



# Human Rights and Security Issues Concerning Tamils in Sri Lanka

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## Introduction:

Human Rights are those conditions of life that allow us to fully develop and use our human qualities of intelligence and conscience and to satisfy our spiritual needs. We cannot developed our personality in the absence of rights. They are fundamental to our nature. Without them we can not live as human beings. So it is the balance between the rights of the individual and the authority of the state while authority of the state is essential to maintain order and stability in state, the rights of the individuals are essential for enabling them to develop their personality and to lead a happy and prosperous life.

Throughout history, people's human rights have been violated, but efforts have also been made to address the violations, and protect their rights. Human rights are rights as regarded belonging to all people. Human rights are rights and libertirs that are guaranteed to everyone at birth. On December 10<sup>th</sup> 1948, the General Assembly of the United Nations adopted and proclaimed the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. It was made for every living human in this world to follow and obey. The main purposes of these rights are to enforce balanced rights of all people. Despite the holocaust, abuses of human rights have continued in the post-World Wall II era.

From 1902 until 1948 when Sri Lanka achieved independence, she was ruled by Britain. From the mid-nineteenth century and more frequently during the nineteenth century Sri Lanka faced a steady of immigrants, mainly from south India linked to the British economic activity that prevailed at the time. During the time of British, more English school were opened in the north. So that there were more English educated Tamils than the English educated Sinhalese. When British left in 1948, in most of the well paid job such as Doctors, Engineers, Solicitors, Accountants, Bank managers, University teachers etc. This is just a typical document of the Sri Lanka government. All Sri Lankan government documents such as British certificates, marriage certificates, passport application from passports, customs from are in all three Language (Sinhala, Tamil and English).

Indian origin Tamils in Sri Lanka continue to face severe social discrimination. For many of the country's minority Tamils little has changed occupationally ripe the eighteenth century when members of lower castes from. Southern India were brought to Sri Lanka as captive labour to work on plantation and as

city cleaners. To this day, the traditional division of labour continues to be perpetuated. At the bottom of the caste hierarchy in the Indian Tamil community are three untouchable castes.

The Sri Lanka Governments development and social welfare programs have also failed to integrate the Rodiya into mainstream society, leaving many to rely on menial wage labour as sanitation workers and hospital attendants. Rodiya children in Sri Lanka rarely study past elementary levels, if at all. Instead, their parents require them to realize their income earning potential even as young children and often prematurely take them out of school. Lower caste Tamil plantation workers of Indian origin in Sri Lanka also have low literacy levels. According to Sri Lanka activist only 65 percent of plantation workers can read or write, compared to workers can read or write, compared to a high 90 percent national average. Higher drop out rates among children of plantation workers stems partly from the employment of these children as domestic workers, hotel workers, or sanitation cleaners.

Through this study will focus on Human Rights and Security Issues regarding Tamils in Sri Lanka its necessary throw light on it. Sri Lanka has been entrenched in a civil war for two decades. As in ethnic conflicts in many other post-colonial countries, the different groups of Sri Lanka give loyalty primarily to the group rather than to the entire country. The Sinhalese majority have slowly populated the government and treated the Tamil minority as a threat to national stability, instead of as candidates for conciliation and power sharing. Consequently, the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) has taken up arms against the Sinhalese controlled government to fight for an independent homeland in the north-east parts of the country in 1983.

### **Human rights and the role of United Nation**

The promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms is one of the main mandates of the United Nations (UN), as set out in its Charter. Since the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights on 10 December 1948, the UN has developed a wide range of international human rights standards and norms, as well as mechanisms to promote and protect those rights. The participation of other actors, including non-governmental organizations (NGOs) has been essential to this process. In spite of evident progress, serious human rights violations continue to occur world-wide. In this context, and in recognition of the limitations of the international human rights system, the UN has recently launched a far-reaching reform process. Its main objective is to rationalize and improve the existing international mechanisms in order to ensure the realization of all human rights for all. Some significant changes have already taken place, notably the establishment, in 2006, of the Human Rights Council as a replacement for the former Commission on Human Rights.

The peace-loving nations of the world, while establishing the United Nations had realized the need for creating a just order and conditions of stability and well being of peoples, by providing them fundamental human rights as a prerequisite for international peace and friendly relations among nations. That is why, since its inception in 1945, the United Nations has been concerned with the universal respect for and observance of human rights. On 10<sup>th</sup> December, 1948, the UN General assembly adopted the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR). It has championed almost all the basic rights of the individual. During the last 61

years. It has adopted 100-odd human rights instruments. Moreover, there has been no single year when human rights have not been on the agenda of most UN bodies. It has become a staple of UN activity.

### **Human rights violations:**

Human rights ensure prosperous in society by the having a satisfied and productive people. Social and economic rights take care of the weaker and less privileged sections of the society by the matter of education, employment and mobility. Equality in enjoyment of public facilities and in access to public employment enables upward mobility to the down-trodden.

Economics opportunities and equality enable the citizens to strive hard and become more productive, which in turn adds to the overall prosperity of the society. Freedom of conscience and free profession, practice and propagation of religion. Right of minorities to establish and administer their own educational institutions and other rights help the religious minorities to live happily with the majority. Thus, human rights help in promoting communality. Economic equality establishes good relations in society. As basic grievances of religious minorities, economically backward and other have been taken care of by human rights, life in free of tension and dissonance.

Since peace prevails, there is less scope for the state to interfere with the activities of the public, who in turn enjoy their basic freedoms. Thus, human rights enable peace and harmony to prevail in society. India society is changing very slowly and age-old prejudices of the caste system and gender are deep rooted.

When lower caste, untouchables and the economically backward try to assert their rights, they face retribution and retaliation from the upper castes and the rich. Social mores also justify many evils like dowry, sati and female infanticide. Poverty is a great curse; the majority of Indians live below the poverty line. When there is a grim struggle for existence, many of the principles of human rights appear to them to be impractical and devoid of merit. When employment itself is scarce, insistence on payment of minimum wages, obligation of child labour abolition of bonded labour appear to them to be constraints in getting employment. For a poor man, if his child can earn any amount, it is an addition to his income and will keep the pot boiling. He is unable to see merit in the virtuous of universal education and prevention of child labour. When the targeted beneficiaries themselves do not appreciate the need and importance of the basic rights they fall easy victims to the Wiles of exploiters and vested interests poverty aids and abets the violation of human rights in making the victims collaborate with the exploiters.

Illiteracy prevents proper appreciation of the equalitarian principles involved in human rights, lack of awareness prevents people from exercising their rights. Much of the media efforts to create awareness fall short of expectations due to the lack of comprehension of illiterate people. Since the victims are not aware of their rights it becomes easy to violate the same. Victims are unable to get quick redressal. They lose faith in the profession and concern for human rights.

## Literature Review

Although Velupillai Prabhakaran and Veerakathy Manivannam – the top leadership of the LTTE – were killed by the Sri Lanka Military, the international network of the LTTE still activity safeguards the interest of the Tamil in Sri Lanka. Although no Single person is now in charge a web of key individuals living in Western and European countries continues to create political groups and facilitate coordinating centers to revamp and fund the network. It is against this back drop that the Tamil separatist ideology in post-conflict Sri Lanka need to be study.

Vast literature exists on the LTTE organization, covering its origins, recruitment, methods, training, equipment and the various role it played. However, this study does not focus on details of the organization. It is of paramount importance to know about the relationship between LTTE organization and the human rights violation concerning Tamil in Sri Lanka directly rested to this thesis.

## Objectives of the study:

The objectives of the study are as follows

1. To study cause of emergence and growth of the LTTE organization during the period year b1977 to year 2009.
2. To analyse the rights and security of Tamils in Sri Lanka.
3. To examine the role played by UN and other international organizations in the settlement Tamil issues in Sri Lanka.

## Hypothesis:

- Conflicts of LTTE are resolved but problems of Tamils are still unresolved.
- Protection of rights and liberty of Tamils in Sri Lanka is become a primary concern for several International organisation.

## Methodology:

This research work will be carried on analytical and descriptive framework with the available primary and secondary sources. The study will examine the strengths and weakness of the Sri Lanka governmental in resolving the Tamils issues. The study employs historical, analytical and descriptive methods. Historical accounts will be employed particularly to understand the nature and origin of LTTE in Sri Lanka. For the secondary sources, useful books, journals, articles, magazines, internet and newspaper will enrich this proposed research work. In primary sources the reports of various international organizations, NGOs, speeches of the leaders will used in the research work. The relevant materials from numerous internet sites will be used in significant manner in due course of this study.

## Conclusion

Sri Lanka is not fulfilling many of its international human rights obligations. Impunity remains the norm for gross violations of human rights, including alleged war crimes. Gross and systematic human rights violations continue to take place. Sri Lanka's armed conflict ended in 2009, but its legacy of unlawful detention practices continues; arbitrary arrest and detention, torture and other ill-treatment and custodial killings remain hallmarks of Sri Lankan policing. The number of reports of enforced disappearances in the past six months is alarming; political activities critical of the state continue to be victims. Intimidation and smear campaigns against human rights defenders and journalists in government-owned newspapers have included attacks on individuals advocating for human rights accountability before this Council.

After the defeat of the LTTE, there has been no terrorist attack in Sri Lanka. However, people are facing challenges from the Tamil Paramilitary organisations and from some illegal; arm bearers in the North and the East. While the emergency regulation and the prevention of Terrorism Act are still being used in many parts of the country, cases of disappearances have been reported. The situation is not very conducive, particularly for journalists. The government is alleged to be behind the cases of disappearance. It has been alleged that the present government does not tolerate any opposition be it from Tamil community or the Sinhala community.

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