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Unity: a thought

While we have time to read this issue, fire of hell sweep across the frontiers of Tamil Eelam and there flows a river filled with blood of our cherished and loved ones.

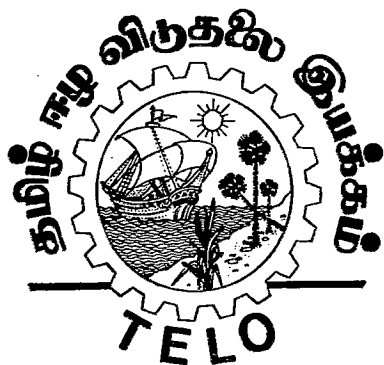
Yet some of use still have time, like Nero did when Rome was burning, to play the fiddle, concerned less about the people and their plight in Eelam, whose liberation and freedom formed the very basis of every organization that today shout about national liberation.

Tamil people and their interest is expressed as the nucleus for forming every liberation organization that currently involved in the struggle for Tamil Eelam. If peoples interest is sovereign and paramount and the organizations are there to serve their interest, knowing very well that people desire is for a Tamil nation, then one should ask, do the activities these organizations carry out and concepts they articulate, really represent or reflect the people interest. Do these organizations serve or at least attempt to serve their interest? If they don't, then the alternative question we should ask is; how these organizations have deviated from this original objective of serving people interest - in our case the objective being achieving Tamil Eelam. And also we should clarify whether such a deviation from the main objective really serves? Furthermore, we should ask ourselves whether justification given for such deviation ultimately serves the Tamil Eelam cause.

Answers to these questions may help us to critically view the whole liberation struggle we are engaged in and also at the same time help us identify where our struggle so far has led us to. The real intention for approaching these questions, is not to serve mere polemic interest of any individual or organization, nor to engage in a diatribe confrontation with any organization or individual. The spirit with which this article is written, is to seriously look at the basic problems that today not only inhibit us but also threaten to injure us to the extent of irrecoverability.

Variety among organizations representing different interest groups is part of the democratic process and may be healthier for running a democracy, but division among groups who struggle for a national liberation, injure the very cause they all in their pretentious manner tend to serve. From a historical point of view, history has not been too kind to struggling people who stood divided against the might of the enemy. Should we ignore this powerful historical lesson at our own peril and let the pages of history tomorrow write "Divided they stood, Defeated they were".....

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FOR FURTHER INFORMATIONS AND CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE
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Whether people of Tamil Eelam approve or not, today we have several liberation organizations among ourselves, claiming Tamil Eelam and liberation as their only objective. But do they operate and behave in the best possible manner to achieve this objective, should be analysed; if not in the interest of the organizations, but in the interest of the Tamil people, whom they all want to liberate.

What we see today is organizations who compete against each other and often confront on another for sheer manoeuvring tactic, rather than for liberating Tamil people. If so, are we having liberations organizations to teach us about competition in a strict business sense, where all the firms are in constant competition with one another.

If such a view is to be dismissed overboard as baseless, why then some of our organizations are so reluctant to talk about unity, let alone working for unity. Why then some of us still hold a "lone ranger" view to national liberation or on the otherhand hold a "monopolising" attitude in which Tamil people have to wait, whether they like it or not, for organization X or Z to become the sole monopoly power of the organizations and on it's way to ascendancy to such power, eliminate all the other groups that compete against it.

The reality of the situation is that no single organization in it's true form, can achieve such supremacy, so long as other organizations also aim for the similar objective. Further, Tamil people cannot afford to wait for a victor to emerge in this damaging competition. Because, each minute we waste in our infighting among ourselves, Tamil nation lose a son, a father or above all our women lose what they otherwise don't even dream of losing. Tamil nation and it's people have little time left for such damaging infighting and competition between the organizations to determine the "super power" of the organizations, to liberate them from their misery, desperation and terror in the hands of the Sri Lankan armed forces and thugs.

The past teach us that it is easier for organizations to emerge but very hard to eliminate them. Therefore unity rather than one organization monopolising the struggle is the easiest to achieve, provided organizations and individuals, instead of claiming unity is escaping us - as though unity is a living organ-take a valiant effort in catching it.

What is evident from current division and competition among organizations, is that their priority has shifted from achieving Tamil Eelam to promoting their own organizations. Narrow organizational interest in those who work for such organizations, has shifted their loyalty away from Tamil cause to their individual organization interest.

The allegiance each organization calls for from it's members and supporters, is noy to the cause of Tamil Eelam, but to their respective organizations and thus they have turned us all against one another. While all our united strength should be directed against the Sri Lankan state and it's armed forces, our energy and effort is wasted in campaigning and being critical of each other. Our division out of narrow organizational loyalties propose to bleed each other and deviate us from our prime objective i.e. achievement of Tamil Eelam.

Thus, among ourselves, we have a wrong priority, divided loyalty and confused allegiance which altogether make us all a potential victim to enemy's further divisive tactics. One shouldn't go further backward to recall the statement of Sri Lankan security minister Athulathmuthal. "The only hope Sri Lankan government has in defeating the Tamil extremists is by widening the difference between the groups".

So long as all organizations compete each other for support and resources from our people there shall never be a so called "super power", nor shall there be any poor soul left in Tamil Eelam. It is this sad inevitability Tamil people want to avoid and therefore demand unity among organizations as well as individuals who work for them. But the very organizations who want to liberate our people have no ears for such plea of the people. Thus the organizations have abandoned first, the objective of Tamil Eelam - priority number one as far as Tamil people are concerned - for the sake of narrow organizations interest. Second they continue to ignore the call for unity, against for their own organizational interest.

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What we should ask ourselves is, whether working for unity is easily achievable than letting competition to determine the "super power" of the organizations to lead our struggle. Under the present conditions, when Tamil people as a whole face eventual extinction, time left is so precious and therefore cannot be wasted in waiting for the emergence of a "super power" among the organizations. Furthermore, if peoples interest could be served by unity rather more effectively and quickly, then working for unity is far more constructive than letting competition among organizations to determine the power, to lead our struggle.

Let us look how our division affect us and our struggle. We repeat each others effort and thus waste the meagre resources we gather from our people. For example suppose an organization X has a Radio communication facilities, then out of the very competitive struggle the organizations involved in, other organization too are forced to look for similar facilities. The end result is (i) waste of our people generous contributions, (ii) effectless effort. Whatever the organization X or Z intended to achieve positively to help the struggle is overshadowed by these type of negative outcomes.

Our division confuse our own people as to whom they be loyal and supportive. The countries who are sympathetic to our cause are confused as to which organization they should be supporting. Thus our struggle is stagnated without the help that otherwise should be coming from such potential allies.

Instead of us campaigning as one voice among the world population for sympathy and support for our cause, like too many voices lost in the crowd, ours is lost too, to the world at large.

Confront those campaigning for their own organizations about unity, out come answers such as:

(i) It should come to Eelam when the battle is on? Who are we trying to cheat? The people or ourselves. Is unity useful before we confront the enemy so that we can plan a united and effective effort or is it useful when each of us is confronted individually by the enemy and out of our sheer desperation we shout for unity when there may be no one left even to dream of unity.

(ii) It should come in Madras or in Eelam among leaders? Is Tamil Eelam struggle is all about few personalities their wishes and their prejudices? or is it about people, their problems and their nation? However genuine our leaders commitment to Tamil Eelam cause, it is people wishes that should ultimately determine the shape of the struggle. If the people interest could be served by unity, then the argument that few individuals should determine the fate of the people and their struggle, is a very evasive argument, one than cannot be defended from a democratic perspective.

The division disease has reached far deep into our skins. Today grass-root workers of many organizations tend to reflect their leadership views on division and to a certain extent justify their leader's divisive stand. By any standard this is not a healthier position for a struggling masses to be in, because the very people who reach ordinary people to promote their respective organisations have not identified how best they could serve the interest of Tamil Eelam. On the contrary they have become the mouthpiece of their respective organizations, defending and justifying their organizations and their leaders stand to be "lone rangers", often with vague and indefensible excuse rather than with constructive reasons.

Call for unity, for many, a not worthwhile effort. However it must be attempted, nor for any other motive but to give voice to people's interest and their anxiety over what is happening and what is to happen to our struggle in the future. If however, call for unity by one organization is interpreted as a promotional ploy of that organization, even such a villified interpretation of their real intention, comparatively has more merit than trying to preach division and justifying it with indefensible arguments.

As regards unity TELO has a clear view and has demonstrated it's willingness to work under a United Front for the sake of Tamil people rather than serving a narrow organizational interest or interest of any individual.

