



பிராந்திய சுகாதார சேவைகள் பணிப்பாளர் பணிமனை  
ප්‍රාදේශීය සෞඛ්‍ය සේවා අධ්‍යක්ෂ කාර්යාලය  
Office of the Regional Director of Health Services



[Type text]

முல்லைத்தீவு

මුලතිව්

Mullaitivu

எனது இல  
மேல் எ:வெ  
My No.

NP/04/44/01  
RDHS/1

உமது இல  
மேல் எ:வெ  
Your No.

திகதி  
දිනය  
Date.

16.03.2009

The Secretary  
Ministry of Health care and Nutrition  
Suwasiripaya  
Colombo 10.

Dear Sir,

**UNDUE DEATHS DUE TO NON – AVAILABILITY OF ESSENTIAL DRUGS AT  
MULLAITIVU**

We, the Regional Directors of Health Services of Mullaitivu and Kilinochchi wish to report with much regret that both regions have not been provided with adequate supplies of essential medicines for the last 04 months. In fact, less than 05 percent of the combined quota of drugs and dressings that are meant for the last quarter of last year and for the first quarter of this year have been sent to us, so far. You are well aware of the fate of the remaining bulk – to be kept in Vavuniya –awaiting security clearance from the Ministry of Defense, despite our repeated requests and reminders made to you directly and through the Provincial Director of Health Services at regular intervals by all available means of communication. The Government Agents of both districts were also informed of this dangerous situation.

As the ongoing battle becoming more and more intense and destructive since the last months of last year, the number of war wounded has been steadily increasing with a proportionate increase in the demand for essential medicines, especially anesthetics, antibiotics, analgesics and IV fluids. Since January 2009, more than 500 civilian deaths, either on or after admission, have been registered at hospitals and thousands of civilian deaths could have gone unrecorded as they were not brought to the hospitals. Most of them succumbed to the severe war wounds. Some were due to serious medical illnesses. Most of the hospital deaths could have been prevented if basic infrastructure facilities and essential medicines were made available. The few Medical Officers and other health staff serving with dedication and determination have been frustrated with this grave situation of not being able to save lives. We have been supplied with no antibiotics, no anesthetics and not a single bottle of IV fluid, leaving us in a desperate situation of not being able to provide even lifesaving emergency surgery.

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Further more we are unable to provide basic out patients Care and primary health care services and other institutionalized health care services due to the non-availability of essential medicines. This has already led to deaths of children and vulnerable elderly due to diarrhea and other serious infections.

There fore, any further delay in sending essential medicines would only cause more and more deaths of innocent civilians. We have urged for urgent sending of drugs and dressings several times during the past weeks and, in fact, yourself and Provincial Director have promised us to send urgent medical items in the ship when it came here last time. However, we were shocked and felt very sad when we were informed by ICRC that no medicines have been handed over by the ministry officials to be taken in the ship.

Hence, we would be grateful if could send the required medicines at least in the next ICRC chartered ship in order to save the lives of innocent civilians who are under constant threat of war.

Thank you,

Yours Sincerely,



Dr. T. varatharajah  
Regional Director  
Of health services  
Mullaitivu.

Dr. T. Varatharajah  
Regional Director of  
Health Services  
Mullaitivu.



Dr. T. Sathiyamoorthy  
Regional Director  
of health services  
Kilinochchi

Dr. T. Sathiyamoorthy  
Regional Director of Health Services  
Kilinochchi.

Copy:

1. Health Delegate, ICRC, Colombo
2. Health Secretary, North province Trincomalee
3. Government Agent, Mullaitivu
4. Government Agent, Kilinochchi
5. Government Agent, Vavuniya
6. Government Agent, Mannar

