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NORTH EAST SECRETARIAT ON HUMAN RIGHTS
NESOHR

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KARADIPPOKU JUNCTION
KILINCHCHI
SRI LANKA
e-mail : nesohr2006@yahoo.com
www.nesohr.org

5 January 2007

Head of Operations,
for Central and South Asia,
ICRC.
19 Avenue de la Paix,
1202 Geneva,
Switzerland.

Dear Sir,

Critical situation of medical supplies to District Hospital- Kilinochchi.

During our visit to the District Hospital at Kilinochchi in connection with the admission of seriously injured victims at the Sri Lankan Air-raid at Illuppaikadavai on 02.01.2007, we learnt that no drugs and basic essential like bandage, gauze, linen, etc are available. The medical officer made us to understand the third Quarter's supply for 2006 has not still been received. The Provincial Health Director, on confronting with this issue, reports that the supply has been already dispatched to the store at Vavuniya but, awaiting approval by the Ministry of Defense.

This is a totally unacceptable position Visa – a – visa supply of medicines to civilian institutions. Humanitarian Laws and International Norms relating to health care of civilians rule out any military considerations in civilians matter. In the theatre of war, Northeast of Sri Lanka, where civilian get killed and injured in random and indiscriminate aerial bombing and shelling, essential drugs necessary for surgery and treatment must be readily available, cutting off any type of administrative bottle necks. It is ironical though, that the bottle neck here is the adamant militaristic attitude and not the usual administrative inefficiency.

North East Secretariat on Human Rights (NESoHR) seeks your timely intervention in this matter and requests that instructions be issued to your delegations here to act with out delay and provide an immediate, buffer stock, pressurizing the authorities not withstanding.

Thanking you,

Yours sincerely,

Rev.Fr.M.X.Karunaratnam
Chairperson,
NESoHR.