

# Presidential Pardon to Sarath Fonseka

*NDMLP Statement to the Media*

*25<sup>th</sup> May 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.

If it is possible for the President to pardon the former Army General Sarath Fonseka who was detained for reasons of political vengeance and imprisoned under court verdicts, why is it not possible to pardon and release political prisoners who are under detention for many long years without inquiry? In that context, the demand by the Tamil political prisoners who have been on hunger strike for the past five days that they should be released is fully justified. The Government should pay full attention to their demand and take the necessary steps to secure their immediate release.

The former Army General Sarath Fonseka was detained, charged and imprisoned under court verdicts as a result of contradictions among the ruling class forces. These steps comprise denial of democracy and political vengeance, and are unacceptable in any way.

Sarath Fonseka was released yesterday through a pardon by the President. The pardon was not based on democratic considerations but because the Government yielded to pressure from the US.

The release of Tamil political prisoners is being deliberately dragged on and denied owing to chauvinistic considerations. The Party urges in the name of law, democracy and human rights that all other political prisoners including Tamil political prisoners who have been detained without inquiry for a very long time should be released.

S.K. Senthivel  
General Secretary