

Deserve refugee status. (1993, November 25). *The Globe and mail*.

## Deserve refugee status

Last Monday I read Professor James A. Brander's article on immigration wherein he states that "it is not the most deserving refugees who are granted refugee status in Canada but simply those who have sufficient influence to arrange a plane trip to Canada" (Who Should Canada Accept As Immigrants? — Nov. 15).

On Tuesday, I met with a Tamil refugee claimant from Sri Lanka whose face was horribly disfigured by having been dragged across barbed wire by the army. The corroborating medical report, which I obtained, entails more than 20 jagged scars across my client's face consistent with the trauma he described.

On Wednesday I met with a young Somali woman who recently escaped the ongoing violence in her country. Earlier she witnessed the killing of her husband and father at the hands of a rival clan.

On Thursday I had an interview with a man from China who arrived in Canada in 1989, just prior to the Tiananmen Square massacre. He continues to fear returning to China in the wake of that country's repressive regime. He broke down when he showed me photographs of his two young children who have been growing up without him these past four years.

On Friday I represented another young Tamil man from Sri Lanka whose home was destroyed in a bombing raid. He and his family had to take shelter in a refugee camp for more than a year. The weekend brings some relief from so many tales of misery. This week, if he is interested, I should like to introduce Prof. Brander to some other refugees. That they were fortunate to find their way to Canada does not, in my view, make them any less deserving as refugees.

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