



### **Memorandum**

**To: Rt. Hon. David Cameron MP, Prime Minister, United Kingdom**

**From: British Tamils**

**Date: 18 May 2010**

#### **Tamils Need Justice and Protection**

On the 1<sup>st</sup> anniversary of the massacre of nearly 40,000 Tamil people by the Sri Lankan state, we the Tamil people of the Diaspora and other peace loving people are gathered here today to remember those who died as well as those who had their lives shattered by the physical and mental scars inflicted upon them. Heavy weaponry was used by the military during the offensive on densely populated areas and designated "Safe Zones". Cluster bombs and chemical weapons were also alleged to have been used in the onslaught.

We are here to remind the world that the perpetrators of these heinous crimes against humanity are still at large and are still charged with governance to continue with their genocidal programme against the Tamil people in Sri Lanka. Evidence gathered by International Crisis Group in a report released on 17 May 2010 provides reasonable grounds to believe that government security forces "repeatedly and intentionally" violated international law by attacking civilians, hospitals and humanitarian operations.

Today the Tamil people have been left totally defenceless and in danger of obliteration in their own homeland under the jack boot of the Sinhala armed forces of Sri Lanka. Over 80,000 Tamil people are still held in concentration camps guarded by the Sinhala armed forces. Over 11,000 Tamil youth are held in undisclosed torture camps with scant disregard to their human rights. Local media reports give gruesome accounts of the fate of these youth who are held without accountability.

The Sri Lankan government is continuing to decimate the Tamil homeland. The land and property belonging to the Tamil people are being plundered by Sinhala settlers with state patronage. The street names and sign boards are being changed from Tamil to Sinhala, Tamil historical and religious sites are being destroyed and replaced by Buddhist temples across the traditionally Tamil North and East regions. The Tamil people face existential threat of unprecedented proportions whilst the world media and international attention is kept away by the Sri Lankan state. The Tamils have become a community in danger in their own homeland.

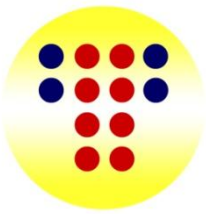
"UN was paralysed when political and diplomatic intervention was required to protect Tamil civilians in the Sri Lankan government campaign to wipe out the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam," Lord Patton, Chancellor of University of Oxford, commented in an article in Financial Times in reference to UN's inability to uphold the principle of Responsibility to Protect (R2P) to prevent such atrocities.

#### **Britain's Responsibility to Protect**

Owing to Britain's political involvement in the history of the island, the Tamil people have reason to expect the British government to take decisive and effective measures to protect the Tamil community from total annihilation. The Sri Lankan government, emboldened by its support from anti-Western alliances, continues to ignore with utter contempt all calls to respect international norms on human rights.

British Tamils want Britain to use her leverage on trade through permanent withdrawal of GSP+, prevention of IMF loan and her standing in the commonwealth, European Union, the UN, as well as her influence on other powerful nations to exert pressure on the Sri Lankan government to,

- Uphold international law and release all the people held in concentration camps across the island and resettle them in their places of origin
- End illegal, indefinite and arbitrary detention of more than 11,000 youths held in so-called rehabilitation centres and be given access to legal representation



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- Allow unhindered access to the international media and aid agencies to the North & East of the island of Sri Lanka
- Halt all Sinhalisation of the Tamil areas, ethnic cleansing and decimation of the North & East

We want the British Government to ensure that,

- International aid is not diverted to purposes other than those for which it was entrusted to the Government of Sri Lanka
- The Tamil people are protected from ethnic cleansing and annihilation by the Sinhala State.
- An independent international inquiry into the war crimes committed against the Tamil people during the war is initiated and the perpetrators are brought to book.