

Sri Lanka risked their lives to vote. (1988, December 31). *The Toronto Star*

Sri Lankans risked their lives to vote

Re your editorial, *Terror in the temple* (Dec. 22): With reference to the violence that marred the presidential election in Sri Lanka, I would like to bring to the attention of your readers that the violence was directed at the Sinhalese population by extremists in the south of the country. Canadians should therefore wonder why it is that Tamils from Sri Lanka seek refugee status in Canada when it is the Sinhalese population who are the victims of terrorist attacks by both Tamil and Sinhalese terrorists.

I would also like to point out that there was similar violence during the recent elections in Pakistan. However, thousands of Pakistanis are not arriving in Canada as refugees.

The fact that 55 per cent of those eligible to vote did so is a testimony to that fact that the majority of Sri Lankans believe in and want democracy and an end to terrorist violence. It is to their credit that they made the effort to vote even at the risk of their lives.

IRA DE SILVA
President
Sri Lanka United
National Association