

What the election means for the Tamil Struggle....

We need your support now more than ever.



Support Our Work

Dear Member,

Thank you for your continued support of USTAG's work. With the return of the Rajapaksas, a climate of fear has returned for Tamils throughout the island. Under Rajapaksa's leadership, the space for dissent has shrunk and self-censorship has grown, while surveillance, militarization, repression and intimidation have been on the rise. Increasing discrimination paired with the country's current vulnerability to endure further human rights violations, has Tamil diasporas all over the world concerned and worried. **But hope has not**

been lost. Our work is more important now than it has ever been and we will continue to tirelessly advocate for peace and justice.

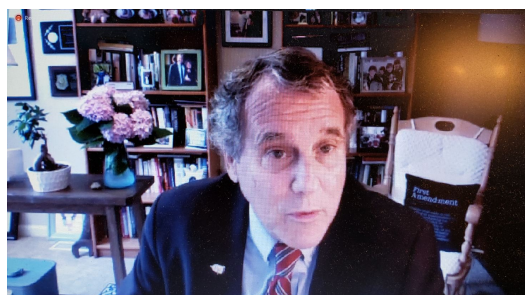
Here is what we have been doing to make a difference.

July & August 2020 Accomplishments

Our advocacy focus these last two months has been to tirelessly inform the highest levels of the US government of Sri Lanka's election results and the dangers it can pose for Tamils back home. We also brought significant awareness to human rights violations against Tamils amidst the containment of COVID-19, Sri Lanka's declining economy, and sentiments of violent Buddhist extremism.

July 25: 1983 July Tamil Massacre Event

We hosted a zoom call with guest speaker Senator Sherrod Brown (D-OH) to pay our respects and remember the victims of the July Tamil Massacre. By informing a US Senator about the violence of '83 riots and including youth speakers as well as survivor stories, our event- while mournful- brought a strong semblance of hope for our cause.



July 30: Congressional Caucus on Ethnic and Religious Freedom in Sri Lanka

Our advocacy reached high into the US government when we were in attendance for the Congressional Caucus on Ethnic and Religious Freedom in Sri Lanka. Led by Congressmen Danny Davis (D-IL) and Bill Johnson (R-OH), the Caucus briefing heard from four esteemed panelists who all brought valuable perspectives and accurate information about the troubling events currently occurring in Sri Lanka to the attention of Congress and the Administration.



[Read the Summary of the Event here](#)

August 16: Rep. Bill Johnson Fundraiser and Announcement of Upcoming Fundraisers

In order, to continue to push for reform and transitional justice in Sri Lanka, we need reliable people in our government who will understand our issues and help us implement the changes we want to see. It is for this reason that last week we hosted a fundraiser for the reelection of Congressman Bill Johnson, a long time friend of the Tamils who co-chairs the Congressional Caucus for Ethnic and Religious Freedom in Sri Lanka. Our successful fundraiser included three detailed presentations about Sri Lanka's ongoing issues and the danger they pose for Tamils on the island.

To further strengthen our relationships on Capitol Hill we have also helped fundraise for Rep. Tom Malinowski (D-NJ) and expect to host one in Sept. for Rep. Danny Davis (D-IL). We also hope to be hosting a fundraiser for candidates Joe Biden & Kamala Harris. We could use your assistance with all these events.

If you think your legislator may be willing to fight for justice for Tamils in Congress or the Senate and would like help in setting up a fundraiser for them, please email outreach@theustag.org for direct assistance.



Announcements & Continued Projects

Congressional Advocacy Internship

The USTAG strongly values the involvement of young people in our cause. For this reason, we work every week with young people across the country on Zoom and help them become better advocates for justice and peace for Tamils in Sri Lanka. We are always welcoming passionate, young individuals to join us in our mission. **If you know a young person who is passionate about justice and human rights, please consider sharing [this flyer](#) with them or email outreach@theustag.org for more details.**

Refugee Resettlement Help

USTAG has been helping some Tamil refugees stranded in Australian detention centres settle in USA and start new life in dignity. The latest to arrive on July 30th from PNG (camp in Papua New Guinea) is Mr. Y Ganesh (last name changed). Mr. Ganesh is in his early 30's and is the only male in family of 6 whose father disappeared in 1996. USTAG welcomed him to his new abode in Charlotte, North Carolina and provided early assistance. Anyone in the area who can provide further help of any sort can contact USTAG at info@ustag.org.

Additional News & Resources

United Institute of Peace: Discussion on Parliamentary Elections

The United States Institute of Peace (USIP) held a virtual discussion with experts to unpack the conduct and results of the elections and to examine the nature and shape of the new parliament and how it bodes for the future of democracy, rule of law, and intercommunal harmony in Sri Lanka. Click on the video below to watch the full discussion



Yasmin Sooka and The International Truth and Justice Project

Ms. Sooka, a leading human rights lawyer and the Executive Director of the Foundation for Human Rights in South Africa issued the following statement at the Congressional Caucus on Ethnic and Religious Freedoms in Sri Lanka.

[Read Ms. Sooka's Statement here.](#)

For more information on recent

human rights' violations in Sri Lanka,
visit the ITJP's website [here](#).

Show your Support for Tamils in Sri Lanka

To continue doing the valuable work we do, we need support from people like you now more than ever. YOU can deliver hope not only to our cause but also directly to Tamils in Sri Lanka by supporting our work.

Donate Now

Join Us Today

Visit our Website for More Information



Be sure to add outreach@theustag.org to your email contacts list for our newest updates!
Doing this protects against overzealous spam filters.

Copyright © 2020 United States Tamil Action Group, All rights reserved.

Our mailing address is:

United States Tamil Action Group, PO Box 20691, Columbus,

OH : 43220

Tel : 202 595 3123

info@theustag.org

Want to change how you receive these emails?
You can update your preferences or unsubscribe from this list.

