



All-Party Parliamentary Group for
Tamils

23 September 2021

**Statement from the All-Party Parliamentary Group for Tamils on the arrest
of Kajendren Selvarajah**

The All-Party Parliamentary Group for Tamils was disturbed to see distressing video footage of Sri Lankan police assaulting and arresting a member of parliament for the Tamil National People's Front, Kajendren Selvarajah, in Jaffna earlier today.

We strongly condemn the arrest and are deeply concerned by yet another incident of Sri Lankan police brutality.

We understand that due procedure was not followed relating to Mr Selvarajah's arrest, with no arrest warrant in place nor any charges being produced. We further understand that the lawmaker was taking part in a memorial event for a Tamil hunger striker, who passed away 34 years ago.

We note with concern that the ongoing repression of Tamil memorial events has been repeatedly raised by international bodies, including the UN High Commissioner of Human Rights, and the continuation of such oppression reflects the climate of fear that remains in Sri Lanka.

We call on Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office to raise this matter with her counterpart in Sri Lanka and demand all due procedures are followed by Sri Lankan authorities with regards to Mr Selvarajah's detention.