



# COTANZ

Consortium of Tamil Associations in New Zealand

Auckland ? Wellington ? Christchurch ? Palmerston North

**Media Release**

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## **The Killing of Vanniasingham Vigneswaran**

The Tamils are stunned at the killing of the President of the Trincomallee Peoples' Forum. But the Tamils are not surprised that the killing took place within the High Security Zone in Trincomallee, because all killings of independent journalists, academics, civil servants, and Tamil activists and even the assassination of the member of parliament for Batticaloa, Joseph Pararajasingam have been executed within the High Security Zones – Joseph Pararajasingam shamefully was assassinated within a Catholic Cathedral in a High Security Zone, while praying on Christmas Day.

It is clear that it is not the work of the LTTE, who have been forced out of army controlled or so-called "cleared areas" by continuous grenade attacks, arson and killings. But Brig. Prasad Samarasinghe called it the work of the LTTE because he has always displayed his jaundiced vision and wild imagination from the partisan seat he is occupying.

Even more humorous is IGP Chandra Fernando's discovery that Vigneswaran's assassination was the work of the discontented who lost their claim to the vacancy in Parliament caused by the assassination of Joseph Pararajasingam. We know Vigneswaran was nominated to succeed him as he was both able and committed. The anti-Tamil elements did not want Vigneswaran to be a leader. The people are more intelligent than Brig. Prasad Samarasinghe or Chandra Fernando to understand this simple truth. The people are fed up with these cock and bull fairy tales of these paid storytellers. Prasad and Chandra can try their chances as novelists or thriller writers.

Vigneswaran's assassination is not an isolated incident. The GOSL has a killer squad - the LRRP (Long Range Reconnaissance Patrol) and paramilitary forces whose routine work is to kill LTTE cadres and those supportive of the Tamil rights agitation.

If we look back, the frequency and the cowardly manner of assassinations since Mahinda "Chintana" became operative have increased menacingly and yet President Mahinda Rajapakse speaks of peace and peace negotiations. As Defense Minister he should be knowledgeable about these assassins and the assassinations. He is answerable and responsible, but he is continuing to do it without remorse or shame.

We condemn in the strongest terms this 'bloody chapter' of the Mahinda "Chintani." These cowardly attacks on the Tamils will not silence us. Resistance will continue until the last Tamil is killed. Nobody will succumb to these barbaric tactics.

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