



யாழ்வு கத்தோலிக்க மறைமாவட்ட நீதி சமாதான ஆணைக்குழு
Commission For Justice & Peace of The Catholic Diocese of Jaffna

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Appeal on the fifth day of the hunger strike:

Stop the Human tragedy in the Vanni!

We, the Bishop, Priests, Religious and Laity of the Diocese of Jaffna and the members of other faiths and representatives of civil organizations, gathered at Christ the King Church, Koiyathoddam, continuing our hunger strike for the 5th day, requesting the immediate halt to the human tragedy that is taking place in Vanni, would like to state the following:

The 48 hours of 'time out' has come to an end proving itself as an eye wash. During the specified period about 80 civilians were killed and another 230 were injured in Vanni within Government announced 'safety zones'. Reliable statistic show that in the month of January 2009 alone 422 civilians were killed and another 1768 were wounded in Vanni. That means the average of civilian killing for a day is 14 and injury 57. Observing this increase in the number of killing and injury, the Human Rights Watch in its latest report has alarmed the International Community of the danger of ethnic cleansing or genocide.

Many countries have shown concern about the situation of the people in Vanni. But the gravity of the situation demands some thing more than concerns and appeals; it demands immediate intervention and action.

We, therefore, unanimously

- request all concerned to take immediate action to stop the human tragedy taking place in Vanni
- request the ICRC and the UN agencies to take steps to ensure the safety of those civilians who cross over to the military control areas
- appeal to stop the war immediately and
- appeal to present a just political solution and settle the problems through negotiations.

This statement is issued on 2009-02-01, at the end of the fifth day's hunger strike.

On behalf of the Participants

01-02-2009