



கனடியத் தமிழர் தேசிய அவை
National Council of Canadian Tamils
Conseil National de Tamouls Canadien

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Canadians demand UN and the world act swiftly to address the human rights of Tamils in Sri Lanka; urge Commonwealth countries to follow Canada's lead.

The world and United Nations failed to respond to the cry of Sri Lankan Tamils subjected to egregious atrocities by the Sri Lankan government in 2009. The main responsibility to avert this crisis rested on the United Nations, but the UN failed Tamils. Now, an internal UN report reveals the scope of the UN's failure to protect Tamil civilians.

"The U.N. internal review identifies the tragic mistakes that led the U.N. to fail in its most basic obligations to civilians in Sri Lanka," said Philippe Boloignon of Human Rights Watch. "It is a call to action and reform for the entire U.N. system."

The UN review described how Sri Lankan government staff threatened NGO activists in Geneva against appearing before the UN Human Rights Council. Now there are reports that the Sri Lankan government could be linked to the murder of a Tamil activist in France.

Despite the end of armed conflict, atrocities against Tamils continue. The most recent reports by credible international human rights groups and journalists expose government-sponsored land grabbing, militarization, ethnic cleansing, rape, torture, and extrajudicial killings against the Tamil population in the North-East.

The world's response to this unfolding horror was muted — and continues to be. The world, including United Nations, need to act immediately to protect Tamils' rights. The UN should 1) establish a Commission of Inquiry to investigate war crimes, crimes against humanity and genocide against the Tamils; 2) administer an independent referendum throughout the North-East to determine Tamils' political aspirations. Only through these two actions can the UN redeem itself from its past failures in Sri Lanka.

Canada, since the war ended, has taken a strong stand for Tamil rights. Canadian Prime Minister Harper has pledged to boycott next year's CHOGM (Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting), set to occur in Sri Lanka, until accountability and justice are achieved. All Commonwealth countries should follow Canada's principled lead and similarly boycott the next CHOGM until Sri Lanka allows an independent international investigation.

For further information, the full internal report is available at:

http://www.un.org/News/dh/infocus/Sri_Lanka/The_Internal_Review_Panel_report_on_Sri_Lanka.pdf

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