



**CONSULATE GENERAL OF SRI LANKA
TORONTO, CANADA**

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13th August 2024

His Worship Patrick Brown
Mayor of Brampton

Hon Mayor,

Foundation stone laying ceremony for the construction of the Tamil Genocide Monument in Brampton

I am pleased to recall my first meeting with you in your good office in the City Council of Brampton and my previous communications registering the concerns of Sri Lanka with regard to the construction of the Tamil Genocide Monument in Brampton.

Several Sri Lankan Canadian Community Associations and members have brought to my attention that National Council of Canadian Tamils (NCCT) and Brampton Tamil Association (BTA) have organized a foundation laying ceremony on Wednesday August 14th 2024 at 6.30 p.m. to mark the beginning of the construction of the Tamil Genocide Monument in Chinguacousy Park in Brampton. Further they have invited people to attend the ceremony by circulating notices and flyers on social media.

The community groups emphasized that the entire Sri Lankan community irrespective of their ethnicities was severely affected by the conflict in Sri Lanka and the construction of the Tamil genocide monument will make a severe negative impact in the multiethnic social coherence of the Sri Lankan Canadian Community. This construction will severely disturb the reconciliation efforts of Sri Lanka as well.

These community members further state that the construction of the Tamil genocide monument in Brampton is to stimulate the electoral vote bank politics, funded by a small number of Sri Lankan Canadians with vested and personal interest.

Sri Lanka rejects the false allegation of a so-called “genocide” in Sri Lanka.

I would like to reiterate that no any authority including the United Nations has made any finding on genocide committed by Sri Lanka during the three decades long conflicts. Even during the conflict, the Government of Sri Lanka provided necessary funds to continue the operations of public institutions and all essential materials which included food and medicines to the people of the conflict affected areas. Opportunities for free education, free health facilities as well as public and private sector employment are equally being enjoyed by Tamils.

As I previously mentioned in our first meeting the conflict with the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), a terrorist organization which is still internationally banned (banned in Canada as well) ended in 2009. Civilians from all communities – Sinhalese, Tamils, Moors, Malays, and Burghers - were affected by the conflict in Sri Lanka. In fact, it was the majority Tamil civilians of the North and the East who were disproportionately affected by the daily repression of the LTTE. All communities suffered in brutal terrorist acts of the LTTE. The LTTE has indiscriminately targeted civilians of all communities in all parts of the country, engaged in ethnically ‘cleansing’ the areas in the Northern and the Eastern Provinces controlled by the force of their trafficked and smuggled arms. The LTTE has targeted and assassinated the moderate Tamil leadership of the country including the former Foreign Minister Lakshman Kadirgamar.

The Government has taken certain measures to heal the physiological wounds of the conflict affected people through strengthening of required democratic institutional mechanisms. The Government has established Truth, Unity and Reconciliation Commission, the Office of the Missing Persons, Office for Reparations, Office for National Unity and Reconciliation, Office for Overseas Sri Lankan Affairs, a special unit established under the Presidential Secretariat to promote reconciliation and economic development in Northern and eastern provinces (conflict affected areas) are fully operational. Further, the Government of Sri Lanka has opened the platform for the civil society to constructively engage through these institutional mechanisms to promote the reconciliation efforts.

Also, the Government of Sri Lanka has released war prisoners and handed over the lands to the original owners in the conflict affected areas. These recipients are Tamils. The Sri Lankan IDP's in India had been issued “All Country ” Sri Lankan passports ensuring their freedom of mobility. The government is on the move for the devolution of political power on priority. Also, the “Religions to Reconcile” national inter-religious symposium was organized by the National Peace Council of Sri Lanka which was attended by the civil society including the ‘Representatives of Plural Action for Conflict Transformation’ project.


It is very unfortunate to note your ignoring the constructive current ground realities in Sri Lanka towards the ethnic reconciliation and your supporting to a small group of people of Sri Lankan origin, those who are trying to sustain the wounds of the conflict affected people in Sri Lanka and among the overseas Sri Lankan communities for their individual interest and benefits.

I urge you to kindly give a suitable space for the voice of majority of peace loving Sri Lankan Canadian Community before supporting a small group of people who are trying to institutionalize

the ethnic divisions and destructive human relationship by constructing a Tamil genocide monument in Brampton.

Further, I kindly request you to support to strengthen the ethnic reconciliation of the multicultural Sri Lankan Canadian community and the same in Sri Lanka by preventing the construction of the Tamil Genocide Monument in Brampton.

I appreciate your favorable response in this regard.



Thank you
Thushara Rodrigo
Consul General of Sri Lanka
Toronto

**தமிழின அழிப்பு
நினைவகத்திற்கான அடிக்கல்
நாட்டுத் தலை அழிப்பு**

வடிக் புள்ளிநாள் (August 14, 2024) பகலை
6:30 மணிக்கு Brampton ஸ்போர்ஸ்
அமைப்பிற்குள் தமிழின அழிப்பு
நினைவகத்திற்கான
அடிக்கல் நாட்டியல் உள்ளது.
இதில் அனைவரையும் கைப்பு கொள்ள
வேண்டுகின்றோம்.

நேரம்:
மாலை 6:30

வாலை:
முதல்நாள் (August 14, 2024)

இடம்:
Chinguacousy Park



**Invitation to
Foundation Stone-Laying
Ceremony**

Tamil Genocide Monument

On behalf of the National Council of
Canadian Tamils (NCCT),
Brampton Tamil Association (BTA),
we would like to invite everyone to the
foundation stone-laying ceremony
to mark the beginning of the
construction of the
Tamil Genocide Monument in Brampton,
Canada.

Date:
Wednesday, August 14th, 2024 Time:
6:30 pm

Location:
Chinguacousy Park
(Central Park Drive & Queen St, Brampton)

