



## Australian Tamil Congress



ISSN 1837-6460

Special Edition

July 2013



**Australian Tamil Congress (ATC)** hosted several screenings of *No Fire Zone* with Director Callum Macrae in Australia. The tour was supported by several Australian based organisations endorsing and promoting the tour.

Screenings in Canberra, Sydney, Melbourne and Perth were successful and were attended by Tamils and non-Tamil audiences. Director Callum Macrae was very encouraged by the support he received in Australia.

ATC Public Relations Team worked hard to get maximum exposure in Australian media prior to screening despite the leadership changes and other issues taking priority.

The Australian Tour was followed by New Zealand and Malaysia.



## *Callum Macrae— Controversial Malaysian Tour & Australian Tour*



**THURSDAY 4th JULY 2013- Kuala Lumpur**

For the last two weeks I have been on a tour of four Commonwealth countries to screen the film: The first of a series on international screening tours designed to take the film to Commonwealth and other countries around the world.

This first tour included parliamentary screenings in Malaysia and Australia - although equally important have been screenings for the people who elect - and hold these governments to account. Thus we have had very successful screenings in Auckland and Wellington in New Zealand, as well as Canberra, Melbourne and Perth in Australia. At all of these meetings we had very committed and concerned Q and A's and discussions afterwards. Many people spoke of their horror on discovering the true scale of the crimes and massacres which marked the end of this awful war. These screenings generated a lot of publicity and press coverage - including several TV and radio features - and I am confident will lead to renewed calls for action for justice.

We had two screenings in Sydney. One in the suburb of Silverwater was particularly memorable. That area is home to a large number of Tamils - and was attended by between 400 and 500 people, many of them Tamils who had lost relatives in the war. Some were survivors who had lived through it.

Watching this film is difficult in any situation. That screening was a powerful and painful experience and a reminder of the scale of the crimes during the war.

I next travelled to Malaysia where, yesterday we had one of our most successful parliamentary screenings yet. MPs were visibly shocked and pledged themselves to raise urgent questions in parliament about whether Malaysia should be attending CHOGM in November - and to renew their calls for an independent international inquiry into all the crimes committed in the final months of the civil war.

That evening the respected Malaysian human rights NGO Pusat Kumas hosted a screening of the film in the Kuala Lumpur and Selangor Chinese Assembly Hall. We heard that during the day members of the Sri Lankan Embassy had tried to persuade both the owners of the hall and Pusat Kumas that they should cancel the screening. They refused. The Malaysian government's Censorship Board also contacted Pusat Kumas and told them to cancel the screening. They declined that too.

And so last night the screening went ahead. The hall was packed, I did a brief introduction and the film started.

I moved to a small side-room to do some work while the film was showing - intending to come back afterwards for the Q and A.

About five minutes later I heard a commotion outside and someone came in to tell me that around 40 police officers and members of the Malaysian Censorship Board had raided the screening. However they backed down from actually stopping the screening - perhaps fearing the outrage it would cause. My hosts advised me to escape by a side door, which I reluctantly did. At the end of the screening the police checked the ID of everyone there - and arrested three organisers from Pusat Kumas for questioning. Lena Hendry, Arul Prakash and Anna Har. They were held for several hours and then released on bail.

I have now left Malaysia as planned - I am en route to Canada to address the annual Tamil cultural festival tomorrow attended by 3000 North American Tamils. We also have a screening of the film.

## *Australian Tour of No Fire Zone in Media*



Film shows new evidence of war crimes in Sri Lanka

Tuesday, 25 June 2013

Produced by Tim Roxburgh

A new film claims to show hard evidence of atrocities in the closing days of Sri Lanka's civil war. As Commonwealth leaders prepare to meet in the country for the Commonwealth Heads of Government meeting later in the year, the film is raising questions about the behaviour of the country's military forces. Next week on the show we'll speak to Sri Lanka's High Commissioner in Australia about the film.

The documentary is called No Fire Zone: Sri Lanka's Killing fields. The documentary compiles a lot footage like this to allege that in the final days of the war, Sri Lanka's military was involved in targeting civilians, amongst other atrocities and war crimes. The Sri Lankan high commission in Australia says that this kind of footage could be from another time, they say it could be doctored, and they say it could show tamils bombing civilians.

Featured in story

Callum Macrae - Director of the documentary 'No Fire Zone: The Killing Fields of Sri Lanka

Listen to Audio Click [here](#) ( top right hand corner)

### **Australian Tour No Fire Zone- Interview with Director Callum Macrae-ABC TV**



Watch Click [here](#)

#### **SBS Tamil**

“The documentary is fair, accurate and good journalism”- 1 July 2013– Raymond Selvarajah

Callum Macrae is an award-winning film maker, writer and journalist. He produced two documentary films on alleged war crimes committed by both Sri Lankan Government and LTTE. In an exclusive interview with SBS Tamil Radio, Macrae answers to many questions and criticisms against him.

Click [here](#) to listen

*Australian Tour—No Fire Zone-Sydney*



Callum Macrae Introduction



Robert Dubler SC -answering questions on War Crimes



Dr Sam Pari ATC Spokesperson



Callum Macrae in Silverwater



Sydney CBD event



ATC NSW President Mr M Manokaran



Luxmi Logithaasan –MC for the night –Silverwater

*No Fire Zone Melbourne*



Melbourne Screening with Prof Chris Nash and Callum Macrae



*No Fire Zone –Parliament House*



Photos: Appreciation: Human Rights Law Centre (Host of the Parliamentary Screening)

# Want to Donate to no fire zone



Australian Tamil Congress is collecting donations to fund the No Fire Zone project. You can visit our [www.australiantamilcongress.com](http://www.australiantamilcongress.com) and click Donate now.

Alternatively you can visit [www.nofirezone.org](http://www.nofirezone.org) and donate directly.



# Australian Tamil Congress

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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*

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## *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.”

