

Project Proposal

Cease Fire Agreement 2002 to 2008

Centre for Just peace and Democracy



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Cease Fire Agreement

Background

The Cease-Fire Agreement had held, despite numerous breaches, non-implementation of vital clauses, extra judicial killings and political assassinations. It was believed that as long as the CFA was in existence in some form, the peace process could be revived with the assistance of the Norwegian facilitators

On 2nd January 2008, the Government of Sri Lanka notified its intention to withdraw from the Cease Fire Agreement (CFA) that it had entered into with the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) on 22nd February 2002. The decision to withdraw was made in accordance with Article 4.4 of the CFA which required 14 days notification in advance to the Royal Norwegian Government, the facilitators. The Cease Fire Agreement was thus annulled with effect from 16th January 2008.

The Nordic countries (Norway, Sweden, Denmark, Finland and Iceland) whose nominees were the members of the Sri Lanka Monitoring Mission (SLMM) responsible for the monitoring of the CFA expressed the view that *"The termination of the Ceasefire Agreement will only make it more difficult to find a way back to the negotiating table"*. The US State Department announced that *"Ending the cease-fire agreement will make it more difficult to achieve a lasting, peaceful solution to Sri Lanka's conflict"*. Canada's Foreign Affairs Minister Maxime Bernier stated that *"Withdrawal from this important agreement will make the search for a durable political solution more difficult"*. The Government of Japan too expressed its concern that *"the decision taken by the Government of Sri Lanka may lead to the escalation of the conflict by way of increased level of violence and greater civilian casualties, and leave the peace process at a standstill"*. Norway's Minister of International Development Erik Solheim said that he was *"deeply concerned that the violence and hostilities will now escalate even further."*

Aim

The aim is to produce a series of studies that would help understand the reasons that led to the GoSL withdrawing from CFA.

Objectives

- An understanding of the challenges faced in implementing the CFA
- The role of the facilitator, SLMM and the Co Chairs.
- Sinhala, Tamil and International response to the CFA.

Output

Publications by CJPD on the above topics to be made available on CJPD websites and in printed versions.

Anticipated Outcome

Contribution towards an informed understanding of the collapse of the CFA.