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இலங்கை தூதராலயம்
பிரான்ஸ்



AMBASSADE DE SRI LANKA
EN FRANCE
EMBASSY OF SRI LANKA
IN FRANCE

PR/04/2012

MEDIA RELEASE

TIGER STAMPS: LA POSTE PLACES APOLOGY ON WEBSITE; BLAMES 'UNSCRUPULOUS AND MANIPULATIVE CUSTOMERS'

In an announcement on the website of *La Poste* concerning the printing of stamps "representing members and symbols of the Tamil movement 'Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam', an organization listed as terrorist by the European Union since 2006", the French Postal Authority says "this is the first grave incident that Phil@poste has known in the printing of personalized postal stamps".

The statement says La Poste has been the "victim of unscrupulous and manipulative customers".

It says that in addition to written apologies, two directors, François Chalvet, Director of Sales and Marketing, and Louis Virgile, Director of Strategy and International have apologized to the Ambassador of Sri Lanka in Paris, in person on behalf of Phil@poste.

● **The English language translation of the full text of its statement is given below:**

Communiqué of Phil@poste regarding the printing of Tamil Tiger PPS

January 5, 2012

In December 2011, a customer ordered, on the website of *Montimbramoï* (Myownstamp), sheets of personalized postal stamps (PPS) representing members and symbols of the Tamil movement "Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam", an organization listed as terrorist by the European Union since 2006. These stamps were printed on December 14, 2011, a holiday season during which the printing office of Phil@poste in Boulazac had to deal with more than 2,000 requests of personalized postal stamps per week. Moreover, a few days ago, people posing as "cultural actors" also had stamps printed at the *Carré d'Encre* shop.



It should be recalled that, in the *Montimbramoï* general terms and conditions of sale, the customer must validate on the website, for each order, the visuals he chose, then engaging his own liability. In addition to this, the commercial teams perform a systematic verification of the proposed visuals. In this moment of "overload", these personalized postal-stamps exceptionally escaped the vigilance of the said control. For over five years, this is the first grave incident that Phil@poste has known in the printing of personalized postal stamps.

Since several days, Phil@poste has been in touch with both the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Embassy of Sri Lanka in Paris on this matter. All doubts have been clarified regarding the liability of Phil@poste, victim of unscrupulous and manipulative customers.

Beyond the written apologies, François Chalvet, Director of Sales and Marketing, and I have met this Thursday, January 5, His Excellency the Ambassador of Sri Lanka to apologize in person on behalf of Phil@poste.

Louis Virgile, Director - Strategy and International
Phil@poste

Source:

<http://www.leportaildutimbre.fr/af/laposte/actualites/phil@newsAffichageArticle.do;jsessionid=E B929AD4A4680F4180BFB518760CFE69.node0?articleOID=66319&channelId=-31174>

Embassy of Sri Lanka
Paris

11th January 2012