



# Tamil Information Centre

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Committed to Human Rights and Community  
Development  
**PRESS RELEASE**

## GOVERNMENT BAN ON THE LTTE

The Tamil Information Centre (TIC) is dismayed over the Sri Lankan Government's decision to ban the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Elam (LTTE) which has emerged as the main symbol and spokesman of Tamil grievances and aspirations. The Government's decision to ban the little came after the attack on the Buddhist shrine Dalada Maligawa reportedly carried out by the LTTE in Kandy on 25 January

While respecting the sentiments of the people and condemning the attack, the TIC wishes to express its deep concern over the government's decision. The ban on the LTTE would not only deepen the gulf between the two major communities in Sri Lanka, but also have the effect of closing the doors to peace.

The Sri Lankan conflict has reached a crucial stage. Looking beyond the current event, the conflict is the brutal culmination of Sri Lanka's 'unresolved past'. An observation of the events since independence would reveal that the inability of successive governments to understand and respond to Tamil grievances had led to the polarisation of the communities. The banning of the LTTE in Sri Lanka is another Example of the political mismanagement, which would be perceived by the Tamil as government's ploy to undermine the Tamil cause and prolong the war.

27 January 1998