



General Assembly

Distr.: General
27 August 2021

English only

Human Rights Council

Forty-eighth session

13 September–1 October 2021

Agenda item 2

**Annual report of the United Nations High Commissioner
for Human Rights and reports of the Office of the
High Commissioner and the Secretary-General**

Joint written statement* submitted by Fundación Global Democracia y Desarrollo, Lazarus Union, non-governmental organizations in general consultative status, Association Bharathi Centre Culturel Franco-Tamoul, "ECO-FAWN" (Environment Conservation Organization - Foundation for Afforestation Wild Animals and Nature), "Women and Modern World" Social Charitable Centre, ABC Tamil Oli, Action of Human Movement (AHM), Africa Unite, African Agency for Integrated Development (AAID), African Centre for Advocacy and Human Development, African Citizens Development Foundation, African Development Association, African Heritage Foundation Nigeria, African Network of Young Leaders for Peace and Sustainable Development, Ageing Nepal, Agence pour les droits de l'homme, AIMPO, All Believers Pentecostal Church International, Alliance internationale pour la défense des droits et des libertés, Aman against Discrimination, Amis d'Afrique Francophone-Bénin (AMAF-Benin), Amman Center for Human Rights Studies, ANAJA (L'Eternel a répondu), Arab Society for Academic Freedoms, Archbishop E. Kataliko Actions for Africa "KAF", Asabe Shehu Yar Adua Foundation, Asociación Civil Generación Par, Asociación Civil Hecho por Nosotros, Asociación Colectivo Mujeres Al Derecho Sigla ASOCOLEMAD, Asociación Española para el Derecho Internacional de los Derechos Humanos AEDIDH, Asociación Forjando Futuro para Todos, Asociacion Nacional de Empresarios de Colombia,

* Issued as received, in the language(s) of submission only.



Asociación Nacional de Estudiantes de ingenierías Industrial, Administrativa y de Producción, Asociación Pro-Bienestar de la Familia Colombiana "Profamilia", Association Aide aux femmes et enfants, Association Aide aux femmes et enfants, Association Avocats Sans Frontière Humanitaires du Cameroun, Association Burkinabé pour la Survie de l'Enfance, Association Congolaise pour le Développement Agricole, ASSOCIATION CULTURELLE DES TAMOULS EN FRANCE, Association de Développement Agricole, Educatif et Sanitaire de Manono, Association des étudiants tamouls de France, Association des Jeunes Engagés pour l'Action Humanitaire (A.J.E.A.H.), Association des Jeunes pour l'Agriculture du Mali, Association des jeunes volontaires au service du monde environnemental, Association du Développement et de la Promotion de Droits de l'Homme, Association Elmostakbell pour le Développement, Association femmes solidaires au Togo, Association Gabonaise pour les Nations Unies (AGNU), Association Internationale des Medecins pour la Promotion de l'Education et de la Santé en Afrique, Association Malienne de Savoir Construire (A.M.S.C.), Association mouvement pour la défense de l'humanité et abolition de la torture (MDHAT), Association nationale des partenaires migrants, Association of Youths with Vision (AOYWV), Association pour la Défense des Droits de Développement Durable et du Bien-être Familial (ADBEF), Association pour la Promotion de la Lutte Contre les Violences faites aux Femmes et la Participation au Développement de la Femme africaine, Association pour les Droits de l'Homme et l'Univers Carcéral, Association pour les Droits de l'Homme et l'Univers Carcéral, Association pour les Victimes Du Monde, Association Solidarité Internationale pour l'Afrique (SIA), Association Thendral, Association-Santé-Education-Démocratie (ASED), Autre Vie, Blessed Aid, Campaign for Human Right and Development Sierra Leone, Center for Africa Development and Progress, Center for Integrated Rural and Child Development, Centre for Gender Justice and Women Empowerment, Centre for Human Rights and Peace Advocacy, Centro Regional de Derechos Humanos y Justicia de Genero, Change Human's Life, CIRID (Centre Independent de Recherches et d'Iniatives pour le Dialogue), City2000 Youth Action International, Collectif des Associations Contre l'Impunité au Togo (C.A.C.I.T.), Colombian Commission of Jurists, Comité des observateurs des droits de l'homme, Comité Permanente por la Defensa de los Derechos Humanos, Community Center for Integrated Development, Community Restoration Initiative Project, Compagnons D'action pour le Développement Familial, ComunidadMujer, Coordination des Associations et des Particuliers pour la Liberté de Conscience, Corporación ATS Acción Técnica Social, Corporación Centro de Estudios de

Derecho Justicia y Sociedad, Corporación Colectivo de Abogados Jose Alvear Restrepo, Corporacion Colombia Unida por el Respeto al Adulto Mayor (COR PRO ADULTO MAYOR) / Corporation Colombia United for the Respect of the Elder, Corporación Equipo Colombiano Interdisciplinario de Trabajo Forense y Asistencia Psicosocial, Corporación Excelencia en la Justicia, Corporacion para la Defensa y Promocion de los Derechos Humanos Reiniciar, Corporación para la Investigación, el Desarrollo Sostenible y la Promoción Social CORPROGRESO, Corporación Red Nacional de Mujeres Comunes, Comunitarias, Indígenas y Campesinas de la República de Colombia, Coup de Pouce, Dayemi Complex Bangladesh, Edfu Foundation Inc., Elizka Relief Foundation, Excellent World Foundation LTD/GTE, Families of the Missing, Federación Mexicana de Universitarias, Fitilla, Foreningen for Human Narkotikapolitikk, Freann Financial Services Limited, Fundação de Apoio a Pesquisa Científica, Educacional e Tecnológica de Rondônia, Fundación Abba Colombia, Fundación Acción Pro Derechos Humanos, Fundacion Alvaralice, Fundación Ambiente y Recursos Naturales, Fundación América Solidaria Internacional, Fundación Antonio Núñez Jiménez de la Naturaleza y el Hombre, Fundación Argentina a las Naciones Camino a la Verdad, Fundación Atenea Grupo GID, Fundación Avina, Fundación BBVA para las Microfinanzas, Fundación Centro Latinoamericano de Derechos Humanos, Fundación Cepaim, Acción Integral con Migrantes, Fundación Charles Darwin para las Islas Galápagos, Fundación Contemporánea, Fundación Cooperadora de la Nutrición Infantil (C.O.N.I.N.), Fundación Crisálida, Fundacion Cultural Baur, A.C., Fundación DARA Internacional, Fundación del Empresariado Chihuahuense AC, Fundación Descúbreme, Fundación Ecología y Desarrollo, Fundación Educación y Cooperación (EDUCO), Fundación Éforo, Fundación Familias Monoparentales Isadora Duncan, Fundación Grupo Sólido para la Promoción de los Valores, Fundación Latinoamérica Reforma, Fundación Latinoamericana por los Derechos Humanos y el Desarrollo Social, Fundación Lobbying Social, Fundación Lonxanet para la Pesca Sostenible, Fundación Luz María, Fundación More Peace Less AIDS, Fundación Multitudes, Fundación Nacional para la Superación de la Pobreza, Fundación Novia Salcedo, Fundación ONCE para la Cooperación e Inclusión de Personas con Discapacidad, Fundación para la Democracia Internacional, Fundación para la Protección de los Arboles La Iguana, Fundación Riba, Fundación Ronda, Fundación SES (Sustentabilidad, Educación, Solidaridad), Fundación Síndrome de Down del Caribe, Fundación Voluntarias Contra el Cancer, A.C., Giving Life Nature Volunteer, Goodness and Mercy Missions Common Initiative Group,

Haitelmex Foundation A.C., Idheas, Litigio Estratégico en Derechos Humanos, Asociación Civil, Inter-Action Globale (I.A.G.), International Career Support Association, International Centre for Environmental Education and Community Development, International Federation of Medical Students' Associations, International Movement for Advancement of Education Culture Social and Economic Development, International Organization for Educational Development, J'ai Rêvé Foundation, Jeunesse Etudiante Tamoule, JFMO Servicios en Intermediación Pública A en P, Le Pont, Lebanese American Renaissance Partnership, Inc., L'observatoire mauritanien des droits de l'homme et de la démocratie, L'Organisation Non Gouvernementale des Cercles Nationaux de Réflexion sur la Jeunesse - ONG CNRJ, Mandala Transformation Foundation Inc., Mijoro Mandroso (Mi.Ma.), Murna Foundation, Nobel Laureate Mother Teresa Charitable Trust, Northern CCB, Ocean Lifeline Inc., ONG Funsocial Crecer Colombia, Otro Tiempo México, Asociación Civil, Pirate Parties International Headquarters, Planetary Association for Clean Energy, Inc., The Project 1948 Foundation, Rassemblement des frères unis pour le développement socio-culturel (RAFUDESC - BENIN), Reachout and Smile Initiative for Social Empowerment, Red de Educacion Popular Entre Mujeres (REPEM), Réseau Unité pour le Développement de Mauritanie, Safe Campaign LLC, Save the Climat, Semilla Warunkwa, Shirley Ann Sullivan Educational Foundation, Society for Development and Community Empowerment, Solidarité Agissante pour le Développement Familial (SADF), Solidarité Humanitaire, Stichting Global Human Rights Defence, Stichting Spanda, Tamil Uzhagam, Tourner La Page, Trilok Youth Club and Charitable Trust, Vadodara, United Zo Organization (USA) Inc., Vision GRAM-International, Vision Welfare Group, World for World Organization, Yayasan Pendidikan Indonesia, Youth in Technology and Arts Network (YOTAN), non-governmental organizations in special consultative status

The Secretary-General has received the following written statement which is circulated in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

[22 August 2021]

Coalition of 192 ECOSOC Accredited NGOs Calls for New United Nations Human Rights Council Resolution to Protect Tamils from Genocide, to name a Special Rapporteur for Sri Lanka and to Recognize Tamils' Right to self-determination

We, the undersigned organizations, urge the Member States of the Human Rights Council to pass a strong resolution at the upcoming 48th Session, affirming an international commitment to protect human rights and justice in Sri Lanka, with a particular focus on Tamils victims of Genocide in Sri Lanka.

The Tamils have been fighting for over seventy years for self Determination. We are a nation of people living in the merged North and East in the island of Ceylon. We have our right to determine our own destiny.

Successive Sri Lankan Sinhala – Buddhist Governments have continually suppressed Tamils right to self-determination and govern Tamils employing brutal military force to annihilate, which amounts to Genocide.

Since the independence from the British in 1948, Tamils have been waging peaceful non-violent struggles for our self-determination. These peaceful struggles were brutally suppressed by the use of force by the successive Sinhala – Buddhist Government, resulting in Tamil youths turn to armed struggle, which was suppressed by Sri Lankan Security forces killing hundreds of thousands of Tamil civilians and sexually assaulting and raping Tamil women.

According to the November 2012 Report of the UN Secretary-General's Internal Review Panel on UN Action in Sri Lanka, over 70,000 people were killed during the final six months of the war that ended in May 2009. According fact-finding mission held by Bishop Rayappu Joseph there are 146,679 persons are unaccounted. Over 80 000 tamils are enforced disappeared by Sri Lanka security forces from 1980s.

Several were killed when Sri Lankan forces repeatedly bombed and shelled an area designated by the Government as No Fire Zones (Safe zones). Even hospitals and food distribution centers were bombed. Several also died of starvation and bled to death due to lack of medical treatment.

Thousands of Tamils disappeared including babies and children. The Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances stated that the second-highest number of enforced disappearance cases in the world is from Sri Lanka.

The deteriorating human rights and accountability context in Sri Lanka is documented in detail in the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights' damning January 2021 report as well as a joint assessment released by ten UN Special Procedures mandates earlier for last 12 years.

The High Commissioner highlighted that “nearly 12 years on from the end of the war, domestic initiatives for accountability and reconciliation have repeatedly failed to produce results.” Just as concerning, the High Commissioner stressed the emergence of “early warning signs of a deteriorating human rights situation and a significant heightened risk of future violations.” Given the Government of Sri Lanka's failure to comply with the State's human rights obligations and implement agreed-upon accountability efforts and the need for urgent preventative action, it is essential that a new resolution detail immediate, concrete, and independent international efforts, including enhancing monitoring by the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), creating an independent international mechanism to collect and preserve evidence of past and ongoing violations, acts of Genocide against tamils and abuses, and prioritizing support to civil society initiatives.

The toll on civilians was particularly high in the final stage of the conflict, when tens of thousands of Tamil civilians were killed, by Government forces' shelling of “No Fire Zones.” Following the end of the war, the country remained over-militarized and human rights abuses continued, including extrajudicial killings, enforced disappearances, arbitrary detention, torture, sexual violence, and harassment and persecution of journalists, activists, and government critics.

Eelam Tamils populations have disproportionately suffered from these continuing violations and abuses, as they face institutionalized discrimination and higher levels of targeted state-sponsored violence.

The High Commissioner highlighted how “the failure to deal with the past continues to have devastating effects on tens of thousands of survivors.”

In the past year, prospects for domestic justice and accountability efforts in Sri Lanka have dimmed entirely. Gotabaya Rajapaksa – the former Secretary to the Ministry of Defense who oversaw the brutal end to Sri Lanka’s war – was elected President in November 2019. As one of its first acts on the international stage, the new Rajapaksa administration announced its withdrawal from HRC Resolution 30/1, part of a series of steps that led the High Commissioner to conclude that “The Government has now demonstrated its inability and unwillingness to pursue a meaningful path towards accountability for international crimes and serious human rights violations.”

The Government has also “proactively obstructed or sought to stop ongoing investigations and criminal trials to prevent accountability for past crimes of Genocide,” promoted credibly accused war criminals, increased militarization of civilian institutions, reversed Constitutional safeguards, increasingly employed and promoted majoritarian and exclusionary rhetoric, increased surveillance and obstruction of civil society, and exacerbated human rights concerns.

The fear of reprisals against victims and witnesses, together with a lack of effective investigations and prosecutions, has led to a circle of impunity that must be broken.” We share the High Commissioner’s and Special Procedures’ concerns that continued reliance on the Government of Sri Lanka to improve human rights and accountability will prove futile and dangerous. As both history and recent events in Sri Lanka have shown, if left unchecked, the Government will be emboldened to continue its abuses and further entrench impunity.

After the war ended eleven years ago in May 2009, Tamils are facing the following hardships, and continue to seek Justice for last 12 yaers and last big demonstration was the Walked for Tamil’s Justice last February 2021, from Pothuvil to Polikandy demand that the abuses and Structural Genocide to stop against Eelam Tamils:

Militarization of Tamil’s traditional homeland is continuing, and Tamils’ historical identity is destroyed with the aim to change demography in favour of Sinhalese, using several government departments, including archaeological, forest, survey departments, and Ministry of Buddhasasana as well as Mahaveli River Development Agency. Also, Government-sponsored Sinhalese settlements are continuing.

Continuing land grab in Tamil’s traditional homeland by the Security Forces and the Government converting Tamil’s traditional and historical places into Sinhala-Buddhist areas by establishing numerous Buddhist temples in Tamil areas, including after destroying Hindu temples. As of now, around 200 Hindu temples were affected by this act of the Government.

Sinhala – Buddhist Government continues to intimidate and abuse Tamil journalists who cover abuses against Tamils and Tamil Civil Society activists who protest these abuses. This not only violates their constitutionally guaranteed rights, it is being used to suppress Tamil’s calls for fundamental rights, including self-determination.

All the lands that were confiscated by the Government / Sri Lankan Sinhalese Security Forces from Tamil civilians should be returned immediately.

Tamils have been denied the Right to Remember their war dead, as demonstrated by denying remembrance events, destruction of cemeteries of the war dead, and demolition of memorials by the Sinhala – Buddhist Government.

Prevention of Terrorism Act (PTA) has been used to imprison Tamils without charge or trial for over 44 years.

We call upon the UNHRC members and other affiliated UN agencies and member states to adopt, as a matter of utmost urgency, the following measures:

- Recognize the genocide resolution passed unanimously in the Northern Provincial Council of Sri Lanka on 10th February,2015.

- Support the Resolution 30/1 which seeks an UN inquiry to investigate the genocide of the Tamil people in Sri Lanka by successive Sri Lankan Governments,
- Direct appropriate measures at the International Criminal Court outlining that the affected Tamil people have no faith in any domestic commission or inquiry.
- The Council Members should work together to appoint a Special Rapporteur to monitor and investigate ongoing human rights violations and repression against the Tamil people.
- The Sri Lankan government is still using the ban imposed on the LTTE by some countries as a tool to suppress the democratic voices and activities of the Tamil people in the North and East today even in the absence of the LTTE. Therefore, the countries concerned should take note of this and take appropriate action.

To the Special Rapporteurs and Treaty Bodies experts.

- Please help us to ensure to protect human rights defenders in Sri Lanka to carry out their legitimate work, in a safe and enabling environment without fear of threats, acts of intimidation or reprisals of any kind witnesses and families seeking truth and justice, and failed to prosecute those against whom there was evidence of wrongdoing.
- All political detainees to be released or brought to justice without any further delay.

To the members of the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee) of the General Assembly

- To recognize Eelam Tamil as Non-Self-Governing Territories
- To bring the Right to Self-determination of Eelam Tamils at the 4th committee and hears statements from Tamil elected representatives as well as petitioners, dispatches visiting missions, and organises seminars on the political, social, economic and educative situation in the Territories under Sri Lankan occupation.

GLOBAL TAMIL MOUVEMENT, ASSOCIATION DES FEMMES SOLIDAIRES DU MONDE, Gouvernement en Exil du Tamil Eelam, Centre Bishop Rayappu Joseph pour la Justice et la paix, Association Internationale Contre les Disparitions forcées, ASSOCIATION DES CHRETIENS TAMOULS POUR LA PAIX ET JUSTICE, ASSOCIATION DES ANONYMES ET PERSÉCUTES DU GÉNOCIDE TAMOULE, Association des Artistes du Monde, NGO(s) without consultative status, also share the views expressed in this statement.