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Human rights situations that require the Council's attention

Written statement* submitted by Association Thendral, a non-governmental organization 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]

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



Eelam Tamil are under Sri Lankan Military Occupation Mannar District and Facing Harassment and Structural Genocide

Mannar is an island with the approximate area of 143 square Kilometers, which located northwest to Sri Lanka. The main livelihoods of this beautiful island are fishing, gardening forest related things etc. As it is surrounded by sea, fishing could be done at a very large scale and a large number of Palmyra and Coconut trees made this island like a wealthiest one in Sri Lanka. The island is likely a very good one for all the seasons and the people see this island as a treasure possession.

Our village Pesalai is located in the middle of this beautiful island. This village contains the large amount of people of the island and it contains all the resources of Land, Sea and forest. Pesalai is one of the emerging villages which would be called a well-developed city in near future. Our people have been following the traditional and modern way of fishing for decades of decades without harming the Nature. This is the reason behind that many people migrate to our village. Our village was one the wealthiest one in the Mannar island. Both the Northern and Southern sea have never disappointed our people in any season as it has a regular rainfall as well as the other resources like Palmyra and freshwater.

Unfortunately, the above mentioned resources are being destroyed by the non-precaution activities which take place in our land. After the 30 years of the civil war the government and the government funded organizations are the reason behind the destruction of our natural resources in the name of development. The government and the government funded organizations have put unbearable pressure on this small island, They are as follows:

Earth resources like mineral was being excavated at large in 2015 and it was temporarily halted in the end of 2020 by a protest and other measures taken by our people.

Even though 300 holes were targeted (2 square meters in extent and 12 meters depth) to excavate the mineral sand in the coastal area of Pesalai –Talaimannar but it was ended up with 473 holes. This activity was also objected by our people and it was the temporarily halted. However we hear that evil plans are ongoing to restart the activity.

Thus our village well-wishers and social activists have listed the catastrophes which are being faced by the people of Pesalai and Mannar Island.

1. Our traditional land is being traded to international corporate companies.
2. The pressure which made by using modern machineries in the process of hollowing the land is a threat to the balance of Nature and it may lead to a fall in fishing
3. We are endangered by the threat of flooding by sea water as they have made our land a low land. (50 to 60 ton millions of mineral sand have been excavated)
4. Our drinking water is getting salty by the holes made by them. So there is scarcity of drinking water in our village after this activity.
5. The Coconut, Palmyra resources are being destroyed whenever they clear the area in extent of 2 square meters. This might lead to lose of the mentioned natural resources and there might be a fall in the rainfall.

These are the outcomes of just the pre-activities of them and we fear that the future activities might make our Mannar Island inhabitable and the people of Mannar Island will not have any place to live in the future. So we are in the extinct level and our future generations will not have any hope.

Our village was selected intentionally as it is the suitable place for wind mill and the constructions of wind turbine have been finished and they are actively functioning now. The government and the government funded organization are planning to construct more wind turbines in our Mannar Island in the name of lighting the Country as a part of development. We the people of Mannar Island are strongly condemn this kind activity which may lead our land inhabitable in the near future. We see this as the end of the people of Mannar Island thus we request this kind of activity must be stopped without hesitation for the sake of the Mannar

people of the responsible citizens of this country. The government is well aware that fishing is our main livelihood and making it obstructions for it is unacceptable. We see this, intentional activity of the government even though it knows about the people of Mannar Island. We fear it might be a part of the well planned genocide of the government.

Our habitat is endangered as the winds mill it being extended by the government time to time. We have been facing a lot of problems even in the first step of the development. If the second and third steps of development are not stopped there will be only wind turbines in the Mannar Island in the near future. The experts who are related this field have warned us about the threats which are going to be faced by our people.

The threats are enlisted as follows:

1. There is a historical fall in fishing as a cause of the vibrations which are made by the Wind turbine.
2. Our traditional lands are taken forcibly by the government and international corporate companies.
3. The reproductions of fish are notably decreased as the sea plants are destroyed and this caused the unbalance of Nature.
4. The 24 natural Canals have been destroyed in the Southern seashore. This made our whole island flooded in last November in the rainy season and affected the normalcy of the life of all our people of Mannar Island. In that time communicable diseases were spread and livestock were disappeared and it remains as a wound in the heart of our people.
5. The seasonal rainfall is notably decreased as a lot of Palmyra and Coconut trees have been destroyed.
6. Our traditional method of fishing called “Karavalai” (Towing fishnet using large ropes from both sides on the seashore) is affected and people who get benefits from it are severely affected.
7. As the roads related to this project were constructed in a very height our villages started to flooded even in the normal rainy seasons. The constructions of the roads have closed all our Natural canals and it has divided our lands and the rainy waters stores in the temporarily made ponds. This state is also going to continue further in this year but the government or government officers are not concern about that.
8. Our people are struggling to find another way of livelihood as the finishing is the main livelihood of the people of Mannar Island. This is pulling our people in to engage in the unlawful activities in order to nurture their family. Thus we kindly request to give up the projects which can put an end to our society. Some land owners of our village and Island are manipulated by lies of the government and International corporate companies. This activity also must be stopped.

So we kindly urge the government and the government funded organizations to stop these kinds of projects in Present and future.

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

- Recognize the genocide resolution passed unanimously in the Northern Provincial Council of Sri Lanka on 10th February in 2015.
- Council Members to have a new Resolution under Agenda 4 to appoint a special Rapporteur to monitor and investigate ongoing human rights violations and repression against the Tamil people.
- The referral of the situation in Sri Lanka to the International Criminal Court.

To the Special rapporteurs and treaty bodies experts.

- Please help us to ensure to Tamil human rights defenders in Sri Lanka to carry out their legitimate works in safe and enabling environment without fear of threats, acts of intimidation or reprisals to the witnesses and their families seeking truth and justice and not to failed to prosecute wrongdoers.
- We therefor request your to investigate this omission and to mention the appropriate word of "TAMILS" wherever it's needful.
- To the 4th committee members of General Assembly: To recognize that Tamil territories are not governing by Tamils
- To UN Special-Adviser on the Prevention of Genocide Mme Wairimu Nderitu : To consider writing a report on the nexus between the non-repetition of genocide and reparations to have a panel of discussion with Eelam Tamils Victim of genocide in Sri Lanka.

Association de Défense des Droits des Enfants, Rencontre pour la Paix et les Droits de l'Homme, ASSOCIATION POUR LA SOLIDARITE FRANCE-AFRIQUE, ASSOCIATION FEMMES SOLIDAIRES (AFS), Centre de Recherche sur les Droits de l'Homme, CENTRE INTERNATIONAL DES DROITS DE L'HOMME, ALLIANCE INTERNATIONALE DES JOURNALISTES, CENTRE DE LA SORBONNE POUR LE DROIT INTERNATIONAL ET LES RELATIONS INTERNATIONALES, ASSOCIATION DES FEMMES POUR LA LUTTE CONTRE LA PAUVRETE, Association pour le droit des étrangers, Advocates for Justice and Human Rights, ADVOCATES FOR JUSTICE AND HUMAN RIGHTS, Association for Independence of Judges and Lawyers, Réseau International pour les Droits de l'Homme et de l'Etat de Droit, COORDINATION INTERNATIONAL DES DROITS DE L'HOMME, ASSOCIATION POUR LA DEFENSE DES DROITS DES CITOYENS, Association Humaniste de France, LE CONSEIL INTERNATIONAL POUR LES DROITS DE L'HOMME, International Centre for Right to Self determination, ASSOCIATION INTERNATIONALE DES JOURNALISTES INDEPENDANTS, ASSOCIATION FEMMES DE LA MEDIATION, COALITION OF WORLD TAMIL ORGANIZATIONS, CONSEIL NATIONAL DES DROITS DE L'HOMME ET DU CITOYEN, ASSOCIATION SOLIDARITE SANS FRONTIERE ET D'EDUCATION, World Tamil Parliamentarians Association, Tamil Eelam Football Federation, Tamil Eelam Olympic Committee, ACTIONS ECOLOGIQUES FRANÇAISES, ACTIONS POUR LA PROTECTION ET LA DEFENSE DES DROITS DE L'HOMME, LIGUE EUROPEENNE POUR LA PROTECTION DES DROITS DE L'HOMME, Federation of Global Tamil Organizations, ACTION DE LA JEUNESSE POUR LE DÉVELOPPEMENT DURABLE, ASSOCIATION DES CHRETIENS TAMOULS DE FRANCE, Alliance Internationale de Défense des Droits Humains, International Alliance for the Defense of Human Rights, ALLIANCE INTERNATIONALE POUR LA JUSTICE, French for Democracy & Human Rights, FORUM FOR THE DEMOCRACY AND HUMAN RIGHTS FRANCE FDHR, Europeans Tamils for Justice and Peace, Action des Chrétiens Pour les droits de l'homme, ALLIANCE DES JURISTES POUR LES DROITS DE L'HOMME, MAISON DES CITOYENS DU MONDE, North-East Secretariat on Human Rights, NORTH-EAST DEVELOPPMENT AGENCY, ALLIANCE POUR LA JUSTICE INTERNATIONALE (AJI), CENTER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS, AJACCIO HUMAN RIGHTS CENTER, ACTIONS ET DROITS POUR LES FEMMES EXILEES ET MIGRANTES, TAMIL EELAM PEACE RESEARCH INSTITUTE, STUDENTS FOR HUMAN RIGHTS, ASSOCIATION DE DEFENSE DES DROITS DE L'HOMME, ASSOCIATION DES DROITS DE L'HOMME DE CHARENTE, CENTRE INTERNATIONAL DES ÉTUDES STRATÉGIQUES ET POLITIQUES, ASSOCIATION INTERNATIONALE POUR LE DÉVELOPPEMENT ECONOMIQUE ET SOCIAL DU TAMIL EELAM, CENTRE EUROPÉEN POUR LA PAIX ET JUSTICE, MEDIAS POUR LA PAIX ET JUSTICE, ASSOCIATION DES JEUNES DE LA DIASPORA TAMOUL, International Center for Peace and Justice - ICPI, CENTRE INTERNATIONAL DE RECHERCHE SUR LA PAIX ET JUSTICE, CENTRE DE PROTECTION DE TAMIL EELAM, Action Pour l'Education au Développement Durable et aux Droits Humains, Action des chrétiens pour les Droits Humains,

ALLIANCE INTERNATIONALE CONTRE LE GENOCIDE DES TAMOULS, Youth Action for Development and Human Rights, Action for education and the Promotion of women, Action pour la Protection des Droits de l'Enfant, Centre Tamoul pour les droits de l'homme et la démocratie, International Federation for Child Rights, Advocates for Peace and Human Rights, Centre for Human Rights Advocacy, Association International pour le Développement Economique et Social, Agence Internationale des Droits de l'Homme, Centre for Human Rights Defenders (CHRD), INTERNATIONAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE TAMIL EELAM, NGO(s) without consultative status, also share the views expressed in this statement.