

6758 Kingston Road
Unit 3
Toronto, Ontario
M1B 1G8
Tel.: (416) 287-0110
Fax: (416) 287-6160
E-mail: dan@mcteague.ca



Suite 302, Justice Building
House of Commons
Ottawa, Canada
K1A 0A6
(613) 995-8082
Fax: (613) 993-6587
Email: mctead@parl.gc.ca

Honourable Dan McTeague, P.C., M.P.
Pickering-Scarborough East
Official Opposition Critic for Consumer and Consular Affairs
www.mcteague.ca

June 28, 2007

Rt. Hon. Stephen Harper, P.C., M.P.
Prime Minister of Canada
Langevin Block, 80 Wellington Street
Ottawa, Canada
K1A 0A2

Dear Prime Minister Harper:

I am writing to you concerning the plight of the Tamil people in Sri Lanka.

It is clear to many observers of the region that the situation in Sri Lanka has become untenable as the Sri Lankan government continues to marginalize the Tamil population. One of the methods the government employs to denigrate the Tamils has been to resort to what can only be described as a form of ethnic cleansing.

It appears the government has instituted a program designed to bring about the removal of Tamils from the Sri Lankan capital of Colombo.

Several Canadians of Tamil origin in my constituency have indicated to me that their loved ones have encountered considerable difficulties in accessing the services of the Canadian embassy in Colombo. Moreover, ongoing immigration applications and even the simple act of acquiring information from the embassy has been impeded by this targeted policy of removing Tamils from the capital area.

Mr. Prime Minister, the world community can ignore the facts all they want but it will not change the realities. The peace in Sri Lanka resultant from the tsunami has long since dissipated. There have been countless reports of extra-judicial killings and government-sponsored activities designed to subjugate, or eliminate entirely, the Tamil presence in Sri Lanka – a fact that seems to have been lost entirely by our immigration section in Colombo who continue to delay approving legitimate humanitarian and compassion applications.

Quite frankly, I am appalled Mr. Prime Minister, that the Government of Canada does not even seem to be taking seriously the reports on the situation in Sri Lanka that it receives from our own political officials at our embassy.



6758 Kingston Road
Unit 3
Toronto, Ontario
M1B 1G8
Tel: (416) 287-0110
Fax: (416) 287-6160
E-mail: dan@mcteague.ca



Suite 302, Justice Building
House of Commons
Ottawa, Canada
K1A 0A6
(613) 995-8082
Fax: (613) 993-6587
Email: mctead@parl.gc.ca

Honourable Dan McTeague, P.C., M.P.
Pickering-Scarborough East
Official Opposition Critic for Consumer and Consular Affairs
www.mcteague.ca

I am also very troubled that while every consideration was given by your government and by the Conservative Party, when it was in opposition, to labeling certain Tamil groups as terrorists, the same condemnation and attentiveness by Canada to the actions of the Sri Lankan government towards the Tamils has been severely lacking.

Prime Minister, to facilitate access by Tamils to Canadian representation in Sri Lanka, I hereby request your assistance in the opening of a Canadian consulate in the city of Jaffna that is also capable of providing immigration services.

Moreover, I also request that the Government of Canada be a little more focused and pro-active in recognizing what is going on in Sri Lanka and that it speak out more clearly against the violence and discrimination that the Sri Lankan government is placing on the Tamil people.

I look forward to your reply at your earliest opportunity.

Sincerely,

Hon. Dan McTeague, P.C., M.P.

Cc: Hon. Peter MacKay, P.C., M.P.
Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Trade

Hon. Diane Finley, P.C., M.P.
Minister of Citizenship and Immigration

