

SECURING OUR MOSQUES IN SRI LANKA

CCTV Proposal

1. Background

The Muslim community in Sri Lanka has coexisted peacefully with other communities for more than 1200 years. The end of the ethnic war in 2009 has given rise to extremist racist elements that have targeted the Muslim community with violence, intimidation, and threats. According to the Secretariat for Muslims, there are over 530 reported incidents against the Muslims during the last 4 years. These include attempted destruction of Mosques, places of religious significance, businesses and homes of Muslims.

The Muslim community is concerned that there may be a break out of further violence across the country especially with the renewed tensions in Dambulla, Mahiyangana, Boralesgamuwa, Badulla, Mawanella, Kurugala, etc. Lanka Minaret and the Muslim Council of Sri Lanka have been engaging the Muslim Business, Religious and Civil Leadership to address this threat. Their strong recommendation is to initially secure our most vulnerable mosques through the installation of CCTV cameras to ensure that we would have evidence if any violence takes place.

2. Project Objectives

The project hopes to achieve the following objectives;

- To enable the mosques to monitor and record trespassers and any attempt to cause damage to the mosques.
- Create an early warning mechanism to monitor 24/7.
- To ensure that deterrent mechanisms are in place in case of any eventuality.
- To provide a source for documented proof in case of any threat or trespass.
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3. Project Description

It is a consensus decision of both Lanka Minaret and the Muslim Council of Sri Lanka to install CCTV surveillance systems in all the mosques to monitor any potential threats and secure the premises. There are 2100 mosques approximately in Sri Lanka of which approximately 500 have been identified as vulnerable to threats. The project plans to source the hardware, train youth from the area to install and maintain the hardware, thereby creating an early warning mechanism, which would undoubtedly prove to be valuable in times of crisis.

The project will be implemented in two phases. The initial phase will focus on 100 most vulnerable mosques as a pilot and phase two will focus on the rest.

4. Project Proposal

The following proposal includes a basic 4-camera system with 1 monitor and recording device (DVR – Digital Video Recorder using a 500GB hard drive) for small mosques or madarasas, 8 camera system for medium and 12 camera system for large mosques.

- Provide recording using DVR multiplexer recording only when camera detects motion in its viewing range.
- Provide time and date stamp each time any camera detects activity within its range for easy retrieval.
- On playback system will provide easy retrieval of activity on any screen connected to the DVR in the premises.
- All aspects of system control could be performed on or off site from any computer (software provided and must be loaded) if there is internet access in the mosque.
- All required wiring.

The costing for the system has been worked out as follows:

Based on a quote from China, we estimate the cost of total project as follows. The cost would be slightly lower if we use 2MP cameras instead of 4MP

Camera	Unit Price USD	Total Nos	SL Rs
AHD 4MP Camera	21.8	1,000	3,400,800.00
DVR 4 channel	28	20	87,360.00
DVR 8 Channel	38	60	355,680.00
DVR 16 Ch	95	20	296,400.00
Monitor	68	100	1,050,000.00
Hard drives (1 Terra)	46	100	717,600.00
Cables and accessories	15	100	234,000.00
Installation charges	100	10,000	1,000,000.00
Shipping and clearing			400,000.00
Taxes for Camera & DVR			950,000.00
Total Project overheads+/-			600,000.00
			9,091,840.00
Cost per mosque	4 Cam units	8 Cam units	12 Cam Units
Cameras	3,400.80	27,032.00	40,548.00
Monitors	10,500.00	10,500.00	10,500.00
Hard drives 9! TV	7,130.00	14,725.00	14,725.00
Cables and Accessories	1,550.00	2,635.00	4,500.00
Installation Charge	8,000.00	10,000.00	12,000.00
DVRs	4,340.00	5,928.00	14,820.00
Shipping and clearing	6,000.00	6,500.00	7,000.00
Taxes	7,100.00	9,000.00	13,500.00
Project overheads	4,100.00	6,300.00	7,170.00
Total	52,120.80	92,620.00	124,763.00

4 Camera units will be fitted in Madarasas - Total of 20 locations in the first phase.

8 Camera units in medium scale mosques - Total of 60 locations in the first phase.

12 Cameras will be for large mosques - Total of 20 locations in the first phase.

5. **Project Benefits**

There are many benefits of using a CCTV security system. Some are obvious, others less so. The most common benefits that get reported are:

Increased deterrent – CCTV systems are a great deterrent to potential intrusions.

Reduced risk of theft – thieves deliberately target places with poor security and will think twice if there is an increased risk they may be caught on camera.

Safer working environment – CCTV helps to ensure adherence to health and safety policies.

Increased detection – if unfortunate enough to be a victim of crime at least there will be a strong chance of detection and conviction.

Remote monitoring – keep an eye on premises at all times. All our CCTV systems can be viewed and controlled remotely over the internet (via a smart phone, laptop etc)

Reduced fear of crime – knowing that the premises is well protected gives a feeling of security that should not be underestimated.

CCTV is perfect for continuous surveillance of the premises 24/7 .

6. **Estimated Outcomes**

It is hoped that the following could be achieved with this initiative.

- To create a safer environment in mosques for all concerned.
- To reduce threats of violence to the community.
- To reduce unnecessary suspicion among society.
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7. **Project Cost**

It is estimated that the CCTV Surveillance System for each mosque (with only 4 cameras) would cost approximately Rs. 55,000/- for small mosques or madarasas, 93,000 for medium sized mosques with 8 cameras and 125,000 for large mosques with 12 cameras. The initial phase will require Approx. Rs. 9 million for 100 mosques and the next phase will require Approx. Rs. 30 million for the rest (400 mosques). The cost includes cameras, DVR, wires, One Terabyte hard drive and monitors.

8. **Vulnerable mosques:**

Mosques from the following vulnerable districts have been chosen for the first phase.

The Project has categorized the 3 districts into three categories based on priority – High, Medium, Low risk.

Criteria for Categorizing:

- Is it a predominantly non-Muslim area?
- How many Registered Muslim voters?
- Are there any reported incidents of racism in the area?

Total number of Districts: 25

Category 1 - High	Category 2 - Medium	Category 3 - Low
Anuradhapura	Hambantota	Ampara
Galle	Matale	Badulla
Gampaha	Matara	Batticaloa
Kaluthara	Puttalam	Colombo
Kandy	Trincomalee	Jaffna
Kegalle		Killinochchi
Kurunegala		Mannar
Monaragala		Mulathivu
Polonnaruwa		Nuwara Eliya
Ratnapura		Vavuniya

Hence, the focus of the CCTV team, according our view, for the pilot project should be for Category 1.

District	No. of Mosques
Anuradhapura	96
Galle	53
Gampaha	70
Kaluthara	74
Kandy	167
Kegalle	76
Kurunegala	173
Monaragala	27
Polonnaruwa	39
Ratnapura	47

Mosques in vulnerable areas in each district would be identified and a maximum of 10 would be chosen from each district for the first phase.

Criteria for short listing:

- How many Registered Muslim voters per division?
- Are there many mosques within the area/division or is it isolated?

Anuradhapura	Anuradhapura	Kekirawa	Kalawewa	Kapugollawa	Kebithigollawa	Mihintale	Medawachchiya
Killinochchi	Balapitiya	Benthota	Ginthota	Huburugala	Karandeniya		
Gampaha	Attanagalla	Kahatowita	Mabola	Nittambuwa	Peliyagoda	Ragama	Rukkgahawela
Kaluthara	Agalawatte	Aluthgama	Bandaragama	Horana	Mathugama	Moratuwa	
Kandy	Alawathugoda	Ankubura	Galhinna	Hatton	Marassana	Pussellawa	Teldeniya
Kegalle	Awissawela	Danowita	Dehiowita	Kegalle	Kotiyakumbura	Rabukkana	Thulhiriya
Kurunegala	Alahitiyawa	Ambakote	Boraluwewa	Dambadeniya	Hettipola	Kuliyapitiya	Mawathagama
Monaragala	Biibile	Buttala	Iginiyagala	Kataragama	Monaragala		
Polonnaruwa	Giritale	Kalinga-Ela	Mannampitiya	Sungavila	Thambalai	Welikanda	
Ratnapura	Gallella	Godigamuwa	Kuruwita	Nivitigala	Opanayake	Pelmadulla	Rakwana

The above areas were chosen as priority after making calls to recognized Muslims in the districts who were able to give an indication whether the areas could be classed as vulnerable to threat. Donors too can recommend any mosque they would want covered. Furthermore, we would accommodate the most vulnerable mosques based on recommendations by the ACJU district offices.

9. The Project Team:

The planning team comprises the following. Please feel free to contact anyone of them for further information or clarification.

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May Allah Subhanahu wa ta'ala bless you for your kind consideration of supporting this important project for the Muslim community in Sri Lanka.

Yours sincerely,



Hilmy Ahamed

Project Coordinator