



CANADIAN TAMIL CONGRESS ■ CONGRÈS TAMOUL CANADIEN

206-1920 Ellesmere Road , Ontario M1H 2V6 T: 416-240-0078 F: 416-240-1601 e-mail:info@ctconline.ca

Press Release

SRI LANKA ABANDONS CEASE-FIRE

TORONTO , July 31 - Canadian Tamils are deeply perturbed by recent aerial bombings by the Sri Lankan government in clear violation of the Cease-Fire Agreement. These air attacks on Tamil areas are taking place consecutively for the last few days.

On Wednesday 26th July, Sri Lankan Air Force bombed the Vaakarai region in Trincomalee district between 4:30 and 5:30 p.m. Houses and basic living quarters of the internally displaced were destroyed; many civilians were wounded. On Thursday 27th , Kfir bombers belonging to Sri Lanka Air Force attacked Keppapulavu, 7.3 km west of Mullaitivu.

It would appear from the above high handed aggression and destruction, that the Sri Lankan government has abandoned the Cease-Fire agreement to the complete dismay of all Tamil Canadians and in the process of abandoning the Peace initiatives put forward by the International Community.

We call upon the Canadian government to condemn these violations to the cease-fire agreement, which could easily reignite the war.

"In reality they more or less have terminated the ceasefire agreement in their actions," said Major General Ulf Henricsson, who heads the Sri Lanka Monitoring Mission (SLMM), in an interview to Reuters on July 29, 2006. "It (ceasefire) is still useful if the parties decide they want to talk, then you have the paper and you can go back to it. But just now we are far from a real ceasefire."

Sri Lanka's air force bombed the Tamil areas in the restive east for the fourth day on Saturday in a bid to wrest control of a reservoir. The government accuses the Tamils of choking the flow of water to state-held territory, whereas the people of the area complained that the government water distribution project funded by the Asian Development Bank, has completely abandoned the project to the Tamil held area.

• Toronto
(416) 240-0078

• Ottawa
(613) 789-9371

• Montreal
(514) 898-8019

• Vancouver
(778) 231-0074

"It is definitely the wrong method. It is definitely overkill if you want the water," Henricsson said. The air force dropped a bomb on Friday 750 metres away from where Henricsson was meeting rebel leaders in a bid to resolve the dispute. "We sat talking and got clearance from the government and tried to convince the LTTE to have confidence in the government," he said. "They dropped a bomb in the vicinity. That's not the right signal."

On July 8, 2006, Hon. Minister Stockwell Day said in an exclusive interview with CMR Tamil FM Radio, "We (Canadian government) want to do all that we can, to see the peace process proceeds". The Canadian Tamil Congress urges Canadian government to put pressure on Sri Lanka to stop killing Tamil civilians by strafing their properties and livelihoods, but to abide by the Geneva Talks 1, to uphold the agreed Peace initiatives.

For nearly 7 decades, the Sri Lankan Tamil community has accused the Sinhalese national governments of genocidal acts responsible for the deaths of tens of thousands of Tamils and destruction of their businesses, properties and belongings. Tamils have subsequently strived for self-rule through self-determination in the north-eastern Sri Lanka and currently run the area as a semi-autonomous region.

- 30 -

For further information contact:

David Poopalapillai
Canadian Tamil Congress
Spokesperson
(905) 781-7034
(416) 240-0078
media@ctconline.ca