



ஓட்டாவா தமிழ் ஒன்றியம்  
**OTTAWA TAMIL ASSOCIATION**  
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Not for profit Organization: 936728-4

Est: 2014

## **Ottawa Tamil Association stand in solidarity with the Ukrainian people**

As Tamil Canadians, we welcome Canada's petition to the ICC to investigate alleged Russian war crimes. We are deeply disturbed, and our thoughts are with the Ukrainian people. These unfolding catastrophic situations in Ukraine have brought back Tamil people the very painful memories of their own relatives and friends being slaughtered by the genocidal Sri Lankan government in the year 2009. Russia is using the playbook of Sri Lanka to deceive the world in 2022 and justify genocide to protect its territorial security.

We Tamil Canadians and Tamil diaspora raised our voices in 2009 on every doorstep of world capitals called for a ceasefire and asked to protect Eelam Tamils from Sri Lanka's genocide. It was the Tamil people's democratic mandate in 1977 that created Tamil Eelam (north & east of the Island of Sri Lanka) in 1990, a Norwegian facilitated peace process in 2002 failed primarily due to several UN member states violating neutrality in favor of the Sri Lanka state ignoring its state terrorism. Tamils never surrendered their sovereignty to Sri Lanka even though the civilized world stayed with genocidal Sri Lanka to destroy Tamil Eelam. After the war ended, thousands of the Tamils including the surrendered prisoners of war (POW) were executed by the Government of Sri Lanka.

It took more than a year for the UN to admit its mistakes for being silent about atrocities including genocide. There was evidence that Russian cluster and phosphorus bombs were used against Tamils. Since 2009, the genocide against Tamils escalated with landgrabs, eliminating Tamil identities such as destroying heroes' cemeteries, occupying historic places, etc. After 12 years, the Tamil diaspora has been still calling justice for genocide as the UN delayed forming a tribunal or referring it to ICC or ICJ. Tamil diaspora is begging each of the UN club member nations to bring Sri Lanka to ICC or ICJ, but none of the UN member states are willing to help.

The result of not punishing Sri Lanka for its crimes of genocide enabled several other big UN member states to commit crimes of atrocities against people as they know they can get away from it. They know the UN doesn't remember the past. By ignoring Sri Lanka's genocide against Tamils, taking a long time to recognize the Armenian genocide, etc., the world democracies will be unable to differentiate themselves from China or Russia's empire in the future. Therefore, it is important to not only react to the current crisis but also investigate and deliver justice to past genocides.

We urge the Canadian lawmakers to apply heavy sanctions not only against Russia but also against Sri Lanka. There are those who argue that the battle for Ukraine was a battle for the new world order. If the place of democracy as a central plank in the present world order continues to be challenged through this crisis, rule of law, and indeed the law pertaining to the self-determination of Nations also come under challenge. Therefore, it behooves us all to pause and reflect on this matter and do our utmost to bring the Ukraine crisis to a closure. That way, all sovereign nations, ones as small as Tamil Eelam and ones as large as Ukraine, get to shine in the sun as free nations.

Thank you,

Ottawa Tamil Association

[www.ottawatamilassociation.ca](http://www.ottawatamilassociation.ca)