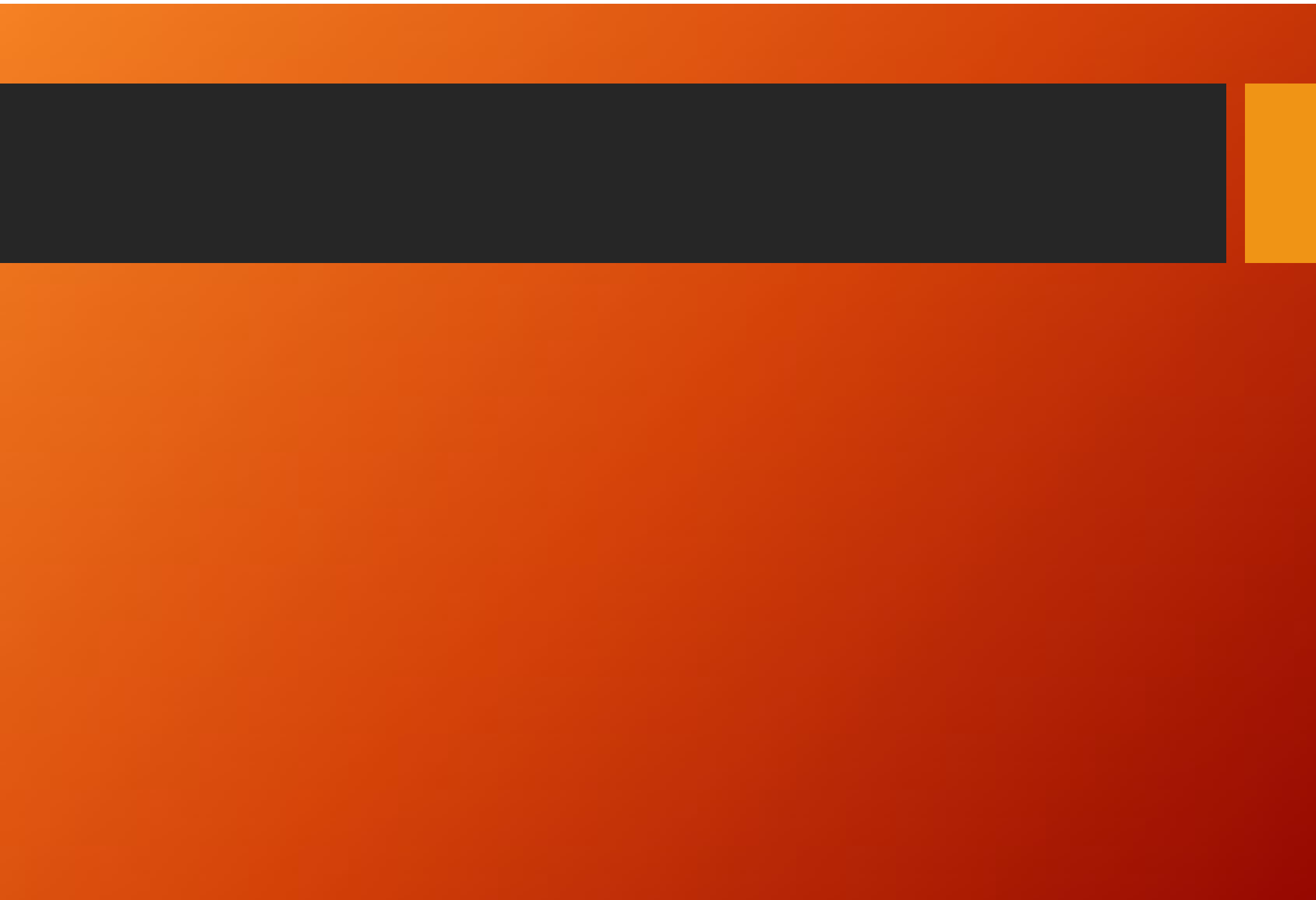


The Framing of “Tamil Genocide” in Canadian Politics

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Alleged Tamil Genocide. June 06, 2020.



Preamble

Good Morning Ladies and Gentlemen. Bonjour Madams et monsieur. Auybowan Nonawaruni Mahathwaruni. Wannakkam sahodara Sahodarangalai.

Let me begin by thanking the organizers of the symposium. Let me also extend my sympathies to all Sri Lankans who lost their loved ones during the internecine armed conflict which ended on May the 18th 2009.

I am a sociologist by training and a
social development specialist by
practice

Trying to show how the concept Tamil
genocide is framed in Canadian politics.
How and Why it is framed that way.

Pierre Trudeau

Let me begin with Pierre Trudeau's assertion in 1995. He is the principal architect of Multiculturalism policy in Canada.

He was asked: How the policy has evolved?

Reply: "It has twisted to celebrate a newcomer's country of origin, rather than a celebration of the newcomer's becoming a part of the Canadian fabric". (Ottawa Citizen: July 4, 1995)

Can the Memory of genocide be treated as a celebration of Becoming Canadian. -it has gone the other way around---- celebrating and memorializing a genocide that never happened and claiming an hypothetical regime or a country called Tamil Eelam is not a celebration?

Tamil genocide is another social construction by certain elements in the Tamil population with vested interest.

Plenty of evidence to show: No genocide in SL. only an armed conflict between the Tamil Tigers and the SL Govt. Troops and there were Causalities.

Three important factors behind the “genocide claim”

.Canadian Voter Base

.Who in Canada support “Tamil
“genocide”

.Fundraising campaigns

How these selected factors continue
to fuel the “genocide” movement.

This is an academic Presentation blended with my sociological Imagination.

Data and information come from published documents, my own research, views presented by Pro-LTTE and Pro-Sri Lankan groups.

Canadian Voter Base

2020: 37.7 million in Canada. Ontario: 14 million. In Toronto: 6.2 million.

Genocide claims originated in Ontario-Toronto with support from US, London, Australia and Norway.

Some academics: “Tamil diaspora groups in various countries are overly radical and fundamentally corrosive to the prospects for peace in Sri Lanka”.

What is unique about Ontario and Toronto?

ON: 102275 people 77449 registered voters.

Liberal Anandasangaree received 62.19% votes in 2019. Justin Treadeau only 51.2%.

Election Results

2018 Ontario Provincial Election: 76313 voters registered in Scarborough Rouge Park. Vijay Thanigasalam, Conservative: 16,224 (38%) NDP candidate 15,261 (36%)

Vijay Won by 963 votes. 25791 voted against Vijay.

Canadian politicians have a craving for these votes.

All Sri Lankans in Canada: 1991 from 48,000 to 2001 108000. By 2016 about 300,000 estimated. Sinhala speakers about 120,000-150,000.

Tamil population: 138,130: 2006 census.

How are they organized

A campaign of this magnitude cannot be executed without a good organization. Tamils have been well organized since 1977.

Bharathi Kala Manram

TESCO: Tamil Eelam Society 1978 . Issues between Colombo Tamils VS Others.

SACEM: Society for Ceylon Minorities. Term minority was contested. Claimed Tamil is a nation.

1986: WTM- LTTE supporters

1980: TRC Tamil resource Centre; people expelled from PLOTE and TELO. Critical of GOSL and LTTE both.

TGTE: Trans national Government of Tamil elam

RCMP investigations started in 2006. (Stewart
Bell).

New-born baby is TGTE: 2010. Virtual government
in exile.

Visuanathan Rudrakumaran-Prime
Minister

.

Prime Minister is in NY and Secretariat
in Switzerland.

12 countries have representatives.

25 Canadian MPs in the TGTE. Senators,
among the TGTE senators a Sinhalese
name appears from Australia.

GTE Vision: (TGTE Website)

“Continues to peacefully assert what the Tigers asserted violently. The right to a Tamil homeland in Sri Lanka’s north and east”.

Rudrakumaran was Interviewed by a journalist in the US.

Prabhakaran and Gandhi are his models.

Suicide bombing is a sacrifice- compare with sathi Pooja in the Hindu tradition. Sathi Puja was banned by the British. It is violence against women.

4000 LTTE cadres sacrificed. But according to V Anandasangaree, LTTE is accountable to 75,000 Tamil lives. (Asian Tribune).

Similar organizations in Germany, London, Australia, Norway.

Today School Boards getting Involved:
Toronto, Peel and York

Parents and teachers are disturbed by these
moves:

1. Authority of the school boards to use the
term Genocide?

2. Why a foreign armed conflict being remembered here?

3. Impact on students: hatred and bullying. A divisive attitude.

4. How many genocides can they accommodate after this? Then no time left to teach school curriculum.

5. Against the code of conduct of school boards
6. Violation of the act of Multiculturalism.
7. School boards have not studied the SL armed conflict well. But are misled by certain board members who are SL Tamils.
8. Recent decision by Peel SB. (June 4) is a sensible step taken by the PDSB.
9. Some argue: 12% of the SL population asking for 1/3 of the country???????

Academic Writings

People like Dr. Cheran Rudramoorthy of the University of Windsor and Sharry Aiken of the Queens University (in *The Conversation* May 6, 2019)

Treating the concept of genocide lightly and casually. non-academic use of the word genocide.

Fundraising Efforts

Armed operations that the LTTE executed cannot be done with just rupees and cents. They owned Ships, Planes, modern ammunition and Training abroad with foreign funding. Training in Palestine.

Martin Collacott: his report to the Fraser Institute: 2006. C\$ 180 million collected in Canada alone towards the war.

CSIS reported in 1999. LTTE's main activity in Canada : fundraising and propaganda. \$2 million a year. It is reported every Tamil family had to give at least \$20 every month. Some \$40 and 20% of profit from businesses.

The LTTE took the advantage of the refugee policy. Pl. refer to Hon Pierre Trudeau's statement given earlier.

Agents in Colombo arranged passage for refugees with a fee ranging as high as \$30,000.

Tigers infiltrated RCMP too.

8000 Tamil guerrillas are currently living in Toronto.

Some organizations like Tamil Eelam Society of Canada getting about \$2 million federal govt. funding.

In 2005 the money collection became very aggressive. Human Rights Watch in Feb 2006-high pressure tactics to raise money for the final war.

School boards were approached to organize fundraising events with admission fee \$10. Royal valley HS in Montreal. 2000.

LTTE approached Canada post to have a stamp with Prabhakaran's photo. They were briefed who that person was and it was dropped.

Using Hindu temples.

CSIS: LTTE srilanka directed locals to raise \$10 million additionally 1999-2000.

Famous Selvarasa Pathmanathan or K P was LTTE's international money collector. Ran a food supply company in Thailand as a cover for weapons dealings. Several highly secret companies around the world-buying weapons.

Classic Case of KP

September 22, 1993. \$993,987 wired from HSBC bank account in Vancouver to an LTTE procurement account overseas. Account B Thambirajah.

KP used that money to purchase 60 tonnes of RXD and TNT from Ukraine. Sent to SL through sea tiger ships.

RCMP found direct links between Tamil street gangs and LTTE.

What did the Canadian Government Do?

Reluctance of the Liberal party (2006) to take firm action against Tigers in Canada. Voter base.

CSIS paper in 1999 winter confirms this. Dinner Paul Martin attended. He had been warned about the organization by CSIS. Paul Martin ignored.

If SL is genocidal: about 1000 visas issued now for Tamils to visit SL annually. They love to visit-relatives, Old school, village and friends. They feel safe to visit. About 2000 Tamils receiving pensions from SL government.

Fundraising Today in Toronto

MPP Thanigasalam requesting people to support the COVID victims in North/East Sri Lanka through donations: May 13th.

Rationale: SL govt is not providing for them. This claim appears to be incorrect.

Pro-Sri Lankans suspect this move as the very same principle that was adopted during the armed conflict.

Reactions from the Pro-Sri Lankan groups

SLUNA

SLACO

Centre for Social Harmony

SL GTA delegation

United SL Canadian movement

Sri lankan Parents Alliance

SL Student Alliance

Milestones:

May 2019 protest rally in front of Mayor Patrick Brown's office in Brampton.
About 1700 participated.

Members of these community groups met with 55 MPPs and enlightened them about the armed conflict.

Most of the MPPs had just one sided views related to them by Tamil MPPs.

They expressed their pleasure knowing another side of the real story of SL armed conflict.

School Boards have been approached about
May the 18th Tamil Genocide remembrance.

Met with HR commissioner. PEEL Region
issued a balanced response.

Social media a powerful instrument and
avenue to reach all Sri Lankans and
politicians.

The Bottom Line

Genocide campaign is an instrument used by Tamil MPPs to keep their ridings intact.

Ontario Conservatives and NDPers have similar motives.

Current Tamil MPs want to keep their ridings and add more Tamil MPs.

Genocide campaign has been a money making business for LTTE sympathizers.

Question: Money collected during the last days of conflict-where did the money go?

TGTE does not have a big clientele but trying hard to sell the idea of Tamil Eelam. They also need funds to run their campaign.

It is a campaign for votes and a business enterprise for profit.

Statement by Ms. Anandi Shahidharan, former Provincial Council Member-North

“Army should not be removed from the North. Army and Police security should be beefed up to ensure people’s safety after the Easter bombing”.

Earlier she had urged the government to withdraw the army from the north.

“Sri Lankans should be together as one nation against terrorism” - she further says. Thamilini Jeyakkumaran was the Director of Information for the LTTE. Her book delineates atrocities committed against Tamil women by the LTTE cadres. (Under the shade of a sharpened sword. May 2016. Colombo)

Challenge for the Canadian-Sri Lankans

Tamil-Sinhala cordial relations in Canada during the past 10 years. Intermarriages have increased by 24%.

Lets maintain it and improve it in a united way and help improve the conditions of SL.

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