

உலகத் தமிழர் பேரவை
Global Tamil Forum



GTF News Update
5th to 7th July 2014

Please find below the GTF news update for 5th to 7th July 2014. It also includes some of the key stories since 21st June.

--HIGHLIGHTS--

- Since the last news update, key stories include the official announcement of the UN investigation team on Sri Lanka as well as serious concerns raised regarding Australia's asylum seeker policy.
- In more recent news – 5th to 7th July – Cyril Ramaphosa, South Africa's Special Envoy to Sri Lanka, arrives in the country for discussions on reconciliation. In a speech to mark his 79th birthday, the Dalai Lama urges an end to anti-Muslim violence in Sri Lanka and elsewhere.

--KEY NEWS STORIES FROM 21st JUNE TO 4th JULY--

UN NEWS CENTRE

Three international experts tapped to assist with UN-mandated Sri Lanka conflict probe

<<http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=48127#.U7p3QPldUoq>>

UK GOVERNMENT

Foreign Secretary welcomes announcement of UN investigation team on Sri Lanka

<<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/foreign-secretary-welcomes-announcement-of-un-investigation-team-on-sri-lanka>>

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL

Amnesty International welcomes establishment of Sri Lanka war crimes investigation by UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights

<<http://www.amnesty.org/en/library/asset/ASA37/010/2014/en/a30f73e6-475f-478f-bdef-0f6b4e1c6d44/asa370102014en.pdf>>

CEYLON TODAY **COMMENTS CAN BE POSTED**

UNHRC begins SL probe

<<http://www.ceylontoday.lk/31-67073-news-detail-unhrc-begins-sl-probe.html>>

TAMIL GUARDIAN

UN rights chief announces inquiry panel, to investigate despite SL rejection

<<http://www.tamilguardian.com/article.asp?articleid=11364>>

BBC TAMIL

'இலங்கை அரசு மக்களைத் தடுத்தாலும் ஐநா விசாரணை நடக்கும்'

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/tamil/sri_lanka/2014/06/140630_asmajahangir_un.shtml>



UN HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL

Sri Lanka: UN rights experts urge to “Stop the promotion of hatred and faith-based violence
<<http://reliefweb.int/report/sri-lanka/sri-lanka-un-rights-experts-urge-stop-promotion-hatred-and-faith-based-violence>>

DAILY FT ****COMMENTS CAN BE POSTED****

Govt. ‘blatantly misinformed’ UNHRC about Aluthgama clashes: Muslim Council
<<http://www.ft.lk/2014/07/02/govt-blatantly-misinformed-unhrc-about-aluthgama-clashes-muslim-council/>>

CHANNEL FOUR NEWS

Tamil woman raped by Sri Lankan soldiers to be deported
<<http://www.channel4.com/news/tamil-woman-sri-lanka-deport-raped-sexual-violence>>

AFP

Australian Sri Lanka boat claims 'extremely troubling'
<<http://reliefweb.int/report/australia/australian-sri-lanka-boat-claims-extremely-troubling>>

SBS AUSTRALIA ****COMMENTS CAN BE POSTED****

Bishop rejects UN criticism of asylum seeker policy
<<http://www.sbs.com.au/news/article/2014/07/04/bishop-rejects-un-criticism-asylum-seeker-policy>>

--NEWS – 5th TO 7th JULY--

DAILY FT ****COMMENTS CAN BE POSTED****

Ramaphosa in town today to revive reconciliation
<<http://www.ft.lk/2014/07/07/ramaphosa-in-town-today-to-revive-reconciliation/>>

THE NATION ****COMMENTS CAN BE POSTED****

TNA to meet Ramaphosa tomorrow
<<http://www.nation.lk/edition/latest-top-stories/item/31071-tna-to-meet-ramaphosa-tomorrow.html>>

COLOMBO PAGE

Sri Lankan government ally opposes South African mediation in national issue
<http://www.colombopage.com/archive_14B/Jul06_1404668990CH.php>

CEYLON TODAY ****COMMENTS CAN BE POSTED****

Reveal the truth!
<<http://www.ceylontoday.lk/51-67684-news-detail-reveal-the-truth.html>>

AL-JAZEERA ****COMMENTS CAN BE POSTED****

Dalai Lama urges end to anti-Muslim violence
<<http://www.aljazeera.com/news/asia/2014/07/dalai-lama-urges-end-anti-muslim-violence-201476143339622956.html>>



THE SUNDAY LEADER ****COMMENTS CAN BE POSTED****

UN Tells Lanka to Engage

<http://www.thesundayleader.lk/2014/07/06/un-tells-lanka-to-engage/>

THE ISLAND ****COMMENTS CAN BE POSTED****

Britain hopes witnesses at UN probe on SL would not be harassed

http://www.island.lk/index.php?page_cat=article-details&page=article-details&code_title=106314

COLOMBO GAZETTE ****COMMENTS CAN BE POSTED****

US tells Lanka to address concerns

<http://colombogazette.com/2014/07/05/us-tells-lanka-to-address-concerns/>

THE REPUBLIC SQUARE ****COMMENTS CAN BE POSTED****

Australia complete unprecedented mid-sea transfer of asylum seekers

<http://www.therepublicsquare.com/world/2014/07/07/australia-complete-unprecedented-mid-sea-transfer-of-asylum-seekers/>

DAILY MIRROR SRI LANKA ****COMMENTS CAN BE POSTED****

Australia says 41 asylum seekers handed back to SL at sea

<http://www.dailymirror.lk/news/49352-australia-says-41-asylum-seekers-handed-back-to-sl-at-sea.html>

TAMIL GUARDIAN

Lords stress need for international war crimes inquiry to help end dispute between Tamils and Sri Lanka

<http://www.tamilguardian.com/article.asp?articleid=11464>

GOVERNMENT OF SRI LANKA

Chamithri Rambukwella appointed Vice-Chair at UN

<http://www.news.lk/news/sri-lanka/item/1550-chamithri-rambukwella-appointed-vice-chair-at-un>

DAILY FT ****COMMENTS CAN BE POSTED****

Chinese President in historic Lankan visit in Sept.

<http://www.ft.lk/2014/07/07/chinese-president-in-historic-lankan-visit-in-sept/>

--STATEMENTS/LETTERS/REPORTS--

COLOMBO TELEGRAPH ****COMMENTS CAN BE POSTED****

Controlling NGOs: "Defence Ministry Acting Beyond The Mandate" Says Lawyers Collective

<https://www.colombotelegraph.com/index.php/controlling-ngos-defence-ministry-acting-beyond-the-mandate-says-lawyers-collective/>

--OP-EDS/OPINION/INTERVIEWS--

THE SUNDAY TIMES SRI LANKA ****COMMENTS CAN BE POSTED****

Diplomatic blunder after blunder, now crisis with Pakistan also



<<http://www.sundaytimes.lk/140706/columns/diplomatic-blunder-after-blunder-now-crisis-with-pakistan-also-106059.html>>

COMMITTEE TO PROTECT JOURNALISTS

Sri Lanka must end media restrictions to facilitate reconciliation

<<http://www.cpj.org/blog/2014/06/sri-lanka-must-end-media-restrictions-to-facilitat.php>>

THE SUNDAY TIMES SRI LANKA ****COMMENTS CAN BE POSTED****

Refuge for refugees

<<http://www.sundaytimes.lk/140706/editorial/refuge-for-refugees-106054.html>>

--PARLIAMENT--

UK PARLIAMENT

HOUSE OF LORDS -3RD JULY – Baroness Tonge (Indp. Lib Dem) on UK funding to Sri Lanka

<<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201415/ldhansrd/text/140703w0001.htm#14070352000165>>

HOUSE OF LORDS – 2ND JULY – Lord Ahmed (Cross Bench) on reconciliation between Govt of Sri Lanka and Tamil community (question for debate)

<<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201415/ldhansrd/text/140702-0001.htm#14070270000318>>

HOUSE OF LORDS – 2ND JULY – Lord Ahmed (Cross Bench) on BBS in Sri Lanka (written question)

<<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201415/ldhansrd/text/140702w0001.htm#14070269000290>>

HOUSE OF LORDS – 25TH JUNE – Baroness Brinton (Lib Dem) on inter-communal violence in Sri Lanka

<<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201415/ldhansrd/text/140625w0001.htm#14062535000259>>

--KEY CAMPAIGNS (FOR YOUR ACTION)--

Sri Lanka Campaign

FREE JEYAKUMARI

<<http://www.srilankacampaign.org/takeaction.htm>>

Minority Rights International

CAMPAIGN FOR THE RIGHTS OF UPCOUNTRY TAMIL TEA PLANTATION WORKERS THE PRICE OF TEA

<<http://www.priceoftea.com/>>

Amnesty International

SRI LANKA: ENSURE TAMIL DETAINEES ARE CHARGED OR RELEASED

<<http://takeaction.amnestyusa.org/siteapps/advocacy/ActionItem.aspx?c=6oJCLQPAJiJUG&b=6645049&aid=15438>>



Avaaz petition

SRI LANKA: PUT WAR CRIMINALS BEHIND BARS - PETITION TO UNHRC TO INVESTIGATE MURDER OF 17 ACF (ACTION CONTRE FAIM) AID WORKERS IN 2006

[http://www.avaaz.org/en/petition/Sri Lanka Mettez les criminels de guerre derriere les barreaux/?wPqnBdb](http://www.avaaz.org/en/petition/Sri_Lanka_Mettez_les_criminels_de_guerre_derriere_les_barreaux/?wPqnBdb)