



Canadian Tamil Congress
கனடியத் தமிழர் பேரவை
Congrès Tamoul Canadien
"The unified voice of Canadian Tamils"

Head Office:
Toronto
216-31 Progress Ave.
Toronto, On. M1P 4S6 Canada
Tel: **416 240 0078**
Fax: 416 240 1601

Branch Office:
Montreal
378-6830, Parc Ave.
Montreal, Qc H3N 1W3
Tel: **514 394 7727**
Fax: 514 227 5477

www.canadiantamilcongress.ca info@canadiantamilcongress.ca

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Tamil Canadians Demonstrate Against China's Support to Sri Lanka

Tamil Canadians will demonstrate in front of the Chinese Consulate in Toronto on Wednesday, August 26, 2009 to denounce the country's military and financial support of the Sri Lankan government. China's assistance has enabled Sri Lanka to further oppress and intern 280,000 people against their will in what international humanitarian organizations have deemed modern-day internment camps. Canadians, with relatives and friends in these camps, will also take part in this demonstration.

China is the largest supplier of arms to the Sri Lankan military and increased its help when other countries refused to sell military supplies for use in the civil war. Last year, China was also Sri Lanka's largest foreign donor, pumping \$1-billion into the country's coffers. Due to China's diplomatic support in the international arena, Sri Lanka was also able to disregard western nations' calls to adhere to human rights norms.

"China must not continue to support this Sri Lankan regime, which is running modern-day internment camps within its borders," said David Poopalapillai, National Spokesperson for the Canadian Tamil Congress. "At the very least, China should use its diplomatic relations with Sri Lanka to pressure the government into releasing the 280,000 camp detainees in accordance with international law."

Human Rights Watch has said Sri Lanka is violating international law with its internment of the civilians. Amnesty International has called the camps overcrowded and unsanitary and said about 50,000 of the detainees are children.

Photo/Interview Opportunities: Available with Tamil Canadians who have relatives and friends in camps

Date: Wednesday, August 26, 2009

Time: 3 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Place: Chinese Consulate in Toronto, 240 George Street, Toronto, Ontario, M5R 2N5

For more information, contact the Canadian Tamil Congress at 416.240.0078

Chapters:

• **Ottawa**
613 789 9371

• **Vancouver**
778 231 0074

• **Edmonton**
780 660 1211

• **Winnipeg**
204 219 2018

• **Halifax**
902 229 5482

• **Waterloo**
519 404 6707