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Urgent Press statement

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Urgent Appeal - Release of 7 Humanitarian Workers

IFT is deeply dismayed at the lack of progress in the release of the humanitarian aid workers from the TRO, held captive. It is now well over ten days and the fate of 7 of the 10 aid workers kidnapped, is not clear.

The kidnapping of these workers took place in close proximity to the Sri Lankan Army camps, in two separate incidents. It is believed that either the Sri Lanka armed forces or the paramilitary groups working in tandem with SL military intelligence were behind this abduction.

Meanwhile, the Sri Lanka Government has sought to evade all responsibilities for this heinous act by issuing misleading statements in the media.

(Ref: Minister For Foreign Affairs, dt. 02. 02. 06)

The actions taken by the Government do not match its commitment to rescue the captives. Instead, it reveals a cynical attempt to hoodwink the international community with reference to the part played by the paramilitary groups in the abduction.

This attitude does not augur well for the talks in Geneva. The Tamil Diaspora is deeply sceptical and IFT fears the captivity of the TRO aid workers may hinder the talks in Geneva.

IFT calls upon the President of Sri Lanka to use all his resources to obtain the release of the captives, early.

For Further contact.

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