

## **Karygiannis welcomes GlobalMedic on their return from Sri Lanka**

OTTAWA – The Honourable Jim Karygiannis, Member of Parliament for Scarborough-Agincourt, welcomed the Canadian emergency medical first responders of GlobalMedic on their return from Sri Lanka, where they had provided humanitarian assistance to the innocent victims of the Sri Lankan civil war.

“GlobalMedic personnel do what Canadians do best – they provide assistance to those in need.” said Mr. Karygiannis. “These are brave men and women donate their time to provide victims of natural and man-made disasters with clean water and medical attention. I am glad they have returned home safe and sound.”

GlobalMedic provides emergency relief to those affected by natural disasters and complex emergencies. They provide technological equipment and training to local emergency response organizations, striving to deliver the maximum amount of aid with minimal operating costs. GlobalMedic delivers a pre-hospital emergency medical care training package. The training is delivered to members of organizations and hospitals in the affected countries in order to enhance emergency medical services.

“It is frustrating for us not to have had unrestricted access to the front lines. However, as a team, we need to adapt and overcome.” said Mr. Rahul Singh, a director of GlobalMedic. “Our partner groups in Sri Lanka were trained by three of our Toronto based volunteers. Our partner groups have been given access to the northern areas. They are now providing water and access to primary healthcare.”

Prior to the GlobalMedic team leaving for Sri Lanka, Mr. Karygiannis met with the High Commissioner of Sri Lanka in Canada and wrote, on two occasions, to the Government of Sri Lanka through the High Commissioner in Ottawa requesting entry visas for the GlobalMedic team. The Government of Sri Lanka has yet to respond to Mr. Karygiannis’ letters.

“This lack of response by the Sri Lankan government speaks volumes. We were asking for visas for people who were going to provide help.” Mr. Karygiannis commented. “The Sri Lankan government obviously does not want foreigners to see the damage their bombs have caused.”

On their return, the GlobalMedic team discussed the situation on the ground in Sri Lanka with Mr. Karygiannis.

“I do find hope in the fact that acts of humanitarianism cut across religious and ethnic boundaries.” Mr. Singh commented. “You look at this mission where our Canadian team worked with a Muslim agency to train Buddhist, Muslim and Christian rescuers to provide assistance to a mainly Hindu population.”