

SAVE THE DOCTORS CAMPAIGN

For Immediate Release

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Medical Professionals Join Forces to Save Doctors in Danger

Endorsed by **Amnesty International Canada** and **Physicians for Human Rights**, the **Save the Doctors Campaign** is a global effort to ensure justice for three government-employed doctors who worked tirelessly to treat thousands of patients during the last weeks of the war in Sri Lanka. The campaign, which has the support of the Canadian Medical Association, is calling for the unconditional release of **Dr. Thangamuthu Sathiyamoorthy, Dr. Veerakaththi Shanmugarajah and Dr. Thurairajah Varatharajah**. In addition to raising awareness about the doctors' plight, the campaign has sent an appeal, with prominent signatories from around the world, to Sri Lankan government officials this week.

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 Sri Lankan government had taken the doctors into custody in May. After substantial pressure, the government has since let them out on bail. They are awaiting trial on November 9 for allegedly providing "false information" on civilian deaths 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 Toronto-based family doctor. "As they did nothing wrong, we are calling for their unconditional release."

The appeal has been signed by a number of prominent individuals and organizations including: Physicians for Global Survival (PGS), Doctors for Human Rights (DHR), Doctors Against Racism and Anti-Semitism (DARA), Canadian Association for Physicians of Indian Heritage (CAPIH), Asian Centre for Human Rights (ACHR), Danish Medical Association, Finnish Medical Association, Icelandic Medical Association, Norwegian Medical Association and Swedish Medical Association.

Save the Doctors Campaign was initiated by concerned friends, family, colleagues, and human rights activists. For more information, contact info@savethedoctors.com or visit www.savethedoctors.com.