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**Annual report of the United Nations High Commissioner
for Human Rights and reports of the Office of the
High Commissioner and the Secretary-General**

**Joint written statement* submitted by the Association
Bharathi Centre Culturel Franco-Tamoul, ANAJA
(L'Eternel a répondu), Association Burkinabé pour la Survie
de l'Enfance, Association des étudiants tamouls de France,
Association pour les Victimes Du Monde, Association
Solidarité Internationale pour l'Afrique (SIA), Society for
Development and Community Empowerment, Tourner la
page, non-governmental organizations in special consultative
status**

The Secretary-General has received the following written statement which is circulated in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

[15 February 2017]

* This written statement is issued, unedited, in the language(s) received from the submitting non-governmental organization(s).



Genocide of Eelam Tamils in Sri Lanka*

Genocide of Eelam Tamils in Sri Lanka
set up a War Crimes Tribunal
Referendum for a separate nation of Eelam Tamils in Sri Lanka

I am Vaiko, General Secretary of Marumalarchi Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam-MDMK, a political party in the southernmost State of Tamilnadu in India, the homeland of 75 million Tamils, who have got umbilical relationship with Eelam Tamils of Sri Lanka for thousands of years. I am a former Member of Parliament of India for 24 years and a dedicated humble servant for the noble cause of Tamil Eelam.

With unbearable agony and anguish, I have sent this memorandum for your kind attention and appropriate action to erase the tears of Eelam Tamils, the original inhabitants of the north and east of the island of Sri Lanka.

Our tears were unnoticed all these years. Our anguished cry did fall on deaf ears of many countries in the world.

The Tamils of Sri Lanka were subjected to gruesome massacre and persecution for many years. Anyhow, I had a faint hope that one day the wailing and weeping of our mothers and sisters, elders and children, will knock at the doors of conscience of the humanity to come to the rescue.

19 youth of Tamilnadu, my mother state committed self-immolation embracing the flames of death to arouse the conscience of mankind about the terrible massacre and genocide took place in 2009 from January until May, in the northern province of Sri Lanka. I felt so depressed that we Tamils have become international orphans.

Due to this systematic discrimination and repression, the Tamils started peaceful agitations, demonstrations, rallies, hunger strikes through non-violence means espoused by Mahatma Gandhi.

This was under the dynamic leadership of the great Tamil leader, SJV Selvanayagam, who was also called as '*Thanthai Selva*' as well as 'Eelam Gandhi'.

But, the Sri Lankan racist government unleashed violent oppression by the police and the military against the peaceful demonstrators and many Tamils lost their lives.

Cultural genocide against the Tamils started. Places of worship of the Tamils, temples and churches were desecrated and destroyed by the Sinhalese thugs with the help of the police and the army. The Sinhalese have always been showing their hatred and have let loose violent attacks on Tamils and their cultural establishments and religious places time and again.

Government of Sri Lanka itself has stated in its Ministry of Religious and Cultural Affairs' Report that 1479 Hindu temples in Sri Lanka were damaged and destroyed till October 1993.

Vattukkottai Resolution : Magna Carta of Eelam Tamils

Due to these atrocities, the Tamils determined to have their separate nation. The historic turning point took place on 14th May 1976. All the Tamil organisations participated in the convention under the leadership of 'Thanthai' Selva at Pannagam, Vattukkottai.

But, the Sinhala racist government launched its armed forces and police, unleashing reign of terror, severe oppression against the Tamils. The peaceful demonstrations were met with bullets and bayonets.

Plunder, rape, murder, extra-judicial killings became the order of the day.

The children were not spared; one gruesome incident took place in which tender children were thrown into boiling tar. Heart breaking incident shocked to kindle the fire of anger in the mind of 15 year old youth of Valvettithurai by name Prabakaran, son of Velupillai and Parvathi Ammal, who became the legendary leader of the Tamil race.

It is a known history that many nationalities got liberation from the shackles of slavery only through armed struggle. In the same path, Prabhakaran launched the armed struggle of unprecedented valour and heroic deeds.

The Sri Lankan government intensified its brutal military attacks. The famous Jaffna library which contained the invaluable treasures of Tamil literature were burnt to ashes in 1981.

Two years later, in a 1983 pogrom, thousands of Tam

ils were killed. The most gruesome killing took place in Velikadai Prison, where 58 Tamils were slaughtered, including the heroes Kuttimani, Jagan and Thangadurai.

This massacre in 1983 engulfed the flames of anger in the minds of the Tamils all over the world.

In this context the Government of India under the leadership of Madam Indira Gandhi gave all moral support to the fighting Tamil groups of Eelam, particularly Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam-LTTE.

With political perspective and foresight, Prime Minister Madam Indira Gandhi wanted to help and strengthen the cause of Tamil Eelam.

However, the assassination of Indira Gandhi in 1984 was an unfortunate tragedy for the Eelam Tamils.

Thimphu Talks

In the month of July 1985, talks were held between the Sri Lankan government and the Tamil groups, mediated by the Government of India at Thimphu, the capital of Bhutan.

The Tamil groups emphasized that any meaningful solution to the Tamil national question must be based on the following four cardinal principles.

- 1. Recognition of the Tamils as a distinct nation.**
- 2. Recognition of Tamil homeland and its territorial integrity.**
- 3. Recognition of the right of Tamil National Self Determination.**
- 4. Recognition of the right to citizenship of all the Tamils.**

The Sri Lankan government did not agree to these cardinal principles of the Tamil groups. Hence, the talks failed. The emergence of the Tamil Eelam movement was championed by the Tamils worldwide.

Things changed in Sri Lanka also. Giving dubious, false assurances to the Tamils, Madam Chandrika Kumaratunga became the President of Sri Lanka in 1994.

She acquired arms and weapons from many countries. Equipping with that, the Sri Lankan army attacked the strongholds of LTTE, in which innocent Tamils were killed.

Five hundred thousand Tamils (5,00,000) from Jaffna were uprooted from their traditional homes. They had to flee to the jungles and other areas.

His Excellency Pope John Paul II made an appeal to the international community to extend their hands to erase the tears of the Tamils, to provide solace and succour to the suffering Tamils of Eelam.

The then Secretary General of United Nations, Mr. Boutros Boutros-Ghali, made a similar appeal to the people all over the world.

Peace Talks

The three rounds of talks were held in Thailand, and Norway in 2002, in which both the LTTE and Sri Lankan government representatives participated. But the peace talks were sabotaged by the President of Sri Lanka Madam Chandrika Kumaratunge.

Sri Lankan Air Force launched its aerial bombing.

On 8th August 2006, 17 Tamil youths who worked as volunteers in the Tsunami Rehabilitation Center of a French NGO Action Contre la Faim, were shot dead by the Sri Lankan Army. The crime was exposed by the Australian Government to the world.

The most gruesome, cruel massacre which shocked the hearts and minds of the international community was the dastardly bombing of the Chencholai orphanage on 14th August 2006 in which 61 female children were brutally killed and about 170 children were grievously wounded.

Four Members of Parliament in Sri Lanka, the Tamil representatives, democratically elected were shot dead at point blank range by the Sri Lankan Army in broad day light.

Muthukumar, a Tamil youth, committed self-immolation on 29th January 2009. He had written a dying declaration with an effective appeal to the people of Tamilnadu, particularly youth and students to awaken and arise, to protect the Eelam Tamils and punish the Sinhalese government.

The three members of the U.N panel are highly reputed legal luminaries specialized in human rights,

1. Mr. Marzuki Darusman, former Attorney General of Indonesia;
2. Mr. Steven Ratner, former Deputy Attorney General of United States of America;
3. Madam Yasmin Sooka, a leading lawyer and human rights activist of South Africa.

The President of Sri Lanka, Mahinda Rajapaksa and his government opposed and criticised the announcement of the Three Member Panel appointed by the U.N Secretary General.

The Sri Lankan Government itself organised violent protests by Sinhala racist groups against the United Nations to the extent of vulgarly denigrating the Secretary General.

The Sri Lankan Government did not permit the Three Member Panel to enter the island of Sri Lanka. But, ultimately had to allow the panel to visit that island due to the pressure mounted on them by the international community.

The panel formally commenced its work on 16th September 2010 and submitted its report on 12th April 2011, which was released by the Secretary General on 25th April 2011.

Recommendations;

1. The armed forces of Government of Sri Lanka should be withdrawn from Tamil areas.
2. Immediate measures needed to prevent further torture and harassment, rape and killing.
3. The internally displaced persons who are still kept in captivity in Government run camps should be sent to their native places with homes in a rehabilitated environment.
4. The then President of Sri Lanka, Mahinda Rajapakse and all others responsible for the genocide of Tamils should be tried in a War Crimes Tribunal, which has to be set up by the UNO.
5. A referendum for a separate nation of Eelam Tamils in Sri Lanka should be conducted under the supervision of International observers allowing the Tamil Diaspora also to participate.

*Collectif La Paix au Sri Lanka, Swiss Council of Eelam Tamil (SCET), Association Tamil Uzhagam, Association Le Pont (Palam), Marumalarchi Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam-MDMK (Tamil Nadu), NGO without consultative status, also share the views expressed in this statement.