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**Promotion and protection of all human rights, civil,
political, economic, social and cultural rights,
including the right to development**

Written statement* submitted by Association Thendral, a non-governmental organization 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.

[23 May 2022]

* Issued as received, in the language of submission only. The views expressed in the present document do not necessarily reflect the views of the United Nations or its officials.



The Assassination Of Joseph Pararajasingham, M. P. and Sri Lanka failure on accountabilities

Sri Lankan MP Joseph Pararajasingham was murdered in a cathedral during a Christmas service in 2005. He was a leading campaigner for the rights of the Tamil minority, and there are concerns his murder may have been carried out with the complicity of security and army personnel.

Sri Lankan MP and human rights campaigner Joseph Pararajasingham had just taken communion at a Midnight Mass service on Christmas Eve 2005 when he was shot dead. He was 71.

His wife was critically injured but survived. Other members of the 300-strong congregation attending the cathedral service in the Sri Lankan town of Batticaloa were also injured.

No one has been brought to justice. Two suspects were detained but were freed again because of lack of evidence. Despite the large congregation, there is a lack of eyewitness testimony, suggesting that many people who saw the killing are afraid to come forward.

Supporters of Joseph Pararajasingham allege the killers must have had inside information on his movements: they say only his personal security guard knew of his plans to attend the church service, and the couple had arrived back in the town only that day.

Critics also question how the killers were allowed to arrive and leave unhindered in a high-security zone.

A poet and former journalist, Joseph Pararajasingham was a leading campaigner for the rights of Tamils, a minority in Sinhala-dominated Sri Lanka. He was a member of the moderate Tamil National Alliance.

Mr Pararajasingham, aged 71, a senior Parliamentarian who had massive popular support and was dearly loved by many, was a superb communicator, dedicated to the cause of peace and justice, fearless in pursuit of these noble goals, despite facing many threats. He was committed to a peaceful negotiated solution to the island's longstanding conflict, and did everything possible within his role, to further durable peace.

Deeply concerned about impunity, Mr Pararajasingham tirelessly documented and brought details of the armed forces human rights violations and contraventions of humanitarian law, to Parliament, in his capacity as Member of Parliament for Batticaloa District. He refused to keep silent about the massacres carried out by the government armed forces in the East of the island. It was his home ground.

Given the lack of redress for victims, the interminable delays of court cases and the intransigence of a judicial system which has an inherent bias against Tamils, he felt it appropriate to raise awareness of Sri Lanka's violations in international human rights fora. He was an Executive Member of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association and the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation. Mr Pararajasingham accompanied several international dignitaries on visits to the NorthEast of the island.

Articulate in English Mr Pararajasingham was clearly a challenge to those who seek to cover the truth and pull the wool over the eyes of the international community.

St Mary's Cathedral is in a Sri Lanka army High Security zone and police were outside. So-called unknown gunmen collaborate closely with the Sri Lanka armed forces, operating in many places in the East, despite the fact that this is a serious violation of article 1.8 of the Ceasefire Agreement, wherein it is stated that the paramilitaries must be disarmed and relocated to areas outside the NorthEast.

Sri Lanka. Joseph Pararajasingham murder charges dropped: a failure of justice

In response to the January 13, 2021 acquittal of MP Sivanesanathurai Chandrakanthan, a paramilitary who collaborate with Sri Lankan military to kill tamil Leaders and Human rights

activists, and four others in connection with the 2005 assassination of Tamil MP Joseph Pararajasingham, as the Attorney General's Office announced that charges were dropped against the suspects, David Griffiths, Director of the Office of the Secretary General of Amnesty International, said:

“The dropping of this case marks another milestone in the inability of the Sri Lankan authorities to deliver justice for crimes committed during the armed conflict. The attorney general's office has not indicated any intention to reopen the investigation into the murder.

“Those aligned with the government must not continue to enjoy impunity for past human rights abuses. Without accountability, Sri Lanka will never be able to turn the page on this dark chapter in its history. The authorities must immediately conduct a thorough, effective and impartial criminal investigation and bring to justice those responsible for the murder of Joseph Pararajasingham.

“However, given the repeated failures of national accountability mechanisms, we are under no illusions. The international community must step in to end the cycle of impunity and bring accountability for human rights violations in Sri Lanka. »

The eminent lawyer and Human Rights Defender who also brought these urgent concerns to international human rights fora, Mr Kumar Ponnambalam, was assassinated allegedly by members of the Presidential Security Division, at the wheel of his car, in Colombo on January 5th 2000 in broad daylight. Former parliamentarian Chandra Neru and journalists Mylvaganam Nirmalarajan, Aiyathurai Nadesan and Dharmaretnam Sivaram were all senior persons who could communicate effectively to the world outside Sri Lanka, what is happening there. These courageous people and many others were killed in the same style.

None of these killings have been properly investigated yet nor have the culprits been brought to justice by the government of Sri Lanka. The killing of Human rights defenders continues with impunity in Sri Lanka.

We urge other international organisations committed to the protection of inalienable, indivisible and universal human rights, to condemn the assassination Mr Joseph Pararajasingham MP, and other Tamil politics and human rights activist by Sri Lankan security forces and its paramilitaries and to urge the human rights council to hold an immediate independent inquiry into this assassination to bring the culprits to justice. the Human Rights Council to create a new process or mechanism to protect Eealm Tamils from Structural Genocide.

We call upon the UNHRC members, other affiliated UN agencies and member of states to:

- a. Recognize the genocide resolution passed unanimously in the Northern Provincial Council of Sri Lanka on 10th February in 2015.
- b. Direct appropriate measures at the International Criminal Court outlining that the affected Tamil Nation have no faith in any domestic commission or inquiry.
- c. Council Members to have a new Resolution under Agenda 4 to appoint a special Rapporteur to monitor and investigate ongoing human rights violations and repression against the Tamil Nation.
- d. conducting an internationally monitored Referendum.
- e. The north-eastern region of the island need to have an interim International Protection Mechanism.
- f. The Repeal of the Sixth Amendment to the Sri Lankan Constitution.
- g. The referral of the situation in Sri Lanka to the International Criminal Court.

To the Special rapporteurs and treaty bodies experts

- Please help us to ensure to human rights defenders in Sri Lanka to carry out their legitimate works in safe and enabling environment without fear of threats, acts of

intimidation or reprisals to the witnesses and their families seeking truth and justice and not to failed to prosecute wrongdoers.

- It is well known that the victims of Genocide in Sri Lanka are Tamils in the hands of Sinhala Government and its security Forces. However, the Victims of Genocide, War Crimes, and other Crimes against Humanity, naming words, Tamils has been consciously, omitted and never mentioned in any of the Resolutions of HRG and other UN reports.
- We therefor request your to investigate this omission and to mention the appropriate word of "TAMILS (name of the ethnic group)" wherever it's needful.

To the 4th committee members of General Assembly

- To recognize that Tamil Territories are not Governing by Tamils
- We strongly recommend you to bring the resolution to the Right to Self-determination of Eelam Tamils through hearing of statements from Tamil elected representatives, petitioners and dispatches visiting missions.
- And organise to monitoring the political, social, economic and educative situation in the Territories under Sri Lankan military occupation.

To UN Special-Adviser on the Prevention of Genocide Mme Wairimu Nderitu

- To highlight the importance of reparations for victims of Sri Lankan Genocidal Army's atrocities and encourage the Government of Sri Lanka to expedite the passing of the draft Reparations Bill.
- To consider writing a report on the nexus between the non-repetition of genocide and reparations to have a panel of discussion with Eelam Tamils Victim of Genocide in Sri Lanka.

To Special Adviser of the Secretary-General on R2P

we kindly urge to recognize the failure of United Nations to prevent Tamils from Genocide and now take the Responsibility to propose appropriate measures in order to protect Tamils from ongoing Genocide.

GLOBAL TAMIL MOUVEMENT, ASSOCIATION DES CHRETIENS TAMOULS POUR LA PAIX ET JUSTICE, NGO(s) without consultative status, also share the views expressed in this statement.