

Canadian Tamil says he's getting a fair trial in Sri Lanka:
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OTTAWA (CP) — A Canadian accused of sedition for alleging that Sri Lankan forces massacred members of the Tamil minority believes he is getting a fair trial in a Sri Lankan court, his daughter said yesterday.

“At this time he seems to be very pleased with the way things are going,” Nirmala Pitt said of her father, Paul Nallanayagam.

However, Pitt said Nallanayagam — a Tamil and Methodist lay worker at a girls' orphanage — plans to return to Canada with his wife if he is cleared of the charges because they fear for their safety.

The Toronto *Star* reported in a dispatch from Colombo, the Sri Lankan capital, that Nallanayagam was arrested May 22 under emergency regulations being used to fight Tamil separatists in

the northern part of the island country.

The 61-year-old Canadian immigrant was also president of a local human rights group in the town of Kalmunai when he alleged that 23 Tamil youths had been rounded up by security forces, made to dig their own trench graves and then slaughtered.

Nallanayagam was immediately arrested and charged with “incitement to bring the government of Sri Lanka into hatred or contempt and passing on rumors likely to cause public alarm” and put in a minimum-security jail.

His trial only got under way March 17.

External Affairs Department official Terry Jones said Canadian diplomats have been keeping a close watch on the case.