

Addendum

**Submission to the 112th session of ICCPR by British Tamils Forum
(BTF) associated to Articles 19, 21 and 22 of ICCPR**

State under review:

SRI LANKA

Illicit proscription of Tamil Diaspora organisations by Sri Lanka citing UN SC resolution 1373

British Tamils Forum (BTF) is a peoples' organisation in the UK working for the realisation of rights, equality, justice, freedom and liberation for Tamil people in the Island of Sri Lanka through international political and diplomatic engagement and participation.

United Nations Security Council Resolution 1373, adopted unanimously on 28 September 2001, is a counter-terrorism measure passed following the 11 September terrorist attacks on the United States. It marks a shift in international law, as the latter was presumed to be valid only if the concerned state had voluntarily signed the international treaty; whereas here the Security Council imposed the resolution on all member states.

The Government of Sri Lanka (GoSL) has proscribed 16 Diaspora Tamil Organisations including BTF and 424 Tamil Individuals quoting the UN Security Council resolution 1373, in punishment for our campaign for human rights and freedom for the Tamils in Sri Lanka.

The United Nation Human Rights Council (UNHRC) passed the resolution 25/L.1, 'Promoting reconciliation, accountability and human rights in Sri Lanka' on the 27 March 2014. The GoSL is under tremendous pressure to cooperate with the UNHRC resolution 25/L.1, which calls for an international independent investigation through the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR).

The resolution was passed due to the commitment and hard work of human right defenders around the world. Among others, Tamil Diaspora organisations also played a crucial role in the successful adoption of this resolution; BTF is one of these organisations.

The Sri Lankan State has abused resolution 1373 by proscribing Tamil Diaspora organisations that are championing the cause for justice for Tamil people, who has otherwise no voice, in a peaceful and democratic manner and by adhering to the International Law and the National Law of their country of domicile. This action by the GoSL has put undue pressure on BTF that was set up and is being run as a democratic organisation.

According to resolution 1373, member countries are obliged to share information about the organisations and individuals who are proscribed. This is creating fear among BTF members. This can endanger members' kith and kin who are living in Sri Lanka and also any others who come into contact with them. The Sri Lankan government has also threatened to confiscate the assets of persons who challenge the Sri Lankan Government both in Sri Lanka and elsewhere in the world. BTF believes that this will affect new members joining the organisation, fearing repercussions, and will also discourage them to work openly with BTF. Furthermore, BTF members are in danger of being arrested and detained while visiting certain countries, if those countries decide to support Sri Lanka in implementing the ban.

Sri Lanka has also openly declared that it would take actions against people, if they participated in the international independent investigation that the UNHRC resolution 25/L.1 is mandated to address.

There is an urgent need for lifting of this illicit ban on BTF and many human rights defenders, so that the human rights work that it has been doing is not hindered in anyway.

We request the Human Rights Committee to take up this matter with the Sri Lankan state during the 112th session of ICCPR review and request the Sri Lankan State to retract the illicit proscription.

Thank you.

British Tamils Forum