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பாராளுமன்றம்
PARLIAMENT

Joint Statement

We are acutely aware of the on going propaganda in some quarters, that there are terrorist elements, or extremist groups that exist within the Muslim community in Sri Lanka.

The Muslim community has lived in peace and harmony in Sri Lanka for centuries, contributing to the unity and territorial integrity of our motherland. The community has been recovering from the racially motivated attacks which were meticulously carried out against it recently. For us, these unfounded attributions are very much like rubbing salt to the wound. We both deny and condemn such attributions.

We suspect that vested interests are behind such propaganda, bent on seeing in Sri Lanka, the emergence of terrorism - that we all abhor by all means - in what we call is a self-fulfilling prophesy.

We deeply deplore that an instance of a recent arrest in India of a person of Sri Lankan Muslim origin, reportedly for espionage, or a related crime, should lend itself to such a spurious claim by sections of the media and groups. These elements, specialised as they are in stereotyping of Muslims, smack of a clear mind-set which either supports, or condones by reticence, the violence unleashed by racist groups.

It is our fervent hope that the respective national authorities upholding the rule of law, without demonizing the Muslim community as a whole, will tackle this particular instance, or any instance of similar nature.

As representatives of the Muslim community, we would like to assure, however, that neither we, nor our community in Sri Lanka would, under any circumstances, support terrorism, or tolerate any group promoting or engaging in terrorism directed against India or any country, people or community.

We take this opportunity to urge those, with vested interests to target the Muslim community in Sri Lanka, to desist, in both word and deed, from instigating violence and hatred against the community. It is high time that we all strove towards cementing inter-cultural and inter-religious relations and national togetherness, advancing genuine reconciliation at all levels.

We, on our part, stand ready to assist any process that may strengthen national unity, create a violence-free society, achieve progress and prosperity, and enhance friendship with all. The time for all these is now.

10th July 2014

Hon. Rauff Hakeem MP - Minister of Justice
Hon. A.H.M. Fowzie MP - Minister of Urban Affairs
Hon. Rishad Bathiudeen MP - Minister of Industry and Commerce
Hon. Basheer Segu dawood MP - Minister of Productivity Promotion
Hon. A.L.M. Athaullah MP - Minister of Local Govt and Provincial Councils