



An Opinion Poll On Peace

# Peace Confidence Index (PCI)

Social Indicator

July 2002

**W**hile many studies have been conducted on various aspects of this conflict, none have attempted to capture the changes in public perception over a period of time. The lack of such a study was identified as a significant void by Social Indicator (SI), the social research unit of the Centre for Policy Alternatives (CPA). The Peace Confidence Index study (PCI) seeks to fill this lacuna. The study, funded by the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) under the Governance and Institutional Strengthening Programme, Sri Lanka (GISP), will be conducted bi-monthly to gauge the impact of local and international political developments on public attitudes towards the peace process.



## Introduction

### **OBJECTIVE**

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The purpose of this study is two-fold. One is to develop a numerical indicator of the level of public confidence in the peace process using a set of standardised questions which will remain unchanged with each wave. The other is to use a set of questions related to recent social, economic and political developments in order to gauge public opinion in the peace process, which by definition will change from one wave to another.

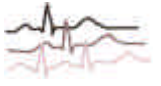
Such information, collected over a period of time, will provide civil society and policy makers a useful barometer of the opinions of the Sri Lankan polity, and ensure that the collective opinions of the masses are given due importance and incorporated into the policy debate.

### **SCOPE & METHODOLOGY**

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The study is carried out using a structured questionnaire administered through face-to-face interviews amongst a 1,725 respondent sample. The 17 administrative districts of the seven provinces, excluding the Northern and the Eastern provinces, and areas under Government control of the Amparai, Batticaloa, Trincomalee, Vavuniya and Mannar were surveyed. Data is weighted to reflect the actual ethnographic composition of the districts in which the sample was surveyed.

**Seven waves of the PCI study were conducted in May, June, September and November 2001 and January, March and May 2002. The latest wave, the results of which are in this publication, was conducted in July 2002.** The results of these eight waves offer us data for a comparative study on changing public opinion regarding key issues, ranging from perceptions of war and peace to the proscription of the LTTE. The results are subject to a 3% margin of error.



## Executive Summary Of Poll Conducted from 11th to 20th July 2002

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- There is increased confidence amongst the Tamil community in the commitment of the government to negotiations in contrast to the perception held by the Sinhalese regarding the LTTE's commitment to negotiations.
- The level of awareness of the terms of the Ceasefire Agreement (CFA) remains constant.
- There is cautious optimism about the durability of the CFA. There is a persistence in the lack of confidence along ethnic lines of the commitment of the LTTE and the Government to abide by the terms of the CFA.
- Since March 2002, there is a noticeable increase in the perceived need for a monitoring mission. Since March 2002 however, there is also significant uncertainty over the effectiveness of the Sri Lanka Monitoring Mission (SLMM), especially amongst Sinhalese and Muslims.
- There is a continued lack of convergence of opinion along ethnic lines on LTTE control of the proposed interim administration.
- Divergence in opinion along ethnic lines, regarding the allegations of abduction and extortion by the LTTE exists along with an awareness across ethnic lines of taxation by the LTTE.

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## KEY NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENTS INFORMING THE OPINION POLL

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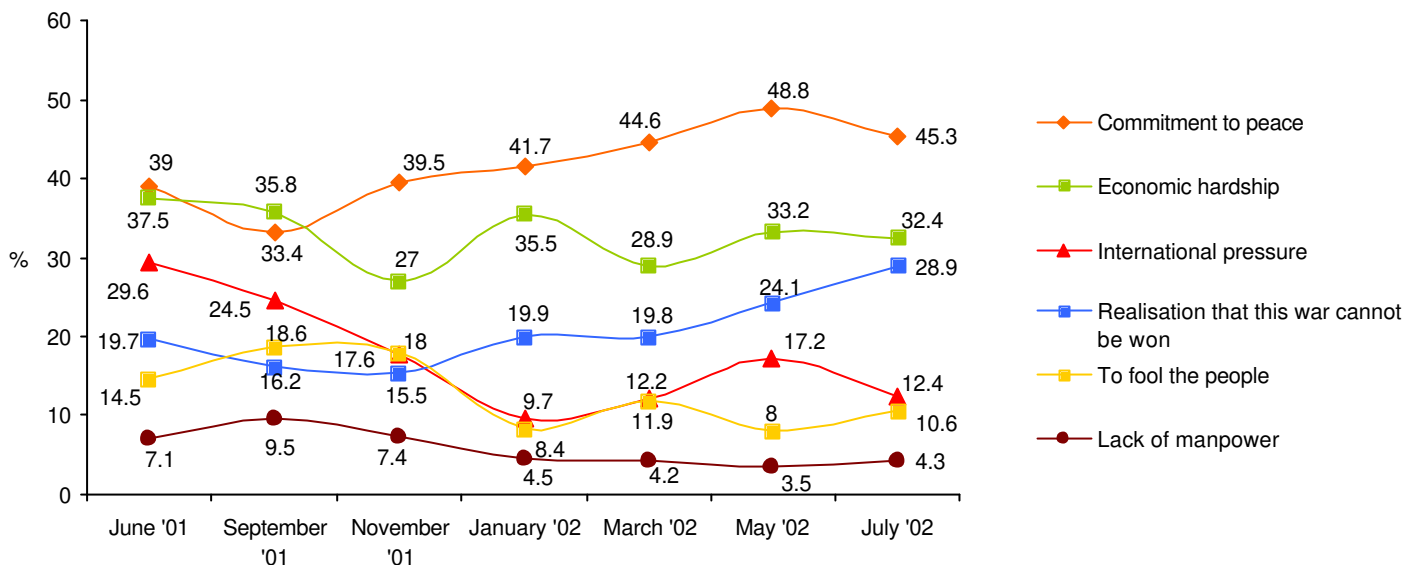
- Four Mahanayakes issue a joint statement pledging their support for peace & development in Sri Lanka.
- At a passing out ceremony of 436 trained LTTE cadres, LTTE Eastern military leader Karuna says that the LTTE is providing training to its cadres to face the eventuality of war.
- Amidst widespread allegations of child conscription, UNICEF announces that the LTTE has given a fresh assurance that it will not recruit anyone below 18 yrs to its armed forces.
- The President's foreign affairs advisor Mr. Lakshman Kadirgama says the ban on the LTTE can be lifted only if the LTTE assures that it will come to the negotiating table.
- The Sri Lanka Monitoring Mission (SLMM) meet Bernard Gnetilleke, Chairman of the Peace Secretariat and Minister Milinda Moragoda to discuss appointing a special commission to investigate alleged assault of LTTE personnel in the Jaffna islands.
- Mr. V. Anandasangaree is appointed the new leader of the TULF and Mr. Joseph Pararajasingham as Vice-President, following the demise of Mr. M. Sivasithamparam.
- The Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna (JVP) announces plans to launch an all-island general strike to demand wage hikes.
- Clashes erupt between Muslim and Tamil groups in Valachchenai.
- The Government bans demonstrations and imposes curfew in certain areas of the East as a result of the above.
- The LTTE leader tells his cadres in the East to observe the Memorandum Of Understanding (MOU) between him and the SLMC leader.
- The Prime Minister asks for more time to put the economy back on track.
- The Finance Minister announces that the implementation of Value Added Tax (VAT) will be deferred from 1st July 2002 to 1st August 2002.
- The Government announces a series of measures aimed at reducing the prices of essentials.
- The SLMM releases a statement that lists ceasefire violations by the LTTE and Security forces.
- Diesel and petrol prices reduced and essential items including medicines exempted from tax in a relief package announced by the Finance Minister.
- PA and JVP parliamentarians protest in Parliament on the situation in the Northeast province.
- Indian Member of Parliament and Leader of Marumalarchi Dravida Munnetra Kazagham (MDMK) Mr. Gopalaswamy, popularly known as 'Vaiko', is arrested by the Tamil Nadu police under a tough anti-terror law for supporting the LTTE.



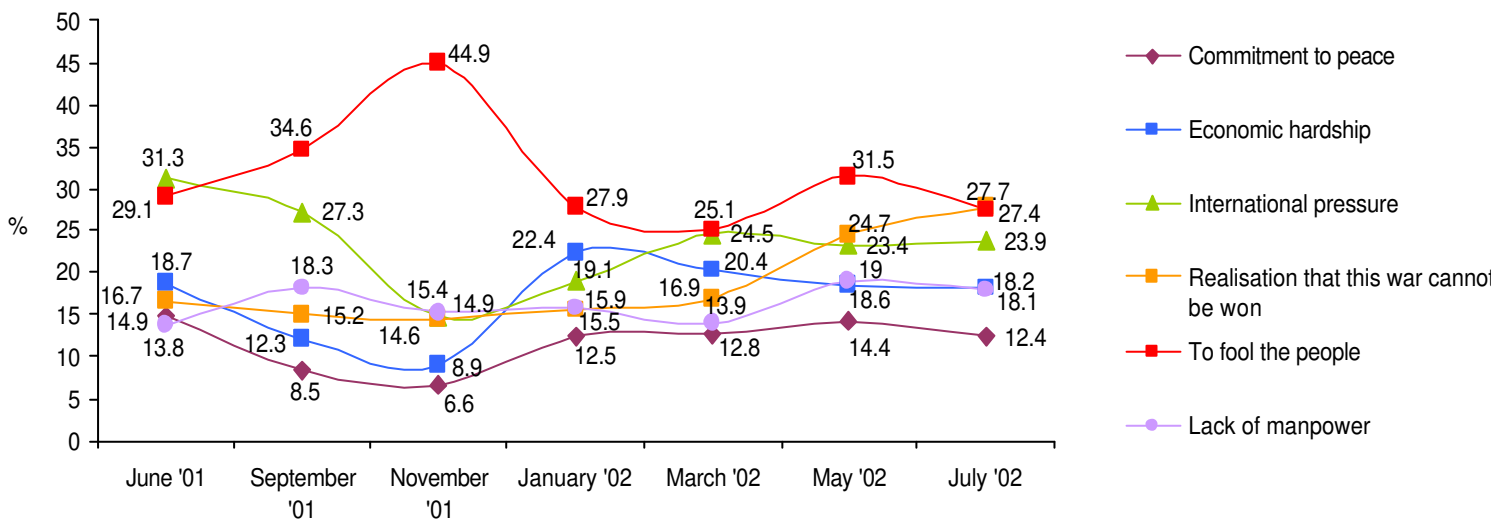
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- Sri Lankan Tamil political parties call on the Indian government to secure the release of Tamil Nadu politician Y. Gopalaswamy who was arrested by the Tamil Nadu police for his outspoken support for the LTTE. The Tamil National Alliance through its general secretary Mr. R. Sampanthan issued a statement in Colombo condemning the arrest and detention of Mr. Gopalaswamy.
  - SLMM Chief accuses the LTTE of seriously violating the Ceasefire Agreement and says that the LTTE endangered the peace process by forcibly holding 2 monitors aboard a vessel they were inspecting.
  - Members of the SLMM assert that they would have to rethink the concept of naval operations after the LTTE forcibly hold two of their monitors on board a vessel they were inspecting.
  - Leading diplomats from the European Union meet with LTTE political wing leader Thamilselvan in Kilinochchi.
  - Protests in the NE as a result of the arrest of Vaiko by police in TN.
  - President meets Prime Minister in crucial meeting to iron out differences.
  - Prime Minister completes a five day official visit to the United States of America.
  - No confidence motion against the Minister of Defence to be presented in Parliament shortly by the Opposition.
  - The Minister of Defence says that the Government is committed to pulling out its troops from temples and schools in the North-East as stated in the Ceasefire Agreement.
  - President of Pakistan General Pervez Musharraf visits Sri Lanka.



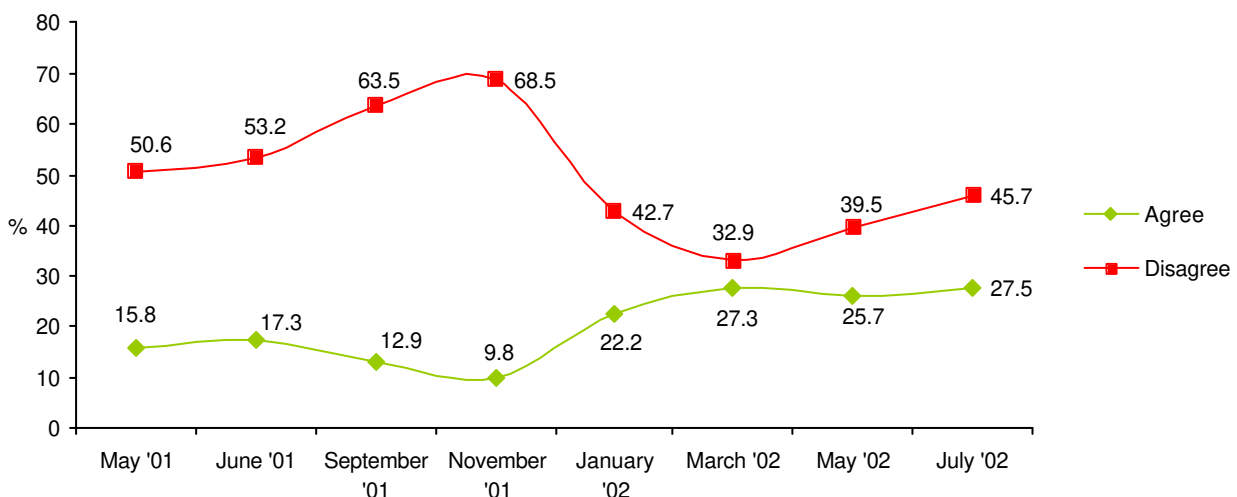
### Why do you think that the Government goes in for talks ? [Multiple Answers]



### Why do you think that the LTTE goes in for talks ? [Multiple Answer]

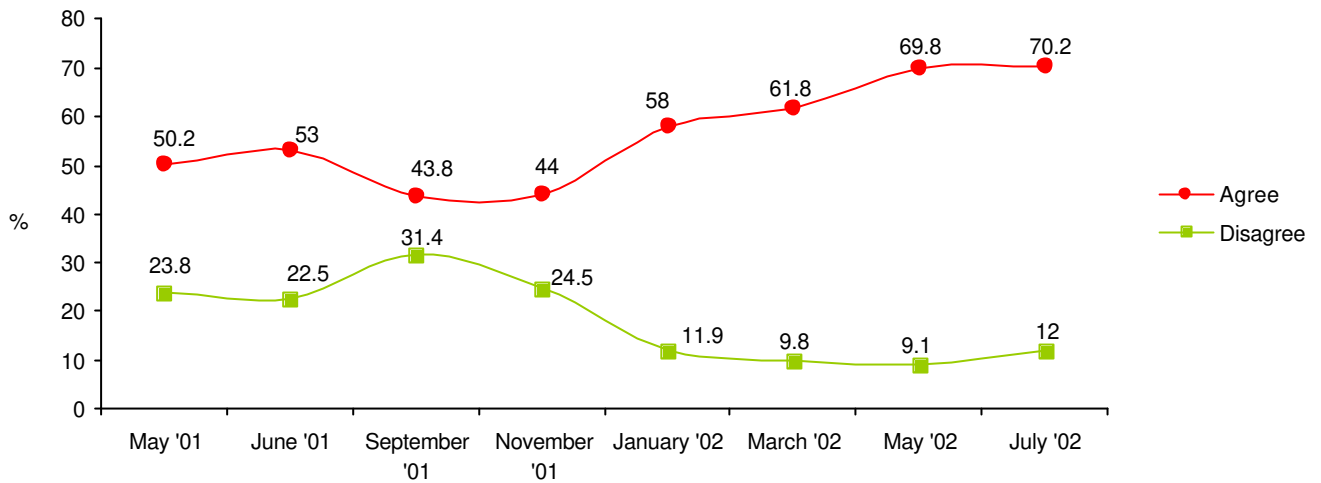


### I think the LTTE is committed to find peace through talks.

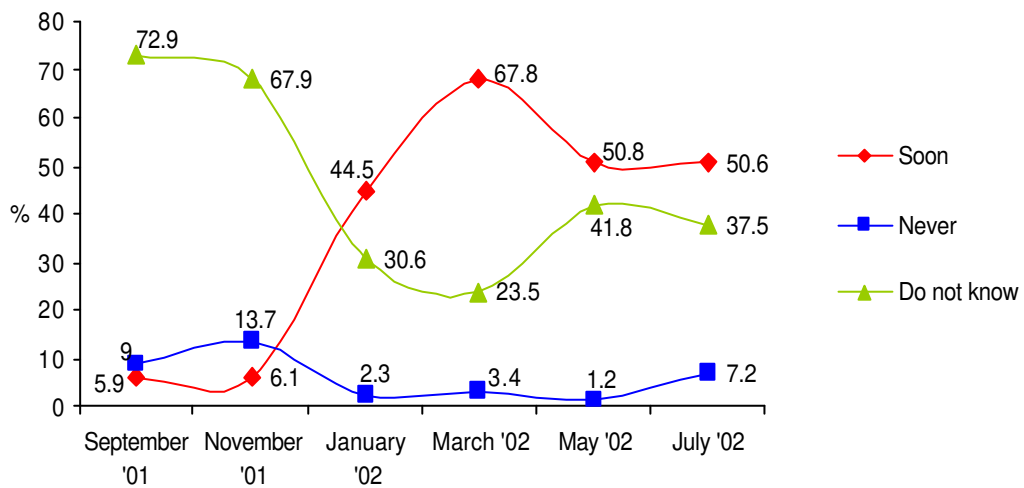




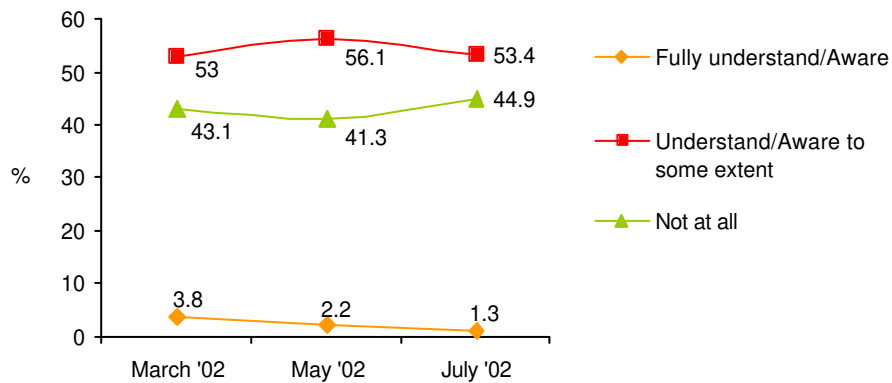
### I think the Government is committed to find peace through talks.



### When will there be peace in Sri Lanka - Tamil Opinion



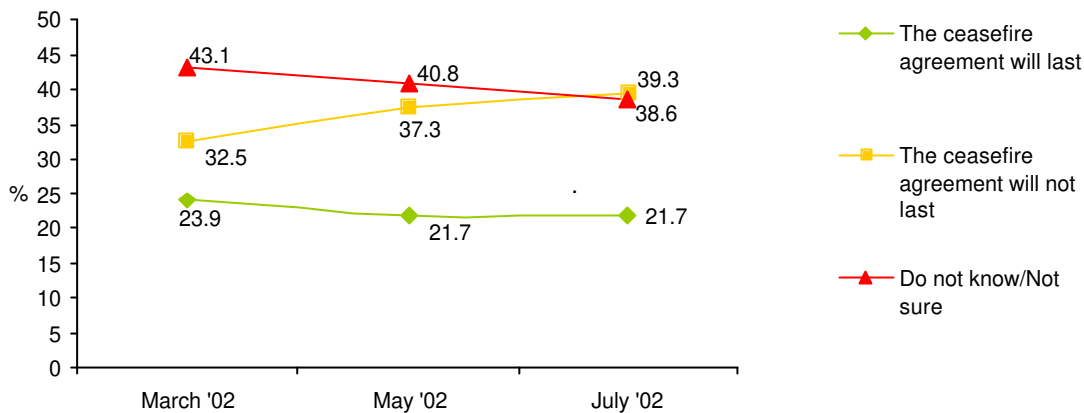
### What is your understanding/awareness of the contents in the ceasefire agreement between the Government and the LTTE ?



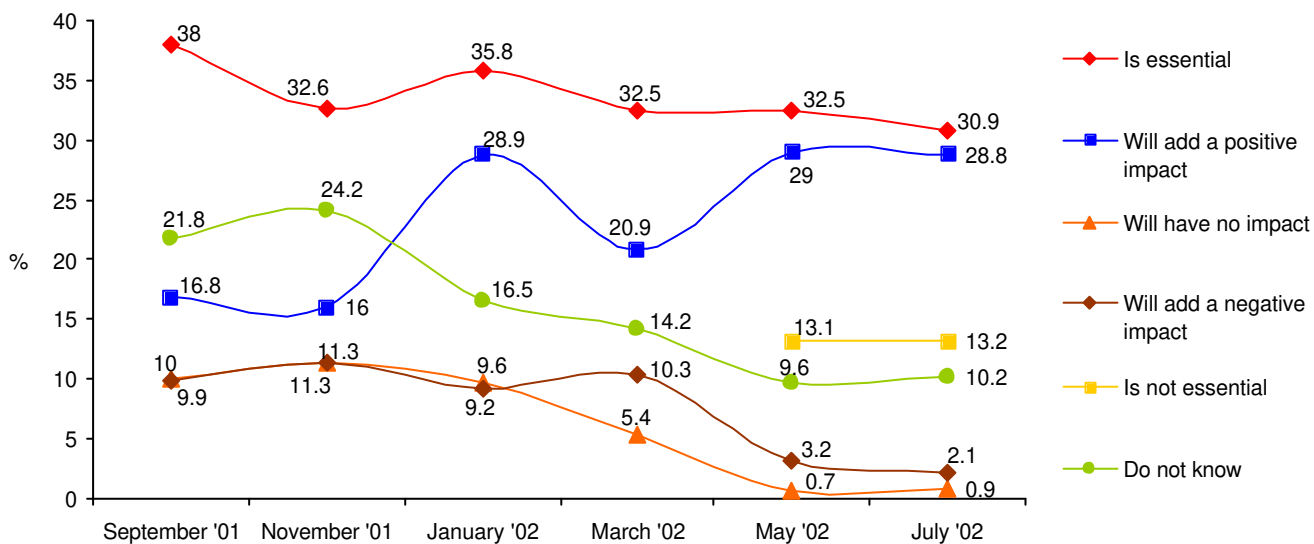




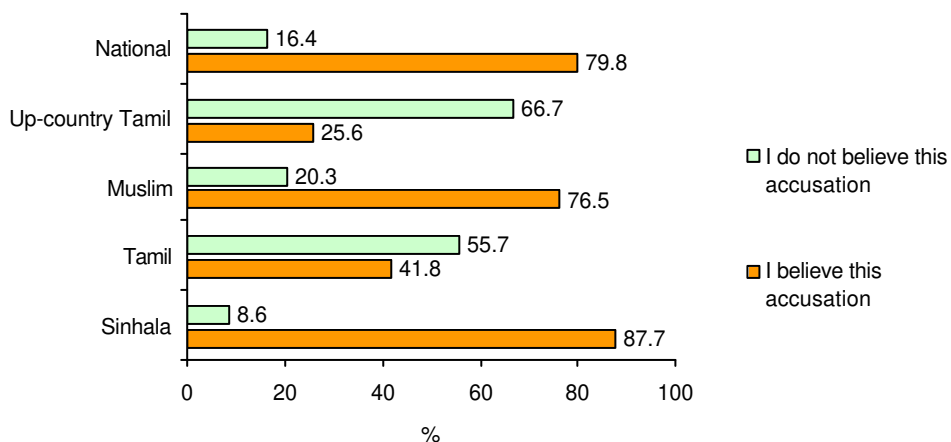
### What do you think of the longevity of the ceasefire agreement ?



### What is your opinion of the need for an international third party's involvement to solve the North East war in Sri Lanka ?

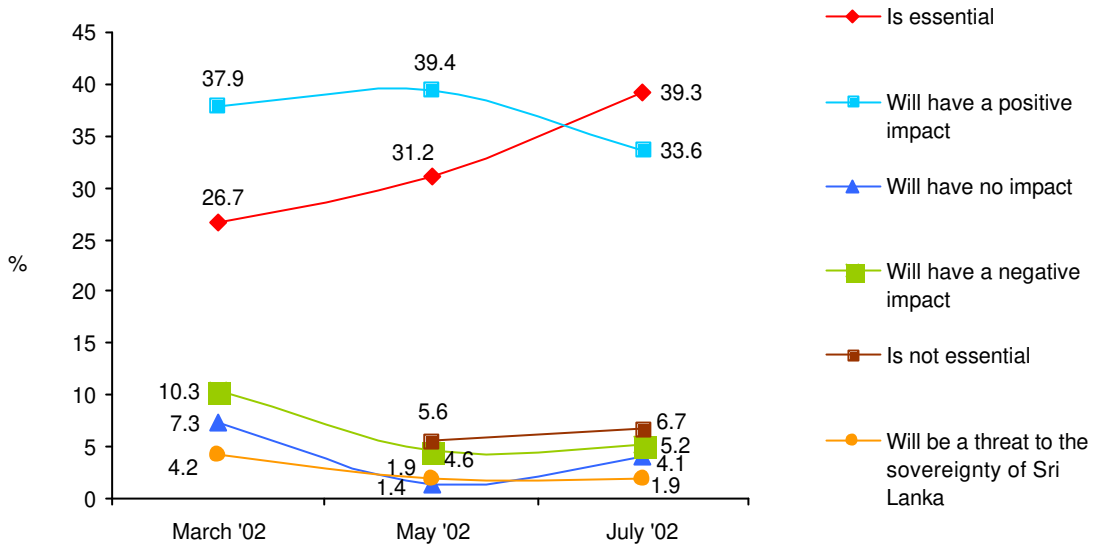


### Please tell me if you believe or do not believe the accusation levelled against the LTTE of engaging in abductions ?

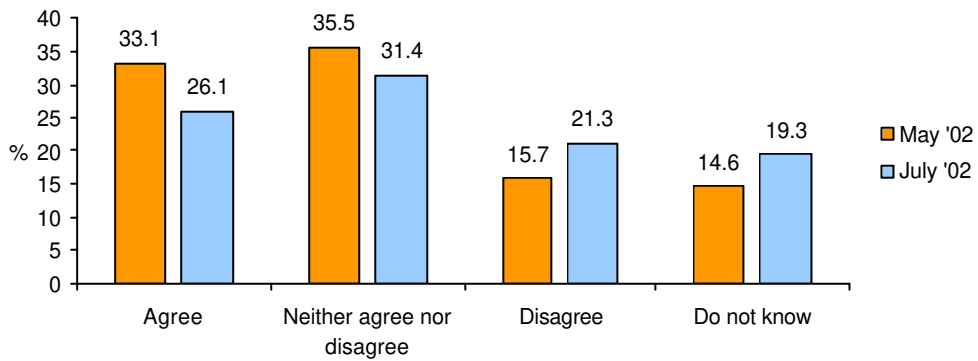




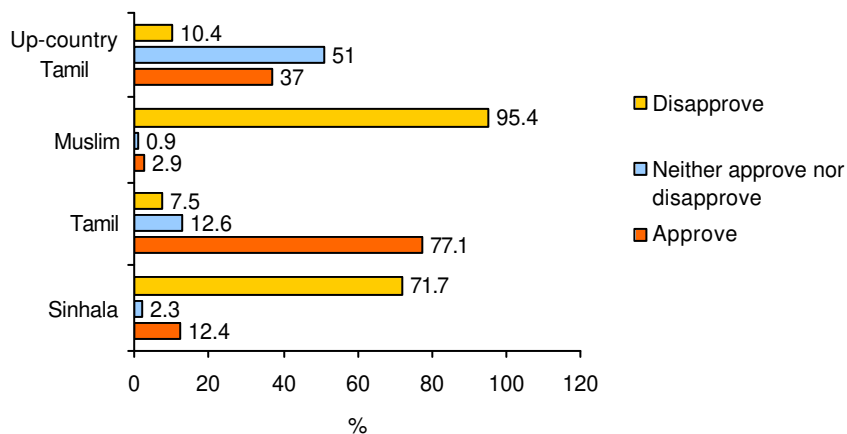
**What is your opinion on the need for a monitoring mission for the CFA to succeed ?**

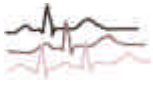


**I think the Sri Lanka monitoring mission is effective in its monitoring of the ceasefire agreement.**

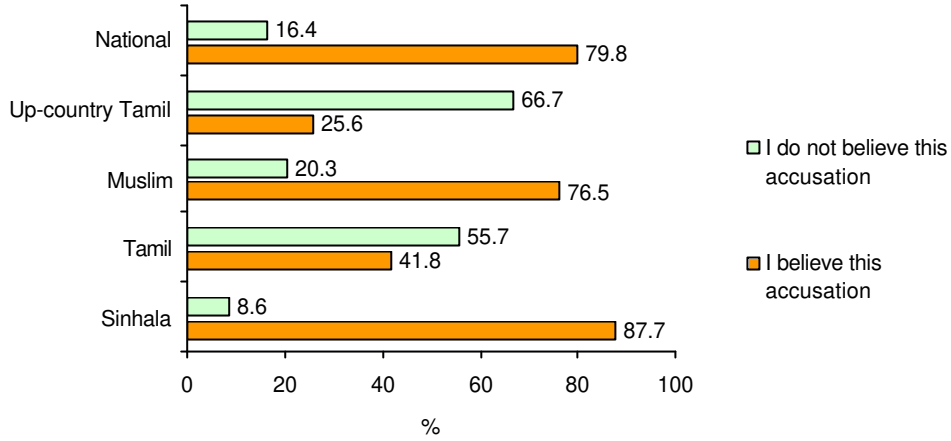


**Do you approve or disapprove of the LTTE having complete control of the proposed North East interim administration ?**

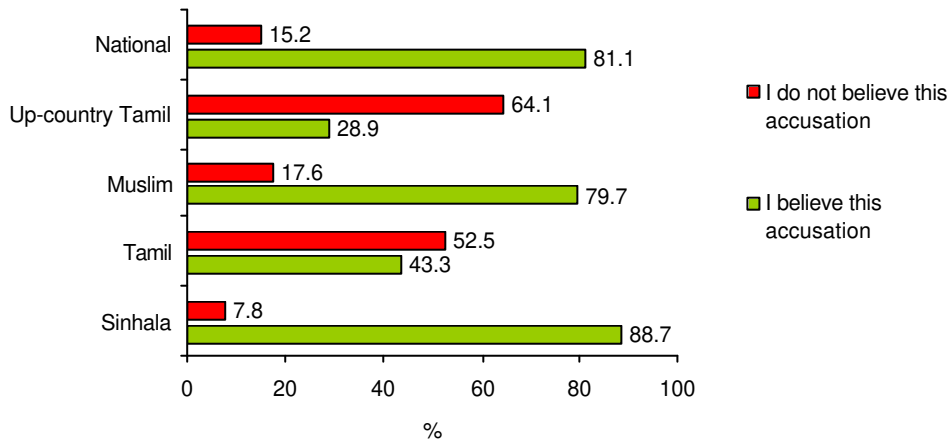




**Please tell me if you believe or do not believe the accusation levelled against the LTTE of engaging in abductions ?**



**Please tell me if you believe or do not believe the accusation levelled against the LTTE of engaging in extortion ?**



**Are you aware that the LTTE levies taxes in the North East ?**

