Press Release

10th August 2012

Comrade SK Senthivel, General Secretary of the New-Democratic Marxist-Leninist Party issued the following statement on behalf of the Politburo of the Party in connexion with the death of theTamil political detainee Dilrukshan on 7th August.

Dilrukshan, a Tamil political detainee who was brutally attacked in the Vavunia Prison and then in the Mahara Prison and subsequently warded in a state of coma at the Ragama Hospital, died on 7th August 2012, making his death the second murder in prison. The New-Democratic Marxist-Leninist Party strongly denounces this murder. The only way left for the people is to mobilise themselves and demand for justice and fairness.

Officials and Special Task Force personnel had carried out planned brutal attacks on Tamil political detainees in the Vavunia Prison and then in the Mahara Prison, to which they were transferred. Of the detainees, a youth named Nimalaroopan has already died. It was only two weeks after his death that his remains were handed to his parents, through a court of law. Dilrukshan, another Tamil political detainee who was gravely wounded in the attacks and detained in hospital in a state of coma, has now died, making his death the second murder in prison. Prison house murders seem to be occurring in keeping with the saying “When the Devil reigns, the scriptures devour corpses”.

It is under conditions in which the fundamental rights of prisoners are being trampled underfoot, that attacks and murders of political detainees are continuing to persist. Political detainees continue to face a risk of similar prison murders. The Party thus reemphasises that it is only through extending further the people’s movement for the release of political prisoners that attacks and, murders in inside prisons can be stopped.

The Party expresses its full endorsement of the awareness campaign to be held on 15th August 2012 in Jaffna demanding the release of all political prisoners, based on the call by the Tamil national People’s Front, and announces participation by the Party in the campaign. The Party also calls upon all people who seek justice and fairness to participate in the campaign.

SK Senthivel

General Secretary, New-Democratic Marxist-Leninist Party