



# Tamil Information Centre

தமிழ் தகவல் நடுவம்

Committed to Human Rights and Community Development

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## PRESS RELEASE

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### Sri Lankan air strike on children is a heinous crime against humanity

The Tamil Information Centre (TIC) expresses its extreme shock and deep sorrow at the reported death of over sixty children and wounding of many more in air-strikes by the Sri Lankan air force in Mullaitivu at dawn on 14 August 2006. The TIC condemns the deliberate targeting of children and destruction by the air force, and calls on the international community to immediately take every possible measure to bring the conflict in Sri Lanka to an end.

A social worker who visited the scene was horrified and outraged. He said, *"I can say this is a massacre. Monday's bombing was not the first time the Sri Lankan air force had committed such a criminal act. They never stop doing this. They will never stop doing this unless air force and government officials responsible for this crime are tried and punished."*

In the view of the Tamil people, the complacency of the international community, and its failure to take effective steps to stop state terrorism, has encouraged the Sri Lankan government to continue to perpetrate war crimes and crimes against humanity, placing itself above international law.

The latest bombing has even further widened the gulf between the parties to the conflict in Sri Lanka, and has complicated the situation and the efforts to restart peace talks.

The TIC reiterates its concern at the threat of escalation of violence with further grave and disastrous consequences, and calls for an end to violence, emphasizing the urgency for securing a permanent and sustainable ceasefire.

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