**(Your name)**

**(Full Address with Post Code)**

**Name of your MP**

03rd March 2021

Dear Sir/Madam,

**EXTREMELY URGENT**

**PLEA TO SAVE TAMILS BY SAVING THE LIFE OF MRS AMBIHAI SELVAKUMAR.**

I am your constituent. I am victim of genocide committed by the Sri Lankan Government.

I write to you with utmost urgency to request your immediate intervention to save the life of Mrs Ambihai Selvakumar, a British National, who has commenced her Hunger Strike in London, to protest for accountability and justice on behalf of the Tamil victims of the genocide in Sri Lanka. She has been on hunger strike since 27th February 2021.

For almost 12 years, the Sri Lankan state has evaded justice for the genocide that it perpetrated against the minority Tamils during May 2009. Sri Lanka has the second-highest number of enforced disappearances in the world, with a reported backlog of between 60,000 and 100,000 disappearances since the late 1980s. Between 2005 and 2015, thousands of people, mostly ethnic Tamils, were forcibly disappeared in state custody. These were overseen by and when the present war crimes accused president, Gotabaya Rajapaksa, was defence secretary and his brother, current Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa, was president. The perpetrators of the war crimes, crimes against humanity and genocide, which were committed against thousands of Tamils up to and during the peak of the armed struggle in May 2009, continue to evade investigations and prosecutions to date. The continued impunity of these perpetrators and their return to power has meant that the state has resumed its genocide, in particular cultural genocide, against the Tamils to this very day. The staggering Sinhalisation of Tamil lands, destruction of commemoration monuments, obstruction of equality and the elimination of the Tamil language and history are merely a few examples of the ongoing genocide.

To date, Sri Lanka’s domestic processes have persistently and manifestly failed thousands of victims and their families, which has further fuelled the demand for an international inquiry by the United Nations. The current Sri Lankan Government took a step further and officially withdrew from the co-sponsorship of HRC Resolutions 30/1, 34/1 and 40/1 and walked away from HRC’s accountability process.

On 15th January 2021, in an unprecedented act of unity, all major Tamil political leaders, Tamil civil society actors and Tamil victim community representatives from the North-East of Sri Lanka signed a statement calling for an international accountability process, including a referral to the International Criminal Court (ICC) to hear the charges of genocide, war crimes, and crimes against humanity. [[1]](#footnote-1) That same month, over 250 British Tamil organisations called on the UK government to establish an International Independent Investigative Mechanism (IIIM) to investigate the war crimes and the charge of genocide in Sri Lanka. Further, on 4th February 2021, a second Joint Request unitedly signed by more than 500 British organizations fully endorsed the above call[[2]](#footnote-2).

Last month, thousands of Tamils and Muslims across the North-East engaged in mass demonstrations, called P2P, calling for the international community to take action against Sri Lanka. Families of the Disappeared marked their four years of protesting making similar demands. It is very concerning that none of these were taken into account, responded or even acknowledged by the Foreign and Commonwealth office (FCO) of the UK government.

Mrs Ambihai Selvakumar, a well-qualified former Civil Servant of the UK Government, a dedicated human rights activist and one of the Directors of the ICPPG has repeatedly written to you on behalf of the victims of genocide in Sri Lanka and has also notified you of her intention to fast unto death unless the UK agrees to sponsor a resolution that includes the basic demands which were unanimously put forward by the Tamils from Sri Lanka and across the world[[3]](#footnote-3). However, it is very disappointing that you failed to respond, which has forced her to commence the hunger strike in desperation for justice for the victims.

In her statement, Mrs Ambihai Selvakumar maintains that she will not break her fast until one of the following demands are met:

1. Recommend to the UN Security Council and the UN General Assembly that Sri Lanka be referred to the International Criminal Court and take steps to effectively investigate charges of war crimes, crimes against humanity, and genocide.
2. Establish an IIIM, akin to those established for Syria and Myanmar, which mandates the evidence is of international crimes and human rights violations be collected and prepared for criminal prosecutions. A meaningful IIIM must have a strict time frame.
3. Mandate that the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) appoint a Special Rapporteur to continue to monitor Sri Lanka for on-going violations and have an OHCHR field presence in Sri Lanka.
4. Recommend an UN-monitored Referendum to determine the aspirations of the Tamil people in Sri Lanka, on the basis that the North-East of Sri Lanka is the traditional Tamil homeland and the Tamils have the right to self-determination.

I write to register that the entire Tamils including myself, fully endorse all the 4 demands put forward by her on our behalf and I fully support her sincere endeavour, which is based on the non-violent, Gandhian principles. It is very shocking that you have chosen to turn a blind eye and her and her health condition is deteriorating, and we are seriously concerned[[4]](#footnote-4).

I am not prepared to lose Mrs Ambihai Selvakumar as we have lost several thousands of our kith and kin in the genocidal war in Sri Lanka and every Tamil live matter to me. I kindly request the following actions in the capacity of your constituent; please

1. Write to the Prime Minister, FCO and other departments immediately and convey my plea.
2. Write to the Core Group of Countries preparing the Resolution on Sri Lanka on behalf of me and insist them to amend the proposed resolution to include the demands of the victims,
3. Write to the Permanent Representatives of the 47 member Counties of the UNHRC on behalf of me and insist them to support a resolution that addresses the demands of the victims,

In summary, I write to ask you to contact the FCO urgently and insist them to take immediate action and save the life of Mrs Ambihai Selvakumar by full filling at least one of the 4 demand which she has put forward on behalf of the Tamil community across the world

I look forward to hearing from you as a matter of urgency.

Thank you.
(Your name)

(Telephone Number)

(Email Address)

1. https://www.lankanewsweb.net/79-human-rights/76513-tamil-parties-call-for-decisive-action-at-46th-session-of-unhrc [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. https://www.namathueelanadu.com/?p=18756 [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. http://tamildiplomat.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/PRESS-RELEASE-ICPPG-Intention-to-Commence-Hunger-Strike.pdf [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. <https://www.tamilguardian.com/content/british-tamil-woman-commences-hunger-strike-demanding-sri-lanka-be-referred-icc>

http://tamildiplomat.com/a-tamil-woman-commences-a-fast-unto-death-in-britain-demanding-that-sri-lanka-be-referred-to-the-icc/ [↑](#footnote-ref-4)