

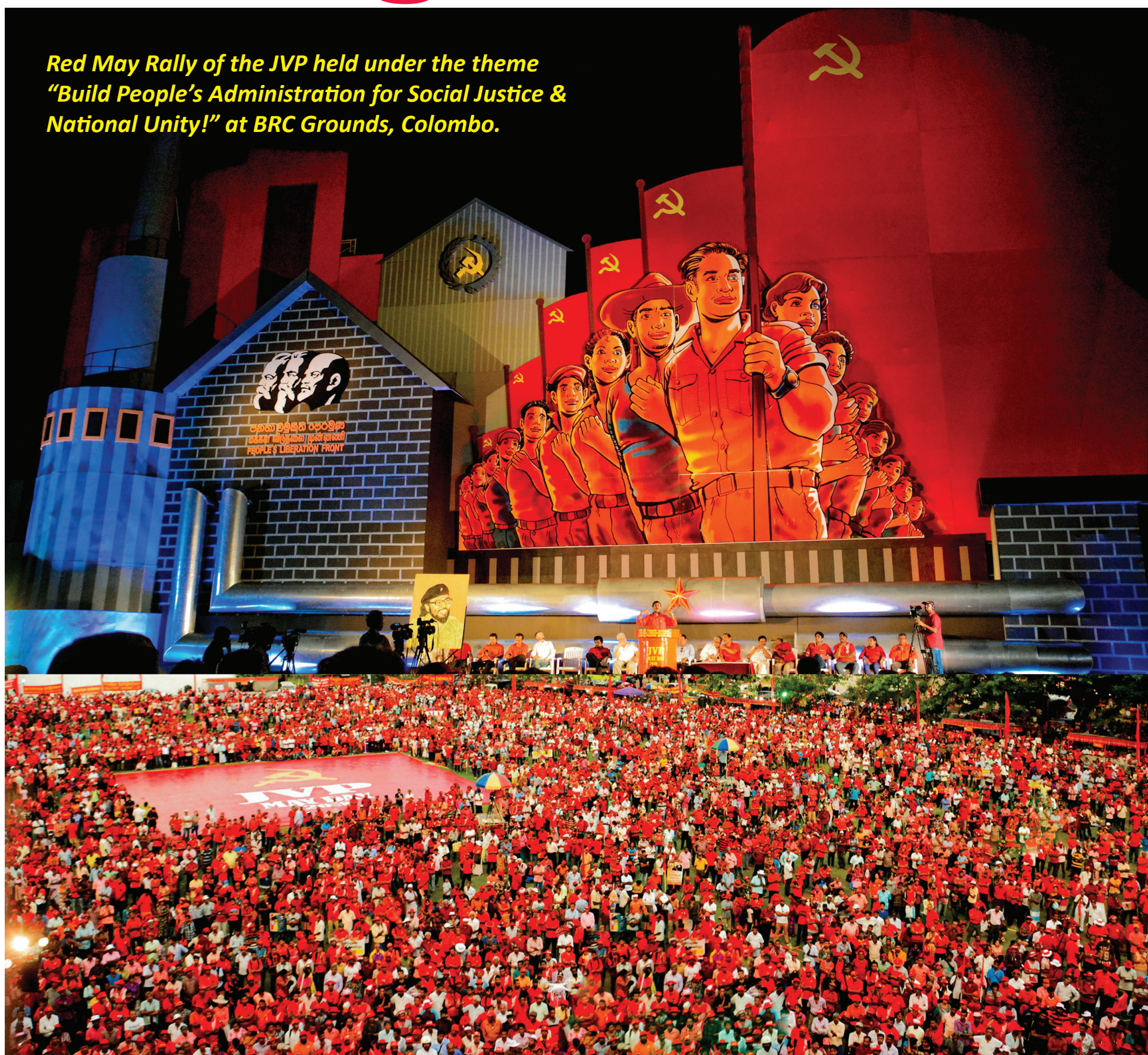
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RED POWER

JVP ready for dialogue on '20'

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*Red May Rally of the JVP held under the theme
"Build People's Administration for Social Justice &
National Unity!" at BRC Grounds, Colombo.*



A Rational Land, a Just Society and a Liberated Human Being!

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The birth of a great philosopher

The 200th birthday of Karl Marx, known as the 'Father of Socialism', who showed the way to transform the capitalist social system with a new Socialist social system falls on 5th May this year.

Karl Marx was born at Trier in Germany (formerly in Rhenish Prussia). He studied law in Berlin and Bonn. However, he was more interested in history and philosophy. In 1841 Karl Marx presented the Doctoral Thesis on the Difference Between the Democritean and Epicurean Philosophy of Nature and ended his university courses.

Next, he studied philosophies of Hegel and Gerbarg, two popular philosophers in Germany. Marx was among the left-wing Hegelian group. In short, Marx created dialectical materialism combining the essence of the teachings of Feuerbach's materialism and Hegel's dialectics.

Here, he received unstinted support from his partner, Fredrick Engels. Both of them go together to create the scientific Socialist concept to replace utopian socialism that existed then. Also, Marx through his 'Das Capital' overthrew the capitalist official economics that existed and revealed capitalist exploitation to the world by revealing the theory of 'surplus value' that exposed the machinery of exploitation of capitalism.

This indicates that Karl Marx was a great philosopher, economist, historian, political theorist, sociologist, and revolutionary socialist. He was the greatest philosopher of the 20th century. It is an open secret that large-scale investors and economic experts fell over each other during the deep economic recession that began in the US in 2008 to read Marx's 'Das Capital' over and over. It was Marx who first revealed the concept 'fictitious capital' which is at the bottom of the present crisis confronted by capitalism at present.

Marx was not only a philosopher. While philosophers until then analyzed the world, Marx defined how the world could be changed, created a theory for doing so and took part in the revolutionary practice that could make it a reality.

Marx contributed in creating the Communist Union in 1848 and took the initiative to create world's first Socialist movement in 1864.

Marx did not limit his philosophical teachings to mere words. He used to say: Philosophers explain only; critical theorists translated theory into practice. Despite being poor and unable to provide material needs or comforts, while his children die due to poverty and privation, being deported from country to country, being locked out from rented houses for not paying the rent, Marx, without wavering, dedicated himself for the task. Marx did not have the petty selfish idea of living in a Socialist society and partaking of its benefits. He dedicated himself for the philosophical guidance and organization that is necessary to create a new world for the downtrodden masses.

This is why Marx was not only a great philosopher but was a great Communist and a Revolutionary as well.

Marx dedicated his knowledge to the struggle to change the world but did not make it a money-making affair. Despite, being engulfed in financial difficulties and privation, he never used his knowledge to earn money. He was an ideal individual who created the correct philosophical system that has not been challenged by anyone yet and dedicated his whole life to it.

The marvellous analysis Marx made about capitalism in his 'Communist Manifesto' is being confirmed again and again by the capitalism in crisis even after 200 years after his death. Also, it is being proved that the only solution for capitalist crisis is Socialism. This is why Marxism has become a living philosophy in our era as well.

The short eulogy Engels made at Marx's funeral indicates what type of a man Marx was. As such, we would end this editorial with the final words of the eulogy. "Marx was the best hated and most calumniated man of his time. Governments, both absolutist and republican, deported him from their territories. Bourgeois, whether conservative or ultra-democratic, vied with one another in heaping slanders upon him. All this he brushed aside as though it were a cobweb, ignoring it, answering only when extreme necessity compelled him. And he died beloved, revered and mourned by millions of revolutionary fellow workers-- from the mines of Siberia to California, in all parts of Europe and America-- and I make bold to say that, though he may have had many opponents, he had hardly one personal enemy.

His name will endure through the ages, and so also will his work."

May Day message of the JVP

The downtrodden masses including the working people commemorate the International Workers' Day that falls on 1st May with dignity. May Day is the day the working masses show their strength, unity and militancy and also their readiness to struggle for their rights and for a new society.

The International Workers' Day was created to commemorate the workers' leaders who laid down their lives at the struggle against the oppression and suppression of capitalism launched by workers in Chicago in 1886 demanding an 8-hour working day. 1st of May was named the International Workers' Day by the first congress of the Second International that met in Paris in 1889. Hence, the May Day is a day that belongs to the working masses lead by the working class and the left movements.

However, capitalist parties, as well as their rulers in Sri Lanka as well as throughout the world, distort the true meaning of the International Workers' Day to use it for their petty political agendas. Capitalist politicians that suppress working masses that demand their rights are competing with each other to distort the essence of the May Day and plunder it to display the power of their parties and governments. As such, there is also a struggle before the working masses to save the ownership of the International Workers' Day.

At this moment, when we commemorate the International Workers' Day – 2018, imperialism, capitalism throughout the world and capitalist socio-economic system are displaying their failure and vileness more than ever before. The eight-hour working day the worker comrades in Chicago won with their lives is being abolished and attempts are being made to grab the right of an eight-hour working day through various laws and regulations. It is being proved through practice that rights of the downtrodden people including that of the working masses cannot be protected within capitalism and even the rights that have been won are being abolished within the capitalist system.

As such, there is no alternative left for the downtrodden people including the working masses other than to organize themselves to defeat capitalism globally and create an administration of the working masses.

At the moment capitalist system globally as well as locally are confronted with an unsolvable crisis. The day by day escalating capitalist crisis piles up more and more burdens on the working masses. They are being burdened with more and more taxes, termination of employment and slashing of salaries and rights which makes their lives extremely hard and miserable.

On the other hand, imperialists lead by the USA, in a bid to plunder resources of the countries in the world, especially the oil resources in the Middle East as well as to sell weapons to these countries, continue to pit them against each other, invade them and threaten them. Imperialists, who sustain extremist cliques and engage in terrorism to carry out their agenda, who break into other countries on the pretext of suppressing terrorism, are dragging the capitalist world towards barbarism again. The air strikes against Syria carried out recently indicate that the attempt of the imperialists is to repeat the crimes they committed against Iraq on Syria too.

In such an environment it is the downtrodden people lead by the working masses that have to take the responsibility of coming forward for social progress against imperialist barbarism. To liberate from the crisis the capitalist world is confronted with the global working class has no other alternative other than giving new life to the struggle to defeat imperialism and capitalism and establish Socialism. This is the resolve the working masses throughout the world should make on this May Day.

Currently, Sri Lanka too is subjected to a gigantic financial crisis and is bogged down in it. The massive debt burden the country has been dragged into, the loss in foreign trade and the dwindling foreign reserves have depreciated the rupee that has paved the path for a gigantic crisis. This is why the government that handed over the Hambanthota Harbour to China for a few million dollars is now scheming to lease or sell land, islands and the oil tank farm to foreign companies. Despite this grave situation the government that has increased the tax burden of the masses, slash relief given to people and the pension right of the employees in the state sector and plunder the EPF of the employees in the private sector spend billions to buy vehicles and buildings to the President, the Prime Minister, ministers and parliamentarians and to hold tamashas. In such a situation it is the downtrodden people including the working masses that are further distressed and tormented. At present this crisis has deteriorated into a social crisis.

While the economic crisis exists the crisis in the ruling class too has multiplied. The mayhem in the 'unity' government has been intensified due to the result of the local government election and the no-confidence motion brought against the Prime Minister. The country has entered a state of anarchy. The internal conflict in the UNP and the split in the SLFP have brought the crisis of the ruling clique to the surface.

The hornet's nest has been stirred. The shot has hit the bulls-eye. Pseudo patriots and fake democrats have shed all their clothes of democracy and have come to the arena with whatever weapons they could lay their hands on. Reminding the bombing of a lunatic asylum all political crackpots have got agitated and have started making various statements and analyses. It is for none other than the proposed amendment to the 20th amendment which would abolish the executive presidency and also against the JVP. For, the JVP has stated that it is prepared to present the 20th amendment in Parliament.

Throughout the past, especially since the presidential election in 1994 everyone supported the slogan 'Abolish executive presidency'. Capitalist political parties, as well as small cliques and groups, competed with each other to make it an election promise. However, it was not genuinely to abolish executive presidency to strengthen democracy but to plunder the need, the demand that surfaced strongly from time to time in the society to boost up their voter base. However, the situation has changed now. A process has begun to make the concept that had been reiterated on election stages and had been mentioned only in their manifestos as a promise a reality. This is the cause of the rumpus.

Going through the media these days we could see a lot of illogical and hypocritical arguments and views based on fabrications regarding 'evils' of abolishing executive presidency being published. What is peculiar here is that it is the 'birds of a feather' that have raised their arms against the executive presidency. The other peculiarity is many of them on many occasions had on the stages of presidential elections and elsewhere had been the most vociferous with the slogan 'abolish executive presidency'! When those who sang the chorus to Mr Mahinda Rajapaksa's promise of abolishing executive presidency at presidential elections in 2005, 2010 and 2015 are now crying foul it exposes their political capriciousness and stupidity.

It was the JVP that continued to oppose, agitate and struggle against the executive presidency from the moment Mr J.R.



'20' will disrobe all pseudo-democrats!

Jayawardene, in 1978, created the executive presidential system that contains unlimited power; uncontrolled or unrestricted by law. It was the JVP that prepared the political stage, created strategies and pressure to a state where abolishing executive presidency was accepted as a policy. For, the JVP always intentionally utilized the instances when capitalist administrations became volatile and weak to bring victories to the people and strengthen democracy instead of taking advantage of the situation to grab benefits and gain favour. This is why every capitalist political party and all presidential candidates had to make the promise to abolish executive presidency.

It would be necessary to remind those who have suddenly awakened from their slumber and are wriggling and writhing the instances capitalist political parties and their leaders promised to abolish the executive presidential system. The main argument of those who are against abolishing the executive presidential system is that it creates a situation to

divide the country. It would be beneficial for everybody to remember the promises made by all candidates of presidential elections to abolish executive presidential system when there were separatist movements and an armed struggle was going on. However, they cry foul when the 20th amendment to the Constitution is to be presented to Parliament despite no armed struggle to divide the country or a separatist armed movement do not exist. The separatist armed movement has been already defeated.

The first strong and clear promise from the capitalist camp to abolish executive presidency was given by Ms Chandrika Kumaratunga at the presidential election in 1994. She gave this promise in writing to the JVP stating that she would abolish executive presidential system before 15th July 1995 if JVP candidate Nihal Galappaththy withdraws from the contest. However, she did not keep the promise. As such, the JVP from 15th July 1995 until her term as president ended took to the streets demanding her to fulfil her promise. Those

who shriek against the proposed 20th amendment at present were at the forefront of those agitations.

the 'probationary' agreement signed by Chandrika Kumaratunga's 'People's Alliance' government in 2001 also contained as its 7th clause that the executive presidential system would be abolished and parliament would be handed over all powers. Then again, when the SLFP and the JVP formed an 'alliance' in 2004, a clause was included to abolish the executive presidential system. Many who wallop the 20th amendment today were the well-wishers and hosanna singers of that 'alliance' programme.

Also, when a MoU was signed between Mr Mahinda Rajapaksa and the JVP when the JVP supported Mr Rajapaksa at the presidential election in 2005 the 7th clause of the MoU stated that abolishing executive presidential system that was harmful for the democratic process of Sri Lanka would be accepted as an essential and a paramount move and would be abolished before the end

of the term of 6th presidency that would commence in 2005. It is strange that those who felicitated and wished success for the move and treated abolishing executive presidency as a victory opposing the move to bring in the 20th amendment to the Constitution. For, they welcomed the move despite a separatist was going on in the country. Later, at the presidential elections in 2010 and 2015, this move was present among Mr Mahinda Rajapaksa's election promises and no one opposed it.

On the other hand, the JVP always mediated and pressurized to get this matter fulfilled. As a result, capitalist political parties, as well as their presidential candidates, could not carry out their election campaigns without promising to abolish the executive presidential system. Mr Sarath Fonseka in 2010 and Mr Maithripala Sirisena in 2015, who came forward as the presidential candidates, agreed to abolish executive presidential system and it was Mr Maithripala Sirisena's main slogan at the election.

Accordingly, the main mandate in the country is to abolish the executive presidential system. For, even if earlier occasions are put aside, both Mr Maithripala Sirisena who won at the presidential election in 2015 and Mr Mahinda Rajapaksa who was defeated used this as the strongest promise of their election campaigns. Meanwhile, the UNP, the creators of the executive presidential system took the decision to abolish it at one of their conventions and at the presidential election in 2015 they stood by this decision.

As such, all capitalist political parties in the country, as well as their presidential candidates, have pledged to abolish the executive presidential system. Those who are hanging on to those parties and now scream as if they have been terrified of bad dreams have favoured the promise. It is the truth.

The result of the JVP raising in 1978, the slogan of abolishing the executive presidential system, continuing it unabated and creating a strong public opinion against the executive presidency was that all main political parties in the country had to accept the concept of abolishing the executive

We believe that the current political reality could be made amiable for everyone

Comrade Anura Dissanayaka
Leader of the JVP



Red Power: *JVP is a political party that commemorates the International Workers Day in a significant manner. How is your party's preparation for the May Day this year?*

AD: We have decided to celebrate this year's May Day in Jaffna on 1st May. Last year too we held a May Day celebration in Jaffna on 30th April. We have decided to celebrate May Day this year on the 1st in Jaffna and on the 7th in Colombo. We have taken into account the situation in Colombo on 1st May. As it is the Wesak week and with the celebration continuing a large crowd will converge in many parts in Colombo city and with the large crowds that would throng to our demonstration and the rally there would be massive congestion. People would be inconvenienced and to avoid this we decided to have the May Day commemoration in Jaffna on the 1st and to have May demonstration and rally in Colombo on the 7th.

This day is special for the working masses. Every year the largest part of our May Day commemoration is done by our Socialist Workers Union. By now all the trade unions in the public and private sector are working to make our May Day commemoration successful. Steps have been taken to ensure the participation from all parts of the country, from North, East and other parts of the country. Every year, the militancy of our farmers' organization and youth organization make our May Day

demonstration contribute more attractive. This year our demonstration commences from Campbell Park, Borella and marches to BRC grounds, Thimbirigasyaya where the May Day rally is held. We expect a larger participation compared to the last year and it will become the largest and main May Day demonstration and rally in Colombo.

Red Power: *There is a dialogue in the political sector regarding the 20th amendment to the constitution, to be presented by the JVP, in order to abolish the executive presidency. How is this process progressing?*

AD: Political parties and the general public have been struggling to get the executive presidency abolished for ages. Those who sat on this chair, as well as those who attempted to sit, had agreed to abolish it. The SLFP and the UNP on several occasions pledged to the people that they would abolish executive presidency. However, none of them has taken any steps to fulfil this promise.

However, in the recent past, the government had appointed a Constitutional Council to draft a new constitution. In this council, our main contribution was to get provisions to abolish executive presidency included in the new constitution. Now, it seems this process of bringing a new constitution has weakened. If this situation is allowed to continue an anarchic state where nothing would happen could exist. This is why the

JVP is attempting to bring the 20th amendment to the constitution and get the executive presidency abolished.

By now we have completed the draft of this constitutional amendment. We expect to discuss with other political parties on this amendment with the drafted document. Thereafter we will present it to the parliament as a private member's bill and get it passed with a 2/3rd majority. If the 2/3rd majority of the parliament is not sufficient and if it needs to go for a referendum, we are ready to get the peoples' mandate at the referendum and get it abolished. We also expect to discuss it with other political parties and organizations.

Red Power: *This proposal of abolishing executive presidency has created political controversies in some sectors. What have you got to say about this?*

AD: There are several points put forward by those who are against the abolition of the executive presidency. Some sectors interpret this as an attempt to bring Ranil Wickramasinghe to power. It will never happen and the powers of Prime Minister Ranil Wickramasinghe will not increase even by a fraction. This amendment will come to effect after the end of the tenure of the present executive president. There is another argument that says there is an urgency to bring this amendment. Actually, it is not urgency, but a delay in bringing in such an

amendment.

For decades progressive political parties that value democratic freedom struggled to abolish the executive presidency. However, no action has been taken to abolish it. Hence, there is a delay, not haste. Also now there is no hope of a new constitution with provisions to abolish this. These are the reasons for us to bring this amendment. There is another view that says this would lead to the division of the country. It cannot be done because in this amendment the powers vested on provincial governor remain unchanged. Some others say that this is a conspiracy that will lead to the anarchy in the country. It is also wrong and there is no possibility of any destabilization of the country. The 19th amendment is an intermediary arrangement that the powers have been divided between the president and Prime Minister. Now, this has been creating issues and the 19th amendment is not sustainable. Therefore the 20th amendment is essential to avoid issues created by this intermediary arrangement of the 19th amendment and to bring stability.

If there is a discussion to include changing the voting system in this amendment, we are ready for it. Also, we are ready to discuss on a date to dissolve parliament. We

also are prepared to strengthen clauses to meet the argument that states crossing over of MPs will create anarchy. We can discuss how to amend existing provisions and strengthen them to avoid crossovers. These views on possible instability after abolishing executive presidency are baseless and incorrect.

Red Power: *While the 'unity' government has been going into crisis pushing the country into anarchy the corrupt political forces that were defeated in 2015 attempt to emerge again as new forces. In such an environment how is the mediation of the JVP in mobilizing the suffering masses in a broad progressive political front? What is the message that you give to the people?*

AD: At this juncture, these political parties are in crisis. SLFP and UNP are having internal crises and their main concerns are solving these crises. Within the Rajapaksa camp, too various divisions along various lines have developed. Therefore, instead of solving burning issues of the people these political parties waste their time and effort to resolve their internal issues or attempt to strengthen the power of their factions.

Also, the country's economy is in a deep crisis. People are confronted with serious issues such as the cost of living, unemployment. The

agriculture sector has collapsed and farmers' lives are in jeopardy. The whole society is in a deep crisis.

As such, a huge political void has been created. It has been proved, without any doubt, that this political system has failed. Capitalism is becoming unsuccessful as a political system. The capitalist class has failed. All capitalist parties are in crisis. Capitalism now exists in our country as the ruling class and ruling political system, not because of their success or ability. They are becoming weaker. But they survive as a result of the failure of the left movement in capturing the necessary potential.

The opportunity to prepare a programme to take over power has been splendidly created. We have been discussing regarding building a common movement – a broad political front for a long time. We have had discussions with professionals, artists, entrepreneurs, farmers' organizations, fisher-folks, trade unions regarding this. Hence, we believe, very soon, this void could be filled with a progressive left movement. The situation is very encouraging as the work is progressing at a good pace. We call upon all masses in this country to rally with us.

May Day 2018 Resolutions of the JVP

At this moment when the International Workers' Day 2018 is commemorated imperialism and global capitalism have been subjected to a grave crisis and being unable to get rid of this catastrophe, the burden of the crisis is being heaped on the masses so that the working masses are being further oppressed and pressurized. It is being proved, over and over again, that capitalism has no

solution for the year after year intensifying crisis confronted by it and the only solution is Socialism. As such, the working masses including the downtrodden people have been forced to organize themselves and to take the path of struggle to protect the rights that are being denied to them, to defeat capitalism and build a new society.

In Sri Lanka too capitalism is undergoing

a massive social, economic, political and cultural crisis. The three-year rule of the present 'unity' government and the 70-year rotating political system have shown whatever the government is and whoever rules, they are unable to find solutions for the crisis in capitalism. As in the past, the present rulers too, have selected loans, selling resources of the country, burdening the

masses with various taxes and slashing the rights of working masses as solutions for the crisis in capitalism which is a path of disaster for the country.

The JVP taking into consideration the current international and national conditions presents the following resolutions before this dignified Red May Rally:

National sector:

1. All governments that came to power during the 70-year capitalist rule contributed to escalating the capitalist crisis rather than finding solutions for it. Within the more than 40 year old new-liberal open economic policy all governments carried out and are still carrying out a plundering economy of neglecting production but that depends and depended on loans, taxes, fines and selling national resources. The result is Sri Lanka is further confined in a debt trap.

In this situation this Red May Rally firmly believes that Sri Lanka should totally give up the 'borrow to eat' economic policy and adopt a new economic policy and a new economic system that is based on production and its benefits distributed justly among the masses, calls upon all downtrodden Sinhalese, Tamil, Muslim, Burgher, Malay masses and progressive and left forces to come forward to build the necessary people's power to create a new economy, new society, a new Socialsit society that could achieve economic development, social justice and national unity.

2. The JVP and progressive forces in the country have been agitating for a long time

demanding the abolishment of the executive presidential system that concentrates power with a single individual which is a serious threat to democracy in Sri Lanka and many leaders who were elected as president in the past, as well as Mr Maithripala Sirisena who won the last presidential election as the 'common' candidate, pledged to abolish executive presidential system. However, this promise has not been fulfilled.

This Red May Rally expressing its support for the decision taken by the JVP to present a proposal to abolish executive presidential system as the 20th amendment to the Constitution in a bid to bring about democracy to some extent calls upon at democrats and progressive forces to rally to bring victory to the proposal to abolish executive presidency.

3. when all production avenues have been weakened and Sri Lanka's bankrupt economy is submerged in a crisis, the present regime, instead of finding correct solutions for such issues and give incentives for production, is prepared to sign an Economic and Technology Cooperation Agreement (ETCA) with India which would completely wipe out the already

weak production avenues, break down the service sector in the country and aggravate the employment issue of the young generation.

This Red May Rally that does not reject signing trade agreements with other countries that are advantageous to Sri Lanka demands the government not to sign ETCA agreement which harms our economy, deprives Sri Lanka of her production avenues and the job market and hands over the services sector to India and also any economic agreements the government is getting prepared to sign with other countries that would harm our country.

4. The present administration, instead of taking measures to liberate Sri Lanka from the gigantic economic crisis and the debt crisis it has been subjected to by the neo-liberalist plundering economy, just like previous governments had been doing, is preparing to sell country's resources to foreign companies for a few dollars. The government that has already given on lease the Hambanthota Harbour to a Chinese company is planning to sell state and national resources at dirt cheap prices. This Red May rally while condemning vehemently the

bankrupt government's pro-imperialist policy of selling valuable resources of the country demand the government to immediately stop the attempt to sell valuable assets of the country.

5. The present administration that has dragged the country towards a gigantic economic crisis due to wrong economic policies, inefficiency, frauds, corruption and waste has, instead of following correct economic policies, is burdening the masses with various types of taxes to find money.

This Red May rally while condemning the government's move of further burdening the masses who are already living with difficulties due to the increased cost of living, demands the government to take immediate measures to reduce the tax burden heaped on the masses.

6. Despite 10 years have gone by since the 30-year-old separatist war in the country had ended the people living in the Northern and Eastern provinces are tormented due to several issues. Lands, housing and employment are main issues they suffer from. The present regime, just like the former one has failed to take

necessary action such as settling the ownership of lands of the people in the North, giving back the lands they have lost or mediating in getting new houses for the houses that have been destroyed.

This Red May Rally firmly believes that finding solutions for such issues need not be further delayed and demands that the government should take immediate measures to solve the land and housing issues in the Northern and Eastern provinces, solve immediately the issues regarding the disappeared and take steps to release all political prisoners who are being detained without any legal action.

7. The present administration too, even with experiences of a long-term separatist war, has not been able to protect national unity and religious harmony without leaving room for communal clashes. The power-hungry capitalist political parties and various cliques and groups, without giving equal rights to all masses, have dragged the country towards another communal conflict situation by allowing inequality and issues that torment masses to continue and building mistrust



Resolutions...

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and suspicious among various communities by spreading communalist poison. The grave incident that occurred at Digana was a result of this. This Red May Rally condemns, with disgust, spreading communalism for petty objectives that hinder national unity and calls upon all Sinhalese, Tamil and Muslim masses not to be deceived by communalists but to come together with trust for genuine national unity.

8. By now the government has withdrawn the pension right state employees have been enjoying for those who enter state service after 1st January 2016. Also, there is no plan to give the pension rights for employees in the private sector, which has been a primary demand of theirs for a long time. The estate worker still receives a daily wage. The authorities display their irresponsibility by not giving them the right for monthly salaries that would make their lives less uncomfortable. Also, the government that unashamedly allowed ETF/EPF funds, the accumulation of sweat and labour of the working masses, to be gambled by its cronies and thereby made to lose billions has made the whole working masses feels further insecure.

Further, the government that endangers the employment by selling state institutions, services and assets and thereby deprives the country of its resources has taken steps to amend labour laws in a bid to curtail the

right of the working masses to organize themselves to oppose all anti-people's moves and to win their rights.

This Red May rally, while demanding that the government withdraws the so-called amendments to labour laws that are intended to suppress the forces of the working masses that rise up against it and are brought to fulfill the needs of the employers of intensifying exploitation of workers, warns it to keep away from the pension right of the state employees and to find better living conditions for the estate workers and insist that it fulfills the just demands of the working masses immediately and take measures to protect their lives.

9. It is the farmer community that has been severely distressed due to the wrong economic policies of the present 'unity' government. It is carrying out a move, intentionally, to breakdown agriculture, specially cripple paddy cultivation, by slashing the fertilizer subsidy and coming out with falsehoods to justify it, denying farmers the necessary seeds at reasonable prices, not taking steps to pay a fair price for farmers' produce and is now conspiring to sell agricultural lands in Sri Lanka to multi-national companies at very low prices pushing the farmer community towards committing suicide.

This Red May Rally vehemently condemns government's moves to oppress

the farmer community and demands the government to immediately withdraw steps to destroy agriculture, take immediate measures to provide farmer community with superior and standardized fertilizer at reasonable price, solve land issue of the farmer community, legalize a certified price for farmers' produce, implement it and immediately make available the farmers' pension that was seized from them.

10. The fisherman that struggles with the ocean for his living is confronted with severe difficulties at present. He is tormented due to non-availability of basic facilities, the high cost of fishing equipment and inability to get a just price for his catch. Sri Lankan fisherfolk in the North are further tormented as the fish resources in the Northern sea are arbitrarily plundered by Indian fishermen while trawlers with super technical equipment from foreign countries plunder the fish resources in our seas.

This Red May Rally, while condemning the irresponsible manner the government regarding these issues, demands the government takes immediate steps to find solutions for essential issues of the fisherfolk.

11. This Red May Rally believes that the 7.5 million youths in the country are tormented within the present capitalist administration and demands that the following measures should be taken to defend the indisputable rights of the youths and demands the government to

- Establish new state

universities and higher educational institutes to enable higher educational opportunities for all who get qualified at the G.C.E. A/L examination.

- Raise the number of university admissions to 1/3rd by 2020 as the number admitted to universities in 1990 was 21% from those who got qualified at A/L examination but this number has been reduced at present.

- Find suitable employment opportunities for the 60,000 unemployed graduates

- Stop political intervention when recruiting for state employment and follow the competitive examination system.

- Establish a performance task force to go into issues of the youth employment and take measures

- Bring in laws to abolish giving or taking of dowry at marriage

- Punish, without considering their positions, all those involved in the poisonous drug racket.

12. The moves of the government to privatize education by gradually abolishing free education have, by now, developed into establishing institutions with state patronage that sell education. These moves taken as their policies by administrations that ruled this country are gradually making education a legacy of the privileged instead of it becoming a right of everyone. The whole state machinery is being deployed to suppress the opposition of the students and masses that rise up against the move.

This Red May rally while condemning government's policy of gradually eliminating free education that jeopardizes the future of education student population and the country and demands the government to

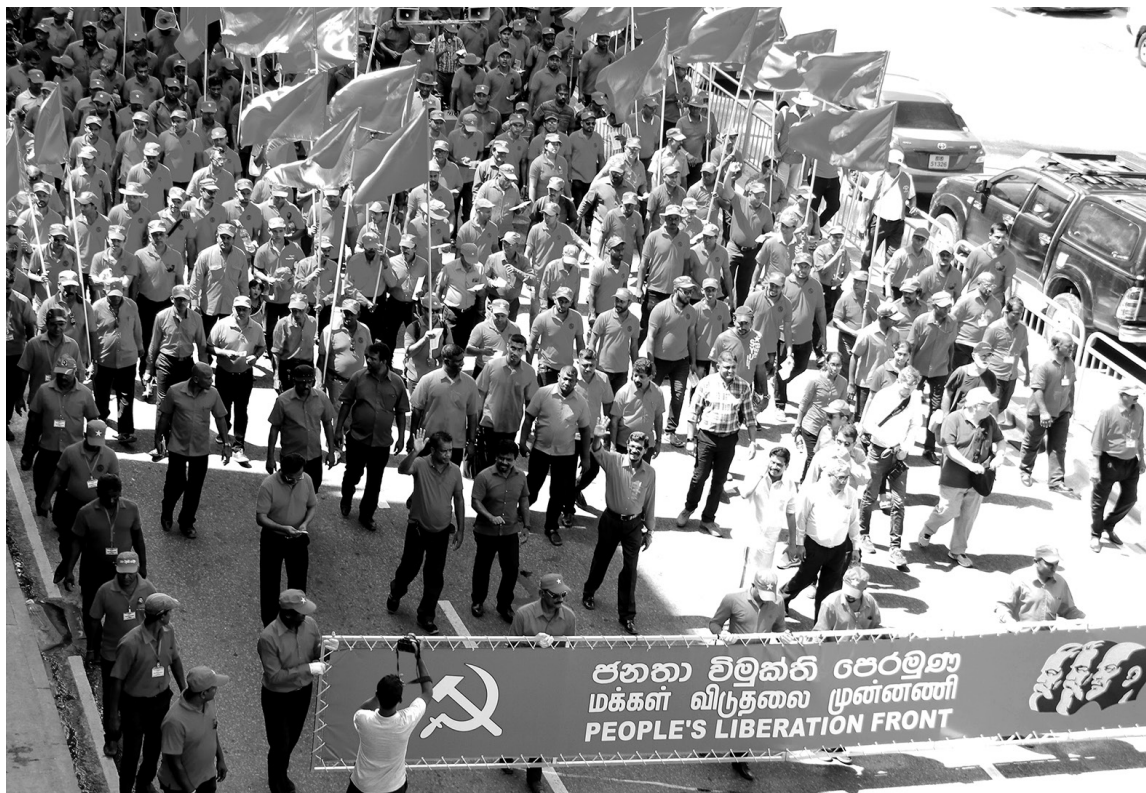
- Stop the move to slash free education immediately
- Stop burdening parents and students with school expenditures
- Stop slashing provisions for education and allocate 6% GDP as has been promised
- Find solutions for the lack of human and physical resources needed to raise the quality of education
- Confirm the right of higher education to all students who get qualified at the A/L examination
- Stop immediately

student repression against students who struggle democratically demanding their just rights in education.

13. Art and Aesthetics created as a great product of human labour for the social development of all humanity has been made a tool for the existence of the capitalist class throughout history. Rulers in Sri Lanka who have come to power since 'independence' followed a very lethargic policy regarding arts and humanities and by now several crises have developed in the literature, fine arts, cinema, stage, teledramas and other sectors of Visual & Performing Arts. Instead of protecting creative rights of creators and providing them with the necessary technical know-how and infrastructure facilities, a massive slashing of arts and humanities is being carried out. The present 'joint' administration that has made 'selling everything' the sole solution for its existence attempted to sell John de Silva Theatre that is being built, the land belonging to the Museum and other culturally important sites to create a barbaric 'paradise' but had to temporarily withdraw the move due to intervention of the Society for Socialist Arts and progressive artists.

Also, the tax act that is implemented from April this year has imposed a massive tax on the cinema, drama, literature and all performing arts. This Red May rally, calls upon all artists to rally to defeat this situation and demands that the government takes measures to solve issues in the sector of Visual and Performing Arts and stop step-motherly treatment towards Visual & Performing Arts.

14. Sri Lanka's environment is threatened with destruction due to projects the capitalist government is carrying out with various countries in Sri Lanka jointly with them or under subjugation, also due to certain moves of irresponsible companies and individuals and unscientific, corrupt moves by certain authorities. The environment should be protected for the existence of man and all living things and it is necessary to act for the stable existence of the environment. However, it is evident that the government has blotted out its responsibility for the steadfast existence of the environment



Resolutions...

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and has totally given up preventing environmental pollution and destruction. At present in Sri Lanka 'garbage' has become a gigantic crisis, a colossal environmental issue that takes human sacrifice. The sliding of Meethotamulla garbage dump killed several people. Also, Uma Oya Multi-Purpose Development Project has become one that brings disaster to houses and lives of the people in several villages at Bandarawela and the area around it. The government's attitude regarding these issues is idiotic and arbitrary.

This Red May Rally condemns government's irresponsible attitude and demands it to take necessary action to protect the environment, take legal action necessary for the stable development of the environment and to stop all harmful projects that jeopardize people's lives. It also calls upon all environmentalists and people to come forward to protect the environment.

15. Defrauding public funds, thieving, wasting and illegal use of power to suppress opponents has become the genetic characteristic of governments in Sri Lanka. Members of the present regime that came to power promising that investigations would be carried out in connection with crimes including large-scale frauds, corruption, thefts and murder committed during previous Rajapaksa regime and those found guilty would be punished have themselves become accused in several frauds including the Central Bank scam. As a consequence, the government is now following a very lethargic and retarded policy regarding punishing the culprits.

This Red May Rally considers it a serious situation and demands the government not to hinder investigations being carried out against those who were involved in frauds, corruption and crimes that include murder, abductions, assaults and threats but to intensify all investigations, take steps to punish, without any bias, all perpetrators.

16. Sri Lankans employed under trying conditions in foreign countries including the Middle East, Europe, South Korea and Japan are confronted with very serious issues. However, the past and present governments in Sri Lanka that depend on the money they earn have not taken appropriate measures to solve their issues. As such, this Red May Rally demands the government to find out issues the Sri Lankans employed abroad are confronted with and find solutions for them.

International sector:

1. As a result of trade and military strategies of imperialist powers carried out, again and again, to share regions and markets several states in the world have been turned into countries sans administration where anarchy runs rampant and armed conflicts active throughout the year. As a result, millions in North Africa, the Middle East and Western Asian countries flee as migrants due to fear of the war, famine and other hardships. The massive human migration that has occurred since the imperialist second world war has caused deaths of a large number of children and adults and has made millions of people refugees in unknown territories.

This Red May Rally while extending its hands of brotherhood to the masses who have been made refugees, demands the rulers of countries led by the European Union and the USA to

- supply facilities needed by these masses
- accept the masses who have been made refugees due to the wars engineered by such rulers
- take measures to stop communal, religious and anti-immigrant activities against them.

2. This Red May Rally condemns the massive invasions, armed attacks, political conspiracies, division of communities in the same country and various kinds of sanctions carried out by the imperialist camp lead by the USA and the European Union against independent and sovereign states that maintain different socio-economic systems and do not tow the imperialist line calls upon people all over the world to unite to struggle against imperialism to win independence, sovereignty and peaceful existence of all the countries. This Red May rally,

i. While congratulating Comrade Miguel Diaz-Canel on his election as the new President of Cuba demands that the US completely withdraws the embargo imposed on Cuba

ii. Calls upon masses to rally against moves of imperialist and local conspirators carried out against Bolivarian revolutionary exercise that brought relief for millions of people in Venezuela

iii. While appreciating the attempt of the leaders of North Korea and South Korea taken to unify the two countries, calls upon the people all over the world to demand an immediate halt to imperialist economic sanctions and provocative military exercises carried out against North Korea, an independent, sovereign state by US imperialism that invaded Korea, partitioned it and established US military camps with a presence of thousands of troops in South Korea for 68 years.

iv. condemns the horrendous genocide being carried out by imperialists against Syrian people, the attempt to break up the Syrian state and the acts carried out by aiding and abetting ISIS terrorists,

iv, condemns invasions carried out in countries including Afghanistan, Iraq, Libya and Ukraine by imperialists and their lackeys,

v. condemns murder of Palestinians, grabbing of lands in independent state of Palestine by Israel Zionists, chauvinist regime carried out with the support of imperialists

vi. Condemns the act of the President of the USA of declaring Palestine as the capital of Israel by violating all international conventions, the murder of Palestinians, grabbing of lands and creating illegal settlements in the independent state of Palestine by Israel Zionist chauvinist regime carried out with the support of imperialists.

vii. Condemns imperialist provocations and isolations against Iran.

3. In capitalist societies of countries which have weak social economic and administrative structures, caused by the global financial crisis, extreme rightist fascist political tendencies surface as a result of the same crises and this could be seen throughout the world and especially in North America and Europe. Capitalist governments in a bid to prevent the masses weary of socio-economic crises joining left movements support these rightist cliques and groups. Strengthening of these rightist fascist political parties and groups occurred before the second world war and the end result of this was a world war that killed 50 million people and eliminating the products of the human labour of several centuries. Hence, this Red May Rally that sees the rightist political parties and groups that surface in various guises as a threat to world peace and consensus in the future calls upon people of the world to rise against such rightist, extremist political cliques and rally with left and democratic forces.

4. This Red May Rally that firmly believes imperialism lead by the USA and the outdated capitalism could be defeated and a modern Socialist society could be established in its place only through a united struggle of the downtrodden people lead by the working class, calls upon all Socialists and Communists throughout the world to come forward to rebuild the Leninist International to achieve this task.

JVP ready for...

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The 20th amendment to the Constitution the JVP intends presenting to parliament in a bid to get executive presidential system abolished cannot be opposed by any cultured person or anyone upholding democracy. Everyone should support the move as it is for the future of the people and the country.

The JVP invites all political parties to cast away petty political differences and come together for a moment especially when a proposal is to be presented for democratizing of the Constitution and to make the country more civilized stating the party is prepared for any discussion regarding the contents of the proposal.

The proposed 20th amendment would not bring benefits only for one party or a group. Also, a single party or a group cannot get it passed in Parliament without the support of others. It needs a 2/3rd majority in

Parliament and according to the composition of the Parliament, it would need the support of all political parties representing parliament. The incumbent President and many parties representing parliament have, on many occasions and before the masses, stated that executive presidency should be abolished. Also, the balance of power that exists in the country at the moment has created a very advantageous environment to bring in such a proposal. Political analysts say getting support for the proposal would not be a difficult task as this opportunity would be a 'litmus' test for leaders of political parties.

Comrade Anura Dissanayaka declared at a press conference held on the 25th of April that the JVP was prepared to discuss with all parties, for and against the proposal, as soon as the initial work regarding the draft of the amendment has been

completed.

It was stated that the JVP intends taking advantage of the opportunity that has arisen to strengthen democracy in the country and added that the party was prepared to make any amendments to the draft if it was necessary after having discussions with civic organizations and political parties. He also revealed that the party expected to present the proposal in Parliament as a private member's motion within the month of May.

Especially, a dialogue would be held outside Parliament with religious leaders, civic organizations, intellectuals, professionals as well as with the general public. The JVP believes that approval of the people in the country could be had if the legal requirement for the amendment is a referendum in addition to the 2/3rd majority in Parliament.

RED POWER



JVP held May Day commemoration in Jaffna on 1st May 2018. JVP Leaders including Comrade Anura Dissanayake, Leader of the JVP, Comrade Tilvin Silva, General Secretary, Comrade Ramalingam Chandrasekar, Organizer for Jaffna, Trade Union leaders, University lecturers, civic organization activists, leaders of farmers', Fishermen's organizations and a large number of people participated.

May Day message...

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This indicates the capitalist system has no solution for the crisis of capitalism and the manifestation of the crisis of capitalism has begun with capitalist political parties and the governments.

What do the extremely grave socio-economic-political and cultural crisis that has surfaced currently in Sri Lanka and the bitter experiences of the 70 year long rotating politics indicate? It is none other than that capitalism in Sri Lanka can never create anything new for the masses in this country and this impotent capitalist system should be changed. This once again emphasizes the need for a new socio-economic transformation for a new Socialist society to replace the bankrupt capitalist state. The UNP, the SLFP or other small cliques and groups can never find genuine solutions for the present crisis of capitalism or bring economic development or progress to the country. It is the working masses lead by the working class and the downtrodden people who should take the initiative. There is no other way. It needs political leadership and the only political party that could give this leadership, has won people's trust, has an alternative programme, could make sacrifices and has the determination to do so is the JVP.

As such, a gigantic people's power,

a people's movement a people's center under the leadership of the JVP with the working masses as its vanguard should be built to defeat the bankrupt capitalist system that is in crisis and the bankrupt capitalist political parties to create a people's administration that would establish a new Socialist society to achieve social justice and national unity. This people's movement that is already being built should be strengthened with resoluteness and dedication. It is only by building such a people's power, making it victorious and bringing about a new socio-economic transformation that the downtrodden people including the working masses and all progressive people could win their rights and a better tomorrow could be created for the masses. Hence, on this May Day, we say that the new Socialism could be built and call upon all Sri Lankans including working masses, the farmers, the fishermen, the youth, women, students, professionals, scholars, intellectuals, writers, artists, environmentalists, journalists, humanitarians, progressives, democrats to come forward, rally with the JVP and struggle for a people's administration.

Political Bureau'
Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna
1st May 2018.

'20' will...

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presidential system. However, none, who had given the promise, fulfilled it. No one took the initiative to do so. Mr Maithripala Sirisena who pledged that he would be the last executive president in Sri Lanka hasn't shown any interest in abolishing it.

The JVP presents the 20th amendment to the Constitution as all those who promised to abolish executive presidency have failed to fulfil the promise, as it need not be another false promise at presidential elections and the move need not be delayed further.

If those who wished to abolish executive presidential system did so genuinely, they should, when the 20th amendment

is presented, sustain it, correct any errors and omission if there are any and contribute to the task they failed to fulfil without aiming missiles at it.

Whatever it is, the JVP has made a change in politics in the country by deciding to present the 20th amendment to the Constitution. They have brought the political dialogue in the country that was all about internal conflicts of every other party and the political gossip that had been made to circulate among the masses for them to relish so that they forget the real issues tormenting them towards a real and meaningful topic. On the other hand, an opportunity has been created for the

masses to know who genuinely represents democracy. Now nobody can play hide and seek games in politics. When the 20th amendment is presented they should contribute to adopt it and display their honesty and the desire for democracy. Or they should oppose the amendment and expose themselves by removing all pseudo democratic garbs. The result will be known soon.

This process would end either from victory for the masses through the widening of democracy or with an effective political experience the society gets due to the exposure of pseudo democrats.