



Nita M. Lowey
Congress of the United States

18th District, New York

February 9, 2009

Chairwoman Lowey's Statement on Sri Lanka

Congresswoman Nita Lowey (D-NY), Chairwoman of the State and Foreign Operations Appropriations Subcommittee, today released the following statement on the continued violence in Sri Lanka between the Government of Sri Lanka and the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE).

“Ongoing violence between the Government of Sri Lanka and the LTTE has resulted in a humanitarian disaster, including massive civilian casualties and the internal displacement of approximately 250,000 innocent civilians. Today's suicide bombing at a refugee checkpoint is only the most recent in series of deadly and shocking attacks.

“I call on the Government of Sri Lanka and the LTTE to negotiate a ceasefire immediately and to protect innocent civilians, especially those who have been displaced and trapped by the fighting. Both parties must take immediate action to address the worsening humanitarian situation and ensure food, water, and medical assistance reaches those in need.