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May 15, 2009

Dear President Obama,

### **Rally at the White House May 11-15**

Tamil Americans and their friends have been shouting and marching for the last 5 days in front of your house. We very much appreciate your leadership in making a statement drawing attention to the horrific crises in Sri Lanka.

We want to state why we have left our jobs and homes for the last 5 days to rally for your attention.

The humanitarian crisis for the Tamil civilians encircled by the Sri Lankan armed forces in the Tamil enclave on the northeast coast of the island has reached horrendous proportions. Videos and pictures from the ground in the “safe zone” show that it has become a “killing zone,” rather than a ‘safe zone.’

160,000 Tamil civilians are being starved, bombed and shelled daily. Just last weekend 3,000 civilians were killed by their own government’s bombs. All 160,000 are in grave danger of being wiped out.

We are asking you to invoke R2P to save these Tamil civilians. Please, President Obama, you are our only hope!

- 1.) **We are asking you to act now and threaten sanctions against the Sri Lankan government if they resist the calls for a ceasefire.** The LTTE has already asked for a ceasefire several times.

Someone must stop the bloodbath, and you, Mr. Obama are the only one with that power.

Your words on your inauguration day spoke directly to the heart of the Tamil people’s struggle! You said:

“We must carry forward the precious gift, the noble idea, passed on from generation to generation. The God-given promise that all are equal, all are free, and all deserve a chance to pursue their full measure of happiness.”

President Obama, we are asking you to make that pledge to the Tamil people. We need your help!

**2.) Please send humanitarian aid, doctors, medicines, food NOW to the conflict zone and internment camps.**

On inauguration day you said:

“And to those who seek to advance their aims by.....slaughtering innocents, we say to you now that, ..our spirit is stronger and cannot be broken. You cannot outlast us, and we will defeat you.”

President Obama, we are asking you to make that pledge to the Tamil people. We need your help!

**3.) Demand the Sri Lankan government open the conflict area to journalists and UN monitors.** They are hiding war crimes against Tamil civilians. Recently a journalist was able to make a video in the concentration camps documenting rapes, and flagrant disregard for humanity.

On inauguration day you said

“To those who cling to power through corruption and deceit and the silencing of dissent, know that you are on the wrong side of history”

Please, Mr. Obama, we are asking you to make that pledge to the Tamil people.

The Sri Lankan government is gathering its forces to make a final push on the Tamil civilians in the killing zone. They have already announced that the Tigers want to commit a mass slaughter of their own people with outlawed weapons. Mr. Obama, we know that this is just a ruse to cover up the government’s planned last major assault. The civilians being starved and bombed need your immediate attention. We cannot protect them alone; we need your help.

President Obama, we found a promise of hope in your words on January 20<sup>th</sup>. You said:

“Know that America is a friend of each nation and every man, woman and child who seeks a future of peace and dignity, and we are ready to lead once more.”

President Obama we are asking you to make that pledge to an independent Tamil nation. NOW!

**Please act now...** Time is running out. We need your leadership in this dire time.

Sincerely,

All rally participants