Further information on the current situation in Sri Lanka

02.03.09
Current Situation

- Concentration camps
- No peace, justice & dignity
- Trench warfare
- Tamil Eelam
- Military rule
- Open prison
- HR violations
- Genocide
- Censorship
- Ethnic cleansing
- Ethnic-Religious persecution
- Strategic & Economic Interests of Powers
- Ignoring the moral law of justice & the rights of the Tamils

Wrongly Governed Country

Sri Lanka

Satellite map
TAMILS ETHNIC CLEANSING INDEX – 2009
Last Update: Sunday, 15 Feb 2009, 02:02 GMT

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TAMIL CIVILIANS</th>
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<td>Killed in Vanni</td>
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<tr>
<td>Critically wounded in Vanni</td>
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<tr>
<td>Killed outside of Vanni</td>
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<td>Critically wounded outside of Vanni</td>
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<td>Enforced disappearances under areas of Sri Lanka occupation</td>
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<td>Arrested by Sri Lankan Armed forces</td>
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<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
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Unrecorded figures are not included in the table. Actual figures are much more higher.
Sri Lanka has been Shelling and bombing day & night
No Safe Haven for Tamils in Sri Lanka

1. Tamil People
The UN estimates that ~250,000 Tamil civilians are trapped in the war zone

2. Women, children and elderly
Pregnant women, children and elderly have been killed or injured seriously
Reported seeing babies with shrapnel wounds, gunshot injuries and blast wounds.

3. Civilians
Showing reckless disregard for civilian life & using indiscriminate force persistently
Killed 1293 civilians and wounded 4054 of them.

4. Hospital attacks
Targeted and attacked Health Centres and hospitals repeatedly
Killed medical personnel, sick and the wounded.
Medical Treatment

Lack of facilities
People are suffering and dying due to lack of medicines and medical equipment.

There are no health facilities in Mullaitivu to treat mass casualties.

Medical supplies for Vanni for 4th quarter of 2008 & 1st quarter of 2009 have not arrived. Blood for transfusion is unavailable in hospitals. Many are seriously injured and limb amputations are necessary to save their lives. Medical supplies are acutely low in hospitals & amputations are carried out without anaesthesia.
Life with one meal of rice porridge a day. Abandon by the rest of the world and dyeing from starvation. Including 10 children up to 18 have become victims.

[Saturday 28th February 06:42pm] (T.Sukunan from Vavuniya)

While Sri Lankan forces are advancing and encroaching civilian areas and without any help from International Non-government Organizations the people in Vanni are facing severe shortage for food. 18 Tamils have died due to starvation in the past 4 days. Among which 10 are young children

Continuing shortage of food and dehydration of people in the affected area are unable to cope up with flu and other diseases. Body resistance has become very low. Puthinam reporter quoted the doctors in the area pointing to the above reasons as cause of deaths.

Due to the continuous attack from the air and with artilleries by the Sri Lankan forces, people are unable to go out to get any food. People have died even in the bunkers and houses due to starvation

In the postmortem and medical inquires of the deaths of the 18 civilians it was established that the cause of death was malnutrition, lack of immunity and shortage of food.
Concentration camps
Currently the civilians arriving in Vavuniya from the Vanni are held in 13 camps surrounded by barbed wire denying them freedom of movement. Parents & children are separated for screening. Young women have been abused. Young people were raped & killed. 800 Tamil women were forced to undergo abortion & it is continuing.

These camps do not have adequate water, health and sanitary facilities.

The Vanni population needs more than 200 lorry-loads of food every month, but in January only 14 lorry-loads were supplied by the UN Food agency World Food Programme

Relatives and even Members of Parliament have not been permitted to visit them.

Leader of the Tamil National Alliance has been asking why

The military has also denied permission to officers from the regional offices of the Human Rights Commission of Sri Lanka (HRC) to visit patients arriving in Vavuniya and Trincomalee from the Vanni.
A slave camp consisting male and female members 'chosen' from the fleeing civilians by the Sri Lanka Army (SLA) is reportedly setup in the abandoned Ki'linochchi hospital building, reported Tamil Net correspondent in Vanni, citing unverified information reaching Mullaitththeevu from males who escaped from the camp. According to the sources, men are kept at the downstairs for forced labour and women kept in the upstairs for abuse by the SLA soldiers who are on temporary leave.

Wailing & screaming of women are commonly heard from upstairs, sources revealed.

Screening of the civilians who fled took place at two centres, in Visuvamadu and in Ki'linochchi.

Many youngsters were reportedly missing during the screening process.

Parents who asked the military authorities about their children missing at the time of screening were not given with any answer.
Humanitarian law

It is vital at this time of rapidly rising tension that all parties observe the requirements of international humanitarian law, and that other governments take all appropriate steps to insist that they do so.

Irish Foreign Minister Micheal Martin asked for, and secured agreement to, a discussion on Sri Lanka by EU Foreign Ministers at the EU Council. The 27 Foreign Ministers have called for Humanitarian Ceasefire in Sri Lanka.

It has been repeatedly brought to the attention of the conflicting parties that under the laws of war, parties to an armed conflict must not make the civilian population the object of attack, or fire indiscriminately into civilian areas.

Nor can they launch attacks that they know will cause incidental loss of civilian life, injury to civilians or damage to civilian objects that exceeds the concrete & direct military advantage anticipated. Such attacks constitute war crimes. Such attacks by Sri Lankan armed forces are:
Sri Lanka initiated invasions of the Tamil Eelam & wars of aggression in violation of international law using its Tamil people terrorising forces shown below.
Sri Lanka has been using weapons calculated to cause massive and unspeakable destruction in the Tamileelam.
Bombs used by Sri Lanka against Tamil civilians

Used Cluster Bombs in villages on 18.02.09

Used white phosphorus shells against civilians in widely living areas on 04.02.09

Similar one in Vanni as in Gaza

Used Fire bombs against Tamils in camps for internally displaced persons on 16.02.09

Thirty families in a safety zone were killed by “bunker buster” bombs on 19.02.09
Sri Lanka forced Tamils to go to the No Fire Zone & bombed, wounded and killed them.
Sri Lanka burned, injured & killed the Tamils. Grieving Tamils buried loved ones
Sri Lanka has been violating the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, International Covenant on Civil & political Rights, Genocide Convention & Geneva Conventions relating to the humanitarian law of the armed conflict.
Targeting Tamils from Tamileelam on a larger plan to destroy the Tamils

MPs Shot dead

Interrogated

Shot dead:

Newspaper editor
26.02.09

Leader of Tamil National Alliance
23.02.09

MP

MP

MP

MP

Journalists

Boy

Woman

Students
Tamil National Alliance Leader R. Sampanthan informed President Mahinda Rajapaksa that there was a malicious effort to create an environment hostile to him, in a bid to suppress the truth.

In a letter to the President, the TNA Leader said he was summoned by the Criminal Investigation Department following a Media conference at the Parliamentary Complex on February 17. The Conference was pertaining to the position of Tamil Civilians in the war zone in the Mullaitivu District, and the Tamil Civilians who had crossed over to the Government controlled territory, he said. “Some in your Government, may have been irked by what transpired at the conference, and this so-called investigation, despite the courtesy extended to me by the CID officials, constitutes an unwarranted interference in my freedom of thought and action as a democratically elected representative of the people, and the leader of a political party which very substantially democratically represents the affected people,” he said in his letter.

He also said, “You cannot be unaware that the democratically elected representatives of the Tamil People are prevented from having any direct contact with the displaced Tamil People either in the conflict zone or even after their arrival in government controlled territory. May I please ask what the Government is seeking to conceal by such actions.” On Tuesday, CID recorded a statement from Mr. Sampanthan at the CID office in Colombo.
Genocide of Tamils continues: Artillery and Air attack:
21 Tamils were Slaughtered and 53 severely injured
[Tuesday, February 24, 2009, 09:13 pm Eelam]
[ T. Sukunana from Vavuniaya]
Vicious attack by the Sri Lankan Forces on Vanni continues: 22 Slaughtered and, 41 Severely Injured

(Wednesday, February 25, 2009, 07:27 pm Eelam)

(T. Sukunanan from Vavuniya)
Sri Lankan Air, Sea and Ground Forces joined brutal attack on Vanni: 143 Slaughtered and 350 severely Wounded.

[Friday, February 27, 2009: 07:25 pm Eelam] [T. Sukunanan from Vavuniya]

In a joint brutal attack by all three Sri Lankan forces yesterday and today on Vanni 143 Tamil civilians are viciously killed and 350 are severely injured.

In Mullaithivu district where displaced people were living Mathalan, Ambalavanpokkanai, Valagnarmadam and Mullaikadal areas from the dawn of Friday morning till late evening. The ground, air and sea forces of the Sri Lankan Government concurrently did this attack.

In the above attack 98 Tamils were brutally killed and 265 severely injured.

At the same time Mathalan, Ambalavanpokkanai, Valagnarmadam areas where displaced people had taken shelter was also under joint attack by the three forces the whole day yesterday.

In the above attack 45 Tamils were killed and 85 severely injured in the attack of the ground forces with artillery shelling and Multi-Barrel rockets.

From the sea in the Navy launched artillery firing.

Air force was using the M.I-24 type helicopter for the attack.
At least 10 Sri Lankan civilians were killed and dozens more wounded on Sunday when artillery shells fell inside a government-designated "safe zone" in the heart of Tamil Tiger rebel territory, a health official said.

Government forces have driven the rebels from most of their strongholds in recent months and have boxed them into a tiny coastal territory in the northeast. A 12-km-long "safe zone" serves as a haven for tens of thousands of civilians trapped inside rebel territory.

Dr Thurairaja Varatharajah said six people died at a makeshift hospital inside rebel territory, and he saw four more bodies scattered among the huts of displaced people.

He said 48 wounded civilians were also admitted to the hospital, which he runs out of a school. Many of the victims suffered burns from the exploding shells, Varatharajah said.
Makeshift Camps for the Internally Displaced Tamils

Sri Lanka Bombed near the camp

Fire broke out 28.02.09

Vavuniya Barbed Wire Camp

Displaced civilians traumatised
Tamil Refugees arriving in Tamil Nadu
Many drowned, killed by Sri Lankan navy & never reached the shore
Protest to stop the war in Wanni now

Geneva

Australia

White House

Hague

Toronto

London

Denmark

New Zealand

Norway

Switzerland

Berlin

Italy
Hartal in Chennai Against Genocide by Sri Lanka
Reunion Tamils staged Sit In to protest against genocide of Tamils in Sri Lanka – 21.02. 2009
Protest to stop the genocide of the Tamils

Tamil Nadu

South Africa

France
In front of the UN office in Malaysia 27.02.09
10 Tamils self-Immolated to save the Tamils from genocide in Sri Lanka

Sivapirakasam
Ravi
Murukathasan
Amoresan
Kokulathinam
Raja
Ravichandran
Sothi
Muthukumar
Seenivasan
Waging War as illegal military operations, using illegal weapons or legal weapons in an illegal manner without any international monitoring.

**Parties to the conflict**

**India**
- Chairperson, Congress Party
- Taking revenge

**Sri Lanka**
- President of Sri Lanka
- Strongly believes in military solution
- Minister, Foreign Affairs
- Focusing on strategic & economic interest
- President of Sri Lanka
- Crime directing Defence Secretary
- Terrorising Tamils
- Chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee
- Army Commander

**Tamil Eelam**
- Leading Tamil Freedom Struggle
- Leader of Freedom Fighters
- Calling for ceasefire & negotiation
- Head of Political Division
- Providing Intelligence Services
- Head of Intelligence

**Focusing on**
- War zone
- Economic interest
- Workers against Tamils
- Defending Tamils
- Intelligence & Army Commander
- Chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee
- Minister, Defence Secretary
- Crime directing Defence Secretary

**Local**
- Chairperson, Congress Party
- Taking revenge
- President of Sri Lanka
- Strongly believes in military solution
- Minister, Foreign Affairs
- Focusing on strategic & economic interest
- President of Sri Lanka
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**Calling for**
- War zone
- Economic interest
- Workers against Tamils
- Defending Tamils
- Intelligence & Army Commander
- Chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee
- Army Commander
Crime directing
Defence Secretary

Warmongering
President of Sri Lanka

Tamil People
Terrorising Army
Commander

Tamil Victims
Enslavement
Sinhala Military Rule
Jaffna District has been kept as an Open Prison
1 Soldier per 10 Tamils, 24 hours per day, last 15 years
Sri Lanka’s hardliners have been saying

1. Tamils should not determine their political status freely

2. Tamils should not pursue:
   - Economic
   - Social
   - Development in Eelam freely
   - Cultural

3. War will continue till the last Tamil Freedom Fighter is killed

4. After genocide “No ethnic conflict and no need for a political solution”
Sri Lankan government has been doing

**Tamil Eelam**
1. Dismantling the de facto State of Tamil Eelam
2. Evicting the Tamils & colonising the Eelam with Sinhalese
3. Destroying Tamil hero’s cemeteries, buildings, temples, hospitals & etc
4. Erecting statue of Buddha in road junctions & Tamil temples
5. Changing the Tamil names of areas & roads to Sinhalese

**Political status**
6. Tamils demanding self-rule are interrogated or shot dead

**Economic development**
7. Initiating economic development to sustain colonisation

**Social and cultural development**
8. Forcing the Sinhalese social & cultural habits on the Tamils
Evicting Tamils from the Tamil areas and colonising it with Sinhalese

Vaharai Tamil Refugees

The Sinhala Buddhist Dimbugala Priest with Sinhala armed settlers in Maduru Oya, 1984
25000 Cemeteries of our Tamil War Heroes were deliberately destroyed by Sri Lanka.
Bruce Fein, counsel for US-based group Tamils Against Genocide (TAG), 05.02.09 Thursday afternoon 3:00 p.m. submitted to United States Attorney General, Mr Eric Holder, the Model Indictment charging U.S. citizen and Sri Lanka's Defence Secretary, Gotabaya Rajapaksa, and U.S. green card holder and Sri Lanka's Army Commander, Sarath Fonseka, for genocide, war crimes and torture against Tamils in Sri Lanka. The Counsel urged the Department to open a grand jury investigation into the crimes, based on evidence amassed in the three volume 1000-page document which the Counsel said "amply satisfies the Department's threshold for commencing a criminal investigation."
The uncontradicted testimony in Tuesday's 24th Feb 2009, U.S. Foreign Relations Subcommittee Hearings of Sri Lanka

1. Former U.S. Ambassador to Sri Lanka, Jeffrey J. Lunstead
Tamil detainees in the concentration camps were selected solely because they are Tamils, not because of complicity with the LTTE or criminality. Detainees are victims of ethnic-religious persecution by the Sinhalese Buddhist Government.

2. Dr. Anna Neistat, Human Rights Watch
"Sri Lankan Armed Forces are guilty of war crimes, including the indiscriminate shelling of areas packed with displaced Tamil civilians and of hospitals; the use of imprecise multi-barrel rocket launchers; acute or complete restrictions on humanitarian aid; the operation of militarily controlled “concentration camps” for Tamil civilians without freedom of movement or communications or adequate medical or other assistance,"

3. Mr. Bob Dietz of the Committee to Protect Journalists
Established a recurring pattern of GOSL’s violence against media critics or others who disappear in white vans or are otherwise slain or injured; and, unvarying impunity for anyone who perpetrates the crimes.

4. Bruce Fein, former US Deputy Attorney General
The parallel between Sri Lanka’s “safe zones” for Tamils and Serbia’s “safe zone” for Bosnian Muslim males at Srebrenica that culminated in genocide is irresistible.

5. Karen Parker, Human Rights Expert
Describing the war waged by Colombo as illegal military operations, using illegal weapons or legal weapons in an illegal manner without any international monitoring, she urged the US government to call for an immediate ceasefire and address it most forcefully to the Rajapaksa administration.
**Human Rights Expert Ms Karen Parker, 24.02.09**

Saying it is highly likely that many of Tamil civilians in the LTTE-controlled areas would be hesitant to turn themselves over to what they consider an enemy government, as many of those in the Vanni had come there the past few years after abuses in the government-controlled areas such as Jaffna and Trincomalee

Ms. Parker also implied how the Tamil question became a bargain between Colombo and the strategic interests of powers.

When US showed an interest in Trincomalee and was working out a deal with J.R. Jeyawardane, India entered into Indo-Sri Lanka accord of 1987 to prevent this, she said.

The Bush administration looked again at Trincomalee and there are suggestions that Palaly airfield was also under consideration. Both of these are in the Tamil areas, so in order for possible bases to be secure, the Tamil question would have to be resolved.

But instead of resolving the conflict, the Bush administration converted the armed conflict in “terrorism / counter terrorism”, Parker said.

The net result according to her is that it has prevented viewing the conflict under prevailing humanitarian law; it prolonged the conflict and has damaged the humanitarian law itself.

Ms Karen Parker said that the terrorism / counter terrorism policy has eroded basic human rights and it has demonized Tamil people world wide, adding, “In my 27 years working on humanitarian law issues, I have never encountered a situation where an ethnic group that has been the victim of the most serious of human rights and humanitarian law violations becomes the culprit – and in ways that are overtly racist.”
Sri Lanka’s genocide against Tamils has taken place over a number of years and is more characterized by widespread, prolonged displacement and destruction of the community’s physical and cultural base than murder. For this and also wider geopolitical reasons, the destruction of the Sri Lankan Tamils is less well-understood in the world at large as a case of genocide.

"The Sinhalese Buddhist Government of Sri Lanka (GOSL) is the reason we are reduced to conjecture. It has imposed a media blackout. It has evicted all NGOs. It has evicted all humanitarian aid workers. It has evicted the Sri Lanka Monitoring Mission. It has evicted the International Committee of the Red Cross. No independent news reporter or neutral witness may observe the conflict between the all Sinhalese “Tamil free” armed forces and security services of Sri Lanka and the Tamil Tigers. Neither are there outside eyewitnesses to the; nor the indiscriminate violence that rains down daily on innocent Tamil civilians whether in hospitals, temples, churches, schools, or “safe zones” - an Orwellian term to describe the forced concentration of Tamil civilians into a tiny area to increase the efficiency of their physical destruction in whole or in substantial part by the Sinhalese majority."
24.02.09 Fein recommended to the Subcommittee to adopt the following measures:


2. List Sri Lanka (along with Sudan, Iran, Syria, and Cuba) as a state sponsor of terrorism under United States laws, which would trigger various sanctions.

3. Freeze the United States assets of Gotabhaya Rajapaksa and Sarath Fonseka.

4. Deny visas to the GOSL leadership, including President Mahinda Rajapaksa.

5. Vote against economic aid to the GOSL at the World Bank and IMF.


7. List Mahinda Rajapaksa, Gotabhaya Rajapaksa, and Sarath Fonseka as specially designated terrorists under Executive Order 13224.

8. Support a “One country, two systems” political solution to the ethnic conflict in Sri Lanka.

9. Withdraw the United State Ambassador from Colombo until the genocide and indiscriminate killing of Tamil civilians by the Sinhalese Buddhist GOSL ceases.

10. For decades, the primary horrors in Sri Lanka have been inflicted on Tamil civilians by the GOSL. Like triage, their plight should be addressed first though genocide prosecutions or otherwise.
Britain legally obliged to prevent Genocide in Sri Lanka: Prof. Boyle

Since the British Foreign Minister has now publicly admitted on behalf of his Government that Government of Sri Lanka (GoSL) is "quite prepared to go ahead with acts of genocide," then under Article I of the Genocide Convention, the British government has a legal obligation "to prevent" this expected genocide of the Tamils by GoSL, said Professor Boyle, professor of international law at the University of Illinois College of Law, in a note sent to Tamil Net, Thursday, 26 February 2009, 20:27 GMT
Solutions proposed during last 52 years

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<td>Provincial Level Decentralisation</td>
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<td>North &amp; East merged Provincial Councils</td>
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<td>89</td>
<td>Election to demonstrate support for LTTE</td>
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<td>Parliamentary Select Committee Reports</td>
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<td>Devolution Package for all the provinces</td>
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<td>2007</td>
<td>All Party Conference Proposal</td>
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Rejected or unilaterally abrogated or eye washed
Stop war and negotiate interim government for Tamils
Fourth International, 26.02.09, Amsterdam

"We, the undersigned leaders of workers' parties, demand that the government of Sri Lanka stop attacks that can destroy thousands of Tamils and agree to a ceasefire with the LTTE to start discussions in order to install an interim government for the Tamil homeland," said a resolution passed Wednesday at the International Committee of the Fourth International, consisting over 50 political parties and organisations, spread throughout the five continents of the world met during 21st and 25th of February in Amsterdam.

The workers parties hail from namely Mexico, Japan, France, Germany, the U.K., Italy, the U.S.A., South Africa, Canada, The Philippines, Brazil, Belgium, Greece, Portugal, Algeria, Sweden and Denmark, etc.

Dr. Vickramabahu Karunarante of the NSSP of Sri Lanka mooted the resolution, which was unanimously accepted.
STOP the Genocide
Two States in Peace
Better than one in war!
Time for U.N. to step in to halt the genocides of Tamils in Sri Lanka and recognize Tamils' right to statehood and self-determination
Tamils would like to live with freedom, peace, justice and dignity.

Could you consider supporting the Tamil Freedom Struggle?
Flag of the Tamileelam was raised for a few hours in front of UN office in Geneva and 15,000 Diaspora Eelam Tamils Sunday, 22 February 2009 as our vision
We would like to thank the JCFA & the minister for Irish Foreign Affairs Mr. Micheal Martin for their continued kind support & request to consider using their influence in EU & UN, to finish the tasks given below.

1. Get the EU call on 23.02.09 for an immediate ceasefire implemented now & permanently.

2. Establish full and unrestricted access" to allow aid to reach Vanni.

3. Provide relief supplies, food, medical supplies, clean water, sanitation facilities and shelter

4. Keep all the Vanni people in vanni and provide medical treatment to the affected.

5. Ensure that camps for the displaced come up to international standards & can be independently monitored.

6. Ensure the safety of tens of thousands of civilians in the army controlled areas.

7. Allow all the Tamils to decide, move and live freely.

8. Declare safe haven for Tamils. Stop the genocide & all other forms of crimes against Tamils.

9. Provide UNHR monitoring mechanism as an urgent requirement.

10. Reinstate the ceasefire agreement breached by GoSL with LTTE & agree a political solution.