

## **Minnesota for Peace Hope to Raise Awareness of Genocide and Human Rights Abuses against Ethnic Tamil Minority in Sri Lanka**

Rally at the Minnesota State Capitol on Wednesday April 1st, 2009

April 1st, 2009– Minnesota for Peace will hold a rally and hunger strike on April 1st to raise awareness of the genocide and human rights abuses being committed against ethnic Tamil minority in Sri Lanka. Over 100,000 Tamil civilians have been killed so far, trapped in a civil war and over 1,000,000 Tamil civilians have fled Sri Lanka.

The event will be held at Minnesota State Capitol (Rotunda and the South Steps) from 10:30AM -5:00 PM. More than 200 Minnesota and neighbor states residents will gather at the Minnesota State Capital and will submit a petition. This petition will urge US government to put pressure on Sri Lankan government to declare immediate ceasefire, allow medical & food supplies into the war zone, and allow international aid agencies & journalists into the war zone.

### **Current status of Tamil civilians in Sri Lanka:**

- 250,000 Tamil civilians trapped in the war zone – small area of less than 200 sq miles
- Food & Medicine supplies cut off to these civilians by the Sri Lankan Government
- Bombing & shelling of hospitals, Schools, and refugee camps by the Sri Lankan Military
- Over 1,000 civilians dead during past two week period due to actions by the Sri Lankan Military
- Sri Lankan military is also bombing & attacking the “safe zone” areas
- Medical personal, International Aid Agencies, and Journalists are banned from the war zone by the Sri Lankan Government.

This is a systematic ethnic cleansing – A Genocide in progress. Sri Lankan government and military are conducting actions similar to those the world saw in Yugoslavia, Rwanda, and Darfur. Among the international agencies to report on the atrocities in Sri Lanka against the Tamils:

1. Amnesty International report – January 28, 2009 report  
<http://www.amnesty.org/en/news-and-updates/news/civilians-trapped-sri-lanka-conflict-20090128>
2. Human Rights Watch report – January 28, 2009  
<http://www.hrw.org/en/news/2009/01/28/sri-lanka-urgent-action-needed-prevent-civilian-deaths>
3. Genocide Prevention Project 2008 Report – 2008  
<http://www.preventorprotect.org/press-releases/press-release-survivors-call-on-global-leaders.html>

### **CALL TO ACTION –**

- We urge Sri Lankan government to declare immediate ceasefire
- Allow medical & food supplies into the war zone
- Allow International Aid Agencies and Journalists into the war zone
- US and International governments to put pressure on Sri Lankan government to achieve the above goals

### **For More Information:**

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