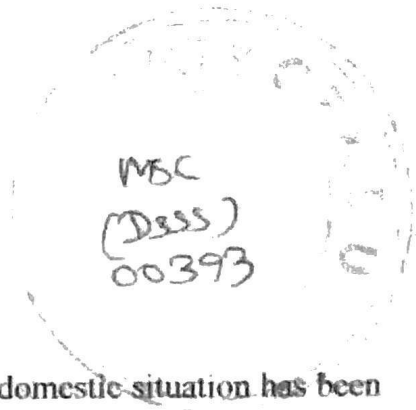


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ABSTRACT



For the past decade after the war in Sri Lanka, the domestic situation has been so stable that the government believed the country was resistant to terrorism. Hence, it had been a rude awakening when the country was blitzed by multiple suicide attacks on Easter Sunday on 21 April 2019, leading to fatalities which has increasingly become a dynamic interplay of international and domestic concern. Certainly, this is the first violent Islamic extremist blow in such a vast caliber in the Sri Lankan soil. The Islamic State in Iraq and Syria (ISIS) have reportedly claimed responsibility for the attacks, apparently utilizing radical-extremist groups, namely the National Thowheed Jamaath (NTJ) as their local extremist proxies inside Sri Lanka. The composition of the research includes a critical evaluation on factors that led to the present situation in Sri Lanka. Islamic extremism in Sri Lanka has numerous root causes and consequences that are closely interlinked and to focus on the emerging trend of Muslim extremism. Here, I selected intellectuals and scholarly articles that empirically investigated the factors of violent extremism. In the analysis, I consider one dependent variable (violent extremism) and three main independent variables (push, pull and group dynamic factors). Push and pull factors emerge as main factors in radicalization studies at various geographical scenarios and their behavior in each situation is inherent to specific geography. This study endeavors to appraise the applicable push, pull and dynamic factors towards Islamic extremism in the Sri Lankan context. Further, the researcher intends to identify possible and viable solutions for this unrest and for a sustainable peace in the country which could possibly lead towards the nation building process and to strengthen the bond between religions.

(Key Words: Push, Pull and Group Dynamic Factors, Islamic Extremism, Radicalization)

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