

Non-Kinetic Next Generation Terrorism in Post Conflict Sri Lanka: Importance of Countering Double Front Propaganda from LTTE and ISIS

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After the thirty years of ethnic conflict in Sri Lanka, the country was expected to flourish with thriving economic growth without any disturbance from violent extremism. However, the anti-Muslim riots in 2014, 2018 and the Easter Sunday attacks in post war Sri Lanka highlight that the country is now experiencing an altered form of violence to separatism, and it has pushed the diverse societies towards ethno-religious polarization. Online propaganda mechanisms such as 'Voice of Hind', Green Bird Telegram Channel, Amarq Media Centre etc. constantly provide the necessary ideological support to gather scattered Islamist extremists to function through regional cooperation under specific regional coordination and leadership. On the other hand, the remnants of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) in overseas with the Sri Lankan Tamil Diaspora community are coercing the Sri Lankan government against 'war crimes' committed during the 30 years of war, especially referring to Eelam war IV. Even if the allegations against Sri Lanka are baseless, the network of the Sri Lankan Tamil Diaspora have achieved substantial recognition for their grievances from the international community. With the UNHRC resolution and recent bills in parliaments in Toronto and Ontario, depicts the success of the disinformation campaigns spearheaded by LTTE front organizations. Hence, it is evident that Sri Lanka is exposed to two different fronts of information war mounting from LTTE front organizations and Islamist extreme organizations. Consequently, this research emphasizes on 'why' Sri Lanka has to consider 'double front' propaganda war mounted by LTTE and ISIS, as a Critical Vulnerability (CV) to national security and 'how' this threat can be mitigated.

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