

An Opinion Poll on Peace



Peace Confidence Index (PCI)

TOP-LINE RESULTS

MAY 2006

Social Indicator

ALSO IN THIS WAVE . . .

GENEVA TALKS

ESCALATION OF VIOLENCE

CANADIAN BAN OF LTTE

NORWAY & THE PEACE PROCESS

COST OF LIVING

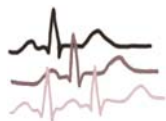
CURRENT SECURITY CONDITION

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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.

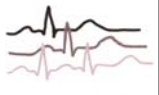
SCOPE & METHODOLOGY

The survey is carried out using a structured questionnaire administered through face-to-face interviews amongst a 1239 randomly selected sample. This survey was conducted in 17 administrative districts, excluding the North and East due to the violence prevalent in the months prior. Data is weighted to reflect the actual ethnographic composition of the districts in which the sample was surveyed.

This is the twenty second wave of the PCI study, which was first conducted in May 2001. This publication presents only the top-line results of the May 2006 survey.

The results of these twenty two 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 FEBRUARY 2006 – MAY 2006*

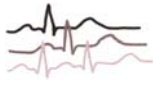
- Despite the LTTE being one stake holder in the peace process with the Government, there should also be room for other movements and parties representing the aspirations of Tamil speaking people, President Mahinda Rajapakse said on February 17. *(17 February 2006)- (Daily News on 18 February 2006)*
- The Government will sit with the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam for the first time after three years and 14 days in Geneva on February 22 and 23. Arrangements are now being finalized for the two-day talks. *(Daily News on 20 February 2006)*
- The LTTE peace delegation led by the political head S.P. Thamilselvan which arrived in Geneva, Switzerland on Saturday for peace talks with the Sri Lankan Government received a rousing welcome from Sri Lankan Tamil expatriates in the country. *(Daily Mirror on 20 February 2006)*
- The Sri Lankan government will inform the LTTE of the need for fresh clauses and safeguards but will not insist on replacing the pact when they meet today for the first time in nearly three years to prevent the country from slipping back to war, officials said. *(Daily Mirror on 22 February 2006)*
- UN organisations based in Geneva and International human rights groups will be following the Sri Lankan cease-fire talks closely with hopes that both parties will not evade key human rights and humanitarian issues that affect the daily lives of people in the country. *(Daily Mirror on 23 February 2006)*
- Talks between Sri Lanka's warring parties entered a second and final day today as foreign pressure mounted on both sides to show flexibility and save the country's troubled peace process. Although negotiators from the Sri Lankan government and the rebel LTTE sat down at the table, their uncompromising stands were putting the entire ice-breaking initiative at risk, diplomats said. *(Daily Mirror on 24 February 2006)*
- Truce talks between the Government and the LTTE ended successfully in Celigny, Switzerland yesterday, with both sides agreeing to meet again in mid-April for another round. *(Daily News on 24 February 2006)*
- The Tamil and Muslim parties yesterday gave a mixed response to the outcome of the Geneva talks between the government and the LTTE. *(Daily Mirror on 25 February 2006)*
- The JVP says it considers the outcome of the Geneva talks as a positive one from the point of view of regaining Sri Lanka's sovereignty and re-establishing democracy. *(Daily News on 27 February 2006)*
- The government on February 26 stressed that the Geneva talks with the LTTE had resulted in an amendment to the existing Ceasefire Agreement by virtue of the "Supplementary agreement" signed between the two parties at the end of the talks last week. *(Daily Mirror on 27 February 2006)*
- The LTTE is to lodge a strong protest with the Norwegian facilitators over government claims that the existing ceasefire agreement was amended by virtue of the joint statement signed by the two parties at the conclusion of the two-day Geneva talks. *(Daily Mirror on 28 February 2006)*
- The Jathika Sevaka Sangamaya on February 27 charged that with the participation of Police Chief Chandra Fernando and LTTE police chief Nadesan, seated opposite each other at the table, the government had given international accreditation to the LTTE police. *(Daily Mirror on 28 February 2006)*
- The Sri Lanka Monitoring Mission (SLMM) on February 28 urged the military to be truthful on the issue of armed groups operating in the east with outgoing SLMM head Hårgun Haukland insisting "there is no doubt that such groups do exist." *(Daily Mirror on 01 March 2006)*
- Japan on March 1 urged the Sri Lankan government and the LTTE, to take a more practical approach to the peace process rather than tirelessly arguing on a formula or conditions. While welcoming the successful round of talks between the government and the LTTE in Geneva recently, Japan also said as one of the co-chairs, the Tokyo government was looking forward to both parties making further progress through continuous meetings on the peace front. *(Daily Mirror on 02 March 2006)*
- The Sri Lanka Monitoring Mission on March 3 said it had no knowledge of the alleged army arrest of five LTTE cadres as alleged by the rebels or the so called evidence the LTTE says it had given to the ceasefire monitors to prove the allegations. *(Daily Mirror on 04 March 2006)*
- The LTTE has accused the government of failing to honour its pledge to disarm armed groups in the North and East as the Karuna faction continues to carry weapons in government-controlled areas in the eastern province. *(Daily Mirror on 04 March 2006)*
- President Mahinda Rajapakse on March 6 invited representatives from all political parties to get involved in monitoring the Ceasefire Talks in Geneva for the speedy resolution of problems that may arise during the talks. *(Daily News on 07 March 2006)*
- A day after the All Party Conference and having welcomed the Geneva peace talks in principle, the key Government ally JVP, on March 7 insisted that Norway should be removed immediately from its role as facilitator, because of its pro-terrorist stand. *(Daily Mirror on 08 March 2006)*



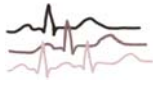
- Responding to the JVP's call for the military to be strengthened, the LTTE said on March 7 it was ready for any eventuality if the Sinhala extremists pushed the country back to war, TamilNet reported. *(Daily Mirror on 08 March 2006)*
- Jaffna district TNA parliamentarian M.K. Eelaventhana on March 8 warned that the continued harassment of the Tamils in the North and East would eventually lead to the creation of Tamil Eelam. *(Daily Mirror on 09 March 2006)*
- The Government on March 9 said there was no change in its stand on Norway functioning as facilitator in Sri Lanka's peace process. Responding to a question posed by a journalist on March 9 weekly Cabinet news conference Media Minister Anura Priyadarshana Yapa said "There is no change in our stand over Norway". *(Daily Mirror on 10 March 2006)*
- The LTTE is apparently continuing with more child recruitment the United Nations Children's Fund said on March 10 while disclosing that more than 1300 fresh recruits have been drafted since the end of January. *(Daily Mirror on 11 March 2006)*
- In an apparent shift from its hard-line stand, the Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna (JVP) on March 12 said that it might look into the possibility of applying a semi-federal model like that of India as a way out of the conflict while still holding that a full federal model will spell disaster for Sri Lanka. *(Daily Mirror on 13 March 2006)*
- Accusing the LTTE of committing most of the killings in the country starting with that of former Jaffna Mayor Alfred Duraipappa, IGP Chandra Fernando on March 12 said LTTE Chief negotiator Anton Balasingham had directly and categorically told him in Geneva that they were a terrorist out-fit. *(Daily Mirror on 13 March 2006)*
- The Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam subject Sri Lankan Tamils living in Canada, the United Kingdom and other Western countries to intimidation, extortion and even violence to ensure a steady flow of funds for operations in Sri Lanka and to suppress criticism of human rights abuses, said Human Rights Watch in a new report released on March 14. *(Daily News on 15 March 2006)*
- Tension gripped Valaichchenai on March 15, when suspected LTTE cadres torched two state-owned buses, while a demonstration by a large number of school children to protest the alleged abduction of two of their colleagues by the LTTE two days ago was underway. *(Daily Mirror on 16 March 2006)*
- One of the key conditions of the LTTE – disarming armed para-military groups prior to the next round of peace talks is an enormously difficult task, the Sri Lanka Monitoring Mission said on March 15. *(Daily Mirror on 16 March 2006)*
- Amidst repeated calls by the JVP, JHU and others for his removal, Norway's peace envoy Erik Solheim on March 16 announced he would soon give up the job as chief facilitator in the Sri Lankan peace process – but insisted the reason was a heavy workload and not anybody's political pressure. *(Daily Mirror on 17 March 2006)*
- Norway appointed a new peace envoy today to help mediate between Sri Lanka's government and Tamil Tiger rebels. Foreign ministry peace expert Jon Hanssen-Bauer, 53, would take over from Erik Solheim, who became Norway's International Development Minister in October 2005 after six years focused only on Sri Lanka. "Hanssen-Bauer will be responsible for the day-to-day work as peace facilitator for the peace process in Sri Lanka," the Foreign Ministry said in a statement. *(Daily Mirror on 18 March 2006)*
- The country's biggest bilateral donor, Japan on March 20 said that urgent socio-economic development in the North East should continue irrespective of whether the peace bid is moving or stalled. *(Daily Mirror on 20 March 2006)*
- The LTTE on March 20 accused the Navy of firing towards the coastal villages of Sampoor, Soodaikuda, Koonitivu and Kadatkaraiachenai in the LTTE- held Muttur east, the Tamil Net reported. *(Daily Mirror on 21 March 2006)*
- The JVP on March 21 accused the government of holding Samurdhi recipients to ransom by forcing them to buy spoilt rice from cooperative stores. JVP parliamentarian and former minister Vijitha Herath made the attack during on March 21 debate in parliament on the extension of the emergency. *(Daily Mirror on 22 March 2006)*
- The Army, the LTTE and the SLMM were continuing talks over an LTTE request to resume political activity in government-controlled areas after the LTTE on March 22 rejected the pre-conditions of the government for reopening political offices in state-controlled areas. *(Daily Mirror on 23 March 2006)*
- THE electoral system will definitely be changed with the consensus of all political parties to hold the next Local Polls under a new electoral system sans preferential voting, President Mahinda Rajapakse said on March 22. *(Daily News on 23 March 2006)*



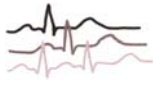
- Tamil National Alliance Parliamentarian Gajendran Ponnambalam on March 23 claimed that the LTTE was preparing for another war since there was little or no progress in the peace process. (*Daily Mirror on 24 March 2006*)
- The LTTE has violated the Ceasefire Agreement on 31 occasions following the February Geneva talks, Cabinet Spokesman Minister Anura Priyadarshana Yapa said on March 23. (*Daily News on 24 March 2006*)
- President Mahinda Rajapaksa has decided to take up March 25 LTTE suicide attack on the Navy's Dvora at international level, while intelligence reports claimed there were aircraft parts, missiles and explosives on board the blown up LTTE trawler. (*Daily Mirror on 27 March 2006*)
- The Army on March 28 launched a drive to recruit Muslims mainly to protect Muslims in the east. Military spokesman Prasad Samarasinghe said the interviews for this new infantry battalion would continue till April 5. (*05 April 2006*)-(Daily Mirror 29 March 2006)
- Sri Lanka's independent human rights watchdog may collapse as the government has failed to replace the outgoing panel of commissioners, AHRC executive director Basil Fernando said on March 30. The Hong Kong-based Asian Human Rights Commission said Sri Lanka's Human Rights Commission would be without commissioners from next Monday because the Constitutional Council, which is empowered to make appointments, is defunct. (*Daily Mirror on 31 March 2006*)
- Crucial local council polls – widely seen as a key test for President Mahinda Rajapaksa and the two major parties – concluded on March 31 largely on a peaceful note despite over 200 incidents of violence and a mixed overall turnout with a national average of 60 percent. (*Daily Mirror on 31 March 2006*)
- The UPFA recorded a landslide victory at March 30 Local Government elections bagging 222 of the 266 local bodies that went to the polls. (*Daily News on 01 April 2006*)
- A breakaway faction of the LTTE – the group led by breakaway former commander Colonel Karuna-on April 5 vowed to shoot dead supporters of the mainstream rebel group unless they return thousands of homes and businesses appropriated from Muslims in the 1990s. (*Daily Mirror on 04 April 2006*)
- There is a marked increase in the recruitment of children in the East for combat training by the LTTE. (*Daily News on 06 April 2006*)
- The LTTE on April 5 said the outcome of the March 30 local council elections clearly showed that the people had rejected the extremist policies of the JVP and the JHU and the people had supported the progress on the peace front. (*Daily Mirror on 06 April 2006*)
- Less than two weeks before the second round of talks in Geneva, suspected LTTE gunmen on April 7 morning shot dead two Muslim home guards at Katuwanvila in Welikanda while they were on their way home, Military sources said. (*Daily Mirror on 08 April 2006*)
- At least eight Wanni cadres were reportedly killed and more than five others injured when a group believed to be Karuna men launched an attack on an LTTE sentry point on the morning of April 8 in Tiger-held Sampoor area. Sources said three of the attackers were also injured due to resistance from the Wanni cadres. The fighting had lasted for a few hours. (*Daily Mirror on 10 April 2006*)
- In a blatant repudiation of its commitments made in Geneva two months ago, the LTTE on April 10 killed five security forces personnel and two civilians by activating a claymore mine targeting an Army double cab at Mirusavil. (*Daily News on 11 April 2006*)
- Ten sailors and a civilian driver were killed and nine others injured when a Navy convoy was caught up in yet another LTTE claymore mine, in Thampalagamuwa on the Trincomalee- Habarana road on April 11. (*Daily News on 12 April 2006*)
- Norway has urged both the Government and the LTTE to attend the forthcoming April peace talks in Geneva despite the wave of violent incidents in the North and East over the past few days. (*Daily Mirror on 13 April 2006*)
- THE United States has condemned the LTTE in the strongest possible terms over the recent terrorist attacks carried out by the outfit, killing several Armed Forces personnel. In a statement released on April 12, the US Government extending its sympathies to the families of the victims has called upon the LTTE to return to the talks on the implementation of Ceasefire Agreement. (*Daily News on 13 April 2006*)
- The co-chairs of Sri Lanka's donor conference, the US, the EU and Japan on April 12 urged the government and the LTTE to stop the spate of violence in the North East and to live up to the commitment made in Geneva. (*Daily Mirror on 13 April 2006*)
- UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan expressed serious concern on April 12 at the upsurge of violence in Sri Lanka and appealed to the Government and the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam to attend peace talks in Geneva next week to implement the current ceasefire agreement. (*Daily News on 14 April 2006*)



- With the spree of violence in the North and East hitting unprecedented heights and Geneva talks still in the balance, the Peace Secretariat and the Sri Lanka Monitoring Mission (SLMM) on April 16 met for yet another round of frantic talks for a breakthrough. *(Daily Mirror on 17 April 2006)*
- The Government had displayed extreme flexibility to facilitate the sea movement of 32 LTTE leaders in the face of provocations by the LTTE, in order to encourage the LTTE to attend the peace talks in Geneva, the Government Peace Secretariat (SCOPP) stated on April 16. *(Daily News on 17 April 2006)*
- The TNA on April 17 urged the government to take immediate steps to stop terrorizing the Tamil people in the East. Referring to the recent incidents in Trincomalee, the TNA in a statement warned that the violence allegedly unleashed by the government would have serious repercussions at the upcoming Geneva talks. *(Daily Mirror on 18 April 2006)*
- With the LTTE yet to make its official position known on attending the Geneva talks, the government on April 18 went ahead with finalizing logistics on hiring a private helicopter to transport Eastern LTTE leaders for a meeting with the Wanni leadership. *(Daily Mirror on 19 April 2006)*
- The chief Swedish cease-fire monitor blamed the LTTE on April 18 for the recent spate of land mine blasts that have killed dozens in Sri Lanka and imperiled a four-year-old, Norwegian-brokered truce. *(Daily News on 19 April 2006)*
- The Norwegian special peace envoy Jon Hanssen-Bauer held extensive talks with the government on April 19 with the next round of peace talks still hanging in the balance. *(Daily Mirror on 20 April 2006)*
- The UNP on April 20 said the lack of consistency among the government allies on the peace process triggered the LTTE's decision to pull out from next week's talks in Geneva. *(Daily Mirror on 21 April 2006)*
- Colombo: It is reliably learnt that the LTTE, despite the Government's offer to provide both sea and air transport for their Eastern leaders to meet with the Wanni leadership has decided not to participate in the peace talks scheduled for next week. This is despite the fact that the Government had consented to re-schedule the original dates set for the second round of peace talks in Geneva. Norwegian Special Peace Envoy Hanssen Bauer who visited Kilinochchi in an Air Force helicopter met LTTE Political Wing leader S.P. Thamilselvan on April 20 to urge the LTTE to participate in the peace talks. Bauer on his arrival in Colombo met Government Peace Secretariat Chief Dr. Palitha Kohona. *(Daily News on 21 April 2006)*
- After Norwegian special peace envoy Jon Hanssen-Bauer failed on April 20 to facilitate a breakthrough in the peace talks, the government on April 21 sent a Norwegian embassy official and the SLMM head to meet the LTTE for further discussions on the transport issue of its eastern cadres with hopes of getting the talks back on track. *(Daily Mirror on 22 April 2006)*
- With the LTTE continuously putting forward fresh conditions for the transport of its cadres from the east to the north to take part in the second round of talks in Geneva, the Government on April 23 called upon the Norwegian peace facilitators to stop shuttling back and forth between Colombo and Kilinochchi and instead, put pressure on the rebels to accept the current transport proposals. *(Daily Mirror on 24 April 2006)*
- A LTTE suicide cadre allegedly come to assassinate Minister Maithripala Sirisena was admitted to the Polonnaruwa hospital in a critical condition, after swallowing a cyanide capsule following his arrest by police at Kaduruwela in Polonnaruwa on April 23 evening. *(Daily Mirror on 24 April 2006)*
- President Mahinda Rajapaksa on April 24 said no other leader in the world in the recent past would have displayed the degree of patience that he was exercising in the face of the highest level of provocations. *(Daily Mirror on 25 April 2006)*
- Army Commander Lt. Gen. Sarath Fonseka was critically injured and eight others killed on April 25 when a female Black Tiger suicide cadre disguised as a pregnant woman, blew herself up in front of the exit of the Military Hospital inside the Colombo Army headquarters. *(Daily News on 26 April 2006)*
- The military launched air and artillery strikes on Tamil Tiger targets in the island's northeast on April 26, sending thousands fleeing their homes a day after a suicide attack shattered an already fragile ceasefire, Reuters news agency reported. *(Daily Mirror on 27 April 2006)*
- The Sri Lanka Monitoring Mission on April 28 rejected Government claims that the shell which fell in a Muslim dominated government controlled area in Mutur on April 28 killing 4 Muslim civilians and injuring 9 others was caused by LTTE firing directed at the Navy. *(Daily Mirror on 28 April 2006)*
- With relative calm in the North East on April 28, the Co-chairs of the peace process met in Oslo and agreed to regroup again in Japan renewing hopes that the government and the LTTE will meet for talks sooner than later. *(Daily Mirror on 29 April 2006)*

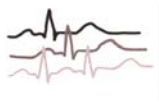


- The Head of Mission of the SLMM Major General Ulf Henricsson confirmed that the Sri Lanka Air Force and Navy had definitely targeted military positions and offices of the LTTE, when he met Dr. Palitha Kohona, Secretary General of the Secretariat for Coordinating the Peace Process at his office on April 28. (*Daily News on 29 April 2006*)
- Norway's senior peace mediator will fly to Nepal next week to try to push along talks between the government and Maoist rebels and to help re-establish democracy, the Norwegian government said on April 28. (*Daily Mirror on 29 April 2006*)
- UPF leader P. Chandrasekaran said on April 28 he feared the five headless bodies discovered in Avissawella on April 27 were those of Tamil civilians who had been arrested during searches and disappeared from Colombo, TamilNet reported. (*Daily Mirror on 29 April 2006*)
- Despite the government criticizing the truce monitors' statement on alleged "extrajudicial killings by the military" the monitors stuck to their position while a meeting between the Peace Secretariat head and the SLMM chief is scheduled for today. When contacted, Peace Secretariat Head Palitha Kohona told the Daily Mirror on April 30: "I can tell you very briefly that a meeting with the SLMM is taking place today. He refused to comment on the subject matter of the meeting. But the Daily Mirror learns the controversial statement will come up for discussion. (*Daily Mirror on 01 May 2006*)
- The LTTE launched a major assault on the 'Karuna' faction in the Welikanda area, early morning of April 30, resulting in severe casualties on both sides, while in 'no-mans land' in Vavunaithivu tensions between the army and the LTTE were at a high on April 30, just hours after a shell attack on the rebels. (*Daily Mirror on 01 May 2006*)
- The Sri Lanka Monitoring Mission is likely to rule the sea movement conducted by the LTTE on April 30 night as a ceasefire violation as the Tigers do not have a right to the sea, the SLMM said on May 1. There was high drama in the Trincomalee seas early last morning hours after the LTTE attempted to transport some of its cadres by sea from the east to the Wanni aboard sea tiger vessels defying government objections resulting in the Navy opening fire on the Tiger vessels. (*Daily Mirror on 02 May 2006*)
- The LTTE on May 02 warned it would be forced to wipe out the Karuna faction militarily in the east if the government failed to live up to its pledge to disarm the group. (*Daily Mirror on 03 May 2006*)
- The LTTE which promised to refrain from all forms of violence during Geneva I, had directed its vicious violent campaign not only against the Security Forces but also on civilians in the North-East killing 48 of them and injuring 96, Military and Police sources said. (*Daily Mirror on 03 May 2006*)
- Japanese special peace envoy Yasushi Akashi on May 02 stressed there was no need for the United Nations to be called in unless war broke out between the government forces and the LTTE. (*Daily Mirror on 03 May 2006*)
- The Sri Lanka Monitoring Mission which came under fire from the government over a hard-hitting statement it issued against the military on April 29, yesterday came up with a fresh statement on May 02 saying it did not intend passing judgment on the security forces. (*Daily Mirror on 03 May 2006*)
- The LTTE has called on the Sri Lanka Monitoring Mission to be "truthful in its judgments and statements, and refrain from allowing room for different interpretations" after the monitors released a clarification of an earlier statement which condemned Government air strikes over LTTE targets in Trincomalee. (*Daily Mirror on 04 May 2006*)
- The Jatika Hela Urumaya on May 03 suggested the inclusion of Karuna Amman in the peace process and the ceasefire agreement as a means of neutralising LTTE accusations against paramilitary groups. (*Daily Mirror on 04 May 2006*)
- At least seven suspected LTTE cadres were killed and two soldiers injured when an attack was launched on a military checkpoint near the Nelliady filling station in Jaffna on May 04 evening. Military spokesman Prasad Samarasinghe said that around 2.15 p.m. seven LTTE cadres armed with hand grenades arrived in two three-wheelers and launched an attack on the two soldiers at the military checkpoint near the filling station at Nelliyadi and fled the scene. (*Daily Mirror on 05 May 2006*)
- The breakaway LTTE faction led by Vinayagamurthi Muralitheran, alias 'Karuna Amman', says no one can disarm them, be it the Government, the Norwegian facilitators or, the SLMM, as they were not armed by the Sri Lankan Government. (*Daily Mirror on 08 May 2006*)
- The LTTE which came under attack from the Karuna faction killing more than 30 Wanni cadres, warned on May 08 it would be forced to launch attacks against army camps dividing LTTE and government areas in Trincomalee if armed groups continued to use them as hideouts to infiltrate LTTE-controlled areas. (*Daily Mirror on 09 May 2006*)



- The TNA on May 10 claimed the killing of Tamil People's Forum leader Vanniasingham Vigneswaran in Trincomalee recently had triggered the present escalation of violence in the country. (*Daily Mirror on 10 May 2006*)
- The JVP reiterated on May 09 that the LTTE had started Eelam War 4, and hence insisted that all citizens must be mobilized to face this situation, as there was little or no hope of reaching a negotiated settlement with the Tigers. (*Daily Mirror on 10 May 2006*)
- Following the sea battle off the Mutur coast on May 11 afternoon, the SLMM said the 'sea surrounding Sri Lanka is a Government controlled area and non-state actors cannot rule open sea waters or airspace and therefore the LTTE has no rights at sea'. (*Daily Mirror on 12 May 2006*)
- Hitting back at the SLMM statement issued after May 11 sea battle, the LTTE insisted that the monitors had no right to classify the two parties as state and non state actors in the country's peace effort. (*Daily Mirror on 13 May 2006*)
- The Government in a statement on May 12 confirmed that as a deterrent to further LTTE attacks, the air force launched limited aerial strikes on the identified LTTE aviation facility under construction at Iranamadu. (*Daily Mirror on 13 May 2006*)
- The troop carrier MV Pearl Cruise II, which came under Sea Tiger attack off Vettalaikerni, on May 11 had reached its destination in the early hours of May 12, Military spokesman Prasad Samarasinghe. (*Daily Mirror on 13 May 2006*)
- Fresh violence hit the north and east with at latest 17 being killed and two others injured since May 13 night, police said yesterday. (*Daily Mirror on 15 May 2006*)
- The Cease-fire Monitors, who temporarily suspended their sea monitoring in the aftermath of the major sea battle in the Vettalaikerni Sea, claimed on May 14 that they hoped to resume their sea monitoring 'in a few days'. (*Daily Mirror on 15 May 2006*)
- A suspected member of the LTTE pistol gang on May 15 stormed the Batticaloa Hospital and shot and killed a Karuna cadre while critically injuring another. Both were receiving treatment at the hospital under police protection, amidst an escalation of violence in other areas of the north and east. (*Daily Mirror on 16 May 2006*)
- The LTTE's peace secretariat chief, S. Pulidevan, said on May 16 that the spiraling violence in the country was worrying and that they were prepared for a resumption of the civil war. (*Daily Mirror on 17 May 2006*)
- The technical committee of the European Union on May 17, 2006 made a recommendation to list the LTTE as a banned organization in the European Union, highly placed diplomatic sources said. By the time this edition went to press, the 'clearing house' of the EU was going through the recommendation yesterday, and it was expected that it would make the announcement on the LTTE ban shortly. (*Daily Mirror on 17 May 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.



FINDINGS AT A GLANCE OF THE POLL CONDUCTED FROM 17TH MAY 2006 TO 29TH MAY 2006

The following are the significant trends observed in the PCI May 2006 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 low representation of the sample, this report does not intend to present national estimations.

- ◆ When asked to rate five national issues according to their order of importance, the economy (27.9%) and the peace process (27.1%) was rated the highest by the Sinhala community. The Up-Country Tamil community gives high priority to the peace process (29.3%) followed by the economy (24.6%). The Muslim community gives high priority to the economy (28.1%) followed by the peace process (24.8%). ([Ref. Page 14](#))
- ◆ A majority of the Sinhala (75%), Up-Country Tamil (78.1%) and Muslim (96.6%) communities support the idea of a permanent peace settlement through negotiations. When compared to the February '06 PCI findings, this is a significant decrease of opinion amongst the Sinhala (February- 95%) and Up-Country Tamil (Up-Country Tamil- 90.6%) communities. On the contrary, the Muslim (February- 84.7%) opinion has witnessed a significant increase. Interestingly, the support for a permanent peace settlement through war has increased amongst the Sinhala (February- 3.7%, May- 13.5%) and Up-Country Tamil (February- 0.4%, May- 3.1%) communities when compared to the February '06 PCI findings. Nevertheless, the Muslim (February- 6%, May- 3.4%) support for a peace settlement through war has decreased. ([Ref. Page 15](#))
- ◆ When asked about the Government's commitment to the peace process, a majority of Sinhala (73.2%) and Muslim (58.6%) communities agree that the Government is committed to find peace through talks. This is a decrease of opinion when compared to the February '06 PCI findings (February: Sinhala- 80%, Muslim- 62.1%). Interestingly, those who disagree amongst the Sinhala (Disagree: February- 5.9%, May- 10.9%) and Muslim (Disagree: February- 18.2%, May- 24.1%) communities has also witnessed an increase. The Up-Country Tamil community seems to have a mixed opinion in this regard (Agree- 39.7%, Disagree- 38.1%, Don't Know/ Not sure- 22.2%). Nevertheless, when compared to the February '06 PCI findings those who agree (February- 49.2%) amongst the Up-Country Tamil community has decreased while those who disagree (February- 18.5%) has increased. ([Ref. Page 16](#))
- ◆ A majority of Sinhala (55.7%) and Muslim (72.4%) communities agree that the Government is capable in finding peace through talks. When compared to the February '06 PCI findings, those who agree (February- 65%, May- 55.7%) amongst the Sinhala community have decreased while those who disagree (February- 10.6%, May- 17.1%) have increased. On the contrary, amongst the Muslim community, those who agree (February- 64.2%, May- 72.4%) have increased while those who disagree (February- 16.4%, May- 13.8%) have decreased. A majority of Up-Country Tamil (43.5%) communities disagree that the Government is capable in finding peace through talks. However, when compared to the February '06 PCI findings, those who agree (February- 46.8%, May- 30.6%) amongst the Up-Country Tamil community have decreased while those who disagree (February- 16.1%, May- 43.5%) have increased. ([Ref. Page 17](#))



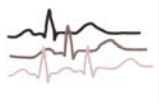
- ◆ When asked about the LTTE's commitment to the peace process, a majority of the Sinhala (75%) and Muslim (45.6%) communities disagree that the LTTE is committed to find peace through talks. A majority of Up-Country Tamil (50%) communities agree that the LTTE is committed to find peace through talks. When compared to the February '06 PCI findings, those who disagree (February- 56.1%, May- 75%) amongst the Sinhala community have increased while those who agree (February- 7.3%, May- 1.3%) have witnessed a downfall. With regard to the Muslim and Up-Country Tamil communities, those who agree (Muslim: February- 40.9%, May- 15.8% / Up-Country Tamil: February- 63.5%, May- 50%) have decreased while those who disagree (Muslim: February- 24.2%, May- 45.6% / Up-Country Tamil: February- 7.9%, May- 30.6%) have witnessed a significant increase. ([Ref. Page 18](#))
- ◆ A majority of the Sinhala (49%) community disagree that the LTTE is capable of finding peace through talks. A majority of the Up-Country Tamil (42.6%) and the Muslim (53.6%) communities agree that the LTTE is capable of finding peace through talks. When compared to the February '06 PCI findings, those who disagree (February- 34.8%, May- 49%) amongst the Sinhala community have increased while those who agree (February- 25.2%, May- 17.6%) have witnessed a downfall. With regard to the Muslim community, those who agree (February- 41.8%, May- 53.6%) have increased while those who disagree (February- 25.4%, May- 25%) have decreased. Amongst the Up-Country Tamil community, those who agree (February- 59.3%, May- 42.6%) have decreased while those who disagree (February- 8.5%, May- 34.4%) have increased. ([Ref. Page 19](#))
- ◆ A majority of the Sinhala (43.4%), Up-Country Tamil (51.7%) and Muslim (40.7%) communities state, that when compared to the situation of the peace process a year ago, the country at present is not close at all in approaching a permanent settlement to the ethnic conflict. However, according to the September '05 PCI findings, a majority of the Sinhala (39.8%) community think that it is 'not close at all' while the Up-Country Tamil (40.8%) community thinks it is 'very close'. The Muslim community has a divided opinion (Very close- 35%, Not close at all- 35%). ([Ref. Page 20](#))
- ◆ When asked who should be involved in negotiations, a majority of the Sinhala (33.6%) and the Up-Country Tamil (31.3%) communities state that only the Government and the LTTE should be involved in negotiations. However, a majority of the Muslim (79.7%) community states that the Government, opposition, LTTE, Tamil and Muslim parties and an international third party should be involved in negotiations. ([Ref. Page 21](#))
- ◆ A majority of the Sinhala (45.6%) community believes that it is somewhat likely a war will resume. A majority of the Up-Country Tamil (39.1%) and the Muslim (44.1%) believe that it is very likely a war will resume. According to the February '06 PCI findings, a majority of the Muslim (38.8%) community think that it is somewhat likely a war will resume. A majority of the Up-country Tamil (30.8%) community doesn't know or are not sure. ([Ref. Page 22](#))
- ◆ Of those who are aware of the CFA, a majority of Sinhala (45.8%), Up-Country Tamil (65.4%) and Muslim (88.1%) communities believe that the CFA has benefited the ordinary citizen. This is a decrease of opinion when compared to February '06 PCI findings (February: Sinhala-67.3%, Up-Country Tamil- 94.7%, Muslim- 75.9%). ([Ref. Page 23](#))



- ◆ Of those who think that the CFA has benefited the ordinary citizen, the Sinhala community believes 'peaceful environment in the country- (61.6%)', 'ending of killing- (59.2%)' and the 'freedom of movement- (46%)' are the three most important benefits of the CFA. The Up-Country Tamil community believes 'peaceful environment in the country- (74.9%)', 'freedom of movement- (57.7%)' and the 'ending of killing- (42.8%)' are the three most important benefits of the CFA. The Muslim community believes that 'freedom of movement- (71.2%)', 'ending of destruction- (57.2%)' and 'ending of killing- (51.6%)' are the most important benefits of the CFA. *(Ref. Page 24)*
- ◆ Of those who think that the CFA has not benefited the ordinary citizen, a majority of the Sinhala (57.6%) community believes that the LTTE strengthening itself in Government controlled areas is the main reason. *(Ref. Page 25)*
- ◆ When asked about their satisfaction in Government's commitment to the CFA, a majority of Sinhala (51.7%) and Muslim (66.7%) communities are somewhat satisfied. The Up-Country Tamil community has a divided opinion (Somewhat satisfied- 37%, Not satisfied- 37%). When compared to the February '06 PCI findings, those who are somewhat satisfied (February- 44.8%) amongst the Sinhala community have increased. *(Ref. Page 26)*
- ◆ When asked about their satisfaction in LTTE's commitment to the CFA, a majority of Sinhala (59.9%) community is not satisfied at all. While a majority of the Up-Country Tamil (42.3%) community is somewhat satisfied, a majority of the Muslim (38.1%) community is not satisfied. *(Ref. Page 27)*
- ◆ Of those who are aware of the involvement of foreign monitors, a majority of Sinhala (53.3%), Up-Country Tamil (90.5%) and Muslim (97.4%) communities think that it is essential to have a monitoring mission for the CFA to succeed. It is noteworthy that percentage of the Sinhala community who believe that an international third party is essential is lower compared to the Up-Country Tamil and Muslim communities. When compared to the February '06 PCI findings, those who think it is essential have decreased amongst the Sinhala (February- 69.3%, May- 53.3%) community. However, those who think that it is essential to have a monitoring mission have increased amongst the Up-Country Tamil (February- 86.7%, May- 97.4%) and Muslim (February- 74.4%, May- 90.5%) communities. *(Ref. Page 28)*
- ◆ A majority of the Sinhala (58.1%) community disagree with the statement that the SLMM is impartial in its monitoring of the ceasefire agreement. A majority of Up-Country Tamil (72.2%) and Muslim (50%) communities agree with the statement that the SLMM is impartial in its monitoring of the ceasefire agreement. When compared to the February '06 PCI findings, the percentage of Muslim (February- 45.5%, May- 50%) community who agree have increased while the percentage of Up-Country Tamil (February- 90%, May- 72.2%) community who agree has decreased. *(Ref. Page 29)*
- ◆ A majority of the Sinhala (56.1%) community disagree with the statement that the SLMM is effective in its monitoring of the ceasefire agreement. A majority of Up-Country Tamil (50%) and Muslim (45.9%) communities agree with the statement that the SLMM is effective in its monitoring of the ceasefire agreement. When compared to the February '06 PCI findings, the percentage of Muslim (February- 48.5%, May- 45.9%) and of Up-Country Tamil (February- 89.5%, May- 50%) communities who agree has decreased. *(Ref. Page 30)*



- ◆ A majority of the Sinhala (35.8%), Up-Country Tamil (73.8%) and Muslim (76.7%) communities believe that an international third party is essential and will have a positive impact on the peace process. It is noteworthy that the percentage of the Sinhala community who believe that an international third party is essential and will have a positive impact on the peace process is lower compared to the Up-Country Tamil and Muslim communities. When compared to the February '06 PCI findings, those who believe that it is essential and will have a positive impact have decreased amongst the Sinhala (February- 52.8%, May- 35.8%) community while it has increased amongst the Up-Country Tamil (February- 56.7%, May- 73.8%) and Muslim (February- 64.2%, May- 76.7%) communities. *(Ref. Page 31)*
- ◆ When asked about the level of satisfaction with the Norwegian role as facilitator, a majority of Up-Country Tamil (48.3%) and Muslim (51.7%) communities are somewhat satisfied. The Sinhala community has a mixed opinion in this regard (Very satisfied- 1.3%, Somewhat Satisfied- 29%, Not satisfied at all- 35.6%, Don't know/Not sure- 34.2%). *(Ref. Page 32)*
- ◆ When asked if they approve or disapprove of Norway continuing to facilitate the peace process, a majority of the Sinhala (31%) community disapproves. A majority of the Up-Country Tamil (58.5%) and Muslim (55.2%) communities approve. *(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 (45.1%) thinks India is the most suitable country to play the role of facilitator. A majority of the Up-Country Tamil (49%) community thinks Norway is the most suitable country to play the role of facilitator. The Muslim community has a mixed opinion (Japan- 28.2%, Norway- 25.6%, USA- 20.5%, India- 25.6%). *(Ref. Page 34)*
- ◆ When asked about the need for India's involvement in the peace process, a majority of the Sinhala (34.2%) community doesn't know or are not sure. A majority of the Up-Country Tamil (76.9%) and Muslim (52.5%) communities believe that it is essential and will have a positive impact on the peace process. When compared to the February '06 PCI findings, the Sinhala (February- 41.7%, May- 32%) community who believe that it is essential and will have a positive impact have witnessed a significant decrease. *(Ref. Page 35)*
- ◆ Of those who are aware that the Government and the LTTE held talks in Geneva on the 22nd & 23rd of February 2006, a majority of the Up-Country Tamil (56.7%) and the Muslim (46.2%) communities are somewhat satisfied with the outcome of the talks. A majority of the Sinhala (46.9%) community don't know or not sure. *(Ref. Page 36)*
- ◆ When asked as to which party benefited most in the last round of talks, a majority of the Sinhala (43.9%) community don't know or not sure. A majority of the Up-Country Tamil (39.3%) community believes neither the Government nor the LTTE benefited from the talks. The Muslim (35%) community has a divided opinion (Only the Govt.- 7.5%, Only the LTTE- 15%, Both parties- 35%, Neither the Govt. nor the LTTE- 7.5%, Don't know/Not sure- 35%). *(Ref. Page 37)*
- ◆ When asked about their level of satisfaction with regard to the Government's commitment to the pledges it made at the Geneva talks, a majority of the Sinhala (44.8%) community has no opinion. While a majority of the Up-Country Tamil (41.4%) community is not satisfied at all, a majority of the Muslim (58.5%) community is somewhat satisfied. *(Ref. Page 38)*



- ◆ When asked about their level of satisfaction with regard to the LTTE's commitment to the pledges it made at the Geneva talks, a majority of the Sinhala (51.8%), Up-Country Tamil (36.7%) and Muslim (31.7%) communities are not satisfied at all. *(Ref. Page 39)*
- ◆ A majority of the Sinhala (44.3%) community believe only the LTTE is responsible for the escalation of violence. A majority of the Up-Country Tamil (42.9%) and Muslim (46.6%) communities don't know or not sure. *(Ref. Page 40)*
- ◆ As to the awareness about the Canadian ban of the LTTE, a majority of the Sinhala (55.9%) and the Up-Country Tamil (61.5%) communities state that they are unaware of it. A majority of the Muslim community has a divided opinion in this regard (Yes- 45%, No- 45%) *(Ref. Page 41)*
- ◆ Of those who are aware about the Canadian ban of the LTTE, a majority of the Sinhala (76.4%) and Muslim (44.4%) communities think that this ban will have a positive impact on the peace process. A majority of the Up-Country Tamil (47.1%) community thinks that it will have no impact on the peace process. *(Ref. Page 42)*
- ◆ Of those who are aware of the JVP & Patriotic National Movement's strong calls for removing Norway from the Sri Lankan peace process, a majority of the Sinhala (52.4%) community approve of Norway being removed from the peace process. A majority of the Up-Country Tamil (84%) and the Muslim (69.2%) communities disapprove of Norway being removed from the peace process. *(Ref. Page 43)*
- ◆ When asked about their satisfaction with the JVP's role in preserving peace in Sri Lanka, a majority of the Sinhala (39.7%) community don't know or not sure. A majority of the Up-Country Tamil (76.9%) and the Muslim (67.8%) communities are not satisfied. *(Ref. Page 44)*
- ◆ When asked about their satisfaction with the JHU's role in preserving peace in Sri Lanka, a majority of the Sinhala (42.8%) community don't know or not sure. A majority of the Up-Country Tamil (75.8%) and the Muslim (65%) communities are not satisfied. *(Ref. Page 45)*
- ◆ Despite the attempted assassination on the army chief Lt. General Sarath Fonseka, a majority of the Sinhala (63.1%), Up-Country Tamil (65.5%) and Muslim (87.9%) communities think that the Government should go for talks in Geneva. *(Ref. Page 46)*
- ◆ Of those who are aware of the retaliatory attacks by the Government on the LTTE in the aftermath of the bombing, a majority of the Sinhala (80.3%) community approve of the retaliatory attacks. *(Ref. Page 47)*
- ◆ When asked about the effectiveness of these retaliatory attacks, the Sinhala community had mixed reactions (Effective- 44.8%, Not effective- 10.8%, Don't know/ Not sure- 44.4%). *(Ref. Page 48)*
- ◆ Of those who are aware of the LTTE's breakaway Karuna faction, a majority of the Sinhala (36.8%) community thinks that the Karuna faction should not be disarmed. A majority of the Up-Country Tamil (44.1%) community thinks that the Karuna faction should be disarmed. The Muslim community has a mixed opinion (Karuna faction should



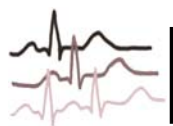
be disarmed- 32.7%, Karuna faction should not be disarmed- 30.6%, Don't know/Not sure- 32.7%). (*Ref. Page 49*)

- ◆ A majority of the Sinhala (68.7%), Up-Country Tamil (79.7%) and Muslim (88.3%) communities believe that the security condition in the country has worsened compared to the situation a year ago. (*Ref. Page 50*)
- ◆ A majority of the Sinhala (93.9%), Up-Country Tamil (95.4%) and Muslim (100%) communities believe that the cost of living has increased compared to the situation a year ago. (*Ref. Page 51*)

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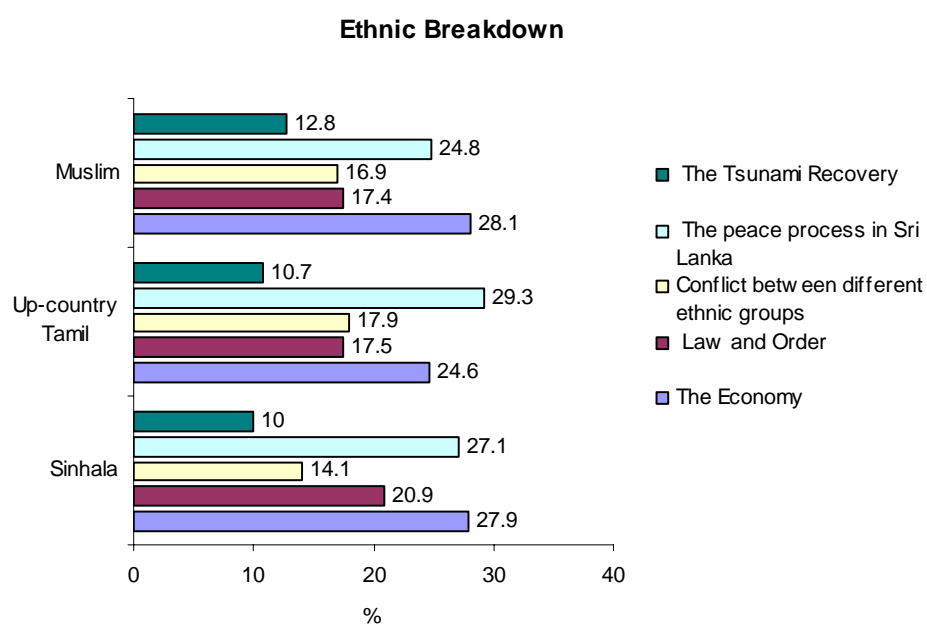
Tel: +9411 2370472 **Email:** cpapoll@diamond.lanka.net
Fax: +9411 2370475 **Web:** <http://www.cpalanka.org>



Peace Confidence Index (PCI) May 2001 – May 2006

Important Issues

Rating the degree of importance of five national issues.

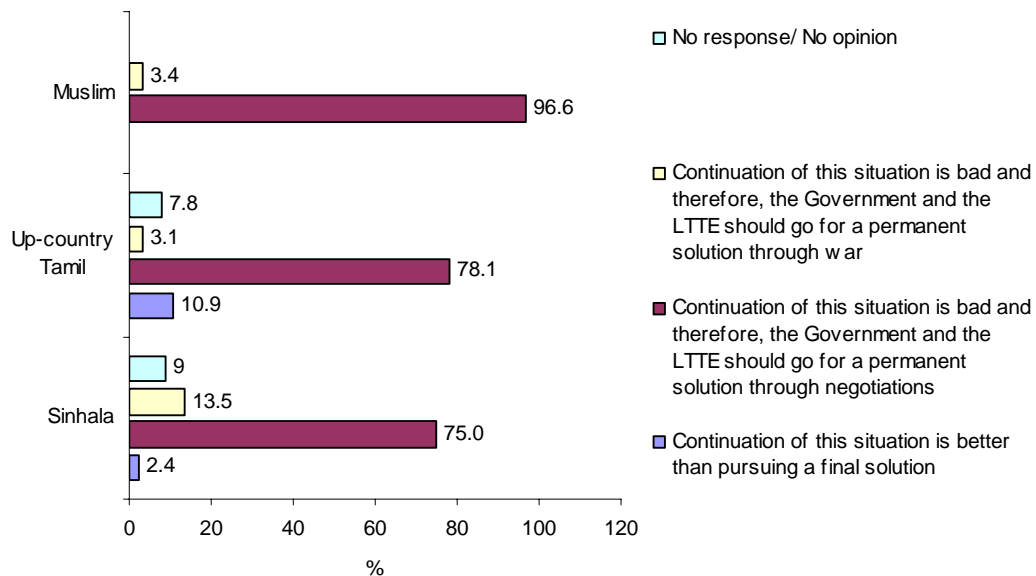




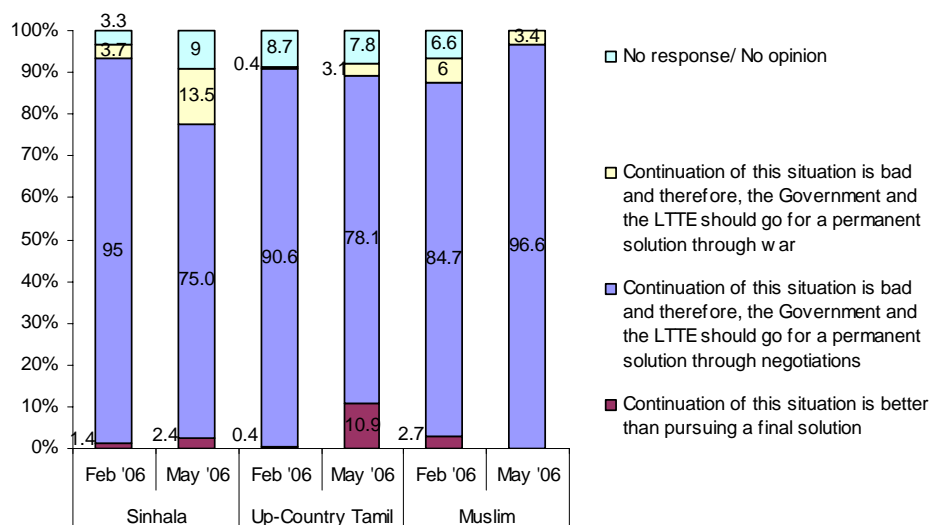
Solutions

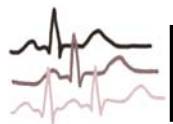
With the recent escalation of violence, various opinions have been expressed about the Ceasefire Agreement (CFA). In this context, some people say that the continuation of this situation is better than pursuing a permanent settlement. Others argue that continuation of this situation is bad and, therefore the Government and the LTTE should go for a permanent solution, either through negotiations or war. Please tell me which of the arguments best describes your opinion.

Ethnic Breakdown



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

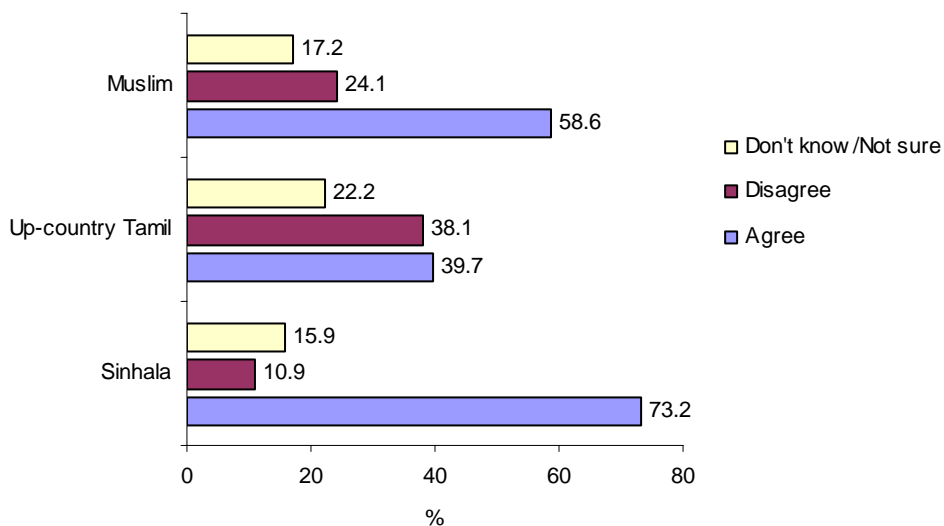




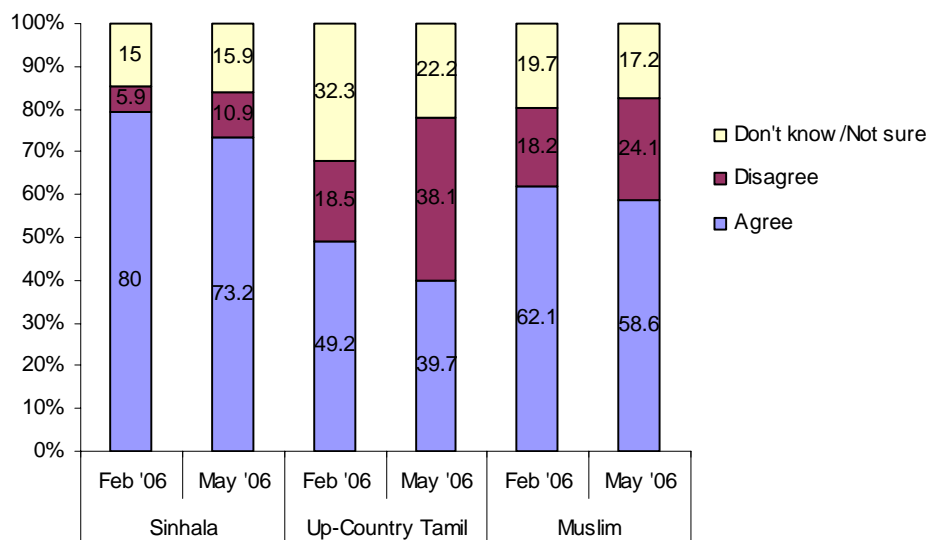
Confidence

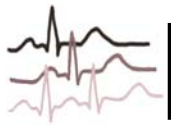
I think the Government is committed to find peace through talks.

Ethnic Breakdown



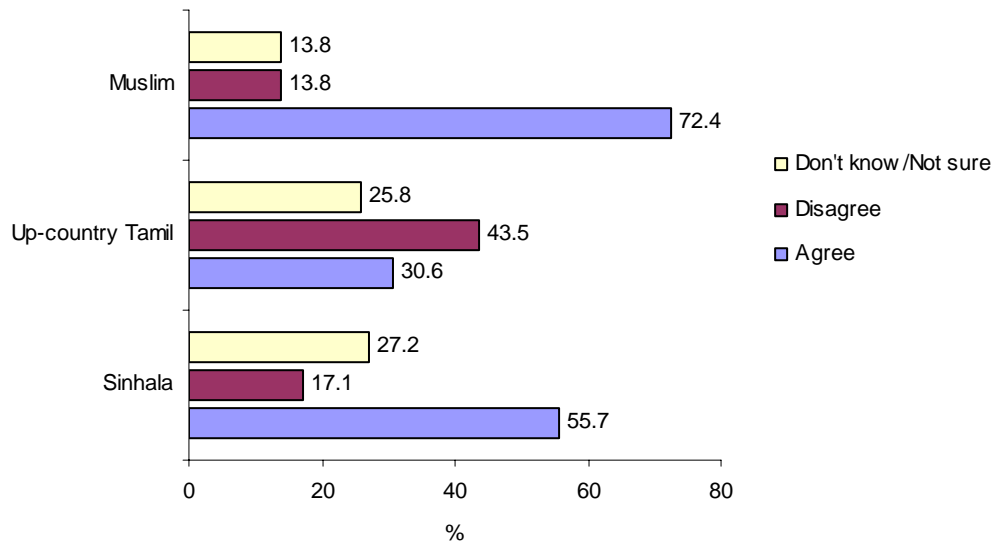
Changes of opinion amongst the Sinhala, Up-Country Tamil and Muslim communities



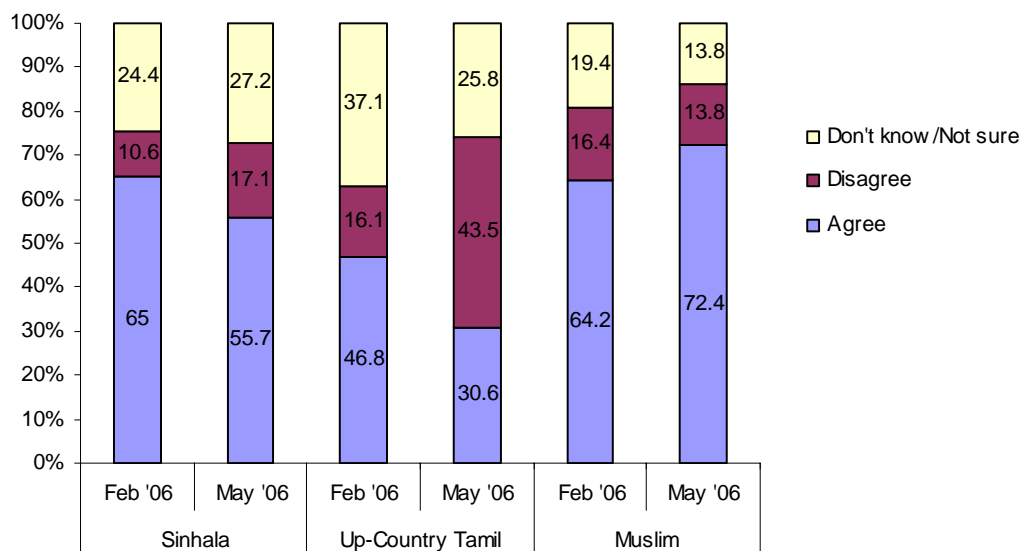


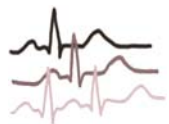
I think the Government is fully capable of finding peace through talks.

Ethnic Breakdown



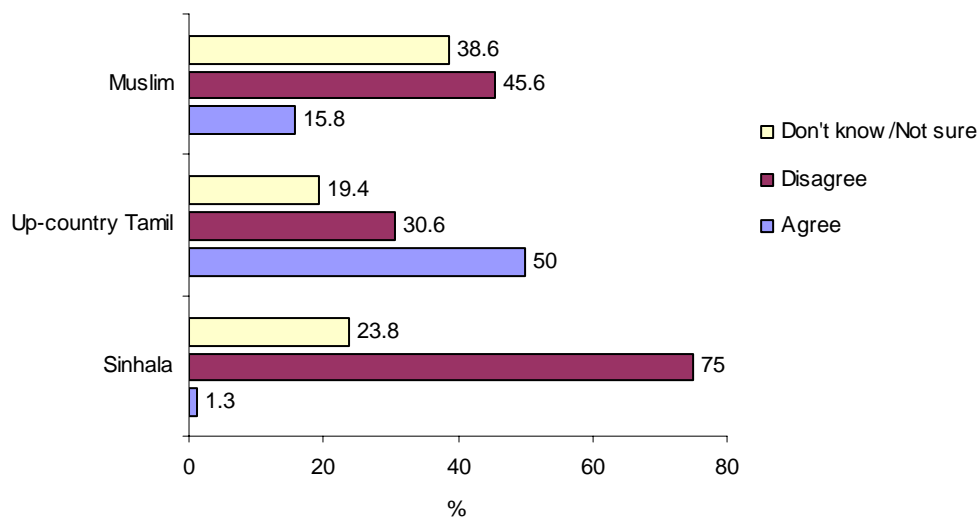
Changes of opinion amongst the Sinhala, Up-Country Tamil and Muslim communities



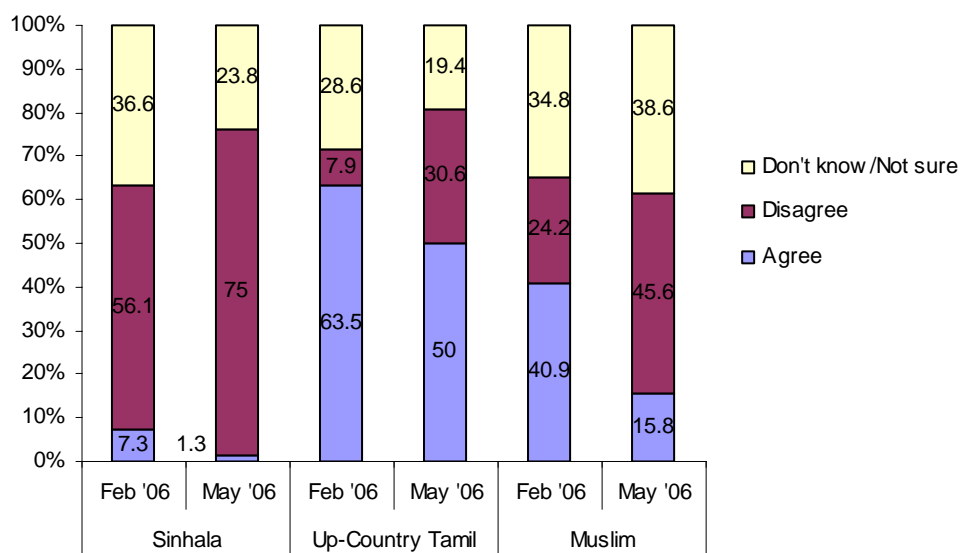


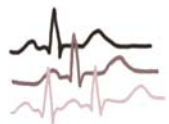
I think the LTTE is committed to find peace through talks.

Ethnic Breakdown



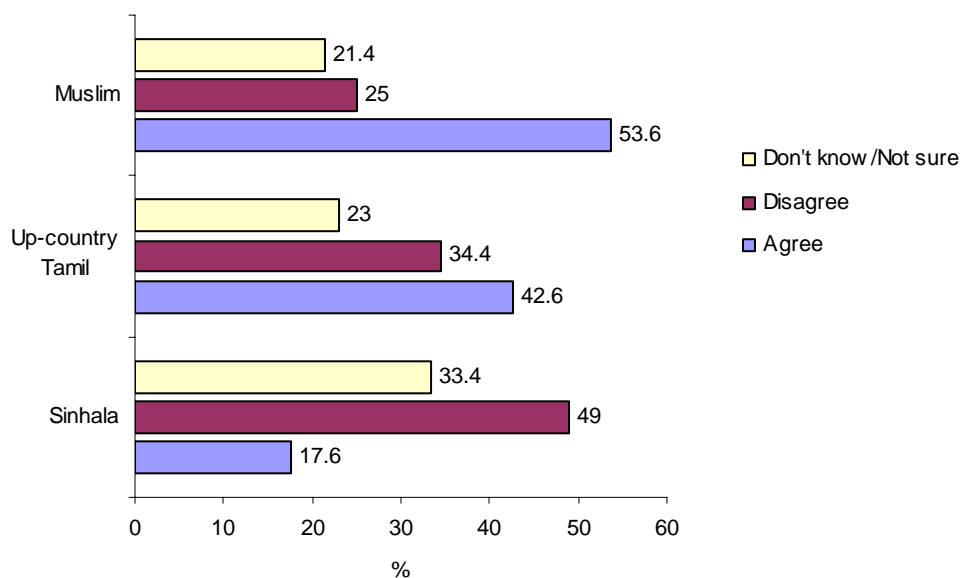
Changes of opinion amongst the Sinhala, Up-Country Tamil and Muslim communities



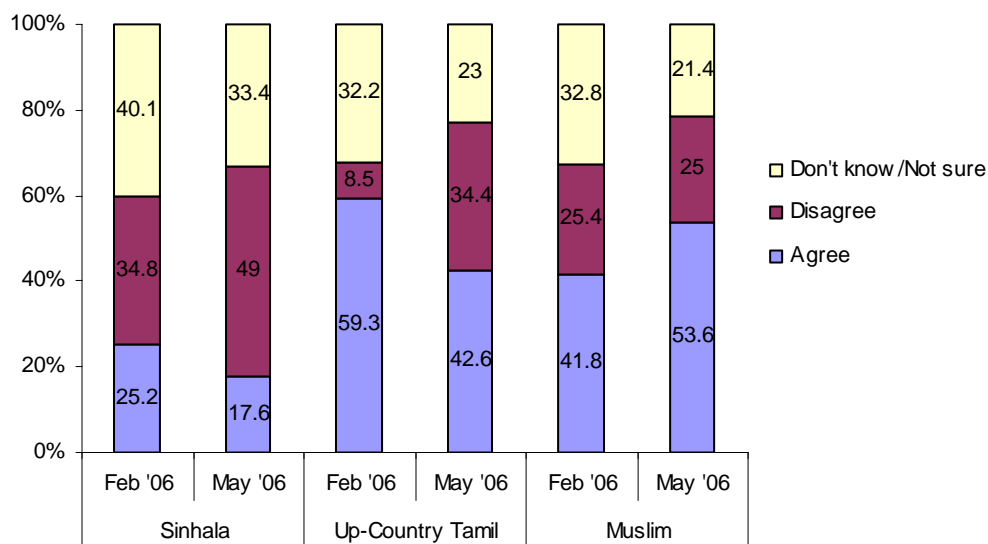


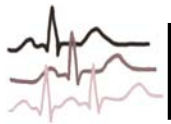
I think the LTTE is fully capable in finding peace through talks.

Ethnic Breakdown

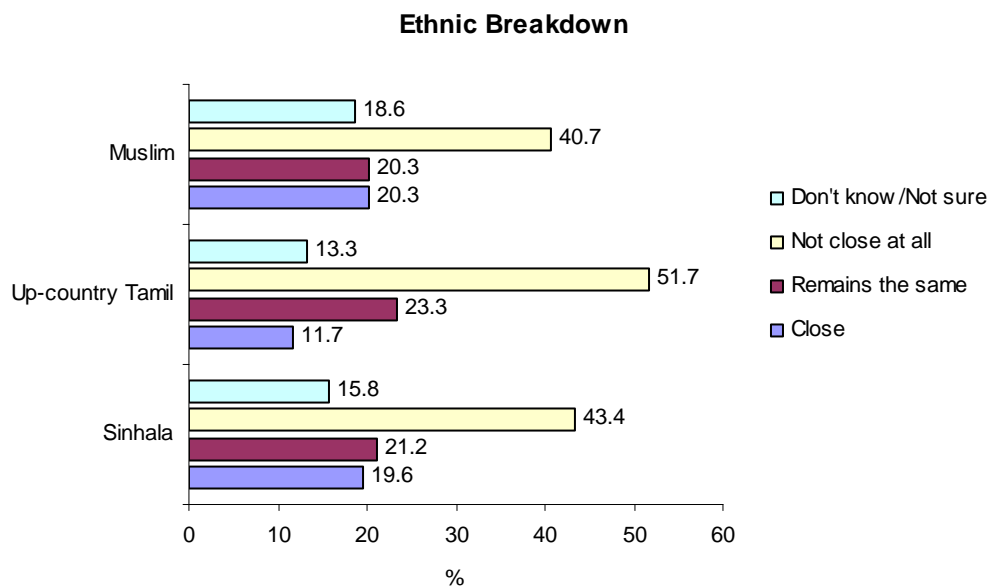


Changes of opinion amongst the Sinhala, Up-Country Tamil and Muslim communities

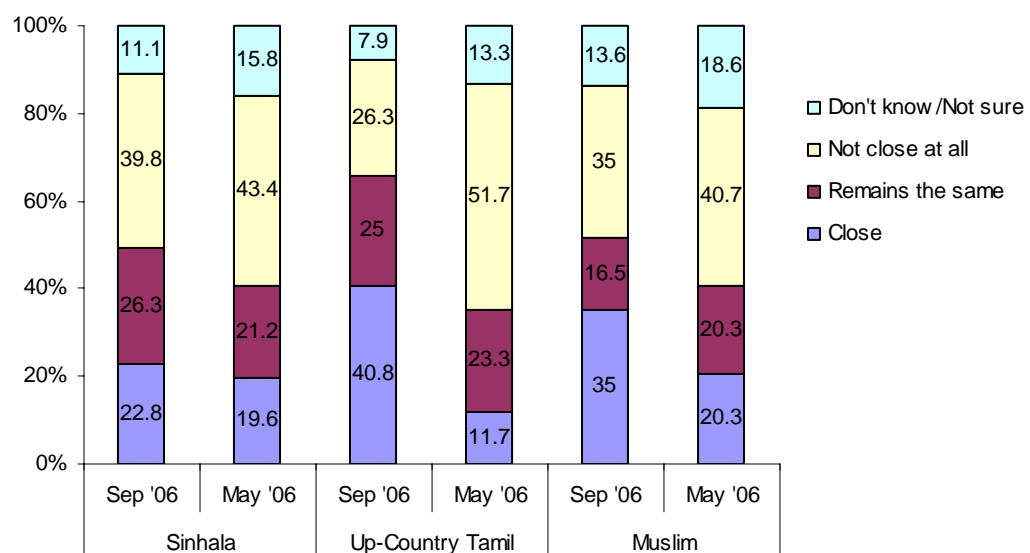




Compared to the situation of the peace process a year ago, how close do you think is the country, at present, in approaching a permanent settlement to the ethnic conflict?



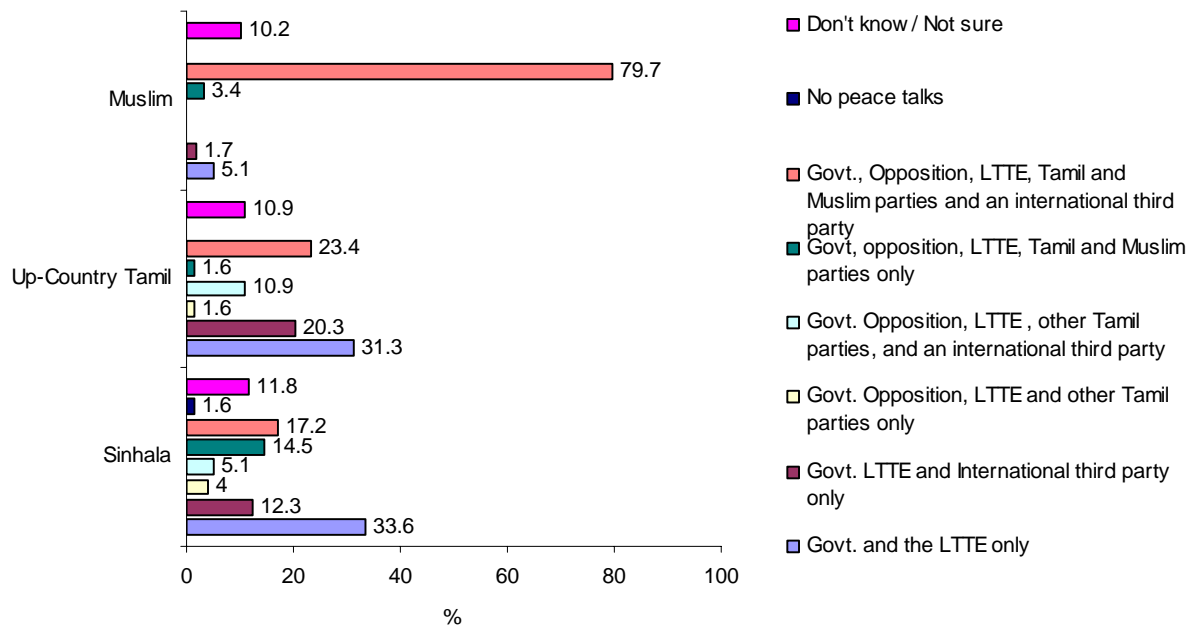
Changes of opinion amongst the Sinhala, Up-Country Tamil and Muslim communities

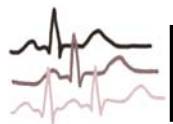




If peace is to be found through negotiations, according to your opinion, who should be involved in negotiations?

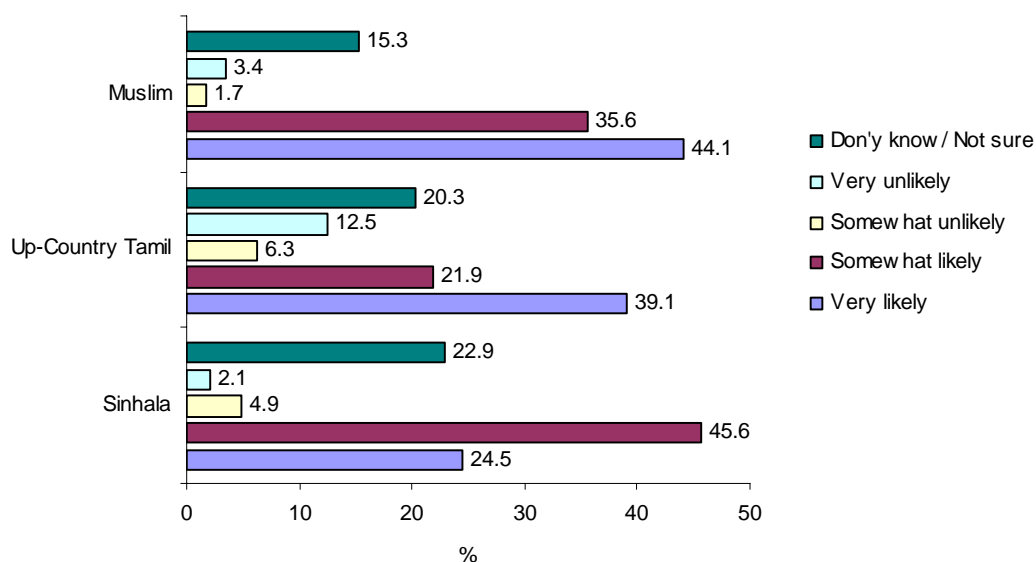
Ethnic Breakdown



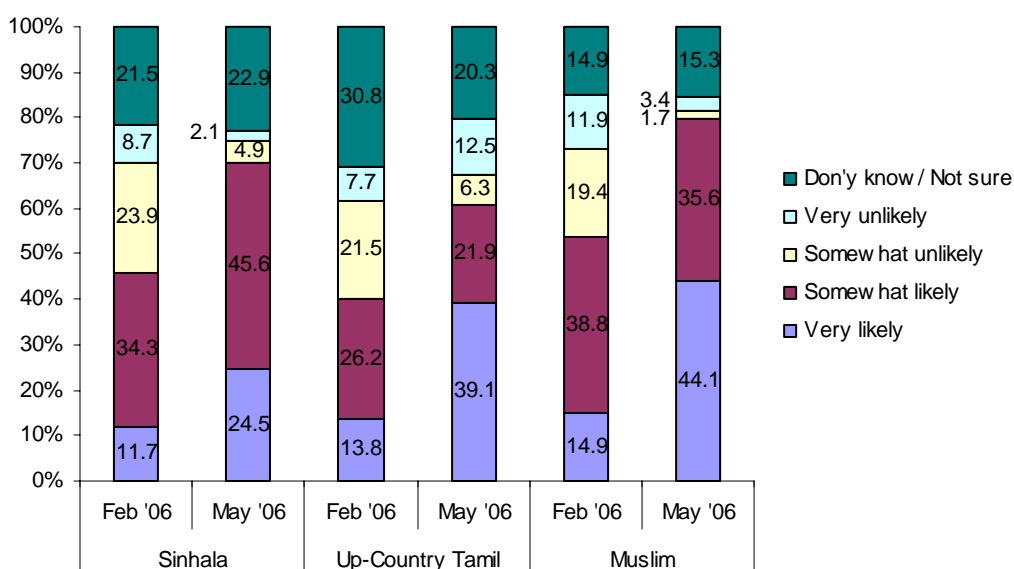


Given the current situation in the country, how likely is it that war will resume?

Ethnic Breakdown



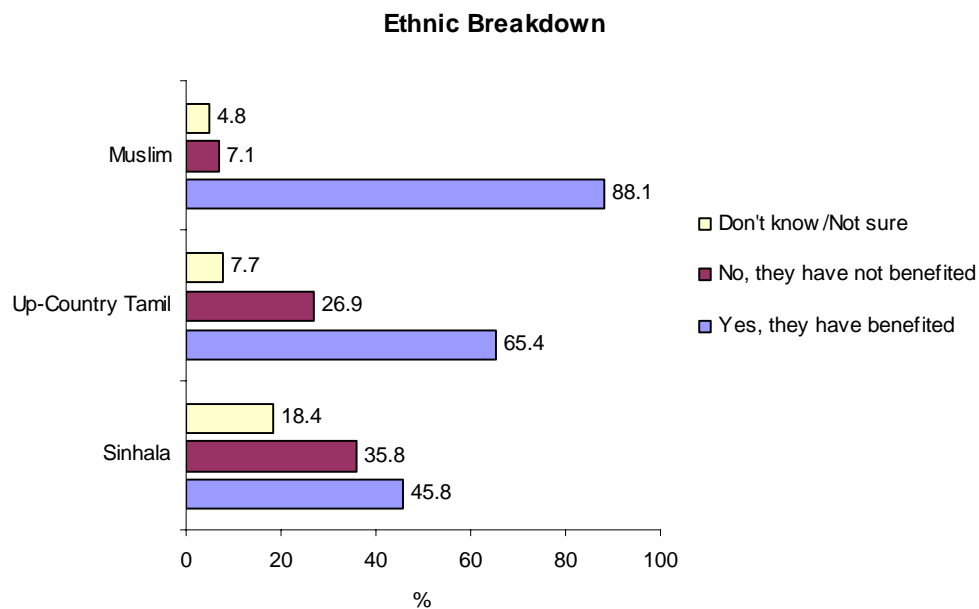
Changes of opinion amongst the Sinhala, Up-Country Tamil and Muslim communities



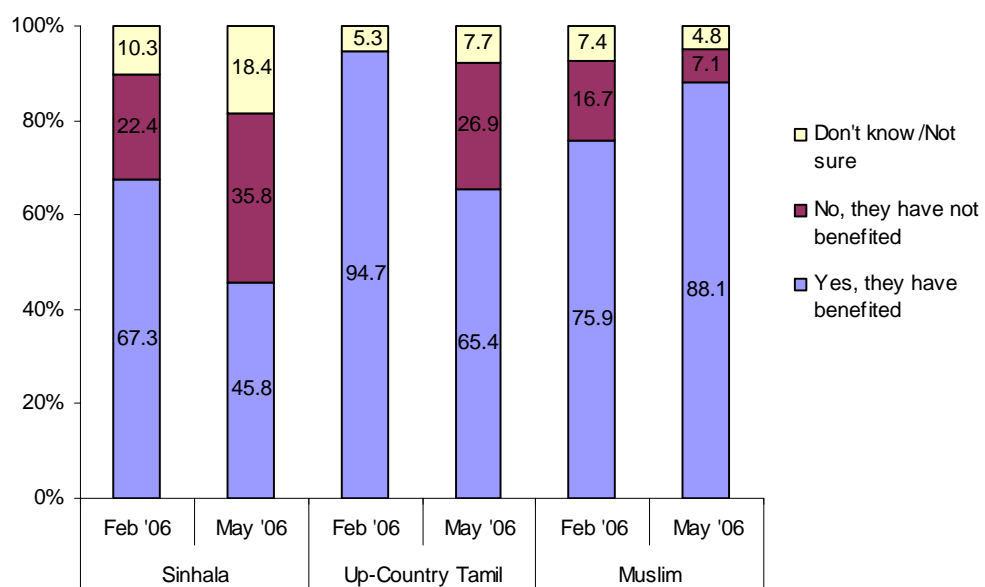


Ceasefire Agreement (CFA)

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?

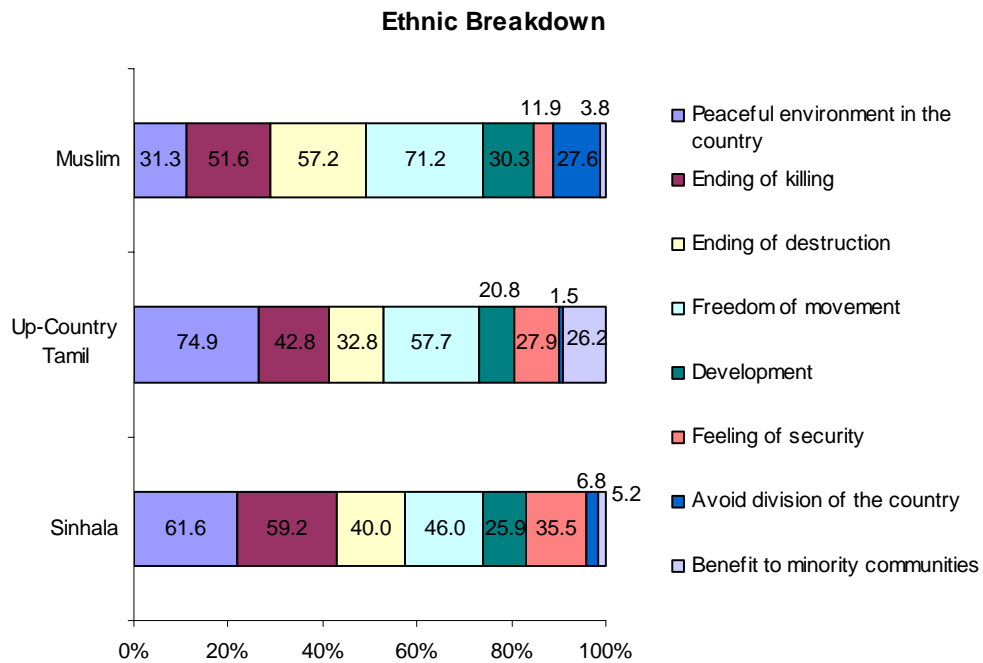


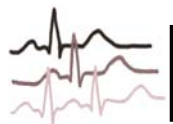
Changes of opinion of Sinhala, Up-Country Tamil and Muslim communities





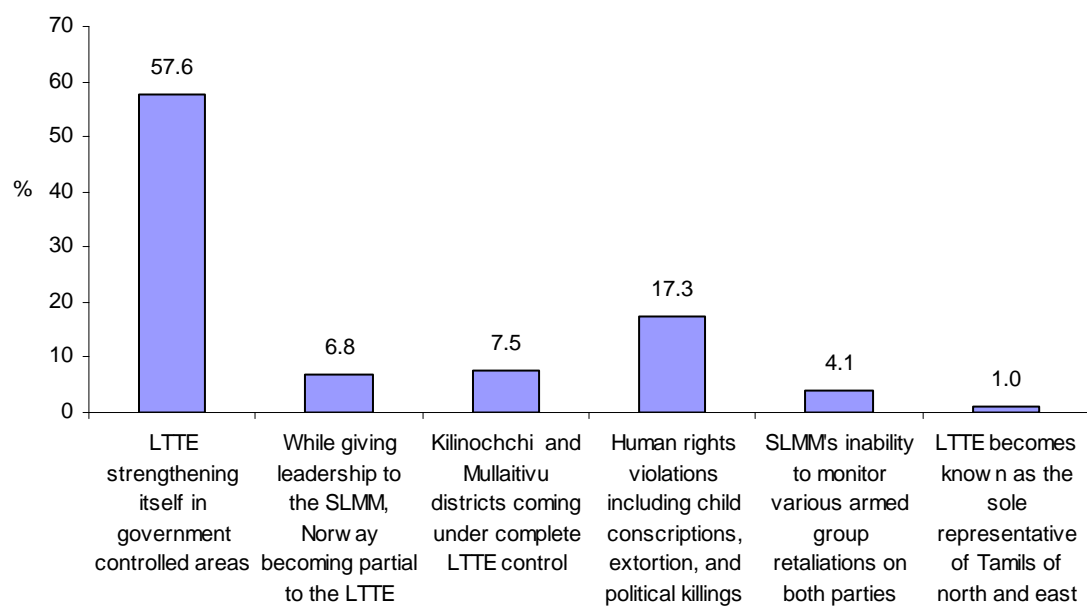
If the answer is "Yes", please tell me three most important benefits of the CFA.





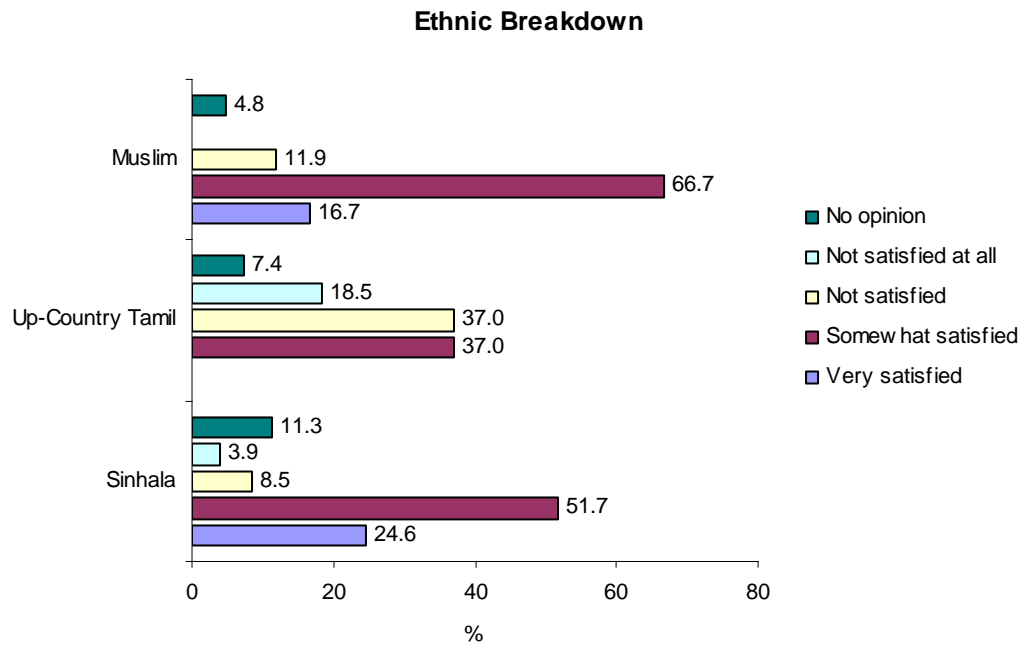
If you think that the CFA has not benefited, what do you think is the main reason?

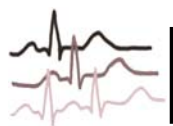
Changes of opinion amongst the Sinhala community



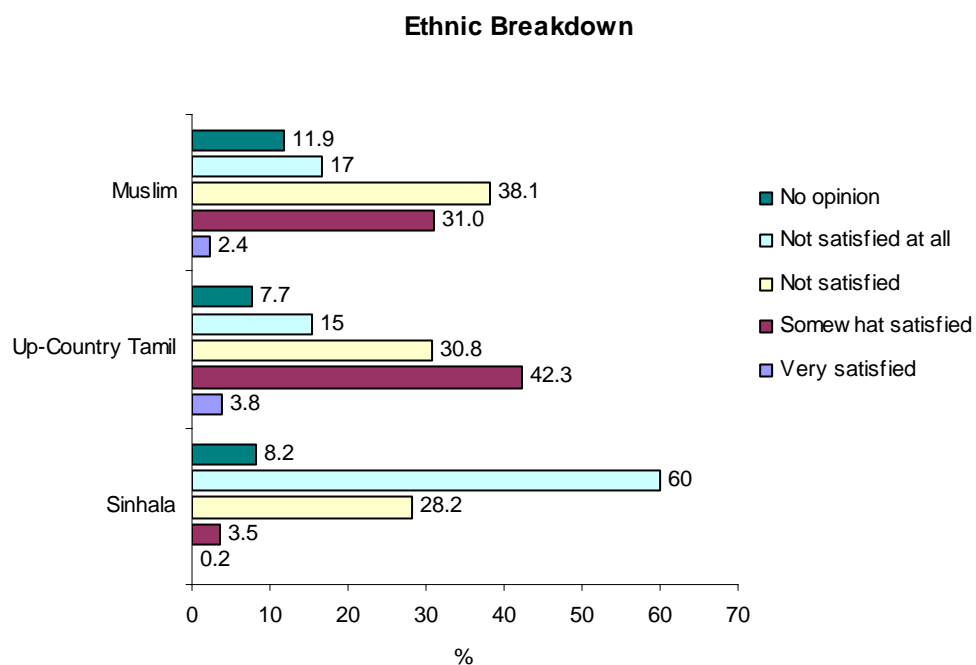


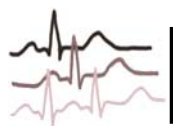
How satisfied are you with the Government's commitment to the Ceasefire Agreement?





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

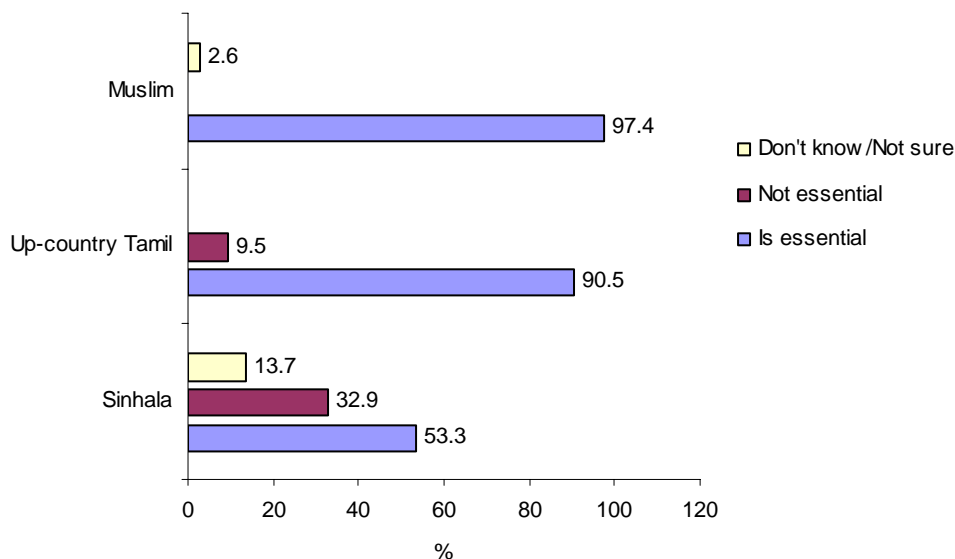




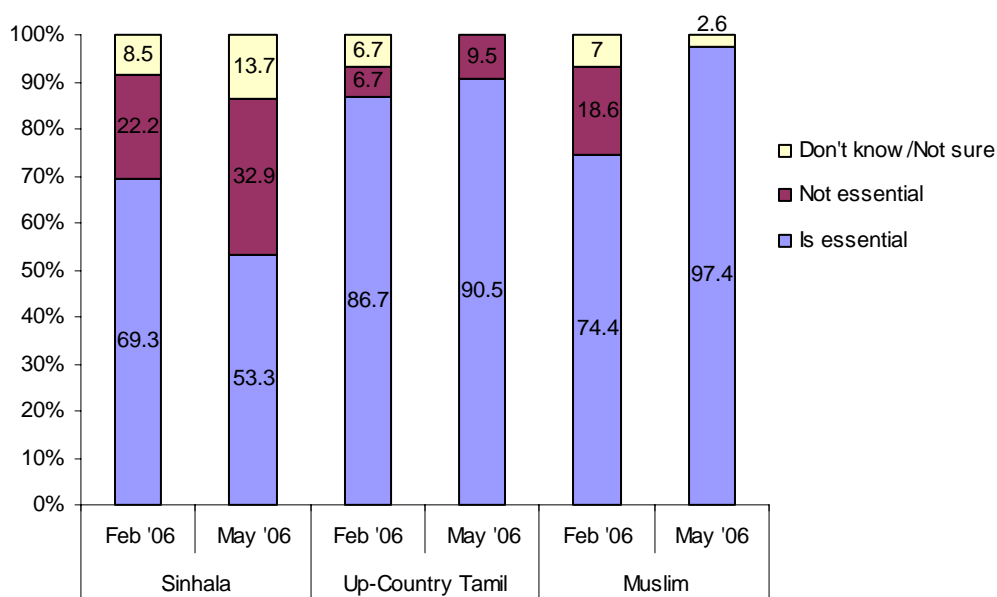
Sri Lanka Monitoring Mission

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

Ethnic Breakdown



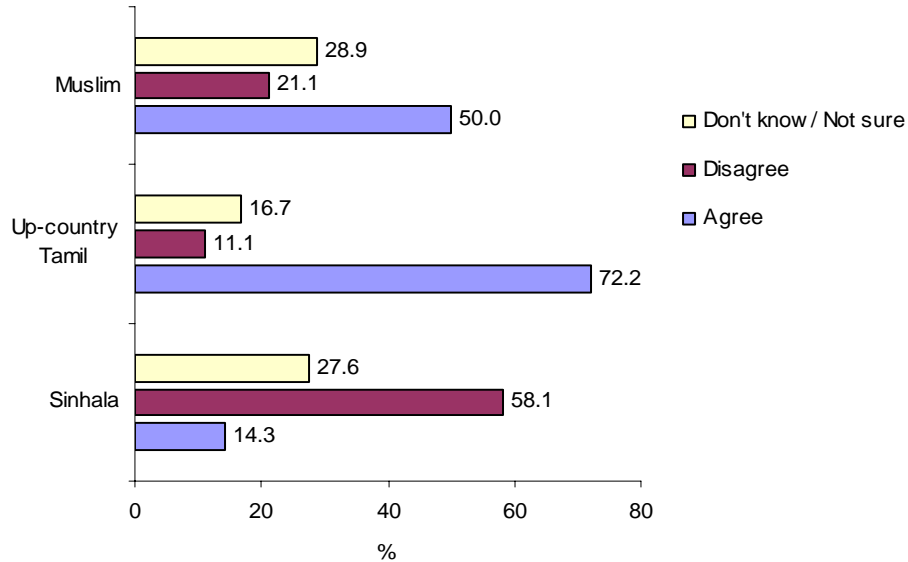
Changes of opinion of the Sinhala, Up-Country Tamil and Muslim communities



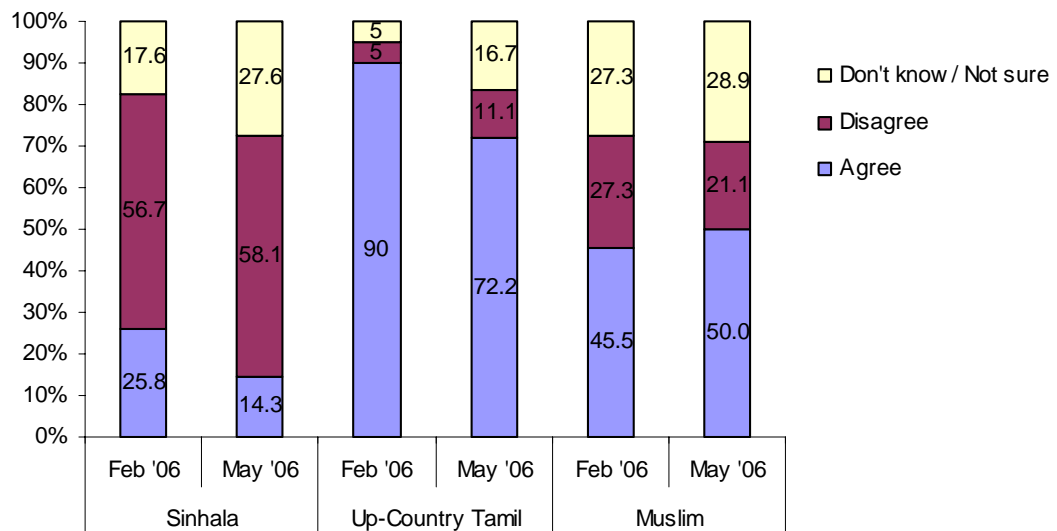


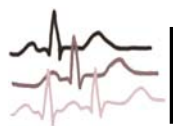
I think the Sri Lanka Monitoring Mission is impartial in its monitoring of the ceasefire agreement.

Ethnic Breakdown



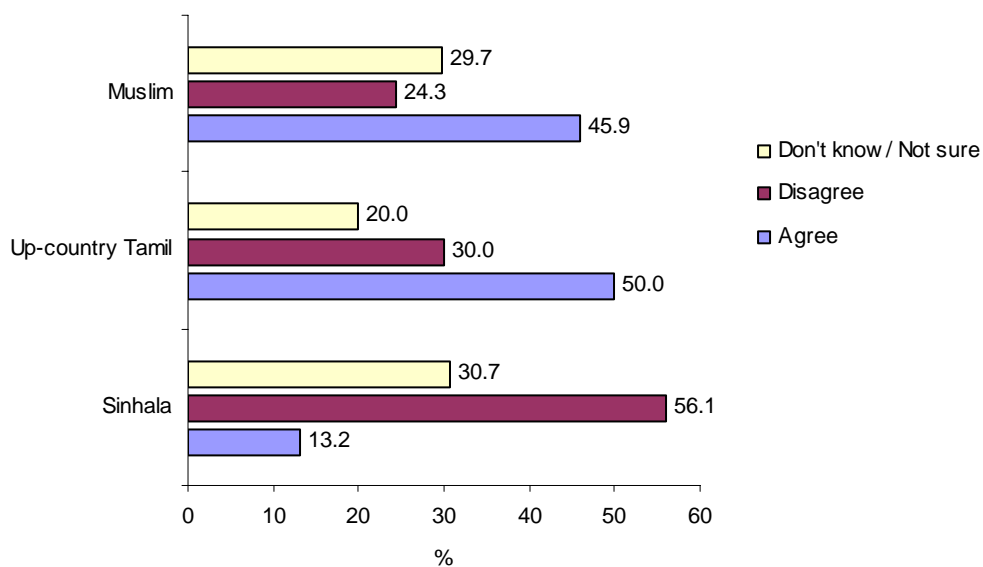
Changes in the opinion amongst the Sinhala, Up-Country Tamil and Muslim communities



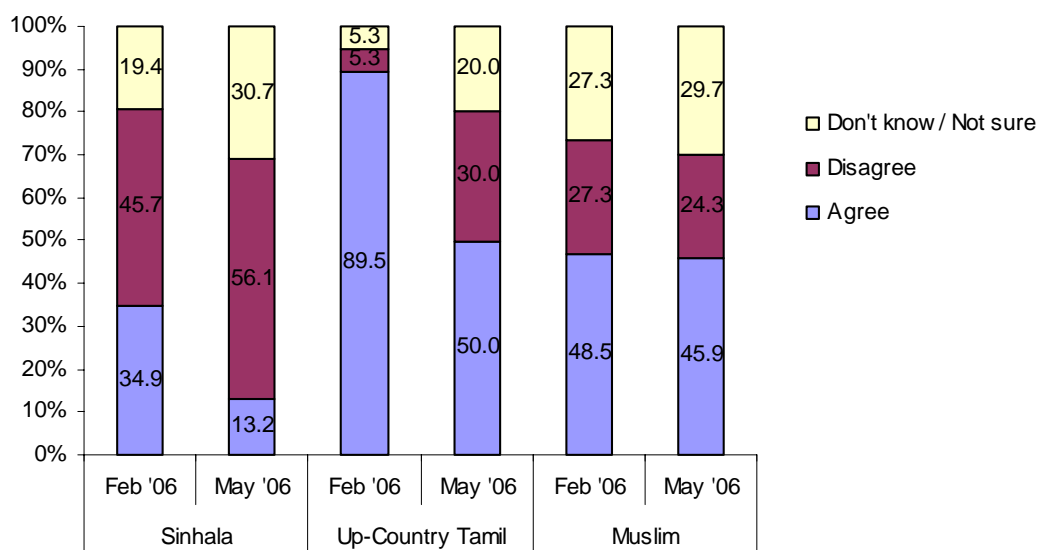


I think the Sri Lanka Monitoring Mission is effective in its monitoring of the ceasefire agreement

Ethnic Breakdown



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

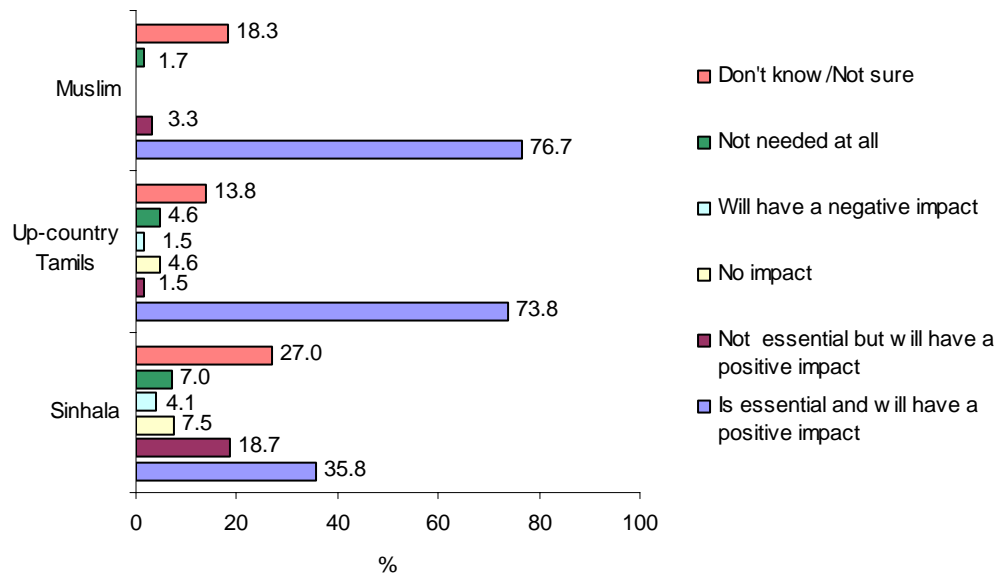




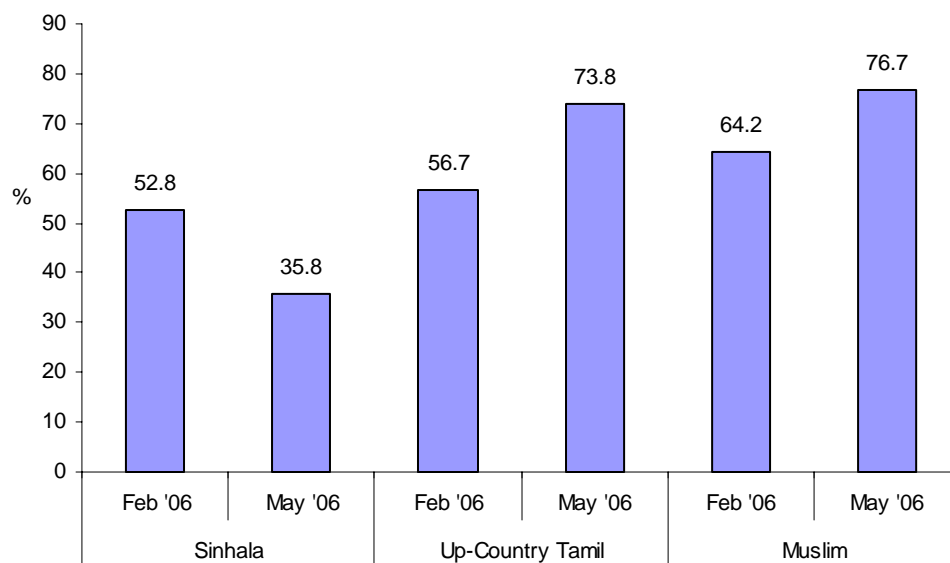
Foreign Involvement

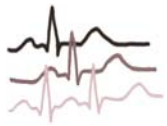
What is your opinion on the need for an international third party as a facilitator to the negotiations, to solve the ethnic conflict in Sri Lanka?

Ethnic Breakdown

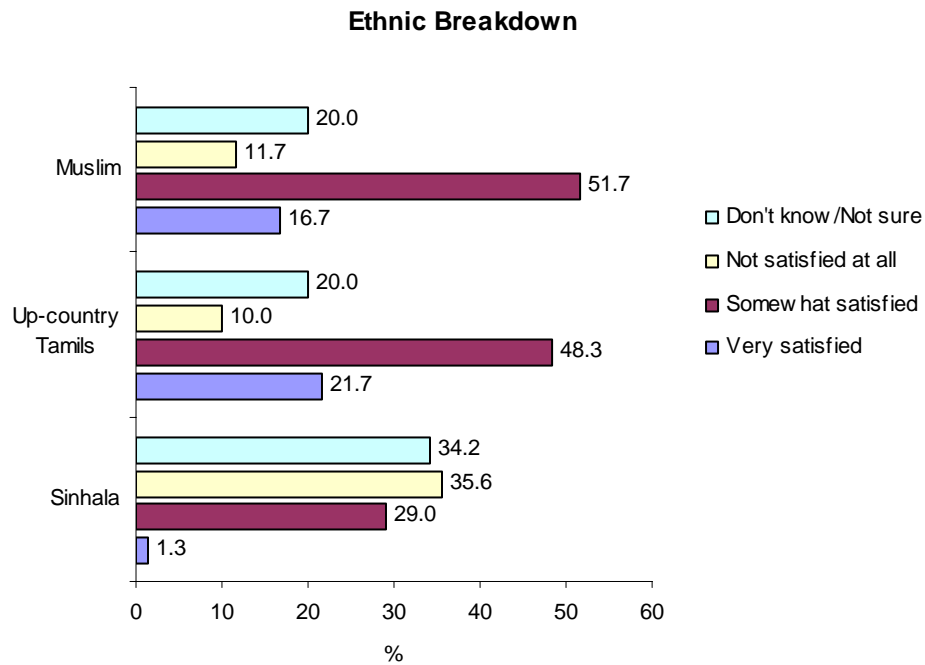


Sinhala Response: Is essential and will have a positive impact



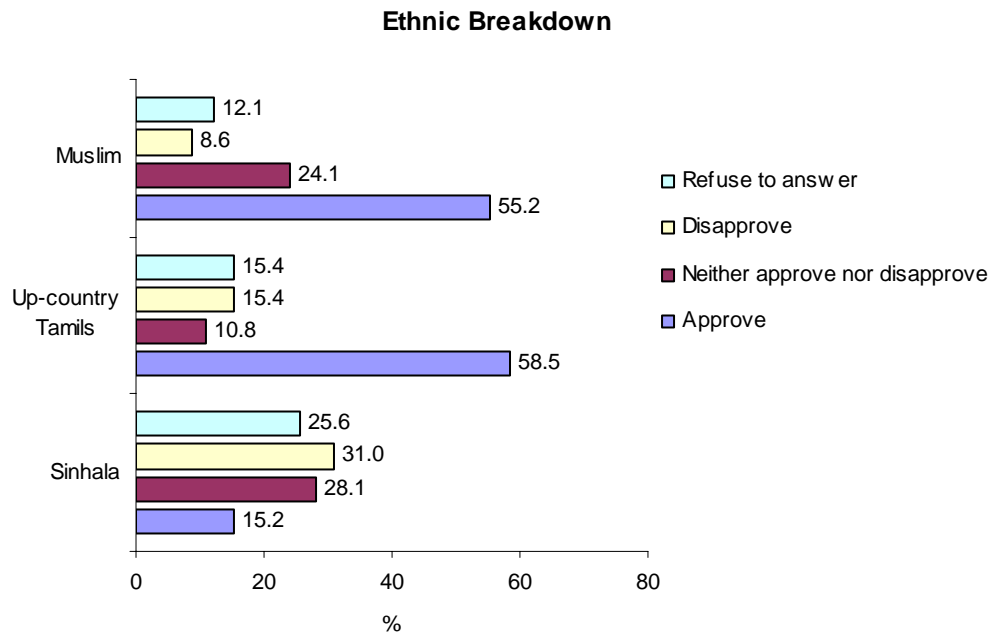


The Norwegian government has been officially facilitating peace negotiations since November 2001. Please tell me your level of satisfaction with the Norwegian role as facilitator.





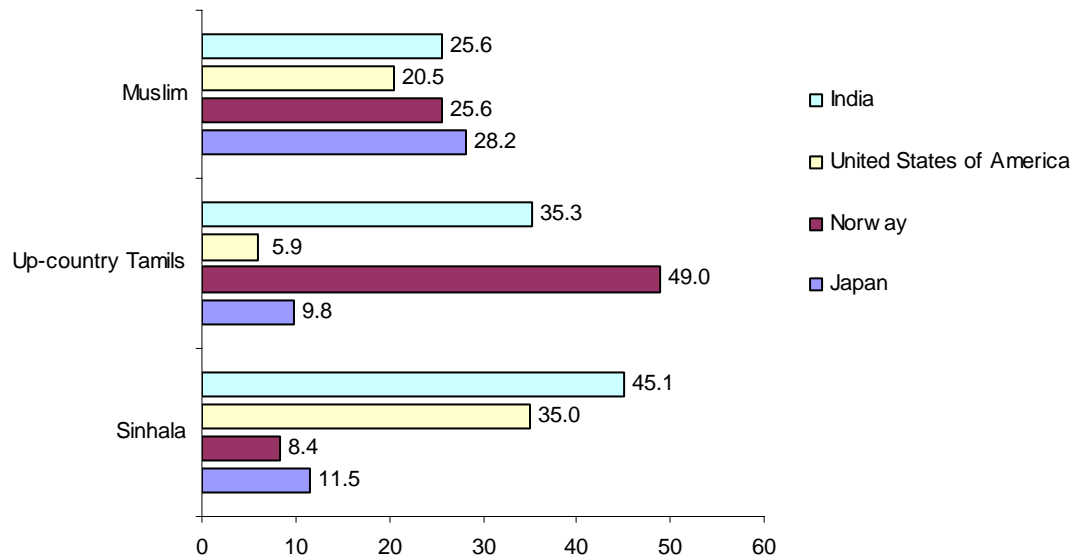
Please state if you approve or disapprove of Norway continuing to facilitate the peace process.

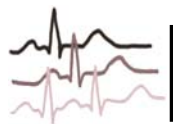




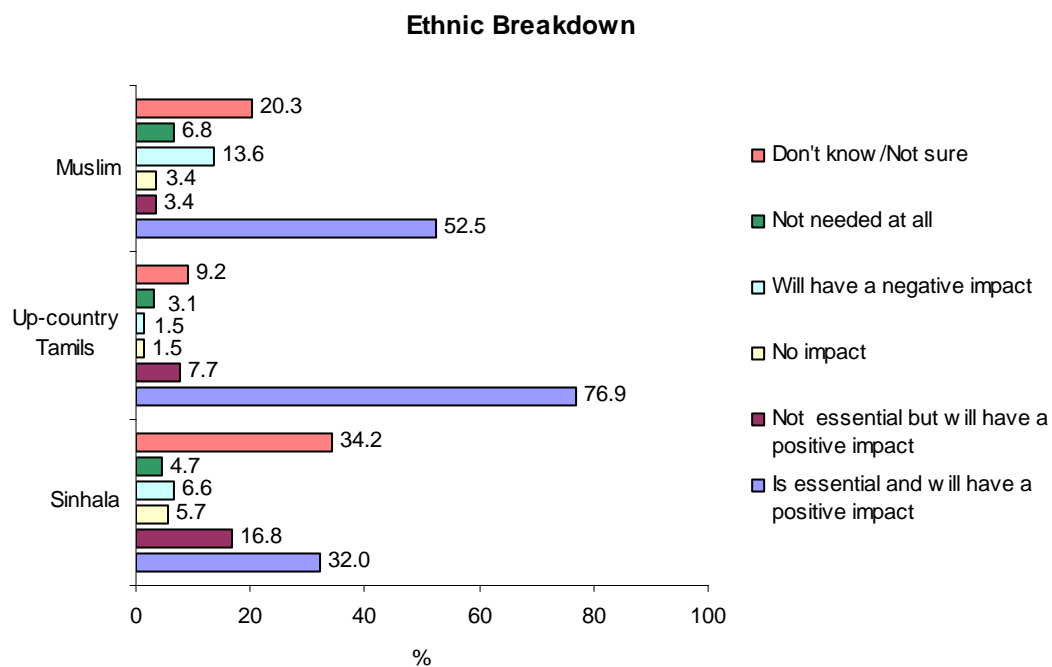
Please state the most suitable country that should play the role of facilitator in the peace process.

Ethnic Breakdown





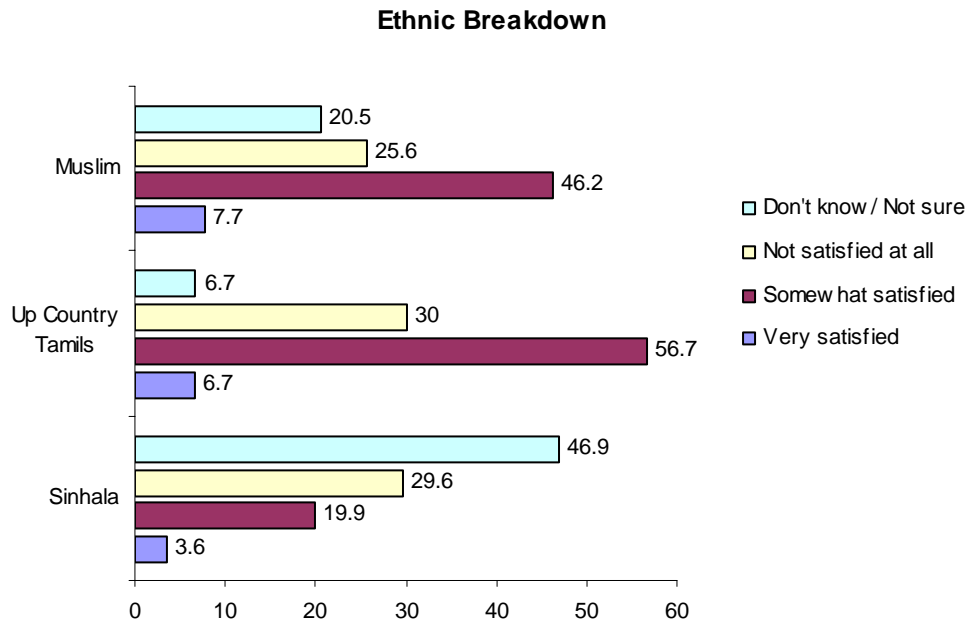
What is your opinion of the need for India's involvement in the Sri Lankan peace process?

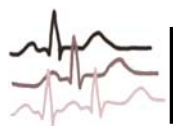




Geneva Talks

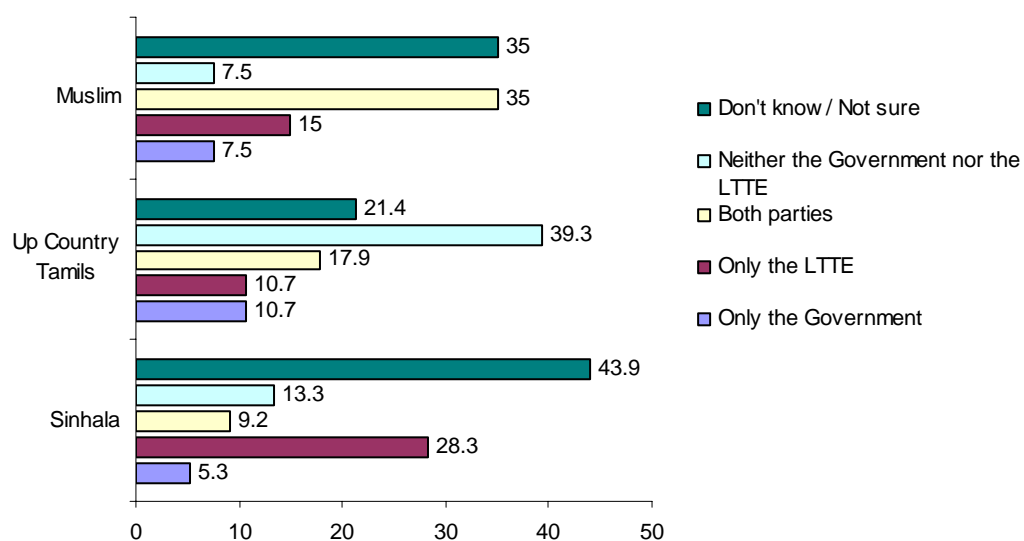
How satisfied are you with the outcome of the last round of peace talks?





In your opinion which party benefited most in the last round of talks?

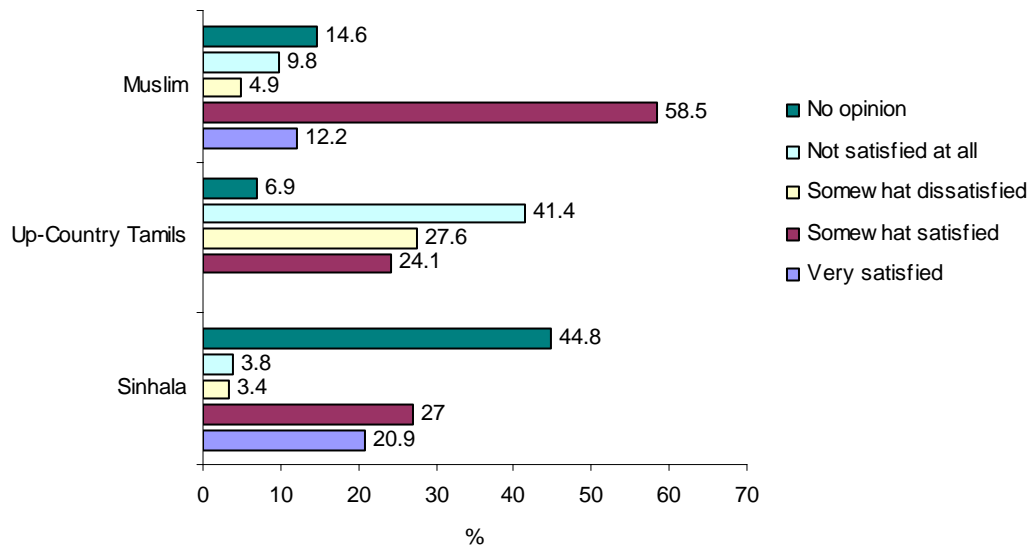
Ethnic Breakdown





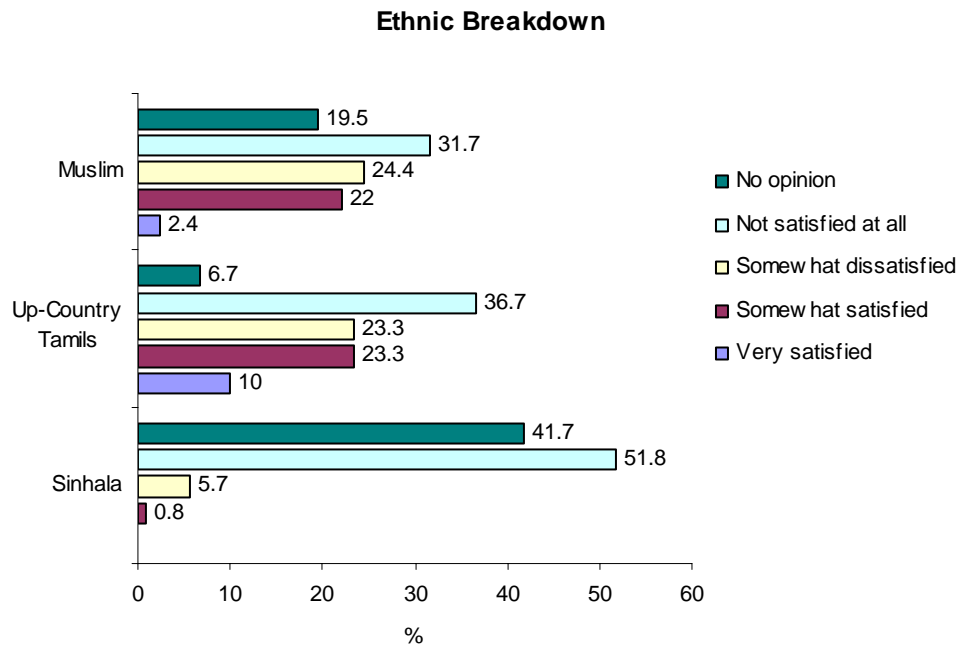
Please tell me your level of satisfaction with regard to the Government's commitment to the pledges it made at the Geneva talks?

Ethnic Breakdown





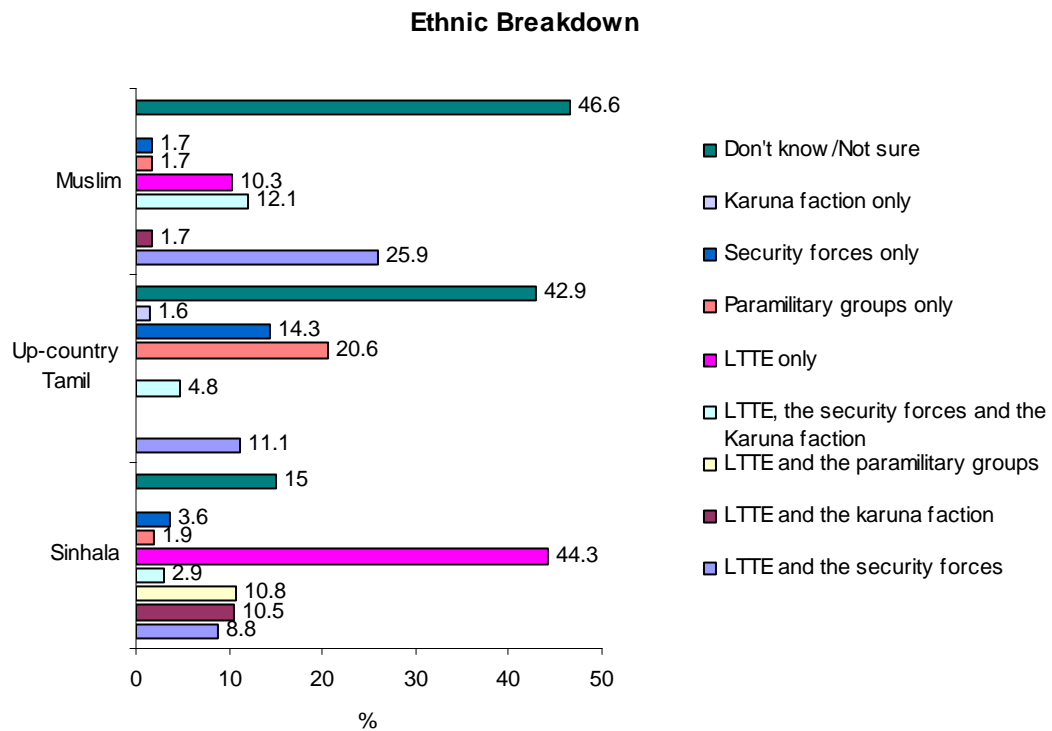
Please tell me your level of satisfaction with regard to the LTTE's commitment to the pledges it made at the Geneva talks?





Escalation of Violence

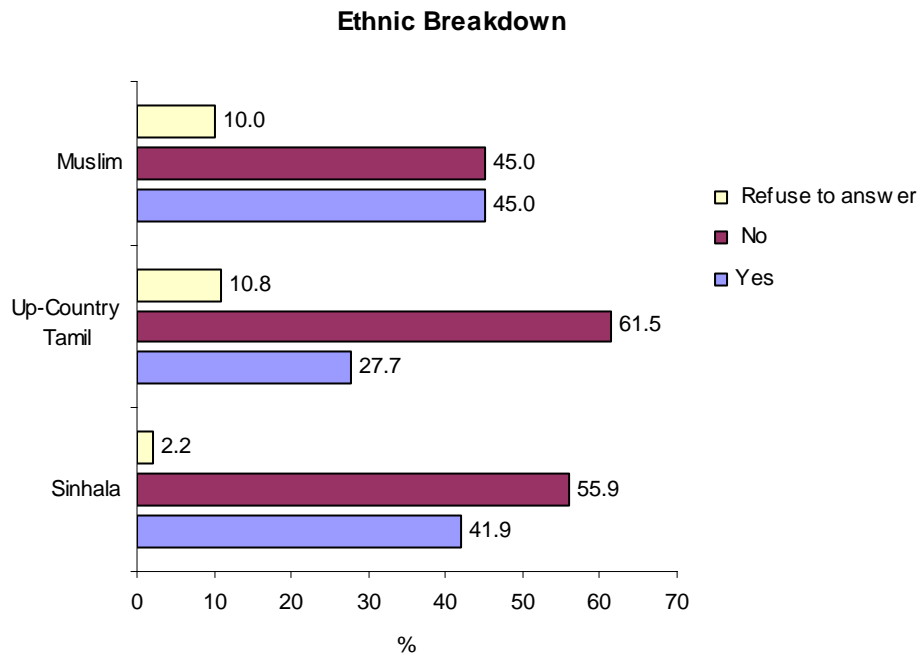
Who do you think is primarily responsible for the escalation of violence?

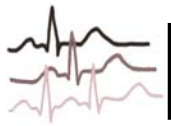




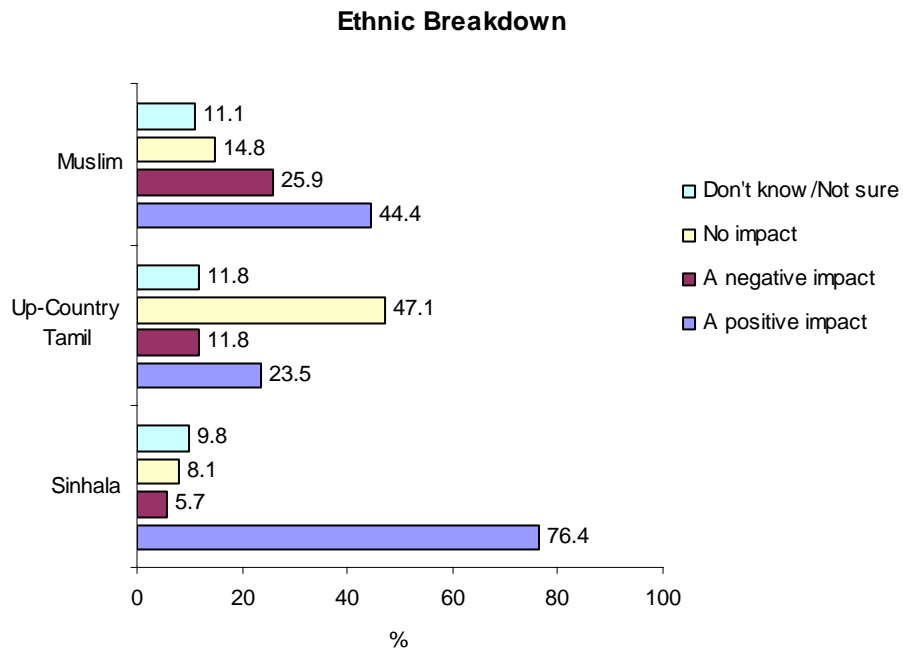
LTTE ban in Canada

Are you aware that the Canadian government banned the LTTE as a terrorist group under the Anti Terrorism Act?



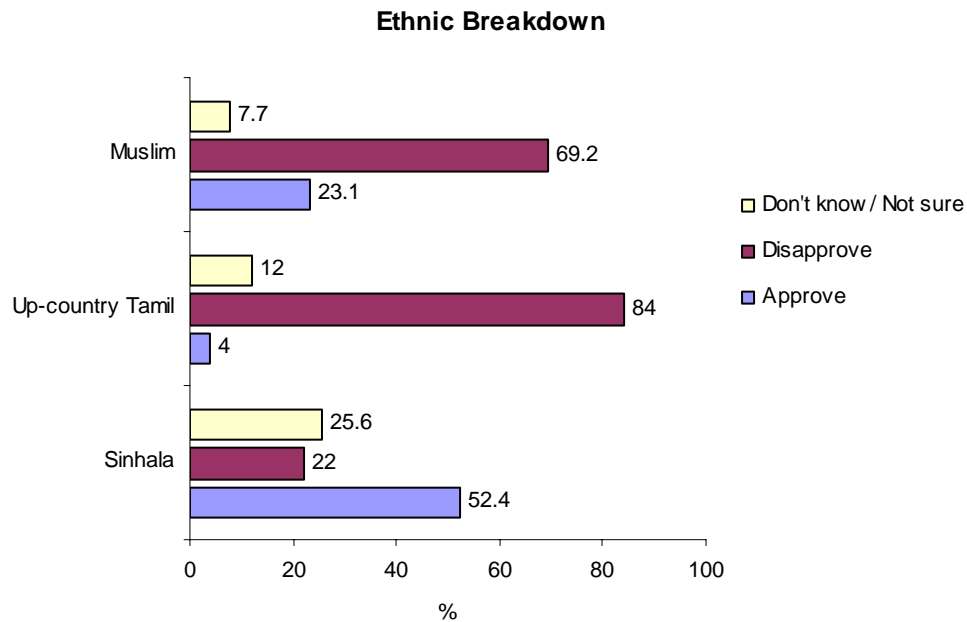


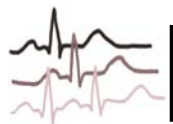
If “yes”, what do you think will be the impact of this ban on the peace process?



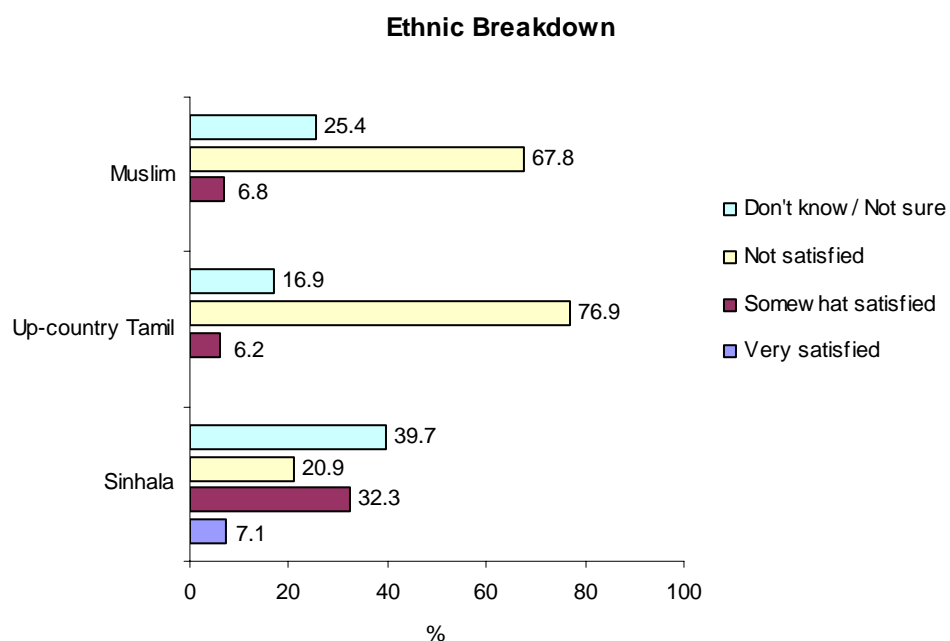


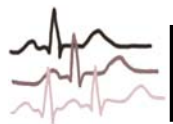
JVP & Patriotic National Movement's strong calls for removing Norway from the peace process
In your opinion, do you approve or disapprove of Norway being removed from the peace process?



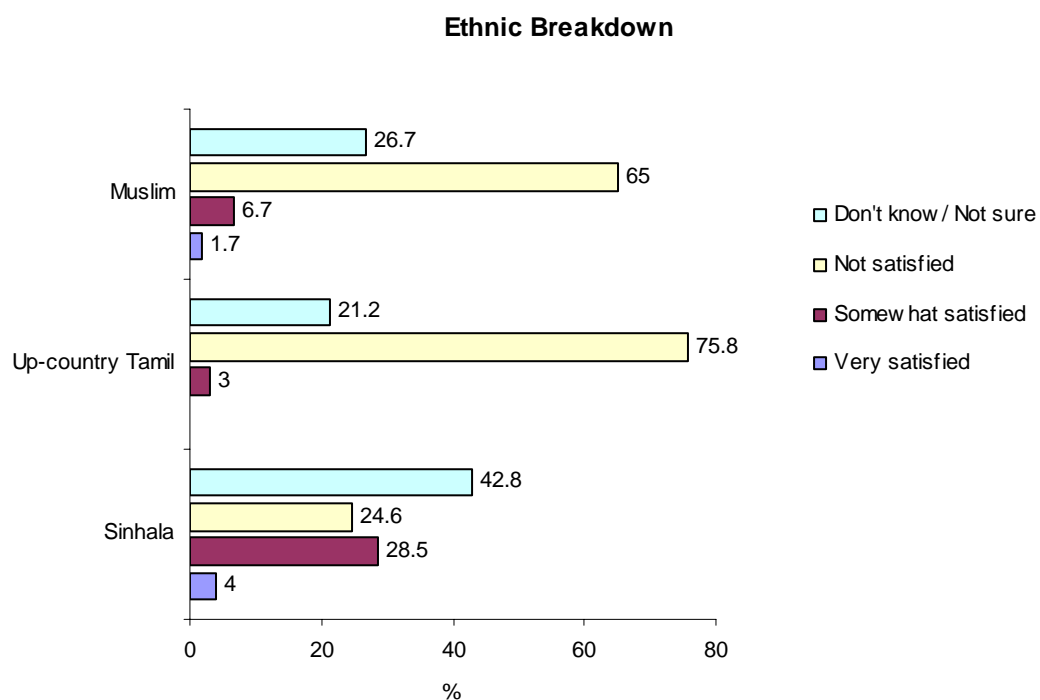


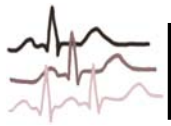
How satisfied are you with the JVP's role in preserving peace in Sri Lanka?





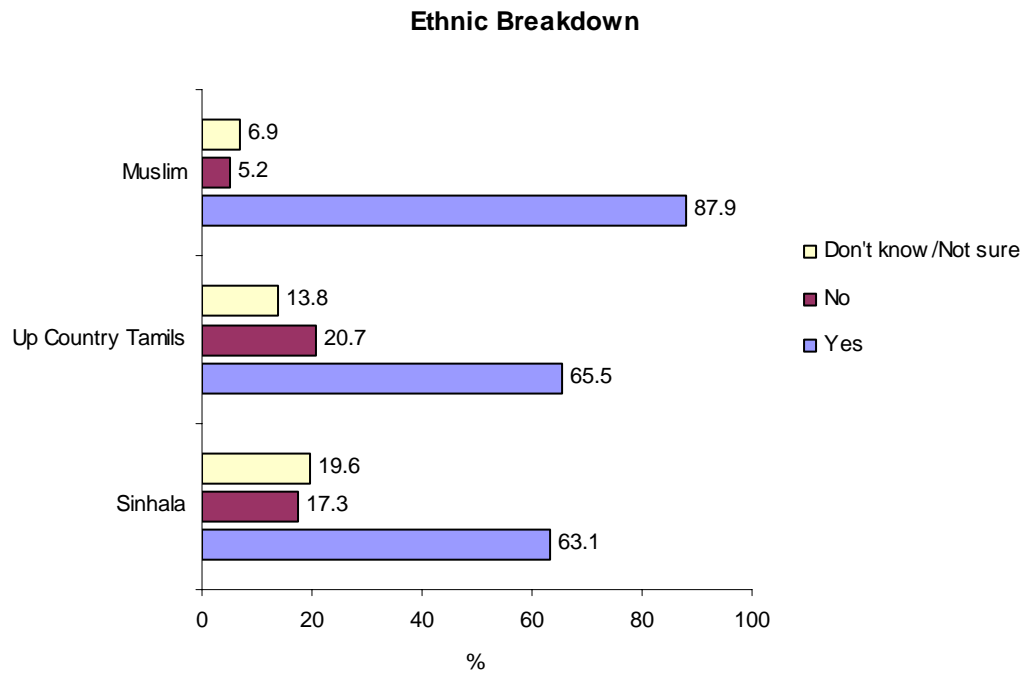
How satisfied are you with the JHU's role in preserving peace in Sri Lanka?

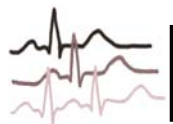




Recent Bombing

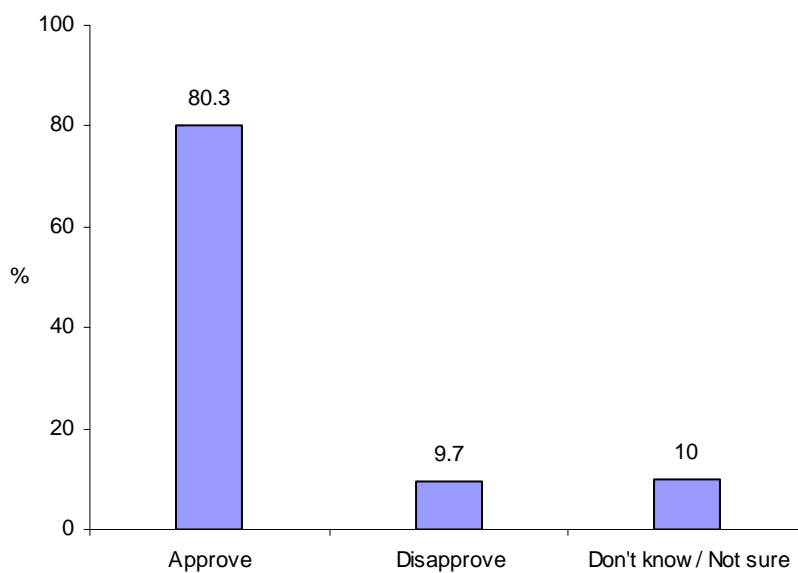
Given the attempted assassination on the army chief Lt. General Sarath Fonseka, do you think the Government should go for talks in Geneva?

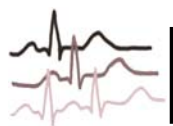




If "yes", do you approve or disapprove of these retaliatory attacks by the Government?

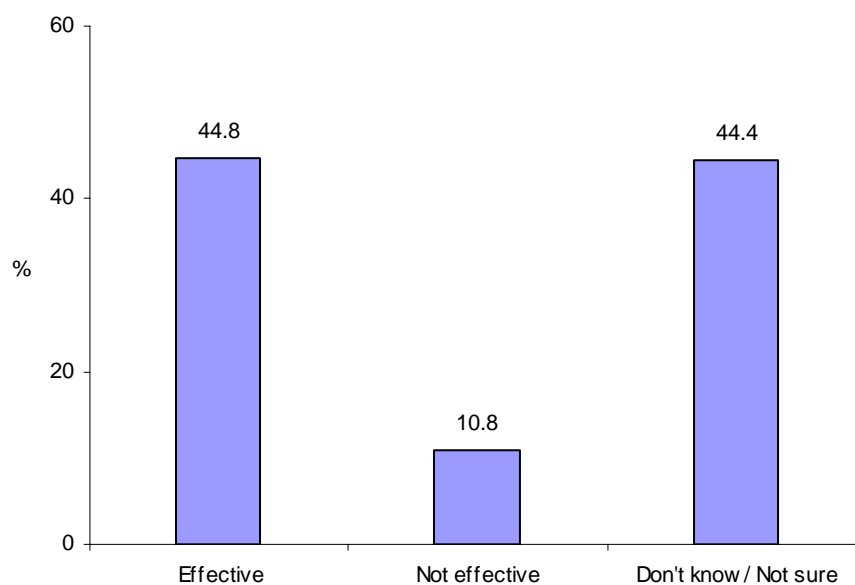
Response of the Sinhala community

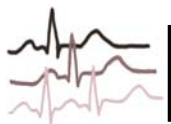




In your opinion, how effective are those retaliatory attacks on the LTTE ?

Response of the Sinhala community

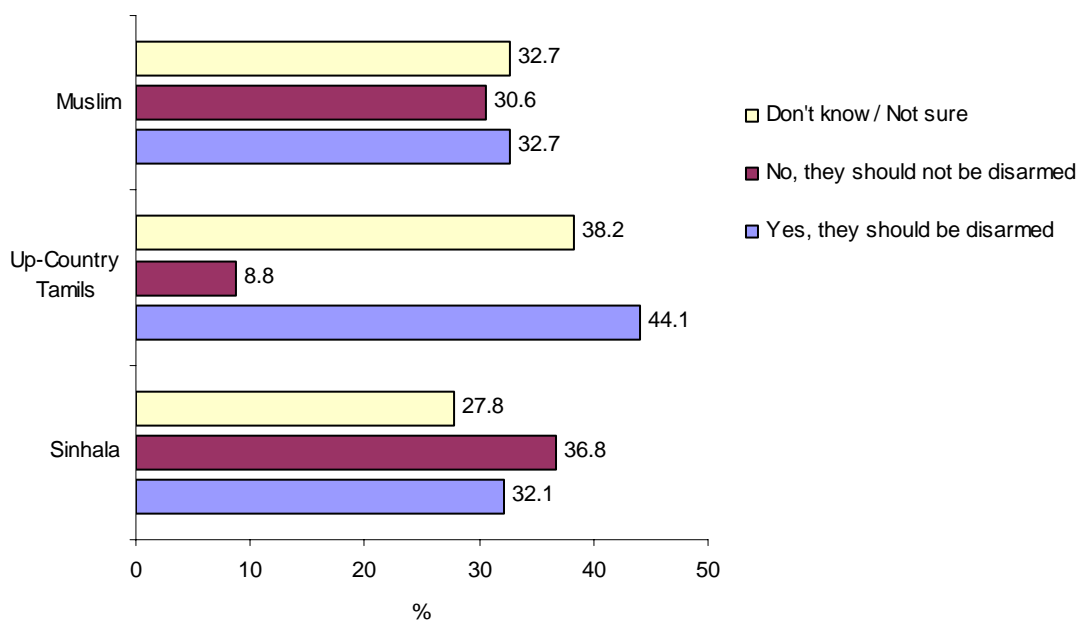


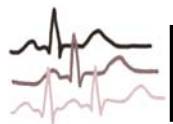


Karuna Group

"Some people say Karuna faction should be disarmed while others say they should not". Please tell me your opinion in this regard.

Ethnic Breakdown

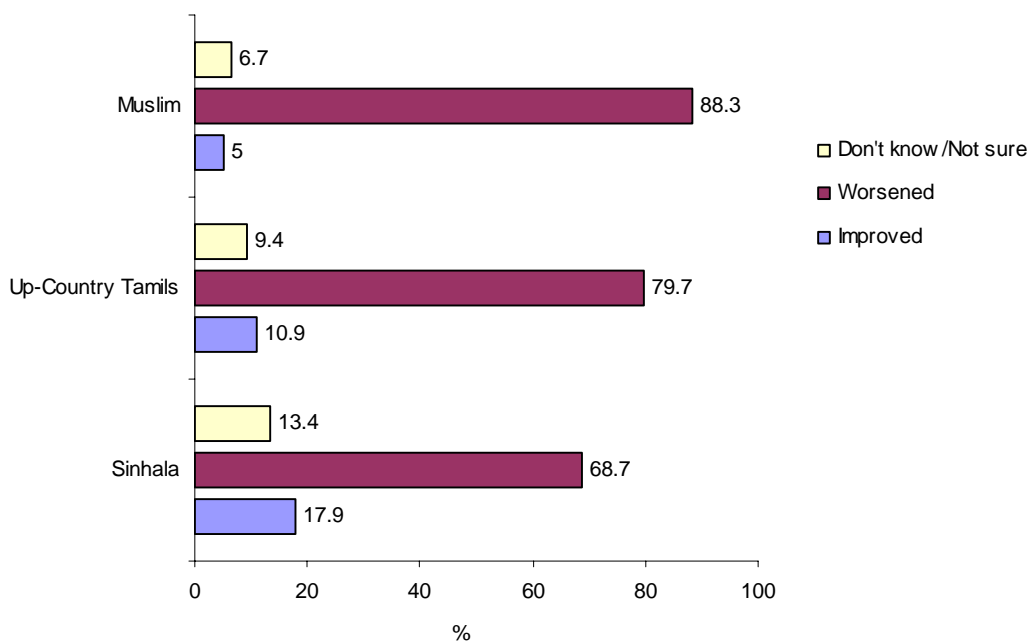


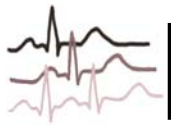


Current Security Condition

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

Ethnic Breakdown

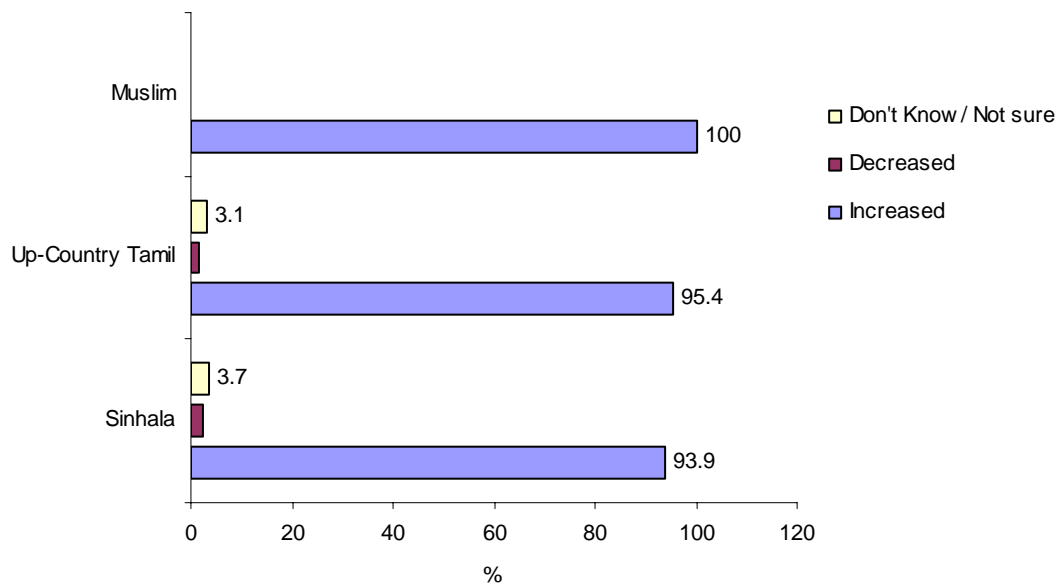




Cost of Living

Compared to the situation a year ago, do you think the cost of living in the country has increased or decreased?

Ethnic Breakdown





Annex

District sample (weighted) distribution in May 2006

DISTRICT	TOTAL
Colombo	144
Gampaha	154
Kalutara	80
Kandy	95
Matale	34
Nuwara Eliya	56
Galle	81
Matara	60
Hambantota	42
Kurunegala	110
Puttalam	54
Anuradhapura	57
Polonnaruwa	29
Badulla	61
Monaragala	32
Ratnapura	80
Kegalle	59
NATIONAL	1228

Ethnic sample (weighted) distribution in May 2006

ETHNICITY	TOTAL
Sinhala	1103
Muslim	60
Up-Country Tamil	66
NATIONAL	1228

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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