BLACK JULY 83'
REMEMBERING SILENCED VOICES

25TH JULY 2010
PARRAMATTA CHURCH STREET MALL
AMPHITHEATRE
PARRAMATTA, SYDNEY
AUSTRALIA
3.30pm - 5.30pm

We remember the 3000 Tamil lives that perished; the 150,000 rendered homeless; as a result of the state backed anti - Tamil pogrom in the island of Sri Lanka.

We remember the victims of July 1983; the unspeakable tragedies endured by them; each innocent, but for the crime of being born Tamil....

We remember the victims of today; those left without recourse to law or aid...and finally, we remember that hope for the helpless lies in the strength of our voices

On the 25th...

[Click here to read history and events of Black July](#)

Day 2: After the midnight lull, mobs were led by people with voter registration lists in hand torched Tamil homes, looted and destroyed Tamil businesses. All traffic was searched, and any Tamils found were killed, maimed, or burned alive. Cyril Matthew, Minister of Industries, was witnessed directly pinpointing shops to be burned down.

Many policemen were deployed throughout the city; however, they tacitly stood and watched on. Witnesses recall lorry loads of armed troops leisurely waving to looters who waved greetings back. Curfew was only declared by the President late in afternoon after the worst was over.

However, the violence continued unabated. Tens of thousands of Tamils who were homeless, sought refugee in schools and places of worship.

In Welikade prison, 35 Tamil political prisoners who were awaiting trail under the Prevention of Terrorism Act, were massacred by Sinhalese prisoners with the complicity of jail guards using spikes, clubs and iron rods.

The violence spread rapidly throughout the country, engulfing towns like Gampaha, Kalutara, Kandy, Matale, Nuwara Eliya and Trincomalee. One town was completely wiped out - the Indian Tamil town of Kandapola, near Nuwara Eliya.