

Day of action to

SHUT DOWN THE CAMPS

FREE ALL TAMILS FROM THE PRISON CAMPS IN SRI LANKA

THIS DAY of action has been called by Tamil Solidarity and Socialist Students in protest at the hundreds of thousands of Tamil-speaking people being detained against their will in concentration-style camps in Sri Lanka.

This horrific situation is only the latest development in the history of repression of the rights of the Tamil-speaking people. Throughout Sri Lankan history the ruling elite has used ethnic divisions to keep themselves in power and it has been ordinary people who suffer repression, poverty and war.

The current government came to power in 2005 and intensified its war effort with help from China, India, Pakistan and other western countries. The majority Tamil-speaking area in the north came under heavy military attack. Earlier this year over 400,000 civilians, trapped between military and the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), were pushed into a small piece of land with no food or health facilities. On 19 May the government of Sri Lanka announced the official end to the war after brutally killing thousands of people. In the final week alone over 20,000 people were massacred.

SHUT THE CAMPS

SINCE MAY over 250,000 people are detained in makeshift concentration camps. The conditions are appalling. At least 40 people die every week in these camps. Even by the government's own admission there are at least 31,000 children under the age of five behind the razor wire which borders the camps. There is only one toilet facility for every 200 refugees. At least 30% suffer from malnutrition. There are no adequate medical facilities available and diseases such as jaundice are spreading fast. There are a number of reports of abuse by the military personnel who guard the camps, including the recent shooting of children, aged three and six years old. Access to these camps for anybody other than government-controlled visitors is heavily restricted. Now the monsoon floods approach and a major humanitarian catastrophe is threatened.

There are also reports of secret interrogation camps, holding thousands who are suspected of being LTTE members, including young children. This is an outrage. These horrific prison camps must be shut down immediately. The Sri Lankan government, having spent millions of dollars a day on the war, is now refusing to spend money on reconstruction or house-building. Instead they have raised defence expenditure by 20%. Most of the aid for those in the camps comes from international humanitarian agencies!

REPRESSION

ALL WHO voice dissent in the south are hunted by the government-sponsored thugs. At least 20 journalists have been murdered within the last two years alone. A Tamil journalist was recently jailed for 20 years just for writing two articles! There are also reports that the government, described by the Financial Times as an "elected dictatorship", is planning Sinhala settlements in the predominantly Tamil area.



HYPOCRISY

THE BRITISH government is playing a rotten role in this conflict. During the war, while crying crocodile tears for the Tamils, the British government was supplying military resources to Sri Lanka. Des Browne, the UK's special envoy to Sri Lanka has always defended the war. Conservative MPs have even blamed the Tamil-speaking population for all the destruction. New Labour international development minister Mike Foster claimed the conditions in the camps had improved. The UN has remained silent. The Australian government has turned a deaf ear to Tamils' appeals for refuge. None of the ruling elite in the west will do anything to stop this humanitarian disaster. In most cases they give their blessing to the Sinhala chauvinist government of Sri Lanka.

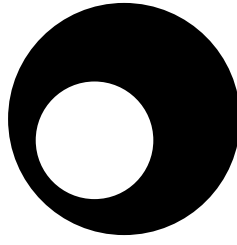
FIGHTBACK NEEDED

AS STUDENTS, workers, trade unionists, socialists and young people, we can only rely on our own strength, and our determination to build a movement around the world to exert massive pressure.

Tamil Solidarity, for the rights of workers and all oppressed people in Sri Lanka, was set up to help build such a movement. This campaign links socialists, trade union activists and young people in opposition to the Sri Lankan government's brutal policies.

The unity of working-class and oppressed people across ethnic and religious divides is essential to the struggle for Tamil rights. The Rajapakse regime which is waging war against the Tamils is also attacking civil and workers' rights throughout Sri Lanka, and is complicit in the disappearances and killings of socialists, trade union activists and journalists. So, these struggles are all linked. We aim to extend that solidarity work internationally. In Britain, for example, we are raising Tamil rights in the trade union movement, encouraging direct links between organised workers here and those in Sri Lanka. We are organising activity in university campuses and linking up with campaigns such as Youth Fight for Jobs and Socialist Students.

**socialist
students**



Tamil Solidarity:

**For the rights of workers & all
oppressed people in Sri Lanka**

இலங்கையில் ஒடுக்கப்படும் அனைவரது

உரிமைகளுக்கும் போராடும் -தமிழ் ஒருங்கமைப்பு

THE RACIST DAILY MAIL

A recent Daily Mail article, condemning Tamil protesters for the 'cost' of policing their "expensive" Parliament Square protests, reflected the racist attitude of the ruling class to the concerns of people worried about family members and wanting to show solidarity with those suffering in the warzone. This paper is a racist, sexist, homophobic, anti-working class rag. Unfortunately the British media is mainly owned and controlled by big business and reflects their interests. Tamil Solidarity and Socialist Students seek to provide a voice for the suffering and the oppressed as well as ideas on how to fight back.

**Join us
today.**

WHAT WE STAND FOR

Socialist Students

Socialist Students campaigns against war and racism, against university fees and unemployment. We believe that we need a different sort of society, one that rejects the rule of profit and the madness of the market, where lives are not wrecked by poverty and war. We believe the alternative is socialism. If you agree with us then **join Socialist Students.**



www.socialiststudents.org.uk
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020 8558 7947

Protest against the racist BNP on Question Time

5pm Thursday 22 October 2009
BBC's Woodlane Centre,
London

Nearest tubes: White City and Wood
Lane

**WE DEMAND JOBS, DECENT
EDUCATION, HOMES AND
SERVICES - NOT RACISM!**

Join Socialist Students and Youth Fight
for Jobs on the demonstration

Tamil Solidarity

1. No to detention camps! Let the IDP control the aid!

For the immediate shutdown of militarised detention camps. For the provision of food, housing and health facilities to Tamil people and refugees, administered under the control of their own elected and accountable representatives.

2. Withdraw the troops!

For an immediate end to military operations in Sri Lanka. Withdraw the army from all Tamil areas. Stop the disappearances.

3. Not a rupee, not a bullet for the Rajapakse regime!

For an immediate end to military and commercial support for Sri Lanka by governments around the world. Support action such as workers' boycotts of arms shipments.

4. Democratic rights for all!

For the freedom of speech and the media, freedom of association and the right to free and fair elections. Reject bogus/rigged elections. Freedom to stand in elections for parties which accept equal rights for all, regardless of nationality, religion, caste and sex. Support the work of bodies like the Civil Monitoring Committee investigating kidnappings and extra-judicial murders.

5. Support independent trade unions!

For full trade union rights, free from intimidation and state interference. Support campaigns by independent trade unions on workers' rights, pay and conditions to organise all working-class people, regardless of ethnic, religious or other differences. Unity is strength.

6. Defend the right to self- determination!

Support a mass movement of Tamil workers and poor for the right to determine their own future. Full and equal rights of any minorities to be guaranteed in all areas.

I would like to join Tamil Solidarity I would like to join Socialist Students

Name

Address

Postcode

Tel no

Email

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