

**Oral Statement by Association Tourner La Page**

33rd Session of the United Nations Human Rights Council

September 20 2016, Geneva

ITEM 5 – Interactive Dialogue with HRC Advisory Committee

Reader : Ananthu Sasitharan

Thank you Mr Vice-President,

The Eelam Tamils in the North and East of the island of Sri Lanka are under the occupation of ethnic Sinhala military.

The human rights mechanisms operating in the island have become more and more Colomob-centric.

During the times of war and peace, UN human rights bodies were having focus that were sensitive to North and East.

The war ended in full-scale genocide with grave war-crimes and crimes against humanity.

The UN itself has accepted its systemic failure. But, the victims have been fully ignored.

UNs operations have been terminated and reduced in the North and East.

Dear President, the war was ended in a genocide. Tamil homeland is fully occupied. There is one Sinhala military soldier per 6 Tamil civilians.

The Human Rights High Commissioner who visited the island and UN Secretary General who visited the island have not spent enough time to inspect the situation of the victims. Their visiting agenda has been determined by Colombo-centric UN operations.

The United Nations Human Rights Council has an agenda Item, Number 7, which deals with Human rights situation in Palestine and other occupied Arab territories.

Although there is no war at the moment, there is full military occupation. The conflict is not over. There is a need for continuous monitoring on the occupied Tamil-speaking homeland in the North-East of the island.

I urged the council on behalf of the Tamil-speaking people in the North-East of Sri Lanka to establish an Agenda Item of its own to deal with one of the longest running conflicts in Asia.

Thank you