

Bismillahirrahmanirraheem.

Thank you very much Mr. Chair,

Ladies and gentleman, Distinguish panelist, all protocol observed and
The Chair.

In Sri Lanka Muslims are, one of the minorities and have been part
and partial of the history of Sri Lanka over 1000 years.

The minority communities in Sri Lanka undergo cruel ethnical
discriminations in almost every walk of life in Sri Lanka, including in
their main economical source.

The Secretariat for Muslims (SFM) a Muslim civil society organisation
documented more than 500 incidents against the Muslims from 2013
to 2015.

Since the dawn of April 16th, there have been at least around 30
incidents of violence or attempted violence, hate, intimidation and
threats to Muslims, their places of religious worship and Specially,
Muslim owned Business establishments. These renewed threats are
from many extremists groups.

I would like to bring to the light, that a serious of violence was being committed against the Muslims in the Southern part of Sri Lanka, In Gall District place called GHINTOTA, following a road accident. A small issue over a minor road accident has been orchestrated to develop into a full-scale violence on the 17th November evening causing extensive and irreparable damage to the properties of the innocent Muslims and even injuring some individuals.

The extremist mob with more than 300 members who came from different parts of southern region with the help of social media had gathered in a place as they planned. Then, they entered into Ghintota Muslim area group by group in many vehicles by blockading the roads and other means of accesses to the area. and started their attack savagely in the night at around 9.30 pm by damaging and burning with fire the houses, shops and other belongings of Muslims. The unarmed Muslims, who had never expected that brutal attacks of the extremists.

According to the official information, more than Sixty (60) Houses, Twenty Six (26) Shops, Twelve (12) Vehicles and Two (2) Mosques have been damaged by this brutal attacks. Most of the houses among these have been damaged very badly while some of the vehicles have been burned completely. As the security forces were too late to reach the field, It was much convenient for the extremists to act as they had planned.

The security forces who rushed to the field did not react honestly and a bias favor to the racist mobs was obvious on their moves.

The attacks continued for three hours, the mobs also stationed themselves in different places, awaiting opportunities to attack further. A curfew was implemented with immediate effect.

Although the anti Muslim violence has got the centre stage at this time, various incidents of violence and intimidation also took place against Christian places of worship across the country.

In this background, We urge the forum to give their fullest support to promote and protect the rights of minority in Sri Lanka.

As I Wish you all ultimate peace and harmony and would like to express my sincere thanks for your personal and collective contributions and presence.

May Almighty God bless you all.

I Thank you