



## PRESS RELEASE

- FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE -

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### **ICPPG Urges UK and International Governments to stop the ongoing genocide of Tamils while it welcomes the bold steps taken by the MPs and Tamil community in Sri Lanka**

**London:** ICPPG welcomes Parliamentarians, and other representatives of the Tamil community in Sri Lanka for taking a bold action risking their life and it demands international governments, including UK government, and UNHRC to stop the ongoing genocide of Tamils and commence an International Independent Investigation immediately.

Continuing atrocities, with impunity, by Sri Lankan authorities has been widely acknowledged and condemned by UNHRC, various Governments and Human Rights Organisations. As pointed out by Mrs Ambihai K Selvakumar – director ICPPG “the joint letter signed by Parliamentarians, and other representatives of the Tamil community in Sri Lanka risking their lives, highlights the ongoing grave plight of Tamils and demands urgent interventions to stop the ongoing genocide. It aids UK government to demand UNHRC/OHCHR to start criminal evidence collection, consolidation process and start international Independent Investigation accountability processes as a matter of urgency”. She appeals to every Tamil living abroad, Human Rights Organisations to use this letter along with other evidence to demand their government to apply diplomatic pressure to:

- Explore and start accountability process at the international level.
- Commence judicial proceedings in Member States.
- Prosecute international crimes committed in Sri Lanka through judicial proceedings under jurisdictions extraterritorial or universal jurisdiction.
- Apply targeted sanctions under Global Human Rights Sanctions Regime, asset freezes and travel ban against credibly alleged war criminals.
- Stop supporting the genocidal Sri Lankan government in any form.
- Boycott events and tournaments conducted in Sri Lanka.
- Review asylum measures with respect to Sri Lankan nationals to protect those facing reprisals and avoid any refoulement in cases that present real risk of torture or other serious human rights violations.

ICPPG acknowledges observations in the joint letter that addressed a plethora of publicly reported cases which highlights several different aspects of human rights violations. As stated in the letter ICPPG stressed that these published cases only demonstrate a fraction of actual cases.

ICPPG would also like to congratulate the volunteers who collected the published evidence to support the joint letter. The submission also consisted of a list of the most recently media reported cases dating from November 2019, till as recent as January 2022. The list included over 800 cases, and within January 2022 alone there have been 38 reported cases.



# INTERNATIONAL CENTRE FOR PREVENTION AND PROSECUTION OF GENOCIDE

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As Sri Lanka celebrates its 74th Independence Day, the indigenous Tamils in the island will be marking another year of genocide, violent oppression, denial of basic rights and denial of justice at the hands of the Sri Lankan state.

ICPPG condemns the Sri Lankan government, CID, TID, and other forces that indulge themselves in ongoing Human Right abuses and pleads with the International Community to take every step to stop the ongoing genocide and investigate the international crimes committed in Sri Lanka.

ICPPG urges international governments, including UK government, and UNHRC to stop the ongoing genocide of Tamils and commence an International Independent Investigation immediately.

Nearly 13 years since the end of the war the genocide of Tamils continues with impunity. It's time to stop. As Martin Luther King, Jr stated "The ultimate tragedy is not the oppression and cruelty by the bad people but the silence over that by the good people".

**Ends**

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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>1</sup>.

The operational strategy was designed under the guidance of Professor Muthucumaraswamy Sornarajah LLB (Ceylon), LL.M (Yale), LL.M, PhD, LL.D (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>2</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>3</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>1</sup> <http://icppg.org/about/>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.ohchr.org/en/hrbodies/hrc/pages/oisl.aspx>

<sup>3</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)