

19th October 2008



TAMIL WRITERS GUILD

Dear Friends and Concerned Citizens of the World,

TWG – Humanitarian Appeal on behalf of the Tamils trapped in the Vanni

It is now clear that the rogue Sri Lankan state is hell-bent on trampling all Tamils in the northern areas of the Vanni, with its daily and indiscriminate bombardment by air and land of civilian areas and its forced removal of all humanitarian agencies from that area. The latter provides the clearest signal of its intention to kill, maim or drive all Tamils out of the Vanni. The rogue state's determined strategy to keep out foreign observers from documenting its genocidal policies and practices is the culmination of its openly aggressive policies against journalists, aid agencies and humanitarian organisations, as evidenced by the widespread use of abductions, rape, torture and extra-judicial killer squads. There has not been a single prosecution for these crimes. Indeed, in the entire 60-year history of the Sinhala-Buddhist dominated governments in Sri Lanka, no crime against a Tamil has ever been punished - a grisliness that apes Hitler's impunity for Nazi crimes against Jews.



Even as our work in the Tamil Diaspora has had some positive effect on 'western' governments, with the recent ban on major military aid to Sri Lanka and a more vocal condemnation of that rogue state's human rights abuses, other nations (including China, Pakistan, Iran) have rushed in to fill Sri Lanka's seriously depleted military hardware and economic coffers. With no restrictions on the economic and military aid front, the rogue state has been free to pursue its vindictive and genocidal policy against the Vanni Tamils and it has set the stage for a war to the finish without witnesses. The scale of the atrocities has approached genocidal proportions similar to the Rwandan and Darfur episodes and well in excess of the Bosnian and Kosovan atrocities. In recent weeks, the indiscriminate bombardment by the Sri Lankan war machine has driven over 250,000 Tamil refugees out of their homes and it has penned them in abject conditions in the Kiinochchi district.

What can we do? We have to continue to influence 'western' governments and particularly India, to intervene more directly to prevent this impending holocaust. This we can do by attending the relevant public meetings, writing to our elected representatives (MPs and MEPs in the UK) and other relevant bodies (UN, church and other major faith groups, media).

More immediately and with the international aid agencies being driven out the Vanni, we need to ensure that the basic welfare of the Vanni Tamils isn't completely eroded. Their right to shelter, food, water, clothing and medical aid must be secured. Hence, this call to support the TWG Appeal for the Vanni Tamils.

Email: info@tamilwritersguild.com
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A Cogent and Effective Response from a Tamil Perspective



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We will in turn channel these donations to the appropriate humanitarian charities functioning in the area. Our inquiries have resulted in our choosing White Pigeon, a British approved Charity operating in the area, as the primary charity for the receipt of our funds. We will monitor their effective use.

Please make your monthly donations as standing order/direct debit/by post to following account:

**For UK: Bank: HSBC Account Name: White Pigeon Account No. 31355627
Sort Code: 40-46-10 Reference: TWG Vanni Disaster Appeal
For International: IBAN: GB56MIDL40461031355627 Swift Code: MIDLGB2162L**

OR send the cheque payable to White Pigeon, 175 Tooting High Street, London SW17 0SZ, England, United Kingdom

(Recommended minimum donation per family £50/US \$ 100 per month until these refugees are safely back home)



Please spare whatever you can contribute to this urgent appeal, preferably on a monthly direct debit but even a one-off contribution will be very welcome. Please also share this letter with your family members, friends, work colleagues, etc.

Thank you for your interest and concern and we hope you will translate it into an immediate act to donate to the TWG Appeal for the Vanni Tamils.

Yours faithfully,

Ivan Pedropillai
Chairman
Tamil Writers Guild, London, UK