



Canadian Tamil Congress
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Congrès Tamoul Canadien
"The unified voice of Canadian Tamils"

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Tamil Canadians: UN's Conclusion on Execution Video Makes War Crimes Probe Essential

UN Experts Deem Channel 4 Video Authentic

In the wake of the latest report from the United Nations Special Rapporteur on Extrajudicial, Summary, or Arbitrary Executions, Tamil Canadians are calling for an international independent inquiry into war crimes committed during the last phase of the conflict in Sri Lanka. This week, Philip Alston conclusively weighed in on Britain's Channel 4 video, which showed the inhumane summary executions of Tamils by stating: "The conclusion clearly is that the video is authentic."

Mr. Alston reached his conclusion after commissioning three experts in forensic pathology, forensic video analysis, and firearm evidence to examine the video.

The experts had found no evidence of image manipulation, no additional video layers and found body reaction, movement, and blood evidence were entirely consistent with what would be expected in such shootings. The Sri Lankan government had claimed the video was fake.

"Mr. Alston's report confirmed what the Tamil Canadian community had been saying for months: the video was authentic, the Sri Lankan government was lying and war crimes were committed during the final phase of the conflict in Sri Lanka," said David Poopalapillai, National Spokesperson for the Canadian Tamil Congress.

"The international community must step in to launch an independent war crimes investigation so that some form of justice is served for the tens of thousands of Tamils who were indiscriminately and brutally murdered during the last phase of the conflict."

As such, the Canadian Tamil Congress supports Mr. Alston's call for an independent probe into war crimes and urges greater international involvement to prevent Sri Lanka's leadership from evading such an investigation.

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“As they did with this video, Sri Lanka’s leadership has been busy manufacturing propaganda with its faux experts, some of whom are army personnel, to avoid such an investigation and trusting such a party to genuinely investigate themselves is a joke,” said Poopalapillai. “That is why the international community needs to step in to ensure nations that make a mockery out of human rights and commit war crimes indiscriminately don’t just get away with it.”

This video adds to the mounting evidence showing that war crimes were committed in Sri Lanka. In October, the U.S. State Department detailed reports of abuses that took place, including government shelling in the No Fire Zone, the abduction and murders of Tamil civilians and the forceful reduction of medical and food supplies to Tamil areas during the conflict.

In May, the Times of London revealed more than 20,000 Tamil civilians were killed in the latter stages of the war mostly due to government shelling. The paper’s finding was in stark contradiction to statements from government officials, who had repeatedly claimed no civilian had been killed.

For more information, please contact 416.240.0078

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