

Statement Released by:
Tamil Americans and Friends of Tamils
at the Peace Rally in Washington D.C.
Monday July 23, 2007

1. **Recognizing** that the Tamil people in the island now known as Sri Lanka have paid a heavy price for freedom in their struggle for justice bearing the loss of 100,000 people and the displacement of over a million as refugees and internally displaced persons;
2. **Bearing** in mind that successive Governments of Sri Lanka have been responsible for those deaths and persecution, discrimination, and ethnic cleansing including the recent expulsion of Tamil people from Colombo to their Homeland;
3. **Deploring** the plight of the millions of refugees and displaced persons who have been uprooted as a result of Sinhala armed forces' acts and preventing from their right to return to their homes voluntarily in safety and honor, and emphasizing the urgent need for concerted international action to alleviate their condition;
4. **Mindful** that the Tamils did not participate in the making of the 1972 and 1978 constitutions which institutionalized discrimination and which denied them an effective role in the national decision-making process;
5. **Noting** that the Tamil people gave their mandate to their elected representatives to seek an independent state for the Tamil people in the elections subsequent to the Vaddukoddai Resolution of 1976;
6. **Reaffirming** that the universal realization of the right of all peoples, including those under alien domination, to self-determination is a fundamental condition for the effective guarantee and observance of human rights and for the preservation and promotion of such rights;
7. **Being aware** that the history of the relations between the Tamil People and the Sinhala People has been a process of broken promises, unilateral abrogation of pacts and agreements by the Governments of Sri Lanka;
8. **Bearing** in mind that the armed struggle as a measure of self-defense and a means of the realisation of the right to self-determination arose only after the failure of the 40 years of non-violent struggle, and due to the absence of means to resolve the conflict peacefully;
9. **Cognizant** of the reality that the war in the island of Sri Lanka has been principally confined to the NorthEast, resulting in the destruction of its social, economic, administrative and physical infrastructure;

10. **Accepting** that it was the Sinhala attempt to subjugate and assimilate which led, eventually, to the rise of the armed resistance of the Tamil people, led today by the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam;
11. **Conscious** that an effective control and jurisdiction of the NorthEast of the island of Sri Lanka is exercised by Tamil governance, which is also resisting the current war for land to colonize the Tamil Homeland;
12. **Welcoming** the Fifteen Non-Governmental Organizations' statement at the UN Human Rights Commission in February 1993 that: -
"A social group, which shares objective elements such as a common language and which has acquired a subjective consciousness of togetherness by its life within a relatively well defined territory, and its struggle against alien domination, clearly constitutes a "people" with the right to self-determination".
13. **Noting** that the Tamils of Eelam are not simply an ethnic group. Their togetherness is not only a cultural togetherness, they are a people who have lived within a relatively well defined territory for many centuries and established their own separate and independent state and defended it against alien invaders;
14. **Recognising** that Tamil Eelam is a *de jure* State where in some areas Sinhala alien *de facto* rule exists, against the will of the Tamil people;
15. **Determined** to bring lasting peace to all Peoples of the island of Sri Lanka;

We, the Tamil Americans, hereby proclaim that Eelam Tamils constitute a Nation.

We resolve that our struggle to establish the right of Tamil people to Self-Determination, and to establish self-rule in the territories Tamil people have made their home for centuries will continue until our goal is achieved.

We appeal to the legislators, the Administration and the people of the United States who fought and won their freedom to empathize with the Tamil people, and help to establish our right to Self-Determination from the remnants of the Sinhala colonial State.