

**To International Communities!**

**Demanding Justice for Sathurukondan Genocide.**

Today on 09<sup>th</sup> of Sept 2024 falls on the 34<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the brutal massacres of 186 innocent Tamil civilian were killed by the Sri Lankan Army belonging to the villages of Sathurukondan Pilliyaradi, Kokuvil and Panichaiadi of the Manmunai North Divisional Secretariat of the Batticaloa District of the Eastern Province of Sri Lanka. On this sad day of 09<sup>th</sup> Sept 2024, we are commemorating the justice of the bereaved people at the Shathurukondan memorial tomb by activists and representatives of civil organizations.

186 Tamil civilians including infants, children, women and men were pulled out of their homes and killed by SLA soldiers from the Sathurukondan 'Boys Town' army camp, sources said. Of the dead, five were infants under year one, 42 children under years 10, 09 pregnant mothers and 28 adults over 68 years of age. 38 were from Sathurukondan village, 37 from Panichchaiyady, 62 from Pillaiayradi and 47 from Kokuvil were massacred, sources said.

We would like to remind at this place that even after 34 years have passed today, but no more complete and fair legal proceedings, investigations or justice proceedings have been carried out for those who were assassinated.

We have been fighting for justice for the past 34 years, even though we have not been able to get justice even after giving many voices within Sri Lanka and internationally and carrying out democratic struggles regarding the incident where our relatives were taken away and massacred.

Even today on 09<sup>th</sup> Sept 2024, Arrangements have been made to hold a commemoration has to be carried out amid many restrictions and continuous intimidations by the Sri Lankan police. In particular, the mass killings carried out in the North Eastern regions during the presidency of late Ranasinghe Premadasa of the United National Party were investigated by the Commission of inquiry established by the then President Chandrika Kumaratunga in 1997. The investigation identified three Sri Lankan Army officers as responsible for the Sathurukonda massacre.

Retired Judge K. Balakidner, who presided over the above investigation, urged the then President Chandrika Kumaratunga to hold the perpetrators accountable, stating that there was strong evidence for the massacre, however, even after 34 years, we still need justice for the victims in a situation where the then government did not take any steps in this regard.

Especially when the Sri Lankan government has a moral duty and responsibility to be fully responsible for such massacres, we are pained by the fact that the Sri Lankan government is not responsible and accountable for what happened to our relatives.

## **Attention to the international Communities!**

We know that many incidents of ethnic extermination and ethnic cleansing such as massacres and mass killings have taken place, especially in the northern and eastern provinces of Sri Lanka. In that way on 09<sup>th</sup> Sept 2024, 186 people of our relatives were murdered. But we have taken many steps and till date we are denied justice.

Therefore, in a situation where the Sri Lankan government cannot be held accountable for the truth and justice of what happened to the past incident, we are asking for justice for us through the international community's intervention. Therefore, on the 34th anniversary of the relatives who were taken away and murdered by the Sri Lankan government forces in Saturukondan area, we request them for justice:

- The genocide case should be referred to the International Criminal Court.
- Fair justice should be available and ensured to the victims.
- Perpetrators should be punished.
- Security should be ensured for holding regular commemorations of these people.
- A guarantee of non-recurrence of such incidents in the future should be given. The government should announce the initiatives for that.

Affected people and their relatives

Sathurukondan, Kokuvil, Panichaiyadi and Pillaiyaradi Villages

Manmunai North,

Batticaloa,

Sri Lanka.

09 September 2024.