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ISSUE 1229

- TGTE says GTF has no mandate to represent the rest. - 'Sumanthiran does not have full support of TNA'

Mangala - GTF talks split Tamil diaspora

(DailyNews.lk) - Talks between Foreign Minister Mangala Samaraweera and the Global Tamil Forum (GTF) have caused a split among leading Tamil Diaspora



Foreign Minister Mangala Samaraweera

organisations. In response to the discussions between the Foreign Minister and GTF Spokesman Suren Surendiran in the presence of several other parties including former Norwegian peace envoy Eric Solheim, the Senate of the Transnational Government of Tamil Eelam (TGTE) says the GTF, the largest Tamil Diaspora organisation operating in Europe, has no mandate to

speaking on behalf of the rest of the Diaspora. V. Rudrakumaran is the 'Prime Minister' of the TGTE while Ramsey Clark, Robert Evans, Daniel Mayan, Dr. Brian Seneviratne, Roy Chetty, Gilles Piquois, David Matas, M. Manoharan, Satya Sivaraman, Usha Sriskandarajah, Sathesh Muniyandy, Nagalingam Jeyalingam, Prof. Saraswathi Rajendran, Dr. Thani Cheran and Rajaratnam Subramaniam serve as Senate members of the body. Criticising the GTF's stance, the TGTE said: "We can't afford to shift from our goal - which is two-fold: a. Succeed in urging UN to refer Sri Lanka to the International Criminal Court and ensuring the perpetrators are prosecuted; b. Succeed in achieving an UN sponsored Referendum on an Independent and Sovereign Tamil Eelam." "We agree that the immediate needs of the people in the North and East must be met. However, we can't let the government of Sri Lanka to use it as a ploy to divide us, weaken us and force us to accept

whatever crumbs they throw at us. The immediate needs of the people must be addressed separately and firm action must be taken to alleviate the intolerable sufferings they are going through. It can't be tied to our fundamental right of self-determination and reclaiming the sovereignty we have lost," the Senate members added. While stating that the GTF had no mandate to speak on behalf of the rest of the Diaspora, the TGTE said the TNA member (M.A. Sumanthiran) in London taking part in the negotiations had not got the full support of his own party members either. "No political solution was mentioned in

this so called 'confidence building exercise'! In the most part it was about raising funds! Sri Lankan governments have played these cunning and deceptive games all along and were successful in deceiving the Tamils, the Tamil politicians and the international community over and over again.

They are aiming to i) by selectively inviting one or two diaspora groups cause division and weaken the diaspora, ii) blunt the call for an independent state and iii) show the international community that they are talking to the TNA and the Tamil diaspora and; iv) divert attention and try to postpone the presentation of the UNHCR investigation on war crimes... **SEE P8**



Eric Solheim Suren Surendiran V. Rudrakumaran

The jubilant Royalists, led by skipper Bhanuka Gamage celebrate their League Title victory at Reid Avenue



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