



HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

All Party Parliamentary Group for Tamils

**Press Statement
For Immediate Release**

3 November 2009

United States leads initiative to investigate alleged war crimes in Sri Lanka

All Party Parliamentary Group for Tamils (APPG-T) joins international calls for a full independent investigation into alleged war crimes in Sri Lanka and welcomes the initiatives taken by the United States.

APPG-T welcomes United States authorities questioning of Sri Lankan Army General Sarath Fonseka. This is an important first step in bringing the perpetrators of alleged war crimes in Sri Lanka to justice and also begin the process of a true reconciliation between ethnic communities in the island.

APPG-T will be requesting the Foreign Secretary to support the United States Government's efforts to probe into war crimes in Sri Lanka and also fully endorse the U.S. Department of State's Report to Congress submitted on 22 October 2009, which detailed alleged violations of International Humanitarian Law (IHL) by both warring parties during the military offensive this year.

When the war with the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) ended, the Government of Sri Lanka (GSL) gave assurances to the International Community, including Britain, that it will re-settle all internally displaced people (IDPs) within 180 days. The Government's own deadline is only a fortnight away but APPG-T has no evidence that suggests the GSL is committed to implementing its assurances to the International Community.

APPG-T calls on Her Majesty's Government, NGOs and Governments around the world to urgently appeal to the GSL to honour all its commitments and to immediately end the forced detention of over 250,000 Tamils in the camps. GSL must facilitate an international, independent inquiry into alleged violations of IHL in order to establish peace, justice and equality for all citizens in Sri Lanka.

- Ends -

Virendra Sharma MP
Chair of the All Party Parliamentary Group for Tamils

The All Party Parliamentary Group for Tamils, established in May 2007, is a cross-Party Group of MPs and Peers in the UK formed to promote in Parliament peace with justice and dignity for Tamils in the island of Sri Lanka and advance their development so as to recognise their legitimate socio-political aspirations.