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**Promotion and protection of all human rights, civil,
political, economic, social and cultural rights,
including the right to development**

Written statement* submitted by Organisation pour la Communication en Afrique et de Promotion de la Cooperation Economique Internationale - OCAPROCE Internationale, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status

The Secretary-General has received the following written statement which is circulated in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

[5 February 2024]

* Issued as received, in the language of submission only.



The Human Rights Situation in Sri Lanka

The declaration of 18th December 1992, adopted by consensus through resolution 47/135 cite that UN instrument is entirely dedicated to minority rights.

The article 27th of declaration emphasize the international covenant on civil and political rights, which provides that in those states in which, ethnic, religious, or linguistic minorities exist persons belonging to such minorities shall not be denied the right to enjoy their own culture, practice their own religion or to use their own language etc.

But very unfortunately the biggest challenge of Tamil people is protecting their heritage worship places and their 'Saiva temples' from the planed Singhalese occupation of archaeological department, police, military and racism minded Buddhist monks.

Many Temples in North part of Sri Lanka occupied by Singhalese authorities + Buddhist monks and changing them in to 'Vihara' with the help of military.

They do these through committing harmful violence's on Tamil people many times. For examples, very recently it happened in

- 'Ancient Sivan temple in Kurunthoormalai' Mullaittivu district
- 'Vedukku nary Sivan temple' in Vavuniya district. They changed the name as "Barvatha vihara" and broke and threw the statues and some of them been stolen.

And continuing on more temples in other places.

It has been said in the conclusions 82 of the Report A/HRC/52/53, that UN international human rights mechanisms play a crucial role in advancing the rights of persons belonging to national, ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities, and OHCHR will continue to support their essential work.

I request the council to take the attention on the remarks has been mentioned in the paragraphs 38-40 under 'freedom of worship and the places of worship' of the report of special rapporteur recently visited Sri Lanka Hon.Ahmed Shaheed on 'freedom of religion or belief' A/HRC/43/48.

The Organisation pour la Communication en Afrique et de Promotion de la Cooperation Economique Internationale - OCAPROCE Internationale request the council to take appropriate action promptly, before all the temples get destroyed.
