

Canadian, US Tamils Appeal for Right to Self-Determination. (1993, July 30). *Star India*.



*A protest in front of the Sri Lankan High Commission in New York marked the 10th anniversary of Tamil "Pogrom" 10th Anniversary of the 1983 Tamil "Pogrom"*

## Canadian, US Tamils Appeal for Right to Self-Determination

**NEW YORK** - The Federation of Associations of Canadian Tamils (FACT), World Tamil Coordinating Committee, New York, and New York Tamil Sangam jointly commemorated the 10th anniversary of the 1983 Tamil "pogrom" committed by the Sinhalese by staging a massive demonstration in front of the Sri Lankan High Commission Office here Saturday, July 24. Bus loads of Eelam Tamils from Toronto and Montreal converged on the City. They were joined by Tamils from New York and neighboring US states.

The more than 500 strong demonstrators carried placards and shouted slogans demanding the Sri Lankan government stop killing innocent Tamils by aerial bombing, lift the 3 year old economic blockade, and stop colonization of their traditional homelands by Sinhalese settlers.

The demonstrators carried huge portraits of Velupillai Prabhakaran, the Liberation Tigers of Tamils Eelam (LTTE) supremo, proclaiming him as the undisputed National Leader of the 35 million Eelam Tamils.

Pamphlets were distributed by the organizers appealing to the International Community to recognize the Eelam Tamils' right to

self-determination and help prevent genocide by Sri Lanka.

The two hours long demonstration ended with the burning of the Sri Lanka's national flag which went up in flames in minutes to the jubilation of the crowd.

The demonstrators then marched to the United Nations Organisation at UN Plaza and held a rally where several speakers addressed the gathering. Speakers stressed the urgent and imperative need for the United Nations Organization on humanitarian grounds to intervene in the civil war between the Tamils and Sinhalese which had been going well over a decade now.

An appeal was also made to the Western Nations to stop giving financial aid to Sri Lanka "which only helps the cash-trapped Sri Lankan government to procure more arms and other military hardware in its, was against the Tamil people".

The New York City Police turned up in full strength and remained at the scene to prevent any breach of peace.

In the evening a commemoration meeting was held followed by a cultural show at Government College (PS 203) in which several artists from Canada and New York City took part.