

EELAM SOLIDARITY CAMPAIGN

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ESCALATION OF STATE TERRORISM AGAINST THE TAMIL SPEAKING

PEOPLE IN SRI LANKA

Recent months have witnessed a deliberate and coordinated escalation of violence against the Tamil speaking people by the Sri Lankan state.

RULED UNDER EMERGENCY REGULATIONS

On 29th November 1983, under Emergency Regulations the coastal strip around the Northern tip of Sri Lanka has been declared a 'no - go area'. No person will be allowed to enter or remain in that zone for whatever purpose without the authority of the area's Superintendent of Police (Guardian, 30th November 1983). This had the effect of instantly turning about 25,000 Tamil residents into refugees.

STATE TERROR

Following an attack on paramilitary camps established by the state at Dollar and Kent Farms (Which sprang up as refugee settlement for the plantation workers driven from their home in the pogrom of 1977), The army executed scores of Tamils.

On 1st December, (about 60) Tamils were picked up by the army and their mutilated corpses were found strewn along streets the next day.

An estimated 50 Tamil youths being held in the Vavuniya Army Camp were massacred on 3rd December.

On the following day, the army retaliated for an attack on a military convoy by carrying out mass collective punishment on innocent civilians causing more than 100 deaths, including women.

To justify this escalation of state terrorism, the government has invented the bogey of an 'Indian Invasion', ostensibly planned in Madras. This 'invasion threat' has been subsequently used to further extend paramilitary forces and to create a political climate of war psychosis. This is an ominous pointer to an impending massacre of innocent Tamils.

MANIPULATING THE MEDIA

In July 1983 during the pogroms against the Tamil people, the Sri Lankan government was castigated by human rights organisation and the mass media throughout the world. Since then, they have learnt to control and manipulate world media. The truth is not being told.

We call upon freedom - loving people of the world to condemn the denial of human rights and the continuing and escalating violence perpetrated by the Sri Lankan State against the Tamil speaking people.

HELP US TO MAKE OUR CASE KNOWN.

ESC.

December, 1984.