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Government of Sri Lanka refutes disinformation in 'Darusman Report' and Channel 4 Documentary 'Sri Lanka Killing Fields'

On 1st August, 2011, the Ministry of Defence of Sri Lanka released a report titled 'Humanitarian Operations Factual Analysis' and a video documentary titled 'Lies Agreed Upon' as a critical and realistic response to the allegations made by the 'Darusman report' and the 'Sri Lanka Killing Fields' video documentary produced by UK based Channel-4.

The report encapsulates the factual background and operational context of the Humanitarian Operation undertaken by the Government of Sri Lanka between July 2006 and May 2009 to free the country from the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE). It examines why the Government of Sri Lanka engaged in a military strategy against the LTTE, why Security Forces used the level of force they did, and how at each stage in the operation Sri Lanka took extraordinary steps to respect and protect the lives of civilians. The report begins with a detailed analysis of the LTTE, including its true nature, and its growth and sophistication over the years, and the threat it posed to all Sri Lankans. The second part of this report begins by describing the resumption of hostilities in 2006 when the closure of the Mavil Aru sluice gate by the LTTE in July of that year threatened a humanitarian disaster in the east, affecting many thousands of Tamils, Muslims and Sinhalese civilians. The final part of the report is a brief overview of the consequences of the Humanitarian Operation, which shows a Sri Lanka that is finally at peace. The country is now rebuilding after suffering thirty long years of terrorism.

Similarly the one hour long video documentary 'Lies Agreed Upon' presents how the Channel 4 'Sri Lanka Killing Fields' documentary deliberately twists the real facts. Though the 'Sri Lanka Killing fields' documentary fails to cite sources for casualty figures, name their sources and use shadows and 'ghosts' in their interviews, the 'Lies Agree Upon' documentary provides information from the accepted sources and clearly reveal the identity of the individuals who are being interviewed, and offer stunning verbal evidence to counter the allegations made in the 'Sri Lanka Killing fields' video documentary. The video plainly reveals how a woman whom Channel 4 identified as a medical volunteer is identified by a former LTTE cadre as another fellow member of the LTTE. A number of doctors who served in the conflict zone dispel claims that hospitals were shelled and that the government failed to provide civilians held hostage by the LTTE with food and medicine. They also reveal that how the LTTE gave them bogus casualty figures to share with the press during the conflict. The documentary reveals that even something as simple as a civilian protest, which 'Sri Lanka Killing fields' calls as a 'spontaneous' move, have been stage managed by the LTTE.

Delivering the key note address at the launch of the publication and the video documentary, Minister of External Affairs Prof. G.L Peiris observed that the recent spate of unsubstantiated allegations on the last few days of the conflict levelled at the Government of Sri Lanka, need to be examined in terms of the

political agenda behind such propaganda and distinguished from the genuine expressions of concern on humanitarian issues. While elaborating he stated that the task of analysing where the political agendas end and norms of human rights begin has now become more crucial and this issue deserves to be judged dispassionately, without prejudice and bias. The External Affairs Minister recalled an observation made by the former UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, Mary Robinson on the Goldstone Report on the Gaza issue, that it was guided “not by human rights but by politics”.

Secretary Defence Mr. Gotabaya Rajapaksa said the false claims and allegations made by Tamil Diaspora together with the LTTE international network will be laid to rest with the release of the factual analysis reports. “The sole purpose of these allegations is to discredit Sri Lanka and disrupt the prevailing peace in the country” he added.

Read the full text of report ['Humanitarian Operation: Factual Analysis'](#)

Watch the video documentary ['Lies Agreed Upon'](#)

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02 August 2011