

An Opinion Poll On Peace



# Peace Confidence Index (PCI)

## TOP-LINE RESULTS

Social Indicator

November 2002

**W**hile many studies have been conducted on various aspects of this conflict, none have attempted to capture the changes in public perception over a period of time. The lack of such a study was identified as a significant void by Social Indicator (SI), the social research unit of the Centre for Policy Alternatives (CPA). The Peace Confidence Index study (PCI) seeks to fill this lacuna. The study, funded by the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) under the Governance and Institutional Strengthening Project, (GISP) Sri Lanka, will be conducted bi-monthly to gauge the impact of local and international political developments on public attitudes towards the peace process.

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## INTRODUCTION

### OBJECTIVE

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The purpose of this study is two-fold. One is to develop a numerical indicator of the level of public confidence in the peace process using a set of standardised questions which remain unchanged with each wave. The other is to use a set of questions related to recent social, economic and political developments in order to gauge public opinion of the peace process, which by definition will change from one wave to another.

Such information, collected over a period of time, will provide civil society and policy makers a useful barometer of the opinions of the Sri Lankan polity, and ensure that the collective opinions of the public are given due importance and incorporated into the policy debate.

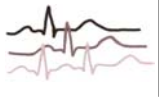
### SCOPE & METHODOLOGY

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The study is carried out using a structured questionnaire administered through face-to-face interviews amongst a 1,419 respondent sample. The 17 administrative districts of the seven provinces, excluding the Northern and the Eastern provinces, and areas under Government control of the Amparai, Batticaloa, Trincomalee, Vavuniya and Mannar were surveyed. Data is weighted to reflect the actual ethnographic composition of the districts in which the sample was surveyed.

**Nine waves of the PCI study were conducted in May, June, September and November 2001 and January, March, May, July and September 2002. The latest wave was conducted in November 2002.** This publication presents only the top-line results of the November 2002 survey.

The results of these ten waves offer us data for a comparative study on changing public opinion regarding key issues, ranging from perceptions of war and peace to the proscription of the LTTE. The results are subject to a 3% margin of error.



## KEY NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENTS OCTOBER – DECEMBER 2002

- LTTE leader Velupillai Prabhakaran is sentenced to 200 years in jail for his role in the 1996 Central Bank bombing. (31<sup>st</sup> October 2002)-(Daily Mirror)
- A curfew is imposed once again in Maligawatte, Modera, Grandpass, Maradana, Keselwatta and Kotahena police divisions as more clashes between Sinhala and Muslim communities are reported. (31<sup>st</sup> October 2002)-(Daily Mirror)
- Japan's premier international diplomat and former UN Under-Secretary General for Humanitarian Affairs Mr. Yasushi Akashi is scheduled to meet with the LTTE leaders to discuss a range of issues. (2<sup>nd</sup> November 2002)-(The Island)
- The government and the LTTE clinch three crucial agreements on political, military and economic matters marking a breakthrough in Norwegian-brokered peace talks. (3<sup>rd</sup> November 2002)-(Daily Mirror)
- The LTTE undertakes to hand over land and property belonging to Muslims (now allegedly being cultivated or occupied by Tamils in the North-East province) back to them in about two months' time. (4<sup>th</sup> November 2002)-(The Island)
- The Most. Ven. Udugama Sri Buddhakatta Mahanayake Thera of the Asgiriya Chapter extends his full support for the peace process and blessings to both the Government and the LTTE. (4<sup>th</sup> November 2002)-(Daily Mirror)
- As cohabitation arrangements are virtually falling apart, President Chandrika Kumaratunga discloses that a proposal has come from the UNF for the formation of a national government. (5<sup>th</sup> November 2002)-(Daily Mirror)
- As a gesture of goodwill and commitment to the peace process, the LTTE blows up some 6,000 landmines that have been hidden in the Kilinochchi area, the state television Rupavahini reports. It said the explosion of the landmines is a "significant gesture". (6<sup>th</sup> November 2002)-(Daily Mirror)
- The government and the LTTE have agreed to move directly to political issues, the Cabinet Spokesman announces. (7<sup>th</sup> November 2002)-(Daily Mirror)
- Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe writing to the nine dissident SLMC MPs assures them that the rights and security of the Muslims in the North East would be ensured in any solution to the ethnic conflict. (7<sup>th</sup> November 2002)-(Daily Mirror)
- The Chairman of the commission which probed the attack and shooting at the STF camp at Kanchirankudah in October 2002 asks the LTTE to take severe action against an area leader who had misled and provoked a crowd into attacking the camp. (8<sup>th</sup> November 2002)-(Daily Mirror)
- The seven Sri Lanka Muslim Congress MPs who boycotted parliament return to the House with their leader, Minister A.L.M. Athallah when the budget debate resumed. (9<sup>th</sup> November 2002)-(The Island)
- The setting up of LTTE 'police stations' and 'courts of law' in the Eastern sector perturbs the Muslims in the East forcing SLMC leader Rauff Hakeem to write to Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe today. (11<sup>th</sup> November 2002)-(The Island)
- The JVP office in Maharagama is smashed and two party members injured as the party accused the government of trying to violently suppress and sabotage its annual convention scheduled today. (12<sup>th</sup> November 2002)-(Daily Mirror)
- Celebrations to mark the eighth anniversary of the presidency of Chandrika Kumaratunga take place at the Presidential Secretariat. Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe, his ministers and government parliamentarians do not attend. (12<sup>th</sup> November 2002)-(The Island)
- The government, responding to President Chandrika Kumaratunga's proposal to set up a National Committee for Ethnic Reconciliation and Sustainable Peace, says that the opposition would not have a decision making role in the peace talks with the LTTE but will be briefed about the discussions on a regular basis. (14<sup>th</sup> November 2002)-(The Island)
- The People's Alliance launches its strongest attack on Norway and warns the UNF government that it would withdraw support and block parliamentary approval of any solution if the PA was kept out of the ongoing peace talks. (15<sup>th</sup> November 2002)-(Daily Mirror)
- President Chandrika Kumaratunga "backs down" from her previous refusal to appoint seven new non-cabinet ministers and a deputy minister. (16<sup>th</sup> November 2002)-(The Island)
- The EPDP accuses the LTTE of blocking the re-opening of its Delft Island office which was closed down several weeks ago subsequent to an alleged LTTE-led attack on it. (17<sup>th</sup> November, 2002)-(The Island)



- The president, secretary and treasurer of the Students Council of Sri Jayawardenapura University were taken into custody over the death of Ovitigala Vidanage Samantha, a student of Sri Jayawardenapura University, according to Nugegoda police. (17<sup>th</sup> November 2002)-(The Island)
- The EPDP announces that they would vacate the Delft Island if the LTTE also vacates the island. (18<sup>th</sup> November 2002)-(www.lankapage.com)
- The sub-committee on Immediate Humanitarian and Rehabilitation Needs in the North and East meets in Kilinochchi. (18<sup>th</sup> November 2002)-(Daily Mirror)
- The Sri Lanka Monitoring Mission (SLMM) says that two senior LTTE commanders seriously violated the ceasefire agreement of February 2002 by travelling from Mullaitivu to Vakarai without having SLMM monitors on board their vessels. (18<sup>th</sup> November 2002)-(Daily Mirror)
- A government source says that the donor community attending the Sri Lanka Peace Process support meeting in Oslo on 25<sup>th</sup> November, before pledging any development aid, will seek an assurance from both the UNF government and the LTTE that they would not depart from their commitment to a political settlement to the ethnic issue. (18<sup>th</sup> November 2002)-(Daily Mirror)
- A night curfew re-imposed in Galle to control the tense situation after clashes between two communities on 18<sup>th</sup> November that left one dead, five injured and several shops damaged. (19<sup>th</sup> November 2002)-(Daily Mirror)
- .... Meanwhile, a curfew was re-imposed in the Mundalama area of Puttalam Police Division from 2 p.m. till 6 a.m. following some fresh incidents at a lagoon, where some persons who had gone to buy fish were allegedly assaulted. Earlier on Monday, police riot squads and soldiers were deployed in Madurankuliya area to implement a curfew following the initial clashes between two groups. (19<sup>th</sup> November 2002)-(www.lankapage.com)
- The Voice of Tigers, the LTTE's radio, is to go island-wide according to an announcement by LTTE. (19<sup>th</sup> November 2002)-(www.lankapage.com)
- The Asgiriya Mahanayake makes a strong appeal to resettle some 30,000 Sinhalese who have been displaced from the North and East. (20<sup>th</sup> November 2002)-(Daily Mirror)
- Explaining the LTTE's presence at the 25<sup>th</sup> November Oslo donor conference, cabinet spokesman and Constitutional Affairs Minister G. L. Peiris says the government was "merely facing reality". (21<sup>st</sup> November 2002)-(The Island)
- United States Ambassador Ashley Wills says the presence of US Deputy Secretary of State Richard Armitage at 25<sup>th</sup> November, 2002's Oslo meeting was a reflection of the US Government's keenness to ensure Sri Lanka's peace and prosperity. (21<sup>st</sup> November 2002)-(Daily Mirror)
- A large number of civilians backed by the LTTE launch a protest campaign opposite the Jaffna EPDP headquarters, demanding that the EPDP withdraw from Delft Island. (22<sup>nd</sup> November 2002)-(www.lankapage.com)
- Minister Rauf Hakeem refuses the LTTE's request to handle activities at the Trincomalee Port. (22<sup>nd</sup> November 2002)-(www.lankapage.com)
- President Chandrika Kumaratunga orders the Inspector General of Police and the Defence Secretary to strengthen the police and Navy presence at EPDP offices for the next few weeks. (22<sup>nd</sup> November, 2002)-(www.lankapage.com)
- The President asks the Prime Minister to bring up, at the talks with LTTE in Oslo, the issue of alleged attacks by LTTE on a rival Tamil political group. (24<sup>th</sup> November 2002)-(AFP/www.theacademic.org)
- Just two weeks after the opening of two LTTE police stations in the Eastern Province, the LTTE opens a court at Arasadithivu in the Batticaloa-Ampara. The first case taken up at the LTTE court involved a woman who was charged with preparing illicit liquor. (24<sup>th</sup> November 2002)-(www.lankapage.com/Daily Mirror)
- LTTE's Chief Negotiator Anton Balasingham rejects US Deputy Secretary of State Richard Armitage's request for the LTTE to renounce violence and declare that it has abandoned its struggle for a separate state. (25<sup>th</sup> November 2002)-(www.lankapage.com)
- In an apparent bid to revive cohabitation ties, Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe reportedly gives serious thought to the proposal made by President Chandrika Kumaratunga to set up a "National Committee for Good Governance" to be chaired by the Prime Minister. (25<sup>th</sup> November 2002)-(Daily Mirror)
- International donors meeting in Oslo on Monday 25<sup>th</sup> November pledges up to 70 million US dollars in immediate humanitarian assistance to Sri Lanka in addition to strong political support for the country's fledgling peace bid, Norway announced. (25<sup>th</sup> November 2002)-(AFP/www.lankapage.com)



- Indian High Commission maintains that India did not participate in the mini aid group meeting held in Oslo. (25<sup>th</sup> November 2002)-(Daily Mirror)
- As regards LTTE courts in the east, Justice Minister W. J. M. Lokubandara declares that in terms of the Constitution, two judicial systems could not co-exist in the country and said he saw them (the LTTE courts) as an obstacle towards peace. (26<sup>th</sup> November 2002)-(Daily Mirror)
- Presidential media spokesman Harim Pieris says President Chandrika Bandaranaike Kumaratunga reiterated the United States' call to the LTTE to renounce terrorism and considers this the "most opportune time in the peace process for the LTTE to lay down arms". (27<sup>th</sup> November 2002)-(Daily Mirror)
- Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe soon after returning from the Oslo Peace Support meeting orders IGP T.E. Anandarajah to demolish Tiger court houses allegedly set up in the government controlled areas in the East (27<sup>th</sup> November 2002)-(Daily Mirror)
- President Chandrika Bandaranaike Kumaratunga directs the government to take immediate steps against LTTE courts and police stations in the North and East that violate the constitution of the country. (27<sup>th</sup> November 2002)-(The Island)
- In his annual speech to mark 'Heroes' Day', the LTTE leader makes the clearest statement yet that the Tigers had given up their demand for a separate state, and states that he is willing to settle for regional autonomy. He also warned the LTTE would not renounce violence yet despite the start of peace talks and U.S. demands to do so. (27<sup>th</sup> November 2002)-(Reuters/The Island)
- The government describes as 'helpful and encouraging' a statement by LTTE leader Velupillai Prabhakaran that the Tigers were ready to drop their demand for a separate state in exchange for substantial regional autonomy. Cabinet Spokesman G.L. Peiris said "We find much in the statement that is helpful and encouraging, though we don't agree with all of it." (28<sup>th</sup> November 2002)-(Daily Mirror)
- Interior Minister John Amaratunga says that there are no LTTE police stations or courts in the cleared areas of the North and East. (29<sup>th</sup> November 2002)-(www.lankapage.com)
- The ongoing peace effort receives a major impetus with the LSSP going public with the view that "the question of a political settlement to the ethnic conflict in Sri Lanka has now been brought closer to realisation than at any other time". (30<sup>th</sup> November 2002)-(The Island)
- The turmoil in the Sri Lanka Muslim Congress (SLMC) again reaches "boiling point" when SLMC leader Rauff Hakeem suspends the party's Chairman A.L.M. Athallah and Secretary General A.L.M. Hafrath. (1<sup>st</sup> December 2002)-(Daily Mirror)
- Norwegian Deputy Foreign Minister Vidar Helgesen says that the Oslo Peace Solidarity Conference was successful beyond expectations. (1<sup>st</sup> December 2002)-(www.lankapage.com)
- President Chandrika Kumaratunga, responding to a government proposal to restructure the army, suggests that only two extensions of service be granted to officers. (1<sup>st</sup> December 2002)-(The Island)



## **FINDINGS AT A GLANCE OF THE POLL CONDUCTED FROM 29<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER TO 10<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 2002**

- ◆ There is a decline in opinion that peace will be established soon in Sri Lanka when compared to that in September 2002. Skepticism expressed mainly by the Sinhala community.
- ◆ Overwhelming support for peace talks remain unchanged.
- ◆ The declining trend in the belief that the “Government is committed to find peace through talks” continues.
- ◆ Since April 2002 there is steady decline in opinion that the Government goes in for talks due to its commitment to peace.
- ◆ Whilst the declining trend in opinion that the LTTE “ goes in for talks to fool the people” continues, when compared to September 2002 the opinion that the LTTE goes in for talks due to the realization that this war cannot be won remains unchanged in the month November 2002.
- ◆ The declining trend that only the Government and the LTTE should be involved in negotiations has reversed. However, Muslims and Tamils chiefly advocate the widest spectrum of involvement in the negotiation.
- ◆ Mainly Tamils, Muslims and Up-country Tamils say that an international third party’s involvement to solve the North East war in Sri Lanka is essential.
- ◆ Since June 2002, there is a steady increase of people’s approval for Norway assisting in the Sri Lankan peace process. Though the majority of Sinhalese approve of Norway’s assistance, when compared to other ethnic communities, their approval is low.
- ◆ Since June 2002 a there is a growing trend amongst people who do not believe that SLMM is impartial in its monitoring of the Ceasefire Agreement (CFA). However, a notable majority amongst the Tamil, Muslim and Up-country Tamil communities believe the contrary.
- ◆ The belief in accusations levelled against the LTTE of engaging in abductions and extortions is gradually declining from July 2002. However, the Tamil and Up-country Tamil communities do not believe the accusations levelled against the LTTE, which is in contrast to the Sinhala and Muslim opinion.
- ◆ Over 70% of the Sri Lankans are aware of the 200 year sentence imposed on Mr. Velupillai Prabhakaran by the High Court, for his role in the 1996 Central Bank bombing. The opinion that this sentence has a negative impact on the peace process mainly stems from the Tamil and Up-country Tamil communities. (Sinhala – 20.2%, Tamil – 70.2%, Muslim – 37.1%, Up-country Tamil – 52%)
- ◆ Only 39.8% of the people are aware of the Heroes’ day speech made by the LTTE leader Mr. Velupillai Prabhakaran. When compared to other ethnic communities there is a notable awareness amongst the Tamil community who think it will have a positive impact on the peace process.





- ◆ There is a notable percentage (74.7%) of Sri Lankans who are aware the second round of peace talks. However, only 24.7% say they know about the decisions taken at the talks.
- ◆ Whilst a majority thinks that the sub-committee on political matters should be given the same priority as the other two sub-committees, over 90% of the Muslim community advocate this idea.
- ◆ Over 60% of Sri Lankans are satisfied with the out come of the second round of talks.
- ◆ An overwhelming majority (77.8%) of Sri Lankans think the return and resettlement of the IDPs should be top priority in the peace process.
- ◆ About half of Sri Lankans believe that the Government is committed to treating the return of the IDP as a priority, in the peace process. However, only 17.9% believe the LTTE's commitment to the return of the IDPs.
- ◆ A majority (39.5%) of Sri Lankans do not know about HSZ and this mainly stems from the Muslim community. It is chiefly the Tamil community who believe that the HSZs are an impediment to the return of IDPs (37.3%).
- ◆ Only 27% of Sri Lankans believe that the situation of the Muslims in the East has deteriorated since the ceasefire in February 2002. However, 41.5% of the Muslims believe that the situation of the Muslims in the East has deteriorated.
- ◆ While 29.6% of the people believe that the interests and concerns of the Muslims of the East are adequately represented in the peace talks, 36.5% are uncertain.
- ◆ Over 46% of the Sri Lankans who are aware of LTTE participation in the Oslo meeting of 25<sup>th</sup> of November 2002 disapprove of the LTTE's participation. However, an overwhelming majority of the Tamil (98%) and Up-country Tamil (74.6%) communities approve of the LTTE's participation at the Oslo meeting.
- ◆ A majority (59.5%) of the Sri Lankans believe that the North-East is the region that gets the bulk of the foreign aid.
- ◆ While a majority (45.3%) of the Sri Lankans express that they are unaware of the PA's official statement that accused the Norwegian facilitators of being partial towards the LTTE, an overwhelming majority of the Tamil (78%) community disagree with this statement.

**For further information please contact:**

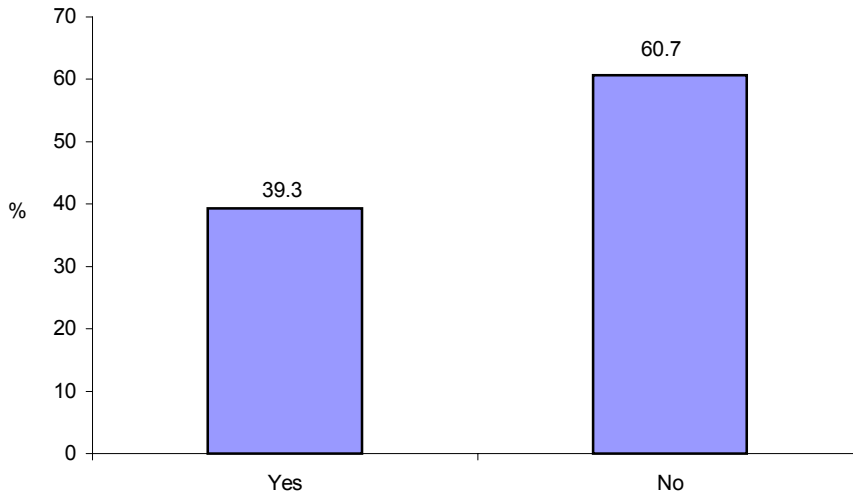
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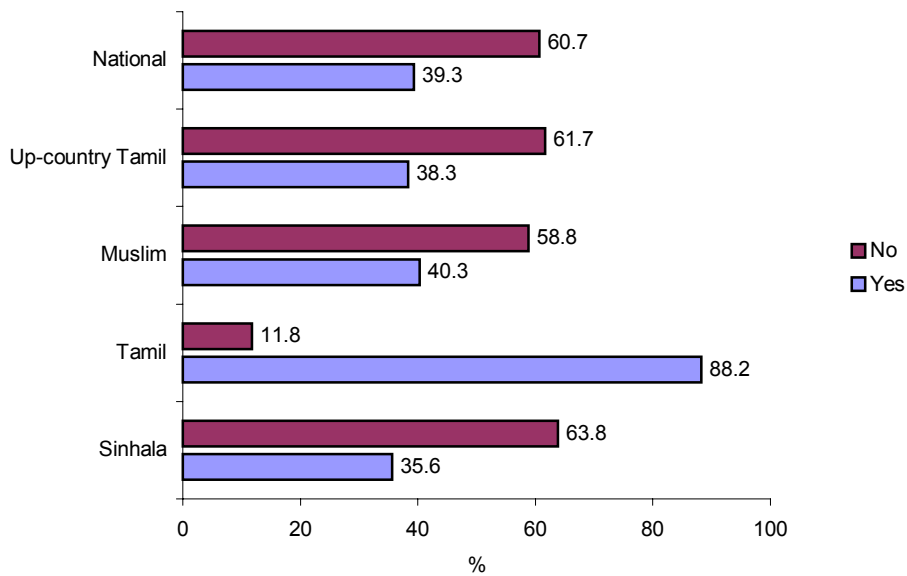
**Fax:** 370475 **Web:** <http://www.cpalanka.org>

## Are you aware of the Heroes' Day speech made by the LTTE leader Mr. Velupillai Prabhakaran on 27<sup>th</sup> November 2002?

National Breakdown

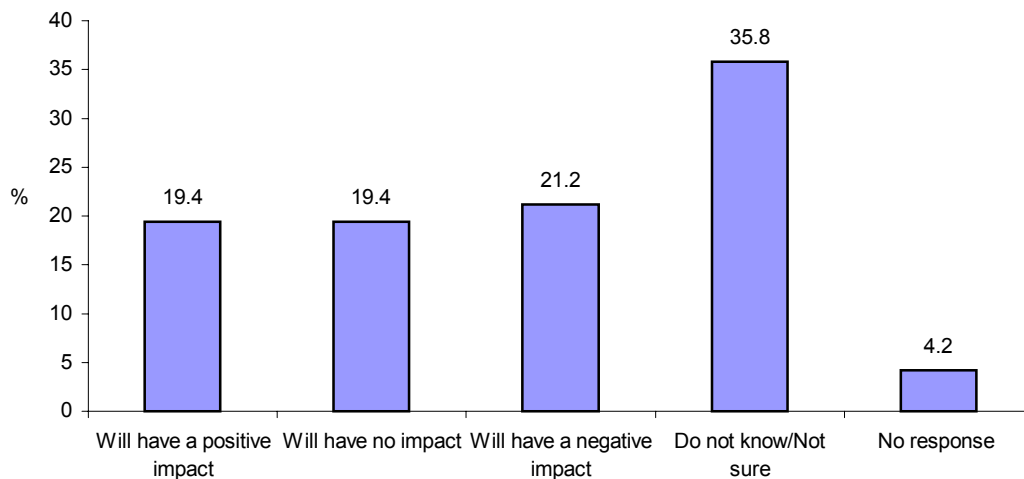


Ethnic Breakdown

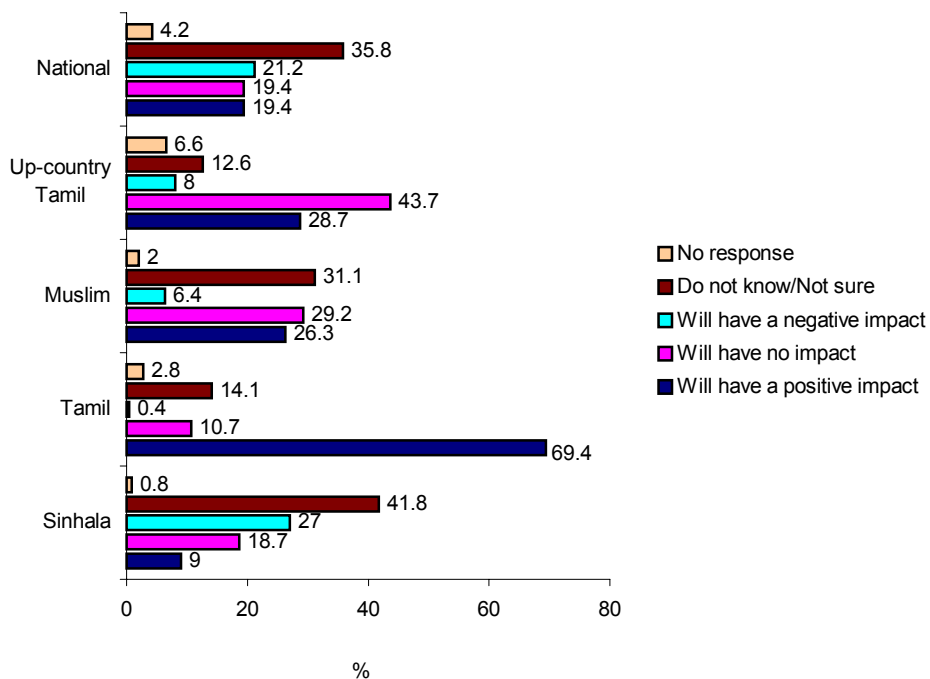


**If you are aware of the Heroes' Day speech made by the LTTE leader Mr. Velupillai Prabhakaran on 27<sup>th</sup> November 2002, what in your opinion will be the impact of this speech on the peace process?**

**National Breakdown**

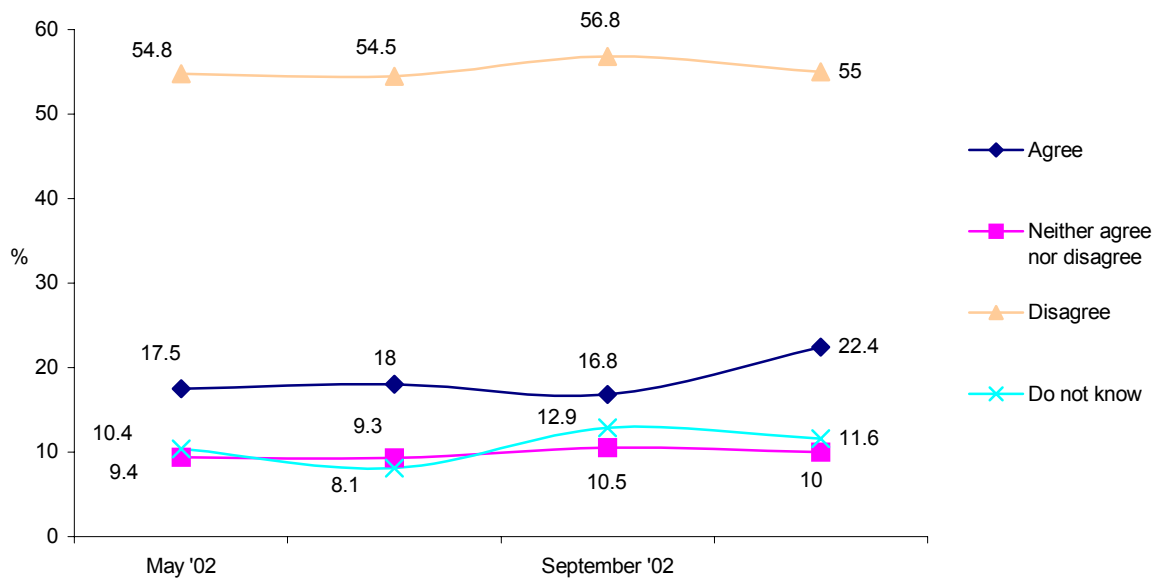


**Ethnic Breakdown**

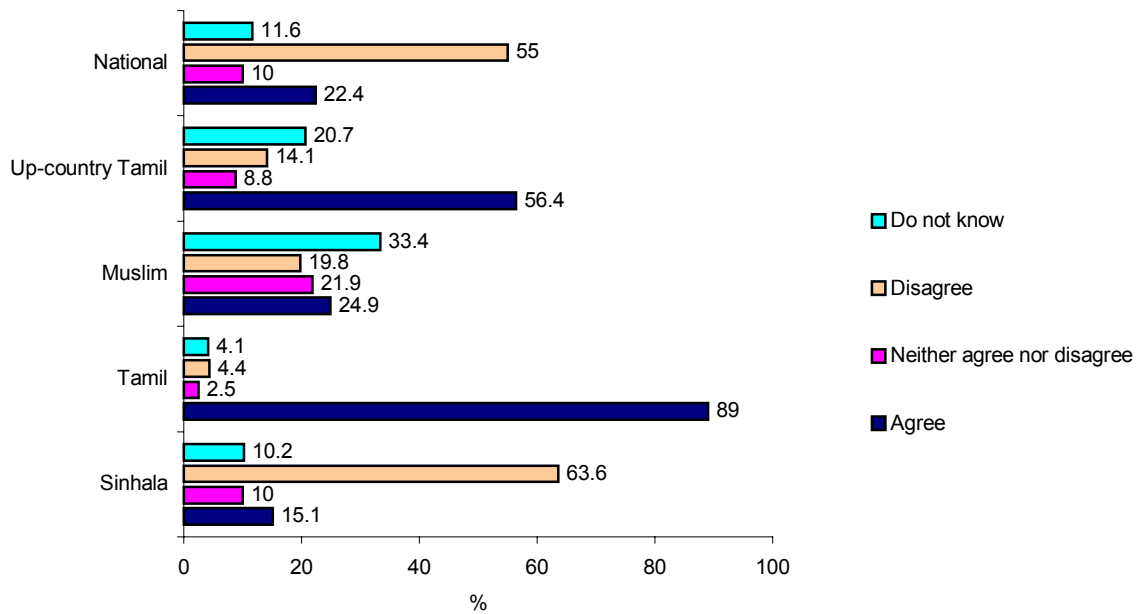


## I think the LTTE is the sole representative of the Tamil community.

National Trend



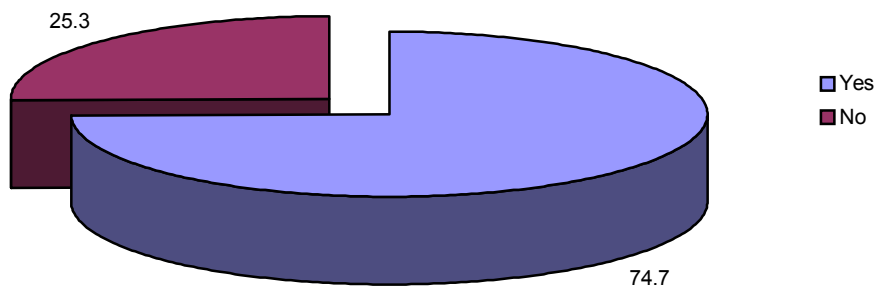
Ethnic Breakdown



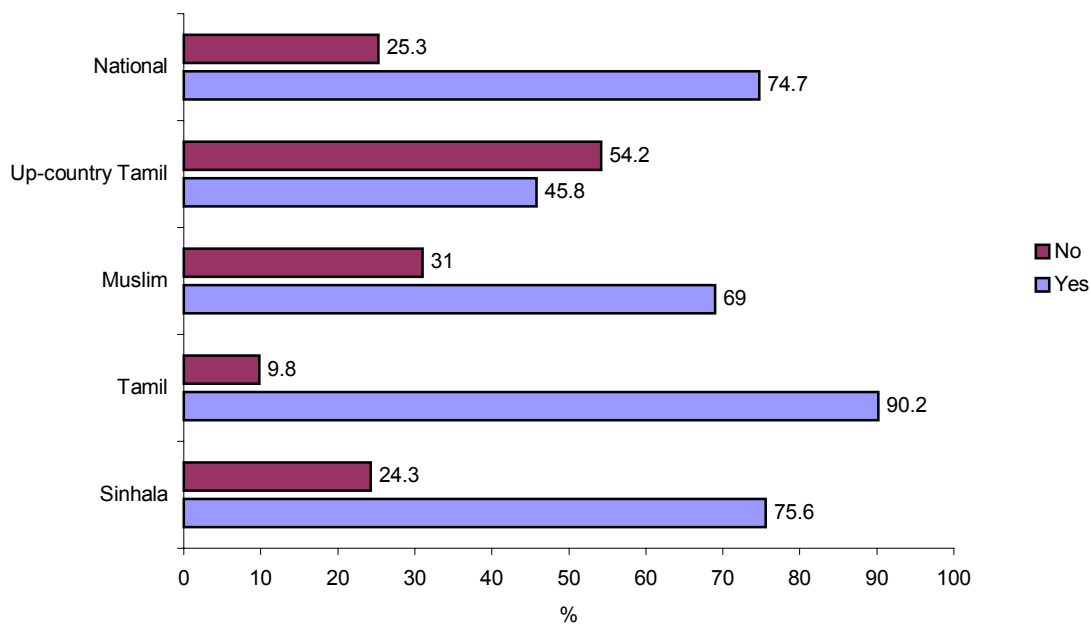
## THAILAND TALKS

**Are you aware of the 2<sup>nd</sup> round of talks that took place in Thailand between the Government of Sri Lanka and the LTTE?**

**National Breakdown**

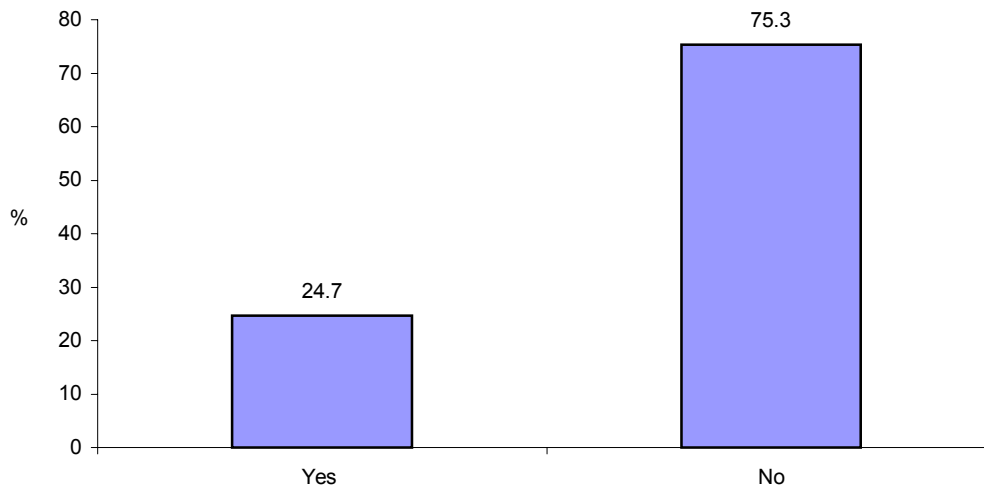


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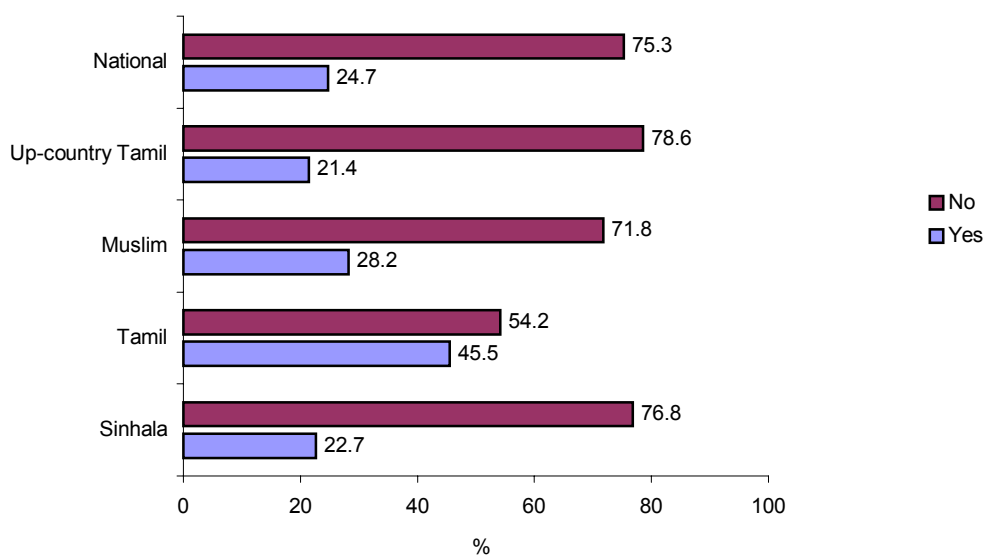


**Are you aware of the decision to form three sub-committees on the immediate humanitarian and rehabilitation needs in the North and East, de-escalation and normalization and political matters?**

**National Breakdown**

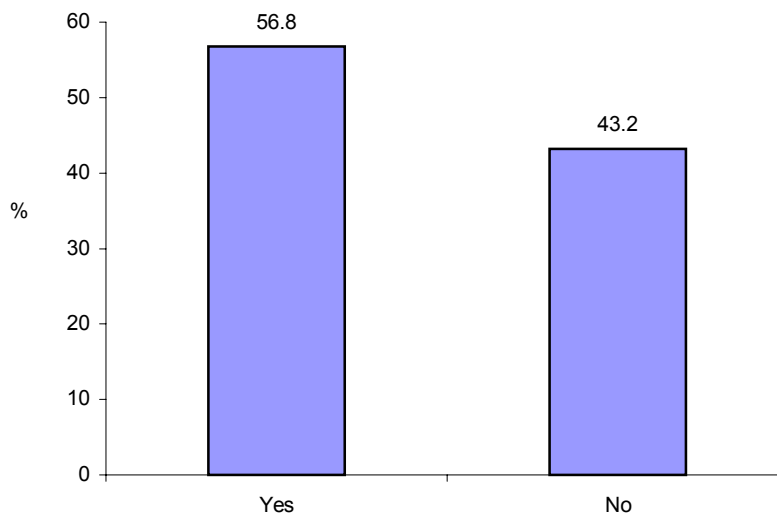


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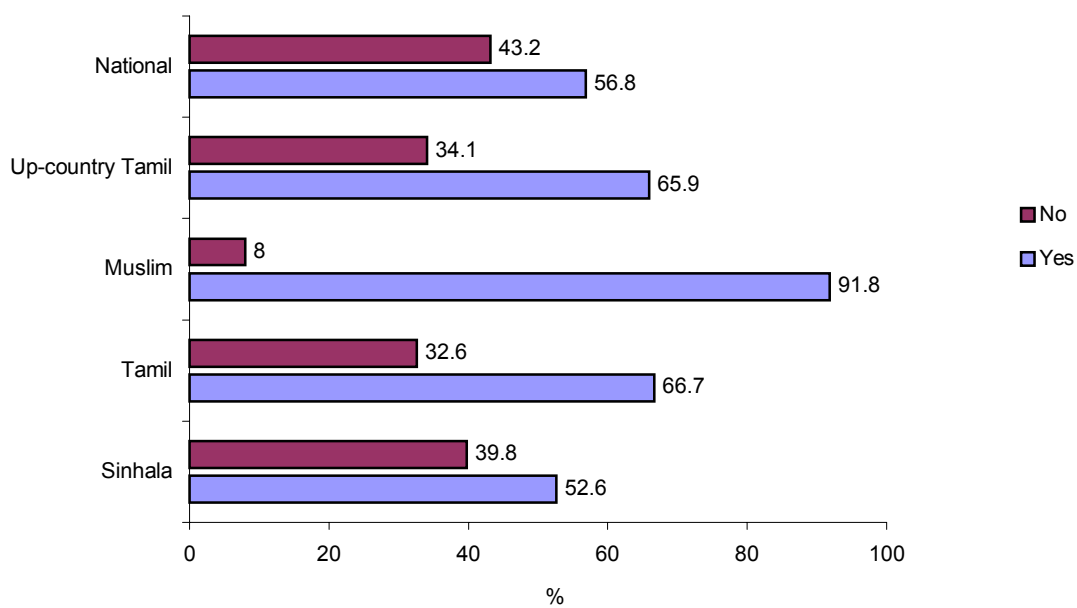


**If you are aware of the sub-committee(s), do you think the sub-committee on political matters should be given the same priority as the other two sub-committees?**

**National Breakdown**

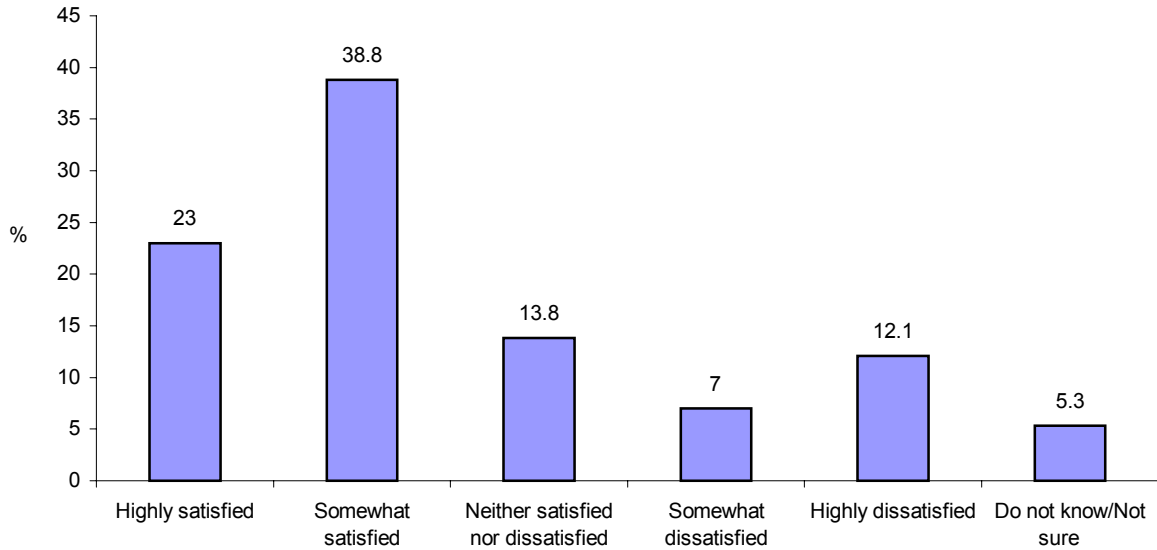


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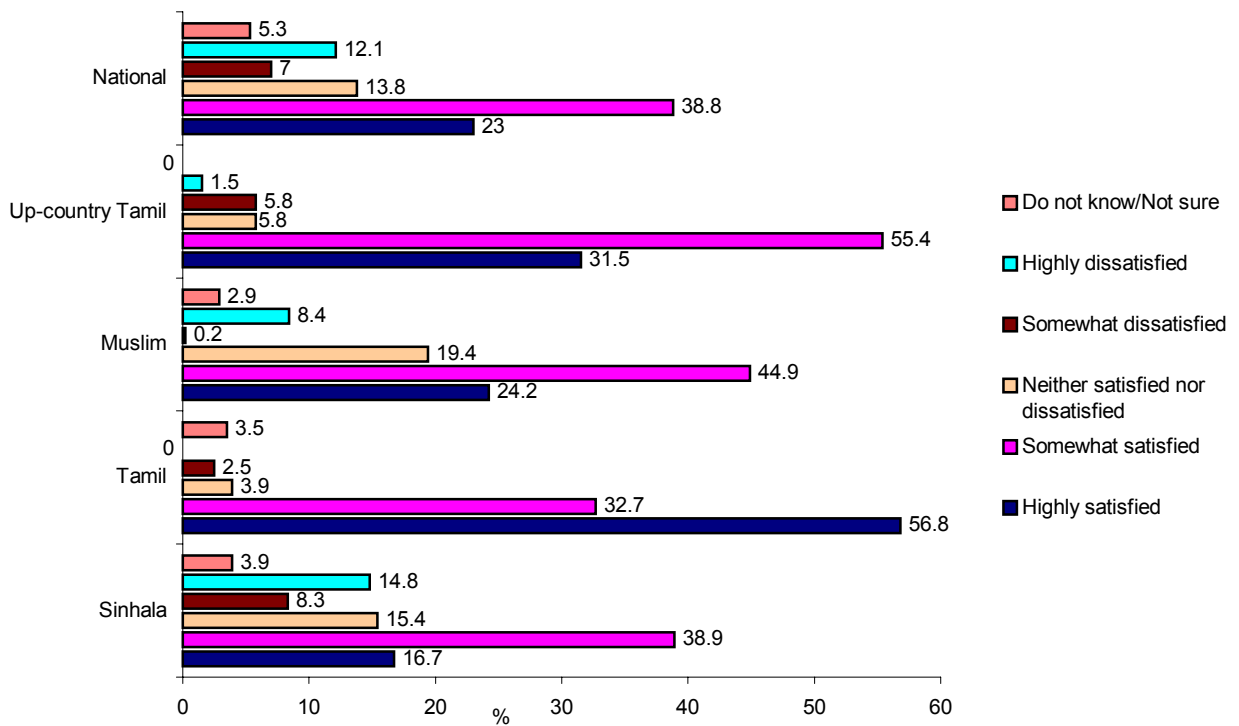


**Please state your level of satisfaction with the outcome of the talks.**

**National Breakdown**



**Ethnic Breakdown**

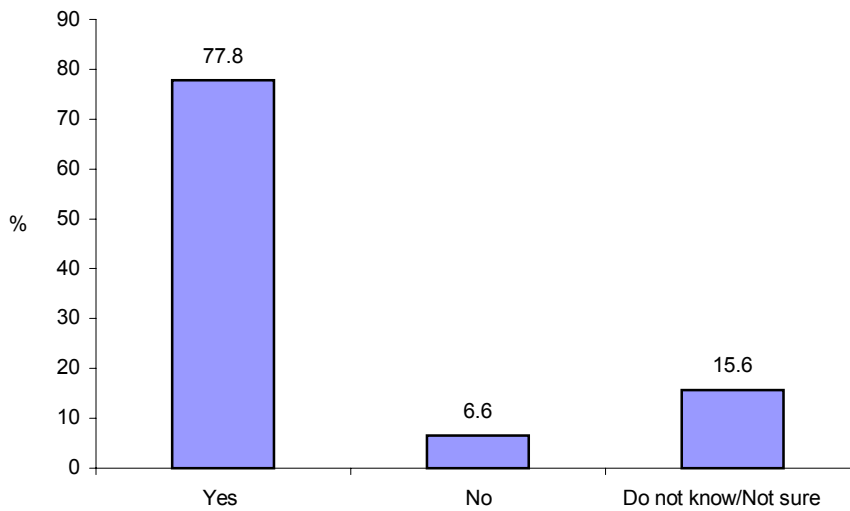




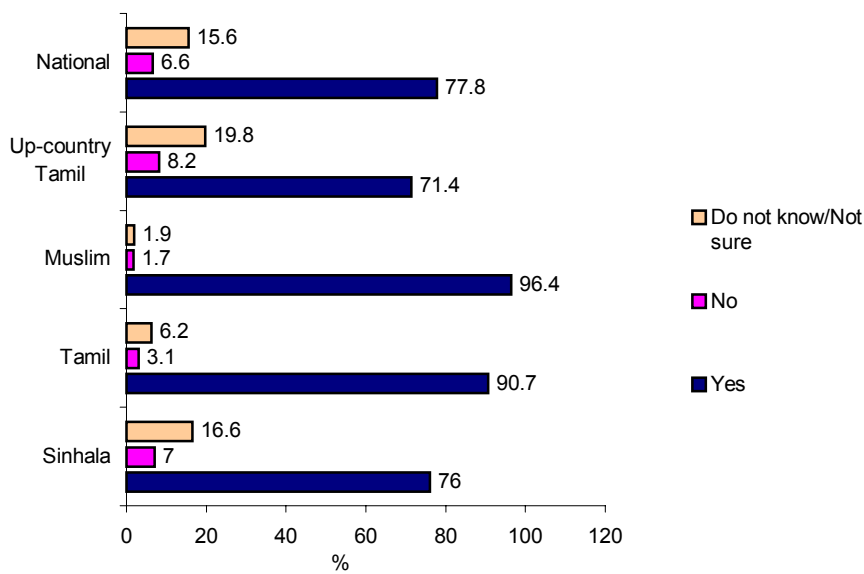
## INTERNALLY DISPLACED PERSONS (IDPs)

**Do you think that the return and resettlement of the IDPs should be top priority in the peace process?**

**National Breakdown**

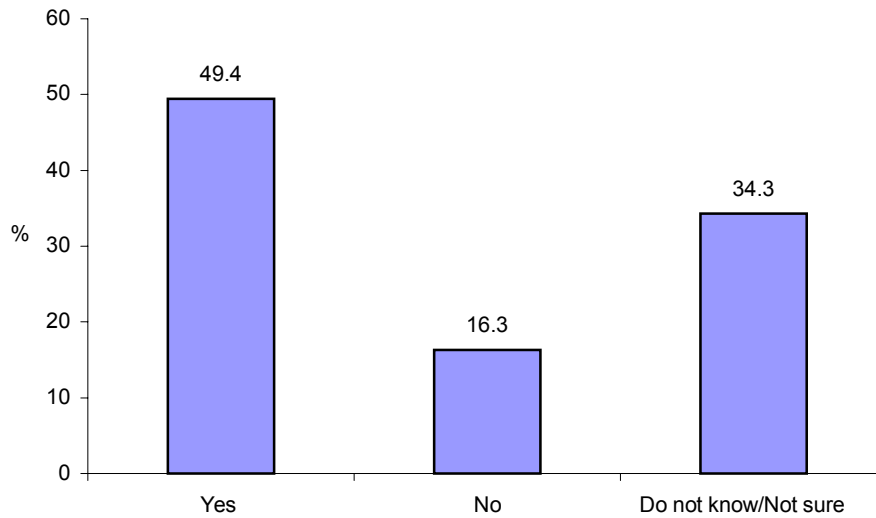


**Ethnic Breakdown**

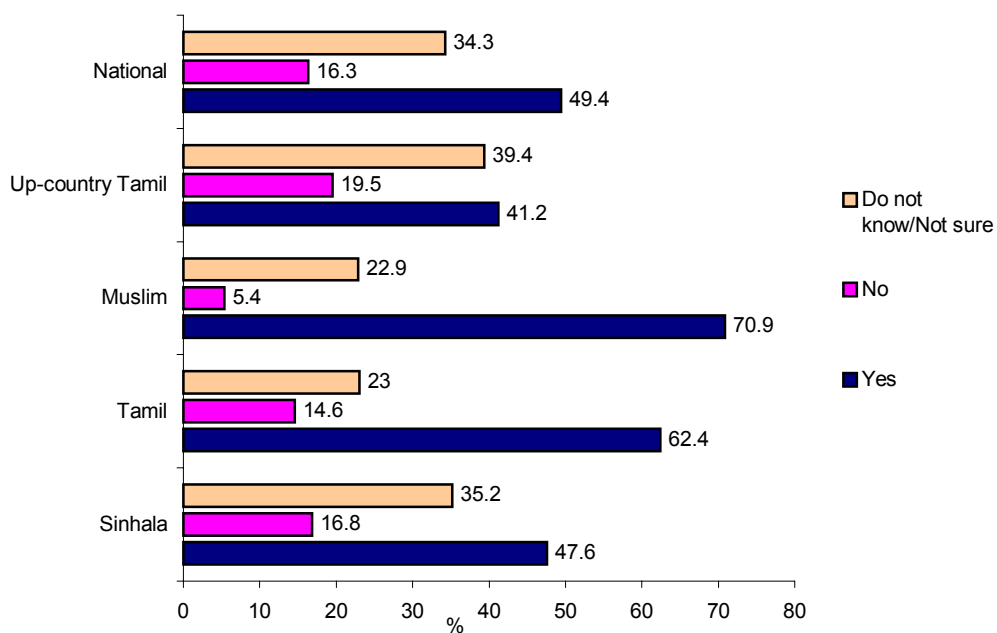


## Is the Government committed to treating the return of the IDPs as a priority?

National Breakdown

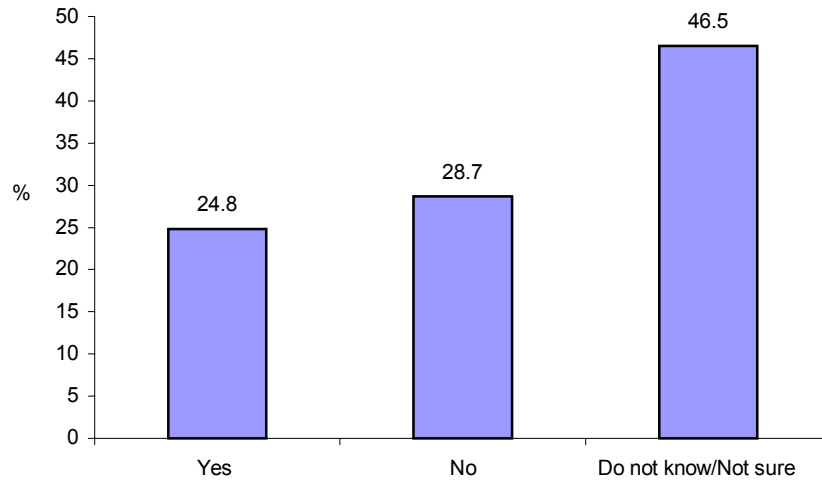


Ethnic Breakdown

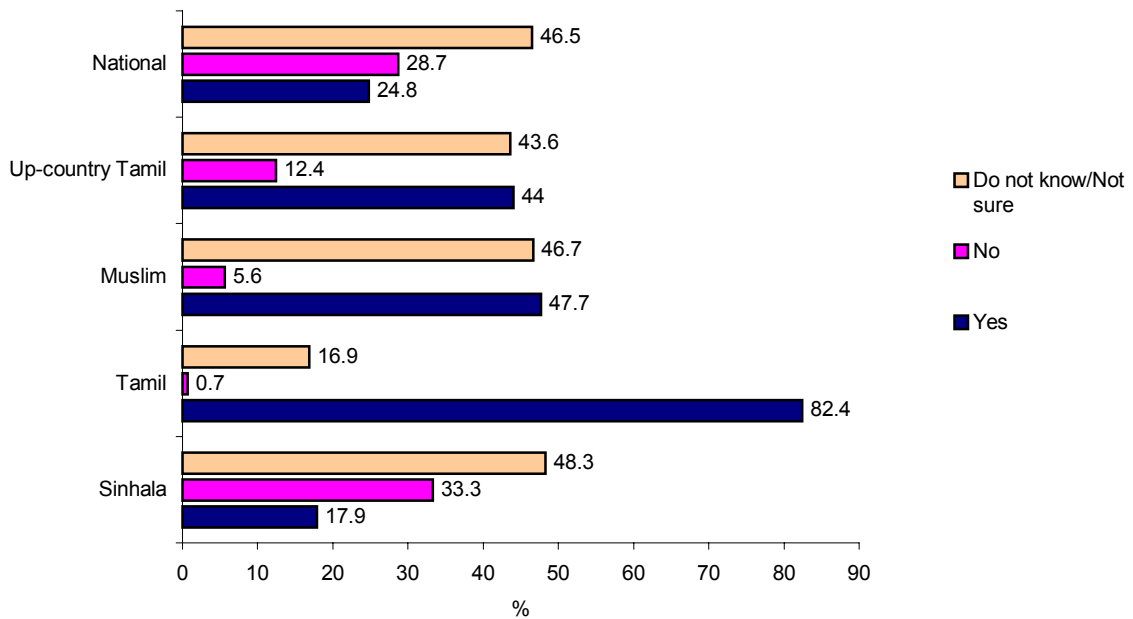


## Is the LTTE committed to treating the return of the IDPs as a priority?

National Breakdown

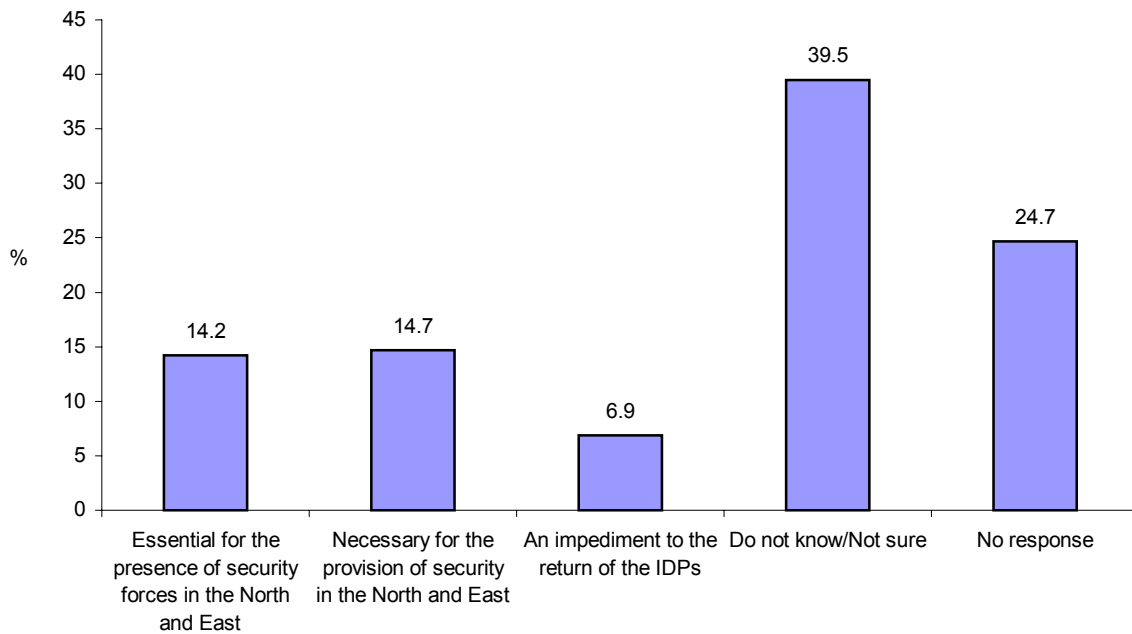


Ethnic Breakdown

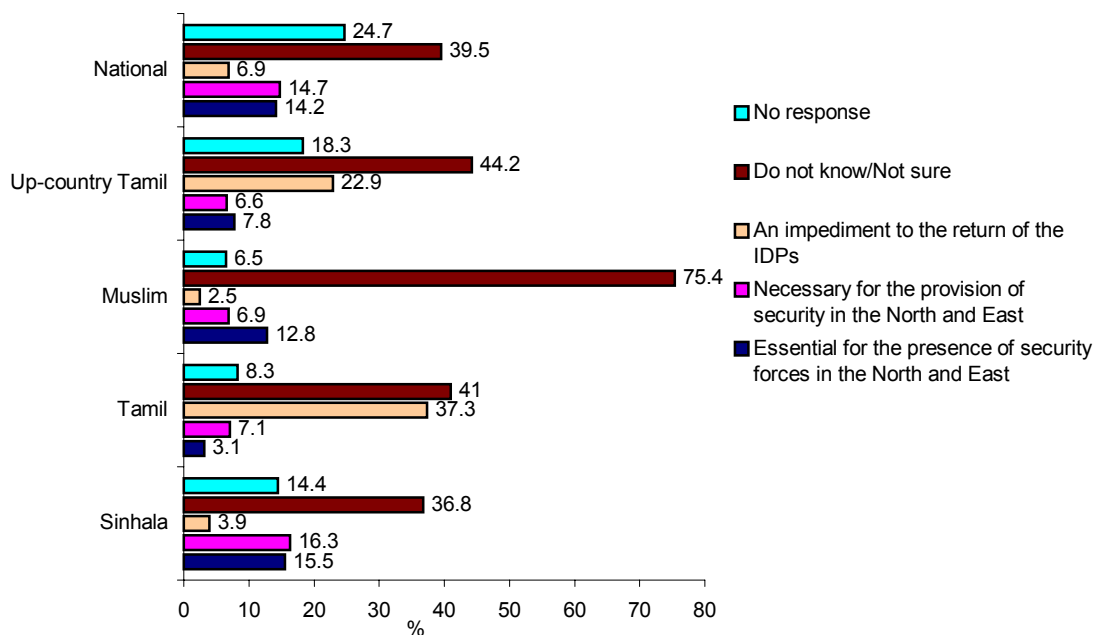


## According to your understanding high security zones are...[Multiple Answers]

### National Breakdown



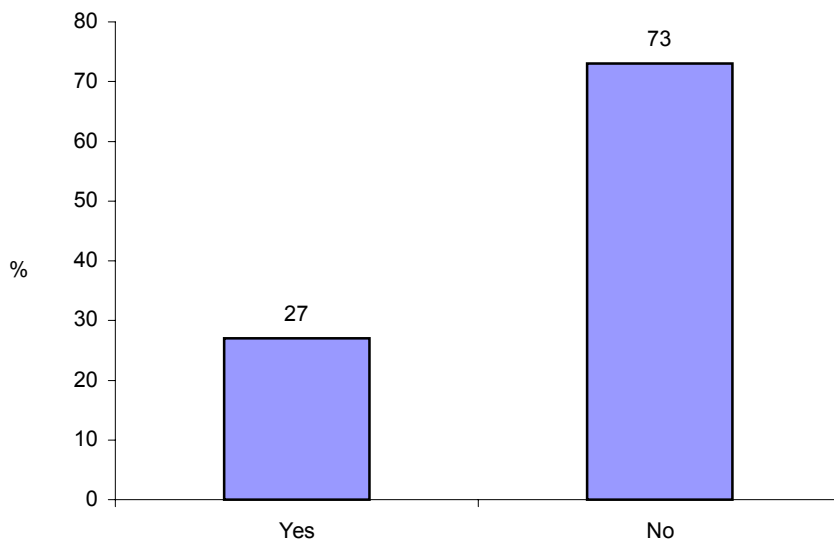
### Ethnic Breakdown



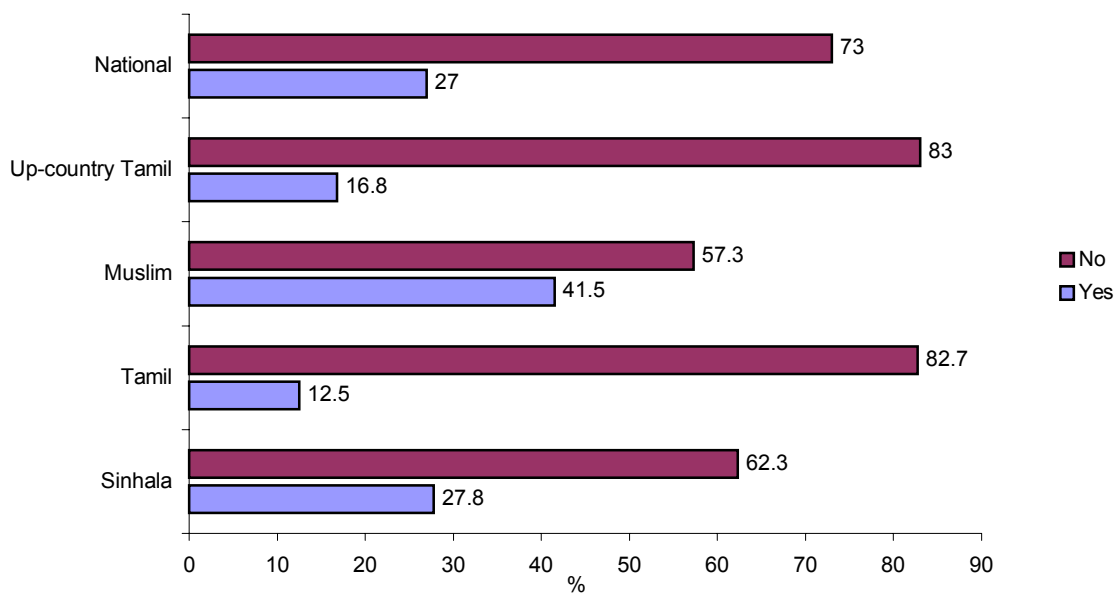
## EASTERN MUSLIMS

**Do you think that the situation of the Muslims in the East has deteriorated since the ceasefire in February 2002?**

**National Breakdown**

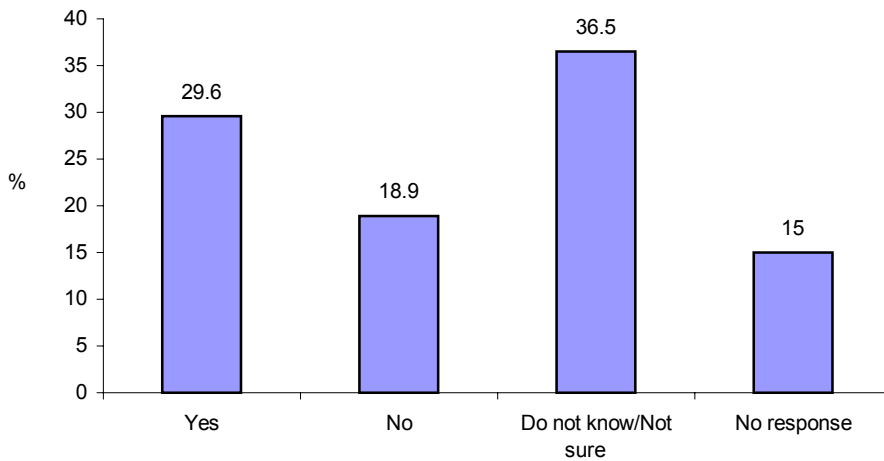


**Ethnic Breakdown**

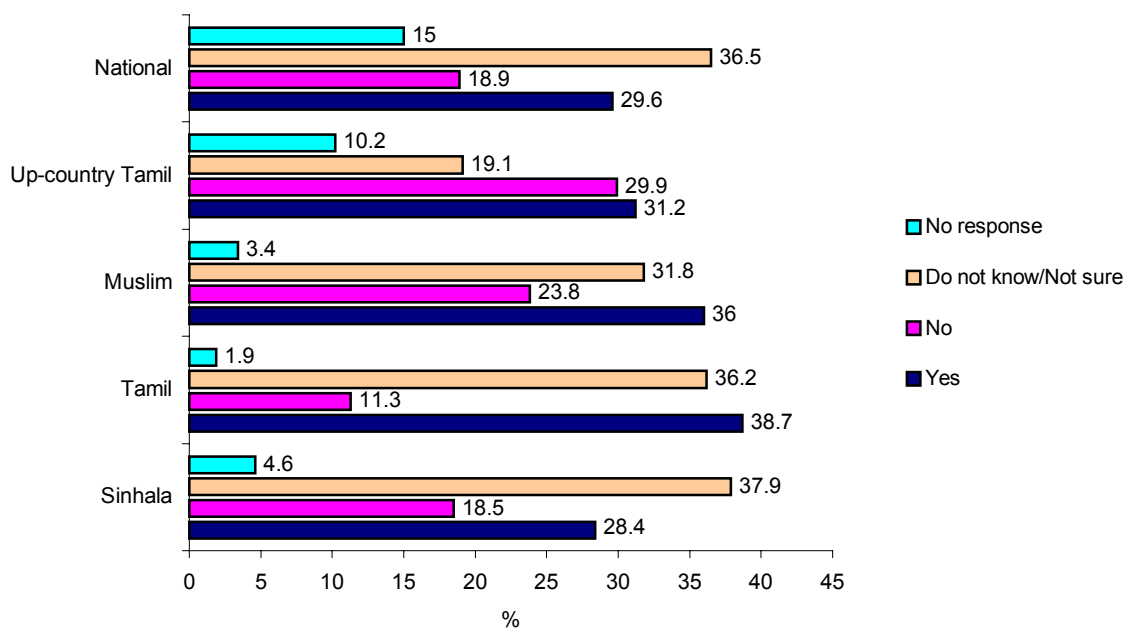


**Do you think that the interests and concerns of the Muslims of the East are being adequately represented in the peace talks?**

**National Breakdown**



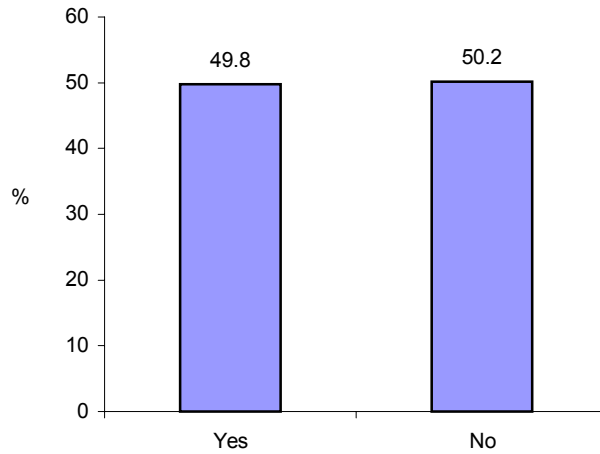
**Ethnic Breakdown**



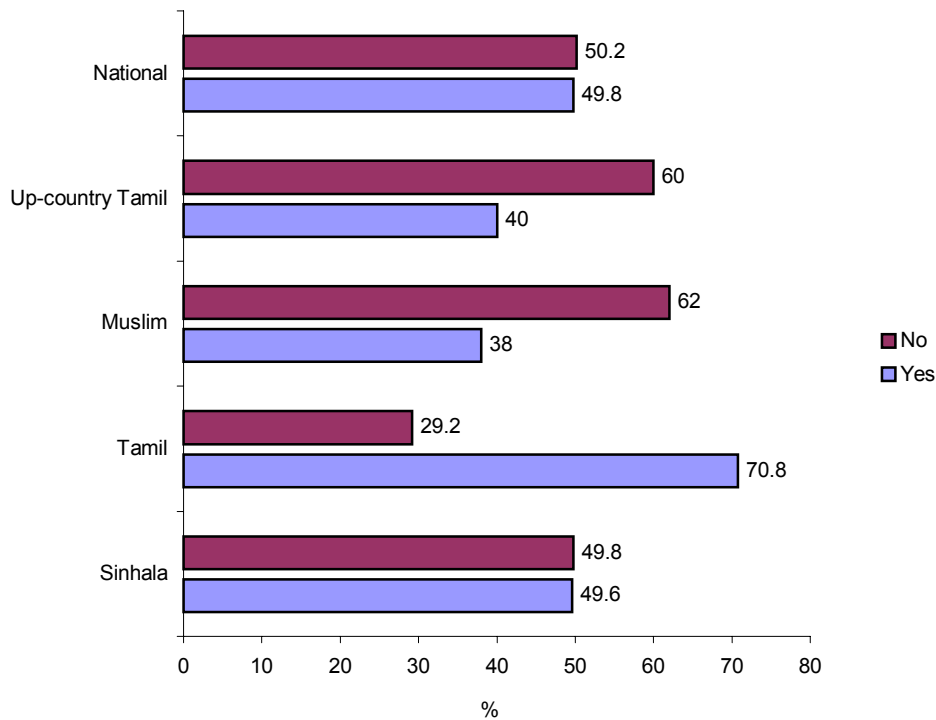
## OSLO

**Are you aware of LTTE participation at the meeting in Oslo on the 25<sup>th</sup> November 2002, of key donors in support of the peace process?**

**National Breakdown**

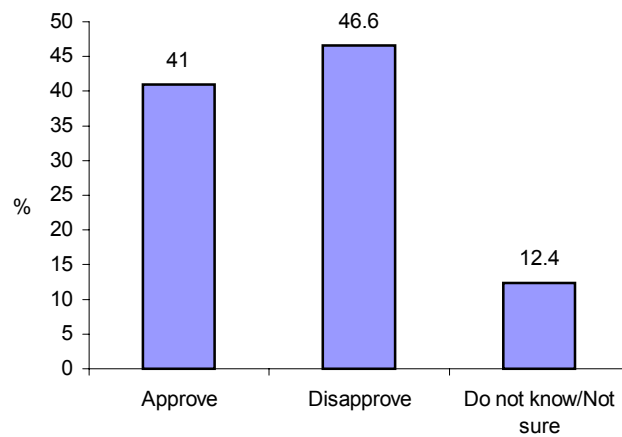


**Ethnic Breakdown**

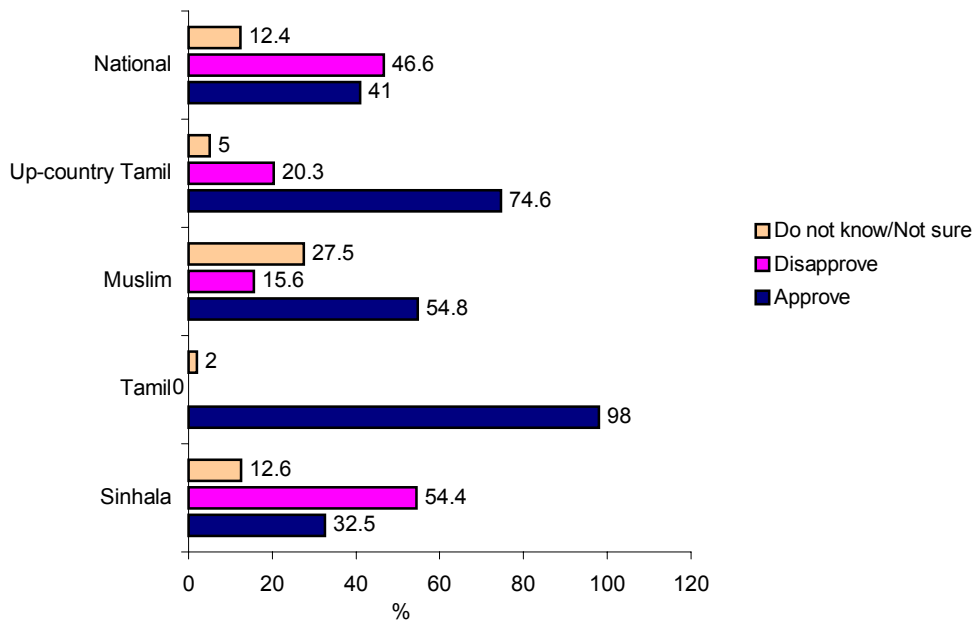


**If you are aware of LTTE participation at the meeting in Oslo on the 25<sup>th</sup> November 2002, do you approve or disapprove of the LTTE's participation?**

**National Breakdown**



**Ethnic Breakdown**

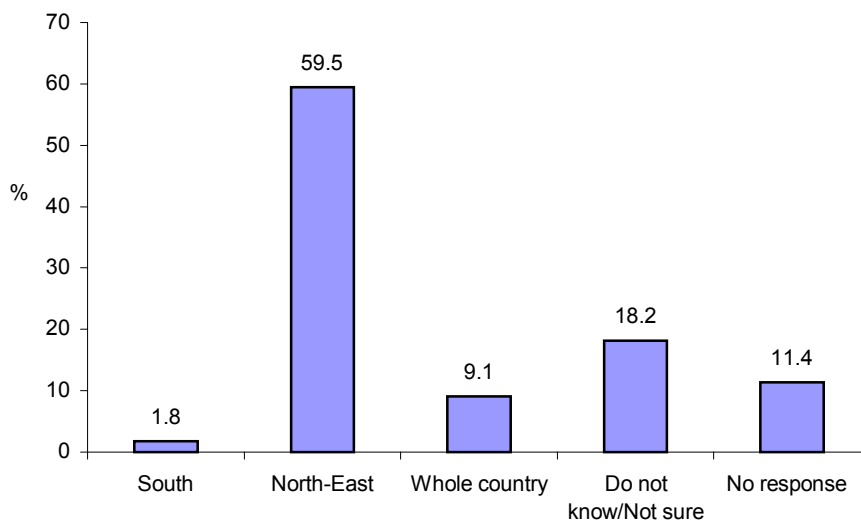




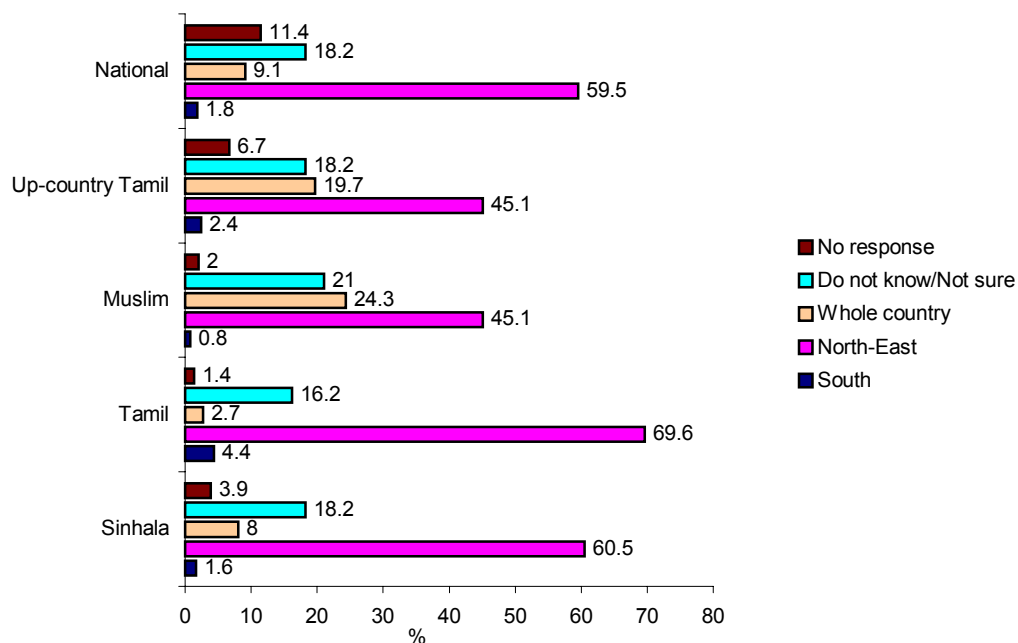
## FOREIGN AID

I believe the region that gets the bulk of foreign aid is the ... [Multiple Answers]

National Breakdown



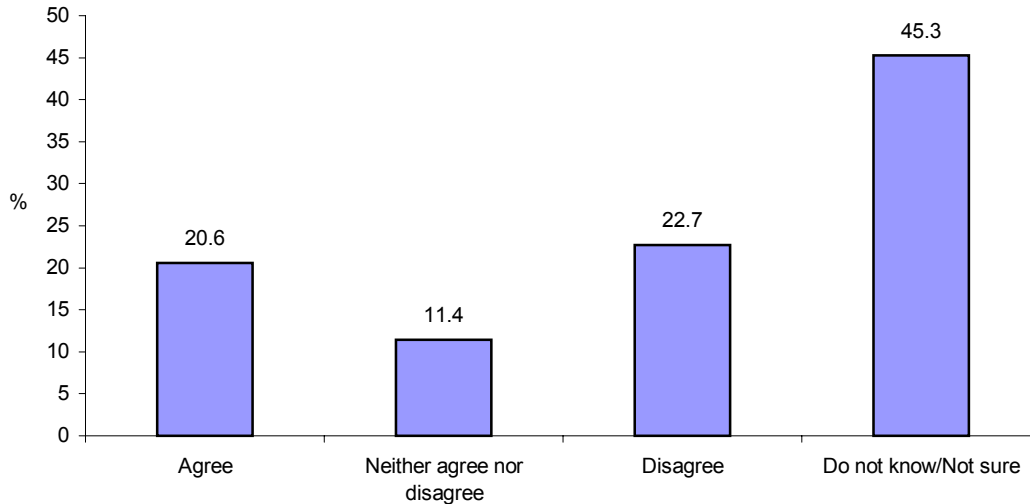
Ethnic Breakdown



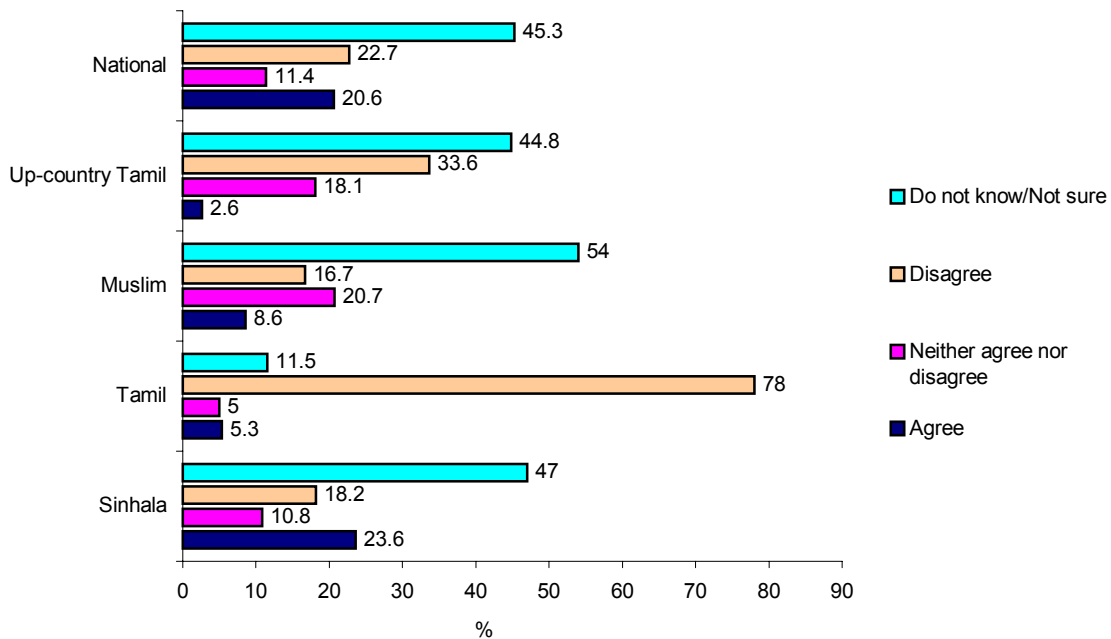
## PA'S STATEMENT

The PA in an official statement on the 15<sup>th</sup> November 2002, accused Norwegian facilitators of being partial towards the LTTE.

National Breakdown

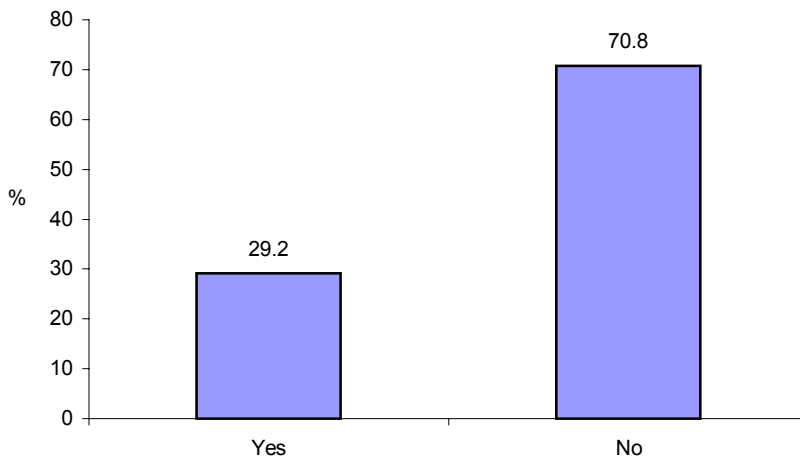


Ethnic Breakdown

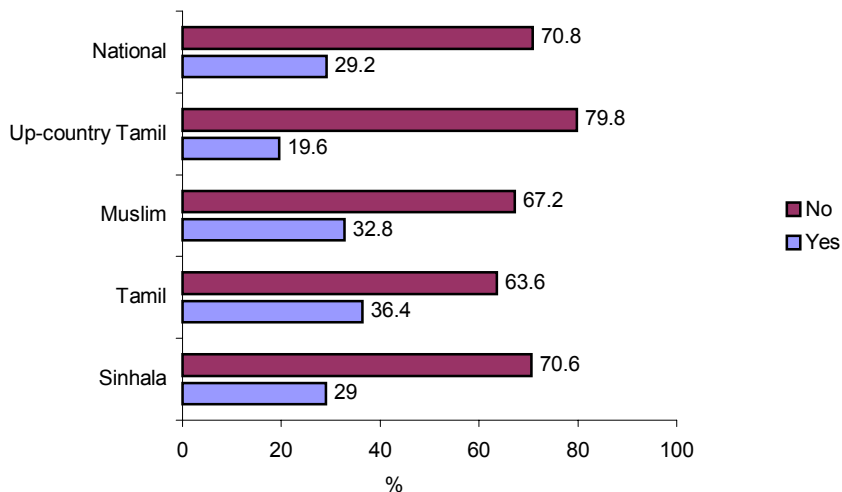


**Are you aware of President Chandrika Kumaratunga's proposal to set up a "National Commission for Ethnic Reconciliation and Sustainable Peace" made by her in a speech to mark her eighth anniversary as President on 12<sup>th</sup> November 2002?**

**National Breakdown**

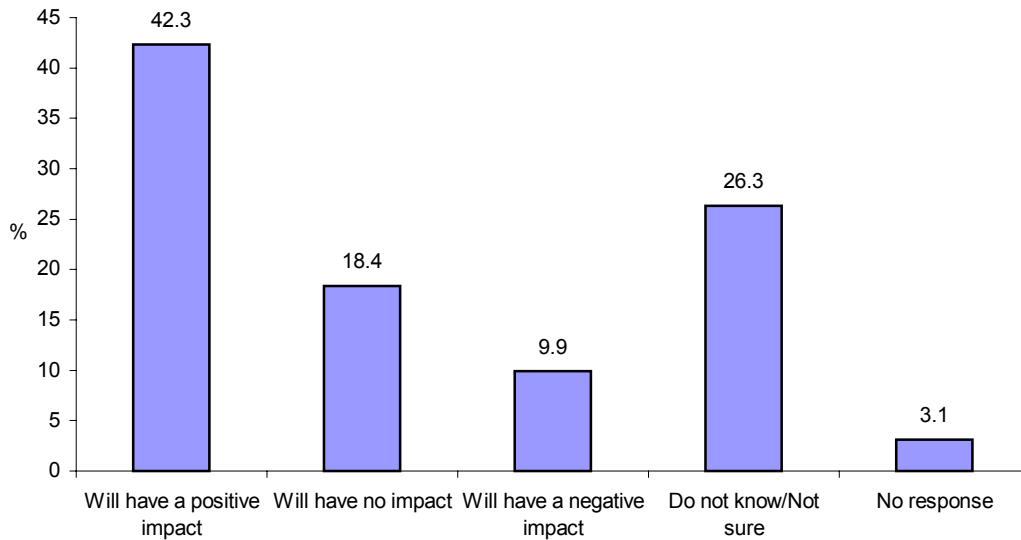


**Ethnic Breakdown**

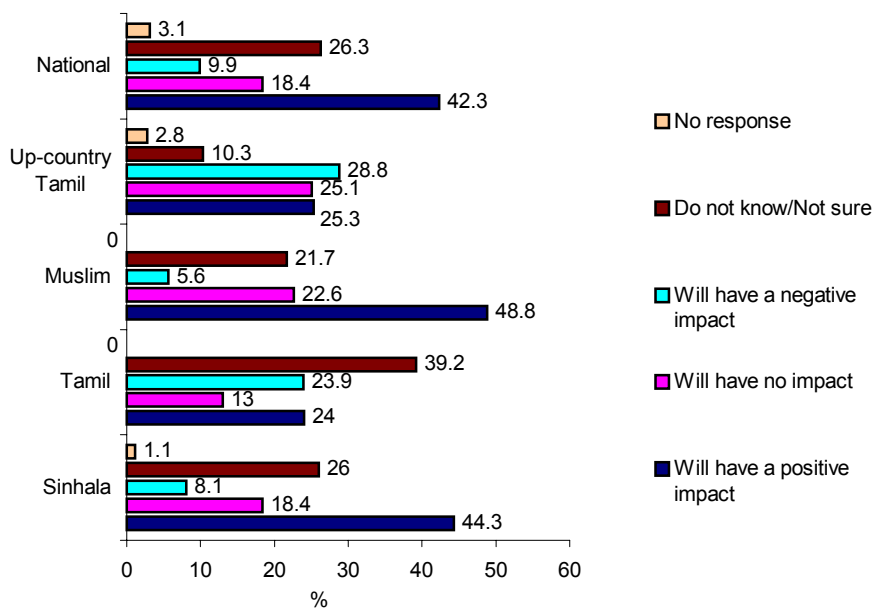


**If you are aware of President Chandrika Kumaratunga's proposal, what in your opinion will be the impact of this proposal on the peace process?**

**National Breakdown**



**Ethnic Breakdown**



## Annex

### District sample (weighted) distribution in November 2002

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DISTRICT	TOTAL
Colombo	204
Gampaha	175
Kalutara	88
Kandy	100
Matale	33
Nuwara Eliya	51
Galle	78
Hambantota	39
Matara	59
Anuradhapura	57
Polonnaruwa	28
Kurunegala	114
Puttlam	52
Badulla	51
Monaragala	27
Ratnapura	79
Kegalle	63
Amparai	42
Batticaloa	38
Trincomalee	31
Vavuniya	12
<b>NATIONAL</b>	<b>1419</b>

### Ethnic sample (weighted) distribution in November 2002

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ETHNICITY	TOTAL
Sinhala	1183
Tamil	89
Muslim	73
Up-country Tamil	74
<b>NATIONAL</b>	<b>1419</b>

## Sampling Methodology

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Given that the goal of the Peace Confidence Index (PCI) study is to measure the fluctuations in public confidence levels towards the peace process over time it is essential that the study be conducted repetitively with equal pauses during the study. Thus conducting the study bi-monthly with the use of a clearly defined and constant sample frame during each phase of the study ensures this fact.

The study is conducted using a structured questionnaire that is administered to a sample of approximately 1600 respondents during each phase of the study. This sample is adequate to capture the minimum ethnic diversity within the span of ten days of fieldwork. Although it is undeniable that an individual's opinion on the peace process is influenced by a number of factors, however the ethnic factor, which is the most important and influential, is the sole factor that has been accommodated in this model.

The total sample is distributed among 22 administrative districts (strata) of Sri Lanka, but in the Amparai, Batticaloa, Trincomalee, Vavuniya and Mannar districts the entire area is not covered as a result of the prevailing conflict situation and logistical difficulties. The sample size is assigned to each stratum is approximately equal to the population proportions. However, some districts are over sampled due to the ethnic heterogeneity but the over sampling biases are eliminated by weighting the sample.

A sample is allocated to a particular ethnicity within a district only if the population proportion of that particular ethnicity exceeds 9%. A Divisional Secretariat (DS) is selected as the primary sampling unit using the Simple Random Sampling technique while the Grama Niladhari Divisions (GND) in a DS are selected randomly as the secondary sampling unit using the '**Grama Niladhari Divisions of Sri Lanka 1999**' published by the Department of Census and Statistics as the sample frame.

To maintain the quality of the fieldwork and ensuring a maximum dispersion of the sample within a DS, enumerators are allowed to conduct a maximum of ten interviews a day in a GND. Within a given GND the enumerator is advised to select a starting point randomly and proceed with interviews using the random walk (right hand rule) technique in order to assure the random selection of households.

In the case of urban areas the interviewer is instructed to skip a house while selecting the households, thus resulting in the interview taking place at every alternative household. As the final sampling unit, the respondent is chosen from the household using the 'KRISH' grid thus ensuring that each member of the household has an equal chance of being selected to the PCI sample.

The PCI national level estimates are subject to a 3% error margin with a .95 confidence level. It is noteworthy to mention here that the PCI model does not support the regional level analysis at the same level of precision.