Easter Sunday massacres: Where do we go from here?

- The Sunday Times - 28/04/2019
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Edited by Leela Isaac
Layout designed by Hashini Rajaratna
EASTER SUNDAY TERRORIST ATTACK AND ITS AFTERMATH

Things fall apart, the centre cannot hold;
Mere anarchy is loosed upon the world,
The blood dimmed tide is loosed, and everywhere
The ceremony of innocence is drowned;
The best lack all conviction, while the worst
Are full of passionate intensity.
(The Second Coming by W.B. Yeats - 1865 – 1939)

It is said that while good politicians are an asset to a country, bad politicians are the bane of the people. The citizens of a country who place their hopes and ideals in these politicians are finally betrayed by the very same men, whom they elected to be their representatives. And that is a ‘very serious and reprehensible breach of trust which ultimately destroys the moral and social fabric of the country’.

The question is whether we have lost all our good politicians, with courage conviction and confidence who could have come forward at this moment to save the country from total anarchy that it seems to be hurting towards. We lost most of our good politicians during LTTE and JVP insurgencies and now there is a vacuum that needs to be filled. Even before the disaster of ‘Black Easter’ it was feared that if the present government held on to power for another two years, avoiding elections, the country could face chaos and economic ruin. Even if elections are held today, will men and women of honesty and integrity be allowed to contest is another question. Politicians in power have created an electoral system which will not allow any ‘outsider’ to enter this exclusive club that is the present parliament. So it is possible that the next election too may turn out to be a game of musical chairs, and the same corrupt politicians will come back to occupy different seats in parliament.

National security is considered the most important function or duty of any government in power. But the present government has treated it as the least important. Repeated timely warnings of the impending danger had been given to the government. But these warnings were not taken seriously or simply ignored, perhaps because all politicians are too busy making their plans and preparations for the forthcoming elections. “We did not know anything till the bombs went off” say all of them in one voice. Only one of them admitted that he did not go to church on Easter Sunday because his father had warned him! It is now revealed that the security staff of all leaders, ministers and M.Ps had been informed of this threat. But the security men protected their own masters and failed to warn the public. Therefore no one can be held responsible or accountable for the disaster. How easily the politicians have washed their hands off!

Various allegations have been made against certain Muslim ministers and politicians. Some of the allegations are that they supported Islamist extremism for political reasons, established special religious schools for Muslims (Madaras) which did not come under the Department of Education, got down teachers from Saudi Arabia who promoted extremism, promoted Arabization of Kattankudy, built an exclusive university for Muslims with money received from Saudi Arabia, destroyed part of the Wiulipattu sanctuary to put up houses for their supporters and a few more. But none of these allegations have been proved because they were not investigated. Only now investigations have begun though not very seriously. People lose confidence in the parliamentary select committee, when they see a few, politicians who are accused of being involved in the ‘Bond Scam’ now sitting in judgment on senior public officers! It is election year and none of the major political parties can afford to antagonize the Muslim politicians on whom they depend for the block votes of the Muslims, whether extremists or moderates. Therefore the investigations may drag on till the elections are over.

In the aftermath of the Easter bomb blast, the country is facing numerous problems. For a few weeks all life in the country came to a standstill. People of all communities stayed indoors gripped with fear and uncertainty. While the Muslims feared a backlash, the others feared another terrorist attack. Too many

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people lost their livelihoods and are still reeling under the ever increasing cost of living. Most industries, mainly in the tourism sector have suffered heavy losses. Sufficient relief measures have not been taken to help the victims of the terrorist attacks. A few have been paid compensation with a lot of publicity. It was a great media event with cameras focused on the smiling faces of the politicians and the grief stricken faces of victims. While the politicians enjoyed the media publicity given to them in this election year, the poor victims felt humiliated and exploited. After the long wait, for the arrival of the politicians, some of the victims left in disgust, without taking the money.

While the economists forecast a bleak future for the country and the people are facing numerous economic hardships, the politicians have their whole attention focused on only one thing - How to win the next election. They are busy planning their campaigns, selecting their candidates and figuring out ways and means of increasing their vote base. The number of samurdhi beneficiaries has been increased, the salaries of public servants too have been increased and more people are being recruited by the ministries when the public service is already overloaded with too many people doing very little work. These are all bribes offered to buy their block votes. Politicians don’t lose because what is wasted is public money and ultimately the people will have to bear the burden.

Moderate Muslim leaders and scholars have now revealed that for a long time, since 2012, they have been warning the government in power regarding ‘Islamist extremism’ that was spreading fast specially in the Eastern Province. There were clashes between the moderate Sufis and the extremists led by Mohamad Zaharan, the founder leader of the National Thowheed Jamath (NTJ), one of the suicide killers who blew himself up in the Easter blast. These clashes in 2017 were reported by the Sufis (Moderate Muslims) to the police. But no action had been taken. The previous government as well as the present government ignored such warnings for political reasons. They safeguarded their own political interests and ignored the growing threat of Islamist extremism which finally exploded on Easter Sunday.

Thanks to the intervention of the Archbishop of the Roman Catholic order, Cardinal Malcolm Ranjith and some Buddhist religious leaders the government was able to quell the anti muslim riots before it turned into another July 1983, when innocent Tamils were killed and their property destroyed because 13 Sinhala soldiers had been killed in the north by Prabaharan and his (then) small group of men. We never seem to learn from history.

Leela Isaac
May 2019

Searching for good politicians

What is of interest in the ongoing public discourse on the next presidential election and allied issues is Minister Ravi Karunanayake’s contention that the UNP candidate should be mature, talented and educated. He has also said all presidential hopefuls should be persons who have at least passed the GCE O/L examination. Opinion may be divided on the minimum educational qualifications that presidential candidates should be required to possess, but it is an issue that should be addressed.

It is only wishful thinking that a country can achieve progress without intelligent, educated and talented persons at the helm. Singapore would still have been a swamp if its people had elected morons as their representatives.

Nearly 100 lawmakers we are burdened with are said to have failed the GCE O/L examination while the number of the MPs who could not pass the GCE A/L is believed to be more than 140. Little surprise that they cannot read and understand vital bills and other documents presented to the House, and cock fights pass for debates.

Worryingly, it is these MPs who are entrusted with the task of managing public finance. Even a person who runs a small shop is required to have some basic accounting and mathematical skills.

-Editorial
- Sunday Island— 23/06/2019
In the present context, CHANGE IS ABSOLUTELY VITAL, NOT JUST NECESSARY BUT ABSOLUTELY VITAL! ‘COUNTRY FIRST’ SHOULD BE EVERYBODY’S PREROGATIVE, VERY SPECIALLY THE POLITICIANS. When it is time to put the country first, it is time for all you hypocrites we call politicians to go home. Taking into account what has been amassed, all of you have stashed away not just here in Sri Lanka but in foreign banks too; it should be a free ride for you with nothing to worry about.

There are countless ways in which our parliamentarians can become rich overnight. The goodies don’t end there though; he is entitled to a duty-free vehicle permit which can also be disposed of at an astronomical gain – the litany of gains gets better; their salaries’ are supplemented by numerous allowances and they are even paid to attend Parliament! It is specifically for that purpose they are elected to Parliament.

- Daily Mirror-22/05/2019

Excerpts from an article by Fr. J. C. Pieris

Thieves, murderers or Nagananda?

After every election the same set of shifty mugs are seen in Parliament. There is never a change. Whether they are in the Government, in the opposition or on the fence they are happy. They know they are going to have a jolly good time at the expense of the citizens of the country. If you are still watching broadcasts in the TV channels you cannot, but be amused by the contradictory statements of the MPs from the same party or the same alliance; they have forgotten what they had said the day before and now say just the opposite. After seventy years they still promise us a new, bright future for the umpteenth time. They accuse one another of wrong doings. Now it is cocaine addiction, before it was non declaration of assets, even their sexual misconducts, illicit alliances and ‘samanala’ activities are publicly exposed. The president takes the cake for saying unconnected, irresponsible nonsense. His campaign against drugs, at this juncture, loudly tells the whole world that the presidential election is near. Do you remember he said at the beginning that he never wanted to be the president a second time? All of them seems to be in a chaotic, clueless mood not knowing where they are or what they are doing or where they are going.

The time is ripe for a clean break with the rotten past or rather with the rotten present. Go out on to the street and ask anybody about the government, a passerby, a three wheeler driver, a fellow passenger in a bus or the train, a sidewalk hawker, anybody, and they would say the same thing: throw out the whole lot, all 225 of them and their clueless and devious president. Sri Lanka Cricket epitomizes what has happened to the country. Do not insult dogs by saying SLC has gone to dogs. It is worse. SLC has gone to bookies. After all, four years of ‘Yahapalanaya’ has nothing to show. No thieves have been caught, none have gone to jail and not five rupees has been recovered of the billions stolen! Not a single power plant built after 2015 and we are left in the dark. But the CEB top brass and the politicians are happy buying power at exorbitant prices from the private generators; and nobody questions the blatant conflicts of interest in the deals. They say set a thief to catch a thief and that is what we did in January 2015 but, Aiyo! the thieves instead got together and robbed us again!

There is no doubt about it, Nagananda is intelligent. His ability to remember so many dates, issues and his ability to talk clearly, logically and to the point without wasting time is phenomenal. His voice, his body language, his conviction of what he is saying, his daring commitment to his nation-saving-project reveals authority and sincerity. He is not a politician and he doesn’t want to be one, he is aiming at what the ancient Greeks called – a philosopher-ruler or in modern terminology a statesman. He bases himself on the tenets of Buddhism. His self-confidence as a practicing Buddhist is evident. Not simply because he says so, but because his attitude and his authoritative communications reveal so. What is coming forward at the next presidential election is a constitution not a person! He also has a shadow cabinet of eminent women and men of integrity. As time goes by my doubts about him are slowly vanishing.

As a public interest litigator he has over a dozen cases in the Supreme Court. He has spent on them his personal finances. He has done the country a fantastic service. The culprits of the Wilpattu desertification, the selling of car permits, the national list etc. are worried for they are bound to lose the cases, go to jail and pay compensation. They

(Continued on page 06)
Ten years of peace in our country following the defeat of the LTTE has been disturbed by the dastardly Easter Sunday terror attacks that shook the world. Public domain is full of theories and opinion over security lapses on our part and who should be held responsible for them.

While it is important to analyze the relevant data to find out answers to these questions, it is also equally important to re-establish the impenetrable security network we once had and improve it further to meet the kind of international terrorist threats now we are exposed to.

With experience of nearly thirty years of war against the LTTE terrorists we had established one of the best intelligence networks in the world. Although some allege that these networks were weakened with efforts towards reconciliation and prosecution of some intelligence officials for wrong doings during the time of war, that position is not entirely true.

Any one looking at the content of warning letters sent by the two relevant DIGs which together contained most of the vital information regarding the planned suicide attacks will understand that both police and military intelligence units were doing their job well.

Rift in the government
The whole country now knows the defects were at the upper most level of the security establishment and the reason for it was the rift between the country’s President and the Prime Minister. As a result the upper echelon of the security establishment had lost its cohesiveness and was not operating at full steam.

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It is not only the craving, power hunger, cutthroat, washing off hands and blaming others which are the typical qualities of our politicians.

Colombo’s Archbishop His Eminence Malcolm Cardinal Ranjith, said that all incumbent politicians should resign from their respective portfolios and should allow a new set of politicians to take over their tasks without any hindrance.

He said so on Sunday at the Abate church in Milano city in Italy while addressing the gathering.

It was a very special significant moment as this mass was conducted by the Archbishop in the Sinhala language on behalf of the Sri Lankan Catholic devotees. He said further that all parties were trying their best to win the forthcoming elections at the expense of the Easter Sunday attack. According to him, the politicians who ruled the country so far have proved that they are incapable of ruling the country.

Now those who are engaged in politics should resign and hand over the country to a new set of people.

It is not only the craving, power hunger, cut-throat, washing off hands and blaming others which are the typical qualities of our politicians. The country cannot progress with this type of individuals who blame others. It is said that an election is in the offing. Then, everybody is going to win the election at the expense of the Easter Sunday attack. But, we do not know the truth behind this attack. Who were behind it? Who aided and abetted it? Why is this incident going to be swept under the carpet.

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Excerpts from an article by Gamini abeywardane

National security should be above politics

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‘Enough is enough – Now go home’: Cardinal tells politicos

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Zaharan had an open warrant for his arrest since last year

An open warrant for the arrest of Mohamed Zaharan, the self-styled leader of the National Thowheed Jamath (NTJ) had been issued by a Colombo Magistrate back in August last year, but the wanted man had gone into hiding by then and the search for him had dissipated with the arrest of the then Terrorism Investigations Division (TID) chief DIG Nalaka Silva shortly thereafter, it has now been revealed.

-Sunday Times - 26/05/2019

**Excerpts from an article by Kumudini Hettiarachchi**

**Tales of woe ring out from devastated homes in Katuwapitiya**

Lives changed forever – the external wounds are slowly healing but the scars will remain.

As people from Katuwapitiya and its environs painfully attempt to limp back to a semblance of normalcy, the support system – except the groups of nuns who are still walking into their homes and giving them a shoulder to cry on and are looking into their wants and needs – seems to be waning.

A little over a month after the horrific Easter Sunday bomb blasts, are the survivors in limbo, while the country moves on with its routine? This is the question on the minds of these beleaguered men, women and children.

Many murmur protests against the manner in which the promised compensation is being disbursed, with claims that there are delays and that what was promised is not forthcoming.

The long-term impact of the blasts is that many have lost their livelihoods as well.

-Sunday Times - 26/05/2019

**Reported by Kumudini Hettiarachchi**

**Small traders bombed out**

Though over a month has passed since the barbaric ‘Easter Sunday’ terrorist suicide attacks, normalcy is yet to return to the community. Small-scale vendors and traders throughout the country have been among the hardest hit.

Colombo’s Manning Market in Pettah generally teeming with people, and one of the busiest markets in the country, is but a pale shadow of itself.

In the aftermath of the ‘Easter Sunday’ suicide attacks many people have tended to avoid the place due to security concerns regarding crowded places. This has had a devastating effect on vendors.

The stock of rotting bananas rotting in the noonday sun is but one symbol of the situation the traders have been facing. Bananas can’t be kept for more than 2-3 days and the lack of customers mean that many bunches simply go to waste.

Retail seller Mohammed Niyaz (52) said while there are some customers during the day, the market almost completely empties after 5.00 pm.

Elsewhere in the country, the situation is similar. A banana seller at a roadside stall in Anuradhapura related an almost similar story, customers are few and far between, and the vendors live in the hope that their lost clientele return, the sooner the better.

Vendors say custom is down by as much as 60-70 percent. Though, some customers are gradually returning, business is still well below the level it used to be.

-Sunday Times - 26/05/2019
Sri Lanka failed to arrest Easter bomber despite warnings

AFP - Sri Lankan authorities failed to arrest the jihadist who led the Easter Sunday attacks that killed 258 people despite mounting evidence against him, the country's top intelligence official said Wednesday.

Sisira Mendis told a parliamentary probe into security lapses leading to the April 21 suicide bombings that the attacks led by Zahran Hashim could have been avoided if he had been detained.

-Sunday Island - 02/06/2019

Failure to avoid an accident...

We all know that failure to avoid an accident is a punishable offence under law and even a school going child is aware of this as a common sense or as a every day matter but unfortunately that this little is not known by our former Defence Secretary and the IGP, who is now on compulsory leave, to avoid a major disaster when they knew it in advance after receiving information from a foreign top intelligence service.

The people of this country would know that it is not necessary to have a Parliamentary Select Committee (PSC), spending public money and time, to find who was at fault for the lapse of security of this country with that Easter Sunday attack, causing over three hundred deaths with serious casualties and destruction of public life and property including three major Catholic/ Christian churches and premier hotels in the capital city, which everyone of us called the saddest episode in this country after LTTE terror.

When we hear the answers given by the duo who came before the PSC to explain why they were not responsible in this serious breach of security are like Aesop's fables and it is truly laughable. Surely people of this country expected a little more sense from the people who are holding such high positions in the government although the former defence secretary, was not a career officer with any knowledge of defence or security, and only a retired volunteer naval officer. But the IGP who headed the National Police to maintain law and order, enhancing public safety and keeping the peace throughout the country to behave in this erratic way is unpardonable.

No wonder why this country is going from bad to worse, no doubt it is in deep trouble now. Everywhere we see deterioration and destruction. Law and order is used for their own gain only. Social harmony is terrorized, national security is treated as insignificant. Insufficiency, corruption and misuse of public funds and property have deteriorated to the maximum and Sri Lanka is going through a state of near lawlessness and rapidly going towards economic disaster.

By Sarath Wickramasinghe
Letter to the Editor
-Daily Mirror - 12/06/2019

Excerpts from an article by Yohan Perera and Ajith Siriwardana

Hizbullah began Arabization in Kattankudi: Aboosali Uvais

Arabization was started and fostered in Kattankudy during the tenure of former Eastern province Governor M.L.A.M. Hizbullah, member of the federation of Kattankudy mosques and institutions Aboosali Uvais yesterday told the Parliament Select Committee (PSC) appointed to probe Easter Sunday attack.

Testifying before the PSC, he said the Arabization was not the cultural value of Muslims and that it was a concept started in Saudi Arabia to expel other nationals from Saudi Arabia.

Mr. Uvais explained in detail the geographical and social background of Kattankudy where he said it was a congested area with nearly 50,000 people living in just 6.5 square kilometres.

Giving a full account of National Thawheed Jama'ath leader Zahran, he said Zahran was only educated up to grade five and was unable to complete his education to become a Moulavi though he attempted by enrolling into a Arabic Institution in Kattankudy and Madrasa in Kurunegala.

He said Zahran started an organization in Kattankudy in 2006 and engaged in social activities and posed as a moderate person but gradually his activities became unacceptable and added that federation of Kattankudy mosques and institutions had taken steps to prevent his activities from the beginning.

"We informed the police not to allow him to use loud speakers for his organization,” he said.

Mr. Uvais said Zahran’s activities got worse by 2016 where he openly stated that he was loyal to ISIS during a meeting held in Hizbullah Cultural hall.

-Daily Mirror - 12/06/2019
UNP manipulating muslim community for political purposes

In a hard hitting speech, Opposition Leader Mahinda Rajapaksa said yesterday the UNP was making good use of the Muslim community for their political purposes especially aiming at the presidential election, while Muslim leaders, completely dependent on Muslim votes, want a government they could manipulate.

“All of us should understand that everything that we see happening now, is directly connected to the presidential election that is due to be held in a few months. The present government is seeking to retain the Muslim vote base that they organised around themselves using various stratagems before 2015,” Mr. Rajapaksa said.

“However, all Muslim ministers resigned. This seems to be ploy on the part of the UNP government to organise and line up all Muslim politicians on one side and to obtain Muslim votes at the presidential elections. The UNP is making good use of the Muslim community for their political purposes. The UNP needs the votes of the moderates as well as the extremists within the Muslim community. They don’t care from where their votes come from. The Muslim leaders for their part, want a government they can manipulate at will. But this confluence of interests will not solve the problems that the ordinary Muslims face. The ordinary people of this country want protection from extremist terrorists. The ordinary Muslim folk want to weed out the terrorists from their midst and to resume their normal lives,” Mr. Rajapaksa said.

-Daily Mirror - 12/06/2019

Excerpts from an article by Priyalal Sirisena

De-radicalization a forgotten challenge in countering extremism

Religious terrorism

According to the global terrorism index, four Islamic terrorist groups: IS, Boko Haram, Taliban and Al Qaïda are responsible for about 75% of deaths caused by terrorism in 2016. The main reason behind expansion of Islamic terrorism is not their having higher weapon power or technology, but their having a social structure at their disposal where religious terrorism could flourish. According to some researchers, religious terrorism is the most dangerous face of terrorism, since it operates without any guilty feeling with regard to violence, in the form of a religious ritual.

If we are to examine as to why Islamic communities are so vulnerable to radicalization and extremism, we have to go back to the Crusades and wars of early Islamic civilization, where violence in the name of religion was nourished and promoted. The memes and slogans of these campaigns were later used to justify religious extremism and violent cult activities. Some critics say that the early Islamic civilization, which had produced a splendid culture, later collapsed as a result of falling victim to extremism.

-Daily Mirror - 14/06/2019

Info revealed at PSOC ignored by Government

BY NIRANJALA ARIVAYAWANSHA

Several high ranking State officials have, at the Parliament Sectoral Oversight Committee (PSOC) on International Relations, between January and March 2019, emphasised that several Sri Lankan Muslims had gone for ISIS training and had returned to the country.

The officials had revealed that some of those Sri Lankan extremists had returned to the country after receiving the ISIS training, while a majority of them were engaged in terrorist activities in some countries.

They had also revealed some intelligence information, through reliable sources, about the activities of V. Rudrakumaran, the former legal adviser of the LTTE and the person introduced as the Premier of the Transnational Government of Tamil Eelam.

-Ceylon Today - 05/05/2019
A uniquely unprecedented situation: Is there a way out?

The call for a caretaker government, rather than an immediate election, is in itself a measure of the current lack of public confidence in political leadership and the failure of leadership to inspire enthusiasm in the political process. The opportunity for a caretaker government first arose in December last year after the Supreme Court ruled against the purported dissolution of parliament by the President. Ranil Wickremesinghe should have immediately gone for a general election after instituting a neutral caretaker government. He had his best chances to win an election with the political wind fully in his sails. He blew it by opting instead to continue governing through cabinet mucking (not making).

Ironically, even the institution of a caretaker government has to be done by the same political actors in whom people have no faith. Such a task is not impossible in a parliament where MPs are known to cut across party line often for unwelcome purposes. The difference now is to identify a group of MPs who will come together for a positive purpose like forming a caretaker government. The JVP seems to have forgotten that it started the 20th Amendment many moons ago. Reviving it now, perhaps along the lines suggested by Jayawickrama, could also be the starting point to win support for a caretaker government.

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SRI LANKAN politics a stinking cesspool: VEDDA CHIEF

The Vedda Chieftain Uruwarige Wannilaththo rejected Sri Lankan politics as a nauseating cesspit while stating that he was disgusted to see the behaviour of the rulers of the country who act as pre-school children after the Easter Sunday suicide bomb attacks on innocent men women and children.

Wannilaththo accused the current leaders of the country for passing the buck after the Easter attack and added that it was also disgusting to note the behaviour of the government ministers. He added that entire country got the same feeling.

Leaders should get together for a single purpose without being at each other’s throat in the face of the disaster the country is faced, but they are not concerned about the situation.

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Iran-born Australian Islamic leader tells the world: We tried warning you – Caliphate is real

Islamist extremists have carried out at least 31,222 attacks and killed 146,811 people worldwide in the last 18 years, German newspaper Die Welt am Sonntag, has found.

In an article titled ‘18 years of terror’ Die Welt am Sonntag has analysed information from the Global Terrorism Database compiled by the University of Maryland, beginning with the 9/11 attacks which claimed the lives of some 3,000 people and concluding with the Easter Sunday attacks in Sri Lanka where over 250 were killed and some 500 were injured.

In all those attacks, most of the victims had been Muslims, the article states. “They (Islamist extremists) target areas with weak intelligence and Governments that are paying attention to other issues such as political correctness, and infiltrate and drive their agendas in these areas, an Australian Shia religious leader born in Iran, Mohammad Tawhidi, tells US-based CBN news in a discussion on these findings.

Tawhidi is the author of the Tragedy of Islam, Admission of a Muslim Iman. He also says the definition of ‘terrorism’ used by the Jihadists is different to what the rest of the world understands as ‘terrorism’.

“They believe it is noble to blow themselves up and therefore there is a clash of understanding in what exactly is going on. They do not need an actual Government or a geographic location to establish a caliphate,” he explains.

On Monday 29 April, leader of the Islamic State group Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi appearing in a video for the first time in five years warned followers that the battle of Islam against the Crusaders is a long one. In the video, Al-Baghdadi also discussed the Easter Day bombings in Sri Lanka.

He also acknowledges that IS lost the war in the eastern Syrian village of Baghouz, which was captured last month by the U.S. backed Kurdish led Syrian Democratic Forces.

However, Iman Tawhidi is confident that this battle is easy to win. “We of course know how to fight this battle and it’s very easy. We deport every extremist Iman in a country, we cancel visas of people coming in from Iran and Saudi Arabia to preach hatred in this coming month of Ramadan, we stop the constructions of new mosques without vetting the people behind them and stop foreign funding from Islamic countries. That is a very good step towards fighting this extremism. So, we do know how to fight them but the question is, are we prepared to take on this battle?”

Yet, he also points out that Europe is being run by Governments that do not care about their Christian heritage and Christian religion. “They don’t care about anything that is happening. All they want to do is rule and stay in power and they use political correctness machine to do so”.

According to Tawhidi political correctness is the current beginning of the death. “It is already happening. There are areas in France where Christians cannot walk freely. President Macron has come out saying that the Islamist movements want to secede from France. This is a leader of a country telling you that he has lost control, he is admitting finally that he has lost control. There are serious agendas being played in that region.

“I am a Muslim but I cannot live in an Islamist theocracy. I can live in a Christian Government based in their constitution because that is where peace lies. I can’t live in a place where ISIS rules the area. No Muslim with a brain that works would want to live under ISIS and when we come to the West trying to warn the Governments and intelligence agencies about the people we have fled from, there’s this new political agenda that says ‘we are the racists, we are the ones who are traitors and the extremists need to be understood and embraced, and they have a point, let’s listen to them’.

“Sooner or later, they are in Parliament, they are in the government. There you go in Washington DC, America you have such people influencing and affecting the narrative around the world attacking Jews, attacking Christians. This is just the beginning. If Christians don’t wake up, if Christians leaders don’t wake up, then we Muslims who fled from extremists can’t help you anymore. We tried warning you”.

Imam Tawhidi also points out that the caliphate is not a ‘self-styled caliphate’ but a real one. “They have announced the caliph and they have an army and they have an agenda and they have a lot of politicians in the West who love them and they have people who lead non-profit organisations in Australia that refuse to condemn them. They have an agenda that is widespread in different names. It is a well-established caliphate.

“Let’s be real about it. We are fighting a real caliphate, we are not fighting a ‘so-called’ caliphate. This is the true extremist Islamic militant ideology that is taking over our lands and our countries. You see with one attack, they took over 250 lives and injured over 500 in Sri Lanka. This is not a so-called caliphate, this is a caliphate in action. We need to treat it as a caliphate in action. Take it seriously and drive them to the ground”.

By A Special Correspondent - Ceylon Today -
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Board of Directors

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0112559572

Grants & Education Manager
Menaka Shanmughalingam
ing Education Coordinator (Sinhala)
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0112559572

Senior Office Assistant / Driver
M Kannadasan

Finance Officer
Champa Jayakody

Administration / Finance Unit

0112559572

www.ihrsri Lanka.org

Head Office

14, Jayarathne Avenue, Colombo 05

Branch Office

Jaffna

Urelu East, Chunanagam

Website