

Tamils unite in the commemoration of Lt. Col. Thileepan



This year, the wider Tamil diaspora joined Phoenix – the Next Generation in commemorating Lt. Col. Thileepan. Many collective movements were organised in his memory including – symbolic hunger strikes and a collective diaspora memorial video. In lieu with the multiple initiatives undertaken within the occupied Tamil homeland this year, such collective efforts reiterate an unwavering stance to both the Sri Lankan government and the international community.

A commemorative event was organised by Phoenix – the Next Generation in Basel, Switzerland to coincide with the date that Lt. Col. Thileepan began his hunger strike

32 years ago – 15.09. This event included multiple performances and an address by the coordinator of TamilNet. This address touched upon the ongoing structural form of Tamil genocide and the concept of geopolitics in relation to the Tamil struggle. In the week ensuing this event, a commemorative event was conducted by the Tamils of Melbourne, Australia on 22.09.19.

A symbolic 30 – hour hunger strike was conducted by Phoenix – the Next Generation and the youth of Sydney and Melbourne from Australia on Lt. Col. Thileepan’s 32nd Remembrance Day where Phoenix – the Next Generation put forth

10 demands and the youth of Australia put forth 11 addressing pressing concerns faced by the Eelam Tamils.

Phoenix – the Next Generation commenced their hunger strike in Bern, Switzerland and proceeded to continue their hunger strike at Bern's Sivan temple. It is noteworthy that the youth undertook a parade from their commencing point to the temple. Following a public meeting at the temple where key political issues were discussed and memories of Lt. Col. Thileepan were shared, a special pooja was conducted in his memory.



The parade started from Waisenhausplatz, and ended at the temple.



The commemorative event was organised and conducted by the youth of Sydney

A commemorative event was simultaneously organised and conducted by the youth of Sydney on the day where multiple performances were conducted, and the collective diaspora memorial video was screened. This video included contributions from; Australia, Britain, Malaysia, New Zealand and Switzerland.

We as Phoenix – the Next Generation would like to take this opportunity to request all Eelam Tamil activists and the wider Tamil community to join us in our initiatives. We would also like to request you to join us in our commemoration of Lt. Col. Thileepan through means such as our symbolic hunger strike in future years.



Monthly Update

03.09. The 54th relative of forcibly disappeared persons perished.

04.09. A new train service between Jaffna and Colombo, "Sridevi" was launched.

07.09. Ranil Wickremesinghe lay the foundation stones for Jaffna's Municipal Hall.

08.09. Raj Somadeva lectured the occupational Sri Lankan forces stationed in Jaffna, regarding Sri Lanka's archaeological artefacts.

08.09. Cricketer Muralidaran mentions that the day when the LTTE was destructed in 2009 was the happiest day of his life.

10.09. Sathurukondan massacre commemorated.

11.09. Togo's president arrived in Sri Lanka for a 3-day visit where discussions regarding investments and counterterrorism were conducted.

11.09. A new train service between Polonnaruwa and Colombo, "Pulathisi Intercity Express" was launched.

15.09. Relatives of forcibly disappeared persons protested before Jaffna's Regional OMP office.

16.09. The 'Ezhuha Tamil' protests and a bandh in support of it was conducted.

16.09. The 'Lotus Tower' was unveiled in Colombo with a lavish opening ceremony where Sirisena addressed the involvement of a Chinese company in a financial scandal.

18.09. Presidential elections were officially announced to occur on 16.11.19.

19.09. Journalist Thavaseelan received a summon from the TID.

19.09. Teak trees planted by the LTTE in Vavuniya were cut down by Sri Lanka's forestry department.

19.09. Admiral Vasantha Karannagoda was honoured by Sirisena.

20.09. Jaffna Hindu College's principal was arrested by the bribery unit.

20.09. Those involved in the Keppapilavu protests demanding the release of expropriated lands met the governor of the Northern Province.

22.09. The Nagarkovil massacre was commemorated in Tamil Eelam.

22.09. A presidential team was formed to investigate the Easter Sunday Attacks.

23.09. Gotabaya Rajapakse released from 'Avant Garde' case.

24.09. World Bank announces Sri Lanka as an upper middle-income country.

24.09. SL Finance ministry announces that disabled Sri Lankan military officials will receive a lifetime salary following their military service.

24.09. Facebook announces cooperation with Sri Lanka's Electoral Commission to prevent the spread of false news and hate speech in light of Sri Lanka's upcoming presidential elections.

25.09. Buddhist statue in Uppuveli was defaced.

25.09. Surfing's World Cup events began in Arugam Bay.

26.09. Lt. Col. Thileepan's 32nd year remembrance events were commemorated across Tamil Eelam.

26.09. A teacher's strike was conducted throughout the Tamil homeland demanding a pay raise.

27.09. China presented 750 million rupees worth of robotic instruments to Sri Lanka.

27.09. Pakistan's president mentioned Black Tiger attacks in a speech conducted at a UN session in New York.

30.09. Security checks mount in the Elephant pass region in anticipation of Gotabaya's Jaffna visit.

30.09. The UN's resident coordinator in Sri Lanka attended a tourism related conference on the International Day of Victims of enforced disappearances. A written statement was additionally released by the coordinator where she mentioned that they had not forgotten the relatives of the forcibly disappeared.

Signs of Structural Genocide

- Military occupation impacts Tamil farmers and their access to agrarian services and needs – especially in Paduvaankarai, Tharavai etc.
- Sri Lankan police from the Nedunkerni region target the board of Vedukkunaari Aathi Lingkeasvarar temple in Vavuniya through banning them from playing devotional songs. Policing has increased after the SL Archaeology department began to target and isolate the area with aims to Sinhalise it.
- Latest large – scale land grabs in southeast Trincomalee facilitated by Hizbullah to further Sri Lankan state’s genocidal agenda.
- The Tamil school, Saraswathy Viththyaalayam in Batticaloa continues to be exploited by the genocidal Sri Lankan military forces as a resort without receiving permission from the Vaakarai Divisional Council. Improper waste disposal is causing further concern.
- SL police mobs threaten Saivite Tamil pilgrims in Kanniya.
- ‘Sevalanka’ tourism efforts funded by countries including Norway, to impose Sinhalisation on Eelam Tamils through converting agrarian -based communities.
- SL Police and STF prevent Tamil devotees from praying in Kachchatkodi.
- SL military continues to occupy a large section of farms and salterns in Vaddakkachchi and Elephant Pass.
- Sinhala settlers continue to be settled in Pulmoaddai and Maalaanoor.
- Extremist monks conducted the final rites of a Buddhist monk within the premises of Neeraviyadi Pillaiyar temple in Chemmalai, against court orders against such acts.
- Extremist Buddhist monks’ occupational move in opposition to legal proceedings lead to widespread protests.
- State – owned Daily News refuses to publish condemnation statement by the All Ceylon Hindu Congress regarding the unlawful cremation and burial of a monk in Mullaitivu.

10 DEMANDS put forth by Phoenix-TNG

1. All of the Eelam Tamil political prisoners who were arrested under the draconian PTA must be released.
2. The Sinhalese colonisation and occupation of the Tamils homeland, Tamil Eelam should be terminated.
3. The Swiss government should cease to engage in any form of migration partnerships with the Sri Lankan government and should withdraw from any such existing agreements.
4. The Swiss government must recognise Eelam Tamil nationalism as the sovereign right of Eelam Tamils and Tamil Eelam as their sovereign traditional homeland.
5. The Swiss government's Attorney General's Office (Bundesanwaltschaft) should cease to engage in activities in opposition to the Tamils' liberation organisation. Moreover, the Swiss government must refrain from criminalising Tamils through engaging in partial activities.
6. An international investigation must be initiated by the international community regarding all missing and forcibly disappeared persons who were deemed as missing as a result of all of the conflicts between Tamil Eelam and Sri Lanka. Such an investigation should especially focus upon the systematic actions of the Sri Lankan government regarding such matters.
7. The international community must pressure the Sri Lankan state to release the Eelam Tamils' expropriated private properties. Moreover, representatives of the international community must contact the Eelam Tamils protesting before the Sri Lankan Army's camps.
8. The international community must recognise the Sri Lankan armed officials stationed within Tamil Eelam as an invasive force enacting the agenda of militarisation.
9. An independent international investigation should be launched to address the issues of contention arising across all of the conflicts which occurred between the Eelam Tamils and the Sri Lankan state. Such an indictment should be identified as genocide. The inquiry must examine the influence of the intentions and actions of; British colonial powers, the *Mahavamsa* ideology and the geopolitical significance of the island of Sri Lanka must be closely examined. Furthermore, this investigation must expose the inhumane conspiracy enacted through the 2009 *Mullivaikkal* genocide by; the USA, Great Britain, India, China and the European Union.
10. An international referendum regarding the independence of Tamil Eelam must be initiated. This referendum must be based upon the *Vaddukoddai* resolution. Furthermore, the referendum must facilitate credible mechanisms whereby Eelam Tamils who reside within and outside of their traditional homeland may vote for or against the establishment of Tamil Eelam as an independent, sovereign state.

11 DEMANDS put forth by the youth of Australia

1. All of the Eelam Tamil political prisoners who were arrested under the draconian PTA must be released.
2. The Sinhalese colonisation and occupation of the Tamils homeland, Tamil Eelam should be terminated.
3. The Australian government must immediately release all indefinitely detained Tamil refugees.
4. The Australian government must reassess their asylum seeker policy – especially that against Eelam Tamils.
5. The Australian government must immediately withdraw from any military or economic partnerships with the Sri Lankan government such as the Indo – Pacific Endeavour 2019 which involves the deployment of over 1000 Australian defence force personnel and 4 Australian Royal Naval ships to assist with defence exercises in Sri Lanka.
6. The Australian government must recognise Eelam Tamil nationalism as the sovereign right of Eelam Tamils and Tamil Eelam as their sovereign traditional homeland.
7. An international investigation must be initiated by the international community regarding all missing and forcibly disappeared persons who were deemed as missing as a result of all of the conflicts between Tamil Eelam and Sri Lanka. Such an investigation should especially focus upon the systematic actions of the Sri Lankan government regarding such matters.
8. The international community must pressure the Sri Lankan state to release the Eelam Tamils' expropriated private properties. Moreover, representatives of the international community must contact the Eelam Tamils protesting before the Sri Lankan Army's camps.
9. The international community must recognise the Sri Lankan armed officials stationed within Tamil Eelam as an invasive force enacting the agenda of militarisation.
10. An independent international investigation should be launched to address the issues of contention arising across all of the conflicts which occurred between the Eelam Tamils and the Sri Lankan state. Such an indictment should be identified as genocide. The inquiry must examine the influence of the intentions and actions of; British colonial powers, the *Mahavamsa* ideology and the geopolitical significance of the island of Sri Lanka must be closely examined. Furthermore, this investigation must expose the inhumane conspiracy enacted through the 2009 *Mullivaikkal* genocide by; the USA, Great Britain, India, China and the European Union.
11. An international referendum regarding the independence of Tamil Eelam must be initiated. This referendum must be based upon the *Vaddukoddai* resolution. Furthermore, the referendum must facilitate credible mechanisms whereby Eelam Tamils who reside within and outside of their traditional homeland may vote for or against the establishment of Tamil Eelam as an independent, sovereign state.