

PEOPLE FOR EQUALITY AND RELIEF IN LANKA

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For Immediate Release

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PEARL applauds Secretary Clinton for intervening in Sri Lanka

State Dept. responds to letters from 45 Members of Congress, dozens of NGOs about Sri Lanka's "Red Alert" for genocide

Washington, DC March 16, 2009 –PEARL commends Secretary of State Hillary Clinton for calling Sri Lanka President Mahinda Rajapakse to express her concern for continuing attacks on Tamil civilians in northern Sri Lanka. PEARL worked with dozens of Members of Congress to send letters to Secretary Clinton, urging her to communicate concern to President Rajapakse regarding the escalating crisis in Sri Lanka.

“The Sri Lankan government believes it can continue attacks on innocent Tamil civilians in the so-called “safe zone” with impunity,” PEARL representative Arvind Suguness said. “Sri Lanka thinks it can bomb and shell innocent children and families, and the world will ignore these deaths. Secretary Clinton’s call demonstrates the falsity of this belief – America is paying attention. Secretary Clinton’s call to President Rajapakse decrying deliberate attacks on Tamil civilians reflects the U.S. interest in protecting civilians and fostering a just peace for Sri Lanka’s future.”

Secretary Clinton called Sri Lanka President Mahinda Rajapakse on Friday, February 13, after receiving letters from 38 Congress members and 7 Senators requesting her immediate attention to the desperate suffering in Sri Lanka.

About PEARL & About Sri Lanka

People for Equality and Relief in Lanka (PEARL) is a human rights advocacy group composed of over 3,600 Americans and 4,300 international members concerned about the crisis in Sri Lanka. PEARL was formed in 2005 after a handful of college students volunteered in Sri Lanka and were exposed firsthand to the egregious human rights violations there. Sri Lanka has experienced a brutal ethnic conflict between the Sinhalese-dominated government and the Tamil minority, who have been discriminated against since Sri Lanka’s independence. Over 125,000 lives have been lost in the conflict, of which the overwhelming majority are Tamil. For more information or to make a donation visit PearlAction.org

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