



Aparthedi attitude of India on Tamil refugees.

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Abstract

The quarter century armed civil war in Eelam portion of Sri Lanka has created vast emigration, more than 2 million Tamil people emigrated many countries around the world. Almost, 30 years have passed since the immigration and it continues by the post war impacts and other repressions; the people settled with different living status in many countries including India. Since independence, India's intrusion also played some significant roles for the Eelam Tamils' evictions. Soon after the war Sri Lankan government declared that the war in Eelam was over and the LTTE is no more. However, this article is an attempt to bring out the sufferings of Tamil refugees undergoing even today in India compared to refugees from other countries.

Keywords: Eelam Tamils, Refugee status, Persecution, Repression, Political strategy. Geo-Politics.

1. Introduction

People for persecution: Eelam Tamils in Tamilnadu India received large number of refugees from its neighbor states like Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Burma, Sri Lanka and Tibet. Even India had refugees from European and African countries like Iran, Iraq, Somalia, Sudan and Uganda, although, India has no legal frameworks for the entry status of refugees. In fact, India has not signed the Geneva (1951) convention regarding the status of refugees and its 1967 protocols. Citizenship amendment act, 2003 of India, has clearly states that persons entered into India without Visa and other illegal migrations have no exceptions for refugees or asylum seekers.¹ However, India handled the influxes at the political administrative level. In addition, lack of comprehensive and unilateral national policy for refugees have worsened some refugees condition. However, the agencies including central and state legislatives of India have dealt with the refugees in the governance for the foreigner category under its constitution and India considers the influx of refugees as threatening to the national security scenario; unfortunately, it was ensured by so called LTTE's Indian Prime Minister assassination on 1991. Eelam Tamils moved freely across the Indian border before

the ethnic crisis in Sri Lanka. India's intervention in Sri Lanka during Jawaharlal Nehru's Prime Minister Ship by 1954 and 1964 treaties relating to citizenship for Indian Tamils initially shows to the world that the citizens living in Sri Lanka are denied citizenship to its own people.² Subsequent Quarter century civil movements for the demand of dignified living in the country for their rights, and the mass Tamil destruction in the war against Tamil people by the Government of Sri Lanka against their own people at Mullivaykkaal on 2009, brought the Sri Lanka's ethnic divide of its own people revealed the problem globally. Nehru's Daughter Indira Gandhi decided to cede Tamilnadu's Katcha theevu for Sri Lanka without Indian Tamil's consent by 1974 and 1976 agreements; it resulted significantly restrict the refugee's arrival due to its geographical position. Even, her son Rajiv Gandhi's tactical attempts on 1984-1987 by IPKF in Eelam to bring a solution for the ethnic conflict between Sinhalese troops and Tamil insurgents also aggravated the status in Eelam. The IPKF's offensive Encroachment among Eelam Tamils vastly influenced Rajiv's assassination.

India, France, Canada, UK, Switzerland, Australia, Malaysia, USA, Netherland and Norway are

the first ten preferred countries for Eelam Tamil refugees to refuge. 2012 population statistics of UNHRC reported that India have 67,165 Tamil refugees and total Tamil refugees emigration to other 89 countries was 65,584; the inflow to Tamilnadu was higher than the total Eelam Tamil’s migrant to all other countries. India had large Eelam Tamils arrivals than other countries caused by the close geographic location. Of course, India has nearly 70 million Tamil populations in Tamilnadu and they said, “The Eelam Tamils are the blood relatives of us”. In fact, the ethnic unification between the Eelam and Tamilnadu Tamils

proved by the large-scale arrival of Eelam Tamils to Tamilnadu. Even, economic factors similarly decided the asylum in various places of the world; rich Eelam Tamils moved to distant countries and poor Tamils selected Tamilnadu. Many Tamil literatures proved Eelam and Sri Lanka once upon a time was integrated with Tamilnadu under the Lemuria Kandam or Kumari Kandam.³ Therefore, the geographical factors also assisted to claim support from Tamilnadu for the Eelam Tamils, hence, the Eelam Tamils vastly obtained asylum in Tamilnadu and they feel this asylum will be sophisticated to strengthen Tamil Diaspora.



Figure 1 : Closed Top ten countries are having Eelam Tamils under the refugee status.

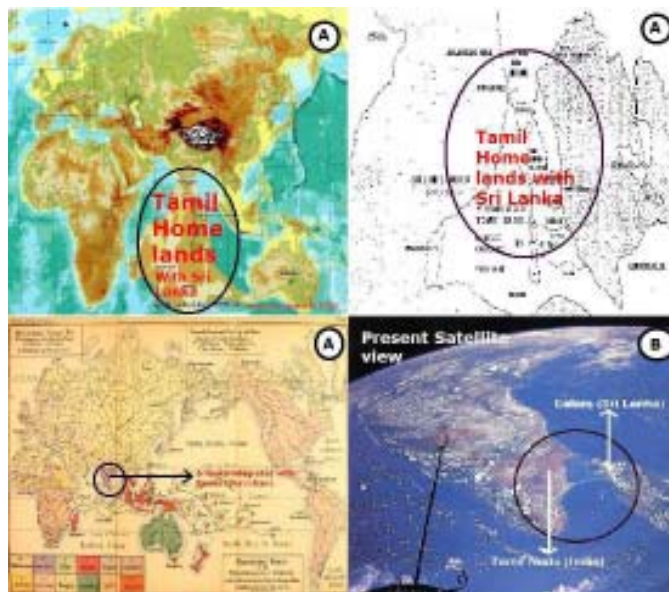


Figure 2 : Lemuria Continent Map of Tamilnadu with integrated Sri Lanka (A) and present Satellite view (B).

In India, Tibetan refugees are receiving equal treatment as Indian citizens and they received more rights compared to all other refugees in India. Other refugees including Eelam Tamils discriminated under various circumstances and labels.⁴ Tibetan refugees fled to India by the suppression and continuous human right violations of China. Presently more than 150,000 Tibetan refugees are living in India and they received registration certificates with renewal facilities in India. Indian government guaranteed Indian citizenship to Tibetan refugees by birth, residential permits, and formal employments, good socio-economic condition and good legal protection. Tibetan refugees are permitted to move anytime, anywhere in India. Even, they are having the right to protest. Recently they conducted a mass protest in India's capital, New Delhi on 18-20 May 2013, against Chinese Premier Li Keqiang's visit to India.

Bhutanese are allowed to move freely across the Indian border by an open border treaty between India and Bhutan on 2007. Even they are having the right to residence, education, and work ensured by Indian government without any identity papers. By that tactical friendly treaty of both countries, they were blackout the ethnic conflict between Nepalese and Bhutanese. However, Bhutanese are not recognized as refugees and they are not receiving any assistance under the UNCHC schemes. But, they have freedom to move and acquire good residence than other refugees in India.

Indian government grants Indian citizenship for the Hindu Pakistani refugees by the amended citizenship act 2004 with some limitations. Dramatically, 13,000 Hindu Pakistani refugees received citizenship between 2004 and 2006. They are vastly working in informal sectors, often worked as manual laborers in quarries; hence, they were exploited in many work places.

Burmese refugees easily belong to the same ethnic group in Mizoram and they receives better employment facilities there. Nearly, 2000 Burmese refugees assisted by UNHRC granted residence and education permits by Indian government, though they had trouble in school admissions by lack of papers and languages. They also exploited and harassed in working places, especially women refugees frequently assaulted and harassed sexually, albeit the refugees unable or unwilling to obtain protection from the police for the victimizations.

Nearly 9000 Afghan refugees living in various places of India, the government has issued valid residential permit for most Afghans, who followed

Hindu and Sikh faiths. Similar refugees are getting stipend from UNHRC. Most are working in informal sectors like running shops and working as sales people.

Somali and Palestinian refugee populations in India are nearly few hundreds. They are assisted by UNHRC under its mandate and running troubled life in India. In addition, India also hosts Sudan, Iraq, Iran, Ethiopia and Eritrea refugees.

In this situation, nearly 300,000 Eelam Tamil refugees are living in India presently in Tamilnadu. These refugees are not treated as other refugees like Tibetan and Bhutanese openly. Tamil refugees are getting crucial repressive status under 'Q' branch police supervision. Central and state governments officially stated that they are offering financial, nutritional, utensils, clothing, infrastructural and medical assistance to the refugees.⁵ Of course, all assistance sanctioned by the government, but the assistance offered are expropriated from the refugees by the authorities. Continuous and pathetic victimization impacts among the Eelam Tamil refugees and the inhuman, brutal exploitations of the respective authorities have found during this study.

Tamil Refugees arrival to Tamilnadu started by the escalation of armed civil war for the liberation of Tamil Eelam from 1983 for a demand of dignified living in their homeland. Almost, all insurgents including LTTE have fully supported by the Tamilnadu Chief Minister M.G.Ramachandran. The refugees received good treatment from the Tamilnadu Government. M.G.Ramachandran's death on 1987 and, Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi's assassination on 1991 have deteriorated Eelam Tamil refugees' status in Tamilnadu. Tamilnadu government officially stated 3,03,076 Eelam Refugees influx from 1983 to 2010 by four phases⁶; 73,251 camped and, 32,242 non-camped refugees stayed in Tamilnadu. Confirmed civilians permitted to regular camps and persons ensured to associated any insurgent group, incarcerated in special camps at Poonamallee and Chengalpattu. Even, many Eelam Tamil refugees were permitted by the authorities to stay with their relatives. Moreover, nearly 20,000 Eelam Tamil refugees also camped in some other states of India like Karnataka, Kerala, Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Pondicherry, and Andaman & Nicobar Islands.

Eelam Tamils emigrated various places of the world by the ethnic discriminations and crucial coin actions of the Sinhalese Chauvinism; they fled to 90 countries including India, Western Europe, Malaysia, Singapore, Australia, USA and Canada.⁷ More than one million Tamil populations settled outside Eelam with a Diaspora characterization produced by the violent

displacement over quarter-century civil war between the Sinhalese state and the LTTE. Almost, all the displaced Tamils received better rights in most of the emigrated countries like Canada, Malaysia, UK, Norway and Australia. Separate shelters with all basic needs were provided to all refugees.⁸ In the case of Eelam Tamils, many human rights respecting countries like France, Canada and many other countries providing good shelter, employment, education, other livelihood needs and fundamental rights. Some time they are allowed to express their feelings through mass protests also.

For example, in 2009 worldwide Eelam Tamils' mass protests in Toronto City Hall (CTV Toronto 2009b), Westminster in London (Press Trust of India 2009), Sydney (Sydney Morning Herald 2009) and Oslo. The protesters demanded and pressured those governments to stop the genocide in Eelam through immediate ceasefire. Moreover, the protests challenged the people's routine life and law and order of those states; although, the states empathized the protesters feelings and did not repress the protests. Especially, Canada declared LTTE as a terrorist organization on

2004, but Tamils in Toronto protested continuously in three days holding the LTTE's flags and pictures.⁹ Recently, Eelam Tamil political activists conducted an organized massive protest demonstration on June 20th 2013 at the Welsh SWALEC Stadium (Cardiff Wales Stadium).¹⁰ During the protest, such activists entered and run inside the cricket ground with Tamil Tiger flags and banners that carried the words "40,000 commonwealth people Massacred by Rajapaska". In fact, the protest intensified by the previous Sinhalese racist attack against the activists of 'Boycott Sri Lankan Cricket' campaign including youths, women and children on 17th June 2013 at Oval cricket stadium. During the brutal attack, the Sinhalese criticized the Tamils with provocative verbal chants such as "Fucking Tamils", "come Sri Lanka, you will never come back" and "We've taken over Sri Lanka". London police condemned the Sinhalese for the racist attack on 17th and escorted the Eelam Tamils into a temporary area protected by newly arranged barricades and police vans, before dispersing the Sinhalese towards Oval tube station.¹¹ However, the rulers and the police have empathized and respected the feelings of Tamils.

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Figure 3 : Eelam Tamil girl kicked by a Sri Lanka fan (A) and the protests by the Tamil activists at oval and Wales grounds (B).

Moreover, legislators and representatives of various countries in which the emigrated Eelam Tamils are living respects the Tamils feelings and the basic humanity raised a call for boycott the Commonwealth Heads of Government meeting (CHOGM) in Sri Lanka to stop the human rights violations. David Cameron, Prime Minister of UK urged the Queen to boycott Sri Lanka¹² and the commonwealth lawyers from more than 50 countries call for boycott the CHOGM in Sri Lanka.¹³ Paul Dewar, a Member of Parliament and leadership candidate of the New Democratic Party in Canada, joined Canadian Prime Minister Stephen Harper's call for an independent investigation into war crimes in Sri Lanka and called to boycott the 2013 CHOGM.¹⁴ Former Prime Minister of Australia, Malcolm Fraser also calls the federal government to boycott the CHOGM.¹⁵

Dinoo Kelleghan, former foreign editor of the Australian and a member of the Refugee Review Tribunal from 1997-2004, criticized the Canadian and Australian legislator's supports for Eelam Tamils in his writing on a news website, Sunday Times as, "These supportive voices for Tamils raised for to target the vote bank". Rathika Sitsabaiesan, member of the House of Commons of Canada for the New Democratic Party, stated that Canada should be compel Sri Lanka to conduct an independent investigation about the war crimes as recommended by the United Nations. She openly said, "The conservative government makes different comments in time to time. First, they said, they are not attending and, then they said, the prime minister is not attending. Therefore, we never know what the government's standpoint is?" Even, she emphasized, Sri Lanka attempts to capture the leadership of the Commonwealth for the next two years and the leadership assists to escape the war criminals from the offensive perpetrations.¹⁶ However, these supports proved that the Eelam Tamils got better influence in those countries. In fact, Rathika Sitsabaiesan is from Eelam Tamil origin. Notably, emigrated Tamils of those countries having better survival with good shelter, education, dietary, and other necessary needs especially rights in all aspects.

In India, particularly in Tamilnadu, the Eelam Tamil's issues have completely utilized only for the tactical political survival by the opportunistic political dynamics; it affected significantly on the livelihood and rights of the Eelam Tamils in Tamilnadu. By the geo political competition with China, India brought

Eelam Tamil's life at a risky condition for its strategic relationship with Sri Lanka; although, the strategies defeated by China through offered armed assistance to Sri Lanka during the end of Eelam war IV and China established a watching tower in Triconamale at Eelam after the defeat of the LTTE. However, a new relationship started between Beijing and Colombo.¹⁷

In Tamilnadu, DMK and ADMK are the major political parties. DMK government allowed and reserved seats for the Tamil Refugee's children in Tamilnadu on 1989; next ADMK government suspended the order on September 1991, due to the Rajiv Gandhi assassination and even the ensured assistances limited by the state from 1991-2006. DMK government restarted the assistances after 2006 to improve the living condition of the camped Refugees and, it has granted infrastructure facilities, dietary systems, medical insurances and educational quotas.¹⁸ Of course, these notifications have made only to compromise and divert the severity of refugees' issues and especially, for targeting the vote bank of Tamilnadu Tamils, who are feeling the Eelam Tamils as their blood relatives. Moreover, the DMK government indirectly supported the mass Tamil destruction on May 2009 at *Mullivaikal*, for retain the central minister ships of its candidates with the UPA government under the headship of Congress Party of India. During the destruction, the DMK government restricted all campaigns regarding LTTE, Eelam and Eelam Tamils and, it perpetrated indirect repression under several psychological threatening on Tamilnadu people. In fact, 'Q' branch police's repressive surveillance among the Eelam Tamils has not excluded until this time. Even the Tamil refugees experienced inhuman tortures within Tamilnadu. Inhuman atrocities and repressions against Tamil refugees have determined by the large-scale exodus of refugees from Tamilnadu.

U.S. Committee for Refugees and Immigrants (*USCRI*) released a worldwide report card by acquired reports and similar official statistics on 2009, regarding the treatment of refugees based on the *Refoulement* and Physical Protection, Detention and Access to Courts, Freedom of Movement and Residence, Right to Earn a Livelihood and, Public Relief and Education. India became 3/5 position in *Refoulement* and Physical Protection, Detention and Access to Courts and, it receives 4/5 position in Freedom of Movement and Residence, Right to Earn a Livelihood.

No	Issues	Rank	Status
1	Refoulement/Physical Protection	3/5	Some refoulement but not systematic; governmental harassment & serious physical risk
2	Detention/Access to Courts	3/5	Significant detention; faulty access to courts and documentation
3	Freedom of Movement and Residence	4/5	Restrictions in policy and practice; harassment
4	Right to Earn a Livelihood	4/5	Restrictions in policy and practice; harassment

Table 1 : USCRI ranking for the countries regarding the manner in treatment of refugees

In fact, the ranking includes all refugees in India from various places like China, Afghan, Burma, Sri Lanka and others. Report of Refugees populations in India, 2007, states that the Eelam Tamil refugees living conditions are worse than other countries refugees under a labeled repression. If, Refugees populations in India's argument compared with the USCRI Report card; it clearly state that Tamil refugees are on the verge of atrocities. Perhaps, if the ranking were only about Eelam Tamil refugees based, then India would have been in fifth place in the ranking list of all issues.¹⁹ Extraordinary cruelties and repressions against the Tamil Refugees in India vastly reflected in the statistical results of UNHRC Population Statistics 2012, regarding asylum seekers and returned refugees.

UNHRC reported Australia became the first preferred country to seeking asylum for the Eelam Tamil Refugees; recently Australia declared to ban refugees' arrival (The conversation News, 22 July 2013). Malaysia, UK, France, Switzerland, Canada, Germany, Japan, Indonesia and Republic of Korea were becoming their next favorite countries to seeking asylum. In fact, the refugees believe these countries can provide asylum status with similar restrictions; also, these asylums can help to improve and protect their livelihood and, it can give secure future. Surprisingly, no Eelam Tamil refugees seek asylum in India up to 2012, during that year, 1451 refugees returned to Eelam from India and 25 refugees returned from Malaysia otherwise nobody returned to Eelam from all other countries. Perhaps, these incidents are caused by the inhuman approaches and treatments of Indian government. Of course, many respondents during data collection stated that, they have experienced the same harsh discriminations and repressions in India as like Sri Lanka.

2. Methodology

The data for this study decided to collect by an

observational method through group discussions. The primary data collected were from the targeted respondents in the selected refugee camps through interview. The secondary data (images and statistical data) collected from the e-space. Cluster Sampling of Probability has been used for the primary data collection. The data was collected from 12 groups in each selected refugee camps and similar data collected by phone interrogation. SPSS and some possible statistics methods used for data analysis.

3. Livelihood and social status

Tamilnadu state government announced many livelihood assistances for the refugees though the assistances are not reaching the refugees to the fullest and vastly drops during distribution process. In fact, even Tamil people of Tamilnadu are frequently exploited in the civil supply system (ration system). Though they have right to raise voices, make complaints and protest against the exploitations and corruptions, they also do it often but receiving the just is mostly a remote choice even to the Tamilnadu people. Most of the cases the state institutions always ignored the feelings and expressions of the people that they have not offered any remedies and justice to the complaints and protests. Tamilnadu people often faced the ignorance and repression from the authorities; they habituated the worst situation and, adjusted the political administration with hatred. This situation clearly observed by the refugees and they realized that they could utilize the minimum availability. Refugees expressed that "The people of Tamilnadu itself are frequently exploited by the authorities without getting any proper solution to their problems and they lost hope to get justice through any expressions, In this situation, how can we fight against the exploitation on us?"

Beginning, the refugees were living in temporary huts and then they remodeled it from 1990 onwards;

according to the remodel, they altered it into 10x10 Sq.feets with basic amenities.²⁰ The handbook stated that the huts remodeling was done further with sufficient spaces. But, the refugees are living in these small shelters with many family members; even in many such families, more than six members living in a single hut with lots of embarrassments including in keeping sex. The state has allotted funds every year to renovate the shelters nevertheless the huts are mostly renovated by the refugees themselves through the cash on their hand. In all rainy and hot seasons, inconvenience caused to the refugees cannot be uttered on words. I have a doubt, how many houses renovated for the past year by the state assistance?, to check, I made a call to a friend in a camp from my new mobile number; introduced myself and I asked my doubt, he said, "No houses renovated from the past five years through the state assistance". I thanked him; after few minutes, he called my old number and ensured that I called; and he told, "We have frequently threatened and tortured by the police regarding to leak the facts". Only the Kottapattu transit camp in Trichy district and Gummudi poondi camp in Tiruvallur district have fulfilled with some U.N standards and other camps are in very poor condition, one toilet is used by on an average 150-200 people. The state allotted 3.733 million to strengthen the basic infrastructure facilities under 14 categories during the financial year 2010. Not even in one camp is worth for ₹30 Lakhs, which is allocated by the state. Almost, the entire refugee camps shows damaged bore wells, broken drainage lines, havana overhead tanks, and lack of good roads, toilets and streetlights. In many rural camps, pigs are living with the people casually.

They had better medical assistance from the state, especially, pregnant women mostly benefitted with systematical medical aids and special cash assistance for six months (monthly one thousand from 8th-10th months of pregnancy and three months after delivery). Notwithstanding, they accused that other state assistances such as Monthly Cash Doles, Rice at Subsidized Rate, Aluminum Utensils, Free Clothing Materials are not available for the beneficiaries from the proper channels. In fact, they stated that the officials expropriating most of the assistance under the state's scheme during the distribution. Refugees have dramatically heightened risk to expose to violence, trauma, and other stressors well recognized to be detrimental to mental and behavioral health, resulting in substantial human suffering and economic costs. While the expropriations have been creating critical

mentally depressive status even, there is no way for them to make a complaint and appeal.

In addition, very low number of refugees have received some general state's schemes for refugees (state insurance scheme for life saving treatments, free color television scheme, sports equipments, aids and equipments for disabled persons, issue of driving licenses and Chief Minister's relief fund) by giving bribe to the camp administrators. In fact, Tamilnadu people can get the state's welfare schemes through forced bribe. In some cases, they fight against the forced bribe; however, the accessing status of refugees to receive the same is very low. Even, they are in very worst social condition in Tamilnadu than the war surrounded Eelam. They harshly afflicted with some social and psychological problems; their cultural values are completely forgotten, child marriage, suicides, alcoholic addictions, and dropouts were new phenomena confronting them. They prohibited expressing their caste and economic domination by the LTTE rule under the declaration of ISGA (Interim Self Governance Authority) in Eelam, the ethics dropped here. Women are in secure condition in Eelam during the LTTE rule; their security is becoming questionable here.

4. Exploitations and harassments

Eelam Tamils are vastly working some informal sectors especially, in small-scale construction field and in trucks. They get very difficult and low quality work with 250 to 400 salary and even, these earning sources available only three or four days in a week. The refugees popularly experienced exploitations in claiming the state assistances by the concerned authorities. They often exploited and abused in the working places, especially females are mostly threatened and sexually abused in the working places. Hence, they strongly avoiding work outside the camps and, they will choose tailoring, making match boxes and other cottage industrial works. Male refugees stated, "We often forced by the Co-Tamil workers of Tamilnadu to buy foods and alcohols to them". In some working places, refugees have experienced atrocities and beaten by the Co-workers. The neighboring Tamils exploited more than 90 percent of refugees by offering credits with high interest rate. The creditors tortured even the refugees and sometimes they threatened to kill. Of course, the vital economic exploitations among the Eelam Tamils are perpetrating by the illegal creditors.

During the recent students uprising against the LLRC recommendations and the USA's resolution in Geneva, the protesters chanted that the Eelam Tamils

are the blood relatives of us. However, realistically the refugees are getting highly discriminating treatment from the neighboring Tamils locally. The nearby Tamils of the refugee camps treating the refugees as a slave or ridiculed them, especially women refugees often experienced the teasing and harassing by the outsiders. So, they feel insecure from the neighboring Tamils of the camps. Even, the state is indirectly suffering them through the open liqueur shops and bars. Most of the male refugees have given their earnings to the shops. At present Tamilnadu government earning, significant revenue by the liqueur business and, it earned 18,000 Crores (180 Billion) in 2011-2012 fiscal year through the TASMAL.²¹ Recently, a law college girl student, Nandhini conducted fasting unto death in Madurai with some students and social activists support against the liqueur bars even, they demanded to implement the complete exemption of alcohol in Tamilnadu and, they chanted the alcoholic addictions are devastating many families.²² In fact, most of the Eelam Tamil families are also devastating by the alcoholic addictions. A refugee worriedly said, "After coming to Tamilnadu, most of the men had addicted to alcohol and they spend their earnings completely for the addiction". He also said that LTTE totally banned alcohol in Eelam territory. Moreover, the substantial impacts of the addictions frequently reflected in the camps through domestic violence, wife and child battering, sexual violations etc.

They reluctantly said some additional information that,

- ⌘ The police and local gangsters are calling the female refugees for forced sexual relationship.
- ⌘ The police are registering false case on the husbands even if the wives are not co-operating with them.
- ⌘ The refugees forced to accept certain crimes, which are unable to find the actual perpetrators.

5. Denial of rights

Indian government guaranteed the right in equality to all citizens of India. Nevertheless, it has not treated all country's refugees equally, the government has ensured maximum rights to the Tibetan refugees and they permitted to get jobs in public services. The Eelam Tamil refugees receive the worst treatment from Indian Government in the refugee's category. They are almost ignored by the states compared to other refugees. They frequently experienced all forms of discrimination in all areas like governmental, non-governmental and private sectors including educational institutions and hospitals. Complete repression is imposed on the camp people regarding to express their feelings and defects by demands, protests and speeches in public places. Many Eelam Tamils attempted to give minimal contribution for the recent pro students uprising for the liberation of Tamil Eelam agenda in Tamilnadu. They requested the nearest police stations to conduct one-day demonstration for assisting student's voice; the state refused the request in many places. During the data collection, many Eelam Tamils expressed their anguish for their inability to give voice for their own



Association banner in front of Tibetan refugees camp at Kodaikanal (Tamilnadu)



Eelam Tamils refugees camp at Thalaiyuthu, Tirunelveli (Tamilnadu)

Figure 4 : Statuses of Tibetan and Eelam Tamil refugees camp in Tamilnadu (India)

people, who affected in the end of Eelam war IV. Some people unable to control their grief and began to cry and even they accused that the global society, especially Indian government, did not act with basic humanity. The people are always not allowed to assemble inside or outside of the camp and, they are strongly restricted to form associations. At the same time, Tibetan and Nepalese refugees are completely excluded from the restrictions, so, they easily registering an association and get all welfares through it.

'Q' branch police department restricted the Eelam Tamils to move anywhere outside the camp after 6 P.M. It is worst form of repression. Therefore, the people choose the employment opportunities in small-scale construction and other local fields. The restriction is creating many problems on Eelam Tamils' everyday life. Due to this, they are facing various problems to obtaining emergency medical needs even during emergency. In addition, the restricted context created an opportunity favorably for the enforcement agents to torture the camp people who are working outside the camp, most of the people frequently assaulted by the police by this issue and sometimes the enforcement personals snatches money from the working refugees who are arriving late to camp. In India, the people are considered as poor slaves. Some people said, "It is better to live in our own soil". Often, the camp children have not admitted easily in the nearest educational institutions that they also experienced ignorance and discrimination there. Very few seats are available for them to study. (Some private institutions are voluntarily giving extra seats for the camp children in school and higher level). Some people commented about the cause of the repressed handling of Eelam refugees that the Indian government is treating Eelam Tamil refugees intended to revenge for the Rajiv Gandhi assassination.

Since 1993, suspected refugees who linked with any militant organization are locked in special camps located at Chengalpattu and Poonamallee. Militant activities increased after 1990s and, the state refused the entry of some militant group cadres like Tamil Eelam Liberation Organization (TELO), Eelam National Democratic Liberation Front (ENDLF) and Eelam People's Revolutionary Liberation Front (EPRLF) and the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE). Many refugees locked in the special camps under the suspicion that they are having connection with those militant organizations. In fact, the special camps are also considering as torture camps. Few months ago, refugees in special camps were fasting continuously in the camps with the demand to close

the special camps and put them in ordinary camps. Some political parties and movements have supported the refugees and given pressure to the government to accept the demands. A refugee named Eela Nehru given some unexpected data in an interaction over phone. He said,

"The 'Q' branch police kidnapped 6 refugees before 1 year from the Puzhal camp; I spread this information to some Tamil nationalist political leaders and they pressurized the government. Finally, the police sent four refugees back and had taken two others in their custody for a money laundering case without any complaint, after 13 days, the police arrested me in the same case and we imprisoned in Chengalpattu special camp. Thereafter, the police refused us to appear in front of the court for 13 hearings, and we lost seven hearings due to the lawyers' court boycotts. Almost, we appeared eight hearings in front of court within the last one year, during the last appearance in court, I asked the magistrate that nobody given complaint against us and, no witnesses produced yet against us, and then how the system deal our issue?, also I requested the judge, either punish or release us. After the argument, the magistrate condemned the police and ordered to produce relevant evidences and documents before the court during the next trial. The police irritated with me and shifted me to the Trichy central prison. In this regard, the government spent 46 lakhs only for me for the past one year. Now the government wants to expatriate us to Sri Lanka. If this expatriation happens, we will be killed brutally by the Sri Lankan army because our arrest intentionally caused by the effort of us to collect 30 million signatures from Tamilnadu people to send to UNO to make the supportive vote of India for Sri Lanka at the Geneva conference as invalid. In addition, the intelligence department reported to the Indian government that we are trying to stimulate and accelerate the student's protests against the government. Hence, the government decided to handover us to the Sri Lanka as early as possible".

In addition, he said,

"All Eelam Tamil people who are seeking refuge in other countries are in a safe living condition environment. Nevertheless, our own ethnic soil denied that opportunity, environment, and it is trying to destruct us totally, and we feel very painful by the mistreatment. Of course, we are deceived by the soil which we believed a lot".



Figure 5: Refugees' continuous fasting in Special camps

These statements are exploring the covert repression of the government against the Eelam Tamils. In fact, Sri Lankan government declared that the LTTE totally destructed during the Eelam war IV; even then the Indian government does not eliminate the ban on LTTE in India. If it decides to remove the ban, it must close the special camps. But, the government refused to come forward to remove the ban. Of course, this issue freaking in a complicated ethnic sense political strategy. Moreover, the government has restricted covertly to all mass media agencies to hide all sensitive issues of the Eelam refugees especially, special camps issues.

These inhuman repressions are changing the refugees' present and future life questionable. Hence, the people try to return quickly to their motherland or try to move other countries, which are providing better asylum for the refugees. A refugee said with regret that, "We lost many people during the run from country to country for better and peaceful life because we are poor people, we are unable to travel in flights and we are able to travel only by the boats in the seaway in dangerous manner without any security". The refugees regretted about the lack of racial consciousness of the Tamil people in Tamilnadu. Some Tamil nationalist self-advertising political parties and movements are giving voice for the refugees. Almost currently, the refugees losing credibility on them because, few protests and some diplomatic moves of the parties and movements after the Mullivaykkal Tamil destruction have created great discontent among the refugees about them.

6. Discussions

Many Tamil activists alleged that the dominant

cunnings of the Aryam, Parpaniam and Dravidam have caused the impotence of the current environment of the Tamil society that blocking the Tamils to get their shared powers of Indian democracy as well as autonomy. Of course, famous critical writers in India like, Arundhati roy have pointed out that the Indian nation is a tent of many oppressed nationalities. Moreover, the Tamil activists agreed the critics with the exploiting domination of the Aryam and Parpaniam. They believed that this strategic domination directly influenced in the Eelam war, the forced migration of Tamils' and the present repressions on Tamilnadu Tamils and the persecutions on Eelam Tamils.

Professor Noam Chomsky discussed statuses about the Cambodian refugees' in the end of 20th century that we should be wary of "the extreme unreliability of refugee reports":

Refugees are frightened and defenseless, at the mercy of alien forces. They naturally tend to report what they believe their interlocutors wish to hear. While these reports must be considered seriously, care and caution are necessary. Specifically, refugees questioned by Westerners or Thais have a vested interest in reporting atrocities on the part of Cambodian revolutionaries, an obvious fact that no serious reporter will fail to take into account.

Chomsky harshly criticized that the new refugee policy of Australia, he said, "The true measure of the moral level of a society is how it treats the most vulnerable people". In fact, he should be offering this advice to India because of

the denial of even basic human rights to the Eelam Tamil refugees.

The overall perceptions of the Eelam Tamil refugees' status in India have to ensure that the political diplomatic role of India in the Eelam Tamils issue. Separatist ideas amplified during the 1965 anti-Hindi agitation in Tamilnadu; it repressed psychologically by the Indian politicians, and the Tamilnadu politics vastly occupied by the opportunists after the agitation. Tamil Eelam insurgents gradually lost the support from Tamilnadu after M.G.Ramachandran's decade that directly influenced in the living condition of the Eelam refugees in Tamilnadu. Moreover, Rajiv Gandhi assassination completely crashed the relationship bond between Eelam insurgents and India, the enmity putting forcibly on Tamil people by various covert repressions to their support for Eelam Tamils. In addition, India fears about the independent separate Eelam demand may stimulate the idea of separate Tamilnadu. Hence, it directly declared that we only try to bring a solution for the Eelam Tamils within the Integrated Sri Lanka. Recently, the students put a demand to the government during the students uprising that provide dual citizenship for the Eelam Tamils in India, as always, the government denied the demand. The Eelam

independent struggle and the people discharge have also directly interlinked with the economic and geopolitics of the global society. Whatever in the existing global environment, an ethnic liberation and security is must need for all societies because, many world societies are not willing to establish and keep equality at all levels. More than humanity, economic strategies and the political strategies are playing significant roles in the existing global political moves especially, decision and policymaking. Ongoing cruelties and injustice on Eelam Tamils may be neutralize, when all global governments will targets to reach the self-sufficient rule, not an empery rule and, the corporatist dominations also must be eliminate in the future.

However, such fundamental rights like movement, education, employment, legal protection are the minimal requirement to resettle the Tamil refugees in Eelam when peace return there. At present, there is no positive changes happen in the refugees' status by the national and state level political changes. Perhaps, omissions of political opportunism may creates some positive changes in the treatment of Eelam Tamil refugees. Lack of solidarity with in the Tamils around the world is resulting in the inability to protect their ethnic groups in their own soil.

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