



தமிழீழ விடுதலைப் புலிகள்

Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam

LTTE Political Headquarters,
Kilinochchi,
Wanni.
31-10-2003.

His Excellency Hans Brattskar,
Norwegian Ambassador to Sri Lanka,
Colombo,
Sri Lanka.

Your Excellency,

Please allow me to begin by thanking you for coming to Wanni to receive the Tamil Proposal for an Interim Self-Governing Authority (ISGA).

During the current peace process, while the South has enjoyed peace dividends, the NorthEast has yet to reap such rewards. While the South has largely returned to normalcy, in the NorthEast tens of thousands of people remain displaced from their homes, without jobs, and unable to resume normal life. In short, the peace thus far has been asymmetric with more benefits accruing to the least affected areas. Given the possibility that negotiations to resolve the conflict could continue for months or even years, there is an urgent need to address the needs of the people of the NorthEast while negotiations to achieve a lasting solution to the conflict continue.

The failure to address the needs of the people of the NorthEast is due in large part to the ineffectiveness of the existing Institutions operating here. In addition, the Sub-Committee on Immediate Humanitarian and Rehabilitation Needs (SIHRN) and other Sub-Committees formed during the peace negotiations have failed to address the urgent humanitarian needs of the people. This is due to the composition of these Subcommittees, which has repeatedly led to deadlock, and an inability to act on urgent problems.

The continued suffering of the population of the NorthEast has, in turn, complicated efforts to negotiate and to reach agreement on the essential elements of a long-term settlement to the conflict.

As a result, it has become apparent that a new system of governance is essential to bring normalcy to the war-ravaged NorthEast, and that there must be an Interim Self-Governing Authority to accomplish this task. The Government of Sri Lanka (GOSL) has recognized this in its 2000 election manifesto, as well as in its own initial proposal, which has served as a useful



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starting point. However, one clear lesson to be gleaned from the peace process thus far is that in order to accomplish the immediate return, resettlement, and rehabilitation of tens of thousands of internally displaced persons and refugees, and in order to reconstruct the NorthEast's economic, educational, and cultural infrastructure, it is essential that any interim governing authority have plenary power. The proposed agreement attached herewith takes into consideration the needs of the Tamil people in the NorthEast as well as the legitimate interests of the GOSL. The creation of an Interim Self-Governing Authority is also an efficient means of building institutional capacity, which will be essential to post conflict government.

Our proposal has been formulated after thorough consultations with international experts, as well as with parties to similar conflicts which have now been peacefully resolved or are in the process of being so resolved, and after substantial discussion with major segments of the Tamil People internally as well as abroad. We have prepared the attached comprehensive proposal, on behalf of the Tamil people, for the establishment of an Interim Self-Governing Authority.

The proposed Agreement to establish an Interim Self-Governing Authority is based on the mutual consent of the Parties, namely the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam and the Government of Sri Lanka is compatible with the international practice of establishing interim authorities to address urgent humanitarian needs while negotiations for a final settlement remain ongoing. The proposed Agreement also conforms with the existing precedents in the current peace process, including the Ceasefire Agreement, the establishment of the Sri Lanka Monitoring Mission (SLMM), and the creation of the SIHRN and the North East Reconstruction Fund (NERF).

In formulating the ISGA, we have also taken into consideration the *de facto* government of the LTTE for the majority of the NorthEast of the island of Sri Lanka. In doing so, the proposed Agreement conforms with the principle of effectiveness.

To ensure the fair and effective operation of the Interim Self-Governing Authority, the proposed Agreement provides for:

- 1) Representation within the Interim Self-Governing Authority for the Tamil People, the Sinhala community, and the Muslim community;
- 2) Provision for discussions with representatives of the Muslim community in the NorthEast on their role in the ISGA;
- 3) Plenary power necessary for the governance of the NorthEast region, including powers relating to resettlement, rehabilitation, reconstruction, and development;
- 4) An independent Judiciary;



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- 5) The creation of an independent Human Rights Commission to ensure that all national and international human rights standards are fully complied with in the NorthEast;
- 6) Institutionalized protection of the cultural and religious interests of all those who reside within the NorthEast;
- 7) The vacation of civilian areas by the occupying armed forces;
- 8) Regular auditing of the ISGA's spending according to international standards;
- 9) Elections to be held after five years, if no final settlement is reached and implemented; and
- 10) The settlement of disputes over the interpretation or implementation of the agreement according to internationally-accepted norms.

We respectfully request that you provide this document to the Government of Sri Lanka and that you arrange for a meeting at which we can discuss this proposal, in your presence, with the representatives of the GOSL at a mutually convenient time and venue.

We would also like to take this opportunity to thank you once again for your invaluable assistance and all that you have done to help bring lasting peace to the island of Sri Lanka.

We look forward to continuing our dialogue with the GOSL and to reaching rapid agreement on the creation of an Interim Self-Governing Authority so as to effectively bring normalcy and economic development to the Tamil People in the NorthEast.

We trust the creation of the ISGA will provide a conducive environment for negotiating towards a peaceful resolution of the conflict in the island.

Sincerely,

(S.P. Tamilselvan)
Head of Political Wing,
Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam.