

NATIONS WITHOUT STATES:

BIG STATES VERSUS SMALL PEOPLES

A call for human rights, freedom, justice and self-determination
on the 54th anniversary of World Human Rights Day

10th December 2012

“The love of liberty is the love of others. The love of power, is the love of ourselves.” William Hazlitt

“The only freedom which deserves the name is that of pursuing our own good, in our own way, so long as we do not attempt to deprive other of theirs, or impede their efforts to obtain it.” John Stuart Mill

Foreword

1. As a coalition of activists, engaged in campaigns on behalf of the world many small, stateless and subjugated nations; we make this important appeal for justice and fundamental rights of the world’s disempowered, persecuted and suppressed small nations, such as the Kurds, Kashmiris, Tamils, Chechens, Sikhs, Nagas, Igbos (Biafra), Matebele, Karens, Ogoni, Tibetan, Uyghurs, Swarak, West Papuans, Banda Acehans and more.

“Whereas recognition of the inherent dignity and of the equal and inalienable rights of all members of the human family is the foundation of freedom, justice and peace in the world,

Whereas disregard and contempt for human rights have resulted in barbarous acts which have outraged the conscience of mankind, and the advent of a world in which human beings shall enjoy freedom of speech and belief and freedom from fear and want has been proclaimed as the highest aspiration of the common people,

Whereas it is essential, if man is not to be compelled to have recourse, as a last resort, to rebellion against tyranny and oppression, that human rights should be protected by the rule of law,”

PREAMBLE, 1948, Universal Declaration of Human Rights,

2. The fundamental and uncompromising principles of human rights apply to all peoples. The right of self-determination of a people to decide and govern its own affairs and choose its own political status within or without a particular established political structure or state; is a **COLLECTIVE HUMAN RIGHT!**

3. The history of humanity is the struggle for both individual human rights and at the same time, the right of a people who exist as a collective social-human unit to decide their own conditions of life – free from domination, discrimination, persecution, genocide, interference, imposition and subjugation. These are well-known and long repeated principles of fundamental freedom and justice, enshrined in the United Nations founding charter and reiterated in the UN DECLARATION OF GRANTING INDEPENDENCE TO COLONIAL PEOPLES & COUNTRIES (14th December 1960), INTERNATIONAL CONVENANT ON CIVIL & POLITICAL RIGHTS (16th December 1966) and INTERNATIONAL CONVENTANT ON SOCAL, ECONOMIC & CULTURAL RIGHTS (16th December 1966). Human history is a continuous struggle, to this very day upon the 54th anniversary of the UNIVERSAL DECLARATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS, for right of small, natural communities and societies to exist as natural bodies of people as against the encroachments, superimpositions and intrusions and domination of big engulfing, superimposing states. The struggle for empowerment of true, grassroot peoples, remains as much relevant and potent today, as it was 50 years ago, 100 years ago, 200 years ago and 500 years ago. The self-assumed, arrogant supremacy of the political state, continues to oppress, brutalise and subjugate people.
4. Despite the UNIVERSAL DECLARATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS 54-years ago, followed by the aforementioned subsequent declarations on self-determination to peoples in 1960 and, again, in 1966; across the globe, numerous small nations continue to burn in brutal persecution, repression and genocide, by large, imperious super-states like India, China, Russia, Nigeria, Turkey, Indonesia and more.
5. Actual, true, authentic nations, are invariably small, compact, integrated groups of humans in a few hundreds of thousands to a few million. This is as against the artificial mega-sized nations of India and China whose populations run into billions and whose territories equal the sum total of 26-states of Western Europe (UK, Germany, France, Spain, Austria, Norway, Denmark, Italy, etc). The states of India, China, Russia, Nigeria, Sri-Lanka, Turkey, and Zimbabwe for example, are not actual countries in a meaningful, true democratic sense. They are superimposed, imperial style political super-states, highly stricturous, centralised and insistent on singularisation – Russification, Indianisation, Chinafication, Nigeriafication, Turkification, Sinhalsation (Sri Lanka).
6. Human rights continue to be denied to small nations all across the world. Arrests, state violence, state terrorism, torture, killings, and disappearances: this is the norm in many of the home territories of the aforementioned nations.
7. Regrettably, despite this brutal, genocidal reality being well documented by international bodies like Amnesty International and Human Rights Watch and much of the world’s global media; the world’s many governments, both democratic and undemocratic, are unwilling to speak up about these human rights crimes which are clearly and profusely going on against these small nations.

"National aspirations must be respected; people may now be dominated and governed only by their own consent. *Self determination* is not a mere phrase; it is an imperative principle of action. . . . "President Woodrow Wilson, 11th February 1918, 'Self-Determination' Speech

"Man cannot make principles, he can only discover them." Thomas Paine

Article 1, INTERNATIONAL CONVENANT ON CIVIL & POLITICAL RIGHTS (1966)

1. All peoples have the right of self-determination. By virtue of that right they freely determine their political status and freely pursue their economic, social and cultural development.
2. All peoples may, for their own ends, freely dispose of their natural wealth and resources without prejudice to any obligations arising out of international economic co-operation, based upon the principle of mutual benefit, and international law. In no case may a people be deprived of its own means of subsistence.
3. The States Parties to the present Covenant, including those having responsibility for the administration of Non-Self-Governing and Trust Territories, shall promote the realization of the right of self-determination, and shall respect that right, in conformity with the provisions of the Charter of the United Nations.

Call to the UN Secretary-General and European Commission on the 54th Anniversary

8. On this 54th anniversary of the historic **UNIVERSAL DECLARATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS**, we the stateless peoples and nations of the world – the Kurds, Tibetans, Sikhs, Tamils, West Papuans, Kashmiris, Chechens, Karens, Nagas, Banda Acehans, Swarak, Igbos, Matabele, Ogoni and many, many others – call for justice and freedom to be provided equally and fully to all including ourselves.
9. **Whereas, we have the aforementioned and other famous declarations from the United Nations and the founding charter of the United Nations is based on the explicit right of all peoples to decide their status – SELF-DETERMINATION; we continue to be gruesomely and oppressively denied that very fundamental freedom! We call upon the UN Secretary General BAN KI MOON, to pay attention to this fundamental, burning inequality, as the big states override, arrogate and subjugate over the small peoples of the world. We invite the UN Secretary General to make a public statement on this global crisis of unequal and oppressive distribution of power, of big over small. We invite the UN Secretary General to make a public statement about the unequal, limited and wholly fragmented application of the principle of self-determination across the globe. We ask the UN Secretary General to host an international meeting with representatives and activists from these disempowered and stateless nations, for a direct, democratic, grass-root dialogue.**
10. We affirm our commitment to the fundamental rights and freedoms expressed in the above Declaration, for which we continue to struggle and strive and for which we are subjected to savage persecution by the states that dominate and abuse us. We do so whilst our fundamental human rights and freedoms are being brutally broken and suppressed by big states which seek to impose and superimpose themselves upon us, without our consent, and limit and subordinate our

development as a people whilst the ruling elites of these big states enrich and empower themselves by hook and crook.

11. We take this key opportunity on this 54th anniversary to emphasise the continuing inequality, modern-day disguised imperialism and fundamental injustice upon small nations and peoples like ourselves. We have no voice in the United Nations, which has effectively become a club of big states, and compliant small states, dominated by the big monstrous political structures like Russia, China, and compliant small states like the United Kingdom.
12. We are being excluded and denied fair and equal representation, free and representative self-governance and free and full self-determination. We are the true grassroot nations of the world. We are excluded, dispossessed and subjugated by the big states which dominate the world political arena and the United Nations.
- 13. Human rights are as much about us small nations, who have been violently and aggressively stripped of our rights and freedoms, as it is about the human individual. Self-determination is one of the highest expressions of human rights. It expresses the will of hundreds, thousands and millions of individual to live together and freely progress their collective development, as a group; as against being subordinated and subject to the demands and impositions of a superimposing big state.**
14. We have been denied and stripped of our right to self-determination which is a collective fundamental freedom and human right. The coming together and functioning as a group of humans, as a collective human unity, a cohesive human society; is a fundamental human right. It is a natural right. The coming together as a people, a nation for the purpose of pursuing collective aspirations, collective welfare and collective development as a distinct and free society; is the most democratic expression of human development.
15. We the small peoples – the Kurds, Tibetans, Sikhs, Tamils, West Papuans, Kashmiris, Uyghurs, Chechens, Nagas, Karens, Swarak, Matabele, Ogoni, Igbo - today stand across the globe as an excluded and denied people. Whereas the big states of the world, like India, China, Nigeria, Russia and more; have exclusive a voice in the United Nations and international institutions and forums, there is no equivalent voice or representation for us stateless nations.
16. The global world structure consists solely of states. Non state groups like us remain excluded. Whilst we are the real, grassroot peoples of the world, the states exclude us and international forums formed and run by states, invariably exclude us. This cosy club of established states further dominate and superimpose upon us.
- 17. The states like Nigeria, India, Indonesia, Zimbabwe and others which have emerged from past, historic European colonial empires; are in fact not nations at all. They are simply artificial constructed states, to whom the outgoing British, French and other European powers have simply handed over power EN MASSE! The actual grassroot nations like the Sikhs, Tamils, Kashmiris, Banda Acehans, West Papuans, Ogoni, Igbos, Matebele, were oppressed during the historic imperialism, and remained oppressed and subjugated, no less if not more, today under the new replacement structures. The ruling elites have changed, but the disempowerment**

remains the same, and the human rights violations have become even more profuse and systematic.

18. We here call upon the UN Secretary-General, heads of democratic governments and like-minded international institutions; to recognise this gross unequal reality of the world. The vast majority of real, authentic nations like us, which are invariably small, compact in numbers, remain dispossessed and violently repressed and suppressed by these big state players who dominate and monopolise the United Nations and all other international decision-making. We have no say or voice in these processes.
19. The right of a people to determine their own affairs, form their own government, conduct their own public and civilian governance, and is a fundamental natural and human right. Throughout history, since the beginning of time, human groups and societies who have formed together as a social human unit (through common feelings, common geography, common beliefs and experiences manifest in common aspirations, common religion, common language, common social practises and collective solidarity) to pursue their common and collective welfare. They has opposed and resisted, the superimposing might of large, imperious super-states (i.e. Roman Empire, Mughal Empire, British Empire), invariably with much violence and genocidal onslaught by these hugely more powerful and aggressively domineering imperial states. This is a continual struggle for fundamental freedom and collective human liberty. We are in the thick and frontline of that continuous democratic, grassroot struggle against belligerent and monstrous, imperious state structures. No state has given up power and territory, willingly. None of the forenamed states – India, China, Russia, Nigeria, Sri Lanka, Indonesia, Burma, and Zimbabwe and beyond have consented to a referendum for the peoples like the Sikhs, Tamils, Banda Acehs, Kashmiris, Nagas, Igbos, Ogoni, and Matabele. These states have violently and genocidally sought to crush these peoples, and subsume them into a uniform, singularised state with one language, one identity, and one nation.
20. **Despite the ‘transfer of power’ between historic colonial empires to newly created successor states like India, Zimbabwe, Uganda, Nigeria, Indonesia during the 1940s, 1950s and 1960s; colonialism, imperialism and superimposing big, leviathan states remain the norm across the globe. States like India, China, Sri-Lanka, Russia, Indonesia, Nigeria, dominate, control and subsume and subdue numerous small nations within their gigantic, engulfing boundaries and centralising political grip. The above ‘transfer of power’ was no more than, the passage of power from one dominant source to another – from an old state to a newly created state. Actual peoples remain unempowered, and entirely disempowered in this historic shift of power from one set of hands to another.**
21. The creation of new ‘nations’, was entirely artificial, false, undemocratic and entirely deceptive. The construction of new successor states and the accompanying handover of power, was entirely negotiated between the outgoing imperial elites and incoming new elites.

The struggle for freedom and liberty from ancient times, at both an individual and collective human level, remains a continuous process to this very present day. Despite

the 1948 Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the 1960 Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Peoples & Countries, the story of humanity across the globe remains one of the big subjugating the small.

22. Moreover, the manner of this subjugation is tyrannical, violent, genocidal and entirely and wholly in breach of all the principles of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and Granting of Independence to Colonial Peoples & Countries.
- 23. The big states like India, China, Russia, and USA dominate the world political scene. They dominate the United Nations. They make the critical global decisions, which affect the rights of small nations.**
24. We the following nations are dominated, subjugated and subdued with violent force and genocide by these big monstrous, undemocratic states. None of these states like China, Russia, Nigeria, Zimbabwe or India have held any referendum or any form of direct, demonstrable consent from the peoples over whom they impose their centralising, monolithic governance. These states exist to serve the greed and desires of those who rule in them and those who benefit directly and indirectly from the existence, operation and preservation of these de-humanising monstrously territorial-political structures. This includes the overlapping ruling political elites, the economic elites, big multi-state profit driven corporations like banks, oil-drilling companies, who seek opportunities for producing their goods using cheap labour and selling the same goods across huge, singularised, open consumer markets. These are overlapping interest groups, with an invested interest in the status quo and power.
25. The coming together of individuals into a common group, a society, a people, a nation is the most powerful and authentic form of democratic action. These collective groups, at a natural, grassroot level, are invariably small and compact. This smallness makes them genuine and democratic, as against the large centralising, admixture of peoples like in India and China and Russia, projecting themselves as a single 'nation' over which these political governments seek to rule and superimpose.
26. Self-determination is a natural, fundamental right. It is the highest form of human right in practise and in principle. When a person is free to choice, to think, to act, to collaborate, to unite, to separate, to associate and disassociate, according to one's free aspirations and happiness; that is self-determination. That is the truest expression of liberty and human rights. That applies as much to the single human as it does to the collectivity of humans as a community, a society, a people, a nation.

“When the representative body have lost the confidence of their constituents, when they have notoriously made sale of their most valuable rights, when they have assumed to themselves powers which the people never put into their hands, then indeed their continuing in

office becomes dangerous to the State, and calls for an exercise of the power of dissolution.”

Thomas Jefferson

“The issue today is the same as it has been throughout all history, whether man shall be

allowed to govern himself or be ruled by a small elite.” Thomas Jefferson

“If any state in the Union will declare that it prefers separation... to a continuance in union... I have no hesitation in saying, 'let us separate.'
“Thomas Jefferson

“In the early ages of the world, according to the Scripture chronology there were no kings; the consequence of which was, there were no wars; it is the pride of kings which throws mankind into confusion.”
Thomas Paine

“Every spot of the old world is overrun with oppression. Freedom hath been hunted round the globe.” Thomas Paine

“We fight not to enslave, but to set a country free, and to make room upon the earth for honest men to live in.” Thomas Paine

“Those who expect to reap the blessings of freedom must, like men, undergo the fatigue of supporting it.” Thomas Paine

“I believe in one God, and no more; and I hope for happiness beyond this life. I believe the equality of man; and I believe that religious duties consist in doing justice, loving mercy, and endeavouring to make our fellow-creatures happy.” Thomas Paine

“All national institutions of churches, whether Jewish, Christian, or Turkish, appear to me no other than human inventions set up to terrify and enslave mankind, and monopolize power and profit.” Thomas Paine

“When in the Course of human events, it becomes necessary for one people to dissolve the political bands which have connected them with another, and to assume among the powers of the earth, the separate and equal station to which the Laws of Nature and of Nature's God entitle them, a decent respect to the opinions of mankind requires that they should declare the causes which impel them to the separation. We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.— That to secure these rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed, — That whenever any Form of Government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the Right of the People to alter or to abolish it, and to institute new Government, laying its foundation on such principles and organizing its powers in such form, as to them shall seem most likely to affect their Safety and Happiness. “

Declaration of Independence, of Thirteen American Colonies

“Mankind are more disposed to suffer, while evils are sufferable, than to right themselves by abolishing the forms to which they are accustomed. But when a long train of abuses and usurpations, pursuing invariably the same Object evinces a design to reduce them under absolute Despotism, it is their right, it is their duty, to throw off such Government, and to provide new Guards for their future security.”

Declaration of Independence, of Thirteen American Colonies

27. On this 54th anniversary, of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, we stateless nations of the world, declare our commitment to the cherished principles enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the UN founding Charter, the Declaration of Granting Independence to Colonised

Peoples & Countries and subsequent declarations. However, very clearly and profoundly, these fundamental, sacred principles of life, of international and global conduct, domestic conduct within states and between states and between states and peoples and nations; remain wholly unimplemented!

28. **We seek for ourselves as for all peoples, in collective and equal harmony, a fair and equal distribution of global power, equal representation in a true, democratic diversity of true, authentic nations. We seek the right to choose our own government, without threat, coercion, genocide and tyranny. We seek the right to speak freely and wholly about our national aspirations, without threat of arrest, incarceration, torture, criminal prosecution for 'sedition' or 'extremism'.**
29. We seek a true and proper United Nations in a meaningful sense, where the real nations of the world, as against the super-states like India, China, Russia, Nigeria, Indonesia and beyond, seek to superimpose and force their way to the top of the global agenda in pursuit of their elitist strategic financial and military objectives; without any thought or care for the democratic rights of the peoples over whom their steamroll.
30. The struggle we continue to see today, as ever throughout human history, is the struggle between cold, selfish, elitist state power versus the grassroot peoples. This is the central theme of human history. The state versus the rebels, the state versus the 'terrorists', the state versus the 'militants'.
31. Only when the state is formed by the people, and is operated by the people, does it become functional and purposeful for the people – government by the people and for the people. The big super-states which define the world map today are detached, distant and domineering over peoples. The people are powerless to challenge the organised might – economic, commercial, military, resources, police, security personnel, and legislative, judicial – of these states.

On this 54th anniversary we, therefore, remind the United Nations, the European Union and all democratic minded, human rights supporting governments and institutions of the world, of the dire and fundamental need for applying the fundamental rights and freedoms of human rights to all peoples in a fair, equal and proper manner.

RECOMMENDATIONS

32. We ask for a special meeting with the UN Secretary-General and the European Commission, to discuss and establish a democratic dialogue on the burning issue of unfulfilled justice and freedom for small nations. The exclusion of small nations from the global agenda and international forums is unacceptable and blatant discrimination. It is a direct conflict with the aforementioned UN Charter and all the UN's international treaties and declarations on self-determination.

33. We request the establishment of a specific UN forum on small, stateless nations, and their rights under the various UN declarations aforementioned.
34. The UN should review all existing states of the world to identify, where applicable, separate nations and thereafter evaluate the demands of their representatives whether for integration, autonomy or independence. If such representatives call for greater devolution or separation, the UN should offer, promote, and organise wherever possible self-determination referendums within existing states amongst the peoples of such nation(s).
35. We request a consultative NGO status in various international bodies for the NATIONS WITHOUT STATES, as a collective campaign voice for these small nations, together with a voice for groups campaigning and representing the various individual small nations.

CASE –STUDIES: Small Nations Subjugated by Big States

36. The following are a sample of case-studies of current day struggles by small nations.

SARAWAK & SABAH (BORNEO)

‘Northern Borneo’ was ruled as a British protectorate from 1946 until it was given to Malaya to create the larger Federal state of Malaysia in 1963.

Where is the equality? Where is democracy? Sarawak and Sabah have since 1963 experienced a genocide of their cultures. Native people’s home are taken away and some have been robbed by the government. Our rainforest is being destroyed.

What are the Federal/Malaya actions towards our Borneon people - for our well being? We are so called Satu Malaysia – under Malaysia’s mercy but many of our relatives are being killed in silence in many ways.

Our children education is being ruined by the Malaysian Govt. Parents working to death with minimal income. Our politicians encourage corruption.

Children/teenagers are killed and raped without proper justice being served. We have no freedom of press or expression because the Malaysian govt threaten us with the so called Internal Security Act – charge without trial.

Many people in Sabah are and were detained under the ISA and have come out with mental illness due to being tortured whilst they are in prison.

We suffer and are suffering. We are poor and getting poorer and the rich get richer – and those who are the cronies to the Malaysian Govt. Please save us!

TAMILS – Tamil Eelam

The Tamil territory of North and East of Sri Lanka, now called ‘Tamil Eelam’, has all the

qualifications and requirements needed by the United Nations Charter for self-determination.

Tamils were living as an independent nation for thousands of years. They were at the height of power during Chera, Chola, and Pandyan Kings. The Chola Empire included whole of South India, Sri Lanka, and coastlines of Burma up to Vietnam.

Sangilian was the last Tamil king and he ruled Tamil Eelam until 1565 AD. The British amalgamated the Tamil Elam and Sinhalese Kingdom for administrative purposes but they maintained the two nations as two peoples, co-existing in one administrative unit.

Today, there are 80 million Tamils in the world. A large majority of them are living as a subject race under the Aryan majority Indian state and the rest under the Sinhalese majority in Sri Lanka.

Tamil Eelam is a distinct separate territory based on the practical and historic reality of a distinct Tamil people, nation and society.

After the British colonial 'transfer of power' to the new state of Ceylon in 1948 and later re-named as Sri Lanka, the Sinhalese government in Sri Lanka removed all protection and safeguards to the Tamils which previously existed. The Sinhalese government embarked on a strident and superimposing programme of singularisation and diminishment and destruction of a separate, distinct Tamil co-existence in Sri Lanka.

Prof Boyle from USA, an expert in International law, equates the modern day Sinhalese colonisation to the Nazi invasion and subsumption of Poland.

In May 2009, the Sri Lankan government unleashed a genocidal military onslaught on the Tamil population in Sri Lanka in Tamil Eelam. Over 40,000 Tamils were killed and 140,000 unaccounted for. A total of 100,000 Tamils have been killed since 1948, in the Sri Lankan Government's enduring ethnic, demographic and physical war on the Tamil population.

The legitimate aspirations of the Eelam Tamil people for the restoration of an independent and sovereign state of Tamil Eelam is based primarily on documented historical evidence and by virtue of their right under international law to remedial self-determination.

The historical proof of the existence of a Tamil kingdom contiguous and sovereign lies in the fact that when the first colonizers, the Portuguese landed on the island in 1505 there was not one but three kingdoms, namely the Tamil Jaffna Kingdom, the Sinhala Kotte Kingdom and the Sinhala Kandyan Kingdom. The Portuguese captured the Tamil kingdom only in 1621, nearly 116 years after capturing the Sinhala kingdoms; the Jaffna Kingdom existed with Nallur as its capital from 1215 AD to 1619 AD for 403 years. Although at different times the Tamil territories came under foreign rule, it never lost its Tamil identity. Even its borders remained intact till 1833 when the territories were annexed by the British to the rest of the island under the so called Colebrooke-Cameron reforms. Sir Hugh Cleghorn, the British Colonial Secretary in 1799 described in his writings the existence of "two different nations from a very ancient period as having divided between them the possession of the island, the Sinhalese inhabiting the interior in its Southern and Western parts from the river Wallouwe to Chilaw and the Malabars (Tamils) possessing the Northern and Eastern districts; the two nations differing entirely in their religion, language and manners."

By invoking the right to self-determination, the Eelam Tamil people can become the architects of their own destiny heralding a new era of freedom and self governance, enabling them to put Tamil Eelam first and its people first; their security, prosperity and happiness first. It would pave the way for them to have the freedom to determine their affairs and not be dictated to by another nation. Taking a leaf from Abraham Lincoln, at

last they can say with certainty that theirs will truly be “a government of the people, by the people, for the people,” thereby restoring sovereignty lost to a faulty decolonization process at independence from Britain in 1948 consequent to the 'Soulbury' constitution of 1947 proclaiming a unitary state that lay the groundwork for Sinhala hegemony.

Self-determination will free Eelam Tamils from enslavement: from strangulation by Sinhala Buddhist majoritarian governments that relegated Tamils to second class status; from continued marginalisation through discriminatory employment and education policies; from broken pacts promising devolution that was never honoured; from persecution through violent pogroms directed against them.

Self-determination will prevent another genocidal mass slaughter of the Eelam Tamil people and protect them from an ongoing structural

MATEBELE-LAND

The Republic of Matabeleland as 'Matabeleland' was a separate state from Mashonaland. Both were forcibly joined together to form colonial 'Rhodesia' which is the latter day 'Zimbabwe'. All this happened without the consent of the black people of these affected territories.

Again, like so many other victim peoples across the world, whose territories and homelands have been carved up, divided and swallowed up into newly constructed states, the people of Matabele-Land; have been a continuing victim of modern-day Zimbabwean imperialism.

We have been subject to violent persecution, imprisonment and aggressive suppression by the Zimbabwean states, which seeks to crush our national aspirations and spirit for full self-determination manifest in independent statehood.

genocide intended to destroy the national identity of the nation state; freeing them from subjugation by a Sinhala dictatorship devoid of checks and balances that has no mandate to rule over them; from a 100,000 strong Sinhala army of occupation; from diminishing boundaries due to forced Sinhala settlements intended to change the demography of the nation state.

At last Eelam Tamils will have control over their resources and finances, enabling them to determine their own taxes, negotiate their own contracts and foreign investment deals and to develop their economy with their people in mind, giving them the best opportunities to realize their own best potential.

Our struggle is common with numerous other national struggles across the globe, of small, unrecognised, unknown peoples. Whilst the world map is dominated by established, big states, together with the international forums and institutions like the UN; the small nations are ignored, crushed and silenced.

The nation of Matabeleland is one such group of people where this day would go unnoticed as they have never known or enjoyed their human rights since British imperial agents attacked and destroyed their kingdom on 3 November 1893. The kingdom of Matabeleland was an independent and sovereign state that was recognised by Botswana under Seretse Khama, South Africa under Paul Kruger, Mashonaland under the British imperial agent Starr Leander Jameson, Barotseland under Lewanika, Britain under Queen Victoria, Germany, Portugal and France to name but a few

countries. Matabeleland borders were also recognised by all these countries and the kingdom recognised as a sovereign state and thus many treaties were concluded with and signed by King Lobengula representing the Matabeleland kingdom and various imperial agents from Britain, Germany and Portugal to name but three.

What the imperial agents failed to get through these treaties motivated them to illegally invade and destroy Matabeleland state using a superior military arsenal against the Matebele warriors which led to the Matabeleland Order in Council Rule by Conquest. Under this Rule by Conquest, the Matebele people suffered serious humiliation, discrimination and genocide and had their assets like gold, diamonds, artefacts and cattle looted by British imperial agents culminating in an ultimate loss of the territory. It was then that, for the convenience of the British imperial agents, that Matabeleland was forcibly joined with Mashonaland to create the colonial country called Rhodesia without the consent of either the Matebeles or Mashonas.

In 1980, through imperfect decolonisation, Matabeleland was made a province of Zimbabwe, the successor to Rhodesia. Once again, the Matebele people were subjected to

discrimination, marginalisation and suffered genocide where over 40 000 unarmed civilians were killed by Zimbabwe defence forces between 1983 and 1987 for no other reason except than they did not belong to the Shona ethnic group and that they did not belong to the Zanupf party. Over 100 000 Matebele women were raped and some impregnated during that period and over a 1,000,000 Matebele people displaced into neighbouring Botswana, South Africa and some too far flung places like Britain, Australia to name but two.

We at the Matabeleland Liberation Organisation i.e. MLO representing the aspirations of the Matebele nation who are fighting to regain their statehood from Zimbabwe plead with the international community that as we celebrate this day, that the people of Matabeleland be supported and recognised in their attempts to peacefully break away from Zimbabwe and become a full, independent and sovereign state. It is on this day that we also remember and express our solidarity to other nations or groups who are fighting for their independence and suffer gross violations of abuses from various outposts of dictatorship around the world, that this day would have some meaning to all who live on this planet if all were to enjoy their Self Determination.

Kurdish nation – Country: Kurdistan (in Turkey, Syria, Iraq and Iran)

Population: approx. 35 million

The Kurds constitute one of the world's largest populations without a nation state of their own. This great injustice is the root cause of the abuses and discrimination to which Kurds are still subjected to at the present day. This occurs despite the fact that the Kurds are one of the oldest peoples of the Middle East and can trace their lineage back thousands of years; the first mention of the existence of Kurds is traced to reference to 'Karduchoi' made by the classical

Greek historian Xenophon in *The Expedition of Cyrus*.

The majority of the communities of Kurds are distributed unevenly between the four states of Turkey, Iraq, Iran and Syria. The borders of these contemporary states only came into being following the First World War with the collapse of the Ottoman Empire and the reshaping of the region by the imperial powers. Britain, France

and the US share much of the responsibility for the denial of social, cultural, political and citizenship rights to the Kurds and which is still the condition of existence for the majority of Kurds today.

Despite their common heritage, the historical paths of Kurds have diverged greatly in the 20th and 21st centuries; while, for example, the Kurdish region of Iraq has achieved a strong autonomy and a degree of international diplomatic recognition, the Kurds in Turkey, which is the country where about 20 million of them dwell, are still struggling for basic 'human rights' such as the rights to freely make use of their mother tongue in public venues such as education and in the court system. It was not too long ago that the Turkish state defined Kurds as 'mountain Turks' and denied their very existence.

The national awareness of the Kurdish masses has been mobilised over the last few decades by the political struggle led by the Kurdistan Workers' Party, PKK, which was founded by Abdullah Ocalan. He, despite being jailed by Turkey for 14 years, has continued to be regarded as a national leader by millions of Kurds.

Under pressure from its need to appear as a modern democratic state and motivated by its aim to join the European Union, Turkey has gradually been making reforms but at a very hesitant pace and with many backward steps on the way. The legal and physical persecution of Kurdish organisations, including elected Kurdish politicians, academics, lawyers and people in the media, has gathered pace in recent months with the start of mass trials against Kurds who are

Kashmir

Like many national homelands, like Panjaab, Kurdistan and others, Kashmir and its people have been a victim of ongoing historic political

accused of supporting terrorism simply by the act of campaigning legally for Kurdish rights. Recently, a mass hunger strike of Kurdish political prisoners demanding improved rights was abandoned after more than sixty days in response to the intervention of Abdullah Ocalan.

The fate of the Kurds in Turkey is presently closely intertwined with the fate of the Kurds across the border in Syria, where Kurds number about three million. With the onset of the uprising against President Assad's regime, people in many Kurdish towns in Syria have secured a fragile autonomy and begun to rule their own localities themselves led by the Democratic Union Party, PYD.

These successes in the achievement of Kurdish rights in Syria alarmed Turkey which appears to be intent on covertly undermining the Kurdish gains by provoking conflict with Syrian opposition forces who are receiving material support from Ankara and many of which share the ruling AKP's Islamist outlook. By contrast, the Kurdish movement remains a largely secular based political organisation. The struggle to achieve the legitimate national and democratic rights of the Kurdish people is therefore a kind of 'work in progress' which shows no immediate end in sight.

Ultimately the fortunes of the Kurds will be linked to those of the peoples of the Middle East among whom they share a common geography and related histories. Indeed, proposals have been made by Ocalan for a new Middle East to be reshaped by the principles of democratic autonomy encompassing all the peoples of the region.

manipulation and game-playing between super-powers (past and present).

Today, Kashmir is surrounded by three nuclear powers : China, India and Pakistan. The territory

of Kashmir, the home of the Kashmiri people and nation, stands divided between the two states of India and Pakistan.

Like its neighbouring Panjaab, Kashmir was a colonial province of the British ruled Indian empire. In the undemocratic and improper 1947 'Transfer of Power', Kashmir was subject to the manipulative strategies and games of the outgoing British and the incoming new ruling elite of the Indian state. Following five decades of mass protest against Indian rule, the Indian state continues to violently suppress the Kashmiri aspirations for self-determination. A UN official resolution calling for a referendum in Kashmir, in 1948, has been vociferously rejected by the Indian state.

Sikh – Country : Panjaab, Population: 15 million

The Sikh people are concentrated in the region of Panjaab (officialised as 'Punjab' which is a nonsense). This is their historic homeland, and land of growth and development throughout the centuries. The Sikh people emerged between the 15-17th century, from the Panjaabi people as a revived, invigorated people aspiring to cultural, spiritual and political self-determination, from the radical movement begun by Guru Nanak (1469-1539). He challenged the social, religious and political structures which had ruled over Panjaab and across South Asia for centuries.

The emerging, rising Sikh people – a vanguard of grassroot Panjaabi consciousness, rebelled against the both the social and political establishment around them. They took on the mighty Mughal state, with enormous genocidal reprisals against them. The Sikhs openly rejected the Brahmin-Hindu and Mullah-Muslim elites which governed society on a social and religious level. Following centuries of persecution by the ruling Mughal state, the Sikhs eventually

The people of Kashmir continue to endure violence, arrests, torture, killings and disappearances of the Indian security personnel.

Kashmir remains a continuing horror story on the global map, of a David versus Goliath struggle for self-determination and independence.

Like other small nations, the world has forgotten and ignored Kashmir and its suffering people. Whilst the world debates and acts on Kosovo, East Timor, Syria and Palestine; Kashmiri continue to burn under the might of the Indian state.

emerged as an independent state in Panjaab initially from 1710-1716 and then from 1780 to 1849. In 1849, the steamroller of British expansionism in South Asia subsumed the independent Panjaab, making it part of British India. In 1947, the Panjaab was violently partitioned as part of the slipshod, undemocratic and sectarian 'Transfer of Power' from British rule to two new states of Pakistan and India. In this hugely unprincipled and politically opportunistic division of Panjaab, as of Bengal (into West Bengal and Bangladesh), the Sikh population was ethnically cleansed from West Panjaab into East Panjaab. The Sikhs are today concentrated in East Panjaab, under Indian rule. They remain in continuing opposition to the Indian state, with continuous flashpoints and a constant regime of state driven human rights atrocities on the Sikh people, including the hugely genocidal onslaught of 1984. Sikhs remain deeply discontented with Indian rule, and are one of many nations locked and imprisoned into the gigantic Indian political machine.

“It is dangerous to be right when those in power are wrong.” Voltaire

1960 UN DECLARATION ON THE GRANTING OF INDEPENDENCE TO COLONIAL PEOPLES & COUNTRIES

"Mindful of the determination proclaimed by the peoples of the world in the Charter of the United Nations to reaffirm faith in fundamental human rights, in the dignity and worth of the human person, in the equal rights of men and women and of nations large and small and to promote social progress and better standards of life in larger freedom,

Conscious of the need for the creation of conditions of stability and well-being and peaceful and friendly relations based on respect for the principles of equal rights and self-determination of all peoples, and of universal respect for, and observance of, human rights and fundamental freedoms for all without distinction as to race, sex, language or religion,

Recognizing the passionate yearning for freedom in all dependent peoples and the decisive role of such peoples in the attainment of their independence, "Aware of the increasing conflicts resulting from the denial of or impediments in the way of the freedom of such peoples, which constitute a serious threat to world peace,

Considering the important role of the United Nations in assisting the movement for independence in Trust and Non-Self-Governing Territories,

Recognizing that the peoples of the world ardently desire the end of colonialism in all its manifestations,

Convinced that the continued existence of colonialism prevents the development of international economic co-operation, impedes the social, cultural and economic development of dependent peoples and militates against the United Nations ideal of universal peace,

Affirming that peoples may, for their own ends, freely dispose of their natural wealth and resources without prejudice to any obligations arising out of international economic co-

operation, based upon the principle of mutual benefit, and international law,

Believing that the process of liberation is irresistible and irreversible and that, in order to avoid serious crises, an end must be put to colonialism and all practices of segregation and discrimination associated therewith,

Welcoming the emergence in recent years of a large number of dependent territories into freedom and independence, and recognizing the increasingly powerful trends towards freedom in such territories which have not yet attained independence,

Convinced that all peoples have an inalienable right to complete freedom, the exercise of their sovereignty and the integrity of their national territory,

Solemnly proclaims the necessity of bringing to a speedy and unconditional end colonialism in all its forms and manifestations;

And to this end

Declares that:

1. The subjection of peoples to alien subjugation, domination and exploitation constitutes a denial of fundamental human rights, is contrary to the Charter of the United Nations and is an impediment to the promotion of world peace and co-operation.

2. All peoples have the right to self-determination; by virtue of that right they freely determine their political status and freely pursue their economic, social and cultural development.

3. Inadequacy of political, economic, social or educational preparedness should never serve as a pretext for delaying independence.

4. All armed action or repressive measures of all kinds directed against dependent peoples shall cease in order to enable them to exercise

peacefully and freely their right to complete independence, and the integrity of their national territory shall be respected.

5. Immediate steps shall be taken, in Trust and Non-Self-Governing Territories or all other territories which have not yet attained independence, to transfer all powers to the peoples of those territories, without any conditions or reservations, in accordance with their freely expressed will and desire, without any distinction as to race, creed or colour, in order to enable them to enjoy complete independence and freedom.

6. Any attempt aimed at the partial or total disruption of the national unity and the territorial integrity of a country is incompatible with the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations.

7. All States shall observe faithfully and strictly the provisions of the Charter of the United Nations, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the present Declaration on the basis of equality, non-interference in the internal affairs of all States, and respect for the sovereign rights of all peoples and their territorial integrity."

"We stand for freedom! That is our conviction for ourselves--that is our only commitment to others. No friend, no neutral and no adversary should think otherwise. We are not against any man--any nation--or any system, except as it is hostile to freedom...I do not ignore the remaining problems of traditional colonialism which still confront this body. These problems can be solved with patience, goodwill, and determination. Within the limits of our responsibility in such matters, my country intends to be a participant and not merely an observer, in the peaceful, expeditious movement of nations from the status of colonies to the partnership of equals. That continuing tide of self determination, which runs so strongly, has our sympathy and our support.

But colonialism in its harshest forms is not only the exploitation of new nations by old, of dark skins by light, or the subjugation of the poor by the rich. My nation was once a colony, and we know what colonialism means; the exploitation and subjugation of the weak by the powerful, of the many by the few, of the governed who have given no consent to be governed, whatever their continent, their class, their color."

Speech of John f Kennedy, US President, to United Nations, 25th September 1961

Charter of the United Nations

CHAPTER I: PURPOSES AND PRINCIPLES **Article 1**

The Purposes of the United Nations are:

1. To maintain international peace and security, and to that end: to take effective collective measures for the prevention and removal of threats to the peace, and for the suppression of acts of aggression or other breaches of the peace, and to bring about by peaceful means, and in conformity with the principles of justice and international law, adjustment or settlement of international disputes or situations which might lead to a breach of the peace;
2. To develop friendly relations among nations based on **respect for the principle of equal rights and self-determination of peoples**, and to take other appropriate measures to strengthen universal peace;
3. To achieve international co-operation in solving international problems of an economic, social, cultural, or humanitarian character, and in promoting and encouraging respect for human rights and for fundamental freedoms for all without distinction as to race, sex, language, or religion; and
4. To be a centre for harmonizing the actions of nations in the attainment of these common ends.