

European parliament calls for closure of LTTE offices in Europe.  
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The European Parliament dealt a severe blow to LTTE activities in Europe last Friday, when it called on all its member states to close down all LTTE offices in European Union nations, diplomatic sources said.

The resolution was passed in Strasbourg, where the European Parliament has its ses-

sions.

The European Parliament has taken this action as part of the common foreign and security policies of the European Union. It called on states to close all offices of the LTTE in the territories of member states, charging that these offices are used "to propagate terrorism against a

friendly country, and to extort funds from Tamils living in the territory of the European Union, for the pursuit of violent actions."

This action follows a visit to Sri Lanka last November by a European Union delegation, led by Henry Sabby, Chairman of the South Asian Development Committee, which included George Stevens of the British House of Commons.

The resolution was put to the European

Parliament by the European Foreign Affairs and Security Committee.

The resolution also calls upon the European commission to set up a permanent mission in Colombo without further delay.

It also urges the Sri Lankan government to fully implement the recommendations of the United Nations Working Group on Enforced and Involuntary Disappearances, and also those of Amnesty International. It has also

urged the Sri Lankan government to ensure that the Sri Lankan media functions without intimidation and coercion.

It has appealed to the government to put into force human rights legislation, including the Human Rights Commission Bill, and bring to justice those accused of human rights abuses, especially during the JVP rebellion, and to ensure that such persons

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are removed from positions of power.

It has also called on the government to issue death certificates for persons reported missing or believed to be dead after one year.

The resolution also reminds the Sri Lankan government that it has accepted a UN Working Group recommendation that if corpses of those who have disappeared are discovered, it would ask for the help of international forensic experts. The resolution states that the European Parliament believes that such experts should be brought in to examine the mass graves at Suriyakande.

It also urges the government to end the practice of repeatedly arresting people, who have proved that they are not supporters of terrorism.

It also proposes that the government teach Tamil in schools in the South, and Sinhala in the North and East.

It has also called on the European Union to assist human rights groups in Sri Lanka, including the Jaffna University Teachers' Association, and the Council for Liberal Democracy.