

# SOVEREIGNTY BETRAYED!

**Dictators and those who are straining to become dictators are unable to confront imperialists' pressure and they are also unable to get independence and sovereignty for masses says the Leader of the JVP Somawansa Amarasinghe. Speaking at a media conference held in Colombo today (23rd) Mr. Amarasinghe said the inability of Mahinda Rajapaksa and his government to defend independence and sovereignty in Sri Lanka should be considered seriously.**

In such an environment imperialists led by the USA take the opportunity to put forward human rights resolutions to spread their hegemony added Com. Amarasinghe.

While the USA and western countries pressurize Sri Lanka in economic, political, military

and cultural sectors the IMF, the World Bank and World Trade Organization carry out their economic agendas and such covering organizations as the UNO are deployed to carry out political interferences said Mr. Amarasinghe. He also said imperialists are carrying on their agenda regarding its

world military plan and pointed out that Sri Lanka has signed a military pact with the USA. He said this pact would enable the USA to use the coastal belt, harbours and the air space for military purposes.

Speaking further the Leader of the JVP said, "There was a dictator

during the 83-87 period. Mr. J.R. Jayawardene could not safeguard sovereignty of the country. He spoke arrogantly but made Sri Lanka a cowardly country in front of India and finally knelt before India. Imperialists pounced on countries recently. Iraq and Libya were used for interests of imperialists. Many did not see or comprehend the future correctly. As such, they rallied with imperialists. However, there are countries that confront imperialism courageously. Cuba is such a country. Cuba has a people's leader. Masses rally

with such leaders. We do not have such leaders. Dictators cannot rally masses. Masses are not with dictators.

We should explain our stand regarding the LLRC report. We do not accept this report. Its composition, the facts in the report and its appointment are wrong. Imperialists pressurized the leader of the country to appoint this commission. That's why we say this commission is not correct. This commission cannot reach correct decisions.

*Contd. pg. 7*



2

**SL-INDIA  
RELATIONS  
WON'T CHANGE**



3

**Socialism in Cuba**

**DOUBLE  
STANDARDS**

4



3rd National Convention of Socialist Women's Union held in Colombo on 8th March, 2012.



# SL-INDIA RELATIONS WON'T CHANGE

Extracted from the *Dailymirror* interview with comrade Somawansa Amarasinghe

**Q: The government has constantly stated that it needs time to implement to the recommendations of the LLRC report, the JVP'S ideas of the Report aside, do you not think this is a fair argument?**

**Somawansa**

**Amarasinghe:** It is not, the government is already too late. They had with them the JVP's proposals and the ideas that they should have implemented right after the end of the war. However, they took so much of time to implement these proposals and the proper mechanisms for their implementation because their primary concern was not the people of this country. The primary concern of this government from day one after the end of the war was to consolidate its power. Human Rights, Accountability, rehabilitation, reconciliation and democracy are all issues that should have been looked into three years ago. The JVP made proposals for lifting of emergency, a Truth Commission and a Rehabilitation and Resettlement programmes and to address accountability issues. Therefore the government is already too late.

As the JVP we do not agree with the LLRC report and moreover we do not believe that democracy can be restored in this country under a capitalist government. The LLRC report does not address all the issues of the people of this country. The issues of this country spring from the capitalist system and implementation of the recommendations of the LLRC will not bring any solution.

**Q: Considering the fact that the government has worked itself into a corner, what is your assessment of the**

**diplomatic defensive they carried out in Geneva?**

**Somawansa**

**Amarasinghe:** The problem is that Sri Lanka has too many Foreign Ministers and they have no clear Foreign Policy. They carried out a poor campaign in Geneva because they did not care what happened to this country which is why they left Geneva and came back to Sri Lanka few days after Minister Samarasinghe delivered his statement before the United Nations Human Rights Council. When the Sri Lankan delegation was not in Geneva this allowed for the United States and other foreign powers to carry out their campaign and very successfully consolidated their plan to attack Sri Lanka. We also heard from many quarters that there was huge division within the delegation and many disagreements. I don't want to mention name with this regard.

**Q: External Affairs Minister G. L. Peris and Presidential envoy for Human Rights Mahinda Samarasinghe are the leaders of the delegation to Geneva. Therefore what do you think are their innate strengths and weaknesses?**

**Somawansa**

**Amarasinghe:** You cannot look at their strengths and weaknesses because the weakness is not in them it is in the foreign policy of this country. This country does not have a clear foreign policy. The foreign policy of Sri Lanka is reflective of its domestic policy. There is no democracy or respect for human rights in its domestic policy and this is reflected in its foreign policy-the two cannot be formulated separately they are both the same. The weaknesses of our foreign policy and the lack of proper direction has

led to this situation where the US and other Western powers are able to take control of our affairs.

**Q: What do you think are India's reasons for the United States Sponsored resolution and against Sri Lanka at the United Nations Human Rights Council Sessions?**

**Somawansa**

**Amarasinghe:** The first reason is the political situation within India; the Congress party is no longer in a strong position. Manmohan Singh does not have a strong and dominant position within the Indian Parliament a Therefore they cannot risk angering the politicians



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in the Tamil Nadu region. Congress Party suffered a monumental loss in Uttar Pradesh recently. Congress lost even Amethi. Therefore this is not the time for the Congress to



lose its majority in the parliament and go for a General Election in India. The political instability felt by Singh is what has led to this decision.

Secondly, the Indian leadership needs to retain its bargaining power vis-à-vis Sri Lankan leaders. Make no mistake the

Indian politicians in Tamil Nadu or elsewhere do not have any interest in the welfare of the Tamil people in this country. If they cared about the Tamils then they cared about the Tamils then they would not occupy Sampur, denying lands for the displaced Tamils and others from that area. The Tamil politicians don't love the Tamil people in India. We are the one who love the people including the Tamils in this country. Thirdly, the blame has to return to the Sri Lankan Government for waiting until a foreign outsider wagged his finger at us and impede

on our sovereignty. As soon as the war was over the JVP presented to the government a programme containing all the necessary steps it should have taken to safeguard

the people in the North and the East, grant them their rights and ensure that they live in peace. We proposed a mechanism of reconciliation and pointed out the way for the Government to restore democracy, human rights and good governance in the country. We also called for a "truth Commission." However none of these things were comprehended by the government and they ignored our proposals. If they had heeded our advice at that time then Sri Lanka would not be in this position.

The Primary reason for this situation is that instead of being concentrated on the reconciliation and rehabilitation process after the war this government was only interested in consolidating its power. That has always been the agenda of this government and it has always been the only area of concern. Therefore democracy, human rights, accountability, rehabilitation and reconciliation were all put on the backburner to ensure that all the energy of the ruling party was focused on the consolidation of their power- that is why three years after the war we have no progress.

As the JVP we foresaw the difficult position the government would face in the years to come, which is why we presented them our programme.

**Q: What do you think**

**will be the consequences of this vote for future relations between India and Sri Lanka?**

**Somawansa**

**Amarasinghe:** The Sri Lankan leaders have always taken the stance to surrender to the Indian leaders and therefore in this situation as well the same thing will happen. The relationship between India and Sri Lanka will change; Our leaders have always been bowing down to India and this will continue. The present government will surrender to India and allow it to retain the position of big brother of the region.

The problem with this government is that it has always underestimated other countries in the region of elsewhere in the world. The Government is incapable of understanding the manner in which other sovereign states think and operate. Therefore it is always being hoodwinked. This has resulted in the fact that other countries are able to interfere in the matters of Sri Lanka and impede on the sovereignty of our country- because the government is weak internationally and does not have the intellect to understand the manner in which other states operate.

**Q: You say that there is poverty of diplomacy in this country and this is what has led to Sri Lanka being in a tight corner internationally. If this is the case then should not the opposition be blamed for this situation, because it has failed in its role of being a formidable force against the autocracy of the government?**

**Somawansa**

**Amarasinghe:** You can accuse any other party not working towards achieving democracy in this country, but you cannot accuse the JVP.

**Q: But what have you achieved in your fight for democracy?**

**Somawansa**

**Amarasinghe:** We will continue to fight for democracy in this country and we will not stop till the people are free and we love this country and we will fight for our people.



# Socialism in Cuba

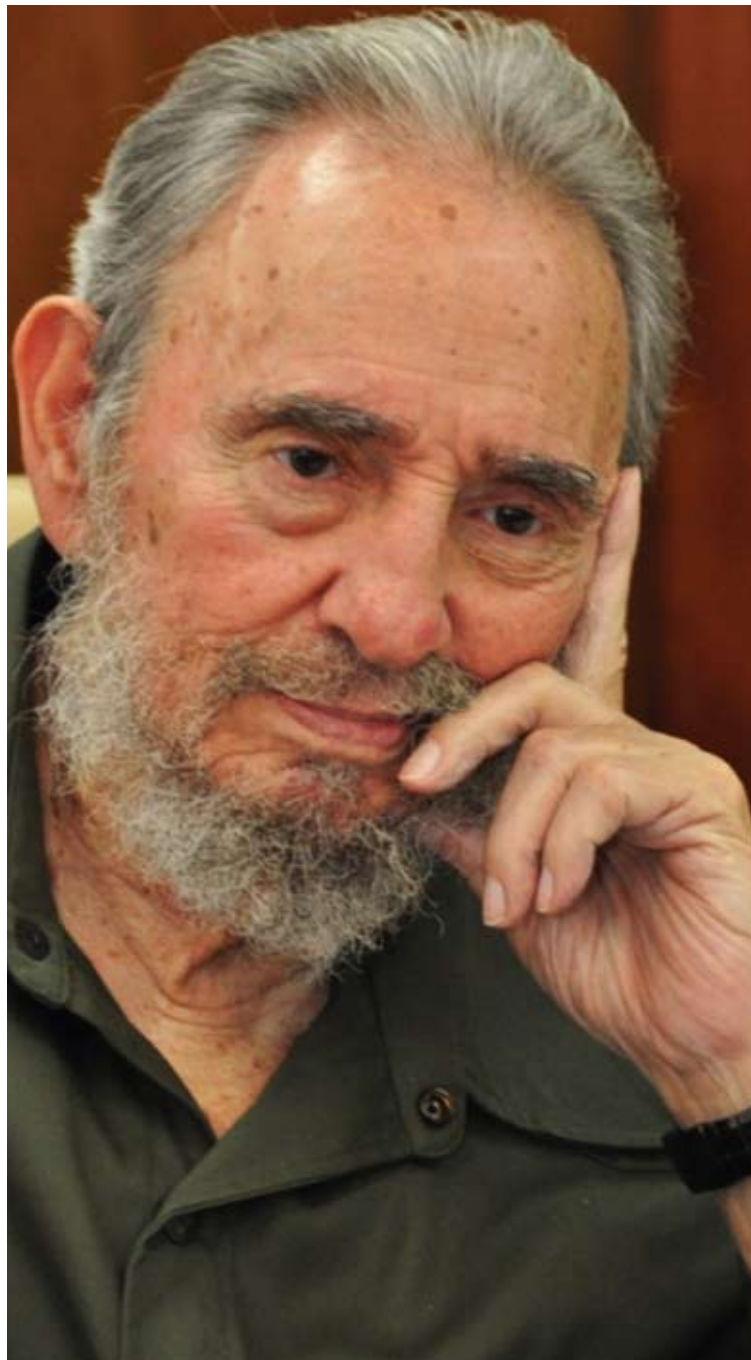
In an all day conference, February 10, 2012, some 120 authors, professors, and journalists, from dozens of Caribbean, American and African countries, met with Fidel Castro. Those attending were invited participants for the Intellectual Encounters for Peace and the Preservation of the Environment event at the Havana Convention Center. Topics discussed in the nine-hour session were world peace, environmentalism, neo-liberal capitalism, and the continuing importance of socialism.

Fidel Castro (age 85) urged those assembled to a moral duty to prevent the extinction of humankind and challenge the expanding predations of neo-liberal global capitalism. He expressed concern for the inevitable collapse of Wall Street and the international monetary system. Paper money is worthless without backing from gold or other assets, Castro asserted. Environmental destruction is classless in that eventually all will suffer—both the rich and the poor—if neo-liberal capitalism continues on its rampart global destruction, he professed.

Castro's main message was clear. Cuban socialism is an international example of a humanitarian economy in the world. "We have over 80,000 doctors," he said, and "we are currently training 830 Pakistani medical students and many others from around the world."

Fidel Castro, reverently referred to as "Commandante" by many of those present, was flanked by the Cuban Minister of Culture, Abel Prieto, and the president of the Cuban Book Institute, Zuleika Romay. The participants in the encounter were invited guests to the 2012 International Cuban Book Fair that ran from February 10 to 19 in Havana.

The nine-hour session



went from 1:00 PM until after 10:00 PM, with only two short coffee breaks. Fidel gave extended responses during the event, commenting on the presentations, asking questions, and recalling the history of the Cuban revolution and Cuba's humanitarian efforts over the past fifty plus years. Some 40 people presented briefings on their concerns. The lies and propaganda of the corporate/capitalist media were important themes for the day. One participant remarked how the global corporate media seeks to create a monoculture of the mind inside the capitalist countries.

As an invited author for the International Cuban Book Fair, I was honored to participate in the discussions held with the

"Commandante." His energy is inspiring and his command of history and contemporary issues is phenomenal. Castro had serious health issues a few years back, but remains mentally alert. He walked with assistance from his bodyguards, but remained fully participatory in the nine-hour session.

Cuba is an international example of the potentialities of socialism, and an ongoing symbolic challenge to marketplace capitalism. In the United States there is a continuing propaganda drumbeat against the Cuban revolution. Castro is often described as a military dictator repressing his people and blocking freedoms in Cuba. But this description ignores some undisputed social advances

Contemporary neo-liberal capitalism undercuts wages, unions and social welfare, which results in the expansion of poverty, hunger, and extreme inequality. Cuba is a demonstration that humanitarian socialism can work for the masses. Cuba is the number one organic farming country in the world. Cuba has full employment, zero starvation, and some of the best health care in the world.

under his leadership that could serve as an example of what a society can do when it turns its resources to humanitarian purposes.

Contemporary neo-liberal capitalism undercuts wages, unions and social welfare, which results in the expansion of poverty, hunger, and extreme inequality. Cuba is a demonstration that humanitarian socialism can work for the masses. Cuba is the number one organic farming country in the world. Cuba has full employment, zero starvation, and some of the best health care in the world. Cuba's life expectancy is equal to the United States and education up through university is paid for by the state for all students.

As a media-reform advocate, participant and observer, I watched tens of thousands of young people arrive at the International Book Fair in the old Spanish fort overlooking downtown Havana. These are multi-generations of people who have never suffered media advertisements. The University of Havana literature majors, with whom I spent a full day, laughed hysterically when I asked them if they wanted a McDonald's Happy Meal. They represent a people who accept the equality of socialism and collective growth of human betterment, and will strongly defend their way of life if necessary. As literature majors they have completed three years of Latin, and are starting classical Greek. They have had courses in historical and modern Latin American and European literature, and art. Their university education costs them nothing, and the government provides all textbooks and living expenses.

After the collapse of the USSR, Cuba lost most of its subsidies from the socialist block of nations. The early 1990s were a difficult transition. This was when Cuba opened its doors to those who wanted to leave. Some 30,000 people choose to move to the United States. Yet, ten million people choose to stay and build the independent socialist country that Cuba is today. Several other South American countries, notably Venezuela and Ecuador, have taken note of Cuba's successes and are moving in a similar direction seeking socialist equality.

Some in the US believe that when the senior Cuban leadership from the 1959 revolution passes away, US corporations and displaced Cubans abroad will waltz back into Havana to return capitalism to the island. It is very clear to me, and many contemporary observers, that multiple generations of socialist Cubans will never allow this to happen.

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# DOUBLE STANDARDS AND GENEVA



United Nations Human Rights Council in Geneva is a hot topic in Sri Lanka these days. The 19th session of the Council is being held in Geneva until 23rd March 2012.

The Council consisting 47 nations has become the International Forum where Sri Lanka and the United States of America and other Western countries are being unmasked. They are being rejected for having double standards.

Both sides are dealing with the final recommendations of the LLRC. Both sides do not seem to have any fundamental difference regarding the final recommendations. Sri Lankan government says that it has already started implementing the recommendations. The other side wants Sri Lanka to expedite the process.

## ORIGIN OF THE REPORT OF THE LESSONS LEARNT AND RECONCILIATION COMMISSION

The preamble of the report says:

"The Lessons Learnt and Reconciliation Commission (LLRC) was appointed by His Excellency President Mahinda Rajapakse in terms of the Presidential Warrant dated 15th May 2010. The Commission's mandate was to look back at the conflict

Sri Lanka suffered as well as to look ahead for an era of healing and peace building in the country."

"Sri Lanka now faces a moment of unprecedented opportunity. Rarely does such an opportunity come along without equally important attendant challenges. This is especially true of any meaningful effort towards post-conflict peace building following a protracted conflict. Sri Lanka's case is no exception. Terrorism and violence have ended. Time and space have been created for healing and building sustainable peace and security so that the fruits of democracy and citizenship can be invested in an all-inclusive political process of dialogue and accommodation so that the conflict by other means will not continue."

The Commissioners say that Sri Lanka was facing a moment of opportunity on the 15th May 2010. This is incorrect. The moment of opportunity was there one year before, on the 19th May 2009, the day on which the end of war was declared. The President was already one year late when he appointed the Commission. Since 19th May 2009, The President Mahinda Rajapakse was not serious enough to look back at the conflict or

a people friendly program so that the fruits of that program could be equitably enjoyed by all Sri Lankans.

The people of Sri Lanka were keen to hear what the President was to say before the parliament on the 20th May 2009, just after the end of the war. The President who addressed the parliament that day failed to convince the people that he was well aware of the challenges and opportunities that Sri Lanka was facing.

As the only political party

## JVP insisted in that program that

1. A task force to rebuild North and East must be established.
2. Immediate action must be taken to resettle the displaced people. Resettlement program must be completed within six months.
3. Those who were victims of ethnic cleansing must be resettled. For that purpose all information must be gathered.
4. The families that lost their loved ones must be compensated adequately.
5. A dialogue must be started to find a solution based on democracy equality and equal opportunity for all citizens of Sri Lanka for the national question.
6. A truth and national reconciliation commission must be established to look into the injustice faced by citizens aiming at healing the animosities.
7. Law and order and judicial institutions must be re-established in the North and the East.
8. Democratic rights must be restored.

The President and the government ignored the proposed initiative.

to look ahead for an era of healing and peace building. The President was busy in consolidating his power ignoring his duty to achieve economic development, to restore normalcy in the country and to take meaningful actions towards national reconciliation. A sensible person should not expect the President, the head of the capitalist state of Sri Lanka to implement

in Sri Lanka which is engaged in responsible and sensible political activities foresaw the issues the country was heading due to the failures of the President and the Government placed a program of work to be implemented by the Government and all the other political parties as an initiative to address the burning issues of the People living in the North and the

East. The program was placed before the country on the 27th May 2009, one week after the end of the war.

The President invited the Secretary General of the UNO to Sri Lanka just after the end of the war. Before he left the country Ban Ki-moon and the President issued a joint statement. The joint statement paved the way for international intervention in internal affairs of Sri Lanka. Ban Ki-moon later appointed the Darusman committee to investigate and advise him about the alleged war crimes took place in Sri Lanka.

In the year 2010 Secretary of State of USA visited Sri Lanka.

The President and the Government waited till foreign diplomats to visit Sri Lanka and raise their concerns about what alleged to have happened in Sri Lanka.

The LLRC has been appointed. Its report came out in 2011. The President was not prudent enough to implement the JVP's program in 2009. He offered the opportunity of interfering in internal affairs of Sri Lanka, on a silver plate to the USA, a country that is responsible for crimes against humanity.

Meanwhile Rajapakse regime is fighting a shadow fight with USA misleading the people of Sri Lanka. There is no fundamental difference between what Sri Lanka and USA saying at the Geneva Human Rights Council. Sri Lanka is willing to implement the recommendations of the LLRC. USA wants Sri Lanka to expedite the process of implementing the LLRC recommendations.

The people of Sri Lanka and elsewhere are questioning the right of USA to interfere in internal affairs of Sri Lanka. USA is a country which is responsible for crimes committed by that country in many countries in the world during its short history. The time has come to question USA's aggressive policies and crimes committed by that country at International Forums.

# FAST DETERIORATING LAW AND ORDER SITUATION IN SRI LANKA

The law and order situation in the country is fast deteriorating. Murder, robbery, arson are rampant. The President and the government are silent like blinds, deaf and dumb. The ordinary people have to take to the streets and burn houses belong to the alleged criminals. The politicians and politics have taken the law into their hands degrading the police. The politicians give orders to the police of what to do and what not to do. It is an open secret that politicians are behind almost all crimes spread throughout the country.

The double murder at Kahawatta is related to a drug distribution racket. According to the media the daughter that was murdered had been duped by the murderous neighbor to carry a parcel of drugs that looked like a parcel of food to one of his accomplices. However, this vile act was exposed and the murderer killed both mother and daughter to keep the act a secret.

Politics is a ceaseless and compulsory factor that is entangled with the drug racket. However, a politician in the opposition could never carry out such illegal rackets. It is necessary to have a very close connection with the ruling party. It is not once or twice that accusations were levelled at government strongmen of being the kingpins of a drug racket. With the murder of Bharatha Lakshman Premachandra the close relatives of his family and friends accused his murderers of having close connections with drug rackets. On another occasion the Members of Kelaniya Pradeshiya Sabha (local council) charged that 'drug money' was flowing to a government politician. The media has revealed that the shadow of a powerful minister of the government has been behind the murders at Kahawatta.

The coordinating secretary of a cabinet minister from Ratnapura is the elder brother of the murderer. He was a ruling party Member of the Godakawela Pradeshiya Sabha. It is said that this person had scolded the Inspector of Police when a statement

was to be taken from the murderer, he attempted to suppress investigations and the delay in arresting the murderers was also due to this person's obstructions. If not for several accidental occurrences the murderers wouldn't have been arrested and the incident would have been forgotten. However, the coordinating secretary of the minister has fled; he would have been tipped off. The relevant minister tells the media that he has sacked the coordinating secretary and the vehicle that had been given to him would be taken back.

We are expected to believe that there were no political connections with the drug racket and that the Member's brother was not involved in any drug racket; soon enough we will be told that the mother and daughter killed each other!

It is not surprising that residents in the area, who were distressed by the savagery of the crimes, have lost confidence in the institutions that maintain law and order. Therefore when they hear such fabrications, they take the law into their own hands to campaign against injustice.

A few months ago residents in the Karandeniya area set fire to houses and other assets of suspects of the murder of a doctor in the area. This is how the minds of the people work; they think the perpetrators should be punished in such a manner.



This angle of thinking is justifiable in a background where Bharatha Lakshman Premachandra's murderers are at large. However, giving judgment and punishing mere suspects before they are legally proved guilty is a dangerous precedence.

It is true that the existing capitalist legal system is full of shortcomings. However, it is necessary to be in accordance with the present legal system until it is replaced with a righteous one. What emerges otherwise is anarchism. There is also a political error in giving vent to anger. When these drug peddlers are jailed the racketeers deploy another group for the distribution. When he is caught or unsuccessful another would be employed—and the racket would continue. As long as society fails to defeat the corrupt political system as a whole, we would experience such murders and crimes; and therefore have to pursue perpetrators and set fire to their properties. This is the truth the murdered mother and daughter at Kahawatta have taught us.



## Polonnaruwa farmers demand a guaranteed price for paddy

The All Sri Lanka Farmers' Federation held a demonstration at Polonnaruwa in North Central Province demanding the government to pass a bill in the parliament to guarantee Rs.40 per kilo of paddy so that they could cover up the cost of production. Comrade Anurakumara Dissanayake addressed the farmers supporting their just struggle.

## 3rd National Convention of Socialist Women's Union

The 3rd National Convention of the Socialist Women's Union (SWU), the Women's wing of the Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna (JVP- People's Liberation Front) was successfully held in Colombo on the International Women's Day, 8th March 2012.

Members of the SWU from every corner of the country attended the convention. At this convention there was a marked increase of number of members of the Tamil and Muslim communities. They included members from

the Northern Province and the Eastern Province. JVP has launched many activities in these provinces after the end of the war.

The convention elected Comrade Samanmalee Gunasinghe to the National Leadership of the Socialist Women's Union. Several resolutions were passed unanimously.

Many International Women' organizations had sent messages of greetings to the convention.



Comrade S. Gunasinghe



Comrade Tilvin Silva



Comrade Mahinda Jayasinghe



Comrade Bimal Rathnayaka



Delegates at the convention

## JVP MEETS TAMIL AND MUSLIM PEOPLE

The JVP leaders met representatives of Tamil and Muslim people to discuss the immediate problems they are confronted with at the Socialist Workers Union Head Quarters at Battaramulla on the 12th February 2012.

Comrade Somawansa Amarasinghe, the Leader of the JVP, Comrade Tilvin Silva, the General Secretary of the JVP and the members of Central Committee of the JVP Comrades Ramalingam Chandrasekar and Sunil Handunnetti participated at the discussion.

The Tamil and Muslim representatives admired the political work of the JVP among all the people in Sri Lanka and pledged support to the JVP to raise the political awareness of the Muslim and Tamil people.



Pablo Neruda

### Obese Emperors

Their obese emperors from New York

are suave smiling assassins  
who buy silk, nylon, cigars  
petty tyrants and dictators.

They buy countries, people, seas,  
police, county councils,

distant regions where the poor hoard  
their corn

like misers their gold:

Standard Oil awakens them,  
clothes them in uniforms, designates  
which brother is the enemy.

the Paraguayan fights its war,  
and the Bolivian wastes away  
in the jungle with its machine gun.

A President assassinated for a drop of  
petroleum,

a million-acre mortgage,

a swift execution on a morning mor-  
tal with light, petrified,

a new prison camp for subversives,  
in Patagonia, a betrayal, scattered  
shots

beneath a petroliferous moon,  
a subtle change of ministers  
in the capital, a whisper  
like an oil tide,

and zap, you'll see

how Standard Oil's letters shine  
above the clouds,

above the seas, in your home,  
illuminating their dominions.

## COME OUT WITH THE TRUTH!

People cannot be deceived all the time. The President at the end of the war promised the people that he will wage the 'Economic War' to make Sri Lanka the "WONDER OF ASIA." The President and his United People's Freedom Alliance (UPFA) Government have taken the people of Sri Lanka for a ride.

Sri Lanka's Economy is fast sliding down, down and down without no sign of recovery under capitalism. The dreams are shattered. Following facts are the best indications for the accelerated downward journey of country's economy.

Sri Lankan currency, the rupee, is the second worst performer so far in the year 2012 in the world according to the CITIBANK OF United States, the financial institution that monitors the performance of currencies. Within few days after the authorities decided not to interfere with the rupee it hit record low at Rs.131.00 against the US dollar. Further sliding down of the rupee cannot be ruled out as the importer demand continues to increase. Unless there is a significant increase in inflow of forex the depreciation of rupee will continue.

Analyzing the global capital markets the BESPOKE INVESTMENT GROUP placed Colombo Stock Exchange as the 'second worst stock exchange' in the world.

Standard & Poor lowered the Sri Lanka's sovereign ratings outlook to stable

from positive.

Meanwhile Fitch ratings says that the depleted foreign reserves have increased Balance of Payment risks. Sri Lanka has to spend almost double the earnings from exports for the country's imports. There is no solution visible for the balance of payment problem.

The domestic money market has declined and there is a serious liquidity problem. The Central Bank has placed a limit on commercial credit growth and also directed them to limit credit growth to 18 per cent in 2012 from 34 per cent in 2011.

Drying of Forex reserves has forced the government to raise further loans. More loans to repay existing loans.

The crises have compelled the Central Bank to admit that economic activity of Sri Lanka will decline and the predicted growth rate of 8 per cent is not achievable. The President must come out with the truth. He is bound to tell the people of Sri Lanka where the economy of the country stands. The people of Sri Lanka then will decide whether to allow him and his government to be in power.

## The Government is implementing tactics to destroy education!

"The Education system is in a deep crisis. Government is destroying free education. By establishing Private Universities the authorities are denying the higher education for the future generation of the country. Are we prepared to allow this to continue?" asked comrade Anura Kumara

Dissanayake at the seminar held on the 9th February 2012 at the Public Library Auditorium in Colombo. The Socialist Students Union organized the seminar. Comrade Anura Dissanayake delivered the keynote address.



Cont. pg 01

## SOVEREIGNTY BETRAYED!

We reject this commission and oppose the intervention in our affairs by the USA. The USA has no right for such interventions.

Mr. Mahinda Rajapaksa came to parliament after the war ended on 19th May, 2009. We thought his speech would include human rights, democracy, reconciliation. However, there was nothing in that speech. There were only empty statements and how to consolidate power and to stay in power as long as possible.

The JVP presented a programme after the war ended. This should be reconsidered. Our party could see the issues deeply. However, the leader of the country could not fathom this depth. If he had seen what was in the deep what has happened now wouldn't have happened. We are not naïve to put forward proposals to this government now. The JVP saw how issues could be confronted. The masses should draw their attention to this. Presenting proposals to this government now is futile. This government is rallying with imperialists.

The government says India is with the government of Sri Lanka. We say India should be with the masses. However, it is not so. Who has taken lands belonging to Tamil people? India has captured those lands. This is why India is having a close connection with the government. We should be able to recognize this alliance. The pro-imperialist government that rallies with the IMF to pressurize masses economically cannot defend independence and sovereignty of the people. This government should be sent home. An administration that would defend independence and sovereignty should be created. We invite masses to rally with the JVP to create an anti-imperialist front."

## Pay Farmers' Pensions Immediately!

The Government has terminated paying pension to the Farmers. Led by the All Sri Lanka Farmers Federation took to the streets in Anuradhapura. Comrade K.D.Lankantha, the member of the Political Bureau of the JVP



also participated at the demonstration demanding immediate payment of the pension. This is the harvesting season in paddy cultivating districts. The farmers in these districts are demanding the government to buy their paddy at a guaranteed price. The farmers' demonstrations were organized at many towns such as Dambulla, Vigamuwa, Polonnaruwa, Ampara, and Hambantota.

At one instance thugs led by Chairman of the Local Council in Vilgamuwa attempted to disrupt the farmers' peaceful demonstration but failed to do so as the protestors were able to drive them them.

Meanwhile, the farmers who grow vegetables are also in a dire situation as there is no market for their vegetables. The prices have gone down and the farmers are unable to cover up their cost of production. Sri Lanka has no facilities to preserve vegetables. If the facilities are available the price of vegetables could be kept at a reasonable price, so that the farmer and the consumer both would be benefited.

# RED POWER

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## DEBTS, DEBTS,... AND DEBTS SRI LANKA IS TRAPPED

Sri Lanka is financially bankrupt. The government is roaming all over the planet looking for loans to repay the loans that are getting matured this year. Loans to repay Loans, the process will continue until the moribund capitalist system and those who are responsible for pushing the country into a debt trap are thrown out of power paving the way for victory of socialism.

Sri Lankan Government's coffers are empty. Dismal economic situation of the country is becoming visible clearly every day. The Government has no money to repay loans and interest. Therefore it has no other alternative but to raise more loans for payments of existing loans that are going to mature this year. A loan of USD 600 million is required for this purpose.

For the repayment of Development Bonds that will mature in March and June this year the government requires USD 317 million.

Then the Government will have to repay the Overseas Banking Unit (OBU) loans that will mature in the month of August and November this year. The amount is USD 150 million.

The Government will have to pay the interests also that amounts to USD 85.3 million. For other payments an additional USD 133 million is required.

The Central Bank has been asked to raise the USD 600 million within the short period left before the loans getting matured. The difficulty in raising this amount of money is a clear indication of the precarious situation Sri Lanka is confronted with. To raise more loans frequently to repay loans and interests will become extremely difficult for a country that will have to spend Rs. 588 billion to repay the loans and further Rs.551 billion is required to close budget deficit. It must be noted that the maximum limit of government loans is only Rs. 1,139 billion.

## House to House Canvassing By JVP



The Mahinda Rajapakse regime has increased fuel prices. As a result there is an unbearable burden on the people of Sri Lanka. Fuel price increase led to increase in prices of all goods and services. The regime is attempting to mislead the people of Sri Lanka stating that prices of petroleum products in the world market are spiraling up. This is a blatant lie. The truth is that the regime agreed with the International Monetary Fund to burden further the people of Sri Lanka to cover up the huge losses due to corruption and waste.



The JVP on the 26th February launched a house to house canvassing program to make the people aware about the bankruptcy of the capitalist system in Sri Lanka. The capitalist Rajapakse regime is responsible for the economic, financial, political, social and moral bankruptcy the country has been dragged into.

Comrade Tilvin Silva, the General Secretary of the JVP and its Central Committee Members Comrades Sunil Handunnetti, Laksman Nipunaarachchi distributed leaflets among the people in Maharagama near Colombo. The campaign will continue till end of March 2012.

## Australian Labour Party meets the JVP

The Special representative of Australian Senator Alex Galavor, Mr. Mathew Marosi met Comrade Vijitha Herath, the Information Secretary of the JVP at the Head Office of the JVP at Pelawatta near Colombo.

Mr. Mathew discussed about the labour movement of Sri Lanka and particularly about the activities of the Trade Unions affiliated to the JVP. Comrade Vijitha explained further that JVP's political activities are aimed at establishing a socialist society in Sri Lanka.



## International Women's Day Demonstration in Colombo.

The Socialist Women's Union and the Women for Rights held a joint demonstration in Colombo on the International women's Day, 8th March 2012.

They demanded the government to reduce prices of fuel and other consumer goods and services immediately as they are unbearable for the toiling masses of the country.

