

MEMORANDUM PRESENTED TO THE HON'BLE PRIME MINISTER ON 4.12.2008 AT NEW DELHI BY THE ALL PARTY LEADERS OF TAMIL NADU UNDER THE LEADERSHIP OF HON'BLE CHIEF MINISTER OF TAMIL NADU.

The People of Tamil Nadu and the Tamils across the world are deeply agitated over the continuing genocide of Sri Lankan Civilian Tamils in Sri Lanka and the unabated abuse of their Human Rights. We, the leaders of political parties and social organisations in Tamil Nadu, are also deeply pained and concerned about the ongoing disaster in Sri Lanka and have come here to submit this memorandum to the Hon'ble Prime Minister.

2. The deep anguish of the Tamils across the world about the untold sufferings being faced by the Sri Lankan Civilian Tamils in Sri Lanka can be gauged from the fact that the Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly passed resolutions on two occasions viz. 23.4.2008 and 12.11.2008 urging the Government of India to put an end to the raining atrocities on the hapless Sri Lankan Civilian Tamils and to take immediate action to alleviate their plight besides arranging purposeful dialogue between the two parties to find a sustainable peaceful political solution to the Sri Lankan crisis. Similarly, two meetings were conducted with all political parties and other organisations in Tamil Nadu under the chairmanship of the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu on 14.10.2008 and 25.11.2008 respectively to debate on the crisis devouring the Sri Lankan Civilian Tamils and decide further course of action to resolve the crisis. All the above resolutions have been brought to the notice of the Hon'ble Prime Minister.

3. People from all walks of life in Tamil Nadu have been spontaneously organising various demonstrations like rallies, road blockades, rail roko etc., across the state to express their anguish against the continued violence perpetrated on the Sri Lankan Civilian Tamils. Even a massive human chain unheard of in the recent history was organised on 24.10.2008 to highlight the distress of Sri Lankan Civilian Tamils. Pursuant to the appeal made by the Hon'ble Chief Minister, people of Tamil Nadu have generously contributed to the Relief Fund for the Sri Lankan Civilian Tamils and within a short period of one month more than Rs. 37 Crores have been collected and 80,000 family packs consisting of grocery, clothes and other daily use items have been shipped to Sri Lanka as relief material and handed over to the International Committee of Red Cross for distribution to the Sri Lankan Civilian Tamils.

4. Government of India have also taken sincere efforts to prevail upon Sri Lankan Government to resolve the crisis in Sri Lanka and arrive at long lasting political solution to the Sri Lankan Civilian Tamil crisis. However, without showing due regard to the efforts of the Government of India and the sentiments of Tamils across the world, the Sri Lankan Government continues its fierce onslaught against Sri Lankan Civilian Tamils. Hence, we believe that the Indians in general and Tamils in

particular cannot be mute spectators to the genocide of Civilian Tamils in Sri Lanka and violation of their basic human rights.

5. Therefore, the leaders of all political parties and organisations from Tamil Nadu under the leadership of the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, have come to Delhi to meet the Hon'ble Prime Minister and personally appeal to him to make immediate and more effective initiatives to put an end to the conflict in Sri Lanka by prevailing upon the Sri Lankan Government and impressing on them the utmost urgency for ceasefire. At this juncture, we also wish to highlight the reports appearing in the press about the adamant attitude of the Sri Lankan Government to exterminate Civilian Tamils from Sri Lanka by continuing the war against the innocent Sri Lankan Civilian Tamils despite the reported readiness of the other party to cooperate to find a and peaceful political solution to the problem.

6. We, therefore, request the Hon'ble Prime Minister to take firm and forceful measures to ensure the following in order to provide for peaceful co-existence of the Civilian Tamils in Sri Lanka and to safe guard the future of their younger generation who rather than attending schools have now taken refuge in the jungle and hills to save their lives:-

- a) Issue strong warning to the Sri Lankan Government to announce immediate ceasefire;
- b) Arrange for political dialogue between the two parties to arrive at a peaceful political solution to the Sri Lankan crisis;
- c) Urge Sri Lankan Government to ensure proper relief and rehabilitation measures for the war-affected Sri Lankan Civilian Tamils by providing food, shelter, medicines etc. and also cooperate in proper distribution of relief materials by the International Community in the war affected areas;
- d) Immediately stop the harassment of Indian Fishermen at the hands of Sri Lankan Navy, who continue to indulge in acts of violence and indiscriminate firing on Indian Fishermen in spite of repeated promises and announcements from Sri Lankan Government.

ISSUD BY –DIPR , CHENNAI-09