



A powerful display of Tamil nationhood and collective defiance

Washington D.C.; November 27, 2022 – Today, on Maaveerar Naal (Tamil National Remembrance Day), thousands of Eelam Tamils will gather together by makeshift cemeteries and memorial plaques around the world as they remember those who gave their lives and futures for the liberation of the Tamil nation from the oppression of Sinhala-Buddhist majoritarianism. While Sri Lankan security forces continue to surveil, harass and intimidate Tamils who wish to commemorate and remember the sacrifices of those who died, Maaveerar Naal still serves as a powerful display of collective defiance against the Sri Lankan state's narrative of a defeated Tamil nation.

Thirteen years after the end of the armed conflict, impunity for the war crimes, crimes against humanity and genocide committed against the Tamils by government forces in the last stages of the armed conflict looms over the island.

Sinhala-Buddhist nationalism, the root cause of the conflict, remains unaddressed. The Sinhala-Buddhist nationalist state-building project sustains the marginalization and oppression of Tamils in their homeland, through the suffocating militarization of the North-East, the Sinhalization and Buddhisization of Tamil lands, and the inescapable unitary system of the Sri Lankan state. The current economic collapse, which is a result of irrational policies undergirded by Sinhala-Buddhist nationalism continues to devastate the Tamil homeland, which already has been the most affected during the war. Despite decades of resistance to Sinhala-Buddhist nationalist politics, Tamils are repeatedly punished by the failures of the Sri Lankan government and the wilful ignorance of the general electorate.

Tamils in the North-East and Tamil politicians continue to call for decentralization, devolution and meaningful self-determination. Considering the consistent failure and incompetence of Sinhala-Buddhist decision-making, it is more than timely to let Tamils decide their own economical and political future. Despite the absence of the widespread media attention that was experienced during the protests in the South earlier this year, a shared sense of nationhood and collective struggle keeps the Tamil people united in their fight for justice, accountability and self-determination. Through this, the struggle for freedom and liberation lives on.