



Permanent Mission of Sri Lanka -Switzerland

24<sup>th</sup> July 2007

**Sri Lanka Monitoring Mission (SLMM) disowns *Economist* reference**



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இலங்கை மேலநீற்றுதல் கண்காணிப்பு குழு

Professor Rajiva Wijesinha  
Secretary General  
The Secretariat for Coordinating the Peace Process  
Block 5, BMICH, Bauddhaloka Mawatha  
Colombo 7



**“A war strange as fiction” – Article in The Economist 7 June 2007:**

Dear Prof. Wijesinha,

Thank you for your fax from 14 June and the letters in which you refer to the article “A war strange as fiction” in The Economist on 7 June.

In the mentioned article there is a reference to a joint Norwegian-Icelandic Monitoring Mission claiming “that around 200 soldiers were involved in each of these attacks” supposedly pointing to several attacks from last October. I can ensure you that this has never been stated by SLMM staff; neither by individuals nor through interviews with our Spokesperson.

We have scrutinised our Weekly Reports since 1 February; in the report from 19-26 March a LTTE claim regarding “some 200 soldiers were involved in confrontations west of Vavuniya” is mentioned. This was in March, however, and the report merely states what the LTTE has reported to the SLMM.

The article in The Economist has seemingly not used credible sources, as facts and figures are taken out of context and assumptions made that might not reflect the reality. Nevertheless, the SLMM neither has the mandate nor manpower to monitor all international press and refute misunderstandings.

The SLMM understands the need to develop certain criteria regarding media monitoring and in some cases response to misunderstandings; these criteria however, have to be developed in accordance with SLMM resources. The SCOPP and the SLMM should strive to develop a common understanding of how SLMM’s resources are best utilised, as well as which cases the SLMM should pursue.

Yours sincerely,  
  
Anne Sender  
SLMM Liaison Officer SCOPP