



# SRI LANKAN ASSOCIATION OF MANITOBA



**P. O. BOX 41023**  
**WINNIPEG, MANITOBA**  
**CANADA**  
**R3T 5T1**

**Tel: (204) 256-0829**

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**PRESIDENT**

*Indrajith Gunasekera*

March 11, 2009

**VICE PRESIDENT**

*Peter Bastians*

Dear Member of the Parliament,

**SECRETARY**

*Challsie De Silva*

**Misrepresentation of Facts on Sri Lanka in the Canadian Parliament**

**TREASURER**

*Santhusitha  
Vithanage*

We, the members of The Sri Lanka Association of Manitoba (SLAM) bring to notice, some concerning statements made by Canadian Parliamentarians and the actions and false propaganda by certain groups, on the current situation in Sri Lanka.

**ASST. TREASURER**

*Asoka Gunasekara*

It was unfortunate to witness some Members of Parliament making statements on February 4, 2009 at the House of Commons Emergency Debate on the Situation in Sri Lanka, based not on facts, but on information likely provided by groups engaged in false propaganda. This concerns us as we expect the honorable Members of Parliament who represent all Canadians to be more responsible when making statements that can have lasting consequences.

**DIRECTORS**

*Dilantha Fernando  
Dilum Gamage  
Sunimal Perera*

We strongly object to the remarks made by Liberal lawmakers who characterized the military advances in areas held by the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) as `genocide`. The verifiable fact remains that almost all of the five million Tamils in Sri Lanka currently live outside the LTTE controlled areas. Almost two thirds of the Tamils live in Colombo, the capital city. Using the word `genocide` is completely unwarranted.

It is important to make the distinction between our Sri Lankan Tamils who are our brothers and sisters, from the LTTE terrorists who are hell bent on killing indiscriminately using their suicide bombers. Sri Lankan Tamils have full constitutional rights as any other Sri Lankan. Tamil is one of Sri Lanka's national languages. It is also noteworthy that the Eastern Sri Lanka that was liberated two years ago from LTTE terrorists is represented in our parliament by Tamil politicians supporting the governing party. Given these realities, it is totally unfair for Canadian parliamentarians to represent only the LTTE sympathizers, leaving out all other Sri Lankan Canadians.



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The ongoing military operation in Sri Lanka, the main topic of the debate, is to stop the atrocities of LTTE to bring peace, freedom and democracy to all people in Sri Lanka. The fact remains that LTTE is a lethal terrorist organization, banned in at least 31 countries including most democratic and peace-loving countries such as Canada (please see link below to FBI website). Within the past two decades, LTTE has launched suicide attacks, killed thousands of innocent civilians of all nationalities including school children, assassinated politicians including moderate Tamil leaders Sri Lanka, and committed all kinds of crimes to finance its operations.

At this critical stage, the LTTE is on the verge of losing control of all areas in the North and in desperation using innocent civilians as human shields. By recent rallies in Canada, one can draw to a conclusion that the LTTE may have influenced certain groups to launch campaigns to discredit the Sri Lankan government, and to attract support to the LTTE from the international community. Ceasefires that have been brokered by international countries such as Norway in the past has resulted the LTTE to rearm regroup and continue with their usual terror activities.

The Tokyo Co-Chairs (Norway, Japan, USA and EU) on February 3, 2009 expressed their concern over the failure of international efforts to persuade the LTTE to allow civilians to move freely to safe areas (please see link to US Embassy website below). Furthermore all requests made by the Sri Lankan government, religious groups and other organizations to the LTTE to free the civilians have been ignored.

We strongly urge the Canadian Government and all Members of Parliament to insist the LTTE to refrain from using innocent civilians as human shields. We hope that all Members of the Parliament will ensure that parliamentary debates will be based on facts, rather than irresponsible statements based on false propaganda.

Please direct your concerns and comments via email to: [slam\\_board@EE.UManitoba.CA](mailto:slam_board@EE.UManitoba.CA)

Sincerely,

Indrajith S Gunasekera  
President



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Links:

[http://www.fbi.gov/page2/jan08/tamil\\_tigers011008.html](http://www.fbi.gov/page2/jan08/tamil_tigers011008.html)

<http://usembassycolombo.blogspot.com/2009/02/statement-by-tokyo-co-chairs.html>

[http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=32Ne\\_uCzYco&eurl=http://www.mawbimanews.com/](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=32Ne_uCzYco&eurl=http://www.mawbimanews.com/)



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