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Executive Committee

MIDDLE EAST | EUROPE | AUSTRALIA | NORTH AMERICA

Lies, Misinformation, Twisting of Facts and Hate Speech by LTTE - Backed Organizations at UNHRC during the 41st Session July 2019

Geneva

Special report prepared by Global Srilankn Forum executive committee to bevaluate some of the statements made by LTTE lobby groups during the 41stsession of the UNHRC to identify wrong accusations, speeches were full of lies, inaccurate information and hate speech about the Sri Lankan conflict.

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Executive Committee

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1.0 The Global Sri Lankan Forum – Executive Committee

The Global Sri Lankan Forum – Executive Committee (GSLF-Ex. Comm.) is registered in the UK and Australia and is made of representatives from the UK, Poland, Australia, Canada, Ireland, Switzerland, Russia, Italy, United Arab Emirates and Sweden.

The GSLF-Ex. Comm. has on previous occasions taken up Sri Lanka's case against the country's major detractors in relation to various narratives of the three decades long struggle against terrorism.

2.0 Background - Sri Lankan Conflict

The three decades long "Sri Lankan conflict" came to a conclusive end in May 2009, following the military defeat of the Tamil terrorist called Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), also known as the Tamil Tigers, an internationally proscribed terrorist organisation. The LTTE was notorious for its vile terror tactics such as the use of suicide bombers in carrying out attacks on civilians and the country's leadership¹, the abducting of children for recruitment as child soldiers², forced money collection from Sri Lankan Tamils with threats to life in case of non-compliance3, attacks on the country's economic infrastructure such as the Central Bank of Sri Lanka and the only international airport in Colombo, "ethnic cleansing" of Sinhalese and Muslims from the North and East two provinces of Sri Lanka⁴, the assassination of Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi, the assassination of Sri Lankan President Ranasinghe Premadasa, the systematic assassination of more than 40 prominent mainstream Tamil political leaders, including the Sri Lankan Foreign Minister Lakshman Kadirgamar⁵, and deliberately inflicting casualties by holding civilians as human shields during the final phase of the war and shooting at those who attempted to flee.6, 46

3.0 Tamil Separatism by Lobbying

The LTTE's overt organizations supported Tamil separatism by lobbying foreign governments and the United Nations including UNHRC. The LTTE also used its international contacts to procure weapons, communications, and bomb making equipment. The LTTE exploited large Sri Lankan Tamil communities in North

America, Europe, and Asia to obtain funds and supplies for its fighters in Sri Lanka. The LTTE-supportive fractions or covert front organizations of Sri Lankan Tamil diaspora in the UK, Canada, Australia, the US and throughout Europe was a major source of Tiger funds which were turned into the weapons of war. Some of these funds were extorted by the Tigers directly. Some, were contributed to "humanitarian" organizations which were legally registered in various countries overseas but act as Tiger fronts. The Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam were involved in numerous trans-national criminal activities, including partnerships with Pakistani heroin producers/traffickers, alien smuggling, extortion from Tamil families living abroad, and various forms of fraud. All these were done in order to raise funds for their insurgent activities in Sri Lanka.

4.0 LTTE Cells and Front Organisations which Continue to Operate Outside of Sri Lanka

However, some news reports that have appeared internationally in the post-conflict years, have attempted to undermine the moral legitimacy of the Sri Lankan government, by charging war crimes due to alleged high numbers of Tamil civilian casualties and cases of torture. They do not attribute names to their sources⁷, and choose not to call for the prosecution of the LTTE cells and front organisations which continue to operate outside of Sri Lanka⁸. These news reports are widely used by LTTE international propaganda supporters when they are making their oral statements at the Human Rights Council sessions in Geneva by using NGO'S with consultative status. These statements have not only dampened Sri Lanka's hard-won victory over one of the world's most lethal terrorist groups⁹, but also hampering the efforts to the reconciliation process, spread hatred, and bring suspicion over some remarkable and globally unprecedented post-conflict reconciliation efforts undertaken by the Sri Lankan government.

5.0 LTTE Lobby Groups in UNHRC

Powerful LTTE lobby groups attending UNHRC in Geneva use various organizations (NGO's) almost each and every session and deliver speeches (oral statements) under agendas items 2-10;

Item 2:

Oral update by the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights

Item 3:

Promotion and protection of all human rights, civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights, including the right to development

Item 4:

Human rights situations that require the Council's attention

Item 5:

Human rights bodies and mechanisms

Item 6:

Universal Periodic Review

Item 7:

Human rights situation in Palestine and other occupied Arab territories

Item 8:

Follow-up and implementation of the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action

Item 9:

Racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related forms of intolerance, follow □ up and implementation of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action

Item 10:

Technical assistance and capacity □ building

We, GSLF- Ex. Comm. observed that the contents of such speeches are targeting Sri Lanka, especially trying to portrait the Sri Lankan Government, its armed forces, majority Sinhalese community as war criminals and human rights abusers therefore they accounted for war crimes and Genocide.

6.0 Speeches at 41st Session

41st session of the Human Rights Council in Geneva was held from 29th June to 12th July and we have evaluated some of the statements made by such LTTE lobby groups during the session. We identified that many are wrong

accusations. The speeches of those who spoke about Sri Lankan conflict were full of lies, inaccurate information and hate speech.

7.0 Common False Accusations by Speakers

Common unconfirmed accusations against Sri Lanka are;

- 7.1 Systematic killing and genocide happening in Sri Lanka.
- 7.2 Sri Lankan Tamil people still living under military occupation.
- 7.3 Not releasing political prisoners
- 7.4 Discrimination by Sinhala Buddhists against other minorities.
- 7.5 Colonising Tamil lands with majority Sinhalese.
- 7.6 Invading Tamil Homeland
- 7.7 Inflating the number of civilian casualties during the last phase of the war.
- 7.8 False information in regards to the Easter Sunday attacks.
- 7.9 Tamil people are forced into poverty by Sri Lankan government.
- 7.10 Tamil women continuously face sexual harassment from military and these often go unreported.

7.1 Systematic Killing and Genocide Still Happening in Sri Lanka.

Ms. Maria Roshi Sundaraj by representing African Agency for Integrated Development (AAID)¹⁰ stated during the 41st session on 02nd July 2019 addressing under the General debate Item 3;

"Systematic killing of those exposed genocide must be stopped in Sri Lanka"

(During the same session Aicha Laljee by representing ABC Tamil Oli¹¹ made the same allegation repeating the same statement.)

This is a lie and there is no evidence to show that systematic killing and genocide is still happening in Sri Lanka. Over the past few years, some diaspora Tamil groups have become more strident in their protests, advocating for a framing of the ethnic conflict as "genocide," arguing for recognition of Tamil nationhood, and waving banned LTTE flags before the U.N. and foreign government capitals. These voices have grown louder and more organized over the past few years and are unlikely to dissipate entirely with the change in government or other new developments.

In another speech - Mr. Anthony Edixon addressing on behalf of Jeunesse Etudiante Tamoule¹² said;

"In order to protect Tamil people from the genocide underway....against genocidal violations of the military.."

This is a fabrication to win sympathy from UN and the international community. There is no proof of genocide against Tamils. The fact Tamils live peacefully with other races throughout the country is indirect proof that there's no genocide happening against them. The accusers were far removed from the battlefield and are solely dependent on tattle tales from members of the pro-Tamil Tiger diaspora, the LTTE's propaganda arm called the www.Tamilnet.net and other Tamil asylum seekers eyeing greener pastures in developed countries to base their allegations of wrongdoing.

Mr. Anthony Edixon¹² further stated that "special rapporteurs have now completely recognised that Sri Lanka is responsible for crimes against humanity and crimes of genocide against Tamil population."

Some NGO'S also asks to promote an investigation into genocide against Eelam Tamils. (eg; Association Bharathi Centre Culturel Franco-Tamoul, Mr. Adrien Coulon 01:57:500¹³

This is false information. we could not find a single UN rapporteur report that made this accusation. However, if you look at the activities of LTTE during the war period, they selectively murdered and chased away non-Tamil communities which fits very well to the UN definition of genocide²⁵

It is highly questionable if the opinions expressed by this NGO speaker represent their point of view. Most of the content of Mr. Coulon's speech (from Association of Bharathi Centre Culturel Franco-Tamoul) speech appears verbatim on Tamilnet website. (https://www.tamilnet.com/art.html?catid=13&artid=39492) which used to be the official website of LTTE terror organisation. It raises the question, if this NGO is coerced into making this speech in order to unjustly influence UNHRC stance on this matter.

Further, another speaker Ms. Jasmine Jacobmuthu from Action of Human Movement (AHM)¹⁴, went into saying "former president linked to crimes of abuse and genocide against Eelam Tamils"- This is an accusation that has been challenged based on the poor credibility of the sources on which the accusations are based on. The speaker infers that it is a proven accusation thus insulting a much-respected Sri Lankan leader. Genocide has

never been an accusation in UNHRC resolutions against Sri Lanka and thus the speaker is fabricating a lie. If she is referring to Sri Lankan Tamils when she speaks about Eelam Tamils, then she is being maliciously dishonest as Tamil people were living peacefully under president Rajapakshe-led Southern parts of the island even when the war against LTTE terrorism was at its peak. Tamils living in the South did not attempt to escape from areas controlled by president Rajapakshe. Instead as mentioned in UN reports as well, Tamils were forcefully kept in North by LTTE during the last days of the battle against their wishes.

TAMILS ARE LIVING IN PEACE IN ALL PARTS OF SRI LANKA WHY IT NEEDS SEPARATISM?



7.2 Sri Lankan Tamil People Still Living under Military Occupation

Ms. Beriwan Diessler by representing Burkina Association¹⁶ for Survival of Childhood said "in Sri Lankan Tamil people still living under military occupation "

On the charge that the Lankan government and the armed forces are still holding on to large tracts of land taken from the minority Tamils during the 30-

year war against the Tamil militants, Sri Lankan foreign Minister Thilak Marapana said addressing the 40th Session of the UNHRC: "The data reflected in the High Commissioner's report in Para 35, that only 75% of the land occupied by the security forces as at 2009 has been released, is at significant variance with the actual numbers. As on March 2019, 88.87% of State lands and 92.16% of private lands have been released.'40

7.3 Not Releasing Political Prisoners

Mr. Adrien Coulon from Association Bharathi Centre Culturel Franco-Tamoul¹⁷ had Stated in his statement on the 41st UNHRC session;

"...accusing SL for not honouring the promises made when accepting the 30/1 and the recent resolution and not releasing political prisoners. Political prisoner Mr. Muththaiyah Sagadevan detained for 14 years and died I Colombo hospital while under PTA custody in June 2019".

Prisoners like Mr. Sagadevan are terror suspects and is not a political prisoner according to the definition of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE)⁴¹.

The term 'Political Prisoners' is used in relation to those detained under the Prevention of Terrorism Act (PTA). The Sri Lankan Government also rejects the term 'political prisoner', insisting that cases need to be resolved through legal than political perspective.

Therefore, it is unjust when the NGO claims that the new regime of Sri Lanka should identify LTTE terrorists and their supporters as political prisoners.

The person concerned is arrested in suspicion of aiding LTTE to murder a Tamil member of parliament called Lakshman Kadiragamer. Therefore, it is wrong for this NGO to say it is a baseless PTA case.

In 2015, then Sri Lanka's justice minister stated that "There are no political prisoners in the country's prisons". He further retreated that "The prisoners are ones who are held for aiding and abetting the activities of LTTE terrorists. They are not political prisoners" $_{48}$

CHILD LTTE SOLDIERS BACK TO THE SOCIETY





Boys 364 Girls 230

273

Formal Education Given To

Vocational Training Given To 321



Age Category of Surrendered Child Soldiers

Age	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	Above 19
No. of child soldiers	2	3	24	93	224	218	7	23

Source: Rehabilitation of Ex Combatants by- issued by Bureau of the Commissioner

It is also noted that restorative justice for former LTTE combatants involved the rehabilitation, reinsertion, and reintegration of 11,481 former LTTE combatants, including 594 child soldiers (as of January 2013). This figure includes 10,329 of the approximately 12,000 LTTE members who surrendered or were detained at the end of the conflict, and were rehabilitated and reintegrated into society by October 2011. These rehabilitees were reintegrated into the community within the two-year stipulated period, while child beneficiaries completed their rehabilitation and reintegration within one year. The Presidential Amnesty issued in support of restorative justice for LTTE members at the end of the conflict, an act which directly promotes reconciliation, stands in opposition to retributive justice which seeks to punish individuals for their wrongdoings through the judicial and prison systems⁴³.

WHO WERE REHABILITATED?

Age Between 12 and 18	Boys Girls	363 230	
Gender	Male Female	1823 8373	
Civil Status	Married Single Window	3658 7035 97	
Religion	Buddhist Muslim Christians Hindu	6 3 814 9976	

^{*} Few deserted and died in natural cause

Source: Rehabilitation of Ex Combatants by- issued by Bureau of the Commissioner

7.4 Discrimination by Sinhala Buddhists against other minorities

Addressing the 41st UNHRC session, Ms. Chloé Savard from Association for the Victims of the world¹⁸ stated about "Discrimination by Sinhala Buddhists to other minorities, treat them as invaders. Buddhist monks attending political rallies cement the interconnection between Buddhism and the state,"

This statement is not true as it is as it is a well-known fact that political rallies of any political party other than those based on religion or race (Tamil National Alliance (TNA), Muslim Congress) invite priests and monks of all religions.

She further went intro say that "Christians face harassed and physical attacked by Sinhala police and government officials. And refused the right of burial in public cemeteries" This is also incorrect as no such discrimination exists but police behaviour has been criticized for lack of efficiency by citizens of all races.

She also said that "Tamil Hindu cultural heritage has been suppressed" which is a false information as Tamil Hindus practice their religion and cultural activities freely all over the country. What's more many

Sinhalese Buddhists attend Hindu temples and Hindu gods are part of several Buddhist temples as a result of Hindu invasions of the country thousands of years ago.

Racial discrimination against Tamils is a repetitive theme when it comes to false accusations. Nonetheless it is interesting to note that this accusation mainly comes from Northern Sri Lankan Tamils but not from other Sri Lankan Tamils living in East, Central and Western provinces.

That is because, discrimination based on Tamil ethnicity in Sri Lanka is a myth, created and successfully promoted by the Tamil political leadership for so many decades. It is pure political propaganda with an ulterior motive.⁴⁴

7.5 Colonising Tamil lands

Ms. Chloé Savard stated that "Sinhalese are colonising Tamil lands"

- Sri Lanka is a multicultural Island and there are no Tamil, Sinhala or Muslim lands. All three races have lived all over the Island in varying proportions. Colonisation refers to sending a group of people to live in another country. Sri Lanka is a single country and any citizen should be able to settle in any part irrespective of their race or religion. If one resists such free movement based on race, that is discrimination based on race or religion which is not acceptable.

She further states "More than 40 Buddhist shrines were constructed with the help of Sri Lankan military. They are colonising healing Tamil lands".

Actually prior to the long terrorist war, Sinhala Buddhists, Muslims and Tamils lived in North and East two provinces. LTTE selectively killed and chased away Sinhalese and Muslims from these areas. In order to bring meaningful peace, it is important to resettle citizens of all races, especially non-Tamil ones as they were the ones most affected by terrorism.

Speaking at the 40th session of the UNHRC, Sri Lanka Foreign Minister Thilak Marapana also rules out the Government of Sri Lanka has no policy of "Colonization" of either the Northern Province or Eastern Province, or as a matter of fact, of any province in the country. As regards the contention that land owners are deprived their land by declaring their land as forest cover or as

archaeological projects, it must be clearly and categorically stated that the Government has not resorted to any such measures. However, it must be born in mind that the protection of forest land and archaeological projects is an obligation cast on any State in accordance with its international obligations that mandate protection and preservation of the environment and of cultural heritage. Furthermore, in identifying the relevant forest land and the cultural heritage, respective provincial administrations are also consulted.⁴⁰

Association of Mali Youth for Agriculture (ASJAM), Mr. Pirakalathan Kirushnam states that "due to Mahaveli development Tamils were marginalized and composition of the ethnicity was changed."³⁴

This is wrong information that twists the facts. There are archaeological and other evidence to say that there has been Sri Lankan communities with Sinhalese Buddhist links living in the Mahaveli Development area prior to the project.

Ms. Jasmine Jacobmuthu by representing Action of Human Movement (AHM)13 alleged that that colonization of Tamil areas with Sinhalese - "to stop state-sponsored colonisation of Eelam Tamil lands..."

We can identify this as twisting the facts by making this statement. The LTTE an extremist terror group that fantasized a Tamil-only country chased away or killed all non-Tamils living in the North and East. Therefore, it is the responsibility of an any responsible government to resettle the displaced communities. Such a movement should be welcomed by UN and any human right activist as it will promote reconciliation among different races. It is confusing what the speaker refers to as Eelam Tamil lands. Firstly, there is no ethnic group called Eelam Tamils recognised in Sri Lanka. And all Sri Lankans believe and it is recognised by the Sri Lankan government as well that Sri Lanka is one political entity and that there are no areas divided based on race/religion. What should happen is resettlement of Internally Displaced People (IDP) non-Tamil communities such as Sinhalese and Muslims resettlement of IDP Sinhalese.

7.6 Tamil Hom<u>eland</u>

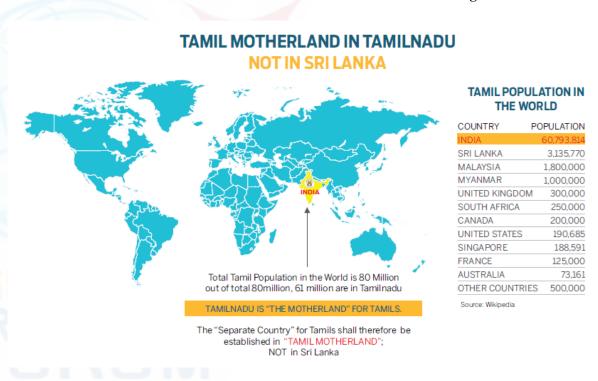
Mr. Adrien Coulon from Association Bharathi Centre Culturel Franco-Tamoul¹⁷ had stated in his statement on the 41st UNHRC session; "urges to protect Tamils living in their homeland."

This is false propaganda. There is no Tamil only homeland in Sri Lanka. It is a country home to several races including Tamil, Sinhalese and Muslims.

TAMIL EELAM or THAMIL EELAM and TAMIL HOMELANDS/KINGDOM are words that came into the Sri Lankan vocabulary only in the last 2 or 3 decades (around 1970s). And there is also myth of a TAMIL NATION!

Even the 60 million Tamils in South India do not call themselves a NATION!

Technically and geographically, the Tamil home land is not in Sri Lanka but in the southern state of Tamilnadu in India where 61 million Tamils are living.



The 77% Sinhalese do not call themselves a Nation. We, Sinhalese, Tamils, Muslims and Burghers are one Sri Lankan Nation. Our Nationality we state as "Sri Lankan." Therefore, it is ridiculous to call 12% of a population composed of a single race a nation.

The Tamil historian, Rasanayagam, in his book "Ancient Jaffna" has said "Jaffna was occupied by Sinhalese earlier than by Tamils, is seen, not only in the place names but also in some of the habits and customs of the people." In p.384, Rasanayagam mentions,

"That Jaffna was occupied by the Sinhalese earlier than by the Tamils is seen not only in the place names of Jaffna but also in some of the habits and customs of the people. The system of branding cattle with the communal brand by which not only the caste but also the position and the family of the owner could be traced was peculiarly Sinhalese."45

7.7 Civilian Casualties during the Last Phase of the War

Mr. Anthony Edixon from Jeunesse Etudiante Tamoule¹⁹ states that; "The estimate of civilian deaths based on UN expert group reports and Petrie report of November 2012 is up to 70,000. Rev. Rayappu, said 170,000 civilian killed by army"

This figure of 70,000 has been challenged by many authorities including Lord Nasby using more credible evidence²⁰.



- The British defence attaché, Lieutenant Colonel Anton Gash, said to me in January 2009 that he was surprised at the controlled discipline and success of the Sri Lankan Army and in particular the care that it was taking to encourage civilians to escape and how well they were looked after, and that certainly there was no policy to kill civilians.
- According to the paper released to me by the UK Foreign and Commonwealth Office in the period 1 January to 19 May 2009
 - On 28 January: "It is not possible to distinguish civilians from LTTE cadres as few are in uniform".
 - Then, from 16 February: "IDPs being cared for inTrincomalee.
 Welfare appears to be overriding security considerations".
 - Then on 20 January they say: "no cluster munitions were used", and
 - On 26 April: "civilians killed Feb 1-April 26—6432".

Michael Morris, Baron Naseby PC

it is instructive to explore these grave allegations briefly, so that some very effective reconciliation measures adopted by the Sri Lankan state can be appreciated fully. The number of civilian causalities in the last phase of the war presented by different sources varies greatly. Fundamentally, the civilian casualty figure of the Sri Lankan war remains unknown²¹ Gordon Weiss, a

former United Nations official in Sri Lanka, estimated 7,000 civilian deaths in 2009, but this figure was not accepted by Sir John Holmes, the then UN Under-Secretary General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator, who said this figure was "unverified and unreliable" ²² The United States government had received information from an unnamed organisation that 6,710 people - civilians and LTTE combatants - had died from January 20 to April 20, 2009²³. Sri Lanka's Defence Seminar 2013 revealed that the civilian death toll is likely to have been between 2,000 and 3,000 in the final phase of the war in May 2009²⁴

The two "leaked" United Nations internal reports, the Darusman Report in March 2011 and the Petrie Report in November 2012, claimed 40,000 civilian casualties and 70,000 individuals "unaccounted for". Both gained much media attention. No sources were named in these reports to substantiate this very high number of civilian casualties²⁵. Sri Lanka views these two documents as unjust in their treatment of the Sri Lankan conflict and unsubstantiated in their content²⁶. An article of the British newspaper *The Guardian* noted that,

"....privately, UN staff admitted they were puzzled by the methodology used to achieve the new death toll", and that one official stated that "Someone has made an imaginative leap and that is at odds with what we have been saying before...It is a very dangerous thing to do to start making extrapolations."²⁷ Sri Lanka is also plagued by the call by the United Nations Human Rights Commissioner for an international inquiry, "in the absence of meaningful progress on accountability" with regard to civilian deaths during the last phase of the war.

NUMBER GAME OF DEAD BODIES!!

.NC	CLAIMED ORGANIZATION	REPORTED NUMBER OF CIVILIANS KILLED
1	Darusman Panel - (2011)	40,000
2	US former envoy Robert Blake	40,000
3	Siobhain McDonagh (Pro-LTTE UK Labor MP)	40,000
4	Amnesty International	10,000 to 40,000
5	Gordon Weiss (former UN official)	Originally 7,000*, then adjusted to 40,000, later revised to 10,000
6	Charles Petrie referring to UNSG's report - 2012	70,000
7	Tamilnet - the LTTE terrorist web	7,398*
8	UN country team in Sri Lanka	7,721*
9	A Survey by the Government	7,400* (with LTTE Terrorists)
10	The satellite analyst report by the American Association for the Advancement of Science	2,306 (with LTTE terrorists)
11	Tamil Teachers of the North (July 2011 - a population survey of the North for 2005 to 2009	7,896* (with LTTE terrorists, and natural deaths)
12	UNICEF-sponsored Family Tracing and Verification Unit (2011)	2,564*(676 were children - 64% of them were kidnapped by LTTE).
13	The University Teachers for Human Rights-Jaffna (10 June 2009) and (December 2009)	20,000-40,000
14	Dr. V. Shanmugarajah	1,000
15	The Times of London	20,000
16	Bishop of Mannar, Rayappu Joseph	147,000
17	Project Director of International Crisis Group Sri Lanka	40,000 to 147,00
18	The Institute of Conflict Management, Delhi	11,111
19	Independent Diaspora Analysis Group-Sri Lanka	18,000
20	Rajasingham Narendran	10,000 to 15,000
21	Muttukrishna Sarvananthan of the Point Pedro Institute	12,000 (With LTTE terrorists)
21	Dr. Noel Nadesan	16,000 (With LTTE terrorists)
23	Data compiled by the South Asia Terrorism Portal	2,972
24	UN Human Rights Commissioner (March 2009)	2,800
25	The Guardian	40,000
26	Editorials by The Times and The Sunday Times	20,000
27	La Tarde (diario) - the Argentinean Journal	146,679 - out of which 40,000 in the final 48 hours.
28	Prof. Michael Roberts	10,000 to 18,000

Numbers* quoted by locally Sri Lankan based organizations including LTTE Terrorists are in the region of 7,500* than 40,000 to 100,000 quoted by foreign organizations and foreign funded NGOs and individuals

7.8 False Information in Regards to the Easter Sunday Attacks

Ahmed Adam form Asian Forum for Human Rights and Development²⁸ says; "We are alarmed by the escalation of violence and hate speech against minorities after Easter Sunday attacks".

This is partly fake news and partly contributed by UNHRC resolution that has weakened the counter-terrorism mechanism of the country. Easter Sunday attack is a terror attack that is at least partly carried out against two minority communities (Christians and Tamils) by another minority community (Muslims). The fact that terrorists attacked tourist hotels and Christian places of worship suggest that the motives were driven by international terrorism. One pillar of Global Counter Terrorism Strategy of United Nations is building state's capacity²⁹. And according to UN Special Rapporteur on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms While Countering

Terrorism, Professor Fionnuala Ní Aoláin mentions counter-terrorism strategy and human rights protection are intertwined³⁰. However, because of UNHRC resolution 30/01 Sri Lanka has lost the correct balance of counter-terrorism measures and protecting human rights. As a result, Sri Lanka's counter-terrorism mechanism has got weakened making nearly 300 innocent civilians paying the price with their lives. As a result, Sri Lankan state has failed to give reassurance to citizens and tourists that Sri Lanka is safe from future terrorist attacks. The speakers remove the spotlight from this critical issue of losing national security with the false smoke screen of hate speech and violence against minorities.

Ms. Gavatri Khandhadis speaking on behalf of the Association for Progressive Communications³¹ during the 41st session of the UNHRC, "blames the counter terrorism measures taken by SL forces after Easter Sunday attacks, by saying that it has affected minority communities. Sri Lanka is under state emergency, police and forces sweeping powers to search and detained citizens. Partial internet shut down detrimental to the access of information. Hated violence and discrimination against ethnic minorities."

These are false accusations against the Sri Lanka and its government.

The April 21st attacks were a series of terrorist attacks that were driven by an international ISIS terror group-led agenda. The victims include minority religious (Christian) and ethnic (Tamil) communities. The bombers also belong to Islam another minority religious community in the Sri Lanka. Therefore, it is preposterous to say there is heightened violence and discrimination against ethnic and religious minorities. Old laws criminalizing consensual same sex relations needs to be discussed in a separate forum and it's a lie to say the security measures increases the vulnerability of LGBT communities.

The United Nations Counter-terrorism strategy²⁹ was built on the consensus achieved by world leaders to condemn terrorism in all its forms and manifestations. Sri Lanka is struggling to stand back on its feet after the Easter Sunday terrorist attacks. The tourism industry has crashed creating a huge blow to the country's economy. The UNHRC resolutions against Sri Lanka has

discouraged Sri Lankan authorities' taking decisive actions against Islam religious and community leaders who have aided the terrorists who killed nearly 300 innocent Sri Lankan citizens. As a result, the government has failed to guarantee that the country is safe from similar terror attacks from religious extremists.

Mr. Paul Newman Kumar addressing the 41st session on behalf of Centre for Africa Development and Progress³² stated "After the Easter blasts the Sri Lankan army has intensified its searches in the Tamil area though the blast took place in the South." and which is another misleading statement. He is misleading the council in his statement at several levels. Tamils live all over the country and there is no designated area in the country called Tamil or Sinhalese areas. Sri Lankan army has intensified searches all over the country in order to protect civilians from terrorists who killed nearly 300 innocent Sri Lankans in order to support ISIS extremist ideology. The blasts took place in Negombo and Colombo in Western province and in Batticaloa in the Eastern province. What's more the suicide terror wing leader Zaharan Hashim's home town, Kaththankudya was the place the terror group has used as their headquarters. Therefore, the military operations in the area subsequently were proved to be useful as several terror leader's supporters were discovered from this village together with several weapons.

He further went into say that ""The Sri Lankan government is using the current climate to harass the Tamils. They have arrested two Jaffna university students in the pretext of being LTTE sympathisers without any charges."

Actually, the Easter Sunday attacks showed that Sri Lanka is a weak-link in a global effort to counter international terrorism. What other time would be more pertinent to give 'due priority to counter-terrorism across the United Nations system "going along the UN counter terrorism strategy? This is a time Sri Lanka as a member state requires UN assistance to strengthen its counter-terrorism strategies. Even though LTTE has been militarily defeated inside Sri Lanka, its international membership is still very active and any sensible state will consider an uprising from LTTE remaining membership similar to the New IRA in the

UK. In that context, the two university students were arrested as they were keeping compact discs, films and other propaganda material related to LTTE terrorists. However, they were later released on bail. The speaker misleads the council by not disclosing all the facts³³.

Mr. Paul Newman Kumar³²further stated during the said statement that. "...checkpoints in Vavuniya which exclusively harasses the Tamils". This is also a false statement as after the Easter bombings the whole country went into a heightened level of security. Those security measures applied to every citizen in the country island wide, irrespective of the person's ethnicity or religion. Those measures included very strict compliances such as checking whoever entering into schools (with the volunteer parents' presence) and churches. It is also important to note that Tamils live all over the country not just in Vavuniyawa. Therefore, any security measures applied in order to secure national security affected all Sri Lankans equally.

7.9 Tamil People are Forced into Poverty by Sri Lankan Government

Mr. Pirakalathan Kirushan representing NGO Association of Mali Youth for Agriculture (ASJAM)³⁴ stated that "Tamil people are forced into poverty by Sri Lankan government"

This is another misleading and inaccurate statement. Tamil communities live all over the country. The factors that lead to poverty are not limited to one ethnic group; it affects to all races equally. Researchers³⁵ have pointed out that there does not appear to be a significant difference in the level of poverty among the ethnic groups of the country. Therefore, the speaker's claim is misleading and grossly incorrect.

Mr. Pirakalathan Kirushan further into this and saying that allowing people from other areas of the country as an example for the to prove his accusation. He says "...fisherman from the South are allowed to come and fishing in North. This demonstrates preferential treatment of Sinhalese people in Tamil areas.".

Historically, it has been a common practice (even before the war) that fisherman from South and North visited north and south respectively to avoid monsoon

season³⁶. This shows that traditionally there was cooperation between fishing communities in North and South. Encouraging such practice will promote reconciliation among different races. The speaker's notion that Sri Lankan sea is divided based on ethnicity promotes division and damages post-war reconciliation efforts.

What's more, traditionally fishermen from South went to North during Monsoon seasons, until Tamil terrorists' stops them. After the war ended it started again. Now Tamil politicians are harassing fishermen from South. Once they burnt down all their belongings and chased away.

He further states that ".... everyone can have a chance of earning a decent living in their own traditional homeland"- which is not true as Sri Lanka has been the home land to several races including Tamils and Sinhalese. Historians have rejected the notion that there was ethnicity based separate political entities in ancient Sri Lanka. This speaker's idea promotes separatism and propagates false information about mythical ethnicity-based so called traditional Tamil homelands.

Mr. Vijayatheepan Balasubramanian representing Association Culturelle des Tamouls en France³⁷ stated; "Armed forces preventing the Tamils from seeking meaningful livelihood." This speaker is twisting the fact as it was the armed forces that paved way for Sri Lankans affected by war to build their livelihoods by demining the lands, building and renovating houses and infrastructure development³⁸.

7.10 Suppressed Media, Targeted Human Rights Activists and continued to arbitrarily detain Perceived Opponents.

Ms. Jasmine Jacobmuthu by representing Action of Human Movement (AHM)¹³ stated "instead of addressing allegations of serious violations by Sri Lankan security forces, the Rajapakshe government suppressed media, targeted human rights activists and continued to arbitrarily detain perceived opponents."

This is fabricated information as the Rajapakshe government challenged the allegations by showing that the sources of information for UN resolution such as Channel 4 killing fields video were forged one and has inflated the casualty toll³⁹.

Accusations against targeting journalists and media have never been proved even after the current government has set up special courts to look into these allegations. Terror suspects were detained using prevailing law of the country including the prevention of terrorism act.

8.0 Conclusion

Outside Sri Lanka, the LTTE's international network is still active and is taking shelter among supporters in the Sri Lankan Tamil diaspora. It continues to run a false propaganda campaign against Sri Lanka, particularly in the UNHRC. And also in countries such as Canada and the UK with significant concentrations of diaspora Tamils.

The examples highlighted above reveals that there are a few common themes of misinformation such as "Tamil only homeland", "Tamil-genocide" and "Tamil discrimination and harassment" in several quoted NGO speeches. NGOs play a primary role in focusing the international community on human rights issues. However, the dishonest and shameful behaviour of the NGOs mentioned above promote ethnicity-based separatism and hatred between races ultimately hampering the post-war reconciliation process.

The people who have suffered as a result of the conflict are more concerned about rebuilding their lives under difficult circumstances rather than supporting the continuation of the struggle for an independent state. However as long as the separatist ideology remains, the threat to the country will certainly persist. The Tamil diaspora in various countries is endorsing the call for a separate state and boycotting any internal solutions for reconciliation. They are lobbying for an international investigation into alleged war crimes by the Sri Lankan state. These parties however, refrain from criticizing the LTTE or holding it responsible for its crimes or its contribution to the shattered state of Sri Lankan Tamil society.

It is important to note that many of these LTTE-linked groups claim that they no longer have any interest in terrorism. Most of them say they engage only in political activism and not violence. Almost all of them pretend to have a

democratic face. However, contrary to what these organisations claim the modus operandi of the LTTE linked organisations remains as unchanged as their agenda. There is no doubt that these groups will continue trying to create an enabling environment internationally for a separate state, while also encouraging the resumption of an armed struggle within Sri Lanka.

Therefore, Global Sri Lankan Forum – Executive Committee recommends following course of actions to be taken by the administration of the UNHRC;

- 1. it is vital for the UNHRC to see through this web of lies in order to promote meaningful reconciliation for Sri Lankans of all races in a postwar Sri Lanka.
- 2. The UNHRC to review these speeches, written statements etc. made by these NGOs and its individuals and issue written warnings not to propagate such lies, hate speeches, and promoting of separatism, and terrorism by using the UNHRC as an international forum.
- 3. Those who failure to comply with such waning shall be banned in appearing in the UNHRC and banned such NGOs

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