



Medical Association for Prevention of War, Australia, Inc.

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October 25, 2011

The Hon. Julia Gillard MP
Prime Minister of Australia Parliament House,
Canberra, ACT 2600

Dear Prime Minister,

Re: CHOGM and Sri Lanka

I write as President of Medical Association for Prevention of War, an organisation of medical people who are deeply concerned about the consequences of war. We believe it is crucial that all inappropriate use of violence especially civilian casualties be brought to account, in order to prevent similar abuses in the future.

For this reason we write again to you on the matter of alleged human rights abuses and possible war crimes in the final stages of the civil war in Sri Lanka. The imminent CHOGM meeting is an opportunity to raise this matter directly with the Sri Lankan Government, which has ignored calls for accountability by many international bodies including the International Crisis Group, International Commission of Jurists, Amnesty International and Human Rights Watch.

We urge our Government to request CHOGM to demand that the Government of Sri Lanka immediately allow for an independent and transparent inquiry into allegations of war crimes, crimes against humanity and other human rights violations committed against the civilian population, particularly during the period of the escalating war in 2009.

In the event of a refusal we urge that:

Sri Lanka be expelled from the Council of CHOGM

Sri Lanka be disallowed from holding the next CHOGM meeting;

Sri Lanka be disallowed from holding the next Commonwealth Games;

The Foreign Affairs Minister's 11 September 2011 letter to MAPW assured us that our government regularly makes clear to the Sri Lankan Government the need for accountability in the aftermath of the war. The upcoming meeting in Perth is the opportune time to drive this point home. Canadian Prime Minister Stephen Harper has taken a stand by promising to boycott the next CHOGM if held in Sri Lanka: Australia should do the same.

Yours sincerely,

Dr Jenny Grounds
President
Medical Association for Prevention of War.

Cc: The Hon. Kevin Rudd MP, Minister for Foreign Affairs, Parliament House, Canberra.

