

Association Des Etudiants Tamouls De France

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The oppression of Tamils in Sri Lanka, including demographic changes have resulted in Tamil population being reduced to a minority in districts where they were a majority. As per the 1881 census of Trincomallee district, the Tamils constituted 62 % of the population, the Muslims accounted for

The state sponsored demographic changes have resulted in the Tamil population reduced to a mere 33%. This deliberate ploy of the Sri Lankan state has reduced the Tamils to a minority in their own homeland. It is not only in Trincomalle, the story is similar in Amparai and Batticaloa districts too.

Today ¼ of Tamil population lives in the west. Their lands have been occupied by the Sinhala forces, for every 5 Tamils, there is a soldier in the north. In Mullaitheevu, for every 2 civilians, there is an armed soldier. Tamils who are a majority in their traditional homeland have lost their basic rights to life, practice their culture and live as normal human beings.

In 2009, the number of registered voters in Jaffna electoral district that comprises of the administrative districts of Jaffna and Kilinochchi was 816,005. This figure has dropped to 481,791 entries in the register of the electoral district of Jaffna. SL Election Department has removed 331,214 names from the list.ⁱ There is no clarification for these missing voters. Elections commissioner's department officials said that the Jaffna district will have just five MPs representing the voters as opposed to the current number of nine MPs.ⁱⁱ

This is an alarming trend as the Tamils could become stateless and turn into a minority in their own homeland.

ⁱ <http://www.infolanka.com/news/2011/june/index7.html>

ⁱⁱ <http://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-international/article2332290.ece>

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In Sri Lanka 146,679 Tamils count as unaccounted, 90,000 war widows, a minimum of 25,000 war orphans, 160,000 houses destroyed according to UN estimates. In any war leading to displacement of civilians, it is the women and children who suffer the most. As a minority, the Tamil women have suffered the most brutalities at the hands of the oppressive Sinhala armed forces.

Single women headed families fear the most for the safety of themselves and their children in the presence of large number of armed personnel. There have been many instances when their doors have been knocked in midnight and at times sexual favors sought as more than 50,000 of the 90,000 widows in the war zone are below 40. The Tamil women have been reduced to the status of sexual objects by the military which controls nearly 40% of Tamil land.

Out of a total land mass of 65,619 sq kms of land, the Tamils inhabit 18,880 sq kms of land in the north and east, after May 2009, the defence forces have occupied more than 7,000 sq kms of land.ⁱⁱ This shows that the Tamil dominated areas have been used by Sinhala forces for their occupation in the name of security concerns utilizing water, land, forests, fish apart from polluting the peaceful village environment. Apart from this it also prevents the locals to lead a normal life when they are under the scanner of the occupying defence forces. It has also prevented the return of thousands of displaced people who are still living in camps, with friends and relatives.ⁱⁱ

In these circumstances Tamil women are living like stateless persons in their own homeland. We urge the UN to immediately save these women from deluge.

Thnak you.