

Ob. 15



Représentation permanente de la Belgique auprès des Nations Unies et
auprès des institutions spécialisées à Genève

30th Session of the Human Rights Council
Item 4 - HC Report on Sri Lanka

*endorses
supports*

Belgium fully ~~associates to~~ ^{endorses} the declaration which ~~has just been made by the EU, and wishes to add following comments on a national basis.~~

The elaborate report of the Commission of Inquiry does not leave any of us indifferent: unlawful killing, systematic sexual and gender based violence, recruitment of children and abduction of adults for use in fighting are all the product of criminal behavior which shall not go unpunished.

We commend the government of Sri Lanka for having cooperated with the ~~Commission of Inquiry~~ ^{CoI} and for restating its commitment to take all possible measures to prevent a recurrence of the ~~human rights violations, and human rights abuse which were described in the report. The recommendations which are mentioned in the report by the HC's office show a path towards accountability and we support the general thrust of these recommendations.~~

~~Some specific measures described in the report of OHCHR are relatively straightforward and could be taken within a limited period of time. Acting in a timely manner is important if we wish to have a judicial process which adequately responds to the gravity of the harm caused to victims on both sides of the conflict.~~

1. Let me point out in that respect the crucial importance of a genuine 'Victim and Witness Protection Act'. By providing better safeguards for victims and witnesses we build the basis for a thorough judicial inquiry. ~~This should happen as a matter of urgency as we need to map all ongoing judicial investigations making sure that victims know that they can provide evidence in a free and transparent way.~~
2. Secondly we fully support the call by the HC to dispense with the current Presidential Commission on missing persons and to create a credible, Independent institution which can deal with the sorrow of many family members ~~and friends of who became victims of grave human rights violations.~~ *of victims.*
3. Third the development of more forensic capacity will enhance the quality of the available evidence so as to allow a judicial process which establishes the facts as they have happened ~~and to do this~~ in an impartial and credible manner.

We call on the Government of Sri Lanka to take immediate steps in order to address the concerns of the many victims who suffered violence in a still fairly recent past.

Thank you

Charlotte Vangrunderbeek

VANGRUNDERBEEK