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NATIONAL JOINT COMMITTEE

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**“”PRESS RELEASE””**

**Statement of the National Joint Committee (NJC) on the massacre carried out by Islamic Terrorists**

The National Joint Committee of Sri Lanka unequivocally condemn the brutal massacre carried out by a group of terrorists of misplaced Islamic faith, on the holy day of Easter at Several Leading churches and a number of popular hotels in Colombo. To the Sri Lankans who successfully eliminated the L.T.T.E terror ten years ago, the tragedy on the Easter Day was an unexpected tragedy which killed more than 250 and injured more than 500 persons including about 40 foreigners.

The N J C expresses its deepest sympathies to those affected families,

At the conclusion of a 30 year war, Sri Lanka was getting back to normalcy when this tragedy struck the nation. We note with disgust that the government completely ignored the intelligence reports received by it from time to time. Had the government taken seriously of their paramount responsibility to safeguard the security of the nation, all these deaths would have been prevented.

We have on numerous occasions pointed out the idiocy of remanding our Intelligence Officials without sufficient evidence being available against them up to date, no plaint had been filed against any of these officials. It is only through the intervention of courts that at least some of these officials have been granted bail pending trial.

We strongly condemn the government's policy of taking punitive action against our valiant soldier's at the behest of anti Sri Lankan elements hell-bent and punishing our security forces.

We state with much regret the ill-advised decision of the government to co-sponsor the UNHRC resolution 30/1 against Sri Lanka through which we undertook to repeal the Prevention of Terrorism Act which assisted us immensely to end the 30 year war and to replace it with a fragile piece of legislation placing our national security in jeopardy.

The Counter Terrorism Law now before parliament includes clauses which would prevent "former citizens" now domiciled overseas and engaging in acts of terrorism in Sri Lanka from being prosecuted under this law without the permission of the country they have taken citizenship. Thus former terrorists now forming part of the LTTE Tamil diaspora and other extremists who have given up Sri Lankan citizenship are out of reach of the proposed Anti-Terrorist Law.

It is now obvious that this Law has been prepared by the very elements responsible for the recent violence if not such exclusionary clauses could not have crept into our proposed Law.

**It is sad that the government of Sri Lanka is a party to this despicable act.**

Accordingly we urge the government,

- (1) To forthwith proscribe permanently all extremist organization decimating Wahabi extremist violence and Wahhabi extremist ideology including
  - (a) The Sri Lanka Tawheed Jamaath (SLTJ)
  - (b) National Tawaheed Jammaath (NTJ)
  - (c) Nation Tawaheed Jammaath
  - (d) Tamilnadu Tawaheed Jammaath (TNJJ)
  - (e) Tharnl Athar Athavia
  - (f) ISIL

By enacting necessary legislation similar to legislation enacted in 1978 to proscribe the LTTE

- (2) To immediately close down all illegal Madarasa schools in Sri Lanka engaging in disseminating racial and religious hatred, and intolerance.
- (3) To refrain from permitting any private university such as the Private Batticaloa Campus in Sri Lanka to teach Islamic theology except as a campus within the faculty of a state university which would function under the supervision of the government so as to prevent any extreme ideology with violent disposition being disseminated within the country.
- (4) To release the Intelligence Officers taken into custody and terminate all persecutions initiated against our security forces.
- (5) To ensure that all military camps that were in operation on 19<sup>th</sup> May 2009 be re-established if any of them had been closed down already.

- (6) Not to permit any foreign armed personnel, foreign armed services, secret agencies, to operate in Sri Lanka under the ostensible excuse of helping Sri Lanka to eradicate IS terrorism. The government should forthwith enact legislation which requires any security agency of any other state if they are operating as an attachment to any foreign embassy in Sri Lanka to register with the government of Sri Lanka so that their operations could be monitored by the government.
- (7) To ban any persons in any public place wearing any dress or mask in a manner that the identity of such a person cannot be identified including the Niquab, Burkah, or other similar dress
- (8) Refrain from recognizing or allowing any refugee who is not a citizen of Sri Lanka, to remain in Sri Lanka and immediately repatriate all those refugees who have been permitted to remain in Sri Lanka.

In conclusion we wish to place on record our absolute disgust the manner in which the TNA and other racist political parties in the conduct of themselves with regard to matters affecting our national security. The TNA including the former Opposition Leader Mr R. Sampanthan was constantly making the demand both locally and overseas to remove the military from the Northern & Eastern Provinces.

They were ably assisted by some of the Muslim Politicians and foreign funded NGO's.

The former High Commissioner of the UNHRC was persistent in making the demand to demilitarise our country through his reports and statement.

The conduct of the former foreign minister Mr Mangala Samaraweera is equally putrid and treacherous.

We urge this so called International Community to at least now to allow us to live in peace without interfering with the internal affairs of Sri Lanka.

Yours sincerely

Fmr. Snr DIG H.M.G.B.M. Kotakadeniya (Rtd) & Lt Col Anil Amarasekera (Rtd)  
Joint Presidents  
National Joint Committee