

UN Sec. General censored

A part of the statement issued by Secretary General of the UN Kofi Annan has been censored by the Competent Authority.

The following is the text of the statement as issued by Reuters and censored by the Competent Authority.

UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan expressed concern on Tuesday that Sri Lankan civilians were threatened by intensified fighting between government troops and Tamil Tiger rebels, and called for a political settlement. The secretary-general is concerned about the possible humanitarian consequences of the recent escalation of fighting in Sri Lanka. (Censored)

“He appeals to all parties to avoid placing

the lives of civilians at risk, and to ensure humanitarian access to all in need.”

(Censored)

Earlier on Tuesday, a day after the Sri Lankan government rejected a ceasefire offer from the Tamil Tigers, a government statement said the rebels had launched attacks on troops manning defences on the northern Jaffna peninsula, but had been forced to withdraw with their casualties.

Annan “strongly believes that a political solution is necessary” to the conflict, the spokesman said, adding that Annan welcomed an offer by Norway, made earlier this year, to try to bring the government and the Tamil Tigers to the negotiating table. (Reuters)