



## தமிழீழ விடுதலைப் புலிகள் Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam

International Secretariat  
54, Tavistock Place  
London WC1H 9RG  
United Kingdom  
22nd January 1991.

To: N.G.O's

Dear Sir/Madam,

The Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam made a unilateral declaration of ceasefire with effect from midnight of 31st December 1990 (Annexure 1). The ceasefire, with an indefinite time frame, was made with a view to promoting peace and creating conditions of normalcy in Tamil Eelam.

The initial response of the government of Sri Lanka dated the 31st of December 1990 was that 'it was earnestly examining the statement of the LTTE in all its aspects' and that the government would require 'at least three days to assess the genuineness of the declared intentions of the LTTE' (Annexure 2).

On the 3rd of January 1991, the Sri Lankan government, having taken three days to assess the 'genuineness' of the LTTE declaration, and presumably, being satisfied that the declaration was 'genuine', issued a communique 'Welcoming' the ceasefire declaration (Annexure 3). But, though the government decided 'to suspend offensive operations' in the Northern and Eastern provinces 'for a period of seven days from midnight of the 3rd of January 1991', it also appeared to prepare the ground for taking action against members of the LTTE in uniform, by stipulating, as a condition of the ceasefire, that 'none other than the Sri Lankan Armed Forces, the Police and the Auxiliary Forces will carry weapons or be dressed in uniform' - a stipulation which was in clear breach of the humanitarian law of armed conflict and furthermore was contrary to the conduct of the Sri Lankan government itself in April 1989 when it engaged in talks with uniformed members of the LTTE in Colombo. The Sri Lankan government further stipulated that the Security Forces 'will continue to operate as in the past against any person or party indulging in military activity'. The Sri Lankan government

also stipulated that the Security Forces, will take action against any person 'carrying weapons', and against any person 'attempting to disrupt communal harmony'. These stipulations taken cumulatively, evidenced the intention of the Sri Lankan government to use the cover provided by the 'ceasefire' to seek to exercise control within the areas held by the LTTE.

The LTTE, by its press release of the 9th of January 1991, (Annexure 4) declared that the stipulations imposed by the Sri Lankan government were 'unfair and hamper the creation of congenial conditions for the cessation of hostilities' and further that 'the Sri Lankan Security Forces had been systematically violating the ceasefire and had been involved in provocative actions'.

The Sri Lankan government responded by its communique of the 11th of January 1991 (Annexure 5), and alleged that the LTTE had violated the conditions of the ceasefire. The Government stated that 'many instances of the building of bunkers and the re grouping of LTTE cadres have been reported'. The government appeared to regard such actions as violations of the ceasefire. The Government thereupon concluded that 'the LTTE's ceasefire had not been dictated by a genuine desire for peace' and declared that the temporary suspension of offensive operations which ended on the 10th of January 1991 would not be extended. The truth however was that despite the unilateral ceasefire by the LTTE, it was the Sri Lankan Security Forces which not only attacked LTTE positions and killed LTTE fighters but also attacked Tamil civilians, kidnapping some and killing others. At the same time, regrettably but, perhaps not surprisingly, the Sri Lankan government refused to agree upon a monitoring mechanism for the ceasefire and rejected the offer made by the LTTE to formulate a mutually acceptable framework for a durable and full ceasefire.

The LTTE responded to the Sri Lankan government by the press release dated the 14th of January 1991 (Annexure 6). The LTTE noted with regret 'that the Sri Lankan government had failed to respond in a positive and constructive manner to the unilateral ceasefire declaration made by the LTTE'. It pointed out, that the government had 'rejected the offer made by the LTTE to formulate a mutually acceptable framework for a durable and full ceasefire'. The LTTE however, reiterated that 'they will continue to observe the unilateral ceasefire' and specifically called upon the Sri Lankan government 'to act in accordance with the humanitarian law of armed conflict and desist from arbitrary killings and aerial bombardment of civilians'. The LTTE further declared that it was 'ready to enter into unconditional talks with the Sri Lankan government' but pointed out that 'clearly, a mutually accepted full ceasefire is a pre requisite to create a congenial climate for such talks'.

The Sri Lankan government has now commenced offensive operations against the LTTE and the people of Tamil Eelam. Under the pretext of war, the Sri Lankan government is engaged in a genocidal attack against the people of Tamil Eelam. In particular the Tamil people in the Eastern Province are suffering untold hardships, without any form of relief or aid.



The comments made in 1982 in the Minority Rights Group Report on International Action Against Genocide have today, assumed an urgency and immediacy that cannot be denied:

"...genocide continues to be an odious scourge on mankind... there are also at the present time many immediate issues related to genocide which call for the most urgent action...(such as) the communal massacres in Sri Lanka...some of these genocidal massacres arise out of struggles for greater autonomy, and might be regulated by recognition of the right of self determination...there is a great need for delegations of member states with a strong commitment to human rights, and for non governmental organisations with consultative status, to continue their efforts to recall the UN to its responsibilities for international protection against genocide and consistent violations of human rights. These efforts would include attempts to develop norms for humanitarian intervention, for the exercise of the right of self determination..."

We seek your support and assistance in prevailing upon the Sri Lankan government to respond positively and constructively to the unilateral decision of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam to declare a ceasefire and thereby pave the way for peace talks.

At the sametime we appeal to you to participate in an urgent international relief effort to give aid and assistance to the people of the North and East of Sri Lanka, who continue to be subject to indiscriminate attack by the Sri Lankan Security and Para Military Forces. It is a matter of primary importance that such aid should be directly administered by recognised non governmental organisations, because in the past, the Sri Lankan government has failed to use the funds made available to it for the purposes for which such funds were intended.

We believe that you will agree that a permanent solution to the conflict will be found only on the basis of recognising our people's right to self determination. As you are undoubtedly aware, this was also the view expressed by seventeen non governmental organisations at the August 1990 sessions of the UN Sub Commission on Protection of Minorities, when they declared:

"It has become a matter of urgent importance to act on the reports of several Human Rights organisations on the gross and consistent violations of Human Rights in Sri Lanka and to initiate steps to satisfy the aspirations of the Tamil people within the framework of Human Rights and the Right of Self Determination."

In this context, we also wish to draw attention to the views expressed by the non governmental organisation, International Educational Development in Geneva in August 1990:


"We conclude that in order for the human rights of the Tamil people and others in a similar situation to be realised, the International community must invoke the principle of self determination as it arises from persistent non fulfilment of the rights of minorities who have been subsumed into larger states."

Recent developments in Europe and in many other parts of the world, clearly demonstrate that a permanent political solution to conflicts involving smaller nations who have been subsumed into larger states, can be secured only by recognising the right to self determination of such smaller nations.

We look forward to your response to the matters that we have raised in this letter.

Thanking you

Yours faithfully,



Mr. Sathasivam Krishnakumar KIDDU

Member of Central Committee

Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam

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