



AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL INDIA

Press Release

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Amnesty International India to send one of its supporters to participate in Geneva UNHRC session

Amnesty International India is inviting its Indian supporters to participate in “Go Geneva”, an opportunity to witness the proceedings of UNHRC at Geneva in March 2014. One candidate, selected through a fair process, will get to travel to Geneva in March to observe and participate in the crucial process of the UNHRC session that will contribute towards pushing for justice in Sri Lanka.

“This initiative is a significant step towards Amnesty international India’s endeavour to build a human rights movement in India that is led and sustained by Indians. This activity will reinforce the fact that every small step taken by an individual supporter of Amnesty International India helps in creating a long term impact in improving human rights worldwide,” said G Ananthapadmanabhan, Chief Executive, Amnesty International India.

"By reaching out to millions through this effort, we hope to educate our supporters and other concerned citizens of India about UNHRC proceedings, and enhance their awareness about our program of work and the methods we use to prevent grave human rights abuses around the world." he said.

To be eligible to participate in "Go Geneva", the person:

- Must be a supporter of Amnesty International India
- Must have given a MISSED CALL to 092465 81113
- Must be aged 18 years or above
- Must possess a valid Indian passport with at least 8 months validity
- Must possess a basic understanding of human rights issues, especially on Sri Lanka
- Must agree with basic Human Rights policies of Amnesty International.

The MISSED CALL number will be publicized on various electronic, print and social media platforms. The selection process is open from **21st February, 2014 till the midnight of 2nd March, 2014**, both dates inclusive. No entry fee is required to enter this contest.

Based on the data of missed calls and online data of contestants, fifty finalists will be chosen through a random computerised process. From this group of fifty finalists, one candidate will be chosen through an interview assessment by an Amnesty International India panel.

For further details on Go Geneva, visit http://act.amnesty.org.in/contest_terms

BACKGROUND:

Since 2009, Sri Lanka has struggled to recover from its destructive armed conflict with Liberation Tamil Tigers Eelam. The Government of Sri Lanka made specific commitments at the United Nations Human Rights Council to prevent torture, enforced disappearances, extrajudicial killings and to investigate, prosecute and punish perpetrators of human rights violations; however, they have failed to keep their promises.

Amnesty International India has been campaigning to demand justice for the victims of human rights abuses in Sri Lanka since 2012. The campaign has garnered support of more than 20 lakh Indians who petitioned the Indian Government to take a principled stand for human rights in Sri Lanka in national and international forums.

Prominent impacts of this campaign were, citizens demanding an international investigation, India voting in favour of US led resolution seeking accountability and justice from Government of Sri Lanka and PM Manmohan Singh not attending CHOGM. A resolution demanding human rights accountability from the Sri Lankan government is being introduced for the third time at the UNHRC meet in March this year.

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