



**Vision**  
To enhance National Security of Sri Lanka through excellence in research education and networking



**His Excellency Gotabaya Rajapaksa**  
President of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka



**Hon. Chamal Rajapaksa**  
State Minister of National Security and Disaster Management



**General Kamal Gunaratne (Retd)**  
WWW RWP RSP USP ndc psc MPhil  
Secretary, Ministry of Defence and State Ministry of National Security and Disaster Management



**About Us**  
Institute of National Security Studies (INSS) is the premiere think tank on national security in Sri Lanka established under the Ministry of Defence

## Institute of National Security Studies (INSS) blessed with a new Leadership



President Gotabaya Rajapaksa has appointed Professor Rohan Gunaratna to the post of Director General of the Institute of National Security Studies (INSS) with effect from 03rd May 2021.

Professor Rohan Gunaratna is a specialist in national security with expertise in counter terrorism. He is an Honorary Professor at the General Sir John Kotelawala Defence University, Sri Lanka and Senior Advisor to its Department of Defence and Strategic Studies. A former Senior Fellow at the Combating Terrorism Centre at the United States Military Academy at West Point and at the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy, he served as an instructor and an advisor to the NYPD Intelligence Division and a consultant to Detainee Task Force 134 in Iraq and Joint Task Force (JTF) 435 in Afghanistan. He received his Masters from the University of Notre Dame in the US where he was Hesburgh Scholar and his doctorate from the University of St Andrews in the UK where he was British Chevening Scholar. For advancing international intelligence cooperation, Gunaratna received the Major General Ralph H. Van Deman Award.

## INSS Public Lecture on “Fake News: Apex Threat to National Security”

The Institute of National Security Studies; the premier Think Tank on national security established under the Ministry of Defence, organized a Public Lecture on “Fake News: Apex Threat to National Security,” as a virtual session on the 6th of May 2021 from 1500-1630 hours. The Guest Speaker of the occasion was Mr. Mohan Samaranayake, Director General of the Department of Government Information. The Moderator, Rear Admiral Dimuthu Gunawardena, Director of Communications and Publications, welcomed the Guest Speaker and took an approach towards the dialogue on the threats posed by the circulation of Fake News. The event was opened to the public and valuable inputs were rendered by the audience; inclusive of representatives of government authorities, tri-forces, academia, journalists and other invitees.

The bottom-line of the discussion on Fake News was trifold. Those Include the revisiting into the definition of Fake News focusing on its evolution up to the digital age, motives of the circulation of Fake News and critically putting under a lens, the progress Sri Lanka achieved in the regulation of the said matter.

*Continued on page 02*



**The Institute of National Security Studies (INSS)**

**Public Lecture  
on**

**FAKE NEWS: APEX THREAT TO NATIONAL SECURITY**

**Guest Speaker  
Mr. Mohan Samaranyake**

Director General, Department of Government Information

On 6th May 2021  
from 1500-1630 hrs

For inquiries contact via [ruwanthijayasekara.inssl@gmail.com](mailto:ruwanthijayasekara.inssl@gmail.com)



attempts on political leaders such as Viktor Yanukovich by the West during the cold war, was sparked by misuse of information. The speaker also pointed out the alleged misinformation campaign during the 2015 presidential election as another objective of Fake News; seeking victory in elections. Rather than disposing of Fake News solely to the account of internet-based sources; Social Media, mainstream media was also assigned with a liability of being responsible in dissemination of misinformation, which has affected greatly for the losing of their credibility.

By concluding the lecture, Mr. Samaranyake brought up valuable outputs to the issue, which ranged from attitudinal transformation to policy formulation. Therein, the approach towards the matter was preferred to be both bottom-up, which focuses on increasing public awareness and top-down options, which include introducing fact-checking mechanisms within the parliament itself, which is currently not in existence and the establishment of proper supervisory bodies.

The Guest Speaker first set straight on the fact that Fake News lacks a universally accepted definition, thus positioning Fake News as a semantically contested concept. A broad definition was also provided which referred to Fake News as false or misleading information, which appears as credible, but in reality, are mere fabrications. Three scholarly established elements of Fake

News were also identified, namely creating mistrust, misinformation and manipulation. Focusing on the motives behind the circulation of False Information, the guest speaker pointed out several factors by citing examples. The predominant motive was politically oriented, where False Information was used as a weapon against political regimes. Most of the regime change

**Threat Lens on “New Security Dimensions Relating to Islamist Extremism in Sri Lanka”**



**The Institute of National Security Studies (INSS)**

**Threat Lens  
on**

**“New Security Dimensions Relating to Islamist  
Extremism in Sri Lanka”**

**Guest Speaker  
Maj. Sinduja Jayaratne**

Lecturer

Department of Strategic Studies

Faculty of Defence & Strategic Studies

General Sir John Kotelawala Defence University

On 21st April 2021  
from 1500 hrs -1630 hrs

Main Auditorium, at the Ministry of Defence,

CLOSED DOOR DISCUSSION



INSS organized a ‘Threat Lens’ a closed door discussion under the theme of “New Security Dimensions Relating to Islamist Extremism in Sri Lanka” on 21st April 2021 from 1500 hrs to 1630 hrs at the main auditorium of the Ministry of Defence. The Guest Speaker for the event was, Major Sinduja Jayaratne, lecturer from Department of Strategic Studies, General Sir John Kotelawala Defence University. The event was graced by the presence of Major General (Retd) J. R. Kulathunga RSP the Chief of National Intelligence representing the Secretary, Ministry of Defence and State Ministry of National Security and Disaster Management. It was also attended by several other experts from the intelligence and operational fields that were invited to attend from other

security agencies. The Threat Lens was moderated by Admiral (Prof.) Jayanath Colombage RSP VSV USP rcds psc, Director General of the INSS and Secretary to the Foreign Ministry. The discussion disclosed the threats identified soon after the Easter Sunday Attack and also the new security dimensions of two years from the Easter attack. Some of the threats identified are as follows; the continuation of online radicalization, threat of lone wolf attack, radicalization of the feeble and weak (women in marginalized societies), spread of communal violence through exclusion, the returning foreign terrorist fighters in the region, and activation of sleepers. At the same time, Sri Lanka being used as a transit point or a sanctuary

of extremism was also identified as a threat eminent soon after the attack. The use of crypto currencies by terrorists, proxy jihad in South Asia, radicalization of women and reciprocal radicalization were further identified as new security dimensions at the discussion. The Speaker expounded that a “cycle of resistance” has been created following the rise of extremism in the country and emphasized the importance of removing the “fear factor”; to break the key element off cycle of resistance curtailing the radicalization in Sri Lanka. In doing so, Major Jayaratne stated the need to strengthen the social contract between government and citizens. The discussion ended after obtaining views and comments of other stakeholders present and a brief Q and A session.

## Views on "Strategic Competition in the Indian Ocean Region" shared by Research Assistant and Hon. Associate Research Fellow Ms. Ruwanthi Jayasekara at the NESA/DKI APCSS Joint Workshop

Near East South Asia Centre for Strategic Studies (NESAC) in partnership with Daniel K. Inouye Asia Pacific Centre for Strategic Studies conducted a workshop on 'Strategic Competition in the Indian Ocean Region' from 30th June-1st July 2021 via Zoom. The workshop aimed at identifying existing and future challenges in the Western Indian Ocean Region and forming strategies to overcome these challenges. The workshop hosted 80+ international invitees.

Ms. Jayasekara shared her ideas on the importance of strategies such as 'multi-directional balancing' for developing countries like Sri Lanka not to bandwagon with any country, but to remain neutral with all. Other points of discussion included; global rivalries, arms race and arms control, militarization of the IOR, piracy, drugs and narcotics, illegal and forced migration, maritime terrorism, IUU fishing, climate change and natural disasters and economic inequality etc



## Security Salon on "Storms on the Horizon: The Interaction of Geopolitics and Environmental Security Threats in the Indian Ocean"



The Institute of National Security Studies (INSS)

Security Salon  
on

**STORMS ON THE HORIZON: THE INTERACTION OF GEOPOLITICS AND ENVIRONMENTAL SECURITY THREATS IN THE INDIAN OCEAN**

Guest Speaker  
Dr. David Brewster

Senior Research Fellow with the National Security College,  
Australian National University

On 30th April 2021  
from 10:00-1130 hrs

for any inquiry please contact  
Ms. Lughadarini Yogaraja Tel: 011 2879 087



"Storms on The Horizon: The Interaction of Geopolitics and Environmental Security Threats in the Indian Ocean" was the title of the first Security Salon arranged by INSS for the second Quarter of 2021, which was held on the 30th April from 1000 hrs -1130 hrs (IST), via Zoom platform. The Guest Speaker for the event was Dr. David Brewster, Senior Research Fellow in the National Security College, Australian National University. The session was moderated by the Director General of INSS, Admiral (Prof.) Jayanath Colombage. The security salon was held virtually, creating a platform with the participation of academics, military personnel and Think Tanks in Sri Lanka covering the subject through multiple dimensions.

At the onset, the Director General Admiral Professor Colombage provided a descriptive analysis and recommendations to overcome and implemented effective and efficient solutions to the threats and challenges within the Indian Ocean Region, along with the Pacific, which has long been an epicenter for a range of natural occurring hazards in the world, but it is also one of the regions with the least capacity to respond.

Adding further significance to the discussion the Guest Speaker presented an informative and insightful presentation of the topic by

providing many key examples of the impact of many natural hazards, such as cyclones, floods and earthquakes magnified by the relatively high population density of parts of the region. The natural environment in the Indian Ocean Region is now being strongly affected and challenged by climate change and other human interactions. This will likely act as an impact multiplier, increasing vulnerabilities caused by natural hazards. It may exacerbate existing threats to human security, including geopolitical, socioeconomic, water, energy, food and health challenges that diminish resilience and increase the likelihood of conflict. The incidence and severity of environmental disruptions will likely grow in coming years as a result of climate change. But these environmental security threats can't be properly understood in isolation from each other, or in isolation from 'conventional' security threats. Therefore, the Security Salon examined the potential for magnification or cascading influences that can make it difficult to predict the threats and consequences in the Indian Ocean Region.

Dr. Brewster highly focused on the Indian Ocean littoral states, which should be considered for a collaborative arrangement enquired for training, capacity building

and disaster response for a range of environmental security threats. The potential to build regional response through an Indian Ocean Environmental Security Partnership, regional arrangement should be encouraged by pooling of a team of expertise and resources with local partners, with a focus on collaboration among military and civilian officials. Importance of collaboration with NGOs (international and local), and Pacific Environmental Security Partnership could provide valuable lessons for similar collaborative mechanism focused on the Indian Ocean. In practice, these disruptions have the potential to go far beyond what is normally understood as discrete environmental challenges. Rather, we need to understand them as 'geo-environmental' challenges, on par with geopolitical challenges in terms of their potential to become a significant disruption to the strategic order. The likely growth in the incidence and severity of environmental disruptions in the Indian Ocean in coming years will require a collective response, preferably one that is organized by the Indian Ocean region itself. The Security Salon gave way to a discussion which was concluded successfully with a number of significant outcomes.



# Public Lecture on “Enhancing Urban Security and Safety: the Port City”



## Institute of National Security Studies (INSS) Closed-door Round Table Discussion on "Enhancing Urban Security and Safety: Port City"



**Rear Admiral Dimuthu Gunawardena**  
RWP\*\*,RSP,VSV,USP,nswc,psc  
Director(Communication and Publication)  
Institute of National Security Studies



**Colonel BMA Balasooriya**  
RWP RSP USP psc  
Colonel General Staff,  
Security Forces West,Sri Lanka Army



**Captain Rohan Joseph**  
RSP, USP, NWC psc,MCPS  
Commanding Officer,SLNS  
Rangalla,  
Sri Lanka Navy



**Group Captain Poojana Gunathilake**  
WWV\*,RWP,RSP,USP,MMS (Mil com),  
Msc(Strat stu), Pg Dip (Def mgt),FAWC,  
psc, qfi  
Commanding Officer of No. 8 Light Transport  
Squadron, Sri Lanka Air Force Base  
Rathmalana, Sri Lanka Air Force

**Date: On 11th June 2021**  
**From: 1400-1530 hrs**



“The Institute of National Security Studies (INSS) organized a virtual Closed Door Round Table Discussion on “Urban Security and Safety: the Port City”, on the 11th of June 2021 from 1400-1530 hours. INSS was the first institute to identify the importance of a strategic security plan for Colombo Port City, at a time there is no discussion about a security plan in the foreseeable future. The panel of distinguished speakers who graced the occasion consisted of experts about Colombo security from the tri-forces of Sri Lanka; Colonel BMA Balasooriya RWP RSP USP psc, Colonel General Staff, Security Forces West from Sri Lanka Army; Captain Rohan Joseph, RSP, USP, NWC, psc, MCPS, the Commanding Officer of SLNS Rangalla, from Sri Lanka Navy and Group Captain Poojana Gunathilake WWV and Bar, RWP, RSP, USP, MMS (Mil com), Msc(Strat stu), Pg Dip (Def mgt), FAWC, psc, qfi, Commanding

Officer of No. 8 Light Transport Squadron, from Sri Lanka Air Force Base in Rathmalana. The Moderator, Rear Admiral Dimuthu Gunawardena, Director of Communications and Publications at INSS welcomed the Guest Speakers and briefly introduced the topic in discussion, explaining the urgency to discuss the physical security of the Colombo Port City. The audience consisted of the INSS staff and invitees from the tri-forces. When port city is emerging as an economic hub and a maritime center in the Indian Ocean, ensuring security becomes the priority for all. Colonel Balasooriya highlighted that joint security operations and conducting foresight analysis are two vital actions to maximize urban security and safety within the Port City area. Captain Joseph discussed the maritime security perspective of the Colombo Port City, emphasizing the importance of a proactive rather than

a reactive response to the foreseeable & unforeseeable threats befalling the new piece of land. He proposed that achieving physical security could only be effected through a multi-pronged approach & an overarching security policy & a strategy, without which the intended economic ambitions would be severely handicapped. Referring to the aerial security dimension, Group Captain Poojana Gunathilake illustrated how the Port City will increase & diversify air movements by private entities, culminating in new security concerns. He therefore recommended re-visiting the existing aerial defence network to upgrade low level detection capabilities & incorporate the Port City to the wider national air security framework. In sum, all three guest speakers stressed on criticality of conducting a comprehensive threat analysis and creating a national policy for the Colombo Port City.

## New Appointments for the Research Department



**Brigadier Mudannayake**



**Ms. Gayanga Dias**



**Ms. Charani Patabendige**

The Institute of National Security Studies recruited new researchers to the research department. Brigadier C. S. N. B. Mudannayake (Retd) RWP USP was serving at INSS during its initial stages was re-appointed on 07th June 2021 as an Honorary Senior Research Fellow. Ms. R. P. Gayanga Uththaravi Dias and Ms. Charani Patabendige were appointed as a Research Assistant and Honorary Associate Research Fellow respectively on 17th June 2021 and 17th May 2021 to the institute.

# Security Salon on “The Money Trail: Foresight into Terrorist Financing, Money Laundering and National Security”



## Institute of National Security Studies

### Security Salon on "The Money Trail: Foresight Into Terrorist Financing, Money Laundering And National Security"

#### Guest Speakers



**Prof. Rohan Gunaratna**  
Director General  
Institute of National Security Studies



**Dr. John George Hatzadony**  
Program Chair  
Homeland Security  
Rabdan Academy



**Charani Patabendige**  
Legal Researcher

**Date : 21st May 2021**  
**From: 1000h - 1200h (IST)**

For inquiries, contact Bodhana Perera via 0771110533



The Institute of National Security Studies (INSS), organized a Security Salon titled “The Money Trail: Foresight into Terrorist Financing, Money Laundering and National Security” which was held on the 21st of May 2021 from 1000hrs to 1200hrs. The Guest Speakers were Professor Rohan Gunaratna, Director General of INSS, Dr. John George Hatzadony from the Rabdan Academy of the United Arab Emirates and Ms. Charani Patabendige, Legal researcher representing INSS. The event was chaired by Dr. John Harisson from the Rabdan Academy of the United Arab Emirates. The event was conducted virtually with participation of eminent scholars, intelligence representatives and academics. The event focused on the evolving dynamics

of Money Laundering and financial traits of terrorism. The panel illustrated and addressed on the current developments in the subject, providing foresight in its threat to national security. Professor Rohan Gunaratna addressed the audience on the domestic threat dimension of terrorism and financing. Stressing on the importance of financial investigations, Professor Gunaratna illustrated the nature of threat at hand. The audience was then addressed by Ms. Patabendige, who elaborated on the legal provisions in the domestic and international legal systems against prevention of Terrorist Financing and Money Laundering. The banking and financial monitoring aspect was followed by Dr. John Hatzadony, providing noteworthy inputs to financial intelligence

in Sri Lanka. Dr. Harisson concluded the speaker presentations by providing an insight into regional terrorist groups and their activities, providing platform for discussion. Dr. Michelle Brooks, former Security Specialist from Rabdan Academy contributed with noteworthy remarks during the discussion, adding value to the topic and context. The Security Salon was concluded by the chair following an interactive discussion with the audience. The audience included key intelligence agencies including the officers from Military, State and Financial intelligence. The projected outcomes are expected to be formally presented to relevant authorities by the Institute through an official outcome document.

## INSS meets ILMA International Girls School

The Director General Prof. Rohan Gunaratna along with the staff of INSS and Mr. A B M Ashraf, Director of the Department of Muslim Religious and Cultural Affairs (DMRCA) had a discussion with the Board of Directors and the staff of ILMA International School on Monday the 21st June 2021 at the INSS conference hall. ILMA International Girls’ School is a leading private Muslim Girls’ school in the country located at Thalakotuwa Gardens in Colombo 05, and boasts of a massive infrastructure consisting of a Primary, Middle and Senior School along

with a Montessori School. The school possesses all the facilities capable of providing a substantial holistic education to Muslim girls in Sri Lanka whilst preserving the values and virtues of Islam. The meeting was aimed at preventing and regulating the religious and education space from being exploited by interested parties.



## Ms. Ruwanthi Jayasekara spoke at the NIICE Global Conclave 2021

NIICE  
Nepal Institute for International Cooperation and Engagement

15:45-17:45 HRS NEW DELHI  
14:45-16:45 HRS KABUL  
16:15-18:15 HRS DHAKA

27 JUNE | 16:00-18:00 HRS  
REVITALIZING SAARC AND BIMSTEC

Connecting Nepal to the World

NIICE  
GLOBAL  
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DR. MAHAN SAEEDI  
DIRECTOR GENERAL MINISTRY OF  
FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF AFGHANISTAN

RUWANTHI JAYASEKARA  
INSTITUTE OF NATIONAL  
SECURITY STUDIES SRI LANKA

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AMB. DR. SHAMBHU RAM SIMKHADA  
FORMER DIPLOMAT AND NATIONAL  
DEFENSE UNIVERSITY

DR. PITI SRISANGNAM  
CHULALONGKORN UNIVERSITY

Nepal Institute for International Cooperation and Engagement (NIICE) hosted their inaugural NIICE Global Conclave 2021 from 26-27th June 2021. This conference hosted 207 speakers from 41 countries through 45 sessions.

In the session titled “Revitalizing SAARC and BIMSTEC”, Research Assistant and Hon. Associate Research Fellow of INSS, Ms. Ruwanthi Jayasekara was a panelist amongst other panelists from India, Afghanistan, Nepal, Maldives and Thailand. Ms. Jayasekara as the youngest panelist brought the Sri Lanka perspective on BIMSTEC via 6 main areas; the role of regional integration, BIMSTEC security agenda, maritime contribution, BIMSTEC trade agreement, tourism and the impact of extra regional countries. She highlighted that when member states become nationalistic, they tend to pay more attention to bilateralism. She concluded with the significance of member states proactively participating in BIMSTEC to develop the essence of multilateralism without making it face similar situation like SAARC.

## INSS holds a meeting titled ‘Religious Peace- A sacred Treasure’

The Institute of National Security Studies (INSS) met the Secretaries of Ministry of Buddhasasana, Religious and Cultural Affairs and Ministry of Education, at INSS premises in 8th floor, Suhurupaya, Baththaramulla on the 22nd of June, 2021 from 12.30 hrs onwards. The main aim of this presentation was to discuss and emphasize on the rising factor of radicalization in the country and the role of the Ministry of Buddhasasana, Religious and Cultural Affairs and Ministry of Education in addressing this issue. Professor Rohan Gunaratna, the Director General of the Institute of National Security Studies (INSS), welcomed all the participants including Secretary to the Ministry of Buddhasasana, Religious and Cultural Affairs, Professor Kapila Gunawardhane, Secretary to the Ministry of Education, Professor Kapila C. K. Perera, Mr. M.H.M Irshad representing All Ceylon Jamiyyathul Ulama (ACJU) and Dr. Rasheen Bappu Adjunct Professor, Anthropologist & Intelligence Data Scientist and Honorary Senior Research Fellow of INSS.

Professor Rohan Gunaratna as the chair

mentioned that Sri Lanka was a peaceful country which had embraced the true Islam generations ago and was living in harmony with other religions and ethnicities from time immemorial. He also stated that with the open market economy introduced in the seventies that various interpretations of Islam were introduced to the country from the Middle East. Professor briefly educated the forum about the background of the Easter Sunday attack and mentioned that the country need to address the first two phases of attack cycle namely exclusivism and extremism before it takes the next stage of terrorism of which the chances of prevention is comparatively less. In addition, he enlightened the audience on the importance of using the three spaces, religious, education and information to stop the spread of exclusivism and extremism and how to secure these spaces from the extremist groups, who are trying to radicalize the mindsets of the people including school children. He also reiterated that with the rise of Muslim extremism in the country, the Ministry of Buddhasasana, Religious and

Cultural Affairs has a pivotal role to take steps to contain these extremist and exclusivist activities.

Secretary to the Ministry of Education, Professor Kapila C. K. Perera also expressed his views on the topic and expressed that strategizing the education in the country is mandatory in order to eradicate the shadows of extremism and exclusivism. He informed the forum that certain steps such as preventing children from not attending to school due to religious reasons, standardizing teacher’s guides, screening teachers and institutes, initiating 20 trilingual schools in different parts of the country are being presently activated by the Ministry as part of a remedial action.

Professor Kapila Gunawardana, Secretary to the Ministry of Buddhasasana, Religious and Cultural Affairs also emphasized the steps taken by his Ministry in fighting extremism. Issuing a circular to stop registering new temples and implementing a framework to register new temples for every religion,



# INSTITUTE OF NATIONAL SECURITY STUDIES

INSS meets Secretaries of Ministry of Buddha Sasana, Religious & Cultural Affairs and Ministry of Education



Professor Rohan Gunaratna  
Director General  
Institute of National Security Studies



Professor Kapila C. K. Perera  
Secretary to the Ministry of  
Education



Professor Kapila Gunawardhane  
Secretary to the  
Ministry of Buddha Sasana  
and Religious Affairs



Professor Rasheen Bappu  
Adjunct Professor, Anthropologist &  
Intelligence Data Scientist  
Hon Senior Research Fellow of INSS



Mr. M.H.M Irshad  
Representative  
All Ceylon Jamiyyathul Ulama (ACJU)

On 22nd of June, 2021 from 12.30 hrs onwards, at the Conference Hall of INSS, 8th Floor, Suhurupaya, Baththaramulla

monitoring importation of religious books, screening of visas issued for security purposes were among them.

Mr. Seth Ganepola, a Law graduate from the University of London, did a presentation on Madrasa schools; unequal distribution

of madrasas and suggestions to regulate them by establishing one madrasa for an area which is recognized by the government and regulating a standard curriculum and facilitating the students in a standard way. The presentation concluded by encouraging the two Secretaries to nominate two

members from their respective Ministries to work with INSS to eradicate the root causes for terrorism to build a stronger and a resilient Sri Lanka.

## INSS bids 'Adios' to Military Research officer Major Cyril Dharmawansa and Research Assistant Savithri Sellaperumage



Major W. H. M. C. Dharmawansa was appointed as a Military Research Officer (Army) to the Institute of National Security Studies on 05th October 2019. He was an

active researcher in the research department and contributed immensely for the institute by organizing, coordinating and participating in national security discussions, and in researches pertaining to national security. He left the institute in preparation for an assignment overseas after serving for one year on 18th of May 2021 and INSS wishes him all the best in his training and mission overseas.

Ms. Savithri Sellaperumage was appointed as a Research Assistant to the Institute of National Security Studies on 22nd March 2021. Prior to that she was serving as an Honorary Associate Research Fellow from 20th June 2019. She handled security updates of the institute with excellence. In addition, she was an active researcher in the research department and contributed immensely for the institute by organizing and

participating in national security discussions, and in researches pertaining to national security. She has also published several commentaries. She left the institute on 19th of May 2021 and INSS wishes her all the best and good luck in her career as an academic in the University of Colombo.



# Countering the False Claims by LTTE

Charani L.C.M. Patabendige

Honorary Associate Research Fellow

Sri Lanka is a country with a rich heritage, a diverse community that is multi-racial, multicultural, multi-ethnic, and multi-religious. This multifariousness is what makes the county alluring. Due to these nuances, a country always become vulnerable to violence, as there are conflicting ideologies. The one single fact that holds these unique strings together is being a 'Sri Lankan'. It is important to foster togetherness as a nation irrespective of differences to reign sovereignty and respect the human rights of all citizens.

## Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE)

LTTE is "widely recognized to be one of the most proficient and dangerous guerrilla/terrorist groups in the world. This reputation is owed to the extremely sophisticated international network that has been built by the organization to sustain its 26 year-long struggle for the creation of an independent state of Tamil Eelam"

The rise of the LTTE, the terrorist group is not an overnight success. The fundamental cause that gave rise to the war is, LTTE the separatist Tamil insurgents demanded a separate land in a sovereign nation, which eventually threatened harmony and democracy. The approach of LTTE was tenacious. It was a sophisticated, well-formed, facilitated and financially stable insurgent group led by Vellupillai Prabhakaran. It had a separate administrative centre, police, military, courts, banks, schools. They were able to seek assistance from powerful nations as per their whims and fancies. The stratagem of LTTE is strictly in breach of human rights

law and International Humanitarian Law. Moreover, they assassinated prominent world leaders, civil servants, parliamentarians, journalists, military officers, police officers and the public as a whole. Additionally, they attacked nonmilitary targets such as Central Bank, Bandaranaike International Air Port Colombo, religious places including Temple of Tooth Relic, Jaya Sri Maha Bodhiya. Moreover, LTTE closed the gates of the Mavil Aru reservoir and cut the water supply to villages by preventing access to water. Furthermore, they used human shields, detained civilians, used suicide bombers and conscripted child soldiers. Additionally, they promoted extremism, radicalized and brainwashed people to the extent of "willingness to swallow the cyanide pill by the LTTE [is] seen as commitment to the Tamil cause" . Moreover, they posed nontraditional security threats such as drug smuggling.

## International response

As a result, the notorious, well-established LTTE terrorist group was proscribed by many countries including Sri Lanka, the United Kingdom, Canada, India, United States, European Union and Malaysia. Looking at the above atrocities committed by LTTE it is evident that several International humanitarian customary laws have been breached. Such as the principle of distinction where they were unable to distinguish military and nonmilitary targets . Harming specifically protected persons and objects, use of weapons and violating laws on the treatment of civilians and persons hors de combat.

## Peace initiatives

The Government of Sri Lanka (GOSL) attempted to negotiate with LTTE and



mediate the matter. "Indeed, the LTTE entered negotiations five times,...In mid-2006, sensing victory was in its grasp, the LTTE deliberately ended the Norwegian-brokered ceasefire...In response, the Sri Lankan government finally decided to change its strategic objective, from negotiating with the LTTE to annihilating it." . Sri Lanka's former foreign secretary, Palitha Kohona stated that LTTE "used the cease-fire agreement to regroup, rearm forces". GOSL successfully defeated the LTTE by conducting a humanitarian mission.

Read full paper at <https://www.colombotelegraph.com/index.php/countering-the-false-claims-by-ltte/>

Ms. Charani Patabendige is an Honorary Associate Research fellow at the Institute of National Security Studies (INSS), premier think tank on National Security established under the aegis of Ministry of Defence. The opinion expressed is her own and not necessarily reflective of the institute.

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