

TAGENZ



TAMILS AGAINST GENOCIDE

NEW ZEALAND

இன அழிப்புக்கு எதிரான தமிழர்கள் நியூசிலாந்து

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MEDIA RELEASE

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RAJAPKSES' LIES EXPOSED

Mr. Basil Rajapakse announced that as from 01 December 2009, those imprisoned in the Internment Camps (called by Government as transit villages) will be free to leave the camps and move freely. He also said that the resettlement grant will be increased from the promised Rs.25,000.00 to Rs.50,000.00. Though Government controlled media spread this as Government decision, this was ONLY a verbal announcement by Mr. Basil Rajapakse as adviser to President Rajapakse. It was NOT a statement issued under the hand of the Defence Secretary Mr. Gothabaya Rajapakse or under the hand of the President or his Secretary, Lalith Weeratunge. It has no legal effect.

Mr. Gothabaya Rajapakse, the Defense Secretary, has said that the delay in resettlement of those in the Internment Camps is subject to delay due a false alarm of security/safety raised by the former Commander and current Presidential rival candidate General Sarath Fonseka.

General Sarath Fonseka on the other hand has accused President Rajapakse of forcibly detaining the people in Internment Camps under unfavourable conditions, the Tamils he claims to have freed from the LTTE, without allowing them to go back to their homes.

The Government claims 9000 people out of some 150,000 people reportedly held in the Internment Camps left the camps on 01 December 2009 as promised.

But reports from Vavuniya say that these people have been released on condition that they return to the camps within fifteen days from 01 December 2009.- i.e. by 15 December 2009. It is only an eye wash to hoodwink as ever the international community that the people in the



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Internment Camps have been freed as pressured by the International community.

That is not all – they have been issued with special identity cards which they have to show anywhere when asked to do so. They have to specify the address to which they were leaving for. In addition, calculatedly, transport was not provided for them to travel. Thus, most of them were forced to go back to the Camps as they were left in the lurch. In any event they have to be back in the camps by 4.00 PM daily. There is increased army presence in Vavuniya monitoring the movement of those leaving the Camps to see relatives, friends etc. However, they are prevented from searching for their relatives in other camps (searching for parents, children or siblings). Most people have not taken this "short outing" seriously and are still in the camps.

That apart, during the last fortnight alone, some ten youths and some 30 young women were taken away by calling them by their names. It is not known where the Army took them. They are being kept incommunicado.

Is this the promised release from the camps that Basil Rajapakse spoke about?

Mr. Gothabaya Rajapakse must explain now, in the light of what has happened on 01 December 2009, to those released from the Camps, as to who is forcibly detaining these innocent Tamils.

And according to reliable news coming from responsible Government officers who cannot be identified for risk of life, those allowed to go back to their homes and those still held in new transit camps after being moved out from Vavuniya Camps, are forced to do cleaning, sweeping and other hard maual labour without being given food. They are being treated in the same way how in the distant past the vanquished in war were used as indentured labour.



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Now the Government is inviting foreign entrepreneurs to invest on projects to be sited on lands which belong to and where the interment camp

dwellers once lived in before being forced out by barrage of gunfire etc. This will lead to another uprising of Tamils and this time against the Government and the foreign entrepreneurs. This is a deliberate plot pitting the Tamils against the foreigners.

HOW DOES THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY RESPOND TO THIS INTRANSIGENCE OF THE SRI LANKA GOVERNMENT? CAN THEY DENY THAT THE RAJAPAKSE GOVERNMENT IS CONTINUING UNABATED THE GENOCIDAL ACTIONS?

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