

## **More than 300 civilians are killed and another 1000 severely injured in Sri Lanka artillery attack**

Today alone, more than 300 Tamil civilians were killed in an indiscriminate artillery attack on a village in the Northern district of Mullaitivu in Sri Lanka. In this brutal attack another 1000 have been seriously injured. New reports indicate the civilians are left to die bleeding as the army continues to engage in artillery attack even on hospitals. There is an absolute need for emergency medical supplies and treatment of the wounded.

*"In a scene of carnage of untold proportion on civilian targets hit by hundreds of Sri Lanka Army fired artillery shells, more than 300 people have died and several hundreds are bleeding to death within the last 24 hours, amidst pouring rain inside the 'saftey zone' declared by the Colombo government. Houses and vehicles burn for a stretch of three km between Va'l'lipunam Kaa'li temple and Moongkilaa'ru towards Paranthan road, reports from Vanni said on Monday. Unattended bodies and injured people unable to move are lying around everywhere, while a remaining doctor fled and helpless ICRC officials virtually cried at the scene from their bunkers"*

- TamilNet.com, January 26, 09

This carnage is enough to shock even the most heartless of individuals, if there were any. Yet, our government or even the United Nations has not spoken out. This deafening silence is adding to the Tamils' misery.

And, let it be known that this is not an isolated incident. On January 18<sup>th</sup> 2008, a similar indiscriminate artillery barrage on civilians killed 18 civilians and wounded more than 42. According to International Herald Tribune, between January 20 and 23, 2009 alone, nearly 100 Tamil civilians have been killed by Sri Lankan government's aerial bombardment and artillery barrage of a hospital and other sites declared by warring parties as safe zones.

*"In an effort to coax civilians to leave, the government dropped leaflets throughout the region Wednesday announcing the establishment of a "safe zone" on the edge of rebel-held territory that it would not attack. But an hour after the leaflets were dropped, two shells hit a makeshift hospital in a school in Vallipunam, a village inside the "safe zone," said Kandasamy Tharmakulasingham, a health official. No one was wounded in that attack, he said. On Thursday morning, the hospital and a nearby village were hit again in an attack so devastating that health officials had difficulty counting the bodies because many of them were dismembered, he said."*

- International Herald Tribune, www.iht.com, January 22, 09

**Therefore, I plead with you, in the name of humanity, to help stop the Government of Sri Lanka's genocide of Tamils.**

**As journalists you can make a difference by creating awareness this barbarity in your news reports and urge the world to act immediately.**

For more news about what is happening in Sri Lanka, visit the following sites:

More than 300 civilians feared killed, people bleed to death on streets  
<http://www.tamilnet.com/art.html?catid=13&artid=28151>

More than 1,000 wounded, Mullai RDHS urges IC to send medical teams  
<http://www.tamilnet.com/art.html?catid=13&artid=28153>

Sri Lankan troops shell "safe zone" for civilians  
<http://www.iht.com/articles/2009/01/22/asia/lanka.3-413778.php>

**For other relevant information online:**

[www.tamilidpcrisis.org](http://www.tamilidpcrisis.org)  
[www.news.tamilcanadian.com](http://www.news.tamilcanadian.com)  
[www.tamilnet.com](http://www.tamilnet.com)  
[www.tamilnation.org](http://www.tamilnation.org)

## Videos

1) Video made while shells were falling. Shows the search for the injured & scenes at the displaced/makeshift hospital where doctors work with almost no medical supplies:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eyfXwUICn0>

2) Interview with woman from Children's Home for the Vision, Hearing & Learning Impaired that was shelled by the Govt of SL on 22 Jan 2009:

[http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8FCFs5\\_MzI8](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8FCFs5_MzI8)

3) Interview with woman whose 2 children were killed in a Sri Lanka Army shelling:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xAxeJUuLfUM>

4) Interview with displaced woman (Tamil with English subtitles)

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=p8qG04rscB8>

5) Interviews with civilians injured by shelling & doctor who treated them

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OBA3VQqdfBk>

6) Injured & their relatives at the hospital after a Sri Lanka Army shelling:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JjPhq2Fbmzk>

Please act now to stop the Government of Sri Lanka's Genocide of Tamils.

Thank you,

(Name)

**Appeals to be sent – Contact Information  
Canada:**

**The Right Honourable Stephen Harper,  
Prime Minister of Canada**

Email: [pm@pm.gc.ca](mailto:pm@pm.gc.ca)

Address: The Right Honourable Stephen Harper  
Office of the Prime Minister  
80 Wellington Street  
Ottawa, Ontario  
K1A 0A2

Phone: (613) 992-4211

Fax: 613-941-6900

**The Honourable Stéphane Dion, Leader of the  
Liberal Party**

Email: [dion.s@parl.gc.ca](mailto:dion.s@parl.gc.ca)

Address: The Honourable Stéphane Dion, P.C.,  
B.A., M.A., Ph.D.

Leader of the Opposition  
Room 409-S, Centre Block  
House of Commons  
Ottawa, Ontario, K1A 0A6

Phone: (613) 996-6740

Fax: (613) 947-0310

**Gilles Duceppe, Leader of the Bloc Québécois**

Email: [duceppe.g@parl.gc.ca](mailto:duceppe.g@parl.gc.ca)

Address: Gilles Duceppe MP  
Chef du Bloc Québécois  
Chambre des communes  
Ottawa (Ontario), K1A 0A6

Phone: (613) 992-6779

Fax: (613) 954-2121

**Jack Layton, Leader of the New Democratic  
Party of Canada**

Email: [layton.j@parl.gc.ca](mailto:layton.j@parl.gc.ca)

Address: Jack Layton, MP  
Leader of the NDP  
House of Commons  
Ottawa, ON, Canada, K1A 0A6

Phone: (613) 995-7224

Fax: (613) 995-4565

**Hon. Lawrence Cannon, Minister of Foreign  
Affairs**

Email: [Cannon.L@parl.gc.ca](mailto:Cannon.L@parl.gc.ca)

Address:

Hon. Lawrence Cannon, Minister of Foreign  
Affairs  
House of Commons  
Ottawa, Ontario  
K1A 0A6

Telephone: (613) 992-5516

Fax: (613) 992-6802

**United Nations:**

**Commissioner Navanethem Pillay**

UN High Commissioner for Human Rights  
Office of the High Commissioner for Human  
Rights  
Palais des Nations  
Palais Wilson  
52 rue des Pâquis  
CH-1211, Geneva 10,  
Switzerland

Fax: + 41 – 22 917 9016 OR + 41 - 22 928 9010

OR + 41- 22 917 9012

Email: [npillay@ohchr.org](mailto:npillay@ohchr.org)

**Mr. Walter Kälin**

Representative of the Secretary-General on the  
human rights of internally displaced persons  
Office of the High Commissioner for Human  
Rights  
Palais des Nations  
CH-1211 Geneva 10  
Switzerland

Fax: + 41 22 917 9006

E-mail: [walter.kaelin@oefre.unibe.ch](mailto:walter.kaelin@oefre.unibe.ch),  
[idp@ohchr.org](mailto:idp@ohchr.org)

**High Commissioner Antonio Guterres**

United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees  
Case Postale 2500  
CH-1211 Genève 2 Dépôt  
Suisse

Tel: +41 22 739 81 11

Fax: +41 22 739 73 77