



Registered: OC # 1926238

கனடா தமிழ்த் தேசியக் கூட்டமைப்பு Canada Tamil National Alliance

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PRESS RELEASE

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Canada TNA Strongly Condemns the Cowardly Arson Attack on CTC Office by Criminal Elements That Believe in Violence

We strongly condemn the cowardly break-in and arson attack on the CTC office by extremist elements that believe in violence to settle differences, if any. Canada is a peaceful and democratic country that gave asylum to thousands of Tamils who fled Sri Lanka to escape torture, violence and death. Therefore, to indulge in violence in Canada is a reprehensible act of betrayal. These criminal elements are holding the Tamil community to ransom by threat, intimidation and harassment. This has a devastating effect on the Tamil community psyche.

Currently, there is a concerted, vicious and smear campaign against the CTC/GTF for initiating a dialogue at grass root level, to bridge the schism between the Tamils and Sinhalese. **The Himalaya Declaration (HD) is a joint effort by Buddhist monks representing "Sanga for a Better Sri Lanka" consisting of Buddhist monks belonging to all four Buddhist Nikayas.**

The CTC members are demonized as Tamil traitors, conspirators and lackeys of the Sinhalese government. The NCCT spokesman Deva Sabapathy publicly called for the boycott of the annual Thai Pongal and Tamil Heritage Month. The said spokesman in interviews to the electronic media described CTC as a mob organization and vilified Danton Thurairajah, the Executive Director by name. The tone and content of his utterances borders on fascism that denies freedom of assembly and freedom of speech. The print, electronic and media controlled by pro- LTTE groups ramped up propaganda and hysteria to disparage the GTF/CTC. The HD is a framework to take the edge off the historical opposition to any reasonable settlement of the ethnic conflict by the Buddhist Monks, especially the three Buddhist Nikayas.

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Historically, the Buddhist monks took to the streets to force Sinhalese Prime ministers to tear up pacts signed between the government and Tamil leaders. They also opposed 13A which devolved limited autonomy to the Provincial Councils. However, to everyone's surprise, the Venerable Mahanayaka Theros welcomed the GTF/HD delegation and gave their blessings.

It may be recalled that on November 20, 2021, Canada TNA held an indoor meeting open to the public to allow M.A. Sumanthiran and Shanakiyan Rasamanickam, both Members of Parliament, to brief the Tamil community about the (then) ongoing diplomatic efforts to push for a durable political settlement. Both MPs belong to the "moderate" TNA, which advocates for a credible and durable power-sharing settlement within a united Ceylon. A week before Sumanthiran MP had led a TNA delegation to Washington DC to brief high-ranking officials at the US State Department.

The unruly demonstrators who initially gathered outside the venue waving LTTE flags and banners stormed the meeting hall and disrupted the proceedings. They sought to block entrances and exits to the venue. They claimed they did not want a political settlement and insisted that a separate state of Tamil Eelam is the only solution. The protesters denounced Sumanthiran as a traitor to the Tamils and a "Sinhala patriot" who wanted to live with the Sinhalese people in the south.

[\(https://www.colombotelegraph.com/index.php/pro-ltte-group-crashes-event-attended-by-tna-mps-sumanthiran-and-shanakyam-in-toronto/\)](https://www.colombotelegraph.com/index.php/pro-ltte-group-crashes-event-attended-by-tna-mps-sumanthiran-and-shanakyam-in-toronto/).

We surmise the break-in and arson attack on the CTC office was carried out by the same pro-LTTE demonstrators who disrupted the Canada TNA meeting in 2021. Not surprisingly, Deva Sabapathy was seen among the demonstrators at the venue of the meeting.

The pro-LTTE groups pose an ominous threat to the law-abiding Tamil Canadian citizens. We appeal to law enforcement officers to act resolutely and bring those responsible to justice.

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