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EDITORIAL:  
26/74, WAIDYA ROAD  
DEHIWELA  
SRI LANKA



## TOWARDS DEMOCRACY

Formations and activities of Mothers' Front, Opposition Parties alliance and Joint Trade Union campaign are the recent actions being carried out by the Opposition Parties against the U.N.P. Government in Sri Lanka.

Despite some disagreements among the alliance parties in contesting for the forthcoming Local Government elections Unlike in the past there is an alliance of Opposition is formed in Sri Lanka with 12 political parties.

The above alliance staged a public meeting in Colombo stressing the democratic Human rights for the Sri Lankans. It was a successful effort and shooked the government circles.

All the parties of the alliance determined to give up the chilly petty contradiction among them and to build up a strong anti-U.N.P. alliance.

It is noted that Mr. Anura Bandaranaike, M.P. National Organizer of the S.L.F.P. addressing a rally of S.L.F.P. delegates in the Kandy district said that a broad based anti-U.N.P. front should be formed to defeat the U.N.P. at future elections. Political parties representing the Tamil and Muslim Minority Communities should be in such front. The party should not only win the goodwill of the Tamil plantation workers but also should be prepared to enter into an agreement with S. Thondaman if he was willing to do so.

The above speech is considered as the more flexible line taken by the S.L.F.P. to achieve the anti-U.N.P. alliance goal. Unlike in the past most of S.L.F.P. candidates are contesting under the 'Chair' symbol along with other Party members in an independent list. This shows that S.L.F.P.'s hard line in contesting elections under 'hand symbol' has been given up to achieve the common goal.

The other parties of the above alliance also have given up some of other hard line stands to build up an united front.

At the same time although there is a need all the alliance parties have failed to contest under a common list in the forthcoming local government elections and failed to have a common May Day rally.

But the alliance is almost welcomed by the majority of the people of this country and expecting that alliance should work under a common programme to defeat U.N.P. to establish their human, democratic rights. New World understands.

GULF WAR

Iraq cannot be excused for aggression in Kuwait and America too cannot be excused for the crime of murdering the Iraqi people and destroying Iraq.

The American interferences in Panama, and Grenada were justified like even by the United Nations but the Iraq, comparatively powerless small country but a regional power was punished by American Bush Government under the cover of U.N. Security Council alliance 678 requiring Iraq to get out of Kuwait.

After all the bitter experience of two world wars 'United Nations' Organisation' was formed to establish peace in the world. Although the U.N.O. was formed to establish peace and avoid wars, first time in the history, U.N. Resolution lead a disastrous inhuman war in Middle East.

Even after Saddam Hussain's forces withdrew from Kuwait, America continued its offensive and still now trying to use the Kurdish guerrillas to create trouble in Iraq. America is trying to use all the complicated Iraq's national crises like Kurdish problem to upset the Saddam Hussain's Government.

The war in the Gulf war legitimated by U.N. Security Council Resolution 678 requiring Iraw to get out of Kuwait. Bush's warmonger government is the culprit of the Gulf war shown the world that it got the Congress to support to wage war and British and French too showed that they have got their Parliament support.

In the name of liberating Kuwait from Iraq's aggression, America and the alliance war monger almost eliminated Iraq.

As Saddam Hussain's aggression in Kuwait cannot be justified and be appreciated, Bush Government's war against Iraq also cannot be justified and appreciated even there is a U.N. Security Council Resolution because Bush Government could not be an international Police itself to take action against aggression since America is not a Super Power which does not have a history of aggression. Further as America purposely wanted to control a regional Super Power like Iraq, cannot wage an inhuman war like the war in Gulf. As it is correct that a regional power like Iraq cannot be allowed to make a precedent of aggression of small countries. Super Power like America also cannot be allowed to wage war against<sup>a</sup>/regional power like Iraq or<sup>a</sup>/<sub>against</sub> a small country and make a precedent even there is a U.N. Security Council resolution. Because it is obvious that a Super Power like America do not like a country to become a regional Power which lead the change in the present balance of power in the world balanced by U.S.A. and U.S.S.R.

The above ulterior motive of America was surmised when it waged a preplanned war in Gulf. Gorbachev's Soviet Union supported America to wage war against Iraq and remain as a Super Power which do not like the upcoming of a regional power.

It is noted China also a permanent member in the U.N. Security Council abstained in voting for the resolution and China, Cuba, Albania and a few other countries opposed the war against Iraq by America. After the Gulf war most of the small countries including 3rd World countries lost confidence in U.N.'s unbiased activity towards world peace because it was expected that U.N. will avoid war in Gulf and solve the Saddam Hussain's invasion in Kuwait with peaceful means. But U.N. was very favourable for America in waging war in Gulf.

If there is a honest international order, no country was exonerated from the punishment for aggression or invasion in any other country.

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Public Seminar on Contemporary Political Situation  
and future of Sri Lanka.

Colombo 2

Place: G.C.S.U. Lecture Hall/at 4.00 P.M. on 5th May, 1991.  
to be presided by E. Thambish. Mr. S. K. Senthivel, General Secretary of the Sri Lanka Communist Party (Left) and Mr. S. Rajendran, The District Organizer of the Communist Party (Left) Nuwara Eliya will also address the Seminar.

DEMAND FOR AN UNCONDITIONAL CEASEFIRE AND  
NEGOTIATIONS WITHOUT PRE-CONDITIONS TO  
SOLVE THE ETHNIC PROBLEM.

The Government by rejecting the Tigers' offer of a ceasefire and negotiations has once again openly declared war on the Tamils. Up to now the government has not put forward even a minimum programme which could form the basis for a solution to the ethnic problem. Under the cover of the ethnic issue and the attendant war situation, the Government seeks to offer ample opportunities for the foreign capital and local investors who collaborate with it and to prolong its rule. In accordance with this plan, it is purchasing arms and ammunition on a large scale and expanding its armed forces, all with the objective of waging a ferocious war to find a final solution to the ethnic issue.

Though, on the face of it, the Government's military mobilisation is now aimed only against the Tamils, it is imperative that all progressive and democratic forces realise that this very same military repression will soon be unleashed against the entire working class in the country. Hence our Party, urges all progressive, democratic parties and organisations in the country to come forward, without any further delay or hesitation, to launch a mass campaign to stress the importance of a just political solution to the problem and the abandonment of a quest for a military solution.

This is stated in a press release issued by the Central Committee of the Sri Lanka Communist Party (Left) which met to discuss the war situation today in the North and East. The Press Statement was issued by the Party's General Secretary, Mr. S. K. Senthivel.

The Press Release goes on to say: The war which has been declared against the Tamil-speaking people of the North and East is now in its eighth month. The economic sanctions - including

fuel, electricity, agricultural fertilisers and pesticides imposed by the Government and the disruption of transport facilities have shattered the daily lives of people living in the North and East. The lack of work, the restriction of the cash flow, the scarcity of essential items, the steep rise in prices, all these factors have pushed the majority of the people to the verge of starvation and poverty. Everyone - workers, farmers, fishermen, government and private sector employees and officers is undergoing great hardships. Education has been completely disrupted by the fact that schools have been transferred into refugee camps and/or become the targets of serial bombardment. As the government is preventing much needed drugs and medicines being taken to the North and East, the sick and the injured are suffering. The lakhs and lakhs of displaced people who have become refugees are suffering indescribable hardships, without food, clothing, shelter and sanitary facilities. To add to all these hardships, the people are being relentlessly attacked by land, sea and air. The brutal massacres and the deaths-by-starvation that are taking place in the East are a shock to all human people. By contriving to bring about a clash between the Muslims and Tamils, the long-standing amity that prevailed between the two communities has been shattered, almost beyond repair. They are no longer able to live in peace and security in their own areas.

The Press Statement further says: When one takes all these facts into consideration, there is no doubt whatsoever that the war that the Government is waging is a war against the Tamil people. As the Government had rejected the Tigers' offer of a ceasefire, the Tigers have now announced that they have withdrawn their offer of a unilateral cease-fire. Hence the way has been paved for the continuation of the war, which will bring more destruction both to the Tamil people and the whole country. Therefore our Party urges all progressive, democratic forces, organisations and parties in the country to band together and resolutely launch a mass campaign to bring pressure on the Government to agree to an unconditional cease-fire and negotiations without pre-conditions.

09. 02. 1991.

Kelani '89

in the morning mist  
weighing heavily on the iron girders  
of the railway bridge  
until they mellow and melt,  
in the noons  
while men struggle  
on the sun-baked asphalt streets,  
in the evenings  
when sodium lamps  
stand on the concrete bridge  
munching darkness,  
Kelani  
having seen two-thousand years of politics  
flows  
calm and majestic.  
In summer  
when sand laden berges slowly drift  
in the rainy months  
when huts drown, plantains fall  
and men shudder in the cold,  
Kelani  
calm and majestic.  
In these days too  
when human corpses fail not  
to drift daily on the waters,  
Kelani  
calm and majestic  
like the Bodhisatva  
seated in meditation  
at every street junction.

(I remember the words  
an insurgent reportedly inscribed  
on an ancient Buddha statue  
during the insurrection of April '71).

"You have been seated like this  
for two thousand years-  
it's time you arise!"

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(Translation of a Tamil verse by Sekhar)



Created Poverty in the North-East - Result of the war in the North East.

In the Northern part of this country, a Kilo of rice is being sold for 60 Rupees and a Kilo of Sugar 65 Rupees, an ordinary citizen who came from Jaffna last week told the 'New World'.

He explained the difficulties faced by the Tamil people in the Northern Province for their daily needs and the difficulties in travelling.

According to him the Government is issuing per five member family a ration, twice a month. A family is issued 5 Kilo rice, 2 1/2 Kilo flour, 1/2 Kilo Dhal, 1/4 litre Kerosene at a time that is not sufficient.

He gave the present price list prevailing in the Northern Province as follows:

1 Kilo Rice	Rs.45/- to 60/-
1 " Wheat flour	Rs.32/- to 40/-
1 " Sugar	Rs.45/- to 65/-
1 " Masoor Dhal	Rs.80/- to 95/-
1 " Chillies	Rs.105/- to 120/-
1/2 " Bread	Rs.12/- to 16/-
1 " Coriander	Rs.75/- to 95/-
1 Litre Kerosene	Rs.90/- to 140/-
1 " Diesel	Rs.100/- to 135/-
1 " Petrol	Rs.400/- to 500/-
1 " Coconut oil	Rs. 90/- to 140/-
Children's Milk Food	Rs. 95/- to 150/-
1 Cake of Sunlight	Rs. 18/- to 24/-
1 bag of cement	Rs.600/- to 850/-
1 bag of Manure	Rs.2000/- to 2500/-
1 No. Coconut	Rs. 35/- to 40/-
1 Kilo Brinjal	Rs. 45/- to 60/-
1 " Carrot	Rs.100/- to 120/-
1 " Beans	Rs.100/- to 120/-
50 " Firewood	Rs.150/- to 175/-

4 ozs. Pesticide	Rs.120/- to 190/-
1 Kilo Fish (Avr.)	Rs. 80/- to 150/-
1 Kilo Meat (Avr.)	Rs.140/- to 160/-
1 tablet Panadol	Rs.1/75 to 2/00
1 time charges for private channelling	Rs.75/- to 150/- (Medical Exp.)

He further said there may arise a difference in the above prices as listed but day by day there is an increase in the price. The blackmarketeers are having strong hands in manipulating the situation. Some things including food items and medicines are not available at all in our area. " I happened to hear that some deaths had taken place due to unavailability of medical treatment and starvation.

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Contributions from well wishers solicited and may be sent to:

E. Thambiah,  
26/74, Weidya Road,  
Dehiwela.

China VS. India in Sri Lankan affairs?

The Chinese Prime Minister Li Peng's visit to Sri Lanka in December 1990 left the people with speculations because apart from historic ties between the two countries and grant of loan of Rupees 385 Million nothing significant statement were forth coming. But speculation in Colombo circles was about military assistance to Sri Lanka to quell the North East insurrection.

Although there are speculations as usual both sides did not disclose about any military aid that China had pledged to Sri Lanka. However Chinese Prime Minister noted that Sri Lanka should solve the problem in the North and East by herself. He had been quite careful in not treading on New Delhi toes. Li Peng while answering a question put by a journalist in Sri Lanka, denied that China had pledged any military aid to Sri Lanka and also denied the allegation that China is helping Sri Lanka to kill the Tamil minority in Sri Lanka just because China is against India's position.

Further Li Peng while in Sri Lanka said China has a good relationship with India too. And also it is noted China and India are making positive attempts to improve relations. It has been reported that Chinese and Indian Leaders have agreed on confidence building measures including regular meetings between local commanders on the Sino-Indian border.

Therefore it is evident Chinese Premier's visit to Sri Lanka is not somewhat particular or special which has arisen against the India's geopolitical interest as speculated.

It is observed that the Tamil Nadu Government has been dissolved last week by the Indian Central Government as a move to support Sri Lankan government's fight against the Tamil Liberation Tigers. Indian Government is taking several actions to suppress Tamil movement's activities in Tamil Nadu. It is reported a number of Tamil Militants have been arrested in India.

It is expressed that after Indian Foreign Minister Shukla's visit to Sri Lanka bilateral relations improved a lot and both governments are taking positive steps to improve relations on the part of Sri Lanka it is confident that India will be "neutral" in the ethnic issue.

It is understood that both Governments have agreed to continue with the Peace Accord 87.

Arbitrary Deductions should be withdrawn

Mr. S. K. Senthivel, General Secretary of Sri Lanka Communist Party (Left) has condemned the procedure of deducting Rupees Seventy Five (Rs.75/-) monthly from each estate worker's wages in advance for the Festival advance payment and demanded to withdraw the above method in his statement released last week.

"Instead of giving a salary increase as given to the employees in the State, Co-operative, Corporation and Private Sector, government has introduced a procedure of deducting Rupees Seventy Five monthly from each estate worker's salary in advance for the Festival advance payment. It is an injustice because through the above procedure government is putting more burden on the estate workers who are unable even to survive with the present wages" Further stated in the press release.

The statement further says: " It is very clear. If we see one by one the actions taken against the plantation workers by the government are aimed at suppressing them socially.

The Government efforts to banish considerable amounts of Indian Origin Tamils to India who hold Indian Passport as result of the Sirima-Shastri Pact which deemed outdated and requiring 25 percentage of members for a Trade Union to function in estate. Now a procedure of deducting Rupees Seventy Five monthly from each estate worker's salary in advance for the Festival advance payment.

The things as the above undemocratic injustice and suppressive actions were taken against the Plantation workers (up country Tamils) recent past.

Sri Lanka Communist Party (Left) therefore call upon all the estate workers to be united without any differences against the suppressive actions being taken by the government.

K. A. Subramaniam Memorial Lecture

' Recent Trends in Human Rights '

Delivered by D. W. ABAYAKOON

Attorney-at-Law (President, Lawyers for Human Rights  
& Development) and

(Chairman, Human Rights Committee,  
Bar Association of Sri Lanka)

on 09. 12. 1990.

Before dealing with the subject itself, I would like to thank the members of the K. A. Subramaniam Memorial Committee for having invited me to deliver this Memorial Lecture in commemoration of the first death anniversary of the late Mr. K. A. Subramaniam. The late Mr. K. A. Subramaniam was one who stood for principles and spent almost his entire life fighting for the cause of the working class and the peasantry of Sri Lanka, following the path of Marxism-Leninism. Since he was one who was most concerned in the struggle for human rights, it is most appropriate that the subject of the lecture should be 'Recent Trends in Human Rights'

Coming on to the subject itself, before I deal with the question of recent trends in human rights, I would like to deal with the rationale or reasoning behind human rights. With the growth of national security states in Asia as well as in other regions, there is a growing control over the lives of people. The scope for human rights activities becomes limited. One finds that there is a curb on human rights activities. Human rights activists are taken into custody under National Security legislation and kept on detention for long periods without being brought to trial, some are killed while still others have disappeared in various parts of the world. In spite of all this, people still indulge in human rights work. What is the reasoning or the rationale behind their commitment. It is because we have faith in the dignity of the human person. It is because we want the dignity of the human person to be restored. All people may not be born equal economically, but with regard to the dignity of the human person, no one can claim precedence. Civil and Political rights mean little to the poor unless their social, economic and cultural rights are guaranteed. It was Justice

Bhagwati former Chief Justice of India who was of the view that it was the lack of awareness, lack of assertiveness and lack of availability of resources that deprives the poor man of his rights. Human rights work should go hand in hand with participatory work. It is not sufficient to work for the people, one must work with the people, so that the people could enjoy the fruits of their labour.

Human rights, justice and peace go together. If one examines justice in relation to human rights, one has to see what is meant by justice. Justice is giving everyone their due. Their due is what is coming to them as human beings, that is their human rights. The philosophical basis for human rights is natural law, which is common reasoning. As I have stated earlier human rights, justice and peace are related to each other. Peace is the consequence of justice. Where there are just relations between people or nations, there is no reason for conflict. Although a nuclear war or a world war has been averted for over forty years, yet there have been over one hundred and thirty small wars or conflicts.

Human rights, justice and peace are interdependent. Fostering one promotes the others. Without attention to human rights there could be no development of the poor and the powerless. Respect for human rights is necessary for the development of the human personality. An environment of justice and peace will be necessary for the full realisation of human rights and socio-economic progress. Human rights are a set of guarantees for persons to be able not only to live, but to live with dignity. The rights are enumerated in a number of International documents, the most notable of which are the Universal Declaration of Human Rights which was ratified by the General Assembly of the United Nations forty two years ago on 10th December, 1948, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the International Covenant on Social, Economic and Cultural Rights. The International documents set out the standards by which the rights should be enjoyed. The various governments, through national legislation are expected to provide for the enjoyment of these rights by the people.

When considering the question of human rights one finds that there are various categories of people who are oppressed. Women, children, racial minorities etc. If one considers the case of women, there are various areas of injustice and discrimination. The dowry system, rape, easy divorce in certain societies, forced sterilization



in certain countries, exploitation for sex, exploitation in factories, lack of recognition of work done and ill-treatment of women under detention etc. In the case of children too they are exploited in various fields like child labour. It is to remedy this state of affairs to an extent at least, the United Nations General Assembly too adopted the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

In dealing with human rights, a remedy that is constantly invoked is the Writ of Habeas Corpus. It has become fairly common for people to complain that their kith and kin were taken away, they have made efforts to find the whereabouts of the person concerned but they have been unable to do so. Under these circumstances they are advised to file an application for a Writ of Habeas Corpus in the hope of finding out the whereabouts of the person concerned and also if possible securing the release of the Corpus. The Writ of Habeas Corpus was the most famous Writ known to the English Law. It is the great Writ of liberty. It is an ancient and much valued right. It is the supreme right of the subject. Its origin and history is lost in antiquity. It was used against the Crown in the time of Henry VII. Its use became frequent in the time of Charles I. The great object of the Writ is to secure the production of the individual before a Court to be dealt with according to law. It is the Writ by which one secures the release from unlawful or unjustifiable detention. The Court examines the causes for which a person is detained and it enables one to secure the speedy release of a person illegally detained. The illegal detention of the subject, that is a detention or imprisonment which is incapable of legal justification is the basis of the jurisdiction of the Writ. The Court at the instance of the subject commands the production of the subject and inquires into the causes for his or her detention. It is the illegality of the detention which gives the jurisdiction to issue a Writ of Habeas Corpus. It is a remedial not a punitive measure. It is not to punish previous illegality but to release a person from previous illegal detention.

This great Writ of liberty which was known to the English Law has been adopted by our law. One of the earliest cases with regard to the Writ of Habeas Corpus in our country was the application for a Writ of Habeas Corpus for the production of the body of W. A. de Silva. The Court was of the view that it had full power to review by way of the Writ of Habeas Corpus the legality

of arrests and detentions under the ordinary naval and military law. But when Martial Law is declared the acts of the military authorities in the exercise of their martial law powers are no longer justiciable. In this case Chief Justice Wood Renton refused the application for a Writ of Habeas Corpus. This was in 1915. It would however be interesting to note the effectiveness of this Writ even at a time when Sri Lanka or Ceylon as it was known then, was a British colony by examining the well known Bracegirdle case. This was more than twenty years after the W. A. de Silva case. The Bracegirdle case was decided in 1937. Bracegirdle was an English born British subject who had expressed certain views on the social and political aspects of the life in Ceylon, which were somewhat distasteful to the then authorities. The Governor purporting to act under an Article of the Order in Council of 1896 as amended by an Order in Council of 1916 served on Bracegirdle an order requiring him to leave Ceylon in four days time. Bracegirdle did not comply with the order. He was arrested by a police officer acting on the orders of a Deputy Inspector General of Police which was issued under the authority of the Governor, which in addition to authorising the arrest, directed the Police officer executing the order to place Bracegirdle on board any ship proceeding from Ceylon to Australia, his last known place of residence before he came to the island. An application for a Writ of Habeas Corpus was made to the Supreme Court on behalf of Bracegirdle. The Deputy Inspector General of Police produced Bracegirdle before Court. The Court held that that the order in Council under which the orders were purported to have been made could have been brought into effect only when the national security is likely to be in danger by some widespread activity such as war or extensive civil disorder. The Court also took the views that the Governor's power to issue such an order was not absolute but could be exercised only under certain conditions. The bench which consisted of the then Chief Justice Sir Sidney Abrahams, Justice Maartensz and Justice Soertsz took the view that the Court was entitled to inquire as to whether the conditions, which must be satisfied before the power granted to an executive officer can be exercised have been fulfilled. The Court further held that the Governor's orders were made without authority and that the arrest and detention of Bracegirdle



were illegal. This is an indication of the strength of the Writ of Habeas Corpus at that time. In recent times however in the case of Rasammah VS. Major General Perera, the Supreme Court took the view that where a prime facie case is made out by the petitioner in an application for a Writ of Habeas Corpus there is no mandatory requirement that the body of the person alleged to be wrongfully detained should in every case be brought before the Court of Appeal or the most convenient Court of first instance before proceeding to inquire into the legality of the detention. The Court of Appeal has a wide discretion to determine the stage at which the body of the person should be produced.

When considering the question of recent trends in human rights, it is somewhat regrettable to note that this great Writ of liberty has been made ineffective due to the fact that people are frightened to make use of the remedies that are available to them due to extra legal threats being held out to them. There have been several instances where people were reluctant to go to Court due to threats being held out to them. In other instances people are reluctant to pursue with their applications not knowing what the consequences would be. This is where a great legal remedy which is available is made somewhat ineffective by extra legal methods being adopted. When disappearances become common, fear is instilled in the minds of the people to make legal remedies ineffective.

Under our Constitution there is a chapter on fundamental rights. There are several rights which are guaranteed. The freedom of speech and expression, the freedom of movement, the freedom of association, the freedom to form and join a trade union, the right not to be discriminated on grounds of race, sex, religion, caste etc., the right to be informed of the reason for one's arrest when a person is arrested, equality before the law and equal protection under the law. These are some of the fundamental rights that are guaranteed. The limitations could be placed only as laid down in Article 15 of the Constitution. These are important fundamental rights which the people should be able to enjoy freely. If however extra legal methods are used to instil fear in the minds of the people to prevent them from exercising these rights, then the rights themselves become ineffective.

These are some of the dangerous trends found in recent times in the field of human rights.

The bill containing the Seventeenth amendment to the Constitution envisages certain useful changes. A very important change is to enable a person whose fundamental right is infringed to make an application for relief to the Supreme Court within four months of the infringement and not one month. Many a petitioner has been shut out due to the fact that he has not come before Court within the one month period. Most people are not aware of the fact that their fundamental rights have been infringed. By the time they consult legal opinion one month is almost about to pass, when papers have to be filed in a hurry, or the one month period has already passed when they are shut out. There is also the right to information included, but this may have to be the subject of interpretation by the Courts as to what information is. The right to remain silent is another useful right which is to be introduced. There are also certain amendments which may not be helpful from the point of view of the subject. A statement made by a person arrested in the presence of an attorney-at-law will be admissible in Court. Even though such a statement may be made in the presence of an Attorney-at-Law, it is very dangerous to permit such a statement to be admitted as a general rule. It could be an inexperienced Attorney who may not realize the dangers of it being admitted, or it could be a statement made under pressure immediately after arrest. This could make serious inroads to the very valuable presumption of innocence that exists in favour of an accused person. These are dangerous trends making inroads to very valuable presumptions. Another amendment that is envisaged is the right to life, which is very desirable. But for the proper exercise of the right to life, conditions of peace should exist with the proper respect for the human personality. Otherwise it may not be very effective. If the dignity of the human person is not recognized, the right to life would be meaningless on paper.

The dangerous trends in the field of human rights exist in many parts of the world in recent times. There was the military invasion of Panama by the United States violating the sovereignty, independence and the right to self-determination of the people of Panama. The United States military intervention and actions in

Panama under the pretext of waging a "War on drugs" poses a threat and a continuing basis for illegal interventions into Latin America and the Caribbean region. The gross infringements of human rights and trade union rights in countries like El Salvador, Columbia and Sudan are matters of much concern. The I.L.O. has shown much concern over the number of trade unionists who were captured and the increasing number of disappearances in El Salvador. In Japan there were 700,000 Koreans, people who were forcibly taken for forced labour or military service by Japanese imperialism when Korea was under the colonial rule of Japan and their descendents, now the third and fourth generations are born and growing among their descendents. The Japanese government should amend the discriminatory "Alien Registration Law" to abolish the fingerprinting System, the system of the obligation to carry on alien registration card, and give up its discriminatory attitude toward the Korean residents in Japan and guarantee them fundamental human rights. The alarming increase of human rights violations in the Philippines including the killing of human rights advocates inclusive of human rights lawyers is a matter of much concern. The presence of U.S. military bases in the Philippines is a matter to be condemned. The tragic situation in Cyprus resulting from the presence of the Turkish Army and the violations of the Geneva Conventions by the Israeli occupation forces in South Lebanon are also some of the matters resulting in violations of human rights. These are some of the many areas where there are dangerous trends in the field of human rights. These are just a few instances considering the global situation.

The human rights organisations have a considerable task ahead of them in developing an awareness of the basic human rights among the people, and also making people respect the human rights of others. It is essential that people should respect the human rights of others, which in turn results in their human rights being respected. One has to recognize the dignity of the human person and work towards the development of an awareness. It is in this field that human rights organisations could play a major role.

In final conclusion I would like to thank the memorial committee for having given me the pleasure of delivering this first memorial lecture in memory of one who spent his life in the cause of the working class and the peasantry in their struggle for human rights. The late Mr. K. A. Subramaniam was one who stood firmly by his convictions and never compromised them. His was a great struggle on behalf of the downtrodden, following the principles of Marxism-Leninism.

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The next Issue of "NEW WORLD" will carry special news, items and essays regarding the 2nd National Congress of Sri Lanka Communist Party (Left). to be held shortly.

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