

An Opinion Poll on Peace



Peace Confidence Index (PCI)

TOP-LINE RESULTS

FEBRUARY 2007

Social Indicator

ALSO IN THIS WAVE . . .

NEW EMERGENCY REGULATIONS

TRADE UNION STRIKES

THE GOVERNMENT OF PRESIDENT MAHINDA RAJAPAKSE

CROSSOVERS

HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSES

ALL PARTY REPRESENTATIVE COMMITTEE (APRC)

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INTRODUCTION

OBJECTIVE

The purpose of this study is two-fold. One is to develop a numerical indicator of the level of public confidence in the peace process using a set of standardized questions, which remain unchanged with each wave. The other is to use a set of questions related to recent social, economic and political developments in order to gauge public opinion on the peace process, which by definition will change from one wave to another.

Such information, collected over a period of time, will provide civil society and policy makers a useful barometer of Sri Lankan polity's opinions, and ensure that such collective opinions are given due importance and incorporated into the policy debate.

SCOPE & METHODOLOGY

The survey is carried out using a structured questionnaire administered through face-to-face interviews amongst a 1300 randomly selected sample. This survey was conducted in 17 administrative districts, excluding the North and East due to the escalation of violence. Data is weighted to reflect the actual ethnographic composition of the districts in which the sample was surveyed.

This is the twenty fifth wave of the PCI study, which was first conducted in May 2001. This publication presents only the top-line results of the February 2007 survey.

The results of these twenty five waves offer us data for a comparative study on changing public opinion regarding key issues, ranging from perceptions of war and peace to current political developments. The results are subjected to a 3% margin of error.

** This particular wave of the PCI only covers the Sinhala, Muslim and the Up-Country Tamil communities in the areas outside North and East.



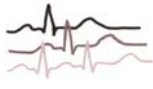
KEY NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENTS NOVEMBER 2006 – FEBRUARY 2007*

- The government took a historical step on November 6 when President Mahinda Rajapaksa approved the appointment of a Commission of Inquiry into 15 incidents of alleged human rights violations since August last year. The aim of the Committee, which will be in operation for one year is to encourage fresh witnesses to come forward and give evidence to the Committee of the crimes committed. (*Daily Mirror on 07 November 2006*)
- The latest corruption perceptions index launched by Transparency International (TI) shows a steady increase in public sector corruption in Sri Lanka this year as compared to the last two years. On a scale from zero to ten, with zero indicating high levels of perceived corruption and ten indicating low levels of perceived corruption Sri Lanka has been slapped with 3.1 for this year in contrast to 3.2 last year and 3.5 the previous year. (*Daily Mirror on 08 November 2006*)
- The Civil Monitoring Committee on extra judicial killings and disappearances said the Presidential Commission on Human Rights is an incomplete one as it is only confined to probe only a selected number of incidences ignoring over 53 disappearances that have taken place in Colombo and suburbs. Civil Monitoring Committee Member Mano Ganeshan told that the presidential commission should not confine itself to probe selected incidences. (*Daily Mirror on 09 November 2006*)
- President Mahinda Rajapaksa on 12 November assured an immediate investigation into alleged reports of links between the government security forces and the Karuna faction after the matter was raised by the visiting special advisor to the UN representative for children and armed conflict on Sri Lanka. At the conclusion of a 10 day fact finding visit to the country special advisor Allan Rock told the media on 12 November there was "strong and credible" evidence that certain elements of the government security forces are supporting and sometimes participating in the abductions and forced recruitment of children for the Karuna faction. "I briefed the President on my findings. The President said he would see to it that allegations of complicity and participation of the security forces in the forcible abduction of children by Karuna will be fully investigated and those responsible held accountable," Mr. Rock said. (*Daily Mirror on 13 November 2006*)
- The government on 14 November expressed regret over certain statements made by Ambassador Allan Rock, Special Advisor to the UN Special Representative for Children in Armed Conflict. Mr. Rock who left the country on 14 November concluding a ten day fact finding mission in Sri Lanka accused government troops of recruiting child soldiers for the Karuna faction. (*Daily Mirror on 15 November 2006*)
- The LTTE on 17 November rejected a call from President Mahinda Rajapaksa to surrender their arms, as the military announced it killed 27 insurgents. "He must be joking," the rebels' top military spokesman, Rasiah Ilanthirayan, told The Associated Press on 17 November from rebel headquarters in Kilinochchi. Mr. Rajapakse in his budget speech on 16 November had urged the rebels to renounce violence, surrender their arms, and "work toward promoting peace, democracy and development in the interest of building a new Sri Lanka." (*Daily Mirror on 18 November 2006*)
- President Mahinda Rajapaksa on 19 November directed government authorities to make arrangements for the transport of essential goods to Jaffna by road using the A9, as a one time measure. (*Daily Mirror on 20 November 2006*)
- The death of 5 students of a farm school in Vavuniya has aroused controversy after the Sri Lanka Monitoring Mission on 19 November said according to eyewitnesses and initial investigations by the monitors a group of soldiers had rounded up the students and fired indiscriminately at them. (*Daily Mirror on 20 November 2006*)
- The government on 20 November vowed to go ahead with plans to temporarily open the A9 highway on humanitarian grounds, dismissing LTTE claims that the move was a "gimmick" to deceive the co-chairs who were meeting in Washington on 20 November and 21 November. (*Daily Mirror on 21 November 2006*)
- Opposition Leader Ranil Wickremesinghe on 23 November informed the All Party Representative Committee that the UNP would join only the latter half of the discussion - when the degree and methodology of power devolution would be taken up. (*Daily Mirror on 24 November 2006*)

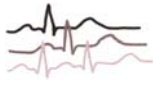
* For the purpose of accuracy, un-dated indicators (in the reproduced news items) such as "yesterday/today/tomorrow" are edited to indicate their exact date.



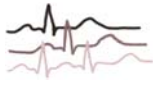
- Opposition UNP Leader Ranil Wickremesinghe has assured TNA Leader R.Sampanthan of his party's fullest support to merge the Northern and Eastern provinces if the issue came before Parliament. Mr. Wickremesinghe told Mr. Sampanthan in Parliament that if there was a collective measure to merge the two provinces, the UNP would not hesitate to support the move in Parliament. *(Daily Mirror on 25 November 2006)*
- The LTTE declared on 27 November it now saw no option than to push for an independent state in what analysts said was notice to the government that a new chapter in the long civil war would deepen. "The uncompromising stance of Sinhala chauvinism has left us with no other option but an independent state for the people of Tamil Eelam," shadowy Tiger leader Velupillai Prabhakaran said in his annual Heroes Day address. *(Daily Mirror on 28 November 2006)*
- The LTTE on 29 November assured it had not withdrawn from the ceasefire agreement or had any immediate plans to terminate the peace deal signed in 2002 despite terming the agreement as being defunct, the SLMM told the Daily Mirror. *(Daily Mirror on 29 November 2006)*
- President Mahinda Rajapaksa on 28 November said he was not taking "seriously" Tamil Tiger chief Velupillai Prabhakaran's threat to resume his armed campaign for an independent Tamil state. The president told the CNN-IBN television channel he was ready for direct talks with Mr. Prabhakaran instead of involving "others" to end an ethnic conflict that had claimed over 65,000 lives and showed no signs of ending. *(Daily Mirror on 29 November 2006)*
- OSLO, (AFP) - Norway on 28 November said while it did not see the need for new initiatives, it would remain in contact with both the Sri Lankan government and the Tamil Tigers following the rebel leader's declaration that the peace process was defunct. *(Daily Mirror on 29 November 2006)*
- The Sri Lankan security forces must immediately stop assisting abductions of boys and young men by the Karuna group and help those abducted return safely to their families, Human Rights Watch said on 28 November thus adding to similar allegations by the UN special adviser Allen Rock. *(Daily Mirror on 29 November 2006)*
- The International Commission of Jurists (ICJ) has called on member states of the United Nations Human Rights Council to closely scrutinize the human rights situation in Sri Lanka and renewed its call for the establishment of a fully-fledged human rights operation in the country. "There is little neutral space left in Sri Lanka. Civilians are suffering the human rights and humanitarian consequences of a deepening conflict and unaccountable armed forces on all sides", the ICJ said. *(Daily Mirror on 01 December 2006)*
- Colombo city was again plunged into panic, shock and tension on 01 December when Defence Secretary Gotabhaya Rajapaksa - younger brother of President Mahinda Rajapaksa and known to be one of the most powerful men in the administration - miraculously escaped unhurt when an LTTE suicide bomber attacked his convoy at Kollupitiya on 01 December. *(Daily Mirror on 02 December 2006)*
- President Mahinda Rajapaksa is meeting Opposition Leader Ranil Wickremesinghe on 05 December along with the High Powered Committee for the first time to discuss the MoU signed between the two parties including various key developments in the country. *(Daily Mirror on 04 December 2006)*
- The Patriotic National Movement (PNM), Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna and Jathika Hela Urumaya urged the government to ban the LTTE in Sri Lanka immediately and to enact Prevention of Terrorism Act (PTA) soon. *(Daily Mirror on 04 December 2006)*
- The government on 03 December advised the Norwegian facilitators to suspend contacts with the Tamil Tigers until next on 06 December as it was 'reviewing the relationship' with the LTTE, a top official said. "All contacts with the LTTE are under review by the government, we don't want the Norwegian facilitators to have contacts with the LTTE, until the Cabinet meets on 06 December," Government Peace Secretariat Chief Palitha Kohona said. He told the visiting Norwegian Peace envoy Jon Hanssen-Bauer not to travel to Kilinochchi until the Cabinet reviewed the matter. *(Daily Mirror on 04 December 2006)*
- President Mahinda Rajapaksa and Opposition UNP Leader Ranil Wickremesinghe 05 December agreed to expedite the process of finalizing a negotiated settlement to the ethnic conflict in keeping with the MoU signed between the two parties. *(Daily Mirror on 06 December 2006)*
- The UN Under-Secretary-General for humanitarian affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator says he is disturbed by reports of continuing child recruitment by the LTTE and called on the rebels to abide by the commitment to release all child recruits by next month. Addressing the UN Security Council on 04 December on the protection of civilians in armed conflict Coordinator Jan Egeland also reiterated concerns over serious threats to civilian protection in Sri Lanka even as hostilities continued to escalate. *(Daily Mirror on 06 December 2006)*



- The Sri Lanka Monitoring Mission (SLMM) is to seek clarification on the new measures implemented by the government to tackle terrorism and the impact the measures would have on the Ceasefire Agreement (CFA), in particular Article 2.12. (*Daily Mirror on 07 December 2006*)
- A majority of members of the experts panel of the All Party Conference are to submit a preliminary report to the President on 08 December recommending maximum devolution of power with the province as a unit and a 10-year merger of the Northern and Eastern provinces as a solution to the ethnic conflict, a source close to the panel told on 07 December. (*Daily Mirror on 08 December 2006*)
- Norwegian peace envoy Jon Hanssen-Bauer will meet the LTTE for talks on 08 December after the government gave the green light for his visit to the Wanni following the Cabinet meeting on 06 December. LTTE sources said Mr. Bauer would meet the LTTE political head, S. P. Thamilselvan during which the future of the peace process following the LTTE leader Velupillai Prabhakaran's policy speech, the humanitarian situation in Jaffna as a result of the A9 closure and other CFA related issues would be discussed. (*Daily Mirror on 08 December 2006*)
- The Tamil Makkal Viduthalai Pulikal (TMVP) led by Karuna Amman said on 07 December it was unhappy with the government's move to re-introduce the Prevention of Terrorism Act (PTA) owing to concerns it would open the doors for the harassment of ordinary Tamil civilians. TMVP spokesman Azaath Moulana told the Daily Mirror the Tamil people had been mostly affected by the PTA at the time it was in force prior to the signing of the ceasefire agreement and its reintroduction would reignite similar fears. (*Daily Mirror on 08 December 2006*)
- Colombo's Anglican Bishop the Rt. Revd. Duleep de Chickera on 08 December expressed concern that the implementation of the terrorism act and other tough new regulations might further alienate the Tamil people who are committed to peace and democracy. While strongly condemning the recent attempt to kill Defence Secretary Gotabhaya Rajapaksa, the Bishop appealed to the government to demonstrate its commitment to a negotiated peace settlement with justice and dignity for all by reviewing the decision to introduce these new regulations. (*Daily Mirror on 08 December 2006*)
- The Government on 10 December accused the Sri Lanka Monitoring Mission (SLMM) of remaining mum even as the LTTE used civilians as human shields and fired mortars and shells into Government controlled areas in Trincomalee, forcing the military to take defensive measures. (*Daily Mirror on 11 December 2006*)
- An angry President Mahinda Rajapaksa has accused the All Party Conference experts' panel of going beyond its authority and leaking its final report to the media. On Friday, the Jathika Hela Urumaya sought an urgent meeting with the President when media splashed in full, one of the four reports handed over to the Representative Committee of the APC last on 06 December. (*Daily Mirror on 12 December 2006*)
- Amidst growing violence in the East, LTTE gunmen stormed a tuition class at Vinayagapuram in Ampara and abducted 23 students along with two tutors on 18 December night—but most were released later on 19 December and the LTTE admitted involvement in the incident. (*Daily Mirror on 20 December 2006*)
- The United Nations on 26 December slammed Sri Lanka's warring parties for stalling tsunami reconstruction efforts as the country marked the second anniversary of the disaster. The outgoing UN Secretary General Kofi Annan blamed both the government and the LTTE for the violence that has slowed rebuilding after the December 26, 2004 tsunami that killed an estimated 31,000 people in the country. (*Daily Mirror on 27 December 2006*)
- TULF President V. Anandasangreer has told President Mahinda Rajapaksa the demerger of the North-East Province was untimely. "If you are serious about all our people irrespective of their ethnicity enjoying all rights like others, please stop further action on the de-merger and maintain the status quo". (*Daily Mirror on 28 December 2006*)
- The Sri Lanka Monitoring Mission on 01 January said it would curtail its monitoring activities for a "short period" as it re-groups and reconsiders its operations in the wake of continuing hostilities between the government troops and the LTTE. All SLMM district offices will remain open during the workshop early this month but the monitoring activities will be reduced though not completely suspended, an SLMM spokesperson told the Daily Mirror adding that the monitors were yet to fix a date for the regrouping in Colombo. (*Daily Mirror on 01 January 2007*)
- The administrative operations of the newly de-merged Northern and Eastern provinces started on 01 January with the dawn of the new year in separate offices in Trincomalee town, a top government official said. Eastern Governor Mohan Wijeyawickrema, who is also the acting Governor for Northern Province, told the Daily Mirror on 01 January evening that the offices functioned smoothly. (*Daily Mirror on 02 January 2007*)



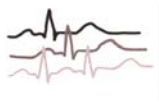
- The JHU on 05 January stressed the importance of Indian support to resolve the national question. A JHU delegation met Indian High Commissioner Alok Prasad at his office on 05 January to brief him on the present situation of the ethnic conflict and highlight the need to maintain the longstanding goodwill between the two countries. *(Daily Mirror on 06 January 2007)*
- In an apparent indication that the escalating defence budget is taking a heavy toll on the country's economy, a senior Minister said on 08 January the country was losing almost one hundred jobs with each Multi-barrel rocket fired on the LTTE. Senior Minister and SLFP General Secretary Maithripala Sirisena insisted that though the government was now focusing on military engagements, it was aware that the final solution should be a political one. *(Daily Mirror on 09 January 2007)*
- The United Nations deplored the deaths of civilians in the twin bus bombing and also demanded that immediate assistance be provided for thousands of people trapped in the LTTE-controlled Vakarai. "The UN condemns the deliberate targeting of civilians and deplores the latest incidents involving two civilian buses which resulted in the deaths of over 20 innocent civilians with dozens maimed and injured". *(Daily Mirror on 09 January 2007)*
- Snap polls and the implementation of the death penalty have been put on hold, at least for the time being, President Mahinda Rajapaksa said on 09 January. Addressing the monthly meeting with Editors, President Rajapaksa said that although diverse views had been expressed on both subjects, he had no intention of going ahead with a snap general election or the implementation of the death penalty, at least for the time being. The President said the cost of an election and the confidence that he could command the majority in parliament at any given time were the factors that made him decide against an election. *(Daily Mirror on 10 January 2007)*
- The Thamil Makkal Viduthalai Pullikal - the political arm of the Karuna faction has sought full government security for its political offices in the East in the face of frequent attacks by the LTTE. *(Daily Mirror on 13 January 2007)*
- The 'Karuna' faction is disrupting civil administration in Batticaloa by moving around with arms in Government controlled areas and intimidating civilians, urging them to report their problems to their political offices, and not to the police, sources in Batticaloa told the Daily Mirror. *(Daily Mirror on 15 January 2007)*
- The Government on 14 January again called upon the LTTE cadres in the Vakarai region to surrender to the military or to the police, immediately, a day after the Special Task Force (STF) made such request to fleeing LTTE cadres in the Ampara district. *(Daily Mirror on 15 January 2007)*
- Batticaloa police have sent a comprehensive report on the tensions which erupted in Kattankudy, to the Police headquarters in Colombo, the Daily Mirror learns. Sources said the report details the spate of violent acts committed in the recent past in Batticaloa including tensions arising in Kattankudy between Muslims and Tamils over a land dispute. *(Daily Mirror on 16 January 2007)*
- The security forces on 16 January captured LTTE held villages of Ichchalampaththu, Uppural and Forward Defence Lines at Panichchankerni in the Vakarai region killing more than 30 Tigers, while Air Force Kfir jets pounded a Tamil Tiger camp at Verugal, military spokesman Prasad Samarasinghe said. *(Daily Mirror on 17 January 2007)*
- The STF captured an LTTE's women's wing camp - Nalini Base - in Kanchikudichchiaru during its 'Niyatai Jaya' military operation, bringing the total number of Tiger camps captured by the force to twelve, the military said. "There was evidence that Nalini Base was a training and a detention camp. It has also been used as a factory turning out weapons and ammunition," a senior military official said. *(Daily Mirror on 17 January 2007)*
- The role of the Sri Lanka Monitoring Mission (SLMM) is to undergo some amendments at the end of the ongoing workshop of the ceasefire monitors, an SLMM spokesman said on 16 January. He said the government has been briefed on the changes. SLMM spokesman Thorfinur Omarsson told that the government was also invited to give its input on making the role of the monitors more effective while a similar invitation would be put forward to the LTTE as well later this week. *(Daily Mirror on 17 January 2007)*
- The United Nations (UN) on 17 January once again reiterated the need for humanitarian access to the affected civilians, even as Government Defense spokesman Minister Keheliya Rambukwelle impressed on the need to monitor the activities of NGOs and INGOs, in the face of concerns that they may be directly or indirectly assisting the LTTE. *(Daily Mirror on 18 January 2007)*



- People in Jaffna have gone back to the barter business which was in vogue in the 15th century. After the A-9 land route was closed essentials including milk powder are distributed through the co-operative societies. Some people now tend to exchange some of the items they buy with other essential items they need. (*Daily Mirror on 18 January 2007*)
- The onetime LTTE strongman Yogaratnam Yogi is again in the limelight after a lapse of about sixteen years. Yogi, who was removed in the early nineties from the ranks of the organization, but not hunted down as in the case of many other ex-LTTE leaders, was reported later to be coaching cricket at Jaffna Central College. (*Daily Mirror on 18 January 2007*)
- The United Nations humanitarian agencies and their local partners have presented a common humanitarian action plan to the donor community requesting for \$66 million as assistance to Sri Lanka over the next six to twelve months, the UN announced on 18 January. (*Daily Mirror on 19 January 2007*)
- Security forces personnel on 19 January captured the crucial Vakarai town and advanced further north while the government vowed to embark on a new scheme to develop the captured areas. Vakarai is considered the last-remaining LTTE bastion in the East. The Panichankerni Bridge was the first to be liberated followed by the Vakarai town including its hospital with little or no resistance from the rebels who had fled to the jungles where they continued to fire at the military occasionally, military officials said. (*Daily Mirror on 20 January 2007*)
- A fierce battle erupted between the Sea Tigers and the navy off the seas of Point Pedro last afternoon when the Tigers attempted to ram a cargo vessel which was anchored just outside the KKS harbour after unloading food supplies in Jaffna. (*Daily Mirror on 22 January 2007*)
- The army and the Karuna faction confronted retreating LTTE cadres from Vakarai in two separate incidents on 20 January night and early last morning killing more than 30 rebels while the Karuna faction claimed it had recovered a brand new anti aircraft machine gun capable of firing from a distance of at least 50km. (*Daily Mirror on 22 January 2007*)
- With the latest offensive in the east resulting in thousands of civilians fleeing to government-controlled areas for safety the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) has urged both the government and the LTTE to respect international humanitarian laws, including the protection of civilians and their freedom of movement. (*Daily Mirror on 22 January 2007*)
- Foreign Minister Mangala Samaraweera on 23 January sent a confidential letter to President Mahinda Rajapaksa requesting him to reconsider the decision to accept the UNP dissidents, highly placed government sources said. In the letter copied to President's advisers Basil Rajapaksa and Dallas Alahapperuma, Mr. Samaraweera reminded President Rajapaksa that with the backing of the JVP and the JHU, the government was anyhow commanding a majority with 135 seats in parliament. (*Daily Mirror on 24 January 2007*)
- The Government on 26 January rejected allegations by a New York-based human rights group that its security forces supported recruitment of child soldiers but pledged an "independent" probe into the charges. The Government said the Human Rights Watch report released on 24 January had relied heavily on "unsubstantiated" claims by a UN official who first made the allegations of child recruitment in November 2006. (*Daily Mirror on 27 January 2007*)
- Hours after the exodus of 18 MPs, the United National Party (UNP) on 28 January vowed to stage a major comeback and officially announced the annulment of the 97-day-old SLFP-UNP MoU. (*Daily Mirror on 29 January 2007*)
- The first Cabinet reshuffle of the Mahinda Rajapaksa government ran into various reactions from political parties, with the government's former ally, the JVP terming it as a "laughing matter to the world and a burden to the country and its people", while the JHU expressed a more neutral opinion towards the jumbo cabinet. (*Daily Mirror on 29 January 2007*)
- SLFP General Secretary and Agriculture Minister Maithripala Sirisena on 30 January said he was ashamed of himself for being a member of a Cabinet that was the size of the present one and admitted that the new Cabinet was a heavy burden on the country's economy. Minister Sirisena was addressing his staff at the Agriculture Development Ministry in Battaramulla on assuming duties on 30 January after the re-shuffle. (*Daily Mirror on 31 January 2007*)
- As an endorsement of President Mahinda Rajapaksa's 10-year development plan, Donors on 30 January pledged US\$ 4.5 billion' Enterprise Development and Investment Promotion Minister Sarath Amunugama said on 30 January. The government secured this unconditional commitment from the donor countries and agencies for the next three years at the Sri Lanka Development Forum which concluded in Galle on 30 January, he told a news conference. (*Daily Mirror on 31 January 2007*)



- An angry JVP charged on 01 February that the recent coalition between the Government and several members of the Opposition was an attempt to cover up corruption allegations against leading members of both sides. JVP leader Somawansa Amarasinghe told a news conference most of those who crossed over to government ranks were facing serious corruption allegations by the parliamentary Committee on Public Enterprises (COPE). *(Daily Mirror on 02 February 2007)*
- India has expressed concern over the nullification of the MoU between the ruling SLFP and the UNP as a result of the Government entertaining a team of UNP MPs through the offer of portfolios, Opposition sources said on 01 February. The issue was discussed when Indian Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh met UNP leader Ranil Wickremesinghe recently. *(Daily Mirror on 02 February 2007)*
- While expressing concern over the collapse of the MoU signed between the SLFP and the UNP, India now expects President Mahinda Rajapaksa to submit the peace proposals soon as the government now enjoyed a majority in Parliament. *(Daily Mirror on 03 February 2007)*
- Parades demonstrating military power vied with displays symbolising the pride of the country's great cultural heritage at the 59th National Day celebrations held on 04 February. *(Daily Mirror on 05 February 2007)*
- Launching an indirect attack on the UNP reformists, Ports and Aviation Minister Mangala Samaraweera said on 04 February what the country needed today was a national agenda and not crossovers aimed at perks and positions. *(Daily Mirror on 05 February 2007)*
- The security and safety of civilians fleeing LTTE controlled areas in the east has been thrown into question with reports of the LTTE and the Tamil Makkal Viduthalai Pullikal (TMVP) or Karuna abducting displaced civilians making their way to government controlled areas. The Daily Mirror has learnt the Sri Lanka Monitoring Mission (SLMM) managed to prevent the abduction of at least 10 youth in Savukkaddy, Batticaloa after they were rounded up together with another group by armed TMVP cadres. *(Daily Mirror on 06 February 2007)*
- Tamils living in Britain are being pressured into donating money to support the LTTE Tiger rebels and face harassment if they refuse, The London Times reported on 05 February. According to the newspaper, which interviewed a number of Sri Lankan Tamils living in Britain, the problem has become so widespread that the country's High Commission here has alerted the British Interior Ministry and the Serious and Organised Crime Agency. *(Daily Mirror on 06 February 2007)*



FINDINGS AT A GLANCE OF THE POLL CONDUCTED FROM 6TH FEBRUARY TO 15TH OF FEBRUARY 2007

The following are the significant trends observed in the PCI February 2007 survey. It is important to note that this particular wave of the PCI only covers the Sinhala, Muslim and Up-Country Tamil communities in the areas outside North and East. Further, due to the total exclusion of the Tamil community in the sample, this report does not intend to present national estimations.

- ♦ **Important Issues:** When asked to rate five national issues according to their order of importance, the Sinhala (Peace Process – 28.8%, Economy – 28.6%) and the Muslim (Peace Process – 33.6%, Economy – 28.9%) communities give high priority to the peace process followed by the economy. The Up-Country Tamil (Economy – 30.9%, Peace Process – 27.2%) community gives high priority to the economy followed by the peace process. When compared to the PCI findings of November 2006, there is a shift of priorities amongst the Up-Country Tamil community. (*Ref. Page 15*)
- ♦ **Solution:** An overwhelming majority of the Up-Country Tamil (95.2%) and Muslim (88.1%) communities state that peace can be achieved through peace talks while only a slight majority of the Sinhala (46.3%) community believes the same. Interestingly, 35.1% of the Sinhala community supports the government defeating the LTTE. When compared to the PCI findings of November 2006, the Sinhala support for the government defeating the LTTE has increased by 9 points to 35.1% while their support for peace talks has reduced from 11 points to 46.3%. Amongst the Muslim community, support for peace talks has reduced by 11 points to 88.1%. (*Ref. Page 16*)
- ♦ **End to the Conflict:** A majority of the Sinhala (48.3%) community think that the country is 'close' in approaching a permanent settlement to the ethnic conflict. A majority of the Up-Country Tamil (50.8%) and the Muslim (55%) community think that the country is 'not close at all' in finding a permanent settlement to the ethnic conflict. When compared to the PCI findings of November 2006, amongst the Sinhala community, those who believe that the country is 'close' has significantly increased (Close: November '06- 26.3%, February '07- 48.3%). (*Ref. Page 17*)
- ♦ **Likelihood of War:** A majority of the Sinhala (65.9%), Up-Country Tamil (69.9%) and Muslim (63.9%) communities believe that it is likely a war will resume. When compared to the PCI findings of November 2006, those who believe that it is likely a war will resume has increased amongst the Sinhala (November '06- 58.2%, February '07- 65.9%) community while it has decreased amongst the Muslim (November '06- 78.3%, February '07- 63.9%) community. (*Ref. Page 18*)
- ♦ **Expanding military offensives:** A majority of the Sinhala (59.2%) community agree with the statement that "The government should expand its military action including even all out war in order to weaken the LTTE". A majority of the Up-Country Tamil (87.9%) community disagree with the statement. The Muslim (Agree- 50%, Disagree- 50%) community has a divided opinion in this regard. When compared to the PCI findings of November 2006, the agreement amongst the Sinhala community has increased (Agree: November '06- 55%, February '07- 59.2%) while the disagreement amongst the Up-Country Tamil community has decreased (Disagree: November '06- 92.3%, February '07- 87.9%). (*Ref. Page 19*)

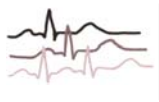


- ♦ **Security Situation:** With regard to the current security condition in the country, a majority of the Sinhala (50.3%) and the Muslim (45.9%) communities think that it has somewhat improved. A majority of the Up-Country Tamil (62.9%) community think it has turned bad. [\(Ref. Page 20\)](#)
- ♦ **Commitment and Capability of Parties to the Peace Process:** A majority of the Sinhala (73.8%) and the Muslim (50%) communities agree that the government is committed to find peace through talks. The Up-Country Tamil community has a mixed opinion (Agree- 36.1%, Disagree- 32.8%, Don't know/Not sure- 31.1%). When compared to the PCI findings of November 2006, the agreement amongst the Sinhala (Agree: November '06- 79.9%, February '07- 73.8%) and the Up-Country Tamil (Agree: November '06- 52.3%, February '07- 36.1%) communities has decreased. [\(Ref. Page 21\)](#)
- ♦ A majority of the Sinhala (60.6%) and the Muslim (71.7%) communities agree that the government is capable of finding peace through talks. Amongst the Up-Country Tamil community, 37.7% disagree while 29.5% agree. When compared to the PCI findings of November 2006, the agreement amongst the Sinhala (Agree: November '06- 56.6%, February '07- 60.6%) has slightly increased while the agreement amongst the Up-Country Tamil (Agree: November '06- 34.9%, February '07- 29.5%) community has decreased. [\(Ref. Page 22\)](#)
- ♦ A majority of the Sinhala (76.8%) and the Muslim (59.3%) communities disagree that the LTTE is committed to find peace through talks. 43.3% of the Up-Country Tamil community agree that the LTTE is committed to find peace through talks. When compared to the PCI findings of November 2006, the agreement amongst the Up-country Tamil (Agree: November '06- 61.4%, February '07- 43.3%) community has significantly decreased. Amongst the Muslim community, the disagreement (Disagree: November '06- 35.1%, February '07- 59.3%) has significantly increased while the agreement (Agree: November '06- 35.1%, February '07- 18.6%) has decreased. [\(Ref. Page 23\)](#)
- ♦ A majority of the Sinhala (51.1%) community disagree that the LTTE is capable of finding peace through talks. A majority of the Muslim (56.9%) community agree that the LTTE is capable of finding peace through talks. Amongst the Up-Country Tamil community, 37.7% agree while 23% disagree. Another 39.3% don't know or not sure. When compared to the PCI findings of November 2006, the agreement amongst the Up-Country Tamil (Agree: November '06- 51.2%, February '07- 37.7%) community has significantly decreased while the agreement amongst the Muslim (Agree: November '06- 62.2%, February '07- 56.9%) community has slightly decreased. [\(Ref. Page 24\)](#)
- ♦ **Ceasefire Agreement:** Of the people who are aware of the CFA, a majority of the Sinhala (46.4%) community say that the CFA has not benefited the ordinary citizen. A majority of the Up-Country Tamil (55.9%) and the Muslim (55.6%) communities say that the CFA has benefited the ordinary citizen. When compared to the PCI findings of November 2006, amongst the Up-Country Tamil (November '06- 68.9%, February '07- 55.9%) and Muslim (November '06- 87.3%, February '07- 55.6%) communities, those who say that the CFA has benefited the ordinary citizen has significantly decreased. [\(Ref. Page 25\)](#)
- ♦ Of those who think the CFA has benefited the ordinary citizen, 66.6% of the Sinhala community thinks peaceful environment in the country is the most important benefit of the CFA. Another 65.8% of the Sinhala community thinks ending of killing is the most important benefit of the CFA, while 45.6% thinks freedom of movement is the most



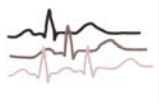
important benefit of the CFA. Amongst the Up-Country Tamil community, a majority (69.7%) thinks freedom of movement is the most important benefit of the CFA. However, 51.4% of them think peaceful environment in the country is the most important benefit, and 57.3% think it is the feeling of security. Amongst the Muslim community, a majority (77.2%) thinks peaceful environment in the country is the most important benefit of the CFA. Nevertheless, 71.1% of the Muslim community thinks freedom of movement is the most important benefit of the CFA, and 52.2% think ending of killing is the most important benefit. *(Ref. Page 26)*

- ◆ A majority of the Sinhala (79.7%) and the Muslim (53.3%) community are satisfied with the government's commitment to the CFA. A majority of the Up-Country Tamil (68.8%) community are not satisfied with the government's commitment to the CFA. *(Ref. Page 27)*
- ◆ A majority of the Sinhala (90.3%) and the Muslim (71.1%) community are dissatisfied with the LTTE's commitment to the CFA. A majority of the Up-Country Tamil (53.2%) community are satisfied with the LTTE's commitment to the CFA. *(Ref. Page 28)*
- ◆ **Sri Lanka Monitoring Mission (SLMM):** Of those who are aware of the involvement of foreign monitors, a majority of the Sinhala (52.3%) community think that it is not essential to have a monitoring mission for the CFA to succeed. A majority of the Up-Country Tamil (84%) and the Muslim (80.4%) communities think that it is essential to have a monitoring mission for the CFA to succeed. When compared to the PCI findings of November 2006, those who say that it is essential have decreased amongst all the communities. *(Ref. Page 29)*
- ◆ Despite of the escalation of violence between the Government and the LTTE, both the parties claim that they abide by the CFA. In this context, a majority of the Up-country Tamil (57.7%) and the Muslim (60.9%) communities believe that the role of the SLMM is very important at this present moment. The Sinhala community has a divided opinion (Important- 35.4%, Not important- 38.2%). *(Ref. Page 30)*
- ◆ **Foreign Involvement:** A majority of the Sinhala (46.3%), Up-Country Tamil (76.2%) and the Muslim (76.7%) communities believe that an international third party will have a positive impact on the peace process. It is noteworthy that amongst the Sinhala community, there's a lower support for international facilitation in comparison to the Up-Country Tamil and the Muslim communities. In addition, 28% of the Sinhala community thinks that international facilitation is not needed to solve the ethnic conflict in Sri Lanka. *(Ref. Page 31)*
- ◆ When asked about the level of satisfaction with the Norwegian role as facilitator, a majority of the Sinhala (55.1%) community expresses their dissatisfaction. On the contrary, a majority of the Up-Country Tamil (60.7%) and the Muslim (62.7%) communities express their satisfaction. When compared to the PCI findings of November 2006, the dissatisfaction amongst the Sinhala community has increased (Dissatisfied: November '06- 50.1%, February '07- 55.1%) and the satisfaction amongst the Up-Country Tamil community has decreased (Satisfied: November '06- 68.9%, February '07- 60.7%). *(Ref. Page 32)*
- ◆ When asked if they approve or disapprove of Norway continuing to facilitate the peace process, a majority of the Sinhala (57.1%) community disapproves. A majority of the Up-



Country Tamil (55%) approves. A majority of the Muslim (56.7%) community approves, although 30% of them disapproves. *(Ref. Page 33)*

- ◆ Asked as to the most suitable country to play the role of facilitator to the peace process, a majority of the Sinhala (44.8%) community couldn't name a country while 20.8% name India and 15.9% name United States of America. A majority of the Up-Country Tamil (57.1%) community says India is the most suitable country to play the role of facilitator. Nevertheless, 17.5% of the Up-Country Tamil community says Norway is the most suitable country. The Muslim community seems to be divided between the Norway and India as 27.1% says Norway is the most suitable country while 25.4% says India is the most suitable country to play the role of facilitator. *(Ref. Page 34)*
- ◆ When asked about the need for India's involvement in the peace process, a majority of the Sinhala (44.7%), Up-Country Tamil (81%) and the Muslim (65%) communities think that India's involvement in the Sri Lankan peace process will have a positive impact. Interestingly, those who believe that India's involvement will have a positive impact is relatively lower amongst the Sinhala community in comparison with the minority communities. *(Ref. Page 35)*
- ◆ **The Government of President Mahinda Rajapakse:** A majority of the Sinhala (48%) community have a lot of confidence on the President Mahinda Rajapakse's ability to wage a successful military campaign against the LTTE while 36.1% of the Sinhala community has little confidence. Amongst the Up-Country Tamil community, 31.3% have little confidence while 39.1% have no confidence at all. A majority of the Muslim (44.3%) community have little confidence while 26.2% have no confidence at all. *(Ref. Page 36)*
- ◆ A majority of the Sinhala (43.3%) community have little confidence on President Mahinda Rajapakse's capacity in reducing the economic burden of the Sri Lankans. A majority of the Up-Country Tamil (44.4%) and the Muslim (52.5%) communities have no confidence at all. *(Ref. Page 37)*
- ◆ With regard to the speculations that President Mahinda Rajapakse will soon announce a snap poll, a majority of the Sinhala (66.8%) community disapprove of such a snap poll. A majority of the Up-Country Tamil (45.3%) and the Muslim (60%) communities approve of it. *(Ref. Page 38)*
- ◆ A majority of the Sinhala (47.8%) and the Muslim (51.7%) communities think that President Mahinda Rajapakse is somewhat successful in preserving law and order. A majority of the Up-Country Tamil (41.3%) community think that President Mahinda Rajapakse is not successful at all in preserving law and order. *(Ref. Page 39)*
- ◆ **Crossovers:** The Sinhala community has a mixed opinion with regard to the crossover of the 18 UNP members and six SLMC members to the government on the 28th of January 2006 (Approve- 37.9%, Disapprove- 37.6%). A majority of the Up-Country Tamil (43.8%) community say they don't know or are not sure. Nevertheless, 39.1% disapprove while 17.2% approve. Amongst the Muslim community, 43.3% approve while 41.7% disapprove. *(Ref. Page 40)*
- ◆ Of those who approve of the crossover of the 18 UNP members and six SLMC members to the government on the 28th of January 2006, a majority of the Sinhala (52.7%) community approve as they believe that it will strengthen the president and the



government. However, 25% of the Sinhala community approves of the crossover as they believe that it will help the government's present war against the LTTE. (*Ref. Page 41*)

- ◆ Of those who disapprove the crossover of the 18 UNP members and six SLMC members to the government on the 28th of January 2006, a majority of the Sinhala (48.9%) community disapprove as they believe that it will be a bigger burden to the public as many of the members were given ministerial portfolios. (*Ref. Page 42*)
- ◆ **All Party Representative Committee (APRC):** Of the 31.8% who are aware of the majority report of the All Party Representative Committee (APRC), a majority of the Sinhala (70.6%) community are not informed of the contents of the majority report. However, 13.7% of the Sinhala community is somewhat informed while 14.7% don't know or are not sure. (*Ref. Page 43*)
- ◆ When asked whether they agree or disagree with the proposed findings of the majority report, the Sinhala community has a divided opinion (Agree- 41.1%, Disagree- 41.1%). (*Ref. Page 44*)
- ◆ Of the 32.5% who are aware of the Prof. Tissa Vitharana's report, a majority of the Sinhala (45.2%) community don't know or are not sure whether the government should move ahead in finding a southern consensus based on Prof. Tissa Vitharana's report. However, 34.7% of the Sinhala community thinks the government should not move ahead in finding a southern consensus based on Prof. Tissa Vitharana's report, while 20% think the government should move ahead in finding a southern consensus based on Prof. Tissa Vitharana's report. (*Ref. Page 45*)
- ◆ **Trade Union Strikes:** A majority of the Sinhala (40.3%) community believe that any strike action which is critical of the government is an expression of democracy. However, 16.4% of the Sinhala community thinks that it is an expression of political instability while another 13.1% think that it is expression of unpatriotic behavior. A majority of the Up-Country Tamil (50.8%) community think that it is an expression of democracy. But 24.6% of the Up-Country Tamil community thinks that it is an expression of political instability. The Muslim community has a divided opinion in this regard, as 36.2% think it's an expression of democracy while 36.2% think it's an expression of political instability. (*Ref. Page 46*)
- ◆ **Corruption in the Public Sector:** A majority of the Up- Country Tamil (51.6%) and the Muslim (68.3%) communities believe that the corruption in the public sector has increased in the last five years. Amongst the Sinhala community, 39.5% believe that it has increased while 30.3% believe that it has decreased. (*Ref. Page 47*)
- ◆ A majority of the Sinhala (43%) community think that President Mahinda Rajapakse is somewhat successful in reducing the corruption in the public sector. A majority of the Up-Country Tamil (42.2%) community don't know or not sure. Amongst the Muslim community 32.8% think somewhat successful while 39.3% think they are not successful at all. (*Ref. Page 48*)
- ◆ **New Emergency Regulations:** Of the 47.5% who are aware of the new emergency regulations, a majority of the Sinhala (84.8%) community think that the new emergency regulations are important in the government's effort to combat and prevent terrorism. (*Ref. Page 49*)



- ♦ A majority of the Sinhala (67.6%) community disagree with the statement that “the new emergency regulations could be harmful to the ordinary Tamil civilians”. *(Ref. Page 50)*
- ♦ A majority of the Sinhala (63.6%) community disagree that “the new emergency regulations are more harmful to democracy than helpful, in combating terrorism”. *(Ref. Page 51)*
- ♦ **Human Rights Abuses:** When asked who they think has the responsibility for the protection of human rights, a majority of the Sinhala (62.9%), Up-Country Tamil (85.7%) and the Muslim (80.3%) communities think that the government of Sri Lanka has the responsibility for the protection of human rights. *(Ref. Page 52)*
- ♦ Amongst the people who say that the Government is responsible for the protection of human rights, a majority of the Sinhala (53.2%) community think the government has done enough to protect human rights. A majority of the Up-Country Tamil (71%) and the Muslim (49.7%) communities think that the government has not done enough to protect human rights. *(Ref. Page 53)*
- ♦ **Killings and Abductions:** A majority of the Sinhala (58.2%), Up-Country Tamil (54%) and the Muslim (64.3%) communities don’t know or not sure who is responsible for the abduction of the Vice Chancellor of the Eastern University, Prof. S. Ravindranath on the 15th of December 2006. *(Ref. Page 54)*
- ♦ **Commission of Inquiry:** The President called for an international commission to investigate into the recent killings, disappearances and abductions in Sri Lanka. Subsequently the president called for a national commission to investigate the killings with an international panel of observers. In this context, people were asked as to what would be the best option to investigate the recent killings, disappearances, and abductions in Sri Lanka. A majority of the Sinhala (44.4%) community have no opinion in this regard while 28.4% of the Sinhala community thinks a national commission is the best option. A majority of the Up-Country Tamil (48.4%) community too, have no opinion. However, 32.2% of the Up-Country Tamil community thinks an international commission of investigation is the best option. The Muslim community has a mixed opinion, as 35% think an international commission of investigation is the best option while 21.7% think a national commission with international observers is the best option. *(Ref. Page 55)*
- ♦ A significant majority of the Up-Country Tamil (79.7%) and the Muslim (76.3%) communities say they don’t know or are not sure whether observing and monitoring the functions of the Presidential Commission of Inquiry on Human Rights by the Independent Group of Eminent Persons (IIGEP) would strengthen the human rights protection in Sri Lanka. Amongst the Sinhala community, 56.5% say they don’t know or are not sure while 35.9% think observing and monitoring the functions of the Presidential Commission of Inquiry on Human Rights by the Independent Group of Eminent Persons (IIGEP) will strengthen the human rights protection in Sri Lanka. *(Ref. Page 56)*
- ♦ A majority of the Sinhala (64.9%), Up-Country Tamil (84.7%) and the Muslim (78%) communities say they don’t know or are not sure whether observing and monitoring the functions of the Presidential Commission of Inquiry on Human Rights by the Independent Group of Eminent Persons (IIGEP) would compromise the sovereignty of Sri Lanka. *(Ref. Page 57)*

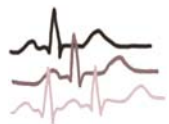


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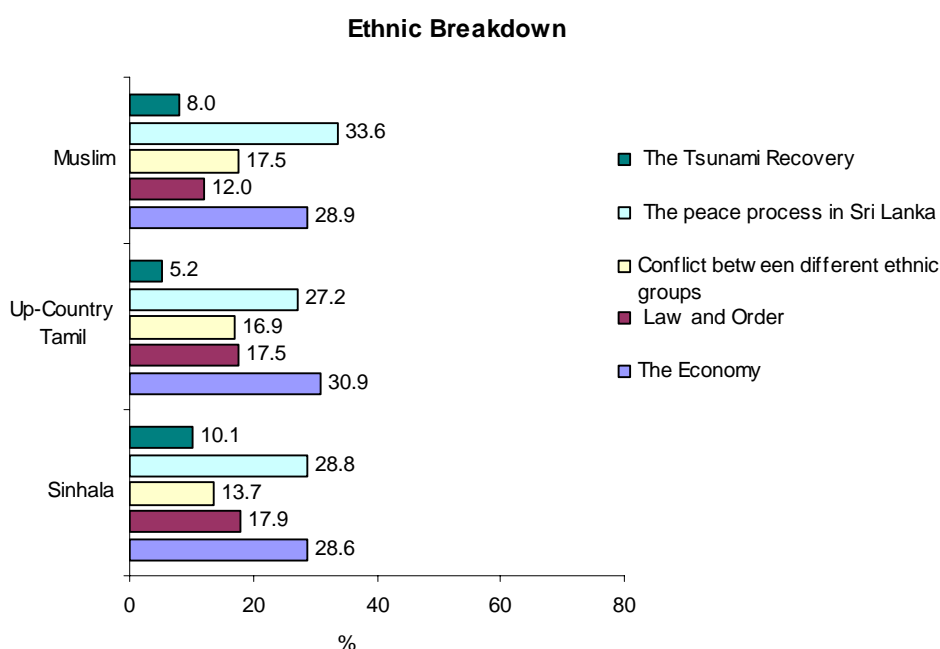
Fax: +9411 2370475 **Web:** <http://www.cpalanka.org>



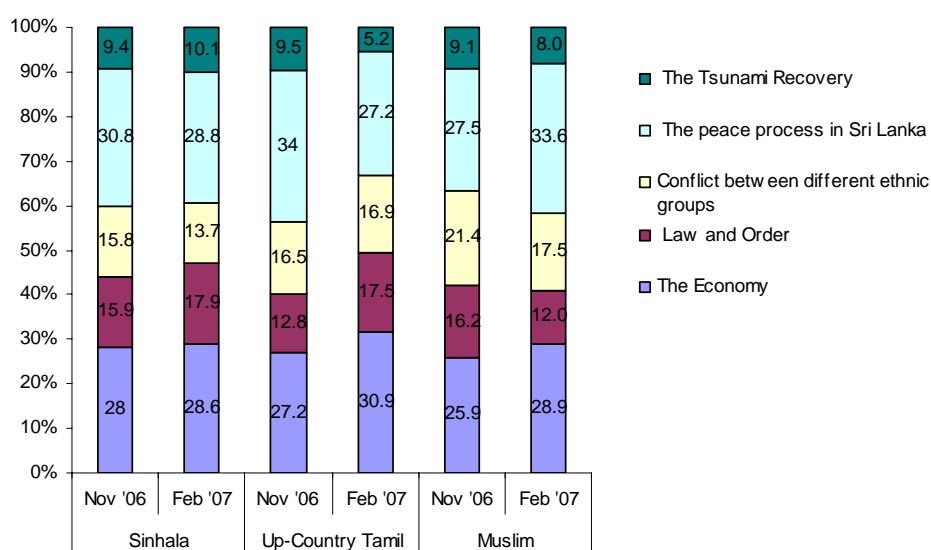
Peace Confidence Index (PCI) May 2001 – February 2007

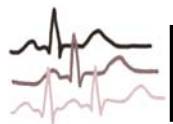
Important Issues

Rating the degree of importance of five national issues



Changes of opinion amongst the Sinhala, Up-Country Tamil and Muslim communities

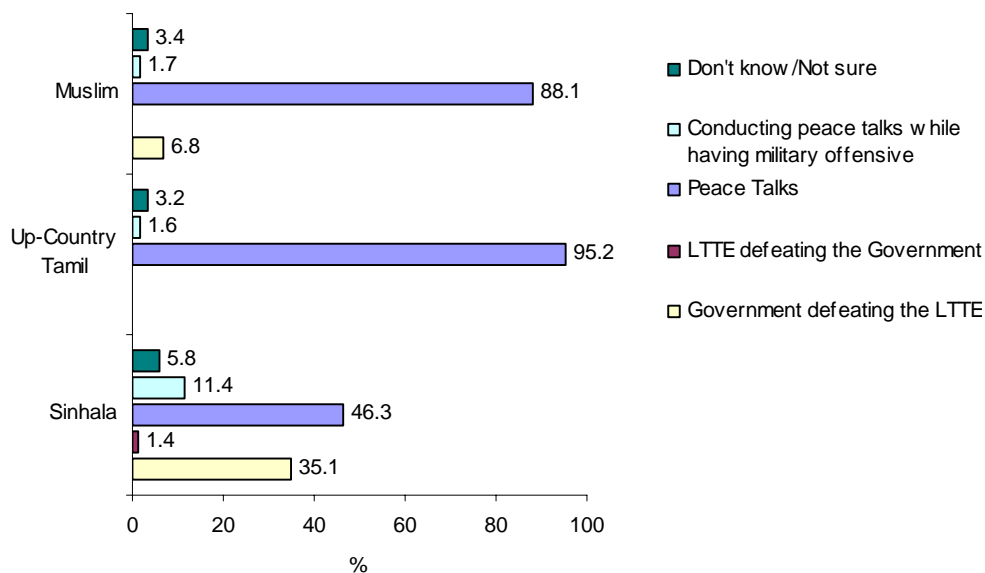




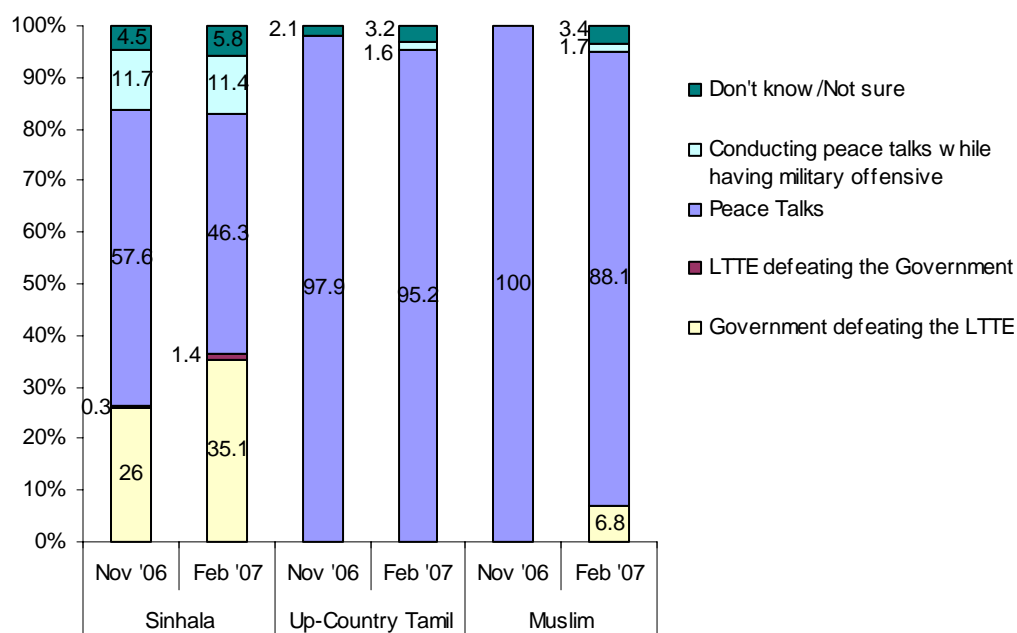
Solutions

How do you think we can end the war and have peace in Sri Lanka?

Ethnic Breakdown



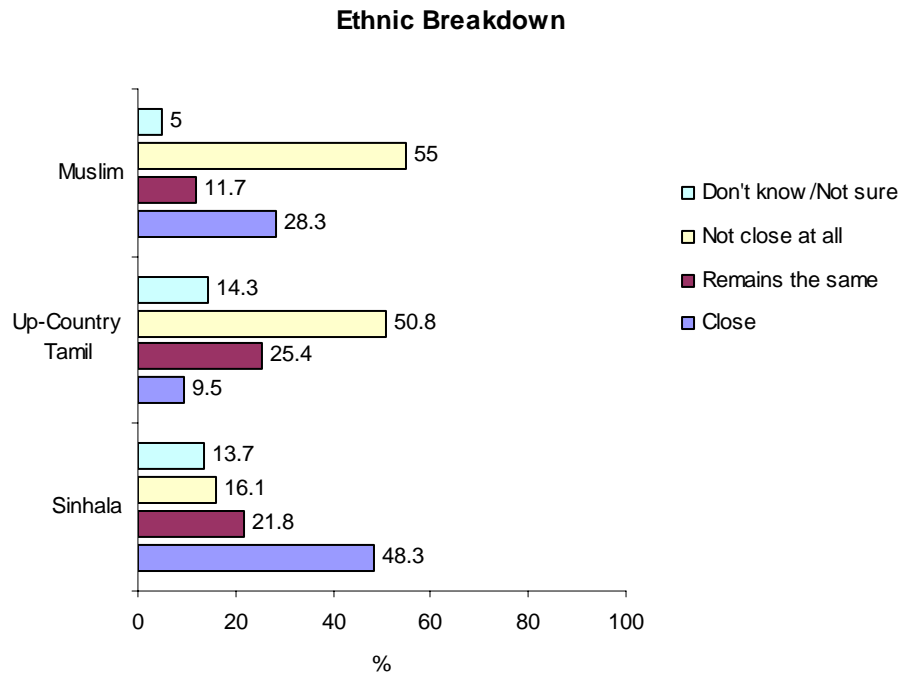
Changes of opinion amongst the Sinhala, Up-Country Tamil and Muslim communities



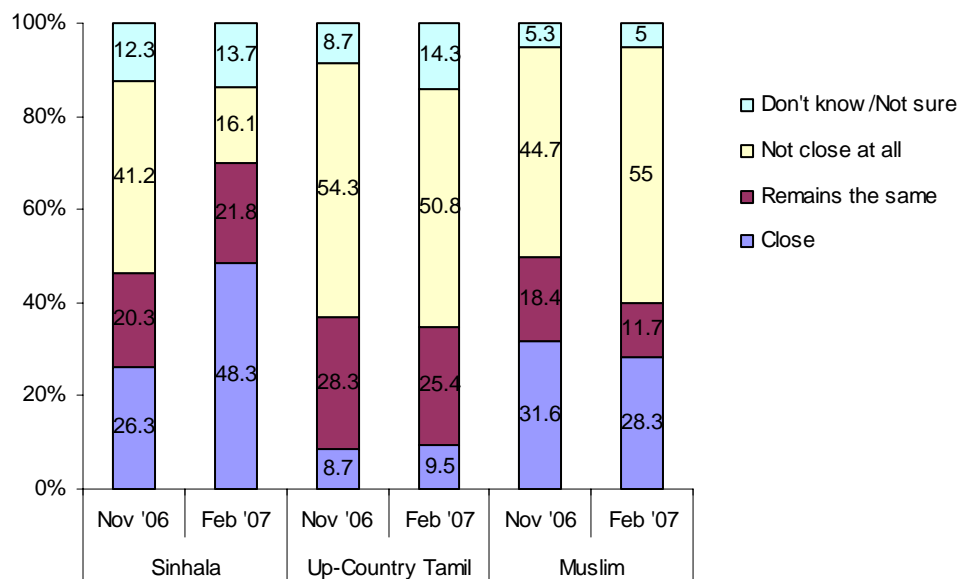


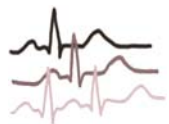
End to the Conflict

Compared to the situation of the peace process a year ago, how close do you think is the country, at present, in approaching a permanent settlement to the ethnic conflict?



Changes of opinion amongst the Sinhala, Up-Country Tamil and Muslim communities

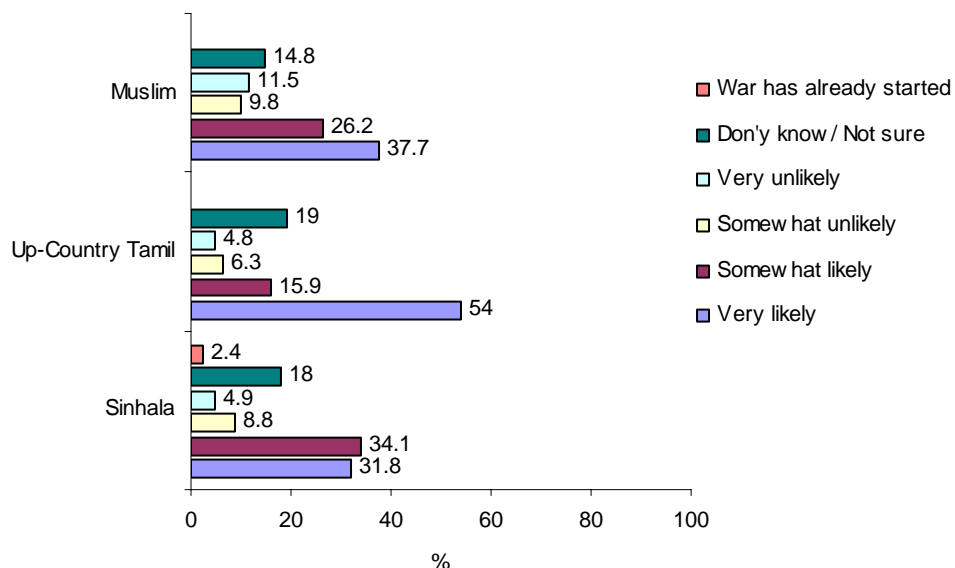




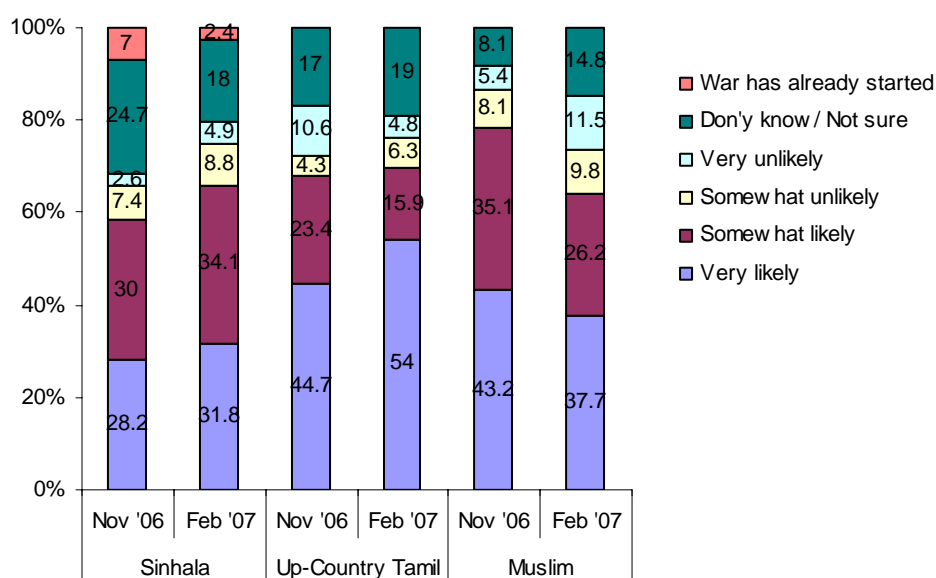
Likelihood of War

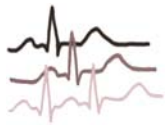
Given the current situation in the country, how likely is it that war will resume?

Ethnic Breakdown



Changes of opinion amongst the Sinhala, Up-Country Tamil and Muslim communities

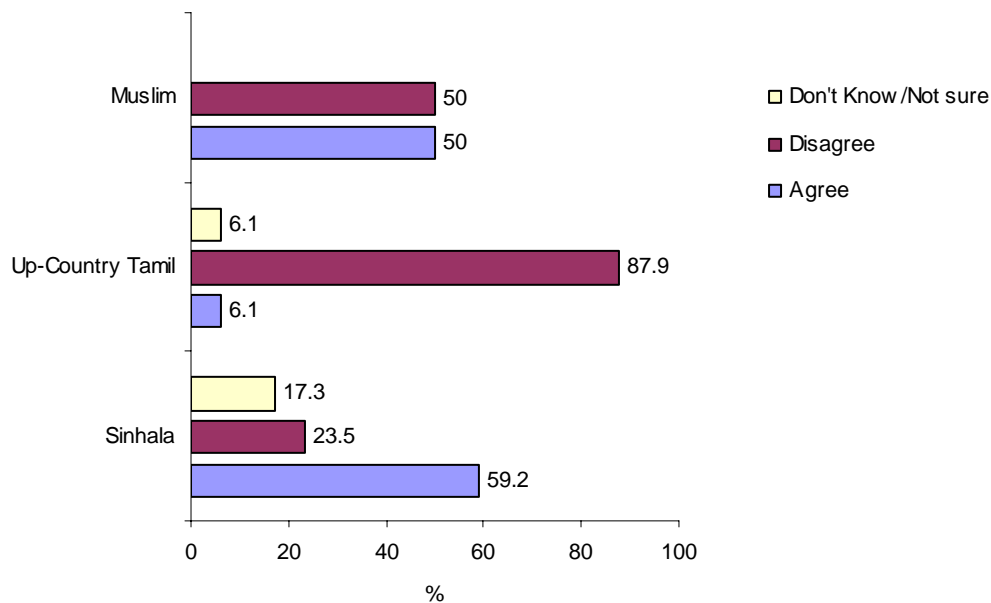




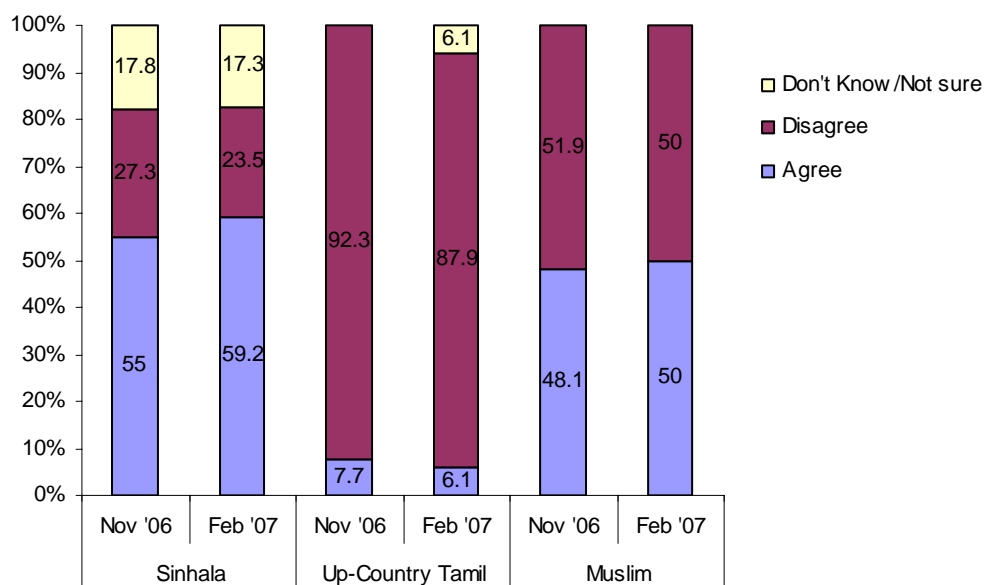
Expanding Military Offensive

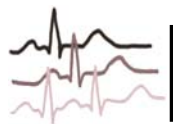
“The Government should expand its military action including even to all out war in order to weaken the LTTE.” Do you agree or disagree with this statement?

Ethnic Breakdown



Changes of opinion amongst the Sinhala, Up-Country Tamil and the Muslim communities

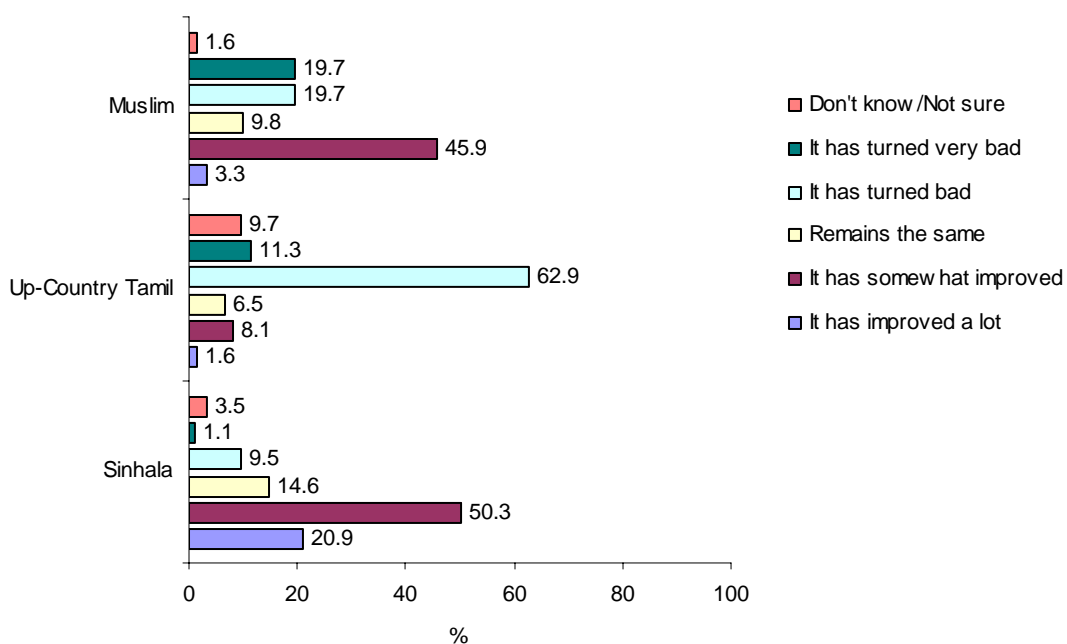


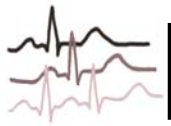


Current Security Condition

Compared to the situation a year ago, do you think the security situation in the country has improved or worsened?

Ethnic Breakdown

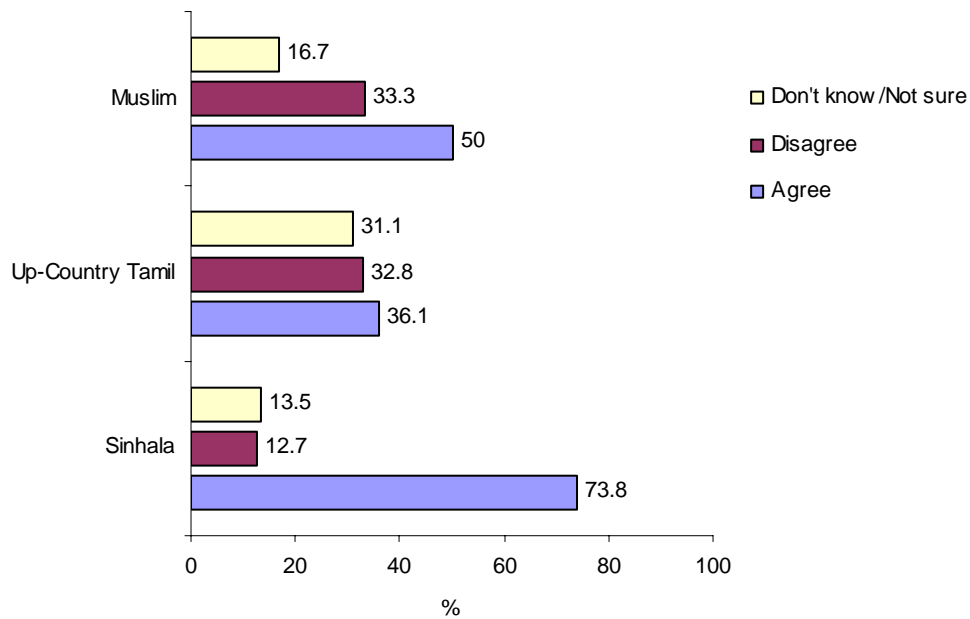




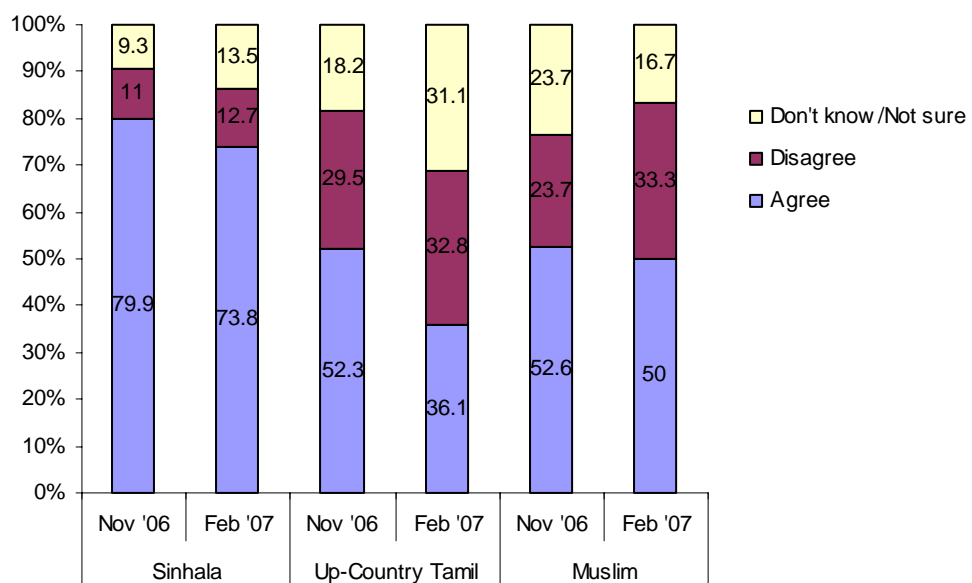
Confidence

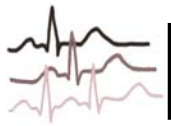
I think the Government is committed to find peace through talks.

Ethnic Breakdown



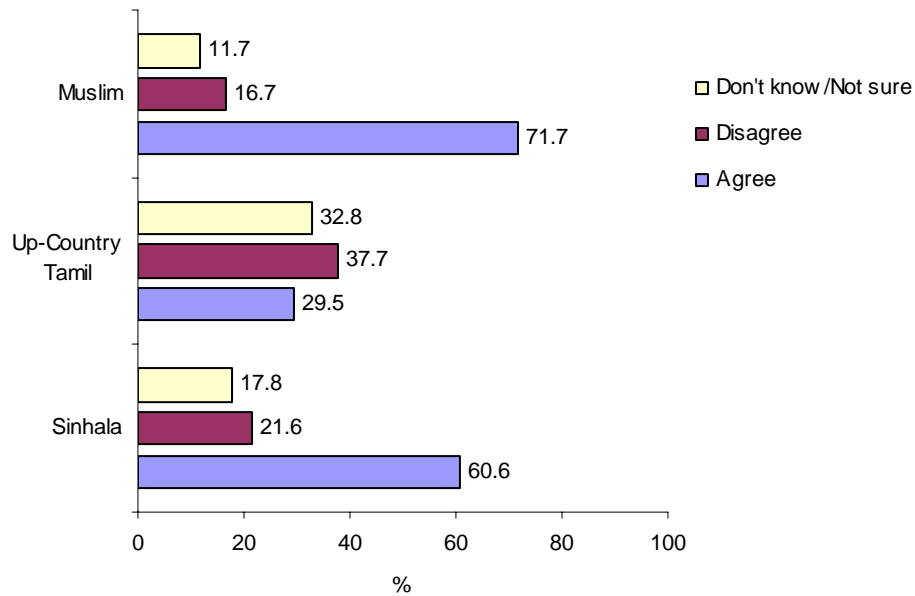
Changes of opinion amongst the Sinhala, Up-Country Tamil and the Muslim communities



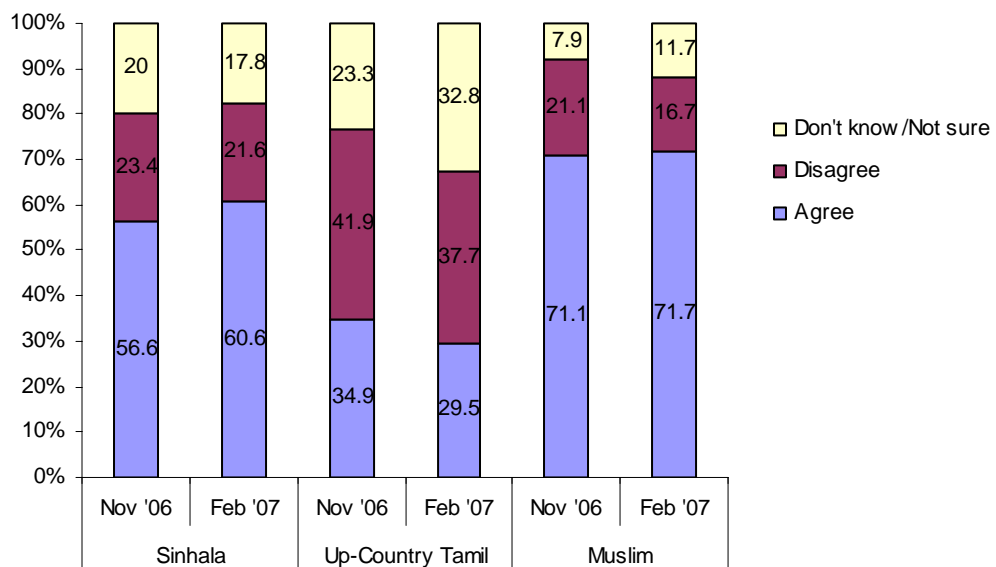


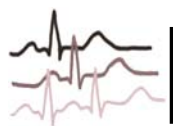
I think the Government is fully capable of finding peace through talks.

Ethnic Breakdown



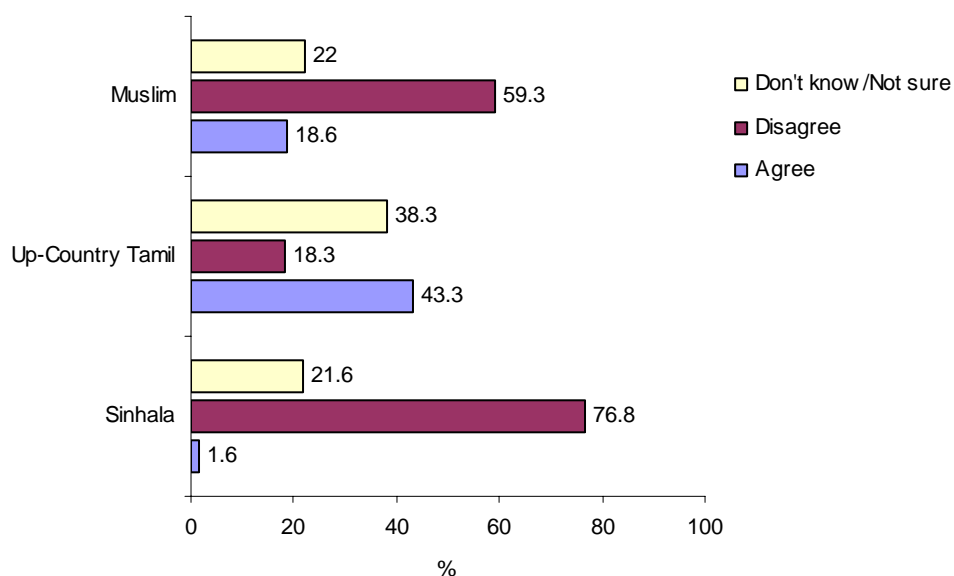
Changes of opinion amongst the Sinhala, Up-Country Tamil and Muslim communities



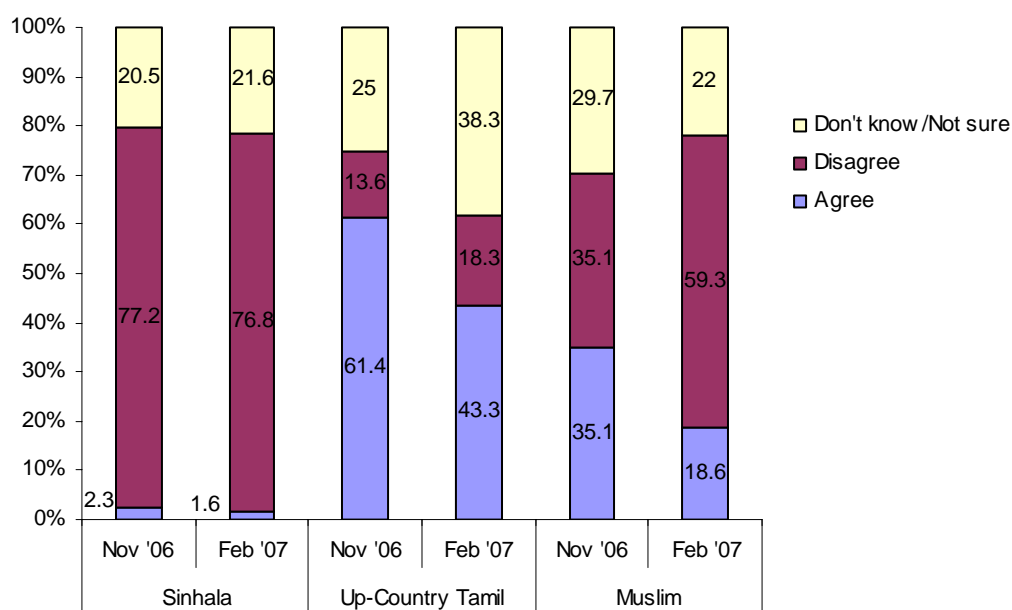


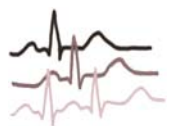
I think the LTTE is committed to find peace through talks.

Ethnic Breakdown



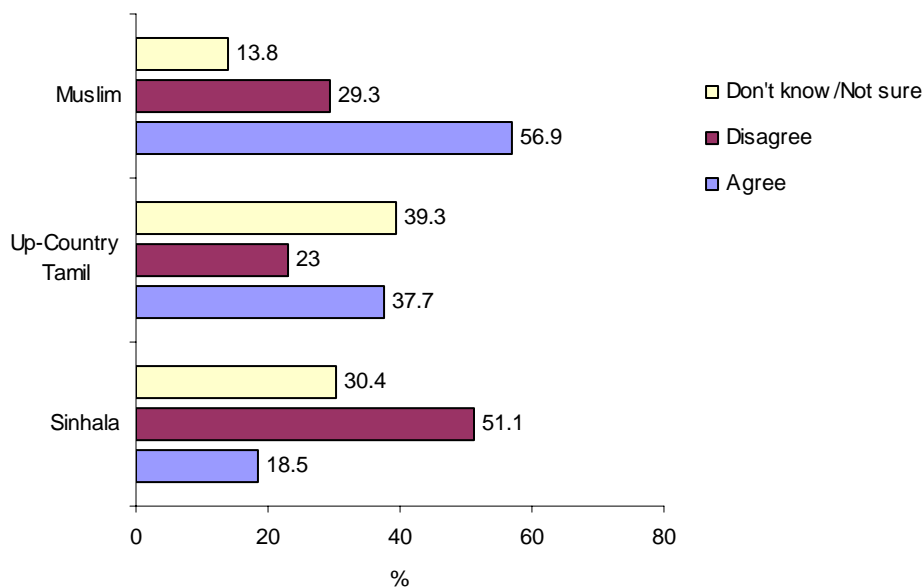
Changes of opinion amongst the Sinhala, Up-Country Tamil and the Muslim communities



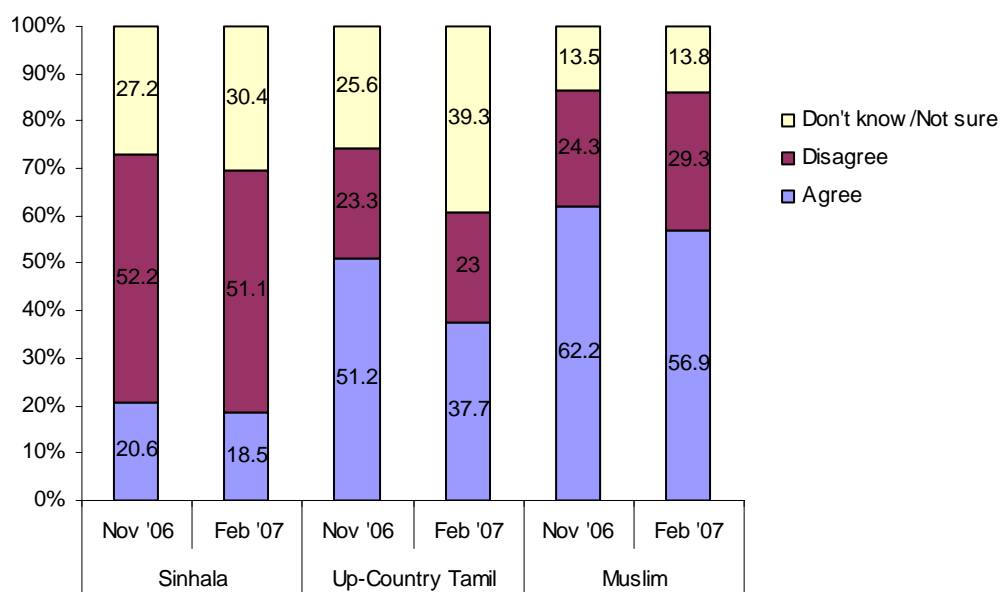


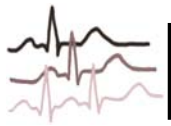
I think the LTTE is fully capable in finding peace through talks.

Ethnic Breakdown



Changes of opinion amongst the Sinhala, Up-Country Tamil and the Muslim communities

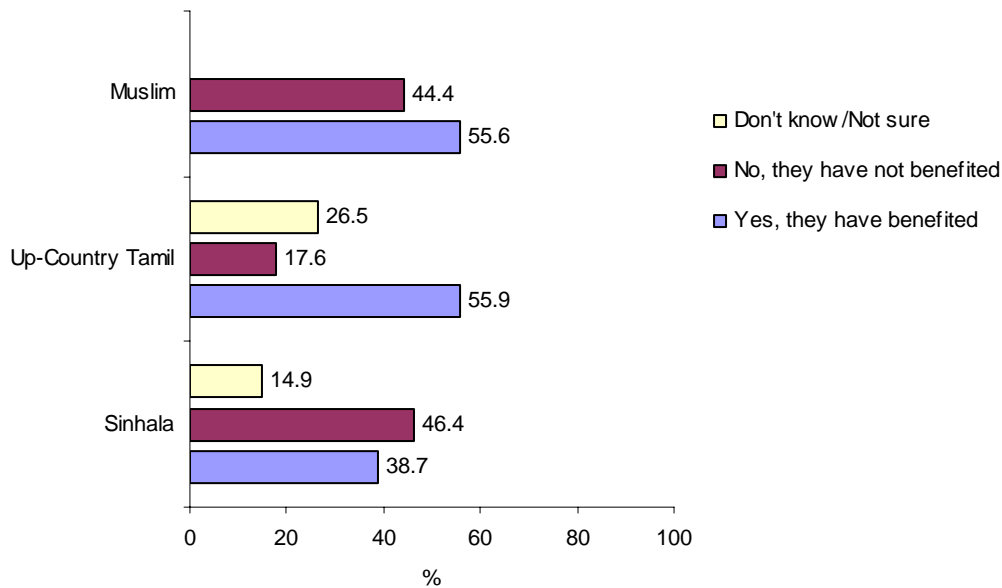




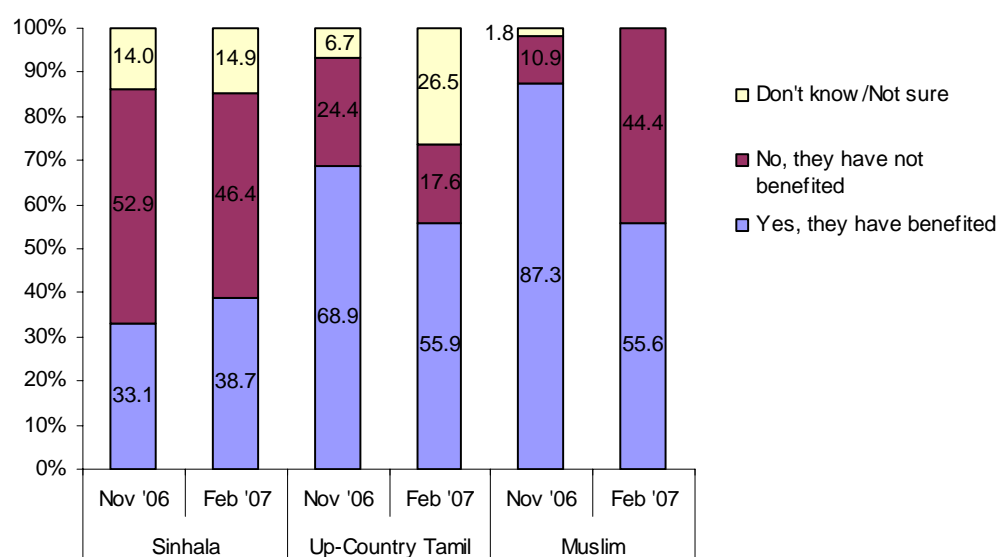
Ceasefire Agreement (CFA)

Some people say that the CFA has brought many benefits to ordinary citizens while others say that the CFA has not yielded any benefits to them. In your opinion have Sri Lankans benefited from the CFA or not?

Ethnic Breakdown



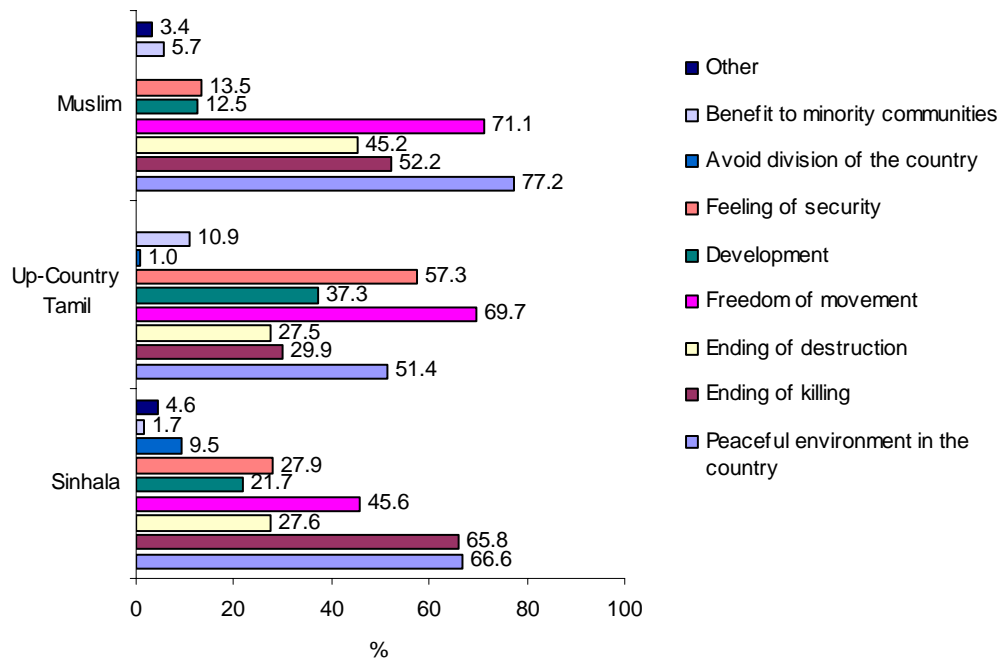
Changes of opinion amongst the Sinhala, Up-Country Tamil and Muslim communities

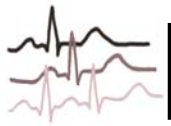




If the answer is "Yes", please tell me three most important benefits of the CFA.

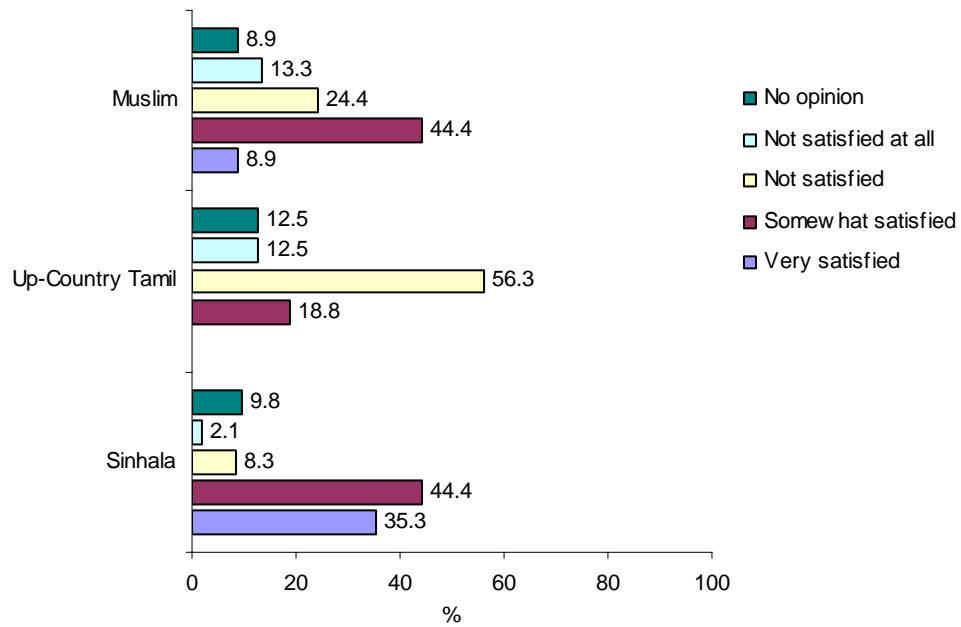
Ethnic Breakdown

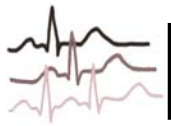




How satisfied are you with the Government's commitment to the Ceasefire Agreement?

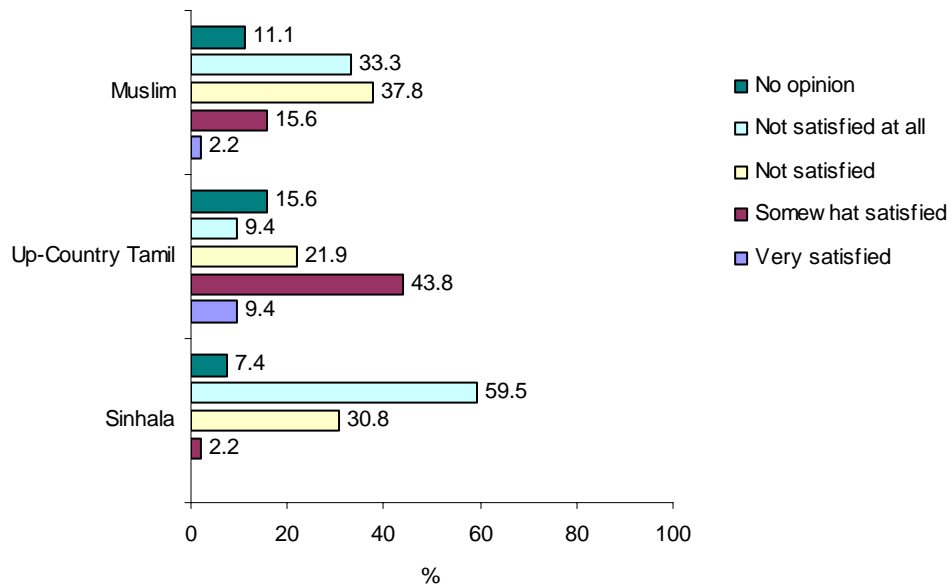
Ethnic Breakdown

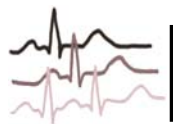




How satisfied are you with the LTTE's commitment to the Ceasefire Agreement?

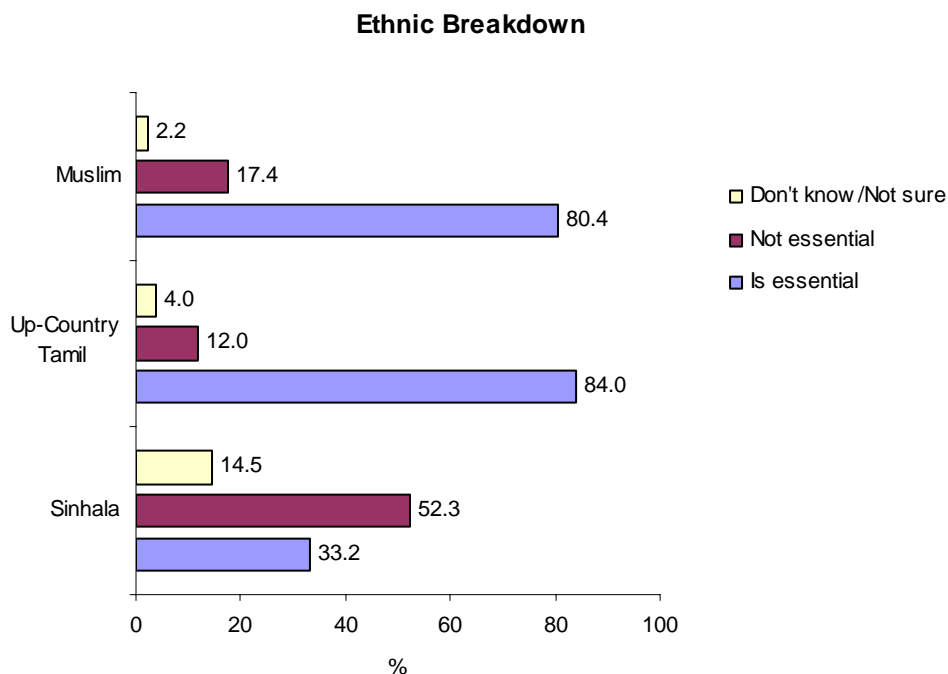
Ethnic Breakdown



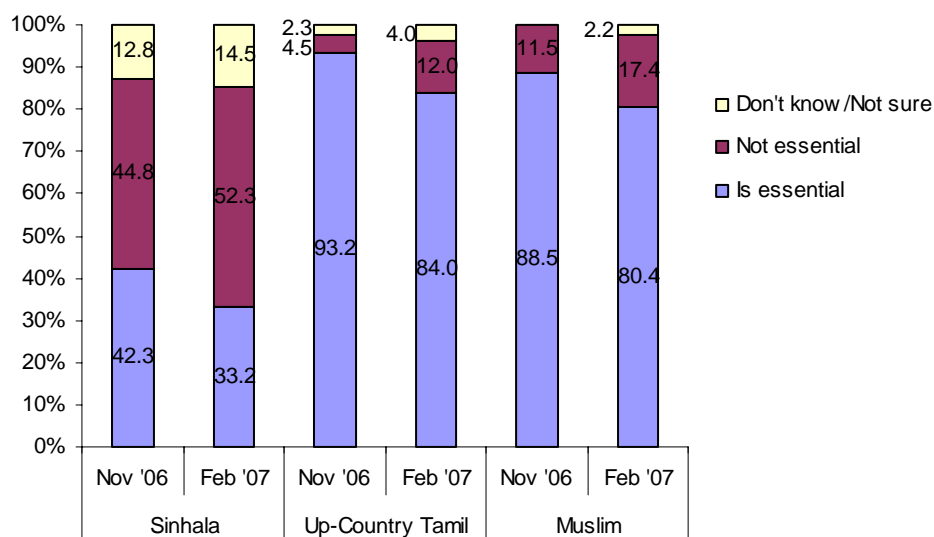


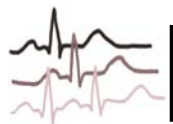
Sri Lanka Monitoring Mission

What is your opinion on the need of a monitoring mission?

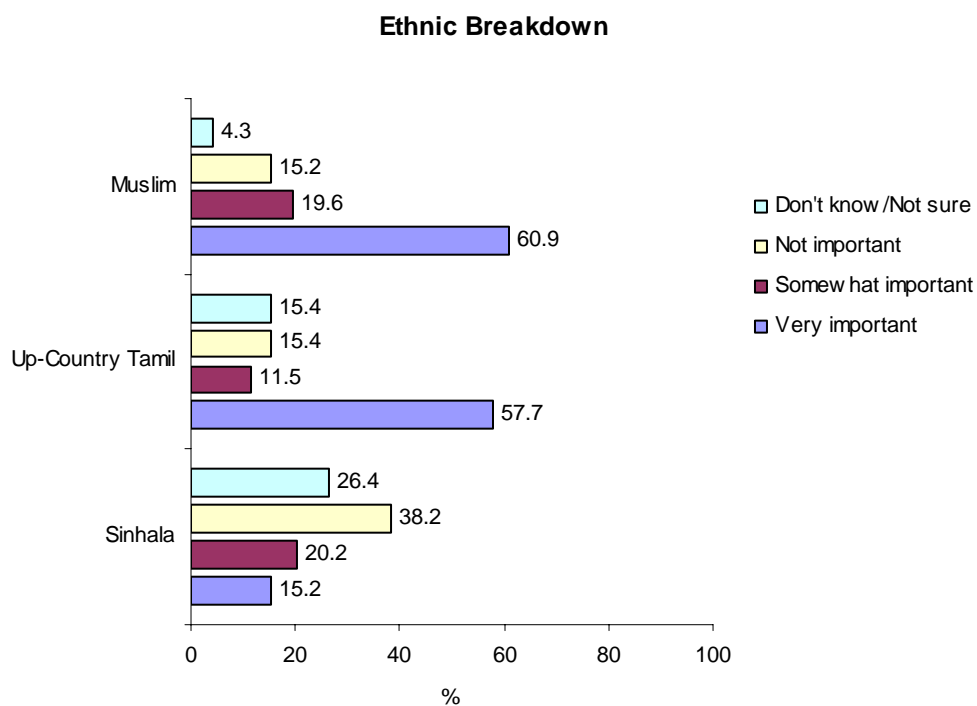


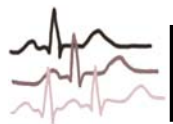
Changes of opinion amongst the Sinhala, Up-Country Tamil and Muslim communities





Despite of the escalation of violence between the Government and the LTTE, both the parties claim that they are abide by the CFA. In this context, how important is the role of the SLMM at this present moment ?

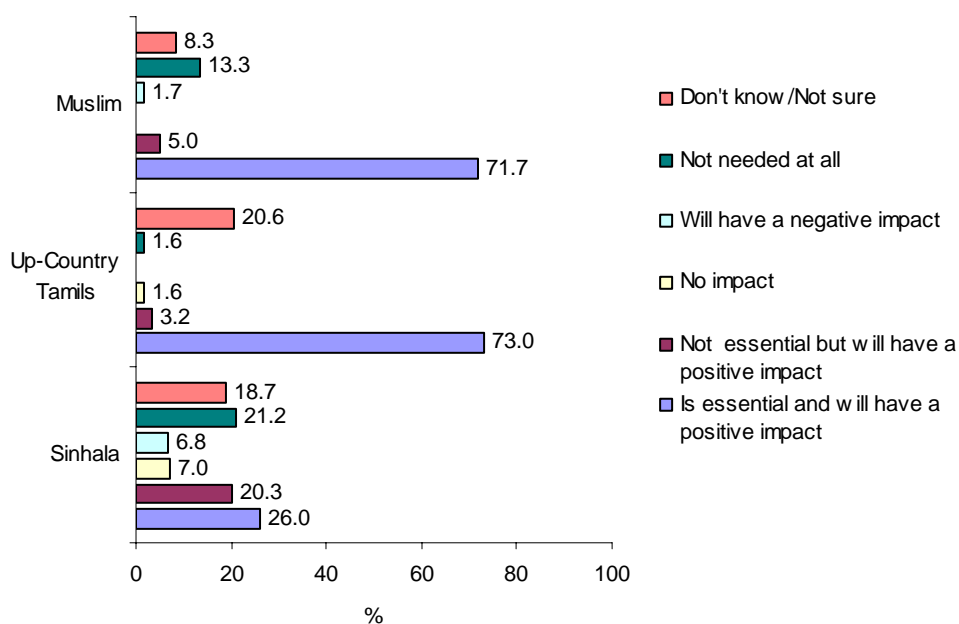


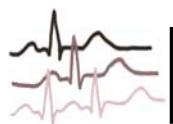


Foreign Involvement

What is your opinion on the need for an international third party as a facilitator to the negotiations, to solve the ethnic conflict in Sri Lanka?

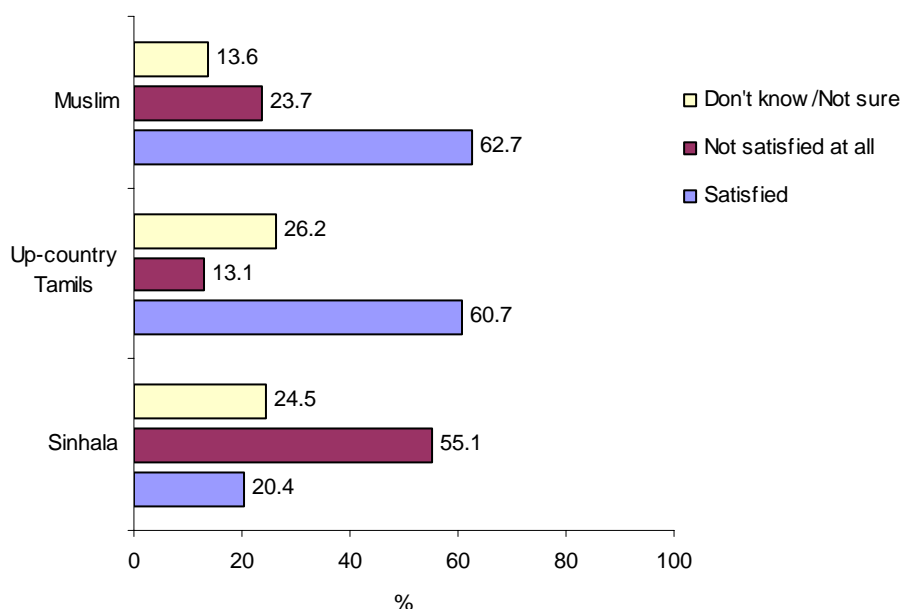
Ethnic Breakdown



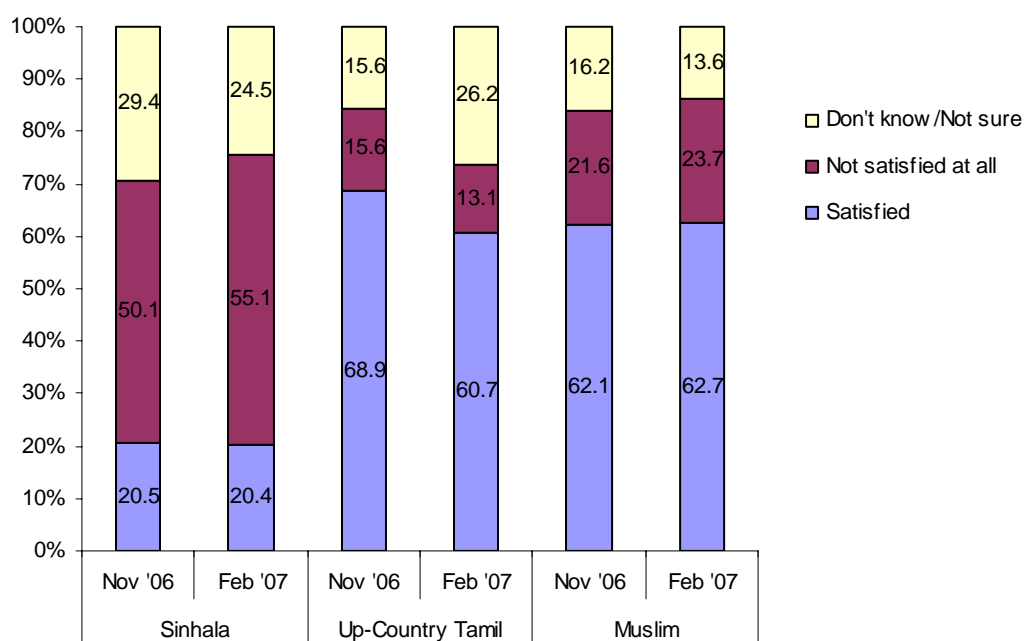


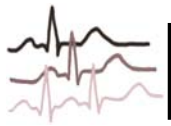
The Norwegian government has been officially facilitating peace negotiations since November 2001. Please tell me your level of satisfaction with the Norwegian role as facilitator.

Ethnic Breakdown



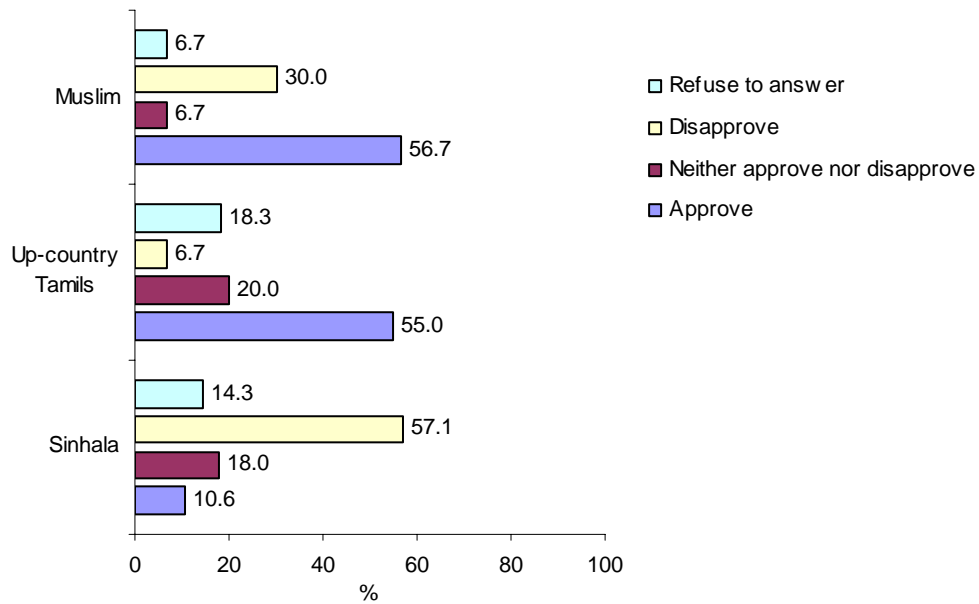
Changes of opinion amongst the Sinhala, Up-Country Tamil and the Muslim communities





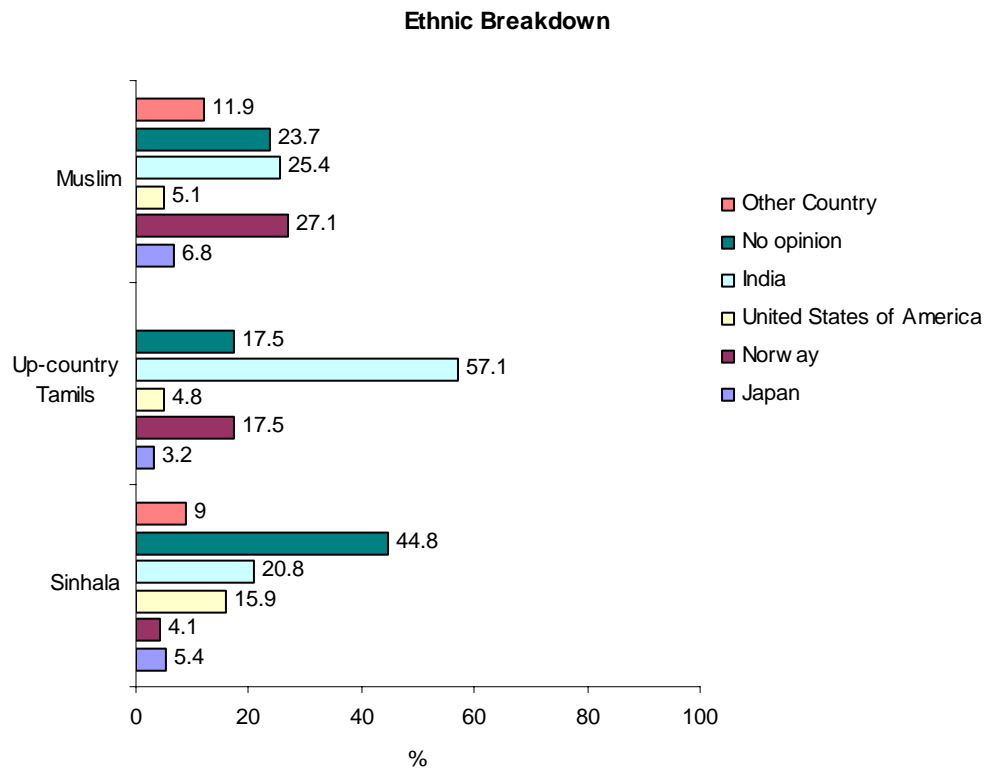
Please state if you approve or disapprove of Norway continuing to facilitate the peace process.

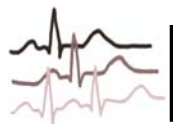
Ethnic Breakdown



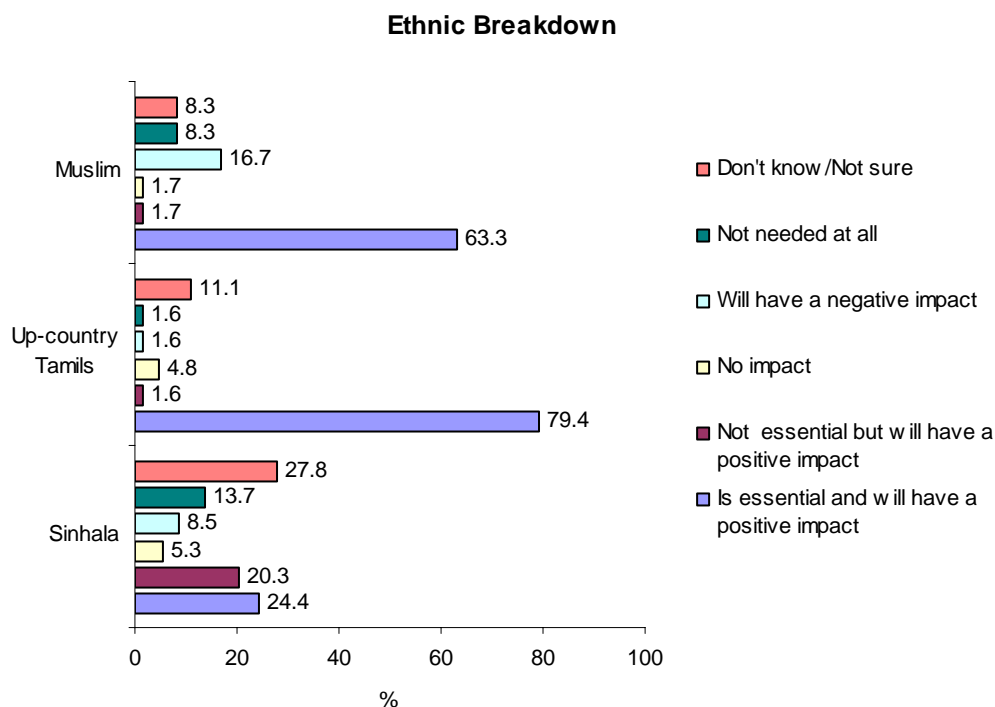


Please state the most suitable country that should play the role of facilitator in the peace process.





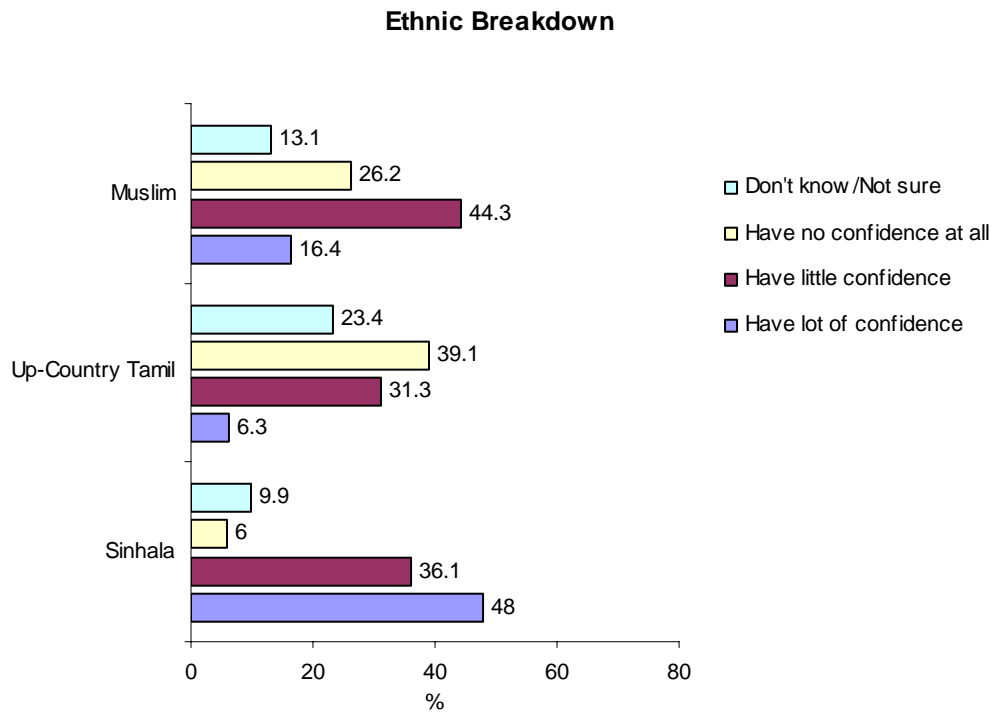
What is your opinion of the need for India's involvement in the Sri Lankan peace process?





The Government of President Mahinda Rajapakse

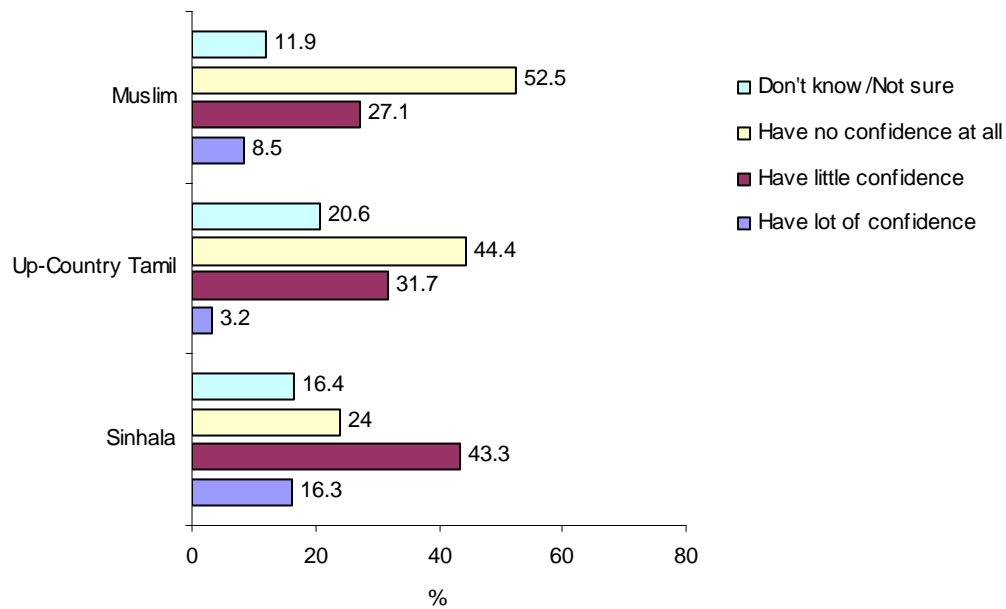
How much confidence do you have on the President Mahinda Rajapakse's ability to wage a successful military campaign against the LTTE?





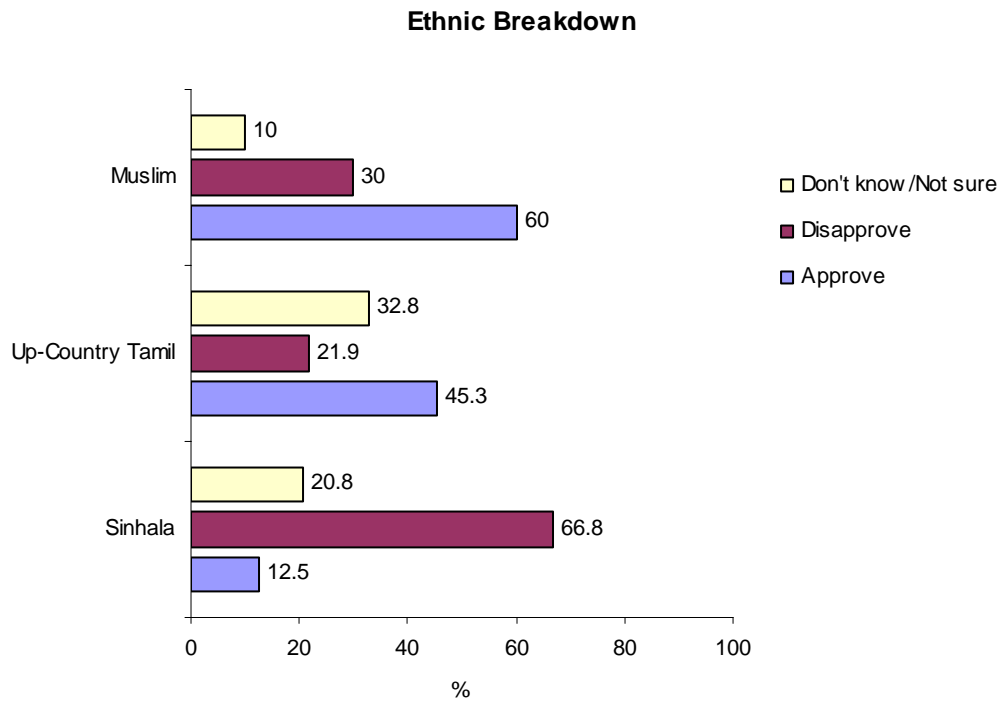
How much confidence do you have on the President Mahinda Rajapakse's capacity in reducing the economic burden of the Sri Lankans?

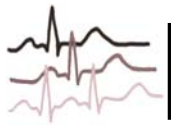
Ethnic Breakdown





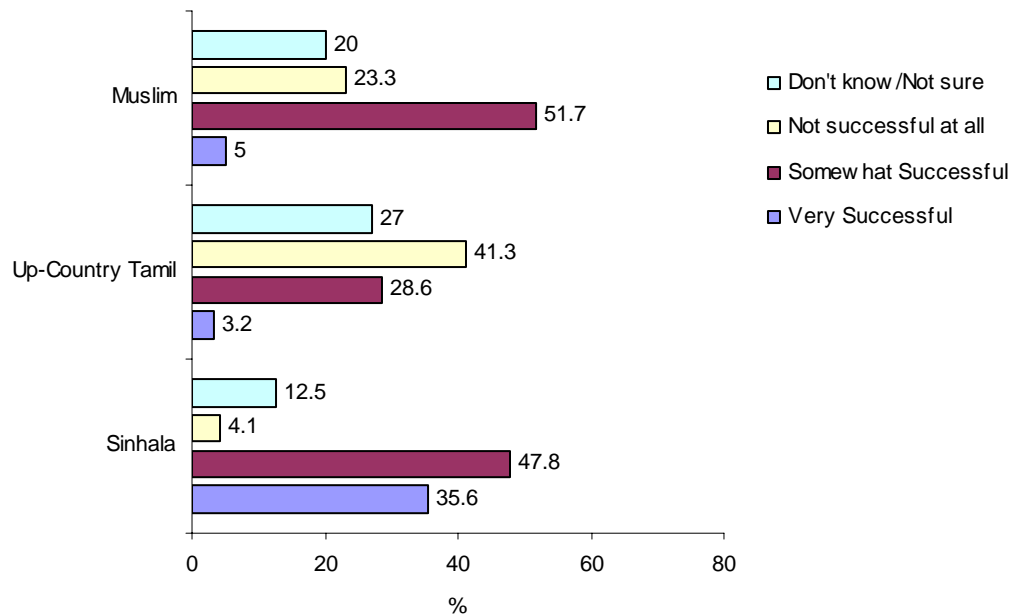
There is speculation that President Mahinda Rajapake will soon announce a snap poll. Will you approve or disapprove of such a snap poll?

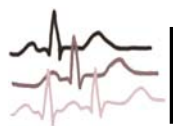




How successful is President Mahinda Rajapakse in preserving law and order in the country?

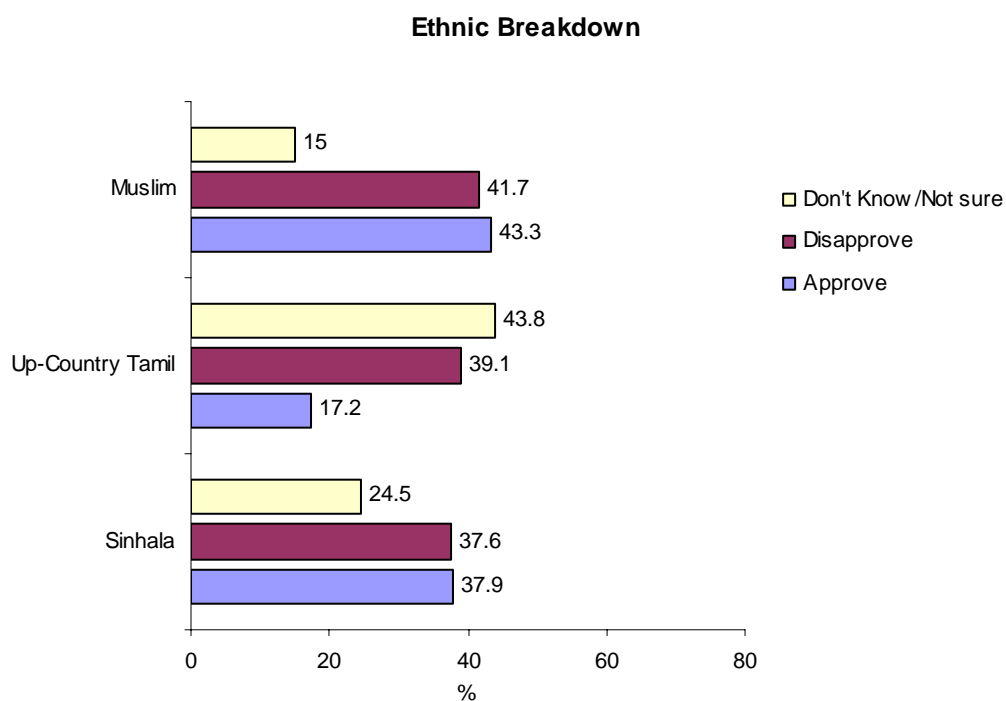
Ethnic Breakdown

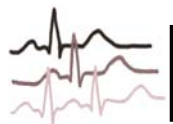




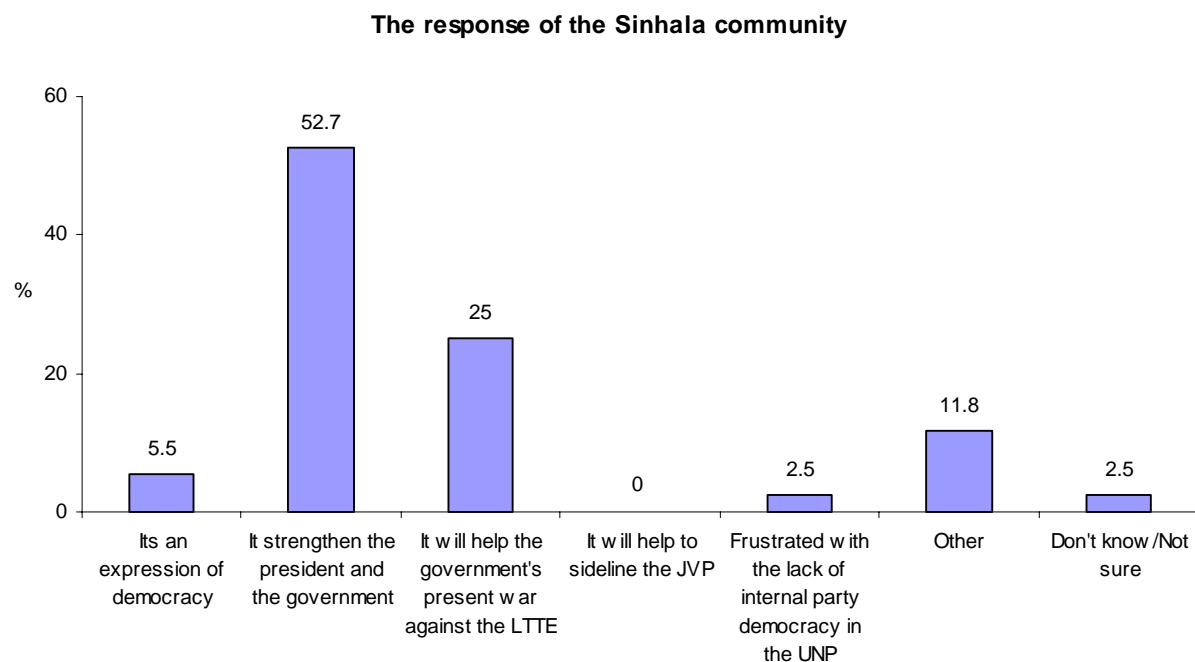
Crossovers

Do you approve or disapprove of the crossover of the 18 UNP members and six SLMC members to the Government on the 28th of January 2006?

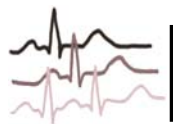




If you approve, why do you approve such crossovers?*

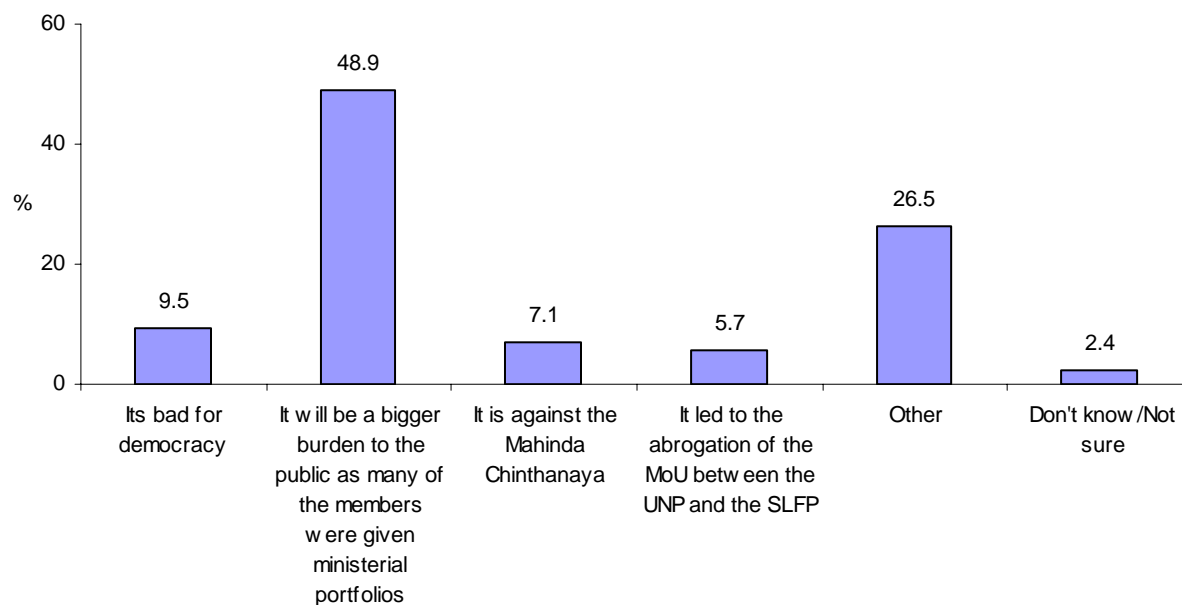


* The findings of the Up-Country Tamil and the Muslim communities are not presented due to the low sample size.

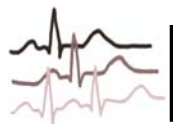


If you disapprove, why do you disapprove such crossovers?†

The response of the Sinhala community



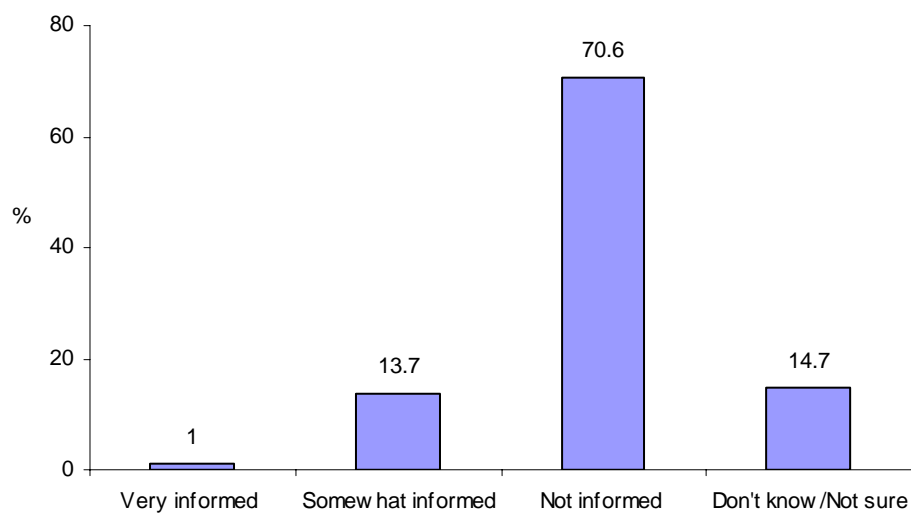
† The findings of the Up-Country Tamil and the Muslim communities are not presented due to the low sample size.



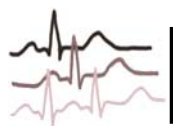
All Party Representative Committee (APRC)

To what extent are you informed of the content of the majority report?[‡]

The response of the Sinhala community

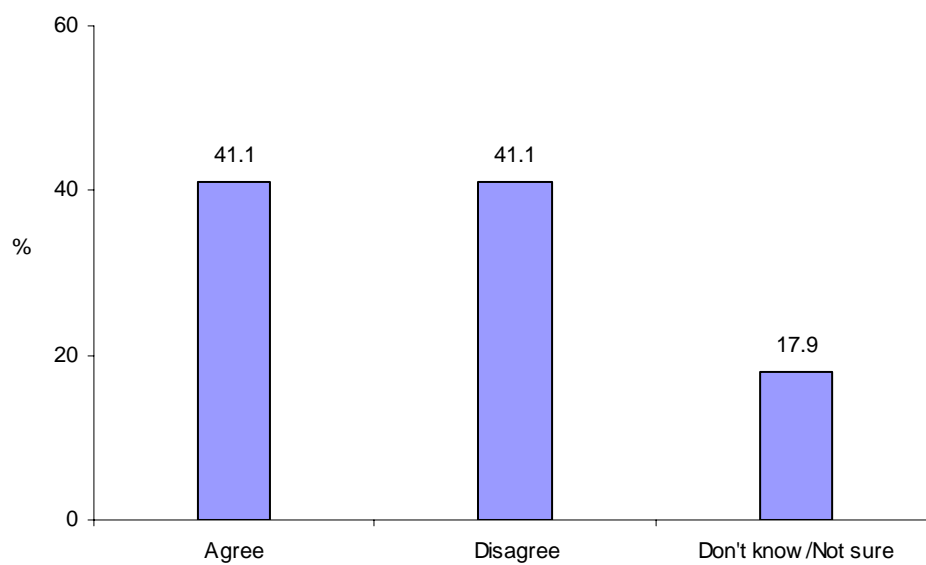


[‡] The findings of the Up-Country Tamil and the Muslim communities are not presented due to the low sample size.

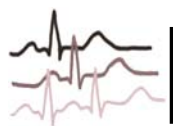


Do you agree or disagree with the proposed findings of the majority report?*

The response of the Sinhala community

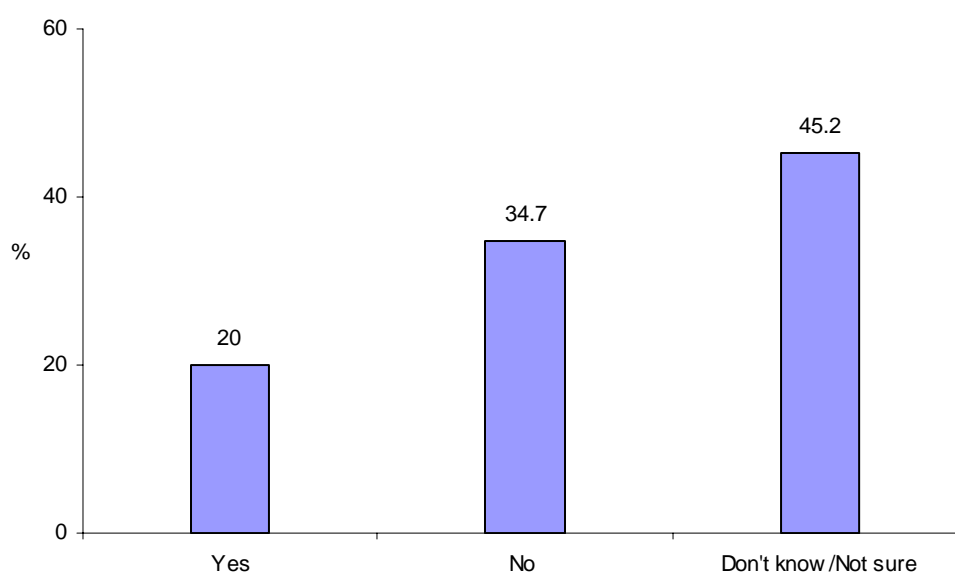


* The findings of the Up-Country Tamil and the Muslim communities are not presented due to the low sample size.

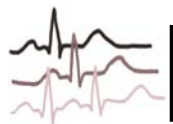


Do you think the government should move ahead in finding a southern consensus based on Tissa Vitharana's report?*

The response of the Sinhala community

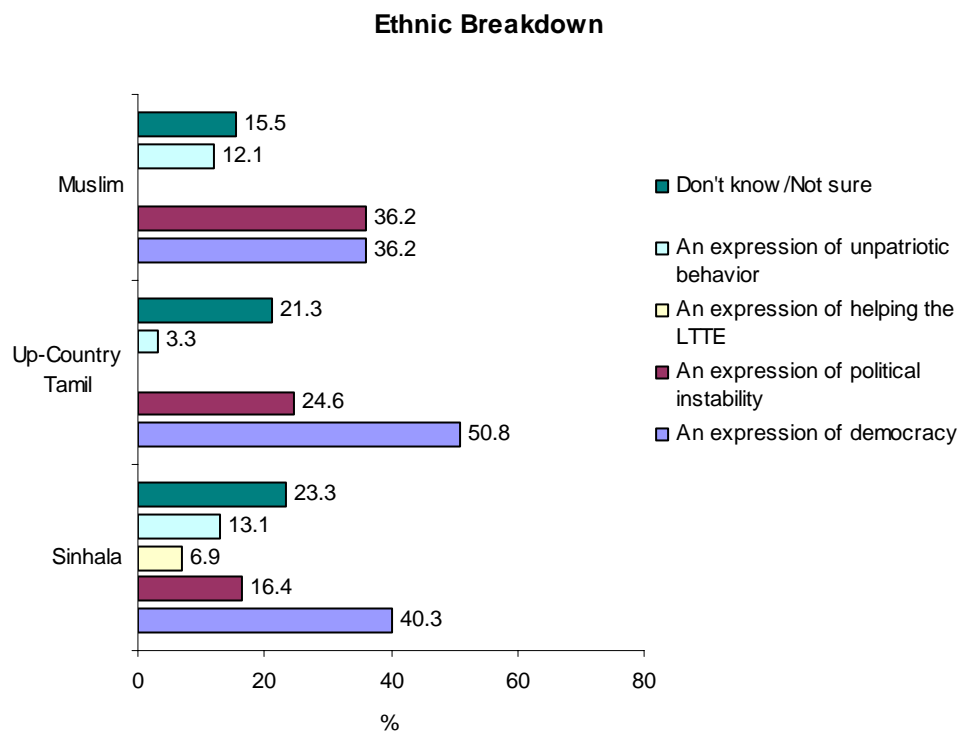


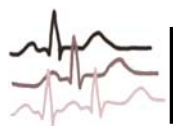
* The findings of the Up-Country Tamil and the Muslim communities are not presented due to the low sample size.



Trade Union Strikes

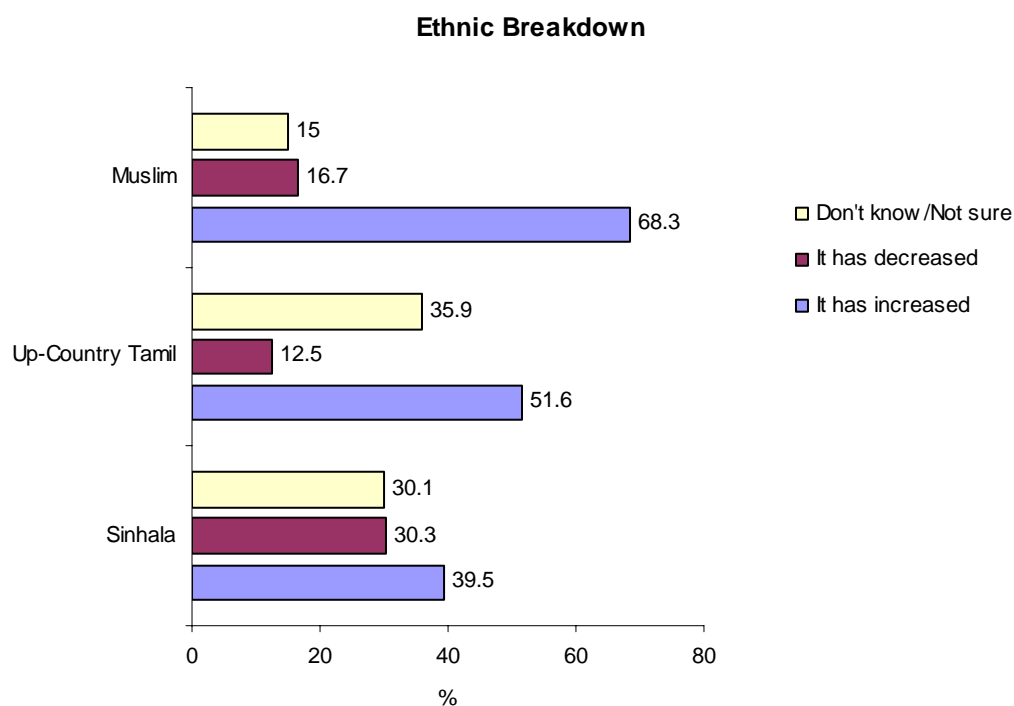
Do you think that any strike which is critical of the government is;





Corruption in the Public Sector

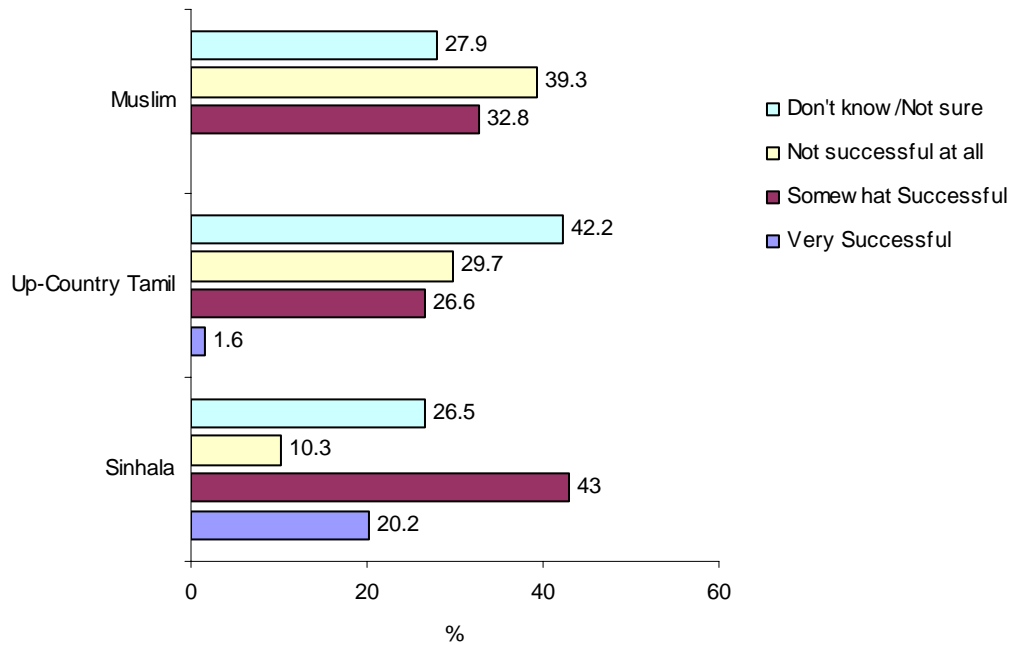
Do you believe that the corruption in the public sector has increased or decreased in the last five years?

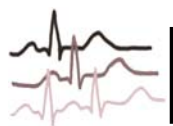




How successful is President Mahinda Rajapake in reducing corruption in the public sector?

Ethnic Breakdown



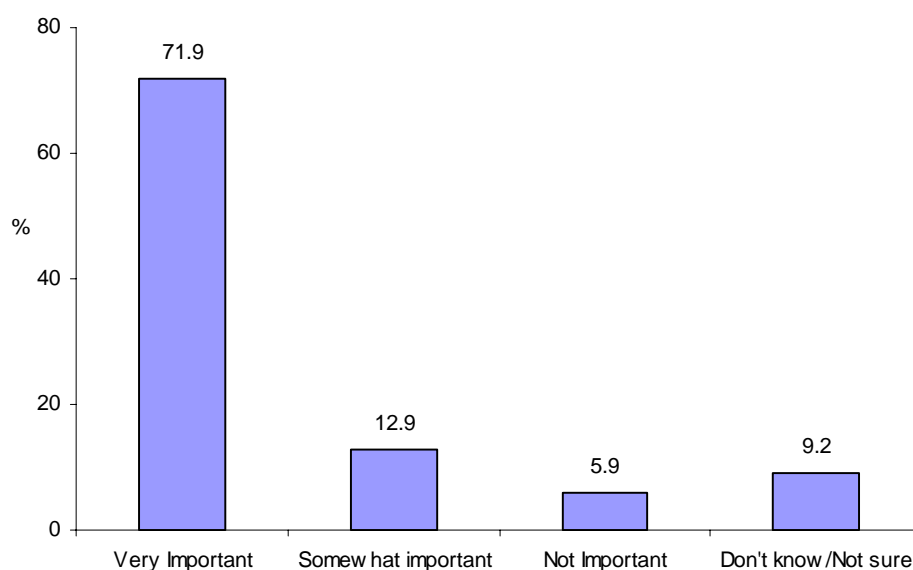


New Emergency Regulations

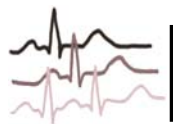
On the 6th of December 2006, the new set of emergency regulations promulgated under the Public Security ordinance titled Emergency (Prevention of Terrorism and Specified Activities 2006) were introduced in order to suppress terrorism in the country.

How important are the new emergency regulations in the government's effort to combat and prevent terrorism?*

The response of the Sinhala community

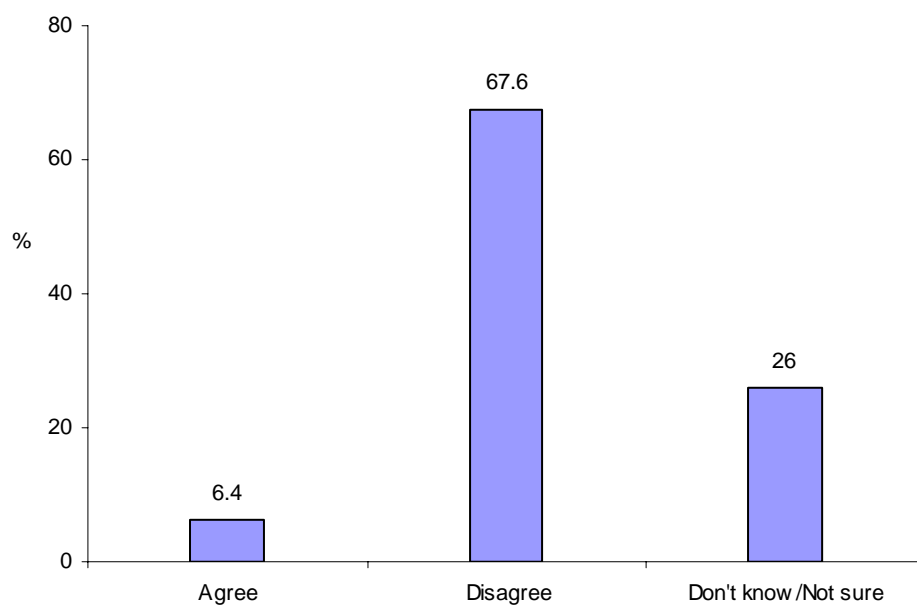


* The findings of the Up-Country Tamil and the Muslim communities are not presented due to the low sample size.



"Some people say that the new emergency regulations could be harmful to the ordinary Tamil civilians". Do you agree or disagree with this statement?*

The response of the Sinhala community

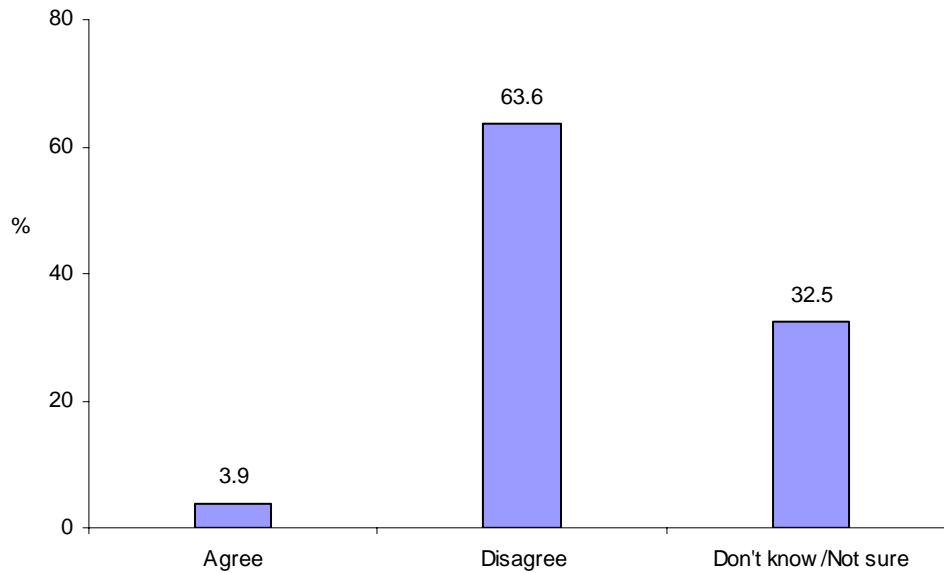


* The findings of the Up-Country Tamil and the Muslim communities are not presented due to the low sample size.
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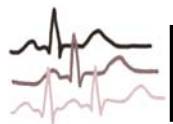


"Some people say that the new emergency regulations are more harmful to democracy than helpful, in combating terrorism" What is your opinion in this regard?*

The response of the Sinhala community

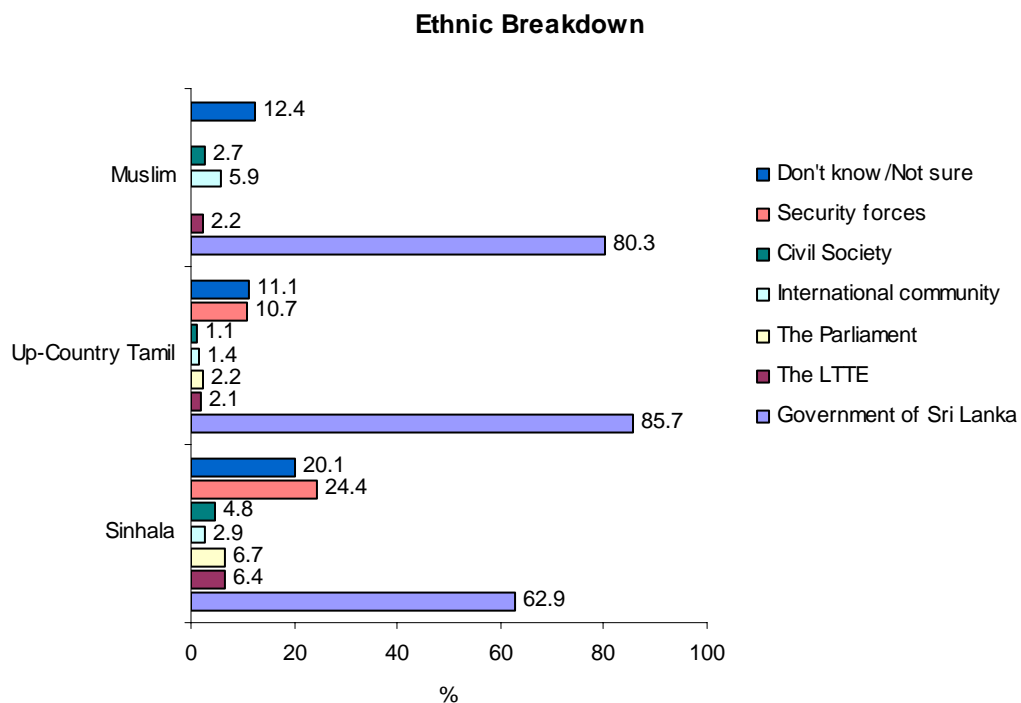


* The findings of the Up-Country Tamil and the Muslim communities are not presented due to the low sample size.



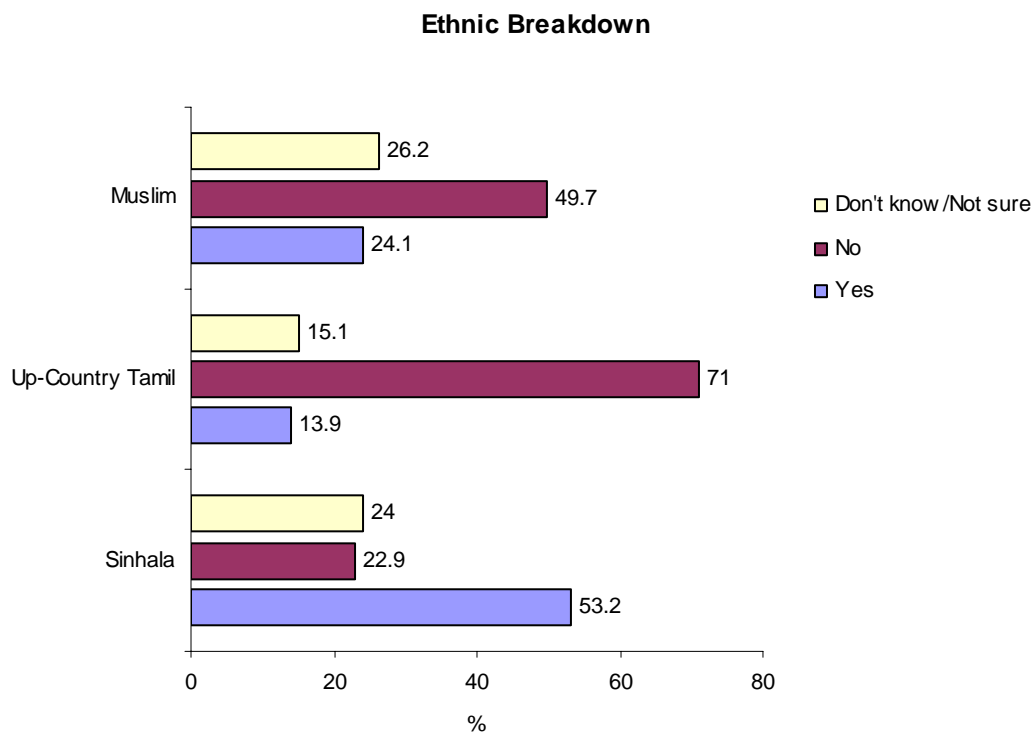
Human Rights Abuses

Who do you think has the responsibility for the protection of human rights?





Do you think the government has done enough to protect human rights?

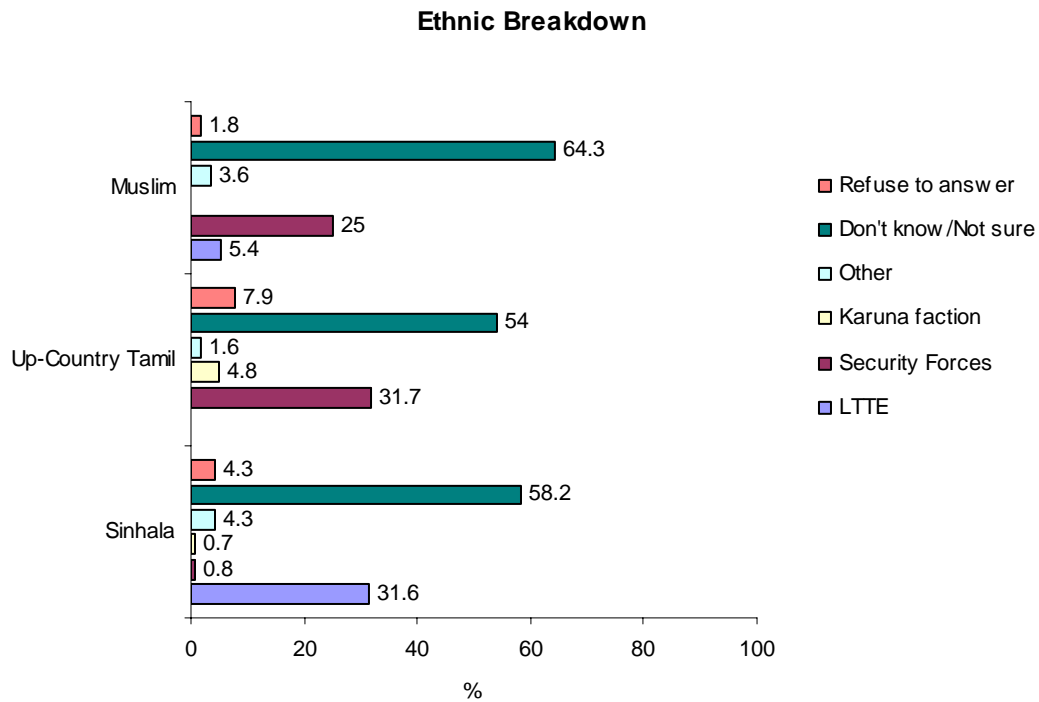


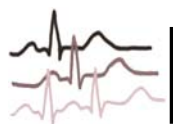


Killings and Abductions

On the 15th of December 2006, the Vice Chancellor of the Eastern University, Prof. S Ravindranath was abducted in Colombo.

Who do you think is responsible for this abduction?



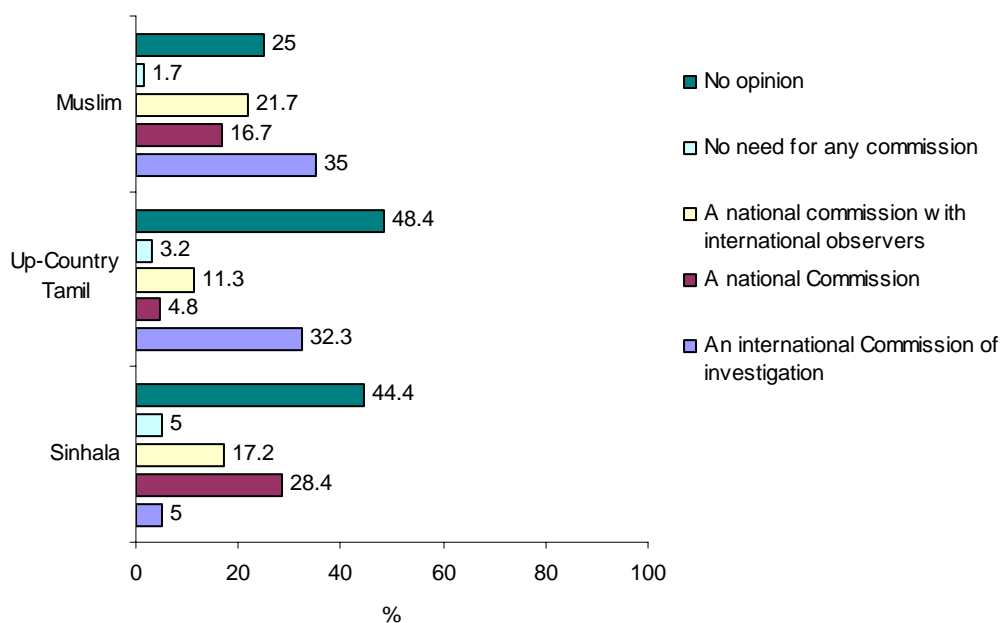


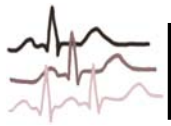
Commission of Inquiry

The President called for an international commission to investigate into the recent killings, disappearances and abductions in Sri Lanka. Subsequently the president called for a national commission to investigate the killings with an international panel of observers.

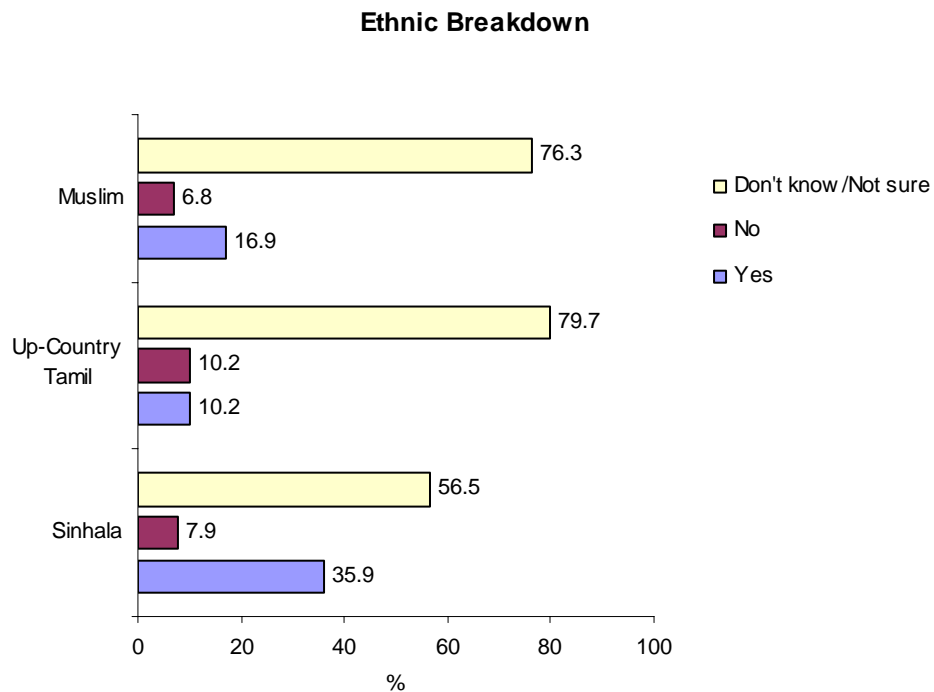
What would be the best out of the following to investigate the recent killings, disappearances and abductions in Sri Lanka?

Ethnic Breakdown



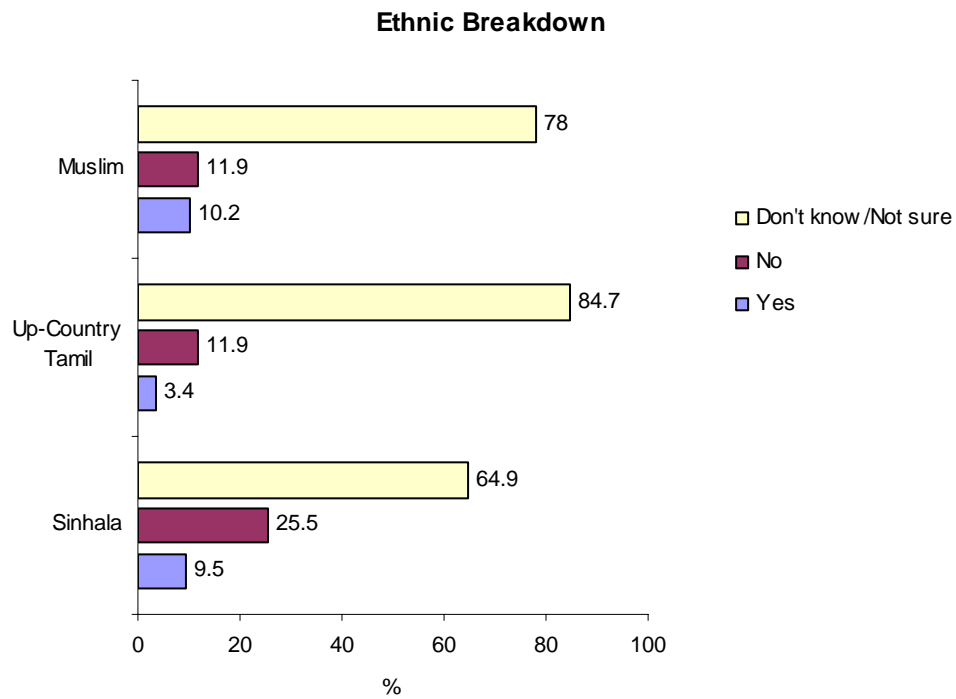


Do you think that observing and monitoring the functions of the Presidential Commission of Inquiry on Human Rights by the Independent Group of Eminent Persons (IIGEP) would strengthen the human rights protection in Sri Lanka?





Do you think that observing and monitoring the functions of the Presidential Commission of Inquiry on Human Rights by Independent Group of Eminent Persons (IIGEP) will compromise sovereignty in Sri Lanka?





Annex

District sample (weighted) distribution in February 2007

DISTRICT	TOTAL
Colombo	149
Gampaha	171
Kalutara	82
Kandy	97
Matale	36
Nuwara Eliya	57
Galle	80
Matara	62
Hambantota	42
Kurunegala	118
Puttalam	58
Anuradhapura	59
Polonnaruwa	30
Badulla	61
Monaragala	32
Ratnapura	85
Kegalle	64
NATIONAL	1282

Ethnic sample (weighted) distribution in February 2007

ETHNICITY	TOTAL
Sinhala	1158
Muslim	64
Up-Country Tamil	60
NATIONAL	1282

Sampling Methodology

Given that the goal of the Peace Confidence Index (PCI) study is to measure the fluctuations in public confidence levels towards the peace process over time it is essential that the study be conducted repetitively with equal pauses during the study. Hence, from May 2001 to February 2004, PCI was conducted bi-monthly, however, from March 2005 onwards, SI decided to conduct the study quarterly to make the PCI more efficient.

The study is conducted using a structured questionnaire that is administered to a sample of approximately 1800 respondents during each phase of the study. This sample is adequate to capture the minimum ethnic diversity within the span of ten days of fieldwork. Although it is undeniable that an individual's opinion on the peace process is influenced by a number of factors, the ethnic factor, which is the most important and influential, is the sole factor that has been accommodated in this model.

The total sample is distributed amongst 17 administrative districts (strata) of Sri Lanka, excluding the North and East provinces due to the escalation of violence in the months prior to the survey. The sample size assigned to each stratum is approximately equal to the population proportions. However, some districts are over sampled due to the ethnic heterogeneity but the over sampling biases are eliminated by weighting the sample.

A sample is allocated to a particular ethnicity within a district only if the population proportion of that particular ethnicity exceeds 9%. A Divisional Secretariat (DS) is selected as the primary sampling unit using the Simple Random Sampling technique while the Grama Niladhari Divisions (GND) in a DS are selected randomly as the secondary sampling unit using the '**Grama Niladhari Divisions of Sri Lanka 1996**' published by the Department of Census and Statistics as the sample frame.

To maintain the quality of the fieldwork and ensure a maximum dispersion of the sample within a DS, enumerators are allowed to conduct a maximum of ten interviews a day in a GND. Within a given GND, the enumerator is advised to select a starting point randomly and proceed with interviews using the random walk (right hand rule) technique in order to assure the random selection of households.

In the case of urban areas, the interviewer is instructed to skip a house while selecting the households, thus resulting in the interview-taking place at every alternative household. As the final sampling unit, the respondent is chosen from the household using the 'KISH' grid thus ensuring that each member of the household has an equal chance of being selected to the PCI sample.

The PCI national level estimates are subject to a 3% error margin with a .95 confidence level. It is noteworthy to mention here that the PCI model does not support the regional level analysis at the same level of precision.

Social Indicator (SI) is an independent social research organisation, which conducts polls on socio-economic and political issues.

Operating under the Board of Directors of the Centre for Policy Alternatives (CPA), SI was established in September 1999, and filled a longstanding vacuum for a permanent, professional and independent polling facility in Sri Lanka on social and political issues.

Polling is an instrument of empowerment, a means by which the silent majority of the public can express their opinions on issues affecting them. Our mission is to conduct surveys on key social issues, thereby providing a means through which public opinion can influence the public policy debate.



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