

AMNESTY
INTERNATIONAL



“ ... SAFEGUARDS AGAINST TORTURE EITHER DO NOT APPLY OR ARE SIMPLY DISREGARDED... AND LEADS TO A SITUATION IN WHICH TORTURE BECOMES A ROUTINE PRACTICE IN THE CONTEXT OF COUNTER-TERRORISM OPERATIONS.”

UN Special Rapporteur on torture, 2007 statement to the Human Rights Council

SRI LANKA FEARS FOR CIVILIANS INCREASE AS WAR INTENSIFIES

The civil war in Sri Lanka has been ongoing for more than two decades. Since August 2006, fighting has escalated between government forces and the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) who are fighting for an independent state. As hostilities intensify, concerns for civilian safety increase.

Grave human rights abuses and breaches of international humanitarian law are committed by both sides, including enforced disappearances and abductions, unlawful killings, arbitrary arrests and torture. Few perpetrators of violent crimes are brought to justice.

■ At least 80,000 people have been killed since the civil war began, and hundreds of thousands of people have been displaced.

■ By the end of 2007, 5,516 cases of enforced disappearances remained unresolved according to the UN Working Group on Enforced and Involuntary Disappearances.

WHAT CAN YOU DO?

■ Learn more about human rights in Sri Lanka. Visit Amnesty International: www.amnesty.org/en/sri-lanka

■ Write to the Sri Lankan Government (prsec@presidentsoffice.lk) and the LTTE (hrnews.eelam@gmail.com), urging them to:

- Respect international humanitarian and human rights law.
- Put an immediate end to all enforced disappearances and abductions, unlawful killings, arbitrary arrests and torture.

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**SPEAK OUT AGAINST HUMAN RIGHTS
ABUSES IN SRI LANKA**