

Press Release**27.03.2014****WGHR expresses its strong concern at Indian move to abstain from voting on Sri Lanka Resolution at the UN Human Rights Council**

The Working Group on Human Rights in India and the UN (WGHR), a coalition of Indian civil society organisations and independent experts, today expressed strong concern over Government of India's move to abstain from voting in favour of the US backed resolution asking the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) to "investigate, assess and monitor" the alleged human rights violations in Sri Lanka.

This is for the first time since 2009; India has abstained from the voting on the resolution - 'Promoting reconciliation, accountability and human rights in Sri Lanka'. Mr Henri Tiphagne, Convenor of WGHR said, "The Indian stand can be viewed as a serious betrayal of India's commitment to the international community, people of Sri Lanka and its own citizens. The earlier statements issued by the state officials claiming to support the resolution now seems to be nothing but an eye wash aimed to avert world attention from the serious human rights situation in its neighbouring country".

India today joined hands with the rank of China, Russia, Cuba and Pakistan in engaging in desperate tactics to stall and defeat the motion in the Human Rights Council. India also voted in favour of motion to remove the operative part of the resolution providing the OHCHR the said mandate.

WGHR condemns in strongest terms the Indian abstention from voting and appeals to the international community to support the demands of human rights groups who are pushing for international action against Sri Lanka in order to seek justice for the embattled people of Sri Lanka.

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The Working Group on Human Rights in India and the UN – a national coalition of fourteen human rights organisations and independent experts – works towards the realisation of all civil, cultural, economic, political and social human rights in India and towards holding the Indian government accountable to its national and international human rights obligations. For information on WGHR, please visit: www.wghr.org

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