



Black July

At this time - the end of July - Tamils around the world remember the terrible events in 1983, when many Tamils were killed and many more displaced and made homeless by racially-based riots in Colombo and other centres in Sri Lanka. The large scale Tamil exodus out of that country to Canada and elsewhere really dates from that time.

In cities across Canada Tamil Canadians will be holding memorial services, commemorating not only "Black July" but the many deaths and killings since then in the civil war that only ended a few years ago.

Members of the Liberal Party feel the deep suffering of the Tamil people, as well as all those Sri Lankans - Tamil, Sinhalese, Muslim, Buddhist, Hindu, Christian - who died in this terrible conflict.

We continue to call for an internationally-supervised investigation of the events in the last days and weeks of the civil war, and call on the government of Sri Lanka itself to recognise the importance and value of the work of the Secretary General of the UN's special panel.

Canada's voice needs to be heard more clearly in insisting that there can be no real reconciliation without truth. If crimes have been committed there should be consequences.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Bob Rae".

The Honourable Bob Rae, P.C., O.C., M.P.

2011