

The Tamileelam Nation State

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VIA ORUPAPER.COM

The Liberation Tigers have been loosing territories since Mavilaru incident in June 2006 and now they have completely lost the Southern region of Tamileelam. The Sri Lankan forces are in a state of high morale with unparalleled resources and now ready to take on Vanni. The hawkish Sri Lankan ambassador Dayan Jayathilaka recently declared year 2008 as the 'year of victory'. The following excerpts are from his undigested socialist 'regurgitations'.

"The war can be won. We are at a rare moment in our country's history in which we enjoy a favourable confluence of factors: a President (and Defence Secretary) with political will and determination; an experienced and respected military leadership; massive popular support; high military morale; increased recruitment; high performance on the part of all three armed services....after a quarter century of military conflict, the Sri Lankan people are not about to throw in the towel and bring the boys back home, for the simple reason that the boys are fighting precisely for their home, and therefore a massive 84 % percent of a huge 75% of the island's people, a massive majority of the majority, support the President's war effort. So too does a significant (under the circumstances) segment (20%) of the main Tamil minority. The war is now a People's War"

In the backdrop of a series of battle field reversals, 'international crack down' and loss of few high value human resources (etc.Thamilselvan and Charles) for Liberation Tigers, Is Dayan's assertion going to prevail?

My intention is not to construct any particular school of thought rather I would prefer to 'discuss' the current 'impasse' in the battle fields of Mannar, Vavuniya, Manalaru and Northern sectors and subsequent low morale of our expatriate 'Udan pirappukkal'.

The reality of achieving the Tamileelam statehood

The process of making of 'Tamileelam state' can be categorised

into two major processes.

- Physical liberation of Tamil homeland from Sinhala security forces

- International recognition of the Tamileelam sovereignty

So in order to attain the statehood, there should be a 'favourable confluence' of many factors; some of them including the crucial international recognition are beyond our control. The process of physical liberation of the Tamil homeland is the only one Tamils can execute with a relatively free hand and rest of process are beyond the control of Tamil nation. The Liberation Tigers are discharging their duty as freedom fighters; they are fighting to liberate the Tamil homeland physically. One cannot delay the freedom struggle until the 'International community' turns favourably toward secessionism. We have to do our duty whether IC favours or not.

International recognition

On the other hand in international politics only driving force behind the diplomatic activities is the 'national interest' of respective countries. Just because Tamils are being killed every day by the oppressive Sinhala government doesn't mean international community will come to our help.

As an oppressed nation we should continue the struggle to achieve the freedom and we should be able to 'sell' the concept of Tamileelam state to the IC and convince them that the new state will be a responsible member in future world affairs and sensitive to the current international politics based on globalisation and trade. The rest is beyond our control and we can hope for the best. We have additional 'complication' that is India. Convincing our giant neighbour is some thing, a 'Himalayan task'.

The problem is most of our people believe that Liberation Tigers will do a last minute 'magic'/'wonder' and turn the IC opinion towards Tamileelam. Even though many senior leaders of the Liberation Tigers never touched this topic of 'international recognition'; a former leader of the Liberation Tigers - political division

and presently the head of War history division Mr.Yogi recently talked rather philosophically about this issue in 'Nilavaram', the flagship political discussion programme of the NTT. He said Liberation Tigers and Mr Pirapaharan are doing their duty that is fighting to liberate the homeland and on the other hand Liberation Tigers won't fight the struggle in the assumption of some thing will happen favourably from IC. He further said they never started the war with Indians with a hope of getting the support of Sri Lankan government; he succinctly said 'we have to do our duty and hoping for best; when we are in trouble an unexpected door will open and we have to use that'.

In essence 'international recognition' is largely beyond our control. That means we have to prepare ourselves to face a hostile India and IC by the time we have got rid of the Sinhala forces from our homeland. In other words; are we ready to run a de facto state for a considerable period? (Contrary to the common perception, the current 'state in waiting' Tamileelam apparatus cannot be claimed as a completely independent structure from the Sri Lankan economy) In order to sustain a free nation; we should be able to have a viable economy with a secured and uninterrupted supplies via sea and air route, which should be completely independent from Sri Lanka. The capital infusion by the Tamil expatriates will be more than enough for the nation building process. But we cannot sustain the nation for long without international support, at least we should aim for the status of Taiwan, IC might expect the Tamileelam to fulfil certain benchmarks before it considering for the recognition of statehood. Those benchmarks can be broadly categorised as good governance, democracy, human rights, press freedom, free market and compliance with international law.

As I discussed above, 'international factor' is very unpredictable and depends on the international political climate of that time. So we cannot assume that things will happen favourably but we can hope for a better deal if we 'behave' properly.

We will look into the liberation aspect of the Tamileelam formation, which is war.

Sirithiran' Sunthar: The Ace Cartoonist of Eelam Tamils

Sachi Sri Kantha

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March 3rd marked the 12th death anniversary of Mamanithar Sittampalam Sivagnanasuntharam (1923-1996), a uniquely creative personality who lived amongst us in the 20th century.

As the ace cartoonist, and the creator of 'Savaari Thambar' cartoon character, Sivagnanasuntharam possessed that elusive creative talent to make Eelam Tamils, irrespective of age barriers, chuckle at their follies and vanities.

He simply did that by the strokes of his pen. And he continued to poke fun at the Eelam Tamil society for 22 years, via his humor magazine Sirithiran. In its times, apart from the Mallikai magazine (the brainchild of Dominic Jeeva, with affinities to the Communist Party ideals) there were no competing local rivals to Sirithiran to engage in turf battles for readership.

In Eelam, Sirithiran held its own against the weekly glossies (Anantha Vikatan, Kumudam, Kalki, Kalkandu) of Madras moneybags and marched triumphantly from September 1965 to Oct.1, 1987.

Even the Mallikai magazine of Dominic Jeeva did receive partial sponsorship in advertisements from the loyal Communist Party enthusiasts.

Conversely, Sirithiran strictly maintained its political independence. From what I heard, the arrival of Indian Peace Keeping Force (IPKF) in Tamil homeland and the subsequent crackdown by the intellect-challenged armed intruders, delivered the death knell to Sirithiran that was incapable of defending itself.

What type of a personality was Sirithiran Sunthar (Siva was another of his dimunitives)? Who were his influences in cartoon art? I had transcribed the details of an interview, cartoonist Sunthar gave to V.N.S. Udayachandran for the Tamil journal, Weekly Murasoli of May 20, 1990.

Cartoonist Career: "I cannot call anyone as my mentor in cartoon

art. But, I appreciate the cartoonist Mali, who draws for Anantha Vikatan magazine. In 1962, I drew a cartoon for the Bombay-based Blitz magazine. [This magazine was edited by Rusi Karanjia, who died on Feb.1, 2008, aged 95] The cartoon's theme was two rats, with the faces of Winston Churchill and Nizam of Hyderabad, plotting against India. Before that, my cartoons also appeared in the journals like Conch (an Indian magazine), and Left-oriented Samasamajist, Trine (edited by Theja Gunawardena) and People's Voice [edited by K.Vaikunthavasan]. After that my cartoons regularly appeared in the Tamil dailies and weeklies like Sutaniran, Thinakaran, Veerakesari, Eelamurasu and Murasoli."

On his alter-ego Savaari Thambar: "In Nelliadi village, there was one person named Savaari Thambar. In those days, he was a devout follower of Dravida Kazhagam party founder and social reformist E.V.Ramasamy Naicker. I modeled my cartoon character Savaari Thambar, based on this real person and used him as a mouth piece for propagation of social reform ideas (abolition of casteism and superstitions, cultural disintegration etc.).

Other Cartoon Characters: 'I also created a character 'Minor Machchan' in the Mithiran daily, in which I poked fun on the pranks of teenagers. Then, in my humor magazine, Sirithiran, I created a feminine character 'Mrs. Damodiran'. The creation of this character was based on my experience of sharing a rental house in Colombo. A Tamil couple in the adjacent room always communicated in a mixture of Tamil-English [Taminglish!]. An example is: 'What is Kadai Sangam darling?' Their use of 'Kadai Sangam' for Cooperative Stores was jarring. I couldn't tolerate their assault on Tamil language, so I created this 'Mrs. Damodiran' to humor these semi-educated Tamils who insulted Tamil civilization.'

What is a Tamil translation for Cartoon?: 'Cartoons are thought-providing. So, we can translate 'cartoon' into Tamil as a pun 'karuthoon' [karuthu= thought; Oon=food].

(edited for space)

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இந்தியாவில் இருந்து முதன் முறையாக வருகை தந்துள்ள ஆதிவாசி எஸ்.பி.சிராமர் குருஜி அவர்கள் கானகத்தில் கரும் விரதம் இருந்து கரும் பயிற்சி செய்து 10 வருடங்கள் ஜோதிடம், வாஸ்து, குரு மந்திரங்கள் மூலம் பில்லி சூனிய நிவர்த்தி ஆகியவைகள் கற்று இந்தியாவில் பல பிரபலங்களுக்கு ஜோதிடம் பார்த்து அவர்கள் பெரிய பதவியை அடைந்துள்ளார்கள்.

ஆதிபராசக்தி அருள் கொண்டு கைரேகை மூலமும் முகநாடி மூலமும் துல்லியமாக நடந்தவை நடக்கின்றவை நடக்கப் போகின்றவை பற்றிய விபரங்களைக் கூறுவார். துல்லியமாகக் கணித்துப் பார்க்கப்படும் விடயங்கள் கணவன் மனைவி ஒற்றுமை, காதல், கைரேகை, திருமண யோகம், வாஸ்து சாஸ்திரம், விசா, லாட்டரி, தொழில், வியாபாரம், லட்சுமிகர விடயம், கண் திருஷ்டி, கோட், வழக்குகள், வாகனப் பொருத்தம், தமிழ், இந்தி, ஆங்கிலம் ஆகிய மொழிகளில் சாஸ்திரம் சொல்லப்படும்.

ஆயுர்வேத மருந்துகள் வழங்கப்படும். கல்வீரல், ஆஸ்த்மா, குடல் புண், நீரிழிவு மற்றும் அனைத்து நோய்களுக்கும் மருந்து வழங்கப்படும்.



முன்னாள் இந்திய ஜனாதிபதி அப்துல் கலாம் அவர்களுக்கு சோதிடம் சொன்ன போது

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Spoken languages: Tamil, Telugu, Hindi, kannada & English.