

Anti Muslim Sentiment in Sri Lanka: Incidents against Muslims May to August 2015

Overview

This quarter saw a consolidation of power by the political forces that brought President Maithripala Sirisena to power with the defeat of Mahinda Rajapakse who attempted to regain power through the general elections. Rajapakse in the lead up to the general elections had campaigned on a platform that sounded increasingly communal as he attempted to wrest back control over the SLFP from President Sirisena. The margin of victory for the UNP-led alliance (106 seats) was short of a simple majority but nonetheless demonstrated the popular support for the platform of good governance. In terms of Muslim politics, the tussle between the Muslim minor parties continues in the East and North with the SLMC continuing to struggle to claim its dominance, while the UNP maintains its significant hold in the South. The establishment of a national government between the UNP and SLFP bodes well in terms of moving ahead on the multiple challenges of constitutional and electoral reform, transitional justice issues, political solution, good governance matters, resettlement, socio-economic policy reform and economic stabilization. The re-appointment of ministers who had sat in the Rajapakse cabinet, the appointment of defeated UPFA candidates through the national list and the establishment of a jumbo cabinet signaled the continuity of Rajapakse era politics and raised public doubts of the commitment of the President and the new government to Yahapalanaya (Good Governance). There are questions as to the political stability given the cohabitation required by the UNP and SLFP, including relations between the President and Prime Minister.

A significant development in this quarter was the September session of the UN Human Rights Council where a report from the Office of the High Commissioner on Human Rights on Sri Lanka (OISL) was presented highlighting abuses and violations committed during and after the war in Sri Lanka. The Sri Lankan Government co-sponsored a resolution that lists a number of steps to be taken to address a variety of issues including through investigations, reparations and truth seeking. The resolution though criticized particularly in the Sinhala media and nationalist groups, and more radical sections of the Tamil polity did not result in large-scale protests and places critical issues relating to meaningful peace and reconciliation front and centre on the Government's agenda.

The compilation of incidents of hate speech and actions against Muslims that have been documented in the mainstream and social media, demonstrates the continuity of this pattern of violence and hate rhetoric against Muslims into this quarter from May to August. In total there have been 45 incidents representing an increase from the previous quarter. The increase is due largely to incidents of threats and coercion, and harassment and intimidation, while there have been notable decreases in terms of damages or desecrations of mosques or madrasas. Puttalam was the district that recorded the most number of incidents. A point made in the previous compilation of incidents remains valid in that even though there has been a change in Government the actors involved in these acts of hate are still at large and the culture of hate and violence that was unleashed has not completely receded.

October 2015 marked 25 years since the expulsion of Muslims from the Northern Province by the LTTE. Unprecedented when compared with events from previous years, there were a number of commemorative events including one that was organized by a Tamil civil society organization in Jaffna. There have also been numerous commentaries from broader civil society and a republishing of the account of the expulsion by the University Teachers for Human Rights (UTHR) in 1991. The renewed interest in the expulsion issue is heartening because it may finally lead to a discussion about what needs to be done to ensure that returning northern Muslims are able to resettle with dignity. It is also important because there is an emerging recognition of the need to look at issues faced by the Muslim community too as part of the gamut of problems that the country needs to deal with when moving forward on justice, truth seeking, reparations and non-recurrence. The framing of the northern Muslim issue as one that is part of a larger context of violations and protracted displacement for Tamils Muslims and Sinhalese also highlights the need for the Muslim community to introspect and engage on situating their concerns and issues as part of a wider context and to acknowledge and address the suffering of other communities as well.

In this context it is important that the recording of incidents against Muslims continues and any trends either of their increase or their mobilization for political ends identified and dealt with. It is important that the conversation of justice, truth seeking, reparations and non-recurrence take account of the fact that recurrence --- as violence against minority Muslims – was a reality in the immediate post- war context.

The Secretariat for Muslim will undergo a significant shift from operating as a non-governmental organization to transforming into a collective by the end of 2015. However, we are committed to taking forward both the research and documentation work for which we have now established our expertise. We hope to do so through a volunteer collective of concerned activist involved with social justice issues. We will keep you posted about our new avatar in due course.

Incidents against Muslims

(Threats, attempts to attack, attacks, harassment, inciting, warning, violence, provocation, etc. against Muslims)

May to August 2015

1. **May 05, 2015 – Nationwide: Media briefing - BBS against Reconciliation:** In a media briefing held at Kirulapone, national organizer of the BBS Ven. Witharandeniya Nanda stated that newspaper advertisements calling for Vesak decorations in the name of religious reconciliation to feature the symbols of Islam, Hinduism and Christianity is a grievous wrong to Buddhism, and that they would take action against the Ministry of Buddha Sasana if the Ministry did not act. Further he said “Why are they only calling Buddhists for religious reconciliation? We challenge other people to display the Dhammachakra (the symbol of Buddhism) on the top of Christmas tree and during Ramazan.” BBS CEO Dilantha Withanage meanwhile, stated that the former government under Chandrika Bandaranaike was also concerned about the threats to Buddhism, and had established a commission called the Buddhist Charter Commission under which a report was published. If Rauff Hakeem, Nizam Kariyappar, Azad Salley, the UN and other NGOs read this report they will label it as hate speech as well, he added. Further he said that Kuragala should not be made into religious issue. “We simply demand that the Antiquities ordinance be enforced. Illegal constructions, be they of value to the Muslims or the Buddhist must be removed. It is a historical site, this is what that report also says, he added.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QPqSL5zjukg>

Ceylon Today (page 3) May 06, 2015, Thinakkural (page 5) May 06, 2015, Vidivelli (page 2) May 06, 2015

2. **May 07, 2015 – Wilpattu, Puttalam District: Local Media - Sinhala Ravaya Calls for Swift Action on Madhu Sanctuary Clearing:** Speaking to a local media channel, Sinhala Ravaya convener Ven. Magalkande Sudatta said that the former government was silent on the Wilpattu issue and this government is silent on the Madhu issue. President Maithripala Sirisena should intervene into this matter and take swift action, Ven. Sudatta further stated. “If not, one can assume that Minister Rishad Bathiudeen has been gifted the Madhu Sanctuary for supporting Sirisena during the presidential election,” he alleged. The controversy centres around allegations that Rishad Bathiudeen was responsible for the illegal clearing of the forest and building settlements. In response, Bathiudeen recently called for a Presidential Commission to investigate the ‘illegal settlements in Mannar.’ May 11, 2015. Returning Northern Muslims have attempted to return and rebuild their homes and village in an area in Mussali Division, Mannar district but there are accusations that the land cleared is forest land.

<http://www.asianmirror.lk/news/item/8648-sinhala-ravaya-calls-for-swift-action-on-madhu-sanctuary>

3. **May 07, 2015 – Akkaraipattu, Ampara District: Distorted National flag left to fly at Akkaraipattu:** A distorted national flag was exhibited by unknown people at the Akkaraipattu clock tower. The flag did not include the two coloured stripes representing the minority ethnic groups. Akkaraipattu Tamil and Muslim people expressed deep concerns about this incident. The exhibition of the distorted flag has previously been seen in several other places of the country as well.

Virakesari (page 21) May 08, 2015

4. **May 07, 2015 – Wilpattu, Puttalam District: Press conference - Sinhala Ravaya to take legal action against Rishad Bathiudeen:** Chairman of Sinhala Ravaya Ven. Akmeemana Dayarathana said that the group will take legal action against minister Rishad Bathiudeen for illegal settlement activities currently on-going in the Wilpattu national sanctuary. “We hope to file complaints with relevant authorities soon,” Ven. Dayarathana stated. He also alleged that Rishad Bathiudeen was trying to colonize the area with the help of international connections. “Bathiudeen has distributed lands to Muslim people and has given Rs. 50,000 to each family for constructing temporary residences,” Ven. Dayarathana further claimed. Addressing a press briefing on Thursday, Minister Rishad Bathiudeen refuted all allegations against him and stated that he will resign if media could prove that he has resettled people in Wilpattu Sanctuary. “We know he is lying and we have seen the truth reported by the media and with our own eyes”, Ven. Dayarathana countered.
- <http://www.asianmirror.lk/news/item/8684-sinhala-ravaya-to-take-legal-action-on-bathiudeen>
5. **May 08, 2015 – Wilpattu, Puttalam District : Sinhala Ravaya lodges complaint against Rishad Bathiudeen:** The Sinhala Ravaya organization today made a complaint to the Commission to Investigate Allegations of Bribery or Corruption against Minister Rishad Bathiudeen accusing him of clearing more than 1000 acres of lands in the Wilpattu National Park. Sinhala Ravaya organization’s president Ven. Akmeemana Dayarathana said clearing and felling of timber in the forest reserve was going on unchecked and steps were being taken to clear the land. They accused the government authorities of turning a deaf ear to the continual representations in this regard. Meanwhile Ven. Akmeemana Dayarathana said the settlers were causing extensive damage to the National Park and the surrounding jungles. Further he said relevant authorities are moribund and inactive this is what compelled them to make a complaint to the commission, and that the Sinhala Ravaya will take to the streets if no action is taken regarding this.
- Daily Mirror (page 5) May 09, 2015
6. **May 08, 2015 – Wilpattu, Puttalam District: Press conference – President yet to take action against Bathiudeen:** BBS national organizer Ven. Witharandeniya Nanda at a press conference held at Kirulapone on Friday said the President is yet to take action against the Minister of Industry and Commerce regarding the destruction of the Wilpattu National Park. Dilanthe Withanage the CEO of BBS added that Tamils and Muslims occupied two thirds of the coastal area. “Wilpattu is just one of it. We are not against resettling Muslims who were the victims of the war. The government is responsible for arranging all facilities for the resettlement of the displaced people. But we will never allow illegal deforestation for this purpose” he claimed. Withanage further claimed “Minister has resorted to racism by requesting the Qatar government to provide funds to resettle the displace Muslims in the country.”
- Ceylon Today (page 3B) May 10, 2015, Thinakkural (page 9) May 10, 2015, Vidivelli (page1) May 11, 2015, Virakesari (page 13) May 09, 2015
7. **May 11, 2015 – Wilpattu, Puttalam District :Media briefing - Illegal timber transactions and animal deal in Wilpattu land – Sihala Ravaya:** Ven. Akmeemana Dayarathana the president of Sihala Ravaya in a media briefing held at the Dehiwela Buddhist centre stated that illegal timber trade and animal hunting are taking place for a long time in Wilpattu. He alleged that Minister Rishad Bathiudeen should take responsibility for clearing 1800 acres of the Wilpattu National Park for constructing shelters and settling Muslims. He further added that they have informed Inspector General of Police, the Commission to Investigate

Allegations of Bribery or Corruption Sri Lanka and the Wildlife Department in this regard. In addition, he also claimed that it is time for Rishad Bathiudeen to take steps to withdraw from his ministerial post in a respectful manner.

Ada (page 7) May 13, 2015

8. **May 11, 2015 – Wilpattu, Puttalam District : Media briefing - Arrest Minister Rishad and officials – Sinhale Jathika Peramuna** : Sinhale Jathika Peramuna (Sinhalese National Front) at a media briefing held at the Nugegoda Delkanda Bodhimalu temple, stated that Minister Rishad Bathiudeen and other officials who were responsible for deforestation at Wilpattu should be arrested. Member of Sinhala Sangedhama Organization Chamil Liyanage alleged that potential oil repository in Mannar was the reason behind the settlements in Wilpattu.

Dinamina (page 8) May 12, 2015

9. **May 12, 2015 – Wilpattu, Puttalam District: Wilpattu Settlements threat to South Asia's security - BBS:** The Bodhu Bala Sena (BBS) urged the government to build flats for the Muslims living in the vicinity of the Wilpattu forest reserve so that the jungle would not be deforested. They further claimed that the Wilpattu settlements not only cause environmental problems, but are also a threat to South Asia's security. Further the BBS accused Industry and Commerce Minister Rishad Bathiudeen of promoting racism by settling people of a particular religion in the vicinity of the Wilpattu forest reserve BBS national organizer Ven. Witharandeniya Nanda claimed that a Muslim colony was being established in the Wilpattu forest reserve with the backing of Minister Rishad Bathiudeen. He claimed that Buddha Statues and dagoabas (Stupa) of archaeological value were being destroyed. He further claimed that Sinhala businessmen were facing difficulties in running their businesses because of pressure from Muslim businessmen who have monopolized the business sector. Meanwhile he said BBS will establish a "Public Commission on Sinhalese Businesses" through which action will be taken to resolve the problems faced by Sinhala businessmen.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Gj-SN7QCeJw>

<http://www.dailymirror.lk/72157/build-flats-for-muslims-in-wilpattu-bbs>

Daily Mirror (page6) May 13, 2015, Dinamina (page 7) May 13, 2015, Thinakkural (page 5) May 13, 2015

10. **May 14, 2015 – Wilpattu, Puttalam District: Sathyagraha by National Sangha Council:** A tense situation arose following a Sathyagraha launched by the National Sangha Council (Jathika Sanga Sammelanaya – JSS) at Modaragamaru bridge, Marichchakatti, near the Wilpattu sanctuary. However the situation was brought under control by the police. Many civil society activists, environmentalists and media personnel were present at the event and steps were taken to plant tree saplings in the area where illegal construction had taken place. More than 250 people joined the Sathyagraha. General Secretary of National Sangha Council Ven. Matara Ananda Sagara said that the destruction of this forest reserve has been taking place for quite some time and added that top-tier Government officials must take immediate steps to rectify this issue. While they were returning from their activities a group of residents of the area on motor cycles followed them, which led to a tense situation. However the police intervened and took control of the situation.

<http://newsfirst.lk/english/2015/05/monks-stage-sathyagraha-against-destruction-of-wilpattu/95016>

Daily Mirror (page 1) May 15, 2015, Dinamina (page 5) May 16, 2015, Divaina (page 1) May 16, 2015, Lankadeepa (page 1) May 16, 2015, Mawbima (page 1) May 18, 2015

- 11. May 22, 2015 – Wilpattu, Puttalam District: Media briefing - Sinhala Ravaya to stage hunger strike:** President of Sinhala Ravaya Ven. Akmeemana Dayarathana addressing a media briefing at Dehiwela Buddhist Centre, called for the arrest and legal action against the Minister of Industrial Development Rishad Bathiudeen and threatened to commence a hunger strike if the arrest did not take place. Meanwhile he claimed that they have received information that the ISIS (Terrorist Movement) is residing in Wilpattu.
- <http://www.sonakar.com/?p=53663>
<http://www.lankasrinews.com/view.php?22eMM302IOK4e2BmAca25YKdd2Y5Bac3mB5e43OlX023gAS3>
Thinakaran (page 3) May 23, 2015
- 12. May 22, 2015 - Nationwide: Media Briefing - Sinhale flag should be the country's National flag:** In a media briefing held at Colombo, president of Swarna Hansa Foundation Gallege Punyawardana said that since Sri Lanka belongs to the Sinhalese, the country should use the national flag without the Tamil and Muslim minority representation. Further he added Sinhalese should never be identified as Sri Lankans. "They should be recognized as Sinhalese and others should be the minorities; as after the independence from British, the country has been handed to the Sinhalese and no Tamils have rights over it" he added.
- Thinakkural (page 2) May 23, 2015
- 13. May 27, 2015 – Nationwide: Special media briefing - Set of Laws to protect Sinhala Buddhists – BBS:** Ven. Gnanasara in a special media briefing held at Kirulapone said they have a set of laws which could be introduced to protect Sinhala Buddhists. He said they had a vision of making rules and regulations to control the population of the country because there were several areas with low population concentrations of Sinhalese. Furthermore, marriage laws should be equal for all the citizens regardless of their religion, he stated, and there should be a law which restricts Sinhalese, Tamils and Muslims to have only three children. In addition, Ven. Gnanasara stated that unethical, fundamentalist religious cults should be banned and that people should not be allowed to cover their faces in public places like schools and banks.
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EdlannZXxRs>
<https://youtu.be/EdlannZXxRs>
<https://www.facebook.com/751267798237933/photos/a.786058734758839.1073741829.751267798237933/975801382451239/?type=1&theater>
Daily Mirror (page 8) May 28, 2015, Ceylon today (page 5) May 29, 2015, Lakbima (page 1) May 28, 2015, SudarOli (page 2) May 29, 2015
- 14. May 27, 2015 – Wilpattu, Puttalam District: Complaint letter- Arrest Rishad Bathiudeen – Ravana Balaya:** The Ravana Balaya convener the Ven. Ittakande Saddatissa handed over a complaint to the Inspector General of Police (IGP) today. The letter demands the immediate arrest of Minister Rishad Bathiudeen for illegal Muslim settlements in the clearing Wilpattu forest.
- <http://madawalanews.com/70548>
- 15. June 02, 2015 – Nationwide: Government must intervene to prevent extremist actions in Sri Lanka:** The Chief Incumbent of the Getambe Rajopawanarama, Ven. Keppitiyagoda Siri Wimala said several Asian Buddhist countries have suffered and Buddhists are facing huge threats from extremist actions. He said that government should take precautionary actions to prevent such a situation arising in Sri Lanka. Meanwhile he added nearly 2500 acres has been cleared in Wilpattu and those who stand up against this are labelled racists.

He also requested for a common law to be implemented throughout the country instead of different laws for different religions and ethnicities.

Lakbima (page 3) June 02, 2015

- 16. June 05, 2015 - Wilpattu, Puttalam District: Sinhala National Front threatens to demolish houses in Wilpattu:** Sinhala National Front in a special media briefing Ven. Agurugalle Sri Jinananda stated that “We have visited and observed illegal clearance closer to Wilpattu, Such as Kallaru and Periyamadu yesterday. Wilpattu deforestation is happening under the order and pressure of Minister Rishad Bathiudeen and Hunais Farook. HiruTV, NethFM have worked hard to reveal the truth of illegal deforestation. The President also announced the need to take steps to discontinue the deforestation and illegal settlements. But illegal clearance still continues in Musali, Periyamadu and other areas. There, the Minister tries to garner votes for his vote bank. We request executive bodies to immediately arrest Ministers Rishad and Farook.” Further he demanded the removal of all temporary tents in those areas, and threatened to remove the tent houses themselves if the Government does not comply.

<https://www.facebook.com/SINHALENATIONLFRONTOFFICIAL/videos/vb.732329786874852/800047286769768/?type=2&theater>

- 17. June 08, 2015 – Nationwide: Sri Lankan agent of ISIS is Rauff Hakeem - Suspects Muzammil:** The media spokesman of the National Freedom Front (NFF) Mohamed Muzammil said that he suspects that the Sri Lankan agent of the ISIS which is destabilizing the Middle East is the leader of the Sri Lanka Muslim Congress Minister Rauff Hakeem. Further he pointed out that the proposal brought by his party that there should be a separate administrative district for Muslims in the Eastern province was a proposal brought by his party with the intention of creating instability within the country and reminded that Hakeem in the last presidential election mustered the support of the people promising to establish a “Kilakistan” (A government of the East) and supported the common candidate and at the same time the “good governance gang” swore in all the corners of the country that there is no such thing.

<http://www.lankasrinews.com/view.php?20AOIRdaccp5Y434e3oMQ2022YmB3ddcdBml30eMgAAae4AY5B4ca2lOm23>

<http://english.acmc.lk/is-hakeem-the-direct-sri-lankan-agent-of-isis-questions-nff/>

<http://madawalanews.com/72369>

- 18. June 08, 2015 – Nationwide: Attempts to make a separate country in Eastern Province – Udaya Gammanpila:** Pivithuru Hela Urumaya (PHU) Leader Udaya Gammanpila in a media briefing held at Abayarama temple, Narahenpita warned that the request of Sri Lanka Muslim Congress (SLMC) for an separate administrative district is an attempt to make a separate country in the East called “Nasristan.” He further claimed that President Maithripala Sirisena should apologize to the nation because of his statement during the Presidential elections that there will be no separate administrative district in the Eastern province and he should reveal the truth to the people whether Muslims will be given a separate administrative district or not.

http://www.kalpitiyavoice.com/2015/06/blog-post_864.html <http://madawalanews.com/72461>

Mawbima (page 11) June 09, 2015, Vidivelli (page 1) June 09, 2015.

- 19. June 09, 2015 – Nationwide: Media briefing - Sharia banking is threat to National security – BBS:** Addressing a media briefing CEO of the BBS Dilanthe Withanage said that Sharia finance is a threat to Sri Lankan Buddhist Values, human rights and national

security. He further claimed that Sharia banking is a mechanism for funding terror, fundamentalism and extremism, while also alleging that the Muslim Council of Sri Lanka, which has had dealings with the spiritual leader of the Muslim brotherhood of Egypt Yusuf Al – Qaradawi, the National Shooraa Council (in Maradana), and the All Ceylon Jamiyyathul Ulama, were advisers on Islamic Sharia banking and financial institution laws. This is financial Jihad through funds and charities. Further Dilanthe Withanage demanded Criminal investigation department and relevant authorities to take necessary steps to regulate Sharia and not promote it.

<http://www.tamilwin.com/show-RUmtYGTdSUqw0G.html>

Ceylon Today (page 6) June 10, 2015, Daily Mirror (page 6) June 11, 2015, Daily News (page 1) June 10, 2015, Virakesari (page11) June 10, 2015

- 20. June 17, 2015 – Wilpattu, Puttalam District: Petition against Wilpattu resettlements by Sinhala Ravaya:** The Sinhala Ravaya Organization today handed over a petition to the police headquarters urging an investigation into the deforestation inside the Wilpattu National Park and urged that action be taken against the culprits.

Daily Mirror (page 6) June 18, 2015, Divaina (page 9) June 18, 2015

- 21. June 18, 2015 - Dambulla, Matale District: Dambulla Muslims grabbed our lands and built mosque - Ven. Inamaluwa Sri Sumangala:** Rangiri Dambulla Rajamaha Viharaya Chief Incumbent Ven. Inamaluwa Sri Sumangala said that land grabbing is illegal Islamically as well as according to the country's law. Therefore Minister of Muslim Religious Affairs and Posts M.H.A Haleem must take action to build the Dambulla mosque in their own land. He alleged that Muslims in Dambulla grabbed lands belonging to Buddhists to build the mosque and that it is therefore an illegal structure and should be removed to elsewhere. He further requested Minister Haleem and SLMC Leader Rauff Hakeem to find an immediate solution in this regard.

Vidivelli (Page 1) June 18, 2015

- 22. June 23, 2015 – Nationwide: BBS visits Central Bank to examine the Islamic banking system of Sri Lanka:** The Bodhu Bala Sena including Ven. Gnanasara visited Central Bank today to examine the current Sharia compliant banking system in Sri Lanka. The BBS further handed over a letter to the Central Bank governor emphasizing on banning the Sharia banking system in Sri Lanka.

<http://dailyceylon.com/45457>

- 23. June 30, 2015 – Dharga Town, Kalutara District: Tussle between two groups in Dharga Town:** A minor clash has been recorded from Adikarigoda, Dharga Town between a group of Sinhalese and Muslims. A Sinhalese youth parked a three wheeler closer to the An-Noor mosque. (The Mosque was recently reconstructed after the Aluthgama riots of June, 2014) and turned on songs loudly while Muslims were performing the taraweeh night prayer at around 8.30 p.m. Annoyed Muslim youths started to scold the driver and asked the driver to move. A few minutes later a group of Sinhalese surrounded the place and the argument between youths turned into a clash and a few individuals from both groups had minor injuries. Police arrived and brought the situation under control. In addition, a group of STF –Special task force was deployed to the spot and some other areas of Dharga Town.

Documentation Officer -SFM

- 24. July 07, 2015 – Nationwide : BBS Slams Hakeem and Rishad:** The Bodhu Bala Sena in a media briefing held at BBS headquarters claimed that most parties contesting for the general elections were racial or religious extremists. He further claimed that Ministers

Hakeem and Rishad only considered about Muslim's welfare and rights and not of the other people in the country. "If India is the country where Indians are living, as Japan for Japanese then why not a country call "Sinahale" where the majority is Sinhalese" he added. Dinamina (page 8) July 08, 2015, Thinakkural (page 1) July 08, 2015

- 25. July 08, 2015 – Matale, Matale District: Police blames three wheel driver with a Kalima sticker:** A Muslim family travelling to Matale from Kottegoda were stopped by police officers of the Matale police division. The police then forced three-wheeler driver to remove a sticker featuring the Kalima pasted on the back window of the three wheeler. The sticker featured the kalmia (There is none worthy of worship except Allah. Muhammad is Messenger of Allah) in white Arabic script with a sword underneath. The driver removed the sticker because of Police pressure and later lodged a complaint with the Matale Police. Police recorded statements from the driver and his four children who were travelling with him.

Vidivelli (page 1) July 10, 2015

<http://madawalanews.com/76559>

<http://srilankamuslims.lk/%E0%AE%B2%E0%AE%BE%E0%AE%AF%E0%AE%BF%E0%AE%B2%E0%AE%BE%E0%AE%B9-%E0%AE%87%E0%AE%B2%E0%AF%8D%E0%AE%B2%E0%AE%B2%E0%AF%8D%E0%AE%B2%E0%AE%BE%E0%AE%B9%E0%AF%8D-%E0%AE%8E%E0%AE%A9%E0%AF%8D/>

- 26. July 15, 2015 – Bakmeegolla, Ibbagamuwa, Kurunegala District: A gang attacked three youths:** A gang of unknown six people attacked three Muslims who returned from the Mosque after finishing taraweeh night prayers at 9.30 p.m. One had severe injuries and admitted to Kurunegala teaching hospital and two others also had injured. Police arrived at the spot and started investigation to arrest the culprits.

<http://madawalanews.com/77326>

<http://www.sonakar.com/?p=57714>

http://dailyceylon.com/48227?fb_ref=Default

- 27. July 16, 2015 – Kandy, Kandy District: Meera Maccam mosque stoned:** Meera Maccam Mosque in Kandy was stoned at night by unidentified group of people. Four roofing sheets were damaged due to this incident. Police rushed to the place and started investigations.

<http://bit.ly/1qEBbX6>

- 28. July 19, 2015 - Keththarama, Colombo 14, Colombo District : Mosque damaged:** A quarrel between two groups at a cricket match turned into a tense situation at the Keththarama R. Premadasa grounds where the Sri Lanka vs. Pakistan cricket match was held. Stones were thrown and a mosque was damaged due to this. Though the police arrived and brought the situation under control, clashes erupted again shortly after. Two innocent Muslims who came to watch the match were arrested.

<http://srilankamuslims.lk/%E0%AE%85%E0%AE%AA%E0%AF%8D%E0%AE%AA%E0%AE%BE%E0%AE%B5%E0%AE%BF-%E0%AE%AE%E0%AF%81%E0%AE%B8%E0%AF%8D%E0%AE%B2%E0%AE%BF%E0%AE%AE%E0%AF%8D-%E0%AE%87%E0%AE%B3%E0%AF%88%E0%AE%9E%E0%AE%B0%E0%AF%8D%E0%AE%95/>

<http://www.sonakar.com/?p=58198>

29. July 21, 2015 – Battaramulla, Colombo District: There will not be a country called Sri Lanka if we don't consider National security: Sri Lankan Former Defence Secretary Gotabhaya Rajapakse in an event held at Battaramulla stated that the current government failed to address the national security of the country. He stated that the Sri Lankan ISIS soldier who died recently in Turkey is a real threat to the national security of the country.

<http://madawalanews.com/77993>

30. July 21, 2015 – Nationwide: Probe Source of funding to Muslim extremists – BBS: The BBS in a media briefing held at Kirulapone BBS headquarters today urged the government to investigate the alleged funds that were coming to Muslim extremists and expose them to the country. "It should investigate how the funds are coming to them, from which countries and for what and publish details to the country," If not Sri Lanka will face many disasters soon said BBS General Secretary Ven. Gnanasara. Further he alleged "Most of the problems are created because of not revealing to the public the facts relating to the Welikada, Dehiwela, Aluthgama and the latest in the Ketharama ground incidents." He further requested all politicians to come together against Muslim extremism. BBS CEO Dilanthe Withanage said that the BBS had warned of the danger of Sri Lankans being recruited by the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS) six months ago.

Daily Mirror (page 8) July 22, 2015, Lakbima (page 3) July 22, 2015, Navamani (page 1) July 23, 2015, SudarOli (page 1) July 22, 2015

<http://www.virakesari.lk/articles/2015/07/22/%E0%AE%AE%E0%AF%81%E0%AE%B8%E0%AF%8D%E0%AE%B2%E0%AE%BF%E0%AE%AE%E0%AF%8D-%E0%AE%85%E0%AE%9F%E0%AE%BF%E0%AE%AA%E0%AF%8D%C2%AD%E0%AA%E0%AE%9F%E0%AF%88%E0%AE%B5%E0%AE%BE%E0%AE%A4-%E0%AE%85%E0%AE%AE%E0%AF%88%E0%AE%AA%E0%AF%8D%C2%AD%E0%AA%E0%AF%81%E0%AE%95%E0%AF%8D%C2%AD%E0%AE%95%E0%AE%B3%E0%AF%88-%E0%AE%A4%E0%AE%9F%E0%AF%88-%E0%AE%9A%E0%AF%86%E0%AE%AF%E0%AF%8D%C2%AD%E0%AE%AF%E0%AE%B5%E0%AF%81%E0%AE%AE%E0%AF%8D-%E0%AE%AA%E0%AF%8A%E0%AE%A4%E0%AF%81%C2%AD%E0%AE%AA%E0%AE%B2-%E0%AE%9A%E0%AF%87%E0%AE%A9%E0%AE%BE-%E0%AE%B5%E0%AF%87%E0%AE%A3%E0%AF%8D%C2%AD%E0%AE%9F%E0%AF%81%E0%AE%95%E0%AF%8B%E0%AE%B3%E0%AF%8D>

31. July 22, 2015 – Nationwide: Urge investigations on ISIS terrorist activities in Sri Lanka Sinhala Ravaya: Media reported that the Sinhala Ravaya organisation Chairman Ven. Akmeemana Dayarathana had stated that "some ISIS soldiers have been infiltrating Sri Lanka as well. We have found some people in Wilpattu too. They couldn't speak Tamil, Sinhala or English. We informed all the relevant authorities to investigate this earlier but they failed to act. We now ask the Criminal Investigation Division to undertake investigations and deport relevant people who have connection with these kinds of groups."

Vidivelli (page 1) July 22, 2015

32. July 25, 2015 – Selvanagar, Thoppur, Seruwila, Trincomalee District: Alleged attempt to grab 1000 acres of land owned by Muslim residents in Thoppur: A tense situation arose in Selvanagar Thoppur after the surveying officers stated that 1000 acres of lands in the village belonged to the Seruwila Raja Maha Viharaya. On July 25th and 26th officers planted a board with the name of the Department of Wildlife Conservation, in the Seruwila burial ground. The people of the area stated that they were given with original deeds by the

British government and the chief incumbent of the temple claimed the lands where Muslims were living for more than 70 years belonged to the temple.

Thinakkural (page 1) July 27, 2015, Vidivelli (page 1) July 27, 2015

- 33. July 26, 2015– Nationwide: BBS complaint to IGP on ISIS threat:** The General Secretary of the BBS, Ven. Gnanasaratoday filed a complaint with the Inspector General of Police at the police Headquarters saying that he was under threat from ISIS. He had claimed that the Sri Lankan born ISIS militant who was reportedly killed in Syria had plans to assassinate him. However top police sources said that while it was investigating the complaint there was no evidence to prove some claims that ISIS was operating in Sri Lanka.

Daily FT (page 2) July 27, 2015

- 34. July 27, 2015 – Yatinuwara, Kurunegala District: Distorted National flags displaced at election rally:** Distorted national flag had been hoisted at the election rally of the UPFA at Sunil S Abeyesundara ground, Yatinuwara. The former president Mahinda Rajapaksha chaired the rally. A number of distorted national flags had been hoisted around the ground. Following a complaint received by the Kadugannawa police, police officers started investigating this. Meanwhile the rally organizers started to remove all the flags hoisted prior to the arrival of former president. Later police had arrested the chairman of Yatinuwara Pradeshiya Sabha and produced him in court on 30th July 2015.

Tamil Mirror (page 1) July 28, 2015, Daily News (page 3) July 29, 2015, Dinamina (page 1) July 31, 2015, Divaina (page 4) July 31, 2015

- 35. July 29, 2015 – Nationwide: Sinhala Ravaya lodges complaint - To investigate ISIS activities in Sri Lanka:** Sinhala Ravaya movement today lodged a complaint at the police headquarters requesting the Police to carry out investigations into ISIS terrorist activities in Sri Lanka. The Sinhala Ravaya movement further noted that ISIS is the greatest threat to the national security of this country.

<http://www.lankasrinews.com/view.php?22YOIJ2acd5YK24edyMMa020AmB4dd2JBm4303ogAO2e4AY5L3caclOSe3>

- 36. July 29, 2015 – Nationwide: Hate speech by BJP's Anuradhapura candidate on Social networking sites:** A video clip disparaging Muslims was circulated on Facebook by Bodu Jana Peramuna (BJP) Anuradhapura district candidate Susantha Ranmuthu Kumaranasinghe. He referred to voters as "Sinhala Deshayey Sinhalyani!" and disparagingly referred to Tamils and Muslims as Demalun and Marakkalayin. He quoted distorted statistics on population growth, and defamed Muslim women's dress practices. Further he alleged that there are quotes in the Quran, commanding Muslims to kill non-Muslims.

Vidivelli (page 1) August 3, 2015, SudarOli (page 5) August 4, 2015

https://video-sin1-1.xx.fbcdn.net/hvideo-xpt1/v/t42.1790-2/11857136_1019330468098330_1698518171_n.mp4?efg=eyJybHliOjU5OSwicmxhIjoxMTg3fQ%3D%3D&rl=599&vabr=333&oh=0f3974dcc071e5a551123d59e2c2e0f8&oe=55DB5A28

- 37. July 30, 2015 – Colombo, /Colombo District: BBS protests bearing Sinhale flag – BBS:** The Bodu Bala Sena (BBS) and the Bodu Jana Peramuna (BJP), the political wing of the BBS conducted a token protest in front of Sirasa/MBC Headquarters over the Sinhale

flag/Lion flag (bearing only the image of the Lion without the coloured lines representing minorities) being described as a racist flag by the media.

[PI-https://video-sin1-1.xx.fbcdn.net/hvideo-xpf1/v/t42.1790-2/11748191_1016215605076483_243373295_n.mp4?efg=eyJybjHliOjY5NiwicmxhIjo3MjB9&rl=696&vabr=387&oh=94601513864702502585ad403332ea94&oe=55DB6B15](https://video-sin1-1.xx.fbcdn.net/hvideo-xpf1/v/t42.1790-2/11748191_1016215605076483_243373295_n.mp4?efg=eyJybjHliOjY5NiwicmxhIjo3MjB9&rl=696&vabr=387&oh=94601513864702502585ad403332ea94&oe=55DB6B15)

Ceylon Today (page 3) July 30, 2015

- 38. August 04, 2015 – Kurunegala, Kurunegala District: Sinhalese will be compelled to learn Arabic in a few years - BBS:** In a book release held at Kurunegala by the BJP Kurunegala candidate Ven. Kalleve Punyasara, (titled “Dhamila Basata Padhanama”- Foundation for Tamil language and “Dhamila Basata Kriyapadha” – Tamil language verbs) Ven. Gnanasara said that a situation will arise in another 10, 15 years where Sri Lankan Sinhalese will be compelled to learn the Arabic language and Sharia Law. Vidivelli newspaper reported the incident on 4th August 2015.

Vidivelli (page 9) August 04, 2015

- 39. August 05, 2015 – Nationwide: Muslims enjoy more facilities than other religions – Sihala Ravaya: The** Vidivelli newspaper reported that Sinhala Ravaya chairman, Ven. Akmeemana Dayarathana as stating that it is not acceptable for Muslims to spread terrorism in the name of religion. “Muslims are moving for separate laws for themselves when there is a common law for the country. It’s very funny when Muslims talk about Sharia Law and Islamic Laws while they lead the way in drug transaction and all. And the latest information about the ISIS militant proves that Sri Lankan Muslims are terrorists and have connections with terrorist countries,” he added.

Vidivelli (page 1) August 05, 2015

- 40. August 06, 2015 – Nationwide: 1000 ISIS militant in Sri Lanka:** Dr. Nath Amarakoon the secretary of Bodu Jana Peramuna (BJP) of BBS stated at a media briefing held at Kirulapone Buddhist Centre that ISIS terrorist movement and Wahabism are promoted by Muslims of the country and nearly 1000 ISIS militants are in Sri Lanka. He alleged that the increased number of burqah clad ladies and long bearded men are attempting to spread Wahabism along with Arab culture, with the support of foreign funds. He also claimed that Muslims are not patriotic towards Sri Lanka, but that they regard the Arab countries as their motherland instead. BBS CEO Dilantha Vithanage added that we gained independence under the Sinhale flag, and that the green and orange stripes were added only after Independence. Therefore colours representing the minorities should be removed. Further he warned that if there are any obstructions to displaying the Sinhale flag in public they will go on a hunger strike in protest.

Vidivelli (page 1) August 07, 2015, Vidivelli (page 8) August 10, 2015

- 41. August 09, 2015 – Kalmunai, Ampara District: Newly built Memorial plaque demolished in Kalmunai:** Former opposition leader of the Kalmunai Municipal Council Henry Mahendran demolished a plaque to name a street in Kalmunai soon after it was unveiled on Sunday. The Memorial plaque was erected to name a street in memory of late Gate Mudaliyar M.S Kariyappar, a former parliamentarian from Kalmunai. Earlier the same day it was declared open by the Eastern province Chief Minister Hafiz Nazeer at a ceremony where Kalmunai Mayor Nizam Kariyappar was also present. Following the opposition of certain people in Kalmunai to the naming of the road after former Parliamentarian, Mahendran had demanded the road to be renamed as “Tamil United

Square” and he accused the Municipal Council Chairman that he had named the street all in one night without complying with the Municipal Council Ordinance.

Ceylon Today (page 2) August 14, 2015, Metro News (page 3) August 10, 2015
Thinakkural (page 1) August 10, 2015

- 42. August 09, 2015 – Dharga Town, Aluthgama, Kalutara District: Bodu Bala Sena 'Returns' to Aluthgama for BJP meetings:** Security was high in Aluthgama and Dharga Town as election rallies of Bodu Jana Peramuna leader and Bodu Bala Sena General Ven. Gnanasara were held in the two towns. Additional police forces had been deployed to the area as a precautionary measure, but no serious instances of disturbances were reported. However, many Muslims closed their shops and returned home earlier due to fear. The BBS was blamed for inciting the violence which flared up in June 2014 in the area following a rally by the organization. Ven. Gnanasara leads the Bodu Jana Peramuna (BJP) in the Kalutara District where Aluthgama and Dharga Town are located.

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/SL-Racism-Watchdog/751267798237933?fref=ts>

Dinamina (page 1) August 10, 2015

- 43. August 11, 2015 – Nationwide: New ISIS map proves that Sri Lanka is already under ISIS – BBS:** Dilanthe Vithanage the CEO of BBS said that Islamic fundamentalism is already deep rooted and now the ISIS movement indicates Sri Lanka is also under their targeted kingdom's map. He urged the Government to take serious measures regarding this.

Virakesari (page 12) August 13, 2015

- 44. August 14, 2015 – Nationwide: ISIS threat is extremely dangerous – Ven. Ellawala Medhananda:** Lakkima newspaper publishes, ISIS threat is extremely dangerous – Ven. Medhananda says, ISIS plans to take over India and Sri Lanka. He claimed that there may be plans to recruit ISIS soldiers in the country to achieve their target. “Being under a terrorist group for 30 years was more than enough. If another very dangerous terrorist group destroys Sri Lanka we will never be able to recover. People should be aware of this and Muslims living in Sri Lanka should be aware on this and take steps toward protecting the country as well.”

Lakkima (page 1) August 14, 2015

- 45. August 24, 2015: Nationwide: Efforts to nourish Wahabism continues in Sri Lanka-BBS:** General Secretary of BBS Ven. Gnanasara in an interview with TV program called “Salakuna” of HiruTV stated Sri Lanka is in grave danger due to the increasing Wahabi activities in several areas of the country. He condemned Muslim and Christian fundamentalism and said BBS has no issues with traditional Muslims in Sri Lanka. He also added that Saudi Arabia is expending great amounts of money for the spread of Wahabism and Sri Lanka too is receiving some funds for this purposes. Further he stated they won't give up on anti-Buddhist activities which impact the Buddhist protection and they will continue the actions toward it. Adding to that he said they had taken corrective measures on faulty historical narration of Sri Lankan Muslim history in Islam books of government school.

<http://www.hirutv.lk/76/salakuna/7360/episode5-hiru-tv-salakuna-venerable-galagoda-aththe-gnanasara-thero-2015-08-24.html>

