

ALSTON

Weerasinghe

From: Asoka Yapa [asoka_yapa@yahoo.com]
Sent: January 9, 2010 12:36 PM
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Subject: Fw: Pillorying Sri Lanka

----- Forwarded Message -----

From: Asoka Yapa <asoka_yapa@yahoo.com>
To: philip.alston@nyu.edu
Sent: Sat, January 9, 2010 12:27:20 PM
Subject: Pillorying Sri Lanka

Prof. Philip Alston,
 UN Special Rapporteur,
 NYC, NY.

Dear Prof. Alston

I am very disturbed by the timing of your haranguing and harassment of Sri Lanka over the so-called 'execution video' that was first aired by Channel 4 in the UK. ~~Whatever the merit of your opinion on the authenticity of the video, the fact that you have chosen an extremely sensitive timeframe to aggressively press the Sri Lankan government for a resolution of the issue makes me suspect that you have other motives than merely attempting to get at the truth.~~

For one thing, Europe is presently considering extending the GSP+ trade provision for Sri Lanka. Many European politicians in countries with large Tamil diasporas have been dragooned by Tamil Tiger extremists into supporting anti-Sri Lanka provisions at every turn. UK Foreign Secretary Miliband, for example, has been vehement in his stand against Sri Lanka with an eye to Tamil support in key UK constituencies in the coming British general election. Will these amoral politicians hide behind your charges if GSP+ is removed, Sri Lanka is 'punished', and the Tamil extremists handed a victory?

For another, these charges are seen in Sri Lanka as a catspaw for Western interests seeking regime change in the island. It is no secret that misguided Western support for Tamil terrorist interests undermined the

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government's efforts to purchase armaments from the West and to win the propaganda war against a well-funded and determined LTTE misinformation campaign. The reorientation of Sri Lanka's political loyalties towards China, India, Iran, and other non-Western nations by the Rajapakse government has clearly rattled Western nations (that it is their own stupidity that caused the change is another matter) and your campaign is seen as part of an effort by the West to 'recapture' Sri Lanka.

Then there is the matter, Prof. Alston, of your complete and utter silence when the Tamil Tigers were causing a bloodbath in Sri Lanka, macerating bodies with ball-bearing filled IEDs, exploding massive bombs that brought down commercial buildings, raking worshippers at Buddhist temples and Muslim mosques with hellfire killing hundreds, destroying the country's economy, raping its non-violent culture, etc., etc. For over a quarter century Sri Lanka went through this terrible agony and you were silent. Now, after Sri Lanka brilliantly and courageously took down the monsters that caused the nightmare, you come out as a white knight --- in support of the merchants of terror!

You may say, "All I want is to establish the truth behind this incident." But what incident? The Tamil Tiger propaganda machine was too clever by half and many of their fanciful confections have been exposed by sharp-eyed observers. The effort went into overdrive during the final days of the Sri Lankan government offensive. I recall seeing a picture used by Western news agencies of Tamil civilians near some beach 'under bombardment' from Sri Lanka's air force. Much tut-tutting ensued from Western politicians while their Tiger supporters took to the street in manufactured outrage. A photographic expert then showed this was a posed fake. The photo of Tiger psychopath Prabhakaran in front of a TV looking at pictures of his 'death' took the cake (this was when the Tiger ultras were insisting that, like Christ, their leader had overcome the Grim Reaper); again it was exposed as crude fakery by sharp-eyed Sri Lankan observers.

This video footage, too, has been trashed by highly qualified Sri Lankan analysts. You try to discredit the lot by implying that the two Sri Lankan military analysts were biased. Fine, many who are appalled by your actions feel that your so-called experts are biased, too. Can you prove that they have not been paid off by you or Tiger supporters to come up with a favourable result? Perhaps a few more contracts in the future? In any case, even your experts cannot explain certain anomalies in the footage. The two non-military Sri Lankan analysts are adamant in their rejection of the film. Therefore, to bring these monstrous charges when

there is so much uncertainty about the 'evidence' borders on the callous, careless, and even the criminal. Fairness dictates that serious charges be supported by incontrovertible proof. Your 'evidence' as currently supplied fails that test and it begs the question as to why you are pushing forward NOW.

And I ask you, where are the charges you should be filing against the Americans or the British or the Israelis incumbent upon their tactics in Palestine, Iraq, and Afghanistan? And are you heading off to Mexico tomorrow to rail against the Calderon administration for the massacres of drug lords by the Mexican military? Perhaps you will be filing charges against the Uribe regime for its killings of FARC leaders! The Channel 4 video showed the 'illegal' killing of 'combatants' (however fake). The Americans regularly kill dozens of noncombatants in their preemptive drone strikes against Taliban and al-Qaeda targets; 'collateral damage' is what they call it. I have not heard you or your office railing against this American policy in front of the world media. Why?

Come off it, Prof. Alston. Do not be used by Western politicians who are after their own narrow agendas. Do not be manipulated by international 'human rights' organizations who have been using the Sri Lankan conflict for decades for lucrative fundraising. As a citizen of the world to whom you, as an UN Special Rapporteur is accountable, I DEMAND that you give Sri Lanka a fair shake. I do not give a tinker's cuss whether or not the Rajapakse regime is in power in Sri Lanka. I am not a citizen of that country; it is the business of Sri Lankans to either elect or defeat their current government. But I am infuriated by your opportunistic campaign to derail favourable trade concessions that would lead to poor Sri Lankans, especially women employed in the garment trade, getting poorer, and that panders to the West's agenda. This is wrong, wrong, wrong. You work for the United Nations, sir, not NATO.

Sincerely,

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