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Congrès Tamoul Canadien
"The unified voice of Canadian Tamils"

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For Immediate Release

January 27, 2010

Tamils Launch Tamil Rights Awareness Campaign on Sri Lankan Independence Day

Tamil Canadians will launch protests across Canada on February 4, 2010 to take a stand against continuing human rights violations in Sri Lanka. The protests are part of the Tamil Rights Awareness Campaign, which will be kick-started on the 62nd anniversary of Sri Lanka's independence. While this day is one of celebration in Sri Lanka, it's a reminder of the oppression faced by Tamils on the island. With this in mind, Tamil Canadians urge consumers to boycott Sri Lankan-made products and travel to the island.

Tamils in Sri Lanka make up 18 per cent of the country's population and have suffered institutionalized discrimination and persecution for several decades. Just last year, the Sri Lankan government committed crimes against humanity against the Tamil population by overseeing the killing of more than 20,000 Tamil civilians and the displacement of hundreds of thousands more. Disappearances and torture remain common problems.

As part of the campaign, a protest will be held from 4:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at the Sri Lankan Consulate, 40 St. Clair Avenue West, Toronto, Ontario. Several protests will also be held in front of stores, including the GAP, which sell Sri Lankan products and services. Participants will wear orange ribbons to signify the oppression that started 62 years ago.

"The global Tamil Diaspora want to take this day to express our concerns for the continuing human rights violations in Sri Lanka," says Jeyagobi Jeyaratnam, co-ordinator of the campaign. "Tamils in Sri Lanka are still living in fear and they're afraid to talk to the media. Sixty-two years ago, we became second-class citizens on the island. We just want our rights back."

For more information, please contact 416.240.0078

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