

Speech at Teso

Monday 20 August 2012, by [KARUNARATNE Vickramabahu \("Bahu"\)](#) (Date first published: 19 August 2012).

Honorable Chairman Mr. Karunanidhi, other leaders and distinguish guests,

Comrades and friends,

I am very thankful to the organizers of TESO, in particular to Mr. Radhakrishna for giving this opportunity to participate in this event and to explain the sufferings in my country. They had to under go many difficulties fight hard and over come many obstacles to organise this meeting. I also faced difficulties to come here. Though many TNA MPs were willing to come they could not cross the barriers. However this is a victory and we must go forward. This huge crowd before me, reminds me of the remembrance meeting that I addressed in London few years back. At that time we were emerging from a defeat. That meeting gave strength to go forward. I am sure this meeting will increase our courage to go forward to win freedom for the Tamils in Elam home land in our country.

As many speakers said the war was a disaster. The genocidal war of President Mahinda brought misery to not only to the Elam Tamils but also to the southern masses too. It destroyed the entire Vanni civilization. Over hundred thousand are unaccounted and there are 90 thousand widows in Elam region. Still there is a military rule there, and even Tamil MPs are unable to do politics freely. Resources in the area land, earth resources and mineral resources are grabbed and given to alien forces mainly MNCs, without any consultation of Elam Tamils. Sinhala-nisation is also a problem. Mahinda concentrated power through 18th amendment and terrorized the southern masses too. Even the global masters who supported the war had to intervene and say that some thing has to be done. Under all these pressures Mahinda regime came out with LLRC and the report was accepted by the UN and President Mahinda agreed to implement it. Though this report was made by a committee appointed by Mahinda, it contains very important recommendations which are very similar to the resolutions approved by TESO. Also it goes further to propose devolution beyond 13th amendment, with power over law and order, land and taxes. Thus it spells out a devolution that could go towards an accepted solution.

However Mahinda has not done any thing to implement the recommendations, particularly which is politically important. He promised Indian leaders several times that LLRC recommendations will be implemented. But those are broken promises. Still the Indian government supports Mahinda regime. Why? They supported and gave every help to conduct the war. So much so, at that time President Mahinda said that he is conducting the war of India against the LTTE. Mahinda has signed agreements with global powers too and he is surviving while attacking worker, peasants, fishers and students who are fighting against rising prices, cuts in social welfare and elimination of subsidies. Not only the working people but also industrialists and merchants are turning against the government.

We of the Nava Sama Samaja Party and other left parties have joined hand with the other oppositional parties, UNP, TNA, DPF to press the government to implement the LLRC recommendations. It is a successful many sided campaign which is going on. Mahinda says he is implementing, but he is obstructed by the chauvinist within the government. He has become a prisoner of this chauvinist war mongers. Our campaign exposed the internal divisions within the ruling regime. We believe that TESO campaign here will be a parallel to what we are doing there.

TESO could become an international campaign in addition to becoming an all India movement for justice for Elam Tamils; with justice to live in a united Lanka. Already there was a suggestion in the morning to have a TESO campaign in Argentina. That shows the interest that is growing among those who are sympathetic to the suffering masses in my country. Let us get together and go forward.

Thank you.

Dr. Vickramabahu
