

Thousands of Aussies rally for Refugee Rights

To commemorate World Refugee Week, thousands of Australians took to the streets in protest against the current refugee policies and to call for an end to the racist victimisation of asylum seekers. Addressing 59 groups including Amnesty International and several political parties including the Greens and Socialist Alliance, Tamil refugee Arun Mylvaganam, from Melbourne, described his experiences escaping Sri Lanka in 1995, highlighting the grave situation faced by Tamils in Sri Lanka today. [Watch](#)



Rajapakse can't afford to ignore Tamils

Editorial column of Gulf News discusses said the idea of separate state for Tamils in the island of Sri Lanka is kept alive by the 'power of ideology'

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Here are some excerpts :

"The single-minded commitment of the Sri Lankan military to blasting the LTTE into extinction has paid dividends, but there is another power that shapes thoughts and actions: the power of ideology. In the case of the LTTE, and thousands of Tamils, the idea of a separate homeland will never die."

"It is a softer doctrine but one that is capable of gathering momentum over a period of time, chipping away at Sri Lanka's image as a democracy and its policy towards human rights. It could affect the island nation's status in a global context."



"The onus is on Rajapakse's government to address the plight of the Tamils sooner rather than later. The thousands displaced from their homeland need to know that they belong to Sri Lanka and not in refugee camps, facing an uncertain future. For the minorities, participation in the country's political process should be treated as an immediate priority.. Rajapakse's government should not waste time in doing the right thing. Efforts to provide basic living amenities such as jobs, housing, electricity, water and education for children are as important as giving Tamils the right to vote. It's time to look at the bigger picture."

Buddhist monks protest against UN war crimes panel



Clerics and lay members of a Buddhist nationalist party marched to the UN office in Colombo, chanting slogans against a UNs' panel tasked with investigating alleged human rights violations. "The U.N. is acting as an agent of terrorism." said the party leader Omalpe Sobitha, addressing the gathering of monks who are considered to be the greatest influence in SL's social and political affairs. [More...](#)

Amnesty slams Labor over freeze on SL asylum claims

Amnesty has called on the Gillard government to lift the ban which was applied in April, prohibiting Sri Lankans from making asylum applications for three months. "... there are absolutely no grounds for Australia to discriminate against people from Sri Lanka, a country where thousands of people continue to be persecuted," said Andrew Beswick, Amnesty International Australia campaigns manager. Sri Lanka researcher [Yolanda Foster](#) further added that "No area in Sri Lanka is entirely safe if someone has run afoul of an armed group or a powerful politician, been identified as a critic of the government or is suspected in some way of being 'anti-government'". [More...](#)



Visa delays lead to suicide attempt in Villawood

A 28 year old Sri Lankan man, found to be in genuine need of a protection visa three months ago, tried to hang himself inside Villawood detention centre over delays by ASIO in completing a mandatory security check. Four incidences of self-harm have been reported this week sparking fury by refugee supporters. "The prolonged detention of refugees and asylum seekers maintained by the federal government is borderline torture," said the NSW Greens MP Lee Rhiannon. [More...](#)

Tamil Brahmi inscriptions found in recent excavations

A German archaeological team has unearthed relics from Tissamaharama in the south of Sri Lanka and discovered inscriptions of Tamil and in Tamil Brahmi script, dateable to c.200 BCE. The inscription, "tiraLi muRi", meaning "written agreement of the assembly", illustrates the presence of a local Tamil mercantile community organised in a guild to conduct maritime trade as early as at the close of the 3rd century BCE. [More...](#)



Welcome to Australia

[ATC celebrates Refugee Week 2010](#)

Saturday 3rd July, 4pm to 6pm, Wentworthville Community Centre

Phone: 1300 660 629

