



தமிழர் பேரவை சுவிஸ்
Tamilen Forum Schweiz
Forum Tamouls Suisse
Forum Tamil Svizzera
Tamil Forum Switzerland

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Geneva, 25 July 2007

**His Excellency Ban Ki-Moon
Secretary General
UN Headquarters
First Avenue at 46th Street
New York, NY 10017**

Your Excellency,

Black July – Unforgettable Memories of Tamil People

Tamil people living in the island of Sri Lanka and elsewhere around the world commemorate the month of July, which they term as Black July, with deep sorrow and resentment. Even though Tamil people had a long ago realised that they were no longer belonging to a unitary Sri Lanka, they were compelled to take a firm decision about their future following the state sponsored genocide against Tamil people, unleashed in 1983 July. The whole world, except the Sinhala chauvinistic Sri Lanka, was shocked to witness the genocide where thousands of Tamil were killed, some even burnt alive, while the Sri Lankan armed forces looking on passively. Many Tamil women and children were gang raped and subsequently thrown alive into boiling tar barrels. Thousands of Tamil people living in the South of the island were made to displace and later sent to the Northeast Province by ships. Millions of dollars of worth of property including businesses belonging to Tamil people were looted and destroyed.

The tragic memories of those colossal atrocities and human rights violations perpetrated by the Sinhala regime are still afresh in the minds of each and every Tamil man and woman. Neither the Sinhala government nor the international community have so far taken any steps to mend the broken minds of the Tamil people and comfort them. The desire for peace and justice in the part of Tamil people were not considered positively and instead neglected.

Tamil Forum Swiss, a confederation of 27 Tamil Diaspora organizations functioning in Switzerland, joins hands with fellow Tamils in commemorating Black July.

In the name of the three decades of war, more than 70'000 Tamil people were killed in various military offensives. Aerial bombings, artillery shelling and Multi Barrel Rocket Launcher (MBRL) fire on populated areas are daily occurrences in the Tamil traditional homeland. Hundreds of thousands of Tamils are driven out of their houses and made IDPs. Many others fled overseas. Abductions, tortures, extra judicial killings, rapes, etc. are used as counter insurgency tactics by the Sinhala armed forces.



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Article 6.1 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights states, "Every human being has the inherent right to life. This right shall be protected by law. No one shall be arbitrarily deprived of his life."

However, in reality, the above clause is considered inapplicable to the Tamil people in the island of Sri Lanka by the international community. Because, the Sinhala government and its armed forces, breach the fundamental rights of Tamil people when ever and where ever they have chance. In the meantime, the international community not only fails to pressurize the Sinhala government for a negotiated settlement but also being reluctant to recognize the practical government of Tamil people. This stand of the international community encourages the Sinhala chauvinistic forces to carry out their ethnic cleansing activities with more vigour.

As such, we appeal to the international community to use its expertise in finding a just and sustainable solution to the Tamil question based on their right to self determination.

Thanking you in anticipation.

Thambippillai Namasivayam

Secretary

Copies to: 1. Ms. Louise Arbour
High Commissioner for Human Rights, UN

2. Ms. Aida Nejad
Associate Human Rights Officer
Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, UN

NB: We herewith annex two DVDs for your kind perusal, one is regarding the Black July and the other one is about the recent killings of Tamils by the Sinhala armed forces. Thanks.