



TAMIL WRITERS GUILD

Indifference

The now famous footballer Fabrice Muamba collapsed on the pitch not so long ago with a heart attack and stopped breathing for 78 minutes. The whole world prayed for him and wished him well for a speedy recovery. He made a miraculous recovery and made everyone happy.

On a similar theme, a little five year old child, Thusha Kamaleswaran, was accidentally caught in a shootout between rival gangs and earned everyone's sympathy. The nation also sympathised for Anne Dewani who was killed in South Africa and lately marathon runner Claire Squires touched the nation's heart and earned well deserved admiration.

However, when Channel 4 (C4) screened the award winning TV documentary – Sri Lanka: The Killing Fields –which documented that over 40,000 innocent Tamil people had been killed, over 146,000 Tamils were missing, over 100,000 ended up as widows and over 25,000 people are injured, the nation's reaction is markedly different and muted. With the notable exception of C4, the UK media and especially, the BBC failed to provide any meaningful coverage about those atrocities. Does it mean that the lives of the Tamils are not equally important?

The C4 documentary and its revelations have had reverberations in the international political circles. It has been shown in many parliaments and the European Union has withdrawn its preferential trade with SL until these alleged atrocities are properly investigated and those responsible brought to account.

The U.S. President and the UK Prime Minister among others were calling for an independent inquiry into the conduct of the war during its last stages in May 2009. Those words have not been translated into deeds. In the mean time, the perpetrators of those atrocities are enjoying immunity from prosecution and shielded by their friends in high places like the UN Security Council. The UN Secretary General and his cohorts have failed to implement the basic rules on Human Rights.

The UN which is allegedly infiltrated by people with vested interests should be accountable in dealing with human rights violation. It should approach this alleged genocide with scrupulous fairness. It should not be left to posterity to blame those who were at the helm during the final stages of SL war.

Whilst the media's 'see no evil, hear no evil' approach during the final phase of the SL Killing Fields is now history, their continued and collective failure to pursue the quest for justice for not only those Tamils killed but also, for those Tamils in SL who are continued to be denied their basic human rights is now becoming untenable and it's for all of us to ensure their silence doesn't continue.

TWG Editorial Board
London, UK

Email: info@tamilwritersguild.com
www.tamilwritersguild.com
A Cogent and Effective Response from a Tamil Perspective