

Time for Unity Against Cold-Blooded Killers

by Janet Jagan – Jan 31, 2008

The eleven killings on January 26, 2008 touched the soul of the nation. Never before, and there has been such horrendous killings, nor such a happening struck such a nationwide core of sympathy and, a consequence of the nature of the crimes, anger.

The manner in which the murders were conducted added to the horror. Five of the eleven were children and this has sunk deep into the psyche of most Guyanese as the worst possible thing that could have happened.

Only a person without feeling, without a heart, without an inch of humanity could think of these murders in any other way than with the greatest sympathy and understanding of the trauma of the families left behind and the fear and insecurity of the community.

Some have described the murderers as "animals." I disagree. Animals kill for a reason – to eat or to protect themselves and their young. Human beings, that is a small few (hopefully) kill for no reason that can be understood – not even robbery or saving one's skin. These vermin killed, apparently to create fear and out of hate. In fact, they are probably consumed by hatred of others. We refer to reptiles as being cold-blooded creatures and that seems to be the best way of categorizing these vicious killers. Cold blood runs through their veins. How else could they "coolly" murder children?

Many persons and groups have made calls on two main areas of concern: Peace and better protection against such fearsome attacks on humans. Essentially, these are the two most urgent considerations before the Guyanese people.

We can fully understand the strong outburst of anger over the killings, especially by the residents of the community where the atrocity happened. While understanding and empathizing with them, at the same time, we can see the absolute need to keep feelings within control. Peaceful protests can be understood and respected, but violent protests cannot, because they can lead to even more atrocities. The past (60's) and the present (Kenya) are evidence of what can happen when violence erupts and a 'tit for tat' reaction erupts, as is always possible in such situations.

Thus, we must understand fully why PEACE is so necessary at this critical point. Already we can see sections of the media fanning such flames and playing dirty games with the delicate situation that exists in our country.

The February 1 edition of Stabroek News is an example of how our frequently disgusting media operates. Not highlighted on the front page and stuck way back on page 18 is the information all Guyana want – the report that the security forces killed two of the gunmen of the Lusignan Massacre, one being the No. 2 killer and arrested 5 in the Buxton backlands. The Chronicle gave this important development minimum attention.

The need for better security is, of course, a necessity. Our joint forces need to be geared to provide maximum protection as well as hunting down the many criminals and murderers in Guyana. So far, they have done well and we hope more killers will be found. Many however are protected and given cover, food and help in between their vile incursions as killers. Those who help and nurture these killers have to feel, also, the full strength of the law.

The religious community has declared that all are involved in the matter of protecting the people and finding the perpetrators of hate and bloodshed. That means that people who know or have vital information on the criminals have to share this with the joint forces. Information on the killers will have to come from people and there are many people in our society who know where they hide, who gives them shelter and aid, etc. No security system can exist usefully without community support. And this we must understand.

Also, we expect the police and army to be more alert. Notification of crimes as they begin are not getting the attention and response needed. That must change. Every police station needs to have better equipment to deal with emergencies. We need more cops, too many unfilled vacancies. The President was right when he asked why more people were not joining the Police Force.

Our Community Police need more training, more equipment and better liaison with those in charge of the police. They can do a lot by their very presence in the community, particularly if equipped with firearms and cellular phones and have mobility.

This is not the time for venting old complaints and grudges or for political upmanship, but for unity to quell the horror of cold blooded criminals stalking our land.

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