Valvettithurai 10120 October 03, 2021

Honourable Shri Narendra Modi Prime Minister of India 152 South Block, Raisina Hill New Delhi 110011

Dear Honourable Prime Minister,

## **Urgent Appeal for Indian Intervention**

On behalf of the Tamil people in Sri Lanka, I would like to bring to your urgent attention the worsening situation of the Tamils since your last trip to Sri Lanka.

The Provincial Councils system which was the result of Indo-Lanka Accord of 1987 has been, in effect, abandoned by Sri Lanka for the last 3 years. The government of Sri Lanka hasn't made any attempt to conduct the election, instead engaged in taking away some of the powers devolved to the Councils.

The Indo-Lanka Accord of 1987 clearly recognized the region of Northern and Eastern Provinces as the traditional homeland of the Tamil people. The Accord, inter alia, stipulated the merger of Northern and Eastern Provinces. During the discussion immediately prior to the Accord, the Indian government and its leaders had given assurance to the Tamil political and militant leaders and took responsibility for the permanent merger of Northern and Eastern Provinces. Although the provinces were merged as per the bilateral Accord, Sri Lanka unilaterally demerged them in 2007. Sri Lanka has never fully implemented the 13<sup>th</sup> Amendment to the constitution, which was brought about by the Accord, and is currently involved in weakening it further. Sri Lanka is also systematically involved in land-grab, destruction and desecration of Hindu temples, and Sinhalese settlements with the intention of changing the demography of the Tamils' traditional homeland.

The Sri Lankan governments and its leaders have repeatedly and habitually engaged in pattern of deception and reneged on their agreements, promises and commitments to the Tamil leaders, India, International Community, and the UN. Twelve years after the end of the ethnic war, the Tamils are still waiting to get justice for the continuing Genocide and awaiting resolution to the root-cause of the war which is the political solution based on their rights to self-determination.

The Tamil people call upon India, as one of the most powerful countries in the world, to help us find permanent peace and ensure freedom and stability in our region as well as wider Indo-Pacific. As the biggest democracy in the world, the Tamils call upon India to help us find a political solution democratically by arranging a referendum to determine our own political destiny.

I respectfully request your urgent attention to the following:

- 1. Calling upon India to remerge the Northern and Eastern provinces as per the Indo-Lanka Accord of 1987, conduct the provincial council election, and ensure all commitments made by Sri Lanka in the Accord are fully implemented and the North-East merger is permanent.
- 2. Calling upon India to take immediate and urgent action to coordinate with QUAD countries (Australia, India, Japan, USA) to conduct a UN monitored referendum for the people in the North-East region of Sri Lanka to democratically and peacefully determine the permanent political solution that can guarantee non-recurrence of past pattern of violence against the Tamil people, offer them remedial justice and free them from oppression and occupation.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

M. K. Shivajilingam

Secretary General, Tamil National Party

Former Member of Parliament

Former Member of Northern Provincial Council

M. K. SHIVAJI LINGAM Secretary General Tamil National Party (T.N.P.) Former Member of Parliament

## Copy To:

Dr. Subrahmanyam Jaishankar External Affairs Minister of India Jawaharlal Nehru Bhawan, New Delhi

Shri Gopal Baglay High Commissioner of India Colombo Shri Harsh Vardhan Shringla Foreign Secretary of India South Block, New Delhi

Shri Raakesh Natraj Consul General of India Jaffna