

# What we demand:

## 1. an independent war crimes investigation

For a people's tribunal consisting of representatives accountable to working class and poor people from all communities, chosen by them and observed by international trade union and human rights organisations. Only such a body could be truly free of the influence of the Sri Lankan government and their international collaborators.

## 2. withdraw the troops!

For an immediate end to military operations in Sri Lanka. Withdraw the army from all Tamil areas. Stop the disappearances.

## 3. no to detention camps!

For the immediate shutdown of militarised detention camps and special prisons. People should be allowed to go back to the places where they lived and proper compensation should be given for them to restart their lives. For the provision of food, shelter and health facilities to Tamil people, administered under the control of their own elected and accountable representatives.

## 4. Stop Arming Sri Lankan regime!

For an immediate end to military support for Sri Lanka by western imperialism and by India, China, Pakistan, Israel, Iran, Japan and other countries. No to loans from the pro privatisation

IMF and the World Bank. Support action such as workers' boycotts of arms shipments.

## 5. democratic rights for all!

For the freedom of speech and the media, freedom of association and the right to free and fair elections, the right of all to vote without interference, freedom to stand in elections for parties which accept equal rights for all, regardless of nationality, religion, caste and sex. Support the work of bodies like the Civil Monitoring Committee investigating kidnappings, disappearances and extra-judicial murders.

## 6. support independent trade unions!

For full trade union rights, free from intimidation and state interference. Support campaigns by independent trade unions on workers' rights, pay and conditions to organise all working class people, regardless of ethnic, religious or other differences. Unity is strength.

## 7. defend the right to self-determination!

Support a mass movement of Tamil workers and poor for the right to determine their own future. Allow the right of self-determination of the Tamil-speaking people, up to and including secession, according to their wishes, while safeguarding the rights of all minorities.

if you would like to join the campaign to achieve this please provide the following details:

- name; address; post code; email; phone number;
  - trade union/ campaign group/ workplace; school/ college/ university
  - please state if we can add your name to a public list of supporters
- if you wish to become an activist in Tamil Solidarity please contact us.

to provide this information

- fill in a join card available from TS stalls,
- email [info@tamilsolidarity.org](mailto:info@tamilsolidarity.org)
- visit the website: [www.tamilsolidarity.org](http://www.tamilsolidarity.org) (you can also make a donation online)
- or phone 07 90 80 50 217
- please come to the meetings -

meeting also supported by local Tamil Forum and other local campaigns



Tamil Solidarity

For the rights of workers and all oppressed people in Sri Lanka

[www.tamilsolidarity.org](http://www.tamilsolidarity.org)

# war crimes of sri lanka

**75,000** killed in 2009

**Thousands** still in detention camps

**20,000** in torture camps

**146,679** still unaccounted for

# this cannot be forgotten

the rights of Tamil-speaking people must be defended



[www.tamilsolidarity.org](http://www.tamilsolidarity.org)



# the history of pogroms shall not be forgotten

**1915** Tamil-speaking Muslim population attacked by Sinhala nationalist mobs

**1948** Ceylon Citizenship Act passed six months after independence from British Empire. Over 150,000 hill-country Tamils were deprived of citizenship and made stateless.

**1953** general strike. The predominantly Tamil-speaking North in particular participated fully in the strike. The government began to punish trade unionists and activists for their participation.

**1956** Sinhala-Only Act was passed. This law mandated Sinhala, the language spoken by the Sinhala majority as the sole official language of Sri Lanka. By 1960 the government forms and services are virtually unavailable to the Tamil-speaking people.

**1958** government-sponsored mobs attacked Tamil-speaking people. 70 people were killed the night of 25 May. The overall death toll was more than 150.

**1972** new constitution gave Buddhism, practiced by the majority Sinhala population, the 'foremost place' and reinforced the Sinhala-only act of 1956.

**1977** anti-Tamil riots revealed to be pre-planned attack sponsored by those in the newly elected government. At least 300 killed, many more injured.

**1983** Black July Pogroms. Between 400 and 3,000 Tamils were killed and many more made homeless and refugees and a number of places of business destroyed.

**1983-2009** more than 100,000 Tamil-speaking people killed in the civil war, and millions forced to flee the country.

**May 2009** according to the UN panel report, the Sri Lankan army brutally massacred 40,000 in the final weeks of the war alone. Every single survivor - over 300,000 people including children and the elderly are surrounded by the army and forced into horrific detention camps, described by the UN officials as among 'the worst in the world'.



**1983**

## And now:

Over 146,679 people are still not accounted for. The Sri Lankan government has still not published the details of the deaths and those it continues to hold in camps and prisons.

Thousands still remain in the detention camps. Those who are released were not settled in their own places or given proper facilities. Resettled areas were as bad as the detention camps and big military camps still surround them.

Over 20,000 young people are held in special secret torture prisons. According to one government minister children as young as eight are held in these prisons.

The government is creating vast industrial areas to create Free Trade Zones (FTZs) especially for Chinese, Indian and other 'investment' and those held in camps could be forced to work in these places.

A military-sponsored land grab is taking place, particularly in the east where Tamils and the Tamil-speaking Muslim population lived historically. In order to facilitate the land grab the government is once again sponsoring riots and creating tensions between the Muslim, Tamil, and Sinhala people who live in this area.

The current government can be described as a 'veiled dictatorship'. Attacks on freedom of speech and all democratic rights are at an all-time high. All those who dare to speak against the government are either killed or imprisoned.

While a huge proportion of the budget is still allocated for defence, public services are cut and attacks on trade union rights and workers' rights are increasing.



## tamil solidarity: who are our supporters?

A number of well-known activists and campaigners such as Booker prize winning author Arundhati Roy support this campaign.

The European United Left/Nordic Green Left (GUE/NGL) in the European Parliament, which consists of 34 MEPs, passed a resolution in a hearing they organised on 1 June 2011.

Paul Murphy, Socialist Party MEP for Dublin, is a member of Tamil Solidarity and is leading the work in building support among the GUE in the parliament.

UNISON conference in 2012 overwhelmingly supported the resolution to affiliate to the Tamil Solidarity campaign. We have the support of several trade union branches in Britain and in Sri Lanka. We also have the personal support of a number of trade unionists in the RMT, PCS, UNITE, UNISON, NUT.

Martin Powell-Davies, executive member of the NUT, in particular, is a long-time member of this campaign and helped to build it. The Tamil Solidarity campaign also has the support of trade unionists

in India, Indonesia, Portugal and many other countries. The National Shop Stewards Network also supports the TSC.

Campaigning MPs such as John McDonnell MP, Jeremy Corbyn have also shown support.

Various student groups in the universities and the Youth Fight for Jobs campaign have affiliated.

Tamil Solidarity supporters take part in anti-cuts campaigns and various other local campaigns to protect the services for all.

## what can you do?

There are over 200,000 Tamil-speaking people exiled in Britain alone. The majority of them marched in London during the war in 2009 demanding an end to the war.

Tens of thousands of young people occupied Parliament Square, day and night, to demand justice for Tamil-speaking people. And yet the media, in general, ignored their plight and thus helped the Sri Lankan government to hide the massacre.

Neither the current Con-Dem or previous Labour government have taken any serious steps towards delivering justice

or punishing the perpetrators of the war crimes. In fact the Campaign Against the Arms Trade says that British governments granted licences for £700,000 of military equipment to the regime in 2009, a further £1 million in 2010.

TS stands in solidarity with the struggles of working and young people in Britain to protect their services and rights. We also join in solidarity with thousands who fight against racism and against all the attacks on our right to a decent job, a decent education, access to health.

● If you agree with our demands (see over) – please sign up to add your name in support.

● Please raise this information in your workplace/ trade union branch/ campaign group/ university group and ask others for support. We can help to organise a presentation in your area, providing speakers etc.

● Join our campaign. Please donate money regularly and participate as much as you can in the building of this crucial campaign – there is much to be done.

● Please let us know in what way you can help – can you help distribute leaflets, help to organise meetings, help with press, help with fundraising, help with technical skills – or anything else.