



## **CANADIAN TAMIL CONGRESS ■ CONGRÈS TAMOUL CANADIEN**

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**December 23, 2008**

**For Immediate Release**

### **Boxing Day Tsunami Victims Remembered**

Four years ago, on December 26<sup>th</sup>, several Asian countries, including Sri Lanka, were ravaged by a deadly tsunami that struck the Indian Ocean. In total, over a quarter of a million lives were lost, the single worst tsunami in history. Next to Indonesia, Sri Lanka had the highest reported death toll from this disaster, almost 50,000 deaths, several thousand injuries and over 1.5 million displaced.

Although the epicenter of this unprecedented natural disaster was thousands of miles away, the impact was deeply felt here in Canada. Tamil Canadians were concerned for their family and friends back home in Sri Lanka. While the tsunami drew international attention to the situation in Sri Lanka, the plight of tsunami victims and their families remains unchanged for the most part.

“Although four years have past since the tragic Boxing Day tsunami struck the coastline of Sri Lanka, many families affected by the tsunami are still displaced,” says David Poopalapillai, National Spokesperson of the Canadian Tamil Congress. “These displaced families in the North and East of Sri Lanka remain homeless without access to much needed humanitarian aid such as food, clean water, and essential medical supplies.”

Each year on December 26, Tamil Canadians take time to remember all of those who were affected by the tsunami. This year, the Canadian Tamil Congress in association with the Markham Tamil Organization is organizing a memorial to commemorate the lost lives to this disaster.

**Date:** Friday, December 26<sup>th</sup> 2008

**Time:** 6:00 pm – 8:00 pm

**Venue:** Middlefield Collegiate Institute,  
525 Highglen Ave  
Markham, Ontario L3S 3L5

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