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Government takes extensive measures to curb terrorism

The government is bringing in tougher measures to curb terrorism and terrorist activities by any person or group of persons in the country. President Mahinda Rajapaksa in his Address to the Nation made shortly after the announcement outlined the new regulations being introduced to counter terrorism in the country. (Full text on p.2)

Lorries with relief supplies deliver aid despite armed attacks on 3 humanitarian convoys by the LTTE



On November 28, the Government with the assistance of INGOs dispatched 117 Lorries containing essential food supplies to IDPs in the Vakarai area but failed due to LTTE attacks using heavy mortars on the military camp at Kajuwatte. The Humanitarian convoy that went from Batticaloa therefore had to turn back at Mankerny and return to Batticaloa. This had been the third attempt by the LTTE to disrupt humanitarian convoys delivering aid. Refer full story p.7

LTTE kills teacher and injures 11 students

Three civilians were killed and 11 schoolchildren and a teacher injured when indiscriminate artillery fire by the LTTE hit Somadevi Vidyalaya and a nearby village in Kallaru in the cleared areas in Trincomalee on December 07, 2006. The LTTE cadres fired artillery towards Somadevi school in Kallaru at 11.30 a.m. Later at 12.10 p.m Tiger terrorists fired another round of artillery shells on a house in the Kallaru village killing three civilians including a 10-year-old child, Military Spokesman Brigadier Prasad Samarasinghe said.

Assassination attempt on Secretary-Defense by LTTE Suicide bomber, two army dead 12 injured



Left: H.E. Mahinda Rajapaksa greeting his brother-Secretary of the Ministry of Defence, Public Security, Law and Order, Gotabhaya Rajapaksa soon after the bomb exploded.

Secretary of the Ministry of Defence, Public Security, Law and Order, Gotabhaya Rajapaksa was targeted by a LTTE suicide bomber on Friday 04, December at a junction in central Colombo. Both the driver of the escort Defender jeep and an army officer in a vehicle flanking the Defence Secretary's vehicle succumbed to their injuries.

H.E. the President's Address to the Nation



6 December, 2006

Venerable Members of the Maha Sangha
Respected Clergy of other religions
Mothers and Fathers,
Brothers and Sisters
My Dear Children, and
Friends

It is now a little over one year since you elected me as President of our country. When I was given in charge of the country, what you expected of me was the defence of our motherland. I am aware that more than one year ago, it is with the greatest confidence that you entrusted me with the responsibility of protecting our beloved motherland, and not being subdued by whatever forces that sought to divide it. What satisfies me most about the past year is the ability of our government to gradually extricate our country from the great betrayal it was facing.

While realizing the importance of this moment to all of you in the Sri Lankan nation, I have decided to address you today to assure you of living up to the trust placed in me as the custodian of the Sri Lankan State.

Although Sri Lanka is geographically small, and the Sri Lankan nation is numerically small, throughout history we have been regarded with pride and respect in the world. However, it is also fact that the greatness our nation had over the centuries has been challenged by the threats it faced from the latter part of the 1970s and the beginning of the 1980s.

The countrywide movement of violence by the LTTE that began in 1975 with assassination of Mr. Alfred Duraiyappah, the distinguished Mayor of Jaffna and great humanist who stood resolutely for Sinhala - Tamil unity, has by now brought immeasurable, humiliation, damage and discredit to the nation, in a manner that is both serious and gravely criminal.

We cannot forget how this honoured motherland of ours was made a graveyard in the eyes of the world with the assassinations of our former President Ranasinghe Premadasa, and respected politicians such as Defence Minister Ranjan Wijeratne, Leader of the Opposition Gamini Dissanayake, Minister of National Security Lalith Athulathmudali, and the statesman par excellence former Foreign Minister Lakshman Kadirgamar who took the voice of the Sri Lankan Tamils to the world, and also a large number of other national leaders; and the many thousand heroes of war among whom were Denzil Kobbekaduwa, Wijaya Wimalaratne, Parami Kulatunga; prominent Tamil leaders such as Appapillai Amirthalangam, Neelan Tiruchelvam, Yogeswaran, Pararajasingham and Raviraj, and also the destruction of the economic nerve centres such as the Katunayake Airport and Central Bank.

Besides all this the massacre of bhikkus at Arantalawa and devotees at the Sri Maha Bodhi, the attack and killings at the Dalada Maligawa, the killings at Pettah comprise a series of killings that still make Sri Lankans shudder, and have entered world history as the inexcusable crimes of brutal terrorism.

Beginning with Prime Minister Sirimavo Bandaranaike, all leaders from President J. R. Jayewardene to President Chandrika Kumaratunga sought to face up to this grave threat to the nation and bring peace to our motherland. Similarly, my effort as your Head of State is to build a peaceful Sri Lanka where the Sinhala, Tamil and Muslim people can live as brothers. I have described this effort as a New Sri Lanka.

Friends, how has the LTTE responded to the efforts of these leaders of various parties to achieve peace through three decades?

The LTTE that assassinated the Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi, who gave his utmost towards peace in Sri Lanka, continued to assassinate all leaders who extended their hands for peace; or attempted to assassinate them. Meanwhile, in an attempt to show the world that it had abandoned its expectations for Eelam, it came to the negotiating table giving the impression that it was seeking another objective. On the other hand, it continued to organize the battlefield as it wished.

I became the custodian of this country on November 19 last year through the mandate given by you. Just two weeks after that, in the absence of any provocation or any reasonable

grounds, six soldiers were killed on December 6. In this manner, until the attempt to assassinate the Army Commander inside Army Headquarters on April 25, 142 of our soldiers and policemen were killed. This was done without any provocation. As the Government and a member of the world community we were patient in the face of all this. We were restrained in the face of all these atrocities, in the cause of peace. When some were asking whether "Mahinda had no spine" I remained totally committed to peace. What I told you then was that I would resolve this even by meeting Prabhakaran face to face, and asked that you remain calm.

It was only when they came into Army Headquarters and attempted to assassinate the Army Commander that we decided we cannot succeed in our task unless we respond to the LTTE in the language it understands.

After this when they blocked the Mavil Aru anicut, destroying thousands of acres of paddy and driving people in the Eastern Province to death without drinking water, we carried out a limited operation to save those people.

Similarly, you will recall that when our troops were tied down at Mavil Aru that they boasted of capturing Jaffna within four days and attacked our Forward Defence Lines at Muhamalai.

However my dear friends, amidst all its atrocities and savagery we as a responsible government decided to give ear to the LTTE. Accordingly, in February 22 this year we met them at Geneva. The outcome was that they abandoned the talks raising an issue that had no direct relevance to the North East crisis.

Meanwhile, you will also recall how without any reasonable cause, and against all norms of civilization, a bus was bombed at Kebetigollawa killing and injuring a large number of innocent civilians, in a tragedy that shook the very earth.

Even after that savage attack we still decided to talk with the LTTE. At a time when we were blamed for it by the country, we yet decided to proceed to Geneva on June 7, for the second time. We were so flexible being fully aware that peace was a very dear commodity. However, what was the response of the LTTE? Having obtained all the facilities and privileges, they went to Geneva and said they were not willing to meet us.

We were caught in an abundance of shame. Even the international community was trapped. Yet we did not decide to withdraw from the Ceasefire Agreement or the talks. Although we did not agree with the clause in the CFA defining the boundaries of LTTE controlled areas, we did not take any steps to go beyond those limits. I tell you with all responsibility that we have at no time been on the offensive. What we did was permit the LTTE's spokesman to come to Colombo for treatment for a heart ailment on humanitarian grounds, when such a request was made. What country or organization in the midst of war would act with such humanity?

When Jaffna was under threat of heavy attack, Tamil youth were abducted and innocent Tamil people were in danger of being caught in the middle of an unnecessary war, and when the LTTE sent message through its web site asking that 50,000 coffins be readied for the Sri Lankan troops, we decided to close the A9 at Muhamalai. We did not close the A9 in its entirety but only at Muhamalai. Although this led to an instant shortage of food throughout Jaffna, we have by now brought this situation fully under control. In the last three months we have sent 47,500 metric tons of food and medicine to Jaffna. But, in the previous six months what had been sent was a little less than 30,000 metric tons.

Meanwhile, over a hundred unarmed members of the Navy on their way home on leave were killed by the LTTE at Digampaney in Dambulla. This inhuman act was perpetrated violating all accepted norms of decency.

In the midst of all these unfavorable conditions, as a people-friendly government we decided to again go for talks with the LTTE. Accordingly our delegation went to Geneva on October 8. What happened was that as they have done throughout the past, they abandoned the talks once again confirming that they have no alternative other than the utopian dream of Eelam. Having put aside the social, economic and political issues that were at the core of the North East crisis, they took up incidental matters to abandon the talks. This is the well known tactic of the LTTE, particularly meant to mislead the international community.

Further, how can it be possible to justify the using of more than 20,000 innocent civilians as human shields in the Vakarai area? Who can justify the attacking and driving away of the lorries carrying food for that area under the flag of the International Red Cross and the World Health Organization? Is driving innocent mothers and children into starvation in the name of Tamil liberation a crime that one can bear?

Similarly, can the LTTE's brutality in disrupting the education of the Jaffna students, that had never happened before, be ever condoned?

I am not prepared to belittle in the face of the LTTE's inflexible terrorism, the responsibility of State you have respectfully entrusted to me, or compromise its sovereignty. The entire world should reject the LTTE's policy of treating the Ceasefire monitors as mere messengers.

Friends,

Taking all this into consideration, our Government decided to reactivate provisions of the Prevention of Terrorism Act to face this cruel and senseless terrorism. We also have for the first time defined terrorism, and brought in special provisions and regulations to curb it. I wish to tell you that our Government took this decision giving due consideration to all relevant facts and making a deep study of the situation.

We have introduced the necessary regulations today. These regulations have been promulgated in keeping with the United Security Council Resolution No. 1373 of 2001 adopted under Chapter 7 of the United Nations Charter, under which it is obligatory to take meaningful measures to prevent and suppress terrorism.

I ask you not to belittle this decision as one taken in view of the failed attempt by the LTTE on my brother, the Defence Secretary Gotabhaya's life.

There is a matter that you should bear in mind. The LTTE attempted to kill Gotabhaya was concurrent with their announcement about the Eelam state. This is the first attack carried out after that announcement. It is not Gotabhaya only who was attacked. They also attacked Foreign Secretary, Mr. Paliakkara and killed security services personnel and innocent civilians. Therefore, I ask you to think deeply about this. I wish to specially request this of the international community.

I also wish to make this an opportunity to thank the United States of America and other countries that have rejected outright the demand for a separate state or the so-called Eelam, and also express my gratitude to all foreign countries that fraternally stood with Sri Lanka in support of our independence and unity through several decades.

It is necessary to state here that it is the primary task of all our foreign friends, committed to safeguard the independence of Sri Lanka, to exert the necessary pressures to defeat the LTTE's firm belief that liberation is brought about only by bloodshed.

The Cabinet of Ministers has decided to implement the provisions of the Prevention of Terrorism Act as well as a large number of other regulations, with effect from today. In the face of terrorism that is engaged in playing a suicidal game with our lives as well as the destiny of the Sri Lankan nation, we cannot anymore be satisfied with a partial response. We should make a firm commitment not to allow anyone to take these new regulations lightly. Whatever one's status may be, supporting terrorism is act of enmity towards both the country and the nation. We are not ready to allow that. Similarly, there is no room anymore to assist terrorism directly or indirectly, and talk about democracy. This is because they use this democratic space to design the destruction of the entire society. The democracy that creates an opportunity for terrorism is a joke. It is no simple joke but a deadly joke. We already reddened our eyes through that joke.

Not only we; but the United States and many other countries too, are facing the challenges of terrorism today. Those countries do not confuse terrorism with democracy. In whatever country it may function, wearing whatever mask, terrorism remains the same. Therefore, we have no path left but its total defeat. Hesitation by us in the face of terrorism is to endanger the destiny of the entire nation. I am not ready to commit that error.

I also wish to make a request from all our political parties and their leaderships. What our government is facing is separatist terrorism which is the common enemy of us all. It is the responsibility of us all to face it jointly and defeat it. This is not a thing that can be achieved by making allegations and counter allegations against each other. I have already demonstrated that I am a leader who is not ready to kneel before terrorism, but a leader

committed to safeguarding the democratic rights of the Tamil people. Therefore, in the name of the nation, I appeal for the practical support of all of you to defeat these challenges.

By practical support I mean the support that is not confined to words. It is support that is extended to me and to my government. If instead, the decision taken by us at this moment is not properly implemented, its full benefit will go to terrorism. Therefore, I call upon all political leaders to assist us to overcome this challenge, by building a genuine and practical unity for the sake of our motherland.

I, therefore, appeal to all members of the Tamil community and all organizations that value democracy not to have any fears about these regulations that are effective from today. These regulations will not affect any rights in the workplace, field and university. I will not allow the violation of human rights in any manner through these regulations. These regulations will only defeat the fascist thinking of the LTTE. What these regulations will do is bring democratic politics to the Tamil political arena.

Our government has taken this initial step today, enabling me to discharge my basic responsibility of defence of the State in terms of the powers vested in me as Commander-in-Chief, at time when the Foreign Minister of the country has been assassinated; the assassination of the Army Commander was attempted; the third ranking officer in the Army was assassinated; when there was an attempt on the life of the Defence Secretary, and when innocent civilians are killed in large numbers.

These regulations will not be an obstacle to our firm decision to provide a political solution to the North East issue. We are committed to it. You are aware that just now a special committee comprising all political parties is preparing the relevant proposals for this purpose. I have instructed that they be placed before you very soon. As stated by me when addressing you on the last Independence Commemoration Day, I am firmly of the view that only by shedding more tears for peace can we reduce the blood that is spilt in war. Therefore, I wish to state that actions taken by our government relating to the North East crisis are based on this belief.

If, under whatever pressure the LTTE honestly comes for talks with us, we have no need to shut the door. But, it should be an honest move. We believe that these new regulations will clear the path for the LTTE to legally enter the democratic stream. I trust that all international organizations will work towards this end.

All steps that we take to build a new Sri Lanka can be made a success only by defeating this beastly terrorism. But, I will not allow the development activities of the country to be weakened. As stated in my speech on the first anniversary of my assuming office, I am not ready to carry on the lament that the North East crisis will weaken our development activities. Similarly, I am not ready to make excuses before you that this crisis is an obstacle in our pursuit of national development. The anti-terrorist struggle and the development of the country should be a parallel process.

We who introduced the politics of brotherhood in place the politics of enmity to which the country was accustomed, are able to do this. This can be achieved by the coming together of the highest aspirations among the blue, red and green hues in politics. Therefore, at this decisive moment I wish to make one request of you. I ask this of all political parties, all media, and all people's organizations. You decide whether you should be with a handful of terrorists or with the common man who is in the majority. You must clearly choose between these two sides. No one can represent both these sides at any one time. The new century waits for the day when the Sinhalese, Tamils, Muslims and Burghers all join as one nation to fight together to defeat the challenges of the future. I intend to dedicate my second year in office to realizing this objective. My government and I are ready to resolve all problems peacefully, because we are neither terrorists nor savages. But one must not mistake this for cowardice on our part.

We cannot move an inch forward other than by defeating this cruel terrorism that is intertwined with the common destiny of my country and the Sri Lankan nation. I am happy to be able to be committed to this task. I am happier still by the support extended to us for this purpose by the entire nation. The mental satisfaction from this alone would suffice to take our lives forward. This is the lesson I have been taught by my people and the history of my country.

May you all be blessed by the Noble Triple Gem.
May all deities bless you.



Above: Minister Nimal Siripala De Silva briefs the Press on the new regulations with other Ministers

The cabinet unanimously decided to define terrorism correctly, Minister Nimal Siripala De Silva said. He also pointed out that the enforcement of tougher laws against terrorism was not an obstruction to the peace process or development activities of the North and East.

Following is a summary of the measures introduced by the government to curb terrorism in Sri Lanka:

Regulations In Keeping With UN Obligations Against Terrorism

The Government will introduce far-reaching measures to curb terrorism and terrorist activities by any person or group of persons, in keeping with its policy to achieve peace, the search for a political solution to the national problem, and maintain supplies and services essential to the life of the community.

Regulations to curb terrorism and terrorism related activities by individuals and groups will be promulgated by President Mahinda Rajapaksa under the Public Security Ordinance and the prevailing state of Emergency, following the review of the current security situation, the threat of secession, and progress of the peace process by the Cabinet of Ministers and decided at the meeting of the Cabinet today (December 6). The regulations will take effect from December 06, 2006.

The new regulations prohibit any person, group of persons or organization from engaging in terrorism, any specified terrorist activity, or any activity in furtherance of any act of terrorism or specified terrorist activity.

These regulations give effect to obligations cast on Sri Lanka by international Conventions and other legally binding international legal instruments relating to the prevention and suppression of terrorism, including the UN Security Council Resolution making it obligatory to take meaningful measures to prevent and suppress terrorism.

They prohibit the wearing, display, hoisting, or possessing of any uniform, dress, symbol, emblem relating to terrorism or terrorist activities; the summoning convening, conduct or participation in a meeting relating to terrorism and terrorist activities; harbouring, concealing or assisting a member or cadre of an organization engaged in terrorism or terrorist activities; or participating in any activity even relating to terrorism or terrorism related activities.

Transactions Banned

The prohibitions under the new regulations also extend to any transaction including contributions, providing, donating, selling, buying, hiring, leasing, receiving, making available, funding, distributing or lending materially or otherwise to any person, group, associate or cadre engaged in terrorism or any terrorism related activities.

The new measures provide for transactions approved under the regulations that are for the purpose facilitating the development of a peaceful political solution, termination of terrorism or specified terrorist activity, maintenance of supplies and services essential to the life of the community or for any other lawful purpose by any Sri Lankan, international governmental or non-governmental organization, done in good faith and with the written permission of the Competent Authority appointed for the purpose.

Information

The prohibitions under these regulations also extends to the providing of any information detrimental or prejudicial to national security to any person or group of persons engaged in or known to be engaged in terrorism or terrorism related activities.

The implementing of these regulations will come under a Competent Authority appointed by the President. There is provision in the regulations for any person aggrieved by a decision of the Competent Authority to appeal against such decision to a special appeals Tribunal appointed for the purpose.

Penalties & Responsibility

Contravention of these regulations carries penalties imposed by a High Court, varying from imprisonment from 10 to 20 years, or five to 10 years, depending on the nature of the offence.

Those responsible for causing offences under these regulations, other than individuals and groups of individuals, include corporate bodies, partnerships, and unincorporated bodies. With regard to corporate bodies and partnerships, every director or partner and principal executive officer of such organization; and every officer of an unincorporated body will be held directly responsible for offences under these regulations.

Government sends essential food supplies to Vakarai

On November 28, the Government with the assistance of INGOs dispatched 117 Lorries containing essential food supplies to IDPs in the Vakarai area but failed due to LTTE attacks using heavy mortars on the military camp at Kajuwatte. One officer died and two soldiers were injured. The Humanitarian convoy that went from Batticaloa therefore had to turn back at Mankerny and return to Batticaloa.

On 29 th November, there was another attempt by a convoy of 117 vehicles to deliver essential items to IDPs in Vakarai. 85 vehicles of this convoy were able to reach Vakarai and deliver food supplies to the IDPs. However due to provocative conduct by the LTTE, the remaining 32 aid vehicles could not proceed to Vakarai. They had to return to Batticaloa. The other 85 vehicles that reached Vakarai yesterday afternoon were also requested to return to government controlled areas by evening. The last vehicle of the returning aid convoy reached Mankerny around 8.30 p.m.

Around 200 LTTE cadres began to strengthen the LTTE forward defenses lines in the Panichchankerni area using the cover of these aid convoys. The SL Defence Force had informed the Sri Lanka Monitoring Mission (SLMM) of this illegal conduct and had requested the SLMM to ask the LTTE to refrain from such conduct during a humanitarian mission designed to provide essential supplies to the displaced.

It was also reported by the National Security Media Centre of an LTTE attempt to infiltrate Army defenses by hiding their cadres inside the vehicles of the returning aid convoy. The security force personnel who had been checking these vehicles at the roadblock at Mankerni last evening had observed three LTTE

cadres disembarking from one of the vehicles around 9.00 p.m. The soldiers had managed to grab one of the cadres while the other two had managed to escape.

The LTTE are currently forcibly holding over 30,000 IDPs in the areas of Vakarai, Kathiraweli, and Panichchankerni as a human shield and as part of an invidious strategy to protect themselves against any military action when carrying out attacks on the security forces.

The Government has proposed the creation of safe havens for IDPs in the Vakarai region. LTTE has not accepted this offer. The non - acceptance of this proposal for safe havens for IDPs reinforces the position of the Government that the LTTE are using civilians as human shields to protect their cadres.

These actions by the LTTE to thwart the Government's persistent efforts to deliver much needed humanitarian assistance puts to rest the case that the LTTE give first preference to achieving strategic goals than to provide much needed relief supplies to the IDPs of the North and East.

It is indeed regrettable also to note that the suffering of the IDPs in Vakarai which is the direct outcome of LTTE's strategy to use innocent civilians for military objectives, has been manipulated by the pro - LTTE media and their supporters to blame the government for the desperate situation of the innocent civilians living in these areas.



Pictures: Lorries carrying humanitarian aid, November 28, 2006, Mankerny

Speaking at the Security Council debate on Children and Armed Conflict on 28 November 2006, Permanent Representative of Sri Lanka to the United Nations, Ambassador Prasad Kariyawasam stated that "Ever since it was discovered that the armed group, the LTTE, is engaged in recruiting and using children in battle, Sri Lanka has not only voiced concern but has taken every possible action to persuade the LTTE to cease this deplorable practice.

The LTTE has been designated as a terrorist group by many States including the European Union, and has been identified continuously for several years in Reports of the Secretary-General, as a recruiter of children for armed conflict. Nevertheless, despite international condemnation, the LTTE continues to disobey and disregard its commitments to demobilize children and cease recruitment of children. Therefore, the time has come for the Security Council to seriously consider targeted punitive action against repeated offenders like the LTTE."

In his statement Ambassador Kariyawasam recalled that "Sri Lanka as a party to all seven core UN human rights conventions and several related protocols has taken necessary legislative, executive, and judicial measures to promote the rights of children and their welfare.

The Government follows a cooperative approach with all United Nations human rights mechanisms and has accordingly subjected itself to constant scrutiny by treaty bodies and UN mechanisms. In addition Sri Lanka is committed to a policy of zero-tolerance on the recruitment and use of children in armed conflict. This policy has found constant reflection in our contributions to the work of several UN bodies on subjects ranging from human rights to disarmament and international terrorism to organized crime."

In conclusion, Ambassador Kariyawasam called "for greater dialogue between the Secretary-General and the concerned Member States in the preparation of programmes and policies with regard to children and armed conflict, and the involvement of concerned Member States in all processes and mechanisms for implementation of such programmes and policies".

SLMM Cease-Fire Violations Cumulative Statistics (February 2002 to November, 2006)

The total number of ruled violations made against the LTTE by the SLMM during the period of February 2002 to November 2007 is 3806 violations. In comparison there have only been a total of 345 violations ruled against the GOSL, during the same period.

The main types of violations committed by the LTTE are in categories of child recruitment, abduction of children, abduction of adults, harassment of civilians, intimidation, extortion etc.

Code	Category	LTTE		GOSL	
		Cases	Percentage (%)	Cases	Percentage (%)
A	Child Recruitment	1743	45.80		0.00
B	Abduction of adults	576	15.13	22	6.38
D	Abduction of children	252	6.62	3	
C	Harassment	237	6.23	80	23.19
I	Assault	202	5.31	21	6.09
E	Other measures to restore normalcy	155	4.07	8	2.32
J	Assassinations	107	2.81	31	8.99
F	Provocative acts by parties	83	2.18	5	1.45
G	Hostile acts against the civilian population	62	1.63	23	6.67
H	Intimidation	50	1.31	8	2.32
Q	Violation of the CFA preamble	34	0.89	64	18.55
O	Moving military equipment	34	0.89	1	0.29
N	Firing of weapons	33	0.87	6	1.74
L	Forced recruitment of adults	32	0.84		
K	Extortion	30	0.79	0	0.00
P	Restriction of movement for SLMM	26	0.68	15	4.35
M	Movement in zone of separation	23	0.60	3	0.87
S	Confiscations	18	0.47	4	1.16
U	Illegal carrying of arms	17	0.45		
T	Construction of new positions	17	0.45	7	2.03
V	Torture	12	0.32		
W	Offensive Naval action	12	0.32	2	0.58
X	Other restrictions of movement	11	0.29	6	1.74
Y	Activites at checkpoints	7	0.18	5	1.45
Z	Other (Separation of forces)	7	0.18		
AA	Sabotage	6	0.16		
BB	Denied access to specified military areas	4	0.11		
CC	Deployment of weapons	4	0.11		
DD	Abductions, military related	3	0.08		
LL	Abductions of military or military related	3	0.08		
EE	Family members denied access to detainees	3	0.08		
FF	Offensive army,air force and STF actions	2	0.05	23	6.67
GG	Failure to protect SLMM members	1	0.03	2	
HH	Fishing restrictions	0	0.00	2	0.58
II	Failure to vacate public buildings	0	0.00	2	0.58
JJ	Failure to vacate places of worship	0	0.00	1	0.29
KK	Passage between Jaffna and Vavuniya on A9	0	0.00	1	0.29

District with the most # of GOSL Violations	Batticaloa (102)
District with the most # of LTTE Violations	Batticaloa (1127) & Jaffna (1002)

District with the least # of GOSL Violations	Trincomalee (19)
District with the least # of LTTE Violations	Ampara (283)

Source: SLMM

A9, the life line of the Tigers

(Excerpts from a report compiled by the Media Center for National Security
27 November, 2006)

It is more than three months since the A-9 was closed at Muhamalai following a massive tiger attack on the Muhamalai entry/exit point last August. The LTTE which used the A-9 to attack the Muhamalai entry / exit point to Jaffna, clamored for its re-opening on the pretext of a humanitarian crisis in the North. However, they flatly rejected a government plan to send a one off aid convoy to Jaffna on (November,20) demanding instead that the main highway should be opened permanently. This is after refusing to guarantee the safety of ships ferrying supplies to Jaffna.

The LTTE's negative response to the governments' offer only nullified its sudden show of concern about the wellbeing of civilians in the North. Presently, the SLMM is reportedly awaiting a response from the LTTE to send a government aid convoy with its assistance to the North along the A-9.

A-9 to further tiger interests

It is clear that the LTTE is using the situation to further their interests on the pretext of being a voice for the innocent Tamil civilians. The tigers want the A-9, the main highway connecting the North and the South open as they are losing millions of rupees, due to the entry/exit points being closed.

Secondly, the reopening of the A-9 at Muhamalai will make the security forces forward defences weak and vulnerable for further tiger attacks. According to analysts, the LTTE is trying to kill two birds with one stone. They want the A-9 reopened and at the same time they want the International Community to believe that there is a humanitarian crisis in the North and East, where ethnic minority Tamils are starved to death by the 'oppressive state'.

The tigers that linked the demand to re-open the A-9 to Geneva talks in October deceitfully blocked any possibility of both parties discussing core issues at the negotiating table. The government has air lifted and ferried around 3471 metric tons of aid to the North with the help of the security forces. All ships that ferry food items to Jaffna are escorted by the Navy, despite the deadly sea tiger attacks. The Navy had to step in to provide protection amidst its other duties as the ICRC refused aid vessels to sail under its flag.

Why the A-9 was closed

The A-9 was closed at Muhamalai following the tiger attack on the Muhamalai entry/exit point on 11th August this year. The tiger plan was to attack the Muhamalai entry/exit point and break through the security forces' forward defences in a bid to capture Jaffna. The only way they could attack the entry/exit point was by disguising themselves as civilians. On 11th August a bus load of LTTE cadres disguised as civilians approached the Muhamalai entry/exit point.

Since it was a civil bus it was given access for security checks inside government controlled territory by the Army. As the bus passed through the entry point, LTTE cadres opened fire at the sentry guards. More bus loads of LTTE cadres disguised as civilians had approached the site with reinforcements followed by a barrage of artillery shelling and mortar fire from tiger held areas. They managed to damage the whole infrastructure of the Muhamalai entry /exit point and dent the security forces forward defence line.

Why LTTE wants it opened

The A-9, the main supply route linking the north with the south is an abundant source of wealth for the LTTE. It is believed that the tigers earn around 5 million rupees a day, by means of extortions at both Omanthai and Muhamalai entry/exit points.

According to civilian and intelligence sources, tigers charge:

Rs. 300/= from every individual who travels along the A-9.

Heavy vehicles passing the LTTE entry check points are charged Rs. 2000/=.

For a newly purchased push bicycle, three-wheeler and a motor cycle Rs. 750/=, 18000/=, and 7500/= respectively.

The Lorry owners Union in Jaffna has to pay the LTTE Rs. 1.4 million per month.

Traders pay Rs. 500/= per month while a lorry moving from a cleared area to an un-cleared area pays Rs. 3000/= per journey.

With a freezing of LTTE assets overseas and a crack down on fund raising, the LTTE's dependence on the A-9 rose significantly.

Cadre movement hampered

Tigers are also in a dilemma unable to move their cadres freely due to the closure of the A-9 at Muhamalai. According to intelligence sources, around 1600 cadres are stranded in Jaffna unable to communicate with the tiger hierarchy in Vanni.

These cadres are believed to be part of the tiger auxiliary force or Tamil Makkal Padai who according to the LTTE, were largely responsible for provocative strikes and deadly claymore mine attacks on the security forces. Due to the closure of the A-9 at Muhamalai, the LTTE has not been able to coordinate with them to mount attacks on security forces. The LTTE is also finding it difficult to relieve cadres deployed in the forward bunker lines and recruit youth from government controlled areas.

Challenges for the government

If the government decides to reopen the A-9 at Muhamalai, the LTTE will resort to extortions and use the highway for future offensives. At the same time it's the duty of the government to ensure the wellbeing of all its citizens even in tiger controlled areas as the LTTE is not bound by such responsibilities.

Co – chairs Welcome Government Efforts to Provide Humanitarian Assistance



SCOPP Report
24 November 2006

The Co chairs of the Tokyo Donors Conference have welcomed Government efforts and readiness to send a humanitarian convoy of essential supplies via the A9 route to Jaffna and allow INGOs with a proven track record immediate access to uncleared areas to restart their relief work. The Co - Chairs have called on the LTTE to co-operate with such initiatives.

The Co -chairs issued a Press Statement on November 21, 2006 in Washington at the conclusion of a two-day Conference on the conflict in Sri Lanka. The Conference was attended by Norway, USA, Japan, and the European Union.

The Co chairs have further recognized Government efforts to provide essential supplies by its own efforts to people affected by the conflict, and welcomed the establishment by the Government of the Consultative Committee on Humanitarian Assistance which is addressing several humanitarian access issues for international agencies.

The Co chairs have further welcomed the progress made by the Government in establishing a Commission of Inquiry for Human Rights with international observers to bring to justice those responsible for recent killings and assassinations.

The Co chairs have condemned the LTTE for initiating hostilities from heavily populated areas, and called for protective zones for internally displaced persons . In this context, it must be noted that the Government's proposal for the creation of 'Safe Havens' for IDPs in Vakarai has not been accepted by the LTTE.

The Co chairs have called for further negotiations between the Government and the LTTE without pre -conditions.

The Co chairs have welcomed the agreement between the Sri Lankan Freedom Party and the opposition United National Party to join hands in solving this question, and called for the legitimate interests and aspirations of all communities, including the Tamil, Muslim and Sinhala communities to be accommodated as part of a political settlement .

The Co - chairs refer to ceasefire violations by both sides but it is noted that the campaign of terror launched by the LTTE has resulted in thousands of deaths of service personnel and civilians.

In a separate Press Statement issued at the conclusion of the two-day Co-Chairs meeting the US Undersecretary of State, Mr. Nicholas Burns said that the USA supported the Government of Sri Lanka and they were not neutral in respect of this conflict.

Burns further said that the USA did not have two approaches on Sri Lanka. His country viewed the Tigers as being greatly responsible for the recent bloodshed. Tigers were a terrorist organisation responsible for innocent deaths. USA believed that the LTTE were the main cause of the trouble. Burns added that the USA believed that the Government of Sri Lanka had the right to protect the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Sri Lanka.

" We are also working with the GOSL as a partner in Counter terrorism," Burns concluded.

Special Humanitarian Relief to Jaffna Peninsula Through A9



SCOPP Report
20 November 2006

H.E. President Mahinda Rajapaksa directed relevant government authorities spear-headed by the Commissioner General of Essential Services (CGES) to make immediate arrangements to transport a large consignment of essential supplies to the Jaffna peninsula by road, using the A9 highway. The Muhamalai entry/exit checkpoint will be re-opened to facilitate this transport, as a one time measure. The President took this decision on humanitarian grounds, having considered representations made by religious leaders and the community and having reviewed the situation, in particular, in the context of inclement weather which is likely to continue for some weeks. The decision was also made in order to ensure that a satisfactory buffer stock of food and other essential items is maintained under the supervision of the government agent/district secretary in Jaffna.

The government will request independent organizations to facilitate the movement of the convoy of supplies through the checkpoints at Omanthai and Muhamalai. All relevant parties will be requested to ensure safe passage of these lorries carrying humanitarian supplies. The lorries will be sealed after goods are loaded and the seals will be opened once they reach Jaffna in the presence of representatives from religious and civilian organisations and government authorities.

The government will continue to supply essential goods to the peninsula, by using the sea route as it has done for the past three months, despite attacks by the LTTE on ships carrying supplies and passengers and threats by the LTTE to private traders in the peninsula to prevent the distribution of supplies to the people.

The Government of Sri Lanka (GOSL) was compelled to temporarily close the A9 highway, entry/exit checkpoint at Muhamalai situated at the isthmus of the Jaffna peninsula on 11 August 2006. The closure was necessitated due to the massive artillery and mortar attack launched by the LTTE on the government forces on the day which destroyed the infrastructure built by the GOSL at Muhamalai to facilitate the movement of people and goods. The LTTE has continued with almost daily attacks since then causing death and injury. The GOSL is unable to open the checkpoint on a regular basis until the area is safe for the movement of civilians and supplies and until it can be assured that national security will not be compromised.

The humanitarian considerations in relation to the people in the Jaffna peninsula have been of paramount concern to the government since it was forced to temporarily close the entry/exit checkpoint at Muhamalai.

In this context the government has taken a number of initiatives since 11 August 2006 to address humanitarian concerns of the Jaffna peninsula. The government has taken full responsibility to supply the needs of the people and has used the sea route to ensure that adequate supplies of food and other essential items are sent and that the people are also able to move to other parts of the country. Since the 11 August 2006 , 30,859 metric tons of supplies have been moved to Jaffna using the sea route.

The task of the government has been made onerous by the refusal of the LTTE to guarantee the safety of supply and passenger vessels. On the request of the GOSL, both the ICRC and the WFP have offered to ferry these supplies if the LTTE were to assure their safety. The LTTE continues to refuse to provide this basic humanitarian assurance, instead, insisting that Muhamalai be reopened. In the past LTTE suicide boats have attacked and sunk supply ships and have attacked passenger vessels. On 9 November a passenger vessel was attacked by suicide boats. The LTTE has threatened private traders, preventing them from distributing goods brought in by the government and thereby preventing the distribution of goods in the peninsula.

The GOSL in yet another effort to overcome this impasse and alleviate the hardships of the Jaffna people has offered an alternative to opening Muhamalai and has expressed its willingness to open the ferry link from Pooneryn to Jaffna purely for the movement of people. (this route is not viable to move supplies). The GOSL has stated that students will not be allowed to use this alternative route, to ensure that young persons in Jaffna will not be forcibly inducted for military training by the LTTE, as is the norm. The LTTE has rejected this proposal. The jetty, although damaged in 2001 before the CFA, has been used by ferries plying from Pooneryn.

The A9 highway was closed from 1995 to 2002. At the time, two entry/exit points that regulated movement into the uncleared areas of the Wanni were established. One was the gateway to the government controlled Jaffna peninsula at Muhamalai in the north and the other at Omanthai 98 km away, was the entry point into Wanni from the south.

Contrary to the misconception propagated by the LTTE, the only part of the highway that is temporarily closed since 11 August 2006 is the entry/exit checkpoint at Muhamalai. The Omanthai checkpoint has remained open and facilitates the movement of goods and people to and from the LTTE dominated areas to the south.

New Regulations to Combat Terrorism



SCOPP Report
06 December 2006

The Government has promulgated Regulations as of December 6, 2006, to combat acts of terrorism in the country. This decision was taken in response to growing public demand for stern Governmental action to counter terrorist acts including suicide bombings by the LTTE. The Government's actions were made necessary despite consistent measures adopted in good faith to achieve a peaceful settlement through negotiations.

These Regulations, the Emergency (Prevention and Prohibition of Terrorism and Specified Terrorist Activities) Regulations, No. 7 of 2006, are intended to prevent all acts of terrorism and are consistent with Sri Lanka's international legal obligations under the Conventions to which Sri Lanka is a party, and with the United Nations Security Council Resolution No. 1373 of 2001, which calls for the adoption of meaningful measures to prevent and suppress terrorism. These Regulations include a detailed definition of terrorism for the first time in Government Regulations enacted in Sri Lanka.

Terrorism has been defined as unlawful conduct which

1. involves the use of violence, force, coercion, intimidation, threats, duress, or
2. threatens or endangers national security, or
3. intimidates a civilian population or a group thereof, or
4. disrupts or threatens public order, the maintenance of supplies and services essential to the life of the community, or
5. causing destruction or damage to property, or
6. endangering a person's life, other than that of the person committing the act, or
7. creating a serious risk to the health or safety of the public or a section of the public, or
8. is designed to interfere with or disrupt an electronic system and which unlawful conduct is aimed at or is committed with the object of threatening or endangering the sovereignty or territorial integrity of Sri Lanka.

Any person who acts in contravention of these Regulations shall be guilty of an offense and shall on conviction by a High Court be sentenced to a term of imprisonment of not less than 10 years and not exceeding 20 years.

A Competent Authority will be appointed by the President with a view to facilitating a peaceful political solution, termination of terrorism or specific terrorist activities, the maintenance of supplies and services essential to the community, provision of humanitarian assistance and conduct of development activities.

The Government reiterates its commitment to achieving a lasting political solution to the conflict and early resumption of negotiations.

Government Asks the LTTE to Allow Jaffna Shopkeepers to Function Without Intimidation



SCOPP Report
07 December 2006

The Norwegian Special Envoy Jon Hanssen Bauer and the Norwegian Ambassador Hans Brattskar met with Dr. Palitha Kohona, Secretary General of SCOPP, at the Peace Secretariat today for a discussion prior to their visit to Kilinochchi tomorrow (December 8th).

Dr. Kohona conveyed three urgent formal requests from the GOSL, for Mr. Bauer to carry to the LTTE. He requested that the LTTE which claimed to represent the concerns of the people, act in a manner that would reflect a genuine concern by responding urgently to the following:

- By allowing approximately 4,000 private traders in the Jaffna peninsula to operate and sell what ever they wanted without intimidation. Currently the LTTE was preventing these traders from plying their trade. The 450 co-operative stores and 16 military shops were inadequate to distribute supplies to the people.
- An immediate response to the GOSL proposal to send a convoy of urgent relief supplies through the A9 route and the Muhamalai checkpoint to Jaffna . The GOSL was ready with the trucks and supplies and needed to have procedural arrangements and safety guarantees in place. The GOSL would be happy to discuss any issues the LTTE might have in relation to the proposal. The LTTE had not given a formal response to the SLMM which conveyed the GOSL proposal to them over two weeks ago.
- An immediate response to the GOSL proposal to create a safe haven for IDPs in Vakarai. The GOSL had conveyed this proposal to the LTTE through the SLMM some weeks ago and had not got a positive response. The GOSL recognized the urgent need to move the IDPs away from military installations to a defined safe area.

Mr. Bauer agreed that the above proposals were of immediate concern and confirmed he would carry these requests to the LTTE. Dr. Kohona further stated that the GOSL was ready for negotiations.

Joint Statement by Co-Chairs of the Tokyo Donors Conference



21 November 2006

Following is the joint statement by Norway, the United States, the European Union, and Japan following their November 21, 2006, meeting as Co-Chairs of the Tokyo Donors Conference:

The Co-Chairs of the Tokyo Donors Conference - Norway, the United States, the European Union, and Japan - met in Washington, D.C. on November 21.

The Co-Chairs view with alarm the rising level of violence in Sri Lanka that has led to significant loss of life and widespread human rights violations. The Co-Chairs condemn the continued and systematic ceasefire violations by Government of Sri Lanka and LTTE. We call on both sides to seize the historic opportunity created by the 2002 Cease-Fire Agreement to resolve the country's conflict peacefully. Only by committing to sustained and substantive negotiations can the downward spiral of hostilities and human rights violations be reversed.

The Co-Chairs particularly condemn the LTTE for initiating hostilities from heavily populated areas and the Government of Sri Lanka for firing into such vulnerable areas and killing and wounding innocent civilians. The Co-Chairs call on both sides to respect international humanitarian law and set aside demilitarized zones to protect internally displaced persons.

The Co-Chairs recall the responsibility of both parties to guarantee the security of the Sri Lanka Monitoring Mission to fully exercise its mandate. The Co-Chairs were disturbed by the incident on November 8 when the Head of Mission of the SLMM came under fire. The Co-Chairs remind the parties of their responsibility to respect all rulings by the SLMM and to implement the Cease-fire Agreement fully, including re-opening the A-9 highway.

The Co-Chairs recognize that talks took place on October 28-29 in Geneva. However, we urge the Parties to the conflict to commit to a structured and sustained process of further negotiations without preconditions once a proposal is available, as indicated by the Government and welcomed by the LTTE delegation in Geneva.

The agreement between the Sri Lankan Freedom Party and the opposition United National Party should lead to a credible power-sharing proposal that can help form the basis for a viable negotiated settlement between the Parties. At the same time, the specific arrangements for the north and east should not be disturbed as they are fundamental to continuing the dialogue to achieve an agreement. The legitimate interests and aspirations of all communities, including the Tamil, Muslim and Sinhala communities must be accommodated as part of a political settlement.

The Co-Chairs welcome the Government of Sri Lanka's progress in establishing a Commission of Inquiry for Human Rights with international observers. They condemn the growing violations of human rights by all sides and the fear that pervades civil society, politics and the media. The Commission of Inquiry and the Government should work promptly to bring the perpetrators to justice and to address the climate of impunity.

Citizens are caught in this conflict and agencies are unable to reach them. We recognize the efforts by government to provide essential supplies themselves and welcome the establishment of the consultative committee on humanitarian assistance that is addressing several humanitarian access issues for international agencies.

The Co-Chairs urge both parties to depoliticize the issue of humanitarian access and for the immediate, permanent and unconditional opening of the sea and road routes for humanitarian convoys of essential supplies. As a first step towards this, the Co-Chairs welcome the readiness of the Government to send one convoy via the A-9 highway to Jaffna and to allow International Non-Governmental Organizations with a proven track record immediate access to uncleared areas to restart their relief work. The Co-Chairs call on the LTTE to cooperate with such initiatives.

The Co-Chairs, together with other members of the international community, express their strong support for Norway's ongoing efforts to facilitate the peace process and the Sri Lanka Monitoring Mission's role in monitoring the Cease-Fire Agreement.

'Anandasangaree calls on the International Community to help liberate the Tamil people from the clutches of the LTTE'

- UNESCO / Madanjeet Singh award for Tolerance and Non Violence
Acceptance Speech of Mr. V. Anandasangaree



Your Excellency, The President of the International Jury, Mr. Andres Pastrana Arango,

Hon Deputy Director General of UNESCO, Mr. Marcio Barbosa,

Hon Shri Madanjeet Singh Ji,

Your Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen.

"Ayubhowan" and "Vanakkam" to you all and my greetings to the UNESCO Director General Mr. Koshiro Matsuura who is not present here today.

Being bestowed with the UNESCO / Madanjeet Singh award for Tolerance and Non Violence, this honour gives me added strength and encouragement in my quest to promote the sprite of "Ahimsa" struggle for ones rights through non violent means, as practiced by the immortals of our times.

From Mahatma Gandhi, to Martin Luther King to Nelson Mandela, they all fought for the rights of their people, with peace in their hearts. Their success has greatly inspired my thoughts and actions in striving for the rights of the Tamil population in Sri Lanka, through democratic and non violent means.

At the outset, I would like to mention that it is the spread of exclusion and intolerance that has resulted in the rise of racist ideologies that separate people and create barriers about the other. The other may not speak the same language or practice a different religion or have a skin of a different colour. It is this lack of understanding of the other, that has been the root cause of many a conflict, all around the globe.

There is literally, no corner in the World where human is not arrayed against human, where brother is not pitted against brother where violence is not absent. When a child grows, we teach him to be aggressive and competitive. Instead of showing them how life can be more beautiful, we teach them how material wealth, monetary success and power are essential. Life is a supermarket where there are shelves full of goodies, all of them meant for us, provided we have the necessary cash to buy them. The aim of life is to have as much money as we can, to buy as many goods as we can, so as to have maximum happiness. In the process, if we have to bend some rules or trample over some friends, it is all a part of the game. They would have no compunction towards you, so you need have none towards them. Therefore, we have to learn that "the world has enough for everyone's need, but. it can never have enough for everyones greed".

The same applies to the game of power. We have to realize that life is not meant for exploitation, but to share. We must learn to serve, rather than to rule and to love, instead of to hate. We must learn to live together as friends, as members

of a family, as citizens of a country and as children of the earth.

All these attitudes and behaviors, which we could term as “self centered”, as also, narrow and self serving actions and policies of those who govern, makes it very difficult to promote peace, tolerance and non violence. Yet, Education, which is the biggest human endeavor, gives us a great opportunity to address such issues, particularly the basics of respecting human dignity and right and respect for the environment, which are the very foundations and building blocks for peace and non violence.

As a former teacher, I firmly believe that education for peace is education for life. Therefore, I wish to urge UNESCO, as the lead agency in education, to make use of this immense opportunity, to focus and promote such concepts worldwide, so that we can live with the hope that the future generations will inculcate appropriate values, attitudes and behaviours, to not only exercise greater influence on the environment they live in, but also, as future leaders who accede to power, will ensure democracy, good governance, tolerance, human rights, freedom of expression and justice for all, and help prevent wars and violence.

Hon. President of the Jury,

Hon. Deputy Director General,

Hon. Shri Madanjeet Singhji,

Your Excellencies, Distinguished Guests,

I would also like to take this opportunity to say a few words on the violent upheavals that are taking place around the world today and in particular, in our own country, Sri Lanka.

Most upheavals, have as the source of origin, violation of human rights, injustice, discrimination, exploitation and intolerance. However legitimate the causes may be to fight for ones rights, it is an accepted fact that violence begets violence. Once begun, it becomes a long struggle, not only because there is growth of hatred, but also, because of growing mistrust and lack of confidence in one another. Added to that the armed groups also become very powerful and they come to a stage, where turning back becomes very difficult, having got used to the power and rule by the gun and doing business as usual. They deal with networks, pedalling arms, drugs and diaspora contributions, to keep their outfits going. And then, it becomes a big business, which is difficult to give up. This is the case in Sri Lanka, where, whilst most of us who are moderate activities, striving to achieve our legitimate rights through peaceful and democratic means, an armed group, calling themselves the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam, who do not represent the majority view of the Tamil population in Sri Lanka, is holding us Tamils hostage, in the areas under their control and to an extent, even the country as a whole in tension, by the use of terror.

Through the guise of liberating the Tamils, they forcibly conscript our underage Tamil children as child soldiers, whilst their poor parents remain helpless. These innocent children become cannon fodder and suicide bombers, being brain washed by the extremist ideology of a few manic elements, who wield power by the use of guns, whilst their own children are not conscripted or used as suicide bombers and have a safe life in foreign lands. There is no descent allowed and this armed group, which has been banned as a terrorist organisation by the US, UK, Canada, Australia, The EU countries and India, has killed off democratically elected leaders at the national and regional levels, that includes a former Prime Minister of India, former President of Sri Lanka, a former Minister for Foreign Affairs in Sri Lanka, who himself was a Tamil, a host of moderate Sinhala, Tamil Political leaders, Tamil intellectuals and journalists. And the list is growing daily.

elected leaders at the national and regional levels, that includes a former Prime Minister of India, former President of Sri Lanka, a former Minister for Foreign Affairs in Sri Lanka, who himself was a Tamil, a host of moderate Sinhala, Tamil Political leaders, Tamil intellectuals and journalists. And the list is growing daily.

In addition, a total of nearly 70,000 combatants and many innocent civilians have been killed in war and by the unleashing of terror by the LTTE. The Muslims have been unreasonably driven out of the north, which has been ethnically cleansed by the LTTE. And post tsunami, the so called liberators of the Tamil people in Sri Lanka, by demanding for a joint mechanism for distribution of aid had delayed the aid to the affected people in the areas under their control, crumbs and leftovers for the poor Tamil people, who are under their rule.

Through the control of a portion of a highway termed the A-9, connecting supplies to the northern areas, heavy taxes are levied on all goods entering the northern Jaffna Peninsula, making the costs of food and supplies as also, inputs for agriculture, very expensive. The funds so collected go to buying arms and ammunition to keep the LTTE in power and not for development.

Even my life is under threat and I am prevented from visiting my own electoral district in Jaffna, where I polled the highest number of priority votes and was elected as the first member of the district, in the Parliamentary General Elections in 2001. Since then, the LTTE has denied franchise to the people in the north and also prevented the Northern population from voting in the last Presidential elections held in November 2005. However, I am past the age where fear would prevent me from living true to my convictions.

Ladies and Gentlemen:

Enough is enough.

Allow me, on behalf of us Tamils living in Sri Lanka, to appeal to you, the International Community, to help liberate the Tamil people of Sri Lanka from the clutches of the ruthless LTTE and their continuing wanton terrorism, that has brought nothing but misery to Sri Lanka and the Tamil population in the country as a whole.

Therefore, we all need to begin dialogue, the only shining light in the present abbey of darkness, to enable us to think of peace and development for our future generations, without any further delay. To do so, I wish to plead with you once again, the International Community and the Tamil Diaspora, who may not be aware of ground realities, to ensure that no funds and support are provided to a terrorist outfit, who will never be able to achieve the aspirations of the Tamil people living in Sri Lanka, by the use of terror and violence, The immense suffering visited on the north east and outside, by the LTTE's continued loyalty to terror over the last 25 years, is conclusive evidence that this is so.

They prefer to shun dialogue and negotiations, citing the most frivolous reasons. For a negotiated settlement would end the oppressive power it is enjoying over the Tamil people and will also be compelled to end its close links with norco terrorism which enables them to thrive on ill gotten gains. A negotiated settlement would also oblige the Tigers to renounce this position of money, power and control. This is why I am appealing to the International Community and the Tamil diaspora, to not support the LTTE.

The government in turn, must also come out very quickly with proposals and frameworks for power devolution acceptable to the minorities, which I believe is a Federal solution, that we have been advocating for over 56 years, in order to achieve an all inclusive and a durable peace for all the citizens of Sri Lanka. Quoting Gandhi, I would like to say, "time is a merciful friend, but time is also, a merciless enemy" Unless we act on time, every child born on the other side of the divide, will know nothing but war, terror and hatred of the other and generations will be lost.

Your Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Forgive me for my emotions. I am but human. It is only with great humility and happiness of my recognition, that I receive this award given to me for promoting tolerance and non violence.

I wish to assure you all, that I and my supporters, from the Tamil United Liberation Front, will not give up on our struggles, in striving for the legitimate rights of the Tamils in Sri Lanka, to achieve peace with dignity and as a dignified race, through peaceful and non violent means, so that our future generations, will be able to say " never again" and that our children and grandchildren belonging to various multi ethnic communities, the Sinhalese, Tamils , Muslims and Burghers, living in Sri Lanka, will soon be able to say "we all are but one".



Above: Mr V. Anandasangaree receiving the 2006 UNESCO Madanjeet Singh Prize for the Promotion of Tolerance and Non Violence at UNESCO Headquarters in Paris on 16th November.

SCOPP Mandate

Coordinate the implementation of decisions of the Government of Sri Lanka (GOSL) on the Peace Process

Liaise with the Sri Lanka Monitoring Mission (SLMM) and the Norwegian facilitators

Monitor the Ceasefire Agreement (CFA) between the GOSL and the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE)

Provide research and logistical support to the GOSL delegation during political negotiations between the GOSL and the LTTE

Liaise with government ministries, institutions, armed forces and the Police, UN agencies, international humanitarian organizations and national and international NGOs on matters pertaining to the Peace Process

Monitor the free movement of people and goods to and from the uncleared areas

Communicate issues relating to the Peace Process to the national / international media and the public through its Communications Division

Provide logistical and technical support to the National Advisory Council on Peace and Reconciliation (NACPR)

For further information please contact us at:

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