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Agenda item 2

**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 African Network of Young Leaders for Peace and Sustainable Development, Fundación Global Democracia y Desarrollo, Lazarus Union, non-governmental organizations in general consultative status, Association Bharathi Centre Culturel Franco-Tamoul, "ECO-FAWN" (Environment Conservation Organization - Foundation for Afforestation Wild Animals and Nature), Aalem for Orphan and Vulnerable Children, Inc., ABC Tamil Oli, ACEH Les compagnons solidaires Action terre d'Afrique (ACEH Association de Coopération et d'Entraide Humanitaire), Achievers Mission Foundation, Action Jeunesse pour le Développement, Action of Human Movement (AHM), Advocacy Initiative for Development (AID), Africa Unite, African Agency for Integrated Development (AAID), African Centre for Advocacy and Human Development, African Citizens Development Foundation, African Council on Narcotics, African Development Association, African Heritage And Global Peace Initiative, African Heritage Foundation Nigeria, Ageing Nepal, Agence pour le Développement Intégré au Congo, Agence pour les droits de l'homme, AIMPO, All Believers Pentecostal Church International, Alliance des Avocats pour les Droits de l'Homme, Alliance internationale pour la défense des droits et des libertés, Aman against Discrimination,

* Issued as received, in the language of submission only.



Amis d'Afrique Francophone-Bénin (AMAF-Benin), Amman Center for Human Rights Studies, Amman Center for Human Rights Studies, ANAJA (L'Eternel a répondu), Arab African American Womens' Leadership Council Inc., Arab Society for Academic Freedoms, Archbishop E. Kataliko Actions for Africa "KAF", Asabe Shehu Yar Adua Foundation, Ashiana Collective Development Council, Asociación Civil Generación Par, Asociación Civil Hecho por Nosotros, Asociación Colectivo Mujeres Al Derecho Sigla ASOCOLEMAD, Asociación Española para el Derecho Internacional de los Derechos Humanos AEDIDH, Asociación Forjando Futuro para Todos, Asociacion Nacional de Empresarios de Colombia, Asociación Nacional de Estudiantes de ingenierías Industrial, Administrativa y de Producción, Asociación Pro-Bienestar de la Familia Colombiana "Profamilia", Association Avocats Sans Frontière Humanitaires du Cameroun, Association Burkinabé pour la Survie de l'Enfance, Association Congolaise pour le Développement Agricole, ASSOCIATION CULTURELLE DES TAMOULS EN FRANCE, Association de Developpement Agricole, Educatif et Sanitaire de Manono, Association de lutte contre la pauvreté, Association des étudiants tamouls de France, Association des Jeunes Engagés pour l'Action Humanitaire (A.J.E.A.H.), Association des Jeunes pour l'Agriculture du Mali, Association des jeunes volontaires au service du monde environnemental, Association du Développement et de la Promotion de Droits de l'Homme, Association Elmostakbell pour le Développement, Association femmes leadership et développement durable AFLED, Association femmes solidaires au Togo, Association Gabonaise pour les Nations Unies (AGNU), Association Internationale des Medecins pour la Promotion de l'Education et de la Santé en Afrique, Association Liaison Universelle pour le Bien-être des enfants et des Jeunes, Association Malienne de Savoir Construire (A.M.S.C.), Association Mauritanienne pour la promotion du droit, Association mouvement pour la défense de l'humanité et abolition de la torture (MDHAT), Association nationale des partenaires migrants, Association of Youths with Vision (AOYWV), Association pour la Défense des Droits de Développement Durable et du Bien-être Familial (ADBEF), Association pour la défense des droits de l'homme et des revendications démocratiques/culturelles du peuple Azerbaidjanais-Iran - « ARC », Association pour la Diffusion des Droits Humains aux Peuples Autochtones (Humanitarian Law Agency), Association pour la Promotion de la Lutte Contre les Violences faites aux Femmes et la Participation au

Développement de la Femme africaine, Association pour les
 Droits de l'Homme et l'Univers Carcéral, Association pour
 les Victimes Du Monde, Association Respect Cameroun,
 Association Thendral, Association-Santé-Education-
 Démocratie (ASED), Autre Vie, AWTAD Organization For
 Combating Corruption, Blessed Aid, Campaign for Human
 Right and Development Sierra Leone, Center for Africa
 Development and Progress, Center for Integrated Rural and
 Child Development, Centre for Gender Justice and Women
 Empowerment, Centre for Human Rights and Peace
 Advocacy, Centre Zagros pour les Droits de l'Homme,
 Centro Regional de Derechos Humanos y Justicia de Genero,
 Change Human's Life, Change Human's Life, CIRID (Centre
 Independent de Recherches et d'Initiatives pour le Dialogue),
 Citoyens en action pour la démocratie et le développement,
 City2000 Youth Action International, Collectif des
 Associations Contre l'Impunité au Togo (C.A.C.I.T.),
 Colombian Commission of Jurists, Comité des observateurs
 des droits de l'homme, Comité Permanente por la Defensa de
 los Derechos Humanos, Community Center for Integrated
 Development, Community Economic And Environmental
 Rights Initiative, Community Restoration Initiative Project,
 Compagnons D'action pour le Développement Familial,
 ComunidadMujer, Coordination des Associations et des
 Particuliers pour la Liberté de Conscience, Corporación ATS
 Acción Técnica Social, Corporación Centro de Estudios de
 Derecho Justicia y Sociedad, Corporación Colectivo de
 Abogados Jose Alvear Restrepo, Corporacion Colombia
 Unida por el Respeto al Adulto Mayor (COR PRO ADULTO
 MAYOR) / Corporation Colombia United for the Respect of
 the Elder, Corporación Equipo Colombiano
 Interdisciplinario de Trabajo Forense y Asistencia
 Psicosocial, Corporación Excelencia en la Justicia,
 Corporacion para la Defensa y Promocion de los Derechos
 Humanos Reiniciar, Corporación para la Investigación, el
 Desarrollo Sostenible y la Promoción Social
 CORPROGRESO, Corporación Red Nacional de Mujeres
 Comunales, Comunitarias, Indígenas y Campesinas de la
 República de Colombia, Coup de Pouce, Cyber café avenir
 pour tous, Dayemi Complex Bangladesh, Edfu Foundation
 Inc., Education and English For You (EEFY), Elizka Relief
 Foundation, Excellent World Foundation LTD/GTE,
 Families of the Missing, Federación Mexicana de
 Universitarias, Fitilla, Fondation Zizi Care, Foreningen for
 Human Narkotikapolitikk, Foundation for the development
 of knowledge Suma Veritas, Freann Financial Services
 Limited, Fundação de Apoio a Pesquisa Científica,

Educacional e Tecnológica de Rondônia, Fundación Abba Colombia, Fundación Acción Pro Derechos Humanos, Fundación Alvarallice, Fundación Ambiente y Recursos Naturales, Fundación América Solidaria Internacional, Fundación Antonio Núñez Jiménez de la Naturaleza y el Hombre, Fundación Argentina a las Naciones Camino a la Verdad, Fundación Atenea Grupo GID, Fundación BBVA para las Microfinanzas, Fundación Centro Latinoamericano de Derechos Humanos, Fundación Cepaim, Acción Integral con Migrantes, Fundación Charles Darwin para las Islas Galápagos, Fundación Contemporánea, Fundación Cooperadora de la Nutrición Infantil (C.O.N.I.N.), Fundación Crisálida, Fundación Cultural Baur, A.C., Fundación DARA Internacional, Fundación del Empresariado Chihuahuense AC, Fundación Descúbreme, Fundación Ecología y Desarrollo, Fundación Educación y Cooperación (EDUCO), Fundación Éforo, Fundación Familias Monoparentales Isadora Duncan, Fundación Latinoamérica Reforma, Fundación Latinoamericana por los Derechos Humanos y el Desarrollo Social, Fundación Lobbying Social, Fundación Lonxanet para la Pesca Sostenible, Fundación Luz María, Fundación More Peace Less AIDS, Fundación Multitudes, Fundación Nacional para la Superación de la Pobreza, Fundación Novia Salcedo, Fundación ONCE para la Cooperación e Inclusión de Personas con Discapacidad, Fundación para la Democracia Internacional, Fundación para la Protección de los Árboles La Iguana, Fundación Riba, Fundación Ronda, Fundación SES (Sustentabilidad, Educación, Solidaridad), Fundación Síndrome de Down del Caribe, Fundación Voluntarias Contra el Cáncer, A.C., Giving Life Nature Volunteer, Global Appreciation and Skills Training Network, Goodness and Mercy Missions Common Initiative Group, Haitelmex Foundation A.C., Hrvatska udruga za promicanje prava pacijenata, Idheas, Litigio Estratégico en Derechos Humanos, Asociación Civil, Ijeoma Foundation For The Old People, Inter-Action Globale (I.A.G.), International Career Support Association, International Centre for Environmental Education and Community Development, International Federation of Medical Students' Associations, International Movement for Advancement of Education Culture Social and Economic Development, International Organization for Educational Development, International Yazidis Foundation for the Prevention of Genocide, J'ai Rêvé Foundation, Jeunesse Etudiante Tamoule, JFMO Servicios en Intermediación Pública A en P, Le Pont, League of Arab People Organization, Lebanese American Renaissance

Partnership, Inc., Lidskoprávní organizace Práva a svobody občanů Turkmenistánu z.s., Ligue Mauritanienne pour l'appui aux initiatives associatives, L'observatoire mauritanien des droits de l'homme et de la démocratie, L'ONG action contre le sida, L'Organisation Non Gouvernementale des Cercles Nationaux de Réflexion sur la Jeunesse - ONG CNRJ, Maasai Youth Outreach Organization [MAYOO], Mandala Transformation Foundation Inc., Mijoro Mandroso (Mi.Ma.), Mouvement d'organisation des ruraux pour le développement (M.O.R.D), Murna Foundation, Nobel Laurate Mother Teresa Charitable Trust, Nobre Ordem para Excelencia Humana - NOHE, Northern CCB, Ocean Lifeline Inc., ODISSI (Organisation pour le développement international social solidaire intégré), ONG - Sonagnon, ONG Funsocial Crecer Colombia, Otro Tiempo México, Asociación Civil, Palakkad District Consumers' Association, Pirate Parties International Headquarters, Planetary Association for Clean Energy, Inc., The, Positive Youth Development Association, Project 1948 Foundation, Rassemblement des frères unis pour le développement socio-culturel (RAFUDESC - BENIN), Reachout and Smile Initiative for Social Empowerment, Réseau Unité pour le Développement de Mauritanie, Safe Campaign LLC, Save the Climat, Semilla Warunkwa, Shirley Ann Sullivan Educational Foundation, Society for Development and Community Empowerment, Solidarité Agissante pour le Développement Familial (SADF), Stichting Global Human Rights Defence, Stichting Spanda, Tamil Uzhagam, The African Centre for Human Advancement, Social and Community Development Kuduru Bwari Abuja, Tourner La Page, Trilok Youth Club and Charitable Trust, Vadodara, Tripla Difesa Onlus Guardie - Sicurezza Sociale e Ecozoofila, United Zo Organization (USA) Inc., Vision GRAM-International, Vision Welfare Group, World for World Organization, Yayasan Pendidikan Indonesia, Young Professional Development Society Nepal, Youth in Technology and Arts Network (YOTAN), 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.

[22 August 2022]

Coalition of 9671 Organizations including 241 ECOSOC Accredited NGOs Call for New United Nations Human Rights Council Resolution to Protect Tamils from Genocide, to Name a Special Rapporteur for Sri Lanka and to Recognize Tamils Rights to Self-Determination

We, the undersigned organizations, urge the Member States of the Human Rights Council to pass a strong resolution at the upcoming 51st Session, affirming an international commitment to protect human rights and justice in Sri Lanka, with a particular focus on Tamils victims of genocide in Sri Lanka.

The Tamils have been fighting for over seventy years for self determination. We are a nation of people living in the merged North and East in the island of Ceylon. We have our right to determine our own destiny.

Successive Sri Lankan Sinhala – Buddhist Governments have continually suppressed Tamils right to self-determination and govern Tamils employing brutal military force to annihilate, which amounts to genocide.

Since the independence from the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland in 1948, Tamils have been waging peaceful non-violent struggles for our self-determination. These peaceful struggles were brutally suppressed by the use of force by the successive Sinhala – Buddhist Government, resulting in Tamil youths turn to armed struggle, which was suppressed by Sri Lankan Security forces killing hundreds of thousands of Tamil civilians and sexually assaulting and raping Tamil women.

According to the November 2012 Report of the UN Secretary-General's Internal Review Panel on UN Action in Sri Lanka, over 70,000 people were killed during the final six months of the war that ended in May 2009. According fact-finding mission held by Bishop Rayappu Joseph there are 146,679 persons are unaccounted. Over 110 000 tamils are enforced disappeared by Sri Lanka security forces from 1980s.

Several were killed when Sri Lankan forces repeatedly bombed and shelled an area designated by the Government as No Fire Zones (Safe zones). Even hospitals and food distribution centers were bombed. Several also died of starvation and bled to death due to lack of medical treatment.

Thousands of Tamils disappeared including babies and children. The UN Working Group on Enforced Disappearances stated that the second-highest number of enforced disappearance cases in the world is from Sri Lanka.

The deteriorating human rights and accountability context in Sri Lanka is documented in detail in the High Commissioner for Human Rights' January 2021 report as well as a joint assessment released by ten UN Special Procedures mandates earlier for last 12 years.

The High Commissioner highlighted that “nearly 12 years on from the end of the war, domestic initiatives for accountability and reconciliation have repeatedly failed to produce results.” Just as concerning, the High Commissioner stressed the emergence of “early warning signs of a deteriorating human rights situation and a significant heightened risk of future violations.” Given the Government of Sri Lanka's failure to comply with the State's human rights obligations and implement agreed-upon accountability efforts and the need for urgent preventative action, it is essential that a new resolution detail immediate, concrete, and independent international efforts, including enhancing monitoring by the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), creating an independent international mechanism to collect and preserve evidence of past and ongoing violations, acts of genocide against tamils and abuses, and prioritizing support to civil society initiatives.

The toll on civilians was particularly high in the final stage of the conflict, when tens of thousands of Tamil civilians were killed, by Government forces' shelling of “No Fire Zones.” Following the end of the war, the country remained over-militarized and human rights abuses continued, including extrajudicial killings, enforced disappearances, arbitrary detention,

torture, sexual violence, and harassment and persecution of journalists, activists, and government critics.

Eelam Tamils populations have disproportionately suffered from these continuing violations and abuses, as they face institutionalized discrimination and higher levels of targeted state-sponsored violence.

The High Commissioner highlighted how “the failure to deal with the past continues to have devastating effects on tens of thousands of survivors.”

In the past year, prospects for domestic justice and accountability efforts in Sri Lanka have dimmed entirely. Gotabaya Rajapaksa – the former Secretary to the Ministry of Defense who oversaw the brutal end to Sri Lanka’s war – was elected President in November 2019. As one of its first acts on the international stage, the new Rajapaksa administration announced its withdrawal from HRC Resolution 30/1, part of a series of steps that led the High Commissioner to conclude that “The Government has now demonstrated its inability and unwillingness to pursue a meaningful path towards accountability for international crimes and serious human rights violations.”

The Government has also “proactively obstructed or sought to stop ongoing investigations and criminal trials to prevent accountability for past crimes of Genocide,” promoted credibly accused war criminals, increased militarization of civilian institutions, reversed Constitutional safeguards, increasingly employed and promoted majoritarian and exclusionary rhetoric, increased surveillance and obstruction of civil society, and exacerbated human rights concerns.

The fear of reprisals against victims and witnesses, together with a lack of effective investigations and prosecutions, has led to a circle of impunity that must be broken.” We share the High Commissioner’s and Special Procedures’ concerns that continued reliance on the Government of Sri Lanka to improve human rights and accountability will prove futile and dangerous. As both history and recent events in Sri Lanka have shown, if left unchecked, the Government will be emboldened to continue its abuses and further entrench impunity.

After the war ended eleven years ago in May 2009, Tamils are facing the following hardships, and continue to seek Justice for last 12 yaers and last big demonstration was the Walked for Tamil’s Justice last February 2021, from Pothuvil to Polikandy demand that the abuses and structural genocide to stop against Eelam Tamils:

Militarization of Tamil’s traditional homeland is continuing, and Tamils’ historical identity is destroyed with the aim to change demography in favour of Sinhalese, using several government departments, including archaeological, forest, survey departments, and Ministry of Buddhasasana as well as Mahaveli River Development Agency. Also, Government-sponsored Sinhalese settlements are continuing.

Continuing land grab in Tamil’s traditional homeland by the Security Forces and the Government converting Tamil’s traditional and historical places into Sinhala-Buddhist areas by establishing numerous Buddhist temples in Tamil areas, including after destroying Hindu temples. As of now, around 200 Hindu temples were affected by this act of the Government.

Sinhala – Buddhist Government continues to intimidate and abuse Tamil journalists who cover abuses against Tamils and Tamil civil society activists who protest these abuses. This not only violates their constitutionally guaranteed rights, it is being used to suppress Tamil’s calls for fundamental rights, including self-determination.

All the lands that were confiscated by the Government / Sri Lankan Sinhalese Security Forces from Tamil civilians should be returned immediately.

Tamils have been denied the right to remember their war dead, as demonstrated by denying remembrance events, destruction of cemeteries of the war dead, and demolition of memorials by the Sinhala – Buddhist Government.

Prevention of Terrorism Act (PTA) has been used to imprison Tamils without charge or trial for over 44 years.

Recommendations

We call upon the UNHRC members and other affiliated UN agencies and member states to:

- Recognize the genocide resolution passed unanimously in the Northern Provincial Council of Sri Lanka on 10th February 2015.
- Support the Resolution 30/1 which seeks an UN inquiry to investigate the genocide of the Tamil people in Sri Lanka by successive Sri Lankan Governments,
- Direct appropriate measures at the International Criminal Court outlining that the affected Tamil people have no faith in any domestic commission or inquiry.
- The Council Members should work together to appoint a special Rapporteur to monitor and investigate ongoing human rights violations and repression against the Tamil people.
- The Sri Lankan government is still using the ban imposed on the LTTE by some countries as a tool to suppress the democratic voices and activities of the Tamil people in the North and East today even in the absence of the LTTE. Therefore, the countries concerned should take note of this and take appropriate action.

To the Special rapporteurs and treaty bodies experts:

- Please help us to ensure to protect human rights defenders in Sri Lanka to carry out their legitimate work, in a safe and enabling environment without fear of threats, acts of intimidation or reprisals of any kind witnesses and families seeking truth and justice, and failed to prosecute those against whom there was evidence of wrongdoing.
- All political detainees to be released or brought to justice without any further delay.

To the 4th committee members of General Assembly:

- To recognize Eelam Tamil as Non-Self-Governing territories
- To bring the right to self-determination of Eelam Tamils at the 4th committee and hears statements from Tamil elected representatives as well as petitioners, dispatches visiting missions, and organises seminars on the political, social, economic and educative situation in the territories under Sri Lankan occupation.

GLOBAL TAMIL MOUVEMENT, INTERNATIONAL ALLIANCE AGAINST TAMILS GENOCIDE AND FREE TAMIL EELAM, ASSOCIATION DE DEFENSE DES DROITS DES ENFANTS, ASSOCIATION DE SOLIDARITÉ INTERNATIONALE POUR LE DÉVELOPPEMENT DURABLE, Centre Bishop Rayappu Joseph pour la Justice et la paix, Gouvernement en Exil du Tamil Eelam, Association des Journalistes en Exil, Association Internationale Contre les Disparitions forcées, Association des Droits de l'Homme de Nevers, ASSOCIATION DES CHRETIENS TAMOULS POUR LA PAIX ET JUSTICE, ASSOCIATION TAMIL UZHAGAM, ASSOCIATION DES ANONYMES ET PERSÉCUTES DU GÉNOCIDE TAMOULE, Association des Artistes du Monde, ASSOCIATION DES FEMMES SOLIDAIRES DU MONDE, WORLD WOMEN SOLIDARITY ASSOCIATION, SOLIDARITE INTERNATIONALE SANTE-LOGISTIQUE HUMANITAIRE, ASSOCIATION THENDRAL, NIÈVRE ACTION DROIT DE L'HOMME, AGARAM TRANSLATION SERVICES, AGARAM, Alliance internationale pour la liberté de Tamil Eelam, Alliance of Lawyers for Human Rights, NGO(s) without consultative status, also share the views expressed in this statement.