

RELIGIOUS SYMBOLISM AND POLITICS IN SRI LANKA: MUSLIM'S GRIEVANCES

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Introduction

Sri Lanka, a small island in the Indian Ocean is situated at the foot of the South Asian subcontinent and it is a home for plural society. The civil war in Sri Lanka, which came to an end with the military defeat of the separatist Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) in May 2009 amid large civilian casualties, has been opened new window for ethnic cohesion in Sri Lanka. All major ethnic groups, the Sinhalese, the Tamils and the Muslims have been victims of the ethnic violence. The technocratic based religious politics is visualized in terms of the ways in which the dynamic of the politics has been embedded into religious extremism in postwar situation.

After a brief historical note on politicization of Buddhism in Sri Lanka, the paper aims to analysis the present plight of Muslim community in Sri Lanka and attempt to highlight the major issues faced by Lankan Muslims in present scenario. It further explores the causes behind the growing hate-Muslim campaigns and continuing attacks on worship places and business Establishments of the community.