

INSIDE

Mike O'Brien ... Page 02
 CollaborationPage 02
 Akuressa PS PollsPage 02
 Staff changes @ CPA Page 02
 Overseeing Police .. Page 03
 VIBASHA ...Page 03
 About CPAPage 03
 Calendar of Events....Page 04
 Latest Publications....Page 04
 IDP Property Rights....Page 04

Inaugural Issue

Alternatives

www.cpalanka.org

Official Newsquarterly of the Centre for Policy Alternatives, Colombo, Sri Lanka.

Incorporating HR into the Peace Process

Cabinet Ministers and members of the Government's negotiating team for talks with the LTTE, Prof. G.L.Peiris and Milinda Moragoda, addressed the CPA/Berghof Foundation Peace Road Map Seminar with members of civil society on incorporating human rights into the peace process on 13th February 2003. Dr. Alan Keenan (Post Doctoral

EVENTS

Fellow, Solomon Asch Centre for Ethnopolitical Conflict, USA) presented the background paper titled "Democratizing Human Rights, Strengthening Peace: Sri Lanka's Historic Challenge". The seminar was held at the JAIC Hilton, Colombo.

Dr. Keenan's paper looked at the potential tensions between the "conflict resolution" and the "human rights" approaches to



peace making in Sri Lanka and outlined possible ways of reconciling them. He flagged a variety of issue areas and practical steps that could be taken in this regard-ranging from effective international monitoring to the strengthening (To Pg 2)

More> http://www.cpalanka.org/research_papers/human_rights_&_the_peace_process.pdf



CPA wishes you a Peaceful New Year !



Who oversees the Police?



A Canadian perspective on issues relating to Policing and Police Commissions in multi-ethnic societies was a key outreach event in February. (More on Pg 03)

ADVOCACY THAT WORKS



Landmark Supreme Court judgement on FR!

The Supreme Court on March 25th, 2003 held that the Commissioner of Elections and the Army Commander had acted in violation of the Fundamental Rights of the petitioners who are voters of the Batticaloa and Vanni districts, by preventing them from entering the areas in which their polling stations were situated and thereby preventing them from

exercising their lawful right to vote at the 2001 general election. Justice Mark Fernando with Justices Ameer Ismail and C.V.Wigneswaran agreeing said the fundamental rights to equality, freedom of expression, freedom of movement and choosing their residence in Sri Lanka had been violated by the Commissioner of Elections and the Army Commander. (Contd on Page 4)

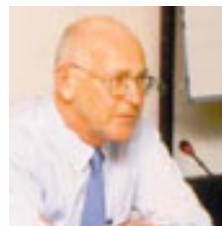
Federal Options for Sri Lanka

Prof. Nicholas Haysom (Legal and Constitutional Affairs Advisor to former S.African President Nelson Mandela), Dr. P.Saravanamuttu, (Executive Director CPA), Sunanda Deshapriya (Director CPA), Prof. Peter Meekison (Expert on Constitutional Reform Initiatives in Canada) and Dr. Sujit Choudhry (Professor, Univ. of Toronto), took part in a trilingual workshop titled **Federal Options for Sri Lanka** organised by the CPA and the Forum of Federations, a Canada based international network of experts on federalism. The Forum has been invited by the GOSL and the LTTE to provide

them with the expertise on federalism in the context of the ongoing peace process. CPA acts as the local partner for the Forum of Federations.

The objective of the Workshop held on March 26th was to engage democracy and peace activists in discussion on the Canadian and South African experiences of Federalism and related issues. The forum delegation also had discussions with the Batticaloa Peace Committee, the North East Muslim Assembly, officials of the Ministry of Provincial Councils and local government and members of the armed services. □

Ian Martin on HR and Peace Process



CPA organised a consultation between Mr. Ian Martin (Human Rights Advisor to the Government of SL and the LTTE) Former Secretary-General Amnesty International, and a group of civil society stakeholders on 11th March 2003. Mr. Ian Martin is to devise an action plan including a road map on human rights issues in the peace process.

The consultation focussed on key human rights issues. Mr. Martin also gave a brief introduction, clarifying his mandate. The ensuing discussion saw human rights activists, academics and others raise many human rights issues relevant to a final document on Human Rights in the peace process. □

CONTACTING CPA

Web
<http://www.cpalanka.org>

E-mail
cpa@sri.lanka.net

Overall Coordinator of CPA Units:
Dr. Paikiasothy Saravanamuttu
Executive Director
E-mail:
cpa_sara@sri.lanka.net

Conflict and Peace Analysis Unit
Contact Person
Kethesh Loganathan
E-mail:cpa@sri.lanka.net

Centre for Monitoring Election Violence (CMEV)
Contact person
Udaya Edirmanne
E-mail:cpa@sri.lanka.net

Legal Unit
Contact Person
Rohan Edrisinha
E-mail:
cpalegal@diamond.lanka.net

Media Unit
Contact Person
Sunanda Deshapriya
E-mail:cpa@sri.lanka.net

Polling Unit
Contact Person
Pradeep Peris
E-mail:
cpapoll@diamond.lanka.net

Translation Unit
Contact Person
Gananathan Sivajothy
E-mail: transset@slt.lk

Our Address
24/2, 28th Lane,
Off Flower Road
Colombo 7
Sri Lanka
Tel: 94-1-565305/6
Fax: 94-74-714460

'Beacon of hope against threat of int'l terrorism'

O'Brien applauds Lanka Peace Process



On 29th January 2003, at the request of the British High Commission, CPA organised a seminar during which Mr. Mike O'Brien, Parliamentary Under-Secretary for Foreign and

Commonwealth Affairs, gave a presentation titled "New Threats to International Security". In his presentation Mr. O'Brien applauded the Peace process in Sri Lanka which he saw as a beacon of hope in a world faced with the threat of international terrorism and the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. Speaking of Iraq in this context he expressed his hopes that Iraq would comply with UN Resolution 1441. □

Full Report >><http://www.britishhighcommission.gov.uk/>

Participatory Governance

Social Indicator of CPA and Friedrich Naumann Stiftung (FNSt) held a seminar on Participatory Governance at the Ballroom of Hilton JAIC Towers on March 4th. Mr. Pradeep Peiris of SI gave a presentation on SI's 2001 March survey on **Solid Waste Management in Urban Sri Lanka** to an audience consisting of policy makers, local govt. officials and members of civil society. The presentation was followed by a discussion involving all participants. Dr. Shelton Wanasinghe, Director, CPA addressing the seminar said:

"The level of **COLLABORATION** citizens' participation in the affairs of governance of their respective local government institutions has not grown but in fact, declined".

Dr. P.Saravanamuttu (CPA) and Ms. Sagarica Delgoda (FNSt) too addressed the gathering. □

More on Social Indicator at>> <http://www.cpalanka.org/polling.html>

Peacebuilding survey for World Vision

Social Indicator successfully completed a survey on **"Peace Building Practices in Sri Lanka"** on behalf of World Vision Lanka.

The study is aimed at providing an insight into peace building activities carried out by selected organisations and to assist World Vision Lanka to design its future peace building strategy. □



Akuressa PS elections relatively peaceful - CMEV

The Centre for Monitoring Election Violence (CMEV) concluded that the Akuressa Pradeshiya Sabha Election of March 8th 2003 was relatively peaceful. CMEV states that this is consistent with the trend identified throughout the Local Government Elections since March 2002 and in stark contrast to previous elections, including the general

election of December 2001. CMEV noted that the Police contributed to the peaceful atmosphere on the day of elections by ensuring the protection of polling centres and in upholding the law. Further, there were no reported incidents of post election violence. CMEV's March 2003 election monitoring exercise was funded by Freidrich Nauman Stiftung. □

Incorporating Human Rights... (from Page 1)

of local protection of mechanisms and human rights institutions. Ministers Peiris and Moragoda briefed the participants on the recent developments in the

peace talks and on the incorporation of human rights in the process. They also shared with participants their perspectives on the future trajectory of the peace process.

Dr. Paikiasothy Saravanamuttu, Executive Director CPA, in his welcome address, underscored the importance of incorporating human rights into the peace process from the outset and of recognising multiple perspectives on human rights and the modalities of their incorporation into the peace process. In particular, he emphasised the importance of a holistic approach to human rights combining both civil and political rights as well as economic and social rights. He raised the question of "sequencing" of human rights into the peace process and flagged for consideration the option of a separate human rights agreement, as in the El Salvador peace process.

Concluding the discussions, Mr. Kethesh Loganathan, Director, CPA and Head of the Peace and Conflict Unit, re-iterated the pivotal importance of integrating human rights into the peace process. Mr. Loganathan highlighted the role and responsibility of civil society and the international community in this regard. □

STAFF CHANGES @ CPA

New Faces



Thenmozhy Kugamourthy (BA-Arts) formerly of INFORM joined the Peace and Conflict

Analysis Unit as a Documentalist.



Harshini Wettasinghe joined as a Research Officer in the

Legal Unit. She has a Masters in HRM.



Gananathan Sivajothy from Human Disaster Management Council is

the new Coordinator of the Translation Unit.

...and they said Bye...

Dr.Arjuna Parakrama Resigns from the Board of CPA and joins the UN, Nepal. He will continue to advise the Translation Unit.

Vasantha Dhanapala Vacates her post as Project Co-ordinator at the Translation Unit for higher studies in Japan.

Dev Anand Ramiah Leaves Conflict and Peace Analysis Unit to work with the UNDP in Colombo.

Rathini Selvanayagam Of the Legal Unit leaves CPA for higher studies.

Uditha Senaratne and Pradeep Shantapriya Will no longer be serving the Media Unit and have left CPA.



The headtable participants at the seminar.

© CPA

Who oversees the Police?

CPA in association with the Governance and Institutional Strengthening Project (GISP), Canada, conducted a public seminar on "Governance, Conflict Transformation and the Role of the Police - A Canadian Perspective" on February 20th at the B.M.I.C.H. A round table discussion on 'Policing and Police Commissions in Multi Ethnic Societies' followed on Friday 21st at JAIC Hilton.

Mr. Murray Chitra, who is the Chair of the Ontario Civilian Commission of Police Services made a presentation on issues relating to policing and police commissions in multi-ethnic societies from a Canadian perspective.

The discussion focused on the independence of oversight bodies, the need for a police force to reflect the multi-cultural character of the communities it serves, independence of the police,

OUTREACH

how policing responsibilities are shared in Canada and its relevance to Sri Lanka.

He emphasised the powers and functions of the Ontario Civilian Commission and identified their specific role in the entire system of policing in Canada and more specifically in the Province of Ontario.



"..She examined whether it allows a police service to function independently.."

Ms. Shermila Antony from CPA addressed the issue from a Sri Lankan perspective. Her presentation emphasised the importance of policing and law and order in Sri Lanka within its present constitutional framework and examined whether it allows a police service to function independently or whether their powers are severely constrained by various controls from the centre. [More>> www.cpalanka.org/](http://www.cpalanka.org/)

UNIT IN FOCUS

Vibhasha - Towards a new discipline

VIBHASHA originated from the recognition that accurate translation could play a vital role in fostering understanding between Sri Lanka's language cultures and assist in mutual enrichment.

Vibhasha is a programme undertaken by CPA in furtherance of one of its main objectives which is to contribute towards the conflict resolution process in Sri Lanka, so as to strengthen institution - and capacity - building for democratic governance in multi-ethnic and plural-

istic societies. Mutual understanding and effective communication among the diverse ethnic groups of Sri Lanka could be strengthened through creating a culture of respect and knowledge of each others' languages, and CPA envisages that Vibhasha will accomplish precisely this important task.

Moreover, effective translation will greatly facilitate the availability of ideas on peace and governance to all language groups in Sri Lanka.

[More at>> http://www.cpalanka.org/translation.html](http://www.cpalanka.org/translation.html)

ABOUT CPA...

Formed in mid 1996, the Centre For Policy Alternatives is a research and advocacy public policy institute based in Colombo, Sri Lanka.

CPA aims to strengthen the civil society contribution to the public policy debate especially in the areas of democratic governance and peace.

There are five units at CPA. Namely: Conflict and Peace Analysis Unit, Legal and Constitutional Reform Unit, the Media Monitoring Unit, Social Indicator Unit, and Vibhasha- the "Translation Project".

Operating during elections is the Centre For Monitoring Election Violence(CMEV), comprising the Free Media Movement(FMM), the Coalition Against Political Violence and CPA. CPA functions as the Secretariat for the CMEV.

CPA effectively commenced its program of work in January 1997 with funding from the Asia Foundation under the USAID Citizen's Participation (CIPART) program, the Hewlett Packard Foundation, SIDA, NORAD, the Westminster Foundation and Alliance Lanka.

CPA currently receives funding from NORAD, SIDA, GISP (the CIDA funded Governance and Institutional Strengthening Project administered by the Human Rights Centre of the University of Ottawa) and the Ford Foundation.

In the fulfilment of its mandate, CPA has collaborated with a number of local and international civil society organisations including Article 19, UNHCR, Institute of Federalism, Berghof Foundation for Conflict Studies and many more.

Board of Directors of CPA

Bastian, Sunil *Research Fellow, International Centre for Ethnic Studies. He is a member of the Board of the Social Scientists Association and INFORM.*

Deshapriya, Sunanda *Consultant to Media Unit, Media Reports, Co-Editor Sama Vimarshi. He was a founder member of the Movement for Interracial Justice and Equality (MIRJE) in 1979 and the Movement for the Defence of Democratic Rights (MDDR) in 1981.*

Edrisinha, Rohan *LL.B.(Hons.) Colombo, LL.M (University of California, Berkeley) is a lecturer at the Faculty of Law, University of Colombo, specialising in constitutional law.*

Loganathan, Ketheshwaran (Kethesh) *Received his Bachelors Degree in Business Administration from Georgetown University, Washington D.C (1975) and M.A in Development Studies from the Institute of Social Studies, The Hague, The Netherlands (1984-85).*

Ponniath, Gowrie *B.A.Hons (Sussex);Dip. in Business Management (Adelaide);MA (Sussex) has worked for the International Labour Organization for 10 years, in a number of fields ranging from the promotion of women worker rights to the elimination of child labour.*

Siriwardhana, Cyrene *Read law at Oxford (St.Catherines' College) and qualified as a barrister of the Inner Temple and thereafter as an Attorney-at-Law in Sri Lanka.*

Uyangoda, Dr. Jayadeva *B.A. (1980 - University of Peradeniya) and Ph.D (1986 - University of Hawaii) in Political Science. Presently Senior Lecturer in Political Science at University of Colombo and Co-Director, Centre for Policy Research and Analysis, University of Colombo.*

Wanasinghe, Dr. Shelton *Sri Lanka public service from 1946 -1971. During this period he held several positions including that of the Director of the Sri Lanka Institute of Development Administration - which was founded by him - and Director-General of Public Administration He later served on the United Nations Economic and Social Commission (UNESCAP) from 1971 to 1986.. Currently he holds a Honorary Senior Visiting Fellow position at the Institute of Policy Studies.*

Saravanamuttu, Dr. Paikiasothy - EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, CPA *Received his Ph.D (1986) and Bachelor's degree (1979) in International Relations from the London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE), University of London. He taught in the Department of International Relations of the LSE, and from 1984-1992 he lectured in International Relations at the University of Southampton, UK.*

[Full CPA Bd details at>> http://www.cpalanka.org/profile.html](http://www.cpalanka.org/profile.html)

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

For more updates on latest and upcoming CPA events, visit
http://www.cpalanka.org/calendar_events.html

JANUARY 2003

- ▶ **29th** "Land and Property Rights of Internally Displaced Persons" SIHRN Conference Hall - Killinochchi (with UNHCR)
- ▶ **29th** A Presentation by Mr. Mike O'Brien MP on "Response to New Threats to International Security" (with the British High Commission)

FEBRUARY 2003

- ▶ **10th to 11th** A Workshop on "Land and Property Rights of Internally Displaced Persons" follow up to the Killinochchi seminar of 29th January
- ▶ **13th** A Seminar as part of the Peace Road Map Programme on "Human Rights and the Peace Process" (with Berghof Foundation)
- ▶ **20th** A Public Lecture on "Governance, Conflict Transformation and the Role of the Police - A Canadian Perspective" by Mr. Murray Chitra, Chair of the Ontario Civilian Commission on Police Services. (with GISP)
- ▶ **21st** Round Table Discussion on "Policing and Police Commissions in Multi Ethnic Societies" (with Governance and Institutional Strengthening Project (GISP))

MARCH 2003

- ▶ **4th** A Seminar on "Solid Waste Management in Urban Areas and Public Participation in Local Governance" (with Friedrich Naumann Stiftung -FNSt)
- ▶ **11th** A consultation with Mr. Ian Martin, the Human Rights Advisor to the Government of Sri Lanka (GoSL) and the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) on "Human Rights and the Peace Process"
- ▶ **16th** Human Rights Commission Organised "Human Rights for All -Rights of Minorities in Peace Process". CPA spoke at the Vanni Cultural Foundation for Peace & Human Rights Activists (Puttlam District)
- ▶ **18th** Peace Process and Federal Options for Sri Lanka At Hasalaka. (with Kandy Friendship Foundation). For Samurdhi, Grama Sevaka and other local level govt. officials
- ▶ **18th** Peace Process Challenges and Way Forward for Local level government servants at Hasalaka.
- ▶ **24th** Seminar on Federal Options for Sri Lanka at Batticaloa (with the Forum of Federations and Batticaloa Peace Committee)
- ▶ **25th** Seminar Federal Options in a United Sri Lanka at Kalmunai. (with North Eastern Muslim Assembly-NEMA)
- ▶ **27th** A half day seminar at the Kotalawela Defence Academy, Ratmalana for members of Sri Lanka Army, Navy and Air Force: Prof.Nicholas Haysom addressed it.(with Forum of Federations)
- ▶ **26th** Trilingual workshop Federal Options for Sri Lanka in Colombo. (with the Forum of Federations, Canada)
- ▶ **27th** Workshop at Colombo on Centre-Region Co-operation. (with the Forum of Federations, Canada and the Ministry of Home Affairs, Provincial Councils and Local Government)
- ▶ **28th** CPA Advocacy Workshop for Journalists at MARGA on Freedom of Information (with British Council)
- ▶ **29th** A seminar "Peace Process and 3rd Party Facilitation" in Galle. -Audience: Peace activists, media and civil society members (with the Forum of Federations)

EVENTS ATTENDED

- ▶ **Jan 16-19th** Dr P.Saravanamuttu participated in the Regional Representative for Asia Pacific UNHCR's South Asia Civil Society Consultations in Kathmandu
- ▶ **Jan 20th/21st** Dr P. Saravanamuttu attends the Delhi Conference on Pluralism and Conflict Resolution: The Search for Stability in South Africa after 9/11 organised by the Observer Research Foundation and the Rosa Luxembourg Foundation, Delhi
- ▶ **Feb 3rd/4th** Discussion paper on 'Case Studies and Online Advocacy Principles within the context of ICT and Conflict Transformation'-S.Hattotuwa, Research Associate, CPA, for Oneworld South Asia Regional Partners Meeting, Delhi, India
- ▶ **Feb 5th/9th** Dr P.Saravanamuttu attended Conference on Diversity and Co existence in Asia, Kandalama

IDPs: What are their property rights?

On completion of the study on "Land and Property Rights of Internally Displaced Persons" two seminars were held in collaboration with UNHCR.

The first seminar was held in Kilinochchi on 29th January 2003. The objective was to present the findings of the independent studies conducted on land and property of the Internally Displaced Persons by CPA and UNHCR / HRC to various stakeholders and draft recommendations to find solutions to issues identified.

Over 60 persons, including govt. officials, LTTE political wing representatives from the N&E, Members of the Tamil Rehabilitation Organisation, Attorneys-at-Law, staff of Legal Aid Foundation, UNHCR and CPA staff participated at the seminar. The second seminar was held in Colombo on 10 and 11 February 2003. The objective was

to present the findings of the above study and its recommendations. □

Grassroots peace activism

CPA members who are part of Citizens For Peace organised several Peace Outreach Events targeting grass roots level peace activists, on such locations in Badulla, Kurunegala and Hasalaka, Kandy. □

More at >>
<http://www.cpalanka.org/>

LATEST PUBLICATIONS

SAMADAANA NOKKU

July – Dec 2002
Tamil Language
48 pages-2000 copies printed
Editor: P. Vijayashanthan



SAMAVIMARSHI

March 2003
Sinhala Language
72 pages
10,000 copies printed
Co Editors: S.Deshapriya & L. Guruge



PEACE MONITOR

November 2002
English Language
44 pages
1000 copies printed
Editor: S.Y.Hattotuwa



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY - Peace Confidence Index (PCI)

English/Tamil/Sinhala
(Adobe PDF)
http://www.cpalanka.org/research_papers/PCI_II_topline_results.pdf



Landmark Supreme Court... (From Page 01)

In keeping with its mandate, CPA sponsored and filed 2 of the three petitions filed [one petition for T.Thangavel and K.Singarajah and another for petitioners T.Alagasuntharam and P.Kanthatasamy-both petitions' respective counsels were instructed by Ms Lilanthi de Silva.

The Court awarded the five voters Rs 300,000 as compensation payable by the State and a total of Rs 90,000 as costs payable personally by Army Commander Lionel Balagalle and Rs 5,000 payable by Elections Commissioner Dayananda Dissanayake. □