

Tigers accuse army of committing atrocities during ceasefire. (1994, November 23). *The Island*.

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By Aloy Perera and Franklin R. Satyapalan

Tiger ideologist Dr. Anton Balasingham has called on the Government to inquire into "atrocities" perpetrated by the army during the unilateral ceasefire called by the Tigers last week.

Dr. Balasingham said the Tigers are willing to talk, but first the government should convince the Tigers that the army will observe the ceasefire that is to be declared.

This announcement by Dr. Anton Balasingham was made as a sequel to a government's message sent to the LTTE through the ICRC last week saying that in response to the one week ceasefire announced by the LTTE, that the government is prepared to reciprocate by announcing a two weeks ceasefire.

He was speaking at the 4th year anniversary celebrations of the LTTE's "Voice of Tigers" clan-

destine radio programme from Nallur, Jaffna on Sunday.

Dr. Balasingham said the government of President Chandrika Bandaranaike Kumaratunga, has sent a letter to their leader Velupillai Prabhakaran, requesting them to announce a one week ceasefire and to inform the government of this move officially.

"If such a ceasefire is effected by us the government had stated that it would respond by announcing a two weeks ceasefire.

The message from the government said that they did not know anything about our one week unilateral ceasefire last week. This is an absolute lie, as our one week unilateral ceasefire was announced to the outside world, not by us, but by the government," Dr. Balasingham said.

"Who informed the BBC? Who passed the message to the Colombo newspapers? It was not us, it was the government which announced it. This is the truth. Now the government is trying to cover it up," he said.

"We are ready to talk even now, and our doors are open. We are not against the government conducting the negotiations in stages. We are willing to solve the problem by way of negotiations.

"During the period of our one week unilateral ceasefire last week, all of you would have read and heard the 'atrocities' committed by the security forces.

"Our senior Tiger cadre 'Malli' was beheaded by troops in Welioya and at least five other Tigers were killed. The body of 'Malli' was retrieved by us.

There were similar incidents like this in Vadamarachchi and Arippu in Mannar, where atrocities by security forces on civilians has taken place. This had happened while we had declared our unilateral ceasefire. If these 'atrocities' were not committed by the security forces, who was behind this?" Dr. Balasingham queried.

The Tiger theoretician alleged that security forces commanders, who do not trust or prefer peace talks were behind these atrocities.

"What pledge or promise do we have that even if we announce a one week ceasefire that the security forces will observe any ceasefire, that is declared?"

"So we call on the government to inquire into the 'atrocities' committed by the security forces during our one week long unilateral ceasefire," he said.