

Date and Time: Saturday, May 4, 2024 2:32:00PM EEST

Job Number: 223508214

Documents (100)

1. In Sri Lanka: Explaining the Tamil Tigers

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE **Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers, Newswires & Press

Releases; Timeline: Mar 31, 2009 to Nov 30, 2009

2. ANALYSIS: Sri Lanka 's Tamil Tigers defeated, but problems remain

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE **Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers, Newswires & Press

Releases; Timeline: Mar 31, 2009 to Nov 30, 2009

3. Tamil Tigers, rebels who once seemed invincible

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE **Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers, Newswires & Press

Releases; Timeline: Mar 31, 2009 to Nov 30, 2009

4. Tamil Tigers in battle for survival

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE **Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers, Newswires & Press

Releases; Timeline: Mar 31, 2009 to Nov 30, 2009

5. Sri Lanka presses final attack on Tamil Tigers

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers, Newswires & Press Releases; Timeline: Mar 31, 2009 to Nov 30, 2009

6. Tamil Tigers ignore surrender deadline, accuse govt of carnage

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE **Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers, Newswires & Press

Releases; Timeline: Mar 31, 2009 to Nov 30, 2009

7. 2,000 civilians killed in Sri Lanka war zone: Pro-LTTE website

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE **Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers, Newswires & Press

Releases; Timeline: Mar 31, 2009 to Nov 30, 2009

8. Thousands more flee Sri Lanka war zone, no trace of LTTE chief (Roundup)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE **Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

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News Publication Type: Newspapers, Newswires & Press

Releases; Timeline: Mar 31, 2009 to Nov 30, 2009

9. Over 13,000 civilians flee LTTE-held areas, 17 die in blast (Second Lead)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE **Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers, Newswires & Press

Releases; Timeline: Mar 31, 2009 to Nov 30, 2009

10. VELUPILLAI PRABHAKARAN Leader of the Tamil Tigers

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE **Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

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News Publication Type: Newspapers, Newswires & Press

Releases; Timeline: Mar 31, 2009 to Nov 30, 2009

11. 52,000 flee rebel-held area as LTTE ignores surrender deadline (Fourth Lead)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE **Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

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News Publication Type: Newspapers, Newswires & Press

Releases; Timeline: Mar 31, 2009 to Nov 30, 2009

12. Tamil Tigers given surrender deadline

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE **Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

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News Publication Type: Newspapers, Newswires & Press

Releases; Timeline: Mar 31, 2009 to Nov 30, 2009

13. 35,000 civilians risk death, flee LTTE stronghold

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE **Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

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News Publication Type: Newspapers, Newswires & Press

Releases; Timeline: Mar 31, 2009 to Nov 30, 2009

14. Rajapaksa asks LTTE to free civilians, surrender before late

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE Search Type: Terms and Connectors

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News Publication Type: Newspapers, Newswires & Press

Releases; Timeline: Mar 31, 2009 to Nov 30, 2009

15. Two top Tamil Tigers surrender to Sri Lankan army Rebel land shrinks

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers, Newswires & Press

Releases; Timeline: Mar 31, 2009 to Nov 30, 2009

16. Tamil Tigers accuse Sri Lankan forces of killing 1,000 civilians in raid

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE **Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

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Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers, Newswires & Press

Releases; Timeline: Mar 31, 2009 to Nov 30, 2009

17. Thousands flee to safety as Sri Lanka breaks through Tamil Tigers' defence

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE **Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

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Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers, Newswires & Press

Releases; Timeline: Mar 31, 2009 to Nov 30, 2009

18. Sri Lanka seeks aid for civilian crisis, endgame for LTTE (Roundup)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE **Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers, Newswires & Press

Releases; Timeline: Mar 31, 2009 to Nov 30, 2009

19. Obituary: Velupillai Prabhakaran: Founder and leader of the Tamil Tigers who fought the Sri Lankan government for more than 25 years

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE **Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

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News Publication Type: Newspapers, Newswires & Press

Releases; Timeline: Mar 31, 2009 to Nov 30, 2009

20._30,000 civilians flee LTTE-held areas, 17 killed in blasts (Third Lead)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE **Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers, Newswires & Press

Releases; Timeline: Mar 31, 2009 to Nov 30, 2009

21. The hidden massacre 20,000 civilians were killed in Sri Lanka 's final assault on Tamil Tigers

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE **Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers, Newswires & Press

Releases; Timeline: Mar 31, 2009 to Nov 30, 2009

22. Obituary of Velupillai Prabhakaran Leader of the Tamil Tigers whose bloody legacy encompassed

assassinations and suicide bombs

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE **Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers, Newswires & Press

Releases; Timeline: Mar 31, 2009 to Nov 30, 2009

23. Over 20,000 Tamil civilians killed in final Lanka offensive against LTTE

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE **Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

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News Publication Type: Newspapers, Newswires & Press

Releases; Timeline: Mar 31, 2009 to Nov 30, 2009

24. Eat up, National Post tells LTTE hunger strikers

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE **Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

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News Publication Type: Newspapers, Newswires & Press

Releases; Timeline: Mar 31, 2009 to Nov 30, 2009

25. The hidden massacre 20,000 civilians were killed in Sri Lanka 's final assault on Tamil Tigers

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE **Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

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News Publication Type: Newspapers, Newswires & Press

Releases; Timeline: Mar 31, 2009 to Nov 30, 2009

26. NEW LTTE CROONER WEARS PETTICOATS



Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE **Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

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News Publication Type: Newspapers, Newswires & Press

Releases; Timeline: Mar 31, 2009 to Nov 30, 2009

27. Hundreds dead on bloodiest day of Sri Lankan battle to destroy Tamil Tigers

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE **Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

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News Publication Type: Newspapers, Newswires & Press

Releases; Timeline: Mar 31, 2009 to Nov 30, 2009

28. Girls aged 11 'fighting for Tamil Tigers' Sri Lankan army claims retreating rebels are conscripting children

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE **Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

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News Publication Type: Newspapers, Newswires & Press

Releases; Timeline: Mar 31, 2009 to Nov 30, 2009

29. Civilians keep fleeing, army tightens noose around LTTE

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE **Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

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News Publication Type: Newspapers, Newswires & Press

Releases; Timeline: Mar 31, 2009 to Nov 30, 2009

30. Guardian Weekly: International news: 'Only two women escaped. The other 75 blew themselves up':

Cornered Tamil Tigers are ordered to commit suicide rather than surrender

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE **Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers, Newswires & Press

Releases; Timeline: Mar 31, 2009 to Nov 30, 2009

31. UN and Obama in sync against LTTE terror

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE **Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers, Newswires & Press

Releases; Timeline: Mar 31, 2009 to Nov 30, 2009

32. Routed Tamil Tigers' new leader arrested First war refugees sent home

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE **Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers, Newswires & Press

Releases; Timeline: Mar 31, 2009 to Nov 30, 2009

33. Sri Lanka vows to capture Prabhakaran, dead or live (Second Lead)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE **Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers, Newswires & Press

Releases; Timeline: Mar 31, 2009 to Nov 30, 2009

34. Rudd's just conning us

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE **Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

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Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers, Newswires & Press

Releases; Timeline: Mar 31, 2009 to Nov 30, 2009

35. Arrest of Tamil Tigers chief a blow for guerillas New leader captured in Malaysia

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE **Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers, Newswires & Press

Releases; Timeline: Mar 31, 2009 to Nov 30, 2009

36. TAMIL TIGERS: A HISTORY

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE **Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

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News Publication Type: Newspapers, Newswires & Press

Releases; Timeline: Mar 31, 2009 to Nov 30, 2009

37. It is impossible for Prabhakaran to flee now: Military (Lead, Changing dateline)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE **Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers, Newswires & Press

Releases; Timeline: Mar 31, 2009 to Nov 30, 2009

38. No Suicide-Bomber Amongst Surrendered Rebels: S.L. Army

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE **Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

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News Publication Type: Newspapers, Newswires & Press

Releases; Timeline: Mar 31, 2009 to Nov 30, 2009

39. LANKA TO SEEK ADELE'S ARREST

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE **Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

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News Publication Type: Newspapers, Newswires & Press

Releases; Timeline: Mar 31, 2009 to Nov 30, 2009

40. Tigers given deadline to surrender

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE **Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

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News Publication Type: Newspapers, Newswires & Press

Releases; Timeline: Mar 31, 2009 to Nov 30, 2009

41. Tamil Tiger chief hit in armoured ambulance; Declared Dead

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE **Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

News Publication Type: Newspapers, Newswires & Press

Releases; Timeline: Mar 31, 2009 to Nov 30, 2009

42. LTTE suffers worst defeat

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE **Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

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News Publication Type: Newspapers, Newswires & Press

Releases; Timeline: Mar 31, 2009 to Nov 30, 2009

43. Military says Tamil leader, son killed

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE **Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers, Newswires & Press

Releases; Timeline: Mar 31, 2009 to Nov 30, 2009

44. Sri Lankan military wary as tamil tigers give up fight

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE **Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

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Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers, Newswires & Press

Releases; Timeline: Mar 31, 2009 to Nov 30, 2009

45. World: 'Two of us fled. 75 other women killed themselves with grenades': As the Sri Lankan army intensifies its campaign against the last remnants of the Tamil Tigers, Gethin Chamberlain hears the harrowing stories of the captured female fighters who chose not to carry out suicide orders

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE **Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

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Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers, Newswires & Press

Releases; Timeline: Mar 31, 2009 to Nov 30, 2009

46. By now you may be protesting. Fancy me calling Rudd deceitful and a fraud. Steady, soldier

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE **Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

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News Publication Type: Newspapers, Newswires & Press

Releases; Timeline: Mar 31, 2009 to Nov 30, 2009

47. The girl soldiers robbed of their childhood Sri Lankan army tells of firefights with children as young as 11

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE **Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers, Newswires & Press

Releases; Timeline: Mar 31, 2009 to Nov 30, 2009

48. No tears for LTTE

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE **Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers, Newswires & Press

Releases; Timeline: Mar 31, 2009 to Nov 30, 2009

49. LTTE last bastion falls

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE **Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

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News Publication Type: Newspapers, Newswires & Press

Releases; Timeline: Mar 31, 2009 to Nov 30, 2009

50. Sri Lankan civilians trapped by Tamil Tigers 'last stand' As the fighting has shrunk to a three-square mile strip of rebel-held land, Sri Lanka 's military has framed its offensive as the world's 'largest hostage rescue mission.'

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE **Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

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News Publication Type: Newspapers, Newswires & Press

Releases; Timeline: Mar 31, 2009 to Nov 30, 2009

51. 420 Tigers killed, troops seize key Sri Lankan area (Lead)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE **Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

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News Publication Type: Newspapers, Newswires & Press

Releases; Timeline: Mar 31, 2009 to Nov 30, 2009

52. IMHO and the LTTE connection

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE **Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

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News Publication Type: Newspapers, Newswires & Press

Releases; Timeline: Mar 31, 2009 to Nov 30, 2009

53. Tamil Tigers surrender last of their territory

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE **Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

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Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers, Newswires & Press

Releases; Timeline: Mar 31, 2009 to Nov 30, 2009

54. 106 kids die in Lanka bloodbath

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE **Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

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News Publication Type: Newspapers, Newswires & Press

Releases; Timeline: Mar 31, 2009 to Nov 30, 2009

55. Tamil Tigers announce plan to surrender

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE **Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

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News Publication Type: Newspapers, Newswires & Press

Releases; Timeline: Mar 31, 2009 to Nov 30, 2009

56. LTTE's Thamilini in custody

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE **Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

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News Publication Type: Newspapers, Newswires & Press

Releases; Timeline: Mar 31, 2009 to Nov 30, 2009

57. LTTE keen on a BJP victory

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE **Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

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News Publication Type: Newspapers, Newswires & Press

Releases; Timeline: Mar 31, 2009 to Nov 30, 2009

58. Britain condemns LTTE massacre in Buttala

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE **Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

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News Publication Type: Newspapers, Newswires & Press

Releases; Timeline: Mar 31, 2009 to Nov 30, 2009

59. LTTE-EPRLF mutual killing spree

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE **Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

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News Publication Type: Newspapers, Newswires & Press

Releases; Timeline: Mar 31, 2009 to Nov 30, 2009

60. Tamils march on White House, plead for help in crisis

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE **Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

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News Publication Type: Newspapers, Newswires & Press

Releases; Timeline: Mar 31, 2009 to Nov 30, 2009

61. LTTE deprived Muslims freedom - President

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE **Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

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News Publication Type: Newspapers, Newswires & Press

Releases; Timeline: Mar 31, 2009 to Nov 30, 2009

62. Surrender warning served on Tamils

Client/Matter: -None-



Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE **Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

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News Publication Type: Newspapers, Newswires & Press

Releases; Timeline: Mar 31, 2009 to Nov 30, 2009

63. On the operating table, evidence of Sri Lanka 's brutal war

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE **Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

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News Publication Type: Newspapers, Newswires & Press

Releases; Timeline: Mar 31, 2009 to Nov 30, 2009

64. Lanka says only 500 LTTE fighters left

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE **Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

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News Publication Type: Newspapers, Newswires & Press

Releases; Timeline: Mar 31, 2009 to Nov 30, 2009

65. Rehabilitation of LTTE cadres underway

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE **Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

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News Publication Type: Newspapers, Newswires & Press

Releases; Timeline: Mar 31, 2009 to Nov 30, 2009

66. Prabhakaran still in Sri Lanka, vows to fight on

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE **Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

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News Publication Type: Newspapers, Newswires & Press

Releases; Timeline: Mar 31, 2009 to Nov 30, 2009

67. Indian envoys tell Rajapaksa to halt Tamil offensive

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE **Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

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News Publication Type: Newspapers, Newswires & Press

Releases; Timeline: Mar 31, 2009 to Nov 30, 2009

68. Our uneven policy on Sri Lankan camps

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE **Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

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News Publication Type: Newspapers, Newswires & Press

Releases; Timeline: Mar 31, 2009 to Nov 30, 2009

69. The brazen stance of LTTE many fronts - next target

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE **Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers, Newswires & Press

Releases; Timeline: Mar 31, 2009 to Nov 30, 2009

70. LTTE commits bloodbath against civilians; more evidence surface

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE **Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers, Newswires & Press

Releases; Timeline: Mar 31, 2009 to Nov 30, 2009

71. War won't stop until Prabhakaran is taken dead or alive: Sri Lanka (Lead)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE **Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers, Newswires & Press

Releases; Timeline: Mar 31, 2009 to Nov 30, 2009

72. 'COL KARUNA' SAYS LTTE WILL NOT MAKE COMEBACK

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE **Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Releases; Timeline: Mar 31, 2009 to Nov 30, 2009

73. Terrorists slaughter villagers - LTTE slaughters other terrorist groups

Client/Matter: -None-

News

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE **Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers, Newswires & Press

Releases; Timeline: Mar 31, 2009 to Nov 30, 2009

74. 'Amnesty' on cards as Tamil Tigers start to surrender, but notfor the leaders for the leaders

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE **Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

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News Publication Type: Newspapers, Newswires & Press

Releases; Timeline: Mar 31, 2009 to Nov 30, 2009

75. A way out for Sri Lanka 's child soldiers

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE **Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

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News Publication Type: Newspapers, Newswires & Press

Releases; Timeline: Mar 31, 2009 to Nov 30, 2009

76. LTTE committee passes death sentence on TULF leader

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE **Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers, Newswires & Press

Releases; Timeline: Mar 31, 2009 to Nov 30, 2009

77. Lankan army deep inside LTTE chief?s last bastion

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE **Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

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News Publication Type: Newspapers, Newswires & Press

Releases; Timeline: Mar 31, 2009 to Nov 30, 2009



78. LTTE propaganda machine worming into Aussie Parliament

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE **Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

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News Publication Type: Newspapers, Newswires & Press

Releases; Timeline: Mar 31, 2009 to Nov 30, 2009

79. LTTE took desperate measures in final hours

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE **Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

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News Publication Type: Newspapers, Newswires & Press

Releases; Timeline: Mar 31, 2009 to Nov 30, 2009

80. Army 58 Div continues to rescue civilians from LTTE clutches - Ampalavanpokkanai

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE **Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

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News Publication Type: Newspapers, Newswires & Press

Releases; Timeline: Mar 31, 2009 to Nov 30, 2009

81. LTTE now a shattered effigy - PS Chairman

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE **Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

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News Publication Type: Newspapers, Newswires & Press

Releases; Timeline: Mar 31, 2009 to Nov 30, 2009

82. PROTESTERS CONTINUE TO OCCUPY SQUARE

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE **Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

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News Publication Type: Newspapers, Newswires & Press

Releases; Timeline: Mar 31, 2009 to Nov 30, 2009

83. Peace now most needed in Sri Lanka

Client/Matter: -None-



Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE **Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

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News Publication Type: Newspapers, Newswires & Press

Releases; Timeline: Mar 31, 2009 to Nov 30, 2009

84. <u>Tigers routed, but what now for Tamils in Sri Lanka? 'The worst thing that can now happen for people who have survived the war is for them to die from preventable means in the camps'</u>

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE **Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

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News Publication Type: Newspapers, Newswires & Press

Releases; Timeline: Mar 31, 2009 to Nov 30, 2009

85. I never underestimated the LTTE - President

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE **Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers, Newswires & Press

Releases; Timeline: Mar 31, 2009 to Nov 30, 2009

86. Prabhakaran "very much alive" claim pro LTTE leaders in TN

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE **Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers, Newswires & Press

Releases; Timeline: Mar 31, 2009 to Nov 30, 2009

87. More civilians flee LTTE clutches to safe zone

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE **Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers, Newswires & Press

Releases; Timeline: Mar 31, 2009 to Nov 30, 2009

88. Sri Lankan president's emissary to visit India (Lead)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers, Newswires & Press

Releases; Timeline: Mar 31, 2009 to Nov 30, 2009

89. Indian envoys meet Rajapaksa, no word on truce (Lead)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE **Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers, Newswires & Press

Releases; Timeline: Mar 31, 2009 to Nov 30, 2009

90. LTTE-LED SEPARATIST WAR MADE 250,000 TAMILS HOMELESS

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE **Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers, Newswires & Press

Releases; Timeline: Mar 31, 2009 to Nov 30, 2009

91. Tamil Tigers given 24 hours to surrender by Sri Lankan government

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE **Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers, Newswires & Press

Releases; Timeline: Mar 31, 2009 to Nov 30, 2009

92. 35,000 civilians flee Tiger area: Sri Lanka president

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE **Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers, Newswires & Press

Releases; Timeline: Mar 31, 2009 to Nov 30, 2009

93. India to seek evidence from Sri Lanka to shut Gandhi murder case

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE **Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers, Newswires & Press

Releases; Timeline: Mar 31, 2009 to Nov 30, 2009

94. Extortion racket: LTTE involvement suspected

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE **Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers, Newswires & Press

Releases; Timeline: Mar 31, 2009 to Nov 30, 2009

95. LTTE terror attacks continue during CFA

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers, Newswires & Press

Releases; Timeline: Mar 31, 2009 to Nov 30, 2009

96. ŒTHE MASSACRE OF 20,000 TAMILS'

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE **Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers, Newswires & Press

Releases; Timeline: Mar 31, 2009 to Nov 30, 2009

97. Civilian exodus spells defeat for Tigers: Sri Lanka president

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

Publication Type: Newspapers, Newswires & Press News

Releases; Timeline: Mar 31, 2009 to Nov 30, 2009

98. The LTTE Killers blast CTO

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers, Newswires & Press

Releases; Timeline: Mar 31, 2009 to Nov 30, 2009

99. After Kilinochchi, is Rajapaksa awaiting Kalinga? (Comment)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE **Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers, Newswires & Press

Releases; Timeline: Mar 31, 2009 to Nov 30, 2009

100. LTTE SUSPECTS USE CELL PHONES IN JAIL

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE **Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers, Newswires & Press

Releases; Timeline: Mar 31, 2009 to Nov 30, 2009



In Sri Lanka: Explaining the Tamil Tigers

Daily News (Sri Lanka)
June 11, 2009 Thursday

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Length: 1400 words

Dateline: Colombo

Body

Colombo, June 11 -- The <u>Tamil Tigers</u> (<u>LTTE</u>) are considered a terrorist organization by 32 countries. Their soldiers were cyanide vials for consumption upon capture.

They invented the suicide belt and pioneered the use of suicide bombing as a tactic. They also pioneered the use of <u>women</u> in suicide attacks and forcibly kidnapped and inducted child soldiers. Over 5,000 child soldiers have been reported. According to Jane's Information Group, between 1980 and 2000 the <u>LTTE</u> carried out 168 suicide attacks causing heavy damage on economic and military targets. According to the F.B.I, "the <u>LTTE</u> has perfected the use of suicide bombers, invented the suicide belt, pioneered the use of <u>women</u> in suicide attacks, murdered some 4,000 people in the past two years alone, and assassinated two world leaders - the only terrorist organization to do so."

The Sri Lankan government has battled the *Tamil Tigers* on two fronts for almost three decades: on the battlefield and in the arena of world opinion. No one thought they could win militarily, but they did. In the days of the conflict's end, U.N secretary General Ban Ki-Moon appealed to the Tigers to stop using children as hostages, to stop recruiting child soldiers, and to stop putting children in harms way. The U.N. Security Council issued a statement, "We demand that the LTTE immediately lay down arms, renounce terrorism, allow a U.N.-assisted evacuation of the remaining civilians in the conflict area, and join the political process." The U.N. acting representative for Sri Lanka, Amin Awad, said that 6,000 civilians had fled or were trying to flee, but that LTTE was firing on them to prevent them from escaping. In spite of the use of children by the Tigers as soldiers and hostages, the Sri Lankan military was able to defeat them slowly, surely - and cautiously. First they won militarily, and then they won diplomatically in Switzerland, as Sri Lanka held off an attempt by the European Union to call for an investigation of so-called human rights abuses. Although the Sri Lankan government has succeeded in stopping the former colonial powers from lecturing them in Geneva, sentiment runs deeply against Sri Lanka from London to Toronto, and even down into New York and Washington. As an American who has been actively involved with Sri Lanka since the Tsunami, I have never understood this. I am beginning to. The *Tamil Tigers* not only created the world's most powerful terrorist organization the only one ever to have a full army, navy, and air force but they created a network within the 1.2 million Tamil Diaspora that is almost as powerful. Disturbingly, another factor may also be involved. Racism. I wonder often why the Fight Against Terrorism seems to be a white man's fight, and when in the word's of Teddy Roosevelt, out "little brown brothers" stand up for themselves, somehow charges of abuse and rights violations are leveled by the West. When the U.S. illegally invaded Iraq, with the full cooperation of the U.K., many civilians were killed. As have been killed in Afghanistan. Not to mention abuses at Abu Ghraib and Guantanamo Bay. Perhaps the specter of a developing nation conquering terrorism is galling to us in the developed world, knowing Osama Bin Laden has eluded our best efforts to capture him. We suffer from Empty Nest Syndrome. We need to accept that our former colonies have grown up and can now stand for themselves. The *Tamil Tigers* were defeated despite being far better organized than Al-Qaeda. The Tigers had branches that included: Sea Tigers - the

Tiger navy, including submarines, which is said to have destroyed 50% of the Sri Lankan Navy's coastal craft. Air Tigers - the Tiger air force, used for bombing Colombo. The LTTE became the first non-state organization to establish an air force. Black Tigers - the Tiger suicide commando unit. Tiger Intelligence - the intelligence wing. Tiger Police - the Tamil Eelam police was a key factor in maintaining law and order. It was also an integrated arm of the LTTE armed force. Tiger Courts - the LTTE judicial had district courts, high courts, a supreme court, and even a court of appeal. Voice of Tigers - the LTTE ran its own radio and television stations. Bank of Tamileelam - the LTTE also ran using Sri Lankan rupee. This apparatus was used to ethnically "clean" Muslims from northern Sri Lanka from 1985-1992. It was also used to kill any Sri Lankan Tamil who cooperated with the Sri Lankan government. Over the past thirty years' conflict, fought by the Tigers, Tamils were allowed to flee Sri Lanka and apply for refugee status in Canada, the U.K., and other nations friendly to humanitarian causes. These refugees 1.2 million strong now vote. About 300,000 in Canada, another 300,000 in the E.U., with an additional 200,000 in the U.S. A Canadian official has confided to me in Colombo that his government fears the Tamil-Canadian vote. India would like to return the more than 100,000 Tamil refugees living in the Indian province of Tamil Nadu. Canada, by comparison, plans to encourage "family reunification," bringing those who never escaped over to join those who left years ago. Sri Lanka has a per capita income of under \$2,000 per year. Has the Diaspora been as economically motivated as it has been politically? I would rather have had the economic support of Canada than live in Jaffna under the Tigers. The *Tamil Tigers*, known as the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (*LTTE*), were formally established in 1976. Its leader, killed two weeks ago in the north of Sri Lanka, was Velupillai Prabhakaran. The Tigers were a successor to the Tamil New Tigers, active since the late 1950s. The Tigers maintain to this day an enormous war chest funded by extortion to their own people combined with drug running and the race to control it following the death of their leader has been intense. According to many experts, a significant portion is obtained through criminal activities, involving sea piracy, human smuggling, drug trafficking and gunrunning. The Tigers are estimated to have raised \$300,000 million annually. Let us see these Tamil organizations in Europe and North America now contribute to helping rebuild Sri Lanka's devastated North and East coasts. One man who hopes to assume the Tiger throne, "K.P.", is listed by the Interpol as being one of the world's most dangerous terrorists. K.P. allegedly masterminded the assassination of Rajiv Gandhi, the former Prime Minister of India. The *Tamil Tigers* links to international terrorism were legendary. They worked closely with the Palestine Liberation Organization and trained members of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine in Southern Lebanon. The LTTE was involved in the 1990s in training the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) and the Abu Sayyaf Group (ASG), both of which are closely linked to al-Qaeda. The Times of India has written about the alleged nexus between al-Qaeda and the LTTE, and claims that "[al-Qaeda links with the LTTE] are the first instance of an Islamist group collaborating with an essentially secular outfit." It was rumored that the Indonesian group Jemaah Islamiya, which has known links to al-Qaeda, was trained in sea-borne guerrilla tactics by LTTE Sea Tiger veterans. Reports have stated that the Tamil community in Norway, at the behest of the LTTE, sold fake and stolen Norwegian passports to al-Qaeda members. There are several Tamil political parties today in Sri Lanka. These parties are actively engaged in the political fabric of the nation and warmly welcomed as part of the recovery process. Fourteen members of Parliament are Tamil already. The only hope for the Tiger's future legitimacy is to claim to renounce violence and embrace the democratic process in Sri Lanka. One former Tamil sympathizer in London has written, "our liberator became our Pol Pot." Too little too late. And the hatred continues. One angry commenter to my last story in the Huffington Post hoped the LTTE remnants would assassinate Sri Lanka's president and defense minister. In the U.S., threatening the life of the president is a prisonable offense. The Sri Lanka government has no intention of allowing one of the world's largest terrorist organizations back into its nation - anymore than the U.S. would allow Bin Laden to renounce violence and run for the U.S. Senate. Published by HT Syndication with permission from Daily News Sri Lanka.

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Load-Date: June 12, 2009



ANALYSIS: Sri Lanka's Tamil Tigers defeated, but problems remain

Deutsche Presse-Agentur

May 17, 2009 Sunday 3:56 AM EST

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Section: POLITICS **Length:** 717 words

Body

DPA POLITICS SriLanka Conflicts ANALYSIS: Sri Lanka's <u>Tamil Tigers</u> defeated, but problems remain By Can Merey, dpa

Eds: epa file photos available =

New Delhi (dpa) - When Sri Lanka's government announced plans at the beginning of last year to militarily defeat the rebel Liberation

Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), few people took the threat seriously.

In a civil war lasting more than 25 years, the $\underline{\textit{LTTE}}$ gained a reputation of being nearly invincible.

However, on Saturday, President Mahinda Rajapaksa declared the defeat of the separatists after thousands of rebels, soldiers and civilians lost their lives in the past several months of fighting alone.

The use of force remained Rajapaksa's trump card until the end - a strategy that could soon backfire as the government lacks a policy on how to integrate the island's disadvantaged Tamil minority.

A string of miscalculations and grave strategic mistakes led to

the downfall of the $\underline{\textit{LTTE}}$ and its leader, Velupillai Prabhakaran.

In 1991, an <u>LTTE</u> <u>female</u> suicide bomber killed former Indian president and National Congress Party leader Rajiv Gandhi, who had sent peacekeeping troops to Sri Lanka in 1987 that become involved in fighting with the rebels.

The Congress Party, led by Gandhi's widow Sonia, heads the government in New Delhi again today, probably one reason why big brother India failed to heed the protests of its own Tamil minority

as Rajapakse pressed ahead with his campaign to annihilate the LTTE.

Then, in 2005, it was Prabhakaran of all people who brought about the victory of the hardliner Rajapaksa in the country's presidential

ANALYSIS: Sri Lanka 's Tamil Tigers defeated, but problems remain

elections.

Shortly before the polls, the $\underline{\textit{LTTE}}$ ordered an election boycott. Ranil Wickremesinghe, who advocated a political solution to the conflict, narrowly lost the elections without the Tamil vote.

According to analyst Jehan Perera, Prabhakaran might have been gambling that the international community would withdrawing its support from Rajapaksa's government over his hardline policy.

However, the gamble backfired as more and more countries

blacklisted the $\underline{\textit{LTTE}}$ over the group's ongoing suicide and other attacks, leading to the Tigers' increasing international isolation.

With the self-confidence of its military advances against the

<u>LTTE</u>, Rajapaksa's government tried to sell the <u>Tamil Tigers</u>' defeat as evidence that terrorism could only be quashed by military means while, at the same time, many Western states, chastened by their experience in Afghanistan, have drawn a very different conclusion.

Seemingly drunk with imminent victory, Rajapaksa aide Lucien Rajakarunanayake recently wrote that Sri Lankan troops could soon be "the most sought-after force in the fight against terrorism."

He said the world increasingly saw Sri Lanka as "an example how terrorism can be fought and defeated."

Although a majority in the international community is horrified over the bloodbath among the civilian population caused by the fighting, his thesis finds its supporters in the West.

Back in January, the conservative US Wall Street Journal wrote: "For all those who argue that there's no military solution for terrorism, we have two words: Sri Lanka."

And, directed at the new US president, the paper added, "Colombo's military strategy against Tamil terrorists has worked. Negotiations haven't. That's an important reminder as Israel faces its own terrorism problem and as the US works to foster stability and political progress in Iraq. Take note, Barack Obama."

While the $\underline{\textit{LTTE}}$ is unlikely to recover its former strength, it was expected to continue to operate in the underground and continue to carry out attacks.

However, Sri Lanka's core problem remains unsolved - the island's Tamil minority feels like second-class citizens.

The government is now confining Tamil civilians from the former

<u>LTTE</u>-controlled areas of northern Sri Lanka in camps to discover rebels among them. Reports of human rights abuses by the army have emerged from those facilities, access to which the government has blocked and which critics refer to as "concentration camps."

The camps are certain to reinforce the Tamils' impression that they are being discriminated against in their homeland. It was this

feeling that gave rise to the $\underline{\textit{LTTE}}$ in the first place.

ANALYSIS: Sri Lanka 's Tamil Tigers defeated, but problems remain

May 1709 0356 GMT

Load-Date: May 18, 2009

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Tamil Tigers, rebels who once seemed invincible

Agence France Presse -- English
May 18, 2009 Monday 10:58 AM GMT

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Length: 604 words

Byline: Mel Gunasekera

Dateline: COLOMBO, May 18 2009

Body

The final defeat of Sri Lanka's <u>Tamil Tigers</u> has brought an end to one of the world's most brutal ethnic conflicts and the demise of one of its most formidable and disciplined rebel outfits.

Just two years ago, the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (*LTTE*) appeared indestructible, controlling a large swathe of territory in the north and east of the island with all the trappings of a separate state.

Formed by Velupillai Prabhakaran, the Tigers spent more than 30 years confounding expectations of their military defeat, but a sustained offensive by government troops saw them cornered, broken and finally vanquished.

An 11th-hour rebel offer to lay down their weapons went unheeded as the Sri Lankan military ordered a last assault that wiped out the entire *LTTE* leadership, including Prabhakaran, and 200 plus diehard fighters guarding them.

The death of Prabhakaran, who was shot while trying to flee in an ambulance, would appear to scupper any short-term possibility of the *LTTE* re-emerging as a depleted guerrilla force.

In the fight for a separate Tamil homeland, Prabhakaran, 54, had refined the use of suicide bombers who carried out deadly attacks against high-profile targets, including spectacular strikes against economic installations.

Former Indian prime minister Rajiv Gandhi was assassinated by a <u>female</u> Tiger suicide bomber in 1991, in retaliation for sending Indian peacekeepers to Sri Lanka in 1987, who ended up fighting the rebels.

The Tigers were also blamed for the 1993 killing of Sri Lankan president Ranasinghe Premadasa and the bombing of the central bank which left 90 dead.

They had their own naval unit, the Sea Tigers, and even managed to smuggle in light aircraft and launch the Air Tigers -- an air force capable of hitting as far south as the capital and then returning to jungle airstrips unscathed.

In one of their most audacious attacks, the rebels blew up more than a dozen fighter aircraft at a military base just north of Colombo in 2001 and destroyed six passenger airliners parked at the country's only international airport.

Tamil Tigers, rebels who once seemed invincible

The Tigers had been condemned for their use of suicide bombers and child soldiers, but they had the backing of the international community when Oslo-backed peace talks were under way from 2002.

Those negotiations collapsed and the process ended in January 2008, when President Mahinda Rajapakse pulled out of a moribund truce.

Government forces entered the city of Kilinochchi -- the *LTTE*'s political headquarters -- in January after the biggest offensive in the history of what had become Asia's longest running ethnic conflict.

In his annual speech in November, Prabhakaran vowed to defend his territory and suggested that the rebels would revert to hit-and-run attacks as their area shrank.

The end came with the last couple of hundred <u>LTTE</u> fighters controlling an area no larger than a football field.

Observers partly attributed the Tigers' spectacular collapse to over-confidence.

"They projected a facade of invincibility," retired army brigadier general Vipul Boteju told AFP. "They had also underestimated the military, which had learnt from their mistakes in the past."

The rebels also suffered internal problems, with signs of dissent around Prabhakaran -- whose de facto number two, Vinayagamoorthy Muralitharan, defected to the government in 2004.

On the international front, the <u>LTTE</u> were outlawed as a foreign terrorist organisation by the United States, European Union, Australia and India.

This in turn led to more intelligence sharing on rebel arms procurement overseas and a squeeze on the outfit's lucrative international fund-raising network.

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Load-Date: May 19, 2009

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Tamil Tigers in battle for survival

Agence France Presse -- English
April 23, 2009 Thursday 8:17 AM GMT

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Length: 546 words

Byline: Amal Jayasinghe

Dateline: COLOMBO, April 23 2009

Body

Sri Lanka's <u>Tamil Tigers</u>, once ranked among the world's most formidable and disciplined rebel outfits, now find themselves staring at the previously unimaginable prospect of total elimination.

Just two years ago, the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (<u>LTTE</u>) appeared indestructible, controlling a large swathe of territory in the north of the island with all the trappings of a separate state.

Formed in 1972 by Velupillai Prabhakaran, the Tigers have spent more than 30 years confounding expectations of their imminent military defeat, but a massive, sustained offensive by government troops has now left them cornered in tiny sliver of jungle with little prospect of escape.

In the fight for a separate Tamil homeland, Prabhakaran, 54, refined the use of suicide bombers who carried out deadly attacks against high-profile targets, including spectacular strikes against economic installations.

Former Indian prime minister Rajiv Gandhi was assassinated by a <u>female</u> Tiger suicide bomber in 1991, in retaliation for sending Indian peacekeepers to Sri Lanka in 1987 who ended up fighting the rebels.

The Tigers were also blamed for the 1993 killing of Sri Lankan president Ranasinghe Premadasa and the bombing of the central bank which left 90 dead.

They had their own naval unit, the Sea Tigers, and even managed to smuggle in light aircraft and launch the Air Tigers -- an air force capable of hitting as far south as the capital and then returning to jungle airstrips unscathed.

In one of their most audacious attacks in 2001, the rebels blew up more than a dozen fighter aircraft at a military base just north of Colombo and destroyed six passenger liners parked at the country's only international airport.

The Tigers have been condemned for their use of suicide bombers and child soldiers, but they had the backing of the international community when Oslo-backed peace talks were underway from 2002.

Those negotiations collapsed and the process ended in January 2008 when President Mahinda Rajapakse pulled out of a moribund truce.

Tamil Tigers in battle for survival

Government forces entered Kilinochchi -- the <u>LTTE</u>'s political headquarters -- in January, after the biggest military offensive in the history of what has become Asia's longest running ethnic conflict.

Prabhakaran in his annual speech in November vowed to defend his territory and suggested that the rebels would revert to hit-and-run attacks as their area shrank.

"No sane voice is being raised either to abandon war or to seek a peaceful resolution to the conflict," Prabhakaran said.

Observers partly attribute the *LTTE*'s spectacular collapse to over-confidence.

"They projected a facade of invincibility," said retired army brigadier general Vipul Boteju.

"They had also underestimated the military, which had learnt from their mistakes in the past," he said.

The rebels also suffered internal problems, with signs of dissent around Prabhakaran -- whose de facto number two, Vinayagamoorthy Muralitharan, defected to the government in 2004.

On the international front, the <u>LTTE</u> were outlawed as a foreign terrorist organisation by the United States, European Union, Australia and India.

This in turn led to more intelligence sharing on rebel arms procurement overseas and a squeeze on the outfit's lucrative international fund-raising network.

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Load-Date: April 24, 2009

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Sri Lanka presses final attack on Tamil Tigers

Agence France Presse -- English
April 22, 2009 Wednesday 8:19 AM GMT

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Length: 509 words

Byline: Amal Jayasinghe

Dateline: COLOMBO, April 22 2009

Body

Sri Lanka's government said Wednesday the <u>Tamil Tigers</u> were close to complete defeat as the army pressed a final offensive against the rebels despite international fears for civilians.

The island's defence spokesman said more than 80,000 people had fled the shrinking patch of territory still controlled by the separatist guerrillas, saying troops were "rescuing" and not harming civilians caught up in the war.

"Our operations to rescue civilians is continuing," Keheliya Rambukwella told reporters, describing the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (*LTTE*) as a spent force with just 12 square kilometres (five square miles) of land left.

"The <u>LTTE</u> has lost all its military capabilities. They are fighting a losing battle," he said, adding the government also "strongly believes" that Tamil Tiger leader Vellupillai Prabhakaran, 54, was still in the area.

The defence ministry gave Prabhakaran and his fighters until Tuesday to surrender, but the rebels ignored the deadline and have continued to fight government forces.

Rambukwella said eight rebels and a "few" government soldiers were killed in overnight figthing.

The <u>LTTE</u>, who have been fighting for an independent Tamil homeland since 1972, has acknowledged losing ground. But the group has accused the government of killing 1,000 civilians in recent days.

The military, however, has said it has managed to aid in the escape of 81,420 men, <u>women</u> and children this week. It said those fleeing were fired on by the rebels, who are alleged to have kept villagers to use as human shields.

The rival claims are hard to verify as independent reporters are not allowed near the conflict zone, but aid agencies have described the situation in the northeast as disastrous.

"The situation is nothing short of catastrophic," said Pierre Kraehenbuehl, operations director for the International Committee of the Red Cross.

"What we are seeing is intense fighting in a very small area overcrowded with civilians who have fled there," he said.

Sri Lanka presses final attack on Tamil Tigers

He estimated there could be tens of thousands more people still inside rebel-held territory, while facilities for those who had reached relative safety were overstretched.

The United States and other nations have urged both Sri Lankan troops and Tiger rebels not to fire indiscriminately, and UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon has asked that UN staff be allowed to enter the area for relief operations.

The apparent endgame in Sri Lanka has triggered protests around the world, with up to 30,000 Tamil demonstrators clogging the Canadian capital Ottawa to press for mediation.

Similar rallies have been held in London and Paris.

The **LTTE** were once considered as one of the world's most efficient guerrilla outfits, lording over a third of Sri Lanka's territory and running a de facto mini-state.

A Norwegian-brokered truce between the government and the rebels began falling apart in December 2005, and fighting since then has seen the progressive collapse of the rebel army.

Last month the UN's human rights chief said both sides in the conflict may be guilty of war crimes.

aj-mg/sas/mc

Load-Date: April 23, 2009

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Tamil Tigers ignore surrender deadline, accuse govt of carnage

Agence France Presse -- English
April 21, 2009 Tuesday 11:27 AM GMT

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Length: 596 words

Byline: Amal Jayasinghe

Dateline: COLOMBO, April 21 2009

Body

Sri Lankan troops on Tuesday seized more ground from the <u>Tamil Tigers</u>, as the rebels ignored a deadline to surrender and accused government forces of killing 1,000 civilians in their offensive.

Fresh fighting in the island's northeast saw the government effectively slice the last small strip of coastal jungle held by the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (*LTTE*) in two, the defence ministry said.

"The <u>LTTE</u> has not responded to the government's call to surrender, so we are keeping up our offensive to rescue the civilians," military spokesman Udaya Nanayakkara said as the midday (0630 GMT) deadline passed.

The government says its troops were poised to defeat the <u>LTTE</u>, a hardened guerrilla group that has been fighting for an independent Tamil homeland on the ethnic Sinhalese-majority island since the 1970s.

The <u>LTTE</u> acknowledged they had lost even more ground, with the coastal village of Puttumatalan -- used as a key port for supplies to the rebel-held zone -- falling to government troops.

The rebels said the latest fighting had left 1,000 civilians dead and another 2,300 wounded, describing the northeast as a "bloodbath."

"The Sri Lankan armed forces are trying to weaken the resistance of the <u>LTTE</u> by using the Tamil civilians as human shields," the Tigers said, appealing for help from the International Committee of the Red Cross.

"The <u>LTTE</u> requests the ICRC provide medical supplies and evacuate by ship the 2,000 people injured and facing imminent danger," they said. "Immediate food is required as several are faced with starvation."

Sri Lankan authorities, however, denied the rebel claims. Officials in Colombo have long accused the <u>LTTE</u> of keeping civilians as hostage, and on Monday said nearly 50,000 men, <u>women</u> and children managed to escape the area.

The defence ministry also said 17 civilians who tried to escape from rebel-held territory on Monday had been killed by the guerrillas while another 373 had been wounded.

Tamil Tigers ignore surrender deadline, accuse govt of carnage

Journalists are barred from working in the north, making it impossible to verify the rival claims independently.

Government estimates show another 30,000 civilians could still be held by the Tigers but the United Nations says the number could be twice as high and warned Tuesday of the risks of an all-out final assault.

The ICRC also said it was concerned there would be a "dramatic increase" in civilian casualties.

"The situation is nothing short of catastrophic. Ongoing fighting has killed or wounded hundreds of civilians who have only minimal access to medical care," ICRC's Director of Operations Pierre Kraehenbuehl said in Geneva.

In Washington, a US official warned that time was running out for a deal that he hoped would bring lasting peace to Sri Lanka.

Michael Owen, the acting deputy assistant secretary of state for South Asia, said Sri Lanka should offer a package in which the Tigers hand in their arms, possibly to a third party, in exchange for amnesty for low-level cadres.

During the surrender, both sides would hold fire and let civilians leave, he said.

"We are running out of time," Owen told the Brookings Institution think-tank. "Really, there is literally only a couple of days to try to get this finalised."

The crisis has sparked protests in Europe and expressions of concern by UN and human rights groups.

In Paris, French police arrested 210 people Monday when a rally by Tamils turned violent as demonstrators threw bottles at security forces and smashed windscreens.

In London, thousands of Tamils blocked some of the city's busiest streets, demonstrating outside parliament and calling for an immediate ceasefire.

Load-Date: April 22, 2009

End of Document



2,000 civilians killed in Sri Lanka war zone: Pro-LTTE website

Hindustan Times
May 10, 2009 Sunday

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Length: 235 words

Dateline: Colombo/New Delhi

Body

Colombo/New Delhi, May 10 -- Over 2,000 Tamil civilians were killed in a single night during "indiscriminate barrage of shelling by the Sri Lanka Army on the safety zone" in the island's north, a website sympathetic to the <u>Tamil</u> <u>Tigers</u> said Sunday.

The shelling by the army, starting from Saturday night to Sunday morning, "slaughtered more than 2,000 civilians including large number of <u>women</u> and children", the pro-<u>LTTE</u> website TamilNet reported quoting medical sources in Vanni. There was no independent confirmation of the TamilNet report. Sri Lankan officials have in the past denounced as propaganda similar claims by TamilNet. The so called safe zone is where reportedly the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (<u>LTTE</u>) chief V. Prabhakaran is hiding alongwith senior rebel leaders. Dead bodies were scattered everywhere and 814 wounded managed to reach the makeshift hospital up to 9.25 a.m., the report quoted doctors as saying. The website report claimed that weapons such as the banned cluster bombs and Multi Barrel Rocket Launchers and cannons were used. The family of a nursing officer, Gracian Tharmarasa, was wiped out in the shelling. At least 257 bodies, including 67 children, have been brought to the hospital. The <u>Tamil Tigers</u> have been fighting to carve out a separate Tamil state in Sri Lanka over the past quarter century. Published by HT Syndication with permission from Indo-Asian News Service.

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Load-Date: May 13, 2009

End of Document



Thousands more flee Sri Lanka war zone, no trace of LTTE chief (Roundup)

Hindustan Times
April 21, 2009 Tuesday

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Length: 773 words

Dateline: Colombo

Body

Colombo, April. 21 -- Thousands of sick, injured and fatigued Tamil civilians fled Sri Lanka's shrunken war zone Tuesday in a heart rending "human avalanche", but there was no trace of the elusive <u>Tamil Tigers</u> chief Velupillai Prabhakaran.

Television footage showed men, <u>women</u> and children wearily walking out of a strip of land in coastal Mullaitivu district after troops poured into the last remaining base of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (<u>LTTE</u>) in a determined bid to crush a quarter century long separatist campaign.

The apparent end game in the <u>LTTE</u>'s armed struggle, which has left more than 70,000 dead, evoked political tremors in neighbouring India where Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M. Karunanidhi pressed Prime Minister Manmohan Singh to force Sri Lanka to declare an immediate truce.

As if in response, Manmohan Singh declared that the <u>LTTE</u> -- which is outlawed in India -- was "a terrorist organisation" and Prabhakaran, 54, was "a proclaimed offender" for ordering the 1991 assassination of former prime minister Rajiv Gandhi. His widow Sonia Gandhi now heads India's ruling coalition.

"The <u>LTTE</u> is a terrorist organisation. Prabhakran is a proclaimed offender. That position has not changed," Manmohan Singh told Times Now TV channel.

He spoke after Karunanidhi sent a frantic telegram to Manmohan Singh and Gandhi describing the situation in Sri Lanka as alarming and the condition of the Tamils as "very critical". He asked them to give an ultimatum to Colombo "for an immediate and permanent ceasefire and save lakhs of Tamils in Sri Lanka".

But electoral politics -- the Congress and Karunanidhi's DMK are key allies in Tamil Nadu -- made the Congress change course by evening when it urged Sri Lanka to ensure "cessation of hostility" to allow Tamils to move out of the conflict zone.

"The Congress is deeply concerned about the fate of innocent Sri Lankan Tamils. We appeal to the Sri Lankan government to ensure cessation of hostility and allow the innocent Tamils to move safely from the conflict zone," Congress spokesperson Jayanthi Natarajan said in New Delhi.

Colombo has in the past refused to declare any truce, saying this would only provide oxygen to a badly cornered **LTTE**, which until a few years ago controlled vast areas in Sri Lanka's northeast.

Thousands more flee Sri Lanka war zone, no trace of LTTE chief (Roundup)

The defence ministry said the army's 58 Division had entered Puthumathalan and Amapalavanpokkanai in the no fire zone (NFZ) from where over 31,000 civilians escaped to government-held areas Monday. This has taken the number of Tamils who have fled the <u>LTTE</u> territory so far to some 52,000.

"Now the troops have established positions from Puthumathalan to the beachhead," it said. Puthumathalan is located 395 km northeast of the Sri Lankan capital.

Sri Lankan intelligence sources say that Prabhakaran and his intelligence chief Pottu Amman are still in the area. The *LTTE* is now left with just 12 sq km on the coast of Mullaitivu.

The <u>Tamil Tigers</u> Tuesday failed to meet the noon deadline set by Colombo to surrender. There was also no word on Prabhakaran, the <u>LTTE</u>'s feared founder leader who the military has vowed to capture or kill.

"The <u>LTTE</u> terrorists have not surrendered during the ultimatum. But the people who were held hostage by the <u>LTTE</u> in a small strip of coastal land in Mullaitivu continue to arrive in the government-held areas in large numbers," military spokesman Brigadier Udaya Nanayakkara told IANS.

Televisions showed thousands of civilians fleeing the rebel held area, a mass exodus that began Monday. Sri Lankan media dubbed it a "human avalanche", with the Daily Mirror newspaper calling it a "great escape".

Most civilians -- in tattered clothes -- carried a small bag, perhaps their sole belonging.

There are varying estimates about the number of civilians still holed up in the area, who Colombo had earlier said were being forcibly held back by the Tigers as a human shield. The number last month ranged from the Indian estimate of 70,000 to the UN's 250,000.

The <u>LTTE</u> meanwhile claimed that about 1,000 civilians were killed and 2,300 injured in military operations since Monday. The rebels urged the UN and international organisations to act, saying civilian casualties were mounting due to the army's move to evacuate civilians from the war zone.

Security forces have moved further into the rebel-held areas, capturing among other places a police station that had been run by the *Tamil Tigers*.

The conflict and civilian suffering has triggered massive demonstrations by Tamils in Western capitals, forcing some countries to urge Colombo and the Tigers to go for peace. Published by HT Syndication with permission from Indo-Asian News Service.

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Load-Date: August 3, 2009

End of Document



Over 13,000 civilians flee LTTE-held areas, 17 die in blast (Second Lead)

Hindustan Times
April 20, 2009 Monday

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Length: 452 words

Dateline: Colombo

Body

Colombo, April. 20 -- Over 13,000 civilians Monday fled Sri Lanka's northern war-zone while 17 people were killed in a suicide bomb attack by the *Tamil Tigers*, authorities said.

"The operation to rescue civilians was launched last (Sunday) night amid stiff <u>LTTE</u> resistance. With the troops capturing a three-km-long <u>LTTE</u> earth-bund at Puthumathalan area, over 13,000 thousand people have crossed to the government-held area till this (Monday) morning," military spokesman Brigadier Udaya Nanayakkara said here.

He said that most of the civilians besieged in the Puthumathalan No Fire Zone (NFZ) made their way across the Nathikkadal lagoon area, defying the orders of the rebels to stay on. They reached the army-held areas in Puthukkudiyiruppu.

"Troops in Puthukkudiyiruppu confirmed a huge exodus of people is on the way," Brig. Nanayakkara said, charging that the *LTTE* fired several rounds of artillery shells towards the escaping civilians.

The defence ministry in a report said the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (*LTTE*) carried out a suicide bomb attack Monday morning, desperately aiming to prevent the civilian exodus.

"At least 17 civilians including women and children have been killed in the cowardly bomb blast," it said.

The state-run television showed video footage of thousands of civilians, including children, <u>women</u> and elders, fleeing the war-zone and entering the army-held areas a couple of kilometres away.

The area was flooded with people. Most of them were carrying children and a small bag which seemed to be their only property.

Military sources said that the mass exodus of people in a matter of few hours "clearly demonstrated the fact that the <u>LTTE</u> and its leadership have lost the support of the people whom it has held hostage for past three months".

According the state-run television, the military authorities "even at this last moment have demanded the <u>LTTE</u> leader Velupillai Prabhakaran and his cadres lay down their weapons and surrender without delay to avoid facing a total annihilation".

According to the military estimates, some 70,000 civilians have been trapped in a 12-km stretch along the coastal area for the past three months, though some of the villagers have been able to escape against the wishes of the *Tamil Tigers*.

Over 13,000 civilians flee LTTE-held areas, 17 die in blast (Second Lead)

An estimated 68,000 civilians have left the rebel-held areas since the beginning of 2009 and are currently housed in refugee camps and welfare centres in the northern Vavuniya, Mannar and Jaffna districts.

The military says it is in the last phase of a drive to crush the <u>LTTE</u>, which has been fighting to carve out a separate state in the northern eastern region of the island since 1983. Published by HT Syndication with permission from Indo-Asian News Service.

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Load-Date: August 3, 2009



VELUPILLAI PRABHAKARAN; Leader of the Tamil Tigers

The Independent (London)
May 19, 2009 Tuesday
First Edition

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Section: OBITUARIES; Pg. 36

Length: 1396 words **Byline:** Jerome Taylor

Body

If there was ever a competition to find the person who summed up the adage which says that "one man's terrorist is another man's freedom fighter", then Velupillai Prabhakaran, the rotund but fearsome leader of the <u>Tamil Tigers</u>, would have been a strong candidate. For nearly 30 years, the moustachioed commander's brutal war to create an independent "Eelam" (homeland) for Sri Lanka's minority Tamils teetered on the often thin line between a struggle for liberation and outright terrorism.

To his detractors, the founder of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (<u>LTTE</u>) was little more than a ruthless terrorist who pioneered the use of suicide bombings to assassinate two heads of state, viciously annihilated his own Tamil critics and stubbornly refused any compromise that might have led to peace. Yet to the thousands of fighters who followed him to their deaths, and to the millions of Tamils scattered around the world who donated handsomely to the <u>LTTE</u>'s coffers, the reticent 54-year-old was a hero and demigod.

Lovingly referred to by his Tamil nickname, "Thamby" (little brother), Prabhakaran was viewed by his people as the only man capable of defending Tamil Eelam against Sri Lanka's modern, foreign-funded army and the numerous human-rights violations perpetrated by the country's Buddhist, Sinhalese-dominated central government. His skills as a brilliant military strategist were beyond doubt. By creating an immensely powerful personality cult and a suicide ethos among his fanatically loyal fighters, the *LTTE* was able to keep a conventional army at bay for decades using little more than assault rifles. But Prabhakaran's willingness to resort to assassinations, random attacks on civilians, the recruitment of child soldiers and the eradication of any democratic Tamil opposition left his Tigers with a bitterly controversial legacy that will haunt Tamil nationalism for many years to come.

For the briefest of moments it could have been so very different. The last time that The Independent met the elusive leader was seven years ago, in an iron shed in the now ravaged town of Kilinochchi. Prabhakaran rarely gave interviews and the few journalists who did manage to meet him usually had to go through days of Tiger checkpoints, searches and intense security measures - not to mention the fear of falling victim to a Sri Lankan air strike or artillery shell. But in April 2002 a potential peace was in the air. Sri Lankans had just voted in their new president, Ranil Wickremasinghe, a relative dove who had campaigned on a platform offering talks to the *LTTE*. Feeling the

VELUPILLAI PRABHAKARAN Leader of the Tamil Tigers

pressure to distance himself and the Tigers from terrorism post-11 September, Prabhakaran agreed and briefly came out of the jungle to announce that the Tigers were now "committed to peace".

When he addressed the gathered journalists, the signature tiger-stripe camouflage uniform and sidearm that he had always worn had been replaced with a more palatable high-buttoned bush jacket. The cyanide capsule worn around his neck as a last resort also remained hidden. But the high-pitched voice was the same, a soft demeanour which belied Prabhakaran's unwillingness to give up the gun. In fact, most people who met him were surprised that such a quietly spoken man could be the feared and brutal leader he was known to be. Eventually the peace talks stalled, Wickremasinghe lost the next presidential election to the hardliner Mahinda Rajapaksa and Prabhakaran's fate was slowly sealed.

He was the middle-class son of a pious government-employed agronomist; Prabhakaran's descent into violence was swift and brutal. Born on 26 November 1954 in the northern coastal town of Valvettithurai, Prabhakaran almost single-handedly ignited the Tamil insurgency when he was 21 by assassinating the governor of Jaffna. His ragtag gang of young nationalists calmly walked up to the governor outside a Hindu temple and gunned him down.

Decades of Sinhalese domination and anti-Tamil policies had created a wealth of seething anger among Sri Lanka's Tamils; Prabhakaran's bullet was the spark that finally set the island alight. Fleeing into the jungle, he set up the <u>LTTE</u>, which quickly became the most effective, efficient and ruthless Tamil rebel group fighting the government.

Long before Islamic jihadists realised the effectiveness of suicide bombs, <u>LTTE</u> cadres from the group's fanatical Black Tiger regiment, many of whom were <u>women</u>, carried out a series of spectacular assassinations, including the murder of India's prime minister Rajiv Gandhi in 1991 and the Sri Lankan president Ranasinghe Premadasa two years later. The attacks were a terrifying but strategically brilliant weapon which could rarely be stopped and struck fear into the hearts of ordinary Sri Lankans.

To explain the Tiger's internecine massacres, the English-speaking Tamil Tiger ideologue Anton Balasingham once remarked: "Down the history of liberation struggles all over the world, the big fish swallows the smaller fish. In the end, only the big fish remains." Prabhakaran was determined to make sure that he was the only big fish around.

Initially enforcing a vow of chastity on his fanatical fighters, Prabhakaran went on to marry Mathivathani Erambu, a fiery and beautiful student who had vowed to fast to death in support of Tamil Eelam in 1983. Prabhakaran was living in south India at the time and was so determined to control every aspect of the Tamil rebellion that he had the students kidnapped and taken to his compound in Chennai. During the Hindu festival of Holi, Mathivathani had the audacity to throw a bucket of coloured water at the Tamil Tiger leader, who, impressed by her bravery, fell deeply in love. The chastity vow broken, the couple married and went on to have three children, a daughter named Duwaraka, and two sons, Balachandran and Charles Anthony. The latter is thought to be his father's successor. Tamil Tiger cadres are now allowed to marry, but only after five years of military service.

In many ways, the assassination of Gandhi, in retaliation for the stationing of Indian troops in Sri Lanka, was Prabhakaran's biggest single tactical error. It turned India's generally moderate Tamil population against him, alienated sympathetic allies in Gandhi's Congress Party and reinforced the belief abroad that the <u>LTTE</u> was a violent, terrorist entity that the international community simply could not do business with.

More recently, his second largest mistake was to forbid Tamils from voting in the 2005 presidential election, a decision which allowed his arch-enemy Rajapaksa to take the reigns of power and begin the assault that eventually led to Prabhakaran's death and the military destruction of his organisation. The ruthlessness with which the Tigers eradicated any Tamil opposition also left the Eelam movement lacking any sort of political wing that might have constituted a more palatable public face. And Prabhakaran also made enemies within his own movement.

In March 2004, Colonel Karuna, an <u>LTTE</u> commander of 20 years and a close friend of Prabhakaran, publicly broke away from the Tigers and eventually handed over a vast swathe of eastern Sri Lanka to Colombo. Karuna, a feared warlord turned "integration minister", whom human rights groups have accused of multiple abuses since defecting, brought crucial intelligence with him on the <u>LTTE</u> that helped Rajapaksa prepare for his final assault.

VELUPILLAI PRABHAKARAN Leader of the Tamil Tigers

M.R. Narayan Swamy, an Indian journalist who has written the only in-depth biography of Prabhakaran, maintains that opinions of the Tamil Tiger leader among Tamils will always remain mixed. "There will be no single legacy for Prabhakaran among Tamils," he said. "For many he will always be that god-like figure who was a great fighter and a hero. But after 26 years of brutal war there will be some who will start asking whether it was really worth it."

But without their leader, Swamy believes, the Tigers will never be the same again. "The <u>LTTE</u> only ever had one leader and only one god. When that god dies, the Tigers will cease to exist. After nearly 30 years of war there is no appetite to begin another armed struggle and the <u>LTTE</u> will never be the same again."

Velupillai Prabhakaran, founder and leader of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam: born Valvettithurai, Sri Lanka 26 November 1954; married 1984 Mathivathani Erambu (two sons, one daughter); died Sri Lanka 18 May 2009.

Load-Date: May 18, 2009



52,000 flee rebel-held area as LTTE ignores surrender deadline (Fourth Lead)

Hindustan Times
April 21, 2009 Tuesday

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Length: 493 words

Dateline: Colombo

Body

Colombo, April. 21 -- Men, <u>women</u> and children, some sick and some too old to even walk... It was a mass exodus from the <u>Tamil Tigers</u> held area in Sri Lanka's north with an estimated 52,000 people fleeing with whatever they could carry as the rebels failed Tuesday to meet Colombo's 24 hour deadline to surrender and troops forced their way into the no-fire-zone.

Television reports showed thousands of civilians fleeing the rebel held area, a mass exodus that began Monday.

The state-run Daily News described the process a "human avalanche", while the independent Daily Mirror called it a "great escape".

Men, <u>women</u> and children moved towards the military controlled areas. Most carried a small bag, perhaps their sole belonging.

The defence ministry said that 58 Division troops "entered into the areas of Puthumanthalam and Amapalavanpokkanai in the no-fire-zone (NFZ)" Tuesday morning from where they had rescued over 31,000 civilians the day before.

"Now, the troops have established their positions across the NFZ from Puthumathalan to the beachhead. The manoeuver has saved lives of several thousands civilians trapped in the area extending from Puthumathalan north to the northern border of the NFZ," the ministry said in a report Tuesday.

It said that at least four <u>LTTE</u> cadres, including a local area leader, were reported killed and an armour plated vehicle was destroyed "when troops raided an **LTTE** gathering position east of Puthumathalan" Tuesday morning.

<u>Tamil Tigers</u> Tuesday failed to meet the noon deadline set by Colombo to surrender as the outfit faced an unprecedented military thrust in its last stronghold in the north-eastern Mullaitivu district.

"The <u>LTTE</u> terrorists have not surrendered during the ultimatum. But the people who were held hostage by the <u>LTTE</u> in a small strip of coastal land in the Mullaitivu district continue to arrive in the government-held areas in large numbers since Monday," military spokesman Brigadier Udaya Nanayakkara told IANS minutes after the deadline expired.

Brig. Nanayakkara said that the number of civilians who had come to government-held areas from the no-fire-zone has gone past 52,000 and added that the rescue operation was "in full swing".

52,000 flee rebel-held area as LTTE ignores surrender deadline (Fourth Lead)

Closing in on the last Tamil Tiger stronghold, Sri Lanka Monday ordered elusive rebel chief Velupillai Prabhakaran and his fighters to surrender by Tuesday noon or face death.

"We have issued the last and final 24-hour ultimatum to Prabhakaran and his group to surrender. Otherwise, they will have to face the military course of action," defence ministry spokesman Keheliya Rambukwella told reporters Monday.

The ultimatum to the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (<u>LTTE</u>) came a few hours after the defence authorities said over 35,000 civilians fled Sri Lanka's northern war zone Monday following the capture of the three-km long earth bund built by the <u>LTTE</u> on the western border of the NFZ. Published by HT Syndication with permission from Indo-Asian News Service.

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Load-Date: August 3, 2009



Tamil Tigers given surrender deadline

ITN

April 21, 2009 Tuesday

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Length: 277 words

Body

Sri Lanka has given Tamil Tiger rebels 24 hours to surrender after thousands of civilians fled the war zone.

Sri Lanka has given Tamil Tiger rebels 24 hours to surrender after thousands of civilians fled the war zone when troops breached an earthen fortification blocking their exit route.

President Mahinda Rajapaksa said there were about 35,000 people waiting to leave the military-controlled area.

Aerial footage showed thousands of people thronging around temporary reception centres set up by the army less than a kilometre outside the no-fire zone.

"With the influx of people, we have given a final warning to rebel leader Velupillai Prabhakaran and his terrorist group to surrender to the government forces within 24-hours from 12 noon," said defence spokesman Keheliya Rambukwella.

"Thereafter will be a military course of action. That is the best option."

The military said three suicide bombers had attacked thousands of Tamil civilians.

"At least 17 civilians, including <u>women</u> and children, have been killed and 200 people injured from the cowardly suicide attacks," said Military spokesman Brigadier Udaya Nanayakkara.

The wall of earth had blocked the widest land link to the coastal strip where Sri Lanka's military has surrounded the Tigers with the goal of crushing them and ending a civil war that has raged since 1983 and is now Asia's longest-running.

The no-fire zone is a 6.5 square-mile area of coconut groves, where the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (*LTTE*) separatists are fighting their last stand from among tens of thousands of civilians they have held there by force.

The military said the exodus of civilians was the largest in a single day.

Load-Date: May 5, 2009



35,000 civilians risk death, flee LTTE stronghold

Hindustan Times
April 21, 2009 Tuesday

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Length: 353 words **Dateline:** New Delhi

Body

New Delhi, Apr. 21 -- A surge of more than 35,000 displaced Tamil civilians broke out of the <u>LTTE</u>-dominated 'no fire zone' (NFZ) on Monday to government camps braving bullets and a spate of suicide attacks by the rebels. The suicide attacks on the fleeing civilians claimed at least 17 lives and injured more than 200.

Seizing the moment, the government again gave a deadline to LTTE chief V. Prabhakaran and the remaining cadres to surrender by 12 noon on Tuesday. Similar deadlines earlier got no response from the Tamil Tigers. President Mahinda Rajapaksa said the "complete defeat" of the LTTE was now imminent. "The (aerial) footage clearly shows the people are defying the rebels and escaping. They are running to safety," Rajapaksa told news agencies. "We have indications where Prabhakaran and the rest of the leaders. We are closing in," defence ministry spokesperson, Keheliya Rambukwella, told HT. More than 30,000, according to government estimates, remain in the NFZ located in Mullaitivu. The rapid developments and government statements of the day came in the background of a chilling warning from the LTTE. "The LTTE and the fight for our freedom will continue. The methods may vary but Sri Lanka will never be able to live in peace as it imagines a military victory will bring," the rebel group said in a statement. It added: "The LTTE would like to emphasise that it is always ready to explore peaceful means to resolve the conflict." Earlier, Sri Lankan army (SLA) troops had to be redeployed to control the flood of men, women and children who suddenly broke out of the NFZ. The floodgates opened after SLA troop took control of a causeway over a lagoon leading to the NFZ from the west. But even as thousands of refugees ran to cross the shallow lagoon, they came under attack - according to the military - from the cornered LTTE cadres left behind. Three women suicide bombers exploded themselves in the middle of screaming civilians who had jumped into the lagoon to dodge machine gun fire. The death count of 17 was likely to rise. Published by HT Syndication with permission from Hindustan Times.

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Load-Date: April 21, 2009



Rajapaksa asks LTTE to free civilians, surrender before late

Hindustan Times
April 5, 2009 Sunday

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Length: 369 words

Dateline: Colombo

Body

Colombo, April. 5 -- The military campaign against the <u>Tamil Tigers</u> was about to end, Sri Lankan President Mahinda Rajapaksa said Sunday and urged the rebel leadership to let free thousands of civilians and surrender to the security forces to avoid total annihilation.

Speaking to his party supporters at his tightly guarded Temple Trees residence, Rajapaksa said the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (*LTTE*), unable to face the military thrust, was now hiding in the no-fire-zone, holding thousands of innocent civilians as human shield.

?The only option available for the Tiger leadership is to lay down arms and surrender to our heroic troops if it wanted to save the lives of the remaining cadres,? radio Shree FM quoted Rajapaksa as saying Sunday evening amid loud applause from his party loyalists.

?The <u>LTTE</u> should allow the civilians to go free and surrender to the security forces,? said Rajapaksa, who is also the commander-in-chief of the armed forces.

His remarks have come a few hours after the military said it had completely captured Puthukkudiyiruppu, the last *LTTE* bastion in Mullaitivu district, killing over 420 *LTTE* cadres in three days of close-quarter gun battles.

?Over three days including today, the troops have recovered over 420 <u>LTTE</u> bodies. Several known <u>LTTE</u> leaders such as Vithusha, Nagesh, Thurga, Theepan and Gadafi were among those killed in the operation,? military spokesman Brigadier Udaya Nanayakkara said Sunday.

Theepan was in charge of the <u>LTTE</u> military wing for the island's north while Gadafi was known to be the personal bodyguard of <u>LTTE</u> chief Velupillai Prabhakaran. Vithusha was the <u>LTTE</u> women wing leader.

The defence ministry earlier in the day said all senior <u>LTTE</u> leaders ?are now hiding in the no-fire-zone holding the civilians as protective shield?.

Noting that the troops were locked in ?man-to-man combat? in Mullaitivu, it said the remaining <u>LTTE</u> cadres ?still forced to fight the Sri Lankan Army in the no-fire-zone are facing total annihilation?.

There was no reaction from the <u>LTTE</u>, which has been fighting over the past quarter century to carve out a separate state in the island's northeast. Published by HT Syndication with permission from Indo-Asian News Service.

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Load-Date: August 2, 2009



Two top Tamil Tigers surrender to Sri Lankan army Rebel land shrinks

Geelong Advertiser (Australia)

April 23, 2009 Thursday

1 - Main Edition

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Section: WORLD; Pg. 18

Length: 374 words

Byline: SRI LANKA Colombo, Wednesday

Body

TWO key Tamil Tiger officials surrendered on Wednesday as Sri Lankan troops pressed a final offensive against the rebels despite an international outcry over the fate of trapped civilians.

Among the top rebels who turned themselves in was the Tigers' main mouthpiece to the outside world, their chief spokesman Velayudam Dayanidi, better known as Daya Master.

Another official, who was an aide to the late head of the Tigers' political wing, SP Thamilselvan, also surrendered.

The Government's defence spokesman said more than 80,000 people had fled the shrinking patch of territory still controlled by the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (*LTTE*), saying troops were ``rescuing" and not harming civilians caught up in the war.

"Our operations to rescue civilians is continuing," Keheliya Rambukwella told reporters, describing the <u>LTTE</u> as a spent force with just 12 square kilometres of land left.

"The <u>LTTE</u> has lost all its military capabilities. They are fighting a losing battle," he said, adding the government also "strongly believes" that Tamil Tiger leader Vellupillai Prabhakaran, 54, was still in the area.

The defence ministry gave Mr Prabhakaran and his fighters until Tuesday to surrender, but the rebels ignored the deadline and have continued to fight.

The <u>LTTE</u>, which has been fighting for an independent Tamil homeland since 1972, has acknowledged losing ground. But the group has accused the government of killing 1000 civilians in recent days.

The military insists it has aided the escape of 81,420 men, <u>women</u> and children this week. It said those fleeing were fired on by the rebels, who are alleged to have kept villagers to use as human shields.

The rival claims are hard to verify as independent reporters are not allowed near the conflict zone, but aid agencies have painted a grim picture.

"The situation is nothing short of catastrophic," said Pierre Kraehenbuehl, operations director for the International Committee of the Red Cross. What we are seeing is intense fighting in a very small area overcrowded with civilians who have fled there," he said.

Two top Tamil Tigers surrender to Sri Lankan army Rebel land shrinks

He estimated there could be tens of thousands more people still inside rebel-held territory while facilities for those who had reached relative safety were overstretched.

Load-Date: April 22, 2009



Tamil Tigers accuse Sri Lankan forces of killing 1,000 civilians in raid

Guardian.com

April 21, 2009 Tuesday

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Length: 1046 words

Body

ABSTRACT

Military operation sparks exodus from rebel-held zone Sri Lankan military says rebels tried to force civilians to stay

FULL TEXT

The <u>Tamil Tigers</u> have accused the Sri Lankan government of killing 1,000 civilians during a raid on rebel territory as a 24-hour ultimatum to the rebels to surrender passed at midday local time (0630 BST).

The government denied the accusations, saying the military had rescued thousands of civilians from the "no-fire" war zone in the north after breaking through a barrier the Tigers had built.

More than 40,000 civilians have fled the ever-shrinking rebel area since Monday's offensive.

Human rights agencies have warned of an imminent bloodbath, with the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (*LTTE*) refusing to surrender.

Seevaratnam Puleedevan, secretary general of the Tamil Tiger peace secretariat, urged the international community to intervene to force a permanent ceasefire, a move Sri Lanka has ruled out.

"<u>LTTE</u> will never surrender and we will fight and we have the confidence that we will win, with the help of the Tamil people," Puleedevan told Reuters by telephone.

He said he was near the border of the no-fire zone, and confirmed that the <u>LTTE</u> leader, Vellupillai Prabhakaran, was inside it.

"He is with us and he is directing the war against the Sri Lankan armed forces and providing a lot of support and assistance to the people," Puleedevan said.

With perhaps as many as 100,000 civilians remaining in the 6.5-square-mile strip of swampy coastline, both sides exchanged allegations of brutality.

The Tigers' political head, B Nadesan, told the Tamilnet website that the Sri Lankan army had killed hundreds of people with internationally banned weapons such as cluster shells, napalm bombs and phosphorus bombs.

Tamil Tigers accuse Sri Lankan forces of killing 1,000 civilians in raid

A rebel spokesman, who gave his name to the BBC as Thileepan, said a hospital, an orphanage and many houses had been hit and huge numbers of civilians had been killed in a military onslaught on the area.

The military says the rebels had forced the civilians to stay and were killing anyone who tried to escape. A Sri Lankan army spokesman said 17 people died and 200 were injured when suicide bombers among the fleeing crowds detonated devices. It was not possible to verify the claim and Nadesan denied it.

"The <u>LTTE</u> denies these fabricated stories that seek to discredit us and divert attention away from the suffering of the Tamil people," he said.

Video footage released by the Sri Lankan defence ministry yesterday showed civilians pouring through the breach in the earth barrier.

The civilians waded through a lagoon towards the army's lines, some carrying possessions in bags on their heads. One fugitive said that the rebels had warned people not to go, saying they would not be safe in government-controlled areas. The military regards the offensive of the past 24 hours as a breakthrough in its stand-off with the last remnants of the Tigers.

A senior UN official told the Guardian that the UN had been briefed by the Sri Lankan government to expect thousands more people to come out of the area in coming days.

But the UN children's fund, Unicef, warned that the civilians still trapped faced grave danger.

"If fighting continues and if the <u>LTTE</u> refuses to allow people to leave the conflict zone, we face the intolerable inevitability of seeing many more children killed," said Unicef's regional director for south Asia, Daniel Toole.

"With this latest surge in fighting, our greatest fear is that the worst is yet to come."

It is also not clear how many civilians are left inside the zone. The Sri Lankan government has maintained that only about 40,000 remained before the mass escape, while the UN estimated the figure at about 100,000.

The Sri Lankan government has repeatedly claimed that the rebels are using the civilians as human shields, a claim supported by the UN and many other independent observers. There have been a number of credible reports of civilians being killed by the *LTTE* as they tried to escape from the no-fire zone.

But the government has also faced intense criticism over the way it has gone after the rebels, with the UN estimating that at least 4,500 civilians have been killed in the past three months.

Doctors have described scenes of carnage as shells and bullets fired from government positions slammed into the tightly packed civilians. Many tried to protect themselves by digging bunkers in the sand, but dozens are still reported to have been killed or injured every day.

There are estimated still to be at least 300, and possibly as many as 500, well-armed <u>LTTE</u> cadres in the no-fire zone. Witnesses have told the Guardian they have seen the fighters manning earth embankments they have built across key access points and firing on government positions.

Setting the noon deadline yesterday, the Sri Lankan president, Mahinda Rajapaksa, said Prabhakaran, the <u>LTTE</u> leader, should surrender or face military action.

"The only thing Prabhakaran can now do is to surrender. I don't want him to take cyanide and commit suicide. He has to face charges for his actions," he said.

What now concerns the UN is how the military will seek to end the conflict. UN officials say that the government has been concerned about mounting pressure from some members of the UN security council over the civilian death toll, and had been making it clear during the last few days that a major push was being prepared.

Tamil Tigers accuse Sri Lankan forces of killing 1,000 civilians in raid

The Sri Lankan government has defended its decision to place those who have escaped the fighting behind barbed wire inside camps in a high-security area around Vavuniya, south of the no-fire zone.

Its officials say that until they can be sure they have weeded out all **LTTE** members among the civilians in the camps, everyone will have to be detained.

A small number of elderly people have been released, but the camps are still home to thousands of children, pregnant <u>women</u> and elderly people.

The UN has expressed concern about conditions in the camps, many of which are struggling to cope with the daily influx of new arrivals. Poor sanitation and shortages of water have raised concerns about the spread of disease, and the government and aid agencies face a major challenge in getting enough food into the camps, with many of those arriving - particularly children - showing signs of malnourishment.

Load-Date: April 22, 2009



Thousands flee to safety as Sri Lanka breaks through Tamil Tigers' defence

Guardian.com

April 20, 2009 Monday

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Length: 889 words

Body

ABSTRACT

President calls for Tigers' leader to surrender and 'face charges for his actions'

FULL TEXT

Tens of thousands of civilians trapped by fighting in Sri Lanka fled to safety today after the military smashed through one of the <u>Tamil Tigers</u>' last major defensive lines.

Video footage released by the Sri Lankan air ministry showed civilians pouring through a breach in an earth barrier, which the rebels had been using to hold back the military onslaught.

The civilians waded through a lagoon towards the army's lines, some carrying possessions in bags on their heads.

The military clearly regards today's events as a major breakthrough in its stand-off against the last remnants of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (*LTTE*), and is expected to step up its offensive after a deadline for the rebels to surrender was ignored.

A United Nations official told the Guardian that the UN had been briefed by the Sri Lankan government to expect many thousands more people coming out of the area in the coming days.

But the United Nations Children's Fund (Unicef) warned that those civilians still trapped were in grave danger. "If fighting continues and if the <u>LTTE</u> refuses to allow people to leave the conflict zone, then we face the intolerable inevitability of seeing many more children killed," said Unicef's regional director for south Asia, Daniel Toole. "With this latest surge in fighting, our greatest fear is that the worst is yet to come."

A Sri Lankan army spokesman said 17 people died and 200 were injured when suicide bombers among the fleeing crowds detonated their devices. It was not possible to verify the claims, because independent reporters are barred from entering the area.

The military estimated that 25,000 people had made it out of the 17sq km "no fire zone", where they had been trapped after being told to gather there to escape the fighting. Mahinda Rajapaksa, the Sri Lankan president, put the figure higher, at 35,000.

Thousands flee to safety as Sri Lanka breaks through Tamil Tigers' defence

How many civilians are left inside the zone is also a matter of debate. The Sri Lankan government has maintained that only about 40,000 remained before today's mass escape, while the UN estimated the figure at about 100,000.

Today's breakthrough came only hours after the Sri Lankan defence secretary had said the conflict was entering its final days.

The Sri Lankan government has repeatedly claimed that the rebels are using the civilians as human shields, a claim supported by the UN and many other independent observers. There have been a number of credible reports of civilians being killed by the <u>LTTE</u> as they tried to escape from the no-fire zone.

But the government has also faced intense criticism over the way it has gone after the rebels, with the UN estimating that at least 4,500 civilians have been killed in the last three months.

Doctors have described scenes of carnage as shells and bullets fired from government positions have slammed into the tightly packed civilians. Many have tried to protect themselves by digging bunkers in the sand but dozens are still reported to have been killed or injured every day.

Despite the success of today's operation, there are estimated to be at least 300, and possibly as many as 500, well-armed <u>LTTE</u> cadres in the no-fire zone. Witnesses have told the Guardian they have seen the fighters manning earth embankments they have built across key access points and firing on government positions.

The Sri Lankan president set the <u>LTTE</u> leader, Velupillai Prabhakaran, a deadline of noon today to surrender or face military action. The deadline passed without any surrender.

"The only thing Prabhakaran can now do is to surrender. I don't want him to take cyanide and commit suicide. He has to face charges for his actions," he said.

Sri Lankan military spokesman Brigadier Udaya Nanayakkara had previously warned that Prabhakaran would be taken dead or alive. He said the army would try to take the rebel leader alive, but "if he comes with a weapon and if he fights then we have to treat him as any other terrorist".

What now concerns the UN is how the military will seek to end the conflict. UN officials say that the government has been concerned about mounting pressure from some members of the security council over the civilian death toll and had been making it clear over the last few days that a major push was being prepared.

Tonight, the UN said 35,000 civilians were now making their way to the internment camps set up by the government within a high security area around Vavuniya, south of the no-fire zone.

The Sri Lankan government has defended its decision to place those who have escaped the fighting behind barbed wire inside the camps. Its officials say that until they can be sure they have weeded out all <u>LTTE</u> members among the civilians in the camps, everyone will have to be detained. A small number of elderly people have been released but the camps are still home to thousands of children, pregnant <u>women</u> and elderly people.

The UN has expressed concern about conditions in the camps, many of which are struggling to cope with the daily influx of new arrivals. Poor sanitation and shortages of water have raised concerns about the spread of disease and the government and aid agencies face a major challenge in getting enough food into the camps, with many of those arriving - particularly children - showing signs of malnourishment.

Load-Date: April 20, 2009



Sri Lanka seeks aid for civilian crisis, endgame for LTTE (Roundup)

Hindustan Times April 23, 2009 Thursday

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Length: 799 words

Dateline: Colombo

Body

Colombo, April. 23 -- Sri Lanka and the UN Thursday made frantic appeals for assistance as the exodus of Tamil civilians from the war zone escalated into a grave humanitarian crisis even as the government claimed that the <u>Tamil Tigers</u> were about to be crushed, ending one of the world's longest running insurgencies.

With the number of Tamil refugees crossing the 103,000-mark, the UN's Humanitarian Coordinator in Sri Lanka Neil Buhne gave a heart-rending account of the plight of the civilians after visiting some camps.

"I saw infants with dysentery, malnourished children and <u>women</u>, untended wounds, and people dressed in the ragged clothing they have been wearing for months," Buhne said in a statement, seeking urgent funds to meet the critical needs of the "crowds of weary and hungry people".

"We need funds for all the basics like food, medicine, water, sanitation, nutrition, shelter and clothing. And we want to try to get kids as soon as possible back into school to give them some semblance of normality," said the UN official.

Sri Lanka admitted separately that "we face an emergency humanitarian situation" and added that an estimated 15,000-20,000 civilians continued to be trapped in a shrunken and small area still with the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (*LTTE*).

As the UN Security Council met Wednesday to discuss the humanitarian crisis in Sri Lanka, Foreign Minister Rohitha Bogollagama said Colombo had won pledges of support from countries such as the US and India.

"With the unprecedented influx of large numbers of people in such a short period of time, obviously we do face an emergency humanitarian situation, and our friends in the international community are most welcome to provide emergency relief assistance, initially by way of semi-permanent shelter, water purification plants, sanitation facilities and medical assistance," Bogollagama said.

In a non-binding statement, the UN Security Council urged the Tigers to surrender and called on the Sri Lankan government to protect civilians and allow international agencies access to victims of the conflict.

According to the military, the civilian avalanche began Monday morning, with some of the escapees alleging that armed Tiger guerrillas had shot at them when they tried to leave for safer areas.

"All along we have been waiting for the day when we can say the <u>LTTE</u> is defeated. Today is the day. It is a historic day," Bogollagama said, adding that the guerrillas' endgame was "being played out on the muddy waters on the western edge of Mullaitivu (district) coast".

Sri Lanka seeks aid for civilian crisis, endgame for LTTE (Roundup)

The authorities, however, admitted that the last of the <u>Tamil Tigers</u> holed up in a small strip of land were still offering "dwindling but constant" resistance. The pro-<u>LTTE</u> TamilNet website said a ship with relief material for the civilians could not reach the northeastern coast.

The <u>LTTE</u> was trying to prevent the army from overrunning their last positions where the rebel leaders are believed to be hiding. There is no word on Velupillai Prabhakaran, the <u>LTTE</u> founder who has led a violent campaign to carve out an independent Tamil state out of Sri Lanka.

On Wednesday, President Mahinda Rajapaksa vowed that Prabhakaran would have to face "consequences" for all his acts of violence the past 25 years and for rejecting his surrender call.

By Thursday morning, the number of people fleeing the war zone since the beginning of this year shot up to about 175,700. These include over 31,000 children and 28,000 **women**.

The military said "elaborate arrangements were underway" to accommodate the swelling numbers of civilian refugees, whose plight has been described by some diplomats as appalling.

Many of them had been boxed in the <u>LTTE</u> area for about four months, unable to escape even as fighting escalated.

The government said efforts were on to coordinate with the ministry of resettlement and rehabilitation, security forces and selected state and private sector agencies to provide emergency assistance to the civilians.

Over 1,250 refugees were at the Vavuniya hospital and nearly 1,000 were warded in a hospital in the nearby district of Mannar. At least four other hospitals in the two districts were also teeming with patients.

The Sri Lankan government has rejected international calls to halt fighting even temporarily, saying pressure should be mounted on the Tigers instead to make them free the civilians in their control.

On Wednesday night, India asked Sri Lanka to ensure that the killings of Tamil civilians were stopped and underlined that it will do "all it can to ameliorate the humanitarian crisis".

"We are very unhappy at the continued killing of innocent Tamil civilians in Sri Lanka. These killings must stop," External Affairs Minister Pranab Mukherjee said. Published by HT Syndication with permission from Indo-Asian News Service.

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The Guardian - Final Edition
May 19, 2009 Tuesday

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theguardian

Section: GUARDIAN OBITUARIES PAGES; Pg. 32

Length: 1711 words **Byline:** Tom Farrell

Body

Under the leadership of Velupillai Prabhakaran, who has been killed aged 54 during fighting with the Sri Lankan army, the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (*LTTE*) were moulded, and refined, into one of the world's deadliest insurgent groups, and rigid discipline was instilled through his personal example. The *LTTE* of Sri Lanka, the "*Tamil Tigers*", would become the progenitors of modern suicide bombing. They also developed their own navy and airforce as they masterminded the art of weapons procurement in a globalised, post-cold-war world.

For Prabhakaran, no sacrifice was too great for the objective of "Eelam" (precious land), a Tamil state in an island of mainly Sinhalese Buddhists. This has been particularly evident during the last four months, before Sri Lanka's President Mahinda Rajapaksa formally declared victory on Sunday. During this time, according to UN estimates, more than 6,000 civilians have been killed as the *LTTE* have been pushed from their northern territories into a "no fire zone", consisting of a few kilometres of north-east coastline. The government has accused the *LTTE* leadership of using tens of thousands of civilians trapped there as human shields.

Prabhakaran was born in Valvettiturai, a fishing town almost on Sri Lanka's northern tip. The son of a minor civil servant father and a religious mother, Prabhakaran was said to have been a dutiful, introverted child. The mainly Hindu Tamil minority, concentrated on the northern and eastern fringes of the island, had done well before independence, flourishing in business and the colonial bureaucracy. The British had also imported thousands of low-caste Tamil labourers from mainland India to work the hill country tea plantations, although their lot was grimmer.

But within a few years of the British departure in February 1948, Sinhalese politicians were banging the drum of ethnic chauvinism. Sinhala became the island's official language and discriminatory laws affecting entry to university and the civil service alienated moderate Tamils. The teenage Prabhakaran formed the Tamil New Tigers (TNT) in 1972. By then demands for reform by Tamil parliamentarians were being sidelined by youthful, militant separatists.

Already known to the Jaffna police, Prabhakaran became a wanted man in July 1975 when he gunned down Alfred Duryappa, mayor of Jaffna, en route to a Hindu temple. The killing of Tamils belonging to rival organisations then became integral to his modus operandi.

Within months, the TNT had morphed into the <u>LTTE</u>. Prabhakaran, now a fugitive in the Indian city of Madras (now Chennai), drew up its charter and helped design the <u>LTTE</u> crest, a roaring Tiger atop two crossed rifles and a halo of bullets set against a blood-red background. The Tiger had been the symbol of the Cholas, a Tamil dynasty which had dominated medieval south Asia. Inspired by a young militant who had taken cyanide while in police custody, Prabhakaran compelled each <u>LTTE</u> member to wear a necklace with a cyanide capsule to be consumed in the event of capture.

By the late 1970s Junius Jayawardene's centre-right United National Party (UNP) government in Colombo was adopting a more pro-US foreign policy. From the early 1980s the Indian government of Indira Gandhi, which was sympathetic to the Soviet Union, began to tolerate sanctuary and training for Tamil rebels, some of whom opened political offices in Chennai. New Delhi denied that it was seeking to divide Sri Lanka, but it was alleged that Prabhakaran received secret training from India's intelligence organisation, the Research and Analysis Wing. Photographs that later emerged from the southern Indian state of Tamil Nadu showed <u>LTTE</u> training camps. There were other Tamil militant groups, but the <u>LTTE</u> would marginalise or simply exterminate most of them.

Prabhakaran developed the obsessive traits that stayed with him the rest of his life, refusing to drink bottled water not his own and sleeping with a pistol under his pillow. A lifelong devotee of Hollywood, he once cited Clint Eastwood as his role model. He watched action mov ies for inspiration, often using them as a training tool in Tiger camps.

Fullscale war erupted in the wake of Sri Lanka-wide pogroms against Tamils in July 1983. These sent thousands of young Tamils to Indian training camps.

Many wealthy Tamils fled to the west and their contributions, not always voluntary, played a large part in funding the Tigers' arsenal. The <u>LTTE</u> maintained a fleet known as "Sea Tigers" and carried out air raids using Czechoslovak-built propeller-engined trainers.

In July 1987 India's prime minister Rajiv Gandhi and Jayawardene signed the Indo-Lanka accord in an attempt

to staunch Tamil nationalism. But Prabhakaran, addressing more than 100,000 people that August in a rare public appearance in Jaffna, vowed that only a separate state could offer

a permanent solution.

The 100,000 Indian peacekeeping troops, mostly fellow Hindus come to protect the Tamils from Sinhalese extremism, were soon at war with the *LTTE*. During this phase of the war Prabhakaran lived in a massive fortified camp in the thick jungles of the northern Vanni region. By this time, despite the *LTTE*s cardinal rule of celibacy, Prabhakaran had taken a wife, Mathivathani Erambu. Accordingly, the rules were amended for his cadres, Tigers were allowed to marry with Prabhakaran's sanction. But the Tigers' code remained austere. Tobacco and alcohol were forbidden and the vial of cyanide remained.

The first <u>LTTE</u> suicide bombing came in the northern town of Nelliady in July 1987. Prabhakaran had formed the "Black Tigers", a group of male and <u>female</u> suicide bombers whose explosives-laden belts would later be copied by Palestinian, Chechen and Iraqi groups. The missions were preceded by months of intelligence gathering and Prabhakaran held secret audiences with the bombers before they departed for their targets. With the departure of the Indian army in March 1990, having lost 1,200, Prabhakaran unleashed his vengeance against all perceived enemies, internal and external. In May 1991, the former prime minister Rajiv Gandhi and 16 others were kill-

ed by a *female* suicide bomber at an Indian election rally.

Between 1990 and 1995, the Tigers ran the northern Jaffna peninsula as a mini-state with Prabhakaran as its absolute ruler. Suspicious that his once-powerful deputy Mahattaya had been suborned by Indian intelligence, Prabhakaran had Mahattaya, his cousin, demoted, then arrested and tortured to death along with dozens of his associates. In late 1995, Sri Lankan forces launched a massive campaign to retake the rebel-held north. The <u>LTTE</u> were expelled from Jaffna but 60,000 government troops found themselves hemmed in over the next few years as the Tigers captured large areas of the Vanni and the eastern province. The south was also hit by a spate of savage Black Tiger strikes.

But by late 2001, with a new UNP administration in power, both sides called a ceasefire with Norwegian mediation. It was speculated that Prabhakaran had come to realise that post 9/11, the <u>LTTE</u>'s complex overseas network of weapons procurement was likely to come under severe pressure if the war dragged on.

The Tiger leader, fanatical about his personal security, seldom gave interviews. His mouthpiece was usually Anton Balasingham, a former journalist with dual British-Sri Lankan citizenship.

But in April 2002, with the Vanni territories reopened after a decade, Prabhakaran called a press conference attended by dozens of local and foreign journalists. With Balasingham translating, he called the killing of Gandhi "a tragic incident" but did not apologise outright. The image he presented had changed. Middle age and a reputed fondness for Chinese cuisine had swelled his girth; a safari suit had replaced his striped combat fatigues.

But, after nearly four years of brittle peace, fighting again erupted between the government and the <u>LTTE</u>. Balasingham's possible moderating influence ended when he died of bile duct cancer at his London home in December 2006.

Prabhakaran's autocratic rule over the <u>LTTE</u> was a factor in the defection of Vinayagamoorthi Muralitharan, alias Colonel Karuna, and several thousand eastern cadres. They were reorganised as a pro-government paramilitary with a similarly dubious human rights record. In the years since the Indian intervention, Prabhakaran had very successfully transformed the Tigers from an archetypal guerrilla outfit into a conventional army. But this may ultimately have proved to be his downfall. When fighting again erupted in mid 2006, the Tigers were now compelled to fight the Sri Lankan forces on their own terms. By the summer of 2007, the government had recaptured all of the <u>LTTE</u>'s eastern territory, forcing them back into their Vanni heartland. On 2 January 2008, Sri Lanka formally withdrew from the Norwegian-brokered ceasefire and exactly one year later, the de facto Tiger "capital" of Killinochchi was recaptured by the government.

In the intervening months, the <u>LTTE</u> carried out numerous bomb attacks across the island. This still prompts fears that even if they are, as it now appears, defeated as a conventional force, they will continue an underground war.

Prabhakaran was not an ideologue. Although some of the <u>LTTE</u>s founding members, such as Balasingham, described themselves as socialists, the <u>Tamil Tigers</u> have always essentially been a secular nationalist organisation. Ironically enough, before the Iraq war, their tally of suicide attacks surpassed that of any Islamist group.

Prabkakaran would address the population of the <u>LTTE</u>s territory on Maveerar Naal (Great Heroes Day) and his rotund features were ubiquitous on <u>LTTE</u> posters and literature. He had two sons and a daughter and was said to have been grooming his elder son, Charles Anthony, as his heir, but he has apparently also been killed.

Prabhakaran's death leaves Sri Lanka's Tamil minority facing an uncertain future. It is unclear whether <u>LTTE</u> hardliners will revert to guerrilla warfare. Prabhakaran was ruthless in eliminating any rival Tamil politicians, while the emigration of educated Tamils abroad leaves the long-suffering community in a precarious position.

Velupillai Prabhakaran, Tamil nationalist leader, born 26 November 1954; died 18 May 2009

Load-Date: May 19, 2009



30,000 civilians flee LTTE-held areas, 17 killed in blasts (Third Lead)

Hindustan Times
April 20, 2009 Monday

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Length: 545 words

Dateline: Colombo

Body

Colombo, April. 20 -- Over 30,000 civilians Monday fled Sri Lanka's northern war-zone while 17 people were killed in three suicide bomb attacks by the <u>Tamil Tigers</u> as troops advanced deep into the last stronghold of the rebels, authorities said.

"Latest reports received from the Army 58 Division indicate that over 30,000 civilians held hostage by <u>LTTE</u> terrorists at Puthumathalan and Amplalavanpokkani areas have been liberated," the defence ministry said, adding that several thousand more civilians were waiting to be rescued by the armed forces.

It said that the mass rescue operation reached a significant phase when troops captured the 3 km long earth bund built by the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (<u>LTTE</u>), on the western border of the No Fire Zone (NFZ) Monday morning.

According to the defence ministry, the mass exodus of Tamil civilians began Monday morning when the troops "opened a safe route for the hostages to come out of the *LTTE* grip".

"The <u>LTTE</u> terrorists have launched a cowardly attack at the Tamil civilians leaving their grip. Three <u>LTTE</u> suicide cadres have exploded themselves killing dozens of refugees including <u>women</u> and children," the ministry report said.

Military spokesman Brigadier Udaya Nanayakkara told IANS that most of the civilians besieged in the Puthumathalan NFZ have made their way across the Nathikkadal lagoon area, defying the orders of the <u>LTTE</u> to stay on. The civilians reached the army-held areas in Puthukkudiyiruppu.

"Troops in Puthukkudiyiruppu confirmed a huge exodus of people is on the way," Brig. Nanayakkara said, charging that the *LTTE* has fired several rounds of artillery shells towards the escaping civilians.

State-run television showed footage of thousands of civilians, including children, **women** and elders, fleeing the war-zone and happily entering the army-held areas a couple of kilometres away.

The area was flooded with people. Most of them were carrying children and a small bag which seemed to be their only property.

Military sources said that the mass exodus of people in a matter of few hours "clearly demonstrated the fact that the <u>LTTE</u> and its leadership have lost the support of the people whom it has held hostage for past three months".

30,000 civilians flee LTTE-held areas, 17 killed in blasts (Third Lead)

According to state-run television, the military authorities "even at this last moment have demanded the <u>LTTE</u> leader Velupillai Prabhakaran and his cadres lay down their weapons and surrender without delay to avoid facing a total annihilation".

"Prabhakaran has nothing to hold on now. It will be a better option for him to surrender," an official has been quoted as saying.

According to the military estimates, some 70,000 civilians have been trapped in a 12-km stretch along the coastal area for the past three months, though some of the villagers have been able to escape against the wishes of the rebels.

An estimated 68,000 civilians have left the rebel-held areas since the beginning of 2009 and are currently housed in refugee camps and welfare centres in the northern Vavuniya, Mannar and Jaffna districts.

The military says it is in the last phase of a drive to crush the <u>LTTE</u>, which has been fighting to carve out a separate state in the northern eastern region of the island since 1983. Published by HT Syndication with permission from Indo-Asian News Service.

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Load-Date: August 3, 2009



The hidden massacre; 20,000 civilians were killed in Sri Lanka's final assault on Tamil Tigers

The Times (London)
May 29, 2009 Friday
Edition 1

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Section: NEWS; Pg. 1

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Byline: Catherine Philp

Body

More than 20,000 Tamil civilians were killed in the final throes of the Sri Lankan civil war, most as a result of government shelling, an investigation by The Times has revealed.

The number of casualties is three times the official figure.

The Sri Lankan authorities have insisted that their forces stopped using heavy weapons on April 27 and observed the no-fire zone where 100,000 Tamil men, <u>women</u> and children were sheltering. They have blamed all civilian casualties on Tamil Tiger rebels concealed among the civilians.

Aerial photographs, official docu-mentswitness accounts and expert testimony tell a different story. With the world's media and aid organisations kept well away from the fighting, the army launched a fierce barrage that began at the end of April and lasted about three weeks. The offensive ended Sri Lanka's 26-year civil war with the <u>Tamil Tigers</u>, but innocent civilians paid the price.

Confidential United Nations documents acquired by The Times record nearly 7,000 civilian deaths in the no-fire zone up to the end of April. UN sources said that the toll then surged, with an average of 1,000 civilians killed each day until May 19, the day after Velupillai Prabhakaran, the leader of the <u>Tamil Tigers</u>, was killed. That figure concurs with the estimate made to The Times by Father Amalraj, a Roman Catholic priest who fled the no-fire zone on May 16 and is now interned with 200,000 other survivors in Manik Farm refugee camp. It would take the final toll above 20,000. "Higher," a UN source told The Times. "Keep going."

Some of the victims can be seen in the photograph above, which shows the destruction of the flimsy refugee camp. In the bottom right-hand corner, sand mounds show makeshift burial grounds.

Independent defence experts who analysed dozens of aerial photographs taken by The Times said that the arrangement of the army and rebel firing positions and the narrowness of the no-fire zone made it unlikely that Tiger mortar fire or artillery caused a significant number of deaths.

The hidden massacre 20,000 civilians were killed in Sri Lanka 's final assault on Tamil Tigers

"It looks more likely that the firing position has been located by the Sri Lankan Army and it has then been targeted with air-burst and ground-impact mortars," said Charles Heyman, editor of the magazine Armed Forces of the UK.

On Wednesday, Sri Lanka was cleared of any wrongdoing by the UN Human Rights Council.

A spokesman for the Sri Lankan High Commission in London said: "We reject all these allegations. Civilians have not been killed by government shelling at all. If civilians have been killed, then that is because of the actions of the *LTTE* [rebels] who were shooting and killing people when they tried to escape."

Graphic

This photograph taken by The Times from a UN helicopter shows the devastation of the refugee camp in the no-fire zone. The circled area is where witnesses say many civilians were buried

Load-Date: May 29, 2009



Obituary of Velupillai Prabhakaran Leader of the Tamil Tigers whose bloody legacy encompassed assassinations and suicide bombs

The Daily Telegraph (London)

May 25, 2009 Monday

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The Daily Telegraph

Section: FEATURES; Pg. 29

Length: 1047 words

Body

VELUPILLAI PRABHAKARAN, aged 54, whose death while trying to escape advancing Sri Lankan government troops was confirmed yesterday, founded and led the <u>Tamil Tigers</u> (formally the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam, or <u>LTTE</u>), turning it into one of the most organised, effective and brutal terrorist guerrilla groups in the world.

From 1983 Prabhakaran led a violent war against the Sinhalese-dominated government of Sri Lanka for a separate state for ethnic Tamils, who make up about 13 per cent of the population. During that time he established a ministate covering the northern and eastern third of the country, with its own navy and air force, and parallel institutions of civil administration, police force, banks and tax collection.

A fan of Clint Eastwood films, Prabhakaran was credited with inventing the suicide vest; his "Black Tiger" suicide units - almost half of them <u>women</u> - killed thousands of people and assassinated two world leaders, the Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi in 1991 and Sri Lankan President Ranasunghe Premadasa in 1993. The war, which cost 70,000 lives, was characterised by a level of brutality and fanaticism seen in few other civil conflicts.

A stocky, soft-spoken man with a bushy moustache, Prabhakaran looked more like the local bank manager than a guerrilla leader. He had no coherent political philosophy beyond a vague commitment to socialism, yet he inspired fanatical devotion among his fighters.

This cult of personality, nurtured by propaganda and terror, inspired his suicide units to acts of "thatkodai" (Tamil for "the gift of life"), and underpinned the requirement for all fighters, male and <u>female</u>, to wear cyanide capsules around their necks to be swallowed if capture was imminent.

Ironically, Prabhakaran came close to getting what he claimed to be fighting for. In 2002 the strength of the rebel insurgency forced the Sri Lankan government into a Norwegian-brokered peace process in which real autonomy for the Tamils was on the table. It collapsed in violence four years later, mainly because Prabhakaran had done nothing to convince Sri Lankans or the international community that he wanted peace and had used the lull in fighting to regroup and rearm.

Obituary of Velupillai Prabhakaran Leader of the Tamil Tigers whose bloody legacy encompassed assassinations and suicide bombs

A negotiated settlement would have required him to accept free elections that would probably have brought moderate Tamil parties to power. For while Prabhakaran was a hero for many Tamils, his power stemmed as much from his elimination of political rivals and moderate Tamil leaders as from genuine devotion.

As it was, his intransigence led the Sri Lankan government to conclude that there was no way out of the situation other than outright military victory over the <u>LTTE</u> and the capture or death of its leader.

The youngest of four children, Velupillai Prabhakaran was born into a Hindu family of the low fishermen's caste on November 26 1954 in the northern coastal town of Velvettithurai on the Jaffna Peninsula. His father was a middle-ranking agricultural officer.

Velupillai was an indifferent student, but confessed in one of his rare interviews that he was fascinated by Napoleon and Alexander the Great, and inspired by the Indian nationalist leaders Subhash Chandra Bose and Bhagat Singh.

He entered his teens at a time of rising Tamil nationalism, after the Sinhalese-dominated government implemented a series of measures, many of them blatantly discriminatory, to correct (as they saw it) the overrepresentation of Tamils in the higher echelons of commerce, the professions and the administration. As efforts by Tamil political leaders to mediate got nowhere, young Tamils began to form their own more radical groups. In 1972 Prabhakaran helped to launch a militant group called the Tamil New Tigers (which became the *LTTE* in 1976).

He rose to prominence in 1975 when he assassinated Alfred Duraiyappah, the mayor of Jaffna, shooting him at point blank range as he entered a Hindu temple. Buoyed up with this success, he wasted no time in imposing a strict code of conduct over his followers, including bans on smoking, drinking and sex.

Their militancy gained momentum after a wave of anti-Tamil riots in 1983, sparked by an <u>LTTE</u> attack which left 13 Sri Lankan police officers dead. The violence, known as the Black July pogrom, left between 1,000 and 3,000 Tamils dead, drove many Tamil youths to join the <u>LTTE</u> and marked the beginning of the long-running civil war.

Prabhakaran spent much of the next 20 years on the run, moving in secret between various heavily-guarded underground jungle hideaways, from which he would emerge once a year to speak to the faithful on what he called Heroes' Day. As the war continued, the <u>LTTE</u> moved from attacks on police and soldiers to bombings of civilians and Buddhist places of worship.

While the organisation initially funded itself by robbing banks, recurring episodes of anti-Tamil violence, seemingly condoned by the government, meant that Prabhakaran was also able to tap into the sympathy - and pockets - of Tamils living abroad.

The <u>LTTE</u> was well-supplied with recruits, including <u>women</u> and children, and until the mid-1980s their training camps in Tamil Nadu were sponsored covertly by Indian intelligence. When there were not enough volunteers, they began to conscript in the region they controlled. Families which did not supply either fighters or cash could expect retribution.

It was one of Prabhakaran's *female* recruits who carried out the mission many regard as his greatest mistake: the assassination of Rajiv Gandhi in 1991. The attack was intended to keep India - which had sent a peacekeeping force to Sri Lanka in the late 1980s - from further meddling, but it had the effect of alienating Indian opinion, and a Madras court and Interpol subsequently issued warrants for his arrest.

Prabhakaran was said to have weaknesses for boiled crab and chocolate, a passion which was thought to have inspired one of his more eccentric orders: that his fighters should never kill people while they were eating.

His ban on sexual relations was suspended for the higher cadres in 1984 after he married Mathivathani Erambu, one of a group of students abducted by the <u>LTTE</u> during a political hunger strike. The couple had a daughter and two sons, one of whom is reported to have been killed alongside his father on May 17.

Obituary of Velupillai Prabhakaran Leader of the Tamil Tigers whose bloody legacy encompassed assassinations and suicide bombs

Load-Date: May 25, 2009



Over 20,000 Tamil civilians killed in final Lanka offensive against LTTE

Asian News International (ANI)

May 29, 2009 Friday

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Length: 308 words

Byline: ANI

Body

Colombo, May 29 (ANI): Over 20,000 Tamil civilians were killed in the final throes of the Sri Lankan civil war, most of them victims of indiscriminate government troop shelling, an investigation by The Times has revealed.

The number of casualties is three times the official figure, the paper reports.

Authorities in Sri Lanka are insisting that their forces stopped using heavy weapons on April 27 and observed the no-fire zone where 100,000 Tamil men, <u>women</u> and children were sheltering. They have blamed all civilian casualties on Tamil Tiger rebels concealed among the civilians.

Aerial photographs, official documents, witness accounts and expert testimony, however, tell a different story.

According to The Times, the Sri Lankan Army launched a fierce barrage at the end of April that lasted for about three weeks. That offensive ended Sri Lanka's 26-year civil war with the <u>Tamil Tigers</u>, but innocent civilians paid the price.

Confidential United Nations documents acquired by The Times record nearly 7,000 civilian deaths in the no-fire zone up to the end of April. UN sources said that the toll then surged, with an average of 1,000 civilians killed each day until May 19, the day after Velupillai Prabhakaran, the leader of the <u>Tamil Tigers</u>, was killed.

That figure concurs with the estimate made to The Times by Father Amalraj, a Roman Catholic priest who fled the no-fire zone on May 16 and is now interned with 200,000 other survivors in Manik Farm refugee camp.

It would take the final toll above 20,000. "Higher," a UN source told The Times. "Keep going."

Independent defence experts who analysed dozens of aerial photographs taken by The Times said that the arrangement of the army and rebel firing positions and the narrowness of the no-fire zone made it unlikely that Tiger mortar fire or artillery caused a significant number of deaths. (ANI)

Load-Date: May 29, 2009



Eat up, National Post tells LTTE hunger strikers

Sunday Observer (Sri Lanka) April 19, 2009 Sunday

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Length: 715 words

Dateline: Colombo

Body

Colombo, April 19 -- The following is the full text of an editorial published by Canada's National Post Thursday:

The ongoing Parliament Hill protests and hunger strikes by Tamil Canadians are meant to stir our lawmakers into action against Sri Lanka, whose government is waging a successful military campaign against the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (*LTTE*), better known as the *Tamil Tigers*. If anything, however, the protests have had the opposite effect: Just as radical Canadian Muslims attract disgust when they raise the flags of Hezbollah or Hamas, so too do Tamils who fly the flag the of the *LTTE*, a terrorist insurgency that once controlled much of Sri Lanka. What worse, the protesters have flown the *LTTE* flag alongside the Canadian flag an insult to our own country. As we have written several times before, we are not without sympathy for the cause of the Tamil people, many of whom have been treated as second-class citizens by the Sinhalese-dominated government in Colombo.

Indeed, the Tamils would have had a rightful claim to the world sympathy if the LTTE, which fights for an independent Tamil homeland, hadn't itself adopted such inhumane tactics since its formation in the 1980s. The Tigers perfected the tactic of suicide bombing, deploying explosive-wrapped killers by the dozens even before the practice had caught on in the Arab world. The LTTE has also press-ganged children as young as 10 into military service and, following the 2004 Boxing Day tsunami, they cleared out orphanages for foot soldiers and interdicted relief supplies to feed their adult insurgents and fund terror campaign against the Sri Lankan government. The sight of this group flags flying in Canada is nothing short of revolting. Canada is home to the largest expatriate Tamil community in the world. Despite the Conservative government decision to declare the LTTE a terrorist organization in 2006, many of the most prominent Tamil groups in Canada remain fronts for the Tigers. Much of the money for the LTTE terror campaign has been extorted from Tamil Canadians, who have faced harassment if they show insufficient enthusiasm for the Tigers. Family members back home in Sri Lanka have even been held hostage until Tamils here pay hefty donations. The reason that Tiger supporters seem so desperate now is that, after nearly 17 months of bloody fighting, Sri Lankan troops have the few hundred remaining Tiger fighters pinned down inside a few square kilometres in northeast Sri Lanka including, possibly, the group sociopathic leader, Velupillai Prabhakaran. The only thing preventing Sri Lankan troops from finishing off the Tigers is the presence of thousands of Tamil civilians, whom the Tigers are using as human shields. Like Hamas in Gaza, cowardly LTTE fighters are hiding behind the women and children they claim to be protecting. (In fact, the Tigers are actually killing civilians who try to flee the combat area something even Hamas never did on a large scale during the Gaza combat.) The Tigers goal appears to be saving itself and we would not be surprised if Pirapaharan staged his own massacre of Tamils as a means to discredit Colombo and force a ceasefire that allowed him to escape. The Ottawa protesters and others in Sydney, Australia insist the Colombo government is readying a genocide against Tamils. Many journalists are even getting e-mails from Tiger supporters claiming that the Sri Lankan army is preparing to use chemical weapons. This is preposterous: If government troops truly wanted to stage a genocide, they could have done so weeks ago. The only reason that the siege has drawn out this long is that Sri Lanka army wishes to avoid

Eat up, National Post tells LTTE hunger strikers

unnecessary slaughter. Indeed, the Tamils who have managed to escape the Tiger area report being treated better by Sri Lankan troops than they were by the <u>LTTE</u>. If the Tiger supporters in Ottawa truly had the best interests of innocent Tamils at heart, they would be pleading with the Tigers themselves to release their human shields, not declaring their undying support for a terror organization. Our advice to the Ottawa hunger strikers is: Eat up. To the extent anyone is listening to your message, it only serves to disgrace your members. Published by HT Syndication with permission from Sunday Observer (Sri Lanka).

For any query with respect to this article or any other content requirement, please contact Editor at httsyndication@hindustantimes.com

Load-Date: April 20, 2009



<u>The hidden massacre; 20,000 civilians were killed in Sri Lanka's final assault</u> on Tamil Tigers

The Times (London)
May 29, 2009 Friday
Edition 1

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Section: NEWS; Pg. 1

Length: 481 words

Byline: Catherine Philp

Body

More than 20,000 Tamil civilians were killed in the final throes of the Sri Lankan civil war, most as a result of government shelling, an investigation by The Times has revealed.

The number of casualties is three times the official figure.

The Sri Lankan authorities have insisted that their forces stopped using heavy weapons on April 27 and observed the no-fire zone where 100,000 Tamil men, <u>women</u> and children were sheltering. They have blamed all civilian casualties on Tamil Tiger rebels concealed among the civilians.

Aerial photographs, official documents, witness accounts and expert testimony tell a different story. With the world's media and aid organisations kept well away from the fighting, the army launched a fierce barrage that began at the end of April and lasted about three weeks. The offensive ended Sri Lanka's 26-year civil war with the <u>Tamil Tigers</u>, but innocent civilians paid the price.

Confidential United Nations documents acquired by The Times record nearly 7,000 civilian deaths in the no-fire zone up to the end of April. UN sources said that the toll then surged, with an average of 1,000 civilians killed each day until May 19, the day after Velupillai Prabhakaran, the leader of the <u>Tamil Tigers</u>, was killed. That figure concurs with the estimate made to The Times by Father Amalraj, a Roman Catholic priest who fled the no-fire zone on May 16 and is now interned with 200,000 other survivors in Manik Farm refugee camp. It would take the final toll above 20,000. "Higher," a UN source told The Times. "Keep going."

Some of the victims can be seen in the photograph above, which shows the destruction of the flimsy refugee camp. In the bottom right-hand corner, sand mounds show makeshift burial grounds. Other pictures show a more orderly military cemetery, believ-eto be for hundreds of rebel fighters. One photograph shows rebel gun emplacements next to the refugee camp.

The hidden massacre 20,000 civilians were killed in Sri Lanka 's final assault on Tamil Tigers

Independent defence experts who analysed dozens of aerial photographs taken by The Times said that the arrangement of the army and rebel firing positions and the narrowness of the no-fire zone made it unlikely that Tiger mortar fire or artillery caused a significant number of deaths. "It looks more likely that the firing position has been located by the Sri Lankan Army and it has then been targeted with airburst and ground-impact mortars," said Charles Heyman, editor of the magazine Armed Forces of the UK.

On Wednesday, Sri Lanka was cleared of any wrongdoing by the UN Human Rights Council after winning the backing of countries including China, Egypt, India and Cuba.

A spokesman for the Sri Lankan High Commission in London said: "We reject all these allegations. Civilians have not been killed by government shelling at all. If civilians have been killed, then that is because of the actions of the *LTTE* [rebels] who were shooting and killing people when they tried to escape."

Graphic

This photograph taken by The Times from a UN helicopter shows the devastation of the refugee camp in the no-fire zone. The circled area is where witnesses say many civilians were buried

Load-Date: May 29, 2009



NEW LTTE CROONER WEARS PETTICOATS

Daily Mirror (Sri Lanka) June 15, 2009 Monday

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Length: 1513 words

Dateline: Colombo

Body

Colombo, June 15 -- For reasons which can only be subject to educated guesses, fingers have been pointed at the country from the west; not the east, north or south; just the west by certain characters associated with that hemisphere. And the government has had their hands full in dealing with such types of intruders, who after whirlwind tours of the 'war affected areas' refugee camps and 'no fire zones' carry back half baked views which they splash about in gay abandon all over the world.

The suspicion that these delegates and delegations have been fed with wrong information by interested parties or that they are part time employees of those with vested interests is therefore justified. The government has been transparent enough in a war said to have taken over seventy-thousand lives and caused extensive and almost unredeemable damage to the country in three decades. The psyche of the people is another story. Consequently, there is room to believe that there are enemies of the state within and without who are interested in destabilizing a war torn sovereign state struggling to keep its neck above water. This pattern is not a strange one or a new phenomenon. History has shown how western intruders barge into countries in a state of turmoil and put them off equilibrium to cause further chaos. The motives of these wily predators surface only later-after the damage has been done. It will be plain to anyone that western fingering from various guarters gathered momentum when the government moved away from the kid glove treatment of the Tigers and began to physically muzzle the 'sole representatives of the Tamil people.' It took the world over a decade to realize that the LTTE who called themselves 'freedom fighters' etc. was just a terror group. Consequently many western countries 'banned' the LTTE. The strange thing was that despite this veto, the LTTE managed to carry on as usual in the countries where they were named as a 'rogue' group. The ban on the LTTE restricted to paper was eyewash. It is evident even now that this status quo continues with the advent of even newer pro-LTTE players from the most unexpected quarters, a situation which confirms that the Tigers had and still have 'western support.' Female fingering This show of unwelcome umpires 'putting fingers into the Sri Lankan curry were so much in the news, there was no room for other news. Recently, a curry lover with Tiger blood in her who hugged the limelight was a woman. "Thuhooot! Hey, Tommo, who is this dame crooning about 'Rights'? She is in the news big time." Ooty the owl was reading news in their boss's 'Daily Dodger.' "Meeoww! Ah, that one. She is an Un-united nations HR she-chief, Navvi-thami Pulli. She had been a former war crimes judge somewhere or other," explained the owl's pal, Tommo, a pussycat. "From where the hell did she emerge?" "God knows. But everybody knows she is an ethnic Tamil from South Africa." "Hooot. That explains her Star-Trek like beaming down in the interest of the **Tamil Tigers**. And good heavens! She has a way with words doesn't she? Just cap this," said the owl and began reading off the Daily Dodger. 'I believe that accountability is a must to attain justice and reconciliation for all the people of Sri Lanka to find lasting peace. However, I stress that reconciliation is impossible without a full reckoning of transgressions.' What the hell do all those jaw breakers mean, Tommo?" Breaking new crooner's code "Meeoww. Ask me another! Okay let's go word by word, shall we? 'Accountability' means responsibility, answerability..." "Toot! Whose accountability is this dame

NEW LTTE CROONER WEARS PETTICOATS

talking about? If she is talking only about the responsibility of the armed forces and not the Tiger terrorists' responsibilities, it's bloody unfair..." "Her crooning only hints at it. But when I think of the circumstances of her appearance on stage, I think she means the government and the armed forces, maybe the LTTE also, just for appearance sake of neutrality. As an ex-judge she has to pretend to be fair and just, hasn't she? Her next word; 'reconciliation' means reunite or patch up. Now don't ask me what she wants patched up." "Thuhoooot! Whatever that is, it's going to take some doing. What about the next three words 'full reckoning of transgressions?' " "Ahhh, that. From what I know, it means taking 'a full count of offences, misdeeds, crimes and so on." "Toot! This dame's UN talk goes round and round the mulberry bush. Perhaps this is the way these Un-united types talk- tongue in cheek and tonsils. Anyway I see that she does not harp on the period of time the 'full reckoning of transgression' has to cover to reach whatever reconciliation she is talking about." A singing judge? "Tommo, look at the timing of her entry into the drama. This singing ex-judge, Pulli, begins her Tamilian hymns when the isolated Tigers were having near death experiences on a beach. She is more interested in the last stages of the war when hordes of Tamil ladies and gentlemen in far off lands sitting in front of room heaters are accusing our governors of things they imagine." "I thought this dame was an ex-war crimes judge! Hell, Tommo, aren't judges supposed to be impartial?" "Meoowwyep. (Yep) But as a Tamil born in South Africa she must have gone through that 'black' and 'white' period they called apartheid. You know the one old Mandela fought against tooth and nail?" "So, what are you getting at?" "That means that this madam Pulli has been weaned on South African 'white law.' So, some white supremacy jam. has rubbed on to her bread. It's no wonder she has got her law cockeyed and is trotting along with white buffoonery all the way. I really wonder what her performances were as a war crimes judge, Ooty. The poor beggars hauled before her courts must have got landed with sentences laced with white sauce." White sauce is bad for health "Sure! That stuff is bad for the health too. Judges, including ex-judges are also human and being human they are open to emotions. They also say, 'Frailty, thy name is woman.'" "What the hell is that? I have not heard that before." "I am surprised, Ooty. All males have experienced disasters owing to that female frailty thing inbuilt in women. Add that to Judge Pulli with blood connections to <u>Tamil Tigers</u> and the clout of UNHCR, her employer, what do you expect? An unbiased approach towards the stinking 'Chauvinist Sinhala Buddhist majority government' giving the stick to her Tamil brothers?" "Toot, toot. Pulli minus her legal cloak has chosen to ignore the past 30 years when her LTTE brothers ran amok like mad dogs. They murdered top Lankan leaders, blew away Rajiv and heaps of their own people, Tamils, who did not tow the LTTE line. They massacred 800 odd policemen who surrendered and mowed down samaneras. They were also on to child recruitment, drug trade, arms trade, taking kappan, and suicide bombings. They are certainly guilty of ethnic cleansing as they hacked to death hundreds of villagers and chased away thousands of Muslims from their homes in what the Tigers claim was their homeland. In the 'attainment of justice and reconciliation with full reckoning of transgressions,' the ex-judge has turned a blind eye that-a-way. Anyway how is she hoping to go into Tiger war crimes unless Prabha and his cronies are resurrected from the dead? But then, no self-respecting God will do that. In that knowledge, our judge who can't accept the knock-out punch her LTTE pals got is hoping to clobber the government with alleged war crimes. It's pure revenge, nothing else." Enter High-Noon without Gary Cooper "Where the hell was this singing ex-judge all those years? Where were UNHCR and the western baritones? I tell you, Ooty, the buggers were not sleeping. Their pet, the LTTE were on top. So why bother? Jitters time and butt-in time came when their Tiger pals were getting plastered by the armed forces. So, though these characters lost the recent vote at the Un-united house for a pow-wow over war crimes issues in Sri Lanka, the buggers are still insisting in having one. And besides Pulli and her beloved koti bappas and aunties, a Mr High-Noon, (no, he has no connection with the cowboys) CEO of Un-united Ltd., has also butted in to support Her Honour! The question is why are they going those extra miles?" "Thuhoot! It's simple, Tommo. In a day when a woman in a white Parliament has been found charging her husband's porn DVD rentals as government expenditure, it is nothing for Un-united types to be the beneficiaries of parties interested in an Eelam in Sri Lanka. Vested interests and big do-re-me, make strong bonds, Tommo." End could be dramatic "Meeooww. Thank God our lokkas have the stuff in them to tell these characters to go to hell. As for the crooning judge, the righteous Pulli, she has placed her head on an international chopping block." "Toot! With pissed off pro-Lankan fellows breathing down his collar, Mr High-Noon too will have to watch his back if he is to last his innings. Published by HT Syndication with permission from Daily Mirror Sri Lanka.

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NEW LTTE CROONER WEARS PETTICOATS

Load-Date: June 15, 2009



Hundreds dead on bloodiest day of Sri Lankan battle to destroy Tamil Tigers

Guardian.com

May 10, 2009 Sunday

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Length: 849 words

Body

ABSTRACT

Doctor says at least 378 people killed in latest assault by Sri Lankan military on

FULL TEXT

Hundreds of civilians are reported to have been killed when the Sri Lankan army launched a concerted assault on an area it had just designated as a safe zone.

A doctor working inside the so-called no-fire zone in the north of the country told the Guardian that at least 378 people had died and 1,212 were injured in a series of attacks last night, which included shelling from positions held by government forces.

That would make it the bloodiest day since the government launched its all-out campaign to destroy the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (*LTTE*) at the start of the year. he death toll is expected to rise because the figure released by the medical staff only includes bodies brought to the hospital. More bodies are understood to still be lying where they fell.

The assault started on the same day that the Sri Lankan government ordered the tens of thousands of civilians still trapped by the fighting to move into an area that is just two km long and 1.5km wide to enable it to flush out the remaining Tamil rebels.

The shrinking of the safe zone meant some families had to abandon the bunkers they had dug in the sand to find shelter in the new area designated by the government.

According to a UN source, most of the people who were killed were inside the new no-fire zone. The official said many were believed to have died in an air strike at about 5.30am today.

Medical staff working in makeshift facilities inside the zone said shells started falling on Saturday evening.

One doctor said shelling started at 5pm and continued through until 9am. It appeared that the shells were fired from government positions in Mullaitivu.

Hundreds dead on bloodiest day of Sri Lankan battle to destroy Tamil Tigers

He said the dead included a man who worked as a nurse at the hospital and seven members of his family, who were killed when a shell hit the bunker where they were sheltering.

"The shells were landing about 300m from the hospital," he said. "All the time, we have casualties coming in. We don't have time to think."

He said the dead were being buried in large pits, with 30 or 40 bodies in each pit.

He ended the telephone interview without giving his name, saying he had to deal with an eight-year-old boy had just been brought in requiring immediate surgery on his wounds.

Another doctor, V Shanmugarajah, told the Associated Press that 1,122 people had been wounded in the artillery barrage.

"We are doing the first aid and some surgeries as quickly as we can. We are doing what is possible. The situation is overwhelming; nothing is within our control," he said.

The pro-<u>LTTE TamilNet</u> website claimed about 2,000 people had died, while the government denied having anything to do with the shelling. It is impossible to verify any of the claims because independent journalists are barred from entering the area where the fighting is taking place.

The difficulties in reporting the situation in the north of the country were highlighted today by the <u>deportation of three</u> <u>members of a Channel 4 news team</u> who were arrested in Trincomalee, south of the no-fire zone, on Saturday.

The government had accused them of fabricating a report in which it was alleged that <u>women</u> were being subjected to sexual abuse in the internment camps set up to hold civilians fleeing the fighting.

Lakshman Hulugalle, the head of the government security information centre, said the journalists had admitted they had "done something wrong" and would not be allowed to return to the country. Nick Paton Walsh, the channel's Asian correspondent, said the government claims were "complete rubbish".

The number of people still trapped inside the no-fire zone is in dispute, with the government putting the figure at no more than 20,000, while a UN official said today that as many as 100,000 may still be trapped.

The Sri Lankan government has repeatedly denied using heavy weapons against civilians inside the zone. Last month, it said its forces would only use small arms in their pursuit of the *LTTE*.

However, reports from medical staff, supported by pictures and videos apparently showing explosions and large-scale casualties, have contradicted those claims. A report from Human Rights Watch yesterday accused the government of hitting hospitals with air and artillery attacks.

The government maintains that the attacks are the work of the <u>LTTE</u>, which it claims is firing on its own people to gain a propaganda advantage. It has accused the doctors of siding with the <u>LTTE</u>.

Brigadier Udaya Nanayakkara, the military spokesman, today denied there had been any firing in the no-fire zone. He said the military had been able to use its radar to detect firing from <u>LTTE</u> positions into the civilian areas and had intercepted radio conversations between <u>LTTE</u> cadres. "They said they were firing on the people to control them," he said.

He said nine civilians had been shot dead by the LTTE yesterday as they attempted to escape from the area.

The military reported heavy fighting as its troops continued to advance and claimed that large numbers of <u>LTTE</u> fighters had been killed.

http://www.tamilnet.com/

Load-Date: May 10, 2009



Girls aged 11 'fighting for Tamil Tigers'; Sri Lankan army claims retreating rebels are conscripting children

The Daily Telegraph (London)

May 4, 2009 Monday

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The Daily Telegraph

Section: NEWS; International; Pg. 14

Length: 472 words

Byline: Dean Nelson in Puthumatalan Lagoon

Body

CHILD soldiers including girls as young as 11 have been forced to fight on the front line by retreating Tamil Tiger rebels, senior Sri Lankan army officers have claimed.

Commanders described how they discovered that their enemy included a conscript army of children as they stood on the edge of the "no fire zone" where 50,000 civilians are believed to be trapped by the once-feared Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (*LTTE*) making their last stand.

As both sides in the conflict traded claims of war crimes, one army commander spoke of his regret that his men had shot and killed young girls.

Brigadier Priyantha, who commands an artillery division in the north, told The Daily Telegraph: "It's like looking at your own child. Quite large numbers [of the dead] are under 16.

"They grab them from their parents and if they try to pull them back they get shot. These children have the dog tags and cyanide capsules. The younger children [who are captured] go for a rehabilitation programme."

At Puthumatalan Lagoon, the edge of the no-fire zone, where thousands of civilians escaped heavy fighting last month, Major-General Jaggath Dias, General Officer Commanding of the 57th Division, said his men had been fighting with girls.

He said some of those captured by his men had had their hair cut short to shame them for trying to run away from the front line.

"Girls as young as 11 - our soldiers have seen them on the front line. It's very difficult to shoot a child. But it does not matter what age, you have to shoot," he said.

A soldier guarding an abandoned clinic at Mullaitivu, a few miles from the front line, said as many as seven out of 10 were below the age of 15 adding that in the past year an increasing number of <u>LTTE</u> fighters appeared to be young <u>women</u>.

Girls aged 11 'fighting for Tamil Tigers' Sri Lankan army claims retreating rebels are conscripting children

The Daily Telegraph managed to get to the front line, one of the first visits since the rebels were pinned into a five-square-mile area of land in the north of the island.

The speed of the *LTTE*'s collapse and the devastation caused by the fighting became clear when we were driven in a fleet of armoured personnel carriers from the army headquarters at Killinochchi.

We passed through about 40 miles of abandoned farmland in which we did not see a

single civilian. The army said the <u>LTTE</u> had taken all the people with them as they retreated.

The speed of their flight could be seen in what they had left behind. At Mullaitivu, the clinic's forecourt was littered with saline drips and bloodstained bandages. In front of one abandoned home a child's pedal car had been left on the road.

On Saturday, doctors claimed army shelling had killed 91 civilians in a field hospital inside the "no fire zone" and released video footage of the dead. The army has denied the claims and said it had not shelled the area since declaring it would not use heavy weapons on Monday last week.

Load-Date: May 4, 2009



Civilians keep fleeing, army tightens noose around LTTE

Hindustan Times

April 23, 2009 Thursday

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Length: 599 words

Dateline: Colombo

Body

Colombo, April. 23 -- Starving and wounded Tamil civilians Thursday continued to flee Sri Lanka's war zone, taking the total escapees in four days to over 103,000, with the last of the <u>Tamil Tigers</u> holed up in a small strip of land offering "dwindling but constant" resistance.

As the international community kept pressing for a halt in fighting, the foreign ministry said it believed that 15,000-20,000 Tamil civilians might be in the area still with the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (*LTTE*).

Diplomats and military officials said the fleeing men, <u>women</u> and children were being provided food and medical aid after being screened to weed out possible guerrilla infiltrators hiding in their midst.

Sri Lankan troops meanwhile kept up the pressure on the rebels, who are now left with barely 14 sq km of territory, an appalling fall from the times when their writ ran over vast areas in Sri Lanka's Tamil-majority northeastern province.

According to the military, over 103,000 civilians have fled since Monday morning and entered government-controlled areas despite desperate efforts by the <u>LTTE</u> to prevent them from leaving.

Some of the civilians complained to officials that Tiger gunmen opened fire when they tried to escape from the sea, wounding and killing people on the beachhead.

?The Tigers are now boxed in an area not more than 14 sq km," the defence ministry said. It said the army's 55 Division was approaching the last of the Tiger bases from the north and the 58 Division from the west, cutting off escape routes for the guerrillas.

There is no official word on the whereabouts of Velupillai Prabhakaran, who founded the group in 1976 and has led a violent campaign to carve out an independent Tamil state out of Sri Lanka's northeast.

On Wednesday, President Mahinda Rajapaksa vowed that Prabhakaran would have to face "consequences" for all his acts of violence the past 25 years and for rejecting his surrender call.

The defence ministry said the steadily advancing troops encountered ?dwindling but constant? resistance from the <u>LTTE</u>, which has been fighting to carve out a separate state for a bloody quarter century.

By Thursday morning, the number of people fleeing the war zone since the beginning of this year shot up to about 175,700. These include over 31,000 children and 28,000 *women*.

Civilians keep fleeing, army tightens noose around LTTE

The military said ?elaborate arrangements were underway? to accommodate the swelling numbers civilian refugees, whose plight has been described by some diplomats as appalling.

Many of them had been boxed in the <u>LTTE</u> area for about four months, unable to escape even as fighting escalated.

The government said that efforts were on to coordinate with the ministry of resettlement and rehabilitation, security forces and selected state and private sector agencies to provide emergency assistance to the civilians.

A ministry official said 700 acres had been earmarked to set up another relief village (welfare centre) to house the internally displaced people (IDP) in the northern town of Vavuniya. Many of the civilians have been hospitalised with a variety of ailments besides bullet and shell wounds.

Over 1,250 IDPs are at the Vavuniya hospital while nearly 1,000 are warded in a hospital in the adjoining district of Mannar. At least four other hospitals in Vavuniya and Mannar districts are also teeming with patients.

The Sri Lankan government has rejected international calls to halt fighting even temporarily, saying pressure should be mounted on the Tigers instead to make them free the civilians in their control. Published by HT Syndication with permission from Indo-Asian News Service.

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Load-Date: August 3, 2009



Guardian Weekly: International news: 'Only two women escaped. The other 75 blew themselves up': Cornered Tamil Tigers are ordered to commit suicide rather than surrender

Guardian Weekly
April 17, 2009 Friday

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*The*GuardianWeekly

Section: Pg. 3

Length: 842 words

Byline: Gethin Chamberlain, Observer

Body

By the time Arulmathy and her fellow <u>Tamil Tigers</u> realised they were surrounded, it was too late. They had fallen asleep and now Sri Lankan soldiers were swarming into their bunker. Arulmathy watched as 75 <u>women</u> she had fought beside for months reached for their hand grenades, pulled the pins and blew themselves to pieces, as they had been ordered to do.

But Arulmathy had had enough of the Tigers' war. She had no wish to die for a cause in which she no longer believed. As the grenades detonated, she ran for her life. In January, as the Sri Lankan army intensified its campaign against the dwindling rebel force, she surrendered.

Trapped inside a tiny coastal strip no larger than 20 sq km, the last fighters of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (*LTTE*) are almost out of time. Since the start of the year, the Sri Lankan military has stepped up its campaign. Outgunned, they have fallen back to an area designated a "no-fire zone", where civilians were told to gather to escape the fighting.

Alongside the fighters are tens of thousands of civilians, unwilling or unable to leave. The Sri Lankan government says they are being used as human shields, and independent humanitarian workers say there is no doubt that many who tried to escape have been shot by the Tigers. One UN worker described how a five-year-old boy was shot in the head.

With many of their leaders dead, some Tigers, like Arulmathy, have chosen to surrender. She was taken to what the Sri Lankan ministry of justice describes as a "rehabilitation centre", built on a hillside amid dense jungle outside the town of Ambepusse, an hour-and-a-half's drive from the capital, Colombo. Others among the 22 <u>female</u> inmates held behind barbed wire confirmed that they had received orders from the <u>LTTE</u> to use grenades to commit suicide rather than be taken alive. The instruction was simple: hold the grenade against your head or stomach and detonate it.

The <u>women</u> at Ambepusse must spend a year undergoing what Piyumanthi Peries, the assistant commissioner-general of rehabilitation, called "psycho-social rehabilitation" - a mix ture of psychiatry, therapy, medical treatment

Guardian Weekly: International news: 'Only two women escaped. The other 75 blew themselves up': Cornered Tamil Tigers are ordered to commit suicide rather than

and vocational training. The ministry of justice says the <u>women</u> are there for protection from <u>LTTE</u> reprisals and to be trained to find jobs. The <u>women</u> say they are well treated and have rejected the Tigers.

Arulmathy was 19 when she entered the <u>LTTE</u> training camp in 2003. She had signed up voluntarily, angered by a video she had watched. "It showed some fighting and cruel things done by the Sinhalese army, so I joined for the adventure," she says. "I joined for the Tamil nation." In 2006, she was injured by shrapnel. By the time her unit was surrounded the following year, she had resolved to get out.

Suba, 26, willingly volunteered in 2002. "The <u>LTTE</u> said we must fight for freedom for the area." Suba fought in two major operations. "It was very cruel, a very big jungle with no food or water. We had to walk long distances and it was very painful."

She was with 40 other young <u>women</u> when they ran into a stronger army force. "They surrounded us and we could not escape, so we fought them," she says. "Most of the girls were killed and three or four of us escaped, but the others committed suicide by grenade . . . But I didn't want to kill myself."

What appears to have turned some supporters against the Tigers was a decision in 2007 to start conscripting fighters to fill their depleted ranks. Niraiesai, 26, had just finished teacher training when the Tigers turned up at her home in 2007. Every family had to send one member to fight, they were told. "Many people didn't like it, but they compelled us so we had to join."

She taught at an orphanage before being transferred to a battalion as a computer operator, but, as the war intensified in August last year she was sent to the front. "The first time I had to fight, I was frightened. We came up on them hiding behind some trees and we shot at them, but no one was killed. I prayed to god that I didn't kill anyone. I closed my eyes and fired my gun."

In November she and the six other <u>women</u> in her unit were surrounded. "We couldn't escape. Two of the girls went outside to get help and the army shot them and they were killed. After that, there were five of us in the bunker. I thought that day I would be killed. At first we fought, but we ran out of rounds and so we surrendered." But 18-year-old Nallisai and Mathuvanthy, 22, stayed behind. "They removed the clips from their hand grenades and put them on their stomachs and committed suicide. We begged them not to, but they were afraid of what the army would do to them."

Niraiesai was held in a military camp for two months, then sent to Ambepusse. She says the Tigers stole her youth. "For 25 years, we were ruled by the <u>LTTE</u> and we believed them. But after 2007 people hated them because they compelled the children to fight. We were brainwashed that the Sinhalese were bad and we believed them," she says. "But now I think we can live together."

Names have been changed

Leader comment, page 22

Load-Date: April 20, 2009



UN and Obama in sync against LTTE terror

Daily News (Sri Lanka) May 16, 2009 Saturday

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Length: 1907 words

Dateline: Colombo

Body

Colombo, May 16 -- Last Thursday could be considered the apogee of the strategy worked out by the pro-<u>LTTE</u> pressure and lobby groups in their efforts to throw a life line to Velupillai Prabhakaran and his coterie of terror gasping for humanitarian relief in the final days of their record of inhuman brutality that has little comparison in today's world.

It was when the Head of the most powerful, country of earth, and the presumed and often self-proclaimed leader of the democratic world spoke of the Sri Lankan crisis, and so did the United Nations Security Council considered the most powerful and influential international body, that better represents the community than most other claimants to that exalted position. But the results of all their lobbying, whether diplomatic, political or both and in many cases both in cash and kind, did not produce the desired result. As much as President Barack Obama thought it time to "talk about something that, with all the big issues going on, hasn't received much attention" but thinks it worth talking about - obviously being far down the line from bank bailouts, toxic assets and saving the US auto industry he did not become a mouthpiece for Tamil Tiger and American Tamil propaganda of an impending holocaust in Sri Lanka. He was concerned about what could turn into a humanitarian catastrophe, a much bandied about phrase about Sri Lanka today, which appears to thinning out in its anticipated impact as the ground realities in Sri Lanka keep emerging. President Obama What President Obama said could not be honey in the ears of the pro-LTTE pressure groups, although there were attempts to make it seem as such by sections of the international media that have also become cat's paws of pro-LTTE pressure. Very early in his statement President Obama had a very strong message to the LTTE. Putting the "lives of men, women and children who are innocently caught up in the crossfire" first he urged "the Tamil Tigers to lay down their arms and let civilians go. Their forced recruitment of civilians as human shields is deplorable. These tactics will only serve to alienate all those who carry them out". Laying down their arms and surrendering unconditionally is what the Sri Lanka Government has been asking the LTTE to do for a very long time, even before their current debacle that began with the fall of strongholds such as Pooneryn and Kilinochchi. Therefore, it is interesting that President Obama too echoes these same thoughts. As for much of his other comments on Sri Lanka, they are in sync with what has been oft repeated about humanitarian conditions in the treatment of those who have escaped the terror of the LTTE, correctly identified as such by the US President, and now acknowledged by many unbiased and non-subjective observers, including politicians and journalists, who have visited the places of their temporary settlement in the Vanni. A people's response There have been many journalists asking for an official response from the GoSL to the Obama statement which correctly did not swallow that bait. Instead the best response came from the Tamil people themselves; the people who President Obama was so concerned about. By the end of the day, on Wednesday, there were nearly 3,000 Tamil civilians who had, under the most trying conditions fled the LTTE held area to come to the safety and assured peaceful future in the Government held areas of the Vanni. Reports say that by Wednesday night there were at least 6,000 more waiting to move from terror to humane care, and still more will follow in the next few days. There is no better

response to the leader of the land that showed contemptible lack of concern for humanitarian care to its own minority communities, largely black American, during Hurricane Katrina, and many of whom have still not been properly resettled. Admittedly, the humanitarian catastrophe of Katrina did not take place under the current Obama Watch. Amidst all this emerging relief, born of hope for better days ahead, there is the need to recognize and salute the resilience and determination of the Tamil people in facing up to the terrorism of the *LTTE*. They are unlike those who have abandoned their motherland, many for good reasons though, and migrated through various means to other countries; and while enjoying all the creature comforts of the West, pretend to shed tears for the plight of their brethren trapped by the forces of terror in their traditional areas of livelihood. Instead they have remained at home, and faced all the suffering imposed on them by their supposed liberators, have been the victims of shortages of essentials time and again, due to the crises caused by war, have been denied the food and medicines sent to them by a caring Government, which have been systematically hijacked by the LTTE. They have paid exorbitant rates of extortion disguised as 'taxes' imposed by their direct oppressors - the LTTE, they have had their children forcibly used as soldiers, and finally have been herded from one location to another, 23 in all in the past few months, living under the most difficult conditions and caught in the crossfire of the final moves to liberate them. They have lived in trenches, sheltered themselves in makeshift bunkers - and still kept their faith in the possibility of the final escape to freedom from terror. They huddled their children, trekked in the sun and scorching heat, waded across a lagoon or fled in boats, often meeting and facing the death threats of their so-called liberators, until they reached freedom in the arms of Sri Lankan troops. Propaganda As much as the troops, that have spearheaded the efforts to liberate them, in the face of much international criticism manoeuvred by other Tamil speakers engaged in a frenzied circus of propaganda and pressure politics abroad, these people too deserve full recognition of heroes in the huge humanitarian operation that this military exercise has turned out to be. Security Council No doubt here was much lobbying, not only in New York, where the UN is located, but in many other capitals to have the Sri Lankan issue, and the related humanitarian catastrophe often referred to, taken up, hopefully with strictures on Sri Lanka, by the Security Council of the United Nations. On several occasions the UNSC made it clear that it saw no reason to have any such discussion, after careful assessment of what its special envoys, especially Sir John Holmes had reported back to the Secretary General and the Security Council on what he had observed here. The latest snub was that given to the British Foreign Secretary David Milliband, French Foreign Minister Bernard Kouchner and their Austrian counterpart, who also sought to have it raised formally in the UNSC, no doubt with support from Hillary Clinton and the US State Department. Demonstrations But last week when the UNSC did meet and did take up Sri Lanka for discussion, it was not something to warm the hearts of all those campaigners, and obstructing road-blocking demonstrators from London, to New York to Toronto, and stone throwing mobs in Western capitals targeting the embassies of countries that are pro-Sri Lankan and decidedly anti-terror. The issue of Sri Lanka, when taken up by the UN Security Council last Tuesday, as not in the form of a formal resolution to condemn the country, or issue any warnings of possible sanctions and similar action. It was taken up under Any Other Business, and the discussion was informal. The result was not a binding resolution on the matter; it was also not a statement by the President of the Council, which has some weight in diplomatic parlance. The results of that informal discussion came in the form of a Press Statement, known as the lowest and absolutely non-binding form of statements by the UNSC. Sri Lanka has every reason to be pleased with this outcome, the UNSC reiterated the clear obligation of the world body visavis the rights of sovereign countries in dealing with terrorism, as well as clearly stated that Sri Lanka has all these rights in dealing with the terror of the LTTE. The first three paragraphs of the Press Statement are very clear and emphatic on this issue. "The members of the Security Council express grave concern over the worsening humanitarian crisis in the North-East of Sri Lanka, in particular the report of hundreds of civilian casualties in recent days, and all call for urgent action by all parties to ensure the safety of civilians. Human shields "The members of the Security Council strongly condemn the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) for its acts of terrorism over many years, and for its continued use of civilians as human shields, and acknowledge the legitimate right of the Government of Sri Lanka to combat terrorism. "The members of the Security Council demand that the LTTE lay down its arms and allow the tens of thousands of civilians still in the conflict zone to leave". This was followed by now familiar concerns about then humanitarian situation, under conditions where it has been grossly overblown by sections of the media, with the assistance, deliberate or not, of certain officers of the United Nations Office in Colombo, and also its offices in Geneva. The Security Council in its recognition of the Sri Lankan Government's right to combat terrorism on its own terrain, has in effect told many other interfering forces that they had better mind the problems that are emerging in their own backyards, with their support for the *LTTE*'s terrorism here, under the guise of concern from the plight of the Tamil civilians, held hostage by the *Tamil Tigers* and not by the Sri Lanka

UN and Obama in sync against LTTE terror

Government. Thanks in vain B. Nadesan, the leader of the *LTTE*'s political wing, or whatever is left of it, has rushed to thank President Obama for his intervention on Sri Lanka, but was silent on what it would do with his call for the LTTE to disarm and let the civilians it holds go. He has also faulted the UN Security Council for not taking urgent action against Sri Lanka. There is no doubt that the pro-LTTE pressure groups, who pretend to be a Tamil Diaspora, will try to get the best spin out of the Obama statement, while they can have little benefit from the UNSC Press Statement. Yet the fact is that both from Washington and New York, the messages have been very clear. Both President Obama and the UN Security Council are agreed on the need for the LTTE to disarm and to allow the civilians it still holds to leave to safety and peace. Whether the LTTE likes it or not, this is exactly what the Tamil people held hostage are doing just now - leaving the LTTE's hold in their thousands for the safety and sanctuary in areas held by the legitimate Government of Sri Lanka, from an area held by force of arms and terror. Whether such a massive flight to freedom comprises a massive humanitarian catastrophe is a matter that will be discussed in days to come. But whatever the Tamil civilians show the world by their resolute commitment to freedom in Sri Lanka, the spin against Sri Lanka, made up of dastardly lies will continue. And it looks like Hillary Clinton has already begun the act for the LTTE or its pressure groups by stating that the current conditions - yeah, a whole people's flight to freedom does not justify an IMF facility to Sri Lanka, just now. There's more to follow on this watch. Published by HT Syndication with permission from Daily News Sri Lanka.

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Load-Date: May 16, 2009



Routed Tamil Tigers' new leader arrested; First war refugees sent home

The Age (Melbourne, Australia)

August 8, 2009 Saturday

Second Edition

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Section: NEWS; International News; Pg. 14

Length: 631 words

Byline: MATT WADE, SOUTH ASIA CORRESPONDENT with AFP

Body

THE new head of the <u>Tamil Tigers</u>, Kumaran Pathmanathan, was being interrogated in Sri Lanka last night after being arrested in a South-East Asian country and flown to Colombo.

The arrest is a fresh blow to the separatist group, which was routed on the battlefield after more than two decades of armed struggle in pursuit of a homeland for Sri Lankan Tamils.

Pathmanathan's detention comes less than a month after he was named the new leader of the <u>Tamil Tigers</u>. The group's founder, Velupillai Prabhakaran, was killed in northern Sri Lanka in May during a final battle of the civil war that is estimated to have claimed more than 100,000 lives.

There was confusion last night over where Pathmanathan, also known as KP and Selvarasa Pathmanathan, had been detained. Initial reports said he had been apprehended in Thailand, but authorities in Bangkok denied this.

The <u>Tamil Tigers</u> issued a statement saying that Pathmanathan had been arrested in Kuala Lumpur on Wednesday, but Malaysian authorities reportedly deny he was captured in their country.

A satellite phone found on Prabhakaran's body was used to help track down the new <u>Tamil Tigers</u> leader, who had dodged authorities for decades, Reuters reported.

Pathmanathan was wanted by Interpol for allegedly smuggling arms. He is accused of running the <u>Tamil Tigers'</u> multimillion-dollar arms and smuggling operations for many years. A statement released by the Sri Lankan military said Pathmanathan "is known to be responsible for cross-border terrorist activities of Liberation Tiger of the Tamil Eelam".

Sri Lanka's Foreign Secretary, Dr Palitha Kohona, told The Age last night that Pathmanathan would be tried in Sri Lanka.

"There were two Interpol red notices out for him," he said. "He's a wanted criminal and now he will have to face a court of law."

In announcing that Pathmanathan would assume leadership last month, the <u>Tamil Tigers</u> said the struggle to create a homeland for Sri Lanka's Tamil minority would continue but that the group would "modify the form and strategies of our struggle according to times and demands".

Routed Tamil Tigers' new leader arrested First war refugees sent home

Since Prabhakaran's death there have been unconfirmed reports of division among Tamil Tiger leaders living outside Sri Lanka and it was not clear if the large Tamil diaspora in countries such as Australia, Canada, Britain and the US would support 54-year-old Pathmanathan.

Earlier this month, the <u>Tamil Tigers</u>' legal adviser, Visuvanathan Rudrakumaran, told India's Tehelka magazine that the organisation was setting up a provisional transnational government of Tamil Eelam.

"Even though the Government of Sri Lanka has brutally crushed the armed struggle, they cannot quell the Tamils' thirst for dignity, equality and freedom," he said. Mr Rudrakumaran said this new body would seek the support of the Sri Lankan Tamil diaspora.

"What we are trying to establish is not a government in exile," he said. "We envisage a transnational government that does not require a host state. This government will be elected by the Tamil diaspora."

Earlier, it was announced that Sri Lanka had allowed 1100 people displaced during the recently ended ethnic conflict with the *Tamil Tigers* to return home, in the first phase of an ambitious relocation plan.

At a colourful ceremony, senior presidential adviser Basil Rajapakse presented gift packs of food to the group and pledged to resettle more people in the coming weeks.

Men, <u>women</u> and children, clutching their few belongings, boarded buses to return to Jaffna, Batticaloa, Trincomalee and Ampara. They had been housed in state-run camps in the northern district of Vavuniya.

The Government plans to resettle by the end of the year at least 80 per cent of the 300,000 displaced people. Tens of thousands of those who fled the war zone are housed in tightly guarded camps. -- With AFP

Load-Date: August 9, 2009



Sri Lanka vows to capture Prabhakaran, dead or live (Second Lead)

Hindustan Times

April 30, 2009 Thursday

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Length: 616 words

Dateline: Colombo

Body

Colombo, April. 30 -- Sri Lanka has vowed to capture cornered <u>Tamil Tigers</u> chief Velupillai Prabhakaran "dead or alive" even as it turned downappeals for a ceasefire from Britain and France.

The military establishment, which is determined to crush the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (*LTTE*), has also rejected calls that aid workers be given access to the war zone in the northeastern coast of Mullaitivu.

Thursday's Island newspaper quoted Defence Secretary Gotabhaya Rajapaksa as making these remarks during interactions with British Foreign Secretary David Miliband and French Foreign Minister Bernard Kouchner Wednesday.

Thousands of Tamils in the West, particularly in Canada and Britain, have been noisily protesting for days demanding that the international community put pressure on Sri Lanka to end its military campaign targeted at the *LTTE* because of widespread civilian casualties.

Although Colombo said this week that it will stop using heavy calibre weapons and aerial attacks to avoid civilian suffering, Rajapaksa has told Miliband that the government was determined to finish off the **LTTE**.

The comments came as the military continued to push ahead towards the final remaining base of the <u>LTTE</u>, which faces decimation after more than a quarter century of leading an armed campaign to form a Tamil state.

Rajapaksa, a younger brother of President Mahinda Rajapaksa, said the humanitarian concerns voiced by many were a ploy to extricate <u>LTTE</u> founder leader Velupillai Prabhakaran from an isolated sandy strip on the coast of Sri Lanka's northeast.

A truce, Rajapaksa told the visitors Wednesday, would only help the *Tamil Tigers* to regroup.

"The only person who can stop this war is the president of Sri Lanka. The military had orders to either capture or destroy Prabhakaran and other top <u>LTTE</u> leaders," The Island quoted Rajapaksa as telling Miliband.

The defence secretary added that over 200,000 people had been rescued by the army from the *LTTE* since March.

"On April 20 alone we secured the release of over 45,000 men, <u>women</u> and children," he said, vowing to rescue the remaining civilians too within a short time.

Rejecting reports that civilians were harmed due to firing by the army, he urged Miliband not to be duped by the **LTTE** "disinformation campaign".

Sri Lanka vows to capture Prabhakaran, dead or live (Second Lead)

"All the stories disseminated from the no fire zone were doctored by the <u>LTTE</u> for the consumption of the international community and the Western media. Do you think a terrorist group like the <u>LTTE</u> will allow anyone to express independent views detrimental to its cause?" he asked.

Separately meeting the French minister, Rajapaksa said the UN would not be given access to the <u>LTTE</u> zone despite civilian presence.

"The defence secretary said no one was safe in that area and the government could not guarantee anyone's safety," the newspaper reported.

The <u>LTTE</u> and many human rights organisations say that the military offensive have killed and injured a large number of Tamil civilians. The authorities here deny this.

Colombo -- and many rights activists -- has in turn accused the <u>LTTE</u> of forcibly keeping back the civilians in its truncated territory with a view to prevent a final military assault.

LTTE's critics say it is using the civilians as a human shield.

Meanwhile, Japan has decided to send its special envoy to Sri Lanka, Yasushi Akashi, to the island nation. His three-day visit will end May 2.

"Akashi will meet government officials to call for ensuring the safety and security, including smooth provision of relief assistance, to internally displaced persons in the northern part of Sri Lanka," a statement from the Japanese embassy said Thursday. Published by HT Syndication with permission from Indo-Asian News Service.

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Load-Date: August 4, 2009



Herald Sun (Australia)
October 28, 2009 Wednesday
1 - FIRST Edition

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Section: ED; Pg. 30 Length: 1417 words

Byline: ANDREW BOLT

Body

The PM flayed Wilson Tuckey merely as a diversion. By doing so, he shifted debate away from whether there are *Tamil Tigers* among the boat people

KEVIN Rudd is either a fool or a fraud when he claims he's "disgusted" by Opposition warnings that a few boat people may be terrorists.

If the Prime Minister is not worried, too, by this renewed threat, especially on boats from Sri Lanka, he is disgracefully blind to danger.

But I suspect he's merely conning you, as he does so often.

Just check his recent record. First he falsely claimed that his weakening of our laws against boat people had nothing to do with the twelvefold explosion this year in arrivals.

As I showed last week, even asylum seekers have said Rudd's changes lured them once more to the boats.

Next his Government falsely claimed there was "no evidence" 25 boat people had died this year in trying to get here.

As I proved last week, the known death toll so far is at least 42.

Then last Tuesday Rudd had his ministers falsely claim that the real reason he was now paying Indonesia to lock up 78 Sri Lankans we'd rescued at sea two days earlier was that ``we had a young girl on board who was unwell" and this was a ``humanitarian result".

But yesterday, a full week after this ``humanitarian" deal to save Rudd's hide, all 78 Sri Lankans were still stuck on an Australian ship, waiting for permission to land in Indonesia.

Yet even this hand-washing, overlooking of corpses or hiding behind a sick girl couldn't match what followed.

Desperate to again distract the easily distracted media from his bungling of our border protection, Rudd last week leapt on these comments by Liberal backbencher Wilson Tuckey:

"There could be the occasional terrorist in a boatload of people. If you wanted to get into Australia and you have bad intentions, what do you do? You insert yourself in a crowd of 100 for which there is great sympathy for the other 99. You go on a system where nobody brings their papers, you have no identity, you have no address."

And here's how Rudd exploited them:

"I think these are deeply divisive, disgusting remarks and they do not belong in any mainstream political party. (Opposition Leader Malcolm) Turnbull should show some leadership and withdraw his support for Mr Tuckey's preselection as a Liberal candidate for the next election."

Rudd's stunt worked. You've since seen the media having a picnic on Tuckey's flayed hide. Yet Tuckey had told no more than the truth -- and the least of it.

By now you may be protesting. Fancy me calling Rudd deceitful and a fraud. Steady, soldier.

All right, then. I'll now let the facts just speak for themselves. You judge.

First, note that a Labor backbencher, Michael Danby, made Tuckey's point last June without horrifying Rudd:

"Any loophole in our law can be exploited by criminal elements who may want to evade or subvert our border protection system. They include identity thieves, people smugglers, potential terrorists, drug runners and those who traffic in illegal sex workers."

In fact, Britain has evidence that this threat is real, says The Times:

"A Home Office analysis of those arrested under anti-terrorism laws from 2001 to 2005 found that almost a quarter, 24 per cent, or 232 out of 963 had previously applied for asylum."

Could the same phenomenon be true here? Well, here's what a boat person waiting in Indonesia told an Australian journalist last month:

"He says he knows of two Iraqi brothers who came through Indonesia and are now in Australia after going through the 90-day process on Christmas Island. The man claims the brothers are former members of the Shia Mahdi Army and had talked about -- proudly, according to this source -- the kidnapping of Sunni Muslims in Baghdad and taking them to Sadr City to be tortured."

As for terrorists on boats from Sri Lanka, here's the news that broke in Canada the day after Rudd damned Tuckey for raising this very possibility:

"One of the 76 migrants who arrived off the British Columbia coast in a cargo ship last weekend is wanted in Sri Lanka for terrorism . . . the man is suspected of involvement with the *Tamil Tigers*."

The <u>Tamil Tigers</u>? Here's what the FBI said last year about this ethnic Tamil terrorist group in Sri Lanka that's been banned in 32 countries:

"(The Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam has) perfected the use of suicide bombers, invented the suicide belt, pioneered the use of <u>women</u> in suicide attacks, murdered some 4000 people in the past two years alone, and assassinated two world leaders -- the only terrorist organisation to do so."

More from Jane's Information Group:

"The international security and terrorist community generally assesses the <u>LTTE</u> as one of the world's most effective terrorist organisations."

That was two years ago. In May, the <u>Tamil Tigers</u> lost their last stronghold when they were finally defeated by the Sri Lankan army after a civil war that cost about 80,000 lives.

So where have all their fighters gone? Some fled in ships like the very one the Government asked the Indonesian navy to intercept three weeks ago, reports Sri Lanka's Sunday Island:

"Sri Lanka yesterday said that hardcore <u>LTTE</u> cadres and their families could be among a boat load of Lankans, now held by the Indonesian Government, after being arrested by the Indonesian navy on October 11."

Sri Lanka's High Commissioner to Australia, Senaka Walgampaya, says we could be holding *Tamil Tigers* already:

"We have reason to believe that the Tigers' ex-combatants have arrived in Australia on these boats. We don't have the exact figures but we have reason to believe probably large numbers have come in -- maybe 50, maybe 100 . . ."

Media reports suggest he may be right:

"Senior government sources have told The Weekend Australian that a number of the Tamils detained on Christmas Island are suspected of being former fighters, citing the presence of shrapnel wounds as possible indicators of Tiger membership."

Some boats used to bring them could even be from the former Tamil Tiger navy, says Singapore-based terrorism expert Prof Rohan Gunaratna:

"They're mostly operating out of Indonesia, and . . . 5 per cent of the time the ships will be used to smuggle weapons and people."

The same fears are now held by Canada, reports the Globe and Mail:

"Canadian authorities, who preside over the largest Tamil population centre outside of Sri Lanka, are seeking intelligence about human trafficking operations amid growing concerns that vanquished Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam operatives are using their entrenched smuggling networks to escape from Sri Lanka."

Terrorism expert Tom Quiggin, formerly with the International War Crimes Tribunal, is not surprised:

"The <u>LTTE</u>, which deserves its description as a terrorist group, will no doubt be looking to move many of its senior leaders and fighters into well-known safe havens such as Canada."

EVEN our own Tamil community expects the boats to bring *Tamil Tigers* here, says the ABC:

"Dr Victor Rajakulendran, secretary of the Australasian Federation of Tamil Associations, says . . . it stands to reason there will be some former guerillas among those seeking asylum."

And a long-time member of our Refugee Review Tribunal tells me:

"In recent years Tamils (and young men in particular) were almost certain to qualify for refugee status.

If they stayed in Tamil areas they would be subject to the fear of forced conscription by the <u>LTTE</u>... If they moved to Sinhalese areas then they would be at huge risk of the regular and arbitrary raids by the Government, the army or other agents that would arrest them or detain them as `<u>LTTE</u> sympathisers/collaborators'...

But since the fall of the <u>LTTE</u>, these people are under no threat at all from the <u>LTTE</u>. Equally, the (Sri Lankan) Government no longer has any real desire to round up ordinary Tamils . . .

The Government will however be very keen to eradicate any remnants of the *LTTE* still at large.

So the only Tamils at real risk of persecution in Sri Lanka today are bona fide, real <u>LTTE</u> operatives or collaborators. That is, those who were members or active supporters of one of the worst terrorist groups."

I agree that only a few <u>Tamil Tigers</u> may be among the boat people, and even they have no fight with Australia -- although we've already seen violence here between Tamils and Sinhalese.

But did Wilson Tuckey truly say something so disgusting that no political party should own him?

Or did Rudd smear him for saying no more than an inconvenient truth -- one the Prime Minister seeks to hide?

Load-Date: October 27, 2009



Arrest of Tamil Tigers chief a blow for guerillas; New leader captured in Malaysia

The Age (Melbourne, Australia)

August 8, 2009 Saturday

First Edition

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Section: NEWS; International News; Pg. 14

Length: 614 words

Byline: MATT WADE, SOUTH ASIA CORRESPONDENT, With AFP

Body

THE new head of the <u>Tamil Tigers</u>, Kumaran Pathmanathan, was being interrogated in Sri Lanka last night after being arrested outside the country and flown to Colombo, Sri Lankan authorities said.

The arrest is a fresh blow to the separatist group that was routed on the battlefield in May after more than two decades of armed struggle. Pathmanathan's detention comes a little over a fortnight after he was announced as the group's new leader. The <u>Tamil Tigers</u>' founder, Velupillai Prabhakaran, was killed in northern Sri Lanka in May during the final days of the group's armed insurgency in pursuit of a separate Tamil homeland.

There was confusion last night over where Pathmanathan, also known as KP and Selvarasa Pathmanathan, was detained.

Initial reports said he had been apprehended in Thailand, but Thai authorities deny this.

The Associated Press reported the <u>Tamil Tigers</u> yesterday acknowledged their new leader had been arrested in Malaysia and handed over to the Sri Lankan military.

Pathmanathan was wanted by Interpol for allegedly smuggling arms. A statement released by the Sri Lankan military said Pathmanathan was "known to be responsible for cross-border terrorist activities of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam".

Sri Lanka's Foreign Secretary, Palitha Kohona, said last night Pathmanathan would be tried in Sri Lanka.

"There were two Interpol red notices out for him," he said. "He's a wanted criminal and now he will have to face a court of law."

Last month the <u>Tamil Tigers</u> announced Pathmanathan had become the group's new leader. The statement said the struggle to create a homeland for Sri Lanka's Tamil minority in Sri Lanka would continue but the group would "modify" its strategies "according to times and demands".

Since Prabharkaran's death there have been unconfirmed reports of division among Tamil Tiger leaders based outside Sri Lanka and it was not clear if the large Tamil diaspora living in countries such as Australia, Canada, Britain and the US would back Pathmanathan.

Arrest of Tamil Tigers chief a blow for guerillas New leader captured in Malaysia

Earlier this month the <u>Tamil Tigers</u>' legal adviser, Visuvanathan Rudrakumaran, told India's Tehelka magazine the organisation was setting up a provisional Transnational Government of Tamil Eelam.

"Even though the Government of Sri Lanka has brutally crushed the armed struggle, they cannot quell the Tamils' thirst for dignity, equality and freedom," he said.

Mr Rudrakumaran said this new body would seek the support of the Sri Lankan Tamil diaspora.

"What we are trying to establish is not a government in exile," he said. "We envisage a transnational government that does not require a host state. This government will be elected by the Tamil diaspora."

Earlier, it was announced that Sri Lanka had allowed 1100 people displaced during the recently ended ethnic conflict with the *Tamil Tigers* to return home, in the first phase of an ambitious relocation plan.

At a colourful ceremony, senior presidential adviser Basil Rajapakse presented gift packs of food to the group and pledged to resettle more people in the coming weeks.

Men, <u>women</u> and children, clutching their few belongings in canvas bags, boarded buses to return to Jaffna, Batticaloa, Trincomalee and Ampara.

They had been housed in state-run camps in the northern district of Vavuniya.

Wednesday's batch of relocations was the first in the Government's efforts to resettle by the end of the year at least 80 per cent of the 300,000 displaced people.

Tens of thousands of those who fled the war zone are housed in tightly guarded camps to which international observers and aid agencies have not been given free access.

The UN and Western governments have urged Sri Lanka to allow people to return to their homes quickly. -- With AFP

Load-Date: August 7, 2009



TAMIL TIGERS: A HISTORY

The Toronto Star May 12, 2009 Tuesday

Copyright 2009 Toronto Star Newspapers, Ltd.

Section: NEWS; Pg. A06

Length: 244 words

Byline: Olivia Ward, Toronto Star

Body

Official name: The Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam.

What they want: An independent homeland in northern and eastern Sri Lanka.

Created: Around 1975.

Why?: The Sinhalese majority in Sri Lanka believed former ruling colonial power, Britain, favoured the Tamils unfairly. On independence in 1948, Sinhalese was made the official language, and Tamils were targets of riots. The Tigers were the strongest of several groups formed to defend them.

Membership: Until recently, 5,000 to 15,000 armed members. Many have been killed, or fled over the past two years.

Leader: Velupillai Prabhakaran, 55. Like other members, he reportedly wears a cyanide capsule around his neck in case of capture.

Claim to fame: Inventing suicide bombing. Their "Black Tigers" unit has carried out more than 200 bombings of public buildings and Buddhist temples. They are also prime suspects in assassination of high profile politicians. **Women** as well as men train for attacks.

Child soldiers: Human rights groups say the Tigers have kidnapped and forcibly recruited thousands of children, some as young as 11.

Funding: Reportedly, more than \$200 million a year, much of it from Tamil expat communities. According to Human Rights Watch, Canadian Tamils have been subject to threats and extortion.

Are they terrorists?: Canada and 31 other countries including the U.S. and Australia, have banned them as has the European Union.

Influence: Reports claim a presence in more than 50 countries.

Olivia Ward

Load-Date: May 12, 2009



<u>It is impossible for Prabhakaran to flee now: Military (Lead, Changing dateline)</u>

Hindustan Times
April 24, 2009 Friday

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Length: 685 words

Dateline: Puthumathalan (Mullaitivu)

Body

Puthumathalan (Mullaitivu), April. 24 -- Sri Lanka's military strongly believes that <u>Tamil Tigers</u> leader Velupillai Prabhakaran is still holed up in a small coastal strip in the north and has said it is impossible for him to flee the country now.

"I feel Prabhakaran is inside the 10-square-kilometre no-fire-zone holding civilians as human shield. This area is fast shrinking with our troops advancing steadily towards it from various directions and it is almost impossible for him to flee the area now," the army's elite 58 Division Commander Brigadier Shavendra Silva said in Kilinochchi Friday.

"Prabhakaran is not the type of man who lives on the surface when there is a military operation. I am sure he will be living underground," Brig Silva told reporters in a building that was earlier the political headquarters of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (*LTTE*) and is now the operational hub of the 58 Division.

Quoting the confession of a Tiger leader who surrendered two days ago, Brig Silva said that some of the key leaders of the *Tamil Tigers* were also with the elusive Prabhakaran in Mullaitivu district.

He said Daya Master, a former media <u>LTTE</u> spokesman, had told military officers that Prabhakaran, 54, had personally told his fighters that he will be with them "till the last moment".

According to Daya Master, key <u>LTTE</u> leaders who were giving the rebel chief company included Soosai, who heads the now battered Sea Tigers, the intelligence unit leader Pottu Amman and military strategist Bhanu.

Brig Silva said an estimated 106,000 Tamil civilians - men, <u>women</u> and children - had so far fled the <u>LTTE</u> zone and taken shelter in military-held areas.

He said he did not know how many more civilians were still with the Tigers.

Some of the fleeing civilians told reporters flown here from Colombo that the <u>LTTE</u> on many occasions have shot at civilians aiming to prevent them from leaving the areas controlled by them.

"The situation in the <u>LTTE</u>-held areas is getting worse. They warn us, beat us and shoot at us for not to come to the army-controlled areas. My small family of three has gone through hell there for the past two month," said a middle-aged father who had just crossed to the government-held areas with his wife and four-year-old son.

It is impossible for Prabhakaran to flee now: Military (Lead, Changing dateline)

"Prices of commodities are skyrocketing in the <u>LTTE</u>-held areas. Now that we have come to the government-held areas, we can be sure of our lives and future," a 60-year-old woman said while receiving a biscuit packet from the army.

Brig Silva said those who enter the government-held areas were fully screened, obviously for security reasons, before being sent to the welfare centres and refugee camps in the north.

He said his troops had already captured six kilometres of the no-fire-zone, and added that high concentration of civilians in the remaining NFZ was bound to slow down the future military advance.

The military advancement until now had been rapid throughout Sri Lanka's north, dealing solid blows to the insurgent group that many had thought could never be vanquished.

"Our main aim of this operation is to free civilians from the clutches of the **LTTE**. We want to rescue them unharmed as we have been doing thus far," he said.

According to the military, the <u>LTTE</u> was still putting up resistance, firing away 122 mm artillery.

"The <u>LTTE</u> is firing but we are not retaliating because of fears that we will hit the civilians. We are using only small arms and carrying out targeted attacks. We don't mind spending more time to recapture the entire area," said Brig Silva.

"At least 15 soldiers were killed and about 75 injured during the past four or five days due to LTTE artillery fire.

"The military operation will end when we fully rescue the remaining civilians from the <u>LTTE</u>. And that will be the end of the **LTTE**," Brig. Silva said.

Prabhakaran, who has led the violent Tamil separatist campaign since founding the <u>LTTE</u> in 1976, has in the past vowed never to be taken alive.

Like all <u>LTTE</u> fighters, he is known to wear a cyanide vial around his neck, to be bitten to avoid capture. Published by HT Syndication with permission from Indo-Asian News Service.

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Load-Date: August 3, 2009



No Suicide-Bomber Amongst Surrendered Rebels: S.L. Army

RTT News (United States)
May 28, 2009 Thursday

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Length: 263 words

Body

(RTTNews) - The Sri Lankan army says it has not found any suicide-bombers among the over 9000 <u>LTTE</u> combatants who had surrendered in the just-concluded conflict with the <u>Tamil Tigers</u> amid apprehensions that the relief camps for the displaced civilians may be targeted, reports say.

"We could not find any Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (*LTTE*) suicide-bombers among the 9100 Tamil Tiger cadres who confessed to their involvement in the offensive," a top army commander said in Vavuniya.

Sri Lankan Army chief Sarath Fonseka has said his forces are now on the lookout for the large number of suicide-bombers that the <u>LTTE</u> may have smuggled into Colombo and other Sinhala dominated cities before it was dealt a crushing blow and they might carry out revenge attacks.

Earlier this year, a *female* suicide-bomber had exploded herself in the refugee camp in Wanni while being screened when crossing over of the displaced persons intensified.

At the sprawling camp, where an estimated over 200,000 Tamil refugees are sheltered, the Lankan authorities have segregated the surrendered <u>LTTE</u> cadres, including 100 <u>LTTE</u> child soldiers, putting them in a separate rehabilitation center. Efforts are being made to facilitate them to return to a normal life, the commander said in Vavunia.

The government has, however, made it clear that the criminal elements amongst the <u>LTTE</u> cadres who have surrendered would be dealt with according to the prevailing criminal laws in the Island nation.

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Load-Date: April 17, 2010



LANKA TO SEEK ADELE'S ARREST

Daily Mirror (Sri Lanka)

June 3, 2009 Wednesday

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Length: 506 words

Dateline: Colombo

Body

Colombo, June 3 -- Adele Balasingham, the widow of <u>LTTE</u> ideologue Anton Balasingham, is living in a London suburb and representatives of the Sri Lankan government are to meet Scotland Yard and the Home Office in the coming weeks for talks on her presence in Britain.

Sri Lankan intelligence officials believe Adele Balasingham, 59, is one of the most senior figures in the remains of the terror group which fought a 26-year war for independence on the island and was defeated last month, the Standard newspaper in Britain reported. They claim she has played a key role in organising protests by Tamils outside Parliament and want Britain to take action against her. Sri Lanka's government believes Tamil Tiger leaders abroad are raising funds and procuring equipment which could be used in fresh attacks. Mrs Balasingham lives in a 500,000 pound house in New Malden, Surrey. She is the widow of Anton Balasingham, a Sri Lankan with British citizenship who was the chief political strategist of the *Tamil Tigers* until he died in 2006.Mrs Balasingham, an Australian-born nurse, met and married him while he was living in London in the Seventies. She became deeply involved in the Tigers' cause - ending up as the leader of its **women** soldiers and nicknamed "Aunty" on the island. An undated video of Mrs Balasingham, showing her in camouflage fatigues and presiding over a parade of female child soldiers, has been circulated to confirm her status as one of the movement's most influential figures. Female Tamil Tiger fighters, some thought to be as young as 14, have completed three months of training. She is seen presenting them with cyanide capsules to be worn on a necklace and swallowed if they are about to be captured by troops. Her presence in Britain has increased tensions between Britain and Sri Lanka, which believes the Government has been "too soft" on Tiger associates since banning the group in 2001. A senior Sri Lankan High Commission source told the Standard: "Given the association of Mrs Balasingham with the senior ranks of the LTTE (Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam) she could be seen as a sole survivor. "She was involved in taking major decisions in the hierarchy of the LTTE and there is a possibility that supporters will rally around her in Britain. "We believe the Parliament Square protests were organised directly from the Tamil Tigers leadership... and Mrs Balasingham has been a main point of contact in the UK for this." There are fears a new faction of the *Tamil Tigers* could emerge, fuelled by anger over the number of innocent people killed by the Sri Lankan army in its offensive against the militants. Mrs Balasingham, who rarely leaves her four-bedroom home, declined to speak to the Standard. In her 2001 book The Will To Freedom: An Inside View Of Tamil Resistance, she wrote about staying as a "guest of honour" with Tigers' founder Velupillai Prabhakaran. Scotland Yard said they were unable to comment on ongoing inquiries. Published by HT Syndication with permission from Daily Mirror Sri Lanka.

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LANKA TO SEEK ADELE'S ARREST

Load-Date: June 3, 2009



Tigers given deadline to surrender

Sydney Morning Herald (Australia)

April 21, 2009 Tuesday

Third Edition

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Section: NEWS AND FEATURES; International News; Pg. 9

Length: 298 words

Byline: Matt Wade South Asia Correspondent

Body

THE Sri Lankan Army has given the elusive leader of the <u>Tamil Tigers</u>, Velupillai Prabhakaran, 24 hours to surrender as tens of thousands of civilians fled heavy fighting in the small strip of land still controlled by the rebels.

Between 5000 and 15,000 people crossed over from the area held by the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (<u>LTTE</u>) to Government-held territory yesterday after the Sri Lankan army broke through a rebel fortification near a Government-declared "no fire zone".

"With this capture troops opened a safe route for the hostages to come out of the *LTTE* grip which was occupied by tens of thousands of civilians seeking refuge," an army statement said.

There were reports of heavy fighting in the combat zone yesterday where about 1000 hardcore Tamil Tiger fighters were surrounded by more than 50,000 Sri Lankan troops.

The military said 17 civilians were killed by three Tamil Tiger suicide bombers in an attack aimed at preventing them escaping. *Women* and children were among the victims, according to a statement.

However, Tamilnet, a pro-Tamil Tiger website, said hundreds of civilians were feared killed and injured in the "total chaos" caused by the army's advance yesterday.

Both sides in this bitter conflict accuse the other of killing innocent civilians and the army alleges the rebels are using civilians as human shields. However, most independent observers and foreign reporters are not allowed into the combat zone, making it impossible to independently verify the claims.

The <u>Tamil Tigers</u> have fought for 26 years for an independent homeland for ethnic Tamils in Sri Lanka but the rebels have been driven back to an area of about 20 square kilometres in the far north-east of the island.

The UN says more than 100,000 civilians are still inside the rebel-held area.

Graphic

Tigers given deadline to surrender

PHOTO: Call to action . . . Tamils protest in London yesterday. Photo: AFP/Leon Neal

Load-Date: April 20, 2009



Tamil Tiger chief hit in armoured ambulance; Declared Dead

Canwest News Service

May 19, 2009 Tuesday 08:57 AM EST

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Length: 1270 words

Byline: Stewart Bell, National Post

Body

Velupillai Prabhakaran had sworn he would never be captured alive. If cornered, he said, he would swallow the cyanide capsule he wore on a string around his neck.

But he never got the chance.

Early yesterday, Sri Lankan troops surrounded the <u>Tamil Tigers</u> leader and his deputies in an area the size of a soccer field. The top rebels fell one by one: Bhanu, Nadesan, Ramesh, Jeyan and Charles Anthony.

Army Commander Sarath Fonseka, whom the rebels had tried to assassinate in 2006 when a *female* suicide bomber attacked his motorcade, watched images of the operation on a screen in Colombo.

When an ambulance suddenly tried to break the military cordon, a soldier unleashed a rocket-propelled grenade. Inside the vehicle, troops found three bodies, including that of a chubby man with a moustache.

Prabhakaran was dead.

The killing of Prabhakaran, confirmed yesterday by government officials, marked the end of a man who led a three-decade civil war that cost tens of thousands of lives but failed to achieve its goal of independence for Sri Lanka's ethnic Tamil minority.

Under his command, the Tigers killed hundreds in suicide bombings and assassinated dozens of political rivals and foes, among them the Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi.

"It is the end of a nightmare, and the beginning of a new era," Palitha Kohona, Sri Lanka's Foreign Secretary, said in an interview. President Mahinda Rajapaksa was expected to formally declare victory over the rebels in a speech this morning.

The collapse of the rebels also has security implications for Canada. Toronto was one of Prabhakaran's main propaganda and fundraising bases. RCMP counterterrorism investigators have been probing <u>Tamil Tigers</u> fundraising activities in the city since 2002.

The man behind South Asia's longest-running civil war was a folk hero to many ethnic Tamils, who called him Sun God, Supreme Commander, National Leader, President and Prime Minister of Tamil Eelam, and waved posters bearing his photo at rallies in Toronto.

To others, however, he was simply a terrorist willing to sacrifice countless lives to get his own country. His terrorist tactics and widespread conscription of child soldiers earned him particular scorn internationally.

Tamil Tiger chief hit in armoured ambulance; Declared Dead

He began fighting for Tamil independence in 1972, when he helped found the Tamil New Tigers. Four years later, he formed the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam, also known as the *LTTE* or *Tamil Tigers*.

Over the next three decades, he seized control of a vast swath of northern and eastern Sri Lanka, and staged dozens of attacks in the hopes of winning full independence for his rebel mini-state.

"Prabhakaran had raised the stakes of the Sri Lankan conflict to an all or nothing gamble," said Shanaka Jayasekara of the Centre for Policing Intelligence and Counter-Terrorism in Australia.

"He was so fixated on a separate state that nothing else mattered. The core issues of the conflict could have been resolved politically, however for Prabhakaran it was a separate state or nothing. The people of Sri Lanka paid the price for his pipedream, Tamils and Sinhalese."

In 2006, after successive peace talks failed, President Rajapaksa vowed to finish off the rebels. The government forces advanced swiftly and by last weekend had captured or killed the remaining rebel forces.

Prabhakaran was among the last to go.

According to several government officials, he was shot dead before dawn yesterday

while trying to break through the military defence lines in an armour-plated ambulance.

Also in the vehicle were Shanmugalingam Sivashankar, aka Pottu Amman, the head of the Tigers' intelligence wing, and Thillaiyampalam Sivanesan, aka Colonel Soosai, head of the rebel navy, the military said.

Prabhakaran's death marks the official end of the <u>Tamil Tigers</u>, said the Indian journalist Narayan Swamy, author of Prabhakaran: Inside An Elusive Mind, a biography of the 54-year-old rebel boss.

"The <u>LTTE</u> was Prabhakaran and Prabhakaran was <u>LTTE</u>. The two could never be separated. Prabhakaran was its leader, its founder, its guru, its god, its icon, its father, its everything," he said.

Only six months ago, Prabhakaran mocked the Sri Lankan military in his annual speech, saying government troops would never capture his stronghold, but the rebel capital Kilinochchi fell shortly afterwards.

During their final hours, rebel leaders reportedly made phone calls around the world offering to surrender, but the Sri Lankan forces appeared determined to wipe out the *LTTE* leadership rather than let it surrender.

"It was their single-minded determination to wipe out the <u>LTTE</u> that made Colombo repeatedly and resolutely refuse any intervention by anyone and everyone who wanted to bring about a ceasefire. A truce, the Sri Lankan state realized, could have given a fresh lease of life to <u>LTTE</u>. They did not want that," Mr. Swamy said.

Few believe that Tamil nationalist violence is over, but the routing of the <u>Tamil Tigers</u> marks the end of the division of Sri Lanka into two zones, one controlled by the government, the other by the rebels.

Mr. Kohona said the death of Prabhakaran, whom he called a "bloodthirsty megalomaniac," had created space for a new Tamil political leadership to emerge and an opportunity for the government to help forge a better life for the Tamil minority.

President Rajapaksa plans to begin a reconstruction campaign to rebuild the war-battered north so that those displaced by the fighting can return home within a year. Until then, they are being held in camps.

Terrorism expert Bruce Hoffman said the end of the Sri Lankan conflict showed that military force can work in countering terrorism. The effectiveness of targeted air strikes by the Sri Lankan Air Force "demonstrates both the utility and importance of military power -- when used appropriately -- in effectively countering terrorism.

"However, it remains true that military victory is only the first, albeit critical, step in effectively defeating terrorism," said Prof. Hoffman, of Georgetown University's Edmund A Walsh School of Foreign Service Security Studies.

Tamil Tiger chief hit in armoured ambulance; Declared Dead

"To ensure that it is a lasting victory, relevant economic development and political reform must follow. The big question now is whether the Sri Lankan government will prove just as effective cementing the military victory by reaching out to the Tamil people."

VELUPILLAI PRABHAKARAN

Born Nov. 26, 1954. Died May 18, 2009.

Birthplace Valvettithurai, Jaffna.

Aliases Supremo, Great Leader, Sun God, Thambi, Karikalan. Titles <u>LTTE</u> Commander in Chief, President and Prime Minister of Tamil Eelam.

Family Married to Mathivathani Erambu in Madras Oct. 1, 1984.

Daughter Duwaraka. Sons Charles Anthony and Balachandran.

Hobbies Food, history books, Clint Eastwood movies.

Superstitions According to Anita Pratap, he never conducted attacks on the 26th of the month because he felt that 26 and any other number whose digits add up to 8 was bad luck.

Ideology "Revolutionary socialism is my political philosophy."

Strategy "We have to win our freedom through armed struggle and the shedding of blood."

Idols Che Guevera, Ho Chi Minh, Subash Chandra Bose (Indian freedom fighter who sided with Nazis in the Second World War).

Links to Canada Older sister Vinothini lives in Toronto. According to the RCMP, Prabhakaran personally appointed the head of the World Tamil Movement, a Toronto-based rebel propaganda and fundraising group, and told it to raise money to finance arms purchases.

Famous last words In November, 2008, he said that "capturing Kilinochchi [the rebel capital] is just a daydream of [President Mahinda] Rajapaksa." Less than two months later, the army captured Kilinochchi.

National Post

Load-Date: May 20, 2009



LTTE suffers worst defeat

Daily Mirror (Sri Lanka)

April 10, 2009 Friday

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Length: 1690 words

Dateline: Colombo

Body

Colombo, April 10 -- The biggest battle in the undeclared Eelam war IV was reported from east of Puthukuduirrippu in Mullaitivu last weekend, where more than 500 **LTTE** cadres including many prominent leaders were killed.

The battle was decisive for the <u>LTTE</u> as it is now confined to a land area of 18 square kilometres in the coastal belt and has lost ten 130 mm heavy artillery guns and a large number of other military hardware. The fateful turning point in the battle took place in the evening hours on April 1, when the 58 Division led by Brigadier Shavindra Silva and the 53 Division and Task Force 8 -- which come under the 53 Division -- linked at Pachchamulmudai junction . This was the last junction that connected the 'no fire zone' and the <u>LTTE</u> presence in Puhukudiyurrippu east. Through this strategic maneuver the troops were able to box in more than 700 <u>LTTE</u> cadres including many leaders in an area of less than one square kilometre. The <u>LTTE</u> which was taken by complete surprise came to know that they were encircled by the army a few hours after the military surrounded the area. By April 2, the <u>LTTE</u> cadres were further restricted to less than half a square kilometre land area Earlier on March 29, the <u>LTTE</u> had brought hundreds of <u>LTTE</u> cadres into the area along with military hardware, including three heavy artillery guns and an 85 pounder gun, which had been taken from the Pulukunawa military base.

According to military tacticians, heavy weapons such as 130 mm artillery guns are not taken near forward defence lines as these weapons are considered long range weapons. However in this case the LTTE had brought these 130 mm weapons in order to attack the military at close range and carry out direct attacks on the army forward defence lines by keeping the artillery barrel parallel to the ground. Taking these weapons into such close range clearly shows that the LTTE was confident of launching a successful counter offensive against the military. However, it is now confirmed that the LTTE's main objective was to breach the 58 Division forward defense line and infiltrate the cleared areas after killing a large number of soldiers. The military initially did not know the LTTE's plan, and the Tigers too were unaware that the troops were surrounding them by linking from behind. On April 2 and 3, the army launched a massive attack on the trapped LTTE cadres and leaders after further encircling them and recovered more than 70 LTTE bodies. At this point, LTTE cadres from the outside and inside launched more than seven waves of attacks against the military in order to escape the area. But the troops managed to prevent all such attempts. The Tiger's main purpose was to open a path towards the Valayamadam area. It was later revealed that the LTTE's top leaders including '191 Theepan', Keerthi(Batticaloa intelligence leader), Gadhafi (Former LTTE Leader's body guard), Lawrence (Special Commander), Seelambu (Head of the Radha Regiment), Amudha (a senior leader of Kutti Sri Mortar Regiment), Widhusha (head of the Malathi Regiment), Durgha (Head of Sodiya Women Brigade), Maniwannan (In charge of Artillery), Anuthab (Head of Charles Anthony Brigade), Gopith (Former Head of Charles Anthony Brigade), Neru (Explosive expert), Iniyawan (Radha Regiment Senior team leader), Mankuil (LTTE intelligence head of the Puliyankulam road block during the CFA) and Anton (Trincomalee intelligence leader) had died in this battle. By Saturday evening, both 58 and 53 Divisions continued their onslaught against the LTTE and found more than 400 LTTE bodies and three 130 mm artillery guns from the area. Another

unusual weapon was also recovered by the military. This has four 30 mm canon barrels and can fire simultaneously at least 600 rounds per minute. The military called it a 'Paddle Anti-aircraft gun', as the firing of the weapon is triggered by a paddle operated by the leg. According to the Defence Ministry the 30 mm cannon has been identified as the 'mysterious weapon' often cited by fighter pilots when they were fired upon during their missions. Since encircling the LTTE cadres, the military repeatedly called through the LTTE radio frequencies on the trapped Tiger cadres to surrender or otherwise face dire consequences. This was done in accordance with international military norms. In response, the LTTE had rejected the offer and claimed that they would continue to fight until their death. On April 4, troops of 5th Vijayaba Infantry Regiment (5 VIR) operating under the 53 Division collected 34 bodies of slain LTTE cadres along with a haul of weapons. Among the other items seized were, one 30 mm anti-aircraft machine gun, three 12.7 mm anti-aircraft machine guns, seven multi purpose machine guns, three light machine guns, 43 T-56 rifles, six T-81 rifles, two 40 mm grenade launchers, four 5.56 mm weapons, three RPG launchers, 28 radio communication sets, one disposable RPG launcher, three improvised explosive devices and a stock of tools of heavy weapons. Troops of the 6 Gajaba Regiment operating under the 53 Division found three T-56 rifles and one RPG launcher following a day long battle. The 20 Gemunu Regiment and 12 GR jointly collected 48 LTTE bodies from the Anandapuram area. Troops of 20 GR collected 23 LTTE bodies with 6 T-56 rifles, one RPG launcher, one 12.7 mm anti-air machine gun and one 16 mm weapon, while the 12 GR soldiers accounted for 25 **LTTE** bodies. Also, 8 GR troops attacked and captured a **LTTE** base inside the Anandapuram pocket. Troops collected 10 LTTE bodies along with one US made M16 rifle. Among the other items found were a luxury jeep, an armour plated container, a van, and two motorbikes. The infantrymen of 14 GR captured a 130 mm artillery gun in combat. Soldiers braved the raging artillery fire from guns fired parallel to the ground, and captured the gun after beating off its operators. This was one of the three artillery guns found by the troops in the area. By Monday, the troops had recovered a total number of 500 LTTE bodies from the battle field and captured the entire area. All the bodies of these LTTE cadres were buried in the area as the there were no LTTE representatives to take these bodies back. The troops also found a modern communication facility, located inside a container fitted to a lorry. Later it was revealed that the communication facility was Prabhakaran's personal communication centre, where he was keeping in constant touch with the international LTTE network and ground commanders. On one occasion, the trapped LTTE cadres repeatedly called for assistance from the Tiger leaders outside the encircled area as they were losing weapons and ammunition as well as cadres. The troops intercepted a radio transmission between Widhusha, the head of the Malathi Regiment and LTTE Spy Chief Pottu Amman. Widusha repeatedly requested Pottu Amman to send more teams to rescue them, but Pottu Amman in response had said that he was unable to send anyone as the Army had launched a heavy attack on them and had strongly blocked the path to the encircled area. However, some of the leaders had managed to escape from the area carrying some LTTE bodies. The bodies of '191 Theepan' and Vidusha were found from the area. Later the LTTE communications had revealed that top leaders, '191' Theepan, Vidhusha, Durgha, Maniwannan, Anuthab, Gopith, Neru, Iniyawan, Mankuil and Anton had been killed during the battle. By yesterday, the 58 Division was almost near the safe zone boundary line, while, the 53 Division and Task Force 8 too were proceeding towards the boundary further restricting the remaining LTTE leaders and cadres. It is learnt that after the death of several prominent **LTTE** leaders, especially '191' Theepan, who commanded the entire battle in the last few months, a new LTTE leader called 'Velavan' has taken over the commandership and was leading the battle in the 'no fire zone' under the direction of the LTTE Chief. Meanwhile, the army is waiting to launch a 'hostage rescue operation' at any moment in order to rescue some thousands of civilians trapped in the 'no fire zone.' The LTTE is holding more than 65,000 civilians under their custody in the 'no fire zone' and had killed a large number of civilians who were attempting to flee the area. The military constantly called on the LTTE to free the civilians and surrender themselves. But there had been no positive response from the LTTE as yet. Prabha blames his senior military leaders for failing to hold the land The latest intelligence information revealed that LTTE Leader Velupillai Prabhakaran had been in Vishvamadu area until January 18, despite the close range battles between the military and the LTTE. With the troops advancing into the LTTE-held areas, the LTTE chief had arrived in Pachchapulmudai in Anandapuram (Puthukuduirrippu east). Several LTTE senior members who had surrendered to the military revealed that on March 26, the LTTE Chief was in the area and again he had appeared on March 29 and reportedly blamed his senior level commanders for failing to safeguard the remaining ground areas. "If you cannot protect this land, which is like a matchbox, from the Sri Lanka Army, what is the point of remaining as military wing leaders under me," the LTTE chief had reportedly told his remaining top level leaders just minutes before his departure to the 'no fire zone'. This was revealed to the military by one of the senior LTTE members who were present at Pachchapulmudai when the LTTE chief expressed his

LTTE suffers worst defeat

anger at his military chiefs. The senior members later surrendered to the military as they were frustrated with <u>LTTE</u> activities. Before leaving, Prabhakaran had kept several of his top personal security guards in the area in order to return back again in the future. It clearly shows that Prabhakaran is confident that his cadres would be able to stop the advancing troops. But he will not be able to strike back as the military has in an unexpected manner taken control full control of the area striking a major blow on the military capabilities of the Tigers.Published by HT Syndication with permission from Daily Mirror Sri Lanka.

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Load-Date: April 11, 2009



Military says Tamil leader, son killed

UPI

May 18, 2009 Monday 8:09 AM EST

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Length: 265 words

Dateline: COLOMBO, Sri Lanka, May 18

Body

The leader of the <u>Tamil Tigers</u> rebels has died in battle along with his son and several key rebel leaders, the Sri Lankan military said Monday.

The announcement on state television came shortly after the military said it surrounded rebel leader Velupillai Prabhakaran in the jungle in the northeast part of the country, the BBC reported.

Lt. Gen. Sarath Fonseka, leader of the Sri Lankan army, said the military defeated the rebels and "liberated the entire country."

"Today we finished the work handed to us by the president to liberate the country from the *LTTE* (Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam)," Fonseka said in the broadcast.

The government information department sent news of Prabhakaran's death to cell phones across the country, the British broadcaster reported.

The Sri Lankan broadcast quoted military officials as saying Prabhakaran and two of his commanders were killed in an ambush in the Mullivaikal district as they tried to escape the war zone in an ambulance. At least three senior rebel leaders, including Prabhakaran's oldest son, Charles Anthony, were killed, the military said.

Military spokesman Udaya Nanayakkara also confirmed Prabhakaran's death, saying 250 <u>Tamil Tigers</u> were killed in an overnight battle.

The <u>Tamil Tigers</u> have waged a bloody 25-year insurgency for an independent Tamil state that has left more than 70,000 dead in the south Asian country. Prabhakaran founded the group, declared a terrorist organization in 32 countries, which was behind the assassination of two world leaders and pioneered the use of <u>women</u> in suicide attacks, FBI information indicates.

Load-Date: May 19, 2009



Sri Lankan military wary as tamil tigers give up fight

The Calgary Herald (Alberta)

May 18, 2009 Monday

Final Edition

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Section: NEWS; Pg. A3

Length: 850 words

Byline: Mark Magnier; With Files From Richard Cuthbertson, Los Angeles Times; Calgary Herald

Dateline: NEW DELHI

Body

The <u>Tamil Tigers</u> admitted defeat Sunday in their quarter-century struggle against the Sri Lankan government and offered to lay down their weapons to protect those still alive.

However, military officials rejected the offer as a last-minute act of desperation. They said fighting continued, and the army was bracing for suicide bombing attacks.

The battered remnants of the rebel force, which has been fighting for a homeland for Sri Lanka's marginalized Tamil minority, reportedly was trapped in a 250-square-metre area along the northern coast of the island.

On TamilNet, a pro-Tiger website, the decimated rebel group--known formally as the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam--said it was putting down its weapons.

"This battle has reached its bitter end," rebel official Selvarasa Pathmanathan was quoted as saying in the online statement. "It is our people who are dying now from bombs, shells, illness and hunger. We cannot permit any more harm to befall them."

"We remain with one last choice --to remove the last weak excuse of the enemy for killing our people," he added. "We have decided to silence our guns."

But military spokesman Brig. Udaya Nanayakkara said in a telephone interview that TamilNet has a history of lying and Sunday was no different. On the ground, Tiger rebels continue to attack soldiers in the conflict zone, he said.

"We have to protect ourselves until the rest of the area is liberated," he said by telephone. "If they fire, we will fire back."

He added that the military had found several dead bodies of senior Tiger fighters, but had not yet discovered the whereabouts of reclusive rebel leader Velupillai Prabhakaran.

Nanayakkara insisted that all civilians were now out of the conflict zone. With very little territory left to capture, he said, the army is confident it will be able to seize the remaining fighters shortly. Whether they surrender, commit suicide or die fighting is their choice, he added.

Sri Lankan military wary as tamil tigers give up fight

The military said Sunday it had killed at least 70 terrorists trying to escape by boat as suicide bombers sought to attack army positions.

President Mahinda Rajapaksa is expected to tell the country during a nationally televised news conference Tuesday morning at parliament that the protracted war is over.

In Calgary on Sunday evening, a dozen members of the city's Tamil community held a candlelight vigil at City Hall to protest the civilian deaths in the war.

Gowreesan Packiyanathan said he doesn't believe the conflict is finished, and he disputes the claims of the Sri Lankan government that they are defeating the *Tamil Tigers*.

"I'm totally denying the defeat, because there has to be a solution for Tamil people," he said.

Calgarian Vinothraj Singarajah said the war will continue and that the only solution is for an independent Tamil state to be created. He said he worries the Sri Lankan government troops will try to "wipe" Tamils from the island.

"If they are (concerned) about the people, they should be able to take the civilians from there who are injured to the hospital,"he said of the government.

The conflict has taken an enormous toll on families, communities, Sri Lanka's humanitarian and humanrights reputation and the economy. With the end of the struggle in sight Sunday, thousands of Sri Lankans danced, set off fireworks and beat on celebratory drums.

The United Nations and international humanitarian groups have long criticized the apparent lack of concern for civilians by both sides as tens of thousands of people found themselves trapped in the shrinking conflict zone.

The <u>Tamil Tigers</u> have been accused of using civilians as human shields, while the army in turn has been accused of firing indiscriminately. Both sides have denied the charges.

As the fighting raged in recent days, concerns mounted for the fate of any civilians still trapped in the war zone amid heavy shelling and intense fighting. But Nanayakkara said Sunday that 63,000 civilians had left the area over the preceding 96 hours, many brought out in government vehicles.

International groups and the media rarely are granted access to the conflict area or the camps for displaced civilians, making it difficult to verify accounts.

Nanayakkara said Sri Lanka was not trying to control the media, but he charged that too many reports had tarnished army actions and the nation's image. "It's not that we just want positive stories,"he said. "But we want them to tell the truth."

A week ago, the government deported three journalists with Britain's Channel 4 on the grounds that their stories were "tarnishing the image of the country."

The television network had broad-cast a report quoting what it said were Tamil aid workers inside a humanitarian camp saying that war-displaced people were underfed and mistreated and that some of the <u>women</u> had been sexually abused.

Nanayakkara said the international media were "taking people for a ride." He complained that even on Sunday, a television report characterized the conflict as a civil war.

"When people attack the World Trade Center, it's terrorism, but when it's in Sri Lanka, it's civil war," he said. "We just want them to be truthful."

Graphic

Photo: David Gray, Reuters; sri Lankan men dance and wave national flags in Colombo on sunday as they celebrate government claims of the defeat of the *Tamil Tigers*.;

Photo: Reuters; sri Lankan president Mahinda rajapaksa is expected to go on TV Tuesday to declare the war over.;

Photo: Reuters; This photo released by the sri Lankan military shows what the army says are civilians walking across a lagoon from inside the "no-fire zone" where troops have the Tamil Tiger rebels surrounded.;

Photo: Leah Hennel, Calgary Herald; Four-year-old reina raba joins other members of Calgary's Tamil community holding a candlelight vigil at City Hall on sunday.;

Load-Date: May 18, 2009



World: 'Two of us fled. 75 other women killed themselves with grenades': As the Sri Lankan army intensifies its campaign against the last remnants of the Tamil Tigers, Gethin Chamberlain hears the harrowing stories of the captured female fighters who chose not to carry out suicide orders

The Observer (London) (England)
April 12, 2009

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The Observer

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Byline: Gethin Chamberlain

Body

By the time Arulmathy and her fellow <u>Tamil Tigers</u> realised they were surrounded, it was too late. They had fallen asleep and now Sri Lankan soldiers were swarming into their bunker. Arulmathy watched aghast as 75 <u>women</u> she had fought beside for so many months reached for their hand grenades, pulled the pins and blew themselves to pieces, as they had been ordered to do.

But Arulmathy had had enough of the Tigers' war. She had no wish to die for a cause in which she no longer believed. As the grenades detonated, she slipped into a supply trench and ran for her life. In January, as the Sri Lankan army intensified its campaign against the dwindling rebel force, she surrendered.

Trapped inside a tiny coastal strip no larger than 20 sq km, the last fighters of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (*LTTE*) are almost out of time. Since the start of the year, the Sri Lankan military has stepped up its campaign. Outgunned, they have fallen back to an area designated a "no-fire zone", where civilians were told to gather to escape the fighting. In the past week, more than 500 rebel fighters were reported killed.

Alongside the <u>LTTE</u> fighters are tens of thousands of civilians, unwilling or unable to leave. The Sri Lankan government says they are being used as human shields, and independent humanitarian workers say there is no doubt that many who tried to escape have been shot by the Tigers. One UN worker described how a five-year-old boy was shot in the head as he tried to flee. Yesterday Sri Lankan forces claimed to have made further advances, killing 28 rebel fighters in fresh fighting on the edge of the no-fire zone. The military said 606 civilians managed to escape from the zone on Friday and the operation was continuing.

Doctors working in the no-fire zone say that over the past week they have treated hundreds of civilians, accusing the Sri Lankan government of shelling the zone; one claimed that about 50 civilians are dying every day. The government denies these charges and there is no way of proving the claims because independent media are barred from entering the area. The military says that, even when surrounded, many Tigers refused to surrender. Asked to explain how more than 500 Tigers had been killed in the most recent fighting, against an official mili tary death toll

World: 'Two of us fled. 75 other women killed themselves with grenades': As the Sri Lankan army intensifies its campaign against the last remnants of the Tamil

of just 11, Brigadier Udaya Nanayakkara, the military spokesman, said the rebels had been cut off and were unable to get fresh supplies: "They were pretty much out of ammunition, but they were determined to fight to the end. It was hand-to-hand fighting."

With many of their leaders dead, some Tigers, like Arulmathy, have chosen to surrender. She was taken to what the Sri Lankan Ministry of Justice describes as a "rehabilitation centre", built on a hillside amid dense jungle outside the town of Ambepusse, about an hour-and-a-half's drive from the capital, Colombo. Others among the 22 *female* inmates held behind barbed wire confirmed that they had received orders from the *LTTE* to use hand grenades to commit suicide rather than be taken alive. The instruction was simple: hold the grenade against your head or stomach and detonate it.

The <u>women</u> at Ambepusse have been told they must spend a year undergoing what Piyumanthi Peries, the assistant commissioner-general of rehabilitation, called "psycho-social rehabilitation" - a mixture of psychiatry, therapy, medical treatment and vocational training. The Ministry of Justice says the <u>women</u> are there for protection from <u>LTTE</u> reprisals and to be trained to find jobs on release. The <u>women</u> say they are well treated and have rejected the Tigers.

Arulmathy was 19 when she entered the <u>LTTE</u> training camp in 2003. In her purple-and-white check shirt and long purple skirt, she does not look much like a guerrilla. But she had signed up voluntarily, angered by a video she had watched. "It showed some fighting and cruel things done by the Sinhalese army, so I joined for the adventure," she says. "I joined for the Tamil nation." She trained for seven months. In 2006, she was injured by shrapnel. By the time her unit was surrounded the following year, she had already resolved to get out.

"We were careless and we had fallen asleep," she says. "The army were only 10 metres away when we saw them. They started to jump into the bunker. We couldn't do anything. Seventy-five committed suicide with their grenades. There were parts of them spread on all sides. I can never forget that scene. Only two of us escaped. This war has been useless." Arulmathy tried to get away, but was recaptured by the Tigers and beaten. She made two more unsuccess ful attempts before making it to safety. She surrendered in January this year, as the Sri Lankan army swept north.

Suba, 26, was also a willing volunteer when she joined up in 2002. She, too, was happy to accept the Tigers' line: "The <u>LTTE</u> said we must fight for freedom for the area." She fought in two major operations. "It was very cruel, a very big jungle with no food or water. We had to walk long distances and it was very painful."

Suba was with 40 other young <u>women</u> when they ran into a stronger army force. "They surrounded us and we could not escape, so we fought them," she says. "Most of the girls were killed and three or four of us escaped, but the others committed suicide by grenade. . . But I didn't want to kill myself."

What appears to have turned some former supporters against the <u>LTTE</u> was its decision in 2007 to start conscripting fighters to fill their depleted ranks. Niraiesai, 26, says she was given no choice but to fight. She had just finished teacher training when the Tigers turned up at her home in 2007. Every family had to send one member to fight, they were told. "Many people didn't like it, but they compelled us so we had to join."

She was sent to an orphanage to teach before being transferred to a battalion as a computer operator, but, as the war intensified in August last year she was sent to the front. "Many cadres had been killed or injured . . . so the administration staff were sent to the front line. The first time I had to fight, I was frightened. We came up on them hiding behind some trees and we shot at them, but no one was killed. I prayed to god that I didn't kill anyone. I closed my eyes and fired my gun." In November she and the six other <u>women</u> in her unit were surrounded. "We couldn't escape. Two of the girls went outside to get help and the army shot them and they were killed. After that, there were five of us in the bunker. I thought that day I would be killed. At first we fought, but we ran out of rounds and so we surrendered." But two <u>women</u>, 18-year-old Nallisai and Mathuvanthy, 22, stayed behind. "They removed the clips from their hand grenades and put them on their stomachs and committed suicide. We begged them not to, but they were afraid of what the army would do to them. They were very young."

World: 'Two of us fled. 75 other women killed themselves with grenades': As the Sri Lankan army intensifies its campaign against the last remnants of the Tamil

Niraiesai was held in a military camp for two months, then sent to Ambepusse. She says the Tigers stole her youth. "For 25 years, we were ruled by the <u>LTTE</u> and we believed them. But after 2007 people hated them because they compelled the children to fight. We were brainwashed that the Sinhalese were bad and we believed them," she says. "But now I think we can live together."

Names have been changed.

ON THE WEB

A health worker in the no-fly zone in Sri Lanka describes the situation for civilians in the area guardian.co.uk/world/srilanka

Load-Date: April 13, 2009



By now you may be protesting. Fancy me calling Rudd deceitful and a fraud. Steady, soldier

The Advertiser (Australia)
October 28, 2009 Wednesday
1 - State Edition

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Section: OPINION; Pg. 18

Length: 1379 words

Byline: ANDREW BOLT, COMMENTATOR

Body

KEVIN Rudd is either a fool or a fraud when he claims he's ``disgusted" by Opposition warnings that a few boat people may be terrorists.

If the Prime Minister is not worried, too, by this renewed threat, especially on boats from Sri Lanka, he is disgracefully blind to danger. But I suspect he's merely conning you, as he does so often.

Just check his recent record. First Mr Rudd falsely claimed his weakening of our laws against boat people had nothing to do with the 12-fold explosion this year in arrivals.

As I showed last week, even asylum seekers have said Mr Rudd's changes lured them to the boats.

Next his Government falsely claimed there was "no evidence" 25 boat people had died this year in trying to get here. As I proved last week, the known death toll so far is at least 42.

Then last Tuesday Mr Rudd had his ministers falsely claim that the real reason he was now paying Indonesia to lock up 78 Sri Lankans we'd rescued at sea two days earlier was that ``we had a young girl on board who was unwell" and this was a ``humanitarian result".

But a full week after this ``humanitarian'' deal to save Mr Rudd's blushes, the girl and the rest of the Sri Lankans remain penned up in the Australian patrol boat Oceanic Viking, still waiting to land in Indonesia.

Yet even this hand-washing, overlooking of corpses or hiding behind a sick girl couldn't match what followed.

Desperate to again distract the easily-distractable media from his bungling of our border protection, Mr Rudd last week leapt on these comments by Liberal backbencher Wilson Tuckey:

"There could be the occasional terrorist in a boatload of people. If you wanted to get into Australia and you have bad intentions, what do you do? You insert yourself in a crowd of a hundred for which there is great sympathy for the other 99. You go on a system where nobody brings their papers, you have no identity, you have no address."

Here's how Rudd exploited them:

By now you may be protesting. Fancy me calling Rudd deceitful and a fraud. Steady, soldier

"I think these are deeply divisive, disgusting remarks and they do not belong in any mainstream political party. (Opposition Leader Malcolm) Turnbull should show some leadership and withdraw his support for Mr Tuckey's preselection as a Liberal candidate for the next election."

Mr Rudd's stunt worked. You've since seen the media having a picnic on Mr Tuckey's flayed hide. Yet Mr Tuckey had told no more than the truth - and the least of it.

By now you may be protesting. Fancy me calling Mr Rudd deceitful and a fraud. Steady, soldier.

All right, then. I'll now let the facts just speak for themselves. You judge.

First, note that a Labor backbencher, Michael Danby, made Mr Tuckey's point last June without horrifying Mr Rudd:

"Any loophole in our law can be exploited by criminal elements who may want to evade or subvert our border protection system. They include identity thieves, people smugglers, potential terrorists, drug runners and those who traffic in illegal sex workers."

In fact, Britain has evidence that this threat is real. Says The Times:

"A Home Office analysis of those arrested under anti-terrorism laws from 2001 to 2005 found that almost a quarter - 24 per cent or 232 out of 963 - had previously applied for asylum."

Could the same phenomenon be true here? Well, here's what a boat person waiting in Indonesia told an Australian journalist last month:

"He says he knows of two Iraqi brothers who came through Indonesia and are now in Australia after going through the 90-day process on Christmas Island. The man claims the brothers are former members of the Shia Mahdi Army and had talked about - proudly, according to this source - the kidnapping of Sunni Muslims in Baghdad and taking them to Sadr City to be tortured."

As for terrorists on boats from Sri Lanka, here's the news that broke in Canada the day after Mr Rudd damned Mr Tuckey for raising this very possibility:

"One of the 76 migrants who arrived off the British Columbia coast in a cargo ship last weekend is wanted in Sri Lanka for terrorism . . . The man is suspected of involvement with the <u>Tamil Tigers</u> . . ."

The <u>Tamil Tigers</u>? Here's what the FBI said last year about this ethnic Tamil terrorist group in Sri Lanka banned in 32 countries:

"(The Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam has) perfected the use of suicide bombers, invented the suicide belt, pioneered the use of <u>women</u> in suicide attacks, murdered some 4000 people in the past two years alone, and assassinated two world leaders the only terrorist organisation to do so."

More from Jane's Information Group:

"The international security and terrorist community generally assesses the <u>LTTE</u> as one of the world's most effective terrorist organisations."

That was two years ago. In May, the <u>Tamil Tigers</u> lost their last stronghold when they were defeated by the Sri Lankan army after a civil war which cost some 80,000 lives.

So where have all their fighters gone? Some fled in ships like the very one that Mr Rudd asked the Indonesian navy to intercept three weeks ago, reports Sri Lanka's Sunday Island:

"Sri Lanka yesterday said that hardcore <u>LTTE</u> cadres and their families could be among a boat load of Lankans, now held by the Indonesian government, after being arrested by the Indonesian navy on October 11."

By now you may be protesting. Fancy me calling Rudd deceitful and a fraud. Steady, soldier

Sri Lanka's High Commissioner to Australia, Senaka Walgampaya, says we could be holding *Tamil Tigers* already:

"We have reason to believe that the Tigers' ex-combatants have arrived in Australia on these boats. We don't have the exact figures but we have reason to believe probably large numbers have come in - maybe 50, maybe 100 . . ."

Reports suggest he may be right:

"Senior government sources have told The Weekend Australian that a number of the Tamils detained on Christmas Island are suspected of being former fighters, citing the presence of shrapnel wounds as possible indicators of Tiger membership."

Some boats used to bring them could even be from the former Tamil Tiger navy, says Singapore-based terrorism expert Professor Rohan Gunaratna:

"They're mostly operating out of Indonesia, and . . . 5 per cent of the time the ships will be used to smuggle weapons and people."

The same fears are now held by Canada, reports the Globe and Mail:

"Canadian authorities, who preside over the largest Tamil population centre outside of Sri Lanka, are seeking intelligence about human- trafficking operations amid growing concerns that vanquished Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam operatives are using their entrenched smuggling networks to escape from Sri Lanka."

Terrorism expert Tom Quiggin is not surprised:

"The <u>LTTE</u>, which deserves its description as a terrorist group, will no doubt be looking to move many of its senior leaders and fighters into well-known safe havens such as Canada."

Even our own Tamil community expects the boats to bring <u>Tamil Tigers</u> here, says the ABC:

"Dr Victor Rajakulendran, secretary of the Australasian Federation of Tamil Associations, says . . . it stands to reason there will be some former guerillas among those seeking asylum."

And a long-time member of our Refugee Review Tribunal tells me:

`In recent years Tamils (and young men in particular) were almost certain to qualify for refugee status.

"If they stayed in Tamil areas they would be subject to the fear of forced conscription by the <u>LTTE</u>... If they moved to Sinhalese areas then they would be at huge risk of the regular and arbitrary raids by the Government, the army or other agents that would arrest them or detain them as `<u>LTTE</u> sympathisers/collaborators'...

"But since the fall of the <u>LTTE</u>, these people are under no threat at all from the <u>LTTE</u>. Equally, the Government no longer has any real desire to round up ordinary Tamils . . . "The Government will however be very keen to eradicate any remnants of the **LTTE** still at large.

"So the only Tamils at real risk of persecution in Sri Lanka today are bona fide, real <u>LTTE</u> operatives or collaborators."

I agree only a few Tigers may be among the boat people and even they have no fight with Australia - although we've seen violence here between Tamils and Sinhalese.

But did Wilson Tuckey truly say something so disgusting that no political party should own him?

Or did Mr Rudd smear him for saying no more than an inconvenient truth - one the Prime Minister seeks to hide?

Blog with Andrew Bolt

adelaidenow.com.au/opinion

By now you may be protesting. Fancy me calling Rudd deceitful and a fraud. Steady, soldier

Load-Date: October 27, 2009



The girl soldiers robbed of their childhood; Sri Lankan army tells of firefights with children as young as 11

The Age (Melbourne, Australia)

May 5, 2009 Tuesday

First Edition

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Section: NEWS; International News; Pg. 8

Length: 869 words

Byline: Matt Wade, Ambepussa, Sri Lanka

Body

IT'S hard to imagine Christine in combat. But the diminutive 14-year-old with a cheeky smile and dancing eyes knows how to handle a Kalashnikov and detonate grenades.

A Tamil speaker from northern Sri Lanka, Christine says she was abducted by Tamil Tiger cadres in March and forced to undergo military training. She performed drills using dummy weapons in preparation for battle and - like many *female* recruits - her hair was cut short.

"I was full of fear when they came and took me; I was crying every day," she said.

Sri Lankan commanders on the battle front say they are encountering more and more children as the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam try desperately to stave off defeat. The rebels are trapped on a 4.5-kilometre strip of land on the country's north-east coast.

Major-General Jagath Dias, commander of the Sri Lankan army's 57th Division, said his men had been fighting girls as young as 11.

"It's very difficult (to shoot at children), but when someone has a weapon and is firing it at you, it doesn't matter what age, you have to shoot," he said.

His colleague Brigadier Shavendra Silva, the commander of the Sri Lankan army's 58thDivision, fighting on the front line, said most of the <u>LTTE</u> cadres captured since April23 were aged between 11 and 18.

"There were many young girls aged 13 and 14; all of them had short hair," he said. "They don't have the numbers of fighters they need, so they conscript civilians (forcibly)."

Sri Lankan officials involved in rehabilitation of children affected by the war said they had identified about 400 child combatants from among the civilians who have fled the fighting since April20.

The Tigers have a long tradition of recruiting child soldiers. UNICEF has recorded more than 6000 cases of children recruited by the *LTTE* between 2003 and the end of 2008.

The girl soldiers robbed of their childhood Sri Lankan army tells of firefights with children as young as 11

Officials from UNICEF, the UN's child welfare agency, are also deeply concerned about the apparent rise in the number of child combatants being recruited by the *Tamil Tigers* recently.

UNICEF's spokesman in Sri Lanka, James Elder, said child combatants bore deep psychological scars and even those spared combat lose precious years that cannot be replaced.

"Many in this current conflict may be thrown into the front line at a time of fierce fighting, where they can be killed or maimed," he said. "Instead of hope, fear defines their childhood. Their recruitment is intolerable."

Christine was saved from the front line by her mother, who managed to smuggle her out of an <u>LTTE</u> camp about 17days after she was conscripted. But her ordeal wasn't over. Almost immediately, she switched from combatant to refugee when her family joined the mass exodus from territory held by the rebels a fortnight ago.

She ended up in a refugee camp in the town of Vavuniya, where her short hair raised suspicions that she had been with the *LTTE*. She confessed to rebel training and was again separated from her family, this time by Sri Lankan authorities.

Christine is one of 58 child combatants who arrived at the Ambepussa protective accommodation and rehabilitation centre in the early hours of Friday. Here, children and young <u>women</u> forced into combat by the <u>LTTE</u> undertake a rehabilitation program. The arrival of this large group at the camp run by the Sri Lankan Government and UNICEF supports the accounts that the <u>LTTE</u> has committed more children to the front line in recent months.

Soon after arriving at the centre, 20 girls, aged between 14 and 18, sat around a large table, speaking to a UNICEF social worker about their experience. Some said they were given just seven days' training before being sent into combat against well-equipped and battle-hardened Sri Lankan troops. Many asked if they could be put in touch with their parents, now in crowded refugee camps.

Deepa, dressed in a frayed olive shirt and skirt, had a heavy limp due to a leg injury sustained as she fled. Like Christine, she was also vetted because of her short hair. "Please let my father know I am safe here," she asked the social worker.

Kala, 28, has been at the rehabilitation centre for three months. In 2007, <u>LTTE</u> cadres came to her house near Kilinochchi and demanded her brother as a fighter. Kala said she would go instead so he could finish his schooling. She said: "If I didn't join, my family would have been punished."

Kala was taught to use an AK-47 and handle explosives during a month of combat training. The trainees were instructed to commit suicide rather than face capture.

Last November, Kala was sent into battle. She wore a blue checked shirt commonly worn by junior <u>LTTE</u> cadres and was given a machine-gun and several grenades. The inexperienced group she was with were drawn into a firefight with Sri Lankan soldiers. "They surrounded us," she said.

Kala sustained a shrapnel injury to her arm after a grenade exploded in her bunker. Two girls with her obeyed instructions and blew themselves up with grenades rather than be captured. But Kala decided to surrender. "I wanted to live," she said.

The names of the children in this story have been changed to protect them.

KEY POINTS

- â Sri Lankans claim most captured rebels are minors.
- â- Conscripted girls tell of their military training.
- â Some commit suicide rather than surrender.

Graphic

THREE PHOTOS: Christine (above) says she was abducted by the <u>Tamil Tigers</u> in March and forced to undergo military training. She and other children conscripted by the <u>Tamil Tigers</u> are being rehabilitated (below left). Meanwhile, posters (below right) are appearing in the Sri Lankan capital criticising the British Government's calls for a ceasefire. PICTURES: MATT WADE, AP

Load-Date: May 4, 2009



No tears for LTTE

Daily News (Sri Lanka) April 28, 2009 Tuesday

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Length: 1561 words

Dateline: Colombo

Body

Colombo, April 28 -- Army is heading for a victory over the <u>LTTE</u>. The defeat of the <u>LTTE</u> has disturbed many in India, especially in Tamil Nadu. It is understandable that many Indian Tamils emotionally identify with the Tamils of Sri Lanka and are moved by their plight.

However, it is important to understand the true nature of the <u>LTTE</u> before Indian Tamils let their emotions rule their heads. The <u>LTTE</u> under its leader Vellupillai Prabhakaran has earned reputation as the most violent and ruthless terrorist organization across the globe. There can be no denying that Tamils in Sri Lanka had and still have genuine grievances which were repeatedly ignored by the Sinhalese political leaders. From the fifties to late seventies, the grievances were constantly raised by many moderate Tamil leaders who believed in a process of dialogue. Sure enough, the moderates among Tamil politicians had a difficult time in convincing the Sinhalese politicians to yield ground and work towards fair and equitable governance.

Nevertheless, the efforts of the moderates had attracted attention and sympathy from the international community. It may not be an exaggeration to say that the moderates might have succeeded if they had been able to continue their efforts of dialogue, reconciliation and integration. Efforts of the moderates were cut short by a series of brutal assassinations carried out by the LTTE. The first major operation was assassination of the mayor of Jaffna, Alfred Duraiappah in 1975. Assassination in 1977 of a Tamil Member of Parliament, M.Canagaratnam, was carried out personally by Prabhakaran, the leader of the LTTE. These are just two examples of hundreds of cold-blooded murders of Tamils carried out by the LTTE. The violent and ruthless ways of the LTTE led on one hand to extermination of all other Tamil militant groups and, on the other, forced moderate Tamils to either withdraw from political activity or side with Sinhalese parties. The radicalization of Tamil political space found its echo in the Sinhalese parties and mutual hardening of stances closed all avenues of national reconciliation and integration. This led to the civil war that had been raging in the island for the past three decades. The violent, merciless, cruel bloody ways of the LTTE have no precedence in the history of South Asia. Hindu and Buddhist minds have streaks of kindness, compassion and pity. The militants of Indian Freedom Struggle were often soft-hearted poets. There is no prior instance of an Indian (or Sri Lankan) militant killing people of his own community with such ferociousness as Prabhakaran did. It is also important to note that for thousands of years, Buddhism and Hinduism have coexisted through much of Asia, without a single instance of a major clash. It is hence necessary to clarify that the civil war in Sri Lanka was not a Buddhist-Hindu war. Though much of Sinhalese leadership is Buddhist, the LTTE cannot be called a Hindu organization by any stretch of imagination. The LTTE leadership has never found any sympathy among Hindu organizations of India. Prabhakaran is a Christian (his son's name is Charles Anthony) and most of his close associates are also Christians. It seems reasonable to guess that the LTTE could attain its superiority over other militant Tamil groups (a) by its ruthless ways and (b) by the vast superiority of resources that the LTTE could manage. Rabid fanatical elements of Christian churches are known to fish in troubled waters across the world. In all probability, these elements supported Prabhakaran and his men giving them money as well as arms

No tears for LTTE

and ammunition. Along with the resources to fight the war, the rabid Christian elements seem to have also supplied to the LTTE a mindset that is typical of one-book-religions and is completely alien to this part of the world. All onebook-religions have no place for tolerance. Spread of Christianity through Europe, Africa and America was achieved by widespread genocide and torture. As the Pope talks of harvesting a new crop of souls in Asia, there is no attempt on the part of Church to apologize for inquisitions, witch-hunting, slavery, or opium wars or even the Bengal famine. These are viewed as acts of piety necessary for saving the souls of millions. In the 18th, 19th and first half of 20th Century, the evangelical agenda of Church was carried out in Asia by British, Portuguese and other European colonial powers. Thousands were brutally tortured and killed in Goa inquisitions. Script for Opium Wars was written by Christian missionaries. After the Second World War, the mainline political parties of Europe and America had turned too secular and could no longer be relied upon to further the expansionist agenda of fanatical elements of Church. The Church had to turn to native converts to carry the flag forward. Prabhakaran is one such native convert. Prabhakaran's bloody ways can only be compared to the medieval Christian knights / vikings, who tolerated no dissent and killed innumerable members of their own communities on slightest pretext. If the LTTE had succeeded to create a Tamil Eelam, Prabhakaran would surely have been the worst possible despot the world has ever known. Tamil Eelam would have done more harm than good to Tamils. Historically, Tamils of Sri Lanka were well educated and quite progressive. This changed after the LTTE took control of Jaffna. During their reign in Jaffna, the liberals were brutally killed. Even academicians were not spared. Dr.Rajini Thiranagama was killed by the LTTE on September 21, 1989. Her only fault was that she criticized the LTTE for their atrocities. She was the head of the Anatomy Department at Jaffna University. She was also a Tamil human rights activist and feminist. The poisonous, cancerous mindset of fanatic proponents of one-book religions has led to balkanization of South Europe. Success of Prabhakaran would have led to initiation of the same process in Asia. The Prabhakaran effect would not have remained confined to just Sri Lanka, but would have impacted the whole continent giving inspiration and strength to separatist elements in various regions. For example, Church-sponsored terrorism would have received a boost in north-eastern states of India. The Maoist or Naxalite elements have been known to receive support and cooperation from Churches in tribal areas of India and Nepal. Having tasted success in Sri Lanka, the fanatical rabid elements of Churches would have stepped up efforts towards disintegration and Christianization of India, China and rest of Asia. India has been fighting various forces, both Islamic and Christian, aiming to disintegrate her. Besides fighting them, India has had a close brush with the brutal ways of LTTE. On May 21 1991, the LTTE's suicide bomber killed Indian ex-Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi. This made Indian public lose patience with the LTTE and Prabhakaran. The fact that the assassination paved the way for a Roman Catholic (and her Christian coterie) to get complete control of the oldest political party of India may well be purely coincidental and need not be discussed here. The point here is only about the mindset of Prabhakaran and his organization. The mindset that tolerates no dissent and has no hesitation in cold-blooded killing of fellow politicians, women professors and even old friends, is a grave danger to peace and co-existence of human beings on this Earth. Fortunately, the LTTE has lost the war. But it may not be the end of the war. A war is fought not just on the field with guns and bombs. The most important place where a war begins and ends is in the minds of the people. As guns silence in Northern and Eastern Sri Lanka, the challenge before the Government is to ensure that the LTTE does not become a myth - larger and more glorified than what it ever was. The Sri Lankan must take steps to write a true history of the civil war without mincing any words and portraying the LTTE in its true colours. For the sake of good relations with majority population of India, the academicians, journalists and historians of Sri Lanka should clarify in unequivocal terms that the so-called civil war was a war between the Government and a terrorist organization. It is necessary to underline the fact that there is no conflict between Buddhists and Hindus, who have been brothers through thousands of years. Actions speak louder than words. The Sinhalese political class must use the end of civil war as an opportunity to initiate extensive efforts for national reconciliation, reconstruction and integration. The President must walk over the ghost of the LTTE to extend a hand of friendship and brotherhood to Tamils of the country. If the Sinhalese population can act with the Buddhist qualities of kindness and compassion towards their Tamil brethren, they can surely win their hearts over. That will truly be a victory for everyone in Sri Lanka. Let us pray - May the Sinhalese have the strength and wisdom to be kind, considerate and compassionate towards their Tamil brethren; And may the Tamils of Sri Lanka have the strength and wisdom to exorcise the ghosts of the LTTE from their minds and rebuild bonds of heart with their Sinhalese brethren. Lastly, let no tears be shed for the LTTE either in Sri Lanka or in India. Published by HT Syndication with permission from Daily News Sri Lanka.

No tears for LTTE

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Load-Date: April 28, 2009



LTTE last bastion falls

Daily News (Sri Lanka) April 6, 2009 Monday

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Length: 642 words

Dateline: Colombo

Body

Colombo, April 6 -- The *LTTE* yesterday lost its final stronghold Puthukudiyiruppu and several top rung leaders including Theepan, Vidusha, Durga, Gadafi and Nagulesh compelling Tiger leader Velupillai Prabhakaran to seek refuge in the Safe Zone mingling with the civilians along with remaining top rung leaders Pottu Amman, Soosai and Velavan, military sources told the Daily News yesterday.

The last stronghold of the LTTE fell to the hands of the Security Forces following the 58 Division under the command of Brigadier Shavendra Silva, 53 Division under the command of Major General Kamal Gunaratne and Task Force VIII under the command of Colonel G.V. Ravipriya ended the long siege on the last square km held by the LTTE by yesterday morning. According to military officials the LTTE's Northern leader Theepan, LTTE female Leader Vidusha and her deputy Durgha, Batticaloa leader Nagulesh were confirmed killed and Military Wing leader Bhanu was critically injured in the fierce battles that raged during the past few days. Theepan is the most senior military leader to be killed in the battlefront and his body was recovered by the 6 Gajaba Regiment troops attached to the 53 Division a senior Military official added. The *LTTE* leader is now left with only his Intelligence Wing leader Pottu Amman, Sea Tiger leader Soosai and another top rung Sea Tiger leader Velavan to command the battle against the Security Forces, a senior military officials told the Daily News. It has now been confirmed that the Tiger leader Velupillai Prabhakaran also had a narrow escape as he had fled the area a day before the troops encircled the last terrain held by the LTTE. Massive stocks of arms and ammunition including three 130 mm heavy artillery guns, one 80 mm mortar launcher and 30 mm canon were among the recoveries by the Security Forces. The 58 Division and the 53 Division along with the Task Force VIII encircled the last terrain held by the LTTE in Puthukudiyiruppu on Wednesday along with more than 200 Tiger cadres. The 58 Division and the 53 Division encircled the area after 53 Division troops led by Major General Kamal Gunaratne moving from the South to North direction and 58 Division led by Brigadier Shavendra Silva moving from the North to South direction linked up in the south of Pachchapulmudai junction. The LTTE tried to pose a major threat to the advancing Security Forces bringing their heavy artillery weapons to the battlefront to fire directly at the troops. But troops could avert all their efforts by encircling the area in an unexpected moment, General Officer Commanding of the 58 Division Brigadier Shavendra Silva told the Daily News. The LTTE never expected this sudden move by the 53 and 58 Divisions which has enabled the troops kill many senior leaders such as Theepan who commanded the Tiger cadres in the Northern front who was the architect of the bund defence system of the LTTE, General Officer Commanding of the 53 Division major General Kamal Gunaratne said. During the search operations conducted by the 53 Division and 58 Division troops recovered the luxury bullet-proof limousine of Tiger leader Velupillai Prabhakaran and important personal documents belonging to Tiger leader Velupillai Prabhakaran's son and daughter from the Tiger bases captured. Puthukudiyiruppu and Iranapalai were the last strongholds held by the LTTE and the toughest battle in the Vanni liberation operation was fought in Puthukudiyiruppu as it turned out to be a do or die battle for the LTTE. This was the first time the Security Forces has taken full control of Puthukudiyiruppu during the three decade long

LTTE last bastion falls

conflict in the North East. Troops are now poised to encircle the Safe Zone with the objective of rescuing the civilian population detained by the *LTTE* there.Published by HT Syndication with permission from Daily News Sri Lanka.

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Load-Date: April 7, 2009



<u>Sri Lankan civilians trapped by Tamil Tigers 'last stand'; As the fighting has shrunk to a three-square mile strip of rebel-held land, Sri Lanka's military has framed its offensive as the world's 'largest hostage rescue mission.'</u>

The Christian Science Monitor
May 3, 2009 Sunday

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Length: 888 words

Byline: Simon Montlake Correspondent of The Christian Science Monitor

Body

On the far shore of a brackish lagoon, white Brahmin cows stoop to drink. Behind them, over a muddy embankment, palm trees frame a row of abandoned shelters on a sandy beach. Just two weeks ago, this was a Tamil Tiger stronghold. A few miles south, hundreds of Tamil rebels are making a final, desperate stand in Sri Lanka's 26-year civil war.

Held there, as pawns in the military endgame, are tens of thousands of ethnic-Tamil civilians. Short on food and water, and pounded by artillery shells, their plight has triggered international concern but no halt in the fighting. Instead, a final assault seems imminent. On Apr. 30, one day after rejecting calls by British and French envoys for a cease-fire, President Mahinda Rajapaksa said in a speech that the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) had five or six days left to surrender. Similar deadlines have come and gone before. But an aid worker in Vavuniya, where refugee camps are overflowing with newcomers from the war zone, says military officials had told her last week to expect another 50,000 arrivals by midweek. That number is at the low end of the UN's estimate of remaining civilians trapped by the two warring sides. Army commanders leading a tightly scripted media tour of recently captured areas gave a more cautious assessment. Victory would be in "a couple of weeks, at the most," General Jagath Dias told reporters. World's 'largest hostage rescue mission?' As the fighting has shrunk to a narrow strip of rebel-held land, currently less than three square miles, Sri Lanka's military has framed its offensive against the LTTE as the world's "largest hostage rescue mission." On Friday, it air-dropped leaflets into the area that urged Tamil civilians to seek sanctuary in the cleared areas. That's what happened here on Apr. 20. Overnight, Army commandos crossed the shallow lagoon and captured the *LTTE*'s defensive embankment. The next morning, watched by spy drones, huge crowds of ragged men, women and children streamed out on foot. By 10 a.m., 5,000 had crossed into government-held territory. At 10 p.m., the number rose to 35,000, in addition to those who escaped north along the sands. In total, 115,000 civilians escaped this way, the military says. Commanders say that if they can penetrate the final LTTE redoubt, the remainder of the trapped civilians can flee, leaving the rebels to surrender or die. More than 3,000 have surrendered so far. The military insists that no bystanders are harmed in the rescue efforts. "We continue this operation with the aim of not causing any casualties to civilians," Gen. Dias said. A recent internal UN report, however, estimates that nearly 6,500 civilians had died in the war zone prior to the Apr. 20 outflow. On Saturday, medical officials in the LTTE-held area told the BBC and other news agencies that scores had died during two days of government shelling that hit a makeshift hospital. The government denied the claim. War crimes by both sides? It has also pushed back against leaked UN satellite data that appeared to show recent aerial bombardment of civilian areas. The release of the satellite images, which Sri Lankan officials say are inconclusive, appear to be part of an internal UN row over how far to expose what some UN officials are calling war crimes by both sides. Human rights groups and other observers warn that any final offensive would spell disaster

Sri Lankan civilians trapped by Tamil Tigers 'last stand' As the fighting has shrunk to a three-square mile strip of rebel-held land, Sri Lanka 's military has

for those caught in the crossfire. A repeat of the Apr. 20 exodus is complicated by the area's topography and the ruthlessness of the LTTE, which is killing anyone caught escaping by boat or land, says another aid worker in direct contact with civilians there. Ramani Hariharan, a retired Army colonel who was an intelligence chief during India's 1987-1990 peacekeeping operation in Sri Lanka, says it would be almost impossible to distinguish civilians from fighters in the densely packed area. "It's not a neat operation. It's going to be messy. Messy operations lead to casualties," he says. Dire conditions for trapped civilians In the war zone, conditions are increasingly dire as thousands of families huddle in trenches in fear of incoming shells. Most only eat one in three days, says the second aid worker. Last week, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), the only foreign relief agency present, delivered by boat 30 tons of food aid, the first to arrive since early April. "The fighting is going on. The food is arriving. Do you leave your trench to get food for your family? Do you take the risk? These are tough choices," says Sophie Romanens, a spokesperson for the ICRC. On the road to the town of Putumattalan, the war's toll is writ large in the empty, burnt-out villages ringed by fallow fields. Only military patrols and distant explosions break the silence of a land seemingly scoured of humanity. Near the front line a line of red buses await the next exodus of war refugees. Since Thursday, none have come out. Outside a makeshift clinic, Army Private P.O. Athula recalls fierce fire fights for control of this area. Many of the LTTE combatants are children, he says. Three out of four are young women, he estimates. If possible, he says it's better to capture and try to rehabilitate these fighters, who are forced to join the LTTE. "If they are children," he says, "I try not to kill them."

Load-Date: February 19, 2010



420 Tigers killed, troops seize key Sri Lankan area (Lead)

Hindustan Times
April 5, 2009 Sunday

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Length: 464 words

Dateline: Colombo

Body

Colombo, April. 5 -- Fighting the <u>Tamil Tigers</u> in their last bastion, Sri Lankan troops Sunday captured the Puthukkudiyiruppu area, killing over 420 guerrillas in three days of fighting, the military said.

The 53 and 58 divisions of the Sri Lankan Army also inflicted heavy damage on the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (*LTTE*) in Mullaitivu district, military spokesman Brigadier Udaya Nanayakkara said.

The troops have also seized three 130 mm long-range artillery guns from the rebels.

Puthukkudiyiruppu in Mullaitivu had been a major base for the past two decades where the <u>LTTE</u> maintained several military and naval bases as well as its armoury.

"Over three days including today the troops have recovered over 420 <u>LTTE</u> bodies. Several known <u>LTTE</u> leaders such as Vithusha, Nagesh, Thurga, Theepan and Gadafi were among those killed in the operation," Nanayakkara told the national television.

Theepan was in charge of the <u>LTTE</u> military wing for the island's north while Gadafi was known to be the personal bodyguard of <u>LTTE</u> chief Velupillai Prabhakaran. Vithusha was the <u>LTTE</u> women wing leader.

He said that Bhanu, one of the <u>LTTE</u> military leaders, had been reportedly wounded in the clash. The fate of the <u>LTTE</u> chief is not known.

The defence ministry earlier in the day said that all senior <u>LTTE</u> leaders "are now hiding in the no-fire-zone holding the civilians as protective shield.

"A majority of the battle hardened <u>LTTE</u> leaders (have been) killed while the most senior cadres are getting ready to send the child soldiers to the frontline," it said.

The ministry said its soldiers were locked in "man-to-man combat" in Mullaitivu.

"The remaining <u>LTTE</u> cadres still forced to fight the Sri Lankan Army in the no-fire-zone are facing total annihilation," it said.

Among the recent seizures were a 30 mm anti-aircraft machine gun, three 12.7 mm anti-aircraft machine guns, seven multi purpose machine guns, 43 T-56 assault rifles, two 40 mm grenade launchers, four 5.56 mm weapons and three rocket propelled grenade launchers.

Several vehicles, including a luxury jeep believed to have been used by LTTE leaders, have been recovered.

420 Tigers killed, troops seize key Sri Lankan area (Lead)

According to the defence ministry, the 53 and 58 Divisions Wednesday made a "spectacular military" push to divide "the remaining *LTTE* fighting cadre into several isolated groups and surrounding them separately".

The troops have asked the trapped *LTTE* cadres to surrender.

"We called them to surrender via their (\underline{LTTE}) radio frequencies," a senior ground commander was quoted as saying by the defence ministry.

There was no reaction from the **LTTE**, which has been fighting to carve out a separate state in the island's northeast over the past quarter century.

--IANSpk/mr

(485 Words)*05041437NNNNPublished by HT Syndication with permission from Indo-Asian News Service.

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Load-Date: August 2, 2009



Sunday Observer (Sri Lanka) September 20, 2009 Sunday

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Length: 3077 words

Dateline: Sri Lanka

Body

Sri Lanka, Sept. 20 -- The ceaselessly protean <u>LTTE</u> has appeared in numerous guises, using various names, creating and moulding the terrain to fit its agenda. TRO, White Pigeon, Illankai Thamil Sangam - are just some of its avatars. If shut down in one place, it rises up brimming with energy in another. Along with the decline and fall of the <u>LTTE</u>, there's been a flurry of activity in the US Tamil diaspora with their front groups and operatives hitting on all cylinders as they hastily reinvent themselves, taking cover under a plethora of names spun from their indefatigable acronym maker USTPAC (United States Tamil Political Action Council), APSL (Americans for Peace in Sri Lanka), and PEARL (People for Equality And Relief in Lanka) to name a few.

The current momentum is being played out at several levels, by several groups. One is pushing a political agenda, as was evident in the meeting Assistant Secretary, South and Central Asian Affairs Robert Blake had with a group of representatives from known <u>LTTE</u> fronts. Another is advocating a purported 'peace and reconciliation' plan even while another is accusing Sri Lanka of 'genocide' and continuing old <u>LTTE</u> propaganda. Undoubtedly, it's a byzantine network of organisations, but it's the same people, the same agenda, and all roads lead to the same Babylon: Tamil Eelam.

Comprising an army of Tamil expatriates entrenched in a sycophantic culture that follows orders obediently (most are 'economic refugees' trafficked by the <u>LTTE</u>), an ill-gotten booty estimated at nearly a billion dollars, and a well-oiled propaganda machine, this network is essentially the next frontier of the Eelam war. As terrorism expert Rohan Gunaratne warns: "Although the <u>LTTE</u> in Sri Lanka is dead, there will be efforts by the vast <u>LTTE</u> network overseas to revive violence. As long as support for <u>LTTE</u> persists overseas, Sri Lanka will remain under threat."

Central to that support, is, of course, fundraising. When freezing the assets of the TRO, the *LTTE*'s main fundraising and money laundering department, the US Treasury noted: In the United States, TRO has raised funds on behalf of the *LTTE* through a network of individual representatives. According to sources within the organisation, TRO is the preferred conduit of funds from the United States to the *LTTE* in Sri Lanka. With the TRO banned, the mantle of 'humanitarian' fundraising appears to have fallen on a group that calls itself the International Medical Health Organisation (IMHO). There's nothing 'international' about this all-Tamil group which has effectively supplanted the banned TRO in the US and is suddenly on the radar as the beneficiary or organiser of several fundraisers held in the name of the IDPs. On June 13, the group held a fundraiser in Bellflower in Southern California and raised \$13000, purportedly to build toilets at Menik farm, a very well-known IDP shelter. Another IMHO fundraiser was held on August 22 at the Ambassador Theatre in Pasadena, CA. More are scheduled outside of California.

The monies raised from these fundraisers no doubt amount to just chump change for an organisation allied with the **LTTE** which raised an estimated \$70 million in tsunami funds alone (and used most of it to buy weapons).

But such fundraisers are an opportunity for self-promotion, anti-Sri Lanka propaganda, and establishing credibility. Just as the 2004 tsunami provided a bonanza to the TRO to raise and launder funds for the <u>LTTE</u>, the IDP situation (created by the <u>LTTE</u> when it took thousands upon thousands hostage in the last stages of the war) is turning out to be a sturdy milking cow for IMHO and others.

With post-war dust settling, the emergence of an organisation with direct and indirect ties to a proscribed terrorist organisation demands scrutiny, not just for the potential threat to Sri Lanka but from an American perspective as well. As a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, has it exercised the due diligence required to ensure its tax-free assets don't fall into terrorist hands? Has it contravened US counter-terrorism laws? Has it knowingly provided material support to a terrorist outfit? Who are its players, who are its allies, where has it been and where is it headed?

The genesis of the IMHO, known as the Tamils Health Organisation (THO), is in itself an indicator of its <u>LTTE</u> ties. It was launched on Nov. 1, 2003 as part of the AGM of the Illankai Thamil Sangam, a virulently anti-Sri Lankan <u>LTTE</u> front in the USA.

Among the four founders of the THO is physician Sujanthy Rajaram who in April 2009 added her voice to that of the frenzied <u>LTTE</u> diaspora that was making a last-ditch effort to save the trapped terrorist leaders in the Wanni by outrageous claims that the SL military was using chemical weapons. In an article titled 'Medical Crisis in the Wanni,' Rajaram not only endorses the falsified chemical weapons charge (made by a pro-<u>LTTE</u> website called 'War Without Witness in Sri Lanka') she goes on to provide advice on what the Wanni victims should do to fight the effects of chemical warfare. The advice, all in English, was surely not for the benefit of the Tamil-speaking people who were at the time fleeing their homes. Strategically placed on the 'Tamils for Obama' site, the purpose was clearly to create the kind of atmosphere of panic and urgency that grabs the attention of the international community.

The relationship of IMHO members to the LTTE/TRO, however, goes beyond the realm of propaganda antics.

A Lancaster cardiologist whose office address and phone number have been identified as a TRO centre by the <u>LTTE</u>'s official organ, Tamilnet and in other documents, is also the IMHO's California coordinator. The TRO (AKA TREO - Tamil Refugee Relief Organisation) office on Heaton Avenue in Lancaster is the medical office of Dr. S. Sunder, IMHO California coordinator. The phone number used by the TRO is still being used by Sunder for fundraising and other activities of the IMHO, which raises the question of the TRO, designated a terrorist front whose funds were frozen in Nov. 2007 by the US Treasury, continuing to raise funds under a different guise. The advertisement for the June 13 IMHO fundraiser in Bellflower, that appeared in several publications, points to such with S. Sunder's wife, Thilaka Sunder, being shown as one of three organisers and the same TRO phone number provided as her contact number.

Another IMHO board member of interest is San Ramon, CA, resident Jegan Thambaiyah who is also a member and one-time president of a group called Tamils of Northern California (TNC), essentially another pro-Tiger group. Counting just what it has declared in its tax statements, from 1999 to 2006, the TNC's funds to the TRO totalled about \$400,000.

In addition to funding the TRO, the TNC has carried out numerous campaigns on behalf of the <u>LTTE</u>. It was the TNC (along with Ilankai Thamil Sangam; Tamils Of Northern California; Tamil Welfare And Human Rights Committee; Federation Of Tamil Sangams Of North America; World Tamil Coordinating Committee; Nagalingam Jeyalingam) that took the US State Dept. to court, challenging the Patriot Act for criminalising providing material support to terrorist organisations such as the <u>LTTE</u>.

TNC has steadily raised funds for the IMHO in the past and is continuing to do so, with copious borrowings from the **LTTE** propaganda machine.

It is also one of the groups that fought hysterically to get the international community to intervene in Sri Lanka to stop the war in May of this year and save the <u>LTTE</u> by petitioning for a "Special Session of the UN Human Rights Council on the Human Rights Situation in Sri Lanka."

The TNC indirectly provided other assistance to the Tigers when it funded an organisation called the International Tamil Technical Professionals' Organisation (ITTPO), the parent of VanniTech - supposedly a high-tech computer training facility - which was opened in 2003 by *LTTE* political leader Tamil Selvam and other Tigers in Kilinochchi. The ITTPO's first director board included the head of the TRO's USA office, N. A. Ranjithan, and Vimal Rajagopal, also identified by Tamilnet as a TRO operative. Ranjithan's TRO office in Cumberland, MD, into which the TNC and other Tamil diaspora groups poured funds, was raided in 2006 by the FBI and eventually closed down as being an *LTTE* front in Nov. 2007 by the US Treasury. (The Tamil Foundation, another organisation headed by Ranjithan, was designated an *LTTE* front earlier this year and its assets too are now frozen.)

In addition to the shared links to the <u>LTTE</u> with the TNC, the IMHO maintained a direct relationship with the terrorist group. It is a given that nothing could have been done in the Wanni without the approval and support of the Tiger leadership. Since its inception in 2004, the IMHO has partnered directly with the <u>LTTE</u> by way of a Kilinochchibased NGO called the Centre for Health Care (CHC) which operated almost exclusively in the <u>LTTE</u>-held areas.

The CHC website contains photographs of a handful of token activities in the south, which, on closer review, turn out to be tsunami-related funding - a dental chair donated by the foreign NGO Direct Relief International and a mobile clinic on board the Dundee Mercy Bus funded by Australian donors.

With funding from several expatriate organisations, including IMHO-US, the CHC set up eleven health centres named 'Thileepan Medical Centres' in <u>LTTE</u>-held areas. The centres, identified by the CHC website as 'primary care' centres were manned by rural 'medical practitioners,' who provided the most rudimentary treatment. The centres were named after former <u>LTTE</u> political wing head Rasiah Parthiban alias Thileepan who died in 1987.

When <u>LTTE</u> supremo Vellupillai Prabhakaran was injured in an air attack by Sri Lankan forces on December 1, 2007, he is said to have been treated at a Thileepan Medical Centre at a hidden jungle location, an indication of the centres being used to treat not just civilians but militants as well.

At a public event held on June 3, 2004 in Pattalipuram, an area in the Trincomalee district that was then under its sway, the Tigers made it abundantly clear that it owned and controlled all the Thileepan Medical Centres, set up by the IMHO and other groups in the North/East. The event was the opening of the eleventh Thileepan Medical Centre and at hand for the ceremony were the local top militants: 'Colonel Banu,' 'Military Commander' Sornam, S. Elilan and Iyankaran, <u>LTTE</u> leader and deputy leader respectively of the Trincomalee district, Isaiarasan, Muttur <u>LTTE</u> military wing head, and Kaaronja, <u>LTTE</u> Trincomalee district <u>women</u>'s wing political head. The honour of lighting the lamp was given to the mother of a slain <u>LTTE</u> militant.

That strain of Eelam 'nationalism' is unmistakably echoed by IMHO secretary Thavam Thambipillai in a letter to the London-based Medical Institute of Tamils (MIOT): "Nation-building is obviously a daunting task and for this reason we, the expatriate Tamil medical community needs to be organised to take on a task of this magnitude."

Even after the <u>LTTE</u> publicly declared the Thileepan primary care medical centres to be its property, administered by its so-called 'Eelam Health Ministry,' the IMHO did not withdraw its 'nation building' thrust. On the contrary, just two months later, in August 2004, it infused another \$47,500 to build another center, this time in Iyankankulam. It also continued to provide support and aid to the other <u>LTTE</u>-owned primary centres by way of furnishings, motor cycles, ambulances, computers, fax machines, and even a digital camera. The IMHO claims to have gifted at least three such ambulances to the <u>LTTE</u>-controlled facilities. It does not require much imagination to suspect what the <u>LTTE</u>, engaged in deadly combat with the Sri Lankan forces, did with these vehicles!

US tax laws governing charitable organisations, (501(c)(3)s), state that in order to qualify for tax exemption, the domestic (US-based) charity must legally control and operate the foreign organisation to which it channels funds. Piecing together its own narratives, provided to donors and potential donors, there is nothing to show that the IMHO met this very basic requirement.

The CHC definitely was nothing more than a unit of the <u>LTTE</u>, a convenient conduit for diaspora funding. The Norwegian Tamils Health Organisation, the London-based Medical Institute of Tamils (MIOT), and the Canada-based Tamil Emergency Medical Services are among organisations that claimed to be CHC's partners.

Along with the <u>LTTE</u>'s moribund fortunes, the CHC has disappeared and now the IMHO claims it is channelling aid to the IDPs through the Colombo-based Consortium for Humanitarian (CHA), headed by Jeevan Thiagarajah.

Let it be noted that in Sri Lanka, Thiagarajah's credentials for representing any humanitarian organisation have been in question after his own wife filed a case against him accusing him of abuse and 'inhuman treatment.' The CHA presents itself as a non-partisan umbrella organisation of NGOs with rather vague objectives such as advocating for "peace, human rights and development with specific focus on diversity, fundamental rights and freedom" and generating knowledge and sharing skills particularly in areas of information gathering, processing and dissemination.

Despite this innocuous front, the CHA has partnered with NGOs with deep ties with the <u>LTTE</u>, such as the Norwegian Berghof Foundation and FORUT whose heads were deported from Sri Lanka for activities that undermined Sri Lankan sovereignty. Among the events the CHA has organised with Berghof is an eyebrow-raising 16-month training course in "Defence and Security Management" in South Africa. For an organisation that promotes peace, the training is suspect enough, doubly so considering that South Africa has been a hotbed of <u>LTTE</u> activity which included military training camps. CHA has also been the recipient of a \$1500 grant from the TNC (under the presidency of Jegan Thambiayah), which establishes that it has had ties with this <u>LTTE</u> front.

These questionable links notwithstanding, Thiagarajah is known to have easy and privileged access to sensitive government information and to security zones, as well as IDP camps. This puts IMHO at a great advantage because the connection to such an official at once throws sanctity on its actions and removes the baggage it carries from its established ties to the *LTTE*.

The IMHO's interconnectedness to other Tamil groups by way of a common political agenda, funding, material support, and shared personnel (the same board members) is comparable to the relationship TRO(USA) and the Tamil Foundation where the flow of funds and coordinated financial activities took place.

Earlier this year, when it issued the order freezing the assets of the Tamil Foundation in Maryland, the US Treasury Department pointed out that the head of the Tamil Foundation also being the president of the Tamils Rehabilitation Organisation (TRO) in the United States, a designated terrorist organisation, had led to the flow of funds and coordinated financial actions. "The common leadership of the TRO and the Tamil Foundation has facilitated these activities," the Treasury said in a statement adding that it will continue to: "...aggressively target attempts by any terrorist group to hide behind charities, front companies, or name changes to propagate terror against innocents around the world." Both Sri Lanka and the US have a stake in scrutinising the activities of groups such as the IMHO. Let it be remembered that while the *LTTE*'s defeat signifies an internal military victory for Sri Lanka, the war is still being waged unabated in the overseas theatre. As noted earlier, it is a byzantine network of (to quote Guneratne again) "state-of-the-art propaganda, fundraising, procurement, a shipping infrastructure, a significant drug trade, a far-flung human smuggling empire, and offices and cells in about 60 countries."

The challenge for Sri Lanka is to stop this behemoth from getting a foothold once again in the north and east.

Just as much as it set up an overseas network, the <u>LTTE</u>, now morphed into a 'transnational,' 'in-exile' operation, will have to seed itself back in Sri Lanka by recruiting front organisations, into host bodies such as the CHA.

Sri Lanka is well-versed in the devious tactics and subversive aims of foreign NGOs and needs no reminder of the dangers of allowing them free rein. Maintaining a tight leash on foreign groups without becoming insular while allowing legitimate charities to do their work unimpeded is part of the challenge of reining in the beast.

When organisations such as the IMHO come bearing gifts, Sri Lanka will do well to remember New York Mayor Rudy Giuliani's response to a \$10m donation to the 9/11 disaster recovery fund from Saudi Arabia in 2001.

After giving the cheque to the mayor at a memorial service at Ground Zero, the site of the World Trade Center towers destroyed in the attack, Saudi Prince Alwaleed made a statement suggesting the United States "must address some of the issues that led to such a criminal attack." Giuliani immediately responded saying the cheque would not be cashed. He said: "There is no moral equivalent for this [terrorist] act. "There is no justification for it.

The people who did it lost any right to ask for justification for it when they slaughtered 4,000 or 5,000 innocent people."

Similarly, the humanitarian aid from IMHO and such NGOs comes with a heavy price tag.

For example, in April, the TNC held a fundraiser and raised around \$60,000 for the IMHO using the following propaganda:

- * Over 300,000 Tamil minorities are held in detention camps fenced with barbed wires.
- * Everyday people are dying of malnutrition, starvation, and disease, due to severe shortage of infant formulas, food, and lack of proper sanitation.
- * Since December 2008, 100,000+ have been injured and are without adequate medical care.

Donors were urged to write to the White House and Congress to 'prevail on the Sri Lankan government to allow international aid, and international media, unfettered access to these camps,' even though aid were working in the conflict zone.

In other words, are the scraps of 'humanitarian aid' that NGOs such as IMHO bring worth the price in terms of the 'moral equivalency' they claim? Published by HT Syndication with permission from Sunday Observer (Sri Lanka). For more information on news feed please contact Sarabjit Jagirdar at https://doi.org/10.1007/jhtgs.com/

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Load-Date: September 21, 2009



Tamil Tigers surrender last of their territory

Cape Times (South Africa)
April 06, 2009 Monday
e2 Edition

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Section: Pg. 2

Length: 220 words

Body

Sri Lanka's military says soldiers have captured the last stronghold of the Tamil Tiger rebels, where tens of thousands of civilians remain trapped.

Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas has won assurances that Iraq's Shia leaders will protect Palestinians living in Iraq, including thousands stranded in desert refugee camps. The Palestinian leadership had warm ties with Saddam Hussein, a Sunni.

The ruling Communist Party easily won parliamentary elections in Moldova yesterday, an exit poll showed. The Communists won about 45 percent of the vote, according to the Institute for Public Politics. The party says it favours close links with both Europe and Russia.

French Interior Minister Michele Alliot-Marie has pledged to crack down on demonstrators against police violence who clashed with police and damaged buildings in Bastia, Corsica.

At least 14 people, including two <u>women</u>, have died after drinking illegally brewed alcohol in India's north-eastern state of Assam.

Authorities say dozens of people are missing and feared dead in northern India after an overloaded boat carrying Hindu devotees capsized while crossing the Yamuna River.

Macedonians voted peacefully yesterday, with only minor irregularities, in a presidential election they hope will show they have matured enough to join the European Union and Nato.

Load-Date: April 5, 2009



106 kids die in Lanka bloodbath

Hindustan Times
May 12, 2009 Tuesday

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Length: 318 words

Dateline: India

Body

India, May 12 -- Bloodbath. ThE United Nations used the expression to describe the killing of over 100 children over the weekend in Sri Lanka Confirming the deaths, the UN and said its fears of large-scale killings in the "civilian safe zone" (CSZ) had come true.

Tamil Tigers are reportedly still holding thousands of civilians hostage inside a small strip of land in the northeast. Government doctors functioning in the area warned that lack of medical facilities and clean water could trigger epidemics of infectious diseases. "The death count of civilians till 4 p.m. on Monday was 435 including 106 children. More than 1,300 are injured, of them, 251 are children," government doctor, V. Shanmugarajah, in-charge of the makeshift Mullai-vyakkal hospital in the area, told HT. The actual estimates of the dead could be much higher, he added. The CSZ is located 380-odd km north of Colombo and is out of bounds for journalists, making independent verification of claims by the government - or the Tamil rebels -difficult. More than 1.6 lakh men, women and children continue to live in the CSZ without shelter. Gordon Weiss, the UN spokesperson in Colombo, told French news agency AFP, "The large scale killing of civilians, including the death of over 100 children, over the weekend shows the bloodbath scenario has become a reality." The UN, however, did not attribute the killings to the allegedly large-scale shelling by the Sri Lankan army, which has vehemently denied using heavy weapons at the safe zone. Meanwhile, the Lankan defence ministry claimed LTTE 'spokesperson' llanthirayan succumbed to his injuries late on Sunday. The ministry quoted pro-LTTE website tamilnet.com as saying llanthirayan was a senior LTTE cadre. The second-in-command of the LTTE sea tiger wing identified as Cheliyan was also killed in Karayanmullivaikkal.Published by HT Syndication with permission from Hindustan Times.

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Load-Date: May 12, 2009



Tamil Tigers announce plan to surrender

Guardian.com

May 17, 2009 Sunday

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Length: 770 words

Body

ABSTRACT

· Rebel fighters reported to be blowing themselves up Military says 50,000 civilians escaped in last 72 hours

FULL TEXT

Sri Lankan troops were today mopping up the remnants of the defeated <u>Tamil Tigers</u> as thousands of civilians trapped for months between the warring sides made their way to safety.

Some of the rebel fighters were reported to be blowing themselves up as troops approached, and a large explosion in a bunker prompted speculation that the Tigers' leadership had killed themselves. The army claimed that intercepted radio communications had revealed a mass suicide plan.

Selvarasa Pathmanathan, the Tigers' chief of international relations, said the rebels had abandoned the fight and were laying down their arms. In a <u>statement on the pro-Tamil website TamilNet</u>, he admitted that the three-decade war was over. "This battle has reached its bitter end," he said.

The same website cited the Sea Tigers commander, Soosai, claiming that thousands of bodies were lying on the ground or in bunkers.

The military said more than 50,000 people had escaped from the fighting in the last 72 hours. It claimed to have boxed the remaining rebels into a 400-metre by 600-metre pocket of land.

Earlier, Brigadier Udaya Nanayakkara, the Sri Lankan military spokesman, said: "Suicide cadres are coming in front of troops in the frontline and exploding themselves."

The wherebouts of the doctors who treated civilian casualties inside the so-called no-fire zone during the fighting, and who provided a running comentary on the scale of the unfolding humanitarian catasrophe, remained unknown, although one - Thurairaja Varatharajah - was reported to have been badly wounded trying to escape. It is believed that medical staff were detained by Sri Lankan forces as they joined civilians fleeing the area.

The president, Mahinda Rajapaksa, scheduled a nationally televised news conference for Tuesday morning, in which he is expected to tell the country the war is over.

Tamil Tigers announce plan to surrender

Thousands of Sri Lankans poured into the streets this morning, dancing and setting off celebratory fireworks, after Rajapaksa made an initial declaration of victory. "We are celebrating a victory against terrorism," said Sujeewa Anthonis, a 32-year-old street hawker.

<u>http://www.tamilnet.com/art.html?catid=13&artid=29389</u> Downing Street said the prime minister, Gordon Brown, had made several phone calls yesterday to Rajapaksa urging him to end the violence.

There were no reliable figures -available for civilian casualties, but with tens of thousands of people crammed into an area of less than a square mile, humanitarian agencies feared the worst. "It is hard to think of a worse place on earth to be right now than on that stretch of beach," said James Elder, the Unicef spokesman in Sri Lanka.

The military said last night that 10,000 civilians had breached the Tigers' inner cordon and were being shepherded to safety under fire from the rebels. Elder said those who remained in the zone were at the mercy of "indiscriminate firing" from all sides.

"It is a bloodbath. It is a catastrophic situation," he said. "We are seeing a complete disregard for civilian life. Everyone's worst-case scenario is coming to pass."

About 20,000 people are believed to have escaped from the no-fire zone between Thursday and Friday afternoon, but Elder said many of those who had managed to get out were in a terrible condition.

"When you look at the state of the first people to leave three weeks ago, there were malnourished children and <u>women</u>, and people with gunshot wounds and shrapnel injuries, and these people now have been there for another three weeks with next to nothing to eat in terrible conditions. It is going to be a nightmare," he said.

Gordon Weiss, a UN spokesman, said reliable reports from inside the war zone had dried up after the "courageous" doctors who had been working out of the last makeshift hospital at Mullaivaikal East primary school were forced to abandon the building in the face of heavy fighting on Friday. "We are most concerned about the fate of the 30,000 to 80,000 people who are left inside the combat zone," he said. "This is precisely the situation we feared all along that they would be left inside at the penultimate moments of the battle."

On Friday, the Sri Lankan army completed a pincer movement to surround the Tigers, seizing control of the coastline and cutting off the rebel group's escape route to the sea. Attempts by the International Committee of the Red Cross to evacuate thousands of wounded civilians failed last week. The organisation said the scale of the fighting made it impossible to get casualties out.

Load-Date: May 17, 2009



LTTE's Thamilini in custody

Daily Mirror (Sri Lanka) May 28, 2009 Thursday

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Length: 285 words

Dateline: Colombo

Body

Colombo, May 28 -- The <u>LTTE</u>'s <u>women</u>'s political wing head Subramaniam Shivathai, alias Thamilini, was taken into custody yesterday, by a special police team, at the IDP camp in Vavuniya, while she was in the camp with her mother and sister, a senior police officer said.

Thamilini had come to the government controlled area with the people escaping from Puthumathalan which was a No Fire Zone at the time. She had told the police that she threw away her cyanide capsule and her pistol and passed off as a displaced person. Thamilini's mother, Subramaniam Gowri Wijayaraja and a sister Maheshwari had also come with her. Another sister, Santhilan, had been killed in 1998, during a clash with the security forces in Paranthan. Thamilini and her family members had not been recognised by anyone when they lived with the others before they were sent to the camp in Vavuniya. Thamilini had been a student at Paranthan Hindu College up to the 'O' Level and had studied for the 'A' Level at the Central College of Kilinochchi. she had joined the <u>LTTE</u> in 1991, after listening to a lecture by the <u>LTTE</u>, and received battle training in a camp in Nirveli. For some time she had been put in charge of a coir mill and a farm in the Kilali area. During interrogations she had disclosed that she was attached to Thamilchelvam's office. When Nesmia, the previous head of <u>LTTE</u> <u>Women</u>'s Wing,- was killed in a clash with the army in Muhamalai, Thamilini had been appointed in her place. Her <u>LTTE</u> registration number was 1736. Thamilini was the name given her by the <u>LTTE</u>. Special police intelligence officers and army investigators are continuing interrogations. Published by HT Syndication with permission from Daily Mirror Sri Lanka.

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Load-Date: May 28, 2009



LTTE keen on a BJP victory

Daily Mirror (Sri Lanka) April 24, 2009 Friday

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Length: 989 words

Dateline: Colombo

Body

Colombo, April 24 -- The <u>LTTE</u> is now keen on a Bharathiya Janatha Party led government coming to power in India, as the current Congress government had failed to meet the expectations of the outfit.

George Master (the translator who worked with slain <u>LTTE</u> political head S.P. Thamilchelvan) who surrendered to the military, with former <u>LTTE</u> spokesman Daya Master, had told defence officials yesterday that the <u>LTTE</u> now wanted to see former Tamil Nadu chief minister Jayalalithaa Jeyaram taking over the reins from Chief Minister Karunanidhi who, ironically, had referred to <u>LTTE</u> leader Prabhakaran as a friend of his. A senior defence official told Daily Mirror yesterday that George Master, who is a retired Post Master of the Sri Lanka Postal Department, had said this to the defence authorities during interrogations soon after he surrendered to the military. During the interrogations, George Master had revealed that Norway had been keen that the <u>LTTE</u> give up its armed struggle. Accordingly, the Norwegian facilitators had repeatedly asked the <u>LTTE</u> to be more flexible at the negotiating table and had reportedly told the <u>LTTE</u> that there had to be a bit of 'give and take'. However, the <u>LTTE</u> had not heeded any of these requests, the official said, quoting George Master.

He had said that the LTTE had not been serious about the any of the talks, either with the administration of former prime minister Ranil Wickremesinghe or that of President Mahinda Rajapaksa, despite international pressure. According to George Master, he was not a member, but merely a paid employee, of the LTTE. He had said he had charged Rs. 300 per translation session in the Wanni, while at international fora, such as the Geneva peace talks, he had charged Rs. 3000 per session. He said that the LTTE considered him an employee and paid him for his work. He functioned mainly as official translator for Thamilchelvan. After the death of Thamilchelvan he had stopped working for the LTTE. No escape route for Prabhakaran: Navy Denying speculation that LTTE leader Velupillai Prabakaran and his senior leaders could escape the country by sea, the Navy said yesterday that there was no possible escape route as the Navy was on full surveillance, round the clock. "The navy strongly rejects claims that the LTTE leader had escaped using the sea," Navy spokesman Commander Mahesh Karunaratne said. He added that the Navy would not allow a single LTTE cadre to flee the island by boat. "We are on high alert around the clock and maintain at least three de fence lines starting close to the coastal belt and extending to deep sea," the spokesman said, adding, "no one can escape through those defences." Meanwhile, the Navy, commenting on recent reports that a large number of Tamil civilians had been arrested by the Australian navy while they were trying to enter Australia by sea after escaping from Sri Lankan battlefield, said that no boats with such a load of people had ever passed through Sri Lankan waters. "We can confirm that those groups never escaped from Sri Lanka in the recent past," Commander Karunaratne said, adding, "who knows if they were Sri Lankan Tamils." He also said that most of the people, who were staying in other countries, were seeking asylum in Australia and other countries claiming that they had escaped from the Sri Lankan battlefield. "There were many earlier instances, where such large groups had sought asylum from such countries, when the Sri Lankan war was at a peak," he said. Meanwhile, Australian media reports said, quoting the Australian Government, that Australia was worried that the escalating

LTTE keen on a BJP victory

conflict in Sri Lanka would see a surge in asylum seekers attempting to reach Australia by boat. The latest craft to reach Australian waters, intercepted on Wednesday, was carrying 32 men from the troubled Indian Ocean nation. Australian Home Affairs Minister Bob Debus says, while many asylum seekers are arriving from Afghanistan and Pakistan, the number coming from Sri Lanka could grow. He says: "We are also concerned . . . that there will be a surge of people, really, coming from the consequences of the terrible fighting that has been going on between Tamil and Sinhalese people." The Sri Lankans intercepted off Western Australia have been transferred to a navy patrol boat and are being taken to Australia's Indian Ocean territory of Christmas Island. The government says the boat was tracked by Border Protection Command for 24 hours before it entered Australia's migration zone, and was intercepted near Barrow Island on Wednesday morning. While the arrival of another boatload of asylum seekers came as little surprise, the location of the interception was unusual. A boat carrying 49 Afghan men, which exploded last week, killing five, was found at Ashmore Reef, 600 kilometres north of Broome, in Australia's north-west. Meanwhile, the Army, yesterday, continued with its mission to rescue the remaining trapped civilians south of 'safe zone,' while the number of civilians who escaped yesterday was reportedly below 2000, the defence ministry said. "Aerial observations indicated that the LTTE were leading the civilians at gunpoint, towards the narrow beachhead in Vellaimullaivaikkal in the safe zone," the ministry said. According to the defence ministry, the LTTE were now boxed in an area of less than 14 square kilometers, with army 55 Division approaching them from the north and the 58 Division from the west. Meanwhile, troops continue to encounter dwindling but constant resistance from the terrorists. Troops confronted a group of terrorists in the Ampalavanpokkanai area last morning, as they were manoeuvring to secure more safe routes for the civilians to escape the LTTE's grip. Troops of 58 Division have, since Monday, rescued a total of over 103,000 civilians. Amongst them were 31,017 children and 27,990 women. Published by HT Syndication with permission from Daily Mirror Sri Lanka.

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Load-Date: April 24, 2009



Britain condemns LTTE massacre in Buttala

Colombo Times

April 15, 2009 Wednesday

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Length: 504 words

Body

Colombo, April 15 -- British Foreign Secretary David Miliband, has strongly condemned the <u>LTTE</u> massacre of civilians in a remote village in Buttala on Monday(April 13). Denouncing the cold blooded killings of 8 villagers, including 3 <u>women</u> and 2 children, the British Foreign Secretary in a telephone conversation with Foreign Minister Rohitha Bogollagama (13th April 2009), requested the latter to convey his condolences to the bereaved families.

The British Minister, speaking further, welcomed the Government of Sri Lanka's announcement of a pause in hostilities for the period of the Sinhala and Tamil New Year. Minister Bogollagama, while appreciating his British counterpart's remarks, emphasized that the purpose of the pause was to enable the civilians to free themselves from the clutches of the <u>LTTE</u>, which has entrapped over 60,000 civilians as hostages in the No-Fire Zone. The Foreign Minister also stated that over 65,000 civilians have already crossed over to the cleared areas. Despite this goodwill humanitarian gesture by the Government, the <u>LTTE</u> is yet to reciprocate positively. The reaction from the <u>LTTE</u> so far has been the massacre of 8 innocent civilians in a remote hamlet in Buttala, in the Moneragala district and the premeditated attack on the Sri Lanka Embassy in Oslo, causing extensive damage to its property, both incidents taking place yesterday, within a few hours of the announcement of the President's directive to the armed forces to restrict their operations to those of a defensive nature during the festive period.

The British Foreign Secretary, while condemning the brutality of the <u>LTTE</u>, requested the Government of Sri Lanka to consider a longer period of the pause to enable the civilians to move out of the <u>LTTE</u> held areas. Foreign Minister Bogollagama emphasized that a longer pause was not possible because the <u>LTTE</u> has so far failed to demonstrate any genuine goodwill on its part in allowing the civilians to have free movement and there was concern that the <u>LTTE</u> would continue to consolidate its fortification of the No-Fire Zone. In this context, he urged the United Kingdom and the international community to bring adequate pressure on the <u>LTTE</u> to free the civilians.

The Foreign Minister pointed out that the way forward lies for the <u>LTTE</u> to heed the call by the international community to immediately lay down its weapons and surrender, and renounce violence and terrorism permanently, which would facilitate it to enter the democratic political process. Foreign Secretary Miliband emphasized the British Government's intention to remain engaged with Sri Lanka through the services of a special envoy at an appropriate time. Minister Bogollagama informed that the current stand of the Government of Sri Lanka remains unchanged in not recognizing the appointment of a special envoy by Britain.

Minister Bogollagama emphasized Sri Lanka's readiness to remain engaged on matters of mutual interest, and in this context, the two Ministers agreed to maintain their dialogue.

Load-Date: May 5, 2009



LTTE-EPRLF mutual killing spree

Daily News (Sri Lanka) June 23, 2009 Tuesday

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Length: 711 words

Dateline: Colombo

Body

Colombo, June 23 -- When the euphoria of victory dies down, and together with it the media hype ceases, when the guns do not rattle and boom anymore, and the sky, the land and the sea become calm and serene, when tranquillity reigns through it is natural to live in the present moment and forget the past. But one cannot live in the present without a past. Nor can one envision the future discarding the experience of the preceding events.

Hence the Daily News is serialising the Chronicle of LTTE Terror taken from our own archives which would remind our readers how it all began. An awareness of the chronology of terror would help us prevent the recurrence of such terror and frustrate any attempts by misguided elements to repeat history to suit their evil designs. It was not simple terror. Nor was terror sporadic. It was all pre-planned, pre-determined, well-calculated terror. The victims were innocent people. Though it is too many innumerate we would like to recall the major episodes in the Chronology of Terror. The month of December 1986 witnessed concerted effort by both New Delhi and Colombo's leaders trying to bring in a political settlement to the armed conflict in the North and East while some of the terrorist leaders like Uma Maheswaran or Prabhakaran were still enjoying the hospitality of their Indian friends but the killings continued now to take a different colour. The news reports from Delhi or South India turned a hopeful note on with President Jayewardene visiting Delhi, holding talks with Rajiv Gandhi and even the terrorists friend Sri Lankan born M.G.Ramachandran also flying to New Delhi to join in the talks with the two national leaders. In the first week of the month LTTE terrorists entered a Tamil village near Mullaitivu, assaulted the villagers including the children and abducted two men. The villagers more than a hundred men, women and children fled to the army position and complained about the abductions and sought protection. When the army fired mortars in the direction taken by the LTTE cadres the terrorist band comprising about ten armed cadres left their guarry alone and fled. Later the two villagers also came to the army and asked for protection. On December 20 LTTE terrorists entered the Eastern provincial township Kattankudy and first confronted the home guards who also fought back but they were overpowered by the fully armed and battle trained LTTE and in the shoot out 20 people, all Muslims of Kattankudy were killed but one terrorist identified as Arunan was also killed. Later the terrorists took the few weapons of the home guards and disappeared from the area. It was reported the LTTE was leaving the East and the EPRLFR was staying behind but the two terrorist bands by now were enemies fighting both in India and here for dominance. It was also reported that Velupillai Prabhakaran had returned to Sri Lanka from his base in Tamil Nadu but no one knew that his return would once again take heavy toll of lives at home. The LTTE cadres had fought the EPRLF even in India and had made many attempts to kill some leading members of the other terrorists group but the real trouble began when the LTTE who had deceived the other group that they were prepared to make peace were really gunning for them. It was during the second month of December and the LTTE suddenly in a surprise attack started attacking the EPRLF group and the first reports said at least 45 EPRLF cadres were killed by the LTTE. R.K.Narayanswamy and other writers on the LTTE and other terrorists had put the figure much above 42 and, it was later known that tractor trailer loads of corpses of killed EPRLF cadres were taken into a jungle area where

LTTE-EPRLF mutual killing spree

they were buried in mass graves. When the year 1986 was ending the political solution was promised and the godfather of the terrorists in the North Appapillai Amirthalingam was reported in the press as saying he will get the terrorist groups to accept a political settlement and renounce arms and terrorism. It was wishful thinking of course and Amir did not know what fate awaited him and his colleagues. Published by HT Syndication with permission from Daily News Sri Lanka. For more information on news feed please contact Sarabjit Jagirdar at https://dication@hindustantimes.com

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Load-Date: June 23, 2009



Tamils march on White House, plead for help in crisis

Agence France Presse -- English
May 18, 2009 Monday 6:40 PM GMT

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Length: 454 words

Dateline: WASHINGTON, May 18 2009

Body

Hundreds of ethnic Tamil immigrants converged on the White House Monday, imploring US President Barack Obama to pressure Sri Lanka into ending a "genocide" on the island.

"President Obama, you are our only hope!" chanted the demonstrators, many of whom held placards bearing the image of Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (*LTTE*) leader Velupillai Prabhakaran.

Earlier Monday, the government of majority-Sinhalese Sri Lanka declared an end to its decades-old war with the <u>Tamil Tigers</u> -- one of Asia's oldest and most brutal ethnic conflicts -- after routing the remnants of the rebel army and killing Prabhakaran and his deputies.

Waving red and gold <u>LTTE</u> flags and holding posters with graphic photographs of <u>women</u> and children apparently wounded in the Sri Lankan army's offensive, the protesters crowded in front of the White House denouncing a civilian slaughter and Colombo's refusal to allow relief agencies or journalists into the war zone.

Senthan Nada traveled from Toronto, home to hundreds of thousands of Tamil Canadians, to urge Obama to help "stop the genocide" which demonstrators insisted is continuing despite the end of combat operations.

"The war has ended, but the ethnic cleansing and the killings are still happening... and the world knows it," Nada told AFP.

"Sri Lankan armed forces and the government are intentionally killing Tamil civilians in the war zone."

Nada insisted that Colombo's announcement that the tens of thousands of civilians trapped in the island's north had been safely evacuated was "propaganda," and that Obama should use his clout to work with the United Nations and other world leaders to launch a massive humanitarian and diplomatic effort on the island.

"They're torturing people, said Sabanatha Mohan of Toronto.

"The Sri Lankan government is hiding genocide. Why nobody can stop it? Only the American president can do it," he said.

Tamils march on White House, plead for help in crisis

Other demonstrators were holding Obama to account after his call last week for the military to end "indiscriminate shelling" of civilians and for the rebels to surrender.

"They (the *Tamil Tigers*) complied, and 30,000 people died," said Tamil American Suba Francis.

"It's like you bring a child to a cliff and ask the child to jump and you will catch. The child jumped, but there was nobody to catch them," said Francis, 39, from Meadville, Pennsylvania.

Many protestors said they traveled from Canada to the Washington in a last-gasp effort to raise the plight of their Tamil compatriots after Canadian Prime Minister Stephen Harper's virtual silence on the crisis.

The International Committee of the Red Cross, the only neutral organization that has been allowed to work in the war zone, has for its part described "an unimaginable humanitarian catastrophe."

Load-Date: May 19, 2009



LTTE deprived Muslims freedom - President

Daily News (Sri Lanka) November 6, 2009 Friday

Copyright 2009 The Associated Newspapers of Ceylon Ltd. All Rights Reserved

Length: 214 words

Dateline: Sri Lanka

Body

Sri Lanka, Nov. 6 -- President Mahinda Rajapaksa yesterday said the <u>LTTE</u> terrorists deprived the freedom of Muslim community who co-exist peacefully with other communities in Jaffna, Vavuniya and Mannar districts.

The President was addressing the Muslim <u>women</u> at Temple Trees who were subject to <u>LTTE</u>s ethnic cleansing in Jaffna, Mannar and Vavuniya districts in the late 1990s. These displaced Muslim community are now living in refugee camps in the Puttalam district.

The President said the resettlement drive is going on rapidly and the people of all communities can live in peace.

"The bondage between communities are very strong. A number of development projects have been implemented in the Northern Province under the Uthuru Vasanthaya," he said.

"The <u>LTTE</u> terrorists attempted to shatter the amity between communities by chasing away the Muslim community who were living in Mullaitivu, Jaffna, Vavuniya and Mannar districts.

He said this issue has been outlined in the Mahinda Chintana too. Resettlement and Relief Services Minister Rishard Bathiudeen and Western Province Governor Alavi Mowlana also spoke. Published by HT Syndication with permission from Daily News Sri Lanka. For more information on news feed please contact Sarabjit Jagirdar at <a href="https://h

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Load-Date: November 6, 2009



Surrender warning served on Tamils

The Age (Melbourne, Australia)

April 21, 2009 Tuesday

Third Edition

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Section: NEWS; International News; Pg. 9

Length: 286 words

Byline: MATT WADE, SOUTH ASIA CORRESPONDENT

Body

THE Sri Lankan army has given the leader of the <u>Tamil Tigers</u>, Velupillai Prabhakaran, 24 hours to surrender as tens of thousands of civilians flee heavy fighting in the strip of land controlled by the rebels.

Between 5000 and 15,000 people crossed over from the area held by the Liberation <u>Tamil Tigers</u> of Eelam to Government-held territory yesterday after the Sri Lankan army broke through a rebel fortification near an official "no fire" zone.

"With this capture, troops opened a safe route for the hostages to come out of the <u>LTTE</u> grip, which was occupied by tens of thousands civilians seeking refuge," an army statement said.

There were reports of heavy fighting in the combat zone yesterday, where about 1000 hard-core Tamil Tiger fighters are surrounded by more than 50,000 Sri Lankan troops. "It's getting very hot and nasty up there," said one official from an international organisation.

The Sri Lankan military claimed that 17 civilians, including <u>women</u> and children, were killed by three Tamil Tiger suicide bomb attacks aimed at preventing them from escaping.

But TamilNet, a pro-Tamil Tiger website, said hundreds of civilians were feared killed and injured in the "total chaos" caused by the Sri Lankan army's advance.

Both sides accuse the other of killing innocent civilians, and the army alleges the rebels are using civilians as human shields. Most independent observers and foreign reporters are not allowed into the combat zone, making it impossible to independently verify the claims.

The UN says more than 100,000 civilians are still inside the rebel-held area. James Elder, the spokesman for UNICEF in Sri Lanka, said grave fears were held for as many as 45,000 children trapped in the conflict area.

Load-Date: April 20, 2009



On the operating table, evidence of Sri Lanka's brutal war

Agence France Presse -- English May 10, 2009 Sunday 1:28 AM GMT

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Length: 598 words

Byline: Nicolas Revise

Dateline: CHEDDIKULAM, Sri Lanka, May 10 2009

Body

The X-ray shows a bullet lodged next to the heart of a Tamil man, one of tens of thousands who have flooded out of Sri Lanka's northeast to escape the war with the *Tamil Tigers*.

"He said he was shot in the chest six months ago. But we can't remove it because we'd have to do full open-chest surgery," said Michel Orcel, a doctor working in a French field hospital set up on the island.

Over the last two weeks, the team of 72 surgeons, doctors, nurses and other staff have already treated 700 people, 100 of whom have been put on the operating table.

And under the scalpel, the skinny and traumatised displaced have given a gruesome picture of how Tamil civilians have paid a heavy price in what the island's government has been a "rescue mission."

Their wounds show how ordinary and impoverished villagers -- male and <u>female</u>, young and old -- have been shot, shelled, bombed and burned as the bitter ethnic conflict enters its bloody final phase.

One surgeon, Daniel Gaujoux, said he was "stunned by the number of machine gun bullets and shrapnel we are pulling out" from civilians who managed to escape.

"We've removed 30 bullets in 10 days -- around 10 of them from the arms and legs of children, and even one from the knee of an old woman," said Frederic Vavdin, another member of the French government aid team.

One young girl, 12-year-old J. Nitharsana, was lucky to keep her foot.

Her father, V. Jegathaesvaran, said she was wounded a month ago by the <u>Tamil Tigers</u> -- who have been accused of keeping civilians as human shields to slow a fierce government onslaught.

Another one of the wounded, 36-year-old Susenthiran Thiressamma, was nursing horrific burns to her chest and shoulders. She said she was "burned by a chemical bomb" two weeks ago.

On the operating table, evidence of Sri Lanka 's brutal war

Doctors at the French field hospital said they had seen a number of similar injuries, including "some with white hands, possibly caused by burns from phosphorus" -- an incendiary weapon which is banned from use in civilian areas under an international convention.

Both the Sri Lankan government and the <u>Tamil Tigers</u> have accused each other of using chemical weapons, charges each have denied.

With the island's hawkish government severely restricting access to the north, independent monitoring of how the war is being conducted is almost non-existent.

However, the Sri Lanka's defence ministry last week granted permission to AFP to visit the French field hospital at Cheddikulam, 90 kilometres (56 miles) south-west of the war zone.

According to a United Nations document circulated among diplomats last month, around 6,500 Tamil civilians are thought to have been killed and 14,000 wounded in the government's offensive since the start of the year.

And in March, the UN's human rights chief Navi Pillay said both the government and the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (<u>LTTE</u>) -- who have been fighting for an independent state since the 1970s -- may have committed war crimes.

But the Sri Lankan government is brushing off any criticism, and says the remaining guerrillas have been confined to a five-square-kilometre (two-square-mile) area in the district of Mullaittivu.

It estimates that up to 20,000 civilians are still being held by the <u>LTTE</u> as human shields, while the UN has said the number could be as high as 50,000.

At the field hospital, the doctors are reluctant to point fingers at either side -- aware that the Sri Lankan government does not take kindly to foreign criticism, and has expelled aid workers before.

"Here we just pull out the bullets, treat the wounds. We don't interpret them," the head of the mission, Eric Abraham, told AFP.

Load-Date: May 10, 2009



Lanka says only 500 LTTE fighters left

Hindustan Times
April 6, 2009 Monday

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Length: 430 words

Dateline: New Delhi

Body

New Delhi, Apr. 6 -- The Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (<u>LTTE</u>) seems to be gasping for breath. About 420 of its cadres have been killed in pitched fighting with the Sri Lankan army (SLA) since Thursday. More than 250 have been killed in the past 24 hours.

On Sunday, the rebels also lost control of the remaining patch of Puthukkuddirippu (PTK), its stronghold in the north-eastern district of Mullaitivu. The military also claimed to have killed several rebel leaders who were leading the battle against the army. The area of PTK had been a strategic base for the past two decades where the LTTE maintained military and naval bases and its armoury. "The remaining 400-500 trained LTTE cadres are now hiding among 50,000-odd civilians in the designated 'no fire zone', a 20 sq km area between the north-eastern coast and a lagoon. (LTTE chief) Prabhakaran is also hanging around there," army commander lieutenant general Sarath Fonseka told Hindustan Times in an exclusive conversation. He said 15 soldiers died and 100 were injured during the three-day operation. "We recovered three bags full of documents that belonged to Prabhakaran," said Fonseka. "One bag contained original birth certificates of his children, his wife's passport, horoscopes of the entire family and several photo albums. The bags were dumped behind a bush. We are going through the documents." The LTTE did not immediately react to the military's claims. "The army had surrounded the LTTE from PTK-east since Thursday," said Fonseka. "They in turn pressed their best fighters from the Imran Pandian and the Charles Anthony brigades along with the women's brigade to the front." A senior ground commander told the defence ministry website, "We called them to surrender via their [LTTE] radio frequencies, but they were ordered to fight to their death by the **LTTE** leadership." Several top rebel fighters - including two **women** leaders Durga and Vidusha and Prabhakaran's personal bodyguard, Gadafi - were killed in the fighting. Among the other seizures were five anti-aircraft machine guns, several abandoned vehicles - including a luxury jeep believed to have been used by LTTE leaders. On Friday, troops had recovered an armoured limousine, reportedly used by Prabhakaran. The army commander was reluctant to reveal the total army casualties since the fall of the rebel's political capital, Kilinochchi, on January 2. "We have covered 45 km since January 1," said Fonseka. "A lot of the fighting has been hand-to-hand. It has not been a walk. "Published by HT Syndication with permission from Hindustan Times.

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Load-Date: April 6, 2009



Rehabilitation of LTTE cadres underway

Sunday Observer (Sri Lanka) August 16, 2009 Sunday

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Length: 337 words

Dateline: Colombo

Body

Colombo, Aug. 16 -- Measures have been taken to rehabilitate over 10,000 ex-<u>LTTE</u> cadres, in the North by the government, according to Commissioner General of Rehabilitation Maj. Gen. Daya Ratnayake.

Maj. Gen. Daya Ratnayake, who is now saddled with preparing a well detailed program, told the Sunday Observer that President Mahinda Rajapaksa is very keen to help these ex-cadres who were misled by the <u>LTTE</u>.

The process to classify the ex-cadres into different groups considering their age, gender and involvement in the outfit has already been completed and the ground work to move them into new rehabilitation centres is nearing completion.

According to Maj. Gen. Ratnayake, over 80 percent of these ex-cadres are now temporarily sheltered in government schools.

"We want to hand over these government schools and five new centres are under construction at the moment. They will be moved to the new centres before the end of this month", he said.

He said that the basic facilities required would be provided to the ex-cadres and training will commence according to their skills. The children between the ages of 12 to 18 years have already been separated from the group. There are over 455 children, the majority of whom the <u>LTTE</u> had forcefully recruited at its last stage of the battle. The youngest is 12 years-old.

Former <u>female</u> LTTEers numbering 1,700 have also been separated and housed separately. The authorities have taken steps to separate male ex-<u>LTTE</u> cadres over 45 years of age and they will be given training according to their professions, skills, and their liking to undergo a vocational training.

Maj. Gen. Ratnayake said that donor assistance for the rehabilitation process is vital and needs the support of local and international NGOs, the experts in related fields and the community leaders to make the rehabilitation program a success. Published by HT Syndication with permission from Sunday Observer (Sri Lanka). For more information on news feed please contact Surit Das at https://dication.org/hindustantimes.com

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Load-Date: August 17, 2009



Prabhakaran still in Sri Lanka, vows to fight on

Hindustan Times
April 24, 2009 Friday

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Length: 492 words

Dateline: Kilinochchi

Body

Kilinochchi, April. 24 -- Sri Lanka's feared <u>Tamil Tigers</u> leader Velupillai Prabhakaran is still holed up in a coastal strip in the north and has told his cadres that he will fight on, an army commander said Friday.

Quoting the confession of a Tiger leader who surrendered two days ago, Brigadier Shavendra Silva told reporters that the cream of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (*LTTE*) was also with the elusive Prabhakaran in Mullaitivu district.

Brig Silva said Daya Master, a former media <u>LTTE</u> spokesman, had told military officers that Prabhakaran, 54, had personally told his fighters that he will be with them "till the last moment".

According to Daya Master, key <u>LTTE</u> leaders who were giving the rebel chief company included Soosai, who heads the now battered Sea Tigers, the intelligence unit leader Pottu Amman and military strategist Bhanu.

Brig Silva, who heads the 58 Division of the Sri Lanka Army, said troops had virtually surrounded a 10-12 sq km area that was still with the *LTTE* but quickly added that the place was teeming with Tamil civilians.

This, he said, was bound to slow down the military advance, which until now had been rapid throughout Sri Lanka's north, dealing solid blows to the insurgent group that many had thought could never be vanquished.

"I also feel Prabhakaran is inside that area," Brig Silva told reporters from Colombo in a building that was earlier the **LTTE**'s political headquarters and is now the operational hub of the 58 Division.

"Prabhakaran is not the type of man who lives on the surface," the brigadier said. "I am sure he will be living underground."

He quoted Daya Master as also saying that Prabhakaran could try to escape at the last moment "somehow or the other", perhaps through the sea.

But the military commander said the chance of that happening was "very remote".

Prabhakaran, who has led the violent Tamil separatist campaign since founding the <u>LTTE</u> in 1976, has in the past vowed never to be taken alive by the enemy.

Like all <u>LTTE</u> fighters, he is known to wear a cyanide vial around his neck, to be bitten to avoid capture.

Brig Silva said an estimated 106,000 Tamil civilians - men, <u>women</u> and children - had so far fled the <u>LTTE</u> zone and taken shelter in military-held areas.

Prabhakaran still in Sri Lanka, vows to fight on

The brigadier said he did not know how many more civilians were still with the Tigers.

But because of fears for their safety, an issue that has raised widespread international concern, the military offensive would henceforth slow down, he said.

According to the military, the LTTE was still putting up resistance, firing away 122 mm artillery.

"The <u>LTTE</u> is firing but we are not retaliating because of fears that we will hit the civilians," said Brig Silva. "At least 15 soldiers were killed and about 75 injured during the past four or five days due to <u>LTTE</u> artillery fire."

"We don't mind spending more time to recapture the entire area," he said. Published by HT Syndication with permission from Indo-Asian News Service.

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Load-Date: August 4, 2009



Indian envoys tell Rajapaksa to halt Tamil offensive

The Financial Express April 25, 2009 Saturday

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Length: 391 words **Byline:** fe Bureau

Dateline: New Delhi

Body

Indian envoys returned to New Delhi on Friday after demanding a halt in the offensive against the *Tamil Tigers*.

National Security advisor MK Narayanan and foreign secretary Shivshankar Menon met the Sri Lankan president Mahinda Rajapaksa at his official residence Temple Trees for about 90 minutes after flying into Colombo by a special aircraft amid mounting international concerns about the plight of Tamil civilians trapped in the narrow strip of war zone in the island's north.

Though both Narayanan and Menon did not interact with the media, it is being reported that a presidential spokesperson said the meeting "went off very well". The official provided no details.

According to reports, however, the Indian officials did not insist on a ceasefire and added that there would be no truce in the fighting against the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (*LTTE*).

Narayanan and Menon, who regularly keep in touch with their Sri Lankan counterparts, earlier, flew from the airport near Colombo to the capital by helicopter.

India had sent the officials as the exodus of Tamil civilians from the war zone escalated into a serious humanitarian crisis even as Colombo claimed that the Tamil rebels were about to be crushed.

Sri Lanka estimates that 106,000 Tamil civilians-men, <u>women</u> and children-have so far fled the <u>LTTE</u> zone and taken shelter in military-held areas.

"We are very unhappy at the continued killings in Sri Lanka. All killings must stop. There must be an immediate cessation of all hostilities," external affairs minister Pranab Mukherjee had said in a statement in New Delhi late Thursday.

Earlier on Friday, Sri Lanka's foreign minister Rohitha Bogollagama, has said his government was doing its utmost to ensure that Tamil civilians were freed from the Tamil Tiger clutches.

"What's important is that civilians are totally free from the <u>LTTE</u>. Ultimately, what matters most important to us is the interests of civilians," Bogollagama told a news channel.

"We have taken every concern on board to address humanitarian issues," he said. "We want to settle internally displaced persons in their natural habitat."

Indian envoys tell Rajapaksa to halt Tamil offensive

The Sri Lankan military has said more than 108,000 people had poured out of the war zone since Monday, when troops blasted through an earthen barrier the <u>LTTE</u> had built to block movement in or out of their dwindling territory.

Load-Date: July 28, 2010



Our uneven policy on Sri Lankan camps

Australian Financial Review
October 5, 2009 Monday
First Edition

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Section: NEWS; Letters; Pg. 51

Length: 364 words

Body

The government is quick to look after the welfare and interests of Australians overseas caught in natural disasters or accidents, most recently in Papua New Guinea, Sumatra and Samoa. It is to be applauded for this.

However, it has not been so quick to look after the interests of Australian nationals caught in Sri Lankan internment camps since the end of military action against the <u>Tamil Tigers</u> (<u>LTTE</u>).

Three hundred thousand men, <u>women</u> and children are trapped in these camps, without access to proper sanitation, water, medical supplies and sufficient food. Old people and children are dying; they have been detained in these camps for close to five months.

The Sri Lankan government has denied access to all non-government organisations that are likely to criticise conditions in the camps and media access is denied for the same reason. The camps are guarded and controlled by the military, which deals harshly with critics and suspected former members of the *LTTE*.

The Sri Lankan government claims Tamils are being held while supporters and sympathisers of the <u>LTTE</u> are identified and removed from the camps (where have they been taken?).

Essentially, all persons detained are under suspicion by the Sri Lankan government. It is an untenable situation for those people.

Recently an Australian citizen managed to flee the camps after bribing members of the military. She is now in Australia.

The government has not sought to identify, seek consular access for, or provide assistance to its citizens detained in these camps. Why not? If the government agrees with the position of Sri Lanka - that all those in the camps are suspected of being <u>LTTE</u> supporters - it should seek legal assistance for Australians caught in this nightmare.

If the Australian government agrees with the actions of the Sri Lankan government, it has placed itself in an awkward position in terms of United Nations conventions relating to prisoners of war and internally displaced persons.

It has not formally protested to the Sri Lankan government about the abuse of human rights in these camps and it has not sought access and the provision of vital aid and assistance by NGOs to the camps.

Bruce Haigh

Mudgee NSW

Load-Date: April 7, 2012



The brazen stance of LTTE many fronts - next target

Daily News (Sri Lanka)

April 8, 2009 Wednesday

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Length: 1440 words

Dateline: Colombo

Body

Colombo, April 8 -- Notwithstanding this progressiveness the EU counter-terrorism action has shown, it nevertheless has left room for terrorist entities such as the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (*LTTE*), that was listed through European Council decision 2006/379/EC of May 29, 2006, to circumvent the legal provisions of its proscription, making a mockery of the EU listing.

TRO It does so through its numerous front organizations such as the Tamil Rehabilitation Organization (TRO) with branches in 9 European States, the umbrella organization Tamil Coordinating Committee (TCC/Belgium, Germany, the Netherlands, Sweden; WTCC/US; WTCC/Switzerland; CCTF/France, and World Tamil Movement WTM/Canada), the British Tamil Association (BTA), British Tamil Forum (BTF), Tamil Youth Organization (TYO), International Tamil Rehabilitation Organization (ITRO) and White Pigeon operating in the UK and the Tamil Women's Association. The LTTE also has syndicates involved in credit card skimming in petrol sheds, telephone card businesses and community shops, which have continued to raise funds. Furthermore, 'Tamil Cholai' schools that indoctrinate Tamil children, TV/Radio stations (mainly 'Tamil Oli' radio and, GTV), numerous internet sites and newspapers that engage in strategic communication and development of a 'narrative' to spread ethnic and racial hatred and glorify terrorism and martyrdom, which in recent weeks even led to self-immolation by Tamil youth in several European capitals. Such activities should sound familiar, given your understanding of the manner in which Al Qaida and other terrorist networks operate. Of the many LTTE front organizations I have referred to, and documented in detail in my presentation at the EU-US 'Seminar on the LTTE' organized by the Europol on December 9-10, 2008 in recent years the most attention has been focused on the Tamil Rehabilitation Organization (TRO), which purportedly claimed to be engaged in rehabilitation work in the previously LTTE dominated areas in the Northern and Eastern parts of Sri Lanka. The early creation of front organizations such as the TRO in 1985, has been described in 1997 by Charles Somasundarum, who worked as a volunteer at 'Eelam House', (the LTTE's headquarters in London until the organization was banned in 2001), as an instance of how brilliant LTTE leader Prabhakaran was. There is clear evidence that the activities of all operational/administrative functions of such LTTE front organizations directly come under the supervision of W. Manivannam Castro, who is the Head of the LTTE's 'International Secretariat'. LTTE network It is important to know that all such LTTE front organizations form an integral part of the LTTE network/overseas infrastructure, and act for or on behalf of or at the behest of the LTTE. In recent months, the LTTE has named Selvarasa Pathmanathan, as the Head of a newly established Department of International Relations, to play a keyrole alongside the international Secretariat, in seeking to galvanise support for the *LTTE* abroad. This appointment mocks the entire international community, for Pathmanathan is none other than the long time key arms procurer of the LTTE, on whom INTERPOL has issued a red corner notice in connection with the Rajiv Gandhi assassination in 1991. It is important to note that the earliest action against a LTTE front organization was taken in the U.K., when in October 2000 (even before the LTTE was eventually proscribed in the UK in February 2001, or 9/11), an investigation was launched into the activities of the TRO/UK on suspicion that it

was abusing its charity status. The TRO was subsequently removed from the Register of Charities by the UK Charity Commission on August 10, 2005. A report published in August 2007 by the Charity Commission in the United Kingdom, titled 'The Home Office and HM Treasury's Review of safeguards to protect the charitable sector (England and Wales) from terrorist abuse and the Charity Commission's response to the consultation' has made reference on the closure of the TRO in the UK in the following terms: "We also intervened effectively to secure the assets of the Tamil Rehabilitation Organisation (TRO) where our investigation revealed that the trustees had little, if any, control over money that was sent to Sri Lanka for relief work. Activities Further investigation concluded that the charity's representatives had liaised with the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (a proscribed organisation under the Terrorism Act 2000) to make decisions about where funds should be applied". The TRO, the leading case study of abuse in this report, also provides instructive reading for anyone serious about tackling this menace. Although the TRO was de-listed from the charitable organizations list in the UK in 2005, it is regrettable that the LTTE continues to collect funds within the UK, through White Pigeon, another front organization of the *LTTE*. (It is noteworthy that White Pigeon was jointly designated as an alias of TRO by the US in November 2007.) Numerous other LTTE front organizations also continue to operate in the UK to carry forward the activities done by the TRO for the LTTE. These include; ITRO, BTA, BTF. Hence, while Europe as a whole has seen considerable action by the LTTE front organizations, no country had experienced it as much as the UK. In recent years three main areas of LTTE front organization activity has resulted in investigations, prosecutions and convictions; 1. Laundering of money through the widespread abuse of their status by the TRO, though long suspected, became legally established only in the immediate aftermath of the December 2004 Tsunami disaster. In Sri Lanka, the discrepancy in the funds raised in foreign countries and that transferred to the TRO/Sri Lanka, and evidence that these monies were laundered, resulted in the Sri Lanka Government freezing the assets of TRO in August 2007. The organization was later proscribed in November 2007 and its assets confiscated in July 2008. It is noteworthy that Lawrence Thilakar the former leader of the LTTE International Secretariat in Paris and LTTE Central Committee member, serves as the TRO's Planning Director under his pseudonym Lawrence Christie. Several other countries have taken similar action: - In the US, abuse of its status led to the proscription of the TRO under US Executive Order 13224 in Nov 2007, and on February 11, 2009 the 'Tamil Foundation' whose office bearers were the same as that of the TRO and which operated from the same address was also proscribed by the US Treasury Department. - Most recently in Denmark on January 28, 2009, through - Case No.266/2008, the Danish Supreme Court upheld a ruling by two lower courts, that the freezing of the assets of TRO/Denmark, amounting to 45,000 Kroner was in order. The Supreme Court determined that the organization had reasonable grounds to be suspected of violation of the Penal Code for providing financial support to terrorist organizations. This is a clear instance of judicial action taken by a Competent Authority of an EU member state, against a LTTE front organization - the TRO. 2. Extortion, has also been engaged in by the LTTE front organizations, mainly those operating under the TCC umbrella. - in Canada the June 2008 proscription of the WTM was significantly based on confirmed acts of extortion. - in France 21 persons including Nadaraja Mathintharan @ Parithi, Official representative of the LTTE in France and in charge Coordination Committee of Tamils in France (CCTF) and Sellackandu Ravikulan, de-facto In charge of ORT/TRO in France were arrested in April 2007 following raids on their offices, and are due to stand trial shortly for extortion. -Italy's key LTTE suspect, Tharmalongam Jeevakamath, alias Kumar of Jeeva, regarded the No. 2 of the Tamil mafia in Europe arrested in Paris on February 6, was also wanted for money extortion and financing of terrorist activities. Additionally, 31 activists connected to the LTTE fronts have also been arrested in Italy. Money collected for the LTTE through front organizations in Europe is often hand carried into Switzerland, from where they are transferred to destinations such as Singapore on the pretext of being for jewelry purchasing, but are in fact laundered for disbursement for arms procurement. Through this method and its 'hawala' style transactions, the LTTE avoids being detected within the FATF stipulations, including the know your customer requirements operationalized by the private sector to detect suspicious transactions. Published by HT Syndication with permission from Daily News Sri Lanka.

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Load-Date: April 9, 2009



LTTE commits bloodbath against civilians; more evidence surface

Colombo Times

May 12, 2009 Tuesday

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Length: 455 words

Body

Colombo, May 12 -- Video footage showing civilian casualties that claimed to be taken in the civilian safety zone (CSZ) in the Vellamullai Vaikkal, in Sri Lanka are being often aired by many international media. Voices that said to be from pro <u>LTTE</u> sources are being heard blaming the government for constantly shelling the civilians.

However, there is ample evidence suggesting that <u>LTTE</u> has been taking the whole world for a ride with its well engineered propaganda ploys.

According to the defence.lk special correspondent at Karayamulli Vaikkal, five <u>LTTE</u> cadres including four child soldiers surrendered to Army 53 Division this morning (May 11) have revealed that <u>LTTE</u> had brutally crushed several civilian attempts to seek refuge with the armed forces during the weekend.

"We were given orders to shoot anyone, even at our parents if they dare to seek refuge with the soldiers, leaving **LTTE** leader unsafe" a 16 year old child soldier among the surrendered said.

"Yet, we did not want to do that, we saw senior <u>LTTE</u> cadres firing shells and machine guns at boats carrying large groups of <u>women</u> and children on Saturday morning (May 9), many had died", the boy further went on to say.

A 23 year old youth, the eldest among the surrendered told that he decided to dessert the outfit with the younger ones, after witnessing the carnage on Saturday.

"I could not guess how many died. I could no longer stand this treachery against my very own people..., so I decided to quit ".

Meanwhile, Sri Lanka Army electronic warfare units on the same day received three separate radio transmissions indicating <u>LTTE</u> had actually attacked the civilians. The following are the English translations of the three Radio communications:

Transmission 1- 0345 Hrs (May 9)

Senduran: "I have captured 20 persons trying to escape, more people are coming, I cannot control them".

Priyalan: "Try to stop as much as you can till I send reinforcements".

Transmission 2- 0355 Hrs (May 9)

Senduran: "Give a vehicle to send 20 persons captured".

Amburaj: "Vehicle with "Malaravan Master" has been sent to your place; don't let any civilian escape".

Transmission 3- 0615 Hrs (May 9)

Thirumalai Master: "How did so many civilians got injured?"

Senduran: "Many people came, we couldn't control and we had to fire on them"

LTTE commits bloodbath against civilians; more evidence surface

Giving lie to the pro <u>LTTE</u> claims that Sri Lanka Army has been indiscriminately attacking the civilians over 1000 people managed to sought refuge with the armed forces personnel during the weekend. According to our sources, these civilians too have confirmed that <u>LTTE</u> attacked them with machine gun and shell fire when they crossed over to government controlled areas.

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Load-Date: May 18, 2009



War won't stop until Prabhakaran is taken dead or alive: Sri Lanka (Lead)

Hindustan Times
April 30, 2009 Thursday

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Length: 518 words

Dateline: Colombo

Body

Colombo, April. 30 -- Firmly rejecting the calls for ceasefire and access for aid workers to the civilians trapped in the war zone, Sri Lanka has said that it would "not stop its war on terror until the <u>LTTE</u> was crushed and its leader Velupillai Prabhakaran captured, dead or alive", a media report said here Thursday.

According to The Island newspaper, Sri Lanka's powerful Defence Secretary Gotabhaya Rajapaksa made these remarks during his interaction with British Foreign Secretary David Miliband, who was here Wednesday on a daylong visit. He separately met French Foreign Minister Bernard Kouchner.

Quoting highly-placed sources, the media report said the defence secretary has told Miliband that Sri Lankan troops and civilians had perished in the conflict and therefore the government was determined to finish off the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam.

Gotabhaya Rajapaksa, who is the younger brother of President Mahinda Rajapaksa, has said that the humanitarian concerns were "only a ploy employed by some people to extricate Prabhakaran and his top leaders from the mess they had got into", stressing that a truce would only help the <u>Tamil Tigers</u> to regroup.

"The only person who could stop this war is only the president of Sri Lanka. The military had orders to either capture or destroy Prabhakaran and other top <u>LTTE</u> leaders," The Island has quoted Rajapaksa as telling Miliband.

Rajapaksa has also said over 200,000 people had been rescued by the army from the *LTTE* since March this year.

"On April 20 alone we secured the release of over 45,000 men, <u>women</u> and children from the clutches of the <u>LTTE</u>," he said, vowing to rescue the others shortly.

Totally rejecting the reports that civilians had been harmed due to firing by the army, the defence secretary told the Britain envoy not to be duped by the disinformation campaign of the *LTTE*.

"All the stories that were disseminated from the no fire zone were all doctored by the <u>LTTE</u> for the consumption of the international community and the western media. Do you think a terrorist group like the <u>LTTE</u> will allow anyone to express independent views detrimental to its cause?" Rajapaksa asked.

Separately meeting the visiting French Foreign Minister Bernard Kouchner at the same venue, Rajapaksa denied a request that the UN be given access to the civilian zone held by the *LTTE*.

"The defence secretary said no one was safe in that area and the government could not guarantee anyone's safety," the media report said.

War won't stop until Prabhakaran is taken dead or alive: Sri Lanka (Lead)

In response to the situation in Sri Lanka where hostilities between the government and the <u>LTTE</u> is entering a final phase, the government of Japan has decided to dispatch its special peace envoy, Yasushi Akashi, to Sri Lanka. He will arrive on a three-day visit starting April 30.

"During his stay in Sri Lanka, Akashi will meet government officials to call for ensuring the safety and security, including smooth provision of relief assistance, to internally displaced persons in the northern part of Sri Lanka," a statement from the Japan embassy said here Thursday. Published by HT Syndication with permission from Indo-Asian News Service.

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Load-Date: August 4, 2009



'COL KARUNA' SAYS LTTE WILL NOT MAKE COMEBACK

Malaysia General News June 1, 2009 Monday

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Length: 850 words

Dateline: COLOMBO June 1

Body

The Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (*LTTE*) will not make a comeback, says Vinayagamoorthy Muralitharan, more famously known as 'Colonel Karuna' who had served as bodyguard to *LTTE* supremo Veluppillai Prabhakaran.

The Tigers chief was killed by Sri Lankan troops on May 18.

"They (Tiger guerilla fighters) only depended on Prabhakaran. It was a one-man show. He never believed in any other guy. Ground realities are different now, they can't rebuild," said Karuna, who is now a minister in the Sri Lankan Government, in an exclusive interview with Bernama.

From being bodyguard, Karuna later rose to the rank of <u>LTTE</u> eastern commander, strategising major attacks against government troops during the separatist war.

He was once a feared military strategist -- even dreaded by the Sri Lankan army.

But in 2004, Karuna abandoned the *LTTE*, following a dispute with his boss and quit the group with 6,000 hardcore fighters.

His departure caused a dent in the <u>LTTE</u> and eventually led to the group's downfall. Now, he is currently Minister of Integration and Reconciliation in Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapakse's government.

"Now, Prabhakaran is dead but KP (K. Pathmanadan, ex-*LTTE* arms negotiator) is working underground. My request to the (Tamil) diaspora is, don't believe anybody. Last time, they donated lots of money without any reason. Now, they can donate for development, to help the IDPs (internally displaced persons) in the camps," he said in his closely-guarded office.

There are nearly 260,000 IDPs sheltering in camps in the island's north.

Pressed on why he showed no emotion when the Sri Lankan army took him to identify Prabhakaran's body -- although he was once his boss and friend who fought together for almost 20 years -- Karuna glared at this reporter.

And in a change of tone, he said: "I didn't feel sorry for him because several times, I tried to correct him but he did not change. I thought of one thing at that time -- lot of people and properties were lost because of one man. Thousands of people were killed, including *LTTE* cadres."

Karuna claimed that Prabhakaran did not change or build any leadership characteristics in the LTTE.

'COL KARUNA' SAYS LTTE WILL NOT MAKE COMEBACK

"You see Nelson Mandela (former South African freedom fighter turned president) was involved in armed struggle but later, he was flexible and solved the problem. He was a very good leader. Prabhakaran had lot of chances for political solutions, but did not use them. He just wanted to fight the war but did not achieve anything."

Questioned about the hype in having a separate 'eelam' or homeland for marginalised Tamils and whether he really believed that the 'eelam' dream would materialise one day, Karuna replied that it was definitely an unattainable goal.

"Many of us knew it. It is not possible to have another state within Sri Lanka. They (Singhalese) would not allow it. But Prabhakaran did not understand about globalisation and the changing ground realities. He had a totalitarian policy and behaved like a duke. He never listened to anyone."

But when asked why he joined the *LTTE* if he did not believe in the separate homeland dream, he revealed how he got involved with the *LTTE* network.

"I completed my 'A levels' in bioscience. I was a very good student, we enjoyed life playing football and cricket, and we never cared about politicians or war (he chuckled). Suddenly, one day, many Tamil refugees entered our village. We arranged accommodation and gave them food.

"They said they lost their homes and many babies were killed in Colombo. This was the 1983 July riots when Tamils were chased out of Colombo. <u>LTTE</u> made this a good propaganda issue, they said we needed a separate country or all the Tamils will be killed. Only then, we joined <u>LTTE</u>."

Asked about the bitterness among the Singhalese and Tamils as a result of the long-drawn civil war and how he expected them to co-exist peacefully from now on, he recalled that when 13 government soldiers were killed in the north, 2,500 Tamils were subsequently killed (known as the 1983 massacre).

"After that, lot of Singhalese people were killed by <u>LTTE</u> but the Singhalese people did not kill Tamils. The Singhalese did not blame the Tamils, they knew it was the act of the terrorist group and that the Tamils are innocent people and they must be given their rights. They realised this and this is a major change in Sri Lanka now."

Karuna said people in Sri Lanka these days did not talk along racial lines anymore.

"I am confident we can live together again. People are fed up of the 31-year-old war, they want peace, development and entertainment -- these are the basic needs for them."

Asked what was the *LTTE*s biggest mistake, Karuna said: "Killing Indian prime minister Rajiv Gandhi was Prabhakaran's biggest mistake."

Gandhi was killed by a young <u>female</u> suicide bomber on May 21, 1991 in Sriperumbudur in Tamil Nadu. India then declared <u>LTTE</u> a terrorist group and later, 26 other countries did the same.

"But he (Prabhakaran) never changed, he continued killing more people, not only Singhalese but also Tamils. He killed many Tamil intellectuals, anyone against Prabhakaran would be eliminated."

Load-Date: June 2, 2009



Terrorists slaughter villagers - LTTE slaughters other terrorist groups

Daily News (Sri Lanka)
June 27, 2009 Saturday

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Length: 549 words

Dateline: Colombo

Body

Colombo, June 27 -- March 1987 was almost at its end with a very few incidents of terrorist attacks on civilians reported. Yet like in Julius Caesar of William Shakespeare "Beware the Ides of March1" the soothsayer's prophesy March for Sri Lanka was proving to be more and more dangerous.

During this month the terrorists groups were at one another's throats but before the killing fields of the north opened up LTTE terrorists once again attacked a poor farmer village Arawantalawa in Vavunia district on March 9 and killed 6 civilians. Their next target was Soruweva near Kantale on March 9 where they killed 12 women, 5 children and 8 men all unarmed civilians who were not a party to any conflict. After that carnage the LTTE killers set fire to the houses of the victims and as usual disappeared into the night. They next shelled the Pannai causeway in the east and damaged it killing 5 more civilians. The Minister of National Security Lalith Athulathmudali was quoted saying that the terrorists had no policies but only terrorism and fascism. As march was ending a rival terrorists group had lobbed a grenade into the vehicle in which the LTTE's Jaffna 'commander' Kittu was seriously injured. The LTTE rushed Kittu across the Palk Strait to India for treatment as he could not have been admitted to a local hospital as he was a fugitive from the law, a man wanted as a suspect in a number of murders. Kittu was to become a cripple for life depending on crutches to move about but his ruthlessness remained with him to the end of his life. On that occasion LTTE boss Prabhakaran had ordered reprisal for the attack on his associate. Just five days after Kittu was attacked the LTTE started rounding up all the members or sympathizers of the rival TELO and EPRLF terrorist groups and they first abducted 28 youth on April 3 and on the same night before the next day dawned 37 other young men of the north mostly of Jaffna were rounded up and all were shot dead in public places bringing the total of such persons to 65. There was one other man a jeweler too who was killed for allowing a young man belonging to one of the two rival groups to hide in his house when the LTTE killers were rounding up TELO and EPRLF cadres. At the same time New Delhi was trying to contact the LTTE killer squad boss to try and bring him round for talks with the government of Colombo but the man who a few days back had bragged that the LTTE was like the Mafiosi did not surface in India or in Sri Lanka continuing to keep off all decent or civilized exercises like trying to find a political settlement for the perceived or real grievances of the Tamil of the north and east. There seemed to have been one other terrorist group that now worked hand in glove with Prabhakaran and that was EROS who gave the other terrorist group support in providing explosives. As the month of March was ending these two groups wreaked vengeance on Sri Lankan society. Yet the next month April was going to prove even bloodier beginning with the slaughter of TELO and EPRLF members but the EROS and LTTE were going to commit worse crimes as we shall see. Published by HT Syndication with permission from Daily News Sri Lanka. For more information on news feed please contact Sarabjit Jagirdar at httsyndication@hindustantimes.com

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Load-Date: June 27, 2009



'Amnesty' on cards as Tamil Tigers start to surrender, but notfor the leaders ; for the leaders

Birmingham Post
May 5, 2009 Tuesday
1ST Edition

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Section: Pg. 14

Length: 355 words

Body

Sri Lanka's government said it is considering an amnesty for Tamil Tiger rebels who surrender - but not for leaders of the insurgency, which is facing defeat after 25 years of civil war.

The news comes after a trip by foreign secretary David Miliband last week to push forward peace negotiations in the region.

Sri Lankan human rights minister Mahinda Samarasinghe said yesterday that officials were studying the legal basis for a possible pardon for separatists who surrender but that a final decision had not been made.

He said any offer would not be open to rebel leader Velupillai Prabhakaran and others convicted in Sri Lanka for various attacks or wanted in neighbouring India for the 1991 assassination of former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi.

"The leadership will be dealt with under the laws of the country," Mr Samarasinghe said..

Separately, on Saturday, the <u>Tamil Tigers'</u> political head, Balasingham Nadesan, wrote to Mr Miliband and his French counterpart, Bernard Kouchner, saying the insurgents are ready to "engage in the process to bring about a ceasefire and enter into negotiations for an enduring resolution to the conflict".

Excerpts of Mr Nadesan's letter were emailed to news organisations.

Mr Miliband and Mr Kouchner visited Sri Lanka last week to press for a truce, but the government refused to let up its offensive, saying it is on the verge of victory.

Mr Samarasinghe said the government plans to offer vocational training for surrendering rebels to help them reintegrate into society.

Tamil Tiger leaders have vowed no surrender.

Every fighter is meant to wear a cyanide capsule and swears an oath to swallow the capsule to avoid capture.

But the government says a number of rebels have already given themselves up, including the group's former media spokesman and an interpreter for its political wing.

'Amnesty' on cards as Tamil Tigers start to surrender, but notfor the leaders for the leaders

Mr Gandhi was blown up by a suspected Tamil Tiger <u>female</u> suicide bomber at an election rally in southern India in apparent revenge for sending a peacekeeping force to Sri Lanka in 1987.

The rebels have fought since 1983 to create an independent homeland for ethnic minority Tamils..

Load-Date: May 5, 2009



A way out for Sri Lanka's child soldiers

The Irish Times

June 25, 2009 Thursday

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Section: WORLD; Other World Stories; Pg. 12

Length: 1078 words

Body

In the aftermath of war, a lost generation of Sri Lanka s youth is seeking rehabilitation, writes **TOM FARRELL**in Ambepussa, Sri Lanka

RANJENDRAN HAS the acne and somewhat awkward gait of many a 17-year-old schoolboy. He has already completed is O-Levels and is studying for his A-Level examinations, the local equivalent of the Leaving Certificate. He says he would like to be a teacher in the future, an aspiration that possibly comes from having his own childhood brutally cut short.

Ranjendran pulls up his sleeve to reveal a fearful scar arching down his forearm, just below the elbow. I still have problems. I can t do any heavy work, he says, adding that the doctor is very sure I will recover though.

Ranjendran is one of 112 teenagers at Ambepussa camp, a government-run rehabilitation centre set up last March with assistance from the United Nations Children s Fund (Unicef).

Many of the children arrived in the last few months as the government s war against the <u>Tamil Tigers</u> reached its apocalyptic conclusion. In the weeks before the government declared victory over the Tigers, killing its leader Vellupillai Prabhakaran and most of his deputies, the rebel outfit press-ganged children as young as 12 and 13 into battle as its area of control shrank into a small strip of coastal territory.

In March, Ranjendran was taken from the bunker where his family sheltered as government artillery pounded down on the Tiger-held district of Mullaitivu.

I met Bhanu says Ranjendran. He told us we had to struggle against the government. There were 75 children in my group. I do not know what happened to most of them. Ranjendran says he received his bullet wound when he and some other boys escaped from the training camp where they were being detained.

It was about two in the afternoon, he says. Altogether, five of us made the attempt. Only two escaped, another boy and myself one boy was shot and fell, and may have been killed. Two were recaptured.

Although most of the children in Ambepussa were hastily inducted into the rebel army in the last weeks, use of under-age fighters was long a tactic of the <u>Tamil Tigers</u>, officially known as the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (*LTTE*).

By the time President Mahinda Rajapaksa declared victory over the **LTTE** on May 16th, nearly 100,000 people were estimated to have been killed in the war.

A way out for Sri Lanka 's child soldiers

Nearly 300,000 civilians now languish in cities of tents behind barbed wire. Euphemistically termed welfare villages , these camps are mostly scattered around the former *LTTE*-held northern province.

Meanwhile, a lost generation of Tamil children and ex-combatants is in urgent need of rehabilitation.

The <u>LTTE</u> first established the Baby Brigade for recruits under the age of 16 in 1984. At that time, Tamil children underwent physical training and political indoctrination. They also received the vial of cyanide on a string necklace that each Tamil Tiger is instructed to bite down upon in the event of capture.

In later battles, such as the three-month siege of Jaffna Fort in 1990, child soldiers as young as 12 were sent to the front lines.

It was a question of where the supply was because if you re 18 or 21, you re not going to join a guerilla group, says Dr Hiranthi Wijemanne, a Harvard-educated expert in public health issues working for the Sri Lankan Justice Ministry.

I think it is true for any kind of labour. Now look at the carpet industry in Pakistan or Nepal: they use little children because they don't have to pay them. They have no power.

Ambepussa is located near the lush central highlands of Sri Lanka, an area inhabited mostly by the island s ethnic majority, the Buddhist Sinhalese.

The <u>LTTE</u> was saying that the army and Sinhalese people want to kill them and their families, says Major Herman Fernando, director of the camp. But within one or two weeks [here] the children feel secure.

The facility has the feel of a summer camp or sports club. A volleyball court overlooks a spectacular sweep of forest and mountains. Boisterous youngsters mill around the dining area. In the central hall they go through dance routines as a form of therapy.

One tell-tale sign of former <u>LTTE</u> membership is the close cropped hair of some of the girls. The Tigers compelled <u>female</u> fighters to wear their hair in tight plaits or cut it short to avoid it becoming cumbersome in battle. According to Amnesty International, one third of their child fighters were <u>female</u>.

Marie Theresa, a 15-year-old girl from Jaffna district, spent 17 days in a Tiger training camp after every family in the **LTTE** zone was forced to supply the movement with one child.

I was on sentry duty when I escaped. There were altogether 22 children in the base. Some of them were killed in the last battles, she says.

In most cases, the parents and siblings of these children are still in various welfare villages in the north.

Access to these camps has been severely restricted to foreign aid workers and media by the Rajapaksa government. Nevertheless, Marie Theresa says she has contact with her family.

My mother telephoned me. They are in a welfare village in Thandikulam in the north of the country, she says.

The camp provides the children with vocational training in tailoring, plumbing and computer studies. There are also forms of psychological support and counselling. As long as they are kept outside a fighting situation, they probably function quite well, says Dr Wijemanne. We don't even ask them how many people they killed. If under 18, there was no choice for them.

Former child soldiers can be found all over Sri Lanka's north and east, in the areas the <u>LTTE</u> claimed as Eelam, a mono-ethnic, independent homeland for the Tamil minority. In the eastern district of Batticaloa, several thousand under-age fighters were released in April 2004 when Col Karuna Amman, a powerful eastern commander, defected from the *LTTE*.

A way out for Sri Lanka 's child soldiers

Nanthini, a 20-year-old woman from the eastern village of Mandoor, was just 12 when she was kidnapped by the *LTTE* on her way to school one morning. She describes the three years she subsequently spent in a Tiger camp.

I did not wear cyanide: that was only for the older sisters, she says.

Punishments for wrongdoing included humiliations, running around the camp with a rifle over my shoulders.

Nanthini now works for a charity that maintains a home in Batticaloa for orphaned and indigent girls.

When asked what she would like to do in the future, she says: I would like to be a social worker.

Load-Date: June 25, 2009



LTTE committee passes death sentence on TULF leader

Daily News (Sri Lanka)
June 26, 2009 Friday

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Length: 467 words **Dateline:** Colombo

Body

Colombo, June 26 -- The month of February 1987 was ending with a sombre note for the people of Jaffna for whom the terrorist bands EPRLF, TELO, EROS or the *LTTE* claimed they were fighting. The sudden shock of surprise for these people came as they did not come under sudden of the terrorist groups as suffered by the Sinhalese or Muslims.

The day was February 14 or ten days after the LTTE slit the throats of infants, children, women and the poverty stricken chena cultivators of Arantalawa in the Ampara District and a group of about dozen LTTE terrorists that had seized a water tanker vehicle and fixed an explosive device with an estimated 150 kilograms of gelignite and were transporting the lethal cargo to rush into the Palaly Army camp to destroy the camp. Yet destiny seemed to have ordained otherwise. The explosive devise exploded on the way near Kaithady killing 59 civilians and 11 terrorists who were on their deadly mission. Even the concrete pillars and slabs in the houses and buildings within a distance of 100 metres from the explosion had cracked in the vibration of the explosion and a hole 15 feet wide and 8 feet deep was found at the place where the device had exploded. Among the dead <u>LTTE</u> cadres was K.Yogaratnam at that time a close confidante of the LTTE boss Prabhakaran. The bodies of the people caught in the explosion were torn to shreds. One of the biggest surprises ever also took place a few days later. The LTTE boss Prabhakaran made a public apology to the people of Jaffna that was published in the Tamil newspapers published in the north for the costly mistake made by the LTTE. Though Prabhakaran had apologized to the people he had also got a death sentence passed on the Tamil United Front leader Appapillai Amirthalingam at the central committee meeting of the terrorist outfit. It was also reported that a year or so back the LTTE central committee had discussed the possible death sentence on Amirthalingam but the committee was divided on whether of jot to kill Amirthalingam. But in February 1987 the committee had passed the 'death sentence' on their former Guru. Next the security forces arrested a middle aged Sinhalese man who was obliged to be on the payroll of the terrorists on a beach at Jaffna and he was to be made use of to transport explosives to Colombo for a series of bomb attacks on civilians targets in Colombo in the final week of February. The man's name was withheld by the authorities as he was compelled to work for the EROS as his wife had been abducted by the terrorists earlier in the year and he was hoping the terrorists would release her if he worked for them! Published by HT Syndication with permission from Daily News Sri Lanka. For more information on news feed please contact Sarabjit Jagirdar at <a href="https://

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Load-Date: June 26, 2009



Lankan army deep inside LTTE chief?s last bastion

Hindustan Times May 8, 2009 Friday

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Length: 383 words

Dateline: India

Body

India, May 8 -- The Sri Lankan army (SLA) on Thursday claimed to have tightened the noose around the <u>LTTE</u> leadership after capturing the last earth embankment inside the no fire zone (NFZ) in the north eastern district of Mullaitivu.

Lankan troops captured the earth bund after fierce fighting with the LTTE. ``Amid stiff LTTE resistance the valiant troops hit the LTTE earth bund and dominated it today. Scores of dead bodies of the terrorists were found scattered ahead of the captured bund along with their weapons,?? the media centre for national security said. Agencies reported, quoting unidentified military sources that the LTTE had deployed many suicide bombers along the front to take on the advancing SLA troops. The troops also came across a concrete tunnel, built over ground. "This compartmentalised tunnel was found by the 58 Division troops in the coast South of Vellamullivaikal. According to ground troops, the tunnel 360ft long and 25ft width was under construction and believed planned to be used as an alternative gateway to the shallow waters avoiding any detection. Troops also found a 100ft long, 50ft wide dock used by LTTE,?? the defence ministry said. It is being speculated that the tunnel, which led to the sea, could have been used as an escape route for LTTE chief V Prabhakaran. In another development, at least 3,000 pregnant women have fled the fighting in northern Sri Lanka in recent days and some 350 will give birth in the next month, according to estimates by UNFPA, the United Nations Population Fund. UNFPA is stepping up its support for the health and safety of women and girls affected by the conflict. The International Committee for Red Cross (ICRC) has shipped 25 Metric Tones of food and medicine to the conflict zone on Thursday. This is the first consignment to reach the area after April 28. An ICRC spokesperson said that the shipment was being offloaded from the vessel Friday afternoon. The LTTE political head B. Nadesan, meanwhile, has reiterated full commitment and support to the ICRC in its humanitarian and mandated activities. Nadesan accused that it was the Sri Lanka government and its forces that were blocking the activities of the ICRC by launching military maneouvers. Published by HT Syndication with permission from Hindustan Times.

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Load-Date: May 8, 2009



LTTE propaganda machine worming into Aussie Parliament

Daily News (Sri Lanka)
September 29, 2009 Tuesday

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Length: 491 words

Dateline: Sri Lanka

Body

Sri Lanka, Sept. 29 -- The Sri Lankan diaspora in Australia warned the shrewed <u>LTTE</u> propaganda machine was worming its way into the Australian Parliament through local sympathisers to distort the country's image and push for a human rights case against the Lankan Government.

Society for Peace Unity and Human Rights in Sri Lanka (SPUR), said the <u>LTTE</u> which was pushed under ground after its 'hard to swallow' military defeat, was very much active in its vicious propaganda campaign in Australia as well as elsewhere.

SPUR is a Victoria based *LTTE* counter propaganda group comprising Sinhala and Tamil diaspora.

SPUR President Jeanne Jayasinghe said: "These propaganda campaigns have taken the shape of seminars and conferences." Most of these conferences are held in the meeting rooms of the Parliament House where parliamentarians can drop in and listen. These meeting rooms can be rented out for private conferences.

"The ultimate goal of these invisible operatives are to take the Sri Lanka leaders before International Criminal Court demeaning the country's victory against one of the most ruthless terror outfits in the world."

The US Federal Bureau of Intelligence (FBI) in its website identified the <u>LTTE</u> as one of the most dangerous terrorist organisations in the world which has pioneered the use of <u>females</u> as human bombs, perfected the suicide bombers, an act it has drawn credit for, more than the Al Qida, Hezbollah or Hamas.

Speaking to the Daily News in Colombo during a recent visit, Jayasinghe said <u>LTTE</u> operatives there went under ground soon after the military operations wiped out all its top rung leaders. But she said, despite their low profile the Tiger lobbying arm was still 'very destructive.'

"It's a shame that now they are using the IDPs as a cover to further their evil intentions."

These conferences, sometimes organised through prestigious universities, are intentionally blocked for moderates or for those who hold opposite views.

She said the propaganda rallies, protest marches which were very rampant during the last stages of the Eelam war IV, have almost died down now, but in its place there is the outcry for human rights violations in IDP camps. These are orchestrated through certain Parliamentarians, bias media institutions and known social figures.

"They operate like a cancer, invading every nook and corner."

LTTE propaganda machine worming into Aussie Parliament

The SPUR President said the former TRO head in Australia who was a economic adviser to the <u>LTTE</u> and who represented <u>LTTE</u> in the 2002 Geneva peace talks was a paid worker in the Australian state broadcasting service.

Some of the operatives run their own community radio programs in Tamil language, brainwashing the moderate Tamil community but there was very little being done on an official level to redeem the country's good name. Published by HT Syndication with permission from Daily News Sri Lanka. For more information on news feed please contact Sarabjit Jagirdar at <a href="https://doi.org/10.1007/jhttps

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Load-Date: September 29, 2009



LTTE took desperate measures in final hours

Daily Mirror (Sri Lanka) May 25, 2009 Monday

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Length: 918 words

Dateline: Colombo

Body

Colombo, May 25 -- While the <u>LTTE</u> was being surrounded by the advancing troops during the last phase of the war, the rebels are reported to have adopted desperate measures to recruit new cadres to their fold.

Naval rating G.H. Chaminda Kumara - who was in <u>LTTE</u> custody with five other security forces personnel since November 2006 until they were rescued by the armed forces said some mothers took poison after their children were snatched away by the <u>LTTE</u>. Chaminda said about 5,000 <u>LTTE</u> cadres were able to flee the fighting with groups of civilians. "Even the <u>LTTE</u> cadres who were tasked to guard us threw away their guns, cyanide capsules and the uniform to join thousands of civilians fleeing the No Fire Zone (NFZ). They had realized that they had no alternative but to escape to government controlled area, if they were to save their lives. They felt there was no point in fighting and there was no reason to perish in the face of the unstoppable military juggernaut and it was best to run for safety," he said.

"Once, the tigers abducted a 20-year-old girl residing in a tsunami welfare village in the NFZ. She was a former LTTE cadre and was evading the terrorists. During a struggle between the girl's family members and the LTTE cadres who were attempting to abduct her, the girl's brother attacked two terrorists with a sword and killed them. The other terrorists then grabbed him and hacked him to death before taken the girl away. "We saw how parents wept when their children were abducted. We could not bear to see the way the terrorists treated them when they pleaded and attempted to prevent their children from being abducted. They beat the family members with gun butts and poles. Those who attacked the Tigers were murdered in cold blood. A large number of parents committed suicide by setting themselves on fire taking poison as they could not endure the pain of seeing their children being taken away by the LTTE," Chamida said. Narrating his experiences under LTTE custody he said the terrorist outfit true to its history of brutality meted inhuman punishment to cadres who attempted to flee the organization."They were chained to iron posts and hit with wires and Palmyra poles until their skins peeled off. Many of the victims succumbed to those injuries. There are instances where the wounds got infected without medicine and the victim suffered a horrible death. The LTTE killers were so inhumane that they refused to give a glass of water to their dying comrades, probably out of fear," he recalled. Chaminda said when the armed forces shelled Vadduwal the area where the six prisoners-of-war (POW) had been detained; the LTTE cadres appeared terribly frightened and took the six captives to another unknown place. "We were brought to Pallimune and Kahapalama after the government declared the area as a No Fire Zone. There were four LTTE prisons set up at houses in the newly demarcated NFZ. About 400 to 600 inmates captured by the LTTE had been imprisoned at these four houses. G.H. Chaminda Kumara was captured by Tigers in 2006 while he was serving in the ship 'Green Ocean' at Point Pedro. On November 9, 2006 sea tigers launched an attack on Green Ocean at Point Pedro when it was transporting some civilians from Trincomalee to KKS. Navy Dovra P461 and P416 were among the fleet of naval craft that attacked the Sea Tigers and the navy was able to save the Green Ocean and the other navy personnel. Dovra craft were attacked by the Sea Tigers and four navy cadres fell to the sea and were captured by the Tigers. G.H. Chaminda

LTTE took desperate measures in final hours

Kumara Hewage, P.D.K Vijaya Kumara, K.H.K.A. Kumarasiri and Anil Priyantha were taken into Tiger custody. Chaminda said four of them were blindfolded and brought to the Tiger's Peace Secretariat at Kilinochchi and produced before Pulidevan. Anil Privantha was admitted to the Kilinochchi hospital as he was severely injured. The three of us were guestioned for hours and imprisoned in Kaunaipuram. There were 50 to 60 others in that prison on charges of murder and women abuse. The camp comprised an eight-roomed house and was well guarded. He said they were given pittu and brinjal curry for breakfast. Rice and curry for lunch and rice or bread for dinner. "We spent nearly two years in the camp and were able to see our family members with the intervention of the ICRC. There was information that humanitarian operations were successful. Our camp area was bombed and the Tiger leader Lieutenant Colonel Aravindan shifted the camp to Mullaitivu. There were about 70 prisoners in a single room about 10 feet by 10 feet in size. There were about 300-400 prisoners most of whom were those who attempted to flee from the Tigers. He said some Tiger-defectors whom they spoke to said this was an un-winnable war and were caught when attempting to flee. They were subjected to untold suffering and torture. When the tiger bastions were falling one by one the number of escapees increased beyond control. Hundreds of tigers were killed by the army. "We gathered information from Tiger higher-ups. Some of them were optimistic while many others sounded pessimistic. With the army approaching the NFZ, the detainees were remanded at Pudumattalan Tiger police station and were later shifted to an under ground jail about 200 meters from where the Jordanian ship "Para 3" was marooned. The provision of food gradually deteriorated and meals were confined only to gruel for all three meals. Published by HT Syndication with permission from Daily Mirror Sri Lanka.

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Load-Date: May 25, 2009



<u>Army 58 Div continues to rescue civilians from LTTE clutches -</u> Ampalavanpokkanai

Colombo Times

April 8, 2009 Wednesday

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Length: 365 words

Body

Colombo, April 8 -- Sri Lanka Army 58 Division soldiers yesterday (Apr 7) rescued 42 civilians from the clutches of <u>LTTE</u> terrorists in the No Fire Zone [NFZ]. The group of rescued civilians included 11 children, 12 <u>women</u> and 18 men.

The NFZ though demarcated by the government as a safety zone for the civilians held hostage by the <u>LTTE</u> in Wanni, has now become the sanctuary for the top terrorist leaders including terror chief V. Prbhakaran himself. According to the latest intelligence reports, Pottu Amman the so-called intelligence leader of the <u>LTTE</u>, has now taken the overall command of the terror outfit with Prbhakaran's fast deteriorating mental health condition. Having no battlefield experience for himself, Pottu Amman has reportedly appointed Velawan, the last remaining <u>LTTE</u> battle-hardened cadre as the outfit's new military chief, the sources further revealed.

Meanwhile, the civilians seeking refuge with the Army have told that Pottu Amman has issued strict orders to the <u>LTTE</u> cadres manning the borders of the NFZ to kill any civilian irrespective of their age or gender who dares to escape the NFZ. The orders have been given following the outfit's recent debacle in Puthukkudiyiruppu East. According the civilians, the infamous <u>LTTE</u> intelligence leader has convinced the <u>LTTE</u> cadres that the civilians as their last hope for survival.

A senior defence observer speaking to defence.lk said that Pottu Amman's strategy is obvious.

"It is nothing new; he knows that he can easily mislead international community using <u>LTTE</u> agents abroad and the outfit's hired hands in international media and NGOs. He knows that continued and sustained sufferings of the Tamil civilians in the NFZ are the only thing that can save his life", he said

"The <u>LTTE</u> supporters will conceal the real perpetrators of crimes committed in the no fire zone, but use them in propaganda against Sri Lankan government", he added.

Troops of 10 Sri Lanka Light Infantry [10 SLLI] yesterday had several confrontation with the terrorist manning the last <u>LTTE</u> earth bund situated out of the NFZ, west of Ampalavanpkkanai. Also, snipers deployed in the forward areas confirmed acquisition of 11 <u>LTTE</u> targets.

Load-Date: May 5, 2009



LTTE now a shattered effigy - PS Chairman

Daily News (Sri Lanka) June 15, 2009 Monday

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Length: 242 words **Dateline:** Colombo

Body

Colombo, June 15 -- "Once the decision to engage the <u>LTTE</u> militarily was made the government made a firm policy decision to clearly underline the distinction between the <u>LTTE</u> and Tamil civilians.

Kurunegala Pradeshiya Sabha Chairman Patrick Karunasinghe addressing the Jana Hamuwa at Mathawa Junction to pay tribute to our war heroes over the victory of totally eradicating terrorism and bringing eternal peace to Sri Lanka. About 4,000 men, <u>women</u> and children from Mathawa, Kohilegedara, Wattegama, Phala-Mathawa, Gonne, Malagane, Talampitiya and many other villager took part at this ceremony and paid tribute to the President, Defence Secretary and Service Commanders. He said that Sri Lanka is one of the rare cases where terrorism has been comprehensively defeated by a country on its own despite all the advice, reservations, and fears publicly expressed to the country by some sections of the international community. Karunasinghe also observed that in the interior, the <u>LTTE</u> kept up a barrage of attacks on military and civilian targets. This included the suicide attack by a pregnant woman on the Army Commander. A claymore mine attack an a busload of civilian in Kebithigollawa, which killed 70 and a truck bomb targeting naval personnel coming home on leave, which killed over 200, all designed to break the will of the government or provoke a civilian or government response. Published by HT Syndication with permission from Daily News Sri Lanka.

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Load-Date: June 15, 2009



PROTESTERS CONTINUE TO OCCUPY SQUARE

Press Association Mediapoint
April 8, 2009 Wednesday 3:09 AM BST

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Section: HOME NEWS

Length: 1183 words

Byline: Press Association Reporters

Body

Around 400 dogged Tamil protesters continued their occupation of London's Parliament Square today as the rally entered its third day.

Police arrested seven people yesterday as a crowd protested against the Sri Lankan government's offensive against Tamil Tiger rebels and alleged human rights abuses.

Two men jumped into the Thames as police tried to persuade the crowd to disperse. They were not believed to have been seriously injured.

Up to 5,000 people - including <u>women</u> and babies - forced the closure of nearby Westminster Bridge by staging a sit-in on Monday night. The bridge was reopened to traffic at around 9am yesterday.

The Sri Lankan government has rejected international calls for a ceasefire, claiming it is on the verge of defeating the *Tamil Tigers*, a rebel group which is fighting for an independent homeland.

The protesters say the lives of thousands of civilians are in danger and want the UK government to take action.

Leicester East MP Keith Vaz is expected to deliver a letter to Downing Street later today calling for the situation in Sri Lanka to be debated by the UN Security Council.

Scotland Yard said they had issued ``repeated requests" that images representing the <u>Tamil Tigers</u> - a proscribed organisation in the UK - carried by members of the crowd be removed.

One arrest was made on suspicion of carrying a flag supporting a proscribed organisation, under the Terrorism Act 2000. The other six arrests were made for a range of public order offences.

The United Nations said up to 150,000 people are trapped in the war zone in the north of Sri Lanka.

PROTESTERS CONTINUE TO OCCUPY SQUARE

Vijay Mahalingam, 28, of Harrow, said: "We are here to call on the British Government and other governments of the world to wake up to the problems in our homeland, Sri Lanka.

"Last week, the most powerful men in the world were here in London but there was no mention of the struggle lots of our people have to face on a daily basis."

Foreign Secretary David Miliband has insisted the Government was ``very concerned" about civilians caught up in fighting in Sri Lanka.

"Recent reports suggesting that the Sri Lankan military have now captured all the territory outside the so-called 'no-fire zone' and that fighting is now going on inside the zone, where the civilian population is concentrated, are deeply worrying," he said.

"The British Government remains very concerned at the plight of civilians caught up in the fighting between the government and the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (<u>LTTE</u>). The need for a humanitarian ceasefire is now even more urgent.

"As I said in the House of Commons last week, it is vital that civilians are able to move away from danger to safety."

He said both sides had to fulfil their obligations under international law.

Mr Vaz's office said the missive was being signed by fellow Labour MPs Joan Ryan (Enfield North), Dawn Butler (Brent South) and Siobhain McDonagh (Mitcham & Morden), along with Lib Dems Simon Hughes (North Southwark & Bermondsey) and Ed Davey (Kingston & Surbiton).

Police said they continued trying to negotiate with the protesters - many of whom had brought sheets and sleeping bags - through the night. Social services were put on stand-by to care for children if necessary.

At 6.30am officers warned the crowd that they would be moved and directed them to Parliament Square, the spokesman said.

``All roads around Parliament Square and Westminster Bridge are open and traffic is moving," he added. ``Westminster Underground station is open."

The Sri Lankan government has rejected international calls for a ceasefire, claiming it is on the verge of defeating the *Tamil Tigers* rebel group, which is fighting for an independent homeland.

However, the United Nations said up to 150,000 people are trapped in the war zone in the north of the country.

The protesters said the lives of thousands of civilians in Sri Lanka's northern Mullaithivu district are in danger.

Vijay Mahalingam, 28, of Harrow, said: "We are here to call on the British Government and other governments of the world to wake up to the problems in our homeland, Sri Lanka.

"Last week, the most powerful men in the world were here in London but there was no mention of the struggle lots of our people have to face on a daily basis."

Foreign Secretary David Miliband later insisted the Government was ``very concerned" about civilians caught up in fighting in Sri Lanka.

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PROTESTERS CONTINUE TO OCCUPY SQUARE

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"As I said in the House of Commons last week, it is vital that civilians are able to move away from danger to safety."

He said both sides had to fulfil their obligations under international law.

"Nothing excuses the reported use of civilians by the <u>LTTE</u> as a human shield," Mr Miliband added. "But nor does the <u>LTTE</u>s behaviour excuse any failings by the Sri Lankan government to meet the high standards expected of democratic governments in conflict."

Leicester East MP Keith Vaz is to deliver a letter to Downing Street tomorrow calling for the situation in Sri Lanka to be debated by the UN Security Council.

His office said the missive was being signed by fellow Labour MPs Joan Ryan (Enfield North), Dawn Butler (Brent South) and Siobhain McDonagh (Mitcham & Morden), along with Lib Dems Simon Hughes (North Southwark & Bermondsey) and Ed Davey (Kingston & Surbiton).

Police later said they had made another arrest in Parliament Square as the numbers of demonstrators swelled to around 1,000.

Scotland Yard said they had issued ``repeated requests" that images representing the <u>Tamil Tigers</u> - a proscribed organisation in the UK - be removed.

A spokesman said police were continuing to negotiate with protest leaders to "avoid having to make a huge number of arrests".

The spokesman said: ``Officers are continuing to police the unlawful demonstration within Parliament Square. Numbers are rising and police estimate there are now about 1,000 people gathered.

"Through a member of the protest acting as a liaison with the demonstrators, police have issued warnings to those gathered that they are flying flags with images that represent a proscribed organisation. Police have repeated requests that these flags are removed.

"At approximately 1245 police made one arrest within Parliament Square. The arrest was on suspicion of carrying an article (a flag) supporting a proscribed organisation, under the Terrorism Act 2000.

"Police are continuing to negotiate with community leaders in an attempt to resolve the situation and avoid having to make a huge number of arrests.

"We aim through working with the community to work with demonstrators in the future to facilitate lawful protest minimising disruption to the life of London."

Load-Date: April 8, 2009



Peace now most needed in Sri Lanka

The New Nation
May 22, 2009 Friday

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The New Nation

Bangladesh's Independent News Source

Length: 1323 words

Body

Dhaka, May 22 -- The final defeat of Sri Lanka's <u>Tamil Tigers</u> has brought an end to one of the world's most brutal ethnic conflicts and the demise of one of its most formidable and disciplined rebel outfits.

Just two years ago the Liberation of Tamil Eelam appeared indestructible, controlling a large swathe of territory in the north and east of the island with all the trappings of a separate state. For nearly three decades, his group waged war with the Sri Lankan army to achieve a separate homeland for Tamils. To achieve this goal, he developed a well-trained milita cadre, naval wing, and an air force comprising of rudimentary light aircrafts, becoming the only armed separatist group in the world to have all three military wings. For decades the charismatic leader Velupillai Prabhakaran played an instrumental role in demanding a separate homeland for the island's ethnic Tamil minority and in building up the *LTTE* military capabilities.

Prabahkaran was the *LTTE* supreme leader, its god, its icon. "Minus him, the *LTTE* will never be its old self."says-Narayan Swamy, the New Delhi based author of a biography of the rebel leader. He founded the *LTTE* in the 1970s in response to discrimination against Tamils by the island's majority Sinhalese population. But Prabahakaran has been accused by the government of using the lull period of peace talks to augment his military capabilities, a similar claim also made by his former lieutenant, Vinaygamoorthi Muralitahra, known as Col. Karuna Amman, who later defected to the government side. Valupillai made a series of mistakes that led the *Tamil Tigers* to total defeat and his won death at age 54. At the height his power, Prabhakaran ruled as a virtual dictator over a shadow state of hundreds of thousands of people in northern Sri Lanaka with its own flag, police and court system. The rebels reportedly earned as much as \$ 300 million a year from arms and drug smuggling, fate charities and donations from Tamil expatriates. Prabhakaran rarely appeared in public preferring to communicate via radio address delivered every November. *LTTE* projected a facade of invincibility, retired army brigadier general Vipul Boteju told AFP. They had also underestimated the military which had learnt from their mistakes. The rebels also suffered internal problems, with signs of dissent around Prabhakaran-whose de facto number two, Vinayagamoothy Muralitharan, defected to the government 2004. On the international front, the *LTTE* were outlawed as a foreign terrorist organization by the United States, European Union, Australia and India.

After the peace process broke down in 2006, President Mahindra Rajapakse made annihilating Tamil Tiger rebels its priority. He hiked the island's military budget to \$1.7 billion for the 2009 fiscal year, nearly 5 percent of the gross domestic product. He also intensified recruitment of soldiers across the island and re-recruited war deserters by granting them amnesty if they returned to the frontlines. A sustained offensive by government troops saw them cornered, broken and finally vanquished. An 11th hour offer to lay down Tiger's weapons went unheeded as the Sri Lankan military ordered a last assault that wiped out the entire **LTTE** leadership, including Prabhakaran and 200

Peace now most needed in Sri Lanka

plus diehard fighters guarding them. In the fight for a separate Tamil homeland, Prabhakaran had refined the use of suicide bombers who carried out deadly attacks against high-profile targets including spectacular strikes against economic installations. Former Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi was assassinated by a *female* Tiger suicide bomber in 1991, in retaliation for sending Indian peacekeepers to Sri Lanka in 1987 who ended up fight the rebels. The Tigers were also blamed for 1993 killing of Sri Lankan president Ranasinghae Premadasa and the bombing of the central bank which left 90 people dead. The Tigers had been condemned for their use of suicide bombers and child soldiers, but they had the backing of the international community when Oslo-backed peace talks were under way from 2002. Those negotiations collapsed and the process ended in January 2008 when President Mahnidra Rajapakse pulled out of moribund truce.

International concern focused on the fate of 50000 civilians thought to be trapped inside the last patch of territory held by the tigers and 100000 people held in government camps after fleeing the fighting. Never did history unmask the hypocrisy and the sanctimony of the Western powers that it showed in their behaviour towards Sri Lanka during recent times. British foreign secretary David Miliband and his French counterpart Bernard Kouchner visited Sri Lanka during the recent fighting. But majority of the people were behind the government in its military mode of conflict resolution. The total number of newly displaced persons from the north who are in government welfare centres is close to 200000 putting a massive strain on the government's welfare and administration systems. These displaced people are in urgent need of humanitarian assistance.

The government estimates that up to 20000 civilians are being held in the less than five-square kilimetre area where the rebels are holed up. The UN has said the number could be as high as 50000. Rajapakse is under pressure over allegations that his troops have been shelling civilians invited UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon to visit the island. British Prime Minister Gordon Brown warned Sri Lanka saying, "There would be consequences for its actins if Colombo did not allow humanitarian agencies access to civilians and end the conflict with Tamil Tiger rebels.

Resentment of the Tamil's privileged status under British colonial rulers surfaced when the Sinhalese majority took power after independence in 1948. With Sinhalese nationalism on the rise, Tamil youngsters took up arms and a full scale war erupted in the 1980s. Government forces on May 16, 2009 took control of the entire island's coast for the first time since war broke out in 1983, cutting off any chance of escape for a militant group whose conventional defeat has been a forgone conclusion for months. People set off firework and celebrated in the streets of the capital on May 17 a day on which the government asked people to fly the national flag in celebration.

But the government's historic defeat of the <u>Tamil Tigers</u> has been tarnished by mounting charges of war crimes, with thousands of civilians reported to have been killed in months of indiscriminate shelling." There has been accountability for what has gone on in Sri Lanka, there has to be clarity and there cannot be impunity," said Rupert Colville, a spokesman for UN High Commission for Human Rights Navi Pillay. The political analysts say that the end of war should mark the beginning of reconciliation of healing the wounds of the Tamil people. There has to be action on the ground like treating Tamils with dignity, to win their hearts and minds. Disaster Management Minister Smarasinghe, Rajapakse said, "The problem of Sri Lanka is not about ethnicity. It is a political problem that needs a political solution." Mahindra Rajapakse said assuring the world "My government is firmly committed to seeking a homegrown solution acceptable to all communities living in Sri Lanka. He promised political power sharing management."Norwegian Minster Erik Solheim, the chief architect of Sri Lanka's 2002 peace process, has urged Colombo to be generous and not to ignore the Tamil desire for autonomy just because the Tamil Tiger's chief is dead and his organization decimated. The government of Sri Lanka has won the conventional battle but is far from winning the peace. It is now that the government must show generosity and give substantial offer of self-government in the north and east of Sri Lanka and start creating an inclusive state for both Tamils and Sinhalese alike.

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Load-Date: May 24, 2009



<u>Tigers routed, but what now for Tamils in Sri Lanka?; 'The worst thing that can now happen for people who have survived the war is for them to die from preventable means in the camps'</u>

The Age (Melbourne, Australia)

April 25, 2009 Saturday

First Edition

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Section: NEWS; International News; Pg. 13

Length: 1219 words **Byline:** Matt Wade

Body

Mystery surrounds the fate of more than 100,000 refugees, reports Matt Wade from Colombo.

HIS realm once spanned a third of Sri Lanka and boasted a well-equipped army, navy and air force.

But <u>Tamil Tigers</u> supremo Velupillai Prabhakaran now controls just eight square kilometres of sand and swamp in north-eastern Sri Lanka.

Rumours have circulated in Colombo that the feared leader of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam, who rarely appears in public, was smuggled out of Sri Lanka months ago. But the Sri Lankan army says he remains with his dwindling band of cadres, moving constantly around the strip of land in rebel hands.

The prospect of capturing the elusive guerilla chief has been overshadowed this week by the tens of thousands he is accused of holding hostage.

The <u>LTTE</u>, proscribed as a terrorist group in more than 30countries including Australia, is renowned for its ruthless tactics. It pioneered suicide bombing and pressed children into battle. It has assassinated two national leaders former Sri Lankan president Ranasinghe Premadasa and former Indian prime minister Rajiv Gandhi.

Satellite photos released by the US this week showed the huts of more than 120,000 people living rough on the beach in rebel-held territory. They were hemmed in by defensive earth barriers constructed by the <u>Tamil Tigers</u> using mechanical diggers.

But on Monday the Sri Lankan army used explosives to destroy a section of one of these fortifications and thousands of people began topour out.

The scale of the exodus caught everyone by surprise. By Thursday, the Government said more than 100,000 people had crossed from rebel territory to Government-held areas.

quot; The Government has been saying for a long time that there were only about 70,000 people inside the no fire zone, quot; said Gordon Weiss, the United Nations spokesman in Sri Lanka. quot; That was clearly wrong quot;

Tigers routed, but what now for Tamils in Sri Lanka? 'The worst thing that can now happen for people who have survived the war is for them to die from preventa....

Having realised the scale of the refugee crisis, the Sri Lankan Government has pleaded for international assistance.

Some Tamil civilians have opted to flee by boat to India, making the treacherous journey across the strait that separates Sri Lanka from the south Indian state of Tamil Nadu. In one case 19 refugees, including eight <u>women</u> and two children, reached the town of Arcothurai after sailing for nearly 24hours in a small fishing boat, the Indian Express newspaper reported.

Despite the huge numbers involved, the fate of those who fled the heavy fighting between Sri Lankan troops and the Tigers is shrouded in mystery.

The Government has long banned independent observers and reporters from the war zone, so the world has had to rely on Government-supplied TV footage to witness the mass break-out.

A few refugees spoke of how happy they were to have escaped the terrible conditions in rebel-held territory. But mostly they were silent, wading through water carrying their possessions and waiting in long lines to be processed by the Sri Lankan army.

Even MPs who represent Sri Lanka's Tamils know little about those who fled. quot; Nobody knows what is happening, quot; Tamil MP Suresh Premachandran told The Age.

quot; Who can tell how many thousand left, and how many thousand reached Government areas? We are telling the Government to allow human rights organisations to be able to monitor what has been going on.quot;

Even though he is an MP, Mr Premachandran says the army has never allowed him into camps for those who have fled *LTTE*-held areas.

The casualty toll from the mass escape is also unknown, although aid agencies estimate hundreds may have died and more than a thousand have been wounded. Meanwhile, tens of thousands of civilians remain with the <u>LTTE</u> and in grave danger.

Dr Alan Keenan, a Colombo-based analyst for the International Crisis Group, says the north of Sri Lanka is currently reeling from quot; overlapping crisesquot;.

UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon last night announced the dispatch of a humanitarian team to Sri Lanka.

The humanitarian mission was brokered by top UN official Vijay Nambiar last Friday, but last night Sri Lanka's Human Rights Minister, Mahinda Samarasinghe, rejected the idea of its having access to the war zone.

The refugees who fled from the <u>LTTE</u> this week will be vetted by the army and taken to special camps, mostly near the town of Vavuniya. Conditions there, at least initially, will be bleak.

quot; People are exhausted, people are hungry, and people are sick, quot; says James Elder, the spokesman for UNICEF in Sri Lanka.

quot; Some of the camps are overflowing and new arrivals include infants who are suffering from dysentery, malnourished children and <u>women</u>, and people with untended wounds from the fighting. The worst thing that can now happen for people who have survived the war is for them to die from preventable means in the camps.quot;

Given the Orwellian title of quot; Welfare Villagesquot;, these camps will also be used to weed out those associated with the Tigers. quot; These internment camps exist so that the Government can process people and determine who is a danger and who is not, quot; Mr Weiss says.

Not long ago, the <u>LTTE</u> controlled about 15,000square kilometres in Sri Lanka's north and east and ran a parallel government. However, the tide started to turn when the Sri Lankan Government abandoned a much-flouted ceasefire early last year.

Tigers routed, but what now for Tamils in Sri Lanka? 'The worst thing that can now happen for people who have survived the war is for them to die from preventa....

This shift in strategy coincided with new anti-terrorism laws in some Western countries that curtailed the Tigers' capacity to raise funds among the Tamil diaspora. Also, more stringent joint patrols by the Sri Lankan and Indian navies, searching for vessels smuggling arms from South-East Asia, reduced supplies to the rebels.

The Sri Lankan army started to make significant advances in September. Early this year the Tigers' administrative capital, Kilinochchi, and the strategic Elephant Pass fell to the Government.

Sri Lanka's Foreign Secretary, Palitha Kohona, claims that his country has taught the international community an important lesson about fighting terrorism. quot; For the first time the regular military force of a democratically elected government has succeeded in defeating a terrorist force, quot; he said. quot; This victory was earned not only in the battlefield but also in the hearts and minds of the people. quot;

But Sri Lanka's war has come at great cost. The UN estimates that more than 6400 civilians have been killed in the past three months alone, and military spending soaks up 20per cent of the Government's budget.

Even when the army finally prevails, the political problems that have underpinned this brutal conflict will persist.

Dr Kohona acknowledges the Government now faces a difficult job in quot; winning the peacequot;. He says it will return those in camps to their homes as soon as possible.

But Dr Keenan is sceptical. quot;The primary goal of this Government has been a military victory, and it's security issues that define their policies,quot; he says. quot;I think they are going to be very reluctant to send these people back to their villages in large numbers given that so many of them, out of necessity, have connections to the <u>LTTE</u>.quot;

The **LTTE** also gave a chilling hint this week that it would take its struggle underground.

Sri Lankans will be hoping that the military conflict does not become an underground terrorist campaign carried by sleeper cells that explode without warning.

Graphic

TWO PHOTOS: International aid agencies fear the massive influx of refugees into makeshift camps (left) over the past week will lead to a humanitarian crisis. Sri Lankan troops believe they are closing in on trapped <u>Tamil Tigers</u> leader Velupillai Prabhakaran (above). Pictures: World Vision, AFP; MAP

Load-Date: April 24, 2009



I never underestimated the LTTE - President

Daily News (Sri Lanka)
July 8, 2009 Wednesday

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Length: 1674 words

Dateline: Colombo

Body

Colombo, July 8 -- N. Ram (NR): Mr. President, when you were elected in 2005 what was your expectation of this conflict? This is what you said in your 2005 Presidential Election manifesto, Mahinda Chintana:

"The freedom of our country is supreme. I will not permit any separatism. I will also not permit anyone to destroy democracy in our country...I will respect all ethnic and religious identities, refrain from using force against anyone, and build a new society that protects individuals and social freedoms." In that policy statement, you also projected the "fundamental platform" of your initiatives as "an undivided country, a national consensus, and an honourable peace." So what was your real expectation when you assumed the office of President?

You had no plan, it appears, to go on an offensive. President: I was very clear about terrorism. I didn't want to suppress the Tamils' feelings. But I was very clear about the terrorism from the start. That's why as soon as I knew that I was going to win, I invited Gota [his brother Gotabaya Rajapaksa]. I said to him: "You can't go. You wait here." That's why I selected as commanders of the Armed Forces people who would get ready to do that. Then I sent the message to the LTTE: "Come, we will have talks, discuss." I was trying to negotiate. I was very practical. I said: "You can get anything you want. But why don't you all contest this, have elections? President Mahinda Rajapaksa Now you are people who have weapons in your hands. Ask the people to select. Have elections for the Provincial Council. Then we will negotiate. I can negotiate with an elected group. But with a man with weapons, I can't negotiate." The biggest mistake he [Prabhakaran] made was this. He said I was a practical man, a pragmatic man. Lalith Weeratunga (Secretary to the President; LW): The President was appointed on the November 19 [2005] when he made his inaugural speech, where he invited this man. Then on the November 27 came Prabhakaran's Mahavir speech, in which he said the President was a pragmatic, practical man [the LTTE supremo announced that his organization would "wait and observe" the new President's approach to the peace process "for some time" because "President Rajapaksa is considered a realist, committed to pragmatic politics"]. When he said that, the President said in a speech: "I am willing to walk that last mile." Then on December 5, they attacked 13 innocent soldiers who were taking meals to their comrades and they were without weapons. That is how it started. President: Even then I didn't do anything. But then I knew what was going on. Then only I started my defence, I would say. Then Gota said we would have to increase the strength of the Army. All that was planned by them [the professionals]. I said: "What do you want? Get ready." But I went behind them [the LTTE] pleading. But I knew people were getting worked up in the South. Then I warned the LTTE: "Don't do this. Don't push me to the wall." LW: Then you sent me to talk to one of their leaders. President: I sent him. I sent Jeyaraj [Jeyaraj Fernandopulle]. LW: In 2006, I went through many checkpoints without being checked. The President said: "Just go. Don't identify yourself." Later he told them: "I sent someone. You people couldn't even find out who it was." President: I pulled up the Defence people, saying: "If I can send a man there, what is your security?" I told them after several months: "He [Lalith Weeratunga] is the man who went there. Do you know that?" LW: To that extent he went. NR: To see the

weaknesses? LW: No, to negotiate. President: To negotiate and see the weaknesses also! Then I sent Jeyaraj. He told them some home truths in Sinhala, which they understood. "You will be killed [if they continued along this path]." NR: Then came the Mavil Aru incident. President: That was the time they gave me the green light! NR: But you were well prepared by then, August 2006? President: Yes. But before that, they tried to kill the Army Commander. LW: In April 2006, when they tried to assassinate the Army Commander, the President said - this was in the next room - "as a deterrent, just one round of bombing, then stop it." President: Yes, I said: "Just go once." We were very careful. We did our best to find a way out through talks. LW: There was a whole series of negotiations, in Geneva and elsewhere. They [the Tigers] didn't even want to talk. President: So these military operations did not come without negotiation or without any reason. But from the start, I was getting ready for that [the military operations]. I knew - because I had the experience, you see. We knew that they would never lay down arms and start negotiating. LW: In this connection, let me tell you about the President's interesting conversation with Solheim [Eric Solheim]. I was there, it was about March 2006. Solheim came to see The President after he became President, and said, in the midst of other things: "Prabhakaran is a military genius. I have seen him in action," and this and that. The President said: "He is from the jungles of the North. I am from the jungles of the South. Let's see who will win!" It was very prophetic. Later the President met Minister Solheim in New York and reminded him of their conversation on the "military genius," the jungles of the North and South, and who would win. The East had by that time, in 2007, been cleared and the President said: "Now see what's going to happen in the North. The same." NR: When did you first get an idea that the Tigers were vulnerable, that they were hollow in some sense, that you could hit deep? No underestimation President: From the beginning I had the feeling that if you gave the Forces proper instructions and whatever they wanted, our people could defeat them. Because I always had the feeling that what they [the LTTE] were showing was not the reality. But in a way, we were wrong. They had numbers, they had weapons. They would have attacked not just Sri Lanka, they would have attacked South India. The weapons they had accumulated could not have been just for Sri Lanka! The amount of weapons our Armed Forces are discovering is unbelievable. And I knew when our intelligence was saying: "They have only 15,000 fighters," I knew it was not that number. I was not depending on one source. I knew that the LTTE had more than that. One thing I never did was to underestimate the LTTE. NR: So you say they were the most ruthless and most powerful terrorist organization in the world. President: Yes, the most ruthless and richest terrorist organization in the world. And well equipped, well trained. LTTE's final strategy? NR: What do you think was their final strategy? Prabhakaran holed out with all the LTTE leaders and their families in that small space, that sliver of coastal land. It shocked the world. But what were they expecting? D.B.S. Jeyaraj, who writes for us, has a theory that they wanted to do a daring counter-attack. President: I think what they wanted was to escape. In the final phase, they were waiting for somebody to come and take them away. Otherwise, they wouldn't have gone there. Because they had the Sea Tiger base: that was the only place where they could bring a ship very close - even a submarine. They selected the best place for them: on one side the sea, then the lagoon, and there was a small strip. But then it was not they who actually selected the place: they 'selected' it but the Armed Forces made them go there. The No-Fire Zones were all announced by the Armed Forces. After Kilinochchi, they were saying: "No-Fire Zones, so go there." So all of them [the LTTE leaders and fighters] went there. These were not areas demarcated by the U.N. or somebody else; they were demarcated by our Armed Forces. The whole thing was planned by our Forces to corner them. The Army was advancing from North to South, South to North, on all sides. So I would say they got cornered by our strategies. LW: Kilinochchi was captured on January 01, 2009. And the whole operation was over on May 19. So there was ample time [for them to get away]. Conduct of Armed Forces President: Yes, I can't understand why they had to fight a conventional war. Prabhakaran could have gone underground. If I was the leader of the LTTE, I would have gone underground and I would have been in the jungles - fighting a guerrilla fight. They couldn't do that now because we, our Army, mastered the jungles. They were much better than the LTTE in this [mode of warfare]. Thanks to the Special Forces, the Long-Range Forces, and the small groups, the group of eight. That worked very well. And I salute our Forces for their discipline. LW: For example, there was not a single instance where the Army was found to be wanting in its conduct towards women. President: That girl, when she surrendered - they were deciding, there were six or seven [LTTE women fighters] - she says in her statement: finally, two or three ate cyanide and killed themselves; and then two or three girls said, "all right, we will see whether we will be raped, whether we will kill ourselves or be killed by rape, we will take this risk." The schoolteacher, this educated girl, surrendered. Nothing happened. She can't believe this. She was paid by the Government for fighting us! By the way, we are now going to get all the Government Servants [from the Northern areas that used to be controlled by the LTTE and I am going to tell them: "Forget your past. You work there in these organizations, you can't just wait

I never underestimated the LTTE - President

there. We are paying you." Now teachers must go and teach and others must go to their posts and work. And the money that they [the Tamil civilians fleeing the <u>LTTE</u>] deposited: on the first day it was Rs. 450 million together in the two banks, People's Bank and the Bank of Ceylon. And considerable quantities of gold. The Army has become a very disciplined force. Published by HT Syndication with permission from Daily News Sri Lanka. For more information on news feed please contact Sarabjit Jagirdar at <a href="https://ht

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Load-Date: July 8, 2009



Prabhakaran "very much alive" claim pro LTTE leaders in TN

UNI (United News of India)

May 21, 2009 Thursday

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Length: 811 words

Dateline: Chennai

Body

Chennai, May. 21 -- Pro-<u>LTTE</u> leaders in Tamil Nadu today reiterated <u>LTTE</u> leader Velupillai Prabhakaran was not killed as claimed by the Sri Lankan Army and that he was "very much alive".

Speaking at a renaissance rally organised by the Sri Lankan Tamils Protection Committee, an umbrella organisation formed to espouse the cause of suffering Eelam Tamils, leaders of various parties kept harping on the point that Prabhakaran was alive. All the speakers were unanimous in their view that Prabhakaran was not killed and that he was alive, rejecting the Lankan government's claim that he was shot dead by the Military troops while trying to flee. "Prabhakaran was not killed as claimed by the Lankan Army. He is very much alive and a separate Tamil Eelam, the dream of the Tamils in Lanka, will definitely blossom," firebrand MDMK leader Vaiko, a staunch supporter of the *LTTE*, said at the rally.

Recalling the history of the ethnic crisis, the Norway brokered peace talks, failure of the talks and the Army intensifying its war after LTTE refused to surrender, Mr Vaiko denounced the Lankan government for killing innocent Tamils, women and children by using cluster bombs and poisonous bombs. Winding up his fiery speech, Mr Vaiko asserted "Tamil Eelam will definitely emerge." Thambi Prabhakaran saagavillai, Uyiroduthaan Irukkirar (Younger brother Prabhakaran is not dead, he is alive)", he said and saluted the heroes and Tamils who were killed in the offensive. Mr Vaiko, reacting to Sri Lanka's claim that Prabhakaran was killed, had flayed the print and the electronic media, especially those based in Delhi for spreading a disinformation campaign that the Lankan forces had shot dead the LTTE chief, while he was trying to flee. Hailing the LTTE supremo as a great warrior, Mr Vaiko also accused the media of trying to belittle the Tamil Tiger by giving credence to the Lankan Army's claim that Prabhakaran was trying to flee. Other members of the committee, including Tamil Nationalist Movement leader P Nedumaran, PMK founder Dr S Ramadoss and CPI State Secretary D Pandian also endorsed the views expressed by Mr Vaiko and claimed that Mr Prabhakaran was alive and a separate Tamil Eelam would become a reality. The leaders alleged that India had been abetting the war against the Tamils. The Lankan forces, despite the offer of ceasefire by the LTTE was bent upon eliminating the Tamil race. Pro-LTTE leaders in Tamil Nadu today reiterated LTTE leader Velupillai Prabhakaran was not killed as claimed by the Sri Lankan Army and that he was "very much alive". Speaking at a renaissance rally organised by the Sri Lankan Tamils Protection Committee, an umbrella organisation formed to espouse the cause of suffering Eelam Tamils, leaders of various parties kept harping on the point that Prabhakaran was alive. All the speakers were unanimous in their view that Prabhakaran was not killed and that he was alive, rejecting the Lankan government's claim that he was shot dead by the Military troops while trying to flee. "Prabhakaran was not killed as claimed by the Lankan Army. He is very much alive and a separate Tamil Eelam, the dream of the Tamils in Lanka, will definitely blossom," firebrand MDMK leader Vaiko, a staunch supporter of the LTTE, said at the rally. Recalling the history of the ethnic crisis, the Norway brokered peace talks, failure of the talks and the Army intensifying its war after LTTE refused to surrender, Mr Vaiko denounced the Lankan government for killing innocent Tamils, women and children by using cluster bombs and poisonous bombs.

Prabhakaran "very much alive" claim pro LTTE leaders in TN

Winding up his fiery speech, Mr Vaiko asserted "Tamil Eelam will definitely emerge." Thambi Prabhakaran saagavillai, Uyiroduthaan Irukkirar (Younger brother Prabhakaran is not dead, he is alive)", he said and saluted the heroes and Tamils who were killed in the offensive. Mr Vaiko, reacting to Sri Lanka's claim that Prabhakaran was killed, had flayed the print and the electronic media, especially those based in Delhi for spreading a disinformation campaign that the Lankan forces had shot dead the *LTTE* chief, while he was trying to flee. Hailing the *LTTE* supremo as a great warrior, Mr Vaiko also accused the media of trying to belittle the Tamil Tiger by giving credence to the Lankan Army's claim that Prabhakaran was trying to flee. Other members of the committee, including Tamil Nationalist Movement leader P Nedumaran, PMK founder Dr S Ramadoss and CPI State Secretary D Pandian also endorsed the views expressed by Mr Vaiko and claimed that Mr Prabhakaran was alive and a separate Tamil Eelam would become a reality. The leaders alleged that India had been abetting the war against the Tamils. The Lankan forces, despite the offer of ceasefire by the *LTTE* was bent upon eliminating the Tamil race. Published by HT Syndication with permission from United News of India.

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Load-Date: May 22, 2009



More civilians flee LTTE clutches to safe zone

Daily Mirror (Sri Lanka)

April 10, 2009 Friday

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Length: 382 words

Dateline: Colombo

Body

Colombo, April 10 -- The nineteenth batch of 537 patients and civilians was evacuated on board "MV Green Ocean" on Wednesday.

The evacuation of patients and civilians trapped in <u>LTTE</u> clutches in the un-cleared areas in Mullaitivu is being carried out under the ICRC flag. The Sri Lanka Navy is providing safe passage to evacuees on humanitarian grounds. Patients among the evacuees, upon disembarkation at Pulmoddai were provided with emergency medical treatment by naval doctors and were rushed to the field hospital in Pulmoddai as well as the General Hospital in Padaviya by the navy personnel for further treatment.

Hospitals have been equipped with adequate stocks of essential drugs and specialist medical personnel are being assigned to treat the sick and wounded as they are transferred to hospitals. The nineteenth batch consisted of 153 adult males, 168 adult <u>females</u> and 216 children in total. Among them were 107 male and 63 <u>female</u> patients needing medical treatment. The evacuees had been languishing in pain and fear due to the <u>LTTE</u>s adamant stance to hold all civilians captive in the un-cleared areas as human shields despite the repeated appeals by the International Community to free all civilians enabling them to safe areas immediately. In the meantime, the Sri Lanka Navy rescued 103 Tamil civilians who had been fleeing from the <u>LTTE</u> clutches in Mullaitivu on five occasions. A group of six civilians was rescued on the April 5 while two civilians were rescued the next day. Another three groups consisting of 13, 8 and 74 civilians were rescued on April 7th and the 8th. All had been found on board white flag hoisted fiberglass dinghies except the two civilians rescued while on a 'Theppam', while attempting to flee from the <u>LTTE</u> clutches in Mullaitivu. The rescued civilians were safely brought ashore and provided with much needed food, refreshments and medical assistance. The Navy, as part of its humanitarian operations, has put in place a number of comprehensive measures to facilitate the evacuation process. Naval personnel and vessels along with stand-by rescue and medical teams are on special deployment in the Northeastern seas to assist Tamil civilians fleeing from *LTTE* clutches daily. Published by HT Syndication with permission from Daily Mirror Sri Lanka.

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Load-Date: April 11, 2009



Sri Lankan president's emissary to visit India (Lead)

Hindustan Times

April 22, 2009 Wednesday

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Length: 513 words

Dateline: New Delhi

Body

New Delhi, April. 22 -- Sri Lanka is planning to send President Mahinda Rajapaksa's brother Basil as a special envoy to brief India about the situation in the strife-hit island where thousands of Tamil civilians have fled the war zone with barely anything except the clothes they are in.

"There is a plan for him (Basil Rajapaksa) to come to India. But we do not have a specific date," Sri Lanka's ambassador C.R. Jayasinghe told IANS Wednesday.

Basil Rajapaksa, presidential adviser and parliamentarian, came to India in October last year.

He is likely to meet External Affairs Minister Pranab Mukherjee, National Security Adviser M.K. Narayanan and Foreign Secretary Shivshankar Menon now.

Rajapaksa's visit comes amid mounting concern and protests in Tamil Nadu over the suffering of thousands of civilians who are beginning to pour out of the small strip of land in Mullaitivu district where the last of the <u>Tamil</u> <u>Tigers</u> are still holed up, with the military closing in on them.

Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M. Karunanidhi, whose DMK party is a key member of Prime Minister Manmohan Singh's government, has called a shutdown in the state Thursday to protest against "civilian atrocities". Smaller parties have warned of bloodbath in Tamil Nadu if Velupillai Prabhakaran, leader of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (*LTTE*), came to harm in the military onslaught.

Envoy Jayasinghe defended the "final assault" launched by Sri Lankan troops against the <u>LTTE</u> in Mullaitivu district after the rebels ignored a 24-hour deadline to surrender.

"It's an operation mounted for humanitarian reasons. The exercise is necessary to ensure the exit of civilians from the *LTTE* area," the envoy said.

"Our approach has been to keep open the corridor so that the maximum number of civilians can get out and get the best possible medical, sanitation and nutrition relief," he explained. "It's a huge logistical exercise."

Alluding to many thousands of civilians leaving the war zone where <u>LTTE</u> guerrillas are hiding and moving into government-held areas, the envoy said it showed that people were "really desperate to move out of <u>LTTE</u>'s clutches".

Sri Lankan president's emissary to visit India (Lead)

"This is not an exercise mounted by a sovereign nation against another nation. The citizens are entitled to equal protection," he said. "The citizens of Sri Lanka are being held against their will. The state has every right to intervene and return them to safety."

There is also growing concern in Western capitals about the humanitarian situation in Sri Lanka. But Colombo has rejected calls to order a truce in fighting, saying this would only benefit the now cornered **LTTE**.

According to Sri Lankan authorities, about 95,000 men, women and children have fled the war zone since Monday.

Karunanidhi urged Manmohan Singh and Sonia Gandhi, head of India's ruling coalition, to give an ultimatum to Colombo "for an immediate and permanent ceasefire and save lakhs of Tamils in Sri Lanka".

India has conveyed the concerns and appealed to Colombo to ensure the safe exit of Tamil civilians. Published by HT Syndication with permission from Indo-Asian News Service.

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Load-Date: August 3, 2009



Indian envoys meet Rajapaksa, no word on truce (Lead)

Hindustan Times April 24, 2009 Friday

Copyright 2009 HT Media Ltd. All Rights Reserved

Length: 286 words

Dateline: Colombo

Body

Colombo, April. 24 -- Indian Foreign Secretary Shivshankar Menon and National Security Advisor M.K. Narayanan Friday held talks with Sri Lankan President Mahinda Rajapaksa and then flew back home, with Colombo hinting that the offensive against the *Tamil Tigers* will continue.

Narayanan and Menon met the president at his official residence Temple Trees for about 90 minutes after flying into Colombo by a special aircraft amid mounting international concerns about the plight of Tamil civilians trapped in the narrow strip of war zone in the island's north.

Narayanan and Menon did not speak to the media, but a presidential spokesperson said the meeting "went off very well". The official provided no details.

A government source, however, said the Indian officials did not insist on a ceasefire and added that there would be no truce in the fighting against the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (*LTTE*).

Narayanan and Menon, who regularly keep in touch with their Sri Lankan counterparts, earlier flew from the airport near Colombo to the capital by helicopter.

India sent the officials as the exodus of Tamil civilians from the war zone escalated into a serious humanitarian crisis even as Colombo claimed that the Tamil rebels were about to be crushed.

Sri Lanka estimates that 106,000 Tamil civilians - men, <u>women</u> and children - have so far fled the <u>LTTE</u> zone and taken shelter in military-held areas.

"We are very unhappy at the continued killings in Sri Lanka. All killings must stop. There must be an immediate cessation of all hostilities," Indian External Affairs Minister Pranab Mukherjee had said in a statement in New Delhi late Thursday. Published by HT Syndication with permission from Indo-Asian News Service.

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Load-Date: August 4, 2009



LTTE-LED SEPARATIST WAR MADE 250,000 TAMILS HOMELESS

Malaysia General News May 27, 2009 Wednesday

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Length: 543 words

Dateline: VAVUNIYA May 27

Body

The separatist war fought in northern Sri Lanka for the past three decades had caused colossal damage to the bulk of the minority Tamil population, with thousands facing a bleak future after being uprooted from their homes.

An estimated 250,000 people, many already mired in deep poverty due to the civil war, are now homeless after losing their last piece of belonging as they escaped the war zone recently.

Government officials estimate that over 305 children were orphaned by the bloody war so far, while 3,000 young pregnant **women** would soon deliver their babies in the camps.

"There is a lot of congestion (in the camps) as there was a big influx a few days ago. We are doing our best to shelter them and resettle them before next year. But there are problems like land mines (explosives) and we have to de-mine these places first," P.C. M Charles, Vavuniya district secretary told reporters.

The Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (<u>LTTE</u>), a lethal rebel group led by Velupillai Prabhakaran, fought the government to create a separate homeland for the marginalised Tamils in the island's north, but was crushed last Tuesday, with the death of the once-invincible leader.

A group of foreign journalists, under the guidance of the Sri Lanka military, visited the internally displaced persons (IDP) camps, spanning over 560ha in Vavuniya district, located about 230km from the capital Colombo, where many war victims are currently housed.

These are the lucky thousands of escapees who took their chances and braved tough terrains -- sealed with land mines by <u>LTTE</u> to halt charging troops -- crossed lagoons and survived nights in thick jungle without food in Mullaithivu area, <u>LTTE</u>'s military base which was eventually captured last week.

"We don't care whether he (Prabhakaran) is dead or alive, I don't want to recall about this war anymore. My father was killed by (bomb) shell and I saw bodies split in the bombings.

"We lost everything we owned in this fighting. Now, there is no man in the family to care for us, I have two sisters and a mother to take care of," said a distraught Thanamlectchumy, 20, who only owns some clothing stored in plastic bags and lives in the camp.

She was one of the many young daring <u>females</u> who escaped conscription into <u>LTTE</u>'s military wing and fled on foot with her family from the war zone and safely reached the IDP camps, set up by the government and the United Nations (UN).

LTTE-LED SEPARATIST WAR MADE 250,000 TAMILS HOMELESS

Hundreds of security forces are deployed around the camps to prevent any remnants of <u>LTTE</u> combatants from infiltrating these zones. So far, no untoward incident had been reported.

About 6,000 LTTE cadres have surrendered to the authorities and are being rehabilitated by the government.

While some Western countries debate over human rights violations on the island and pressure the UN to press charges against Sri Lanka for war crimes, President Mahinda Rajapaksa's government is grappling with how to feed and resettle these IDPs, especially with the onset of the monsoon season.

Rajapaksa, who succeed on eliminating terrorism from his soil, now needs to preserve the newly won peace, so as not to spoil the mood in Colombo, where the nation is celebrating the long-waited victory, and fulfil his promises to the suffering minority Tamils in the far north.

Load-Date: May 28, 2009



Tamil Tigers given 24 hours to surrender by Sri Lankan government

Guardian.com

April 20, 2009 Monday

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Length: 689 words

Body

ABSTRACT

Rebels given ultimatum as thousands of civilians escape from within war zone

FULL TEXT

The Sri Lankan government today issued a 24-hour ultimatum to the Tamil Tiger rebels holed up in their last redoubt to surrender, as thousands of civilians escaped from the war zone after troops breached an earthen fortification blocking their exit.

President Mahinda Rajapaksa told reporters there were <u>about 35,000 people waiting to leave the Tamil-controlled no-fire zone</u>, a 17 sq km (6.5 sq ml) area of coconut groves on the north-eastern coast. Government forces have boxed the remaining guerrillas, and thousands of civilians, into the designated zone after capturing other Tamil Tiger strongholds.

The rebel leader, Velupillai Prabhakaran, has been given a strong warning by defence spokesman Keheliya Rambukwella: "With the influx of people, we have given a final warning to Prabhakaran and his terrorist group to surrender to the government forces within 24 hours from 12 noon.

"Thereafter will be a military course of action. That is the best option," he told reporters at a military base in Colombo.

Footage taken from an unmanned aerial vehicle and beamed into the operations centre showed thousands of people thronging around temporary reception centres set up by the army within a kilometre of the no-fire zone. Reports put the number of civilians who fled at between 5,000 and 20,000.

The military said three suicide bombers had attacked thousands of Tamil civilians. "At least 17 civilians, including <u>women</u> and children, have been killed and 200 people injured from the cowardly suicide attacks," said the military spokesman, Brigadier Udaya Nanayakkara.

The fleeing civilians are likely to join the thousands of others who have been interned by the government in cramped, makeshift camps where they face overflowing drains, water shortages and the threat of disease in the sweltering, unsanitary conditions.

Tamil Tigers given 24 hours to surrender by Sri Lankan government

The government allowed a small group of international journalists into Menik Farm camp, near the town of Vavuniya, which is regarded by aid agencies as by far the best-equipped of the camps. But even here, people complain bitterly about their treatment and the lack of freedom of movement.

People are herded behind coils of razor wire strung out between sharp wooden stakes and are not allowed to leave. Rows of tents stretch as far as the eye can see.

Those who have been given shacks made of sheet metal bake in the scorching heat. Soldiers armed with automatic rifles patrol inside and outside the camps. "This is a jail," one woman told the Guardian.

As Sri Lanka's army pounds the zone where the last remnants of the <u>Tamil Tigers</u> are cornered, its government says it expects the tens of thousands of civilians still trapped alongside the rebels to start making their way to safety in the next few days.

But while it had attempted to portray the decision to place displaced civilians in the camps as a humanitarian gesture, the woman in charge at Menik Farm admitted the intention was to keep those inside shut off from the rest of the population.

Piency Charles said the authorities believed Tamil Tiger fighters had entered the camps alongside civilians. "Our concern is the security of these people and the security of the whole country. If we release people from here they may cause damage outside," she said.

Sasi Kumar fled here with his family from Kilinochchi, the former Tamil Tiger stronghold, as fighting intensified around the city. They were promised security and food, but were not expecting to sleep on mats on the bare concrete floor in a tin-walled hut that soaks up the heat of the sun.

Kumar, 34, gestured at his two-month-old baby, Vigee, sleeping fitfully on the floor surrounded by flies.

"It is very hot and the health problems are very bad. The children have coughs and diarrhoea," he said. "We can't go out, we have to stay inside the fences.

"Ask the forces why they brought us here," he said angrily. "They say we can only go back when it is safe, maybe in a year."

Gordon Weiss, the United Nations spokesman in Sri Lanka, said of the camps: "It is a nasty place to be and it is distinctly uncomfortable."

Load-Date: April 20, 2009



35,000 civilians flee Tiger area: Sri Lanka president

Agence France Presse -- English
April 20, 2009 Monday 8:16 AM GMT

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Length: 515 words

Byline: Amal Jayasinghe

Dateline: COLOMBO, April 20 2009

Body

More than 35,000 civilians managed to flee the last area controlled by Sri Lanka's <u>Tamil Tigers</u> on Monday, President Mahinda Rajapakse said, adding that the rebels' "complete defeat" was imminent.

Showing AFP aerial video from a military spy plane over the tiny area where the Tigers are staging a last stand, Rajapakse said 35,000 non-combatants had crossed the lines into government-held territory since early Monday morning.

"The footage clearly shows that the people are defying the rebels and escaping. They are running to safety," the president said.

The government has accused the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (<u>LTTE</u>) of using trapped civilians as a human shield, and the president suggested that their escape removed a final obstacle to an all-out military assault.

"The process of the complete defeat of the LTTE has just begun," he told AFP. "It is now all over for the Tigers."

The Sri Lankan military said the Tigers killed 17 civilians Monday, in a reported suicide bombing aimed at preventing them escaping.

The Defence Ministry's official website said women and children were among the dead.

Rajapakse said he was aware of two blasts in the area that "might have been" the work of suicide bombers.

The United Nations says up to 100,000 civilians are trapped in the sliver of coastal jungle controlled by the <u>LTTE</u> and are living in "dire humanitarian conditions."

Both sides in the long-running conflict have traded accusations of targetting civilians, while the international community has repeatedly urged a permanent ceasefire to prevent any further loss of innocent lives.

Earlier Monday, Sri Lankan security forces said they overran a Tamil Tiger defensive line and rescued at least 5,000 civilians.

35,000 civilians flee Tiger area: Sri Lanka president

"This is the biggest single rescue so far and we believe the number of civilians crossing over to our side will increase," said military spokesman Udaya Nanayakkara.

President Rajapakse, meanwhile, said time had finally run out for <u>LTTE</u> supremo, Velupillai Prabhakaran, who has not been seen at the guerrillas' public functions for nearly 18 months.

"The only thing Prabhakaran can now do is to surrender, the president said. "I don't want him to take cyanide and commit suicide. He has to face charges for his actions."

In February, government troops captured a two-storey air conditioned bunker hidden in a coconut grove in Mullaittivu district -- thought to be one of Prabhakaran's main bases.

Pictures released by the defence ministry purported to show that Prabhakaran, 54, had left behind a stuffed tiger, a paintball gun and a bottle of cognac.

Sri Lankan media then speculated that he may have already slipped off the island by boat.

The <u>LTTE</u> were once seen as one of the world's most efficient guerrilla outfits, controlling a third of Sri Lanka's territory, an overseas fund-raising network and a lucrative shipping business.

But now the rebels are outnumbered and surrounded in the jungles outside Mullaittivu, their former military headquarters in the northeast.

Defeat would end a more than 30-year campaign for a Tamil homeland within the Sinhalese-majority island.

aj-gh/bgs/dwa

Load-Date: April 21, 2009



India to seek evidence from Sri Lanka to shut Gandhi murder case

Colombo Times

May 19, 2009 Tuesday

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Length: 574 words

Body

Colombo, May 19 -- India will seek forensic evidence from Sri Lanka to confirm the deaths of <u>Tamil Tigers</u> chief Velupillai Prabhakaran and his intelligence head to finally close the case on the assassination of former prime minister Rajiv Gandhi 18 years ago.

Prabhakaran and Pottu Amman, who oversaw all covert killings in the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (*LTTE*), were the last of two suspects still wanted in India for the killing of Gandhi, who was blown up by a woman suicide bomber at an election rally near Chennai May 21, 1991.

The <u>LTTE</u> initially denied killing Gandhi but in later years some of its leaders privately and otherwise voiced regrets over his death, which led to the Tigers being outlawed in India in 1992.

But the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI), in what is acknowledged to be one of finest investigations in the world of crime, proved conclusively that Gandhi was killed by the <u>LTTE</u>, on the specific orders of Prabhakaran, the killer band reporting directly to Pottu Amman.

A total of 41 people were arraigned for the crime, 14 of them Indians and the others Sri Lankan Tamils.

Of the 41 as many as 12 - 11 of them Sri Lankans - committed suicide during the investigation, mostly by taking cyanide, the hallmark of *LTTE*. Twentysix people faced trial and three were officially declared proclaimed offenders.

These three were Prabhakaran, Pottu Amman and Akhila, the <u>LTTE women</u>'s wing leader who was killed by Sri Lankan security forces in 1995.

The reported killings of Prabhakaran and Pottu Amman Monday accounts for the last of suspects in the Gandhi case who could never be caught.

The case is being pursued at the TADA (Terrorist and Disruptive Activities Act) Court at Poonamallee near Kancheepuram, close to Chennai.

According to CBI sources, once the evidence regarding the deaths of Prabhakaran and Pottu Amman is made available, the court will be told that they are dead and the case will come to a final stop.

Gandhi, who as prime minister sent the Indian Army to Sri Lanka's northeast in 1987 to end Tamil separatism, was killed when the suicide bomber, who was strapped with explosives under her clothes, exploded herself while pretending to touch his feet.

The CBI formally registered a case May 24, 1991 and began its investigation. A chargesheet was filed May 20, 1992 and the trial began Jan 19, 1994.

India to seek evidence from Sri Lanka to shut Gandhi murder case

On June 5, 1995, India formally submitted to Sri Lanka a request that Prabhakaran and Pottu Amman should be extradited if and when they were caught.

On Jan 28, 1998, a court sentenced all those who were tried to death. The only exceptions were Prabhakaran, Pottu Amman and Akhila since they did not face trial.

The Supreme Court modified the verdict in May 1999, confirming capital punishment only in four cases and sentencing three to life. The others were set free against time they had spent in prison.

CBI officers involved in the Gandhi assassination case still recall with pride how they pursued the suspects in and beyond Tamil Nadu, in the process decimating an elaborate network the **LTTE** had built for itself in the state.

"We chased them on foot, on motorcycles, in cars, even by helicopters," one officer, who did not wish to be identified, told IANS. "There were nights when we slept in our cars on the roadside. Once I did not get to sleep for 12 straight nights. In the end, the <u>LTTE</u> was stunned by what we achieved."

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Load-Date: May 21, 2009



Extortion racket: LTTE involvement suspected

Daily Mirror (Sri Lanka) May 11, 2009 Monday

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Length: 321 words

Dateline: Colombo

Body

Colombo, May 11 -- Police investigating an extortion racket in Kandy, involving sums as high as Rs 5 million, now suspect an *LTTE* link after taking three suspects into custody.

Two of the suspects-- a mother and daughter -- are Tamils. The third is a Sinhalese man. Police suspect that this was a racket run by the LTTE to extort money from wealthy Tamil businessman. The racket was bared during investigations into a threat made to a businessman, who had been asked to deposit a certain sum of money in a bank. The investigations were carried out under the direction of Senior SSP Jayantha Gammanpila. The kingpin of this racket, police believe, is now in prison. He had been carrying out this operation using a cellular phone. Police suspect that there were several others involved in this racket and hope to arrest them soon. Earlier a prison guard had been taken into custody in connection with this racket by Inspector I.M.Y.S.Yatawara of the Anti Terrorist Division of the Kandy Police coming under the purview of Senior SSP Jayantha Gammanpila. The modus operandi of the extortionists had been to telephone the targeted victim and ask him to deposit a sum of money into a bank account specified by the caller. The caller would threaten to kill members of the victim's family if he failed to deposit the money. The victims had deposited the money through fear. One victim had deposited nearly Rs.5 million. Police expect to trace many others who had been targeted. In the case involving the two women in custody, the caller had told the victim to pay the money into the account of the daughter. But the account had been operated by the mother, -- and she used to withdraw the money. Police request all who have been victimized in this manner to nearest police station. Further investigations are being conduced Inspector I.M.Y.S.Yatawara.Published by HT Syndication with permission from Daily Mirror Sri Lanka.

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Load-Date: May 11, 2009



Daily News (Sri Lanka) August 28, 2009 Friday

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Length: 2053 words

Dateline: Sri Lanka

Body

Sri Lanka, Aug. 28 -- When the euphoria of victory dies down, and together with it the media hype ceases, when the guns do not rattle and boom anymore and the sky, the land and the sea become calm and serene, when tranquillity reigns through it is natural to live in the present moment and forget the past. But one cannot live in the present without a past. Nor can one envision the future discarding the experience of the preceding events. Hence the Daily News is serialising the Chronicle of <u>LTTE</u> Terror taken from our own archives which would remind our readers how it all began. An awareness of the chronology of terror would help us prevent the recurrence of such terror and frustrate any attempts by misguided elements to repeat history to suit their evil designs. It was not simple terror. Nor was terror sporadic. It was all pre-planned, pre-determined, well-calculated terror. The victims were innocent people. Though it is too many innumerate we would like to recall the major episodes in the Chronology of Terror.

The continuing violation of the Cease-Fire Agreement signed between the Ranil Wickremesinghe Government in 2002 with the <u>LTTE</u> terrorist group for six years was now a reminder that the terrorists had become so confident that their objectives could be realized only by unleashing terror on the people at large in the country and anyone even with average intelligence could understand that the only way to end the bloodletting was to defeat the terrorist outfit completely in battle.

During the earlier two weeks of the month of January the <u>LTTE</u> assassinated two prominent politicians on both sides of the political dichotomy and probably the leader Prabhakaran would have been gloating over the successes achieved by his cadres so far.

It was now the third week of January when a group of terrorist cadres who had fled after facing continuing defeats at the hands of the Sri Lanka Armed Forces especially in the East had infiltrated through jungles to Moneragala District.

As usual hiding in the wooded rural areas they set up a claymore bomb on a tree to target a passing bus. In the morning the packed bus with office workers, schoolchildren and the like was at Okkampitiya, a village nestled among jungle and shrubs when the terrorist band set off the claymore hitting the bus directly. When the bus came to an abrupt halt after the explosion, some of those who were not injured or killed rushed out of the bus but only to face the terrorists who fired at the running men, <u>women</u> and children.

By the time the gory attack was over 26 people were killed while 63 were injured. In yet another blast at the same locality, three soldiers were killed while three civilians were injured. The fleeing terrorists later shot dead a farmer in a remote hamlet near Buttala and injured three others bringing the number of victims to nearly 100.

At this time the Government told the UN Commissioner of Human Rights about the continuing violations of the ceasefire agreement by the <u>LTTE</u> and the unabated attack on unarmed civilians including children but the international community and some of the opposition members in Sri Lanka seemed to be blind to the danger posed by the ruthless terrorist group.

The <u>LTTE</u> had not changed it's methods of terror and sabotage and would not decide to accept any proposal for peace whether brokered by their former or present allies abroad and the efforts of most leaders to invite them to the negotiation table would prove a fruitless exercise as time would prove.

Wednesday January 9, 2008:

Ranil WIJAYAPALA and Rafik JALALDEEN

The <u>LTTE</u> continued its violence campaign killing Puttalam district MP and Nation Building Minister D.M. Dassanayake in a claymore mine blast at Rukmani Devi Junction, Ja-ela yesterday.

Minister Dassanayake who sustained serious injuries in the mine blast succumbed at the Colombo North Teaching Hospital around 12.30 p.m. nearly one and a half hours after he was admitted to hospital and taken for immediate surgery, hospital authorities said. "The Minister succumbed due to internal haemorrhage and head injuries caused due to shrapnel," Deputy Director of the Colombo North Teaching Hospital Lalani Gurusinghe said. "A personal bodyguard of the Minister also succumbed later as two people in serious condition were transferred to the Colombo National Hospital for further treatment," she added.

The body at the Operations theatre

According to Police and hospital authorities 13 people including the personal bodyguard travelling along with the Minister and seven civilians were injured in the incident were admitted to Colombo North Teaching Hospital, Ragama. The white Land Cruiser jeep in which Dassanayake was travelling along with five of his bodyguards was hit by the claymore mine believed to be planted on the pavement at Rukmanee Devi Junction, Ja-ela yesterday around 10.45 a.m.

A Labour Ministry vehicle plying towards Katunayake was also caught in the mine blast injuring several in the vehicle.

"It is confirmed that the claymore mine targeted Nation Building Minister D.M. Dassanayake," Military Spokesman Brigadier Udaya Nanayakkara told the Daily News. However, Police Spokesman Senior DIG M.K. Illangakoon told the Daily News that Police are conducting investigations to ascertain whether the claymore mine has been planted targeting Minister D.M. Dassanayake or any other VIP. This is the second claymore mine triggered off by the <u>LTTE</u> this year outside the Jaffna peninsula and the Vanni. He is the second MP killed this year after the assassination of Colombo district UNP MP T. Maheshwaran by a gunman at the dawn of 2008, at Sivam Kovil, Kotahena.

Wednesday January 9, 2008;

Nation Building Minister D.M. Dassanayake was 54 years when he died yesterday in Ja-ela.

Born on April 29, 1953, Dassanayake had primary education at the Andigama Government school and the Pallegama Maha Vidyalaya. He passed his Advanced Level Examination at Ananda Maha Vidyalaya, Chilaw.

He was a father of one.

Prior to entering active politics he served as a field assistant at the Pallegama Agrarian Services Centre. As an active member of the Sri Lanka Freedom Party, Dassanayake entered Parliament in 1994 under the People's Alliance ticket obtaining 39,793 preferential votes. He came fourth in the PA list.

A man with a common touch, Dassanayake made his way to Parliament serving the common masses posing a challenge to violence-marred politics in the Puttalam district.

Since 1994 he represented the Parliament and held Deputy Ministerial portfolios and Non Cabinet Ministerial portfolios including Deputy Minister of Rehabilitation and Reconstruction in the North and East. He actively participated in the implementation of North-East resettlement programs.

Dassanayake addressed the grassroots level problems confronted by the people in Puttalam, which is a comparatively less developed district.

His main target was to provide Puttalam residents specially those from Anamaduwa with basic infrastructure facilities like drinking water, sanitary facilities, health and education which were the burning issues at the time he first entered Parliament representing Anamaduwa electorate.

The nature of his firebrand politics always made him a controversial figure in contemporary politics but always won the hearts and minds of the people as he genuinely aspired to develop the Puttalam district. (RW)

Wednesday January 9, 2008:

The assassination of Minister D.M. Dassanayake deserves the most vehement and unequivocal condemnation by all those who respect democracy, desire peace and value human life.

His assassination in a claymore mind attack by the <u>LTTE</u> is yet another example of its continued commitment to terror and violence to achieve its separatists goals, and absolute contempt and disregard for human values and the policies and practices of democracy. This sad event is a further reminder of the need to redouble our efforts to rid our country of terrorism and the use of violence to achieve political ends.

It also draws attention to the constant threats faced by all those who stand for the democratic way of life from the forces of terror that have been strengthened for too long through the politics of appearement. It is no accident that Minister Dassanayaka who was targeted in this cowardly attack was spearheading the work of rehabilitation and reconstruction in the Eastern Province, since its liberation from the clutches of the <u>LTTE</u> by the Armed Forces.

As State Minister for Nation Building, he made it his mission to restore normalcy to the lives of all of our people in the Eastern Province, irrespective of ethnicity or religion, who had been living under the oppressive yoke of the terrorist <u>LTTE</u> for nearly two decades. His assassination shows that such work on behalf of the people invites the hatred of the forces of violence and terror, and gives the lie to the <u>LTTE</u>s claim that it is the liberator of the Tamil people of Sri Lanka. Minister Dassanayake was also an exceptional representative of the people of Wayamba - the North Western Province - who was always in the forefront of activity on behalf of the rights of the people, especially in his electorate of Anamaduwa and adjacent areas. He was one who saw much development take place in the area and was respected by the people for his work as a political activist and Member of Parliament of the Sri Lanka Freedom Party. The large community of Muslim people driven out of Jaffna by the <u>LTTE</u> in 1990 in one of its worst acts of ethnic cleansing, who are now settled in camps in the Puttalam district, found in Minister Dassanayaka a close friend and indefatigable worker on their behalf, and his work among them showed his ability to rise above divisions of community and faith.

His assassination should be a further call for unity by all who stand for freedom and democracy to come together, shedding petty political or other differences, to decidedly defeat terrorism in our country.

I extend my heartfelt condolences to his wife Indrani and daughter in their hour of immeasurable grief, and my sympathies to the people of Anamaduwa at the tragic loss of a worthy representative. May he attain the Bliss of Nirvana!

Thursday, January 3, 2008:

Rafik JALALDEEN

A claymore mine targeting an Army bus exploded in front of Nippon Hotel, Slave Island yesterday, killing four persons including two schoolchildren and injuring 24 others.

Three civilians and a soldier were killed when the claymore mine went off around 9.30 a.m., Military spokesman Brigadier Udaya Nanayakkara said.

"The Army bus plying from Army Headquarters to the Narahenpita Hospital carrying 13 soldiers was targeted by the *LTTE*," he added.

The ill-fated Minister's vehicle

Director of Colombo National Hospital Accident Service Dr. Anil Jasinghe said 28 persons were admitted to the hospital from the blast site and four of them died before admission including a *female* civilian.

"Four critically injured were treated at the Intensive Care Unit and the rest who suffered minor injuries were treated in wards 72 and 73," he told the Daily News. Preliminary investigations revealed the claymore mine was placed inside the external unit of an air-conditioner of the Nippon Hotel. "The Army bus and part of the Nippon Hotel were severely damaged in the explosion.

A three-wheeler parked near the sidewalk and several other vehicles passing by were damaged," Police Media spokesman Senior DIG N.K. Ilangakoon said.

The road was closed and security was beefed up in the area. "A cordon and search operation was launched by Police jointly with the Security Forces in the area and the situation was brought under control," DIG Ilangakoon added. The Government Analyst's experts assessed that the remote-controlled bomb probably weighed four killogrammes.

DIG Ilangakoon pointed out that three civilian victims were passing by in the street while the bomb went off. They were relatives returning from a funeral. The victims had been identified as M.L. Bandara (15), Pethum Disanayaka (16), Renuka Krishanthi (42) and Jayantha Kumara (soldier).

Yesterday: Maheshwaran killing: Gunman arrested

Monday: 26 killed as Tiger claymore hits bus

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Load-Date: August 28, 2009



ŒTHE MASSACRE OF 20,000 TAMILS'

The Evening Standard (London)
May 29, 2009 Friday

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Length: 490 words

Body

RASHID RAZAQ

SRI LANKA WAR ENDED WITH HIDDEN SLAUGHTER, CLAIM SECRET UN PAPERS MORE than 20,000 Tamil civilians may have been killed by the Sri Lankan army \(^{\text{more than three times the official figure, UN documents claim.}\)

Aerial photographs, witness accounts, expert testimony and official papers have contradicted government casualty figures.

The Sri Lankan authorities claimed the use of heavy weapons was suspended and a no-fire zone established in an area where 100,000 Tamil men, <u>women</u> and children were sheltering from the crossfire between the army and the <u>Tamil Tigers</u>. However confidential UN documents show nearly 7,000 civilian died in the no-fire zone up to the end of last month.

The death toll is then reported to have increased to an average of 1,000 civilians a day until 19 May, the day after the Tigers leader Velupillai Prabhakaran was killed.

Father Amalraj, a Roman Catholic priest who fled the no-fire zone on 16 May backed up the UN estimate.

The Sri Lankan government has denied access to media and aid organisations, making it difficult to verify casualty figures. But aerial photographs have shown devastated refugee camps with bodies of victims clearly visible alongside makeshift graves. The evidence challenges the government's assertions that civilian casualties were caused by the rebels and highlights the human cost in bringing the 26-year civil war to an end.

Independent defence analysts who studied the images said the rebel firing positions and the range of their weaponry meant it unlikely they caused significant civilian casualties.

Charles Heyman, a former Army officer and editor of the magazine Armed Forces of the UK, said: "It looks more likely that the firing position has been located by the Sri Lankan army and it has been targeted with air-burst and ground-impact mortars."

ŒTHE MASSACRE OF 20,000 TAMILS'

The UN figures are based on death records. They show that in January, the beginning of the offensive, two per cent of deaths were caused by gunfire and more than 80 per cent by shelling. Many of those killed by gunfire are known to have been shot by the <u>Tamil Tigers</u> to prevent them escaping from the no-fire zone where they were being held as hostages.

UN projections based on the last five days of April predicted an average May death rate of 341 a day, but this is believed to have greatly increased in the final stages of the military assault.

A spokesman for the Sri Lankan High Commission in London said: "We reject all these allegations. Civilians have not been killed by government shelling at all. If civilians have been killed, than that it because of the actions of the *LTTE* (Tigers) who were shooting and killing people when they tried to escape."

Sri Lanka was cleared of breaching international law by the UN Human Rights Council on Wednesday.

Devastation: the scene of the battle after Sri Lankan troops routed the <u>Tamil Tigers</u> from their last redoubt. An abandoned UN food programme lorry is in the centre of the picture

Load-Date: May 29, 2009



Civilian exodus spells defeat for Tigers: Sri Lanka president

Agence France Presse -- English April 20, 2009 Monday 9:42 AM GMT

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Length: 609 words

Byline: Amal Jayasinghe

Dateline: COLOMBO, April 20 2009

Body

Tens of thousands of civilians on Monday escaped from the area still held by Sri Lanka's <u>Tamil Tigers</u>, signalling that the rebels' "complete defeat" was imminent, President Mahinda Rajapakse said.

Showing AFP aerial video from a military spy plane over the tiny area where the Tigers are staging a last stand, Rajapakse said 35,000 non-combatants had crossed the lines into government-held territory within a five-hour period.

The military said the surge of civilians had continued 10 hours after the initial exodus of men, women and children.

"The footage clearly shows that the people are defying the <u>LTTE</u> (Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam) and escaping. They are running to safety," the president said.

"What we are doing is not a military operation, but the world's biggest hostage rescue."

The government has accused the <u>LTTE</u> of using trapped civilians as a human shield, and the president suggested that their escape removed a final obstacle to an all-out military assault.

"The process of the complete defeat of the LTTE has just begun," he told AFP. "It is now all over for the Tigers."

The live streaming video from the spy plane showed hordes of people running towards military lines, with some crossing a lagoon in neck-deep water.

The Sri Lankan Defence Ministry said the Tigers killed 17 civilians Monday in a reported suicide bombing aimed at preventing them escaping.

"Without the civilians, the <u>LTTE</u> can't survive," airforce chief Roshan Goonetileke told AFP. "They were shamefully holding the civilians as a human shield, but they can no longer stop the civilians from escaping."

He said the rebels had tried to stop the civilians by shooting at them and setting off explosions, but the sheer size of the sudden exodus had appeared to overwhelm the Tiger cadre.

Civilian exodus spells defeat for Tigers: Sri Lanka president

The United Nations had said that up to 100,000 civilians were trapped in the sliver of coastal jungle controlled by the *LTTE* and living in "dire humanitarian conditions."

Both sides in the long-running conflict have traded accusations of targetting civilians, while the international community has repeatedly urged a permanent ceasefire to prevent any further loss of innocent lives.

"What I have told the international community is that there is no need for a ceasefire... Just ask the Tigers to allow the civilians to go," Rajapakse said.

The International Committee of the Red Cross said it had evacuated 10,000 sick and their relatives from the rebelheld areas to hospitals in the government-controlled northeast of the island since early February.

Earlier Monday, Sri Lankan security forces said they overran a Tamil Tiger defensive line and rescued at least 5,000 civilians, sparking the mass exodus of 35,000 more.

"This (the 5,000) is the biggest single rescue so far and we believe the number of civilians crossing over to our side will increase," said military spokesman Udaya Nanayakkara.

President Rajapakse, meanwhile, said time had finally run out for <u>LTTE</u> supremo Velupillai Prabhakaran, who has not been seen at the guerrillas' public functions for nearly 18 months.

"The only thing Prabhakaran can now do is to surrender," the president said. "I don't want him to take cyanide and commit suicide. He has to face charges for his actions."

The <u>LTTE</u> were once seen as one of the world's most efficient guerrilla outfits, controlling a third of Sri Lanka's territory, an overseas fund-raising network and a lucrative shipping business.

But now the rebels are outnumbered and surrounded in the jungles outside Mullaittivu, their former military headquarters in the northeast.

Defeat would end a more than 30-year campaign for a Tamil homeland within the Sinhalese-majority island.

Load-Date: April 21, 2009



The LTTE Killers blast CTO

Daily News (Sri Lanka)
June 8, 2009 Monday

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Length: 748 words

Dateline: Colombo

Body

Colombo, June 8 -- One of the most peaceful and quiet establishments in the Colombo's Fort area decades back was the Central Telegraph Office where operators connected local or international telephone calls on requests of the public even during the previous century when a subscriber wanted a call to an outstation telephone.

The place was known as the home of 'hello girls' most of them pretty young women whose pleasant voices were a delight to callers. There were also counters for the public to pay for various services including telex messages and the journalist fraternity who filed stories to foreign newspapers or news agencies used to visit the place at various hours of the day or night. The day was May 7, 1986. The CTO was at work with the usual staff at their desks and the 'hello girls' were busy connecting calls or answering enquiries and the customers who had come to pay telephone bills were waiting staid faced till the counter clerks issued their receipts after accepting payments. The two storey building put up during the British colonial rule was a strong and handsome one and sat in the hub of activity of Colombo's Fort area facing the main Lower Chatham Street that joined the Olcott Mawatha and a staff of about 150 and a number of people who had come there for various matters were also present. The time on the clocks read 9.23 in the morning. A deafening explosion rocked the whole building. The glass on the windows splintered and flew about and shreds of wood and cement plaster, bricks and iron railings came down on the ground and first floor with the explosion. Some concrete slabs were broken and some of the debris fell on the inmates of the building. There were shrieks and yells calling for help as some of those who were under the debris were struggling to free themselves from the weight on them but they were the luckier ones as 14 among them including some 'hello girls' would never breathe again. The terrorists had planted a time bomb in the building but no one knew how they managed to get into perform their deadly mission. In addition to those who had perished not less than 114 people were injured. Since it was early morning, Colombo Fort, full of people and the explosion was heard even outside the city for some distance. The first floor, a wooden structure made of very strong wood during the era when the CTO building was put up when timber was available for the mere asking however came down totally like a card in a pack of cards left to fall. However the time bomb device was set up by the LTTE terrorists who had now become the strongest killer band among the separatist Tamil terrorist groups and some weeks before the CTO bomb they had virtually wiped out the TELO terrorist group led by Sabaratnam. Two godfathers of the Tamil terrorist like M.G. Ramachandran the Sri Lankan born actor turned politician of Tamil Nadu had first helped all the racist terrorist groups, EPRLF, TELO, PLOT, ENDLF and LTTE but the cunning and ruthless boss of the LTTE, Prabhakaran had won the heart of Ramachandran (MGR)who was the most powerful local politician of South India at the time. For even in India the LTTE had gunned down members of the other Tamil terrorists groups, had tortured some of them before they were killed and buried them in the desolate bare lands where each of the terrorist groups from the North of Sri Lanka had 'camps' and the Indian authorities simply looked the other way when a Sri Lankan Tamil terrorist cadre or leader was killed and no question was asked. The LTTE was by this time growing in strength thanks to MGR though it was the Gandhi-Nehru clan of India (Not Mahatma Gandhi or Jawaharlal Nehru)

The LTTE Killers blast CTO

that had nursed, fed and armed the killer terrorist groups and given them arms and military training in Dehra Dun and other military bases with retired Jawans and the Reseach and Analysis Wing coordinated in the training programs, feeding, clothing, arming and setting up the serpents that would one day turn to sting the Prime Minister of India Rajiv Gandhi one time benefactor of the terrorists. Innocent civilians at the CTO paid with their lives for no crime they had even imagined to commit and the separatist terrorist group may have been jubilant that another feather was in their cap. If as we had seen, the country did not elect President Mahinda Rajapaksa in 2005, the menace would not have been over, but thankfully it was over now. Published by HT Syndication with permission from Daily News Sri Lanka.

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After Kilinochchi, is Rajapaksa awaiting Kalinga? (Comment)

Hindustan Times
April 21, 2009 Tuesday

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Length: 641 words

Body

Even the pictures could not have fully captured the immense joy President Mahinda Rajapaksa may have felt when he victoriously toured Kilinochchi, the once quaint Sri Lankan town the <u>Tamil Tigers</u> had made the hub of a de facto state they thought no one could vanquish. But dreams do sometimes turn into disasters.

That happened in January when Kilinochchi fell to the Sri Lankan military, as dramatically as the Tigers took control of it a grim and bloody decade earlier. Today, its Tamil Eelam project in tatters, the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (*LTTE*) is bogged down in a small coastal strip of Mullaitivu, armed with only three things to its credit: an adamant refusal to surrender; a mass of civilians delaying Colombo's overwhelming military assault; and a world worried over a possible carnage if the military and the Tigers do have a final showdown.

It is easy for India and others to demand a further temporary ceasefire to let civilians in the area move to safety. But Sri Lanka is unlikely to accede to the request. It knows that while many in the conflict zone may be living under duress, prevented by the <u>LTTE</u> from leaving, a large mass may not really want to exit.

These are people who may have direct or indirect links with the Tigers, and they might fear the worst if they fall into the hands of the state. That could partly explain how a small <u>LTTE</u> force is able to hold a very large civilian population even in these adverse circumstances. To that extent the <u>LTTE</u> may be on target when it asks if the global community has bothered to find out if civilians still with it really want to leave?

Civilians or no civilians, will the *LTTE* give up? It won't. Never.

Tiger representatives may advance seemingly sound reasons why Sri Lanka should now go for a negotiated settlement, but Colombo is unlikely to be impressed. Get into the shoes of Rajapaksa, and it is easy to know why. The state he heads is today eagerly waiting to avenge its humiliation of over two decades. Like a frenzied boxer in the ring, it is determined to deliver what it thinks will be knockout blows to the <u>LTTE</u>. It wants to see its long-standing foe go down on its knees.

That may or may not happen. But as long as Colombo's rulers have this dream, nothing - no pleading or threat from anyone, India or the US - will prevent them from taking on the <u>LTTE</u>, one last time, whatever the civilian casualties. Civilian deaths would be passed off as collateral damage. Colombo would then plant its Lion flag after pulling down the Tiger flag-as it did in Kilinochchi early this year.

The Kilinochchi Rajapaksa visited is quiet today; there has been no fighting for four months. The president may have seen ruins; he may have even shaken hands with those who narrowly missed death. But there were no dead bodies; no wailing men, <u>women</u> and children; nobody with torn and bleeding limbs; no exploding shells and bombs; no one shivering in bunkers; no one undergoing surgery without any anesthesia; and no one desperate to escape hell, not knowing how to.

After Kilinochchi, is Rajapaksa awaiting Kalinga? (Comment)

Rajapaksa will see all that - and more - if he were to have even a mental overview of the <u>LTTE</u>'s last bastion. A physical visit may not be possible now due to security reasons. The <u>LTTE</u> has always maintained that there is no dividing line between it and the Tamil people. Rajapaksa will have to decide if he shares that opinion or thinks that a suffering population should not be inflicted further torture just because it is living under the Tiger umbrella.

Historical parallels may not be accurate. One hopes that there will not be a Kalinga bloodbath before Rajapaksa halts his military pursuit. The Tamil people have already paid a huge price for a war they never unleashed.

(20.04.2009 - M.R. Narayan Swamy is an expert on Sri Lankan affairs) Published by HT Syndication with permission from Indo-Asian News Service.

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LTTE SUSPECTS USE CELL PHONES IN JAIL

Daily Mirror (Sri Lanka) May 9, 2009 Saturday

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Dateline: Colombo

Body

Colombo, May 9 -- The Prisons Chief has been asked by the Anuradhapura Court to hold an immediate investigation to ascertain how <u>LTTE</u> suspects being held at the Anuradahapura prison used mobile phones to contact local and foreign groups.

Chief Magistrate Ruchira Weliwatta gave these instructions when the North Central Province Crime Division in a report to court said terrorist suspects being held in the Anuradhapura prison had contacted local and foreign groups and that according to the information with the police the mobile phones had been provided by two <u>women</u>. The Magistrate observed that he found it difficult to believe that these terrorist suspects would have received the mobile phones and used them without the knowledge and assistance of the prison officials. Two suspects - M.A. Mary Victoria of Anuradhapura Zone Two and P.W.D.K. Mercy of Pugoda Kerala - are being detained for further questioning regarding the supply of mobile phones to the terrorist suspects. Police said the two suspects had provided the mobile phones to the terrorist suspects after obtaining money from the <u>LTTE</u> and the possible collusion of prison officials in this incident was being probed. Published by HT Syndication with permission from Daily Mirror Sri Lanka.

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