

'Not victims of persecution' Court denies Tamils right to asylum.  
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vavuniya yesterday.

**'Not victims of persecution'**

# Court denies Tamils right to asylum

KOBLENZ, West Germany, Aug. 19, (dpa) — Tamils in Southern and Northern Sri Lanka are not victims of ethnic persecution and therefore not automatically entitled to asylum in West Germany, a court ruled here on Friday.

The Upper Administrative Court (OVG) in Koblenz, South of Cologne, was ruling on appeals by the Federal Commissioner for asylum issues against decisions to grant asylum to two Tamils.

In Friday's ruling, the OVG argued that with the deployment of Indian Peace Keeping Forces in Northern Sri Lanka, Tamils received better protection and need

no longer fear military attacks.

Sri Lankan Government operations against Tamil militants had led to bloody clashes, but this does not affect the right to asylum in West Germany, the Court ruled.

On the second case, the OVG said the 1983 riots in Southern Sri Lanka were not directed specifically against ethnic Tamils. Furthermore, the Government in Colombo had successfully tried to end the unrest and the request for asylum had to be turned down.

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