

Collectif des Femmes Africaines du Hainaut (CFAH)

Oral Statement read by CFAH on the on the Country Report on Sri Lanka, Agenda Item 2.

Read by: S Shageevan

Thank you Chair,

We welcome the efforts by the OHCHR to establish accountability for the crimes committed in the North and East of the island of Sri Lanka.

The Tamil national question in the island has parallel history to that of the United Nations framework itself, starting from 1948.

The problem we face the in the island of Sri Lanka is a national question. It is a problem between two Nations in one island. It is not a minority problem or religious-minority problem.

It is also a documented fact that the British colonial system changed the entire system in the island making it into a Colombo-centric system, creating a new infrastructure, causing the engineering of the genocidal process. Britain did it with its geo-strategic interests.

One of the two nations, with its dominant State power, started to commit the **crime of genocide**. **War crimes and crimes against humanity**

The intent of the genocide is a centuries old one, based on the myth of a so-called promised land.

A systematic process of genocide could be clearly established through the pogroms, massacres, demographic changes and **structural genocide crimes against humanity**, before, during and after the war in the island.

But, the UN Human Rights regime was looking at our problem as a 'minority' issue, even during the times of the war.

Now it is becoming so-called 'religious minority' issue as we see in the latest resolution draft before this assembly.

While the world was refusing to look at the national question, before the war, we were slaughtered and colonised in the East where we are completely compromised in the demography.

Now after the war, we are being colonised again, through a process similar to Gazafication of Palestine, both in the North and the East. A dangerous Sinhalicisation and colonisation is taking place.

Now, while the UN system continues to fail to deal with the Tamil national question and the genocide, we are again losing our lands to **structural genocide crimes against humanity**, that is accelerated against the Tamil people in North and East. Researchers and political analysts tell us that we are subjected to a geopolitical injustice for decades through colonial, post-colonial, world-war, cold-war and the post-cold war decades.

If this respected Assembly fails in addressing the main problem, there will be no change on the continued crime of genocide against the Tamil nation.

~~We urge the Assembly to propose an independent international investigation mechanism to save a nation from its annihilation facing continued genocide without allowing international injustice, which is caused by the geopolitical outlook of the powers.~~

Thank you very much for your attention!