

Voice of Shakthi - Thursday 13 April 2000

Last weekend we had the opportunity to witness a protest rally organised by a group of Australian traitors, or, in other words, Australians, who falls in to the category of traitors according to the definition of some people in our community. You see, the Australians who took part in the rally were protesting against the injustices committed against a group of fellow Australians - the Australian Aborigines. According to our self-styled Sinhala patriots, nothing is more traitorous than speaking out against the discrimination against fellow countrymen.

These pseudo-patriots in our midst see all efforts to bring a halt to the fighting and providing a just solution to the ethnic through a devolution of power as an attempt to sell-out the country and the Sinhala people. To them, the patriotic thing to do is to support the on-going war that has cost tens of thousands of lives and resulted in massive loss of property. Anybody who opposes this war is a traitor. The right of the minorities to live in dignity is of no consequence to these self-styled saviours of the nation. All that matters is the establishment of Sinhala hegemony over [Sri Lanka](#), no matter what the cost is in terms of lives and justice. And do they suffer the consequences of this patriotism? Hell no!

It was such pseudo patriots who scuttled all efforts to bring a peaceful solution to the ethnic problem in the past. Remember the efforts of Sir John Kotelawela, S. W. R. D. Bandaranayake and J. R. Jayawardene? Who agitated against those efforts? It was the so-called patriots who saw enforced Sinhala hegemony as the only solution to ethnic tensions. And has their beloved military solution brought an end to the problem. Far from it. The LTTE is running riot, not only in the north and the East but all over the island and not even the president is safe from their assassins. Only the dead have found peace from a military solution.

Now, as the two major [parties](#) in Sri Lanka are locked in crucial talks aimed at bringing a political solution to the problem, we again find these pseudo-patriots taking to the streets in protest, burning flags and uttering slogans made irrelevant by the irrevocable march of [history](#). It is true that the PA-UNP consensus is more an attempt to save the skins and the lives of the political [leadership](#)

but it is also likely that whatever resolution they arrive at has the potential to bring considerable relief to the long-suffering people of Sri Lanka through a negotiated settlement to the ethnic problem. The pseudo-patriots will certainly want to scuttle this effort as well. The duty of real patriots is to prevent that disaster.