

Lone Wolf Terrorism: Identifying Possible Future Threats in Sri Lanka

KERL Fernando^{1#} and R Fernando²

¹*Faculty of Graduate Studies, General Sir John Kotelawala Defence University, Sri Lanka*

²*Senior Deputy Inspector General of Police (Retd.), Sri Lanka Police, Sri Lanka*

#fernandoelisha7@gmail.com

Lone wolf terrorism is arguably becoming one of the most attractive trends in terrorism. Identifying a growing pattern of a 'domino effect' after a terrorist attack, post- Easter Sunday attack tenure in the present Sri Lanka seems a high possibility of inspiring radicalization for a future 'lone wolf terrorist attack'. Moreover, the current COVID-19 pandemic seems to facilitate the grooming of lone wolves due to isolation policies, increased usage of social media and further even to launch an attack since the attention of the 'National Security' has shifted away from terrorism to health and safety. In this backdrop, problem statement of this paper focuses on answering whether Sri Lanka's next terrorist attack would be a lone wolf attack. In order to find feasible solutions, the methodology adopted in this paper is qualitative based on both primary and secondary sources. Primary sources include in-depth discussions with intelligence officers and the secondary sources include media and internet. The main objective of this study is to prevent the next terrorist attack in Sri Lanka. In order to achieve this objective, the research reveals an action-plan to prevent possible attacks and emphasize the importance of civil-military nexus in State intelligence.

Keywords: *lone wolf terrorism, threats, Sri Lanka*