

From: [REDACTED]  
Sent: 13 December 2012 05:32  
To: [REDACTED]

Subject: Fw: GTF CHOGM Boycott Petition

To note first item below...

From: [REDACTED]  
Sent: Thursday, December 13, 2012 04:45 AM  
To: [REDACTED]  
Subject: FW: GTF News Update 12th December 2012

From: [REDACTED]  
Sent: 12 December 2012 17:08  
To: GTF News  
Subject: GTF News Update 12th December 2012

Dear All,

Please find below the GTF news update for 12<sup>th</sup> December 2012.

[REDACTED]

- For all those in the UK, please ask your family and friends to sign the new petition calling on the UK Prime Minister to boycott the 2013 Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting in Colombo, unless significant and independently verified progress is made on human and political rights and accountability in Sri Lanka. The petition can be found here: <http://epetitions.direct.gov.uk/petitions/43027> (All information provided is strictly confidential and in order to confirm your signature to the petition "Boycott CHOGM in Sri Lanka" you will need to click on the link provided in the email that will be sent to you)
- Further coverage of the Chief Justice Impeachment proceedings
- Please find attached a statement by the Justice and Peace Commission of the Catholic Diocese of Jaffna 'The Reign of Terror'.

[REDACTED]

ASIA HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION  
Senior most judge seeks fair trial for CJ  
<<http://www.humanrights.asia/news/forwarded-news/AHRC-FAT-053-2012>>

THE ISLAND \*\*COMMENTS CAN BE POSTED\*\*  
Impeachment of CJ no cause for C'wealth Intervention - minister  
<[http://www.island.lk/index.php?page\\_cat=article-details&page=article-details&code\\_title=68122](http://www.island.lk/index.php?page_cat=article-details&page=article-details&code_title=68122)>

THE ISLAND \*\*COMMENTS CAN BE POSTED\*\*  
President to get second opinion on PSC report  
<[http://www.island.lk/index.php?page\\_cat=article-details&page=article-details&code\\_title=68120](http://www.island.lk/index.php?page_cat=article-details&page=article-details&code_title=68120)>

COLOMBO PAGE

Constituent parties of Sri Lanka ruling alliance ask President to appoint independent judges to probe impeachment

[archive\\_12B/Dec12\\_1355286451KA.php](#)

DAILY MIRROR COMMENTS CAN BE POSTED

India training Lankan military personnel

<http://www.dailymirror.lk/news/12-12-2012/india-training-lankan-military-personnel-antony.html>

NEWS.LK

Sri Lanka's National Human Rights Action Plan - 2011-2016

<http://www.news.lk/features/political/3881-sri-lankas-national-human-rights-action-plan-2011-2016>

EMBASSY OF SRI LANKA - WASHINGTON

SRI LANKA WELCOMES RECOGNITION FOR POST-CONFLICT DEVELOPMENTS FROM INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY - AMBASSADOR WICKRAMASURIYA TO TOP CONGRESSIONAL STAFFERS

<http://slembassyusa.org/video/sri-lanka-welcomes-recognition-for-post-conflict-developments-from-international-community-ambassador-wickramasuriya-to-top-congressional-staffers/>

TAMIL GUARDIAN

Militarisation: a state of terror

<http://www.tamilguardian.com/article.asp?articleId=6529>

AL JAZEERA \*\*COMMENTS CAN BE POSTED\*\*

A new battleground in Sri Lanka

<http://blogs.aljazeera.com/blog/asia/new-battleground-sri-lanka>

Chandra Jayaratne

How did Confidential Banking Information of Chief Justice Leak out?

<http://dbsieyara.com/dbsi/archives/13493>

COLOMBO TELEGRAPH \*\*COMMENTS CAN BE POSTED\*\*

"I'll Be The Judge, I'll Be The Jury..."

<http://www.colombotelegraph.com/index.php/ill-be-the-judge-ill-be-the-jury/>

GROUNDVIEWS \*\*COMMENTS CAN BE POSTED\*\*

Will the Tamils Lose the Plot Again?

<http://groundviews.org/2012/12/12/will-the-tamils-lose-the-plot-again/>

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL

CRACKDOWN ON STUDENTS SPREADS FURTHER

<http://www.amnesty.org/en/library/asset/ASA37/015/2012/en/40142efb-e1a9-4642-a14a-e6fd2c28f056/asa370152012en.pdf>

ASIA HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

The government must either bring enabling legislation for a fair inquiry or withdraw the impeachment motion

<http://www.humanrights.asia/news/ahrc-news/AHRC-STM-263-2012>

Petition to the UK Government

Boycott CHOGM in Sri Lanka

<http://epetitions.direct.gov.uk/petitions/43027>

(Personal details will not be shared & in order to confirm your signature to the petition "Boycott CHOGM in Sri Lanka" you need to confirm your email address by clicking on the link provided in the email that will be sent to you)

Minority Rights International  
Campaign for the rights of Upcountry Tamil tea plantation workers **THE PRICE OF TEA**  
<<http://www.priceoftea.com/>>

Sri Lanka Campaign for Peace and Justice #THINKAGAIN  
**CAMPAIGN ON ETHICAL TOURISM IN SRI LANKA**  
<<http://www.srilankacampaign.org/tourismdilemma.htm>>

Sri Lanka Campaign for Peace and Justice  
**JUSTICE FOR PRAGEETH**  
<<http://www.srilankacampaign.org/justiceforprageeth.htm>>

GET UPI  
**ACTION FOR AUSTRALIA PETITION TO THE AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT REGARDING A TAMIL REFUGEE AND HER FAMILY, PLUS 50 OTHER TAMIL REFUGEES WHO HAVE HAD ADVERSE SECURITY ASSESSMENTS IN AUSTRALIA.**  
<<http://www.getup.org.au/campaigns/refugees/asio/no-detention-without-appeal>>

Freedom From Torture Petition  
**END TORTURE AND IMPUNITY IN SRI LANKA**  
<<http://www.freedomfromtorture.org/get-involved/campaigns/5895>>

Amnesty International  
**SRI LANKA: ENSURE TAMIL DETAINEES ARE CHARGED OR RELEASED**  
<<http://takeaction.amnestyusa.org/siteapps/advocacy/ActionItem.aspx?c=6oJCLQPAJUUG&b=6645049&aid=15438>>

Avaaz petition  
**SRI LANKA: PUT WAR CRIMINALS BEHIND BARS - PETITION TO UNHRC TO INVESTIGATE MURDER OF 17 ACF (ACTION CONTRE FAIM) AID WORKERS IN 2006**  
<[http://www.avaaz.org/en/petition/Sri\\_Lanka\\_Mettez\\_les\\_criminels\\_de\\_guerre\\_derriere\\_les\\_barreaux/?wPqnBdb](http://www.avaaz.org/en/petition/Sri_Lanka_Mettez_les_criminels_de_guerre_derriere_les_barreaux/?wPqnBdb)>

**Global Tamil Forum**

*The Global Tamil Forum (GTF) was established in 2009 by a number of grass-roots Tamil groups following the end of the armed conflict in Sri Lanka. It is the largest Tamil diaspora organisation with members drawn from fifteen countries on five continents. GTF is committed to a non-violent agenda and seeks a lasting peace in Sri Lanka, based on truth, justice, reconciliation and a negotiated political settlement.*

**The Reign of Terror - Justice and Peace Commission of the Catholic Diocese of Jaffna**

The Justice and Peace Commission of the Catholic Diocese of Jaffna would like to bring to the attention of the peace and freedom-loving people, the fact that people in the North of Sri Lanka continue to be tormented by 'State Terrorism'. Of late the situation has worsened. Since November 2012 the repressive

measures of the Sri Lankan government unleashed on the people, and the arbitrary arrests of the Jaffna University students and other youngsters, have reached new heights.

We have earlier pointed out four months back that the lasting peace we longed for still remains elusive, and that the measures taken by the Sri Lankan Government do not in any way help to bring about this peace.

The present developments indicate that the peace-loving people are on the verge of total despair, and we have no hesitation in presenting the current situation now as a 'Reign of Terror'.

Three episodes that took place in November 2012 brought about a deterioration of the general situation, and these cause concern and worry for us and for our people. These are the following:

1) During the last week of November the Hindus celebrate a special festival of lighting lamps (Vilakkeedu) when they light small lanterns in their temples and in their houses. This year (2012) this specific festival coincided with the Heroes' Day of the LTTE. Well in advance the Hindu authorities had explained this to the Police, and the Senior Police Officer in Jaffna (S.P.) had given permission to the Hindus to light the lamps and go ahead with the celebration. With such assurance the Hindus went on with their celebration lighting the lanterns only to be interrupted by the security forces who ordered them not to do so. In some places some 'unidentified men' came on motorcycles and ordered the people to put off the lanterns and threatened them.

2) On 27.11.2012 there was an unusually heavy concentration of the security forces around the Jaffna University premises, as November 27th used to be the day the LTTE remembered the dead during the past 30 year war. The security forces suspected that the university students would light some lamps to remember the dead in the war. Hence in the evening the security forces barged into the campus and entered the hostels of boys and girls causing pandemonium and damage to things and furniture around. The students were threatened not to have any kind of commemoration for the dead.

The following day (28.11.2012) the students organized a peaceful protest against the unauthorised entry and the high-handed behaviour of the security forces. As a sign of the curtailment of their freedom of expression the students had tied their mouths with black bands and were getting ready to march with placards out of one gate of the campus and re-enter by another gate. As the students started their march in a peaceful manner the security forces pounced on them and violently put down the protest, injuring a number of them. About 20 of the students had to be rushed to the hospital.

One of the photographs taken during this melee, which appeared in the newspapers the following day, was expressive of the barbarity of the attack on the unarmed students. It showed that one student with his mouth tied with a black band had tripped and fallen, probably while running for safety. This student who was flat

on the ground was surrounded by three policemen armed with clubs. These policemen were beating the student simultaneously with their boots and their clubs.

The media men who came to the spot were also beaten up. The local M.P., Mr. Saravanbavan came to the spot and when he was trying to tell the security forces to exercise restraint, he was abused and intimidated. The windscreen of his vehicle which had been parked where the army was, was also smashed.

3) The aftermath of the campus incidents is still more disturbing and sending shock waves around, causing panic. Soon after the quashing of the peaceful demonstration of the campus students with an iron hand,

four of the university students were arrested and taken to Vavuniya for questioning. In the following days some more university students and some more youths in the Jaffna peninsula were arrested. As days passed by more arrests were made, and on the 10th December the number of those arrested, students as well as others, had soared up to 45. Some of those who were arrested are the youths who have gone through a period of rehabilitation due to their alleged involvement with the LTTE. All these youngsters are being held in detention under the draconian Prevention of Terrorism Act (PTA). Hundreds of such youngsters who are now living normal lives with their families are very much disturbed by these arrests.

#### Lessons Not Learnt

- Taking into account the above developments here, we feel that no lessons have been learnt from the serious mistakes of the past governments, due to which hundreds of thousands of youngsters have been lost. The use of violence to put down the peaceful Satyagraha demonstration on the Galleface Green by Mr. S.J.V. Chelvanayagam when the 'Sinhala Only' law was passed, led to the birth of Tamil militancy. We are very well aware of the cost of this by way of hundreds of thousands of lives. Now what happened in the Jaffna University is completely unwarranted and the Sri Lankan Government seems to be igniting another cycle of violence.

- We have quite justifiable fears for the safety of the dozens of youths who are being detained in Vavuniya for questioning under the PTA. Not even six months have passed since the torture and killing of two Tamil political prisoners who were in Vavuniya (Nimalaruban and Dilruksan); we have not heard of any action taken against the jail guards and other officers in the prisons who were involved in the torture and killing of these youths. The longer these people are kept in detention, the more risks they are exposed to their lives.

- The findings of the recent U.N. reports on the last days of the war in Sri Lanka not only brought to light the fact the U.N. had failed miserably in not giving adequate protection to the civilians, but also laid bare the real face of the Sri Lankan security forces. Some of the most powerful and influential countries which have supported the Sri Lankan government to win the war against LTTE have begun to realize that there had been large scale human rights violations, violation of internationality accepted norms of treating the surrendees fairly, breaking of promises given (e.g. promises not to use heavy weapons and not to attack civilian targets), protracted delay in tabling a meaningful solution package to the ethnic problem, etc., show that even after such

heavy loss of lives and property, the International Community is still not able to take a firm decision. The U.N. and the powerful countries merely express their concern and worry over the developments here. This kind of expression of disapproval does not go far enough and the plight of the minority Tamils remains the same.

The international community should realize that the current situation which is volatile cannot be remedied by local public protests, protests by local M.P's, newspaper condemnations, etc. as the past experiences show. There is an urgent need for some firm action to be taken by the U.N. and the International community to stop another cycle of violence and large scale loss of innocent lives.

Rev. Fr. S.V.B. Mangalarajah

Chairman

Justice and Peace Commission of the Catholic Diocese of Jaffna

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 25 February 2013 03:53  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Govt attendance at the GTF - draft lines

Some draft lines from London on [REDACTED] k. As mentioned this morning, other UK political figures are also due to attend (DPM, leader of opposition etc) - it's not for us to comment on their attendance.

- [REDACTED] will be attending the 3<sup>rd</sup> Anniversary conference of the Global Tamil Forum in order to give a brief address which sets out the UK position on Sri Lanka. It is important that the Government's view is set out clearly.
- The GTF 3<sup>rd</sup> Anniversary conference will also be attended by a range of Non Governmental Organisations and others with an interest in Sri Lanka, including legal experts.
- The Minister will not be taking part in the rest of the conference.
- The conference is being organised by the GTF, with the support of the All Party Parliamentary Group for Tamils. All Party Parliamentary Groups do not form part of the Government, and this does not represent British Government support for the views of the GTF.

[REDACTED] British High Commission | 389 B [REDACTED]  
Colombo 07  
[REDACTED] T [REDACTED]  
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If an email reply is overdue please telephone the above number.

[REDACTED]

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 21 January 2013 03:43  
**To:** DL Colombo Political Team [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** FW: UK must exert serious diplomatic pressure on Sri Lanka - BTF  
**Attachments:** press release UK must exert serious diplomatic pressure on Sri Lanka.pdf

[REDACTED] [REDACTED]

If not already seen -BTF press release

[REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]

British High Commission  
389 Bauddhaloka Mawatha  
Colombo.7

[REDACTED]

----- Forwarded message -----

### **UK must exert serious diplomatic pressure on Sri Lanka**

Sri Lankan State is systematically suppressing the defiant voice of Tamil people in the Island of Sri Lanka. Continuous attack on University Students, Press and systematic suppression of Tamil political leadership must be stopped immediately.

Jaffna University Students arrests, recent attack on Uthayan Daily News distributor, Sri Lanka's Terrorist Investigation Division's (TID) summons to the leader of Tamil National People's Front (TNPF) Gajendrakumar Ponnambalam and raid on Tamil National Parliamentarian S Shritharan's constituency office were systematic and calculated attacks to suppress the last remaining defiant voices of Tamils in the Island of Sri Lanka.

The British Tamils Forum urges Her Majesty's Government to exert serious diplomatic pressure on Sri Lanka. The last week's impeachment of chief justice has once again highlights the grave dangers of evolving Sri Lankan dictatorship.

University Students were arrested on baseless charges and sentenced to rehabilitation without any legal proceeding or produced in the court of law.

Uthayan paper was under attack several times in the past; journalists have been killed, attacked and abducted.

Members of Tamil political parties have been continuously intimidated in various forms by the Sri Lankan government and its military. Recently on 26 December 2012, TID sent summons to Tamil National People's Front (TNPf) President, Gajendrakumar Ponnambalam, asking him to be present at its investigating office in Colombo on Saturday for inquiries.

Raid on Mr Shriritharan MP's office comes after the withdrawal of his office police protection in December 2012 by direct orders from the Defence Secretary Gotabaya Rajapaksa, brother of the President Mahinda Rajapaksa. Despite of various international and local efforts made by the foreign governments and NGOs including the involvement of the British Foreign and Commonwealth office Mr Shriritharan's police protection to his office has not been restored.

Mr Shriritharan a TNA elected representative of Jaffna electorate narrowly escaped an assassination attempt On 7 March 2011 and yet no one has been charged in relation to this incident. In the past critical Tamil political representatives were assassinated to silence voices exposing the State oppression of Tamils.

International community has to realise the fact that the separation of power doesn't work in Sri Lanka. All the institutions have been brought under the direct control of Executive Presidency. Current developments clearly prove once again that any internal remedying mechanism (Judicial process) cannot work independently. This is akin to asking Hitler to investigate the crimes he committed against Jewish people. This is why; the international community has to establish external investigative mechanism to investigate the war crimes, crimes against humanity and acts of genocide committed in Sri Lanka. Also, the international community should intervene and protect the people to raise their voice in non violent means.

Moreover, we call upon the international community, establishments and Tamil Political organisations to prioritise this fundamental right of 'right to live' before engaging on political efforts with Sri Lanka.

While this is one of the upmost priority, to save the defiant voices of Tamils we should not fall into the Sri Lankan States diversion tactics. Once again we call upon international institutions and the United Nations to immediately pass a Security Council resolution to establish a tribunal to investigate continuous crimes against humanity and the crime of genocide of Tamils in the Island of Sri Lanka.



[REDACTED]  
From: [REDACTED]  
Sent: 28 February 2013 08:52  
To: [REDACTED]  
Cc: [REDACTED]  
Subject: BTF views on GTF - for info

Security Label: [REDACTED]

All,

Interesting insight into British Tamil Forum and Global Tamil Forum tensions.

[REDACTED] South Asia Department | [REDACTED] Foreign and  
Commonwealth Office | London SW1A 2AH |  
email: [REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]  
Sent: 25 February 2013 17:01  
To: [REDACTED]  
Subject: [REDACTED]

**Please find attached BTF Press Release. As a People's organisation representing we are under membership obligations to clarify our position to the Tamil People.**

Thanks  
BTF Media Team

<http://tamilforum.co.uk/2013/02/global-tamil-forum-3rd-anniversary-conference-in-london/>

#### **PRESS RELEASE**

The Global Tamil Forum (GTF) is hosting a Conference to mark its 3rd anniversary with a cross-section of international speakers, who will share their perspectives highlighting the ground realities in Sri Lanka. We hope the conference will provide the much needed support for an International Independent Investigation into War Crimes, Crimes against Humanity and genocide against Tamils, and a venue change for CHOGM 2013 In Sri Lanka.

GTF was founded in 2009 by the British Tamils Forum (BTF) along with 13 other country organisations around the World; since then GTF has drifted from its founding principles and a collective decision making approach. At present only 5 country organisations are part of GTF; Nine country organisations are excluded from decision-making process for over 18 months.

While we are working hard to rebuild the GTF with the same true spirit in which it was founded, we would like to inform the participants of the GTF London conference on the 27th February 2013 that BTF will not be a party to this event, any declarations or decisions that will be made on the day will not reflect a Global Tamil representation or Common declaration.

With our responsibilities and obligations towards our membership cohort and the general public, we would like to clarify our position regarding the actions of current GTF board.

BTF as a country organisation representing the UK in GTF have tried to engage and negotiate with the current GTF board for over 18 months and regrettably failed. Institutions are more important than individuals; our struggle should be based on the participatory democracy to strengthen the decision making process. BTF as a responsible organisation will adhere to this.

BTF as a grassroots organisation values the principles of democracy, transparency and accountability in building a sustainable Socio-Political Tamil organisation based on our fundamental principles of Justice with dignity. As a

founding member of GTF, we call-upon the GTF board members to have an AGM and legitimise its decision making body and support the accountability based reconciliation process undertaken [REDACTED] World.

To prevent further deterioration of GTF, we call upon all the founding country organisations to join hands in building a true global force, which will operate in the same founding principles to further the Tamil National Cause.

BTF is committed to work with other founding country organisations to rebuild GTF as a global institution representing the Diaspora Tamils around the World.

END--

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Media Team - British Tamils Forum  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 11 March 2013 03:59  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** FW: British HC defends UK govt. members attending GTF conference - The Island Newspaper

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 09 March 2013 07:19  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** British HC defends UK govt. members attending GTF conference - The Island Newspaper

[http://island.lk/index.php?page\\_cat=article-details&page=article-details&code\\_title=74294](http://island.lk/index.php?page_cat=article-details&page=article-details&code_title=74294)



## **British HC defends UK govt. members attending GTF conference**

March 8, 2013, 9:30 pm

By Shamindra Ferdinando

The British High Commission yesterday said that the participation of senior government members at the recently concluded third anniversary conference of the Global Tamil Forum (GTF) in the House of Commons shouldn't be considered as an endorsement of "every policy position taken by the host or partner organization."

A spokesman for the British High Commission was responding to a query by The Island whether Deputy Premier Nick Clegg and Conservative Party Chairman Grant Shapps participation meant the British

government supported the GTF's call to shift Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) from Sri Lanka.

Ministers regularly attended various community events hosted in Parliament to demonstrate their support for those communities as well as recognize their contribution to the UK, the spokesperson said.

In the run-up to the GTF conference on Feb 27, the Sri Lankan government told the Foreign and Commonwealth Office that participation of UK government members would be detrimental to ongoing national reconstruction and reconciliation efforts.

Asked whether the ruling coalition comprising Conservatives and Liberal Democrats had approved the GTF conference in the House of Commons, the spokesperson said that the grouping had the support of the All Party Parliamentary Group for Tamils (APPG-T). The official said that APPG-T didn't form part of the government therefore its participation didn't reflect British support for the GTF.

A senior GoSL official alleged that APPG-T had been working closely with the GTF for some time, while recalling the circumstances under which Vice Chair of the grouping recommended the production team responsible for Sri Lanka's Killing Fields for Nobel Peace prize last year.

Commenting on the forthcoming CHOGM, the official said: "As the UK has repeatedly stated, we have not yet decided on the level of any attendance at CHOGM, but we will be looking to Sri Lanka, as we would any host, to demonstrate its commitment to upholding Commonwealth values. The UK has consistently called for an independent, thorough and credible investigation into the allegations of war crimes. We believe that the process of reconciliation between Sri Lanka's communities has a greater chance of success if investigations are Sri Lankan led rather than externally imposed. We will continue to work with international partners to support the Sri Lankan people in their pursuit of enduring peace and reconciliation, including with the assistance of relevant international organizations."

Asked why the Chilcot Inquiry decided to further delay the final report, the official said: "The Inquiry into the Iraq War, led by Sir John Chilcot, is independent of government. In his most recent letter to the Prime Minister in July of 2012, Sir John said that the Inquiry would present its report once any witnesses facing potential criticism have had the chance to respond and present their case. This process is due to begin around the middle of 2013."