

BILL 104: FACT CHECK #1

“Tamil-Ontarians have families still suffering in their homeland in the north and east of the island of Sri Lanka” - *Bill C 104, Tamil Genocide Education Week Act, 2019*

Fact Check :

- The number of families with access to medical facilities exceeded the target of 120,000 families through the construction and rehabilitation of district hospitals.
- Access to schools was improved. Agricultural production improved, with a 9% increase in irrigated area and a 17% increase in the number of active farmers.
- Investments in health and education sectors and in providing shelter, water, and sanitation were indirectly favorable to women in terms of improved access and time savings. (ADB project)
- New foreign investments and job opportunity with new infrastructure development projects in the north and east

Email: speakup@srilankancanadian.ca



BILL 104: FACT CHECK #2

“Tamil-Ontarians have families still suffering in their homeland in the north and east of the island of Sri Lanka” - *Bill C 104, Tamil Genocide Education Week Act, 2019*

Fact Check :

- While the use of the word “homeland” is arbitrary, it was the mandate of Tamil Terrorists (LTTE) to have a separate state or “homeland” in north and east.
- There are no areas in the Island designated as "homelands" for specific races. In fact over 52% of Sri Lankan Tamils live outside the North and East.
- Use of “homeland” in an Ontario bill unnecessarily infringes on Sovereign Sri Lanka.

Email: speakup@srilankanCanadian.ca



BILL 104: FACT CHECK #3

“Tamil-Ontarians have families still suffering in their homeland in the north and east of the island of Sri Lanka” - *Bill C 104, Tamil Genocide Education Week Act, 2019*

Fact Check :

- “Tamil-Ontarians” are not just Tamils from Sri Lanka, it’s from **Tamil Nadu** (real homeland of Tamils as per name) and from many other parts of the world.
- **Tamil Nadu** is a state in India with a population of 72 million as per 2011 census. In 2020 it is projected to be 77 million (almost 3 times total population of Sri Lanka). 83% speak Tamil.
- Citizens or residents in Ontario are normally referred as “Canadian” or “Ontarian”.
- Over the last few elections, it was evident that Tamils in North and East have rejected the concept of separate state. It is with the pro-LTTE diaspora who does not accept that LTTE killed innocent civilians, suicide bombers or recruited child soldiers that are seeking Tamil “homeland” concept, given the natural “homeland” is **Tamil Nadu** in India.

Email: speakup@srilankancanadian.ca



BILL 104: FACT CHECK #4

“They (Sri Lankan Tamils) have lost their loved ones and have been physically or mentally traumatized by the **genocide that the Sri Lankan state perpetrated against the Tamils during the civil war which lasted from 1983 to 2009, and especially so in May of 2009”**

▪ *Bill C 104, Tamil Genocide Education Week Act, 2019*

Fact Check :

- "For the time being genocide is not something that we have perceived as having allegedly had happened" - *Zeid Ra'ad Al Hussain, UN High Commissioner for Human Rights*
- "On genocide, we were not able to establish that" - Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, Ms Ravina Shamdasani
- "GOC advice suggest that the courts should make the determination whether a genocide has taken place and that the legal test to be met for a genocide in international law is a very high one. GOC has not officially recognized it." - *Global Affairs Canada*

Email: speakup@srilankancanadian.ca



BILL 104: FACT CHECK #5

“They (Sri Lankan Tamils) have lost their loved ones and have been physically or mentally traumatized by the **genocide that the Sri Lankan state perpetrated against the Tamils during the civil war which lasted from 1983 to 2009, and especially so in May of 2009”**

▪ *Bill C 104, Tamil Genocide Education Week Act, 2019*

Fact Check :

- "For the time being genocide is not something that we have perceived as having allegedly had happened" - *Zeid Ra'ad Al Hussain, UN High Commissioner for Human Rights*
- "On genocide, we were not able to establish that" - *Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, Ms Ravina Shamdasani*
- "GOC advice suggest that the courts should make the determination whether a genocide has taken place and that the legal test to be met for a genocide in international law is a very high one. GOC has not officially recognized it." - *Global Affairs Canada*

Email: speakup@srilankancanadian.ca



BILL 104: FACT CHECK #6

“They (Sri Lankan Tamils) have lost their loved ones and have been physically or mentally traumatized by the genocide that the Sri Lankan state perpetrated against the Tamils during the civil war which lasted from 1983 to 2009, and especially so in May of 2009”

▪ *Bill C 104, Tamil Genocide Education Week Act, 2019*

Fact Check :

• The internal civil conflict was with extremist Tamil terrorists named Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), and not against the Tamils. There were deployed troops/senior ranks that were also tamil.

-LTTE used suicide squads, that killed Indian PM, Sri Lankan President, many high ranking personnel and those around. Also conducted mass killings using truck bombs at populous areas eg: Central Bank truck bomb, Pettah Railway station, Army camps, many north east locations.

-Bill 104 does not contain a single mention of LTTE or EELAM. The author of the Bill Vijay Thanigasalam has posted on social media on November 26, 2011 claiming the leader of LTTE as his “National Leader”. He apologized June 6th, 2018 after it was reported.

-LTTE was proscribed by Canada on April 8th, 2006 as a Sri Lankan-based terrorist organization that seeks the creation of an independent homeland called “Tamil Eelam” for Sri Lanka’s ethnic Tamil minority.

Email: speakup@srilankanCanadian.ca



BILL 104: FACT CHECK #7

“The United Nations Organization estimates that in May 2009 alone about 40,000 to 75,000 Tamil civilians were killed. Other estimates place the death toll at 146,679 civilians. These figures only reflect the death toll in 2009 leading up to May 18, the day on which the civil war ended”

- *Draft Bill C 104, Tamil Genocide Education Week Act, 2019*

Fact Check :

- As of 19th August 2020, there have been no verified casualties list or any mass graves that were identified to substantiate thousands of deaths.
- Lord Naseby speaking in UK Parliament on the 12th of November 2017 presented an estimate of 8,000 casualties during the last phase, and debunked casualty figures of 40,000 as claimed by pro-LTTE diaspora as “mythical”

Source: Colombo Telegraph

- 2015 Maxwell Paranagama Commission (Presidential Commission to investigate Missing persons) tabulated a list of 7,721 casualties during the last phase of the armed conflict.

Email: speakup@srilankancanadian.ca



BILL 104: FACT CHECK #8

“The loss of Tamil civilian lives during the genocide, which continued for decades in Sri Lanka, is much higher.”

▪ *Draft Bill C 104, Tamil Genocide Education Week Act, 2019*

Fact Check :

Tamil population GREW in Sinhala dominating areas (2.72% per year) which is **ALMOST DOUBLE** their growth in their so called Northern homeland (1.44% per year). The total number of Tamils in these Sinhala dominating areas grew from 79,100 in 1911 to 530,138 by 1981 or **MORE THAN SEVEN FOLD!** *Between 1981 and 2012, Tamil population had a growth rate of 20%.*

Growth of Tamils and Sinhalese population in the pre-war						
Province	1911	1981	Average	1911	1981	Average
	Sri Lankan Tamils		Growth rate %	Sinhalese		Growth rate %
Western	29511	228516	2.92	895993	3321830	1.87
Central	19128	149819	2.94	338907	1318530	1.94
Southern	1779	14454	2.99	595486	1789914	1.57
North-Western	14702	47202	1.67	1044204	1532979	0.55
North-Central	5617	13293	1.23	65803	774799	3.52
Uva	3614	42866	3.53	133672	696596	2.36
Sabaragamuwa	4743	34168	2.82	303721	1266091	2.04
Sub Total 1	79094	530318	2.72	3377796	10700739	1.65
North	349689	957247	1.44	2912	35128	3.56
Eastern	100292	399299	1.97	6908	243701	5.09
Sub Total 2	449981	1356546	1.58	9820	278829	4.78
Grand Total (1+2)	529075	1886864	1.82	3387606	10979568	1.68

Growth of Tamils and Sinhalese population in the post-war						
Province	1981	2012	Average	1981	2012	Average
	Sri Lankan Tamil		Growth Rate %	Sinhalese		Growth Rate %
Western	228516	339370	1.32	3321830	4905425	1.30
Central	149819	126052	-0.58	1318530	1687199	0.82
Southern	14454	24830	1.80	1789914	2340693	0.89
North-Western	47202	66382	1.14	1532979	2030370	0.94
North-Central	13293	12029	-0.33	774799	1143607	1.30
Uva	42866	30086	-1.18	696596	1017092	1.26
Sabaragamuwa	34168	72298	2.50	1266091	1657967	0.90
Sub Total 1	530318	671047	0.78	10700739	14782353	1.08
North	957247	987692	0.10	35128	32331	-0.28
Eastern	399299	609584	1.41	243701	359136	1.29
Sub Total 2	1356546	1597276	0.54	278829	391467	1.13
Grand Total (1+2)	1886864	2268323	0.61	10979568	15173820	1.08

Sources: Census of Ceylon, 1911 and Census, Sri Lanka 1981 and 2012

Email: speakup@srilankancanadian.ca



BILL 104: FACT CHECK #9

“Sri Lankan state has systematically disenfranchised the Tamil population of their right to vote and to maintain their language, religion and culture” - *Draft Bill C 104, Tamil Genocide Education Week Act, 2019*

Fact Check :

- There have been many prominent politicians of Tamil descent. 160 Tamil politicians/academics/government officials were assassinated by LTTE Tamil Terrorists (see attached list).
- The 13th Sri Lankan amendment to the Constitution in 1987 added Tamil language as an official language.
- The days of significant Tamil cultural events were observed as national holidays in Sri Lanka for many decades. Eg. Puthandu (cultural), Diwali (religious holiday)

Email: speakup@srilankanCanadian.ca



BILL 104: FACT CHECK #10

“Sinhala Only Act of 1956 made Sinhalese the official language of Sri Lanka ignoring the 29 per cent of the population whose primary language was Tamil, thereby putting them at a serious disadvantage for participating in the public service of Sri Lanka” - Draft Bill C 104, Tamil Genocide Education Week Act, 2019

Fact Check :

- The 13th Sri Lankan amendment to the Constitution in 1987 added Tamil language as an official language.
- As per 2012 Sri Lanka census report, the Tamil population has been fluctuating around to be 10%-12% since 1921

Year	Sinhalese		Sri Lankan Tamils ^[c]	
	No.	%	No.	%
1921 Census	3,016,200	67.05%	517,300	11.50%
1931 Estimate	3,473,000	65.45%	598,900	11.29%
1946 Census ^[e]	4,620,500	69.41%	733,700	11.02%
1953 Census ^[f]	5,616,700	69.36%	884,700	10.93%
1963 Census	7,512,900	71.00%	1,164,700	11.01%
1971 Census	9,131,241	71.96%	1,423,981	11.22%
1981 Census	10,979,561	73.95%	1,886,872	12.71%
2001 Census ^[a]				
2011 Census ^[h]	15,250,081	74.90%	2,269,266	11.15%

Email: speakup@srilankanCanadian.ca



BILL 104: FACT CHECK #11

“It is important for many reasons to acknowledge publicly that the killings and all aspects of the genocide constitute a heinous act. Not only does this acknowledgement honour the lives that were lost, but it gives a sense of hope to those who have suffered since it represents the first step to healing and reconciliation”

- *Draft Bill C 104, Tamil Genocide Education Week Act, 2019*

Fact Check :

As per Fact Check #5, UNHCR or Government of Canada does not recognize the allegation of Genocide in Sri Lanka. Acknowledgement of an unproven fact by a province in Canada, is a dishonor to the many lives lost, those living as well as future generations.

BILL 104: FACT CHECK #5

“They (Sri Lankan Tamils) have lost their loved ones and have been physically or mentally traumatized by the genocide that the Sri Lankan state perpetrated against the Tamils during the civil war which lasted from 1983 to 2009, and especially so in May of 2009”

- *Bill C 104, Tamil Genocide Education Week Act, 2019*

Fact Check :

“For the time being genocide is not something that we have perceived as having allegedly had happened” - *Zeid Ra'ad Al Hussain, UN High Commissioner for Human Rights*

“On genocide, we were not able to establish that” - *Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, Ms Ravina Shamdasani*

“GOC advice suggest that the courts should make the determination whether a genocide has taken place and that the legal test to be met for a genocide in international law is a very high one. GOC has not officially recognized it.” - *Global Affairs Canada*

Email: speakup@sri.lankanorcanadian.ca

