

*"Im sick and tired of hearing things from upright, short-sighted narrow-minded hypocrites
All I want is the truth now.
Just gimme some truth."
-John Lennon*

Sohan Weerasinghe (Xperiments) and two other Band singers in Sri Lanka have come out with a DVD under the title "UN Shame on You." Sohan has been very popular in the Band scene for at least four decades that I know of. His song takes a funny place as an anti-UN song. Nowhere else in the world and

and we recoiled like a dog curling its tail behind his leg after a mighty bark. Sohan's voice will have the same effect as it won't move anybody except some unreflective patriots who are not used to thinking beyond the nose (Hendimitey Nuwana).

The other thing is that the UN has never gone against our war on terror; they backed it. The only condition was that the laws of war must be observed and that means innocent civilians must not unwarrantedly be killed. It allows for accidental crossfire killing of civilians. Hence, when the song asks rhetorically: "Is it wrong to destroy terrorism?" it tells everybody that something is wrong with the

the West Sri Lanka would not have won that war. It was the banning of the LTTE activities and the freezing of the latter's funds that gave the actual deathblow to Prabhakaran who found his money running desperately low. From that point of realization onwards Prabhakaran made one judgment blunder after another as any mad man does. Once the neck was tightened by US and the West and oxygen to the Tiger had been kept low the onslaught by the Sri Lankan forces under the command of General Sarath Fonseka did the rest. US also had been training our



days of CBK/Ranil administration.

"Shame on you, Channel 4," would have been a better rubric for the song. But here, again, there is a solution at hand. What GOSL has to do is to get those images examined by experts who would be able to discern evidence of doctoring. If GOSL can prove even a few images wrong that would suffice. GOSL is not doing that. Channel 4 is a private media business and it knows its actions are justifiable and that it can therefore be sued. Any media organization wants sensation and shock and Channel 4 found this material that may have been provided by the LTTE or even by our own army soldiers who are groaning over the jailing of war hero Sarath Fonseka for no offence. At his age the Australian government would not have jailed Fonseka even if he had done a serious offence.

Australians are more benign although they are meat-eating barbecue-going people unlike the Sri Lankan Buddhist leaders who spend their time in Dhamma exercises with the media camera before them. Not only has Fonseka been jailed under hard labour for three years; his pension has been taken away; his stripes of honour won in hard battlefield pursuits have been withdrawn.

So here we are to at the right place. Sohan should sing for Fonseka and against man's inhumanity to man. He can then join John Lennon as a great man or our Nanda Malini as an inspired woman.

SOHAN, SHAME ON YOU

at no time has any artist attacked the UN from his artistic pedestal.

There have been implied artistic onslaughts on the power of the US. However, artists have largely confined themselves not to attack countries or institutions but issues such as Apartheid, religion, and inequality. Many such artists have been great, inspired ones like John Lennon whom we quote above. John Lennon wrote and sang (Imagine) on the terror and division that religion has brought in its wake and he wished for a world without religion. The great artists have been universal men and women who have attempted to raise the consciousness of people to noble heights. They were and are deeply human persons with all the foibles and the nobility toward which humanity can move.

Sohan is the latest artist to join a public issue in Sri Lanka. His colleague, Sunil Perera (Gypsies) had entered the field long ago with songs that blow with biting sarcasm on the



song.

The song of Sohan could have more appropriately been worded:

"Shame on you
Ban Ki Moon."

However, there is a difficulty here, too, as the GOSL backed Ban Ki Moon's second accession to office!

Furthermore, there is no causal connection between the UN panel's charge sheet on the Government of Sri Lanka (GOSL) and the Channel 4's images. UNSG has issued a statement that their findings are not based on those images but on an independent investigation. The song wrongly fuses the two issues.

The UN panel admits that its charge sheet is only based on a prima facie level of enquiry meaning that only a fuller investigation in detail can lead to the truth. Ban Ki Moon stated there is credible evidence of a prima facie nature that serious war crimes had been committed during the last stages of war. AI has asked for is for the GOSL to undertake its own proper investigation into these various charges and to report back to the UN. One cannot blame Ban Ki Moon for this as he was doing his job as CEO of the world body.

The problem is that GOSL has so far not even thought of an investigation. Resorting to protests will not take away the UN demand. Our ignoring that demand is only at the peril of our people who will have to bear the burden of further escalating COL, job losses and an economy deprived Forex. Already the US Congress has voted to stop all aid to Sri Lanka; if that happens it will be a deadly blow not to government Ministers but to the ordinary people. Other Western countries may follow one by one as no nation will condone a member overriding the UN.

Sohan's foray. The decision to attack the UN is senseless because it lacks a factual base unlike the songs of the earlier cited artists. The three singers in the video presentation are seen grimacing at and threatening the UN in heroic tinsel. They have confused the UN with a country-maybe US. The point is the UN is the world body represented by all nations including our own Sri Lanka. We are part of it. Thus, by attacking it we are looking up and spitting. Sohan's vocal attempt thus joins the queue that Wimal Weerawans headed by conducting a fast-unto-death that never meant to lead to death as the script writer came and rescued him in time! Sohan also joins the queue that stoned the glass windows of the UN office in Colombo.

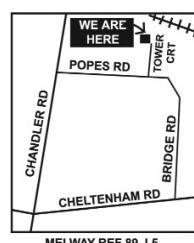
The UN body was far too big to be impressed by Wimal or his stone throwers. It went its way

Forces on Intelligence gathering and it has giving us armoury as grants (not like China on loan). This had been happening from the

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