



யாழ் கத்தோலிக்க மறைமாவட்ட நீதி சமாதான ஆணைக்குழு
Commission For Justice & Peace of The Catholic Diocese of Jaffna

T. Phone No: 0094 21 222 2161
E-Mail: jpcjaffna@sltnet.lk

P.O. Box: 02
Bishop's House, Jaffna.

Stop the Human Tragedy in the Vanni !

We the Bishop, priests, Religious and laity of the Catholic Diocese of Jaffna and the members of other faiths and representatives of civil organizations gathered at the Jaffna Cathedral for the 2nd day of a continuous hunger strike would like to state the following:

In addition to the killing on Monday (Jan. 26th) of over 300 and injuring over 1000, on Tuesday too, even when the Foreign Minister of India visited Colombo purportedly to discuss the situation of the Tamils, 46 have been killed and 75 were wounded by shelling and bombing. In addition, 21 persons have been killed and 121 injured yesterday similarly. Even the names and ages of many victims (especially the wounded as they have been brought to hospitals) have been released.

The ICRC, the only INGO allowed by the Government to function there has stated

- The hospitals in the small area available to the public though with depleted medical facilities and personnel are overflowing with hundreds of dead and wounded.
- The ambulances too have been the targets of attacks.
- Some of the volunteers trying to salvage the wounded too have been wounded.
- About 250,000 people are within an area of about 250 Sq. kilometres and there is no place for them to take cover.
- Hundreds have to be taken for emergency treatment in hospitals in State controlled areas.
- **The time is running out. This is the time to take firm decisions to save further bloodshed.**

The military attacks on people's locations are yet continuing despite requests by world nations to suspend the war and to put forward a solution to meet the just demands of the Tamils.

We are sad that even the International Community including Human Rights activists and Organizations continue to be apparently inactive except for issuing some statements. Therefore **again** we unanimously

- **Request all concerned that the Human Tragedy taking place in the Vanni be stopped forthwith**
- **Appeal for the war to be stopped immediately**
- **Appeal to all concerned to have a just political solution presented, discussed and implemented without any chance of being repealed or revoked.**

On behalf of the participants

29 - 01 - 2009

TO WITNESS TO THE TRUTH