

Team Diary:

Day 1: May 22nd, 2007 (Downtown Toronto to Pickering)

The journey began at Nathan Phillips Square, Toronto, on May 22nd, 2007 with a group of five walkers and 2 logistics members. As this was the first day of the 21-day trek, we began on a quiet note and ended the walk in Pickering.

Day 2: May 23rd, 2007 (Pickering to Oshawa)

The walk for this day was continued from the point in Pickering where we ended the previous night.

Day 3: May 24th, 2007 (Oshawa to Bowmanville)

- met Mayor of Oshawa (John Gray)
- interviewed by Rogers TV (Durham), Oshawa This Week, Chex TV
- met a representative of the Canadian Auto Workers union representative

Day 4: May 25th, 2007 (Bowmanville to Port Hope)

- met the Mayor of Clarington (Jim Abernethy)
- -walked from Bowmanville to Port Hope

Day 5: May 26th, 2007 (Port Hope to Grafton)

- met the Mayor of Port Hope (Linda Thompson)
- interviewed CHUC Radio, Chex TV, Evening News, North Humberland Today
- met Port Hope Police Constable, Andrew Hamilton

Day 6: May 27th, 2007 (Grafton to Trenton)

- walked from Grafton to Trenton

Day 7: May 28th, 2007 (Trenton to Belleville)

- walked from Trenton to Bellville within the municipality of Quinte West
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Day 8: May 29th, 2007 (Belleville to Marysville)

- walked through Tyendinaga, a Mohawk Aboriginal Territory
- also walked through Shannonville
- visited the Canadian coast guard in Cobourg
- met with the mayor of Cobourg, Peter G. Delanty
- visited the Althwick/ Haldiman OPP
- Director of Documentary, Aathi Vive joined the group

Day 9: May 30th, 2007 (Marysville to Napanee)

Walked from Marysville to Napanee

- stopped at a Canadian Forces Base in Trenton and talked to a Canadian World War II veteran
- we stopped off at the Tyendinaga police station
- we talked with Brant Brady, the communications officer of Tyendinaga

-visited the First nations Technical Institute

Day 10: May 31st, 2007 (Napanee to Odessa)

-walked from Napanee to Odessa

-talked to the vice president of the Queens student union and other Union representatives

Day 11: June 1st, 2007 (Odessa to Joyceville)

- met Mohawk Chief of Tyendinaga, Chief Donald Maracle
- Kingston media including: CKWS TV (Interviewed by Liz Cook)
- met with Mayor of Gananoque (James E. Garrah)
- three youths joined us from Toronto

Day 12: June 2nd, 2007 (Joyceville to Kingston)

- Today, 30 youth from the Toronto area joined us on our walk in a school bus
- Started from Kingston border, through Downtown Kingston, through Queens' University, to Sir John A. Macdonald park, and eventually passed City Hall
- Ended at Fort Henry (Royal Military College), where the youth were picked up by the bus
- We continued walking thereafter
- reporter from the Brockville Recorder and Times, Ronald Zajac, came to our hotel and interviewed us
- the article appeared in the newspaper the day after

Day 13: June 3rd, 2007 (Kingston to Gananoque)

-youths from Toronto joined the walk by driving down to Kingston

-it was a rainy day but we had our rain panchos and we had the will to continue walking

Day 14: June 4th, 2007 (Gananoque to Mallorytown)

-we walked from Gananoque to Mallorytown

Day 15: June 5th, 2007 (Mallorytown to Brockville)

-walked from Mallory town to Brockville

-drove back to Kingston to talk with a reporter from the Kingston Whig, a local newspaper

-we drove back to Gananoque as well and talked to a local newspaper, Gananoque Reporter

Day 16: June 6th, 2007 (Mallorytown to Brockville)

-walked from Mallorytown to Brockville

Day 17: June 7th, 2007 (Brockville to Prescott)

-walked from Brockville to Prescott

Day 18: June 8th, 2007 (Prescott to Spencerville)

-Walked from Prescott to Spencerville

Day 19: June 9th, 2007 (Spencerville to Kemptville)

- joined by Ryerson University, Carleton University and Ottawa university students
- walked from Spencerville to Kemptville

Day 20: June 10th, 2007 (Kemptville to Manotick)

- walked from Kemptville to Carleton University
- had a meeting with Carleton University students and Ottawa University students about the future of the Canadians and our movement towards awareness of the situation going on in Tamil Eelam

Day 21: June 11th, 2007 (Manotick to Ottawa)

- we had a media conference in the Parliamentary Media Gallery, where we gave a half hour interview to Canadian Mainstream media (CBC, Radio Canada, CPAC, Omni 1)
- Walked from the University of Ottawa to Parliament buildings
- 300 students from Toronto arrived on the bus to join us on the walk
- talked to an RCMP officer Raj Jande, and raised the Canadian and Tamil Eelam flags in front of the RCMP building after clarifying the legality of carrying the Tamil Eelam flag
- walked to the Governor General's house and Prime Minister's house, where we shouted slogans pointing to the reasonableness and just cause of Tamil struggle.
- With the CSIS and RCMP we discussed issues related to community building and strengthening relationship with the Tamil community. They want the Tamil community to reach out to them and they want open dialogue with the Tamil community as well.

- During the interviews we mainly talked about
- the used of stigmatized words including "terrorism" to frighten the Tamil community and force them into inaction,
- the history of the Tamil struggle, and the root causes to the armed struggle,
- asking for help from Canada to step into the peace process in Sri Lanka with more assertive action

In total we walked approximately 500 km.

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Anu Kanagasabai
Kannan Sree
Jayabalan Manimaran
Marlan Rajashivam
Sarvajeyan Jeyapalan
Ajanthan (AJ) Sivagurunathan
Aathi Vive