

CONFLICT IN SRI LANKA

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Government believes in a lasting solution

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SRI LANKA was never stripped of its seat on the UN Human Rights Council, as you wrote in your July 17 editorial "[Sri Lanka's forgotten conflict](#)." Like several other countries, Sri Lanka was not reelected at the end of its term.

The Jaffna peninsula is administered by government, and there is no shelling or bombing there. Any attacks made are by Tamil Tigers. Sri Lanka is one of South Asia's oldest democracies, with an elected government that needs no international pressure to protect its people. Sri Lanka administers and feeds its citizens even in terrorist-controlled areas, which few countries do.

The highest placed in government have always believed in a political solution, and engaged in negotiations with Tiger terrorists six times since 1985. So you are preaching to the converted. You suggest striking a deal. With whom? Tigers loathe democracy, and each time walked away from meaningful negotiations, citing flimsy excuses. By now, the international community should be wise to Tiger ploys, and should pressure them to negotiate in good faith and remain engaged until a viable lasting solution is reached.

Substantial autonomy was recently granted to people in the east through the electoral process. Tigers should allow a similar process to take place in the north.

JALIYA WICKRAMASURIYA
Sri Lanka ambassador
Washington ■