**The Passage of an alleged “Tamil Genocide” bill in Canada, under questionable circumstances.**

Canada is a country where a highly politically active Tamil Diaspora is in residence. A diaspora which is active, and works to advance the interests of the community is an asset to the people and should be welcomed. However, if its actions are designed to import to Canada the very same divisive ethnic strife that had plagued the Island Nation for decades, until the snuffing out of the LTTE in May 2009, then such a diaspora bodes ill.

The United Nation's Human right's commissioner Zeid Al Hussein issued a press release in September 2014 stating clearly that NO GENOCIDE happened in Sri Lanka during the military action against the LTTE. The latter is a group banned as a terrorist group in Canada and most other nations. The TNA spokesman Mr. Sumanthiran also rejected the genocide claim. Mr. Wigneswaran, the most politically bankrupt among the Tamil leaders was the main proponent of genocide. Nevertheless, a number of strongly pro-LTTE leaders of the Tamil community in the Toronto area and its suburbs have attempted to establish their own narrative of some 170,000 Tamils having been massacred during the last days of the war.

The mechanism they have adopted is to declare a “Tamil Genocide Education week” through a bill in the Provincial legislature. The story behind the bill has been ably summarized in a lead article in the Island by Shamindra Ferdinando (Island, 10-05-21: https://island.lk/genocide-bill-against-sri-lanka-passed-in-canada/). The bill will also channel provincial funds to teach this narrative to school children as a part of a “genocide awareness” lesson in history. It will help Tamil refugee claims and in opposing deportation to Sri Lanka since, as asserted by the bill, Tamils are put into a life-threatening situation if they were to go to Sri Lanka!

The Ontario legislature has no constitutional competence to determine or even raise questions about genocide in a foreign country. That is the prerogative of the Federal government. Nevertheless, because “Education” is a provincial power in Canada, the Tamil activists have attempted to bring this in through the back door. However, to pass a bill in the legislature, you need the support of the ruling party. A quorum of 12 is needed. It suffices if most MPs simply agree to abstain, and if only a few are won over.

HERE COMES THE POWER OF MONEY.

In fact, there were very few people in the Ontario legislature for the reading of the Bill, and as yet it has not been clarified if the required quorum of 12 has been met. Although there were over a hundred submissions asking for a review of the bill at committee stage, none of this was taken up when the chairman of the committee was changed and Mr. Kanapathipillai who seconded Mr. Thanigasalam's Bill had mysteriously become the chairman of the very same committee reviewing the matter! Things are sufficiently murky that Dr. Neville Hewage, a Law Professor, has submitted a court challenge.

Mr Thanigasalam arranged an “intimate meeting with the Premier of Ontario” with a $1000 charge per head for joining the chat in support of the so-called bill 104 to legitimize the “Tamil genocide Education” act. There were other fund raisers, and it is alleged that some $300,000 were provided to the Conservative Party that rules Ontario today, by Mr. Thanigasalam and his friends. It seems that non-Tamil diaspora groups that made submissions but had no funds to offer, could not meet any political VIPs or even get their documents tabled at committee!

One of Mr. Thanigasalam's fundraiser events was titled “Donate to seek the support of the Premier of Ontario regarding the Tamil Genocide bill. An invitation on behalf of MPP Vijay Thanigasalam MPP for Scarborough-Rough Park”! In 2011 Mr. Thanigasalam posted photos of Prabhakaran wishing him posthumously for his 57th birth day. In another post he eulogized the Black-Tiger suicide killer squad. He took those openly pro-LTTE posts down in getting ready for presenting himself as a Conservative Candidate in 2017.

Members of the Tamil community had been fleeced by the LTTE since the 1980s. An irate member of the Tamil community, Mr. Lakanthas Pathmanathan, writing to a local Tamil newspaper (“Theshiam”), asks if this is not sheer political bribery.

**Tamil newspaper says Tamil funding to Ford's party was “bribary”: https://thesiyamnation.com/22498**

He writes “If the support of the Premier can only be won through donations, why should two members of the provincial parliament be elected to represent the Tamils? Isn't the Premier of the Province supposed to be acting in the best interests of the people (irrespective of whom they voted for)? How much longer are you to use the Genocide for your political mileage? Issues like these set dangerous precedence, as the reality is for the Tamils to work in unity irrespective of their political support. How long will a person use the Tamil genocide as a trump card for his selfish political gains and be on the Premier's good books?"

Mr. Pathmanathan had the courage to write in a local Tamil news sheet and express his anger. He couldn't have done this if the Lankan army had not eliminated the LTTE in May 2009. The vast majority of Tamils “don't want to get involved” openly. The Sinhalese are even more reluctant, even to identify themselves as “Sinhalese”, preferring to call themselves “Sri Lankans”, and hoping for ethnic unity by not saying anything that may “offend the Tamils”. That had been the political position of liberal minded Sri Lankans for a long time, even while the State and the LTTE practiced military terror on each other.

Those liberal attitudes may well have led to thirty years of futile negotiations with hardened terrorists who came to power by assassinating their own leaders ranging from Amirthalingam to Thiruchelvam. These leaders were declared “traitors” because they were “too close” to the Sinhalese and may have found a peaceful non-separatist solution!

In the meantime it should be noted that the successive Lankan governments and most of the diplomats sent to Ottawa (with a few outstanding well-known exceptions) have not been able to do much more than renew passports or handle issue visas, and that too with a long and Kafkaesque delay.

Some of the diplomats were busier attending to the education of their children in Canadian schools or universities. It may be that they gave up because they found an impenetrable stone wall in the Canadian Political establishment, as well as in the Canadian Academia where “the oppressed and discriminated Tamil refugee” is a politically convenient narrative taken for granted. Even in appointing diplomats, the Lankan government had sent in diplomatic nominees who are sure to get rejected by Canada's politicians. These politicians have been well greased by fund raisers linked to pro-LTTE political groups who control the shots and the votes in Canada's Tamil-Diaspora politics.

 The Lankan Foreign ministry may have many fires to douse, but the bill 104, or Tamil “Genocide claims” bill, now enacted as the Tamil Genocide Education Week (TGEW) act is something it has to take very seriously. It is a way of re-writing history and asserting a genocide when such a grave act did NOT happen.