



Letter sent under recorded delivery and by email

165, The Broadway,
Wimbledon,
London SW19 1NE

13 May 2008

Mr. Ben Tansey,
President – Oxford Union

Dear Mr. Tansey,

I understand you have invited President of Sri Lanka Mr Rajapakse to speak at Oxford Union tonight. Last year you invited British National Party (BNP) leader Nick Griffin and Holocaust denier David Irving. This year you invited Chris Langham who was jailed for down loading child pornography. I commend you for your consistency.

When you invited Chris Langham, BBC quoted you on 18 April 2008 in a report that you said "We do not invite speakers for publicity...We thought that he was a respected figure in his profession". I wonder, what might be your motive for your invite to Mr. Rajapakse.

Mr. Rajapakse's armed forces are responsible for killings of thousands of innocent civilians, torture, kidnappings and rape. Sri Lanka is the only country where the government forces kill civilians through indiscriminate aerial bombardment. It is like the British government bombing areas of Northern Ireland during the IRA struggle.

Lord Naseby is an ardent supporter of President Rajapakse. Once Lord Naseby was quoted as saying "I am a trained pilot myself and when you bomb from the air civilians do get killed" - Why don't you invite him as well?

It might be a bit of fun for you and your colleagues to invite fascists, racists and child molesters to your meetings but it is not so funny for the victims of holocaust, rape and torture. It is not so funny for people whose fathers, mothers, sisters, brothers, uncles and aunts have been kidnapped and killed.

President Rajapakse has blocked the only highway that connects the South and North of Sri Lanka thereby preventing distribution and supply of food, medical supplies and other essential goods to Tamil areas. This has resulted in hunger and starvation in those areas.

The country report on human rights released by the State Department, graced by Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice; the United States in its report on Sri Lanka totally condemned, criticised and, in fact, impeached its human rights record and the style of governance.

<http://www.asiantribune.com/?q=node/10004>

The British Minister Lord Malloch-Brown supported the UN High Commissioner's calls for a UN Human Rights country office because of human rights violations by President Rajapakse's government.

<http://www.tamilnet.com/art.html?catid=79&artid=24796>

British Tamils Forum



<http://www.theyworkforyou.com/lords/?id=2008-04-30a.239.4>

There is no press freedom in Sri Lanka under President Rajapakse. Any brave journalist who sets out to tell the truth will be killed. Several journalists have been killed in Sri Lanka making it the third most dangerous place for journalists to operate – International Media Watch.

You could ask Richard Beeston of The Times news paper whether he was successful in obtaining a visa to visit Northern Sri Lanka.

Several charity workers, elected Tamil Parliamentarians and Religious and Civil Leaders have been killed by President Rajapakse's armed forces.

<http://hrw.org/english/docs/2008/03/06/slanka18203.htm>

<http://uk.reuters.com/article/homepageCrisis/idUKCOL256963.CH.242020070810>

<http://www.topix.com/forum/world/sri-lanka/T20MO8M07ADTH44PG>

<http://www.tribuneindia.com/2008/20080423/world.htm#3>

President Rajapakse's armed forces as part of the UN peace keeping mission in Haiti were responsible for rape of young girls and women.

<http://hcvanalysis.wordpress.com/2007/11/05/haiti-rapist-peacekeepers-the-un-knew-there-was-a-problem->

Mr Rajapakse is out on a PR tour to show the world that things are hunky dory in Sri Lanka. This way he is challenging the intelligence of the people in the Western World. Anyone with the slightest knowledge of Sri Lanka knows that there are atrocities being committed by the State and people, especially in the North are being subjected to inhuman conditions. Women, children & the elderly running for cover when bombers are in the skies. There is no law and order in Sri Lanka. PTA (Prevention of Terrorism Act) means if someone is burnt alive by the army they are still not answerable to a court of law. The International Independent Eminent Group of Persons (IIEGP) realised, all be it rather late in the day, that the whole thing was a farce to fool donor countries especially EU that grants GSP/GSP+ (General System of Preference).

This is the same man as President, who sponsors an armed paramilitary group (TMVP – Tamil Makkal Viduthali Pulikal) and colluded with that group in the most violated 'elections' in the history of Sri Lanka, that were held in the East of Sri Lanka.

The man you have invited knowingly or unknowingly of his crimes against humanity is worse than Hitler. I hope you can live with your conscience.

Yours sincerely,

Suren Surendiran – British Tamils Forum

Ps. I have sent this letter to international and local media.



Media Contact:

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Notes to Editors:

British Tamils Forum exists to harness the skills and the knowledge of the members of the forum, well-wishers and significant others including mainstream decision makers in the UK with the aim of alleviating the sufferings of the Tamils community in the Island of Sri Lanka and to further their right to self determination within a democratic frame work under pinned by international law, its covenants and conventions. The forum was set-up in 2006 when, with the support 88 British Tamil community organisations, it also published an open letter in the Times newspaper. For more information admin@tamilsforum.com and/or visit: www.tamilsforum.com