

**High Commission for the Democratic
Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka**



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Ms. Katherine Butler
Foreign Editor
The Independent
Independent House
191 Marsh Wall
London E14 9RS

Dear Ms. Butler

The Independent article “Video that reveals truth of Sri Lankan War Crimes” – 27th August 2009

I wish to draw your attention to the above captioned article in the Independent today, posted by your South Asia Correspondent Andrew Buncombe.

The widely circulated video footage which was used by Channel 4 News in its news cast on 25th August has become the source material for Mr. Buncombe's article. However, the Independent article interpretation of the video footage as evidence for alleged war crimes in recently concluded military offensive to defeat the LTTE, one of the most ruthless terrorist organizations in the world according to the FBI, compelled me to write to you to show you as to why it cannot be considered evidence at all and to show you the reasons behind for the so called 'Journalists for Democracy in Sri Lanka' (JDS) to circulate it.

First, the Sri Lankan government forces were not engaged in atrocities against Sri Lankan Tamil community during the recently concluded military offensive against the LTTE. The policy of the government of Sri Lanka when carrying out military offensive was “zero casualties” of the innocent civilian population. The entire military forces were highly trained and disciplined in contrast to the LTTE terrorists who were forcibly keeping the civilian population of the North as a human shield and killing and maiming whoever tried to escape their grip. If alleged atrocities were in fact committed then the resentment to such conduct would be self generating and there would be no need for video footage.

Second, the video footage said to have been filmed in **January** and “smuggled out” of Sri Lanka **only recently** is a deliberate and sinister attempt by LTTE front organisations and other anti Government elements whose prime objective is to discredit the Government of Sri Lanka in this post conflict developments phase of the country. It is hard to believe that such a footage which could draw attention of

anybody could take eight months to come out of the country. Sri Lanka is a country with modern communication facilities and a short video footage of this nature could easily be sent out to the world. This is an unbelievable fabrication. The term "smuggled" is used purely for sensationalise the issue.

In addition the footage is undated and the location is not known. It was well known that the LTTE terrorists used to wear Sri Lankan army fatigue to infiltrate and carry out heinous atrocities against innocent civilians. The JDS who have circulated the video footage themselves have agreed that "*there is no way of proving that the people apparently shot dead are Tamils*". This further proves that the objective of circulating such unauthentic and unknown video was just to discredit the government of Sri Lanka and to hamper the reconciliation process in Sri Lanka. It appears that those who have circulated such doctored video also had in mind Sri Lanka's application to the renewal of GSP+ Concessions Scheme by the EU is upcoming and is bound with EU treaties relating to protection of human rights and wants to cast a negative impact on the EU, with regard to Sri Lanka. It proves the cynical motive of the JDS.

I wish you would take my points into consideration in your editorial policy towards Sri Lanka in future.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours Sincerely



Justice Nihal Jayasinghe
High Commissioner

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