



ISSN 1837-6460

August 2011

Volume 3, Issue 8



## *Human scars of Sri Lankan war neglected*

*Sri Lankans are rebuilding after decade of conflict but for many the traumas of war are still raw*



To Watch this please click [here](#)

Two years after the end of Sri Lanka's civil war, the north's roads, railways and homes are being rebuilt. But little attention has been placed on helping a population suffering from the trauma of being caught in the middle of decades of fighting.

Mental health workers have told Al Jazeera that not only is the treatment of post-traumatic stress not a priority for the government, but that in some cases the military has refused to allow counsellors in to reach affected people.

Al Jazeera's Steve Chao was granted special permission to report in the still sensitive area of northern Sri Lanka.

## *Civil War leaves Sri Lankan woman vulnerable*



**SRI LANKA WIDOWS  
VULNERABLE WOMEN SPEAK OUT**

Sri Lanka's long-running conflict was brutal for its women.

More than 80,000 are said to have been widowed in war-affected areas of the island nation. The peace that came with the end of the civil war has brought little discernible improvement to their lives.

The situation is especially bad for young women, who told Al Jazeera about rapes and sexual exploitation - in some cases by government officials and the military.

Steve Chao was granted special permission to report in the still sensitive area of northern Sri Lanka.

To watch this please click [here](#)



## Australian Tamil Congress 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual General Meeting NATIONAL MEETING IN SYDNEY

We invite members of the Australian Tamil Community to participate in our 2<sup>nd</sup> AGM. ATC Executives will provide an update on achievements to date and planned activities for the future. Your participation will give us an opportunity to listen to your opinions to enhance the future of ATC.

அவுஸ்திரேலிய தமிழர் பேரவையின் 2வது வருடாந்த பொதுக் கூட்டம்  
எமது கடந்த வருட செயற்பாடுகளும், வருங்காலச் செயல் திட்டங்களும் பற்றிய  
தகவல்கள் கலந்துரையாடப்படும்.

இப் பொதுக்கூட்டத்திற்கு அனைவரையும் ஆஸ்திரேலிய தமிழர் பேரவை அழைக்கிறது.

**Sat. 17<sup>th</sup> September 2011 at 6:00pm**

**Venue: Homebush Boys High School, Bridge Road, Homebush**

*'Coming together is the beginning. Keeping together is progress. Working together is success.'*

For further information 1300 660 629

### *Public Relations Team's Report*

This month, ATC PR and political teams worked together to counter-act attempts by the Sri Lankan High Commission to Australia to whitewash issues such as that of war crimes, through events such as those hosted by the Sri Lanka Parliamentary group.

The Sri Lankan government has attempted to counteract the mounting evidence of alleged war crimes perpetrated by the Sri Lankan regime by creating its own reports, documentaries and books. The latest report, 'Humanitarian Operation – Factual Analysis' has been described by [Human Rights Watch](#) as "just the latest and glossiest effort to whitewash mounting evidence of government atrocities during the fighting". These documents have been publicised through events organised by Sri Lankan diplomatic missions overseas, including Australia.

"Statements made by elected Tamil representatives in the Sri Lankan Parliament highlight the real situation

faced by Tamils in the island," said Dr Sam Pari, spokesperson for the ATC. "Any information propagated by representatives of the Sri Lankan government needs to be scrutinised and not taken at face value," she added.

Leading up to the above mentioned event, letters from ATC were sent to all politicians informing them of the ground realities in Sri Lanka. We have also been informed by sources who attended the event that many who attended the event used the opportunity to ask the Sri Lankan High Commissioner to Australia many tough questions. We are lead to believe that ATC press release and letters to politicians may have assisted in educating those who did attend the event on the ground realities in Sri Lanka and to counteract any false propaganda by the Sri Lankan regime

## ATC Chapter Annual General Meetings for 2011

### Victorian Chapter

The Annual General Meeting of ATC Victoria was held on Saturday, 20 August 2011, at 3.00 pm at Vermont South Community Hall, Vermont South.

Following a one minute silence observed in remembrance of the fallen heroes and victims of the war in our homeland, the incumbent President Mr Pathmalinkam delivered his welcome speech. He recalled the challenging times we have had in the past year and the commitment and dedication with which the many committee members have worked to achieve the goals of the ATC.

At the request of the incumbent President, Paul Rajeswaran made his observations on the activities of the committee and presented the Treasurer's Report on behalf of the Treasurer, Dr Rajan, who was unable to attend the meeting.

The Minutes of the last AGM was then adopted unanimously and questions from the House were answered satisfactorily.

Thereafter, the Returning Officer Dr E Kanapathipillai conducted the election of new Office Bearers for the year 2011/12. The following were elected for the respective positions, uncontested:

Mr S Pathmalinkam - President

Dr Sri Srithar	- Vice President
Dr Rajan	- Treasurer
Mr Antony Gratian	- Media Officer
Dr N Mohan	- Committee Member
Mr Adrian Sinnappu	- Committee Member
Prof Thas Nirmalathas	- Committee Member
Mr Sri Skandakumar	- Committee Member
Mr Johnny Chrysostom	- Committee Member
Mr Thilagarajan	- Committee Member

No nominations were received for the position of Secretary. The Committee is authorized to appoint a suitable person as Secretary as soon as possible.

The re-elected President Mr Pathmalikam thanked the House for the confidence shown in him and the fellow committee members to serve the ATC for another term, and reminded all the daunting tasks ahead. Adrian Sinnappu briefed about the key state political activities during the year.

Prof. Nirmalathas spoke about expanding the membership number, fundraising and the need for more volunteers to implement the ATC objectives. At this point some members put forward that a substantial reduction in membership fee should be considered, but Prof. Nirmalathas countered that reduction in membership fee will not necessarily increase the membership adequately to fund the accomplishment of the ATC projects and objectives. Further discussions are called for on this matter.

### South Australian Chapter

The Second Annual General Meeting of Australian Tamil Congress (ATC) – South Australia Chapter was held on 21st August 2010 at 2.30 PM at Burnside Community Centre, Tasmore SA 5065. There were eleven members present beside that another four proxies were received out of the total membership of 51.

The meeting started remembering all who laid their lives for the freedom struggle and the innocent victims. Director presented the highlight of national activities and called upon more people to actively engage for the Tamil cause. This was followed by Chapter secretary's report on activities for the year, the content of that will appear in the ATC annual report. Chapter Treasurer also circulated the chapter accounts. Members discussed about fund raising and how to get more people interested, with this respect the need to look at other options were discussed.

At the close of nomination the following names for positions shown against their names were received and all were unanimously elected.

President	Dr Kamal G Nathan
Vice President	Mr Kumar Jeyakkumar
Secretary	Ms Shankari Wijendra
Treasurer	Ms Thurga Bragathesewaran
Director	Vacant
Committee Member	Mr Param K Paramsothy

Meeting closed at 3.30 PM which was followed by further discussion over a cup of tea and delicious finger food for another one hour.

## *Western Australian Chapter AGM*

The Annual General meeting of the ATC WA Chapter was held at 11.00 AM on Sunday the 14th of August 2011 in the Tamil Centre, Rossmoyne, Perth.

Mr. Elankumaran, Director for WA chapter, took the Chair and at the beginning one minute silence was observed in memory of all those who gave their lives for the Homeland, Eelam.

**Mr. Elankumaran then read the President's report** which was adopted by the House. Thereafter, the Treasurer Mr. Arulpiragasam presented the Statement of Accounts for the previous year which was also accepted by the House.

Thereafter Mr. Elankumaran requested Mr. Senthuran, the Returning Officer to conduct the Election of Office bearers for the year 2011/2012.

The following were elected for the positions shown:

Mr. P.A.Subramaniam	President.
Mr. N . Satgunasingam	Vice President
Mr. S. Arulpiragasam	Treasurer
Mr. R Shanmuganathan	Committee Member
Dr A. Arulpiragasam	Committee Member
Mr S. Arandan	Committee Member

Mr Elankumaran will continue as the Director for the ATC WA Chapter for the 2nd year as provided in the Constitution.

Since there were no nominees for the position of Secretary, the House directed the Committee to appoint a suitable and willing person.

The President thanked the House for electing the new Committee and welcomed all the office bearers. The President stated that eventful times are ahead consequent to the awakening in Tamilnadu as well as consequent to the election of TNA in spite of Army thuggery and the years ahead will be conditioned by the Environmental and Economic crises in the international arena. The Diaspora needs to take into account the eventful times and the conditioning factors and provide the necessary assistance to the Homeland in the struggles ahead instead of pretending to be lead, noting that the disaster of May 2009 was mainly due to the unfavourable external factors.

The President then invited Dr Rajeswaran, the Chairman of the Australian Tamil Congress to explain the activities of the Australian Tamil Congress and the Global Tamil Forum (GTF). Dr Rajeswaran explained the activities illustrating with slides and also answered questions from the House.

Answering a question from the House, it was decided to support CHOGM Protest in October 2011 being sponsored by several organizations including the Socialist Alliance and the Greens. The ATC Board is to be requested whether ATC could also be a sponsor. An extract from the leaflet for the protest included welcoming of Refugees, condemning Mandatory Detention and also condemning the welcoming of Mahinda.

The President announced that the Committee will meet at every month and invited the General Membership to be present after the committee meeting to discuss relevant issues.

## *Queensland Chapter AGM*

The Second Annual General Meeting of Australian Tamil Congress (ATC) – Queensland Chapter was held on 20th August 2010 at 3 PM at Masonic Hall, 671, 17 Miles Rocks Road, Sinnamon Park, Qld 4073

The existing Committee was re-elected at the meeting and Chapter President/Coordinator Mr. Yogi Srikantha thanked the members who attended.

There were discussion on upcoming events and ATC activities.

**Meeting concluded with Treasurer's report for Queensland chapter being presented.**

## New South Wales Chapter Report

### Senator Lee Rhiannon's first speech in the Senate

ATC representatives from Sydney traveled to the Parliament House for Greens Senator for NSW Lee Rhiannon's first [speech](#) on Wednesday 24 August 2011.

We had the opportunity to meet Senator Bob Brown and convey Tamil Community's gratitude to Green's support.

We then proceeded to the Senate Gallery to hear the speech. It was a well delivered speech and we've been told it was the first time there was a standing ovation from so many people in the Senate gallery.

Amongst the gathering of over 50 of Lee's family and friends, Senator Rhiannon openly stated her commitment to the Tamil Community in addressing the war crime issues.



Senator Lee Rhiannon with Senator Bob Brown and other parliamentary colleagues

### Meeting with Hon Julie Bishop MP

ATC representatives met Shadow Foreign Minister Hon Julie Bishop MP at the Parliament House in Canberra.

We discussed the current situation in Sri Lanka and stressed the need for international community pressure to initiate an independent investigation into crimes against humanity and war crimes.

Highlighted the immediate need for a political solution that adequately addresses the legitimate concerns of the Tamils in the island.

### Meeting with Mr. Rowan Ramsay MP-Member for Grey-SA

This was an excellent opportunity to introduce ATC and its work to bring about a resolution to the long standing grievances of the Tamils in Sri Lanka. Sri Lanka's Killing Fields documentary was also discussed

### Annual General Meeting-NSW

The National AGM is being held in NSW this year. For the convenience of our members we have combined the NSW Chapter AGM and national AGM

NSW AGM: 17th September 2011 at Homebush Boys High School, Homebush at 6:00pm. Followed by national AGM at 6.30pm.



Senator Lee Rhiannon delivering her first speech

## *Collectivism: The Missing Element*

By Ram Mohan

There is a feeling of uncertainty and of lack of progress all round. That does not mean the struggle for survival, the eternal force of Evolution, is at standstill. Nobody has given up and nobody ever will. But why the apparent random motion is not finding a direction forward is the big question.

There is much talk about the Environment and about threatening (or already underway) climate changes. Most of the talk is about who should bell the cat and only very limited nominal action is being taken, The corporate world which exploited the Environment just the same way it exploited Labour, does not want to take any responsibility except continuing the exploitation as before. Its political mouth pieces resist any changes saying that the corporate world will pass all the cost to the consumers as the profit margin is sacred.

Gradually it is being accepted that the current World Economic crisis is worse than the Economic depression of the 1930s. The attempts by Governments to bail out the corporate world have not produced any results but probably leading to a situation when Establishments and Governments need to be bailed out. Again it is the consumers who have to face the music and they are being accused of consumer resistance which is blunted by artificial sweeteners like “buy one and get one free”.

The Global Environmental crisis and the Globalised Economic crisis are certainly the fundamental underlying factors responsible for the uncertainty and lack of progress manifesting in different forms among Countries, Nations and even among all non-state organizations, spreading paralysis. The decaying imperialism rejuvenated into aggressive Globalised Capital but the deepening crises made it to withdraw in favour of the less productive Globalised Establishments whose only strength is UNITY.

Whether it is preserving the Status quo or whether it is preemptive strikes against potential Resistance, the Establishments are united. But the Resistance is divided and isolated, and unable to arrest the spreading paralysis. It is obvious to anyone that the lack of unity among the peoples of the World (particularly when the oppressive globalised establishments are thoroughly united) is the major cause for the spreading paralysis although the environ-

ment is soaked with calls for unity among peoples of the world.

Thus the key question is why unity among peoples of the world is not being achieved. The failure to achieve unity comes from two extremes:

Call for unity without any programme or objectives, Unity must embrace everything –All or Nothing approach

The two extremes arise because of the failure to understand that any unity is for the purpose of collective action. No two persons will have the same ideas and same objectives in all respects. As one spiritual leader said there are as many religions as there are human minds. A mirror image can be found only inside a mirror. However it is possible to find common ground and hence collective action for myriads of activities. The extent of collective action can vary from two for a family objective to billions for a new world order. The more common ones for collective action are trade union demands, student rights, women’s rights, Human Rights, Right of Self Determination of Nations and the like. It is quite common to find the same individual in different groups for different types of collective actions. A person could be in collective action in the family for the welfare of his family while being in collective action in his workplace for the welfare of mates, in collective action for the liberation of his Nation, in collective action against exploitation in his country as well as elsewhere. It will not be a problem if all these actions are complementary and again that is possible if equitability within groups and equitability between groups are recognized, accepted and practiced. Unfortunately, ignorance, prejudice and the like prevail over equitability.

Ignorance and prejudices blind us from seeing equitability and then inequity leads to negate collective action because collectivism and inequity cannot go together.

Man was a Revolution in Evolution. The three cardinal features that distinguished Man from Animal are: Language, Technology and Collectivism. While the development of any of the three cardinal features, enhances the development of the other two, development of Language is more broad based with increasing literacy. But development of Technology and Collectivism is confined and controlled to be in advantage to the ruling class.– [Read More](#)

*Disclaimer : The views expressed are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the views of ATC*

## *Tamil speakers of North and East Ceylon are Indigenous— by Anandan Segasothy*

The Ceylonese or in other words the Tamil speakers who inhabit about a 1/3 of Ceylon are the indigenous people of the land. Ceylonese people are the Bhoomiputras (sons of the soil) of Ceylon just like the Aborigines of Australia. Unfortunately some people seem to think that the Ceylonese are Dravidians who came across the sea from Tamil Nadu. This ignorant assumption gives the faction (historians, Buddhist monks and politicians) of the Sinhalese a justification behind their ongoing attempts to eliminate the Ceylonese from the north east and settle non-indigenous Sinhalese from the southern part of the island instead.

To say Ceylonese are migrants from Tamil Nadu was the first tactic the Sinhalese used on their path to the illegal occupation, denial of equal rights and ethnic cleansing of the Ceylonese.

**Sarath Fonseka (army general) said recently: 'I strongly believe that this country belongs to the Sinhalese.' But they (Ceylonese) must not try to under the pretext of being a minority demand undue things.' It is this belief that has contributed to their vicious hatred and complex paranoia of the Ceylonese and their deluded unsubstantiated claim that Ceylon is one nation under the Sinhalese flag.**

I never believed that Ceylonese people were Dravidian and came from Tamil Nadu. I asked myself what were the assumptions of the Sinhalese, and what evidence did they provide to prove that the Ceylonese came from Tamil Nadu.

The only source the faction of the Sinhalese and others base their propaganda upon is the Mahavamsa. This so called historical document is nothing more than pages of lies written by fanatical hate mongering Buddhist monks. According to the Mahavamsa, South Indians settled during **Raja Raja Chola's invasion of Ceylon in the 9th century.** The Sinhalese have many other ridiculous theories as well; one being that Jaffna was populated by South Indian tobacco slaves during the 17th century under Dutch colonial rule. After pondering on these outrageous claims and my own historical knowledge of South East Asia and South India, I began to realise what is being propagated is a wicked lie.

**If the South Indian Tamils settled in Ceylon, why didn't they settle in the rest of S.E.A. where they also invaded, traded and built magnificent temples such as Angkor Wat? Why didn't the South Indians settle in Malaya or Burma which have nice sceneries and plenty of rainfall? This question leads onto another question: why did they only settle in the northern and eastern areas which don't have gems and which are relatively drier than the areas inhabited by the Sinhalese and Malaysia? Why did more than half of the South Indian Tamils who migrated from Tamil Nadu to Malaysia in the 19th century to work in the estates return to India whilst the Ceylonese have no such affinity for**

Tamil Nadu? Why are the Ceylonese and Dravidians physically distinct even though Jaffna has a very similar climate to South India and is only about 50km away?

What was the reasoning behind the Sinhalese claim that the Tamil language came from Tamil Nadu and that migration of people had to occur from Tamil Nadu to Ceylon? **Why couldn't it occur the other way around or why does everyone who speaks the same language have to be of the same ethnicity or race?** As I asked myself these questions I realised there were big logical holes in this claim by the Sinhalese faction.

This faction of Sinhalese have conveniently ignored the history of the Tamil language in order to propagate their claim that Ceylonese people are Dravidians who migrated from India. In the Puranas it is stated that the Tamil language was created by God Muruga who then taught the language to Sage Agastya who was living in Northern India. **Agastya then spread the language 10's of thousands of years ago to South India and the now sunken continent of Lemuria.** The only logical conclusion from this is that for Agastya to spread the Tamil language there must have been people already in Ceylon (Lemuria).

If they say that the Ceylonese are not indigenous, why is Tamil the oldest language in Ceylon? In fact without the Tamil language the so called Sinhalese language would be nothing more than Pali. In Ceylon there are 5 ancient Shiva temples which have been there from time immemorial, so which people who practice Hinduism built it? Only the Ceylonese could have built those temples.

In very ancient times as recorded in the Ramayana and Mahabharata there existed a people called Nagas in northern Ceylon. So where did these people vanish to when the outcast Vijaya landed with 700 rejects from Kalinga? They did not disappear with the arrival of Vijaya or Buddhism because the Nagas were Tamil speakers and Hindus just like the present day population of northern Ceylon.

It is without a doubt that the Ceylonese are indigenous to Ceylon and are not related to the South Indians. No one can anymore claim that the Ceylonese should learn to live under the Sinhalese or otherwise go back to Tamil Nadu. For foreigners to have a better understanding of the war and to judge which side is on the moral high ground they must understand this simple fact: that Tamils are natives in the north and east in the island of Sri Lanka.

The Aborigines in Australia were colonised by the English, but at least today they are recognised as the 1st Australians and are entitled to native title, which is the opposite to what is happening in the island of Sri Lanka.

*Disclaimer : The views expressed are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the views of ATC*



## We Are A 'Bruised' Community – Global Tamil Forum

By Easwaran Rutnam

The Global Tamil Forum (GTF) led by Father S. J. Emmanuel has intensified its campaign overseas against the Sri Lankan government in the light of recent videos released by Channel 4.

The Sri Lankan government sees the GTF as an LTTE proxy organisation with extremist agendas. The Sunday Leader spoke to Spokesperson for the Global Tamil Forum, Suren Surendiran, to find out what their agenda really is.

**Q:** The Sri Lankan government feels that groups like the Global Tamil Forum are portraying the wrong image about the country overseas. There is also some reference to GTF in a recent video by the Sri Lankan Defence Ministry. So is the GTF giving the “wrong picture” about Sri Lanka?

**A:** For the current government, anyone or any organisation or for that matter any government that highlights its corrupt practices, lack of political wisdom, the crimes it committed – breaching international laws and conventions and above all the dictatorial way it conducts itself with impunity, are terrorist outfits, that take the ‘wrong image’ of Sri Lanka overseas. Dissent even from Sinhala masses, politicians or media is not tolerated.

In the eyes of the Rajapaksa regime, the UN and the UN Secretary General are wrong, all the international human rights organisations are wrong, Madam Navi Pillai is wrong, the US government and the Secretary of State are wrong, Madam Jayalalithaa of Tamil Nadu is wrong, Bishop Tutu is wrong, the Uthayan newspaper is wrong, Lasantha Wickrematunge was wrong, General Fonseka is wrong, the JVP and TNA are wrong, Channel 4 News is wrong, Headlines Today TV of India is wrong... so why would GTF be any different?

**Q:** So what is GTF expecting the Sri Lankan government to do? What does GTF want to see in Sri Lanka?

**A:** We want people to feel free to speak and feel safe to raise their children without fear, We want the people's will and their democratic rights restored, we want the army occupation of the north and east to end. We want the emergency rule and the Prevention of Terrorism



Act (PTA) revoked. We want to know the names of persons held without proper legal process and for these

people to have access to legal counsel, to their families and humanitarian agencies. We want these persons either be charged

under the laws of the land or be released forthwith. We want government and its agents sponsored colonisation to stop immediately. We want the people to have their lands and homes back and be resettled where they originally lived. We want structured and well funded rehabilitation and resettlement programmes to be implemented without too much government interference or corruption. We want planned and well founded reconstruction programmes to be implemented in the war affected areas. We want the disparity in development between the regions of the island to be minimised, basic priorities of all people (e.g. education, health, employment etc.) to be treated as priorities and dealt without corruption. We want justice for all the wrongs that were done to our people in the name of war on terrorism. We want all allegations of war crimes and crimes against humanity against both parties to the armed conflict be investigated by an independent international body. We want a credible and genuine political process to be initiated with international sponsorship, unlike the ones that the Rajapaksa regime introduces when pressure mounts (e.g. the APRC, negotiations with the TNA and now the Parliamentary Committee etc.) to seek a durable political settlement to resolve the long standing and genuine grievances of the Tamil people and all people. We want all of the above to be a part of the process that will lay the foundations for a long lasting reconciliation process that will enable people to live side by side as friendly neighbours. Above all we do not want the Sinhala people to feel as an ‘out-class’ from the international community for the colossal mistakes and wrong doings of a few in the government.

**Q:** Is the GTF campaigning for a separate state in Sri Lanka like what the LTTE did when they demanded an





‘Eelam’ State?

**A:** We do not want to prescribe what the final solution should be. However, we as a community, a ‘bruised’ community which has been ‘cheated’ by successive Sri Lankan governments, are understandably apprehensive and to some extent suspicious of any solutions that may result through negotiations. As I said before any future negotiations must be underwritten by the international community. President of the Global Tamil Forum, Father S. J. Emmanuel says, the ball is in the court of the fair and reasonable politicians and people of the south to demonstrate and decide whether President Rajapaksa and his brothers will deliver long lasting peace and prosperity for the country.

Accountability and good governance go hand in hand with a political solution and stability.

**Q:** Will the GTF be willing to meet the Sri Lankan government face to face to discuss concerns and iron out differences?

**A:** We will talk to anyone who can offer just peace for Tamils but I cannot see how the current government

can deliver just that whilst the issue of war crimes is hanging over its head. After 10 rounds of talks, the Tamil National Alliance had to suspend their engagement recently due to the lack of political will and sincerity on the government’s part, they said. Whilst the President talks about a Parliamentary Committee to decide on devolution of powers, his brother who is a senior member of the government, Gotabhaya Rajapaksa has gone on record recently in an interview with Headlines Today TV network in India, saying that there is no need for any further devolution of powers required than what the current constitution stipulates. Further, he has taken on the mighty Tamil Nadu State Assembly and its leader Madam Jayalalitha in a war of words to discredit the will of the Tamil Nadu people whilst the President welcomes a recent meeting between the Sri Lankan High Commissioner to India and the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu. These contradictions within the government itself do not give a great deal of credibility.

<http://www.thesundayleader.lk/2011/08/21/we-are-a-bruised-community-global-tamil-forum/>

## GLOBAL TAMIL FORUM APPEALS FOR CLEMENCY

### PRESS STATEMENT –26 August 2011

The President of India, Her Excellency Smt. Pratibha Devisingh Patil, has rejected recently the clemency petitions of Mr. Perarivalan, Mr. Murugan and Mr. Santhan, the three men who have been sentenced to death for alleged involvement in the assassination of Honourable Mr Rajiv Gandhi in 1991.

The death of the former Indian Prime Minister was a tragedy, not just for the family but for the entire Indian Nation.

Mahatma Gandhi once said that “an eye for an eye makes the whole world blind”. A magnanimous act of clemency would not only reflect the values of the Father of the Nation but also the inherent decency of India and its people.

There have been concerns raised regarding the investigation into Mr Gandhi’s assassination and the manner in which the trial of the accused was conducted. In light of this and the irrevocable nature of the death penalty, the Global Tamil Forum calls on the Indian President to reconsider her decision to reject the mercy plea of Mr Perarivalan, Mr Murugan and Mr Santhan.

The right to life and the right not to be subjected to cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment or punishment are recognised in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and other international human rights instruments. The death penalty violates these fundamental tenets of human rights law.

Therefore, leniency is begged for the accused. Such compassion would be welcomed warmly by many around the world.

## Australian Tamil Congress

Postal Address:

P.O. BOX 22 COMO WA 6952 AUSTRALIA

Tel: 1300 660 629

Web: <http://www.australiantamilcongress.com>



In the past, only a fraction of Tamils have participated in politically active groups. Today the need is for a united and concerted action. We need to draw the silent majority and fresh blood into political awareness to convey the collective view of our community effectively.

We have some major projects and we cannot succeed without membership numbers and the funds that can generate! We are aware that a strong membership base is paramount to have a viable platform to make an impact. We earnestly request your help at this critical time to join our efforts. Being member of ATC, you will be entitled to participate in various ATC working groups and influence the direction.

You can contribute in various ways to our long-, medium- and short-term activities in humanitarian, legal, political, community, and communication fronts.

Please join us in our crusade for peace and justice by having your family and friends join ATC!

Articles and feedback to the National Newsletter

Please send us your views and creations to be included in our Newsletters to

[newsletter@australiantamilcongress.com](mailto:newsletter@australiantamilcongress.com)

Disclaimer : *The views expressed are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the views of ATC*

---

### *Australian Tamil Congress: On a Crusade for Peace and Justice*

#### Vision

“Australian Tamil Congress is formed in order to create a congress of our people, for our people and by our people based on the principles of justice and peace amongst ourselves, and to provide for a common voice in promoting our general welfare, prosperity, independence, equality, security and peace”

#### Mission

“The Australian Tamil Congress encourages the positive participation of Tamils in Australian society, highlights issues of importance to Tamils, upholds core Australian values and engages other communities, governments and organisations in addressing the socio-cultural and political concerns of Tamils.”

#### Objective

“As part of an international Tamil human rights and political organization dedicated to generating change through ‘Collective Global Tamil’ action to institute and educate people on Tamils’ right to survival and self-determination, and to promote the safety, welfare, economic development of Tamils worldwide; and to teach the lessons of the Tamil Genocide in Sri Lanka for future generations.”

