



## PRESS RELEASE

- FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE -

27 October 2021

### **ICPPG WELCOMES THE GRC'S SUBMISSIONS TO THE ICC AND CALLS UPON THE BRITISH POLICE TO ISSUE AN URGENT ARREST WARRANT AGAINST THE PRESIDENT GOTABAYA RAJAPAKSA.**

**London:** ICPPG welcomes Global Rights Compliance LLP (GRC)'s communication to the Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court (ICC) and the submission to the British police to issue an urgent arrest warrant against the Sri Lankan officials, including President Gotabaya Rajapaksa who are expected to be visiting Glasgow between 31 October – 12 November 2021 to participate in the United Nations Climate Change Conference 2021 (COP26).

On behalf of 200 Sri Lankan Tamil victims (Victims), a team of legal experts, led by Wayne Jordash QC, the Managing Partner of the GRC, has made a very detailed submission to the Prosecutor of the ICC under Article 15 of the Rome Statute requesting the ICC to commence investigations on the basis of the Crimes against humanity of deportation, deprivation of right to return as an inhumane act and persecution of Tamils by the Sri Lankan authorities. The GRC has also provided the copy of the same to the national police authorities of the UK for the initiation of an investigation and issuance of arrest warrants under the principle of universal jurisdiction against the Sri Lankan officials, including President Gotabaya Rajapaksa and some of the other individuals named in their communication, who are expected to be visiting Glasgow between 31 October – 12 November 2021 to participate in the United Nations Climate Change Conference 2021 (COP26).

ICPPG also wishes to highlight that the GRC's communication,

- Provides an overview of the cogent information regarding the widespread and systematic commission of the crimes against humanity of deportation, deprivation of right to return as an inhumane act and persecution (under Article 7 of the Rome Statute) in Sri Lanka and the UK against the Tamil nationals who were perceived supporters or members of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) by the Government of Sri Lanka (GoSL) at least since 2002.
- Acknowledges thousands of actual or perceived Tamil supporters or members of LTTE have been systematically subjected to abduction, unlawful detention and/or torture by the GoSL officials belonging to the Sri Lankan security forces named in its communication (attached) during and after the armed conflict between the LTTE and GoSL in 2009.
- Confesses that,



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- although this filing is on behalf of 200 Victims, the experiences of the Victims outlined therein concern thousands of victims.
- Continuing threats, torture, and persecutory policies of the GoSL security forces led by Gotabaya Rajapaksa and Kamal Gunaratne.
- Continuing such acts of GoSL prevent the Victims from returning home and they face the risk of torture, injury, and death if they returned to Sri Lanka for being a Tamil, immaterial of whether they are LTTE supporters or not.
- Deliberates the GoSL authorities
  - in committing these crimes has been/is to annihilate, by any means necessary, the Tamil separatism in Sri Lanka embodied within the LTTE and its supporters without distinction between those with these political beliefs and the thousands of Sri Lankan men, women and children who wish for nothing but peace, security, and a place to call home.
  - committed these criminal acts on ethnic and political grounds, meaning that they were in fact committed as underlying acts of discrimination and persecution.
  - Continue to harass and persecute victims loved ones who remain in Sri Lanka
  - ongoing surveillance, harassment and persecution directed towards victims in the UK.

Statement by Michelle Bachelet, UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, on 48th session of the Human Rights Council highlights “Regrettably, surveillance, intimidation and judicial harassment of human rights defenders, journalists and families of the disappeared has not only continued, but has broadened to a wider spectrum of students, academics, medical professionals and religious leaders critical of government policies. Several peaceful protests and commemorations have been met with excessive use of force and the arrest or detention of demonstrators in quarantine centres”.<sup>1</sup>

UN Human Rights Watch calls UN member countries “to express their alarm about the ongoing abuses by the government of President Gotabaya Rajapaksa and the weakening of independent governmental institutions, civilian governance, and the rule of law”.<sup>2</sup>

“It is time for the UK Government to fulfil its historic duties by issuing the arrest warrant to genocidal leaders including President Gotabaya Rajapaksa and show their commitment in establishing the Truth, Justice and Reconciliation” said Mrs. Ambihai K Selvakumar, the Executive Director of the ICPPG.

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?LangID=E&NewsID=27447>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.hrw.org/news/2021/09/10/sri-lanka-un-rights-council-scrutiny-crucial>



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ICPPG strongly believes that this effort could become the first steppingstone towards successfully campaigning the UN Security Council to refer Sri Lanka to ICC for Genocide trial and also form the basis of convincing a State to bring a potential Genocide case at the International Court of Justice (ICJ).

ICPPG also wishes to take this opportunity to salute the courageousness of the 200 victims who have come forward and made this effort possible. On behalf of the Tamil community, we also wish to register our sincere gratitude to Wayne Jordash QC and the legal team at GRC for taking this case forward which means a lot to the Tamil victims.

**Ends**

## **For Further Information:**

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## **About the ICPPG:**

The formation of the International Centre for the Prevention and Prosecution of Genocide (ICPPG) in London was initiated by Transnational Government of Tamil Eelam (TGTE). The ICPPG, however operates as an independent body, serving all people who have been affected by or threatened with genocide. Its immediate focus remains the genocide that occurred in Sri Lanka. The ICPPG remains as an International Non-Governmental Organisation and an Independent Legal Body and one of our primary objectives is to collect evidence against perpetrators of genocide and work towards justice, peace and reconciliation<sup>3</sup>.

The operational strategy was designed under the guidance of Professor Muthucumaraswamy Sornarajah LLB (Ceylon), LLM (Yale), LLM, PhD, LLD (London) is CJ Koh Professor at the Faculty of Law of the National University of Singapore. He is Visiting Professor at the Centre for Human Rights, London School of Economics. He was the Tunku Abdul Rahman Professor of International Law at the University of Malaya at Kuala Lumpur. He was Head of the Law School of the University of Tasmania, Australia. He studied law at the University of Ceylon, the London School of Economics, King's College, London and the Yale Law School. He remains as an independent advisor and we to operate with his blessings.

We began assisting the Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC) investigations on Sri Lanka by submitting testimonies and organising victim interviews in 2014. In its resolution [A/HRC/25/1](#) adopted in March 2014 on "Promoting reconciliation, accountability and human rights in Sri Lanka", the UNHRC requested the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights to "*undertake a comprehensive investigation into alleged serious violations and abuses of human rights and related crimes by both parties in Sri Lanka during the period covered by the Lessons Learnt and Reconciliation Commission (LLRC), and to establish the facts and circumstances of such alleged violations and of the crimes perpetrated with a view to avoiding impunity and ensuring accountability, with assistance from relevant experts and special procedures mandate holders*". The Council requested the High Commissioner to present an oral update at its twenty-seventh session and a comprehensive report on the investigations at its twenty-eighth session. In accordance with this mandate, the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights established the OHCHR Investigation on Sri Lanka (OISL), based in Geneva<sup>4</sup>. The final report of the OISL commission was published in September 2015 confirming the serious violations, abuses of human rights and war crimes committed by the Sri Lankan authorities<sup>5</sup>. In the basis of this report, we continue to work with international prosecutors with a view to bringing criminal and civil prosecutions.

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<sup>3</sup> <http://icppg.org/about/>

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.ohchr.org/en/hrbodies/hrc/pages/oisl.aspx>

<sup>5</sup> [https://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/HRC/RegularSessions/.../A.HRC.30.CRP.2\\_E.docx](https://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/HRC/RegularSessions/.../A.HRC.30.CRP.2_E.docx)