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HOUSE OF COMMONS
CANADA

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Canada-Sri Lanka Parliamentary Friendship Group Urges a Return to Negotiation

OTTAWA – A group of Canadian Parliamentarians is calling on both sides of the conflict in Sri Lanka to return to the negotiating table in the wake of recent violence in that country.

The Canada-Sri Lanka Parliamentary Friendship Group is an all party group of Senators and Members of Parliament interested in Canada's relationship with Sri Lanka. Its members unanimously approved a statement on Friday calling on both sides to exercise restraint and negotiate in good faith to find a peaceful settlement to the conflict. The statement read as follows:

The Canada-Sri Lanka Parliamentary Friendship group calls upon the Government of Sri Lanka and the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam to refrain from further acts of violence and return to the negotiating table so that a peaceful and long-term solution to the conflict can be found.

We firmly believe that a stable and long-term resolution to the conflict can only be achieved through negotiation. The further escalation of violence will only bring further hardship on the people of Sri Lanka, who have already suffered a great deal.

We are also gravely concerned about the well-being of all those who have been displaced by the most recent incidents of violence. It is with them in mind that we call on both sides to demonstrate good faith and return to the negotiating table without delay.

For further comment from Maurice Vellacott, MP, vice-chair of the Canada-Sri Lanka Parliamentary Friendship Group, call (613) 992-1966 or (613) 297-2249.