



International Federation of Tamils

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Deprived of a versatile hero, we are desolate

The passing away of Brigadier SP Thamilselvan has triggered a tidal wave of immense sorrow amidst the entire Tamil Diaspora. Our loss is a loss of a leader who served tirelessly, co-ordinating the political and diplomatic affairs of Tamil Ealam as well as those of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Ealam,.

Journeying for a very long time under the guidance of the Tamil Ealam national leader V.Pirabakaran, Thamilselvan gained sophisticated maturity and wisdom at the political and military fronts of the liberation struggle, and emerged as the chief negotiator and spokesman.

It is the tragic loss of this great son of Tamil Ealam that we now mourn.

In the midst of his several trips abroad as a part of the peace process facilitated by Norway, he charmed with his unique characteristics many an expatriate Tamil intellectual, educationist and activist, inspiring them all with hope. He engaged a number of legal and political experts from among the Tamil Diaspora into drafting the ISGA (Interim Self Governing Authority) the proposal offered by the LTTE to the government of Sri Lanka and the international community. On several occasions he visited our office and maintained constant contact, encouraging us to pool together the resources of our academics and intellectuals with a view to building Tamil nationalism into a formidable force.

Tamilselvan operated with the vision of maintaining diplomatic approaches founded on the firm belief that Tamil Ealam is sure to dawn and assessing the interests of Tamil Ealam in the light of international principles and modalities. This is the impression we gained of him from our communications.

Sri Lanka has perpetrated this heinous crime, unambiguously exposing the military agenda of a Sinhala nationalistic regime. Such atrocities and military operations carried out with the military support of certain quarters that claim to be advocates of peace, are moving in the direction of causing setbacks for the genuine peace and stability of that Island and South Asia. To establish enduring peace in Sri Lanka, those countries that support the country militarily while overtly declaring to support peace, should realize that peace and conciliation could never be achieved through violence perpetrated against an oppressed people. The Tamil diaspora will toil hard under the guidance of the national leader of Tamil Ealam, holding on to the inspirations that Tamilselvan has bequeathed to us and treading the path of his dreams.

We remain united with the bereaved family, friends and all others at this moment of sorrow and pain. *(the end)*
