"Sri Lankan Army's Reign of Terror Holds Tamils in Thrall"

wrote Trevor Fishlock in The Times on New Year's Eve "Sri Lankan forces are conducting a harsh and remorseless campaign of intimidation among the island's Tamils. By means of random murder, indiscriminate shooting, beating, torture and plunder, ill-disciplined and trigger-happy soldiers keep the Tamils in the north in a state of constant fear".

The predominantly Sinhalese army has been allowed a free hand to indulge in a savage ethnic attack for which the government shrugs off the responsibility. Military restrictions and army excesses have almost shut down the economy of the North and East of Ceylon.

The coastal strip has been made into a total exclusion zone. 25,000 fishermen have been cut off from their livelihood. Unless food is brought in to areas already short, people will soon be starving. Families have been deprived of their income and women have been selling their necklaces and bangles to buy food.

Many thousands of people, mostly women and children, have fled to India and to Europe. Thousands of young people have been rounded up and held in Army camps. Their parents do not know where they are.

A rigid curfew has been imposed and permits are required for every form of transport, even bullock carts and bicycles. People cannot get to work, goods cannot be moved, factories are closing, shops have no merchandise People have died because they cannot be taken to hospital during curfew. Hospitals are running out of essential drugs, oxygen and anaesthetics.

The presence of an intimidating and irresponsible army, looting, raping and shooting at random has brought the region to a standstill.

HELP THE PEOPLE OF EELAM FREE THEMSELVES FROM AN ARMY OF OCCUPATION!

Eelam Solidarity Campaign BM Box 3009 London WC1N 3XX

THE TRUTH ABOUT CEYLON 'Island of Paradise'

Since 1983 over 1000 Tamils including several priests have been murdered in Ceylon, and over 5000 have been arrested and detained by the Sri Lankan government.

Even the government admits that there are 25,000 refugees in 91 camps. These people are mostly fishermen whom the government has forcibly removed from the coastal regions.

Most of the Tamil workers on the tea plantations who produce 2/3 of the island's foreign exchange are stateless and are the poorest community on the island.

DO YOU KNOW

 In the North and East of Ceylon you need a permit from the police to go to the beaches, to travel by bus and even to ride a bicycle.

> DO YOU REALLY WANT TO TAKE YOUR HOLIDAY IN CEYLON THIS YEAR? DO YOU LIKE THE TASTE OF BLOOD IN YOUR CUP OF CEYLON TEA?

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