



INTERNATIONAL CENTRE FOR POLITICAL VIOLENCE AND TERRORISM RESEARCH

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On November 6, 2011, the Sri Lankan Ministry of Mass Media and Information announced that “any content relating to Sri Lanka” must be registered with the ministry “at the earliest.” The Free Media Movement (FMM) has stated that websites critical to the government, such as the opposition party United National Party’s website, the Sri Lanka Guardian, the Paparasi News, and the Sri Lanka Mirror have been blocked.¹ The FMM convener, Sunil Jayasekara stated that this was a brutal attack on the media in Sri Lanka. In addition, the European Union also expressed their concern over the matter.²

On November 7, 2011, the Tamil Nadu Chief Minister, J. Jayalalithaa condemned the Sri Lankan Navy attacks on the Tamil Nadu fishermen.³ However, the Sri Lanka Navy denied any incidents had taken place between the two parties. On November 8, 2011, a second fishermen assault incident was reported in Tamil Nadu, in which the fishermen claimed that the Sri Lankan navy pelted stones at them, and thereafter boarded the vessel and assaulted them with “axe like weapons”.⁴ In response, the Sri Lankan navy spokesperson, Commander Kosala Warnakulasuriya stated the Sri Lankan navy would never cause harm to any Tamil Nadu fishermen or partake in any incidents that would create disputes between the two countries.⁵ On November 10, 2011, during the 17th SAARC summit in Maldives, the Indian Prime Minister, Manmohan Singh, met with his Sri Lankan counterpart, Mahinda Rajapaksa, to discuss the fishermen issues further.⁶

On the same day, the Lesson Learnt and Reconciliation Commission (LLRC) announced that it was in the final stages of completing the LLRC report. The report is scheduled to be delivered to the President on November 15, 2011.⁷

¹ Website blocking ‘a brutal crackdown’, BBC News, November 7, 2011,

http://www.bbc.co.uk/sinhala/news/story/2011/11/111106_fmm_websites.shtml

² EU concerned over website blocking by Sri Lanka, Daily Mirror, November 9, 2011, <http://www.dailymirror.lk/news/14647-eu-concerned-over-website-blocking-by-sri-lanka.html>

³ Jaya condemns Lanka Navy’s attack on fishermen, Daily Mirror, November 7, 2011, <http://www.dailymirror.lk/news/14609-jaya-condemns-lankan-navys-attack-on-fishermen.html>

⁴ TN fishermen attacked, Daily Mirror, November 8, 2011, <http://www.dailymirror.lk/news/14634-tn-fishermen-attacked.html>

⁵ SL denies attack on the Indian fishermen, Daily Mirror, November 9, 2011, <http://www.dailymirror.lk/news/14645-sl-navy-denies-attack-on-the-indian-fishermen.html>

⁶ PM discusses fishermen issue with MR, Daily Mirror, November 10, 2011, <http://www.dailymirror.lk/news/14682-singh-discusses-fishermen-issue-with-mr.html>

⁷ LLRC report completed, Daily Mirror, November 8, 2011, <http://www.dailymirror.lk/top-story/14631-llrc-report-completed.html>