



Commission for Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation
USG/UISG Secretariat

Via Aurelia 476,
CP 9099 Aurelio, 00165 Roma, Italy.
Tel/Fax: (39).06.6622929 (direct)
Email: jpicusguisg@lasalle.org
Rome, 27.1.09

Mr. Mahinda Rajapaksa,
President of Sri Lanka
secretary@presidentsoffice.lk

Dear Mr President,

Peace and all good! We write in representation of the Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation Commission of the Union of Superiors General of men and women religious congregations (USG/UISG), based in Rome and belonging to the Roman Catholic Church. We represent hundreds of thousands of Priests, Brothers and Nuns throughout the world.

We, along with many other Government and NGOs, wish to express our deep concern for the 350,000 Tamil civilians who have been caught up in conflict between Sri Lankan Armed Forces (SLAF) and the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) in the Northern region of Vanni.

Because of the fighting and bombardment the civilian population has been placed in severe danger. Many have lost their lives and others have been injured. The delivery of food and medical supplies, vital for the survival and well being of the displaced, does not appear to be able to get through.

We join with all those who are calling on your Government to open a safe corridor to enable the civilian population to receive the attention that is their right under international law. Since September 2008, UN agencies and NGOs present in Vanni, were asked to leave with the exception of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC). This adds to your government's responsibility to provide the necessary humanitarian assistance to a desperate and needy civilian population. We also feel it is time to allow other humanitarian agencies to return, bringing with them much needed aid and experience.

Sr. Soledad Galerón, M. C.
Co-president of the JPIC Commission
USG-UISG

Fr. Wilhelm Steckling, O.M.I
Co-president of the JPIC Commission
USG-UISG

Gearóid Fracisco Ó Conaire ofm
Executive Secretary of the JPIC Commission USG-UISG

cc. Defense Minister – gotabaya@defence.lk
Conference of Major Religious Superiors – cmrs@wow.lk; smarianthonysj@hotmail.com
Most Rev. Dr. Oswald Gomis, Conference of Bishops, Sri Lanka - sunilde@skt.net.lk

