

Against Kekille Commission at Hyde Park on 18.02.2021



Easter Commission Report Hides Real Perpetrators

The Presidential Commission's final report to Inquire into the Easter Sunday Attack committed on 21st April 2019 and appointed by the former President was handed over to the incumbent President on 1st February. As a result of various campaigns carried out by religious leaders, political parties, the media and mass organizations, the government presented it to Parliament after 23 days. However, this report too has not revealed those who are responsible for the Easter attack.

The wave of attacks launched on Easter Sunday two years ago, killing nearly 270 and injuring more than 500 people, created turmoil in the society which persuaded then President to appoint a five-member commission by gazette of 21st September 2019. After studying evidence of 457 people, 2377 documents and 1588 reports, the commission issued a final report

consisting of 6 volumes.

However, once the report was issued, various sections of the society complained that the report was not complete and did not reveal what had not been revealed to the people. Comrade Vijitha Herath responding to a question asked by 'RedPower' regarding the failure to bring out what has not been revealed to the people, said the commission

report holds a group including the former President Maithripala Sirisena, former IGP, head of the State Intelligence Service responsible for not being able to prevent the attack due to their negligence and carelessness. It also states the reason for the attack, the moves that should be taken to avoid such attacks, extremist groups' influence for the

Page 02 >>>

Easter Commission Report...

From Page 01

attack, and the social factors that affected the Easter attack. However, he pointed out that there were no answers to who the real operator of the Easter attack is, on whose behest the attack was committed, whose hand was behind the attack

and whether there was local or foreign involvement in the attack.

“It states that extremist moves were carried out over the prevailed political situation. However, the whole country expected to know who the attack’s beneficiary was and who

wanted the attack to be carried out. The gazette appointing the commission especially states the foremost task of the commission is to reveal the real perpetrators. As the el perpetrators have not been revealed they are still at large. These commission reports should be coherent. There is nothing new in this report. People knew that Ranil-Maithri administration was responsible

for the Easter attack. It was important to reveal the real conspirator based on the facts presented by various parties. The people expected the commission would reveal the real conspirator. Unfortunately, it did not happen. The report does not recommend any punishment for those responsible for the Ester attack.”

Comrade Vijitha Herath, speaking about the statements

being made by the Leader of the Opposition regarding imposing death penalty for the perpetrators of the Easter attack if they came to power, said former government, as a whole, should take the responsibility for not taking measures to avoid the Easter Sunday attack and added that certain individuals are making hilarious attempts to avoid responsibility.

Continue Page 02

People with dual citizenship...

From Page 04

recommendation of the Kekille Commission appointed to influence the judiciary, there is now a Kekille Cabinet. These recommendations have been sent to the Attorney General and 79 accused, including the Rajapaksa family elite, are in the process of being acquitted and released.

If the accused in the murder of a Sri Lankan parliamentarian is approved by the Cabinet on the recommendation of the Presidential Commission and acquitted, how can it be said that there is at least an independent judiciary? These facts are specific to countries that submit proposals against Sri Lanka to the Geneva Human Rights Commission. Therefore, the Rajapaksa regime is proving that there is no independent judiciary. Serious corruption charges had been filed against Sajin Vaas by the Bribery Commission. The Bribery Commission does not file cases according to its whims and fancies. The withdrawal of the charges filed against Sajin Vaas years ago is acquitting and releasing the corrupt members of the political elite. Not only the judiciary but also the Bribery Commission has been interfered with. Also, Judicial appointments are not independent.

Also, those close to them have to be released in connection with ongoing cases. These are not war-related issues. The present regime is pressuring all institutions to justify what they are doing to maintain their political power illegally. When the Geneva resolution comes the war and separatist things are shown to the people. Meanwhile, social activists and journalists are once again threatened by the highest echelons of the country.

Bhagya, a 19-year-old schoolgirl, says what she sees with her eyes. After that, the police after passing the jungle destroyed interrogate the girl. The wildlife officers too do the same. They do not question people who cut down the forest. The message from this is “Shut up. Do not question!”. “Close your eyes and ears and keep your conscience silent.” Not letting a small child speak the truth they see is a boon to teams bringing resolutions in Geneva. None of this is war-related. Bhagya daughter did not say anything related to the war.

On March 12, 2021, a very dangerous gazette notification was issued under the Prevention of Terrorism Act. According to it, if the police or the government think that a person has extremist views, he can be detained for one year for rehabilitation. He can be sent for ‘rehabilitation’ for another six months without trial if necessary. These are done without a court order. As the JVP, we are against all kinds of extremism. Extremism can be eradicated only through education, reconciliation, coexistence and equality. If a group spreads extremism, it can be isolated and legal action can be taken. Otherwise, if extremism is answered by extremism, an entire community would be destroyed.

But anyone who feels that he is against the government can be made an extremist by this gazette. When the President visited Lankagama, he said, “nothing can be done with environmental extremists.” According to this gazette, even those who the government thinks are environmental extremists can be sent for rehabilitation for two years. Many of those arrested in

connection with the Easter attack have been charged with other offences. This shows that the real purpose of the government is to hunt down those who speak out against them. This gazette is one that raises very dangerous extremism. What right does the government have to decide whether someone is an extremist or not? People do not come out with extremist views as much as MPs and ministers do. A big commotion was created saying Dr Safi sterilized 4,000 women. What’s going on now? The report of the Easter Commission does not mention that. Nothing will happen to those who spread extremist ideas. Leave it to the judiciary, even though it has been weakened, to decide whether one’s views are extremist or not. The resolution that will be brought against Sri Lanka contains such facts.

How can Sri Lanka be protected from the March 23 elections? In 2012, 15 countries voted in favour of Sri Lanka. 24 countries voted against it. In 2014, only 12 supported Sri Lanka. In two years the support had dropped from 15 to 12. There are imperialist countries in the United Nations. As a leftist political party, we are well aware that these organizations are trying to achieve their masters’ various objectives. These organizations include a large number of independent, sovereign nations as well.

Just because there are imperialist countries, they have not been able to make every institution in the United Nations their branches. This must be understood if Sri Lanka is to be protected in Geneva. Sri Lanka should not be isolated in the world but should win the world. That is the responsibility of the

head of state. The Human Rights Commission is such a place where we can achieve a win. Let me give you some examples.

Cuba is a socialist country. It is not a country where there are heads of state with double passports. They are a country that works directly against everything in American imperialism. For 31 years imperialists including the United States have been submitting proposals against Cuba to the UN General Assembly. But Cuba has been able to win the votes of the whole of Europe, including Great Britain, France and Germany. 191 out of 193 countries in the United Nations have voted for socialist Cuba for 30 years. As Gotabaya’s henchmen say if the United Nations is a part of the United States, can this be done? The UN Human Rights Commission is not a purely American body. We know that the Human Rights Commission could not be fully operational when journalists were assassinated in Saudi Arabia. Also, this Human Rights Commission went to look into the war crimes being committed in Israel. That is for Palestine. Palestine did that by working properly. The International Court of Justice went to Palestine, despite US opposition. Palestine has been gaining a majority in the world bodies for years.

Therefore, this motherland needs international strength. It needs international relations. However, Gotabaya Rajapaksa’s regime is trying to maintain a dictatorial regime by maintaining racism and religious extremism for the sake of power. For this, they violate human rights, destroy the judiciary and influence the media and say that the United Nations opposes Sri Lanka. That’s a lie. Mr Basil Rajapaksa is still a citizen of the United States which has always worked against Sri Lanka. Pohottu party leaders are associated

with that country. In Geneva, we can win easily without the votes of the imperialists. If we protect human rights we can get the votes of independent sovereign countries. Even today some countries that vote in favour of Sri Lanka support the US resolution. They would vote against Sri Lanka due to the violations committed in this country. This resolution can be defeated only by protecting human rights in Sri Lanka.

While there is a possibility of winning Geneva, the dictatorial repressive mechanism of this government has pushed us into the arms of the imperialists. Due to the pressure exerted on the Muslim people of Sri Lanka, even Muslim countries that are against the United States may vote against Sri Lanka. Even the countries that were in favour of us are against us now.

The military has ruled Burma for 60 years. It is the best example of how military rule cannot develop a country, no matter how prosperous it may be, no matter how rich it may be. This vast state of 500,000 square kilometres has been under military rule since 1962. Now, it has become the poorest country in Asia. There are some politicians and religious leaders who do not know about the corrupt military junta. Unfortunately, many people in Sri Lanka eat the rotten ropes given by them. The other is it is a country where the majority practise Theravada Buddhism.

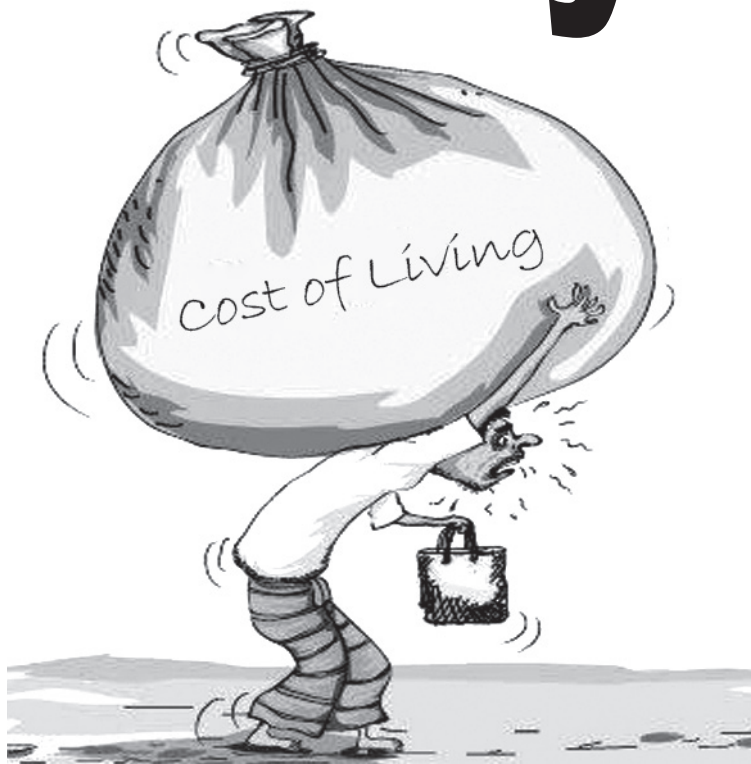
A country that was like that has been turned into a cemetery today. We condemn that military rule. Despite this, the Foreign Minister of the Burmese Army Junta is invited to a conference to be held in Sri Lanka. Sri Lanka’s Ambassador to Burma Prof. Nalinda Silva says that the President made a mistake in appointing him to the post. He says he gets a paycheck. The President has appointed such people everywhere.”

Debt mountain - a volcano that could erupt at any time!

When looking at the political path of Sri Lanka, the main fact we see is that it has become prey to a colossal debt crisis which leads to a gigantic financial crisis. It is evident that economic and debt crises would be the main factor that would decide our people and our country's future.

Just as all previous governments that embraced the open economy during the past forty years, the present government too is submerging itself in the debt crisis instead of finding a solution for the debt crisis. Instead of building a production economy that creates sources for means and income as a solution for the debt crisis, the present government continues to get more loans, slash the people's rights, and sell resources belonging to the country and the people. People's and the country's tomorrow will depend on the gigantic crisis, and the wrong moves the government would take to confront the crisis.

The people in Sri Lanka stepped on to the year 2021 along with an Rs. 15,000 billion debt mountain. When the loan the government expects to obtain this year, the debt mountain would rise to a staggering Rs. 18,000 billion say economists. The serious crisis in the total state debt in Sri Lanka is the regular increase in the foreign debt portion. At the moment, the foreign portion of the state debt as described above has increased to 48%. This has weakened the foreign reserves of the country. According to Central Bank sources, the loan installment Sri Lanka has to pay this year would be about US\$ 5.8 billion.



Recently Minister Udaya Gammanpila had said this amount would be US\$ 6.8. He could be right. The crisis now is that Sri Lanka does not have such a large amount of dollars.

By now, all avenues bringing the foreign exchange to Sri Lanka have weakened. This would result in the drying up of Sri Lanka's foreign reserves.

As a result of the shortage of foreign exchange, Sri Lanka is confronted with at present, Sri Lanka rupee has depreciated so that a US\$ exceeds Rs. 200. It has been warned that a US\$ would rise to Rs. 240 soon. As a result of the rupee's depreciation, the money Sri Lanka has to pay for imported goods has increased, resulting in large increases in the market prices. This would affect fuel prices as well.

Also, foreign companies have started asking for additional certification for letters of credit issued when importing goods. This certification (warranty) has to be obtained from an accepted foreign financial company for which a fee has to be paid.

This further increases the prices of imported goods and adversely affects consumers and those who import raw materials.

On the other hand, how does the government confronts this financial crisis? By obtaining more loans, limiting imports, selling the country's resources and slashing people's rights and relief. As a result of imposing import restrictions already, three-wheelers, motor bicycles, and spare parts have come down. Not even ceramic goods or turmeric are imported at present. As a result, the institutions that depended on them for their income and the employees who have lost their employment and the income and salaries have been severely distressed.

Within the crisis confronted by the government, the process of slashing relief for the people has been accelerated. Limiting overtime for state employees, non-payment of increase in the pensions due to those who retired between 2016

and 2020, slashing of the allowances due to the health sector are some of the benefits that have been slashed. Already, struggles against such moves by the government have been launched by various forces. The next slashing would for those who receive the 'Samurthi' relief. The government has already issued circulars to slash 'Samurthi' relief. The government would come up with various reasons to slash 'Samurthi' relief in the future.

What is the next issue? The government that slashes the benefits of the people and imposes restrictions on imports due to its acute financial crisis carries on regardless of its wasteful spending. How much do they waste on 'conversation with the village' prank, which is only a tour for the President? There are also many other wasteful events, such as the laying of foundation stones for various constructions. The Gem tower to be erected in Ratnapura is one such example. The 'Lotus Tower' in Colombo city was erected with a loan of Rs. 18800 million for which the country has to pay Rs 560 million as loan instalment annually. However, not a single cent has been earned from the 'Lotus Tower' so far!

Despite the rulers ignoring and the people not seeing the seriousness of this state, the debt mountain that has been piled up would explode at any moment. As China that provided a loan to construct Hambantota Harbour acquired it as compensation for the loan, many other country resources would be given away to foreign countries and companies as compensation for the loans that the rulers have obtained. Then we

would lose our independence, sovereignty and would become a subjugated state. On the other hand, the economy would break down, prices of essential goods would soar, and the cost of living would be unbearable for the people. Printing of money is carried on in the country as a solution for the financial crisis. Its adverse effect increases the prices of goods in the market, and the rupee gets depreciated further.

The government printed Rs. 650 billion last year. How the government is engaged at present is to find ways of 'whiling away the days'. However, it would not be a permanent solution, and the whole economic structure would crumble down soon.

This indicates that the future of Sri Lanka is very grim. Already, signs have surfaced that the economic crisis would develop in a political crisis, paving the way for a social crisis. The slashing and hardships created by the economic crisis would lead the people to engage in struggles and confrontations. As had been the practice of all previous governments, this government too would want to deploy its repressive arm against such uprisings. Hence, it is evident that what we have before us is a period of struggles and confrontations. This crisis cannot be solved by changing individuals or depending on alternative politics but by casting away the existing neo-liberal capitalist process. The only solution would be to replace the failed capitalism with an administration based on Socialist principles that would create a production economy in the country.

People with dual citizenship & dual passports become fake patriots during UNHRC sessions

Media briefing held at the head office of the JVP

Comrade Bimal Ratnayake
the National Organizer of the JVP



Those who have dual US citizenship and dual passports become fake patriots when UNHRC sessions commence says Comrade Bimal Ratnayake, the National Organizer of the JVP.

He was speaking at a media briefing convened at the party head office on 19th to comment on the UNHRC resolution against Sri Lanka and its contents. Commenting further at the press conference Comrade Bimal Ratnayake said, "The UN Human Rights Commission has been established by Resolution 60-252. Representatives are appointed by direct secret ballot of the United Nations General Assembly. All 193 countries in the General Assembly can stand and vote for this. Accordingly, 47 countries will become members for a period of three years. When the World Human Rights Commission was established in 2006, 117 countries voted in favor. Sri Lanka is among

those countries. 47 countries representing all continents from all regions of the world are elected to this Council. It intervenes and reports on human rights in all these member countries.

The discussion on the human rights issue in Sri Lanka begins with the resolution 1/11 on May 26, 2009. The then UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon and the President of Sri Lanka issued a joint statement agreeing to investigate violations of international humanitarian law and human rights. As a result of agreeing to look into this matter, the UN Human Rights Commission's Special Resolutions on Sri Lanka started coming since 2012. Special proposals regarding Sri Lanka have been submitted by various countries as 2/19 in 2012, 2/23 in 2013, 1/25 in 2014, 1/30 in 2015, 1/37 in 2017, and 1/40 in 2019. With the exception of the original resolution tabled in September

after the end of the war in 2009, all other resolutions were against Sri Lanka. Sri Lanka has been defeated by a number of those proposals. No vote was required due to Sri Lanka's sponsorship for the 2015 resolution.

A resolution signed by 41 countries representing the UN General Assembly was submitted to the Human Rights Council on March 16. The motion will be put to a vote on March 23. It is important to consider the context in which the proposals are made, not the facts. The government's large media network reports on the proposals are in accordance with the government's power project. For example, Gotabaya Rajapaksa was a dual citizen before applying for the presidency. We are confident that his dual citizenship was not revoked when he submitted his nomination for the presidential election. His wife and son are still American citizens. Their

leader Basil Rajapaksa still holds American citizenship. Even the constitution of Sri Lanka is changed to suit their needs without removing citizenship. People who are always biased towards foreign countries, people with dual citizenship, people with dual passports become huge anti-Geneva, people who are against the United Nations when it comes to the Geneva issue.

issues related to the 2009 war were present in resolutions presented earlier. But today, 12 years later, most of the resolutions are about the post-war period. They are concerned with anti-democratic moves, interfering with the independence of the judiciary etc. It should be emphasized that this is not a purely war-related resolution. A separate commission will be appointed to examine all the reports of the Presidential Commissions appointed by the President so far. A commission about a commission. The Commission has focused on the Presidential Commission on Human Rights. This is a commission appointed to go to Geneva and say something.

There are five main points they make regarding Sri Lanka. One is the weakening and collapse of the Human Rights Commission in this country. It is clear to everyone that its current chairman cannot play the role of an independent commission because he is the father of the foreign minister. The second is the issue of militarization in the country. The third is the acquisition of the power to appoint judges to the judiciary by the President through the Twentieth Amendment.

The fourth is political interference in cases currently pending in the courts. The best example is the Kekille Commission. The fifth refers to the search for information of social activists, intimidation and pressure on journalists. In addition, the issue of the cremation of covid deaths of Muslims has been raised against

Sri Lanka. The Commission on the Disappearances has also been cited as an additional factor. The chairman of the Kekille Commission had stated that human rights cases pending in courts could not be discussed in the commission. However, the chairman of the Kekille Commission himself has ordered the acquittal and release of the accused in 79 cases pending in the courts and also has recommended that the plaintiffs who acted against those accused be prosecuted. It is a serious situation that the former chairman of the Kekille Commission is now the chairman of the Commission on Missing Persons. The International Human Rights Resolution has considered the contradictory actions taken by the Human Rights Commission in connection with the abduction and murder of 11 youths for ransom.

The Human Rights Commission of Sri Lanka appointed by the President should have a very active person. This is reminded in the resolution of the United Nations Human Rights Commission. Also, former military officers have been appointed to 28 departments in Sri Lanka. Even the Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs is a former Army Chief. The militarization of civilian institutions is unacceptable in the world. Even military officials acknowledge that there can be problems in civilian affairs. Institutions for which former army chiefs have been appointed have not developed. Despite this 25 serving Army officers have been appointed in parallel with the Government Agents. Even the official duties of District Secretaries have been handed over to the Army officers. In some places, the Chief of Army Staff has begun to play a higher role than the Government Agent. A parallel military administration has now been established.

As the Cabinet approved the report on the release of 79 accused on the

Can Modi's move of letting companies acquire India's agriculture succeed?



The farmers' struggle in India that commenced in September 2020 has not ended yet. On 26th January, India's Republic Day, thousands of farmers with their tractor force entered New Delhi as a massive farmer's rally. On foot and in tractors, the farmers were a part of a huge protest rally planned for India's Republic Day. Clashes broke out with police when attempts were made to stop the farmers from entering the city. However, protesting farmers broke through police barricades to storm Delhi's historic Red Fort complex. Tens of thousands of them have been striking on the outskirts of Delhi since November. By the beginning of February,

the three main boundaries of Delhi, which are Tikiri, Sindi and Jaipur, were closed down with concrete and iron barricades to prevent any vehicles from entering Delhi. Barbed wire fences had been put up to prevent farmers from marching into the city.

The protests are carried out, demanding the Modi government to immediately withdraw the three agricultural laws adopted in the Indian Parliament in September last year. Eleven rounds of discussions between Modi administration and farmers' trade unions were held until 22nd January, and all of them ended unsuccessfully. By now, India's Supreme Court temporarily paused the implementation

of new agricultural laws. The Supreme Court has appointed a committee to study the acts further, and the public was given time till 20th February to express their grievances on the farm laws. However, farmers and their trade unions have rejected Supreme Court decisions. They say the acts should be abolished immediately.

According to analysts, Modi's administration's three acts are compatible with the UN agricultural programme, which attempts to refashion global agriculture and food production to achieve 'sustainable Development Goals' by 2030. It would be presented by the FAO at the Food Systems Summit to be held by the UNO in September 2021.

The reforms provide a significant fillip to private enterprises' operation, especially for large agribusiness in India. They will largely boost private agribusiness to the detriment of the livelihoods of small farmers. The bills propose new market channels that are largely unregulated, potentially leaving farmers at the mercy of powerful private sector players. Small farmers from less developed areas with poor infrastructure may find themselves frozen out of such channels. The acts would encourage private sector entry and government withdrawal. All these would destroy the livelihood of small and middle farmers as well as small middlemen.

What is in Modi's

programme are the changes the IMF and the World Bank had demanded Indian governments from 1990 to implement but were not carried out by other governments. No other government came forward to conflict with the farmer community, which is India's biggest population. These new laws are compatible with the 'new vision for agriculture' presented by the World Economic Forum that capitalist companies in the world are directing. This has been brought forward as the agenda for a Sustainable Agriculture Programme of the United Nations. The World Economic Forum has been attempting for the last 12 years to introduce its 'business model' to countries in Africa, Asia and Latin America.

Modi's programme would force small scale farmers to sell their farms, fields and agro-products to large scale companies while the protective steps enacted for the protection of farmers at state level would be withdrawn. It becomes a sustainable development not for farmers but massive multi-national agricultural companies.

Relevant to the 'new vision for agriculture' of the World Economic

Forum, the India business council in 2017 consisted of Bayer, Monsanto Company - an American agrochemical and agricultural biotechnology corporation, Cargils India, Dow AgroSciences - a company dealing in seeds and pesticides, Du Pont Lovis Dreyfus - global agricultural merchant and processor, Walmart India - a chain of Wholesale stores, Mahendra Tractors, Nestle India, Pepsi Cola India, Adani Group and Mukesh Ambani's company. . Gautam Shantilal Adani is the second richest person in India. Mukesh Ambani is the second richest person in Asia. Both of them are very close associates of India's President Modi.

It is necessary to completely trap India, which has the second-largest population in the world, to make the Sustainable Agriculture Programme-2030 of the United Nations, which is a neo-liberal programme, a success. Narendra Modi's effort to implement the 'new laws' is to uphold the imperialist agenda. However, whether it could be achieved depends on India's farmers and their leaders' strength and correct decisions.

We are ready to defeat 'kangaroo' commissions

[Comrade Tilvin Silva, General Secretary of the JVP]



Red Power: These days, your party talks of a 'kekille' commission. You carry out agitations against it. What do you mean by 'kekille' Commission?

Comrade Tilvin Silva: It is a move hilarious on the one hand and tragic on the other taking place in our country at the moment. As soon as Gotabaya Rajapaksa became the President, a special presidential commission of inquiry was appointed in January 2020 to look into alleged political revenge on government officials, employees of state corporations, members of the armed forces and the police who held positions from 8th January 2015 to 16th November 2019. The Commission functioned for one year. Later, its period was extended. Finally, its report of about 2000 pages was handed over to the President. The report consists of three

main recommendations. One is that legal action to be taken against all active and involved in the National Executive Council, Anti-Corruption Committee Secretariat and FCID appointed during Ranil-Maithri administration as they were established contrary to the Constitution were illegal. The charges were politically victimizing persons and misusing public property. There are 22 names of leaders of political parties and government officials, including Comrade Anura Dissanayake, the leader of our party.

Red Power: What are the other recommendations?

Comrade Tilvin Silva: the other recommendations are to withdraw 79 cases, including the cases of those who were connected with the former Rajapaksa administration and are being heard in courts at present, including those cases

whose hearings have been completed and judgments are given, to release all accused and to file cases against those who complained against them and also officers of the police, CID, Bribery Commission and the AG's office who carried out investigations against them. It has also been recommended that certain perpetrators be released, and a ransom should be paid to them.

Red Power: How can you call this Commission a 'Kekille' commission?

Comrade Tilvin Silva: It is very clear. What type of a commission can recommend withdrawing 79 cases, release all accused and take legal action against those who complained and investigated when the police, the CID or the Bribery Commission had already investigated complaints received, made reports of such investigations, presented 'B'

reports to Magistrates Courts, carried out investigations further, sent the reports to the AG's Department, the AG's Department studied the reports, accepted there were enough reasons for legal action, forwarded indictments to the High Court, the High Courts accepted the indictments, decided to hear the cases and the hearing continued for several years? Only a 'kekille' commission can ask to withdraw all 79 cases without a different recommendation for a single case. Only a 'kekille' commission can recommend releasing all accused and recommend legal action against the complainants and the investigators.

Red Power: Do you say the process of this Commission is erroneous?

Comrade Tilvin Silva: Definitely, yes. The lawyers in our country have pointed out the errors in the process of the Commission. The President assigned this Commission to investigate complaints of those attached to state institutions and government corporations. However, the Commission has gone beyond its purview and has listened to politicians' complaints and recommended discharging them from cases. The examples are the cases against Udaya Gammanpila, Basil Rajapaksa, Thiru Nadesan and Nissanka Senadhipaty. Investigating complaints that are not relevant to it means the Commission is not an unbiased one.

Red Power: Are there any issues regarding members of the Commission?

Comrade Tilvin Silva: Yes. Those in the legal sector know many facts regarding this. Former Supreme Court Judge Upali Abeyratne is a person who has been accused of various corruptions. He was convicted by a three-member panel of the Court of Appeal. Also, former IGP Chandra Fernando, another member of the Commission, was convicted at a fundamental rights case heard by the Supreme Court. Also, he had to pay a fine of rs. 100,000. How could such persons get appointed to a responsible commission? It is a commission appointed

to get the need for the likes of Gotabaya Rajapaksa. A commission consisting of corrupt persons attempts to release similar corrupt individuals and punish those who took measures to prevent corruption and fraud. It is why this Commission is named a 'kekille' commission.

Red Power: What action has the President taken according to the recommendations of this Commission?

Comrade Tilvin Silva: He forwarded the Commission's recommendations to the cabinet on 15th January 2021 and got its approval to implement them. Next, he hastily appointed a new commission consisting of two Supreme Court Judges and a Judge of the Court of Appeal. It has the power of punishing. It is similar to the Commission appointed by J.R. Jayawardene in 1978. Through this new Commission, the President expects to abolish civil rights of those who have complained of political victimization and misuse of public assets.

We wouldn't expect the Supreme Court's responsible judges will accept the 'kekille' commission report though the President expects so. AlreAdy, the Judge of the Court of Appeal appointed to the Commission, has resigned from the Commission.

Red Power: Why does President Gotabaya Rajapaksa do such a thing? What is your view about it?

Comrade Tilvin Silva: Rajapaksas deceived the people saying they would protect and develop the country. They came to power using the terror in the society of the Easter attack not to protect or develop the country or to punish the perpetrators. One is to they had the intention of regaining the power they lost in 2015. They are greedy for power, wealth, privileges and fame. They needed the power to achieve that. The other is Rajapaksas and those in their circle had allegations of crime, including fraud, corruption, murder, and abductions. There were cases against them and they needed to avoid going to courts. They are scared of legal

We are ready...

Continue Page 07

proceedings and the judiciary. That is why they manipulated to withdraw cases against them through the Commission. Gotabaya Rajapaksa is scared of the courts as well. He continuously avoided courts. Now, he is safe due to immunity. As such, evading goin to courts and withdrawing cases was a priority. This is why he commenced the commission process.

Red Power: In the list of people whose civil rights are to be abolished is the name of Comrade Anura Dissanayake, the leader of our party. How did his name get into the list?

Comrade Tilvin Silva: It is clearly an action taken to take revenge from Comrade Anura Dissanayake and us and to inconvenience us. Before 2015 and after several comrades of our party complained to the CID and the Bribery Commission regarding corruption and frauds committed during Rajapaksa regime. Comrade Anura Dissanayake too revealed a large number of instances of corruption and fraud. However, Ranil-Maithri government followed a very indifferent policy regarding the complaints. They took measures to protect Rjapaksas. Comrade Anura Dissanayake questioned regarding this in Parliament as it is our right to do so.

Concerning this, once or twice he was called to Temple Trees. Accordingly, Comrade Anura Dissanayake went to Temple Trees and explained our standpoint. It is this incident that has been used to make Comrade Anura Dissanayake an accused.

Red Power: Is it the only reason to make Comrade Anura Dissanayake an accused by the Commission?

Comrade Tilvin Silva: No, The real reason is not that. They want to take revenge on Comrade Anura Dissanayake and stop his activities in Parliament. This is the real reason. We know that Comrade Anura Dissanayake is the one who revealed with facts and

figures the frauds, crimes and corruption committed by Rajapaksa family during the last few years of Mahinda Rajapaksa rule. It is how society came to know that Rajapaksa family is a corrupted family. Such revelations played an important role in Mahinda Rajapaksa getting defeated at the 2015 presidential election. As such, they are furious with the JVP as well as Comrade Anura Dissanayake. After some time, court cases were initiated against several members of Rajapaksa family, and several were remanded. This is why they are enraged. Even now, it is Comrade Anura Dissanayaka who constantly exposes frauds and corruption of Gotabaya Rajapaksa administration but not Sajith Premadasa, who is the leader of the Opposition for the namesake only.

This is why they want to harass the JVP and Comrade Anura Dissanayake, to take revenge and to remove him from Parliament for at least several years. This is the real reason behind the Commission's accusations against Comrade Anura Dissanayake.

Red Power: Can Comrade Anura Dissanayake prove his faultlessness at the Commission?

Comrade Tilvin Silva: Definitely, yes. Comrade Anura Dissanayake also gave evidence at the 'kekille' Commission. He explained that the allegations are not relevant to us. If we get an opportunity to present our facts and if a public hearing is held, Comrade Anura Dissanayake is prepared to go before it and expose the frauds, corruption and crimes committed by those who are connected with the ruling class. We have ample evidence and information to do so.

On the other hand, why do they try to frame Comrade Anura Dissanayake within the Commission? Comrade Anura Dissanayake or any of us cannot be tried under the common law in Sri Lanka. For, none in our party has committed any crime. Does any member of our

party, including Comrade Anura Dissanayake, have committed any fraud or engaged in any corruption? Do we have any criminal charges or complaints of misuse of public money? Have we hoarded assets or grabbed commissions or bribes? No. That is why they adopted a process outside the legal system. Appointing the 'kekille' Commission reveals their vile intention and ignominiousness.

Red Power: Whatever it is, does not the commission state that the Anti-Corruption Committee, FCID and National Executive Council violate the Constitution?

Comrade Tilvin Silva: That is the biggest joke. All the institutions mentioned were appointed during Ranil Wickremesinghe administration through cabinet papers with cabinet approval. According to the law, we know that none of them is illegal. The cabinet has appointed such institutions before this as well. Even if we consider them unconstitutional, then it is the cabinet responsible for appointing such institutions. What so ever, the employees who served in these institutions cannot be held responsible. Strangely enough, Upali Abeyratne's 'kekille' commission does not name the cabinet as the accused. A large number of people who were in Ranil-Maithri government are in Gotabaya's cabinet.

Maithripala Sirisena was the head of the cabinet then. He is now with Rajapaksas. Mahinda Amaraweera, too was in that cabinet. Mahinda Samarasinghe and Nimal Siripala de Silva were in that cabinet. They also should be named as accused. However, they have been left out, and only officials and politicians who genuinely oppose Rajapaksa and their circle are being pursued.

Red Power: Finally, let me ask you what action would the JVP take under these circumstances?

Comrade Tilvin Silva: First of all, I must say that our party members, including Comrade Anura Dissanayake, are not scared of this 'kekille' Commission. We are not scared even if they conspiratorially attempt to abolish Comrade Anura Dissanayake's civil rights. The leaders of our party do not need the licenses of the government to engage in politics. Comrade Anura Dissanayake will continue to engage in politics, whether he has civil rights or not. No one should have any doubt about it. However, the main issue here is not that. This is a threat to democracy in our country. It is not only a challenge to common law and the judiciary but a disgrace as well. When this ridiculous Commission recommends withdrawing all cases being heard in High

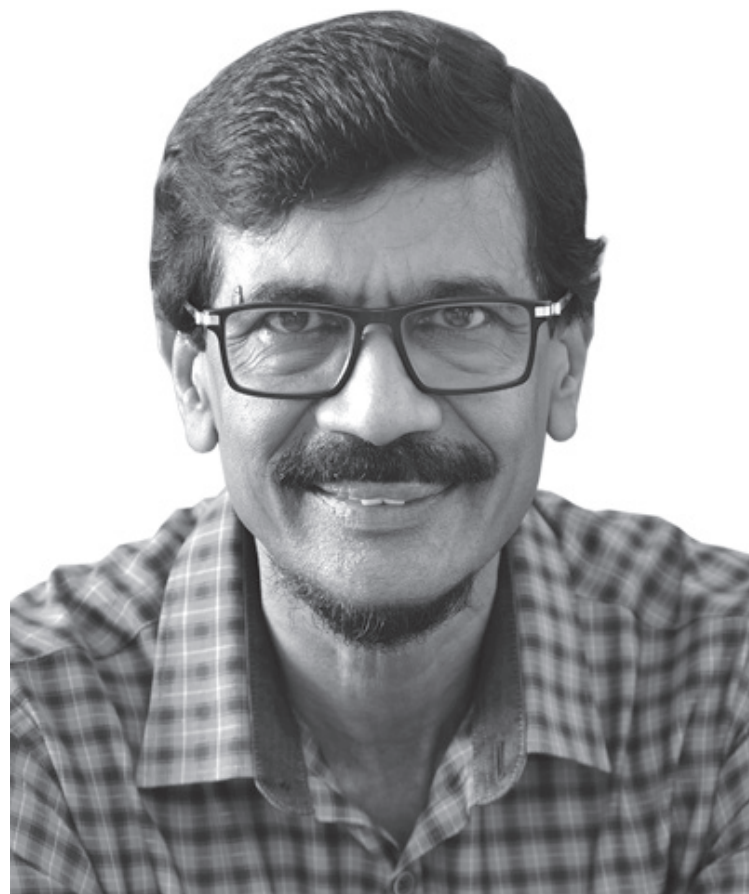
Courts, and cases heard in the Supreme Court where already judgments given, what would happen to the judiciary's dignity and power? It is very serious.

On the other hand, if it is allowed to happen, it would be a horrible precedent in our country. If it happens officials in the police, CID, Bribery Commission, and the AG's Department and magistrates will keep away from investigating and taking action regarding crimes and wrongs committed by those in the government. What would happen then? Those in the government would not be scared of committing crimes and wrongdoings. Hence, it would be a license for those in the government to commit crimes. This is why this ugly undemocratic attempt should be defeated.

We hope to take legal action against the erroneous report of the 'kekille' Commission. This Commission is not an unbiased one. They have gone beyond the boundary set for them. As such, we have decided to go to courts to defeat the 'kekille' Commission legally.

Moreover, this should be defeated politically as well as morally. For that, all genuine democratic forces should be rallied. We would take this injustice to the people. We would make the people aware. We are prepared to rally left, progressive and genuine democratic forces and take to the streets.

Meanwhile, attention should be paid to another matter. The defeated capitalist forces are attempting to make this Commission report a blessing in disguise and stating 'All should rally on behalf of democracy' try to play the role of a cunning protector to plunder democratic forces for its political agenda. They, too are responsible for the destruction Rajapaksa regime is carrying out. Hence we call upon organizations and all those who cherish democracy, justice and fair play not to be deceived by the cunning protectors, to discard hitherto unsuccessful political paths but rally with left, progressive forces to win genuine democracy and social justice.



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Don't play Russian roulette with corona programme...

It is evident that the government made corona a political gamble as soon as the pandemic entered Sri Lanka. Despite the first corona wave was somewhat squashed, the government intentionally allowed the second wave to adrift once it broke out on the island. The government forced the masses to 'live with corona' and followed an unscientific and inconsistent process to 'suppress' corona.

Instead of following scientific health processes and being a model for following such processes, the government continued to lie and deceive the masses. Doctors and PHIs allege that the government's statistics regarding covid-19 infected and deaths are erroneous, and the exact number of corona deaths is not revealed.

Quarantine laws and regulations were limited only to media pageants and statements. The masses were exposed to danger as the government did not make an effort to obey such laws and follow the regulations. The rulers who forced people to 'live with corona' restricted the number of passengers carried in transport services. The private bus owners asked for an increase in fares as carrying only a limited number of passengers was unprofitable. The government allowed this. Bus fares went up though the limited number rule was ignored. The commuters have to travel like sardines packed in a can in fully loaded buses paying increased fares and endangering their lives. The government did not have any programme or an intention to monitor and prevent bus owners from violating quarantine laws. Opening schools and children's education is in chaos. Meanwhile, health sector employees and PHIs have started criticizing the government, stating that their difficulties and risks are ignored. The covid-19 vaccination programme, too has been made a mess at present.

When the second wave of covid-19 pandemic broke down, the government directed people towards delusion. The government engaged in such idiotic and stupid acts of dropping pots to rivers and sponsoring 'Dhammika honey was taught a lesson by nature infecting those who engaged in propaganda for 'Dhammika honey'. The Minister of Health was among the infected.

What so ever, 500,000 vaccines were received from India finally, and it is said that one million more have been ordered from India. The vaccine should be repeated after a definite period. It is this vaccination process that has been politicized and made a mess of.

The WHO had issued guidelines regarding the priority given when carrying out the covid-19 vaccination programme. It was to prevent the vaccine from being grabbed by the powerful and made available to the neediest. Accordingly, in Sri Lanka, a technical committee comprising virologists and other experts prepared a priority list for the inoculation programme and made it available for the government. According to this programme, the priority was given to health sector workers, security services, public servants who come directly in contact with the infected during their duties (e.g., Airport employees), those above the age of 60, and those who suffer from various illnesses. The object was to prevent the number of deaths that were increasing.

What has happened now? The government has discarded the recommendations for priorities prepared by the technical committee, politicized the process, and made it available at various places without a set programme. Politicians compete with each other to take the vaccine to their areas. It is similar to the political gamble of distributing 'sil' clothes, roofing sheets, agriculture tools and squatting pans during election times. Already, doctors have expressed their opposition to this process. In contrast, health authorities had to make a public appeal to the masses not to force themselves to get the vaccine and prevent stampeding. It shows that the mess created by the government is dangerous.

Politicians should not be allowed to make covid-19 preventing vaccine a political bonanza. Making available inoculation programme like the 'Samurdhi' programme to get a political advantage is harmful. If the government fails to get down a sufficient number of vaccines despite a heavy demand, it would be a profitable racket for the private sector. Maybe the government's objective is that!

The government should be forced to stop the political gamble immediately it carries out with the deadly pandemic, allow the health sector to carry out the proposed process without any hindrance, and not make the process another buffoonery like the distribution of goods carried out during the election times.

11 Questions Regarding Sugar Scam

Comrade Vijitha Herath
Information Secretary of the JVP



Sajath Mausoon, the owner of Wilma, a Shangri-La company owned by Shangri-La, who was a campaigner for Mr Gotabhaya Rajapaksa during his presidential campaign, and five others embezzled 15.9 billion rupees in the sugar business. At a media briefing held at the JVP

head office on the 14th, the Information Secretary of the JVP Comrade Vijitha Herath questioned whether there hasn't been any fraud as claimed by the ministers and pro-government ministers.

The questions are posted below, and as a responsible government Gotabaya Rajapaksa government should answer them, says Comrade Vijitha Herath.

If there was no fraud he asks:

- 01 Why was the Rs. 50 tax levied on sugar to boost the national economy suddenly lowered to 25 cents? Doesn't it cause a disruption to the national economy?
- 02 Why did Wilma Company, owned by a friend of the government, Sajath Mausoon, import large quantities of sugar on the eve of the sugar tax reduction month?
- 03 Did Sajath Mousoon suddenly become greedy for sugar without a government tip?
- 04 Wasn't providing apartment facilities by Sajath Mouson to Gotabaya Rajapaksa While he was getting residential treatment in Singapore, related to the sugar deal?
- 05 Why did the government get special love and greed to import sugar when it had restricted a large number of other imported goods?
- 06 Why was sugar imported in large quantities when the country already had enough stocks of sugar?
- 07 Despite the monthly sugar requirement in Sri Lanka being 46,000 metric tons, why did the average monthly import of sugar go up to 80,000 metric tons during the tax deduction period?
- 08 When there are about 67 companies importing sugar to Sri Lanka, why did only Wilma import about 40% of sugar?
- 09 Why did the CWE buy sugar from Wilma at higher prices such as Rs. 120, Rs. 122 and Rs. 127 when a gazette had been already issued stating that sugar should be sold at Rs. 85?
- 10 why was the CWE chairman removed from the institution and taken to the President when there was a rumour in the country about the sugar fraud?
- 11 Why did the Ministry of Finance submit a report to the Parliamentary Finance Committee alleging a loss of Rs. 15.9 billion had occurred due to sugar fraud?