



British Tamils Forum United Kingdom

07 May 2017

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Dear Sir/Madam,

Subject: Mullivaikal Genocide (Sri Lanka) Remembrance Day 2017.

We would like to invite your media organisation to the Mullivaikkal genocide (Sri Lanka) Remembrance Day to be commemorated at the Hyde Park, London W2 2UH on the 18th of May 2017, from 5.00 PM.

Mullivaikal is a narrow stretch of sandy baron land in the north eastern part of Sri Lanka between the Indian ocean and the Nanthikadal lagoon. This small stretch of land was declared a safe zone by the Sri Lankan government and around 300,000 Tamils took refuge in this narrow stretch of land to save their lives. Instead they were mercilessly massacred by the advancing Sri Lankan armed forces.

The UN Panel Report on Sri Lanka (UN POE) in 2010 estimated that more than 40,000 civilians were killed during the final stages of the conflict by the Sri Lankan armed forces in 2009. The three member UN panel found credible allegations that comprise five core categories of potential serious violations of international law, committed by the Government of Sri Lanka in the final stages of the conflict, including killing of civilians through widespread shelling and the denial of humanitarian assistance.

Ms. Navi Pillay, then UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, in 2011 said she hoped that the "disturbing new information will shock the conscience of the international community into finally taking serious action". In 2012 March, the UN Human Rights Council adopted a resolution urging Sri Lanka to investigate its own alleged abuses during the final phase of war.

To date no investigations have been carried out to find out the truth about these killings. Giving evidence to the LLRC commission Bishop of Mannar reported that 146,679 people remained unaccounted for. Government continue to deny the whereabouts of more than 18,000 surrendered or captured by the Srilankan security forces in the last phase of the war. Current statistics show more than 80,000 has been widowed with more than 25,000 orphaned, pointing to the massacre of at least 105,000 adults and children. Many of the Tamils worldwide lost their kith and kin in this genocide. Hence Mullivaikkal massacre created a collective trauma in the mind of the global Tamil community. Every year this day is remembered by the global Tamil community as the Mullivaikkal genocide Remembrance Day.

Please find attached flyer for the detail of the event and contact us on +44(0)0208080465 for us to arrange the necessary facilities and media accreditations required for your media personnel.

Thank you.

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Notes to Editors:

British Tamils Forum exists to harness the skills and the knowledge of the members of the forum, well-wishers and significant others including mainstream decision makers in the UK with the aim of alleviating the sufferings of the Tamils community in the Island of Sri Lanka and to further their right to self-determination within a democratic frame work under pinned by international law, its covenants and conventions. For more information

info@britishtamilsforum.org and/or visit: www.britishtamilsforum.org