

LORD AVEBURY CONDEMNNS LTTE

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By Nicholas Candappa

LORD AVEBURY, Chairman of the Parliamentary Human Rights Group in London, who has been a severe critic of the Sri Lanka Government in the past, has paid special tribute to President D.B. Wijetunga and condemned the LTTE for its massacres.

Lord Avebury who met the Sri Lankan High Commissioner in UK, General Cyril Ranatunga, has praised the manner in which President D B Wijetunga was carrying on the Government.

Lord Avebury has condemned the LTTE for its atrocities and gross violations of 'human rights'. He says that having seen the LTTE propaganda telecasts, he was more shocked that fifteen year olds - particularly girls, were made to carry cyanide capsules.

Lord Avebury also referred to the killing of one Mr Kandaswamy who was earlier attached to the Tamil Information Centre in London. Mr Kandaswamy had refused to disburse funds collected in London as directed by the LTTE for certain projects.

He also condemned the LTTE for massacring Muslims in the North and East. He was surprised at the lack of concern and interaction on the part of the Muslim countries against the atrocities committed by the LTTE against the Muslims of Sri Lanka.

He has also said he was against the merger of the North and East and says that such a merger would be detrimental to the Muslims and Sinhalese in the Eastern Province.

He has also inquired about Mrs Rohana Wijeweera and her children and had been told that they are in the safe custody of the Government as otherwise their safety could not be guaranteed.

President's counsel Desmond Fernando, Secretary General of the International Bar Association and member of the International Commission of Jurists told *The Observer* that these comments coming from a person in the calibre of Lord Avebury shows that the international community had recognised the positive aspects of Sri Lanka and the major human rights violations in the North.

"It also shows that the world community has accepted that no dissent is allowed in the North, and that a totalitarian rule exists there," he said.

Mr. Desmond Fernando added that the LTTE had lost its credibility and Lord Avebury's comments have proved that the Sri Lanka Government and its people are facing serious problems.

Formerly known as Mr. Eric Luboc, Lord Avebury was a Liberal Party MP. He is internationally known for his human rights work. He is a member of the House of Lords and Chairman of the British Parliamentary Human Rights Group.

He was in Sri Lanka during the 1989 General Elections and on the eve of his departure told the press that a Lebanon type situation prevails in the country.

He earlier came to Sri Lanka in 1971 and visited the Ceylon Mercantile Union on a bicycle and following certain aspersions he cast on the country, he was expelled in October 1971.



nt Wijetunga



Lord Avebury