

Dear Friend,

10th September 2007

AN APPEAL FROM THE TAMIL WRITERS GUILD

It's clear that we are all astounded and outraged by the determined and ruthless campaign by BCC to declare open season on Brian and Kamalini Senewiratne (BS and KS). It's particularly galling that they choose to do so to an elderly couple who have contributed so much to not only their 'new' Australian homeland but also, to several other human rights causes, most notably in relation to Sri Lanka.

In summary, this is what we understand to be BS and KS's position:

1. On 20th Sept 2007, they are due to return to the Magistrates Court for sentencing
2. They have wholly exhausted their financial reserves and much else besides in fighting the long drawn out criminal prosecution
3. They are unable to financially afford any further legal challenge (including appeal to a higher court) or to pay any fine arising from 1 above
4. Their only hope of an amelioration to their situation is through a higher level legal or political intervention, resulting from exposure via the Australian media and representations to senior politicians and officials

In response to the above, the following action has been undertaken:

5. Letters have been written to key BCC and Queensland politicians, legal officials and media representatives (see the TWG website - <http://www.tamilwritersguild.com/>). Whilst we are awaiting replies to the majority of our letters, those already received from the BCC and one of the Queensland politicians indicate that they are not disturbed by the actions taken against BS and KS

Other actions, as follows have been suggested by various people:

6. Setting up a 'Fighting Fund' for BS and KS – TWG would be prepared to act as a medium through which such funds could be forwarded to BS. Please send your cheques made payable to TWG (marked **BS** on the back), to 60 Harefield Avenue Cheam Surrey SM2 7NE England United Kingdom - all monies received will be forwarded to BS
7. Getting the e-petition completed by as many people as possible – please use the following link: <http://www.gopetition.com/online/14153.html>)
8. Writing further letters to some of the key political, legal and media representatives (see attached copy of a model letter)
9. Holding 'Defend the Senewiratnes' campaign meetings in our various locations, with a screening of his recent DVDs and fund raising (as 6 above) and getting petitions completed (as 7 above) and encouraging letters to be written (as 8 above)
10. Making urgent representations (in person) to Australian embassies across the globe

I'll conclude this urgent message by stating that the above is not an exhaustive list of possible actions. Whatever actions are pursued, we have just over a week before BS and KS return to court for sentencing. Hence, the degree of urgency for your speedy implementation of the above Action Points and we'll look forward to the same. Please feel free to forward this to others who you know will want to join in such actions.

Best wishes.

Priya Thamotheram
Vice Chair
Tamil Writers Guild.