

Bishop Thomas Savundranayagam Appeals to the President for the People Displaced by War

Rt. Rev. Dr. Thomas Savundaranayagam
Bishop of Jaffna

July 21, 2008



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His Excellency Mahinda Rajapaksha
The President of Sri Lanka
Presidential Secretariat
Colombo 1

Your Excellency,

I am writing to you concerning the immense suffering of our people who are closer to the forward defense line of the advancing the S.L. Army on the Western Cost of Killinochchi. More than thirty thousand people are displaced from Manthai West of Mannar and are moving towards interior of Killinochchi district.

The plight of the people who live in the villages along the Mannar – Poonagarin Road is also the same. They too are fleeing with their families towards the interior of Killinochchi.

The whole region is on the move. There is no one to assist them immediately. Hence I am earnestly requesting you the followings:

1. To desist from Arial bombings artillery, shelling and gun ship firings on indiscriminate targets and assure the safety of people men, women and children.
2. To enable the Government Agent and his staff to provide immediate assistance to the displaced people with food medicine and shelter.
3. To permit U.N. Agencies and NGOs to move to these affected areas and assist the people to obtain their basic needs.

I take this opportunity to thank you for your efforts to bring Peace to Our troubled land.
Thank you and God bless you,

Yours truly,

+ Thomas Savundranayagam
Rt. Rev. Dr. Thomas Savundaranayagam
Bishop of Jaffna.



CC:

1. Private Secretary to the President, Presidential Secretariat, Colombo – 1.
2. The Honorable Minister, Ministry of Defense, Public Security, Law & Order,
No: 15/5, Baladaksha Mawatha, Colombo - 3.
3. The Government Agent, Killinochchi.
4. The President, NGOs Consortium , Killinochchi