

# EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

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## MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

with request for inclusion in the agenda for the debate on cases of breaches of human rights, democracy and the rule of law

pursuant to Rule 115 of the Rules of Procedure

by Pasqualina Naipoletano, Robert Evans, Neena Gill, and Emilio Menéndez del Valle,

on behalf of the PSE Group

on Sri Lanka

**European Parliament resolution on Sri Lanka**

The European Parliament,

– having regard to its previous resolutions of 18 May 2000, 14 March 2002 and 20 November 2003 on Sri Lanka, and of 13 January 2005 on EU aid after the Tsunami disaster,

- having regard to the Declaration of 27 April 2006 by the Presidency on behalf of the European Union on the situation in Sri Lanka,

- having regard to the SLMM statement of 11 May 2006 on the violation by the LTTE of the CFA with sea movements and attacks on the Sri Lankan Navy,

– having regard to the ceasefire agreement signed between the Government of Sri Lanka and the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) which entered into force on 23 February 2002,

– having regard to the Oslo Declaration of December 2002, in which the Government of Sri Lanka and the LTTE agreed to explore a solution based on a federal structure within a united Sri Lanka,

– having regard to the support given by the EU and the wider international community to the peace process, as reflected by the Tokyo Conference on Reconstruction and Development of Sri Lanka held on 9 and 10 June 2003 which linked assistance pledged by donor countries to substantial and parallel progress in the peace process, and to the fact that the EU is one of the 4 co-chairs of the Tokyo Donors Conference,

- having regard to the support given by the EU and the wider international community in response to the devastating tsunami of 26 December 2004,

- A. whereas the conflict has killed about 64,000 people, displaced one million and held back the island's growth and economic development,
- B. whereas there have been countless attacks in Jaffna peninsula, Trincomalee and Batticaloa districts since the election of Mahinda Rajapakse as president in November 2005,
- C. whereas the offices of the Sri Lanka Monitoring Mission (SLMM) in Batticaloa were attacked on 13 January 2006 in a deliberate attempt to undermine the Ceasefire Agreement,
- D. whereas almost 300 people have died in attacks and violence this year in Sri Lanka,
- E. whereas international monitors say the recent violence is the most serious threat to the 2002 ceasefire brokered by Norwegian mediators,

- F. whereas the peace talks were suspended after the first round held in Geneva in February 2006, following the Tigers pull-out from a second round in April 2006,
1. Condemns the continuing use, particularly since November 2005, of violence by all sides; urges the LTTE to renounce violence and the Government to ensure that paramilitary groups stop their violent actions which contribute to deteriorating the situation;
  2. Utterly condemns the offensive actions against civil population and against the Sri Lanka Monitoring Mission (SLMM) personnel, such as the attack on the Passenger vessel Pearl Cruise on 11 May 2006;
  3. Condemns the suicide bomb attack that took place on 27 April 2006 at the Sri Lankan Army Head Quarters in Colombo resulting in death and injury to both army personnel and civilians and condemns also the subsequent air strikes by the military against rebel positions in the east of the country;
  4. Calls on the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (the Tamil Tigers) to end all attacks on civilians;
  5. Calls on the government to ensure a prompt, independent and impartial commission of inquiry into the violence and the security forces' response, with powers to recommend prosecution and compensation;
  6. Calls on both the LTTE and the Government of Sri Lanka to refrain from further actions liable to jeopardise the peace process;
  7. Regrets the suspension of the second round of peace talks which should have been held in Geneva in April 2006 and calls on the Government of Sri Lanka and the LTTE to show their strong commitment to peace, to resume talks at all levels and to set the stage for a final political settlement of the conflict;
  8. Continues to support the Norwegian peace facilitators' determined efforts to secure a further round of talks on strengthening the Ceasefire Agreement between the LTTE and the Government of Sri Lanka, concluded in February 2002, and to improving its implementation; encourages the parties to invite a Muslim delegation to the peace talks, including Northern Muslim representatives;
  9. Calls on all sides in Sri Lanka to demonstrate their commitment to peace by implementing the ceasefire, which is essential for any progress, and by working together towards a peaceful settlement of the ethnic issue that meets the legitimate aspirations of all communities in Sri Lanka;
  10. Calls on the Government of Sri Lanka to ratify the ICC Treaty as a deterrent against war crimes and crimes against humanity;
  11. Is alarmed by recent reports (actionaid) according to which many of the most vulnerable survivors of the Tsunami are faced with discrimination based on their race,

sex, ethnicity and legal status; widows and single women in particular have frequently been denied compensation;

12. Is worried because a deal to share international aid has still not been implemented; calls on the Sinhalese, Tamil and Muslim communities to cooperate in delivering aid to the victims of the Tsunami through a joint management mechanism that will guarantee fair and equitable distribution of resources including the € 100 million reconstruction package provided by the EU;
13. Urges the LTTE to put an end to the recruitment and retention of child soldiers and reminds them that there can be no excuse whatsoever for this abhorrent practice to continue;
14. Calls on the LTTE to allow for political pluralism and alternate democratic voices in the northern and eastern parts of Sri Lanka which would serve the interests of all peoples and communities;
15. Calls upon the parties to the Ceasefire Agreement to ensure the security of the SLMM, which is an unarmed body invited by both the Government and the LTTE to monitor the Ceasefire Agreement, in order to allow the mission to fulfil its mandate, and commends the contributing countries Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway and Sweden for their invaluable work;
16. Calls on the Council, the Commission and the Member States to remain committed to a fair and sustainable solution to the Sri Lankan conflict and reiterates its support to the people of Sri Lanka and their President Mr Mahinda Rajapakse as they address together the challenges that lie ahead;
17. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council, the Commission, the Government of Sri Lanka, the SLMM and the LTTE.