

British Tamils Forum United Kingdom

29 October 2016

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

BTF releases book titled, 'Proliferating Buddhist Structures in Tamil Homeland - Sowing the Seeds of Disharmony'

The British Tamils Forum (BTF) released a book titled, 'Proliferating Buddhist Structures in Tamil Homeland - sowing the seeds of Disharmony', on the 24 October 2016, in the UK Parliament's Portcullis House. This event was organised by BTF and the All Party Parliamentary Group for Tamils (APPGT- UK), and brought together politicians, academics, journalists and human rights activists.

This book was a culmination of research done by several diaspora and local activists, who are concerned of the ongoing genocide of Tamil people in their own homeland in the North East of Sri Lanka. It is written based on hours of online and offline field research done through collaborative work of several concerned activists and intellectuals living in the diaspora and Sri Lanka.

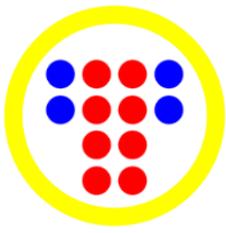
The objective of this book is to reveal the current true situation, which has been craftily masked from the international community by the present Sri Lankan regime. BTF enlightened the audience with presentations, which revealed the extent of planning and co-ordination involved in implementing a long term and permanent demographic change in the Tamil homeland. This in the long term will have far reaching consequence for the Tamil people's political and economic rights in Sri Lanka. If not stopped now, this could revive resentment and may lead to the re-ignition of the conflict.

Deputy Chairman of the APPG-T Mr Paul Scully MP, and Mr Wes Streeting MP delivered key note speeches. They stressed the need for the participation of international judges on the human rights investigation panel and also resolved to take the issues raised with the UK government and to keep up the pressure on Sri Lanka at the March 2017 UNHRC review. Colonel Bob Stewart DSO MP who attended the book launch asked how British members of Parliament could help in the UK Parliament to stop the colonisation. Bob Stewart was a Land Commander of the British army who gave evidence at the Hague war crimes tribunal in relation to the Bosnian massacre.

Professor Peter Shalk delivered an academic presentation highlighting the role of Sinhala political Buddhism in creating the conflict in Sri Lanka with its ultimate aim of preserving and promoting a mono ethnic unitary state. He compared this to various other political religious movements around the world. He further elaborated on the deviation of political Buddhism from the original teachings of Buddha himself, in Sri Lanka.

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It is hoped that the research based evidence presented in this book and the presentations made will enable journalists, policy makers, activists and diplomats to understand the true nature of the on-going conflict and suitably formulate their responses to avoid the emerging disharmony. Failure to grasp the ground realities will have far reaching consequences for reconciliation and long term peace in Sri Lanka.

Several activists praised the timely release of this book in creating awareness of the current situation among the western government policy makers and diplomats. This book was simultaneously released by Australian Tamil Congress (ATC) in Australia.

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Notes to Editors:

British Tamils Forum exists to harness the skills and the knowledge of the members of the forum, well-wishers and significant others including mainstream decision makers in the UK with the aim of alleviating the sufferings of the Tamils community in the Island of Sri Lanka and to further their right to self-determination within a democratic frame work under pinned by international law, its covenants and conventions. For more information info@britishtamilsforum.org and/or visit: www.britishtamilsforum.org