



Tamil Information Centre

தமிழ் தகவல் நடுவம்

Committed to Human Rights and Community Development

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PRESS RELEASE

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Civil society leaders call for an end to factional fighting

The Tamil information Centre (TIC) is pleased that a joint Press Release issued by the Eelam People's Democratic Party (EPDP) and the Tamil Makkal Viduthalai Puligal (TMVP) on 9 July 2007 states that both parties have agreed to bring an end to their rivalry and work towards a meaningful political solution that benefits the Tamil speaking people.

The Press statement correctly recognises that fighting among Tamil parties has left an indelible stain on the legitimate struggle of the Tamil speaking people. The statement adds that the animosity among the Tamil parties would greatly affect the welfare of the Tamil speaking people, and that in this light, the two parties have agreed to avoid future conflicts and work again with mutual understanding.

Fratricidal fighting and lawlessness gripping the Tamil homeland has transformed the image of the militants who began their struggle with the objective of gaining the legitimate rights of the Tamil speaking people. Their current objectives are questionable, their methods are objectionable and their lack of concern for the peoples whom they claim to represent is shameful. They have become a problem in the eyes of the people who once honoured them as heroes. Several hundreds have been killed in factional fighting and the threat posed by this kind of fratricidal bloodshed is far worse than the dangers presented by the army of occupation.

“We have expressed our regret and sorrow for these incidents that do not reflect our struggle. These coming days are going to be very, very difficult. Factional fighting must end and all killings must stop. We should not allow more violence to divide the communities. We must go beyond the past barriers to resolve tensions. There are many forces in operation that are interested in inciting and promoting violence and in making sure that no dialogue is possible. These elements are encouraged by some sections of the media. It is our primary responsibility to address this issue of factional violence and to bring about its end in order to ensure normalcy of life in the Tamil homeland”, say community elders, religious and political and human rights activists who have fought courageously and in the face of incredible odds for freedom and human dignity of the Tamil speaking people of Sri Lanka.

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