

SPEECH OF  
**HON. BRAD MILLER**  
OF NORTH CAROLINA  
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
WEDNESDAY, MAY 19, 2010

- Mr. MILLER of North Carolina. Madam Speaker, today marks the one-year anniversary of the end of the civil war in Sri Lanka, which is a reason to be hopeful about the future of Sri Lanka. However, I also rise to voice my concern for a community at risk. The viability of a traditionally Tamil region in Sri Lanka is under threat. Since the beginning of the war, one third of the Tamil population was driven off the island and many more were displaced. A large area in the north central part of the island that was a predominantly Tamil area is now almost devoid of Tamils. According to the United Nations, more than 60 percent of homes in the north have been seriously damaged by the fighting. To make matters worse, many Sinhalese families moved into traditional Tamil areas while Tamil inhabitants were kept in detention camps following the end of the war. Finally, Tamil homes, churches, temples and cemeteries were destroyed during the war with no assurance from the Sri Lanka Government that they will be rebuilt. Sri Lanka Tamil population is in danger of losing their identity and their traditional homeland. The United Nations has warned that "donor fatigue" in Sri Lanka has resulted in the United Nations receiving only 24 percent of the donor funds it needs to help displaced Tamils. Madam Speaker, I urge the international community to renew their efforts and take action so the Tamil culture and history is not lost.