

30 June 2011

Rt Hon David Cameron
Prime Minister
10 Downing Street
London
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TAMIL WRITERS GUILD

Dear Prime Minister

Sri Lankan War Crimes

You have gone on record saying that 'we have seen the video and photographs and an independent international inquiry must be held on the alleged atrocities which took place in the closing months of the Sri Lankan war (2009). The former Foreign Secretary David Miliband said 'there may be a genocide' and he has also been quoted as saying that the Sri Lankan government's counterparts were liars. The former Prime Minister Gordon Brown had to put pressure on the Sri Lankan President over the phone to allow passage for food supply to the war affected areas. A ship load of food and medicine was not allowed to reach the shores of Sri Lanka. Thus, the SL govt's attitude is well known.

The Sri Lankan govt conducted a war without witness. The UN experts were not allowed to enter the country and their report has been completely rejected by the Sri Lankan govt. Channel 4 screened an hour-long film on SL Killing Fields on June 14. According to Channel 4, the film provides powerful evidence including photographic stills, Sri Lankan army footage and satellite imagery which contradicts the SL government's claims of 'Zero Civilian Casualties' In fact, over 40,000 civilians perished and over 300,000 Tamils were forcibly detained in internment camps. Some of the people who were released from the camps are still languishing under the trees in the Wannu region of northern Sri Lanka whilst tens of thousands are still languishing in either the original internment camp or other transitory camps.

Considering these facts and given your lead role in rescuing civilians in Libya, is there anything stopping the UK government from putting pressure and applying sanctions on Sri Lanka until they accept accountability? The rebels in Libya are armed fighters who are receiving help from NATO. When around 330,000 innocent Tamil IDPs (Internally Displaced Persons) were sandwiched between the warring factions in early 2009, the west, including the BBC deliberately turned a blind eye on them. Former England Cricket Captain Michael Atherton has questioned whether England cricketers should tour Sri Lanka in the light of alleged war crimes.

On June 14, the lid was removed on all the cover-ups. The revelation will be an eye opener for the west. It is still not too late to apply the galaxy of sanctions on Sri Lanka similar to those which have been utilised by your government on Libya. We would sincerely hope you'd agree that the western governments shouldn't be aiding and abetting a regime which has no regard for human rights.

Yours sincerely

Secretary
Tamil Writers Guild

CC: Rt Hon William Hague, Rt Hon Ed Miliband, Lord Chris Patten(BBC)