



## TAMIL WRITERS GUILD

11 April 2008

H.E. Mr. Juraj ZERVAN  
His Excellency the Ambassador  
Republic of Slovakia  
25 Kensington Palace Gardens  
London W8 4QY

Your Excellency

### **Slovakian sale of military missiles to Sri Lanka**

**We would thank you to forward this petition to your government in Bratislava for urgent action.**

We have learned with horror and trepidation that your country has supplied Sri Lanka with missiles to be used against the Tamils in that country. There is a long and catastrophic war that has been waged by the government of Sri Lanka against the Tamils living in their part of Sri Lanka that has been their traditional homeland for over 2000 years. Please pause for a moment to think of the utter devastation that your missiles would cause to the Tamil people and their land.

Your country set the standard for peaceful and mature political settlement between nations when as two distinct, civilised and modern nations of the Slovaks and the Czechs, who had been previously conjoined in a single country of Czechoslovakia, you achieved peaceful separation on 1 January 1993 to form the new and separate Republic of Slovakia and the Czech Republic. The world rejoiced at this truly salutary achievement of negotiating separation on both sides without war or hostility and we recall that it was achieved mainly due to the maturity and perspicacity of President Havel and your own first Prime Minister Meclar. The situation of the Tamils of Sri Lanka is equivalent to that of the Slovaks in the old country of Czechoslovakia.

Sri Lanka as a country was a creation of the British who as occupiers merged the previously separate nations of Sinhalese and Tamils in 1833 for their administrative convenience. Tamils had been a separate kingdom until that time. On achieving independence from British rule in 1948, the British regrettably left the Sinhalese to rule over the Tamils. This the Sinhalese have done by flagrantly discriminating against the Tamil language, religion and culture and keeping down the Tamils with brute force and by military rule. All that the Tamils want now after 60 years of so-called independence from Britain and subjugation by the Sinhalese Sri Lankan government, is freedom to govern themselves in their own land in peace and with dignity. The Sinhalese government of Sri Lanka, acting like imperialist occupiers, has decided to enforce their rule by waging war against the Tamils by equipping themselves with modern planes, warships, battle tanks, multi-barrel mortars, missiles and with a modern armed force of some 200,000 men. Some 80,000 Tamil civilians have been killed and their homeland devastated.



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The United Nations and other International human rights organisations are continuing to report on the grievous human rights crimes committed by the Government and its forces against the Tamils.

The Tamils are an ancient race with a history, language, religion and culture that is synchronous with Egyptian and Mesopotamian civilisations. There are many similarities between Slovakia and the putative state of Tamil Eelam, when sovereignty is restored to the historical kingdom of the Tamils. We are both small countries with small populations whose people are peaceful, scholarly and industrious and we seek to make our own economic, social and cultural contribution to the world around us. We are certain that your Government was not told the real truth behind the purchase of these missiles or perhaps it did not understand the evil purpose to which your missiles will be put. There are already a million Tamils who have been driven out of their homeland by this cruel war and have come to live in exile in foreign countries. There are another million Tamils living as refugees in temporary camps in their own country with little or nothing to eat and reduced to absolute penury. Do you think that they deserve this fate?

Your weapons will kill and maim more Tamils and you will not want it on your consciences. How ironic it will be when you have achieved your own separation from the Czechs in peace but, yet, will contribute to killing Tamils who only desire the same freedom that you have achieved. They are made of the same flesh and blood as you are. Please do not help to massacre them.

**Please do not equip the Sinhala Sri Lankan armed forces to liquidate the Tamils whose only demand is that they live in Peace, Freedom and Sovereignty for themselves.**

**Please work for an internationally monitored negotiated peace settlement between the Sinhalese and the Tamils of Sri Lanka.**

**Kindly scrap any contract for the supply of arms or ammunition to Sri Lanka**

Yours sincerely,

(Signed)  
Ivan Pedropillai BSc., MSc., FCCA, FCMA

Chairman