

PRESS RELEASE

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**Declaration by the Presidency on behalf of the European Union
on Sri Lanka**

1. The European Union strongly condemns the recent massacres of villagers by the LTTE in the North and East of Sri Lanka. There is no justification for any targeting of civilians.
2. The European Union repeats its appeal to both the Government of Sri Lanka and the LTTE to make every effort to protect the civilian population and welcome the government's recent statement concerning the shipment of relief supplies to the north.
3. The European Union welcomes President Kumaratunga's recent statements that the conflict in Sri Lanka can only be resolved through a negotiated settlement. The European Union believes that the Government of Sri Lanka's devolution proposals form a basis for discussion on a settlement acceptable to all Sri Lankans.