

This is an analysis of how the original text of my opinion article has been changed, before publication.

- Crossed out text (in blue colour) is the original text that has been deleted by the editor.
- Underlined text (in red colour) is new text that has been substituted or added by the editor.
- The balance text (in black) is the original text that has not been changed.

About 70% of the original article has been deleted AND **replaced** by new text that changes both the meaning and the tone of the original opinion article. This article, drastically changed without my permission, was then published under my name.

### ~~A question to the government and the LTTE.~~ Where do those innocent people belong?

~~What place is home for Tamil, Muslim and Sinhala Sri Lankans?~~

*'Home is the place where, when you have to go there,  
They have to take you in.'*

Robert Frost in "The Death of the Hired Man".

~~The recent fiasco of trying to evict Tamil people from the city of Colombo, saw them being transported by the SLFP government to the North East of the Country. In~~ Last week, the government blundered badly by trying to forcibly remove some Tamil people from Colombo lodges. Under different circumstances, in 1983, when the Tamil people were being killed and their houses burnt in ~~Southern~~ the southern cities by the Sinhala mobs, the UNP government, while encouraging the rampaging mobs, also sent ~~Tamil people living in the South~~ victims to the North- and the East.

~~The much-loved poet~~ Robert Frost has given a very interesting definition of home ~~that~~. It is as incisive and accurate as it is lyrical: 'Home is the place where, when you have to go there, ~~They~~ they have to take you in.' By this definition, Sri Lanka's ruling Lankan governments and politicians, whether SLFP or UNP, whatever irrespective of their public posture and explicit rhetoric political leanings, seem to recognise instinctively and intuitively, that the North-East of Sri Lanka is home to the Tamil population of the country, and the South of Sri Lanka is not.

~~But should this be the case?~~

This ~~view of what place is home, and for whom, when adopted by the Sinhalese and the government, enables~~ kind of thinking seems to underpin large-scale anti-Tamil mob-violence and killings such as in 1958, 1977 and 1983, ~~ethnic-based police requirements as in the last decade, regular abductions of Tamil people in the South as in the last year, and the summary recent~~ evictions of Tamil lodgers from Colombo as in the last week. But when this same view of what place is home, and for whom, is adopted by the LTTE, it is the Muslim and Sinhala people living in the North East that suffer these sorts of injury, deaths and evictions.

~~The LTTE and the government by their actions, even if not their words, are then expressing the same basic sentiment about what place is home for Tamil, Muslim and Sinhala Sri Lankans. The LTTE's refusal to let the North East be home to Muslim and Sinhala people, and the government's insistence that the rest of the country and especially the South is NOT home to Tamil people, reflect not different ideas, but the same idea, like two sides of the same coin.~~

~~It is correct that people in Sri Lanka should have a great deal more decentralised power to govern their own affairs, and this is especially true for Tamil people in the North East due to the breakdown of trust between the majority Sinhala and minority Tamil communities in the process of post independence nation building. But in the peaceful decentralised Sri Lanka that we still seek to build for the next generation, let us try to make ALL of Sri Lanka a home, to ALL people in the Country, asserting with Robert Frost that: 'Home is the place where, when you have to go there, / They have to take you in.'~~

The LTTE is also being driven by a similar belief, as evident from its policy of ethnic cleansing. It is on a campaign to rid the North and the East of the Muslims and the Sinhalese.

Ironically, the LTTE and the government seem to agree on this matter.

Mistrust between the Tamil and the Sinhala communities has led to the present day problems which should be solved through devolution of power.

Under no circumstances should anyone be allowed to segregate Sri Lankans and confine them to certain parts of the country.

Let the whole of Sri Lanka be the home to all communities and Frost should be followed in defining what a home is.