



## TAMIL WRITERS GUILD

Dear Sir/Madam,

### **URGENT ACTION REQUIRED: PLEASE CALL YOUR KIN AND KITH IN SRI LANKA TODAY!**

As you will be aware, the Sri Lankan presidential election is scheduled for Tuesday, 26<sup>th</sup> January 2010 and it is a crucial juncture for our loved ones in the North and East of Sri Lanka to vote to try and free themselves from oppression and regain some dignity.

In an article in the New York Times recently, Lord Chris Patten - former governor of Hong Kong - argued "Now, put yourself in a Tamil's shoes, and decide whom to vote for in the presidential election: Choose either the head of the government that ordered the attacks against you and your family, or the head of the army that carried it all out." [< More >](#)

In terms of Tamil MPs, the last remaining genuine members of Tamil National Alliance led boldly by Mr Sampanthan, issued the following statement "In view of the unanimous opposition of the TNA to President Mahinda Rajapaksa securing a fresh term, the members of the Parliament of the TNA appeal to the Tamil Speaking People to vote for the Common Opposition Candidate General Sarath Fonseka." [<More >](#)

However, in a recent detailed report, the International Crisis Group exclaimed that "No matter which of the two main Sinhalese candidates wins Sri Lanka's 26 January presidential election, the international community must take steps to ensure he addresses the marginalisation of Tamils and other minorities in the interest of peace and stability." [<More >](#)

In view of the above, it is very important that you make that crucial call to your relatives and friends in Sri Lanka straight away to request their vote for the main opposition candidate and spread the news. In order to regain Tamil rights, democracy must be restored in Sri Lanka with a candidate who is willing to listen to Tamils. At the present moment, it is important to look to the future in order to safe guard the rights and future of our loved ones and be ready to play a part in politics to achieve the same. [<More – Video >](#)

The current government interned over 300,000 Tamils for over six months in a most degrading condition, and that was after they had escaped the relentless bombing with no access from the outside world. Neither the UN nor the International community were able to free them from the clutches of the heartless Sri Lankan government. The current release of most interned Tamils must, in part, be credited to General Sarath Fonseka, as only after his expressly stated comments about Tamil suffering in his resignation letter and election manifesto forced the government to release them.

It is hoped that the change will come on January 26<sup>th</sup> and the Sinhalese will respect the need for Tamil rights in the North and East in order to put the brutal past behind. Without letting the Tamils in the North and East to control their own lives in an autonomous region, Sri Lanka will never be at peace or achieve sustained prosperity.

The opposition has an excellent starting point by promising to make Palaly into an international airport and should make progress in this regards to win the hearts and minds of the Diaspora to develop the North and East with international help. This action will help Tamils and Sinhalese compete more equally with each other in economic terms for the prosperity of Sri Lanka.

Email: [info@tamilwritersguild.com](mailto:info@tamilwritersguild.com)

[www.tamilwritersguild.com](http://www.tamilwritersguild.com)

A Cogent and Effective Response from a Tamil Perspective



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**As somebody who is concerned about the interests of the oppressed and degraded Tamils of the North-East, please make that URGENT call to your relatives and friends to vote for Sarath Fonseka, as recommended by the TNA in order to bring about a positive change to the suffering of Tamils .**

Thanking you.

Yours faithfully,

R Von Rugen  
Vice Chairman, TWG