



Tamil Information Centre

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Committed to Human Rights and Community Development

PRESS RELEASE
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TIC condemns abduction of TRO Workers

The Tamil Information Centre (TIC) is extremely concerned over the abduction yesterday (30 January 2006) of five staff members of the Tamils Rehabilitation Organization (TRO), who were travelling to Vavuniya from Batticaloa in Sri Lanka. The abduction took place near Welikande, an area under the control of the government security forces. The offence against civilians involved in relief and rehabilitation is a serious development and the TIC believes that this is a crime against humanity. We appeal to all those who have influence in this matter to assist in ensuring their safe release.

The TIC calls upon the Sri Lankan government to make all efforts to have the victims released immediately and launch a full investigation into the abduction ensuring that all persons involved are brought to justice. It further urges the government to guarantee the safety of all civilians in areas currently under its control and all civilians who travel through these territories.

The TIC believes that this provocative act has been deliberately timed to sabotage the peace talks scheduled to take place in Geneva and is an attempt to destroy the efforts of the international community in promoting the peace process in Sri Lanka. This should be condemned by all parties irrespective of their political persuasions.

The TIC calls upon the nations involved in promoting peace in Sri Lanka to use their political influence in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations and the principles of international law to secure the safe release of the abducted persons and to prevent such acts of hostage-taking and abduction.

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