



LTTE Peace Secretariat News Bulletin



February- 2006

“Consolidating the CFA is the only way to stabilise the conditions of peace and normalcy”

Dr. Anton Balasingham

22 February 2005

LTTE Chief Negotiator Dr. Anton Balasingham said that “consolidating the Ceasefire Agreement is the only practical way open to the parties in conflict to stabilise the conditions of peace and normalcy, which are essential and crucial to take the peace process forward” when he delivered the opening speech in the Geneva talks today.

The full text of Dr. Balasingham’s address follows:



The Opening Address by Anton Balasingham, the chief negotiator of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam, (LTTE) at the Peace Talks in Geneva on 22 February 2006.

The most constructive achievement of the Norwegian facilitated peace process has been the signing of the Ceasefire Agreement between the Government of Sri Lanka and the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), exactly four years ago today, on the 22 February 2002. The event brought an end to the bloody ethnic war that lasted more than two decades, causing massive scale death and destruction. Though the truce agreement has been subjected to enormous strains, particularly during the latter part of 2005, it still holds, having prevented the parties in conflict from embarking on major armed confrontations. I should say that it is the truce agreement that has helped to avert the out-break of an all-out war and created the present environment where both the parties could engage in a dialogue to enhance the conditions of peace and normalcy in the war affected northeast.

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Geneva “Agreement” in the back burner?

Parties to the Cease Fire Agreement (CFA) met in Geneva not to discuss political arrangements for the Tamil people, but to get a commitment on the effective implementation of the intentions of its architects. By implementation it was understood that the obligations on the part of the Government of Sri Lanka (GoSL) relating to restoring normalcy in the life of a people battered by two decades of war that destroyed their social and economic infrastructure. The internally displaced continue to languish in refugee camps and with friends and relatives, having been denied access back to their habitats in the military occupied locations in the Tamil homeland.

The burning issue that was taken up for discussion in Geneva however was the activities of the para-militaries that cause panic, tension and terror to the civilians.

Agreement was reached to dismantle this fearful ‘apparatus’ and move the para-militaries away from the NorthEast as envisaged in the CFA. This was found to be the most disturbing element in the life of the Tamil people living in the military occupied areas and therefore consumed the entirety of time available during the two days of discussion in Geneva. The GoSL delegation agreed to bring an end to the activities of para-militaries and the Tamil people expected concrete action in the ground.

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TNA meets LTTE political heads in Kilinochchi

05 February 2006

A meeting between TNA Members of Parliament and officials of the Political Wing of the LTTE took place at Kilinochchi's Peace Secretariat on 4 February 2006.



Participants of the meeting discussed the deterioration of normalcy in civilian life in the Northeast as well as the LTTE's participation in the Geneva talks this month.

The three-hour meeting was attended by Head of Political Wing S P Tamilselvan, Secretary General of LTTE Peace Secretariat S Puleedevan, Ilanthirayan of LTTE Peace Secretariat, other district heads of the LTTE's political section and 18 members of parliament.

TNA members of parliament expressed their concern about LTTE delegation attending the Geneva talks during a time when civilians suffer from the atrocities committed by paramilitaries, in particular the abduction of Tamils Rehabilitation Organisation (TRO) employees and the remaining seven that are still missing.

LTTE and Muslim representatives meet in Amparai

06 February 2006

Akkaraipattu Muslim community representatives met with LTTE leaders in Pavaddai, LTTE administrated area in Amparai district on 5th of January 2005.

Mr. Jeya, Political head of Amparai district, Mr. Tholkapiyan, administrative head of the district were accompanied with Commander Jenarthan. Representatives from various Muslim organizations in Akkaraipattu attended the meeting.

It was agreed to arrange meetings on monthly basis between the LTTE and the Muslim representatives, as a measure in building confidence and trust between the two communities. Arrangements were also made for members from both communities to engage in agriculture and business activities without any hindrances.

UNICEF and LTTE decide to continue to work together

12 February 2006

In a meeting between UNICEF and LTTE, held at the LTTE Peace Secretariat today, both parties appreciated the contribution of the other party in protecting the child rights in the NorthEast.

In depth discussion was held about addressing the needs and care of the children in the NorthEast affected by war. UNICEF particularly appreciated the cooperation extended by LTTE in dealing with the under-age youths joining LTTE. They expressed their satisfaction in the sharp decline in under-age youths joining LTTE.

LTTE brought up the matter of the contradictions in the UN instruments in dealing with the age of youths joining a military force. UN delegates accepted that there are such contradictions which need to be addressed. LTTE also pointed out to UNICEF that it has allowed its reports on this issue to be used as a political tool. This, the LTTE said is inappropriate, because children's issues



should not be converted into a political football but must be handled for the benefit of the children.

There was also discussion about further improvements in the modalities for assisting under-age youths who have been released from LTTE. The inadequacies in the follow-up were high lighted by the fact that many youths wanted to re-join LTTE.

Swiss Foreign Ministry and ICRC meets with LTTE

24 February 2006

Mr. Bernadino Regazzoni, Switzerland's Ambassador to Sri Lanka, Mr. Greminger, Mr. Heiniger, Ms. Gabriel and officials from Switzerland's Foreign Office met with LTTE delegation led by Dr. Anton Balasingham on 24 February 2006 at Chataeu De Bossey, Geneva where talks between the Government of Sri Lanka and the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam on implementation of the Cease Fire Agreement that was signed four years ago were held on 22 and 23 February 2002.

The outcome of the talks and the future steps to be taken by both parties to effectively implement the CFA were discussed in the meeting.



Mr. Reto Meister, ICRC Delegate General for Asia and the Pacific also had a meeting with the LTTE delegation vis-à-vis the implementation of the CFA under the current dispensation.

Geneva 'Agreement'.....

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But what does one see as the post-Geneva situation vis-à-vis the activities of the para-militaries and the excesses committed by the SL military on a civilian population? No remarkable change had taken place since and the para-militaries continue to create panic by indulging in abduction and killings. Ground realities dictate that the GoSL's obligations in this matter yet remain in paper. Intentions that remain as promises in paper do not count when it comes to building confidence. Tamil people destined to live under military occupation continue to be a threatened lot. Two LTTE members have been killed and five abducted since Geneva. Military harassment through round-ups continues unabated.

A people who on reaching the fringe of frustration over a non-productive cease-fire for a full four years, who rose up violently against military excesses and mysterious abductions and killings carried out by para-militaries saw a silver line in the agreement reached in Geneva. They are dismayed now by the apathy and adamant unchanging attitude of the occupying military that continue to allow its appendages the para-

militaries to have their own way, destabilising the positive atmosphere.

The government would do well to rethink on its strategy of 'war for peace'. If it is peace and real lasting peace, yes, the Tamil people are for it and would work for it. Sincerity of purpose needs to be demonstrated by action on the ground and what one sees is not at all a conducive atmosphere to make progress in a process that could be called delivering normalcy to a people put under an oppressive military machine for two decades and more. Those who refuse to learn from history are doomed to suffer immensely and that refusal on the part of those in power cost the people and the country dearly.

Civilian in Batticaloa shot by paramilitaries and SL intelligence

20 February 2006

Kailasapillai Ravintran (21) was shot and seriously injured in Vantharumulai, Batticaloa on Monday, 20 February 2006 at 6.30 am. Paramilitary groups backed by Sri Lankan military intelligence are responsible for this incident.

This incident occurred exactly 48 hours before the two parties are about to sit at the table to discuss the implementation of the CFA, in which the main issue is violence against civilians carried out by the Sri Lankan military and its paramilitaries.

Member of LTTE auxiliary forces killed in Kiran, Batticaloa, by SLA forces

22 February 2006

Six men dressed in SLA uniform moved out from the SLA camp in Kiran, Batticaloa, and carried out an attack on an LTTE post in Pulipanthahal 500 metres away around 10.15am on 22 of February 2005. Narayanapillai Santhakumar (28), member of LTTE auxiliary forces, was killed by the SLA men.

This attack has taken place just three and a half hours before the long awaited direct talks between GoSL and LTTE in Geneva.

The attack has raised serious doubts in the minds of Tamil people about the sincerity of GoSL in taking part in direct talks.

Sri Lankan Armed Forces (SLAFs) steps up violence in NorthEast

22 February 2006

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Dead body of missing fisherman swept ashore

The body of a fisherman from Mannar (James Julie Peiris) who went missing at sea on February 18 was swept ashore in Talaimannar on Monday February 20. The fiberglass boat in which Peiris left for fishing was found anchored at sea in the Pesalai area. Sources in Mannar suspect foul play by the SLN personnel.

SLN damages hundreds of fishing equipment

In Vadamardchy North hundreds of fishing equipments like fishing boats, nets and other accessories were damaged by the SLN on Sunday February 19. Fishermen societies have lodged complaints with organizations including SLMM and ICRC regarding the vandalism by SLN. The fishermen society told the Press that more than 1800 fishing families in Jaffna district are unable continue with their work due to bans imposed by SLN.

SLAFs adding new check points

SLAFs are adding new checkpoints around key bridges in Jaffna. They have also built new bunkers and placed additional barbed wire fences in these areas. Some of the bridges with increased fortifications are, Vallai bridge connecting Vadamardchi and Valigamam, Mulli bridge area connecting Vadamardchy and Thenmaradchy, and Pannai bridge connecting Valigamam with Jaffna Islets. Fears are expressed by people in Jaffna that SLAFs is going to declare many of the newly strengthened areas as small High Security Zones.

Member of Parliament threatened and office searched

The Jaffna office of Member of Parliament (MP) Gajendran was rounded up by SLAFs forces on Tuesday February 21. When Gajendran refused to let the SLAFs search his office without the presence of Police, angry SFLAs men tried to force him but in the end left after warning him that they will return in the afternoon.

MP, Gajendran, condemned the conduct of SLAFs and said that this roundup was intended to upset the local government elections in order to assist in the election of forces against Tamil nationalism.

Militarization of Jaffna persists

01 February 2006

Militarization of Jaffna persists as the Sri Lankan Army (SLA) is in full force, threatening students, harassing civilians and abusing women.

Jaffna University closed until normalcy, students announce Jaffna University Students Union warned that they will boycott classes until students can go to classes, study in the libraries and their homes without constant harassment by military.

Below are excerpts from a statement issued by the Jaffna University students union:

“The SLA and paramilitaries have threatened the home owners who have given board and lodging for the students who came from outside of Jaffna. As a result thousands of students are struggling without a place to stay.

“Students who come from outside of Jaffna that pass through Muhamalai checkpoint are harassed and checked for several hours and sometimes threatened with death. For this reason, we are staying away from classes until our safety is guaranteed.”

“Until military is withdrawn from our university area, until the checkpoint harassment stops, until the SLA stops threats towards to students who are boarding, we will stay away from classes.” said the statement.

Military administration

The Sri Lankan military in Jaffna has given permission to run ambulances during the night for emergencies. It is worth noting that several fatalities were reported recently due to lack of transport at night due to fear. This permission for ambulance service was granted after efforts by the Jaffna district medical officer who raised the issue of fatalities occurring due to lack transport at night provide by civilians out of fear.

Alaipaddi SLA checkpoint

People passing through the Alaipaddi SLA checkpoint are being subjected to harassment. People are being forced to get off their vehicles, walk long distances to have their bags and bodies checked by SLA personnel. Women complain that male soldiers are

conducting body-checks and subjecting them to sexual harassment. People traveling by motorbikes say they have to remove the seat of the motorbike, which takes a lot of time. People are stating that a lot of time is wasted at this checkpoint.

Women's screams heard from SLA camp

People of Kopay area have complained to Member of Parliament, Gajenthiran, that they have heard screams of women from a camp in the Kopay-Kaithady Road. Gajenthiran stated that he has informed the Sri Lankan President about this and the President has commanded the SLA Jaffna commander Daya Chandrasiri to investigate this incident further.

SLA threaten civilians with more disappearance

When Tharshini Ilaiyathambi was raped and murdered in Punguduthivu in December 2005, the angry villagers damaged a building belonging to the Sri Lankan Navy. The Navy is now demanding that the civilians repair the damaged building and warned that if they do not do so, there will be more disappearances in their village.

SLA sexually harasses women at the Thirunelveli junction

Women going on bicycles past the Thirunelveli junction and Post Box junction road are being stopped by SLA at gunpoint. They are verbally harassed with sexual threats. They also take away their identity cards and tell them to come back later to pick them up. The SLA soldiers also inquire about their homes, the location and the occupants of their home. Women's groups in Jaffna have made these accusations.

Four fishermen arrested in the sea

08 February 2006

Four fishermen were arrested by the Sri Lankan Navy at Pungkudutivu Sea when they went for fishing. These four fishermen went fishing on 6th February did not return home yet. They are reported to be in police custody now.

The fishermen are Perumal Santhirapos(24), Immanuel Anotony Jude(27), Pakianathan Niranjana(28), and Kopalasamy Rajkumar(23).

LTTE releases second Sri Lankan policeman as goodwill gesture prior to Geneva talks

18 February 2006

After three years of stalled peace talks, the upcoming Geneva talks will be held on 22-23 February. As a gesture of goodwill, the national leader ordered the release of a Sri Lankan policeman, W G D S Hemantha. He was released under the order of the Kilinochchi District Court



Magistrate and handed over to SLMM officials in Kilinochchi District Court on Saturday.

Three policemen were arrested inside the LTTE administered area on 10 September 2005 under the charge of not obtaining permission prior to entering the area. The first policeman, K A D Sarath, was released in the same way on 26 January. Meanwhile, yesterday four LTTE members were released on bail after being arrested in October 2005 by Sri Lanka Navy in Trincomalee.

SLA fires artillery shell into LTTE administered area

23 February 2006



On Thursday morning at 4:50 am, a LTTE camp 1.5 Km from the forward defense line (FDL) of Muhamalai in Jaffna came under artillery shell attack by SLA.

The attack was carried out from the Vadamarachchi Nagarkovil SLA camp and the artillery shell fell just 100 metres from the above LTTE camp and exploded.

The location where the shell fell was 500 metres from the A9 road and only 50 metres from a settlement where people have resettled during the CFA period after being displaced during the war. Even a very slight change in the artillery projectile would have dropped the shell exactly on this settlement and could have caused serious damage to civilians.

This blatant violation of the CFA by the SLA was brought to the notice of the SLMM and an SLMM team visited the location and carried out an investigation.

This attack occurred just as the second day of talks are about to begin between the parties in Geneva. This is the first time an artillery attack by the SLA on LTTE administered area had been carried out since the CFA was signed four years ago.

Civilians in Jaffna continue to face severity of SL military

26 February 2006

14 year old students admitted to hospital following attack by SL Navy

James Nirojan (14) of Mathahal was returning home around 2:30 pm on Friday, 24 February with three of his friends. The Sri Lankan Navy (SLN) stopped them near Kanthipuram, Kerniyadi and ordered them to clear the bushes in the area.

When the students resisted the order, they were attacked. All sustained injuries by the attack. Nirojan fainted and was taken to hospital by civilians in the area.

Accusations against the SLN personnel at this security post are continually made by civilians in the area.

Armed EPDP sells its paper at gunpoint and continues to roam in Jaffna

The EPDP continues to issue threats to civilians in Jaffna peninsula with the full support of SLAFs. This is continuing 48 hours after the reaching of the agreement in Geneva to remove paramilitaries. Several civilians, businessmen and students have reported that they have received death threats by EPDP men.

EPDP forced businessmen in Jaffna to buy its paper at gunpoint. They were accompanied by Sri Lankan armed forces (SLAFs).

Fear hits people in Jaffna peninsula by SLAFs exercises

Sri Lankan Armed Forces (SLAFs) is carrying out massive military exercises in the Kachchai sea. At night loud explosions are heard and the Chavakachcheri town shakes due to the explosions. The villages along the coast are unable to sleep at night. Elderly people are affected by the loud noises, causing excessive tension and illness. Students are unable to continue their studies.

Contradictory helmet rules in Jaffna

The Sri Lankan Police implements the rule that motorbike riders must wear helmets, and they stop riders who are not wearing helmets. Yet the SLAFs is stopping riders and asking them to remove helmets. People believe that the police and the SLAFs are deliberately acting in this fashion in order to harass and humiliate people.

SLAF involved in theft

Two young men on motorbikes were stopped by 15 SLAFs soldiers in Nunavil near Amirthambikai School around 7:00 pm on Saturday, 25th February. Two expensive hand phones worth 30,000 Rs. were taken away from them and the young men were threatened with death and chased away. The young men have reported this incident to SLMM.

20 under-age youth handed over to parents by LTTE in Kilinochchi

28 February 2006

On Tuesday, 28 February a group of 20 under-age youth who voluntarily joined the LTTE were handed over to their parents through NESOHR. Names and other details



of the 20 youth were passed on to UNICEF and ICRC. These 20 youth voluntarily joined LTTE within the last month.

Mr. Thiyakarajah, Director of the INGO coordinating office of the LTTE formally handed over these youths who joined with the LTTE giving false information. INGO coordinating office of the LTTE and the LTTE Peace Secretariat have been jointly working hard to identify these underage recruits and hand them over to their parents.

“Nothing in CFA that directly addresses the under-age recruitment issue.”

S.P Tamilselvan in Geneva

Tamilselvan spoke in the afternoon of the first day of talks in Geneva between LTTE and GoSL on 22 February 2006.

Tamilselvan said that in relation to the accusations of under-age youths joining LTTE there is nothing in CFA that directly addresses this issue. He, however, added that given the serious child rights violations in NorthEast over the last two decades there is a need to speak about it at these talks about the implementation of CFA.

Below are excerpts from his speech:

Even after four years of CFA there is an absence of normalcy in people's life following the two decades of war. Children have lost their parents, were killed and maimed in thousands, and their schools and places of worship were destroyed by bombing. The GoSL delegation that is talking about children's welfare will understand the real situation only if they visit the areas and see it for themselves.

Recently five young students were brutally shot and killed by GoSL armed forces. A fifteen year old boy sleeping with his parents was dragged out from his sleep screaming and shot dead by GoSL forces. University students and teachers were attacked. We like to point out that as a result of the ethnic violence let loose by your government thousands of children were killed.

Children come to our areas for refuge due to the SLA occupation of our homeland and the ensuing fear. Our organization takes care of these children in thousands in children's homes and ensure that their educational other needs are taken care of.

GoSL, instead of trying to improve these conditions in which children are growing up, is more interested in spreading stories about under-age youths joining our organization. We are working with UNICEF to promote and protect children's rights. We have setup a special committee within the LTTE Peace Secretariat to develop this further. We have pointed out on several occasions about the errors in UNICEF numbers on under-age youths in LTTE. We have also continued to release youths who are identified as under-age back to their families. We have pointed out this error to UNICEF and it has accepted it.

With the peace dividends not reaching the children they are suffering from poverty, loss of parents, lack of educational and employment opportunities, and inability to return to their own homes. Children going to schools in GoSL occupied areas are put through checking and long delays. This also creates fear in the children's minds. Many have sought refuge in our areas.

Most of the accusations about under-age youths joining LTTE came from the East. More than 2000 under-age youths recruited against the orders of our leadership by Karuna, who was later expelled from our organization for his misconduct, were returned to their parents. This shows that our organization respects the international standards in this regard.



Many 14, 15, and 16 year olds who were abducted by the Karuna group which is now working with the SLA forces have exposed the truth that they were trained in SLA camps. There is an urgent need to be concerned about the welfare of the children affected by war and take right actions to ensure that their

nutrition, education and their parents living standards are adequate. It is wrong to turn the problems faced by the children into a political issue to gain political advantage.

Given that there is no clause in CFA that prohibits recruitment this is not an issue that comes under the SLMM mandate. Rather it is best to submit the complaints received by SLMM to the organizations that directly deal with it which are our organization and to UNICEF.

Those who are truly concerned about the welfare of children must refrain from selecting NorthEast and LTTE as their subject and instead turn their attention to the serious child abuse and child slavery that is going on in large scale in the south.

A curse that is Unitary Constitution and the Tamil peoples' collective dignity

English version of the editorial comment in LTTE's Sinhala Monthly "Dedunna"

"Under no circumstances would we consider the homeland concept of the Tamil people and any power sharing mode as an alternative would be strictly within the paradigm of a Unitary constitution". This or words to this effect are that of the President of Sri Lanka Mahinda Rajapaksa in an exclusive interview with Reuters on 13 February 2006. Don't these words portray the image of a feudal dynasty ruler who has no idea of changing the entrenched imperialistic thinking?

Behind the lavish mouthing of a 'new Lanka', the Tamil people see in these words nothing other than the reality of the continuing racial oppression mentality. Is there in the South a right thinking Sinhala citizen who would dare to define this as a statement from a far-sighted leader of a country where this mindset has failed to bring about a democratic relationship between the different people and has contributed to the two decade old war taking a human toll of 80,000 lives? This indeed is a serious dilemma in the Tamil psyche.

This statement from the President, an individual regarded as an heir to the Giruwagampattu dynasty, confounds the confusion the Tamil people are in as to whether he has the slightest of consideration for the Tamil people vis-à-vis the interest of his coalition partners. It is fifty years or more now since the Tamil people have proclaimed that they cannot continue to be imprisoned and get oppressed and killed within the 'card-house' unitary constitution framed by the white colonialists to meet their vested interests. It is now a long time since this yearning for freedom has been, from the Tamil peoples' doorsteps, transformed into a gigantic flame of freedom. If the Tamil people are to become 'yes-men' to a feudal lord from Ruhuna addicted with an unlimited lust for power, then there is no meaning for the life-sacrifice of nearly twenty thousand heroic Tamil youths.

Let us put aside for a moment the indignity the President's affirmation has caused to the Tamil people who have paid a supreme price for what they yearn as collective human dignity. But, is it not an indignity to the right thinking Sinhala intellectuals and the political stream that judge with circumspection the inevitability that forced the Tamil people to take up arms when they found that their political aspirations expressed democratically and peacefully were met with and suppressed by state armed violence? Is the Sinhala electorate that has, by experience over the past few decades and the political wisdom it has acquired,

comprehended the fact that the imperialistic unitary form of government does not permit dignified co-existence of the Tamil and Sinhala people with mutual respect and sense of fraternity to each other, going to watch with docility the under-estimation of their pragmatic thinking?

President Rajapaksa has demonstrated through this press interview not only the lack of political diplomacy but also the lack of basic political circumspection to fathom the political crisis within which is embroiled the electorate that he provides leadership with. There is no doubt that he who as prime minister endorsed without any difference of opinion the stance of a government that spoke ad-nauseam on regional councils and federalism is now engaged in pushing the Tamil people into the unitary set-up all of a sudden only because of his need to stir Sinhala racialism to stick on to power.

The concept of the Tamil homeland, nationhood and the right to self determination have been the inalienable prerogative of all the Tamil political parties and groups from the time of the Thimpu talks in 1985. Echoed through this was the collective Tamil national aspiration. Based

on this fundamental concept was the liberation struggle spearheaded by the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam in later years. Is it not the realisation of this ground reality that the ruling elite in the south did not for the last decade and a half not indulge in any talk of resolving the political conflict within the framework of a 'unitary state'?

Those with an acquaintance of history and little logic would clearly comprehend not only the danger to the future of the Tamil people but also of the Sinhala people one could discern from this distortion of the President barely two weeks to go for peace talks. This imperialistic thinking in no way paves the way for realistic co-existence and mutual respect in a society that has seen bloodletting in cold reality for two decades. Rejection of the Tamil homeland concept, even if chanted thousand times, is not going to nullify the reality. Nor does the exercise of executive power going to imprison the Tamil people into the unitary state. It is an exercise in futility. It is no doubt a litmus test for those who fail to grasp this simple truth from the pages of history. To be tested and ascertained is the question whether this leadership would be capable of leading the Sinhala people, facing the challenges twenty-first century would pose.



Consolidating the CFA

Continued from page 01

The Ceasefire Agreement was not formulated in haste to the advantage of one party, as some critics have argued, but rather, given careful and meticulous scrutiny to all aspects - terms, conditions and obligations – of the truce by both parties, with the skilled assistance of the Norwegian facilitators. The Ceasefire Agreement is a well crafted, valid instrument of peace, devised for the purpose of bringing an end to hostilities and to create a positive environment conducive for meaningful negotiations. Therefore, the Ceasefire Agreement should be viewed as an effective mechanism that can facilitate and promote the peace process.

We are of the opinion that the Ceasefire Agreement is the foundation upon which the peace process has to be built. It is true that in recent times the truce accord has been severely undermined as a consequence of the rapid escalation of violence in the northeast, particularly during the latter part of last year and in

January this year, when it turned into an ugly form of a shadow or subversive war. This violent phenomenon has been characterised by arbitrary killings, abductions and disappearances of Tamil civilians in the northeast. According to authentic records, 109 Tamil civilians have been arbitrarily killed by the Sri Lankan armed forces with the active assistance of the Tamil paramilitaries. Forty eight civilians have disappeared after being arrested or abducted by the Sri Lanka military. This horrendous violence was unleashed against Tamil civilians, particularly in Jaffna, with the sinister objective of terrorising the Tamil civilian population. This terrorisation of our people was intended as collective punishment against the whole Tamil population for the many soldiers killed in the subversive war.

Our delegation will submit, for your scrutiny, comprehensive reports providing detailed information about the nature of violence committed against Tamil civilians by the Sri Lankan armed forces since the new government took office on 19 November 2005. We will also submit detailed reports about civilians killed and injured by the Sri Lankan armed forces and Tamil paramilitaries during the entire ceasefire period of the last four years. Similarly, we suppose that your government is going to submit detailed reports of



acts of ceasefire violations, allegedly committed by the Liberation Tigers.

Your government has already released statistics accusing the LTTE of committing 5464 violations of ceasefire during the last four years. We cannot accept such exaggerated figures as authentic acts of ceasefire violations. A huge majority of those figures are attributed to recruitment. These are cases of under aged youth said to be joining the LTTE. Your government, as well as the SLMM, have accused the LTTE of under aged recruitment, without taking into consideration the complex child

rights issues in the northeast and the number of children released by the LTTE under the Action Plan for the War affected Children undertaken in association with UNICEF. Mr Tamilselvan will give you a briefing later on the child rights situation in the northeast.

In this context I wish to point out that the government as well as the SLMM have conveniently ignored the vast number of ceasefire violations committed by the Tamil paramilitaries in the form of arbitrary killings of civilians, political assassinations, abductions, harassment, extortion, intimidation, assault, torture and forced conscription of children. Most of these crimes committed by paramilitaries are blamed on the LTTE. I am sorry to say that it is only recently that the SLMM has realised the negative consequences of the violence of the Tamil paramilitaries and expressed serious concern that such 'armed elements' are posing a serious threat to peace. Since the criminal violence of Tamil paramilitaries has become a critical issue in the implementation process of the truce agreement, the government should give serious thought to containing such forces in order to stabilise the conditions of peace. The main topic for discussion at this negotiating table is the Ceasefire Agreement. As the parties in conflict who entered into this peace accord, we must endeavour to seek practical ways of implementing the Ceasefire Agreement effectively, so that the truce becomes constructive, productive and meaningful. We are of the view that the recent escalation of violence, that brought the parties to the brink of an all-out war, was primarily

due to the non-implementation of the obligations of the truce.

The implementation of the confidence building measures, as enunciated in the articles of the Ceasefire Agreement, are extremely crucial to the process of the de-escalation and normalisation. The following are the key elements of the Ceasefire Agreement stipulated as confidence building measures that are vital to create conditions of normalcy in the northeast.

•Clause 1.2. Neither party shall engage in any offensive military operations.

•Clause 1.8. Tamil paramilitary groups shall be disarmed by the GOSL by D-day + 30 at the latest. The GOSL shall offer to integrate individuals in these units under the command and disciplinary structure of the GOSL armed forces for service away from the Northern and Eastern Province.

•Clause 1.13. As of D-day + 90, all unarmed LTTE members shall be permitted freedom of movement in the North and East.

•Clause 2.1. The Parties shall in accordance with international law abstain from hostile acts against the civilian population.

•Clause 2.2., 2.3., 2.4. stipulate places of worship, school premises and public buildings 'occupied by either party shall be vacated and returned to the intended use'. •Clause 2.5. The Parties shall review the security measures and the set-up of checkpoints, particularly in densely populated cities and towns, in order to introduce systems that will prevent harassment of the civilian population.

•Clause 2.11. A gradual easing of fishing restrictions shall take place starting from D-day. As of D-day + 90, all restrictions on day and night fishing shall be removed subject to certain exceptions.

•Clause 2.12. The Parties agree that search operations and arrests under the Prevention of Terrorism Act shall not take place.

Ever since the truce agreement was signed the Government of Sri Lanka has failed to implement these key clauses. The LTTE has repeatedly appealed to the government to fulfil its obligations under the peace accord. We have also taken up the issue of the non-implementation of the terms and conditions of the Ceasefire Agreement during our peace talks with Mr Ranil Wickremasinghe's government. All our genuine efforts to ensure the full implementation of the key elements of the Agreement became futile. The co-habitation conflict, or rather, the power struggle between the

Wickremasinghe government and President Kumaratunga became a serious impediment to advance the peace process and to secure proper implementation of the ceasefire. With the termination of the peace talks, the security situation in the north east began to deteriorate. The violence of the Tamil



paramilitaries intensified in the form of a dirty subversive war directed against our cadres and supporters, a shadow war in which the Sri Lanka armed forces actively colluded with the Tamil armed groups. We will submit for your examination a comprehensive report on Tamil paramilitary organisations operating in the northeast and in Colombo. The report provides ample evidence on the existence of the main paramilitary groups, their leadership, the command structure, the location of their camps and their close relationship with the Sri Lanka armed forces, particularly with the Sri Lanka military intelligence.

The existence of Tamil armed paramilitary groups is an indisputable fact. Since these Tamil armed organisations are sustained, supported and controlled by the Sri Lanka military, we categorise them as paramilitaries. They are not simply 'armed elements' functioning independently in a political vacuum, as some people assume. They are well organised militant forces, properly trained and armed in subversive warfare and function covertly in connivance with the Sri Lanka armed forces. Some of the armed organisations have a long history, extending to more than two decades. Originally they took arms for a political cause, but later, with the

Indian intervention in Sri Lanka, they abandoned their political ideals and became mercenary armed groups under the Indian Peace Keeping Forces to fight against the LTTE. Following the withdrawal of the IPKF, these armed organisations changed their loyalty and allegiance to 'new masters', that is, the Sri Lanka state and its military and intelligence apparatus, in the war against the LTTE. Though these armed groups registered themselves as political parties and claimed to have entered the democratic political mainstream, they have not dismantled their military units nor have they abandoned armed violence. We have, in our report, listed several incidences of armed violence committed by these Tamil paramilitary groups in which several leaders and cadres of our organisation, as well as prominent parliamentarians, journalists, educationists and civilian supporters, were executed in cold blood. We will provide maps in our report indicating the close proximity of paramilitary camps of the EPDP and other groups to Sri Lankan army camps and police stations.

You are well aware that Clause 1.8 of the Ceasefire Agreement specifically stipulates that the Tamil paramilitaries should be disarmed by the GOSL. Yet, the Sri Lanka government, to date, has failed to honour this crucial obligation, which is vital for strengthening the conditions of peace and normalcy. The SLMM has also warned that the peace environment is seriously threatened by the violence of these Tamil armed groups. The international community, represented by the Co-Chairs, have also made statements calling upon your government to disarm the paramilitaries and to put an end to their violent activities. In a recent statement President Rajapakse has pledged that he would rein in the Tamil armed organisations and would not allow them to function in the government controlled areas.

There are five major paramilitary groups operating in the northeast and in Colombo. They are known as Karuna group, EPDP group, PLOTE group, EPRLF (Varaithar) group and a Muslim Paramilitary group called Jihad group. In our report we have given detailed

information about each group, the names of leaders and area operational commanders functioning in various districts and in the capital. We are certain that the Sri Lankan military hierarchy, particularly the Sri Lanka military intelligence, is well aware of the existence and activities of the Tamil armed paramilitaries. Nevertheless, we are also providing you with detailed factual information to reinforce our argument.

It is the considered view of our liberation organisation, as well as the general opinion of the Tamil people, that the armed violence of the Tamil paramilitaries is posing a grave threat to peace and stability in Tamil areas and endangering the Ceasefire Agreement. Therefore, we call upon the Government of Sri Lanka to disarm these Tamil paramilitary organisations, fulfilling a crucial obligation of the truce agreement.

One of the crucial confidence building measures laid down in the Ceasefire Agreement is that the parties, in accordance with international law, should abstain from hostile acts against the civilian population. Clauses 2.2, 2.3 and 2.4 stipulate that the Sri Lankan armed forces, within a limited time frame, should vacate places of worship, schools and public buildings.

In defiance of these truce obligations and in grave violation of international humanitarian law, the government's security forces, for more than a decade, continue to occupy schools and public buildings and made places of worship inaccessible to the Tamil civilian population. Several places of worship made inaccessible are Hindu sacred shrines of historical and cultural importance, so dear to our people. In Jaffna alone 35 prominent schools were



forced to close down and 201 Hindu and Christian places of worship have been made inaccessible to our people. This vicious type of military occupation has seriously offended the cultural and religious sensitivities of the Tamil people, an activity specifically forbidden by the Ceasefire Agreement.

The creation of High Security Zones (HSZ) by the Sri Lankan armed forces in the militarily occupied territories of the northeast, particularly in the densely populated Jaffna Peninsula, has caused immense suffering to the Tamil civilian population. To facilitate the occupation of a huge number of troops, amounting to fifty thousand, the so-called High Security Zones were established by forcefully evicting several thousands of Tamil families from their homes. The worst affected region is the Jaffna Peninsula where entire villages were evicted with the civilian population and thousands of houses forcefully usurped and our people denied access to farmlands, fishing coasts, schools and places of worship. This is a grave injustice committed against the Tamil people by the invasion forces, destroying their social and cultural life.

We will submit to you a document on, 'The Human Costs of the High Security Zones', which provides comprehensive information about the nature of Sinhala military occupation of the Tamil region and its implications on the life of our people. Our statistics on HSZ shows that 28,830 house owners in Jaffna have been forcefully evicted from their homes and nearly 13,000 acres of fertile farmlands made inaccessible to them. The creation of High Security Zones has reduced 20,000 families to conditions of destitution and they have been languishing in refugee camps and welfare centres for over a decade. The forceful usurpation of public property to the extent of 30 percent of the landmass of Jaffna under the claim of High Security Zones, and denying our people their right to return to their homes and property is a blatant violation of human rights. This forced eviction of people by the state under the pretext of national security is condemned by several UN Human Rights instruments as gross violations of human rights. These UN instruments characterise this practice of forced evictions by states as serious crimes inflicting grave and serious harm to the basic civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights of large numbers of people, both individual and collective (The issue is best explained in the United Nations High Commission on Human Rights Fact Sheet 25 on 'Forced Evictions'). The displacement of several thousands of families and their pathetic plight in subnormal conditions in the refugee camps has become a formidable humanitarian tragedy. Yet the Sri Lankan state and

the military hierarchy continue to deny, on security grounds, the basic rights of our people to return to their homes and property. We wish to point out that the Sri Lankan government should no longer ignore this grave humanitarian issue under the pretext of 'security'. The problem of the HSZ has to be resolved without further delay, facilitating the resettlement of the internally displaced persons. The resolution of this issue is extremely crucial for the restoration of peace and normalisation of civilian life in Tamil areas.

In this brief statement I have touched on a few of the crucial issues to be addressed for the effective implementation of the Ceasefire Agreement. The other most important issue to be addressed is the severe restrictions imposed on fishing and the enormous suffering of the people as a consequence. We have given comprehensive information in our documents in regards to the suffering of the Tamil fishing community. We will take up the issue on the restrictions on fishing during the course of our discussions.

The other important matter we wish to raise is the freedom of movement of our political cadres in the government controlled areas. You are aware that the LTTE leadership withdrew our political cadres from the government controlled Tamil areas as a consequence of the violent activities of the paramilitaries, who, on several occasions attacked our unarmed cadres and bombed our political offices. Our political cadres can only function in government controlled areas if the paramilitaries are disarmed and normalcy returns to Tamil areas.

In concluding I wish to say that we do agree that there have been serious breaches of the Ceasefire Agreement, for which the parties in conflict, as well as the Tamil paramilitaries, should bear culpability. Nevertheless, I wish to point out that it would serve no meaningful purpose if we enter into a recriminatory debate, making accusations and counter accusations against each other over the abuses of the truce. Instead of engaging in acrimonious bickering that might poison the atmosphere of goodwill, it would be prudent to engage in a constructive discussion, exploring ways and means to stabilise and strengthen the Ceasefire Agreement. You will certainly agree with me that consolidating the Ceasefire Agreement is the only practical way open to the parties in conflict to stabilise the conditions of peace and normalcy, which are essential and crucial to take the peace process forward.

The press statement by Norwegian facilitators after the talks in Geneva



The Government of Sri Lanka (GOSL) and the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) met in Geneva 22-23 February 2006 for talks on the Ceasefire Agreement.

The parties discussed issues related to the ceasefire, including the concerns of the Muslim, Sinhalese, and Tamil civilians.

The GOSL and the LTTE are committed to respecting and upholding the Ceasefire Agreement, and reconfirmed their commitment to fully cooperate with and respect the rulings of the Sri Lanka Monitoring Mission (SLMM).

The GOSL and the LTTE are committed to taking all necessary measures to ensure that there will be no intimidation, acts of violence, abductions or killings.

The LTTE is committed to taking all necessary measures to ensure that there will be no acts of violence against the security forces and police. The GOSL is committed to taking all necessary measures in accordance with the Ceasefire Agreement to ensure that no armed group or person other than Government security forces will carry arms or conduct armed operations.

The GOSL and the LTTE discussed all issues concerning the welfare of children in the North East, including the recruitment of children.

The SLMM will report on implementation on the above agreements at the next session of talks.

The parties requested the Swiss Government to host the next round of talks in Geneva on 19-21 April 2006.

**Peace Secretariat,
Liberation Tigers of Tamileelam,
Kilinochchi.**

Phone: 0094212283960
Fax: 0094212283959
E-mail: mail@ltteps.org
Web: www.ltteps.org