



GLEN MURRAY, MPP

Toronto Centre

October 12, 2012

Secretary General Ban Ki-Moon
United Nations
New York, NY 10017 USA

Dear Secretary General Ban Ki-Moon,

For many decades, Tamils have fled their country seeking refuge as a result of war and persecution. Canadian Tamils celebrate the rights that were once denied to them as soon as they landed on Canadian soil. Although, they remain far away from their homeland, Canadian Tamils continue to be concerned about their loved ones in Sri Lanka.

In 2009, Tamil civilians endured a calculated plan involving shelling of civilian populations, hospitals, deprivation of food and essential medical supplies. UN documents reveal 116 persons died each day in April 2009, and the final weeks of the onslaught saw at least 20,000 Tamil civilians killed.

There continues to be grave concerns of heavy militarization and sexual violence against women in the North-East of Sri Lanka after the Sri Lanka's army defeated the Tamil rebels in 2009. Tamils continue to be deprived of their rights to freely move and are being denied the right to pursue economic, social and cultural developments in their areas.

For any community to prosper, we must let them enjoy the principles outlined in the Charter of the United Nations. Therefore, I strongly support this petition to urge the United Nations to recognize the Tamils' right to self-determination as defined in Article 1 of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and to conduct a referendum among the Tamils originally from the North and East to decide their political future.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Glen Murray".

Glen Murray, MPP
Toronto Centre