreed to fulfill some obligations spelt out in the said accord towards the Tamils. The Accord acknowledges and articulates the cardinal principle that the contiguous land mass along North-East is where the Tamils have been traditionally living in large concentration for centuries together.

Although this is an International Accord signed between two sovereign States and by the respective Heads of States, the Sri Lankan Government did not honour the pledges and treated it as a dead document.

In fact when Ranil Wickremasinghe, the former Prime Minister and current Opposition leader and a signatory to the GOSL-LTTE MoU and CFA of 2002, met Sonia Gandhi in July 2006, she told him that had the Sri Lankan Government implemented with sincerity and commitment the Indo-Lanka Accord of 1987, the ethnic crisis would not have deteriorated to this extent. This was carried by Theepam TV whereas

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the Sri Lankan media imposed a total black-out on this news. As was pointed out at the South Asian Media Conference, the Sri Lankan Media is deplorably part of the Sri Lankan ethnic crisis and not part of the solution. The Sri Lankan Media (Sinhalese and English) with a negligible exception, is menacingly racial - anti-Tamil at that.

30 July 1987:

The Maoist Terrorists, the JVP called a General Hartal in protest against the Indo-Lanka Accord bringing the Nation to a stand-still.

July 1972

S.J.V.Chelvanayakam the leader of the Tamils resigned his seat in Parliament representing Kaankesanturai constituency in protest against the imposition of the Sinhala Buddhist Republican Constitution in 1972 on the Tamils despite the plea for a Federal Constitution. He challenged the Government to contest him and prove if the Tamils accepted the Sinhala Buddhist Constitution. Fearing a crushing defeat the Government kept on postponing the bye-election to the KKS seat. When Chelvanayakam moved the Supreme Court, the Government conducted the bye-election in 1975 and suffered a crushing defeat. It is a rock solid fact that the Tamils did not accept any of them Constitutions, including the Soulbury Constitution of 1948 as all of them are flawed with inadequate protection for the Tamils, Muslims and non-Buddhists.

Black July 1983:

22 - 13 Sri Lankan soldiers were killed in an ambush on Palaly Road in Tirunelvely, Jaffna.

24 - The dead bodies were brought to Colombo although not one of them was from Colombo. They were cremated at Kanatte, Borella.

Emotions and racial passions were calculatedly roused and hell was let loose. Tamils were killed and their properties worth several millions were destroyed. The Tamils were rendered homeless and penniless within minutes. This madness went on till 29th on which day

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the death toll was higher than the death tolls of the previous days taken together. It was by spreading a false rumour that the Tigers had entered Colombo. That is why it is called "Kotti Friday" (meaning TIGER Friday).

25 - 35 Tamil prisoners in the well fortified Welikade Prison were killed by fellow Prisoners at the instigation of the Prison authorities.

27 - 17 more Tamil prisoners in the same Welikade Prison were killed in the same fashion.

According to survivors of the attacks in the Prison, at the material times these cold Blooded murders were being perpetrated, two helicopters were hovering the Prison area.

This is what the **Madras Hindu** said of the murders -

"Selvaraja Yogachandran, popularly known as Kuttimani, a nominated member of the Sri Lankan Parliament who was one of the 52 prisoners killed in the maximum security Welikade prison two weeks ago was forced to kneel in his cell (where he was under solitary confinement) by his assailants and ordered to pray to them. When he refused, his tormentors taunted him about his last wish, when he was sentenced to death. (He had willed that his eyes be donated to someone so that at least that person would see an independent Tamil Eelam.) The assailants then gouged his eyes. He was then stabbed to death and his testicles were wrenched from his body. That was confirmed by one of the Doctors who conducted the post-mortem on the first group of 35 prisoners. According to S.A. David, the thirty-five Tamils were then heaped in front of the statue of Gautama Buddha in the yard of the Welikade prison and when some yet alive raised their heads they were clubbed to death."

- Madras Hindu, 10August,1983

29 - The architects of the pogrom not being quenched with the Tamil blood they drank, created a mischief in the morning of Friday 29th July spreading the rumour that the TIGERS had entered Colombo. In that panic and frenzy many more Tamil people were slaughtered. The number of deaths on this day out numbered the deaths on the previous

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days. Because of a seeming calm in the morning that day many Tamil people were on the move checking on their properties and beloved ones. They paid for it heavily.

This is the Sinhala Buddhist terrorism that the Tamils are forced to resist with arms just to survive in these circumstances in Sri Lanka. Anyone who advise against armed resistance in the given context must also show the way out for survival.

Paul Seighart, Q.C., Chairman of the British Section of the *INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION OF JURISTS* in his report on the Sri Lankan pogrom of 1983 titled "Sri Lanka - A Mounting Tragedy of Errors" made this observation:

"Clearly, this (pogrom of 1983) was not a spontaneous upsurge of communal hatred among the Sinhala people - nor was it as has been suggested in some quarters a popular response to the killing of 13 soldiers in an ambush by Tamil Tigers on the previous day which was not even reported in the newspapers until after the riots began. It was a series of deliberate acts, executed in accordance with a concerted plan, conceived and organized well in advance.....**Communal riots in which** Tamils are killed, maimed, robbed and rendered homeless are no longer isolated episodes; they are beginning to become a pernicious habit."

Two things are clear from this conclusion. One is that although the media had observed self-restraint in an explosive situation, the Government had blown it out of proportion - a willful pursuance of genocide - State terrorism at that. The other is that it is the dividing line - the last time the hoodlums, thugs and hardcore criminals partook in the genocide. We all know how electoral lists were used to identify the Tamils and their properties and how Government vehicles were used to transport hoodlums from one area to another for the operations. This was to prevent the identification of the perpetrators. In most cases they were drugged before being sent out. The Security Forces are doing all these now under cover of security operations.

The total deaths during the 1983 pogrom is about 4000. Since then, the deaths have gone beyond 60,000. 700,000 (about a third of the

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total Tamil population) have emigrated to countries throughout the world. About 800,000 are internally displaced. The majority of internal displacements are caused by unconscionable and arrogant creation of military High Security Zones and usurpation of villages and towns by the Sinhalese with Government support (Army, Police and District Secretaries) and/or threat to life from Sinhalese in adjoining villages/towns who are eyeing the land and property of the Tamils - a well orchestrated ethnic cleansing. The IDP are living in improvised Refugee Camps where basic amenities and privacy are very much lacking. Their life is hell and are confined there for over ten years in some cases. The Supreme Court in a recent ruling said that those in these deadly camps must be given priority when they are resettled in what is today High Security Zones. The Supreme Court also observed that the Government is spending 3.6m rupees per month in maintaining these IDPs. There are 20,000 widows in the North-East consequent on the genocide. There are thousands of rape victims. There are many horrendous mass graves still unearthed.

As a result the health, nutrition, social and economic conditions of these people have been devastated. They were people who earned their living and led a decent life. The most cruel part is the fate of the youth generation in these camps - no nutrition, no proper health care, no games and no proper education. They are by the manouevre destined to be drawers of water and hewers of wood - the status the Sinhala State wishes to provide for the Tamil youth generation.

Incidentally, Mr. Antonio Guterres, the UN High Commissioner for Refugees after visiting Sri Lanka expressed concern that the IDPs are living in poor conditions for years together. He stressed that the focus of the Government should be on resettling them and NOT keeping them in Camps and maintaining them. How can the Government resettle them when they have ulterior motives and hidden agendas?

In a resume, the events encapsuled in the month of July -

1. make it transparent that the genocide acknowledged by the international community within the one week in July 1983 continues in a greater degree with the actors being the Security Officers and spread over longer period.

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Because of the longer period the out side world may not feel the intensity but the gravity is much more.

2. re-affirm that nothing has changed in the circumstances that led to the armed defense of the Tamils against State Terrorism, to consider renouncing violence. When armed defense is warranted to save the Tamils, invariably a degree of violence is implied and unavoidable.

3 establish the fact that the Sinhala leadership from 1918 has breached all Talks, Accords and Pacts with unfailing regularity and not one undertaking has hitherto been implemented and thereby have earned zero credibility among the Tamils. Even India was pooh poohed by relegating the Indo-Lanka Accord of 1987 to the dustbin. Hence, the International Community have no moral or ethical standing to compel the Tamils to talk over and over again with the Sinhala leadership that has forfeited their trustworthiness. No meaningful outcome can be expected. The international community witnessed how not one item agreed to in the six rounds of talks the LTTE had with GOSL have been implemented. They also saw how on arrival from Geneva in February 2006 after talks with the LTTE, the GOSL team reneged on the very joint statement they signed in Geneva and still refuse to implement what was agreed upon. The international community must be specific about what they mean by further talks and for what objectives and whether they are prepared to underwrite any agreement if ever one is reached. The Tamils have experienced the evil effects of the unitary constitution and therefore they shall not enter into talks on a unitary constitution. The international community must accept this position of the Tamils if they really mean peace with dignity for the Tamils.

President Mahinda Rajapakse has no peace plan in hand. He does not seem to have understood the gravity of the problem otherwise he would not have said that had the District Development Council scheme been implemented the ethnic crisis would not have come to this pass. His political Parties Committee, of which the majority are diehard anti-Tamil cannot bring out any meaningful proposal. The experts committee too is mostly composed of expert anti-Tamil

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intelligentsia. At the same time he said he does not know what the LTTE really wants.

How about using LTTE's ISGA proposals as the base to evolve the final draft of a meaningful federal constitution? But before that, will he stop all butcherism?

Yours Sincerely,

A.Theva Rajan
Co-ordinator

R.Selvarajah
General Secretary