

What can you do?

Please communicate with the Members of Parliament, media and other policy makers to:

Exert pressure on the Government of Sri Lanka to immediately:

1. Halt the war and to seek a negotiated political solution to the conflict
2. Allow the local and International NGOs and other humanitarian workers to provide much needed assistance to those displaced
3. Lift the embargo on food, medicine and other essential items.
4. Stop the indiscriminate bombing and shelling of civilians

Ask them to engage the United Nations to immediately:

1. Adopt a United Nations Human Rights Council Emergency Resolution calling for an end to the massive human rights violations against Tamils.
2. Establish a UN monitoring mission in Sri Lanka with a mandate to report on all human rights violations and humanitarian issues.

STOP the Genocide of Tamils!



For more information:



CanadianHART

(Canadian Humanitarian Appeal for Relief of Tamils)

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info@canadianhart.org
www.haltgenocide.org
www.tamilIDPcrisis.org
www.savetamils.org

படிப்பகம்



STOP the Genocide of Tamils

Government of Sri Lanka's genocidal war on Tamils has:

- Killed more than 100,000 Tamils;
- Forced the internally displacement of more than 500,000 Tamils;
- Massacred women and children through organized violence;
- Made more than 1,500,000 Tamils to flee Sri Lanka as refugees;
- Committed war-crimes in an unprecedented scale;
- Killed four Members of Parliament;
- Killed tens of Humanitarian workers, Media Personnel and community leaders;
- Destroyed schools, temples and churches, libraries, and other Tamil cultural infrastructures

Further, its genocidal campaign has taken systemic roots and through the Sinhalese ethnic majority dominated Parliament successive Governments of Sri Lanka have:

- Passed several legislations to undermine the principles of equality and freedom of religion, language, and expression;
- Discriminated against Tamils in access to education and employment;
- Disenfranchised more than one million Tamils;

The Government of Sri Lanka also continues to:

- Use indiscriminate aerial bombing, artillery shelling, and Internationally-banned cluster munitions on civilians;
- Use rape of women and children as a weapon of war with absolute impunity;
- Attack civilian targets such as hospitals, refugee camps, schools, and places of worship;
- Engaged in forced disappearance of Tamil civilians
- Enforce inhumane embargo on food, medicine, fuel and other essential items;
- Arbitrarily detain tens of thousands of young Tamils with no recourse to justice;

- Prevent both local and International Humanitarian workers to access war-affected areas;
- Prohibit independent news reporting from the war-affected Tamil areas.

Since the ceasefire agreement of 2002, 3541 Tamil civilians have been killed or have become disappeared and countless numbers of Tamils have been injured. However, the unilateral abrogation of the ceasefire agreement by the Sri Lankan government has led to atrocities unforeseen in the past. In 2008 alone, more than 1200 Tamil civilians have been killed or forcefully disappeared by Government of Sri Lanka, 977 have been severely injured, and 4772 have been arbitrarily detained. A case in point was that between January 20-23, 2009 alone, nearly 100 Tamil civilians have been killed by Sri Lankan government aerial bombardment and artillery barrage of a hospital and other safe zones declared by warring parties as a safe zone

And as a result, Sri Lanka has been:

- Listed among the top eight "red alert" countries by independent panels of experts organized by the New York based Genocide Prevention Project
- Voted off the United Nations Human Rights Council in 2008;
- Listed by *United Nations Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances* as second only to Iraq in number of disappearances;
- Censured by Humanitarian agencies such as World Food Program for its "Somalia like conditions"; and
- Sri Lanka has been ranked 165th on the press freedom list of Reporters Without Borders, which makes Sri Lanka one of the most dangerous places for the media in the World.

Yet, the Government of Sri Lanka continues to:

- Engage in a vicious human and cultural Genocide;
- Disregard all Human rights and Humanitarian rights conventions and agreements that it is signatory to; and
- Violate all International norms and practices with regards to civilians.

But, its genocidal war is also directly or indirectly assisted by several World nations, including Canada.

- It receives about \$1 Billion from Iran, \$900 million from Japan, \$600 million from China, and \$250 million from India, per year.
- European Union's GSP+ tariff benefits on trade alone annually amounts to more than \$1 billion.
- Canadian Government provided over \$56 million dollars in the year 2004 – 2005. As of April 2007, \$64 million has been given to Government of Sri Lanka and to organizations in Sri Lanka.

"In an effort to coax civilians to leave, the government dropped leaflets throughout the region Wednesday announcing the establishment of a "safe zone" on the edge of rebel-held territory that it would not attack.

But an hour after the leaflets were dropped, two shells hit a makeshift hospital in a school in Vallipunam, a village inside the "safe zone," said Kandasamy Tharmakulasingham, a health official. No one was wounded in that attack, he said.

On Thursday morning, the hospital and a nearby village were hit again in an attack so devastating that health officials had difficulty counting the bodies because many of them were dismembered, he said."

International Herald Tribune, www.iht.com, Jan. 22, 09

"In a scene of carnage of untold proportion on civilian targets hit by hundreds of Sri Lanka Army fired artillery shells, **more than 300 people have died and several hundreds are bleeding to death within the last 24 hours**, amidst pouring rain inside the 'safety zone' declared by the Colombo government. Houses and vehicles burn for a stretch of three km between Va'llipunam Kaa'li temple and Moongkilaa'ru towards Paranthan road, reports from Vanni said on Monday. Unattended bodies and injured people unable to move are lying around everywhere, while a remaining doctor fled and helpless ICRC officials virtually cried at the scene from their bunkers"

TamilNet.com, January 26, 09

Don't we have the moral responsibility, as members of a civilized society, to put an end to this genocidal war?