



## TAMIL YOUTH ORGANIZATION – NEW ZEALAND



தமிழ் இளையோர் அமைப்பு - நியூசிலாந்து

3<sup>rd</sup> November 2007

### Media Release

#### Head of Political Wing Assassinated

Tamil Youth Organisation New Zealand (TYONZ) is stunned, saddened and angered by the killing of Mr S P Thamilchelvan and 5 other officials. Mr Thamilchelvan was killed in an air strike by the Sri Lankan Air Force on Friday morning 6:00 AM Sri Lankan time.

Mr Thamilchelvan was the Head of the Political Wing and the Chief Negotiator for the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE). Ever smiling, Mr Thamilchelvan was an important contact and played a key role in the peace process. Mt Thamilchelvan led the latest round of talks in October 2006 in Geneva, pushing for a just solution for the long-suffering Tamil people.

The cowardly killing of Mr Thamilchelvan is yet another clear indicator by the Sri Lankan government that they have no desire in returning to peace talks or bringing about a peaceful solution to the island nation. By purposefully assassinating the Chief Negotiator of the LTTE, the Sri Lankan Government has pushed Sri Lanka further towards war. The killing shows the Sri Lankan's Government's true agenda- war to further destroy the Tamil people.

TYONZ finds this to be absolutely unacceptable and strongly condemns the cowardly actions of the Sri Lankan government. We join Tamils all over the world and the International Community in strongly condemning the acts of the Sri Lankan government. Killings Tamils and Tamil leaders do nothing but further alienate an already vulnerable population. There has to be an immediate halt to this atrocity.

Brigadier Thamilchelvan, as he was honoured, will forever be in our thoughts as a champion for peace for the Tamil people.

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