

# SAVE THE DOCTORS CAMPAIGN

For Immediate Release

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## Lives of Doctors Still In Danger

The *Save the Doctors Campaign* is concerned about the safety of government-employed doctors who worked tirelessly to treat thousands of patients during the last weeks of the war in Sri Lanka. The Sri Lankan government had taken the doctors into custody in May. After substantial pressure, the government has since let four of them out on bail.

Dr. Thangamuthu Sathiyamoorthy, Dr. Veerakkathi Shanmugarajah and Dr. Thurairajah Varatharajah were released on August 24, 2009, along with their colleague Dr. Ilancheliyan Pallavan. A fifth physician, Dr. Sivapalan, remains in detention.

The doctors' movement is restricted and they are required to report to the Central Investigating Division (CID) every month. They are due in court on November 9 for allegedly providing "false information" to the international community and media.

Since disappearances and abductions are well-documented in Sri Lanka, the doctors' lives remain in danger.

"We are worried about the safety of these doctors who, despite the danger to their lives, adhered to their ethical responsibility to protect the lives of their patients under all circumstances," said Dr. Meera Selvakone, a family physician.

According to the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), Dr. Shanmugarajah, Dr. Varatharajah and Dr. Sathiyamoorthy coordinated with the ICRC to evacuate nearly 14,000 patients and their caregivers from the war zone between mid-February and May 9.

"The doctors have done nothing wrong, they should be given an unconditional release and their lives must be protected," said Dr. Selvakone.

*Save the Doctors Campaign* was initiated by concerned friends, family, colleagues and human rights activists. This global effort aims to increase public awareness of the plight of these doctors and ensure that justice is served. The campaign has been endorsed by Physician for Human Rights and Amnesty International Canada.

For more information, contact [info@savethedoctors.com](mailto:info@savethedoctors.com) or visit [www.savethedoctors.com](http://www.savethedoctors.com).