

MOTHERS OF LANKA CRY OUT “STOP ALL KILLINGS NOW”

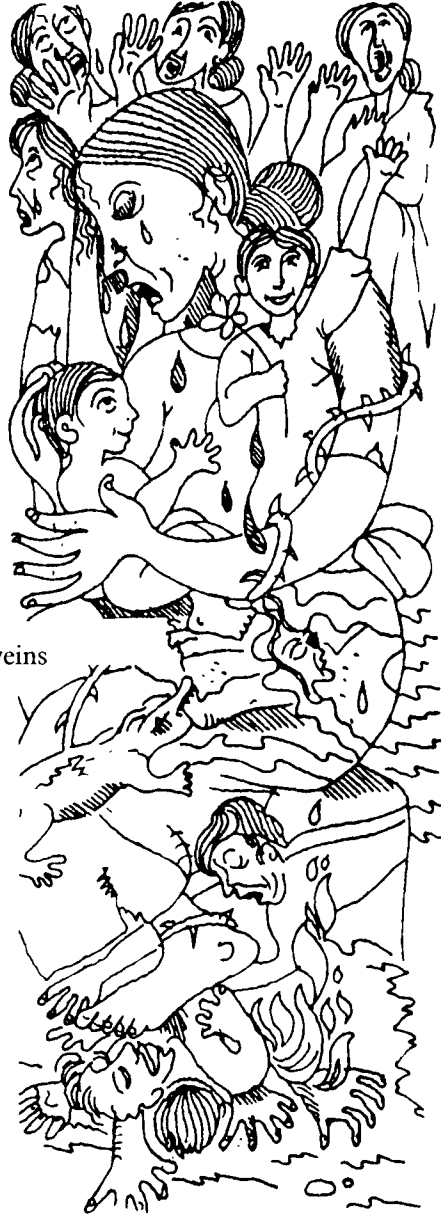
Tell me, my children,
How can I,
your mother,
remain silent any longer?

Carion consumes the flesh
that I nurtured,
with sleepless nights,
amidst hunger and deprivation;
the flesh
that is all that remains
of my son,
my daughter,
of the child who looked up at me
with love in its eyes
after a childhood quarrel.

The blood that flows
over village and town,
on the roadside and in the rivers,
is the blood that once flowed in my veins
as I suckled you, my child.

No matter what arms you bear,
No matter what power you have —
Who is it who gave you the arms,
Who is it who gave you the power
to destroy a life
that a mother brought forth?

Wait.
Heed your mother's cry.
Call a halt to this cycle
of violence and hatred.
Stop this killing.
and seek solutions.
Stop killing.
Stop killing NOW.



COMMITTEE FOR DEMOCRACY AND JUSTICE IN SRI LANKA

Sri Lanka is today subject to one of the most violent conflicts in its history. The daily rate of politically motivated killings is the highest for any country in the world.

Day by day the death toll mounts. The dead are often civilians caught in crossfire, shelling, bombing or deliberately murdered. Many of the victims are children and teenagers.

DISAPPEARANCES

Frequently people disappear. They are seized, detained, tortured or brutally killed; and their dead bodies are burnt or dismembered. Their families and friends do not know their whereabouts and indeed whether they are alive.

The perpetrators of violence have been ruthless and utterly inhuman against even those opponents who eschew violence.

The Government has imposed a “state of emergency” and suspended basic human and democratic rights. Arbitrary arrests, detention without trial, torture of detainees and summary executions are commonplace. The security forces have been invested with the power to dispose of dead bodies without post-mortems or inquests. Government-sponsored death squads operate with impunity, killing people alleged to be anti-government. The rule of law and the judicial process have been seriously subverted.

STATE TERROR

State terror which was first unleashed against the Tamil people has now been turned against all those who dare to oppose the government even by democratic means.

The subversion of democratic process through fraudulent elections, the subjugation of parliamentary powers by the imposition of an executive President and the denial of fundamental human rights continue unabated.

The government's failure to resolve the ethnic conflict through the promised devolution of power and its cynical exploitation of divisions amongst Tamil groups has resulted in the continuation of violence in the North and East of the country.

The continuing violence by militant groups in the rest of the country has been used as a pretext by the government to liquidate democratic political activists of opposition political parties and groups.

There is an alarming rise in the militarisation of the state.

the restoration of peace, democracy and justice in Sri Lanka is the most crying need of the hour.

The CDJ is a committee set up by Sri Lankans of all communities and political beliefs. It will campaign for the restoration of human and democratic rights to all Sri Lankans.

People throughout the world could make an important contribution to the achievements of this objective. Since the British government continues to grant economic and military aid to Sri Lanka, the government as well as the people of Britain could bring to bear effective pressure on those who wield political power in Sri Lanka to end this senseless cycle of violence.

WHAT YOU CAN DO

■ Write to your MP and/or the Minister of Overseas Development calling for a suspension of economic and military aid to Sri Lanka until Democratic rights are restored. Ask your MP to organise a Parliamentary Human Rights delegation to visit Sri Lanka to investigate human rights abuses.

■ Write to the President of Sri Lanka, President's House, Colombo, Sri Lanka asking him to permit a team of Amnesty International members to come to Sri Lanka in order to investigate human rights abuses.

■ Move a resolution in your Trade Union, local party branch, or other organisation of which you are a member to affiliate to our campaign. If you want a speaker from CDJ to attend your meeting please let us know.

■ Send a donation to our Committee — cheques to Committee for Democracy and Justice.

The Committee for Democracy and Justice (CDJ) will campaign for:

- the cessation of all political violence and in particular State violence which has resulted in large scale and indiscriminate killings of Sri Lankan people;
- an end to all violations of human rights such as arbitrary arrests, detention of persons incommunicado and torture, and for the release of all political prisoners;
- the release of all repressive laws and regulations such as the Emergency Regulation No 55 FF (which permits the Security Forces to dispose of dead bodies without an inquest), Prevention of Terrorism Act etc;
- the holding of free and fair elections at the earliest possible date;
- the urgent resolution of the National Question on the basis of the right of self-determination.

Further the Committee calls upon all political organisations in Sri Lanka to cease all internecine violence and join forces to establish democracy and justice in Sri Lanka.

☐ I/We would like to affiliate to the
Committee for Democracy and Justice in Sri Lanka.

Name/organisation

Address

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Donation enclosed

Please send to Committee for Democracy and Justice in Sri Lanka, BM Box 3018, London WC1N 3XX