



SPUR

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A NSW Registered Charity, No: CFN14692. Association Incorporation Act, 1984, No: Y2245239

Media Release

Sydney

3 February 2008

LTTE's path to Democracy – Bus Bomb at Dambulla

LTTE terrorists have notched up one more civilian target, a bus bomb at Dambulla, Sri Lanka on 2 Feb 08 killing at least 20 innocent civilians and injuring 50 others. Some were on their pilgrimage to the holy city of Anuradhapura. Terrorist LTTE have been targeting civilians using landmines and claymore bombs, whether a ceasefire agreement was in currency or not. In fact there is reason to believe in the face of this series of civilian attacks which has killed over 100 persons since December 2007, that the LTTE has misconstrued the dead CFA as one that was a 'ceasefire agreement in killing civilians'. SPUR, NSW condemns unequivocally acts of terrorism committed on civilians and expresses its deep sympathy with all affected.

Human rights organisations around the globe have expressed their dismay and condemnation of the atrocities regularly committed by the LTTE, however in their public statements they leave a large loophole for the LTTE to sneak away. By this complacency in condemnation, the LTTE has taken advantage to notch up the toll to the next stage, so that, the same human rights organisations in their confusion and disarray, will be calling for enforcement of the R2P 'right to protect' on Sri Lanka, or call for international intervention. The claim for national rights for the Tamils has always been on LTTE's agenda, and has raised its ugly head once again a letter to the UN Secretary General in January 2008. By these inactions of the world community in taking strong view of the acts of terrorism as has been done in the US, only the manipulative strategy of the terrorist LTTE will be fulfilled.

LTTE's criminal activities point to the urgency and desperation with which the civilian killing spree of the LTTE has commenced. Crowded passenger buses provide the numbers. They also provide the aggravated shock, sympathy and condemnation of the 'international community', the terrorists are eager to arouse.

Although 33 nations of the world have proscribed the LTTE as a terrorist organisation under their national criminal codes in pursuance of their year 2001 UN Treaty obligations, the Australian government still sees no urgency to do so. The LTTE has lead the international community up the garden path during the 6 years of the ceasefire agreement whilst fattening itself nationally and internationally, and also talked the Australian government to hold the proscription in abeyance.

The confusion caused by LTTE overseas propaganda claiming the LTTE as the saviours and as 'freedom fighters', has hypnotised many. Whilst democratic Tamil leaders have to live under the threat of suicide attacks day in day out, and the 85% of Tamil people who live with other Sri Lankans have to brave the threats of bus bombs and market place carnage, this particular furphy holds sway.

What foreign nations and international agencies would wisely do is to provide the support and assistance to Sri Lanka to overcome the menace of brutal terrorism, especially by preventing the funding of terrorism from overseas, and by providing intelligence and tactical support. Sri Lanka at this crucial juncture needs the assistance of friendly nations to find a negotiated and democratic solution to the conflict in Sri Lanka.

Australia and New Zealand would need to accept the reality of terrorism in Sri Lanka and proscribe the LTTE under the Criminal Code Act 1995 without further hesitation. It is the funding and tactical support provided from Australian and New Zealand soil that contributes to the carnage in Sri Lanka, including yesterday's bus bomb in Dambulla.

Nimal Liyanage

President

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