

# EELAM SOLIDARITY CAMPAIGN

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## EELAM SOLIDARITY CALANDER - 1985

April	12th	Friday		S. G. M
	20th	Saturday		Cultural Event
May	1st	Wednesday	EC	
	4/5/6	Sat/Sun/Mon		Solidarityday
	21st	Tuesday	EC	
June	4th	Tuesday	EC	
	22nd	Saturday		Social Evening /Dinner
July	9th	Tuesday	EC	
	23rd	Tuesday	EC	
	27th	Saturday		Public March & Meeting
August	6th	Tuesday	EC	
	16th	Friday		SGM
	25th	Sunday		Solidarityday
September	10th	Tuesday	EC	
	21st	Saturday		Cultural Event
October	8th	Tuesday	EC	
	22nd	Tuesday	EC	
	26th	Saturday		Public Campaign Meeting
November	5th	Tuesday	EC	
	17th	Sunday		Annual General Meeting

Note: EC - Executive committee meeting  
SGM - Special General meeting

FOR AN EFFECTIVE  
EELAM SOLIDARITY CAMPAIGN

The predecessor to the Eelam Solidarity Campaign was the Campaign for the Release of Eelam Political Prisoners which was formed primarily to campaign against arbitrary arrests, detentions and torture of Tamils, the Prevention of Terrorism Act and other human Rights violations in Sri Lanka. Among the many actions it engaged in was the organisation of the historic demonstration and march in London in which nearly 10,000 people from all over Britain participated following the July 1983 genocide of Tamils in Sri Lanka.

In August 1983, the CREPP reconstituted itself into the Eelam Solidarity Campaign and began to reflect more and more on questions relating to the oppression of the Tamil people and their liberation. During the last year, the ESC has mounted several campaigns including meetings and pickets. Among the recent activities which achieved a reasonable measure of success are the pickets organised during March-April 1984 army rampage in the Jaffna district, the pickets during J.R.Jayawardene's visit in June this year and the demonstration and rally held to mark the anniversary of the July 1983 anti-Tamil pogrom.

Last year also witnessed increased efforts by individual Tamil organisations to strengthen and popularise themselves before the Tamil people. While this could be regarded as essential and legitimate, it must be observed that these efforts had the corresponding effect of losing interest in the activities of the ESC and thereby the campaigning capacity of the ESC was diminished and its organisational efficacy weakened.

The Tamil people are today at the receiving end of massive attacks by the government. The atrocities committed against the Tamil people are day by day increasing. On the other hand, the government has mounted a massive hostile campaign on an international level against the Tamil people. In this context the need for maximising the efforts of expatriate Tamils to render assistance to the struggle to liberate the Tamil people from the oppression by the Sinhala dominated state is absolutely crucial.

In the context of acute national oppression, the assertion of the inalienable right of the Tamil people to self determination and national liberation has become the major question in the political agenda for the Tamil Nation.

The time has come for the ESC reorganise itself to meet challenges posed by these developments. The adhoc manner in which it has operated hitherto must give way to a much more formal and structured approach. The organisation itself should be restructured making it capable of carrying out the tasks expected of it more effectively and expeditiously.

In its activities, the ESC cannot fail to reflect and project the true content form of the Tamil liberation struggle which has reached a stage where armed struggle has become necessary and inevitable. The repression by the Sinhala dominated state has the backing of the dark forces international reaction and imperialism. The massive military supplies from the west and the services provided by SAS mercenaries and the Israeli Mossad are a demonstrative manifestation of this fact. Hence the struggle for liberation is telescoped into the broader struggle against international reactionary forces and imperialism.

While the ESC must concentrate its activities around its declared aims and objectives, it also must seek to mobilise support among expatriate Tamils. It also can serve as a forum and a rallying point to forge unity among existing active Tamil groups and individuals who in one way or another are engaged in the liberation struggle. The restructuring of the ESC should enable the achievement of this unity that is so crucial for the success of any liberation struggle.

The ESC should also give priority of emphasis to the mobilisation of support and solidarity from non-Tamil liberation and progressive forces which broadly agree with the objectives of the ESC.