

Per Stig Møller, Chair, Kirsten Brosbøl, Vice-Chair, Ane Halsboe-Larsen, Jens Joel, John Dyrby Paulsen, Maja Panduro, Mogens Jensen, Lone Loklindt, Rasmus Helveg Petersen, Sofie Carsten Nielsen, Lisbeth Bech Poulsen, Steen Gade, Christian Juhl, Nikolaj Villumsen, Frank Aaen, Lykke Friis, Jakob Ellemann-Jensen, Karen Jespersen, Karsten Lauritzen, Ellen Trane Nørby, Søren Pind, Mads Rørvig, Ulla Tørnæs, Søren Espersen, Hans Kristian Skibby, Pia Kjærsgaard, Peter Skaarup, Mette Bock, Members, Foreign Affairs Committee

Dear parliamentarians

'Salt on Old Wounds: The Systematic Sinhalization of Sri Lanka's North, East and Hill Country', The Social Architects, 20 March 2012

Women for Justice and Peace in Sri Lanka wish to thank Denmark (current Presidency-holder) and all other EU countries for their ardent support to get a resolution passed on Sri Lanka which has been dragging its feet too long in granting justice to a section of its own people. While the attention of the world has been on the failure of Sri Lanka to address this issue, its army and its administration has been engaged in continuing and even escalating the oppression of the people in the Northeast - unless this is urgently addressed, its reversal may be too difficult.

Please let us bring the following to your very urgent attention:

1.i. "This paper will show that the concept of Sinhalization extends well beyond the subjects of strategic state-planned settlements, land, military intrusion, boundary changes and the renaming of villages. Sinhalization has made its way into Tamil cultural events, religious life, economic activity, public sector recruitment and even the Sri Lankan education system" - 'Salt on Old Wounds: The Systematic Sinhalization of Sri Lanka's North, East and Hill Country', 20 March 2012, http://www.internationalpolicydigest.org/2012/03/20/salt-on-old-wounds-post-war-sri-lanka/?fb_ref=.T2ihTCH4Ew4.like&fb_source=home_multiline

ii. Plight of the people more important, V. Anandasangaree, 11 March 2012, <http://transcurrents.com/news-views/archives/9322>
Leader of the Tamil United Liberation Front (TULF), V. Anandasangaree said the need of the hour was to address the needs of the people who had suffered during the war and after resettlement. Anandasangaree who was in Mullaithivu last week canvassing for the upcoming local government polls, said that the resettled people continued to live amidst hardship. ..."

iii. "But that truth cannot excuse human rights violations that currently afflict the nation as a whole; or for that matter obscure the looming threat of the cultural and political colonisation of the north by the Sinhala Buddhist majority" - Biased and Prejudiced Collection on Sri Lanka,

*Gananath Obesekere, Economic & Political Weekly, Mumbai, 28 January 2012
(*a Sinhalese and Emeritus Professor of Anthropology, Princeton University)

2. i. Sri Lanka's North I: The Denial of Minority Rights

Sri Lanka's North II: Rebuilding under the Military

Asia Reports N°219 and N°220, 16 March 2012 - <http://www.crisisgroup.org/>

ii. No war, no peace: the denial of minority rights and justice in Sri Lanka, Report by Minority Rights Group International, 19 January 2011 -

<http://www.minorityrights.org/10458/reports/no-war-no-peace-the-denial-of-minority-rights-and-justice-in-sri-lanka.html>

2.i.. Sri Lanka: Women's Insecurity in the North and East, Asia Report No 217, 20 December 2011,

<http://www.crisisgroup.org/en/regions/asia/south-asia/sri-lanka/217-sri-lanka-womens-insecurity-in-the-north-and-east.aspx>

ii. "Many war widows still do not get any compensation announced by the government", War widows 'forced into prostitution', 18 March

2012, http://www.bbc.co.uk/sinhala/news/story/2012/03/120318_women_war.shtml

3. "Let us not close our eyes to the vast human rights abuses that continue to occur in Sri Lanka just as many average Germans did when they pretended the Holocaust never happened. ... What the President did do immediately after the last election was to change the constitution so that he could be President for life and the critical civilian posts such as that of the head of the police, the elections commissioner, etc, would be decided by the President as opposed to an independent body as the Sri Lankan Constitution had mandated till then." - Ruling Rajapaksa dynasty must be held accountable for the atrocities they are responsible for, *Viresh Fernando, 19 March 2012, An Open Letter to Fellow Sinhala, Canadians, <http://dbsjeyaraj.com/dbsj/archives/4813>

(*As Counsel with the Attorney General of Canada he was assigned to work on the first Nazi war crime investigation undertaken by Canada. As an advisor to a

Canadian Federal Cabinet Minister Viresh helped to negotiate the \$225,000 million settlement with the Japanese Canadian community whose property was confiscated and who were wrongfully interred by Canada during the Second World War. Viresh has briefed successive Canadian governments on Sri Lankan and South Asian issues)

4. "The two major concerns regarding international sanctions due to the war crimes issue and mass disaffection on the lines of the Arab Spring, can be overcome - this calls for appropriate and genuine actions by the government to implement the LLRC recommendations" - National Peace Council of Sri Lanka(NPC), 20 February 2012

"The political issue that can block Sri Lanka's economic take-off is the unresolved ethnic conflict" - NPC, 6 December 2011

"One of the most disappointing features of the present is the absence of a clear break with the country's violent past. The absence of checks and balances, and the perception that even the judiciary is unable to hold its ground, is detrimental to the long term stability of the country" - NPC, 28 November 2011

"When the war ended in May 2009, it was the worst that was over, but the ethnic conflict that spans more than five decades is not yet over" - NPC, 14 November 2011

5. http://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/HRC/19/NGO/64&Lang=E

Human rights situations that require the Council's attention:

A/HRC/19/NGO/64, 13 February 2012:

Sri Lanka: Land grabbing and development-induced displacement:

"The Asian Forum for Human Rights and Development (FORUM-ASIA), in association with three Sri Lankan non-governmental organisations, draws the attention of the United Nations Human Rights Council to the alarming trend violations of the rights to adequate housing, land and property in post-war Sri Lanka."

6. Centre for Policy Alternatives has produced a table of seven Commissions and seven Committees appointed in the last six years whose reports the President has been refusing to publish:

<http://www.scribd.com/doc/85007346/A-List-of-Commissions-of-Inquiry-and-Committees-Appointed-by-the-Government-of-Sri-Lanka-2006-%E2%80%93-2012>

7. Post-LLRC Human Rights Violations: There were 34 abductions in the last six months (and 34 murders of media workers in the last six years). There have been pending country visits by seven Special Procedures Mandate Holders (waiting for green light from Sri Lanka) - attachment

Bassie Head said that she was building a stairway to the stars because she had the authority (=lovable audacity) to take the whole of mankind up to the stars with her - mentioned by Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie in her Commonwealth Lecture 2012.

If Prince Harry celebrates the Queen's Diamond Jubilee in some Commonwealth countries, certainly the Commonwealth members have a duty to TRY to resolve protracted conflicts in other Commonwealth countries. It is a great injustice to the oppressed when CMAG (Sept 2011) and CHOGM 2011 refused to endorse those recommendations on Human Rights out of the hundred or so recommendations of Eminent Persons Group to improve the Commonwealth.

Please hurry - a nation is in its last throes of life:

In the forward to the book, CEYLON : A DIVIDED NATION (1963), Viscount Soulbury (Commission headed by him was in charge of handing over independence) expressed his regret: "In the light of later happenings I now think it is a pity that the Commission did not also recommend the entrenchment in the constitution of guarantees of fundamental rights, on the lines enacted in the constitutions of India, Pakistan, Malaya, Nigeria and elsewhere.

Perhaps in any subsequent amendment of Ceylon's constitution those in authority might take note of the proclamation made by the delegates at the African conference which met in Lagos two years ago: 'Fundamental human rights, esp. the right to individual liberty, should be written and entrenched in the constitutions of all countries'.

New constitutions came in 1972 and 1978 and worsened the situation of ethnic minorities.

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Thank you in advance for your kind consideration.

Sincerely

P.Selvaratnam

Women for Justice and Peace in Sri Lanka