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## **LTTE Terrorists target civilians for slaughter with impunity in Sri Lanka**

A devastating bus bomb in the southern Colombo suburb of Piliyandala has caused immense human carnage. The toll has risen to 26 deaths of commuters returning home from work and of school children, and has caused critical injuries to many more. This is a series of never ending acts of abject terrorism in Sri Lanka commencing with the many bombings in mid 1980s in public places such as bus stations, hotels, and street junctions by the LTTE aka Tamil Tigers that took over 500 innocent civilian lives at that time. In the past months Tamil Tiger terrorist infiltrators in suburban Colombo, and in other areas of Sri Lanka have been targetting travelling public. These infiltrators were partly unearthed by the defence personnel in spite of the mounting international propaganda effort by the LTTE saying the Sri Lankan government was targeting Tamils. The LTTE satisfies its own ends by identifying Tamils as an ethnic group discriminated by Sri Lankan government and terrorism in Sri Lanka has caused over 72,000 deaths.

For more details please refer to <http://www.spur.asn.au/latestI.htm>

The LTTE has been given every conceivable opportunity to talk over issues over a period six years through a formalised ceasefire agreement by the Sri Lankan government. This was done with the fullest support of friendly nations to enable a peace deal to be struck. Neither Sri Lanka government nor a single other nation of the world has accepted a position that the LTTE had a valid claim for a separate nation within the island of Sri Lanka. The LTTE ended this ceasefire agreement in 2007 through a unilateral public announcement made by its supreme leader and has resorted to fighting for an independent Tamil nation through violent means, including attacks on civilians. The LTTE has been targetting civilians with ferocity with or without a ceasefire agreement in place as seen from the endless series of bombs on travelling public.

Thirty two nations of the world have criminalised the activities of LTTE in their own countries by imposing a criminal proscription on LTTE activities to curb the immense amount of propaganda, illegal fund raising and other criminal activities. After thirty years of these dastardly acts Australia and New Zealand are two prominent nations of the world that are still considering whether targetted human carnage in a developing nation is a clear enough act of terrorism.

The LTTE terrorist Diaspora whilst orchestrating these terrorist acts from overseas safe havens have prevailed upon foreign government ministries, officials and NGOs to hold back the proscription in these two countries. Three arguments have been advanced to support this view.

Firstly, a ban on the LTTE will bring about societal injustices to the immigrant Tamils. The LTTE does not represent the Tamils of Sri Lanka, nor those resident overseas. LTTE is an organisation manned by a few indoctrinated young Tamils and funded by illegal means and stand over tactics by resident LTTE Diaspora in western nations. A banning of the LTTE does not bring any social issues to the Tamils, as such a ban is on terrorism, and not on an ethnic identity. In fact millions of law abiding Tamils who do not condone these terrible injustices to civilians will be much relieved by a ban on LTTE. Many immigrant Tamils to western nations come from stock of 60 million Tamils in India who have little interest in a separate Tamil state in Sri Lanka, and not from the 3 million Tamils in Sri Lanka. Of the Sri Lankan Tamils a much smaller fraction have sympathy with a separate state in Sri Lanka, thereby an interest in LTTE's cause. This argument is a pure red herring.

Secondly, the banning of the LTTE will hamper the opportunities for achieving lasting peace in Sri Lanka. A six year formal opportunity for peace talks has already been given in spite extreme provocation by the LTTE, and elsewhere in other nations, peace deals have been achieved in spite of terrorist organisations been listed as proscribed organisations. As such, this is a hollow premise.

Thirdly, the banning of the LTTE will give an incorrect message to the Sri Lanka government to resort to acts of discrimination and violence against the Tamils. This is the most puerile argument that has been advanced and

accepted by some. This is an assumption without a basis. Over 85% of the Tamils in Sri Lanka live amongst other Sri Lankans. Tamil Cabinet Ministers and other prominent Tamil politicians in Sri Lanka have an entirely different view.

The present acts of terrorist carnage are intended to cause public reaction to the war against terrorism in Sri Lanka, and to bring pressure from overseas governments and agencies on the Sri Lankan government on its record of Human Rights violations pointing out its inadequacies and inability to protect civilians.

Overseas politicians and governments need to take extreme care in analysing the modus operandi of one of world's most brutal terrorist organisations, and respond adequately and in a timely manner to these dastardly acts of terrorism.

SPUR appeals once again to Australian and New Zealand Governments to reconsider its position immediately on the terrorist organisation LTTE and to proscribe it under each nation's criminal code procedure. Sri Lanka has been a state under siege by LTTE terrorism for over 30 years, and is now determined to end this siege with the support of the vast majority of Sri Lankans and friendly overseas governments.

We further seek the active assistance of Australian State and Territory governments to bring pressure upon the Australian Federal government to impose an immediate ban on the LTTE under Criminal Code Act of 1995. If Australia and New Zealand would continue to stay as bystanders to this prolonged terrorist carnage in Sri Lanka it would be a great injustice to the people of Sri Lanka.

Further if Australia and New Zealand would not criminalise LTTE activities on its own soil, and internationally, then the need would soon arise for these nations to redefine the meaning of terrorism, and also the scope and content of their own UN Treaty obligations already entered in to.

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