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Indian National Security Advisor Shivshankar Menon met President Mahinda Rajapaksa at the Janadhipathi Mandiriyaya on Saturday. Foreign Minister Prof G L Peiris, Secretary to the President Lalith Weeratunga, Defence Ministry Secretary Gotabhaya Rajapaksa, Foreign Ministry Secretary Karunatilake Amunugama, Indian Foreign Secretary Nirupama Rao, Indian Defence Secretary Pradeep Kumar and Indian High Commissioner Ashok K. Kantha were also present. Picture by Sudath Silva.

Statement by Sri Lanka High Commission, London, on Channel 4 Film

Government denies C4 allegations

The Government of Sri Lanka categorically denies the allegations that it has deliberately targeted its own civilians, as the Channel 4 alleges in its film "Sri Lanka's Killing Fields".

The Government of Sri Lanka, having being fully cognizant of the plight of all civilians in Sri Lanka including children and women launched a humanitarian operation in 2008 to rescue its own people from the clutches of an unlawful group of terrorists, what was undoubtedly the largest hostage taking in the world. Sri Lankan citizens are only too well aware of a past of blood shed and mayhem, during which they lived in fear and suspicion. They now enjoy peace and cherish that no civilian has been affected in any manner due to any act of terrorism in the country since the defeat of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) in 2009.

There is a domestic mechanism appointed by the government, the Lessons Learnt and Reconciliation Commission (LLRC), which is similar to such mechanisms, set up elsewhere at the end of conflict. Mindful of comparative experiences elsewhere and local sensitivities both, this Commission, which reflects the pluralistic nature of Sri Lankan polity in its own composition, has held more than 200 public sittings covering former conflict areas as well. If the allegations levelled by Channel 4 or any other party are found to be genuine, the LLRC will take due note of all such cases and remedial measures will be taken by way of legal sanctions. This process will also take into consideration all matters that are important to the Sri Lankans living in Sri Lanka, and therefore, it should be allowed to continue without any hindrance or prejudice. It is recalled that reports of

some well known Commissions in countries with much richer resources have taken decades to see day light. The Government of Sri Lanka is concerned about the distress the images in the Channel 4 film aired without any guarantee of their authenticity might have caused to the viewers, particularly to those belonging to different communities in Sri Lanka. This is an exercise which is carried out by a small section of international media at the behest of certain parties with vested interests and it caters only to the interests of separatist forces living outside Sri Lanka, the final objective of which is to push Sri Lanka back to war, by way of lacerating the wounds that the country is attempting to heal. The Channel 4 film has the potential to incite hatred amongst different communities in Sri Lanka, including ... Cont on P6

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Press Release

Foreign Office Minister, Alistair Burt, shocked by C4 documentary

Speaking after the transmission of Channel 4's documentary 'Sri Lanka's Killing Fields', FCO Minister for South Asia Alistair Burt said: "I was shocked by the horrific scenes I saw in the documentary that was broadcast on 14 June. The recent UN Panel of Experts' report, this documentary and previously authenticated

Channel 4 footage, constitutes convincing evidence of violations of international humanitarian and human rights law. The whole of the international community will ... Cont on P8

C4 in Geneva

By K.T.Rajasingham (AsianTribune.com) - During the ongoing UN Human Rights Council session in Geneva, two events were held on 3rd June - one of them was the screening of the Channel 4 video organized by the Amnesty International on the sidelines and the other was the event organized by the ... Cont on P8

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By Reggie Fernando Lord Kataragama - Page 25



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