

**The Hon Kevin Rudd MP  
Prime Minister  
Parliament House  
CANBERRA ACT 2600**

**WE WILL STARVE UNTIL YOU ACT**

**12/04/2009**

**Dear Prime Minister,**

We are three members of the Australian Tamil Diaspora currently staging a hunger strike at Parramatta to highlight the state sponsored genocide currently taking place in Sri Lanka.

We began this stance against the injustice being unleashed by the Sri Lankan Government at 5pm on Saturday the 11th of April. We have vowed to continue indefinitely, until the Australian government uses its diplomatic powers to push the Government of Sri Lanka:

1. To enter an immediate ceasefire with the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam;
2. To immediately allow food, medicine & aid into the conflict zone;
3. To allow vital services, including medical services into the conflict zone;
4. & the international community to allow the Tamil people, both in the conflict zone & those indefinitely detained in concentration camps in government-held areas, to decide independently where they wish to reside.

In democratic Australia, the abuse of one man based on ethnicity is defined as racism.

In Sri Lanka, the slaughtering of thousands due to race can only be described as genocide.

As this letter is being written, the latest frontline developments indicate that the armed forces of the Government of Sri Lanka (GoSL) have penetrated through the civilian "Safety Zone" currently housing over 250,000 Tamil refugees, each a victim displaced by a Government that continues to suppress their aspirations of self determination as expressed by the Tamil people.

Amid the strength of our resolve lies an indescribable feeling of horror and grief at the fate that awaits our family. Over 3,500 Tamil civilians have been killed by Sri Lankan military forces & over 12,000 casualties have resulted in the first 3 months of this year alone. Our families now live in constant fear of bombing as the Sri Lankan government targets hospitals & densely populated civilian areas.

As the mechanisms of ethnic cleansing come to a crushing finale, the fate of our families caught within the safety zone remains unclear. 90,000 Tamil civilians have been killed over 26 years, each killed whilst yearning for their fundamental right to exist within humanity, define their own identity and determine their own destiny.

The reason we fear tomorrow, is because we remember yesterday.

We will remain without food, without water and without medical aid until the horrific fate that awaits our people at the hands of the GoSL is acknowledged by the Australian Government.

Within the geo-political theatre of South East Asia, as countries crumble amid failed governance, Australia remains a true beacon of justice, equality and humanity. This great nation remains one built upon the foundations of democracy.

We urge you to uphold your responsibility and utilise Australia's global position to enforce that the norms of humanity are upheld in Sri Lanka.

Our actions provide a mere glimpse into the emotional state of the Tamil Diaspora in Australia. Thousands of Australians' are living in fear as the fate of our brethren, the lives of our mothers, fathers, sisters and brothers remains unclear. This uprising of solidarity is the tip of the iceberg, and we will continue to exercise our democratic right to voice our despair until action is taken by your office.

Amid the darkest of hours, as the fate of the entire Tamil Nation hangs in the balance, the strength of our resolve is unquestionable, the desperation of our cries is indescribable, the ramifications of your silence, unimaginable.

**Yours in desperation, resolution & anticipation,**



**Sutha Thanabalsingham**



**Mathivannan Sinnathurai**



**Pratheepan Rajathurai**

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