

Reforming Security Sector to Inculcate Professionalism: An Integrated Security Policy for Sri Lanka

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Abstract— Security is a pre request for any sovereign state in its way towards the prosperity of its citizens. Sound security policies have made grate states remarkably stand as iconic. To reach this magnitude of success, Security, as a concept and state practice have moved very much away from the competitive path and tilted towards corporative arrangements. Security will not have only national security domain as most believed and further encompasses much wider spectrum for nation or state in the contemporary state concept. Studying the Security paradigm and arrangements are mostly interconnected concepts. In that most important factors can be understood within the national security of state and peripheral areas like linking of National security to Homeland security (Concept of USA) and National International and Human security paradigms. The integrated approach to face the threat perspective will reverse the traditional process of division of executive power. Instead it will set it under one umbrella and one objective, it is safeguarding national security. In the context of Sri Lankans security arrangement, it is obvious that Sri Lanka is still capitalizing on the old Westminster arrangement, as their strategies to face eventualities. Existing concept which clearly separates the task and role of government ministries to ensure the accountability. The vision of the US homeland security umbrella is totally otherwise and it ensures the nexus among the work of the branches of executive to ensure a state that is safe, secure, and resilient against terrorism and other hazards. Even in the Sri Lankan situation the professionals must have a clear sense of what it takes to achieve the overarching similar corporative security structure. It is visible that solitary approaches that most of the Sri Lankan ministries are used to solve their security problems have been ineffective in nature due to hierarchy and much complexity and procedural concepts. This paper looks at the need and possibilities of integrating the relevant branches of executive (Govt. ministries) to establish sustainable security for Sri Lanka and addressing a articulating unique executive system of integrate organization with having authority when need of hour for nation to address .The author will adopt a mix method to gather data relevant to the subject matter.

Keywords— National Security, Homeland Security, Cooperative Security, Security Umbrella, Resilience

I. INTRODUCTION

A national security strategy seeks to counter real or potential threats to a state's interests, values, or survival. Security is interdependent with the state or individual or other social actors. These may include physical safety, economic welfare, autonomy and psychological well-being. The George C. Marshall Centre for Security Studies stated that National security strategy is the art and science of developing, integrating, and deploying the political, economic, diplomatic, military, informational, and other instruments of national power and influence to secure political objectives in peace and war

With the protracted terrorist conflict coming to an end in May 2009 the in Sri Lanka, the national armed forces has been identified as a highly successive army which has conducted humanitarian operation to rescue the country and its citizens from terrorism regardless their language or religion. Especially, in post war context in Sri Lanka there are significant gaps exist in the national strategy which can be identified as a considerable common problem in the national scenario. As a consequence of thirty years-long war the prevailing security system of the society has became a major challenge for integrating nations in a peaceful manner. Therefore it is essential to formalize an institutionalized mechanism to strengthen national bodies with the sound clarifications of the roles and responsibilities of the government. Moreover an Integrated Security policy is an essential requirement to provide guidance for conducting planning in accordance with the concept of Homeland Security.

The concept of Homeland Security had begun its rapid ascent of the U.S. Public Policy on September 11, 2001 after the attacks which carried out by Al-Qaida to its own soil. After 9/11 there is an urgent public demand and an unprecedented degree of political will to do and spend whatever is necessary as quickly as possible to enhance the security.

The United States definition of Homeland Security is found in President Bush's July 2002, National Strategy for

Homeland Security which was released as a part of the Administration's proposal for creation a department of Homeland Security. The Strategy defines Homeland Security as a concerted national effort to prevent terrorist attacks within the United States, reduce American vulnerability to terrorism and minimize the damage and recovery from attacks that do occur. Even though in 2009 Sri Lanka defeated terrorism successfully Sri Lanka cannot stamp out the LTTE and national security threats completely. Because there are several National Security challenges identified in post war era. Internal and External threats such as re-emergence of terrorist and extremist groups within the country and reorganizing activities of the LTTE and their work internationally can be recognized as major challenges of reforming National Security sector within the country.

II. REFORMING SECURITY SECTOR

Emma Rothschild identifies the security of individual as the most important prerequisite for the security and it is understood here as freedom and fear from the prospect of the administrative failures. Since independence previous governments have tried to find an administrative solution to the ethnic grievances genuinely and some have made it worse. Failure to resolve ethnic problems through proper administrative policies led to the ethnic armed conflict in Sri Lanka. As an example the Sinhala Only policy which was part of government policy 1956. The segregation made by this policy ultimately led to ethnic conflict in Sri Lanka. There was incapability of civil security departments to address common security approach to overcome ethnic confrontation. Therefore in the post war era Security Sector reforms should address all interests of civilians in Sri Lanka. It is in this sense National Security being achieved in a collective administrative process based on the concept of Homeland Security.

As Donald Rumsfeld stated that "our victory will come with Americans living their lives day by day, going to work, raising their children and building their dreams as they always have – a free and great people". According to this perspective national security in Sri Lanka should implements under a unique domestic application and further it should mandated by the responsibility to dealing with different aspects of threats.

National Security Agencies should address National Interest of the country. National interests of any state can be recognized in order to survival of the state or the core national interests. Under the guidance of the executive president the agencies should maintain effective armed forces and stable economic system within the national boundaries. Human Security holds a

people centered administrative process and multi disciplinary understanding that security involving different aspects such as Social, Economic sectors. The important dimensions are to entail the well-being of individuals respond to ordinary people's in dealing with threats. Human elements within a state that the quality personality and ideals of decision makers will define the national interests of a state. Global Security agency capture the incorporation of measures taken by states to develop diplomatic relations and agreements. Therefore Global Security agency plays the role of "Security Umbrella" with the bi lateral and multi lateral partnerships with the countries.



Figure1. Security Agencies
Source: Author

Following proposed model can make a significant contribution undertaking decisions made by the Executive President. That cooperation would be a safety value for the government in times of emergency. The similar kind of model has been used over the years by successive governments in USA to provide essential services to the people since 9/11 attack. There should not be parochial differences between the government and power.

According to the model the three pillars of Sri Lankan government (Executive, Legislature and Judiciary) act as parallel heads. There is a Secretary of the Presidential Task Force who directly report to Executive President. Legislature (Parliament) is the most important application which can be used to formulate decisions regarding on this model. It is the law making body of the country. Especially Ministries integrate through the decisions which formulates by the Parliament to address common security policy. Security, financing, should be think as a common objective in the country.

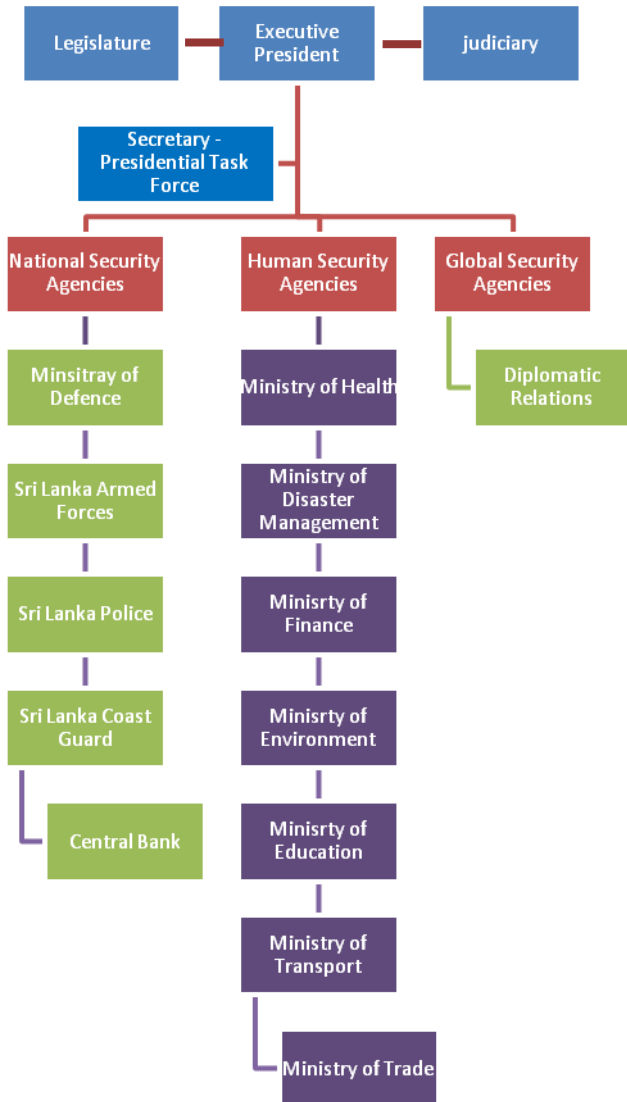


Figure2. National Security Model
Source: Author

Above coordination is the key to both transformation and rationalizing defence. This involves the integration of service core tactical capabilities on the operational level to achieve unity of purposes. Priority should be given to above ministries and each ministry should concern prevention, protection, Response and minimize disruption and restore the functioning of critical infrastructure rapidly. Establishment of information sharing among the ministries in partnership with the private sector is also requires to address electronic threats and solutions for a number of sectors. The Executive President can play the role of National Coordinator for every major departments of the government. The Secretary of the Presidential Task Force

cannot run the daily operations of such a vast array of agencies. Instead he should use his power and influence to shape the priorities, plans and future competencies of the government to deal with security challenges such as terrorism. The main concepts of Homeland Security which are prevention, protection, and response and Minimize disruption and restore the functioning of critical infrastructure can be applied to this model as well.

Prevention involves shaping the security environment to avoid or retard the emergence of threats to the united sates. It is the ability to detect threats before they become manifest with enough preventive action. From the preventive perspective implementation of three lingual policies is a best solution to prevent ethnic conflict again. And an especially awareness programme about communal harmony is the best solution to prevent any mutual conflict. Secondly the objective of the protection is to enhance the ability of Sri Lanka to protect itself against attacks and disasters. This includes reforming administrative sector against a variety of threats come from a wide range of directions. Day to day security measures and broad range of capabilities including domestic law enforcement also included under this section. It means all the ministries should capable for safeguard civilians regardless their ethnicity. If terrorist attack happens the administration should be able to protect civilians with the coordination of all ministries. Thirdly as the factor Response represent our ability to respond to and manage the consequences of any attack. Effective consequence management is also central to maintaining public confidence to ensure public safety continuity of government. Finally Minimize disruption and restore the functioning of critical infrastructure rapidly refers the reforming of security sector while ensuring the stability of a country and it covers all economic and social areas. As an example if terrorist attacks happen the government must be prepared to take rapid steps to stabilize financial markets and manage the immediate economic and financial consequences of the attack. This must involve relevant agencies such as department of treasury and it should be done in partnership with major players in the private sector such as Banks.

Above process depends on superior intelligence collection and risk analysis which substantially shares across Ministries regarding on economic and social factors. It is important to reform and integrate all the departments according to day to day National security challenges. It means the intelligence provided by law enforcement, coalition building, and decision makings in each of these areas. As the Executive of the country President should call for a comprehensive assessment to

identify shortfalls in intelligence policy, capabilities, practices and resources that could hamper the future effectiveness of the campaign against terrorism. Based on these assessments the administration should develop a multiyear action plan to address priority issues and shortfalls of the administration. On the other hand Risk analysis is a major requirement for the integrated planning system to inform decisions ranging from high-levels of government departments. Good risk analysis is also essential to create rules for routine operations of the government.

Finally our central diplomatic goals should be to broaden and deepen these arrangements as a cornerstone of bilateral relations with other countries. This includes seeking greater international cooperation of various international bodies.

III. CONCLUSION

National security experts are unanimous in predicting that the next several decades will reflect persistent conflicts fuelled by the terrorism, social disruptions, economic deprivation and other emerging trends. These are exploited by extremists to support their own objectives that are contrary to core national interests and the security of the Sri Lanka. Therefore it is essential to reform the national security sector in Sri Lanka with the application of the concept of Homeland Security. In this post war era above conceptualized model which I proposed in the paper can be successfully used to reform National Security under an integrated policy. It should empower to take advantage of the new opportunities for security sector.

Sri Lanka is emerging as an important state in the Asia-pacific region. It is located in an ideal place in terms of transshipment. Majority of the container ships bound west wards from the region are channelled through Colombo port since it is the only port with latest direction facilities except Kelang and Singapore. Sri Lanka aspires to become a hub in commerce, aviation, knowledge, energy and maritime affairs. Hubs bring advantageous as well as disadvantages. The disadvantage side of it includes all the security problems that can create due to opening up for the rest of the world.

The modern day security problems need cooperative treatment. If all authorities do not work together you countering threats will only become a dream. To have an integrated approach relevant department should think and act together. Such an approach is not yet materialised in Sri Lanka. Even though most of the departments work together they are not a part of a common strategy to have a cooperate approach.

The author recommends having a fresh look at the role and task of the departments and reshuffling them and placing them in grand strategy to produce a solid security environment for the Sri Lanka. This modal can follow the homeland security modal of Unites states. Financing and conceptualising of the grand strategy should be executed together. The accountability and transparency should also be maintained. The Ministry of Defence, Foreign Affairs, Health, and other security related sectors must work together.

It could be also recommended that security related education policy to be implemented. The state should teach the citizens about the importance of security and how civilians can corporate with state to achieve their comprehensive security environment.

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Colonel Chandana Wickramasinghe is the current Dean of the Faculty of Defence and Strategic Studies at General Sir John Kotelawala Defence University. He is reading for his MPhil/PhD in the National Security domain at the same university. During his 26 year illustrious career in the Sri Lanka Army, he has served in various capacities, amongst others as the Military Staff Officer in United Nations until he reached present appointment. He was awarded Education Leadership Award 2015 at the Asia's Education Excellence Award held in Singapore. He is also a member of the International Advisory Board of the International Academic Forum (IAFOR), Asia's think-tank based in Japan. His research interests are in International Relations, Politics, Counter Terrorism, National Security and Strategic Studies.