



**PRESS RELEASE**

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**ICCPG Welcomes UK Government Sanctions Against Perpetrators of Genocide in Sri Lanka**

The International Centre for the Prevention and Prosecution of Genocide (ICCPG) welcomes the UK Government's decision to impose sanctions on Shavendra Silva, Wasantha Karannagoda, Jagath Jayasuriya, and Vinayagamoorthy Muralitharan (Karuna Amman) for their involvement in grave human rights violations, including war crimes and crimes against humanity committed against the indigenous Tamil population in Sri Lanka. These measures, which include travel bans and asset freezes, represent a significant step towards justice and accountability.

Announced today by the Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office, these sanctions reaffirm the UK's commitment to addressing genocide, extrajudicial killings, torture, and sexual violence perpetrated by successive Sri Lankan governments. This decision follows years of advocacy by human rights organisations, Tamil activists, and the ICCPG, which has consistently called for targeted action against those responsible for some of the most heinous crimes in modern history.

While long overdue, this decision is a crucial milestone in the pursuit of justice. For years, survivors and the families of victims have demanded accountability, and today, the UK has taken concrete action against impunity. This sends a powerful message that those who commit crimes against humanity cannot escape justice.

The ICCPG has played a central role in the Sanction Shavendra Silva campaign, working alongside human rights organisations, legal experts, and international allies to advocate for targeted sanctions. The ICCPG also produced a comprehensive report detailing the legal and factual basis for these measures. Today's announcement underscores the importance of continued global efforts to hold perpetrators accountable.

The UK has long been a leader in advancing justice for the Tamil people, working through the UN Human Rights Council and other international platforms. The ICCPG urges the UK Government to take further steps, including expanding sanctions to additional individuals implicated in genocide and supporting international legal mechanisms to ensure full accountability.

However, justice must not stop here. True accountability will only be achieved when all those responsible face legal consequences.

Ambihai K Selvakumar, Director of ICCPG, stated:

"I would like to thank all the dedicated volunteers of ICCPG, human rights organisations, activists, and media for their tireless efforts in the pursuit of justice. Their unwavering commitment has been instrumental in reaching this milestone. However, this is only the beginning. We must galvanise this momentum to secure an independent international investigation into the genocide committed in Sri Lanka. Just as genocide has been replicated



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as a method of state terror worldwide, robust investigations and prosecutions will set a precedent, sending a strong message to war criminals that genocide will not be tolerated—not in Sri Lanka, nor anywhere in the world.”

The ICCPG remains steadfast in its commitment to seeking justice for the Tamil victims of genocide and will continue its work to ensure international recognition and prosecution of these crimes.

**ENDS**

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