

ACML political wing condemns recent episode

The All Ceylon Muslim League Political Wing in a statement said: "We in Sri Lanka are ashamed and angered by the way our Government and General Hamilton, were lulled into being duped by the ICRC. They have from the beginning acted, more as an International Wing of the LTTE, than an independent body. Every time an LTTE terrorist is arrested, the ICRC, makes its presence in minutes, to protest and safeguard the LTTE cadre. There had been massacres of Muslims and Sinhalese under their nose, but the ICRC, were never seen or heard, in the vicinity.

The ICRC had brought the proposal that certain items banned by the government, from being sent to Jaffna, be released from the ban and the LTTE would release 34 police personnel from their concentration camps. The government in good faith and the trust they reposed on the ICRC, agreed to the proposal and immediately despatched seven items, which were banned earlier. The ICRC also took some family members, to receive their loved ones. What has happened is a slap in the face of the government and the General. The LTTE and the ICRC have gone back on their offer, already accepted. The ICRC is responsible for this debacle.

This episode illustrates the position of the ICRC. They are here to safeguard the LTTE, and not the public citizen. This position is further proved, when we saw the condition of the five officers, who were released. They appeared to be like the Muslim detainees who were released from the Serbian Concentration Camps. The government has sent drugs and essential food items to Jaffna, more than what is made available to our flood victims in the South.

In addition to what our government has supplied, ICRC, has taken loads of medical supplies to Jaffna. What explanation can the ICRC and LTTE give on the emaciated condition of those released from their illegal custody. They are seen as being held under inhuman and slow death condition. What is the position of the civilians held by the LTTE. There are a number of Muslims held for no reason. Why have the ICRC not made any move to get them released. Now the latest news of the relations having to returned empty handed is sufficient proof, that this whole episode was a well planned operation, with the connivance of the ICRC to bring the government and the army into disrepute.

It is time for the government to declare the ICRC persona non grata and send them out of our country. Our army must be given full powers to wipe out this terrorism from our country".