

**Nishan de Mel**

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**From:** Nishan de Mel [nishan.demel@economics.ox.ac.uk]  
**Sent:** 16 June 2007 14:23  
**To:** 'prabath@unl.upali.lk'  
**Subject:** Unethical Editorial Changes

Dear Editor,

Along with the note below I sent you via email an opinion article and asked you to consider publishing it in your paper. It has been published on 16/06/07, in the opinion section, under the title of: 'where do those innocent people belong'?

I said that I was happy to accept a title of your choice, if my title did not seem suitable to you. I like the title that you have chosen.

However, I was rather shocked to find that you have also made very substantial changes to the body of text (something I did not authorise) and done this in a way that changes the tone and meaning of what I have written. Choice of words is important when expressing opinion, and the words in my article were chosen carefully. Not only have my words been changed, but sentences I never wrote have been added and falsely published under my name. This seems unethical in the extreme.

It seems to me unlikely that you were personally responsible for this misrepresentation. Could it be possible that a junior editor with less experience thought it was ok to make such changes?

Whatever the reason for this happening, please let me know as soon as possible how you will remedy this mistake. I am sorry to have to be in a conflict situation with you over this matter, since I normally respect editors of newspapers very much and value their service. In particular in years past you have published several articles that I've sent and there was no reason for me to complain on those occasions. I hope you will understand that I feel very aggrieved by what has happened, and that I will take my complaint further if reasonable corrective steps are not taken.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Nishan de Mel

P.S. My original article as I sent it to you, if you need it for reference, is published on the web at:  
<http://www.groundviews.org/2007/06/13/a-question-to-the-government-and-the-ltte/>

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**From:** Nishan de Mel [mailto:nishan.demel@economics.ox.ac.uk]  
**Sent:** 13 June 2007 12:37  
**To:** 'prabath@unl.upali.lk'  
**Subject:**

Dear Editor,

I am sending a short article that examines the current ethnic divide from a poetic description of "home".

The article is attached to this email as a microsoft word document

Please feel free to change the title of the article, if you think another more suitable.

Also if you think it not suitable for publishing in the Daily Island, please let me know.

Thank you,

Nishan de Mel

No virus found in this outgoing message.

Checked by AVG Free Edition.

Version: 7.5.472 / Virus Database: 269.8.13/844 - Release Date: 11/06/2007 17:10

29/06/2007