

Swiss suspend repatriation of Tamils. (1994, October 26). *The Island*.

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Tamils

BERNE, Oct. 25 — Switzerland said on Tuesday it had suspended its programme of forced repatriation for Tamil asylum seekers following a bombing in the Sri Lankan capital that killed 52 people on Sunday night.

The explosion at a political rally on the outskirts of Colombo killed opposition leader and presidential candidate Gamini Dissanayake. Sri Lanka indefinitely postponed peace talks with Tamil

rebels due to have restarted on Monday and imposed a state of emergency.

"We have suspended the programme until the situation clarifies itself," a spokeswoman for the Swiss Federal Office for Refugees said. "No more asylum seekers will be sent back until the situation there is more stable."

Switzerland this year became the first European country to start repatriating Tamil asylum seekers, saying the danger of their facing human rights abuses in Sri Lanka had abated.

— (Reuter)