



**PERMANENT MISSION OF THE DEMOCRATIC SOCIALIST  
REPUBLIC OF SRI LANKA TO THE UNITED NATIONS OFFICE, GENEVA**

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15 September 2023

Ms. Isabelle Falconnier  
Executive Director  
Geneva Press Club

Dear Ms. Falconnier,

Congratulations on your recent appointment as the Executive Director of the Geneva Press Club. The Permanent Mission of Sri Lanka looks forward to constructively engaging with the Geneva Press Club under your leadership.

I have come to learn of a Press Conference that is being organised at the Geneva Press Club entitled '*Support for justice: Genocide of Tamils in Sri Lanka*' on 18 September 2023. I would like to convey to you Sri Lanka's views in this regard, so that you have a balanced understanding of the issues concerned.

The title itself is blatantly misleading and without any basis whatsoever. It should be noted that the term 'genocide' has specific legal connotations and has never been used in relation to Sri Lanka by the United Nations, or by any of its inter-governmental bodies including the UN Human Rights Council. It is only a propaganda slogan repeatedly used by the pro LTTE lobby, against Sri Lanka.

It was in fact, the LTTE that carried out ethnic cleansing of the Northern districts, by the forcible expulsion of non-Tamils, mainly Muslims living in that area numbering 72,000 persons (14,400 families), forcing them to leave with only a few hours' notice in the early stages of their terrorist war in 1990. This was well in line with their stated objective of carving out a homogenous separate state called "Tamil Eelam" in the North and East areas of Sri Lanka where only the Tamil people would have a right to live. However, even today, a large number of Tamils and Muslims live in harmony with the Sinhalese people in the Southern parts of the country without any problem.

The Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), was a ruthless terrorist organization, and the group remains proscribed/listed as a terrorist group in the USA, Canada, the UK, EU countries, Australia, India, Malaysia and Sri Lanka, while some of their front organisations such as the Tamil Coordinating Committee, Tamil Rehabilitation Organisation and Tamil Youth Organisation are also listed as terrorist fronts of the LTTE.

The LTTE's forcible conscription of children into their fighting forces, killing of Tamils who dared to speak out against their brutal methods, and indiscriminate attacks against civilians, are only a few of the group's well documented atrocities.

The group is also known to have pioneered suicide bombings, including the use of women in suicide attacks and this was their most often used *modus operandi* for political assassinations. The number of Tamil leaders assassinated by the LTTE during three decades of violence, for going against their terrorist ideology, is higher than the number of Sinhalese leaders they killed. The LTTE is responsible for the killing of the Head of State of Sri Lanka, President Ranasinghe Premadasa, and the former Prime Minister of India, Sri Rajiv Gandhi.

The LTTE's brutal separatist terrorist war in Sri Lanka went on for nearly 30 years, until their military defeat by Government forces in 2009, with nearly 28,000 Sri Lankan soldiers laying down their lives to safeguard the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the country.

The vast LTTE network spread throughout the world to collect funds for the violent conflict are now engaged in a different kind of war, by virulently attacking the Sri Lankan state and its armed forces with unsubstantiated allegations of human rights abuse. Monday's press conference must be seen in this background.

The reference in the flyer that '*the British government united the separate nations of the island into one country, Sri Lanka...*' is also blatantly misleading, as Sri Lanka, formerly known as Ceylon, has always been one country. This appears to be a new narrative being introduced by the pro LTTE lobby to justify their separatist demands, having failed to achieve their goal of a separate state through terrorism. This is distortion of facts and this kind of misinformation should not be allowed in the guise of freedom of expression.

**Given that the event on 18<sup>th</sup> September is open to the Club members, the media and the public, and in the interest of providing accurate and factual information on the matters highlighted in the flyer by the organiser, I would appreciate if you could give the visibility to the contents of this letter on you website, as to the flyer on the event.**

I further attach for your kind attention the observations of the Government of Sri Lanka to the advanced unedited version of the written update by the High Commissioner for Human Rights, pursuant to HRC resolution 51/1, which are also published on the OHCHR Extranet.

I look forward to continuing a constructive engagement with you and the Geneva Press Club in future.

Thank you  
Sincerely,



Himalee Arunatilaka

Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Sri Lanka