



LONDON INITIATIVE

PublicPolicyThinkTank

17th January 2021

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

**And, Attention to;
Secretary - Experts Committee to Draft New Constitution,
expertscommpublic@yahoo.com**

Dear Sir,

PROPOSAL TO BAN THE GLORIFICATION OF THE LTTE IN SRI LANKAN PARLIAMENT

We, the London Initiative, are a group of Sri Lankan expatriates that seek to promote peace, equality and the progression of Sri Lanka. We have previously been involved in various activities in line with our prime objectives to maintain the image of Sri Lanka.

On 4th February 2020, you highlighted that your government would not allow extremist organizations that pave the way for terrorism to further function in the country. In order to further this statement, we request that the Sri Lankan government adopt laws similar to Germany in banning all kind of terrorist symbols and the like that incite hatred and extremism within the nation.

Rise in LTTE symbolism in Sri Lanka

In recent times, there has been a noticeable rise in use of LTTE media and propaganda across the Sri Lankan public as well as the Parliament. For example, several pro-LTTE Tamil MP's have referred to LTTE symbolism in the form of the LTTE flag, emblem and photos of Prabhakaran in order to glorify the LTTE terrorism in public and internationally. Under the cover of parliamentary privileges, these MPs propagate the

Tamil separatism and Tamil terrorism inside the parliament, using public money and time.

The use of such symbols, flags and emblems have often been used for the purposes of glorifying the LTTE's separatist agenda. This poses a risk to the Sri Lankan public and the wider international community as a whole. The dissemination of such propaganda may mislead the public to sympathise with the LTTE and even reignite the separatist agenda. The use of LTTE symbols and media may also affect vulnerable young minds with ideological manipulation for extremist propaganda.

As a result, we believe that the Sri Lankan government must take action to prevent the promotion of the terrorist organisation and all sorts of separatism that has caused numerous setbacks and devastation to our homeland.

German law and implementation in Sri Lanka

Volksverhetzung, the “incitement to hatred”, is the German concept in criminal law that has been banned in order to prevent the rise of Neo-Nazism, hate speech and extremist ideologies. German law states that any dissemination of propaganda may be punished with imprisonment for not more than three years with the exception of the use of the symbols for teaching, historic or artistic purposes.

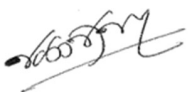
In view of above we have carried out a detailed study on the development of German law to ban all kinds of Nazism not only German but across the Europe in Sri Lankan context as to how LTTEsm can be banned in Sri Lanka constitutionally.

We enclosed herewith the detailed report prepared by “London Initiative” as to how pro-LTTE front organizations and Tamil politicians misusing the loopholes in the law and how glorifying the Tamil separatism and terrorism.

Our Recommendation

We strongly recommend your government seek to implement similar laws with similar punishments to discourage the glorification of pro-LTTE agendas of terrorism and separatism within the parliament, within Sri Lanka and outside of Sri Lanka by the Sri Lankans.

Yours Faithfully,



Jayaraj Palihawadana ,
Convener - London Initiative

Copies;

Hon. Prime Minister of Sri Lanka
Minister of Foreign Affairs of Sri Lanka,
Minister of Justice of Sri Lanka
Minister of Public Security of Sri Lanka
Hon. Speaker of the Parliament of Sri Lanka