

**Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam –
Sri Lanka Muslim Congress
Joint Communique (2002)**

The discussion that took place today (13-04-2002) between the LTTE and the SLMC was friendly and constructive.

At this meeting held at the Secretariat of the Political Headquarters of the LTTE at Kilinochchi, which lasted three hours, the LTTE was represented by its leader Mr. Vellupillai Pirapaharan, Political Ideologue Mr. Anton Balasingham, Head of the Political Wing Mr. S. P. Thamil Chelban, Commander for the Batticaloa-Ampara districts Col. Karuna, Commander for the Trincomalee district Col. Pathuman and Mrs. Adel Balasingham. The SLMC was represented by its National Leader Mr. Rauf Hakeem, Chairman Mr. Athaullah, Senior Deputy Leader Dr. Uthumalebbe, Deputy Leader Mr. Mohideen Abdul Cader, Secretary, Policy Propaganda Mr. Basheer Segu Dawood, Deputy Chairman Mr. Mashoor Noordeen and Additional Secretary, Policy Propaganda Mr. Mashhood Mowlana.

At this meeting decisions were made to solve some serious problems currently faced by the Muslims living in the North/East. Mr. Pirapaharan invited the displaced Muslims of Jaffna and Vanni to return to their homes. It was decided to establish a Joint Committee consisting of representatives of the LTTE and the SLMC to facilitate the return and settlement of refugees. It was also decided to create a conducive environment to encourage the return of the displaced Muslims of the East to their villages.

For years Muslims were unable to cultivate their agricultural lands in the North/East. It was decided to assist them to cultivate their land.

The LTTE also agreed to stop forthwith the practice of collecting funds for the war effort from the Muslims of the East.

It was decided to appoint representatives from the SLMC to solve, through dialogue with senior commanders, the problems the Muslims face in their districts of the North/East and to strengthen mutual understanding between the Tamils and Muslims.

It was decided to continue the high level contacts between parties.

It was also decided that the Muslims should be represented at the forthcoming peace talks between the Government and the LTTE and that such representation should be from the SLMC.

It was further agreed that the Muslim are a separate community with their own identity and that the political, cultural and other rights of Muslims, as a district community of the North/East, must be safeguarded. It was decided to continue the discussions to protect the separate identity of the Muslims.

Recognising that the SLMC enjoys the support of the vast majority of the Muslim community, it was decided that discussions with regard to the Muslims of the North/East should be conducted with the SLMC.

Sgd
V. Pirapahran
National Leader
Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam

Sgd
(Rauf Hakeem)
National Leader
Sri Lanka Muslim Congress

Source: Translation of the original document in Tamil, p. 680 in R. Edrisinha, M. Gomez, V. T. Thamilmaran & A. Welikala, *Power-sharing in Sri-Lanka: Constitutional Documents and Political Documents 1926-2008*, Colombo and Berlin: Centre for Policy Alternatives (CPA) and Berghof Foundation for Peace Support, 2008