

Arrested LTTE leader to help Sri Lankan government

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Jun 20, Colombo: A senior Tamil Tiger leader who is currently being detained by Sri Lanka is to support the government in its post-war development drive, a state-run Sunday weekly reported.

The Sunday Observer said the chief arms procurer for the vanquished terrorist group LTTE Selvarasa Pathmanathan (KP) has mediated a meeting between a group of nine Tamil expatriates, who had been ardent LTTE supporters, and the Defence Secretary Gotabhaya Rajapaksa and External Affairs Minister Prof. G.L. Peiris.

The former Tiger sympathizers had said that they would assist in the post conflict rehabilitation and reconstruction activities in the country, the paper reported.

According to the Sunday Observer report KP who has played an instrumental role to bring the Tamil group to Colombo was present during the discussions with the Defence Secretary and the Minister.

The newspaper quoted KP as saying that several Tiger activists living abroad had now begun to understand the ground realities and during the past one year there was a vast change in the minds of the Tamil diaspora, particularly those who remained supporters of the LTTE.

Reportedly the Tamil delegation met the security forces commanders in Vavuniya and Jaffna and pointed out certain shortcomings in the resettlement process and the government has agreed to look into their suggestions.

An Indian media report last month said that the detained former chief arms procurer and smuggler for the LTTE, is currently making an immense contribution to peace in Sri Lanka by working for ethnic harmony.

"He is building bridges between the Tamils and other communities, both at home and overseas, and is striving for ethnic unity. He is contributing to peace immensely," India's Express News Service quoted Singapore-based Sri Lankan terrorism expert Dr. Rohan Gunaratna.

Sri Lankan authorities arrested KP in August 2009 from his hideout in a South Asian country and brought to Colombo. Since then he has been detained in an undisclosed location. Reportedly KP has given some valuable information on the structure and assets of the LTTE overseas establishments and has helped identifying escaped Tiger leaders.