

G. K. BUTTERFIELD
1ST DISTRICT, NORTH CAROLINA

CHIEF DEPUTY WHIP

413 CANNON HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515-3301
(202) 225-3101
FACSIMILE: (202) 225-3354

www.house.gov/butterfield



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

July 27, 2009

**COMMITTEE ON
ENERGY AND COMMERCE**

SUBCOMMITTEES
VICE CHAIR, ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT
COMMUNICATIONS, TECHNOLOGY,
AND THE INTERNET
COMMERCE, TRADE
AND CONSUMER PROTECTION

**COMMITTEE ON
STANDARDS OF
OFFICIAL CONDUCT**

U.S. HELSINKI COMMISSION

The Honorable Eric H. Holder
United States Attorney General
U.S. Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, D.C.

Dear Attorney General Holder:

I am writing to respectfully urge you to investigate the charges of violations of the Genocide Accountability Act of 2007 and the War Crimes Act related to atrocities against the Tamils in northern Sri Lanka.

Earlier this year, Tamils Against Genocide provided the Department with a three-volume, 1,000-page proposed indictment against Gotabhaya Rajapaksa, Sri Lanka's Defense Secretary and the brother of Sri Lanka's President Mahinda Rajapaksa, Basil Rajapaksa, senior Presidential Adviser and the brother of President Rajapaksa, and Sri Lankan Army Commander Sarath Fonseka. All three men are either U.S. citizens or hold U.S. green cards.

The model indictment details the allegations of the efforts to destroy the Tamil people of northern Sri Lanka through atrocities and genocide. The indictment chronicles more than 3,750 extrajudicial killings, approximately 30,000 Tamils suffering serious bodily injury and more than 1.3 million civilian displacements. In the month of January 2009 alone, according to the model indictment, 750 Tamil civilians were massacred and more than 2,250 were seriously injured.

The model indictment relies on evidence obtained from affidavits, court document and eyewitness reporting from credible media sources, such as the British Broadcast Corporation. The provide information showing that at least one million people have suffered from starvation, deprivation of medicine and displacement due to the ongoing hostilities in Sri Lanka, and that the accused men may have played direct and central roles.

Thank you for your attention to this urgent and important matter.

Very truly yours,


G. K. Butterfield
Member of Congress

DISTRICT OFFICES

216 WEST NASH STREET
SUITE B
WILSON, NC 27893
TELEPHONE: (252) 237-9816
FACSIMILE: (252) 291-0356

309 WEST THIRD STREET
WELDON, NC 27890
TELEPHONE: (252) 538-4123
FACSIMILE: (252) 538-6516