1.The UN High Commissioner for Human Rights

United Nation High Commissioner for Human Rights

Office of the High Commission for Human Rights

Palas Wilson,52 rue des Paquis, CH-1201 Geneva Switzerland.

2. Heads of Missions

Member States of the UN Human Rights Council

Geneva.

Your Excellency/Sir/Madam,

**Commemorating the 35th Anniversary of the Sathurukkondan Genocidal Massacre and Renewing the Eelam Tamils’ Call for Justice.**

We gathered at the memorial statue to mark the 35th anniversary of the Sathurukkondan massacre, where 186 Eelam Tamil civilians were brutally killed by the Sri Lankan military and its allied Muslim paramilitary unit. These civilians, including infants, pregnant mothers, the elderly, and others, were subjected to inhuman cruelty: stabbed with swords, shot, and buried in mass graves.

This genocidal massacre took place on September 9, 1990, at the Boys Town Sri Lankan military base in Sathurukkondan, Batticaloa, in the Eastern region of Sri Lanka. At around 5:30 p.m. on that day, the surrounding villages of Panichchayadi (39 victims), Pillayaradi (62 victims), Kokuvil (47 victims), and Sathurukkondan (38 victims) were cordoned off by the Sri Lankan military, assisted by Muslim paramilitary groups. The residents were arrested, taken to the military camp, and subsequently “disappeared” until one survivor escaped and revealed the truth about the massacre.

In response to international pressure, then-President Chandrika Kumaratunga appointed a Presidential Commission of Inquiry (PC) to investigate the killings. However, no meaningful action was ever taken on the Commission’s recommendations. Thirty-five years have passed without justice, despite the fact that the core perpetrators were identified and named by the PC. Successive Sri Lankan governments have offered nothing but empty promises while denying justice as the state itself stands accused as the main perpetrator.

Today, we once again call upon the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights and the Member States of the UN Human Rights Council to act. Multiple independent UN reports, Special Rapporteurs, and international organizations have concluded that these massacres are part of the systematic genocide of the Eelam Tamil people, particularly in the North and East, and have identified the Sri Lankan State as the perpetrator. This proves that domestic justice mechanisms have failed.

Therefore, on this 35th anniversary, standing on the very soil where this genocide was committed, we demand:

1. The establishment of an international, independent, and impartial investigative mechanism to investigate the Sri Lankan State for genocide and other international crimes committed against the Eelam Tamils in their homeland.

2. The application of the Bournemouth Protocol with international oversight in all excavations of mass graves, including the Sathurukkondan mass grave.

3. Sustained international pressure on the Sri Lankan State to ensure that genocidal acts against the Tamil people never happen again.

Victims and survivors of this incident from Sathurukondan Pilliyaradi, Kokkuvil, and Panichalady,

Manmunai North,  
Batticaloa,

SriLanka,  
9 September 2025,