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பாராளுமன்றம்
PARLIAMENT

Tamils from different parts of the North and East are sheltered in temporary and makeshift camps which do not even meet the basic health and safety requirements and lack the basic amenities. The Memorandum of Understanding speaks about resettlement of the displaced Tamils in due course and, in my view, it would take at least 2-3 years before these refugees are resettled. The Sri Lankan Government has appreciated that there are many areas in the North and East which are not habitable since there are landmines and unexploded ordnance in these areas. This leads to a situation where the displaced refugees are unable to return to their native villages, even if they chose to do so.

Many schools in the North and East were occupied by the Armed Forces and despite the agreement arrived at between both parties, the Armed Forces have now vacated many schools and occupied the adjoining premises. The LTTE leadership and the Tamil National Alliance have time and again complained to the Sri Lankan Government and the Norwegian authorities about this.

While I am writing this letter, I have learnt that there was unrest in the Point Pedro area when students demanding the reopening of roads leading to two schools were fired at and severely assaulted by the Armed Forces.

Whilst, I am eager to see an end to the conflict between the Sri Lankan Government and the LTTE, all available evidence suggest that the path to peace is militated by several hurdles. Any right thinking person would say