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What is a civil society and what is the power of civil society may not well understand by many Sri Lankans living in the country as this western oriented concept is not taught in education system of Sri Lanka or educating on this concept has been purposely removed from school curriculum in the country sometimes ago. The lack of understanding of civil society has also been strongly contributed by unofficial military administration in the country which was directly or indirectly used by the political administration. Since 1970s it is observed the ruling political party used military power to control the operation of civil society with a view to be in power against opposition political parties or with a view to forcefully halting the voice of community. UNP and its associated other political parties and SLFP and its associated left wing political parties always undermined the power of civil society using military power to crush the demand or uprising of the civil society as they always desired "yes men" for their policies

There is no argument that ethnic conflict, which has century's old history in the country, has being contributed to a brutal death of civil society during the last several decades. We cannot directly point the finger to a particular reason identifying what was the causal factor for ethnic conflict. On the basis of historical evidence it is quite possible to evaluate that South Indian oriented invaders and their brutal regimes against Sinhala community and their atrocities in Sri Lanka were the causal factors for ethnic differences between Sinhala people and Tamils because many South Indian invaders visibly attempted to destroy Sinhala Culture in the past and they laid the foundation stone for the centuries old of hate between Sinhala and Tamil people and it is still seen that Indians want to maintain aggression against Sri Lanka unreasonably using the power. The current behavior of South Indian politicians clearly indicates that the behavior is unacceptable to civilized world. In fact it is like a hate between Arabs and Jews. But we can undoubtedly express that current behavior of Sinhala and Tamil community especially the behavior of politicians in both races and associated religious fuels monumentally contribute to ethnic issues in modern era. Many Christian religious leaders indirectly motivated ethnic conflict in Tamil side despite the wishes of Jesus Christ that you should love your neighbor.



view of America a genuine attempt to create a true democratic society or a part of current American policy towards China? From the point of views of Sri Lankans, the country needs salvations from autocratic political administration and a peaceful regime change needs for genuine democracy. Majority of people in the country believe that Mr Mahinda Rajapakse has done the best for the country winning war but people are not pleased with corrupt politicians in the government surround Mr Rajapakse, who has a strong pressure from his own family members,

vicious and corrupt elements. Some political parties aim at depriving the minority right in relation to religious freedom. They want to deprive the rights of minority religions through passing anti democratic laws in the parliament. Most of instances, we observe that government listen to these anti democratic elements for the sake of power.

People of Sri Lanka needs to consider how can allow to work civil society without strings. Recent resolution of Human Right Council indi-

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whether they were right or wrong. Sri Lanka was not a democratic until Donomore Commission established the State Council for political administration of the country in early 1930s. All past Kings either they were Sinhalese or Tamils used prerogative power or dictatorship to control civil society. We cannot say that Sinhala Kings were better than Tamils Kings or Tamil Kings were better than Sinhala Kings, all were Cannibal dictators in relation to civil administration. The king / queen's wishes were the law whether they were based on justice or not. The most brutal dictator of Sri Lanka's history was King Sri Wickrama Rajasinghe, who was handed to British rulers by suppressed people in Kandyan Kingdom as he committed serious crimes against humanity when he was ruling the country.

This type of brutal laws was influenced to feudalism in Sri Lanka's society during Sinhala or Tamil rulers' regimes. Although the independence was achieved in 1948 with many democratic values, Sri Lanka's political environment quickly changed adulterating the spirit of democracy after two decades of independence and it destroyed the power of civil society. Most probably, the sudden change might have been due to the influences of Marxist ideologies, which attempted to educate young generation that through a dictatorship styled in North Korea or East European countries or in Cuba or South Yemen could bring economic prosperity to the country. The economic prosperity was valued by poor people than democratic values in the society. From time to time ethnic violence emerged in the country and a book written on emergency rule of 1958 by Tarsi Vittachchi explained that Sir Oliver Gunatillake used military power to control civil uprising despite the parliamentary democracy, which is supposed to be an integral part of political administration. There were many supportive arguments in relation to the behavior of Sir Oliver Gunatillake because Prime Minister Bandaranaike was a weak leader who had no guts in taking timely decisions when country was in a difficult situation.

The experience of the emergency rule in 1958 would have contributed Mr JR Jayawardane to sketching a constitution for the country with American and French ideologies or models. Since emergency rule of 1958 politicians in Sri Lanka strongly believed on military power against civil society and later it was translated to maintain a corrupt society for their own economic advantages showing a false conciseness on patriotism or racism.

Many Tamil Christian leaders in Sri Lanka attempt to use their Christian identity to obtain sympathy from west for wrong causes but it is against the philosophical based of the Christianity while Buddhist monks and leaders were pouring led petrol to Sinhala side misinterpreting Buddhism. Many Buddhist monks in Sri Lanka acted and are being acting against the philosophical views of

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Buddhism and attempt to interpret Buddhism as a violent religion, which gives leadership in continuing ethnic conflict. It is utter nonsense that when ancient Buddhist texts clearly indicate that Lord Buddha respected the democracy and the power of civil society when he was imposing rules in Buddhist Sanga regime, but this was clearly misunderstood by Sri Lanka's Buddhist monks. They attempt to take political power, which was clearly rejected by Price Siddhartha at the beginning. The false conciseness of Buddhist monks is purposely manipulated for personal advantage and with a view to depriving the civil society to maintain a corrupt regime in the name of religion. Any person who has at least modest seed size of knowledge of Buddhism knows that nobody can be attaining Nirvana with hate and desires.

Sri Lankan people living in the country or overseas need to understand that the concept of civil society in the country is covered by a dark cloud, which consists of many particles of vicious germs. If any foreign power considers that civil society should be worked in Sri Lanka, first they need to eliminate this dark cloud allowing emerging the true spirit of civil society. I read in Asian Tribune that new American Ambassador to Sri Lanka wants working civil society in the country. It is a very good motive but the question is how honestly that motive is built on. If it is based on without bias, it is good idea that all Sri Lankans must be supported to it, but the problem is how honest that motive and American ambassador should prove to Sri Lanka's community. We observe quite clearly that American policies built towards many countries have created many embarrassments to such countries because America used those countries with a view to achieving her objectives rather than helping those countries. For example recent American policies built up towards Asian countries against China have embarrassed many American friends in Asia such as Australia, Indonesia, Malaysia, Japan, Thailand, Philippines and other countries. Is the concept of civil society from the point of

party supporter and his friends. He associated internationally with enemies of American and west and those associates did not help Sri Lanka economically or any other ways. This may be the reason Sri Lanka is pressured by western countries. People of Sri Lanka like a genuine operation of the civil society without strings.

After several years of winning the war, the government has failed to offer or allow building a true democratic society in the country and the government also failed to crackdown many vicious elements that work against the operation of civil society. Freedom of writing, freedom of expression, freedom of movement and freedom of meeting are still far away in the country. The successful operation of the civil society is based on the different kinds of freedom that people are entitled to enjoy.

The government has failed to ensure that people can enjoy such freedom. The political parties share the administration with SLFP has

cates that the government must demonstrate that it allows civil society to work and the government needs to disclose the truth about war and the operation of extra judicial kills and many other undemocratic action of the government or the government sponsored groups.

If Sri Lanka has true and genuine democratic policies and process, India cannot go against such democratic principles. People in the world know that South Indian politicians are corrupt and they are working for their own advantage rather than people under their regime. Their policy is fueling issues for political advantages. The international community is also observing whether UN human right commission in a trap of corrupt politicians in India or Sri Lanka's Tamil Diaspora. People who know the truth about this corrupt situation already made money from these corrupt people misleading them and giving bogus publicity to them. At the time of intensive war LTTE falsely believed that they will be saved by West entering to conflict but their belief was wrong and west allows destroying LTTE in Sri Lanka's soil. How LTTE had false belief the same way current Tamil Diaspora also have but they are wasting money, they will never achieve what they want and they pursuing a mirage. However, Sri Lanka also has a responsibility and it should be fulfilled.

Sri Lankan community is invited to participate in spectacular Vesak Festival of Light celebrations at The Great Stupa in Bendigo.



The Great Stupa of Universal Compassion cordially invites Sri Lankan community to participate in the inaugural Vesak Festival of Light being held at The Great Stupa, 25 Sandhurst Town Road Myers Flat (Bendigo, Victoria) on Saturday 25th May 2013 from 12-7pm.

The Great Stupa of Universal Compassion, located in Myers Flat just outside Bendigo, is the largest Buddhist Stupa in the western world, including Australia. It is the final home for the largest gem quality Jade Buddha in the world, and is becoming increasingly popular as a major tourist attraction in Victoria.

Vesak Festival of Light celebrations being held this year at The Great Stupa will encompass a Vesak lantern competition among local schools, workshops on mandala making and lanterns, variety of performances including Kandyan drummers and a candle lantern procession. A spectacular fireworks display will conclude the evening. Festival organisers are expecting a large gathering of local residents, Buddhist communities, interstate and international visitors.

For further information on the Festival of Light or how to register for the Vesak lantern competition please contact the Great Stupa of Universal Compassion by telephoning 03 5446 7568 or emailing events@stupa.org.au .