



## VOICES MOVEMENT

“ VOICES FOR THE VOICELESS”

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It is observed that In the recent years past, Sri Lankan soil has been witnessing Anti-Muslim racist propaganda and a spate of well-orchestrated violence unleashed by racist elements belonging to the majority populace targeting Muslim cultural practices, places of worship, economy and the means of livelihood.

As a part of series of spree based on religious prejudice, 04 restaurants and a congregation mosque belonging to Minority Muslims were demolished on 26<sup>th</sup> of February in Ampara by Majority racist elements, whose canard was that restaurants owned by Muslims serve food assortment of infertility medicines.

In Digana, which is situated in the central province, an altercation between 4 drunken Muslim youths and a Sinhalese driver regarding a minor traffic accident had resulted in the said Muslim youths physically assaulting the Sinhalese driver, who was admitted in the area hospital with injuries for 4 days and succumbed to his injuries. Police had arrested those 4 youths in connection with the death of the said Sinhalese driver. We are firm in our stand that the law should take its course and a severe punishment is inevitable in the case of those youths who were the direct cause of the death of the said driver. Paradoxically, the law of the country was lost sight of and what happened was that a massive riot erupted on 05.03.2018 in the entire area of Kandy District, targeting Muslims giving credential to the well-founded belief that the riots of this nature are being carefully engineered.

Owing to this continuing riot, which started in Digana and spread to the entire areas of the Central Province of the island, properties worth thousands of billions belonging to Muslims, which include business places, mosques & hundreds of houses, have been destroyed by the racist elements. A Muslim youth, aged 24, has lost his life entrapped in one of the houses which gutted in the riot.

The fact that the racist elements could categorically perpetrate their violence when the curfew was in force for several days and irrespective of the state of emergency which had been declared with social media having been blocked, clearly demonstrates that there was a serious failure on the part of the police in enforcing law and order.



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We, Voices Movement, maintain that all patriotic Sri Lankans loving peace and harmony should raise their voices, regardless of their races and religions, against the racist elements who are seeking to deprive a faction of the Sri Lankan Citizens of their basic rights using weapons and violence, disregarding constitution of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka, which stipulates that it is the basic right of every citizen to practice his religion of his choice and to live in any part of the country. Muslims have been peace loving and law abiding citizens throughout the history of Sri Lanka. Sri Lankan Government has been, seemingly, continuing to maintain a solemn silence on the violence being perpetrated by Majority racist elements against Muslims. The failure on the part of the Government & the law enforcing authorities to contain racist propaganda and to take appropriate legal measures against perpetrators of violence has paved the way for the law to be violated creating fear psychosis among the minority.

Voices Movement reiterates that Government and the police should take full responsibility to the atrocities being unleashed against Muslims, who prefer to maintain and known for co-existence and harmony with other communities.

Voices Movement urges and requests the government to act immediately to take stern legal actions impartially against those propagating racism and perpetrating violence and to seek to identify all racist elements inciting racial hatred in a sincere bid to eradicate them. Voices Movement also insists the Sri Lankan government to maintain Law and Order in the country.