

**High Commission for the Democratic
Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka**



**13 Hyde Park Gardens
London W2 2LU**

Phone : 020 7262 1841 - 6
Facsimile : 020 7262 7970

My Ref.

HCL/Media/16

17 June 2009

Mr Ben de Pear
Foreign Editor
ITN
200 Gray's Inn Road
London WC1X 8XZ

Dear Mr de Pear

I refer to your letter dated 16 June 2009 requesting our comments for a news item on civilian casualties etc in Sri Lanka that will be broadcasting on Channel 4 News.

I categorically deny all the allegations mentioned in your letter.

Some of your allegations have already been reported in other media and have been proven false. The allegation that the civilians were killed by the 'Sri Lankan artillery' is false as the Sri Lankan military has never fired on the civilians. It was the LTTE that attacked the fleeing civilians who were held forcibly as a human shield. The LTTE also deployed suicide bombers to kill the fleeing civilians in order to exert fear on others not to leave.

The allegation that 'upto 4000 civilians died in the final assault' is baseless as the final assault on the LTTE leadership was carried out after all the civilians were rescued by the military.

There are no 'disappearance, rape, torture or murder' taking place in the welfare villages for displaced people as alleged by you. These villages provide basic requirements such as food, shelter, medicine and sanitary facilities to the destitute civilians until they are re-settled in their own villages.

Yours sincerely

Justice Nihal Jayasinghe
High Commissioner