

**HON. MAURICE D. HINCHEY--**  
OF NEW YORK  
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
Thursday, May 20, 2010

- Mr. HINCHEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to mark the first anniversary of the end of the civil war in Sri Lanka . President Rajapaksa promised to promote reconciliation on the island and resettle Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs).
- One year after the end of the war, there are still over 90,000 people who remain in detention and transit centers, including many women and children. Not only have they not been able to return to their homes, but they still don't have access to basic necessities. Food and medical care are scarce, and international aid organizations are still not allowed into many northern areas occupied by Tamils.
- The Sri Lankan government should immediately begin resettling IDPs in their original homes. They must be allowed to return to their families, livelihoods, schools, and places of worship. Addressing humanitarian needs and protecting the basic human rights of all Sri Lankans should be the top priority of the Rajapaksa government.

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SPEECH OF □  
**HON. MICHAEL E. McMAHON**  
OF NEW YORK  
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
THURSDAY, MAY 20, 2010

- Mr. **McMAHON**. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the one year anniversary of the end of the civil war in Sri Lanka . Although the war ended on May 19th, 2009, much work still needs to be done to ensure peace and stability on the island. Despite a pending debt crisis, the Sri Lankan government is still expanding its military footprint, including a \$300 million loan from Russia to purchase new weapons systems. I would urge the Congress to include language in the FY11 Foreign Operations Appropriations bill similar to language included last year. This would restrict all military assistance to Sri Lanka until the government: First, suspends and brings to justice members of the military who have violated internationally recognized human rights or international law; respects internationally recognized human rights, including the right of due process for suspected ex-combatants; treats IDPs in accordance with international standards, and is actively working to resettle individuals in their former homes; provides unrestricted access to conflict-affected areas and populations by humanitarian organizations and journalists; and implements policies to promote reconciliation and justice.
- I would encourage my colleagues to support this language until the Government of Sri Lanka can prove it is taking the necessary steps to secure lasting peace and stability for the island.

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SPEECH OF □  
**HON. BRAD MILLER**  
OF NORTH CAROLINA  
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
WEDNESDAY, MAY 19, 2010

- Mr. MILLER of North Carolina. Madam Speaker, today marks the one-year anniversary of the end of the civil war in Sri Lanka , which is a reason to be hopeful about the future of Sri Lanka . However, I also rise to voice my concern for a community at risk. The viability of a traditionally Tamil region in Sri Lanka is under threat. Since the beginning of the war, one third of the Tamil population was driven off the island and many more were displaced. A large area in the north central part of the island that was a predominantly Tamil area is now almost devoid of Tamils. According to the United Nations, more than 60 percent of homes in the north have been seriously damaged by the fighting. To make matters worse, many Sinhalese families moved into traditional Tamil areas while Tamil inhabitants were kept in detention camps following the end of the war. Finally, Tamil homes, churches, temples and cemeteries were destroyed during the war with no assurance from the Sri Lankan Government that they will be rebuilt. Sri Lanka's Tamil population is in danger of losing their identity and their traditional homeland. The United Nations has warned that ``donor fatigue" in Sri Lanka has resulted in the United Nations receiving only 24 percent of the donor funds it needs to help displaced Tamils. Madam Speaker, I urge the international community to renew their efforts and take action so the Tamil culture and history is not lost.

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SPEECH OF □  
**HON. DANNY K. DAVIS**  
 OF ILLINOIS  
 IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
 WEDNESDAY, MAY 19, 2010

- Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, May 19 commemorates the one-year anniversary of the end of the war and the remembrance of the many lives lost during the civil war in Sri Lanka . I call on the international community to pursue independent investigations into the alleged war crimes that occurred. The U.S. would not be alone in calling for these investigations. The UN High Commissioner for Human Rights and the European Union have already called for independent investigations. Amnesty International, Human Rights Watch and other NGOs have called for similar investigations of war crimes, crimes against humanity and human rights violations. The alleged crimes include:
  - □.Extrajudicial abuse and detention of unarmed civilians and former combatants;
  - □.use of child soldiers;
  - □.harm to civilians and civilian objects;
  - □.the killing of captives or combatants seeking to surrender;
  - □.individual disappearances; and
  - □.inhumane conditions.
- All parties complicit in violating human rights must be held accountable. Only then can the Sri Lankan people really move forward in trying to achieve peace and stability on the island.