

Sri Lanka: Raped Tamil Women Forced to Live among Sri Lankan Soldiers who Raped them - TGTE

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Raped Tamil women are forced to live among Sri Lankan soldiers who raped them, said Transnational Government for Tamil Eelam's (TGTE) Minister for Women's Affairs Mrs. Balambihai Murugadas, highlighting the plight of Tamil women on the International Women's Day.

According to the UN, Sri Lankan security forces have committed mass killings and large scale rape of Tamil women. The same security forces that committed these abuses are still stationed in very



large numbers in Tamil areas, among the same women they committed sexual violence. Tamil women have to undergo fear and humiliation to live among the soldiers and to see them walking free and enjoying full protection and support of the new Government, continued Ms. Balambihai.

"Six years have passed since the war came to an end but not a single soldier was brought to justice and the Government is trying to shield the soldiers even from the UN mandated inquiry. According to several independent sources, Tamil areas have a ratio of one soldier for every five civilians, the highest number of soldiers to civilian ratio in the world."

In addition, thousands of Tamil women who surrendered their husbands, daughters and sons to security forces are unable to find the whereabouts of their loved ones. The Sri Lankan Prime Minister recently said that those surrendered are no more alive and refuse to give any additional information about how they were killed and continue to protect the Security forces, said Ms. Balambihai.

"The suffering of 90,000 Tamil war widows is continuing, having to live with pain of losing their husbands and to take care of the children with great difficulty and facing threats and intimidation from soldeirs who killed their husbands."

Thousands of families were forcibly expelled from their houses by the security forces and these families are still living in displaced camps in deplorable conditions facing hunger, health issues and malnutrition. Women and girls of these displaced families face the brunt of suffering due to lack privacy and fear of being abused by the security forces. In addition, the security forces that occupy their properties enjoy the income generated from these lands and build luxury houses, hotels and swimming pools, continued Mr. Balambihai.

"It is important that the international community take note of the continuing suffering of Tamil women and girls under the new Government and take firm steps to address them, said TGTE's Minister for Women's Affairs Mrs. Balambihai Murugadas.

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