

THE INTERNATIONAL MOVEMENT AGAINST ALL FORMS OF DISCRIMINATION AND RACISM

IMADR Oral Statement: 20th Session of the Human Rights Council

Item 4: General Debate

28 June, 2012

Thank you Madame President,

While welcoming the resolution adopted at the last Council session on Sri Lanka, we also want to highlight the regrettable fact that the Sinhala and Tamil version of the LLRC report has not yet been provided by the Government of Sri Lanka. Unfortunately, we could not see genuine efforts or credible action by the GOSL so far, for the implementation of LLRC recommendations, for the reconciliation, and for the establishment of the rule of law. We are also disturbed by the statement made by the former AG, Mr. Peiris during the court hearing on the case of disappearance of the journalist and HRD, Mr. Eknaligoda, that the assertion of Mr. Peiris, who led the State delegation, during the CAT examination of Sri Lanka was based on hearsay. In our view, this reflects the approach of the GOSL towards Human Rights, UN HR system and the State's accountability. It shows the lack of responsibility of the State for its obligation and commitment under international HR laws, failure to recognise the gravity of the issues, and, most regrettably, its insensitivity to the victims of HR violations on the ground. In the post-war Sri Lanka today, the culture of impunity is still prevalent and no domestic mechanism is in place to ensure the state accountability. Disappearance is still daily threat to HRDs. NGOs are kept under surveillance of police and armed forces as well as under the control of the Defence Ministry.

Madame President,

IMADR further draws to your attention the situation of indigenous peoples of Ryukyus in Okinawa, Japan, which is documented in detail in our written statement to this Council (A/HRC/20/NGO/20). Various rights of the indigenous peoples of Ryukyus have been violated through long-standing discriminatory policy of Japanese government, colonisation and militarisation, as well as the presence and disproportionately high concentration of US military and its bases. Moreover, the construction of new bases and the deployment of military plane called Osprey are currently forced by the both governments despite the strong opposition by local population. Crashes of Osprey are repeatedly reported since its development leaving grave concern over the safety of the machine. However, the named governments are planning to deploy it in Okinawa, even at the base which is located in the middle of urban and residential area.

We would also like to express our grave concern over the increasing number of disappearance, especially that of opposition members and political activists in Bangladesh. IMADR calls upon the government of Bangladesh to take all necessary measures to ensure impartial and independent investigations into all allegations of disappearance immediately.

Thank you Madame President.