

The Tamils cannot be evacuated to Sri Lankan government detention camps!

Petition to the European Union

The unceasing military attacks of the Government of Sri Lanka (GoSL) on the Tamil population in the north of Sri Lanka have to be stopped immediately. We appeal to you to understand the legitimate opposition from the Tamil people, who are cornered by the Sri Lankan army, to the international plans to evacuate them so they can be taken into long-term confinement in detention camps under the control of their tormentors the GoSL. They have a right to resist. Tens of thousands of Tamil refugees that had been expelled from their homes in the east of the island by the military operations of the GoSL more than two years ago, like the hundreds of thousands from the Jaffna peninsula more than 15 years ago, have yet not been able to return, because large parts of their homeland have been declared high-security zones and occupied by the Sri Lankan armed forces.

We must remind the EU that the conflict arose because the Tamils faced over sixty years of racial discrimination and violence in Sri Lanka and that a military solution is not possible to resolve such a conflict. The EU must treat both parties in conflict with 'parity of esteem' and return to the constructive approach that it adopted when it supported the Norwegian facilitated peace process in 2002. We urge the EU to recognise that its ban on the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) in May 2006—adopted under pressure from Bush and Blair—undermined the peace process in Sri Lanka. This encouraged the Sri Lankan government to pursue the military option and to withdraw from the ceasefire agreement. The EU must recognise that travel bans and the proscription of one party to a conflict are utterly unhelpful in any negotiation and return to its position that the strategy for peacemaking is dialogue and not military conquest.

With my signature I appeal to you to take all practical steps possible to implement an immediate ceasefire and to enable food and medicine to be taken to the Tamil population encircled by the Sri Lankan armed forces and to offer to become mediators between GoSL and the LTTE so that a political solution can be found.

I oppose forced evacuations of Tamils into internment camps and call for an immediate ceasefire!

Name

Organisation

Position

Address

Email

Can we use your name in public? Yes _____ No _____

Can we use the name of your organisation and position in public? Yes _____ No _____

06.03.09

Please return to:

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Supported by: **Peace For Sri Lanka** (www.peaceforsrilanka.net), **European Initiative for the Negotiated Peace in Sri Lanka** (www.negotiatedpeace.org), **Irish Forum for Peace in Sri Lanka** (www.ifpsl.org), **International Human Rights Association Bremen e.V** (www.humanrights.de)