

RedPower

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CURRENT AFFAIRS

Next year is the year to Drive Away this Evil Regime!

Due to increased electricity bills, fuel prices and the difficulties of bearing the burden of living, people in every sphere are suffering and are looking for a way to make ends meet. The government has also announced a VAT increase from 15% to 18% effective from January 1, 2024, to meet revenue targets set by the IMF. It would increase the prices of goods and services, and people's suffering would skyrocket.

As the most organized section of society, the working community has put forward the demand for a minimum allocation of Rs. 20,000 allowance from the Budget 2024. Already, trade unions have come together to struggle for this. People, aware that all these anti-people moves are being taken by a president and a parliament that have no mandate but with the sole intention to steal and protect thieves and the corrupt, are rallying against the government.

The Alliance of Railway Trade Unions protested in front of the railway headquarters, demanding an allowance of Rs. 20,000.

The Health Services Trade Union Collective protested outside the National Medical Research Institute (NMRI) over several demands, including the Rs. 20,000 allowance. State workers

demand a 20,000-rupee wage hike. The Joint Development Officers' Association (JDOA) is currently engaged in trade union action around the country over the Rs. 20,000 demand. State sector and provincial public service trade unions, Trade Union Collective and Ceylon Teacher Service Union have joined the struggle. At the same time, the Government Medical Officers' Association (GMOA) has announced a series of trade union actions.

At this stage of utter decline of the capitalist system, when the ruling class is utterly perplexed and the downtrodden masses are seeking ways of overcoming their suffering, the ruling Ranil-Rajapaksa gang is trying to bring new bills- Anti-Terrorism and Online Security Bill to prevent opposition to the government to prevent public opinion from being democratically expressed. They think

suppression can thwart all protests, opposition to the government and people's demand for relief. They are moving on a path that neglects the people's opinion.

However, for the oppressed masses it is a time when the conditions for a total transformation of the governance exist. Lenin says when the ruling classes can't maintain their rule without any change, and when the suffering and want of the oppressed classes have grown more acute than usual, an opportunity for a transformation of the society exists. The rulers in our country are now unable to confront the masses, and they cannot provide even the basic needs of the people. At the same time, people have not been able to lead their everyday lives and make ends meet.

Speaking to Red Power Comrade Tilvin Silva, General Secretary of the JVP said, "We ask the rulers not to play with the mandate. There will be a presidential election next year. Any candidate put forward by Ranil-Rajapaksa gang would be defeated, and the NPP would win the election. This Parliament would be dissolved immediately. We will definitely win. Next year will be the year to end this evil regime."

NPP popularity on the rise Enemy forces in a rage

The fact that the support of the people towards the National People's Power has been rapidly increasing and the successful progress of the grassroots organization of the National People's Power has made the government and the traditional opposition groups severely distraught has created a stringent dialogue in the political field.

Especially the large number of people participating and the extreme success of the meetings in which Comrade Anura Dissanayake participated and organized by the United States Committee of the National People's Power in many cities, including Los Angeles, Houston, Boston, Washington and New York, for the Sri Lankans living in the United States has made these hostile groups fly into a rage.

During that visit, Comrade Anura Dissanayake also took the opportunity to observe several places that may be

important for future economic planning, including research institutes where Sri Lankans work. It is noteworthy that none of the government leaders or the traditional opposition have been able to organize

successful meetings for Sri Lankans living abroad and have not received such recognition from them. In the face of this situation, political analysts believe that the frenzy of these hostile groups is proof that the National People's Power has entered the path of victory.

In particular, several political commentators and intellectuals had expressed similar views through social media and leaders of the government and the traditional opposition were holding special press conferences and using their hired media units to slander the National People's Power and its leader, Comrade Anura Dissanayake. had intensified.

They received him with love!



Comrade Anura Dissanayake, the JVP and National People's Power leader, engaged in a ten-day visit to the USA on the 26th. The NPP Committee in the USA had organized the series of meetings for Sri Lankans living in the United States. The rallies were held in Los Angeles, Houston, Boston, Virginia Beach, Washington and New York.

It is the first time a political party leader in Sri Lanka has held such a series of meetings covering several states in the United States. Comrade Anura Dissanayake received the highest recognition from US Sri Lankans during this trip. He had to travel to cities thousands of kilometres away by internal flights. In every city, he stayed in the houses of party comrades.

It was common for party members to gather at every house where Comrade Anura Dissanayake stayed. They were very much interested in meeting him and getting accurate information about the political situation in Sri Lanka.

After the public meeting in Los Angeles, Comrade Anura Dissanayake participated in an observation tour of the NASA Research Institute in California. He

spent about 6 hours at NASA observing various aspects with the Sri Lankan scientists in NASA. After the Houston meeting, he joined an observation tour of the University of Texas Research Center.

It was organized according to the invitation of Professor Gomika Udugamasuriya, an activist of the National People's Power and researching to identify a new cell agent capable of defeating cancer.

After the meeting in Boston, Comrade Anura Dissanayake had the opportunity to join an observation tour of the famous Harvard University. Anura was surprised when many Sri Lankan students welcomed him there.

During these meetings and observation trips, many Sri Lankans pledged to bring their knowledge, skills and investments to Sri Lanka when the National People's Power forms the government. Also, the presence of many Sri Lankans for these public meetings and the fact that they joined a conversation about country building, the country's national debt problem, etc., has also attracted the attention of the political field.

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

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Cricket, lovely Cricket?

ICC has suspended Sri Lanka cricket—further action and conditions will be decided when the ICC board meets on November 21. The way things were turning out, the ICC's decision was forthcoming, though some say the SL Cricket Board called for it.

Cricket is a solace to millions in countries such as Sri Lanka, India and Pakistan, which provides meager entertainment opportunities, especially for the impoverished. It is also a boon to specific sections of the so-called elite in these countries to amass wealth and gain privileges. Especially in Sri Lanka, a few families have been dominating Sri Lanka cricket, and the voices that have cried foul against them are numerous. As Comrade Anura Dissanayake says, Cricket is a game that is connected with the hearts of the people of our country. We get emotional in its victories or defeats. The continuous defeats here have created confusion.

Ranil Wickramasinghe, the cricket board and Sagala Ratnayake are a team together. They are always the losing team. Against it is the group of people who expect victories.

There are allegations of corruption, misappropriation, favouritism, misconduct, bribery etc. Sri Lanka has been pathetically ousted from the ongoing Cricket World Cup due to its appalling showing and has been losing to all Test-playing nations, whether at home or away, despite winning both ODI (1996) and T20 World Cup (2014). Many past cricketers who brought glory to the country attribute this to players' pursuit of money instead of a passion to do well and bring distinction to the country and high spirits to the millions of fans. Discipline is another factor that affects our sports. There have been instances where our players have roamed streets in foreign countries at night, attempted to jump from 30,000 high-flying aircraft, been accused of sexually molesting women in a foreign country and match-fixing.

In a country where most of these crimes have become mundane, a country which has declared bankruptcy and is ruled by a president and a parliament that doesn't have a mandate, Cricket cannot prosper on its own. There is also political interference as well as in-fights, even among government ministers, that affect Cricket like they affect everything else in the country. Changing Boards would be like 'Changing pillows as a cure for headaches. Cricket, like any other factor, cannot have a noble existence in a society ruled by a corrupt, thieving gang of hooligans. Like everything that matters in a society, it needs a change. An uncorrupt, efficient, patriotic and honest set of people must manage it. Such people could come onto the scene only if an honest, patriotic, uncorrupt and efficient administration is established in the country. This new administration will make sport an activity that enhances physical and mental health, regardless of age, strengthening the sense of togetherness. It will establish training centres to train trainers in sports, including Cricket, with support obtained from internationally renowned sports instructors. There will be a sports school, fully equipped sports complexes, stadiums and sports scholarships for deserving sports personnel. All these will be facilitated by making equal access to education scripted into the constitution as a Fundamental Right and allocating enough funds for education and sports build-up in the country.

Then only sports and, to that matter, cricket can be raised to a level where we can hail Cricket as "Lovely cricket – Sri Lanka Cricket!"

"One Holocaust doesn't justify another."



Millions of people on every inhabited continent have filled town squares, train stations and streets demanding an end to the genocide in Gaza being conducted by Israel with the support and oversight of the US-NATO reactionaries.

Protests are currently being held in New York City, Chicago, Los Angeles, and dozens of other cities. In addition to the hundred of protests throughout Europe, North America and west Asia, protests are currently taking place, or have already been held, in Auckland,

New Zealand; Brasilia, Brazil; Sydney, Australia; Johannesburg, South Africa; Santiago, Chile; Kingston, Jamaica; Lima, Peru; and Seoul, South Korea and several other cities.

Meanwhile, thousands of people gathered in Washington, D.C., on Saturday to call for a cease-fire in the Gaza Strip after nearly one month of relentless retaliatory bombing from Israel.

A massive crowd swathed in the colours of the Palestinian flag red, green, black and white gathered around Freedom Plaza near the

White House waving protest signs. Many placards displayed the messages "FREE PALESTINE" and "LET GAZA LIVE!"

The protesters while condemning Israel also criticized President Joe Biden, whose administration has been supporting Israel to carry out brutal attacks on unarmed civilians. They also condemned Hamas militants for brutally slaughtering some 1,400 people there on Oct. 7, including children and older adults.

Masses oppose Ranil's quest to sell



The United Postal Union started a strike from midnight on the 7th against the decision taken by the Ranil – Rajapaksa government to sell the properties where the Kandy and Nuwara Eliya post offices are located. The strike will be effective for 48 hours from midnight yesterday.

President Ranil Wickramasinghe, in a discussion held with the heads of government agencies in Nuwara Eliya on the 4th, has said that the necessary arrangements should be made to hand over the post office building and land for a tourism project.

Nuwara Eliya Post Office, built by

the British in 1894, is one of the most magnificent buildings in Sri Lanka. It is a Tudor-style, two-storied building with a clock spire. It's brick-coloured walls and the roof, along with the immaculately maintained large lawn, add colour to the attractive Nuwara Eliya town. It is considered the oldest functioning Post Office in Sri Lanka.

Meanwhile, a group of foreign tourists who have come to Sri Lanka have protested against the President's decision to convert the historically valuable Nuwara Eliya Post Office building into a tourist hotel. Yesterday, they protested by displaying placards in front of the Nuwara Eliya Post Office building.

They point out that there are already enough hotels for tourists in Nuwara Eliya, but there is only one 'Royal Post Building' with such historical heritage. This group of tourists further emphasizes that this heritage should be protected for the future.

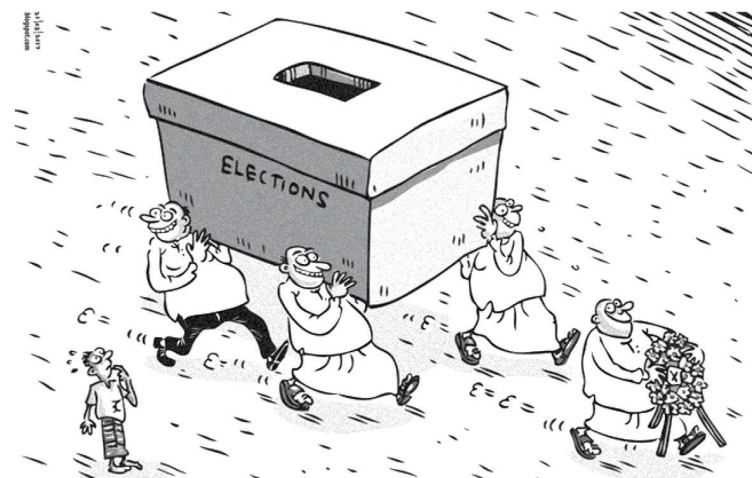
Ranil-Rajapaksa traps set up to halt elections

Ranil Wickramasinghe is the eighth Executive President of Sri Lanka. He is not a mandated president but a president 'set up' using a loophole in the constitution. By now, he is becoming the trapping president. It is because of setting constitutional traps to prevent elections.

Wherever the NPP holds a meeting, whether it is a rally of a constituency or a 'Kottasha sabha' (Divisional council meetings), it attracts large crowds, indicating the people's attraction towards it. Opinion surveys conducted by various organizations, including several government organizations, show the gravitation towards the NPP. The meetings of NPP Leaders by various envoys, including Ambassadors from the USA, Oman, India, Australia and several other countries, as well as representatives from such organizations as the UN and UNICEF have traumatized the reactionaries and their lackeys so that they fabricate various stories. Nevertheless, such meetings by a cross-section of the international community as well as information filtered out from surveys carried out by multiple organizations and intelligence reports from various sections in our country and elsewhere, have indicated that NPP is at the helm of people's choice for the next governance in the country. It is why Wickremesinghes, Rajapaksas and their cohorts dread elections.

The local government elections, which were supposed to be held at the end of February this year, have yet to be held. That is because Ranil knows that the result of that election can cause fatal damage to his 'presidential dream'. The trap he set to prevent the election was that he said he had no money and did not spend money on election activities. There are also court proceedings on this, which still need to be completed.

There are also views about an attempt to create a constitutional knot in order not to hold the presidential election that has to



be held next year. It is leaders of SLPP, including Basil, who have taken the lead in spreading this view. When he feels that his defeat is certain, Ranil also would make use of this knot at the last moment.

The bigwigs of both Ranil and Rajapakse factions have now started shouting that there will be no elections in the country in the next two years. It is very clear that they are afraid of

There is no doubt that the next presidential election will be a decisive presidential election in which the power of our country will be transferred from the ruling elite to the hands of the ordinary people. The mandate is being built to the disadvantage of Rajapaksas and Ranil but to the advantage of the NPP. The leaders of SLPP know that if the presidential election is held, they will inherit

There is no doubt that the next presidential election will be a decisive presidential election in which the power of our country will be transferred from the ruling elite to the hands of the ordinary people. The mandate is being built to the disadvantage of Rajapaksas and Ranil but to the advantage of the NPP.

elections. Therefore, they prefer to stay away from elections for a maximum period. That is why they are considering not to hold the presidential election.

According to the constitution and election laws, they can forego holding local government elections and provincial council elections. That is because there are legal provisions necessary to run the above institutions even without public representatives. But presidential and general elections must be done differently. They must be held on time. There is time till 2025 for the general election. But the presidential election should be held in the middle of October next year.

think of abolishing the executive presidential system, which they cannot overcome. They think of not contesting the presidential election.

According to this assumption, they say that there will be no elections in the next two years. That is, instead of holding the presidential election next year, they think that when the executive presidential system is abolished, and those powers are handed over to the current government, they can run this parliament and government with executive power until 2025. According to that argument, there are no elections for two years. However, the reality of politics is very different. Neither the Rajapaksas nor Ranil can go without holding elections next year. For, NPP has already publicly announced how their constitutional knot can be untied.

A pass by a referendum in addition to the two-thirds vote of the parliament to pass a constitutional amendment or bring a new constitution to abolish the executive presidential system. Although Rajapaksas can take a two-thirds majority in the parliament, the country's voter is crucial in a referendum. According to the amount of opposition to Rajapaksas and the amount of opposition to Ranil that has been built up in the country by now, they cannot win a referendum on their own. It is obvious.

As such, they think that since the JVP has been fighting to abolish the executive presidential system since 1978 and the NPP too has been opposing the presidential system from its inception, they could muster the support of the JVP and the NPP in a proposal to abolish the executive presidential system. There is truth in it. As such, they think the NPP can be caught in the trap of abolishing the executive presidential system. But it doesn't happen like that. Because even though the people, the JVP and the NPP want to abolish the executive presidential system, they would never agree to transfer executive powers to

the existing parliament, where the Rajapaksas are in power, or to the corrupt Rajapaksa regime, which has no mandate at present.

What happens then? Along with the proposal to abolish the executive presidential system, a proposal will be brought that the current parliament will also be dissolved when the executive presidential system is abolished. As soon as the constitutional amendment prepared with that proposal is won in the referendum and the executive presidential system is abolished, the parliament will also be dissolved, and a new parliament will have to be elected by popular vote. Then, a general election will have to be held next year. The executive powers will be transferred to the new parliament and the new government appointed by that mandate.

Otherwise, if they do not agree to dissolve the parliament because it is wrong to transfer the executive powers to the current evil regime, the NPP will work to defeat the government in the referendum. The government will lose the referendum due to a lack of public support. The result is that the presidential election will have to be held. Then, the Ranil-Rajapaksa gang will lose the referendum and lose the presidential election as well.

Accordingly, next year, an election will have to be held to change the the government. So saying no votes for two years is utopian nonsense. The end is apparent. If the government abolishes the presidential system, the general election has be held at the same time, and if not, the referendum will also be defeated, and the presidential election will have to be held.

In this situation, the traps set to abolish the executive presidential system will be a trap for them. Despite all these arguments, the presidential election will likely be held. So our responsibility is to prepare forces to win whatever vote comes next year.

Government moving towards making water a commodity

The name of the Spanish film that was screened in the year 2010 by the director Icíar Bollaín is *Even the Rain* (Spanish: *También la lluvia*). Its theme runs parallel to the actual events of the people's struggle that unfolded in Bolivia when the Bolivian government, acting on the advice of the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund, sold the state-owned Cochabamba Water Company to the United States Bechtel Company in 1999.

With privatization, the Cochabamba Water Company drastically raises water rates and prohibits citizens from accessing groundwater. According to the terms of privatization, citizens are prohibited from collecting 'even rainwater'. This is why the film is called 'Even the Rain'. Parallel to the actual event, the film ends with the Bechtel company abandoning the ownership of the Cochabamba Water Company and fleeing the country in the face of the people's struggles. Unfortunately, we have to start this article with a note about the movie 'Even the Rain', which is based on selling water. It is in a background where plans are being made to turn water into a commodity under the guise of water management in Sri Lanka.

Sell, sell and sell

Ranil Wickramasinghe's government, which came to power after President Gotabaya Rajapaksa was chased away in the People's Struggle in 2022, has made the rapid implementation of neo-liberal economic policies its economic strategy in the country. However, in the face of

This sale is not a sudden thought of the Ranil-Rajapaksa government. It is a process that started during the time of President JR, was intensified during the time of President Premadasa and continued during the time of President Chandrika. It is a journey that has come from the sale of more than 80 government institutions.

the crisis facing global capitalism, no one would come to his rescue. On the other hand, in the corrupt state system, no one comes to invest in any production except to buy essential public utility services that can be made highly profitable. Selling, selling and selling seems to be Ranil Wickramasinghe's solution for daily subsistence in a country that has officially declared bankruptcy. He has no choice but to sell.

Ranil's government is trying to sell government-owned business establishments such as the Electricity Board, Telecom Company, Insurance Company, Litro Gas, Lanka Hospital and Milko Company. They are selling government properties such

as Kalpitiya islands, islands in reservoirs, railway lands, livestock farms, lands in Trincomalee and Mannar and attempt to sell natural resources like Eppawala phosphate, Pulmude mineral deposits and gem lands in Ratnapura. Now, going to the highest point of sale, the government is trying to sell the water resource as well. That is the final meaning of the papers being exchanged in the Cabinet now purporting to be for water management.

This sale is not a sudden thought of the Ranil-Rajapaksa government. It is a process that started during the time of President JR, was intensified during the time of President Premadasa and continued during the time of President Chandrika. It is a journey that has come from the sale of more than 80 government institutions. It is said that more than 80 other properties have been listed for sale. The plans to first turn water into a commodity and then sell it are made as an extension of this selling process.

Initial efforts to sell

In a place like Latin America, which was the first place where neoliberal economic experiments were carried out, the sale of water was carried out blatantly, but after 20 years, it seems that they have been careful to wrap it in a beautiful wrapper as the need for water management. In Sri Lanka, similar efforts were made under different names. During the time of President Chandrika Bandaranaike, Sarath Amunugama, who was the

Minister of Irrigation, presented a bill for this, and in 2001, during the administration of Ranil Wickramasinghe, efforts were made to sell water under the 'Regaining Sri Lanka' programme. At the same time, proposals were also presented to the North-Western Provincial Council to hand over irrigation maintenance to farmers under the name of 'Water Charter'.

This effort, which had been suppressed due to public opposition, was presented again in October 2020 when Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapakse and the two Ministers of Irrigation and Water Supply presented a joint cabinet paper. As the basic structure related to water privatisation, it suggested that a committee to manage the 'water distribution' should be established. The committee was named in another cabinet paper by the Prime Minister, and Professor C.M. Maddumabandara had been proposed as its chairman. It should be remembered here that the Water (Selling) Act of the Ranil Wickramasinghe government that came to power in 2001 was also prepared by the same professor. It is no coincidence. Although the governments have changed, it is clear that the same programme is being implemented in the background. Although these proposals did not go forward amid the crisis that the government had to face, they did not mean a stop in the process of selling water.

New sales efforts

In June 2023, Prime Minister Dinesh Gunawardena of the current Ranil-Rajapaksa government once again presented a new cabinet paper. It introduced the "National Water Resources Policy". It is also presented in the name of water management requirements. There is no doubt that consumable water is a limited resource that needs to be managed more effectively. But the past mistakes and current behaviour of these governments do not allow us to believe the proposals with these managerial nomenclatures as being presented in good faith.

According to Article 08 of the draft policy, it is proposed to establish three institutions that make decisions about water:

- 1. The 'National Water Resources Council' (NWRC) takes decisions at the national level about water.**
- 2. The National Water Resources Secretariat (NWRS) has legal and administrative powers.**

3. The National Resources Appellate Board (NWAB), which hears appeals.

What is special about this is that the officers related to the three institutions are appointed by the President. Accordingly, all decisions related to water resources can be made by a group friendly to the President. When the President decides to sell everything that can be sold, the fate of water is evident.

Apart from this, several other decisions related to water management have been taken in the Cabinet meeting held on August 14, 2023. 01. Establishment of a single agency for water management by restructuring the institutions of the Irrigation Department, Sri Lanka Mahaweli Authority and Water Resources Board 02. Preparation of a new water management act 03. Preparation of criteria for water use related to each crop 04. Preparation of a system to get the services of irrigation engineers in different institutions for water management 05. Protection of water sources and identification of new water sources 06. Popularizing modern technical water management methods. 07. Extensive study of the feasibility of implementing the water market concept 08. The Ministry of Water Supply has been ordered to act on the above topics and other matters related to sustainable water management. Here, a fact that can no longer be hidden has been revealed. That is, the water market concept is alienated from water management.

Attempting to expand domestic and industrial water consumption in a context that is already open to the market (where charges are levied) is nothing more than introducing a system of charging water used for agriculture, the largest share of water use (88%).

Also, the Cabinet has recommended that the Secretariat of Climate Change, the Sri Lanka Climate Fund (Private) Company and the International Water Management Institute should be attached to the Ministerial Committee set up to discuss this matter.

In this situation, the government's approach to water is evident. This is related to the government's 'selling strategy'. Hence, this journey will end not only by having to pay for the water used for cultivation but also by the citizens losing the right to the well and the right to rainwater, along with many other things. The fight to save the citizens' rights to water is before us.

[An interview Red Power had with Comrade Tilvin Silva, General Secretary of the JVP]

Red Power : November is an important month for the JVP as it is the month of November Heroes' Commemoration. Can you give us a fundamental explanation about this event?

Tilvin Silva: On 13th of November, 1989, the then government of the United National Party (UNP) took into custody and assassinated the founder of our Party, Comrade Rohana Wijeweera, the then General Secretary Comrade Upathissa Gamanayaka and several other comrades. During the period between 1988, 1989 and 1990, thug groups backed by the government and the security forces of the country tortured and killed numerous comrades of the JVP as well as a large number of patriotic people of Sri Lanka. Therefore, the November commemoration is intended to commemorate everyone who sacrificed their lives during the uprising. However, in our country, people's comprehension of the uprising is still not positive. The reason was that the rulers who tortured and assassinated comrades and thereby weakened the JVP created an opinion and a mindset against the JVP. Therefore, continuously, we had a challenge to defeat this wrong opinion they created and to acknowledge people on the objectives and dedications of those who sacrificed their lives during these events. It is not a commemoration per se. It is an attempt to go forward, taking the experiences suffered and gathered during those times.

Red Power : How did this uprising affect contemporary politics and society?

Tilvin Silva: The patriotic struggle that existed during that time has had a great influence on contemporary politics

November Heroes give strength and courage to make our Motherland amicable to all

and society. However, even today, that effect has been hidden and covered from people as the enemy has written history in a way advantageous for them. Even today, these events of the struggle are referred to as the JVP Terror in 88, which is untrue. During the whole period of 1987 - 1990 there was terror operated by the paramilitary, thuggery and security forces backed by the then government of UNP. In that terror period, more than 50,000 of innocent people were assassinated. Numerous students, professionals, and Artists were tortured and killed. In order to cover the terror created by the UNP, they refer to it as JVP terror.

Since 1976, JVP has been involved in popular politics, got members elected and made representations on behalf of the elections. When the then President held fake referendums and postponed elections, we went to the courts against it. Likewise, within the limited capitalist democracy that existed, we were involved in popular politics, attracting people. The United National Party and its leader J.R. Jayawardhana saw this as a challenge. They used the Black July, which is also their creation, to proscribe our Party unreasonably and unjustifiably. Still, they cannot answer why the JVP was proscribed in 1983.

That was a political manhunt that had been done using the racist conflicts that emerged in July 1983. They not only proscribed our Party but also suppressed it and pushed it to the bottom of the political arena. They are responsible for that. After the proscription of the JVP, we tried for more than two years to get the proscription

lifted. As the founder of the JVP, Comrade Rohana Wijeweera wrote to the Secretary to the President, the Prime Minister, Chief Justice and several other international and Human Rights Organizations. However, J.R. Jayawardhana's government did not lift our Party's proscription. Instead, the suppression was intensified gradually. Several comrades were taken into custody and were killed. They followed an agenda to destroy JVP gradually. Therefore, no other option was left for the JVP but to respond to this violence.

Within this time, in July of 1987, J.R. Jayawardhana signed the Indo-Lanka treaty with Rajiv Gandhi and betrayed our country. With this treaty, Indian Armed forces came to Sri Lanka. People's vehemence against the government increased. Against this entering of the Indian military, a patriotic people's struggle started. JVP gave leadership to the people's struggle. There were a lot of peaceful protest marches. Around 140 were shot at and killed in peaceful protest marches. Likewise, this uprising started and continued against the suppression of the government as well as against the betrayal. Armed struggle, a civil war started. A civil war is not a tea party. There were some mistakes made by the JVP as well. However, a massive number of people were killed by the UNP.

From 1987 to 1989 the society experienced the collective capability of people to rise up against the betrayal of the country to a foreign power and a foreign intervention. Also, it gave the experience that people can organize and rulers like J.R. Jayawardhana can be



overthrown by people's power. As a result of the power of the struggle, the next appointed President, R. Premadasa, had to send the Indian military home. This struggle brought a massive enthusiasm to the society as a patriotic struggle.

There had been a situation in which the JVP activists gained control at some places of the grassroots level and managed to stop several anti-social activities, including drug abuse and robberies. This struggle forced some parts of our society to think afresh. Artists created songs, novels, dramas, poetry, and articles based on this struggle. Therefore, this struggle gave society a deep feeling about the right to struggle for freedom and democracy and against government betrayals.

Red Power : What examples can the youth, cadre of the Party and general public take from November heroes?

Tilvin Silva: They were involved in a patriotic struggle to

and desires aside, how to face the challenges we meet and how to struggle. We also can learn lessons regarding the mistakes that took place within the struggle.

Now the world has changed, power shifts as well as the struggling methods have been changed. Instead of the battles prioritizing arms now, ideological battles are emerging. People have shown their power in unity. We also have experiences that leadership is essential for the people's struggles. There is a major challenge in front of the country's youth and the Party cadre. A massive people's movement must be organized to defeat this failed, unsuccessful and ruthless governance to create a better society. Such a people's movement must be led correctly, and for that, many examples can be learned from comrades who are commemorated this month. Comrade Rohana Wijeweera founded the JVP in 1965 as a young person of 22 years of age, dedicated his ability and opportunity to become a doctor, his youth and his life to make a better society. Even if he is not with us today, he, along with other comrades of contemporary times, has made the foundation to build a strong Party. Today, the JVP is a very strong and massive Political Party and the most uncorrupted political movement in Sri Lanka. Therefore, an example also has been set by our comrades who sacrificed their lives by building an uncorrupted political movement within this corrupted society. Now, it is our responsibility and people's responsibility to build a movement to decisively change society for the better.

protect the freedom of the Motherland. That was also a struggle aimed to transform the society of ruthlessness of capitalism. In the current context, society has deteriorated to the point that basic human needs are not fulfilled. While people suffer with the burden of prices of goods and amount of tax and levies, production means, and means of income have been made to collapse. Education has become a burden to the parents. Patients are dying in hospitals due to a lack of medicine and sub-standard medicines. People are made to live with the fear of death. In the meantime, a few families have plundered and are still plundering huge amounts of people's money. Group of elite families keeping power are pressuring people with that power.

November heroes in those times also fought to transform society. Therefore, the example youth and the cadre of the Party can take is how to dedicate ourselves to a common objective while keeping personal objectives

Unavoidable outcomes of Palestine-Israel conflict: Will US emerge as the Principal Loser?

Since October 7th, the world has been plunged into the most brutal conflict of the 21st century, witnessing the daylight massacre of the people in Gaza by the killing machines of the United States and Israel. This harrowing situation draws stark parallels with some of the darkest chapters of World War II. Israeli military planes continue their relentless carpet bombings for the 25th consecutive day, perpetrating what can only be described as genocide. It is happening in defiance of repeated appeals from the overwhelming majority of the United Nations General Assembly, a two-thirds majority in the Security Council, and the resounding voices of the global public.

This article's focus is not to delineate the cruel nature of the joint Israeli-US-led campaign against the Palestinian people but to illuminate the repercussions of the United States' dominant political stance in the Middle East in the foreseeable future. Undeniably, the U.S. plays a role in the Palestinian issue that goes beyond mere external influence; it is deeply woven into the very fabric of this 75-year-old conflict. It was U.S. President Harry Truman who, in 1947, officially recognized Israel as a legitimate Jewish state within the existing Palestinian territory and took a leading role in the establishment of the corresponding U.N. resolution.

Today, a total of 138 countries worldwide, including the USA, the United Nations, and over 150 international organizations, have endorsed the establishment of a sovereign Palestinian state, following seven and a half decades of conflict with the USA, which has been a staunch supporter of Israel as a protectorate.

In summary, until October 7th, the United States managed to maintain its position as the principal mediator in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, albeit at the cost of severely eroded credibility. Now, let us explore the potential future ramifications of the U.S.'s handling of the ongoing Israel-Palestine conflict.

1. After Israel initiated a devastating and widespread bombing campaign in Gaza, the U.N. Security Council introduced a resolution urging an immediate ceasefire. The resolution garnered support from the majority of the 15-member council. However, as has become customary, the USA vetoed the resolution, rendering it ineffective. This decision by the USA left the entire global community in

disbelief and raised concerns about its credibility. Subsequently, in an unprecedented move, the U.N. General Assembly put forth a new resolution calling for an immediate ceasefire, receiving support from 120 countries worldwide. Despite this broad support, the USA, along with Israel and a small minority of 14 countries, voted against the resolution. These visible actions brought to the world's attention that the USA was increasingly perceived as a proponent of military aggression, seemingly disconnected from the principles enshrined in the UN Charter, Human Rights, and international laws governing warfare.

2. The incidents, such as Joe Biden's refusal to condemn the Gaza hospital attack, which killed more than 500 people, even though he met Netanyahu's war cabinet in Tel Aviv just one day after this hospital bombing, his refusal to admit that more than 3500 children have been killed due to Israeli bombings and questioning the accuracy of the data, sending more weapons and soldiers including two aircraft carriers to support Israel's genocidal war, passing a plan to provide 14.3 billion USD in aid to Israel, have shaken the very foundation of the U.N. system as well as the U.S. state department itself. Josh Paul, who has been the director of congressional and public affairs for the State Department's Bureau of Political-Military Affairs for over 11 years, cited in his letter of resignation to Antony Blinken that the U.S.'s "blind support" for Israel in its war with Hamas and its continued "provision of lethal arms to Israel, the U.S. is violating its own rules and policies which is harmful to the U.S. itself.

3. In a recent development, the resignation of Craig Mokhiber, who held the position of director at the New York office of the U.N.'s High Commissioner for Human Rights, has drawn significant attention. In his comprehensive three-page resignation letter, dated October 28th, Mokhiber characterized Israel's military actions in Gaza as a "classic case of genocide." He also criticized the U.N. for "failing" to take action, referencing past instances of genocide in Bosnia, Rwanda, and Myanmar. This outspoken critique has sent shockwaves throughout the U.N. staff and has raised questions about the organization's very core principles.

Furthermore, officials within the European Commission have collectively signed a petition demanding the immediate resignation of European Commission President Ursula Von der Leyen, even though European leaders have positioned Europe as just a political satellite blindly rotating around the U.S. axis. It demonstrates a significant shift in sentiment within the high echelons of the European leadership.

4. Over the past decade, the United States has pursued a policy that, on the one hand, allowed the Israeli government to annex Palestinian territories and expand its domain while simultaneously brokering diplomatic relations between Arab nations and Israel. Even staunch historical opponents of Israel, under the leadership of Donald Trump, endorsed the "deal of the century" to establish diplomatic ties. Saudi Arabia engaged in discussions with Israel under U.S. pressure, leading to the normalization of relations. This normalization process essentially

signifies a shift away from making the Palestinian issue a central focus in the foreign policies of Arab countries, which results in the isolation of Palestine. Some countries in the Middle East and Northern Africa (MENA) region succumbed to this diplomatic betrayal. However, it remains undeniable that the people of MENA will not abandon the Palestinian cause despite the U.S.'s ability to influence and compromise leadership in certain MENA nations. However, the United States' actions during the present genocide, characterized as deeply inhumane and hypocritical, have exerted immense political pressure on Arab leaders. Consequently, numerous MENA countries have suspended the so-called "normalization" project, with some even closing their embassies (e.g., Bahrain). This U.S. imperialist endeavour to isolate Palestine from MENA nations, which are fundamental to the Palestinian solidarity movement, has been completely reversed. This strategic setback represents a defeat for U.S. imperialism and Israel as well.

5. The recently brokered agreement between the Islamic Republic of Iran and Saudi Arabia, facilitated by China, is a significant step towards promoting a new global order that is not aligned with the West. This agreement aims to exclude the United States from a fresh regional arrangement, effectively thwarting U.S. aspirations in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region. Saudi Arabia and Iran are the most influential nations in the Middle East regarding economics, military might, political clout, and cultural influence. U.S. imperialist endeavours have

previously exploited the relatively minor differences between Sunni and Shia Islam to sow discord and depict Saudi Arabia and Iran as arch-enemies. Despite their differences, both Saudi Arabia and Iran have historically supported the Palestinian cause. However, due to the USA's "divide and rule" strategy, these two powerful nations have not been able to coordinate a united plan for Palestine and other MENA issues.

With the recent peace deal brokered by China, Saudi Arabia and Iran have now established friendly relations, which have had the positive effect of bringing an end to the devastating conflict in Yemen. This agreement has not only bolstered Iran, the primary adversary of the USA in the Middle East, known for its significant military and political influence, but has also been accentuated by the fact that U.S. military interventions have already weakened Iran's potential competitors in the region, such as Iraq and Syria.

6. There have been additional encouraging developments in recent international relations. For instance, the Bolivian government took the significant step of severing diplomatic ties with Israel, citing accusations of "crimes against humanity" in Gaza. Likewise, Chile, Colombia and Honduras recalled their ambassadors from Israel in protest of the Israeli military offensive against Hamas militants. In a notable move, Bahrain, which hosts the U.S. Navy's Fifth Fleet and is a participant in the Abraham Accords – a series of normalization agreements between Israel and various Arab nations signed in 2020 – recalled its envoy in Israel.

If the conflict persists for several more weeks, more countries will likely follow suit. Moreover, it is worth noting that the United States has already experienced a decline in its influence over Latin America in political and economic terms. Several Latin American nations, including Brazil, Argentina, Mexico, Colombia, and a total of sixteen countries, have elected progressive left-leaning leaders who express strong opposition to U.S. hegemony. These nations have deepened their partnerships with China across various dimensions. The 'mishandling' of the Israel-Palestine conflict by the United States has further distanced Latin American countries from the sphere of U.S. influence.

7. When we examine the global outpouring of support from people worldwide, it emerges as a substantial political force challenging U.S. policy on a broader scale. Unlike in previous conflicts such as the Afghan or more recent Libyan aggressions, the influence of social media was not as significant. Social media platforms and television channels like Al Jazeera are providing extensive coverage of the injustices committed

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A light in the jungle

- 'NETHRA' (EYES) - THE MINI-UNIVERSITY IN A FARAWAY PLACE IN SRI LANKA

For the academic year 2023 - 2024, a group of 400 new students were recruited for 'Nethra', the school of Computing, on the 4th of this month. The children were also offered a full scholarship to study for free. Certificates were awarded to those who studied in the last semester and passed the final exam.

Prof. Jayantha Pasdunkoralege, Professor of Mathematics at Ruhunu University, is the head of the School of Nethra, holding the position of Executive Director.

Prof. Jinasena Hevage, Professor of Chemistry, is the Managing Director, and Professor Dharma Rajapakse is a member of the Board of Directors.

In this humanitarian operation launched under the full patronage of Comrade Samantha Vidyaratne the admission and convocation ceremony was held under the leadership of Rajakeeya Panditha Ven. Napatawela Sri Dhammananda Thero, Chief Sanghanayaka of Giradurukotte Sri Dharmadaya Pirivena, Chief Patron- Board Member of Nethra School of Computing. The Dean

of the Faculty of Management of Uva Wellassa University, Professor Ruwan Ranasinghe, Chairman of the Uva Provincial Tourism Board, Professor Chaturanga Senaratne of the same university, senior lecturers Nuwan Liyanage, Indika Tennakoon and Jagath Kulathilaka also participated. The Chief Guest was the Member of Parliament Dr Harini Amarasuriya. The ceremony was held in a dignified manner with the participation of a large number of guests, including veteran artist Rodney Warnakula.

Nethra School of Computing is a special school as all the teaching staff, composed of many learned and intelligent professors of the country, donate their precious knowledge and time to the school, which is like a mini university in a remote village. The land for the school was donated by Mrs K.H.M. Somavathy, a loving mother and the leading financial contribution of the school is provided by the JVP MPs' Salary Fund, which is one of the main reasons why this school at Naranaththeyaya in Ridimaliyadda, one of the poorest areas in the island, is unique.



Unavoidable outcomes... From Page 06

against Palestinians by Israel and the United States. This level of solidarity has not been witnessed, even during the U.S. invasion of Iraq. It can be likened to the solidarity seen during the Vietnam War, even though it took place almost half a century ago.

The younger generations, who were born in the last few decades after the decline of the socialist bloc and the collapse of the Soviet Union, have been heavily influenced by anti-communist propaganda, the perceived failures of socialism, and the capitalist ideology epitomized by Fukuyama and his disciples in "The End of History and the Last Man" (a book from 1992) that championed Western liberal democracy as the ultimate model. For these generations, there is no prominent, people-friendly, progressive superpower or bloc to rally behind or to issue a severe warning to imperialist warmongers, as the USSR did when the U.K. and France were bombing Egypt in 1956 during the Suez Crisis.

It indicates a sense of solidarity among billions of people and an awakening to the realities of imperialism. This solidarity will not only have a positive impact on the cause of Palestinian liberation but will also raise public awareness about the true nature of imperialism. It will significantly challenge the current class of warmongering politicians in the USA and Europe in upcoming elections.

Ultimately, the sacrifice of 10,000 innocent lives in Palestine is not justified by any shifts in the global political landscape. The decline of the US-led world order, particularly its influence in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA), is an undeniable reality. The 'mishandling' of the crisis by the U.S. and the resilience of the Palestinian people have accelerated this process. Shortly, this will become indisputable, and the U.S. will emerge as the biggest loser in this conflict. Sacrificing 10,000 lives, including children and minors, to weaken U.S. imperialism is not a worthy endeavour. Imperialism perpetuates conflict, and there can be no lasting peace under imperialist domination. Nevertheless, the sacrifices made by the present generations in the fight against imperialism will pave the way for a peaceful coexistence for the children of Palestine and Israel, enabling them to live harmoniously side by side.

The whole Palestinian population is 14 million. 7.1 million live as refugees.

The JVP emphasizes that a cease-fire should be announced to end the genocide, including the killing of a child every 15 minutes by the Israeli and US military machinery, and the provision of much-needed food and medical aid to the Palestinian people. The party has emphasized this regarding the war in Gaza strip by issuing a statement to the media. The full statement is published below.

The press release:

As the Palestine Gaza Strip is being ruined relentlessly by Israeli and US war machines, killing a child every 15 minutes, we, the JVP Sri Lanka, emphasize the need for an immediate ceasefire to save lives and enable food and medical aid convoys to reach the Palestinian people.

The inhuman situation in Palestine was created not by the people who were living in Palestine before 1917 and, more accurately, 1948, but by the International community led by the United Nations. Its resolution promised to establish two separate states named Israel and Palestine to solve the tensions created by the infamous British policy of Divide and Rule. However, the United Nations and the International community have not fulfilled their promise to establish an

Announce ceasefire immediately to end the war that kills a child every 15 minutes – JVP

Independent Palestine State even after 75 years. Due to this grave irresponsibility and imperialist politics, generations of Palestinian people, as well as the people of Israel, have been subjected to immense pain and hardships. Due to that, We insist the only solution for this bloody crisis is to establish an Independent Palestine as agreed by almost all Palestinian and Israeli governments, the United Nations and more than 136 countries of the World, including Sri Lanka.

While we appreciate the adoption of UN Resolution for an immediate ceasefire by the overwhelming majority of the countries of the World with 120 yes and an isolated tiny group of warmongers and its protectorates of US imperialists, it must be needed to say adopting resolutions in New York, and nothing implemented in Palestinian Gaza would become utterly useless. It again shows that the UN has become



just a voice that does not have the means to implement its policies due to the imperialist project that has weakened and destroyed its base system for the last 30 years in a bid to replace it with NATO-led so-called 'Rules-based International order', which no one knows any rules of. It is a wake-up call for all the Imperialistic sovereign countries to get together to defeat the Imperialist agenda to destroy the UN system (of course, it has many defects).

Also, we take this opportunity

to appreciate the UN Secretary-General stating that the present conflict did not occur in a vacuum, thereby stressing the need to address the root cause of the problem and find a permanent solution for the Palestinians' quest for freedom.

With great enthusiasm, we would like to pay our respect and tribute to the Hundreds of Millions of People of the whole World from Brazil, Washington, London, Roma, South Africa, Kerala, Malaysia to Australia, covering all continents of the

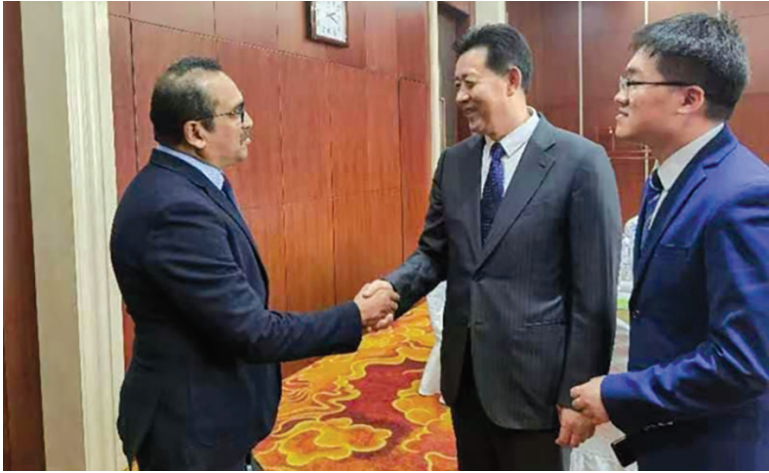
World for their solidarity with Palestinian people. Which gives enormous moral power to Humanity. We would like to appreciate the brave and humane policy of the hundreds of thousands of Jewish people from all around the World for their solidarity with Palestinian people and saying the Israeli government to 'NOT IN MY NAME' a brave slogan used by the progressive people of Europe against Nazi atrocities during the second world war.

As such, we, the JVP Sri Lanka support,

- 1. UN resolution to have an immediate Ceasefire**
- 2. The exchange of all prisoners and hostages of both sides as an immediate step to halt the most barbaric war in the 21st century .**

Finally, we would like to insist that the only way to establish peace in Palestine and Israel is to implement the Two State Solution, which means establishing a Free, Independent Palestinian state. By doing that, we can end the last colony of Asia and make the People of Israel and Palestine live peacefully side by side.

**Department of International Relations,
JVP Sri Lanka.
31-10-2023**



JVP meets Chinese leaders for peace and disarmament

The National Organizer of the JVP and the National Executive Member of the NPP, Comrade Bimal Rathnayake, representing the Sri Lanka Organization for Peace and Cooperation, a member organization of the World Peace Council, had discussions with the Vice Chairman of the National Committee of the Chinese People’s Political Consultative Conference and Chairman of the Chinese People’s Association for Peace and Disarmament Ma Biao and a group of officials including General An Yuejun, Director of the Chinese People’s Institute for Peace and Disarmament, during the official visit to China by the Leadership of the World Peace Council.



NPP meets the Australian High Commissioner

A meeting between the Australian High Commissioner to Sri Lanka, Paul Stephens and the National Executive Members of the National People’s Power, Comrade Vijitha Herath and Dr Harini Amarasuriya, took place on the 25th of October at Australia House, the High Commissioner’s official residence in Horton Place, Colombo.

They discussed the current economic and political situation in Sri Lanka at length. The representatives of the NPP drew the attention of the Ambassador to the Anti-Terrorism and Social Media Suppression Acts to be brought by the government in a bid to suppress the oppressed people’s opposition.

They also drew the attention of the Ambassador to the non-holding, postponement and avoidance of elections in Sri Lanka.



Ranil’s blue-green economy has made people and industries see blue

Comrade Vijitha Herath, M.P.
[Extracts from press conference held on 02.11.2023.]



When people’s income does not increase, and the cost of living goes up higher and higher, the government is further burdening the masses. As the finance minister, Ranil Wickramasinghe, while presenting the budget for 2023, said that an “eco-friendly blue-green economy” will be built this year. He also said that a digital economy will be created this year. However, the electricity bill was increased three times by 400%.

The people cannot bear this. The new bill was increased because the IMF ordered to find 30 billion rupees. About 1.8 million families use less than 30 units of electricity. Not only them but all household electricity consumers, businesses and industries are affected by this increase. Apart from Singapore and the Philippines, Sri Lanka has the highest electricity bill in Southeast Asia. Sri Lanka has the highest electricity bill for businesses in Southeast Asia. However, the blue-green economy has increased the electricity bill to make the people and industries see blue.

VAT was increased to 18% from the first of January, even before the budget presentation for the following year. When Ranil Wickramasinghe

came, the 8% VAT was increased to 15%, and the tax collection range was also increased. From the first of January, the range of VAT will be increased to 18%, and the tax collection range too will be increased again. Due to this, the prices of goods and services will increase by two or three times. Despite that, the government has increased the price of fuel.

Ranil- Rajapakse regime has further confirmed that this economic model is a failure. They have proven that they cannot solve problems. People are rallying against the anti-people measures of the government. We invite people throughout the country to organize themselves further and rally with the NPP.

Let’s be a part of the global mediation to protect people’s lives



The voice raised by Sri Lanka as a country and the JVP as a party regarding Israel’s bombing against the people of the Gaza Strip is an honourable event in history, no matter how small the voice is, says Comrade Dr Nalinda Jayatissa, a member of the Central Committee of the JVP. He said this at a press conference held at the head office of the party on the 31st.

Comrade Nalinda Jayatissa said, “A war is a tragedy. The people who did not contribute

to the decisions regarding the war are always oppressed. So far, more than 8,000 people have lost their lives, and it is not possible to meet the basic needs of those who are alive, including food and water. The JVP’s stand on the people who have been oppressed due to the war interests of the global powers is based on humanity.

We also join to be part of the global mediation to protect people’s lives. Sri Lanka as a country has become a bankrupt country due to the actions it took in front of the world. Nevertheless, the honour of raising our voice for the defenceless still exists. After the Second World War, the United Nations was created to intervene in critical conflicts and achieve justice for the world’s people.

We appreciate the statements issued by the United Nations even in this conflict. As the JVP, we especially appreciate the statement made by the United Nations Secretary-General that a solution should be found to this problem that has been going on for a long time rather than looking for who ultimately initiated the conflict.

People who think about humanity in such countries appreciate the voice raised to resolve this conflict, and we are working to be part of it. We also appreciate the stance taken by the Jewish people against the war. Acting on the position of the United Nations regarding free Israel and free Palestine, the ceasefire adopted by the United Nations should be set up as soon as possible.”

National Bhikkhu Front meets Palestine Ambassador

A team of Bhikkus from the National Bhikkhu Front met the Palestinian Ambassador, Dr. Zuhair M.H. Said, at the Palestinian Embassy on the 8th of November.

The National Executive members of the National Bhikkhu Front, which is affiliated to the JVP, including its President Ven. Handugala Rathanapala Thero, its General Secretary Ven. Vakamulle Uditha Thero participated in this unique event.

The National Bhikkhu Front has expressed the concern of the organization to the Palestinian Ambassador regarding the war situation in Palestine and expressed its sympathies for the deaths of more than ten thousand civilians, including women and children and also regarding many others who are suffering without water, electricity, food and health facilities.

The National Bhikkhu Front, Sri Lanka’s largest organization of Buddhist Bhikkhus, working for harmony, social justice and justice among nationalities, told the Ambassador that it calls for an immediate end to the killings in Gaza and Israel, especially an end to the war in Gaza that kills thousands of civilians, including children and women, which is unbearable and cannot be accepted by any human being.

Furthermore, monks of the National Bhikkhu Front have told the Ambassador that they condemn Israel’s occupation of Palestinian lands and expressed their solidarity with the struggle for the independence of the Palestinians. They also told the Ambassador that they regret the loss of Israeli civilian lives, and they call upon the United Nations to intervene immediately to stop the brutal killings in the Gaza Strip.