

Date and Time: Saturday, May 4, 2024 2:20:00PM EEST

Job Number: 223508031

## Documents (100)

1. [Biggest suicide wave in a bloody 2,000-year history](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type  
News

Narrowed by  
Publication Type: Newspapers, Newswires & Press  
Releases; Timeline: Jan 01, 2003 to Dec 31, 2007

2. [PM 'Deeply Affected'; 'Canadian tax money is going directly where it's needed,' Paul Martin says after seeing Sri Lanka coastal devastation](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type  
News

Narrowed by  
Publication Type: Newspapers, Newswires & Press  
Releases; Timeline: Jan 01, 2003 to Dec 31, 2007

3. [Doctor picks up the pieces](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type  
News

Narrowed by  
Publication Type: Newspapers, Newswires & Press  
Releases; Timeline: Jan 01, 2003 to Dec 31, 2007

4. [Muslims flee as Sri Lanka warring parties shut out foreign aid](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type  
News

Narrowed by  
Publication Type: Newspapers, Newswires & Press  
Releases; Timeline: Jan 01, 2003 to Dec 31, 2007

5. [The week that was the world](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

**Search Terms:** "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers, Newswires & Press  
Releases; Timeline: Jan 01, 2003 to Dec 31, 2007

6. [Bombings heap more woes on tsunami-hit Sri Lankan fisherman](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers, Newswires & Press  
Releases; Timeline: Jan 01, 2003 to Dec 31, 2007

7. ['Aid, Conflict and Peacebuilding in Sri Lanka ' Report Launched in DC ; Study Designed to Advance International Impact in Sri Lanka](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers, Newswires & Press  
Releases; Timeline: Jan 01, 2003 to Dec 31, 2007

8. [The Asia Foundation Launches Study on America 's Role in Sri Lanka 's Peace Process Report Written by Former United States Ambassador to Sri Lanka , Jeffrey Lunstead](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers, Newswires & Press  
Releases; Timeline: Jan 01, 2003 to Dec 31, 2007

9. [REP. LEACH URGES LONG-TERM COMMITMENT TO TSUNAMI RECONSTRUCTION; Coordinated effort essential, House subcommittee chairman says](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers, Newswires & Press  
Releases; Timeline: Jan 01, 2003 to Dec 31, 2007

10. [2ND ROUNDUP: Sri Lanka bombs Tamil hideout after ambassador attack](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers,Newsires & Press  
Releases; Timeline: Jan 01, 2003 to Dec 31, 2007

11. [Sri Lanka in clean-up battle as 11,000 bodies pile up after tsunami](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers,Newsires & Press  
Releases; Timeline: Jan 01, 2003 to Dec 31, 2007

12. [Families bury massacre victims amid tight security](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers,Newsires & Press  
Releases; Timeline: Jan 01, 2003 to Dec 31, 2007

13. [International Briefs](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers,Newsires & Press  
Releases; Timeline: Jan 01, 2003 to Dec 31, 2007

14. [HighLights of the AAP National Wire at 19:00, July 13](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers,Newsires & Press  
Releases; Timeline: Jan 01, 2003 to Dec 31, 2007

15. [Highlights of the AAP world wire at 15:00 March 28](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers, Newswires & Press  
Releases; Timeline: Jan 01, 2003 to Dec 31, 2007

16. [More than 4,300 killed in Sri Lanka 's worst-ever disaster](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers, Newswires & Press  
Releases; Timeline: Jan 01, 2003 to Dec 31, 2007

17. [ATTACK ON LONDON: THE IRAQ FACTOR - SO WHERE, THEN, IS THE BACKLASH? WHO WILL SPEAK UP FOR MR KENNEDY?](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers, Newswires & Press  
Releases; Timeline: Jan 01, 2003 to Dec 31, 2007

18. [UN : Launch of Human rights council represents historic opportunity to promote, protect fundamental freedoms, third committee told; Delegates warn against exploitation of human rights principles for political ends; page 3 of 3](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers, Newswires & Press  
Releases; Timeline: Jan 01, 2003 to Dec 31, 2007

19. [Ghosts draw tsunami survivors home](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers, Newswires & Press  
Releases; Timeline: Jan 01, 2003 to Dec 31, 2007

20. [Extremists aim to shoot the film messenger: Dedication to truth drives filmmakers to expose injustice](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers, Newswires & Press  
Releases; Timeline: Jan 01, 2003 to Dec 31, 2007

21. [World News IN BRIEF: Jets target Tigers after suicide attack](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers, Newswires & Press  
Releases; Timeline: Jan 01, 2003 to Dec 31, 2007

22. [Talking about her revolution](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers, Newswires & Press  
Releases; Timeline: Jan 01, 2003 to Dec 31, 2007

23. [Dying for a promise of martyrdom](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers, Newswires & Press  
Releases; Timeline: Jan 01, 2003 to Dec 31, 2007

24. [THE WEST MUST GET HUMBLE AND HONEST - FAST; WE MUST APPLY THE SAME STANDARDS TO OURSELVES AS WE APPLY TO OTHERS.](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers, Newswires & Press  
Releases; Timeline: Jan 01, 2003 to Dec 31, 2007

25. [Where's the aid? Where's the aid?](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers, Newswires & Press  
Releases; Timeline: Jan 01, 2003 to Dec 31, 2007

26. [Sri Lankan gov't blames Tigers for violating security agreement](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers, Newswires & Press  
Releases; Timeline: Jan 01, 2003 to Dec 31, 2007

27. [RIGHTS: LACK OF BIRTH RECORDS OPENS CHILDREN TO ABUSE](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers, Newswires & Press  
Releases; Timeline: Jan 01, 2003 to Dec 31, 2007

28. [Human Rights Watch Honors Activists](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers, Newswires & Press  
Releases; Timeline: Jan 01, 2003 to Dec 31, 2007

29. [Roundup: Relief in urgent need, aid rushing to tsunami-hit region](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers, Newswires & Press  
Releases; Timeline: Jan 01, 2003 to Dec 31, 2007

30. [Female bomber targets Sri Lankan minister WORLD IN BRIEF](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**

News

**Narrowed by**Publication Type: Newspapers,Newswires & Press  
Releases; Timeline: Jan 01, 2003 to Dec 31, 200731. [Clash kills at least 12 in Sri Lanka 's east](#)**Client/Matter:** -None-**Search Terms:** "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors**Narrowed by:****Content Type**

News

**Narrowed by**Publication Type: Newspapers,Newswires & Press  
Releases; Timeline: Jan 01, 2003 to Dec 31, 200732. [ADB \\$% ADB approves further support for Sri Lanka 's conflict-affected north east region region region](#)**Client/Matter:** -None-**Search Terms:** "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors**Narrowed by:****Content Type**

News

**Narrowed by**Publication Type: Newspapers,Newswires & Press  
Releases; Timeline: Jan 01, 2003 to Dec 31, 200733. [AIADMK hoping to cash in on MGR vote bank in villages](#)**Client/Matter:** -None-**Search Terms:** "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors**Narrowed by:****Content Type**

News

**Narrowed by**Publication Type: Newspapers,Newswires & Press  
Releases; Timeline: Jan 01, 2003 to Dec 31, 200734. [INDIA : TRIBUNAL HEARS OF ABUSES OF TERRORISM LAW](#)**Client/Matter:** -None-**Search Terms:** "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors**Narrowed by:****Content Type**

News

**Narrowed by**Publication Type: Newspapers,Newswires & Press  
Releases; Timeline: Jan 01, 2003 to Dec 31, 200735. [17 rebels kills in northern Sri Lanka](#)**Client/Matter:** -None-**Search Terms:** "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors**Narrowed by:****Content Type**

News

**Narrowed by**Publication Type: Newspapers,Newswires & Press  
Releases; Timeline: Jan 01, 2003 to Dec 31, 2007

36. [HighLights of the AAP National Wire at 14:45, May 2](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers,Newswires & Press  
Releases; Timeline: Jan 01, 2003 to Dec 31, 2007

37. [HighLights of the AAP National Wire at 14:45, May 1](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers,Newswires & Press  
Releases; Timeline: Jan 01, 2003 to Dec 31, 2007

38. [World Report](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers,Newswires & Press  
Releases; Timeline: Jan 01, 2003 to Dec 31, 2007

39. [Travel: Pack your trunks for Sri Lanka ! Your Holiday BIRMINGHAM MAIL READERS DICK AND PAT MARSH, FROM OLDBURY, HAD THE GOOD FORTUNE TO FIND THEIR SHANGRI-LA IN SRI LANKA It's Local Newspaper Week and the Birmingham Mail is joining other papers across the country highlighting and celebrating the part we play in our communities. We believe passionately in giving readers a voice and here is an example...](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers,Newswires & Press  
Releases; Timeline: Jan 01, 2003 to Dec 31, 2007

40. [WORLD at 1700GMT](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**



**Content Type**

News

**Narrowed by**Publication Type: Newspapers,Newswires & Press  
Releases; Timeline: Jan 01, 2003 to Dec 31, 200741. [Even Good Health System Is Overwhelmed by Tsunami](#)**Client/Matter:** -None-**Search Terms:** "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors**Narrowed by:****Content Type**

News

**Narrowed by**Publication Type: Newspapers,Newswires & Press  
Releases; Timeline: Jan 01, 2003 to Dec 31, 200742. [Finally, a chance to escape plantation](#)**Client/Matter:** -None-**Search Terms:** "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors**Narrowed by:****Content Type**

News

**Narrowed by**Publication Type: Newspapers,Newswires & Press  
Releases; Timeline: Jan 01, 2003 to Dec 31, 200743. [Where worlds collide Cover story](#)**Client/Matter:** -None-**Search Terms:** "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors**Narrowed by:****Content Type**

News

**Narrowed by**Publication Type: Newspapers,Newswires & Press  
Releases; Timeline: Jan 01, 2003 to Dec 31, 200744. [Can we win over women in war against terror?](#)**Client/Matter:** -None-**Search Terms:** "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors**Narrowed by:****Content Type**

News

**Narrowed by**Publication Type: Newspapers,Newswires & Press  
Releases; Timeline: Jan 01, 2003 to Dec 31, 200745. [ACTIVITY BREAKS: DAMBULLA, WE HAVE LIFT OFF; WITH THE SCI-FI WRITER ARTHUR C CLARKE  
AS A PASSENGER, ALLAN CALDER](#)**Client/Matter:** -None-**Search Terms:** "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors**Narrowed by:****Content Type**

News

**Narrowed by**

Publication Type: Newspapers,Newswires &amp; Press



46. [\*Everybody's gone surfing\*](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers,Newsires & Press  
Releases; Timeline: Jan 01, 2003 to Dec 31, 2007

47. [\*Twelve killed in Lanka clashes\*](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers,Newsires & Press  
Releases; Timeline: Jan 01, 2003 to Dec 31, 2007

48. [\*Sri Lankan bus bombing leads to retaliatory airstrikes as island skids toward war\*](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers,Newsires & Press  
Releases; Timeline: Jan 01, 2003 to Dec 31, 2007

49. [\*Remembering Bali - Cracking the bombers\*](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers,Newsires & Press  
Releases; Timeline: Jan 01, 2003 to Dec 31, 2007

50. [\*Sri Lanka Tamil Tiger woman leader hurt in ambush\*](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers,Newsires & Press  
Releases; Timeline: Jan 01, 2003 to Dec 31, 2007

51. [\*Sickening Sri Lanka attack\*](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers,Newsires & Press  
Releases; Timeline: Jan 01, 2003 to Dec 31, 2007

52. [\*3 female rebels killed in Sri Lankan north\*](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers,Newsires & Press  
Releases; Timeline: Jan 01, 2003 to Dec 31, 2007

53. [\*Powell: U.S. leads march to democracy\*](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers,Newsires & Press  
Releases; Timeline: Jan 01, 2003 to Dec 31, 2007

54. [\*HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL DISCUSSES REPORT OF SECRETARY-GENERALS SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE ON CHILDREN AND ARMED CONFLICT SELECTS COUNTRIES FOR UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW FROM 2008 TO 2011\*](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers,Newsires & Press  
Releases; Timeline: Jan 01, 2003 to Dec 31, 2007

55. [\*Sri Lankan Tamil rebels accused of killing rival party activist\*](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers,Newsires & Press  
Releases; Timeline: Jan 01, 2003 to Dec 31, 2007

56. [Sri Lanka raise attack damage toll](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers,Newswires & Press  
Releases; Timeline: Jan 01, 2003 to Dec 31, 2007

57. [POLITICS: U.N. MUST PROTECT CHILDREN IN WAR - NGOS](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers,Newswires & Press  
Releases; Timeline: Jan 01, 2003 to Dec 31, 2007

58. [EU condemns Sri Lanka suicide bombing](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers,Newswires & Press  
Releases; Timeline: Jan 01, 2003 to Dec 31, 2007

59. [Violence resumes in Sri Lanka](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers,Newswires & Press  
Releases; Timeline: Jan 01, 2003 to Dec 31, 2007

60. [Rights and wrongs](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers,Newswires & Press  
Releases; Timeline: Jan 01, 2003 to Dec 31, 2007

61. [HighLights of the AAP National Wire at 14:45, July 11](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers,Newswires & Press  
Releases; Timeline: Jan 01, 2003 to Dec 31, 2007

62. [HighLights of the AAP National Wire at 14:45, Sept 13](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers,Newswires & Press  
Releases; Timeline: Jan 01, 2003 to Dec 31, 2007

63. [\*FORGOTTEN \(BUT NOT GONE\) If doctors edited newspapers... The frontline physicians at Medecins Sans Frontières have chosen the 10 humanitarian crises that should have been given more coverage in 2007.\*](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers,Newswires & Press  
Releases; Timeline: Jan 01, 2003 to Dec 31, 2007

64. [HighLights of the AAP National Wire at 20:00, May 3](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers,Newswires & Press  
Releases; Timeline: Jan 01, 2003 to Dec 31, 2007

65. [WORLD at 1700GMT](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers,Newswires & Press  
Releases; Timeline: Jan 01, 2003 to Dec 31, 2007

66. [Human rights award winners announced](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers,Newsires & Press  
Releases; Timeline: Jan 01, 2003 to Dec 31, 2007

67. [44 PARTITION OF INDIA](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers,Newsires & Press  
Releases; Timeline: Jan 01, 2003 to Dec 31, 2007

68. [Detained female journalist released in Sri Lanka](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers,Newsires & Press  
Releases; Timeline: Jan 01, 2003 to Dec 31, 2007

69. [WORLD at 0200 GMT](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers,Newsires & Press  
Releases; Timeline: Jan 01, 2003 to Dec 31, 2007

70. [A quiet revolution For a century Rotarians have been doing good in a low-key way. planting trees and taking tea with hospital patients. Then they decided to eradicate polio from the face of the planet](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers,Newsires & Press  
Releases; Timeline: Jan 01, 2003 to Dec 31, 2007

71. [VOA NEWS: BOMB KILLS SIX SRI LANKAN SOLDIERS](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**

Publication Type: Newspapers,Newswires & Press  
Releases; Timeline: Jan 01, 2003 to Dec 31, 2007

72. [\*Climate of fear; IN FOCUS: DAVID MORGAN explains how everyone's civil liberties are being stolen shamelessly in the name of the war on terror.\*](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**

Publication Type: Newspapers,Newswires & Press  
Releases; Timeline: Jan 01, 2003 to Dec 31, 2007

73. [\*MONKS STEP IN\*](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**

Publication Type: Newspapers,Newswires & Press  
Releases; Timeline: Jan 01, 2003 to Dec 31, 2007

74. [\*Wooing the rich, shooing the poor\*](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**

Publication Type: Newspapers,Newswires & Press  
Releases; Timeline: Jan 01, 2003 to Dec 31, 2007

75. [\*Tigers deny involvement in Sri Lanka blast\*](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**

Publication Type: Newspapers,Newswires & Press  
Releases; Timeline: Jan 01, 2003 to Dec 31, 2007

76. [\*Sri Lankan suicide bomber tries to assassinate government minister\*](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers,Newsires & Press  
Releases; Timeline: Jan 01, 2003 to Dec 31, 2007

77. [Multiculturalism vs. 'multihomelandism'; Many of the issues we attribute to multiculturalism have more to do with citizens' attachments to homelands \(actual and wished-for\) outside Canada](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers,Newsires & Press  
Releases; Timeline: Jan 01, 2003 to Dec 31, 2007

78. [Five more dead in Sri Lanka violence: reports](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers,Newsires & Press  
Releases; Timeline: Jan 01, 2003 to Dec 31, 2007

79. [7 Civilians killed in northern Sri Lanka](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers,Newsires & Press  
Releases; Timeline: Jan 01, 2003 to Dec 31, 2007

80. [Explosion kills 17 in Sri Lanka capital](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers,Newsires & Press  
Releases; Timeline: Jan 01, 2003 to Dec 31, 2007

81. [Bus blast kills 15 in southern Sri Lanka ; police suspect suicide bomber](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers,Newsires & Press



82. [\*Major Tamil attacks\*](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers,Newsires & Press  
Releases; Timeline: Jan 01, 2003 to Dec 31, 2007

83. [\*Bus blast kills 15 in southern Sri Lanka ; police suspect suicide bomber\*](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers,Newsires & Press  
Releases; Timeline: Jan 01, 2003 to Dec 31, 2007

84. [\*TAMIL TIGER KILLED IN BATTLE LINKED TO GANDHI MURDER\*](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers,Newsires & Press  
Releases; Timeline: Jan 01, 2003 to Dec 31, 2007

85. [\*The orphanage of grief\*](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers,Newsires & Press  
Releases; Timeline: Jan 01, 2003 to Dec 31, 2007

86. [\*10 Sri Lankan Tamil rebels released on bail\*](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers,Newsires & Press  
Releases; Timeline: Jan 01, 2003 to Dec 31, 2007

87. [\*Murali walks tightrope in country riven by war\*](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers,Newsires & Press  
Releases; Timeline: Jan 01, 2003 to Dec 31, 2007

88. [\*Two Female rebels killed in northern Sri Lanka\*](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers,Newsires & Press  
Releases; Timeline: Jan 01, 2003 to Dec 31, 2007

89. [\*HighLights of the AAP National Wire at 19:30, Sept 24\*](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers,Newsires & Press  
Releases; Timeline: Jan 01, 2003 to Dec 31, 2007

90. [\*HighLights of the AAP National Wire at 19:30, July 11\*](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers,Newsires & Press  
Releases; Timeline: Jan 01, 2003 to Dec 31, 2007

91. [\*The mystic touch\*](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers,Newsires & Press  
Releases; Timeline: Jan 01, 2003 to Dec 31, 2007

92. [\*'The producers always want me to sing about sex' THE HOT SEAT\*](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers,Newsires & Press  
Releases; Timeline: Jan 01, 2003 to Dec 31, 2007

93. [\*Sri Lankan rebels hold military drills to show their strength despite recent defeat\*](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers,Newsires & Press  
Releases; Timeline: Jan 01, 2003 to Dec 31, 2007

94. [\*SRI LANKA : ACTIVISTS FEAR BIG DONORS WILL IGNORE REAL NEEDS\*](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers,Newsires & Press  
Releases; Timeline: Jan 01, 2003 to Dec 31, 2007

95. [\*SRI LANKA : PARLIAMENTARY MONK TARGETS ALCOHOL, TOBACCO\*](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers,Newsires & Press  
Releases; Timeline: Jan 01, 2003 to Dec 31, 2007

96. [\*Black-belted Tamils raise tensions in Sri Lanka\*](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers,Newsires & Press  
Releases; Timeline: Jan 01, 2003 to Dec 31, 2007

97. [\*Suspected youth arrested near Sri Lanka minister residence\*](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**

Publication Type: Newspapers,Newswires & Press  
Releases; Timeline: Jan 01, 2003 to Dec 31, 2007

98. [The roundup](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**

Publication Type: Newspapers,Newswires & Press  
Releases; Timeline: Jan 01, 2003 to Dec 31, 2007

99. [Tamil rebels commemorate suicide bombers in Sri Lanka](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**

Publication Type: Newspapers,Newswires & Press  
Releases; Timeline: Jan 01, 2003 to Dec 31, 2007

100. [WELCOME TO 'ASK STATE DEPARTMENT' -- AN ONLINE INTERACTIVE FORUM WHERE YOU CAN  
SUBMIT QUESTIONS TO SECRETARY RICE AND OTHER STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIALS.](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**

Publication Type: Newspapers,Newswires & Press  
Releases; Timeline: Jan 01, 2003 to Dec 31, 2007

## *Biggest suicide wave in a bloody 2,000-year history*

Sunday Times (London)

July 31, 2005, Sunday

Copyright 2005 Times Newspapers Limited

**Section:** Features; News; 16

**Length:** 1021 words

**Byline:** Yuba Bessaoud

### **Body**

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The deadly tactic has been used for a long time but has never been more effective than today, writes Yuba Bessaoud

The use of suicide attacks in conflict dates back to at least 2,000 years ago but the savage wave of bombings that has hit the Middle East, America and much of Europe in the past five years is the worst that the world has known.

Since the twin towers of the World Trade Center were brought down by Al-Qaeda on September 11, 2001, scores of suicide attacks across the globe have killed more than 4,400 people.

According to a study by Robert Pape, associate professor of political science at the University of Chicago, the monthly toll of attacks has been steadily escalating and shows no sign of abating.

In his book, *Dying to Win: the Strategic Logic of Suicide Terrorism*, Pape challenges the assumption that there is a finite pool of terrorists willing to sacrifice themselves in suicide bombings. Such attacks, he argues, are an efficient means for small terrorist organisations to deliver a large and well targeted punch and have proved successful in meeting such groups' strategic aims.

"Suicide attacks have risen from an average of three per year in the 1980s to about 10 per year in the 1990s to nearly 50 in 2003," he said.

"Worse, suicide terrorism has become the most deadly form of terrorism. Suicide attacks amounted to just 3% of all terrorist incidents from 1980 through to 2003 but accounted for 48% of all fatalities -even if the losses of 9/11 (in which nearly 3,000 people died) are not counted."

The history of suicide assaults dates back to Judaea in the 1st century when Jewish Zealots, an extreme resistance sect, would sacrifice themselves by mounting individual attacks on Roman soldiers with knives. Although documentation is scarce, the Zealots were hundreds strong and committed "numerous daily murders".

Their actions culminated in the Jewish war of AD66 which ultimately brought about the exodus of the Jews from the region.

One thousand years later in northern Iran, the Hashshashin, or Assassins, used suicide attacks to deter neighbouring sultans in Persia and Iraq from invading.

The strategy continued until the mid-13th century when the Hashshashin were wiped out by the Mongols.

## Biggest suicide wave in a bloody 2,000-year history

The next big wave of suicide attacks came during the second world war when the Japanese, forced on to the defensive by the Americans in 1944, sent the first kamikaze planes against the US navy. More than 30 ships were sunk and thousands of US military personnel were killed or wounded.

Sporadic suicide attacks were launched by the communists in the Vietnam war but, according to Pape, no significant sect of suicide attackers developed after the kamikaze until the early 1980s.

"In June 1982, Israel invaded Lebanon with 17,000 men, tanks and heavy artillery," said Pape. "A month later Hezbollah was born and in November of the same year it began to experiment with suicide bombings. The truck bombing of a US marine barracks in Beirut killed 241 Americans. From Hezbollah's perspective it forced Ronald Reagan to withdraw all military forces from Lebanon."

The perceived strategic success of Hezbollah's attack made other terrorist organisations take note. The Marxist-Hindu **Tamil Tigers** in Sri Lanka became the most prolific suicide bombers in the 1980s and 1990s, launching more than 143 individual attacks which killed 900 people, including Rajiv Gandhi, the Indian prime minister.

In recent years it has been Islamic terrorist organisations that have led the suicide charge. There have been more than 160 attacks launched in Israel, a further 21 that Pape says can be directly linked to Al-Qaeda and, since 2003 according to different sources -between 150 and 400 in Iraq.

With history showing that suicide killing has been adopted by a diverse range of secular and religious groups, the question of what drives suicide sects is being studied by psychologists.

Sharon Attia, of the London School of Economics, says that while individual suicide bombers may come from all walks of life they do exhibit some common traits.

"At first (in the Middle East) it was single, uneducated men, then educated men.

Then **women** and children," she said. "The common thing is that there is an issue of low self-esteem. It could be a family respect issue, it could be that people feel deprived or their self-esteem is very low for personal reasons."

Attia says the cultures from which suicide bombers are drawn also show similarities. "It usually occurs in collectivistic societies; societies where the interests of the group are seen as much more important than the individuals."

Others argue that terrorist organisations which launch suicide attacks are best understood by analysing them in the same way that experts tackle cults. Secular or religious, all display similar peculiarities.

Ian Howarth, of the Cult Information Centre, said that Al-Qaeda showed some parallels with organisations such as the Branch Davidians, who had sparked the Waco massacre in Texas in 1993: "A messianic and self-appointed leader; the use of psychological coercion; the creation of an insular and elitist environment; the idea that ends justify means; and a tendency to gather wealth at the top are common to all."

Howarth noted that non- terrorist cults can also be suicidal. In the Jonestown massacre of 1978, more than 900 members of the People's Temple cult killed themselves with poison on the demand of their leader.

Howarth added that it was possible to talk cult members out of their mindset. Most experts would seek to isolate individuals from the cult leader and other members and reason with them over a prolonged period. "You have to bring out what is happening behind the scenes and make it clear to them," he said.

"For example, they might believe the leader is full of peace and love and not making a penny out of it, but if you can expose the Swiss bank accounts and the limousines you may be able to turn them. It's a long process."

## SUICIDE ATTACKS

British civilian fatalities since 2001

## Biggest suicide wave in a bloody 2,000-year history

New York 67

London 45 (and 11 foreign nationals)

Turkey 4

Iraq 5

Egypt 3 (confirmed)

Qatar 1

Saudi Arabia 1

Total: 126

## Graphic

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Focus

**Load-Date:** August 1, 2005

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End of Document

**PM 'Deeply Affected'; 'Canadian tax money is going directly where it's needed,' Paul Martin says after seeing Sri Lanka coastal devastation**

Hamilton Spectator (Ontario, Canada)

January 18, 2005 Tuesday Final Edition

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**Section:** CANADA/WORLD; Pg. A09; News

**Length:** 1030 words

**Dateline:** KALMUNAI, SRI LANKA

## **Body**

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Just two minutes spent visiting Sri Lanka's tsunami-shattered east coast would convince any Canadian of the value of sending in Canada's military, Prime Minister Paul Martin said yesterday after wandering a devastated community here for close to an hour.

Martin travelled by helicopter 300 kilometres east of Colombo to inspect the Disaster Assistance Response Team, or DART, at its camp in Ampara district, a region about half the size of Prince Edward Island where it is estimated more than 10,000 died as a result of the Dec. 26 tsunami.

The prime minister later conceded that nothing had prepared him for the experience.

"The fact is that (Canadian tax) money is going directly to where it's needed," Martin told reporters in the jungle heat outside a DART medical clinic in a girls' school that has now become a refugee camp.  
Spectator wire services

"I don't think you can spend more than about two minutes here without realizing just how desperately that help is needed."

Hundreds of local Sri Lankans -- Muslim, Sinhalese and Tamils -- crowded Kalmunai's rubble-strewn streets to wave at the visiting Canadian leader.

Martin's first stop was a mass grave just a stone's throw from the beach.

Houses and businesses that looked as if they had been bombed surrounded the dusty patch of ground.

"In that grave site alone there's over 1,000 people that died," Padre Jim Hardwick of the DART team said in an interview.

It was the first place local women led him when he arrived in Kalmunai, and Hardwick called it the "heart" of what the local community wanted Martin to see.

"I've been told upwards from 5,000 to 10,000 (died in Ampara) and the last count somebody had was definitely 10,736," said the Petawawa, Ont.-based chaplain.

"That number won't leave my head," the chaplain said.



PM 'Deeply Affected'; 'Canadian tax money is going directly where it's needed,' Paul Martin says after seeing Sri Lanka coastal devastation

Martin had already toured affected beaches in Thailand on the weekend as he opened a nine-day Asian tour. Those communities were pictures of industry, cleanliness and recovery compared with Kalmunai.

As Martin and his wife Sheila stepped gingerly through streets with craters to reach to beach, they literally stepped over burnt indentations in the sand that indicated where badly decomposed corpses had been torched as they lay.

Children scampered barefoot through the tangled iron and slabs of concrete jutting at odd angles from the ground. The prime minister stopped again and again to greet the delighted kids.

Martin appeared overwhelmed, repeatedly commenting on the children to no one in particular.

"You'd have to be stone not to be emotionally affected by all this," he told reporters after catching his breath.

"When you see these young kids, what they've been through ... it is impossible not to be deeply, deeply affected."

Capt. Steve Pirie, a doctor leading the DART clinic in the overrun Mahmud Ladies College -- now home to about 450 refugee families totalling about 1,900 people -- told the prime minister they treat 50 to 100 patients a day.

"We turn away people every day," said Pirie when Martin asked if that was the patient load.

"There's no shortage of medicine (care) to be done here."

The prime minister also took several long drinks from a bottle of water purified by the DART team. It was water drawn from a nearby slough.

"It's good stuff ... maybe pour in a little Scotch," he joked to the long-suffering soldiers, whose camp is alcohol free.

Meerasahib Jamaldeen was among the hundreds milling about Martin's retinue.

Jamaldeen, a father of 10 at age 42, lost two daughters, his home and brother-in-law to the waves. His wife and eight remaining children now live in a classroom at the college.

"The people are happy that he has come to see the children," Jamaldeen said of Martin, before adding sadly, "My home is gone."

When Martin returned to Colombo yesterday afternoon, he met with political representatives allied to the insurgent **Tamil Tigers**, who control parts of northeastern Sri Lanka not far from Ampara district.

The prime minister has promised to ensure that foreign aid to Sri Lanka is distributed equitably throughout the country, and his political meetings in Colombo were to that end.

But Martin appeared to have little patience for political infighting after visiting Kalmunai.

"There comes a time when human beings are facing trauma," the prime minister told a news conference in Colombo.

"You should set the politics aside and take a look at what other people are facing. There should be one focus and that should be what we can do to help them."

In Indonesia, security fears again threatened to hamper tsunami relief efforts yesterday, with UN officials banning aid workers from travelling overnight in parts of devastated Aceh province following reports that fighting had broken out between Indonesian government forces and insurgents.

The travel ban also came after Denmark warned its aid workers to beware of an imminent terror attack, a caution that prompted UN officials to launch an investigation and declare a state of "heightened awareness" in Aceh, where separatists have been fighting for an independent state for decades.

PM 'Deeply Affected'; 'Canadian tax money is going directly where it's needed,' Paul Martin says after seeing Sri Lanka coastal devastation

Insisting that aid workers had nothing to fear, rebel leader Tengku Mucksalmina dismissed Indonesian government claims that insurgents might attack relief convoys in hopes of stealing food for their fighters.

"We want them (aid groups) to stay," Mucksalmina said from his jungle hideout outside Banda Aceh. "We ask them not to leave the Acehnese people who are suffering."

Relief efforts are being led by nearly 15,000 U.S. troops, most of whom are docked off the coast of western Sumatra island.

Australia, Singapore, Germany and other nations also have contributed troops.

Indonesian Foreign Ministry spokesman Marty Natalegawa declined to say whether the UN precautions were necessary. He said that he could not assess them until he understood the rationale for the Danish warning.

But Mucksalmina said the security warnings were part of an ongoing Indonesian government campaign to discourage foreigners from getting involved because it would bring human rights abuses in Aceh to light.

Indonesian officials regularly blame Free Aceh Movement rebels for shootings and violence in Aceh, even if there is sometimes little evidence of their involvement.

## Graphic

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Photo: Adrian Wyld, the Canadian Press; Prime Minister Paul Martin drinks water purified by DART as Sapper Dan Leonard watches.

**Load-Date:** January 18, 2005

## *Doctor picks up the pieces*

The New Zealand Herald

January 8, 2005 Saturday

Copyright 2005 The New Zealand Herald. All Rights Reserved.

**Section:** NEWS; General

**Length:** 991 words

### **Body**

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Her undernourished, singlet-clad frame makes her look half her age of 18 months. Fathima Azra has a glue ear infection and a high temperature. Sri Lankan-born Weeramuni, an Auckland GP, looks around the steaming-hot crowded office at the Muhajireen Refugee Camp at Mattakkuliya for someone who can interpret her Sinhalese to Tamil. Medication prescribed, and basic medical notes jotted down, she turns to the next girl in line. It's not good news. Naseer Nalifa, 8, has chickenpox. That's about the last thing needed in an overcrowded refugee camp teeming with children from 135 families, and just flooded by a tsunami. It means Weeramuni must check all the young children, those who have squeezed in just to watch or who have been carried in by mothers and fathers who are not going to miss this rare chance of help for their sick babies. Weeramuni is the first doctor to visit the camp since the Boxing Day tsunami. That's hardly surprising. A place like this is not a priority even in good times, let alone when whole villages have been levelled and when 45,000 people are dead or missing across the shattered country. The shanty town of tightly packed wooden homes with rusting iron roofs has been on Crow Island, near Colombo, since 1990. It houses Muslim refugee families who were forced from the north and east by the **Tamil Tigers** and Sri Lanka's civil war. They had to flee their homes again on December 26 when floodwaters turned the compound into a sea of mud, ruined their homes and scant possessions, and wrecked all eight communal, hole-in-the-ground lavatories.

Camp president U.K.M. Kamaldee, a justice of the peace, has asked the Sri Lanka Red Cross for help. He says the people have returned to the camp but "are in poor position and fear". Urgently needed supplies include lavatory chemicals, pillows, mats, kitchen utensils and school equipment. But they at least have a roof over their heads, and in the aftermath of the devastation the needs of others are even more pressing. Weeramuni, accompanied by a Red Cross official, was the first to respond. Now she is running a clinic, and the patients keep coming as a young man rigs up a fan to cool the doctor. On Boxing Day she was on Waiheke Island with her husband, Simon Ventura, and children, having an outdoors dinner when she heard about the earthquake and tsunami. Back at her Auckland home the next day, she watched on television and the internet as the scale of the Asia-wide tsunami unfolded. The next morning, she told her husband she had to go. Associate Professor Rohan Ameratunga, an Auckland clinical immunologist, followed his second cousin just a few days later. "I couldn't stand seeing the images on telly and on the internet," he says. "I thought I might be able to make a small contribution." He admits it has been very distressing to see the devastation first hand. For a week to 10 days, the two doctors have used such political and community contacts as they have to find out what is needed for Sri Lanka's recovery. They are not the only New Zealand-Sri Lankan doctors working in Sri Lanka. One has made it to the sodden and devastated north-eastern region and another is in the flattened southern district at Galle. A frustrated Weeramuni wonders why no other doctor has been to the refugee camp in two weeks, and who will see her patients next time. Ameratunga has been gathering supplies. He has bought water-treatment equipment which will enable people to cope with the salt water in their wells. That water is needed for washing and cleaning. For now, the refugees have sufficient drinking water and food. One of the major problems is getting aid to those who need it most. As well, there is a lack of cooking

## Doctor picks up the pieces

facilities. And there's a problem with middle-class people who refuse to join the poor classes in the camps. Ameratunga is putting the finishing touches to a six-page report on the flood, in which options are detailed for the Government and New Zealand Sri Lankan communities to consider in their aid efforts. He describes it as a call for help. The report includes two core proposals - adopting a district and working closely in its reconstruction, or helping build a maternity hospital at Galle. Both doctors favour the hospital proposal and estimate it would cost \$10 million to \$20 million. Professor Malik Goonawardene, whose hospital was wrecked, already has a pledge of help from former German Chancellor Helmut Kohl, who nearly drowned in the tsunami. In the meantime he's not sure what he will do with his pregnant patients, with too many to squeeze into a couple of wards at another hospital across town. "We have lots of funds coming, lots of dollars, but they need shelter, Goonawardene says. "The problem is not drugs or doctors but a lack of infrastructure." The two New Zealanders emphasise the need for Sinhalese-speaking doctors and counsellors to smooth the work with survivors at refugee camps. "It's going to take a generation to get over this," Weeramuni says. Back at the refugee camp, she has created a stir by reaching into a box of medical supplies for condoms for the men. The women are giggling. Behind Weeramuni, a young boy has found a box and is turning it around, wondering just what it contains. Weeramuni retreats to a taxi, exhausted from long hours of non-stop work and feeling the effects of dehydration. She has treated innumerable ear infections, seen children with swollen glands, worried about possible tuberculosis and lanced a toe for a frightened, screaming girl. "I asked her if it hurt, and she said 'no'," Weeramuni says of the fast-recovering teenager. She has also helped to hand out fresh water, and baby formula. Before heading to her parents' home in Colombo, Weeramuni will go to the Red Cross medical centre and ask that a full clinic be held at the camp within two days. As the taxi pulls away, the condom boy's farewell is strangely formal. "Thank you, it was very nice to meet you."

**Load-Date:** January 7, 2005

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End of Document

## *Muslims flee as Sri Lanka warring parties shut out foreign aid*

Agence France Presse -- English

August 4, 2006 Friday 12:38 PM GMT

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**Length:** 670 words

**Byline:** Vishaka Jayasekara

**Dateline:** TRINCOMALEE, Sri Lanka, Aug 4 2006

### **Body**

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Thousands of civilians clambered onto bull-drawn carts, tractors and other rickety vehicles Friday to flee fighting between Sri Lankan troops and Tigers in a Muslim fishing town, witnesses said.

**Women** and children were the first to escape the town of Muttur, just a few kilometres (miles) from the northeastern provincial capital Trincomalee, after fresh shelling killed another five civilians early morning, they said.

A mass exodus followed later when pleas for a ceasefire to allow Muslims to attend Friday prayers were ignored by both sides, and attempts by the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) to create a "humanitarian corridor" to the town failed, military officials said.

The Red Cross had wanted the government and the rebel Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (**LTTE**) to give security guarantees to allow it to reach civilians trapped in Muttur but was refused, ICRC spokesman Sukumar Rockwood said.

"We have not been able to achieve the humanitarian corridor we wanted to establish for us to move freely and care for the affected people in Muttur," he said.

International relief agencies with offices in the capital Colombo called for an immediate halt to the fighting so much needed supplies could be distributed in Muttur.

"We in the humanitarian community ... are gravely concerned about the alarming violence in areas of Trincomalee district," they said in a statement.

"Muttur has suffered severely as a result of shelling and lack of access has hampered our ability to provide assistance to civilians in dire need of urgent help."

They strongly urged both parties to respect the existing ceasefire, accept a cessation of violence and allow access for a rapid assessment of needs before delivery of help to the civilian population.

## Muslims flee as Sri Lanka warring parties shut out foreign aid

The Red Cross said there were unconfirmed reports of about 22,000 people displaced in Muttur while local politicians said about half the 60,000 population in the constituency had been affected by fighting since Wednesday.

On Thursday, 22 civilians were killed in Muttur when shells fell on schools in which they were sheltering, local officials said updating an earlier figure of 17.

Muslim legislator A. H. M. Azwer said five more civilians were killed in another shelling Friday, causing alarm among locals who had earlier been urged to stay back.

"We have tried our best to ask both sides to hold their fire," Azwer told AFP in Colombo as he met with Muslim community leaders and other politicians.

Most of those who left Muttur headed for the multi-ethnic town of Kantalai, about 35 kilometres (20 miles) from Trincomalee, which was also hit by artillery on Tuesday.

An AFP photographer in Kantalai said people were arriving in the town in droves, crowded into small tractors, vans, on cycles and whatever other modes of transport they had managed to find.

Muslims are the second-largest minority in Sri Lanka, accounting for about 7.5 percent of the 19.5 million population. Sri Lankan Tamils are about 12.5 percent, while about 70 percent are Sinhalese.

In the Trincomalee area the three communities live in almost equal numbers.

The thud of artillery in Muttur could be heard from Trincomalee, where nearly 100 people wounded in Thursday's fighting, including security personnel, were brought for treatment.

UN Secretary General Kofi Annan has expressed concern for the welfare of civilians caught up in the crossfire, while Sri Lanka's peace broker Norway has pledged 1.5 million dollars to help affected locals.

The fighting, which began 10 days ago, is the worst since Oslo arranged and put in place a truce in February 2002, and has so far claimed at least 169 lives by official count.

The government said its military action was aimed at opening the Maavilaru water canal which was blocked at a point inside rebel-held territory in Trincomalee district, depriving water to 15,000 families downstream.

The Tigers have said their action was aimed at mounting pressure on the government to provide a better drinking water systems in areas held by the guerrillas.

str-aj/bpz/mp

**Load-Date:** August 5, 2006

## *The week that was the world*

The Times (London)

November 8, 2003, Saturday

Copyright 2003 Times Newspapers Limited

**Section:** Overseas news; 20

**Length:** 1073 words

### **Body**

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#### EUROPE

##### EU entry problems

Most of the ten countries aiming to join the European Union next May were told that they would have to reform their economies if they are to enjoy the full benefits. The European Commission report criticised Poland most strongly. Turkey, which has yet to start entry negotiations, was also criticised.

##### Jobs for the boys

Neil Kinnock, a Vice-President of the European Commission, was accused of introducing a "jobs for the boys" scheme. He plans a change of regulations to give party-political workers preferential treatment when seeking jobs as Commission officials, bypassing the rigorous testing other applicants face.

##### Italian defence

President Putin had his record on human rights, Chechnya and big business defended by Silvio Berlusconi, the Italian Prime Minister, during his visit to Rome. Mr Putin also met the Pope but refused to invite him to Moscow, reflecting the gap between the Vatican and the Russian Orthodox Church.

##### Georgia vote-rigging claim

Opposition parties responded angrily after a week-long vote count in a chaotic parliamentary election in Georgia, which appeared to put the pro-government bloc in the lead. An opposition party leader claimed the vote was rigged.

##### Royal slip leads to suit

Princess Caroline of Monaco took the German Government to the European Court of Human Rights over unflattering pictures taken of her slipping by a pool in Monaco.

She said that they amounted to an infringement of her privacy rights. The judgment could have serious implications for the freedom of the press.

##### Prodi eyes Italian politics

Romano Prodi, the President of the European Commission, claimed that he might return to Italian politics. He could step down next summer to stand as an MEP and challenge Silvio Berlusconi.

## The week that was the world

## Monarchy's new face

Prince Felipe of Borbon, the heir to the Spanish throne, announced that he was to marry Letizia Ortiz, a divorced television journalist, ending years of speculation about the future of the Spanish monarchy. His future Queen, "a 21st-century monarch", has neither royal nor noble lineage.

## MIDDLE EAST

## Helicopter shot down

Sixteen US soldiers who were about to go on leave were killed in Iraq when their Chinook helicopter was shot down near Fallujah. It was the deadliest single attack on coalition troops since the start of the Iraq war. A poll showed that 51 per cent of Americans now disapprove of President Bush's handling of Iraq.

## Troops face 'rough winter'

British troops could still be in Iraq in 2005, Sir Jeremy Greenstock, Tony Blair's envoy to Iraq, said. He gave warning that coalition forces faced a "rough winter".

## Peace vote infuriates Israel

Israelis reacted angrily after a EU poll showed that almost 60 per cent of Europeans surveyed thought that Israel was the foremost threat to world peace, ahead of North Korea, Iran, Iraq and Afghanistan.

## Al-Qaeda casualties

Police in Mecca killed two suspected al-Qaeda terrorists in a shoot-out. Weapons and bombs were found inside the car in which the militants had tried to flee.

## AMERICAS

## Church comes out in anger

Gene Robinson was consecrated as Bishop of New Hampshire, making him the first openly gay bishop in the Anglican Communion. Provinces around the world, representing more than 50 million Anglicans, broke off communion with the New Hampshire Diocese.

## Serial killer confession

Gary Ridgway, 54, confessed to murdering 48 women over two decades. America's worst serial killer admitted to the "Green River killings" to avoid the death penalty. In a bargain with prosecutors, Ridgway said that he would help them to clear up dozens of unsolved murders, although he then said: "I killed so many women I have a hard time keeping them straight."

## Six die after losing their way

Six teenagers on a minibus that got lost in slums in Rio de Janeiro were shot dead by drug traffickers. The driver of the bus said: "Anyone who did not have the rough hands of someone who does manual labour was accused of being a rival drug trafficker and was shot."

## The defenders of Reagan

CBS, the American television network, withdrew a mini-series on the Reagans. The show had been denounced as a vicious attack on a dying hero and his stalwart wife by online campaigners who threatened to boycott the network.

## 7x7x7 marathon feat



## The week that was the world

The explorer Sir Ranulph Fiennes, 59, and his doctor Mike Stroud, 49, became the first people to complete seven marathons in seven countries in seven days, when they finished the New York marathon. Sir Ranulph, who ran in support of the British Heart Foundation and had a double heart bypass operation in June, said: "I certainly wouldn't do it again."

## ASIA &amp; PACIFIC

## State of emergency

President Chandrika Kumaratunga suspended Sri Lanka's parliament and sacked three senior ministers. Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe was visiting Washington at the time. The President said that she feared too much ground was being given to the **Tamil Tigers**. She then imposed a state of emergency, prompting fears about the peace process.

## Redrawing power

Afghanistan published its draft constitution, which would create a powerful elected President. It called for unity, religious tolerance, an end to violence, equal rights in education and a state health service.

## Island controversy

Melville Island, which is about 50 miles off the north coast of Australia, was removed from the country's migration zone along with 4,000 other islands to prevent 14 Kurdish boat-people who landed there from seeking asylum. The opposition contested the ruling.

## Wholesome Hogwarts

Harry Potter has been exempted from a ban in Malaysia on books featuring mystery, fantasy, occultism or superstition. Chor Chee Heung, deputy Minister of Home Affairs, said that the junior magician was "benign" and did not "create an unhealthy picture".

## AFRICA

## Mugabe election disputed

Lawyers told the Zimbabwe High Court that Robert Mugabe's re-election as President should be nullified because of significant poll irregularities. "This is a serious matter concerning the heart of the nation," the judge said.

## Genocide trial

Four Rwandan former ministers went on trial for genocide charges at the UN tribunal. The men were said to be behind the 1994 ethnic massacres, during which more than a million people died.

## Winning and dining

Hundreds of Tanzanians flocked to the country's annual goat races. Sixty goats endured a series of heats to raise money for water and farming projects. Most of the goats will now be eaten.

**Load-Date:** November 8, 2003

## **Bombings heap more woes on tsunami-hit Sri Lankan fisherman**

Agence France Presse -- English

April 28, 2006 Friday 3:19 AM GMT

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**Length:** 678 words

**Dateline:** MUTTUR, Sri Lanka, April 28 2006

### **Body**

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Displaced by the war, displaced by the tsunami, now Kiyathupillai Mohideen is on the move again -- this time after clashes between the Sri Lankan military and Tamil Tiger rebels killed three members of his family.

The 66-year-old white-bearded devout Muslim is not the only one who has been uprooted again in the troubled Trincomalee district of northeastern Sri Lanka.

Hundreds, maybe thousands of families -- no one's done a proper count -- have been sleeping in schools, churches, government buildings and the homes of relatives since Sri Lanka launched a brief but intensive aerial bombardment on rebel targets.

The bombings Tuesday and Wednesday were meant to send a strong signal to the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam after the attempted assassination by a **female** suicide bomber -- suspected to be a **LTTE** cadre -- of the country's army chief.

But they mainly served to frighten the daylights out of locals in Muttur and nearby Sampur, who, believing the war had started up again after the relative peace of a four-year-old Norwegian-brokered truce, fled their homes.

Mohideen's family and some 50 others like them, who have been living in temporary shelters in Wattam area of Muttur since their homes were destroyed by the December 2004 tsunami, were among those who turned tail when the bombings began on Tuesday evening.

International Committee of the Red Cross Head of Office in Muttur, Claude Meynard, described the bombardments as "frightening."

"They were very loud and intensive and seemed to carry on forever, but in the end it was only three to four hours," she said, dismissing claims, however, by some of those taking shelter at Father Sebastian Ignatius's Sacred Heart Church up the road that the "ground shook".

Wednesday morning came more attacks and that was when Mohideen's luck ran out -- yet again.

## Bombings heap more woes on tsunami-hit Sri Lankan fisherman

A powerful explosive device -- either a bomb dropped by the military or a mortar fired in retaliation by the rebels -- landed on his daughter Mufeetha Akram, her husband Jainudeen Akram, the local imam, and Jainudeen Munwara, his brother's daughter, killing them instantly.

The blame for the deaths is laid variously on the military or the Tigers, depending on who you speak to in this fishing town, 80 kilometers (50 miles) by road but a lot closer by sea from Trincomalee.

But all agree that the well-loved Mohideen is one of the unluckiest members of the community.

"He lost his daughter and grand-daughter in the tsunami as well as his fishing boat, fishing equipment and house," said a Wattam community leader, Nalib, who uses only one name. "And now he has to suffer this."

Mohideen's Job-like run of misfortune began in 1987 when his home was destroyed in the war between the army and the Tigers, who are fighting for an independent Tamil homeland in the northeast of the island.

Since then, he told AFP, he's been living with his family -- now reduced to nine members from 14 -- in schools, churches and various temporary shelters.

He had only just managed to re-establish himself when the tsunami came and washed away all his worldly possessions -- and two more priceless lives in December 2004.

The 130 or so people spending their nights under Father Ignatius's wing -- and the protection of the military who are encamped just across the road -- plan to return to their homes in just a few days, "as soon as we feel there is no more risk," according to one of them, Joseph Anthony.

For them the disruption has been temporary, the bombings soon to be just another talking point.

The piper however, will never play the same tune for Mohideen again.

He says he will go back to his temporary post-tsunami shelter -- he is now staying with relatives -- as soon as he is satisfied war has not broken out again.

But there will be three fewer loved ones sharing the admittedly cramped space, and, in all, five fewer to celebrate birthdays, family occasions.

Resignation etched across his deeply-lined fisherman's face, he shrugs when asked how he will manage to pick himself up from yet another calamity.

"With the help of Allah we will survive," he says quietly.

**Load-Date:** April 28, 2006



## **'Aid, Conflict and Peacebuilding in Sri Lanka' Report Launched in DC; Study Designed to Advance International Impact in Sri Lanka**

U.S. Newswire

May 17, 2006 Wednesday 11:12 AM EST

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**Section:** NATIONAL DESK

**Length:** 674 words

**Dateline:** WASHINGTON, May 17

### **Body**

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Yesterday in Washington, The Asia Foundation and the World Bank convened Sri Lankan senior policy makers, conflict experts and members of the diplomatic community to introduce the study, "Aid, Conflict and Peacebuilding in Sri Lanka," which analyzes the conflict in Sri Lanka since 2000 and the international response to it.

Sri Lanka is currently witnessing its worst period of violence since a ceasefire between the rebel Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (**LTTE**) and the Sri Lankan government -- which has already seen over 3,000 violations -- was agreed on four years ago. Approximately 200 Sri Lankans have been killed in the past month, putting the country in a fragile and precarious state.

Released in Colombo earlier this year, the study was designed to guide both diplomats and aid donors through impasses of the peace process, like the one we are witnessing today.

"This strategic conflict assessment is a timely and relevant document, which aims for better collaboration between diplomats and aid donors so we can effectively work together towards peace in Sri Lanka," said Douglas Bereuter, president of The Asia Foundation. "We hope it will serve as a principal source of information for the international community during such a fragile time in the peace process."

Upon other findings, "Aid, Conflict and Peacebuilding in Sri Lanka" states that international assistance programs in Sri Lanka must be based on a sound and shared understanding of the conflict's complexities, one which is lacking in today's environment. Once that premise is reached, diverse forms and sources of international engagement -- ceasefire monitoring, peace negotiations and development assistance -- must be more strategic and coordinated.

"We in the World Bank are proud to be part of this multi-donor effort to better understand the dynamics of conflict in Sri Lanka," said Ian Bannon, manager of the Conflict Prevention and Reconstruction Unit at the World Bank. "We believe that this shared analysis can help us do a better job of harmonizing our support with that of other international partners to assist the people of Sri Lanka."

'Aid, Conflict and Peacebuilding in Sri Lanka ' Report Launched in DC ; Study Designed to Advance  
International Impact in Sri Lanka

The conference featured Jon Hanssen-Bauer, Norwegian Special Envoy for the Peace Process in Sri Lanka; Jeffrey Lunstead, U.S. ambassador to Sri Lanka; Ajith Nivard Cabraal, secretary to the Sri Lankan Ministry of Plan Implementation; Professor G.L. Peiris, member of Parliament, United National Party in Sri Lanka; Gajen Ponnambalam, member of Parliament, All Ceylon Tamil Congress in Sri Lanka; Ian Bannon, manager of the Conflict Prevention and Reconstruction Unit at the World Bank; and Nilan Fernando, The Asia Foundation's country representative to Sri Lanka.

The report, "Aid, Conflict and Peacebuilding in Sri Lanka" can be accessed online at: [http://www.asiafoundation.org/Locations/srilanka\\_publications.html](http://www.asiafoundation.org/Locations/srilanka_publications.html). A summary of its key findings can also be accessed online at: [http://www.asiafoundation.org/pdf/SL\\_conflictfactsheet.pdf](http://www.asiafoundation.org/pdf/SL_conflictfactsheet.pdf)

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#### ABOUT THE ASIA FOUNDATION

The Asia Foundation is a non-profit, non-governmental organization committed to the development of a peaceful, prosperous, just, and open Asia-Pacific region. The Foundation supports programs in Asia that help improve governance and law, economic reform and development, *women's* empowerment, and international relations. Drawing on 50 years of experience in Asia, the Foundation collaborates with private and public partners to support leadership and institutional development, exchanges, and policy research.

With a network of 18 offices throughout Asia, an office in Washington, D.C., and its headquarters in San Francisco, the Foundation addresses these issues on both a country and regional level. In 2004, the Foundation provided more than \$72 million in program support and distributed almost 800,000 books and educational materials valued at \$28 million throughout Asia.

For more information, please visit <http://www.asiafoundation.org>.

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**Load-Date:** May 18, 2006

***The Asia Foundation Launches Study on America's Role in Sri Lanka's Peace Process; Report Written by Former United States Ambassador to Sri Lanka, Jeffrey Lunstead***

PR Newswire US

May 14, 2007 Monday 12:00 AM GMT

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**Length:** 730 words

**Dateline:** COLOMBO, Sri Lanka May 13

## **Body**

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COLOMBO, Sri Lanka, May 13 /PRNewswire/ -- Today, The Asia Foundation launched The United States' Role in Sri Lanka's Peace Process, a study that analyzes the United States' involvement in Sri Lanka's peace process from 2002-2006. The report, released amidst renewed fighting in Sri Lanka's civil conflict, was written by Jeffrey Lunstead, who served as the U.S. Ambassador to Sri Lanka from August 2003 to July 2006.

Sri Lanka's civil conflict, which has taken approximately 65,000 lives, has been ongoing for over 25 years. In February 2002, a ceasefire was established between the Government of Sri Lanka and the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (**LTTE**). In 2003, the United States was designated as a Co-Chair to the Sri Lankan Peace Process -- along with the European Union, Japan, and Norway -- to provide incentives to both parties to stay committed to the peace process. Ambassador Lunstead's study provides an inside account on how the United States applied diplomatic, economic, and other resources to support Sri Lanka's increasingly precarious peace.

The United States' Role in Sri Lanka's Peace Process is a follow-up to the landmark study, Sri Lanka Strategic Conflict Assessment -- Aid, Conflict and Peacebuilding in Sri Lanka (2002-2005), which was released in January 2006. The Strategic Conflict Assessment analyzed the interaction between members of the international community and the Sri Lankan parties to the conflict, arguing that international actors should apply a balance of diplomatic, political, development, security, and economic measures to create and support an enabling environment for peace.

In this later report, Ambassador Lunstead writes that U.S. involvement in 2003 originated with the hope that Sri Lanka could provide an example that a seemingly intractable terrorism problem could be resolved by a political process, when backed by the support of the international community. Today, the U.S. sustains a natural interest in helping the democratically-elected Government of Sri Lanka defeat a terrorist threat and the U.S. and other outside actors can help the Sri Lankan parties move towards peace if those parties genuinely want to do so and are willing to make compromises. But, if the Government of Sri Lanka does not prevent human rights abuses by government forces, U.S. ability to help will be constrained.

"Over the past eighteen months, Sri Lanka's long conflict has steadily escalated, but we have seen similar cycles of relative peace followed by war before," said Nilan Fernando, The Asia Foundation's Country Representative in Sri Lanka. "Previous phases of the conflict have lasted about five years before another period of no-war. The goal of these supplementary studies to the Strategic Conflict Assessment is to analyze and draw lessons from the last ceasefire so that when the next window for peace opens, international and domestic actors can make better choices and engage more constructively."

The Asia Foundation Launches Study on America 's Role in Sri Lanka 's Peace Process Report Written by  
Former United States Ambassador to Sri Lanka , Jeffrey Lun....

Both The United States' Role in Sri Lanka's Peace Process and Sri Lanka Strategic Conflict Assessment -- Aid, Conflict and Peacebuilding in Sri Lanka (2002-2005) can be accessed here:  
[http://www.asiafoundation.org/Locations/srilanka\\_publications.html](http://www.asiafoundation.org/Locations/srilanka_publications.html)

About The Asia Foundation

The Asia Foundation is a non-profit, non-governmental organization committed to the development of a peaceful, prosperous, just, and open Asia- Pacific region. The Foundation supports programs in Asia that help improve governance, law, and civil society; **women's** empowerment; economic reform and development; and international relations. Drawing on 50 years of experience in Asia, the Foundation collaborates with private and public partners to support leadership and institutional development, exchanges, and policy research.

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**REP. LEACH URGES LONG-TERM COMMITMENT TO TSUNAMI  
RECONSTRUCTION; Coordinated effort essential, House subcommittee  
chairman says**

States News Service

January 27, 2005 Thursday

Copyright 2005 States News Service

**Length:** 2528 words

**Byline:** States News Service

**Dateline:** WASHINGTON

## **Body**

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The following information was released by the U.S. Department of State:

Social and economic reconstruction in the countries devastated by the Indian Ocean tsunami will be "more complex and protracted than the initial rescue and relief efforts, but no less essential," according to Representative James Leach, chairman of the Subcommittee on Asia and the Pacific of the House International Relations Committee.

In remarks before the full committee at a January 26 hearing on tsunami relief, Leach said the short-term response to the disaster has been "uniquely global, spontaneous, and successful," but, he added, "In order to be credible, international assistance must extend into the long term."

Leach -- who led a congressional delegation to the Southeast Asia region January 5-13 to assess needs and review relief efforts under way -- said military assistance was indispensable in the early stages of the relief effort. "The unparalleled airlift and transport capabilities of the U.S. military were the backbone of much of the international humanitarian response throughout the region," he said.

As assistance efforts move into the reconstruction phase, the Iowa Republican said, civilian institutions must take over.

The massive response that the disaster has generated must be closely coordinated and monitored to avoid duplication and corruption, Leach urged. But at the same time, he added, those assistance efforts must respond to local needs and be "open to direction from the communities and individuals most affected."

Leach expressed hope that cooperative efforts to respond to the catastrophe would contribute to peaceful resolution of separatist conflicts in the region.

"We have already seen welcome public commitments to renewed dialogue by the government of Indonesia and the rebels of the Free Aceh Movement (GAM). Hopefully we can see a de-escalation of violence in the region, and the Indonesian government can demilitarize its approach to Aceh," he said.

"I also am encouraged by initial reports that the government of Sri Lanka, the ***Tamil Tigers***, and humanitarian organizations may be exploring the feasibility of forming a tripartite approach to overseeing and coordinating the humanitarian response within that country," Leach said.

For additional information, see U.S. Response to Tsunami.

Following is the full text of Representative Leach's statement, as prepared for delivery:



REP. LEACH URGES LONG-TERM COMMITMENT TO TSUNAMI RECONSTRUCTION; Coordinated effort essential, House subcommittee chairman says

(begin text)

HIRC Statement

Committee on International Relations

U.S. House of Representatives

Washington, D.C. 20515-0128

Statement of Representative James A. Leach

Committee on International Relations

Briefing on "The Tsunami Tragedy: How the United States is Responding and Providing Relief"

January 26, 2005

Mr. Chairman, in the wake of what we now understand to be one of the most traumatic natural disasters of the past several centuries, I was asked to lead a Congressional delegation to countries impacted by the tsunami and make recommendations on appropriate Congressional responses. Joining me on the trip were Senators Sam Brownback and Jon Corzine, and a number of House Members, including Mr. Smith, Mr. Faleomavaega, Ms. Watson, Mr. Blumenauer, and Mr. Flake from this Committee.

During our compressed schedule, we met with heads of foreign governments and armed forces, U.N. and international aid agency officials, NGO representatives, U.S. diplomats and military personnel, and survivors of the tsunami.

Before making more general observations, allow me to describe briefly some of the circumstances we encountered, illustrated by a few photographs that should appear on the video monitors overhead.

Different areas experienced the disaster differently. But in every region we visited, the damage defied comprehension.

Hit hardest by the tsunami was Aceh, Indonesia, on the northern tip of Sumatra. Unlike certain areas in Thailand and Sri Lanka that were mounded with rubble, vast stretches of the Acehnese coast were wiped nearly clean. Entire towns had been seemingly swallowed by the sea, leaving only bare foundations where numerous homes and buildings had once stood. In one area, the local Mosque was the only structure still standing. Engineers suggested the Mosque survived because of its location and construction; residents were convinced that more eschatological factors were in play. In any regard, over 100,000 people died in Indonesia alone on that day. In addition to bearing the greatest loss of life, Aceh also posed the greatest logistical challenge to rescue and relief efforts, as the destruction of its relatively limited transportation infrastructure left large portions completely isolated from the outside world.

Thailand suffered thousands of deaths, including the largest number of foreign casualties. During our visit to the Khao Lak beach area a destination for vacationers from around the world we were surrounded by evidence of the deadly force of the waves, believed to have topped out at over 60 feet. At one point, the surge swept a large police boat more than a mile inland. The damage was rendered even more poignant by the public bulletin boards filled with photos of still-missing family members and unidentified bodies. We were all impressed by the extent to which the local Thai population, which suffered such heavy losses, had assisted foreign survivors and begun to clear the rubble.

More than 30,000 people were killed in Sri Lanka. The vast majority of that island's coastline was affected by the tsunami, though the extensive damage tended to be highly localized along the shore, limited in most areas to a few hundred yards inland. Thus, unlike in Aceh, most of the affected areas were in relative proximity to intact communities and transportation infrastructure, which helped to facilitate aid and rescue efforts. The juxtaposition of the geographically limited damage with the massive human toll underscored the tragic costs that resulted from the lack of an early warning system. Perhaps the most affecting portion of our trip was our interaction with tsunami survivors at a relocation camp near Galle. There we met the remnants of families who had been left homeless. We

REP. LEACH URGES LONG-TERM COMMITMENT TO TSUNAMI RECONSTRUCTION; Coordinated effort essential, House subcommittee chairman says

spoke with mothers who had lost children and husbands, and met children whose parents had been killed by waves that they described as sounding like the deafening roar of a jet plane.

Although we were unable to view damage sites in India, the briefings we received during our visit indicated that conditions there were of a similar gravity.

There are precedents for natural disasters. There may, however, be no precedent for the size and scale of the international response to this one. In the upward spiral of donor pledges, we have viewed the rise of a kind of competitive compassion that must be considered a welcome development in international relations. It remains to be seen whether the paradigms and the goodwill developed in response to this natural disaster may also have utility in addressing man-made disasters and conflicts that afflict similarly large numbers of people around the world. However, to some degree, the early focus on comparative pledges did not do justice to various national responses, particularly our own.

The American people have reason to be deeply proud of our country's response. The unparalleled airlift and transport capabilities of the U.S. military were the backbone of much of the international humanitarian response throughout the region. To cite one example, the helicopter crews from the USS Abraham Lincoln were the sole lifeline to numerous isolated communities in Aceh, maintaining an exhausting operational tempo ferrying clean water and provisions that saved many lives and helped deter the spread of disease.

I was inspired and gratified by the self-giving response of so many American servicemen and women, our AID workers, our professional diplomatic corps, and the large numbers of Americans working for faith-based and other non-governmental organizations in the region. These private and public servants, who had been working largely without sleep since the disaster, are a credit to our nation.

I would like to cite two discussions involving military personnel. The first was with Vice Admiral Douglas Crowder, aboard the aircraft carrier USS Abraham Lincoln. Admiral Crowder noted that he had never seen more enthused, committed sailors and Marines, even though they had never been precisely trained for this kind of mission. Knowing that those under his command lacked precise expertise for the task undertaken, he gave them a simple command: "Do good" -- and then authorized them to develop techniques to fit the circumstance, i.e., to use individual initiative. I believe somewhere on a wall at the Naval Academy ought to be chiseled Admiral Crowder's command: "Do good." Its simplicity implies grandness of mission in the finest tradition of the United States Navy.

The second conversation was with a Brigadier General with the United States Marine Corps. I told him my impression was that the difference the U.S. military made in the wake of the tsunami reminded me of the Confederate cavalry officer, Gen. Nathan Bedford Forrest, who was known to have argued that the key to all military strategy was getting there "firstest with the mostest." He laughed, but said the more apt analogy might be that of Rommel, who noted that amateurs speak tactics, professionals logistics. We think of our armed forces principally being trained to be put in harm's way in a wartime setting. But one of the lessons of this tsunami is that no institution in the world is better prepared to assist in the immediate aftermath of a natural disaster than the military.

In the long run, civilian institutions must take over, but in the short run the armed services have an important role to play.

Here, a note about faith-based efforts is in order. In Sri Lanka, our Ambassador informed me that he had just received a call from the Los Angeles Jewish Federation, which had raised \$10 million for relief assistance. Two days later, I met with a representative of the Federation in Delhi and she noted that she was prepared to consider giving assistance for the rebuilding of schools, such as the one the Marines had cleared the rubble from in Galle, Sri Lanka. She also said her organization hoped to be able to work with the Sri Lankan Buddhist monastery which was serving as a relief station for refugees, and perhaps even with groups in Aceh, Indonesia, where Muslim political activism is so widespread.

I cite this as one of many examples of American outreach to illustrate that America is more than government. We are a society of individuals who make private as well as public charitable commitments. It is the manner in which the public and private sectors interact that characterizes American governance.

REP. LEACH URGES LONG-TERM COMMITMENT TO TSUNAMI RECONSTRUCTION; Coordinated effort essential, House subcommittee chairman says

I certainly do not mean to imply that the United States stood alone in these efforts. Numerous countries, including some of those hardest hit by the tsunami, quickly made their own sacrificial commitments. I would particularly like to commend the cooperation and contributions of the Kingdom of Thailand, whose air base at Utapao has served as an invaluable hub for the transport of essential relief materials throughout the affected area. Our interlocutors in the region also noted with appreciation the prompt dispatch of humanitarian assistance by countries such as Singapore, Australia, Japan, India, Spain, and the Nordic countries, among others. In addition, I would like to commend the work of various UN agencies, particularly in Sri Lanka, where they have taken the lead in providing assistance in Tamil-controlled parts of the country.

The short-term response to this disaster has been uniquely global, spontaneous, and successful. The World Health Organization recently reported that although the situation remains precarious, the strength of the international response has so far helped to keep the threat of large-scale disease outbreaks at bay.

As was beginning even during our visit, the focus of the international response will necessarily shift from saving lives to rebuilding livelihoods and the many local economies that were devastated by the tsunami. At present, many thousands of fishermen, subsistence farmers, and shopkeepers are without the modest capital inputs necessary to begin providing for their families once again. Similarly, many women widowed by the waves find themselves unequipped for their sudden, untraditional role as breadwinner. Countless men, women, and children who were traumatized by the terrors of that day will require sustained attention to their mental and emotional well being.

This process of social and economic reconstruction will be more complex and protracted than the initial rescue and relief efforts, but no less essential. In order to be credible, international assistance must extend into the long term. Furthermore, this massive developmental response must be centrally coordinated and monitored to avoid duplication and corruption, at the same time that it must be locally responsive and open to direction from the communities and individuals most affected. We have an obligation to ensure that resources given from the highest of human motives to meet the most basic of human needs are spent in ways that are efficient, effective, and transparent. Thus, it is obvious that these endeavors will require both funding and careful oversight from the Congress in the months ahead.

On the political front, I am not alone in my hope that these unforeseen tragedies may yet have unforeseeable but positive consequences in catalyzing a peaceful resolution to longstanding separatist conflicts in the region. We have already seen welcome public commitments to renewed dialogue by the Government of Indonesia and the rebels of the Free Aceh Movement (GAM). Hopefully we can see a de-escalation of violence in the region, and the Indonesian government can demilitarize its approach to Aceh. I also am encouraged by initial reports that the Government of Sri Lanka, the Tamil Tigers, and humanitarian organizations may be exploring the feasibility of forming a tripartite approach to overseeing and coordinating the humanitarian response within that country. The United States should ensure that any aid provided is distributed on an equalitarian basis and, on the political front, should support these delicate processes of reconciliation in whatever ways are helpful and appropriate.

On the environmental front, it appears that the January 26 tragedy may have galvanized the political will necessary to implement a tsunami early warning system for the Indian Ocean basin and, more broadly, warning systems for various natural disasters on a worldwide basis. The U.S. should play an active role in such endeavors. I will leave it to my Democratic colleague, Mr. Blumenauer, to expand further on these issues, which are of longstanding concern to him.

In conclusion, let me stress that the tsunami of December 26 cannot be viewed through a national tragedy prism; the events represented a human tragedy affecting the world community. We share in the grief and recognize that tragedies of this nature demonstrate our human vulnerability and common fate. Thank you.

**Load-Date:** April 28, 2005

## **2ND ROUNDUP: Sri Lanka bombs Tamil hideout after ambassador attack**

Deutsche Presse-Agentur

February 27, 2007 Tuesday 12:35 PM EST

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**Section:** POLITICS

**Length:** 769 words

**Dateline:** Colombo

### **Body**

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DPA POLITICS SriLanka Conflicts US Italy 2ND ROUNDUP: Sri Lanka bombs Tamil hideout after ambassador attack Government calls for international support to end terrorism Colombo Sri Lanka's air force bombed suspected Tamil rebel targets in the Batticaloa district on Tuesday, hours after a group of ambassadors to Sri Lanka came under mortar attack on an airfield, officials said.

A military spokesman said the retaliatory bombings were directed at the Thoppigala hideout of the rebels, in the same district where Tuesday morning's attack took place. No details of damage caused were known immediately.

The Tamil rebels admitted responsibility for the mortars which struck at an airfield in Batticaloa, 240 kilometres east of the capital.

Italian Ambassador Pio Mariani suffered a head injury in the mortar attack and was airlifted to a hospital, accompanied by German Ambassador Juergen Weerth, who was not injured.

Weerth told Deutsche Presse-Agentur dpa his Italian colleague had a shrapnel wound to the head which must be operated on. He said that two shells exploded a "maximum of 40 metres" away from the group.

US Ambassador Robert Blake suffered slight injuries in the attack and US embassy spokesman Terry White confirmed the ambassador was "alright."

Also on the trip were the ambassadors from France and Japan as well as the United Nations co-ordinator in Colombo. The diplomats had planned a field visit to a coastal town recaptured by government forces from the Tamil rebels after a three-month long offensive, and also planned to hold discussions on displaced civilians.

"The mortar attack came soon after the diplomats landed," said Minister of Human Rights and Natural Disaster Management Mahinda Samarasinghe, who was also at the scene and uninjured. The group arrived in a private chartered flight and two military helicopters.

## 2ND ROUNDUP: Sri Lanka bombs Tamil hideout after ambassador attack

Also injured in the attack were six policemen, two air force personnel, a soldier and a child. One of the police officers was airlifted to the capital for treatment.

Rebels also fired mortars at a nearby air base.

Defence spokesman Keheliya Rambukwella said that the rebels have shown that they were "true international terrorists."

Tamil rebel spokesman Irasiah Ilanthiryan was quoted on the pro-rebel website TamilNet as saying they "regretted" causing injuries to the diplomats, but blamed the government for flying the diplomats into an airfield that was usually used by the military.

Ilanthiryan said that the government had endangered the lives of foreign diplomats by bringing them inside the military zone without following diplomatic procedure.

"We immediately ceased the fire as soon as we were notified of the presence of foreign diplomats under artillery fire, by Mr Marian Din, the UN official for coordinating security arrangements here in Kilinochchi," Ilanthirayan said.

Ambassador Weerth denied the Tamil claims, saying the helicopter landed on a sports field.

Soon after the incident government troops cordoned off the town to conduct a search operation. The meeting to discuss the government's resettlement plans for the displaced civilians went ahead with a delayed start in a different location.

The attack was the first by suspected Tamil rebels on a group of diplomats.

Foreign Minister Rohitha Bogollgama in a statement issued from China condemning the attack said the government "reiterated its position on the need to eliminate terrorism in all its forms".

"I take this opportunity to call upon the international community to support the endeavours of the government of Sri Lanka to address

the scourge of terrorism and to pressure the LTTE to give up terrorism and return to the democratic fold", he said.

The diplomats were flown back to Colombo Tuesday evening, among them the Italian Ambassador wearing a dressing on his head wound.

A local photographer and a female government official who were injured in the attack were flown back for treatment.

The government earlier airlifted groups of politicians and journalists to the eastern province for a guided tour into the recently recaptured Vakarai area, 260 kilometres east of the capital where plans are underway to resettle some 40,000 civilians who fled the area during military operations.

President Mahinda Rajapaksa himself visited the Vakarai area on February 3 and directed that immediate measures be taken to restore electricity supplies and rebuild roads and other infrastructure to resettle civilians.

## 2ND ROUNDUP: Sri Lanka bombs Tamil hideout after ambassador attack

Fighting in north and eastern parts of Sri Lanka have escalated during the last 14 months claiming nearly 4,000 lives and the government also has stepped up military offensive operations.

Feb 2707 1235 GMT

### Notes

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Government calls for international support to end terrorism

**Load-Date:** February 28, 2007

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End of Document

## ***Sri Lanka in clean-up battle as 11,000 bodies pile up after tsunami***

Agence France Presse -- English

December 27, 2004 Monday 3:34 PM GMT

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**Length:** 740 words

**Dateline:** COLOMBO Dec 27

### **Body**

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Sri Lanka cut short formalities to speed up funerals as 11,000 bodies piled up in over-crowded hospitals after the island suffered the heaviest losses from tidal waves which swept across Asia.

Government spokesman and senior minister Susil Premajayantha said procedures had been streamlined to enable the speedy return of corpses to next of kin as part of an unprecedented clean-up operation.

The military and Tamil Tiger rebels who hold large parts of the island's north said the body count was 11,000, including 70 foreign nationals caught up in the tsunami that devastated three quarters of the island's coastline Sunday.

"We can't follow old procedures given the present situation," Premajayantha said. "We are arranging to pay 10,000 rupees (100 dollars) towards each funeral."

Premajayantha said an estimated 375,000 families, or about 1.5 million individuals, had their homes either completely destroyed or partly damaged after walls of water devastated the coastline.

He said 1,430 kilometres of railway track linking the capital Colombo with the southern region had been washed away at several places together with at least three bridges.

An entire train with about 1,500 passengers was washed away, trapping most of the passengers inside their railway cars with no time to escape to safety, local officials said.

Premajayantha said about 20,000 volunteers had joined the major relief effort carried out by the army, navy, the airforce and the police. They had given priority to clearing roads, establishing communications and restoring electricity.

Medical teams were airlifted to the affected areas to deal with the large number of injured while neighbouring India sent ships and aircraft loaded with emergency supplies, he said.

He said offers of help poured in from several other countries, including Pakistan, China, Russia, France, Britain, Greece, Israel, the US, Nepal and Australia.

## Sri Lanka in clean-up battle as 11,000 bodies pile up after tsunami

President Chandrika Kumaratunga cut short her holiday in London and returned home Monday to deal with the crisis, Premajayantha said. She had already declared a "state of national disaster" before returning home.

Premajayantha said the government was also sending officials and supplies to rebel-held areas where the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (**LTTE**) reported a body count of at least 820.

"This is the first time Tamil people in our areas have witnessed such a large scale disaster," Tiger political leader S.P. Thamilselvan said. Most of the victims were children and the elderly.

The government's top relief official, Lalith Weeratunga admitted the country was totally unprepared and had even ignored warnings of a potential calamity.

"We had no mechanism to deal with this type of disaster," Weeratunga, the top aide to Prime Minister Rajapakse said. "We are getting systems in place now to distribute relief."

He said officials had failed to learn from floods that ravaged the country's south in June last year.

"We had been very complacent," Weeratunga told AFP. "People had been predicting earthquakes, tidal waves and we even felt a few tremors recently, but obviously we did not take the warnings seriously."

Until Sunday's destruction, the worst natural disaster had been last June's river flooding and mudslides, which left 255 dead.

"Even after that, we had not learnt a lesson ... we have to rethink the entire disaster preparedness strategy," Weeratunga said.

The bodies of men, **women** and children were seen in trees after the waters receded, many more floated in the sea while others were strewn with the debris from homes and businesses along the coast.

The twisted wreckage of buses and cars were still on the roads next to boats that ended up on main highways after the region was covered by up to 25 feet of water, according to witnesses.

About half of the beach resort hotels were devastated and many remained shut Monday. Police imposed local curfews in most areas to prevent looting.

The tsunamis were triggered by a huge submarine earthquake off northeast Indonesia, some 1,500 kilometres (1,000 miles) from Sri Lanka.

Giant waves also slammed into Thailand, Myanmar, southern India, Malaysia and the Maldives.

Officials said combat aircraft were being deployed to air-drop bottled drinking water and food to marooned residents.

At least 400 prisoners fled from two high-security jails in the southern province as inmates took advantage of the disaster, police said as prison authorities offered them an amnesty to give themselves up.

**Load-Date:** December 28, 2004



## *Families bury massacre victims amid tight security*

Agence France Presse -- English

August 8, 2006 Tuesday 12:18 PM GMT

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**Length:** 737 words

**Byline:** Jason Gutierrez

**Dateline:** TRINCOMALEE, Sri Lanka, Aug 8 2006

### **Body**

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Relatives Tuesday sprinkled perfumed water and buried aid workers gunned down inside their office in strife-torn northeastern Sri Lanka, while police maintained tight security.

Widow S. Ganesh was burying her 54-year-old husband as well as daughter Kavitha, 27, both employees of the French charity Action Against Hunger (Action Contre la Faim, ACF). She collapsed at the seafront burial in the port city of Trincomalee.

The father and daughter were buried side by side in sealed coffins while security forces and police guarded the surrounding streets.

The hospital at Trincomalee began autopsies on the 17 aid workers gunned down at the weekend in the town of Muttur, 12.5 kilometres (7.5 miles) across the Koddigarai bay from Trincomalee. Six were completed by late afternoon.

Relatives said doctors told them the victims had been shot dead.

Most of the victims, 13 men and four women aged 23 to 54, were engineers specialising in water sanitation and agronomy or project managers, ACF said.

The charity workers -- all Sri Lankan nationals -- were found dead on Sunday in their office in the northeastern town of Muttur, where heavy fighting has pitted troops against Tamil Tiger rebels.

Each side has blamed the other for the killings.

ACF director Benoit Miribel was to head to Sri Lanka Wednesday to attend ceremonies commemorating the dead and oversee the launch of an independent investigation.

Although ACF recovered the bodies from Muttur on Monday, the authorities have yet to allow relief agencies access to the area. The International Committee of the Red Cross said they are awaiting clearance to go in.

Outside the Trincomalee hospital, Khanthasami Sivapaka cried for justice for his favourite daughter.

## Families bury massacre victims amid tight security

Beside him were freshly painted maroon coffins, delivered to the Trincomalee General Hospital's gloomy mortuary where the bodies lay covered in white plastic sheets on the stained floor.

"My daughter is gone, my daughter is gone," Sivapaka whispered to himself, tears streaming from his eyes swollen after sleepless nights wondering about the fate of his beloved Sivapataksan Romila.

The vivacious 25-year-old Romila had joined the ACF to help thousands left homeless by the December 2004 tsunami that devastated Sri Lanka's coastlines.

The work later involved humanitarian missions in conflict zones where battles between the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) and troops displace entire villages.

On Friday last week Romila, and 16 other ACF volunteers were trapped when Muttur came under heavy artillery and mortar fire from Tiger rebels intending to cut military supply links.

It was not clear what happened or who killed them, but the independent Consortium of Humanitarian Agencies which found the bodies said it appeared they were shot at close range.

"She called me up Friday and told me there was heavy fighting and shelling. She wanted to escape but the ACF officers told them to stay put because they will come back for them," Sivapaka, 52, told AFP in between sobs and through an interpreter.

"That was the last I heard from her until I got the news Sunday that her body was found," he said.

"I want to ask the Sri Lankan government what is happening to our country. My daughter only worked to help others. Now because of that she is dead."

In 1998 one of Romila's brothers were also shot and killed, his body left by the roadside in a still unsolved murder case.

"There is a deep pain in my heart but I do not know whom to blame," Sivapaka said.

Muralee Tharan's 27-year-old brother Ampigawathy Jaseelan was with Romila during the attack. He also called to say that they had decided to stay put inside the ACF office in Muttur upon advice from their bosses.

"He called me up and said they were told not to go out. If he had gone out and tried to escape, he may still be alive," Tharan, a public health inspector, said. "We want justice. We demand justice because we are very angry. We want a thorough investigation from the government."

He said ACF should share the blame because "they did not take care of those still left behind."

Nearby, 62-year-old labourer Yogaraja stared through the mortuary window trying to identify the body of his son Kodeswaran, 31.

"I don't know who killed my son. But everyone involved in the fighting should be blamed," Yogaraja said, his eyes bloodshot from crying.

"I just want to get his remains now and give him a decent burial. There is nothing more I can do. He is already dead."

**Load-Date:** August 9, 2006

## International Briefs

Telegraph Herald (Dubuque, IA)

April 11, 2004 Sunday

Copyright 2004 Woodward Communications, Inc.

**Section:** National/World; Pg. a9

**Length:** 754 words

**Byline:** ASSOCIATED PRESS

**Dateline:** VATICAN CITY

### **Body**

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Pope blesses flame of tall candle at vigil

Looking weak and speaking with great effort, Pope John Paul II blessed the flame of a tall candle at the start of a long Easter vigil service Saturday night in a packed St. Peter's Basilica. The pontiff baptized people from Europe, Africa and Asia in a solemn, chant-filled ceremony.

The pope's right hand trembled as he poured water from a gold-colored, shell-shaped scooper over the heads of a young man from Italy, a toddler from Togo, two Japanese women in kimonos and three others during baptism.

Earlier, John Paul slowly leaned forward in his chair to insert five grains of incense into the cream-colored candle's wax.

"Very dear brothers and sons, in this most holy night, in which Jesus Christ our Lord, passed from death to life, the Church, spread throughout the Earth, calls her children to hold a vigil of prayer," John Paul said. He then blessed the flame and intoned a prayer in Latin.

Sri Lankan military goes on high alert

KAJUWATTE, Sri Lanka - Renegade Tamil rebels braced for a showdown with the mainstream Tamil Tiger movement, as the Sri Lankan military went on high alert Saturday, intent on maintaining a truce that has given this island nation its best chance of peace in two decades.

The unconfirmed death toll from heavy fighting Friday between rebel factions was put at 33 by rebel and military officials.

Residents in the area of fighting along the Verugal River, off Sri Lanka's northeastern coast and some 150 miles from the capital, Colombo, fled gunfire again early Saturday in a mopping-up operation by the mainstream Liberation Tigers of Tamileelam, or LTTE.

The military hopes to prevent the internal clash between rival Tamil Tiger factions from spilling over into civilian areas and sucking the army into the conflict.

"We don't want to be dragged into the situation, but will be taking all necessary steps for the safety and security of the people in the government-controlled areas," said a military spokesman, Col. Sumeda Perera.

## International Briefs

## More than 50 inmates escape in Philippines

ISABELA, Philippines - More than 50 inmates, including many suspected members of a Muslim extremist group, used a smuggled pistol to escape from a southern Philippine prison on Saturday, officials said. At least nine were killed by police.

Provincial spokesman Christopher Puno said 53 of 137 inmates at the Basilan Provincial Jail, including many members of the al-Qaida-linked Abu Sayyaf group, escaped.

At least nine were killed and eight others were recaptured, said Senior Inspector William Gadayan, police chief of Isabela city, the capital of Basilan. He said three guards were injured in the breakout, one seriously.

The escape came just two days after soldiers outside Isabela killed six alleged Abu Sayyaf members, including Hamsiraji Sali, one of five guerrilla leaders wanted by Washington in the deaths of two American hostages.

Gadayan said the escape might have been in retaliation for Sali's death and an effort by the Abu Sayyaf to regroup.

## Thousands wait in lines to give aid to Hamas

GAZA CITY, Gaza Strip - Thousands of Palestinians in impoverished Gaza waited in long lines outside mosques Saturday to contribute what little funds they had to Hamas' fight against Israel, the Islamic militant group said.

Hamas, the largest opposition group, is negotiating with Yasser Arafat's Palestinian Authority on how to run Gaza after a planned Israeli withdrawal. The group, which opposes the existence of Israel, has killed more than 300 Israelis in attacks since 2000.

Late Saturday, two Israeli tanks moved about 100 yards into Palestinian territory near the Gaza Strip settlement of Netzarim, witnesses said. They said the tanks fired machine guns and three shells. There were no reports of injuries.

The military denied its troops were operating in the area.

Also Saturday, an 11-year-old girl was killed in her kitchen in the Gaza town of Khan Younis when she was hit by a stray bullet, witnesses said.

## Protest turns violent

TAIPEI, Taiwan - Tossing bottles and rocks, hundreds of Taiwanese protesters were blasted by police water cannons Saturday after a rally demanding an independent investigation of the bizarre shooting that injured President Chen Shui-bian one day before his narrow re-election.

The rowdy protests have become a weekend tradition since Chen won the March 10 vote and opposition candidate Lien Chan challenging the results. Lien has insinuated that Chen might have staged the unexplained shooting, and he wants a special task force to probe the event.

**Load-Date:** April 11, 2004

## HighLights of the AAP National Wire at 19:00, July 13

AAP Newsfeed

July 13, 2007 Friday 7:17 PM AEST

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**Section:** DOMESTIC NEWS

**Length:** 1289 words

### **Body**

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#### HIGHLIGHTS NATIONAL UPDATED

BRISBANE - An Indian-born doctor held by Australian Federal Police (AFP) in connection with the foiled UK terror plot could be charged or released as early as tomorrow. (UK Bombs Aust Nightlead (pix available))

CANBERRA - Prime Minister John Howard is paying no attention to the leadership rumour mill and won't be stepping aside before the federal election. (Leadership Nightlead)

CANBERRA - Prime Minister John Howard has defended a \$100,000 refit of one of his air force jets that later had to be reversed. (Jet 2nd Nightlead)

MELBOURNE - The federal government should reveal its long-term plan for Australia's car industry and review its tariff policy after reports Ford may axe hundreds of jobs in Victoria, Labor says. (Ford Nightlead)

SYDNEY - Federal Opposition Leader Kevin Rudd has toured deep into western Sydney's mortgage belt, spruiking housing affordability as the "barbecue stopper" he's hoping will convert "Howard's battlers" to Labor. (Housing Nightlead)

MELBOURNE - A drunken car crash in the early hours of this morning has left the son of Victorian Premier Steve Bracks facing serious criminal charges and his father feeling like a failure. (Bracks Nightlead (pics available))

CANBERRA - United States ambassador Robert McCallum admits there may be tensions in America's relationship with Australia if they disagree on big issues, such as Iraq. (Iraq Aust Nightlead)

SYDNEY - One of the men of interest to the Dianne Brimble inquest has told the Sydney court he heard two of his room-mates talking in a "panicky" way on the morning her body was found on their cabin floor. (Brimble Nightlead. See also Brimble Coroner)

MELBOURNE - The aluminium sector may emerge as the new battleground for consolidation among the world's top miners, as the market digests Rio Tinto Ltd's \$US38 billion (\$A43.91 billion) bid for Alcan Inc. (Rio Alcan 2nd Nightlead (With graphic))

MELBOURNE - Melbourne aim to get the jump on their rivals by tomorrow officially beginning the search for a new AFL coach to replace Neale Daniher. (AFL Nightlead)

AUCKLAND - A Gold Coast-based former soldier working for a security firm in Iraq has died after the vehicle he was travelling in hit a landmine. (Iraq NZ Lead)

SYDNEY - A controversial documentary about global warming was a big winner for ABC television last night, with an audience of more than one million viewers. (Climate Swindle)

CANBERRA - Terry Hicks has admitted he considered "pulling the plug" during the five years his son David spent detained as a terrorist suspect at the US military prison at Guantanamo Bay. (Hicks (Pix available))

## HighLights of the AAP National Wire at 19:00, July 13

CANBERRA - Only employers - not employees - will be contacted if there are doubts about the fairness of their new workplace agreements, prompting ACTU claims that the government's fairness test is a sham. (Workplace Test Nightlead, to come)

CANBERRA - A plan to give same-sex couples equal financial entitlements to heterosexual partners will be taken to cabinet before the federal election, gay rights advocates say. (Gay)

CANBERRA - Labor has demanded Defence Minister Brendan Nelson answer questions raised in a television report about the airline contracted to fly Australian troops to and from their Middle East posts. (Strategic)

CANBERRA - A new poll showing widespread support for paid maternity leave proves the issue is a critical one for families, a women's group said today. (Maternity)

CANBERRA - The federal government does not test for contamination in imported Chinese fish despite US officials banning imports because of worries antibiotics are infiltrating the food chain. (Seafood)

CANBERRA - Former chief of the defence force General John Baker was given a military send-off at his funeral in Canberra today. (Baker (Pix Available))

SYDNEY - The Howard government is out of touch on the cost of living, Opposition Leader Kevin Rudd said today in response to more bumper polls for his Labor Party. (Poll Rudd)

SYDNEY - A middle-aged woman has died from meningococcal disease on the NSW far north coast. (Meningococcal)

SYDNEY - Australia's first national 24 hour indigenous television station is on air. (Indigenous TV)

SYDNEY - The opposition today slammed NSW's child welfare system for allowing a baby back into the custody of her drug-using, mentally unstable mother who later killed the child. (Baby Nightlead)

SYDNEY - NSW Transport Minister John Watkins has rejected the opposition's calls for him to hand his portfolio over to Premier Morris Iemma to ensure train maintenance is improved. (Rail Nightlead)

SYDNEY - - A New Zealand woman has been jailed for at least three years for a \$300,000 Centrelink fraud carried out over 20 years. (Anderson Nightlead)

MELBOURNE - Victorian police plan to use work bans to pressure the state government for a pay rise. (Police Vic Nightlead)

MELBOURNE - Fugitive Melbourne drug baron Tony Mokbel will face 20 charges, including 13 announced today, when he returns to Victoria. (Mokbel)

MELBOURNE - The Australian government must prove Sri Lanka's Tamil Tigers are a terrorist group, according to lawyers for two Melbourne men accused of supporting the separatists. (Terror Vic Nightlead, to come)

MELBOURNE - The fiancé of a woman murdered at a Melbourne cemetery discovered her body in "curious circumstances", a jury was told today. (Dupas Nightlead)

MELBOURNE - Three men aged in their 80s have been rescued after their fishing boat began to sink in Victoria's Western Port Bay early this morning. (Boat Lead)

BRISBANE - Three male ABC staffers in Brisbane have been diagnosed with cancer, as colleagues put pressure on the broadcaster to speed up compensation for breast cancer sufferers. (Breast Nightlead (pix available))

BRISBANE - The Queensland government may force sex offenders to wear tracking devices after their release back into the community and immediately return to jail any offenders who breach a supervision order. (Fardon Nightlead)

BRISBANE - Queensland Emergency Services Minister Neil Roberts says overseas-trained paramedics recruited to fill a skills gap will be subject to stringent screening. (Paramedics)

BRISBANE - A clean coal base-load power station could be built in north Queensland by 2012, the state government says. (Coal)

BRISBANE - A man who smuggled more than \$1 million worth of heroin into Australia hidden inside preserved fish has had his jail sentence cut by five years. (Tran)

BRISBANE - Queensland's newly competitive electricity market is confusing consumers, a parliamentary committee has heard. (Electricity)

BRISBANE - Queensland's historic Tree of Knowledge will stand for just two more weeks until it is cut down to prepare for a striking new memorial to the Australian Labor Party. (Tree)

ADELAIDE - South Australian nurses have voted to accept a revised pay offer from the state government. (Nurses SA)

ADELAIDE - Unions have backed South Australian government calls for BHP Billiton to process minerals from its Olympic Dam site in Australia. (BHP Billiton Unions)

ADELAIDE - Caltex Australia has widened a warning on diesel contaminated unleaded petrol to cover all fuel sold on South Australia's Eyre Peninsula. (Fuel)

PERTH - Western Australia says it does not need the federal government's offer of military logistical support to fight child sex abuse in the state's Aboriginal communities. (Indigenous WA Second Nightlead, to come)

## HighLights of the AAP National Wire at 19:00, July 13

PERTH - A Perth man accused of shooting another man repeatedly over a \$100 debt, has been refused bail. (Arthur)

DARWIN - Darwin's lord mayor has been found guilty of using stolen council funds to buy a fridge, underwear and a Darth Vader voice distorter. (Adamson)

**Load-Date:** July 14, 2007

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End of Document

## Highlights of the AAP world wire at 15:00 March 28

AAP Newsfeed

March 28, 2007 Wednesday 3:01 PM AEST

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**Section:** INTERNATIONAL NEWS

**Length:** 1166 words

**Dateline:** BAY, Cuba March 27

### **Body**

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An unremarkable white building at Guantanamo Bay may have played a part in driving David Hicks to plead guilty to supporting terrorists. (HICKS PRISON, AAP Newsfeature, with pix, sent 13:31, 793 words.)  
GUANTANAMO BAY, Cuba, March 27 AP - David Hicks's guilty plea may send him home to Australia to serve his terrorism sentence, but it also short-circuits a full test of the new US military tribunal system, which will have to handle more complicated cases in the future. (HICKS COMMISSIONS (Backgrounder) sent at 12:24, 817 words. See also HICKS CRITICS sent at 08:39, 710 words; HICKS GUANTANAMO sent at 14:10, 837 words.)

#### OTHER TOP INTERNATIONAL STORIES:

WASHINGTON, March 27 AFP - Democrats today hailed as "historic" the passage of a Senate measure tying funding for the Iraq war to a timetable for withdrawing US troops - even as they conceded an uphill fight in getting the measure passed into law. (US IRAQ SENATE Nightlead sent at 13:40, 706 words.)

SAN ANTONIO - Job applicants with missing limbs and severe burns arrived on crutches and in wheelchairs today at a Texas job fair designed to help US veterans rebuild their lives after being severely wounded in Iraq. (IRAQ US WOUNDED, sent 08:03, 540 words.)

MANILA, March 28, AFP - The head of a pre-school centre hijacked a Manila bus and took 32 of his own pupils and two teachers hostage today in a plea for housing and education, Philippines police and parents said.

(PHIL HOSTAGES 4th Lead sent at 13:47, 561 words. Updates, Nightlead to come.)

OSLO, March 28 Reuters - One in 10 people in the world, mostly in Asia, live in coastal areas at risk from rising seas and more powerful storms that may be caused by global warming, an international study shows. (CLIMATE COASTAL sent at 10:12, 456 words.)

CANBERRA, March 28 AAP - The views of Sir Nicholas Stern on the economic threat posed by climate change should not be treated as holy writ, Prime Minister John Howard said today. (CLIMATE STERN HOWARD sent 14:40, 300 words. CLIMATE AUST Nightlead to come.)

LONDON, March 28 AFP - Britain is expected to ramp up pressure on Iran today as Foreign Secretary Margaret Beckett briefs lawmakers on the mounting crisis involving 15 British sailors and marines held by Iran. (IRAN UK Nightlead sent at 13:54, 618 words.)

HARARE, March 28 AP - Zimbabwe's battered but emboldened opposition leader threatened to boycott planned elections next year as church leaders launched an outspoken appeal for democracy in the mounting challenge to the autocratic President Robert Mugabe. (ZIMBABWE Nightlead sent at 14:20, 790 words.)

COLOMBO, March 28 AP - Sri Lanka's government says it's ready to hold peace talks anytime with the Tamil Tigers, following two days of dramatic attacks by the rebels, including their first airstrike and a suicide bombing outside a military camp. (SRILANKA sent at 13:46, 431 words.)



## Highlights of the AAP world wire at 15:00 March 28

PARIS, March 27 AP - Riot police firing tear gas and brandishing batons clashed today with bands of youths who shattered windows and looted shops at a major Paris train station. (FRANCE CLASH Lead sent at 07:53, 572 words.)

JAKARTA, March 28 AP - Indonesia announced it would resume sending bird flu virus specimens to the World Health Organisation (WHO) immediately, ending a four-month standoff health officials feared could potentially put the entire world at risk. (FLU INDON WHO Nightlead sent at 13:58, 478 words.)

JAKARTA, March 28 AP - Three Indonesians died of bird flu, the health minister confirmed today, raising the country's death toll to 69. (FLU INDON, sent 13:18, 151 words.)

CANBERRA - Singapore would hit rock bottom if it was run by Australians, former Singapore prime minister Lee Kuan Yew said today. (LEE AUST, sent 12:39, 238 words. Nightlead to come.)

BANGKOK, March 28, AFP - Thailand's junta chief General Sonthi Boonyaratglin said today that he has asked the government to declare emergency rule in Bangkok to crack down on anti-coup protesters. (THAI POLITICS sent at 13:00, 351 words.)

LONDON - A shouting protester interrupted a service to mark the 200th anniversary of Britain's abolition of the slave trade, attended by Queen Elizabeth II and Prime Minister Tony Blair. (UK SLAVERY Lead, sent 22:43, 328 words.)

MOSCOW, March 27 AP - Russia's foreign ministry has sharply criticised the United States for what it calls over-reliance on force and warned Washington against military action against Iran. (RUSSIA US sent at 10:53, 631 words.)

SEOUL, March 28 Reuters - North Korea's nuclear test last October was a failure and gives no credence to Pyongyang's claim to being a nuclear weapons state, US CIA Director Michael Hayden has been quoted as saying. (NUCLEAR KOREA CIA sent at 11:25, 214 words.)

BEIJING, March 28 Reuters - China and Russia will mount a joint effort to explore Mars and one of its moons in 2009, Chinese state media reported today. (CHINA SPACE sent at 12:21, 297 words.)

TOKYO - Greenpeace's anti-whaling ship Esperanza has been "effectively banned" from docking in Tokyo, a spokeswoman for the environmental group said today, less than a day before it hoped to bring its campaign to Japan. (WHALING JAPAN Lead, sent 05:27, 606 words.)

TORONTO, Canada, March 27 AP - Canada will soon decide whether part of its controversial annual seal hunt can take place this year in the southern Gulf of St Lawrence, a government official said today. (CANADA SEALS sent at 09:48, 489 words.)

WASHINGTON - US women who eat a lot of beef while pregnant give birth to sons who grow up to have low sperm counts, new research suggests. (MED SPERM, sent 09:18, 601 words.)

SYDNEY, March 28 AAP - Claims that a mother's beef consumption can damage her son's sperm count and quality should not cause alarm in Australia, experts say. (SPERM, sent 10:45, 330 words.)

LOS ANGELES - Rights to O.J. Simpson's aborted book "If I Did It" would be auctioned on April 17, putting his quasi-confessional tome one step closer to finally being published, authorities say. (US SIMPSON, sent 09:05, 358 words.)

LONDON - Naturalist Charles Darwin delayed publishing his theory of evolution for 20 years because he was busy - not because he feared the reaction, according to new research. (UK DARWIN, sent 11:57, 157 words.)

HAVANA, March 27 Reuters - Cuban musician Faustino Oramas, adored for his saucy ballads and one of the last remaining stars behind the acclaimed Buena Vista Social Club compact disc, died on Tuesday aged 95, Cuban state radio said. (CUBA ORAMAS Nightlead sent at 13:14, 374 words.)

BEIJING, March 28 Reuters - The world's tallest man, whose search for a bride covered the world, ended up marrying a woman about half his age and half his height from his home town, Chinese media reported today. (CHINA TALLEST, sent 13:21, 193 words.)

LONDON - Cash-rich Australian property funds invested around \$US6 billion (\$A7.42 billion) in Europe last year, more than half of it in Germany and a 350 per cent jump on 2005, global property services firm Jones Lang LaSalle (JLL) said today. (US PROPERTY AUST, sent 05:11, 177 words.)

**Load-Date:** March 28, 2007

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## **More than 4,300 killed in Sri Lanka's worst-ever disaster**

Agence France Presse -- English

December 26, 2004 Sunday 10:13 PM GMT

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**Length:** 713 words

**Dateline:** COLOMBO Dec 27

### **Body**

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At least 4,300 people, mostly children and the elderly, were killed and hundreds were missing after giant tidal waves caused the worst ever disaster in Sri Lanka, prompting appeals for international help.

Sri Lanka's President Chandrika Kumaratunga cut short her holiday in London and was headed home after declaring a state of disaster to deal with the unprecedented calamity that shocked this nation of 19 million people.

The rebel Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (**LTTE**) said they recovered the bodies of at least 800 people killed in the disaster in the coastal region of Wanni where they have their main military bases.

"This is the first time Tamil people in our areas have witnessed such a large scale disaster," Tiger political wing leader S.P. Thamilselvan told the pro-rebel Tamilnet Website. The Tigers made an appeal for international assistance.

Outside the rebel-held regions, the top relief official Lalith Weeratunga said another 3,500 people had died raising the official death toll to 4,300.

"The reports we have confirm that 3,500 people have been killed outside the northern regions where the Tigers are in control," Weeratunga told AFP. "We also estimate that about a million people have been affected."

He said about 250,000 people were believed to have lost their homes and appealed for urgent foreign aid to deal with the destruction.

"We had no mechanism to deal with this type of disaster," Weeratunga said. "We are getting systems in place now to distribute relief."

Hundreds of foreign holiday makers at beach resorts were evacuated to the capital ahead of flights back home, tourist industry officials said, adding that several tourists had died, but there were no immediate details of their nationalities.

Tourists who survived the tidal waves -- or tsunamis -- said walls of water slammed into their hotels and they were lucky to escape. Most had lost their baggage and travel documents.

## More than 4,300 killed in Sri Lanka 's worst-ever disaster

An entire train was flooded, while buses and cars floated along the main Galle Road hugging the coastline from the capital to the south of the island. Officials said restoring rail transport could take months.

Bodies of men, women and children were seen on tree tops after the waters receded, while many more floated in sea, some strewn with the debris from homes and business premises along the coast.

Police clamped local curfews in most areas to prevent looting.

Inspector-General Chandra Fernando said reinforcements were rushed to the southern and eastern regions to clear the roads and expedite the release of bodies of victims piling up in hospitals.

"This is a gigantic task for us," Fernando told AFP. "We have never had to deal with such a tragedy. Our main task is to clear the roads so that relief supplies can get through."

"We need to ensure that relatives are able to get the bodies of their loved ones to conduct funerals. We are engaged in that process right now. The release of bodies to families has begun."

The tsunamis were triggered by a huge earthquake off northeast Indonesia, several thousand kilometres (miles) from Sri Lanka. Giant waves also slammed into Thailand, Myanmar, southern India, Malaysia and the Maldives.

The Sri Lankan army, navy and air force were called out to help. Officials said combat aircraft were being deployed to air drop bottled drinking water and food to marooned residents.

At least 300 prisoners in Matara fled from a high-security jail as inmates took advantage of the disaster, police said.

Hundreds of villages and towns along the island's coast were battered by the high waves with many houses completely destroyed, police said. Tourist resorts along the coast said they were badly hit with almost all of them flooded.

"The destruction is widespread along the coast and we fear for many people who were along the beach at the time," Prime Minister Rajapakse told AFP.

The tidal waves were caused by a massive earthquake west of the Indonesian island of Sumatra that registered 8.9 on the Richter scale. It was the fifth-strongest temblor since the beginning of the 20th century.

The main Colombo harbour was affected, with at least one ship listing after the huge waves, a port official said. The tidal waves eased as they reached the capital, but five people were killed when low-lying areas were flooded.

aj/jds/ejl/nj/da

**Load-Date:** December 27, 2004

## **ATTACK ON LONDON: THE IRAQ FACTOR - SO WHERE, THEN, IS THE BACKLASH? WHO WILL SPEAK UP FOR MR KENNEDY?**

Independent on Sunday (London)

July 17, 2005, Sunday

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**Section:** First Edition; COMMENT; Pg. 26

**Length:** 1094 words

**Byline:** JOHN RENTOUL

### **Body**

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Something strange has happened since the London bombs went off. After the physical dust settles, it takes a while for the psychological dust to come to rest. I thought briefly that the bombs might be the end of Tony Blair. It was so obvious that there was some kind of link between his decision to join the invasion of Iraq and the carnage on the Tubes and bus that a simplistic, misguided but irresistible backlash seemed all too possible. One Cabinet minister expressed his relief last week that the reaction had not been as bad as he feared. Another minister could even have been described as gloating when Charles Kennedy's clumsy attempt to acknowledge the link so patently struck a wrong note.

The reason the Liberal Democrat leader's speech last week was received so badly was not just a matter of taste. What surprised me was that so many of those who opposed the war shied away from the crude allocation of blame. For so long Blair has been blamed for everything, from global warming to fat children. Yet suddenly, when something struck close to home, there was an instinctive realisation that the causes of terrible deeds are a bit complicated.

The more we know about the ideology that seems to have motivated the bombers, the more we realise that 'Iraq' has been stripped of anything that might resemble a legitimate grievance and been twisted to fit an unreal story. Many opponents of the war accept that Blair and possibly even George Bush went into Iraq with the sincere intention of bringing freedom and democracy, but say that they were foolish or negligent in thinking that it would work. Very few readers of The Independent on Sunday think that the US and the UK invaded Iraq in order to humiliate and oppress Muslims. Yet that is what the followers of Osama bin Laden teach.

What is most enraging about President Bush's conduct of the so-called war on terror is his apparent determination to feed the jihadists' mythology. The report last week that the President overruled legal advisers to the US armed forces to allow 'aggressive' interrogation techniques in Guantanamo Bay confirms that it was policy to insult the religion of detainees.

Yet, despite all the efforts of Bush and Donald Rumsfeld to mess it up, I still think that getting rid of Saddam Hussein was justified. It may be that joining the Iraq war has made Britain more of a target for jihadists than it would otherwise be. But where does that argument take us? To pulling out of Iraq, when most Iraqis, however reluctantly, want us to stay, fearing greater bloodshed if we go? To pulling out of Afghanistan? To deciding that we were wrong to have helped create the state of Israel and denying its right to exist? To ending the idea of equal rights for women? There is no point in starting down the road of appeasement.

## ATTACK ON LONDON: THE IRAQ FACTOR - SO WHERE, THEN, IS THE BACKLASH? WHO WILL SPEAK UP FOR MR KENNEDY?

It is worth noting that one of the phases of British history that fascinates the Prime Minister is that of appeasement in the 1930s. After reading Martin Gilbert's study, *Descent into Barbarism*, last year he asked people in tones of disbelief: did you know that Neville Chamberlain considered a symbolic act of disarmament in order to convince Hitler of our good faith?

There is more, though, to the feebleness of the backlash against Blair than a vague understanding that simply pulling out of Iraq would be no guarantee of being left in peace. There is also the realisation that the Prime Minister was right about the threat. The war might have made it worse, but the threat was real. All those arguments about control orders that raged earlier this year seem to belong to another age. As we catch a glimpse, in the bright lights of hindsight, of the networks of closed terrorist cells of which the security services had only partial knowledge, the idea of special powers beyond the normal standards of proof no longer seems outlandish. Those voices that accused Blair of exaggerating the threat " the equal and opposite of those who accused him of 'provoking' the terrorists " have fallen suddenly silent.

This goes beyond the sudden tripartism of tomorrow's meeting between the Home Secretary and his Conservative and Liberal Democrat opposite numbers. It goes back to Blair's motives for joining the Iraq war in the first place. The struggle against al-Qa'ida is 'a new type of war', as he said in Sedgefield in March last year. 'It forces us to act even when so many comforts seem unaffected, and the threat so far off, if not illusory.' Now, the criticism is not that the threat was illusory, but that we could have tried to make sure that it didn't come here.

That is the implication of what Clare Short and John McDonnell said yesterday. There may yet be more of a backlash against Blair than that, especially if the shadow of terrorism falls longer over his third term. But even the argument of the Usual Suspects deserves to be answered. And the answer is to try to understand the nature of the threat, as Blair sought to do in his speech yesterday. The more we try, the more obvious it is that the jihadist ideology did not spring up in response to the Iraq war. It is well established across the Middle East and has long had filaments spreading throughout most of the rest of the world, including here.

The London bombings were not a one-off; the bombers were not isolated, maladjusted individuals. They were psychologically unusual people motivated by a cult-like belief system. No comparison is exact, but they were like the Red Army Faction, animated by what Blair might call a perverted form of Marxism. Or like Timothy McVeigh, animated by anti-government survivalism. Or like the Tamil Tigers, who also use suicide, in what might otherwise be a 'conventional' war of national separatism.

The London bombers drew on a similarly potent source. The Pew Global Attitudes survey published last week made sober reading. In Jordan, 57 per cent of the population, many of them Palestinians, say suicide bombings are 'sometimes' justified. In Pakistan, 51 per cent have confidence in Osama bin Laden to 'do the right thing regarding world affairs'.

It is neither tasteful nor accurate to say that the London bombs have revived Blair's fortunes. But he deserves credit for having understood, within moments of the planes hitting the towers in New York, the nature of the threat we faced. Whether or not one thinks his policy on Iraq made it worse or might, in the end, help to reduce it, he took the threat seriously. The failure of an 'Iraq backlash' to materialise suggests that most people think that is what their Prime Minister is supposed to do.

**Load-Date:** July 17, 2005

**UN: Launch of Human rights council represents historic opportunity to promote, protect fundamental freedoms, third committee told; Delegates warn against exploitation of human rights principles for political ends; page 3 of 3**

M2 Presswire

October 30, 2006

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**Length:** 2829 words

## **Body**

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M2 PRESSWIRE-OCTOBER 30, 2006-UN: Launch of Human rights council represents historic opportunity to promote, protect fundamental freedoms, third committee told; Delegates warn against exploitation of human rights principles for political ends; page 3 of 3 ©1994-2006 M2 COMMUNICATIONS LTD

ANDREAS D. MAVROYIANNIS (Cyprus) said he hoped that the Human Rights Council would avoid the deficiencies of the Commission that had preceded it and effectively contribute to improving the implementation and promotion of respect for human rights worldwide. Regarding his own country, he said that the ongoing occupation of 37 per cent of Cyprus's territory after the Turkish invasion of 1974 had denied the fundamental human rights of refugees, relatives of missing persons and enclaved persons. The religious and cultural heritage in the occupied part of Cyprus, attacks on the freedom of the press and other violations directed at Greek and Turkish Cypriots also came together to make a rather gloomy picture.

It was particularly disturbing when an occupying Power not only denied refugees their right to return to refugees, but exploited their property by offering it for sale to foreigners, impeding the settlement of the conflict. Related to that issue was the implantation of settlers, which was a violation of the Geneva Conventions. There could be no effective remedy to persistent violations of human rights in Cyprus without an end to the forcible division of the island along ethnic lines, contrary to its multi-ethnic character and the will of the Cypriot people. Treating human rights as a trade-off for the achievement of other goals would dramatically undermine any problem-solving strategy.

ALEXANDRA PAPADOPOULOU (Greece) said the invasion and occupation of the northern part of Cyprus by Turkey constituted a flagrant violation of international law and the fundamental freedoms and rights of the people of Cyprus. One third of the population had been displaced and denied the right to return and to the enjoyment of their properties.

Living conditions for enclaved persons in the occupied areas remained a major concern for Greece and in particular the human rights situation of persons of Greek-Cypriot origin.

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The issue of missing persons remained of primary importance to their relatives and to the Greek and Cypriot Governments, she said. Regarding displaced persons, Turkey had yet to fully implement its commitments as set out by the European Court of Human Rights. There had been a systematic destruction of cultural heritage, with more than 500 churches in ruins.

Prospects for a negotiated settlement had been hampered by the presence of more than 40,000 Turkish troops illegally stationed in Cyprus. Respect for human rights and the rule of law had to be an integral part of any comprehensive, functional and sustainable solution to the Cyprus problem.

PRASAD KARIYAWASAM (Sri Lanka) sought to address some concerns expressed by the Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions and the European Union, and to brief the Committee on recent developments in his country.

The recent escalation of violence in Sri Lanka was a result of the resumption of hostilities by the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), including assassinations, suicide bombings, attacks on civilian targets and critical infrastructure, including water supplies, he said. The Government, after exhausting all other peaceful options, had been constrained to take limited and targeted military action against the LTTE. However, the Government remained committed to continuing the peace process and was pleased that peace talks with the LTTE were due to resume in Switzerland tomorrow, 28 October.

Regarding allegations of extrajudicial executions, disappearances and other reported violations of the right to life, the Government had established a National Commission of Inquiry and had invited an international independent group of eminent persons to observe its work, provide technical or other advice and submit independent reports directly to the President. Criminal proceedings would be instituted against a particular person or group of persons upon the recommendation of the Commission. He also highlighted a number of measures taken by the Government to ensure access for humanitarian aid, including work with United Nations agencies to transport essential items to the Jaffna Peninsula.

Noting his Government's active engagement with the United Nations, he said that the Government had invited the Special Rapporteur on torture and the Special Rapporteur on freedom of expression to undertake missions. In November, the Special Adviser of the Special Representative for children and armed conflict would visit Sri Lanka.

LUCA DALL'OGGIO, Permanent Observer of the International Organization for Migration (IOM), said that the positive contributions of migrants to their countries of origin and destination could be fully realized when their human rights were recognized and safeguarded. Although 3 per cent of the world's population lived outside their country of birth, many migrants had remained invisible, with the enjoyment of their rights severely limited. Some migrants, usually skilled workers, had enjoyed a well-managed migration process and, therefore, faced few if any problems; on the other hand, unskilled workers -- who formed the majority of migrants -- had been more vulnerable to rights violations.

For the most vulnerable migrants, reality had entailed physical and psychological abuse, degrading treatment and working conditions, and unreported deaths and disappearances, he said. That was perhaps no more evident than in the case of trafficking victims and equally among irregular migrants and those with tenuous legal status. Addressing the human rights aspects of migration was not easy, but breaking the vicious cycle in which fear of detention and deportation prevented irregular migrants from reporting abuses -- abuses which, in turn, strengthened the hand of traffickers, smugglers and abusive employers -- was at the heart of an effective rights protection. The same resolve shown by Governments in combating trafficking was needed to ensure that migration took place with safety and dignity.

TOSHIHIKO MURATA, Executive Officer of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) Liaison Office with the United Nations, welcomed the adoption of the voluntary guidelines on the right to food by the General Assembly in March. The guidelines were an extremely valuable instrument in assisting countries in the progressive realization of the right to adequate food. The FAO had established a right to food unit in the Department of Economic and Social

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Affairs and was focusing on five areas of action to promote that right: advocacy and training, information and assessment, legislation and accountability, strategy and coordination, and benchmarks and monitoring.

He drew attention to innovative institutional mechanisms established by Brazil, Sierra Leone and Mozambique to implement the right to food. In Brazil, for example, a National Rapporteur on Food, Water and Rural Land monitored the right to food situation and participated in a broad-based Food Security Council, which advised the President directly on policies. The FAO looked forward to sharing lessons learned regarding implementation of the right to food and the voluntary guidelines in different countries that could be used to inspire others. It was well known what it took to establish food security, he said. The problem was that the hungry were also politically powerless and not heard in the planning, implementation and monitoring of programmes and policies. A human rights-based approach to food security could empower rights holders to claim their human rights.

#### Statements in Right of Reply

Speaking in exercise of the right of reply, the representative of Sudan said the situation in Darfur continued to improve thanks to a peace agreement signed in May under the auspices of the African Union. The statements made by the two delegations on Darfur did not serve to bolster security or improve understanding. The United States was known as a large country and it was also large in terms of its violations of human rights. The record in Guantanamo spoke for itself, not to mention secret prisons and discrimination against different nationalities within the United States, he said. Meanwhile, Australia could not talk about human rights when it had committed horrible violations of the rights of indigenous people and when its society was marked by xenophobia and animosity towards Islam. The Sudan did not need lessons from States who should focus on remedying their own shameful human rights records, he said, recalling an expression in his country that the "carpenter's door was splintered".

The representative of Zimbabwe also responded to the separate statements made by the United States and Australian delegations. He said that the statement by the United States, a renowned global violator of human rights, had been made in a desperate bid to divert attention from itself. He repeated that the incident to which the two delegations had referred in Zimbabwe were currently before the courts and that there was full respect for due process in his country. The United States and Australia proceeded from the premise that anything done by them was right and they did not apply to themselves the same standards they applied to others. He had read about anti-war protestors being beaten up in New York and in other places across the United States. The Bush administration had trampled on the rights of citizens under the auspices of counter-terrorism efforts. Unlike the world's biggest exporter of torture, Zimbabwe did not maintain secret torture camps. Australia meanwhile continued to trample on the rights of indigenous people. The cause of human rights would be better served if the United States and Australia and other like-minded delegations stopped their posturing, he said.

The representative of the Russian Federation said he wanted to clarify the situation regarding Russian legislation regarding non-governmental organizations, a matter referred to in the statement of the United States. Implementation of that law was being reviewed by civil society, the national congress and by international non-governmental organizations. Experts from the Council of Europe had visited Moscow recently to examine the issue and were fully satisfied. Already, 99 non-governmental organizations operating in the Russian Federation had successfully registered and another 96 had submitted documentation. More than half of the registered organizations were American, including some well known ones such as the Ford Foundation and the Chamber of Commerce. Any non-governmental organization with a clear conscience would not have any problem with the procedure required, he said.

The re-registration of Russian and foreign non-governmental organizations was being carried out in an open and free atmosphere comparable to practices in the majority of democratic countries and did not fall below international standards, he said.

Also responding to the statement made by the United States, the representative of Venezuela said it was difficult to regard the United States as a proper interlocutor on the issue of human rights as that country was a paramount violator of human rights. One had only to think of the brutality and torture at Abu Ghraib and sophisticated torture



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methods used in Guantanamo. Venezuela's Constitution was clear and its laws were the result of genuine participatory democracy. The bill on non-governmental organizations in Venezuela referred to earlier today encouraged participation by civil society.

The Supreme Court of Venezuela had said non-governmental organizations represented national interests and should not be used by foreigners for other purposes. The National Endowment for Democracy and European foundations had participated in activities designed to destabilize the situation in Venezuela. He recalled that there were several outstanding extradition requests for Venezuelans living in the United States who were suspected of involvement in terrorist acts.

It seemed that the United States believed that there were good terrorists and bad terrorists.

The representative of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea referred to what he called the hypocrisy of the United States and Australia, which had pointed accusing fingers at other countries while pretending to be judges of human rights. Those two countries had invaded other countries and killed civilians, including women and children. It was to avert such a possibility that the Democratic People's Republic of Korea had built up its national defences, including nuclear deterrents. The United States and Australia should address their own affairs before accusing others.

The representative of Iran said no one could be indifferent to the situation of human rights in any part of the world. Human rights were a collective responsibility, but they were not something new or invented by anybody. All human beings had inherited fundamental rights and freedoms. In reply to the representatives of the United States and Australia, he said that his Government had always accorded priority to the protection and promotion of human rights and fundamental freedoms.

The representative of China said the representative of the United States had launched an unwarranted attack on his country and others in connection with human rights and that had been regrettable. Progress in China's human rights situation was there for all to see. It was puzzling and disappointing that the United States delegation had been silent on its own serious human rights problems. In the name of anti-terrorism, the United States had tightened its Internet controls, thus violating the privacy of its citizens, and it had impeded anti-war demonstrations. The life of Muslims in the United States had become more difficult after the September 11 attacks and the rights of indigenous peoples had been systematically violated. In addition, the United States had detained prisoners of war endlessly. In Iraq, Afghanistan and elsewhere, the United States Army had killed innocent people and violated the most fundamental human rights, including the right to life. The United States also refused verification by United Nations agencies and special mechanisms, thus invoking strong condemnation from the international community.

China hoped that the United States would not become a giant in words and a coward in deeds, he said. The United States was advised to stop its unsubstantiated allegations; otherwise, to quote a Chinese saying, it would smash its own feet with its own stones. The statement of its representative had strongly poisoned the atmosphere in the Committee and provoked confrontation on human rights, but it was still hoped that the United States would follow the principle of dialogue and cooperation governing the work of the Human Rights Council.

Otherwise it would be strongly condemned by the international community.

The representative of Turkey said he did not deem it necessary to respond to the representative of Cyprus, but he would respond to the representative of Greece whose statement had been full of accusations and distortions, which had neglected 11 years of suffering by Turkish Cypriots prior to 1974 as well as the ethnic cleansing plans of the Greek Cypriot leadership at the time. Prior to 1974, the United Nations had tried without success to resolve the problem and there were no Turkish troops on the island then. Turkey had intervened as a guarantor Power, after a coup in Cyprus in 1974 at the time of the military regime in Greece, to save Turkish Cypriots from total annihilation. Human rights violations against Turkish Cypriots continued to the present; property had been confiscated, Turkish properties and cultural heritage had suffered, and Turkish Cypriots in Limnosol had been denied education in their own language. It was hoped that those remarks would refresh the memories of the Greek and Cypriot colleagues.

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Turkey would maintain its positive stance, but if there was to be a solution, others had to follow the same constructive stance.

The representative of Cyprus, responding to the Turkish representative's response, said it was regrettable that, for another year, he had diverted attention away from the essence of the problem. If the division of the island of Cyprus persisted, it was because the Turkish Army still occupied a significant part of the country and sustained an illegal secessionist entity. All Turkey had to do was to withdraw and let Greek and Turkish Cypriots live together harmoniously.

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## *Ghosts draw tsunami survivors home*

The International Herald Tribune

March 7, 2005 Monday

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**Section:** NEWS; Pg. 1

**Length:** 1132 words

**Byline:** Amy Waldman

**Dateline:** NAVALADY, Sri Lanka:

### **Body**

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This village had been the loveliest place to live, sitting on a narrow sandbar that extended into the Indian Ocean. One side had been a resort-caliber beach; the other, a lagoon that had separated the village from the nearby town. Palm trees dripping with coconuts had provided shade.

But beauty was not why Santosh Chinnathambi Selvam decided to return. It was the idea of community that lured him, even though about one-third of his community was dead.

The New York Times

This village was one of thousands affected by the Dec. 26 earthquake and tsunamis, which killed nearly 180,000 people in Asia and Africa.

Navalady was luckier than some, but harder hit than most. Of about 1,900 inhabitants, at least 620 had died, the government said. The school in Navalady once had 365 students; only 178 are left. "I am the balance" meaning that one was the only survivor in a family had become a common self-description.

Most houses were gone, reduced either to piles of bricks or to their foundations. The only sounds were the wind, the waves, the birds and the dogs. A few men wandered through the village like ghosts, or perhaps in search of them.

Selvam, 41, was among them. The charismatic, mammoth man with the flowing black beard called himself a bodybuilder. He could eat 10 1/2 loaves of bread at one sitting. He could hoist 150 kilograms, or 330 pounds, of cement. He could lift a woman with his leg. But when the tsunami came, with all his strength, he could not save his wife or four sons.

He said this while standing in front his house, which looked like a chainsaw had neatly sliced it into geometric pieces.

Selvam recited his boys' names, oldest to youngest, like a descending scale: Shankar Das, 12. Sadishwaran, 10. The younger the son, the harder the name was for Selvam to say. At the name of Tara Singh, 6, he began to choke up. By the time he reached King Kong, a 4-year-old who was already trying to lift weights like his father, he was crying.

## Ghosts draw tsunami survivors home

He had returned to bury what little he had left for safekeeping, which seemed to suggest a certain resistance to fate. But as he watched looters "outsiders," he called them picking over the bones of his village in the distance, he professed indifference.

"My family's not here," he said to no one in particular. "Anything you want, you can take."

Most of the 490 families who lived in the village before the tsunamis were related in one way or another, united by blood and a shared history. If he got sick among strangers, Selvam asked, who would care for him?

Placeless people can find themselves nostalgic, even for homes linked with horror. Perhaps that was why Navalady's residents, all of whom had decamped in a school in the nearby town of Batticaloa, wavered between vowing that they would never return and saying that they would if everyone else did.

Selvam had made up his mind: There was no place like home, even if home no longer existed. If someone would clean the wells and provide tents, Selvam said, he could do the hard part: persuade grief-stricken neighbors like Sellamanikkan Manokaran, 43, who had lost four of his five children and vowed never to return, to change his mind.

But even Selvam's simple wishes seemed unlikely to be fulfilled. More than a month after the tsunamis struck, not an ounce of debris had been cleared from the site, except by thieves. The road to the village, washed out in the disaster, had not been repaired.

That inaction seemed to be a symbol of widespread neglect in a region that has always been an unwanted stepchild for the southern-oriented government and the northern-dominated rebel group, the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam. The area is dominated by Tamils, who constitute a minority in Sri Lanka.

The villagers of Navalady sensed there would be no one group to champion their cause.

At the refugee camp, rich and poor quickly segregated themselves. Paddle-boat owners took certain rooms, big-boat owners took others.

The rich tended to have rich relatives. So, even though all of the villagers had arrived with nothing but the clothes on their backs, the rich soon had more once again. The poor were left to rely on supplies from the Tamils Rehabilitation Organization, the aid group closely linked to the Tamil Tigers.

Maheshwaran Nageshwari, 44, was among the poorer class. Seven families were sharing the classroom she called home.

Inside, she and Ravindran Sivakulundu, 43, sat together looking like husband and wife. It was an illusion: He had lost his wife and four children, age 6 to 18; she had lost her husband and 25-year-old son. Once neighbors, they now seemed an awkward match, each reckoning with an uncertain future.

Though the men had never gone so long in their adult lives without going to sea, there was still apprehension about going back. Sivakulundu feared the ocean and did not want to return to it. Perhaps he would do river or lagoon fishing, he said.

Like many mothers, Nageshwari wanted to withhold her surviving son from a ravenous sea. She would send him abroad, she said. Fishing was all he knew, but she did not want him fishing in Sri Lanka.

Time moved slowly for the refugees and tempers were fraying. A fight broke out over whether people were secretly taking supplies from the storeroom and selling them. It became harder to find anyone to cook at all. The common spaces were becoming dirtier.

The force that swept away houses worked the same sort of obliteration on families, taking mostly women and children. The men left behind seemed as lost as children without parents.

## Ghosts draw tsunami survivors home

Selvam, the bodybuilder, said some relief money had been handed out: 1,000 Sri Lankan rupees, or about \$10, for families, and half that for bachelors. He had been given the amount allotted for bachelors. He was now a bachelor, he repeated incredulously.

Hindus believe that the present owes a debt to the past, and that the future owes a debt to the present. It is important to preserve that line by honoring the past before moving forward. It means that the living must satisfy the dead before they can have peace themselves.

In accordance with custom, 30 days after the tsunamis, the people of Navalady returned to their village, which had become a burial ground, to cook a feast for their relatives who had died.

Pillyar Kannamuttu had six lost loved ones at his feast, including a 2-year-old granddaughter and his 54-year-old wife. The table was the foundation of a house he had given as a dowry for his youngest daughter, Uday Lakshmi. Both dowry and daughter were gone.

He had said that he never wanted to return to Navalady. Yet, he was there at midday, strolling with his family through the ruins. Home, even a ravaged one, had an inexorable pull.

"Once the atmosphere of fear is removed, the houses are rebuilt, and the tsunami becomes the past, we can come and live here," he said.

**Load-Date:** March 7, 2005

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End of Document

**Extremists aim to shoot the film messenger: Dedication to truth drives filmmakers to expose injustice**

The Vancouver Sun (British Columbia)

November 22, 2005 Tuesday

Final Edition

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**Section:** ARTS & LIFE; Pg. C1

**Length:** 1113 words

**Byline:** Katherine Monk, CanWest News Service

## **Body**

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It's usually filmmakers who do the shooting, but an increasing number of filmmakers are getting shot at -- calling into question the security of the fourth estate and its truth-seeking siblings in the independent, and documentary film communities.

The murder of Dutch filmmaker Theo van Gogh may be the most extreme example of the harm that can befall a filmmaker. But Canadian directors including Deepa Mehta, Velcrow Ripper and Helene Klodowsky have all faced potential risks to themselves and to their subjects while trying to secure footage and expose a hidden truth.

Is it worth the cost? Absolutely, says Klodowsky. The director of the new documentary No More Tears Sister says she felt morally compelled to tell the story of murdered Sri Lankan human rights activist Dr. Rajani Thiranagama, because without telling her story, the purpose and meaning of her life -- and her death -- would be lost.

"People are afraid to speak out about human rights issues -- not just in Sri Lanka, but most places in the world. Rajani was killed 15 years ago and until now, not too many people knew about her and what she accomplished in the name of human rights."

A middle-class doctor with several sisters, Rajani was born a Christian Tamil in 1954, shortly after Ceylon declared autonomy from Britain. While a medical student in Colombo, she found herself politicized by the growing ethnic tensions between the Tamils and Sinhalese, and began to lead student protests. She even married across racial lines by tying the knot with a Sinhalese revolutionary leader.

In 1982, Rajani's sister Nirmala was arrested as a Tamil militant. Rajani moved to London to do post-graduate work in anatomy, as well as launch an international publicity campaign to raise awareness of human-rights violations in Sri Lanka. She took her family, including her two daughters back to Sri Lanka in 1986 to take on a teaching position at the University of Jaffna.

She rebuilt the shattered school, fought for the release of political prisoners and students, and helped establish the Poorani **Women's** Centre for Victims of War. The more she saw the results of war, and the division within the ranks of the Tamils, she began to lose faith in the guerrillas tactics and distanced herself from her onetime allies in the **Tamil Tigers**.

Extremists aim to shoot the film messenger: Dedication to truth drives filmmakers to expose injustice

In 1989, she was assassinated. Since then, her family had remained silent about her death, and her life story, because the risks were too great -- and Rajani's family was still young.

Yet when Klodawsky approached her sister Nirmala -- who escaped from prison in 1984 with the help of the Tigers - about participating in a film, Nirmala agreed despite the risks to her personal safety.

"Nirmala took a huge risk to speak out. So did the rest of the family, but they dared to participate in the film because they saw the importance of Rajani's story, and what it could mean to people elsewhere," says Klodawsky from her Montreal office.

Klodawsky faced her own doubts about exploiting her subjects, and ensured she had a trustworthy crew and safe locations before moving ahead.

"I'm the daughter of a Holocaust survivor. My mother was in Auschwitz... I know the importance of recording historical fact and human stories for the record. Without putting these events down, in some form, we lose so much of ourselves," she says.

"I've always been interested in telling the stories of people on the margins, and this film really started as a movie about women and war. The National Film Board gave me a blank page to work with. I had been reading interesting work from Sri Lankan feminists because I was interested in ethnic nationalism, and when I learned about Rajani's story, it had all the elements I was looking for because it could apply to so many other situations, so many other stories," Klodawsky says.

"Rajani died for her beliefs. Though that's not especially hopeful, her story proves how one person can make a huge difference, and that is hopeful. That's why it's important for people to know."

The fact Klodawsky is Canadian is significant, she says, because it somehow gave her the safety zone required to make the movie happen.

"I read a piece in the Hindu Times that said it could only have been a Canadian who made this movie because everyone in Sri Lanka would be too intimidated by it. There's no way a Tamil could have made it."

Klodawsky says she would never knowingly put herself or her subjects directly in harm's way. "I value life too much," she says. "From everything I had learned, I understood Westerners were not targets in Sri Lanka."

But these days the risks to filmmakers are hard to assess. Not even Theo van Gogh felt he was under serious threat while making his controversial film *Submission*, which chronicled the debasement and abuse of women among certain members of the Islamic faith.

When interviewed by Reuters shortly after van Gogh's death in November 2004, a colleague said he had received several death threats -- "but he never took them quite seriously."

The safety of journalists and filmmakers is no longer assured. Once upon a time, having a press badge and a camera offered a sense of security. Now in some parts of the world it makes you a target. Algeria witnessed the murder of close to 40 journalists in the mid-'90s. An exodus of nearly 400 more media personnel followed.

Canadians used to consider themselves safe, too, but the suspicious death of Zahra Kazemi in Iran in 2003 proved a Canadian passport and a maple leaf pin were no longer the diplomatic equivalent of bulletproof Kevlar.

Even narrative filmmaker Toronto-based Deepa Mehta has received death threats. While shooting *Water* in India a few years ago, she and her crew were threatened and watched sets burn. The threats were so serious she was forced to scrub the shoot for years. When she decided it was time to make another run at the story of Indian widows, she headed to Sri Lanka and stayed under the radar.

Extremists aim to shoot the film messenger: Dedication to truth drives filmmakers to expose injustice

While shooting his documentary *Scared Sacred*, Vancouver-based filmmaker Velcrow Ripper felt his life was threatened in the Middle East. While filming in Israel and Palestine, he says he "was shot at twice, and they threw a concussion grenade."

Other filmmakers, including Nettie Wild, Avi Lewis and Naomi Klein have faced similar fears in creating their work. But they also recognized the importance of telling the story, and finally capturing a compelling truth, is what makes a filmmaker get up in the morning.

But that assumes there's going to be a tomorrow, and increasingly, for many filmmakers around the world that's a risky assumption to make.

*No More Tears Sister* premieres on the Documentary Channel Nov. 23, and repeats on Dec. 2. Check local listings for show times.

## Graphic

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Colour Photo: Sharika Thiranagama portrays her mother Rajani in the film *No More Tears Sister*, directed by Montrealer Helene Klodawsky.;

Photo: Sisters Rajani and Nirmala Thiranagama portrayed as youths in the film *No More Tears Sister*.;

Photo: Filmmaker Deepa Mehta

**Load-Date:** November 22, 2005



**World News IN BRIEF: Jets target Tigers after suicide attack**

The Independent (London)

April 26, 2006 Wednesday

Final Edition

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**The  INDEPENDENT**

**Section:** NEWS; Pg. 33

**Length:** 51 words

## **Body**

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COLOMBO Sri Lankan military jets launched air strikes against areas held by the **Tamil Tigers** after a **female** suicide bomber tried to kill the country's senior military general. The **female** bomber killed eight people and injured 27 others, including Lt-Gen Sarath Fonseka, at the military headquarters in Colombo.

**Load-Date:** April 26, 2006

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End of Document

## *Talking about her revolution*

The Times (London)

June 17, 2005, Friday

Copyright 2005 Times Newspapers Limited

**Section:** Features; Times2; 12

**Length:** 1088 words

**Byline:** Peter Shapiro

### **Body**

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M.I.A.'s hip-hop is an eclectic mix of sex and politics, discovers Peter Shapiro

RAP music's reputation is such that it would be entirely ordinary to read about a hip-hop artist dodging a hail of bullets at a New York gig.

But M.I.A., the British Sri Lankan hip-hop artist, is no ordinary rap cliché.

Tonight, at the Manhattan nightclub S.O.B.'s, where she has sold out the venue, she is being showered in rose petals by adoring Sri Lankan fans. "I feel like my career starts here," she says, looking more like a flower fairy than an urban guerrilla.

All beginnings should be so auspicious. As well as half the music business in the Big Apple, the crowd features celebrity admirers such as the former Talking Head David Byrne, R&B diva Kelis and, more unexpectedly, the Hollywood actor Matt Damon.

After being picked up by the hipster radar last year with two extraordinary singles, Galang and Sunshowers, and a mix tape, Piracy Funds Terrorism, that combined bubble-gum booty beats with a sharp political consciousness, M.I.A., who begins a British tour tonight in support of her album Arular, has generated more buzz in America than a celebrity break-up. With sex appeal, a shiny hip sound and a back story that reads like a press agent's fantasy, the hype is understandable.

Maya Arulpragasam was born in London but moved to Sri Lanka with her parents when she was six months old. Her father, Arul Pragasam (for whom Arular is named), was associated with the so-called ***Tamil Tigers***, a revolutionary militia that is considered a terrorist organisation by most of the world because of its tactics in the fight for a Tamil homeland separate from the majority Sinhalese.

She saw her father only once a year and, to protect her, she was told that he was her uncle and that her father was dead. When she was ten, her mother took her and her sister back to England to escape political repression. They lived in council flats in South London and in Mitcham, Surrey. She has had even less contact with her father since, and naming the album after him was an attempt to get back in touch.

"He sent me an e-mail a couple of weeks before the tsunami," she says. "He had read about me in the (Sri Lankan) Times. 'I'm very proud of you, but you have to change the name of the album. Dad.' Two lines, that was it. The place where he was living was destroyed by the tsunami. We heard he's moved somewhere else. We'll see."

## Talking about her revolution

Regularly called a "Paki" by the other kids on her estate and without her Walkman and radio, both of which had been stolen, Arulpragasam found her solace in hip-hop, which she discovered when her neighbours blasted out Public Enemy and the sound would bleed through the walls. "When I still had my radio I used to listen to Whitney Houston and Paula Abdul," she says, "but Public Enemy had a much better beat. Hip-hop was the first thing that made me feel like I belonged to something in England."

Hip-hop is all about front and the gift of the gab, qualities that Arulpragasam quickly adopted as her own. When she finished school she didn't have the right qualifications to get into Central St Martins College of Art and Design, so she blagged her way in. "I called up the head of the college every day and told him that I'd end up being a hooker if he didn't let me in," she claims. "Eventually, they let me in. He said that I had chutzpah."

Arulpragasam continued this boldness in her visual art after she graduated.

Adopting the name M.I.A. because of its phonetic similarity to her first name and its military resonances, she blended hip-hop graffiti with the forceful political symbolism of the Third World.

Her work attracted the attention of Justine Frischmann, of Elastica, who commissioned her to design an album cover and film a tour documentary.

"Elastica broke up right after that tour and Justine was trying to make music without a band, so she bought a (Roland) 505 (drum machine)," Arulpragasam remembers. "I was there one night and Justine was out, so I just started..."

(imitates pressing buttons). I wrote M.I.A. that night. When she came back six hours later, she was like, 'Oh my God, you're a freak'."

M.I.A.'s music is like her graphic art: vivid, gaudy, lo-fi and deceptively candyfloss. "I wanted to make it so people could relate to it however they wanted to," she says of Arular. "Yes, it could be about George Bush, but if you wanted it to be about how you felt about your landlord, it could be that too. If you wanted it to be about sex, it could be that too."

"People in the UK vote more for Big Brother than they do in the elections; they can't really handle talking about politics all the time. I wanted to create a space where I could talk about the politics and leave it there, and then go out and talk about Big Brother."

Just as important as the politics, though, is the joy of making sounds, of playing with language and different styles. Arular runs the gamut from hip-hop, electro and ragga to steel-drum music, Puerto Rican reggaeton and Brazilian favela funk - anything as long as it has a beat. While this multigenre pile-up is perhaps representative of her borderless consciousness, it's also reminiscent of the music of Sri Lanka.

"Tamil music is very similar to Indian music except that it's less trebly, less nasal and a bit warmer," she says. "The dance is all beats and feet -that's where the foot-stamping in flamenco came from. There's a film industry that they call 'Tollywood' and the music is like Indian film music, all over the place, totally nuts. Maybe that's where I come from."

M.I.A. brings a refreshingly feminine energy to hip-hop. "I have a lot of hip hop in me, which I think is strange for British women," she says. This goes some way towards explaining why she has been more successful in America than in Britain.

Hip-hop has long driven a wedge into Britain and America's special musical relationship, but together with Dizze Rascal and the Streets, M.I.A. is one of the first British artists to create an original voice within hip-hop.

Unfortunately, this hasn't endeared her to an increasingly conservative and moribund British music scene. "It's disappointing because I don't think I could have come from anywhere but England," she says. "This is what Britain is supposed to be good at, so it is upsetting that no one seems to get it. This is the country that produced Boy George -a transvestite singing reggae. This is what Britain is supposed to do best."

Talking about her revolution

\*Arular is released by XL Recordings. M.I.A.'s tour begins tonight at Fabric, EC1 (020-7336 8898)

**Load-Date:** June 17, 2005

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End of Document

## *Dying for a promise of martyrdom*

South China Morning Post (Hong Kong)

May 18, 2003

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**Section:** NEWS; Pg. 9

**Length:** 1276 words

**Byline:** The recent wave of suicide bombings shows there is no shortage of people willing to make the ultimate sacrifice for their cause. The chosen few tend to be quiet individuals rather than swaggering types, writes Peter Kammerer

### **Body**

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Explosives are strapped to the waist, security guards dodged and the crowd is suddenly all around. The bomb is detonated and at least one life, and maybe dozens, is extinguished.

Such is the dream of the suicide bomber, chosen by terrorists to make the ultimate statement - that even living is worth giving up for the cause. An increasing number of people are living that dream.

In the past week, at least 135 people - 30 of them suicide bombers - have been killed in attacks in Morocco, Saudi Arabia and the separatist Russian republic of Chechnya.

Co-ordinated, synchronised suicide operations have become the terrorists' preferred weapon. The method was dramatically - and chillingly - used in the World Trade Centre and Pentagon hijackings on September 11, 2001.

Then, last October, a man with explosives strapped to his body ran into a Bali nightclub, sending panicked tourists fleeing into the blast of a nearby truck bomb.

Muslim extremists carried out all the attacks and, except for those in Chechnya, they have been connected by officials to al-Qaeda, the international terrorist network established by Saudi-born millionaire Osama bin Laden in the early 1990s.

The suicide-bombing method is most associated with Islamic militants, although it has been used to express opposition to officialdom from Colombia to Sri Lanka. First used by the anti-Israel Hezbollah in 1983 and later adopted by Hamas, barely a week goes by in the conflict between Palestinians and Israelis without another young Arab taking his or her life and those of Israelis in the name of an independent Palestine.

But suicide bombings are a political, rather than religious, weapon. The beliefs of Islamic militants are not held by the majority of Muslims, who say suicide bombings are sully their religion. Islam is being used to justify terrorism, they argue.

Saudi Arabia's leading Islamic scholar, Abdulaziz bin Abdallah al-Sheikh, said in April 2001: "What you call suicide bombings in my view are illegitimate and have nothing to do with jihad in the cause of God."

## Dying for a promise of martyrdom

Bin Laden and his supporters believe jihad, or holy war, is justified because of perceived Israeli oppression of Arabs, American support of the Jewish state. The US-led conflicts in Afghanistan and Iraq are seen as being against Muslims rather than terrorists.

The roots of suicide attacks lie in the biblical Samson, who used his strength to bring down a building on his enemies. In the 19th century, Russian revolutionaries carried sticks of dynamite into war, having put their affairs in order in the belief they would not be returning.

Middle East terrorism expert Magnus Ranstorp, of the Centre for the Study of Terrorism and Political Violence at St Andrew's University in Scotland, said last week the method had since been adopted out of strategic choice by many terrorist groups around the world. Explosives were inexpensive and easy to come by. The most costly part of an operation was the logistics - providing safe houses and making preparations for the attack.

Recruitment was a secretive process. Potential suicide bombers had to have an ability to be indoctrinated and stay calm under pressure.

"It's a process that takes time to cultivate and generate the right momentum," Dr Ranstorp said. "Counter-terrorism has pushed it underground in Europe, but elsewhere - especially in the Middle East - there are plenty of volunteers."

The methods used made preventing the attacks difficult, as Israel has found, despite having an almost hermitically sealed security environment.

"They have security guards outside restaurants or in crowded places, checking people wearing bulky clothing, and vigilant law enforcement," he said. "Suicide bombers follow the path of least resistance - they do surveillance, check security and go for the target that is surmountable."

Sri Lanka's **Tamil Tigers** had probably the most sophisticated approach, creating special vests, intricately planning attacks and making use of **female** bombers to attract the minimum attention.

From the first Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam suicide attack on July 5, 1987, until a ceasefire with the government last year, hundreds of civilians were killed, including Indian prime minister Rajiv Gandhi, Sri Lankan president Ranasinghe Premadasa and opposition leader Gamini Dissanayake.

The Sri Lankan Central Bank, World Trade Centre and Colombo's international airport were devastated by separate bombings.

An expert on terrorism and the psychology of terrorist behaviour, John Horgan, said terrorist groups preferred suicide bombings because they were effective.

"Terrorist tactics are all about causing disarray and exploiting confusion and anxiety," he said. "The idea that someone could be capable of committing such an act sickens and appalls us. We only see the end result and not the time and effort taken to recruit someone and to plan such an operation."

Dr Horgan, a lecturer at Cork University in Ireland, said finding recruits was not as simple as anti-Israeli groups like Islamic Jihad and Hezbollah made out. Their propaganda made it appear most Arabs were willing to become bombers.

In an attempt to make the role attractive, the groups had glorified the role to one of martyrdom and in the Palestinian territories, successful attackers were treated as heroes.

"It's in the vested interests of terrorist groups to have a very strong and high psychological premium on becoming a suicide bomber," Dr Horgan said. "It's seen as a position for the chosen few ... a sought-after position."

Hamas, the military wing of the Palestine Liberation Organisation, did not take volunteers as this could leave them open to spies for Israel. Instead, Hamas recruiters identified specific qualities in potential bombers, such as a non-

### Dying for a promise of martyrdom

obtrusive character. Extremists who marched with knives and guns in support of bin Laden were not the sort of people who would become suicide bombers.

**Women** were often trained as suicide bombers to avoid suspicion in male -dominated societies. People with secretive, introverted lifestyles were preferred to those with outgoing characters.

Dr Horgan said that as a result, it was difficult for security officers to identify attackers.

"Psychologists used to think that there was a profile of a suicide bomber," he explained. "Generally speaking, this was someone without a job or any prospects of attaining meaningful significance in his or her life. But that's changed, and suicidal terrorists tend to be quite heterogeneous and come from varying backgrounds."

Some had a direct experience of family victimisation. They were not loners in the sense they were isolated from society, but for various community, social and psychological reasons, terrorist organisations were careful about who they took on. Those with a family to support or single children were not recruited.

Group attacks, as on September 11 or in Saudi Arabia and Chechnya, had become increasingly common because of the peer pressure placed on participants. If one terrorist went ahead with plans, the bonding created by the shared goal made it more likely the others in the group would follow. Those who backed out or were arrested were shamed within their communities.

Suicide bombings frequently achieve their aims by killing the intended target. In the process, they focus the world media on the social, political or religious cause. At the same time, though, they are counter-productive.

In many cases, suicide bombings result in massive public outrage that governments interpret as a mandate to crack down harder.

## Graphic

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(Photo: Reuters); Palestinian suicide bomber Abdel-Basset Odeh, who killed at least 20 people last year in a hotel attack in the Israeli town of Netanya.

**Load-Date:** May 20, 2003

**THE WEST MUST GET HUMBLE AND HONEST - FAST;  
WE MUST APPLY THE SAME STANDARDS TO OURSELVES AS WE APPLY  
TO OTHERS.**

The Independent (London)

January 5, 2004, Monday

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**Section:** COMMENT; Pg. 17

**Length:** 1222 words

**Byline:** YASMIN ALIBHAI-BROWN

## **Body**

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For people in poor countries, life has always been fragile, unpredictable, risky, scary and murderous, which is perhaps why they believe so ardently in the next world, or try, even if it kills them, to reach places of wealth and safety. Although unfair trade agreements, grinding poverty, corrupt and pitiless leaders, illness, death, violence, degradation and natural disasters devastate generation after generation, they still laugh and sing and manage to dream a little.

These people are not today locked in any new and urgent sense of terror such has gripped the Occident. That is our fate; the children of plenty who thought they could control and buy everything. In the past two years our certainties have been shredded, and although most of us carry on regardless, we have lost that innocent positivism which came out of historical privilege.

We too are now trembling before unforeseen forces. Suspicion is fraying the bonds of society - mistrust of fellow citizens, of politicians (who have manifestly been lying to populations that do not expect to be treated with such contempt), of intelligence sources, army spokespeople and media reports which are devoured, and at once believed and disbelieved.

Planes are grounded for days; alerts and warnings increase. Christmas and New year celebrations were still jolly and expensive, but anxiety took a seat at most tables. When at midnight, on 31 December at a fab Scottish party in Somerset, we kissed each other, one of the inebriated guests said: "Happy New Year - this may be our last the way things are going in the world." I wonder how many millions shared that dread at that moment.

With one exception - the Aids crisis - the West has not known such internal turbulence for more than 60 years. Cosseted while the rest of humanity was buffeted, those 11 September planes heralded a hard reality for people softened by years of peace and prosperity. They demonstrated that the wretched of the earth were remarkably resistant and that some were capable of inflicting real and psychic wounds to the most powerful nations in the world, because they had nothing to lose.

Those leading these nations do not understand the power of this hopelessness. Please don't think I am idealising these killers as folk heroes. I am as frightened as everyone else of what they do, but I grew up in the so- called Third World, and I can see how such demon warriors can emerge from the flotsam and jetsam of a humanity that has been kept down for too long.



## THE WEST MUST GET HUMBLE AND HONEST - FAST; WE MUST APPLY THE SAME STANDARDS TO OURSELVES AS WE APPLY TO OTHERS,

One of the most educative books I read last year was *When the Bulbul Stopped Singing: A Diary of Ramallah Under Siege*, by the humane and still sane Palestinian lawyer and writer, Raja Shehadeh. He describes the hardening of the hearts of good, caring Palestinians and the reasons for and consequences of this process.

This is why Bush, Blair, Putin and co sound like fools when they say they are going to "win the war against terror". There is no way this is a "war" which can be "won". And yet this invisible insurrection, with a limitless supply of kamikaze volunteers across the globe, can and does violate much of what is best in human civilisation through indiscriminate violence and destabilisation tactics. (It is important to remember that suicide bombers were not a "Muslim" invention. Japanese pilots used themselves as weapons in the Second World War as did some of our own pilots of whom we think as brave. Tamil Tigers used young women suicide bombers, too.)

Look what the bombers have achieved so far, in spite of the successful defeat of their power base in Afghanistan. Count the money spent, the way the target countries have had to stretch their national defence and policing services, the cost to airlines, tour operators, the hidden expenses when leads are followed-up to protect nationals.

World public opinion too is volatile and the bombers have more support than Westerners care to acknowledge. The homes, the streets and the playgrounds of the well-off are tense and paranoid places. It is possible that some of the frantic security measures today are instigated by set-ups. Al-Qa'ida and its satellites could well be doing what the IRA did for years - setting false trails and issuing threats that cause large-scale disturbance and economic damage - cleverly spacing these misleading clues between real explosions.

God knows what they know - the CIA, FBI, MI5, MI6, French, German, Italian, Turkish, Russian, Pakistani, Afghan, Saudi Arabian secret services and many others beyond. Some of the warnings are likely to be manufactured for cynical political reasons; some of the material, obviously, is unreliable. But I have no doubt that there are plots to stage another spectacular and another and another, whatever we do to protect ourselves.

In the long term, there will be a petering out. There always is. But our leaders must change direction now. They must fast acquire some humility, honesty and understanding. Laudable aims have been declared by Bush, and Blair, who went hand-shaking in Iraq this weekend.

Old tyrants held in place with our support (Saudi Arabia) or without (Libya) have been put on warning: democracy and human rights will be implanted in despotic countries. This weekend Afghanistan moved in that direction with its Loya Jirga agreeing on a constitution. The best news is contained in Article 35, which states: "Formation or functioning of a party based on ethnicity, language, Islamic school of thought and region is not permissible." This should be an example for Iraq. It is worth noting that India and South Africa, which in relative terms are good, working democracies, are civic and secular.

Joined-up thinking is urgently needed. The WTO, the World Bank, the UN and others cannot carry on disproportionately benefiting the rich or playing by different rules for different nations. As Noam Chomsky writes in his new book, *Hegemony or Survival*, we must get "universality; we must apply to ourselves the same standards we apply to others, if not more stringent ones."

We want human rights in Saudi Arabia? Yes. But we do not have the moral authority to demand these while hundreds are festering in Guantanamo Bay, US and UK prisons with no justice, or while allied soldiers in Iraq maltreat Iraqis and steal their resources, or when we promote pre-emptive actions and shoot to kill, or we prohibit weapons of mass destruction for some countries but not ourselves or Israel.

That universality applies to Muslims too. We too need more honesty, democracy, open debate, equality and freedoms. For the truth is that even if the West were miraculously to comply with all the above, the rot within Muslim countries would still wreck the lives and aspirations of citizens. This is why so many of the best and brightest Muslims in the world have flown to the West. In doing this they deprive their own countries and contribute further to global imbalances. And maybe therein lies a real solution, which is being missed at present.

THE WEST MUST GET HUMBLE AND HONEST - FAST; WE MUST APPLY THE SAME STANDARDS TO  
OURSELVES AS WE APPLY TO OTHERS,

Western Muslims could make a difference to the dangerous impasse we are in. They have imbibed democracy and human rights values; they know the world they fled. They could be employed by their new countries as envoys between diehard foes. Instead they are all seen as the enemy within, wearing explosive shoes to blow up planes.

[y.alibhai-brown@independent.co.uk](mailto:y.alibhai-brown@independent.co.uk)

**Load-Date:** January 5, 2004

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## *Where's the aid? Where's the aid?*

The Press (Christchurch, New Zealand)

March 19, 2005, Saturday

Copyright 2005 Fairfax New Zealand

**Section:** FEATURES; GENERAL;; MAINLANDER; D

**Length:** 2669 words

**Byline:** WELHAM Keri

### **Body**

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Billions have been pledged, aid workers abound so why are Sri Lankan tsunami victims having to use the ocean as their toilet? KERI WELHAM asks where our donations have gone?

A metre or two from the infamous Sri Lankan ghost train, a new home is being built from concrete blocks.

Wathudura Rukmani, 34, lost her husband, mother, father and home in the Boxing Day tsunami. Three months on, in the tiny southern village of Peraliya, Rukmani's new house is taking shape next to the mangled train carriages. The waves thundered into the train as it passed through the village on December 26, rolling the carriages, and killing 1200 passengers.

Rukmani says a local member of parliament is paying for her new home. Down the road in Seenigama, 80-year-old Dedomundey Sunasena also says a local MP paid for his temporary wooden shelter. But in shattered Sri Lanka, the business of aid is made murky by politics and the perceived source of donations is rarely accurate.

As Sri Lanka emerges from the immediate aftermath of the tsunami, and starts looking at long-term rebuilding, progress is slow and frustrating. People are living like animals: sheltering from heavy monsoon rains in tents, defecating in the ocean, forced to feed their children rice that gives them upset tummies.

The aid that the rest of the world pledged in the billions is near impossible to track.

The 300-plus aid agencies that have crowded Sri Lanka since the disaster are causing co-ordination problems. There is little project management, so the agencies work independently -- each with their own speciality focus such as water or food -- and hope that all the bases will be covered.

Sources within aid agencies, business and tourism in Colombo say corruption is rife and numerous bureaucrats will become rich by skimming tsunami donations. One source says tsunami victims would be lucky to see half the pledged money.

The Tamil Rehabilitation Organisation (TRO) has just been exposed for a scam where a clerk told a church group in the United States their donation of 20 water purification plants had incurred duty of \$ US10,000. The TRO asked the church group to pay the taxes. The real duty was just \$ US280.

The Government's treasury secretary says Sri Lanka has received less than 4 per cent of the \$ US1.8b in aid needed to rebuild the nation.

Where's the aid? Where's the aid?

And then, there's the emotional trauma.

In this nation, which has one of the world's highest suicide rates, survivors suffer guilt. And the predominant Buddhist faith, with its belief in the payback system of karma, has created a widespread fear that the people of Sri Lanka did something to deserve this disaster.

Beside the ghost train, a group gathers and starts to quiz a Sri Lankan woman who works for the United Nations Development Programme. She nods her head, eyes downcast, as a man walks up to her, and, finger stabbing the air, says all he wants is a toilet for the villagers. Other concerns emerge from the rising chorus: "You all come and go. Where is the money? No toilets, no electricity. Lots of aid has been given to the Government but when does it come to us? Lady, give it to us."

ooo In Ampara, the worst-hit region of Sri Lanka, 6000 died and as many were injured, 27,000 houses were destroyed, 60,900 people have been forced to move in with relatives, 23,000 live in camps and 6000 families are living in welfare centres.

Many live in tents, which do not offer much protection from the heavy March rains.

At Kalmunai, 60 families live in a two-week-old camp looking out over the destruction. The World Food Programme brings food. Unicef gives them utensils. There are no plans for a kitchen, but a toilet should be built next week. No one knows how long these families will be in tents before moving to stage two, transitional temporary shelters. How long then, before they will reach stage three: real homes?

New Zealand Foreign Affairs Minister Phil Goff, on a recent visit to the Sri Lankan coastline, poses the question. "One year, eighteen months?" he wonders, being generous on account of the difficulties of such a task. The camp occupants don't know. The camp manager doesn't know. The spokesperson for Unicef doesn't know: "Shelter is not our priority," he says.

In one camp, Sakktiwall Mallika, 16, has given up school to care for her two younger sisters.

Their father broke his leg and died of an infection before the tsunami. Their mother, who used to earn a living by cooking breakfast noodles, was washed away on December 26. The youngest sister, 10, was lost in another east coast town for one month, before Mallika finally found her.

To D2

Continued from D1

The girls' have three older brothers living in the camp who offer emotional support. Mallika wants a sewing machine so she can work. The siblings live in a building built of corrugated iron and concrete floors. They sleep on the ground and Mallika cooks over burning wood in the corner. She mixes tomato into a pan of fried vegetables, just the way her mother taught her. She sweats in the heat.

After the tsunami, they returned to the site of their home to try to salvage supplies but nothing was worth keeping. Now, everything the children have is courtesy of aid. Their drinking water is supplied by Unicef, partly funded by New Zealand donations. The children have been in this camp two months and have no idea how much longer this will be their home.

The Ampara district child protection secretary, Mohamed Washeerdeen, says there are 907 people, from 448 families, living in this camp. Twenty four of them are under one-year-old, a dozen women are pregnant, 23 are breastfeeding, 52 residents are older than 60.

Washeerdeen listens as one resident, Kanthappan Nallaraddinam, 59, describes the stench and unsanitary conditions in the ablution block. He then talks of how the monsoon rain comes in under the door of his room, of how the water supply runs out at noon each day, of the rough rice which is giving the children diarrhoea. A sickly woman with a leg wound lies in the foetal position in the dirt, flies crawling over her bandage.

## Where's the aid? Where's the aid?

A total of 140 children in Ampara lost both parents in the tsunami, but only 11 are classified as orphans because they have no extended family. Nationally, 1000 children lost both parents and 1200 lost one.

The office of Unicef social worker Marina Gandhi is now co-ordinating the distribution of 1200 family kits to households that have taken in children.

The kits include pots, pans, mats, exercise books, cricket bats. New Zealand money helps fund them.

More than 65 NGOs (non- governmental organisations) are working in this region. Before the tsunami there were eight, committed to the problems of civil war and Third World poverty. There are 54 government-run camps.

A road heading to the beach stops dead as the path is covered with shattered bricks. The wave moved with a force of 80 tonnes of pressure per square metre.

Ahamed Subair, 55, rotting fingers, two teeth, rummages through the debris on Kalmunai Beach looking for aluminium to sell.

His house was damaged in the tsunami but he can still live in it. His livelihood, however, was crushed. He lost the two boxes of wares he was selling and cannot afford to buy more. He is making about \$ 1.50 a day from the aluminium he finds, enough to keep his four children alive. He has joined the struggling underclass. Yesterday a skeleton hung with women's jewellery was found in the rubble.

It is estimated that US\$ 8b has been pledged to the tsunami- ravaged countries of Asia, and about 35 per cent of that, \$ 2.8 billion, is destined for Sri Lanka. But the country has only received \$ US75m (\$ NZ104m) so far.

New Zealand was one of the first countries to hand over money to the United Nations. So far, New Zealand has paid out \$ 30m of the \$ 68m pledged by the Government to the UN and aid organisations. It is estimated, after the final round of grants on April 1, Sri Lanka will receive a total of about \$ 10m from this country.

NZAID says a lot of New Zealand- based NGOs are finding they have as much money as their infrastructure and capacity can bear. Some agencies have indicated they will not apply for the third round of dollar-for-dollar government funding to match Kiwis' personal pledges.

The average \$ 20 donation to New Zealand Red Cross could pay for a mosquito net and seven bars of soap. A \$ 50 donation could pay for a tarpaulin and two mattresses.

There are several hurdles standing between the victims of the tsunami and the money we gave them. Aid can be delivered quite swiftly, through the processes set up, to registered camps. But the aid is slower getting to unregistered camps. Large organisations follow a ration-card system where they sign off after drop-offs at camps. Smaller organisations just drop food and supplies where they see a need -- registered or not -- causing havoc with the system. But their intention is good: making sure people eat.

There are enough pots, pans, mosquito nets, tents in Sri Lanka to supply all the needy, but logistics teams are yet to figure out a way of delivering those goods.

NZAID director of global programmes Don Clarke says he has heard reports back from Sri Lanka about the lack of co-ordination caused by the influx of hundreds of small aid agencies.

He also says Indonesia and Pakistan, which are renowned for corruption, had a record before the tsunami of "losing" about 30% of foreign money going into their countries. Clarke does not want to estimate what level of corruption could be possible in the huge offerings of the tsunami. But he expects the losses will affect aid flowing from countries with less stringent checks than New Zealand.

The Kiwi aid community is recognised for its vigorous relationships with local players. Because of these long associations, NZAID is confident it can trust New Zealand-based aid agencies to deliver on their promises.

Where's the aid? Where's the aid?

"We know where New Zealand taxpayer funds are. They will be tracked to the point of delivery. New Zealanders want to see results, and money well-spent," Clarke says.

New Zealand's Council of International Development is the umbrella body for 73 non- governmental organisations working overseas. Executive director Rae Julian says the NGOs don't get the dollar-for-dollar funding unless they can prove their own donations are being used appropriately. Regular reporting and on-the-ground monitoring ensure a high standard of delivery, she says.

In Galle, Unicef protection officer Sarah Graham says the clean- up is well-advanced. And sure enough, here, in the tourist path, where the rich and famous spend their holidays, homes and toilets are being rebuilt. But on the less populated, lower socio-economic east coast, Goff finds a lack of progress in shelter and sanitation.

There are bottlenecks in the system. New Zealand's Trade Commissioner to India, Peter Hobbs, says the lack of heavy machinery in isolated parts of Sri Lanka could be slowing progress significantly. He says there are opportunities for Kiwi businesses in a nation where there isn't even enough builder's sand to reconstruct the thousands of necessary homes.

A co-ordination meeting, aimed at keeping all the agencies in Ampara working towards joint goals, is scheduled for Monday night. But, come Monday, the assistant government agent Indika Piyadasa sits in his office and types a message to let the agencies know the meeting is cancelled.

He does not know how much money has come into this region, the value of the supplies they are distributing, how many people have been helped. What he does have is a list of priorities as set out by the Social Services Department in Colombo. At this stage, after the emergency phase has ended, the top priorities for this region are schoolbags, pens, school uniforms and shoes.

Up the coast, north of Batticaloa, is the site of the former Pasikuda Military Camp. This site borders the area controlled by the **Tamil Tigers**, considered to be the world's most effective terrorist organisation.

After more than 20 years of bloody conflict, the Tamils, fighting for an independent state, and the Sri Lankan Government agreed to a ceasefire. However, some argue that the Tigers are now goading the Government with targeted killings in Batticaloa. Over the three days The Press is in Batticaloa, 12 people are killed in what the Government dismisses as civilian murders.

The Pasikuda army site was wiped out in the tsunami. The adjacent Kalkudah Beach, one of the world's most beautiful beaches, is tainted by death.

Three months on, the sand of this former playground is empty. Land mines, planted around the army camp to protect it from Tamil attacks, floated away in the waves and came to land around the nearby Kalkudah village.

New Zealand money is being used for the de-mining effort through the United Nations Development Programme.

The work is executed by the Mine Action Group. Technical field manager Jesse James points out the areas that have been cleared, clearly marked with white fenceposts.

Sri Lanka is the only country in the world where the de-miners' favoured technique is to literally sweep, with brooms, for mines. In two weeks, one of the 16-man teams has found 75 displaced landmines, 232 AK47s, and numerous artillery chargers, grenades, shells and flares.

The Government had told residents there were no mines here.

The UNDP pays each de-miner about \$ US12 a month, but the TRO, a recognised front for the **Tamil Tigers**, takes a \$ US3 cut. The worker ends up with \$ US9.

Jerome Luyet, the acting head of the Batticaloa sub-delegation for the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), flicks through records from his office. In the first days of the disaster, they handed out 1000 sleeping mats,

## Where's the aid? Where's the aid?

5000 non-food kits, 500 tarpaulins, 400 tents. Some supplies were given to those dossing at the Hindu College, where people are now being moved out so classes can begin. Many refugees have been on the move since the waves struck, from overcrowded homes of relatives to school buildings to camps.

On the streets of Batticaloa, police line the road with machine guns poised. The road south to Ampara is closed because of a protest against the Government ruling that no permanent homes or government buildings can be built within 100m of the ocean.

This controversial ruling has created a shortage of land on which to rebuild, but a natural event hours later gives weight to the president's argument.

That night, the town of Peraliya, site of the mangled death train, floods because of seasonal rising tides no longer held back since sandbanks were destroyed by the tsunami. The makeshift schools and temporary tent homes for refugees are washed out.

In central Batti, a centre for unidentified mortal remains continues to field about 15 families a day. Still, people search for bodies. About 3000 people have heard about the centres, through word-of-mouth, and come to flick through the photographs of 521 corpses, taken before burial, in the hope of locating their loved ones' bodies.

Only 30 have been identified. For the others, the search continues.

The album is a stark document. It lists identifiable details, such as 38kg, green colour frock, 16-year- old, body serial number 557. And, opposite each photograph of an engorged body, it lists details about the death, such as "bled from the nose and mouth".

Mourners sit in a hot tent and endure the albums in the hope of finding something certain. The ICRC helps run the centres and a spokesman says the albums will continue to be displayed until all people are identified.

Like many of the projects under way in this ravaged country, no-one is willing to make a guess at how long that will be.

Keri Welham travelled to Sri Lanka with the assistance of the Asia New Zealand Foundation.

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## CAPTION:

In need: Ahamed Subair rummages through the debris on Kalmunai Beach looking for aluminium to sell. Photo: Anuruddha Lokuhapuarachchi

Family support: Sakktiwall Mallika, 16, has given up school to care for her two younger sisters after the girls were orphaned in the Boxing Day tsunami. Photo: Anuruddha Lokuhapuarachchi

**Load-Date:** March 20, 2005

## *Sri Lankan gov't blames Tigers for violating security agreement*

Xinhua General News Service

March 3, 2005 Thursday 11:00 AM EST

Copyright 2005 Xinhua News Agency

**Section:** WORLD NEWS; Political

**Length:** 184 words

**Dateline:** COLOMBO

### **Body**

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The Sri Lankan government urged the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (**LTTE**) to heed to its security advise in traveling within the government controlled areas in the country's north and east.

The Ministry of Defense in a statement issued Thursday said " agreement was reached after the cease-fire agreement that the **LTTE** would inform the government in order that security forces provide suitable escorts".

The statement came after Monday night's ambush in the eastern province where the **LTTE**'s top **women**'s wing members were seriously hurt.

The government blamed the **LTTE** for traveling into government areas disregarding the facility of military escorts.

Early last month the gunning down of the **LTTE** eastern political wing leader E Kousalyan triggered an uproar as the rebels blamed a paramilitary group working alongside government troops for the killing.

The government denied the charge and President Chandrika Kumaratunga appointed a special two-member committee to look into the escalation of violence in the eastern province and attacks against the **LTTE** members.

**Load-Date:** March 4, 2005



## **RIGHTS: LACK OF BIRTH RECORDS OPENS CHILDREN TO ABUSE**

IPS-Inter Press Service

February 22, 2005, Tuesday

Copyright 2005 IPS-Inter Press Service/Global Information Network

**Length:** 813 words

**Byline:** By Thalif Deen

**Dateline:** UNITED NATIONS, February 22 2005

### **Body**

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When rebel leaders who recruit child soldiers are confronted by U.N. officials or human rights activists, they try to evade responsibility mostly by overstating the ages of rifle-toting children pressed into battle.

Every time you talk to a child soldier, he is invariably coached to say he is over 18 years old, Olara Otunnu, U.N. Under-Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict, once told IPS.

Otunnu had just returned from northern Sri Lanka where the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (**LTTE**) have gained worldwide notoriety for deploying thousands of underage child soldiers in its 20-year-old separatist war.

But neither U.N. officials nor human rights organizations are able to verify the real ages of most child soldiers because they do not possess birth certificates nor have they been registered at birth.

A new 50-page report titled "Universal Birth Registration: a Universal Responsibility" released here says no records exist of the birth of six out of every 10 babies born annually in South Asia. In sub-Saharan Africa, 55 percent of all births go unrecorded every year.

"It is impossible to know how many unregistered children there are because they cannot be counted, yet best estimates put the number at more than half a billion," says the study released by a London-based non-governmental children's agency, Plan (formerly Foster Parents Plan).

The global campaign for birth registration was launched Tuesday by Nobel Laureate Archbishop Desmond Tutu at U.N. headquarters in New York, where he called on governments to register the 48 million children whose births go unrecorded every year.

Asked about child soldiers, Colin McCallum of Plan told IPS that anyone recruiting underage soldiers -- whether governments, rebels or militias -- will find it easier if there is no available indication of their age.

The 1990 U.N. Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC), which has been ratified by 192 states, set the legal minimum age for recruitment at 15.

But an "Optional Protocol" to the CRC, which came into force in February 2003, outlawed the involvement of children under 18 in any hostilities and sets strict standards for the recruitment of those under 18.

## RIGHTS: LACK OF BIRTH RECORDS OPENS CHILDREN TO ABUSE

McCallum admitted that non-registration of births also distort global population figures. "The most immediate impact is at a local level where governments/local authorities planning services need an accurate population count," he said.

But they will not get the right population count because of the millions of children that go unregistered, McCallum added.

Article 7 of the CRC says that a child shall be registered immediately after birth and shall have the right from birth to a name (and) the right to acquire a nationality.

But in reality this provision has not been fully implemented by some countries that are parties to the CRC.

The study says that it is difficult for unregistered children to prove their legal identity. "Unknown numbers of children orphaned by AIDS are being denied their right to inherit parental property because they do not have a birth certificate providing legal proof of their identity and family ties."

In some countries, a child without proof of citizenship will be denied access to vaccination programs.

The denial of birth registration is also having an impact on child labor. According to the International Labor Organization (ILO), there are about 246 million children involved in child labor worldwide.

"Birth registration can play an important role in combating child labor. Establishing a legal minimum age for work is clearly an important first step but, without an effective birth registration system to back it up, it is difficult for government agencies acting to eliminate such practices by confirming the age of the children concerned," the study notes.

In many countries, sexual relations with a girl under 16, with or without her consent, is regarded as rape. Yet without a birth certificate to confirm a girl's age and to prove she is underage, it is hard to obtain a conviction.

The study cites a case in Nepal where police were unwilling to trace a girl known to have been trafficked across the border to a brothel in India because she had no birth certificate or means of identification.

"This meant that there was no proof of her age, nationality or even her existence. This is great cause for concern given that there are currently an estimated 200,000 women and girls missing from Nepal, believed to have been trafficked to India," the study says.

A survey of children in rural schools in Ghana found that many children -- even literate ones -- admitted that they did not know their age.

The study also cites the example of a child of nearly 18 years of age who was sentenced to death. But his lawyers failed in their attempts to get relief for him under the CRC because he could not prove his exact date of birth due to the absence of a birth certificate.

**Load-Date:** March 7, 2005

## **Human Rights Watch Honors Activists**

Targeted News Service

October 11, 2007 Thursday 10:38 AM EST

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**Length:** 869 words

**Byline:** Targeted News Service

**Dateline:** WASHINGTON

### **Body**

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Human Rights Watch issued the following news release:

(New York) - A courageous journalist who is exposing horrific crimes by guerrilla, government, and paramilitary forces in Colombia and an activist who has spent 20 years documenting vicious abuses by both sides of Sri Lanka's civil war have been chosen to receive the prestigious Human Rights Defender Awards, Human Rights Watch said today. The awards will be presented at a series of annual dinners across North America in November.

Both honorees have faced death threats and been forced into brief exile at one time because of their work on behalf of the voiceless victims in their strife-torn countries. They are known for traveling deep into rural areas to gather testimony that would otherwise never see the light of day. Human Rights Watch's global rights defender awardees for 2007 are:

Hollman Morris, television journalist from Colombia;

Sunila Abeysekera, human rights activist from Sri Lanka.

"We are honoring Hollman and Sunila for their tireless efforts to shed light into the shadowy corners of conflict, to expose and end the abuses that ruin the lives of so many in Colombia and Sri Lanka," said Kenneth Roth, executive director of Human Rights Watch. "Their work exemplifies the ideals of the human rights movement: courage, an unswerving commitment to justice and genuine concern for the rights of all victims."

Morris, a well-known television journalist, documentary filmmaker and writer who championed the victims of this political violence, runs a television show, "Contravia," that investigates human rights abuses and addresses some of the most difficult and controversial issues in Colombian society. He practices journalism that is, says Morris, "motivated by hope, struggling for life and fighting for memory."

Abeysekera, once a drama critic, has for two decades worked as an activist on behalf of Sri Lankans victimized by government security forces and the armed opposition Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam. She has been a leading activist on behalf of the human rights of women in Sri Lanka and globally. Focusing on women puts her at the eye of Sri Lanka's violent storm. "Women and children are the first victims of any kind of conflict," Abeysekera said.

Human Rights Watch staff work closely with the human rights defenders as part of our human rights investigations in more than 70 countries around the world. The 2007 Human Rights Watch Annual Dinners where the defenders will be honored will take place in Chicago, Los Angeles, New York, San Francisco, Santa Barbara, and Toronto.

## Human Rights Watch Honors Activists

"We are inspired by the work of Hollman Morris and Sunila Abeysekera," said Roth. "Their work sends a powerful message that governments and armed groups should end their abuses and respect the rights of the people around them."

## Background on the 2007 Human Rights Watch Honorees:

## Hollman Morris, Colombia

In a country where reporting on human rights violations is an extremely dangerous undertaking, Hollman Morris speaks out against abuses in Colombia's decades-long armed conflict. A journalist and human rights activist, Morris has dedicated his career to uncovering the truth about atrocities committed on all sides: by right-wing paramilitaries, left-wing guerrillas, and government authorities. Forced disappearances, extrajudicial executions, targeted assassinations, threats, and kidnappings remain commonplace. Like his colleagues, Morris has faced serious harassment and death threats for his work.

Morris documents and denounces atrocities through local and national radio and television, as the founder and editor of the Peace and Human Rights Section of the newspaper *El Espectador*, as a documentary filmmaker, and as an independent writer. His work has done a great deal to shed light on the conflict's impact on Colombia's most vulnerable, and often forgotten, citizens. Human Rights Watch honors Morris for his courage and unfaltering dedication to exposing Colombia's most egregious human rights abuses.

## Sunila Abeysekera, Sri Lanka

As executive director of INFORM, a leading Sri Lankan human rights nongovernmental organization, Sunila Abeysekera fights to expose serious abuses committed in Sri Lanka's civil war. For more than two decades, Abeysekera has struggled against the entrenched culture of impunity to hold perpetrators accountable for enforced disappearances, killings of civilians, violence against women, torture in detention, and the rights of displaced persons.

With a rare ability to act as researcher, advocate, and spokesperson, Abeysekera is internationally recognized as one of South Asia's preeminent human rights activists. Amidst a bloody civil war along an ethnic divide, Abeysekera refuses to take sides, denouncing abuses by both the government and LTTE. Her fierce commitment and passion for the truth have won Abeysekera the respect of Tamils and Sinhalese alike. She has faced death threats for her work and was briefly forced to flee the country, but Abeysekera remains steadfast in her work. Human Rights Watch honors Abeysekera for upholding the human rights of all Sri Lankan citizens regardless of religion, ethnicity or gender.

TNS gv51-am23-071103-1233460 Amalone

**Load-Date:** November 11, 2007

## **Roundup: Relief in urgent need, aid rushing to tsunami-hit region**

Xinhua General News Service

December 30, 2004 Thursday 3:00 AM EST

Copyright 2004 Xinhua News Agency

**Section:** WORLD NEWS

**Length:** 864 words

**Dateline:** HONG KONG

### **Body**

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On the fifth day since the powerful earthquake and tsunamis struck some India Ocean-rim countries, both domestic and international aid is rushing to the hardly hit areas as thousands of injured and stranded people are calling for food, water and medicines.

In Sri Lanka, which has a confirmed death toll of more than 23, 000 in the worst tragedy, the government has mobilized the entire public service and the military into the relief operation.

Meanwhile, the Red Cross has sent trucks of medicines and cooking utensils to the coastal areas while the World Food Program said it has sent the first stock of 168 tons of food to 12 districts in Sri Lanka to help survivors.

A convoy of five trucks of the World Food Program headed to the rebel controlled northeastern regions of the country Thursday.

Although a number of countries have already pledged tens of million of dollars in aid for the disaster nations, the government on Thursday urged the international community to step up financial aid to help tsunami relief efforts.

"The current necessity is primarily for the supply of material and financial assistance, more than foreign relief personnel," the Ministry of Foreign Affairs said.

Relief goods, medical supplies and personnel, including special aircraft received from Russia have already been deployed in the north and east, the ministry said.

The rebel Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (**LTTE**) has also asked for urgent financial and medical assistance to help victims in remote areas.

Indonesia, which estimated the death toll from Sunday's earthquake and tsunamis was estimated at 45,268, mobilized military ships and planes to rush desperately needed aid to the ravaged coast of Sumatra Island.

The UNICEF said Thursday that about 60 percent of Banda Aceh, the main town of Sumatra's Aceh province, was destroyed and 30 percent of the island's northwest coast devastated. Basic supplies like fuel had almost run out there.

Though health experts warned that contaminated water, the spread of disease and rapidly dwindling food supplies were a bigger danger, officials here focused on the grisly task of disposing of the masses of the dead.

## Roundup: Relief in urgent need, aid rushing to tsunami-hit region

Indonesian President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono on Wednesday issued decrees on stepping up relief efforts for provinces of Aceh and North Sumatra, that were seriously hit by Sunday's earthquake and tsunami.

India's southern coastal states were badly hit by the giant waves. As many as 10,850 people have reportedly lost their lives.

The Defense Ministry said the country had deployed 4,000 troops and a fleet of ships and aircraft carrying hundreds of tons of relief material for survivors of the disaster.

He said 25 aircraft, 30 helicopters and 30 ships laden with relief material and 4,000 troops of the Indian armed services had been pressed into service.

Some 500 tons of relief materials had been airlifted and another 150 tons carried by ship to the affected areas.

Relief work is on the rush with ambulances, trucks and trolleys carrying drinking water, clothes, utensils and medicines moving into Nagapattinam district.

Vivek Harinaram, coordinating commissioner for relief in Nagapattinam, told Xinhua Thursday that the death toll in this district now stood at 4,332 with most of them women and children, and the number is still climbing as some dead bodies are yet to be found and some seriously injured might lose their life.

"The situation here is very serious. Some fishing villages were completely devastated and the economic loss could be assessed only after a week or so," he said.

He said up to 60 earth-moving machines were used to dig pits for burying the corpses and to remove the debris in the affected areas.

On the possibility of an outbreak of epidemic diseases, he said there has been no threat of cholera or any other epidemic in the coastal areas so far. "We are making all efforts to guard against any possible outbreak of epidemics," he added.

Thousands of aid workers were working in shifts round-the-clock while doctors and medical teams arrived from neighboring districts and immediately started checking survivors.

In Thailand, a UN disaster assistance and coordination team flew to southern resort island of Phuket Wednesday night in a bid to assist with relief operations in the region.

Consisting of five specialists in disaster relief coordination, medical support, telecommunications and information, the team was accompanied by the UN resident coordinator in Thailand and representatives from United Nations Children's Fund, the World Food Program and the World Health Organization.

The Italian Embassy in Bangkok sent a medical team to Phuket on Monday and a field hospital operative Thursday. An eight-member forensic team arrived at the island Wednesday.

According to The Nation newspaper, the Japanese government will dispatch three Self Defense Force vessels, two destroyers and a supply ship to Phuket carrying helicopters. A search and rescue team left Japan for Thailand on Wednesday while a 20-member medical team is heading to the island on Thursday.

**Load-Date:** December 31, 2004

**Female bomber targets Sri Lankan minister; WORLD IN BRIEF**

The Evening Standard (London)

November 28, 2007 Wednesday

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London  
**Evening  
Standard**

**Section:** A; Pg. 27

**Length:** 71 words

**Body**

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A DISABLED **female** suicide bomber blew herself up outside the Colombo office of a Sri Lankan government minister today, killing a security worker.

Officials said the attack appeared to be an attempt to kill Douglas Devananda, minister of social services and leader of the Eelam People's Democratic Party, a Tamil party seen as a rival to the **Tamil Tigers** rebels. The blast killed one of Mr Devananda's staff and injured two others..

**Load-Date:** November 28, 2007

## **Clash kills at least 12 in Sri Lanka's east**

Xinhua General News Service

March 21, 2007 Wednesday 1:15 AM EST

Copyright 2007 Xinhua News Agency

**Section:** WORLD NEWS; Political

**Length:** 198 words

**Dateline:** COLOMBO

### **Body**

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Four government soldiers and at least eight Tamil Tiger rebels were killed in a clash in Sri Lanka 's troubled eastern Batticaloa district early Wednesday morning, said the military.

Defense officials said the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam ( **LTTE**) attacked four Army camps in the region and the Army retaliated.

Four Army troops were killed and 14 others injured in the clash, officials said, adding that search operation is still going on in the region.

The military said eight bodies of **LTTE** rebels, including a **female**, were recovered in the battlefield and more than 30 rebels were injured.

The Army also recovered some weapons and ammunition in the operation.

Regular clashes between the **LTTE** and the troops erupted in the east late July last year, with at least two key figures of the **LTTE** having been captured.

The two sides are currently being locked in a fierce battle in Batticaloa's Thoppigala area which remains one of the major hideouts for the **LTTE** in the east.

The escalation of the armed conflict since December 2005 has claimed over 4,000 lives so far, throwing into jeopardy the Norwegian backed process of direct negotiations.

**Load-Date:** March 22, 2007



**ADB \$% ADB approves further support for Sri Lanka's conflict-affected north east region region region**

\$%M2 PRESSWIRE presswire presswire

June 15, 2004 2004 2004

Copyright 2004 M2 Communications Ltd. Ltd. Ltd.

**Length:** 839 words

**Dateline:** MANILA, PHILIPPINES philippines philippines

## **Body**

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The Asian Development Bank (ADB) will help restore basic social infrastructure and community services in conflict-affected northern and eastern regions of Sri Lanka, through a US\$ 10 million loan approved today.

In support of existing rehabilitation and relief efforts under ADB's North East Community Restoration Development (NECORD) project, this extension project will address basic needs in health, education, agriculture, community, and income generation.

Over the last two decades, the project area has served as a battleground of ethnic and communal tensions that has led to the destruction of properties and the erosion of human capacity.

"For a return to normal life, social services must be restored, destroyed infrastructure must be rebuilt, and access to job opportunities must be made available," says Robert Gordon Rinker, a Portfolio Management Specialist in ADB's Resident Mission in Sri Lanka. lanka. lanka.

The project will focus on medium scale works to bridge community development with broader district-level improvements.

In the health sector, it will replace and rehabilitate district-level facilities and hospitals destroyed or in serious disrepair.

Proposed subprojects in the education sector include the reconstruction of schools and central colleges destroyed in the conflict. The project will also provide English-language training for teachers and housing compounds for those in remote areas.

In the agriculture sector, subprojects to create livelihood opportunities, such as inland aquaculture and fish-breeding programs, will also be carried out. The project will provide skills development and service training to develop rural microenterprises.

"By restoring sectors that form the backbone of the Northeast's economy, the project will start the long process of bringing conditions in the area back to their preconflict state," adds Mr. Rinker.

A special focus for the project will be addressing the plight of **women**, given the high number of **female** victims and war widows left to serve as heads of their households.

ADB \$% ADB approves further support for Sri Lanka 's conflict-affected north east region region region

"While seeking to reduce the overall poverty levels of women, the project will also design measures to raise the status of women in society," says Mr. Rinker.

Thus, initiatives that promote the economic improvement of women will be undertaken, particularly in fishing and agricultural communities.

The 20-year old conflict between the Government and the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) has left more than 65,000 dead, several times as many people disabled, and displaced almost 800,000 from their homes. While all of Sri Lanka has suffered from the consequences, the North East and the adjacent areas have borne the brunt of the fighting.

Poverty levels in the North East, at 60% to 90%, are much higher than the rest of the country. Little of the social or economic infrastructure in the area remains intact, and much of what remains is no longer usable.

A ceasefire agreement was signed in February of 2002, bringing a measure of normalcy to the country. However, the vast majority of affected people still suffer from lack of basic infrastructure and social services.

A comprehensive assessment of the needs in the conflict-affected areas conducted by multilateral agencies concluded that about \$3 billion would be required for relief, rehabilitation, and reconstruction - \$2 billion for immediate and medium-term needs and \$1 billion for longer-term needs.

To date, about \$645 million in assistance has been committed by the international community for relief and rehabilitation activities, with \$237 million from ADB.

"It is to be hoped that the continuing rehabilitation and development efforts in these conflict-affected areas will reinforce confidence in the peace process," Mr. Rinker adds.

"The people must see a rapid and visible peace dividend as a reason not to return to conflict."

The total project cost is estimated at \$14.3 million equivalent, of which the Government will contribute \$4.3 million.

ADB's loan, which will meet 70% of the total cost, comes from its concessional Asian Development Fund and carries a 40-year term, including a grace period of 10 years. The Ministry of Provincial Councils and Local Government will execute the loan, which will end concurrently with the NECORD project in December 2006.

ADB is dedicated to reducing poverty in the Asia and Pacific region through pro-poor sustainable economic growth, social development, and good governance. Established in 1966, it is owned by 63 members - 45 from the region. In 2003, it approved loans and technical assistance amounting to US\$ 6.1 billion and US \$ 177 million, respectively.

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com)). com)).

**Load-Date:** June 15, 2004

## *AIADMK hoping to cash in on MGR vote bank in villages*

Indo-Asian News Service

May 7, 2006 Sunday 3:04 PM EST

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**Length:** 771 words

**Byline:** Indo-Asian News Service

**Dateline:** Chennai

### **Body**

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Chennai, May 7 -- The AIADMK's biggest rival in Tamil Nadu continues to be the DMK, but party supremo J. Jayalalitha says the May 8 poll is the last time it will be so.

The AIADMK may not have any particular rapport with the media, but it has a hotline to the people - the government's bonanzas of cheap rice, clothes, bicycles, medicines, books, gold for the 'thaali' (a wedding symbol) and so on. You name it and it comes as a gift from the party chief.

In the May 8 poll, the AIADMK is contesting 182 seats of the 234-member assembly - the largest number in the last 25 years - with 53 sitting MLAs in the fray. It is fighting the DMK in 106 seats. The party has fielded 24 women candidates - again the highest ever.

The party also has the support of high-profile film stars, including Simran, Manorama, S.V. Sekar and actor and former MP Sarath Kumar.

The number of seats that it is contesting reflects the party's confidence. In 2001, it contested only 140 seats, but won in 134. This was the first time that the party had won so many seats despite contesting so few.

It is banking on the votes of people, especially women, who are ardent fans of the late Tamil matinee idol M.G. Ramachandran. Madurai west, Arupukottai, Andipatty, Periyakulam and Bodinayakkanur have their own MGR fan clubs. MGR, who founded the AIADMK and became chief minister, still commands support in the southern districts.

MGR was also the mentor of Jayalalitha, who co-starred with him in several films. Early in his political career MGR was a lead campaigner for the DMK until it rode to power in 1967, ending Congress rule in the state. His followers claimed it was MGR who helped DMK supremo Muthuvel Karunanidhi become chief minister after party founder C. N. Annadurai (known as Anna) died in 1969.

By 1971, MGR was the party's treasurer but he, obviously, wasn't the one who kept all the monies. He accused then chief minister Karunanidhi and his coterie of "misuse of party funds" and "drifting away from Anna's ideology". He was expelled from the party.

He formed his own party named Anna DMK (ADMK) in October 1972. On screen, he was the saviour of the poor, the weak, women and the downtrodden, and in politics, he cashed in on that image.

By 1973, the ADMK tasted its first electoral victory in the Dindigul parliamentary constituency, near Madurai, but today it does not have a single member in the Lok Sabha.

## AIADMK hoping to cash in on MGR vote bank in villages

In 1974, in neighbouring Pondicherry, a Congress bastion, the ADMK emerged as the single largest party and formed its first coalition government.

In 1975, when Indira Gandhi imposed Emergency in the country, the Justice R.S. Sarkaria commission of inquiry was appointed by the central government to probe corruption charges levelled by MGR against the DMK. The commission indicted the Karunanidhi government, which was dismissed in 1976.

MGR at that time renamed his party, the All-India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (AIADMK), to give it a national tinge.

In 1977, a Janata Party government in New Delhi ordered assembly elections in Tamil Nadu. MGR's party contested 200 seats and won 130 bagging a vote share of nearly 31 percent.

Gandhi wanted to contest a by-election from Thanjavur, but MGR hesitated to offer her this seat, and she had to go to Chickmagalur in neighbouring Karnataka instead. From then on began a rift between the Congress and the AIADMK.

With Gandhi's return to power in New Delhi, the MGR government was dismissed.

Thus, in 1980, there was another face-off between Karunanidhi and MGR, who won 129 seats by going to the people asking, "Why was my government dismissed?"

At the height of the Sri Lankan Tamil militant activity in Tamil Nadu, MGR was known to openly support the various groups and give "suitcases full of cash". He also personally supported marches for the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE).

MGR's magic continued until his death. It was only after 1987 that the DMK could return to power.

The assembly elections in 1992, following former prime minister Rajiv Gandhi's assassination, however, again saw the AIADMK in Fort St George with Jayalalitha as chief minister for the first time.

Plagued by issues of corruption in its turn, the AIADMK lost the 1996 elections.

It came back to power in 2001. Jayalalitha, still facing corruption charges, was however barred from occupying the chief minister's chair until the courts cleared her.

She placed a caretaker chief minister, O. Paneerselvam, in charge for several months until she won a by-election after the courts absolved her.

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**Load-Date:** May 8, 2006

## **INDIA: TRIBUNAL HEARS OF ABUSES OF TERRORISM LAW**

IPS-Inter Press Service

March 31, 2004, Wednesday

Copyright 2004 IPS-Inter Press Service/Global Information Network

**Length:** 828 words

**Byline:** By Ranjit Devraj

**Dateline:** NEW DELHI, Mar. 31

### **Body**

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Mohammed Haneef Abdul Razak Sheikh says he was held under India's controversial anti-terrorism law for distributing food to victims of the anti-Muslim pogrom that swept western Gujarat state two years ago.

All the 287 cases booked under the Prevention of Terrorism Act (POTA) in Gujarat following the violence were aimed at members of the minority community.

Sheikh's wife Yasmeen said that police, finding them away from home, grabbed hold of Sheikh's brother and dragged him away after abusing other members of the family and ransacking the premises.

Sheikh was among those who gave testimony earlier this month at a People's Tribunal organized by the voluntary National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) and a coalition of other activist groups.

"Over the past two years, POTA has been used against juveniles, old people, members minority communities, journalists, members of 'dalit' (low Hindu caste) groups, Adivasi (aboriginal) communities, women, political opponents and those struggling for socio-economic rights," said Colin Gonsalves, one of the main organisers of the tribunal.

POTA, introduced by India in compliance with a U.N. Security Council resolution following the Sep. 11 attacks in the United States, has ended up being used mainly to settle political scores, victimize religious and other minorities, according to the findings of the 'People's Tribunal.'

After listening to the testimonies, Ram Jethmalani, lawyer and union law minister at the time POTA was passed, confessed that he was gravely in error about its passage in April 2002.

"I supported the enactment of POTA but I did it because it was done in obedience to the U.N. Security Council resolution. I regret it now," he said.

Jethmalani said he, like many others, had reposed faith in the honesty of politicians who said it would never be misused. "Today I have no doubt that it should go out lock stock and barrel."

Concerns about the misuse of the law have also been aired by politicians and by the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC).

Others victims from Gujarat state testified that the police invariably made their arrests late at night, detained relatives of suspects and took away vital documents necessary to establish credentials.

## INDIA : TRIBUNAL HEARS OF ABUSES OF TERRORISM LAW

Habib Bhai Karimi said he was detained for four days merely because his son Kalim, who was arrested, happened to be friendly with their neighbor, a religious preacher.

For his part, Om Prakash, a 10-year-old boy from who was arrested in May 2003 under POTA following the murder of a village headman in northern Uttar Pradesh state, said his only crime was "being a member of the 'dalit' community".

Many of the cases from Uttar Pradesh had to do with struggles for land rights rather than terrorism, say critics of the anti-terrorism law.

The bulk of the cases lodged under the anti-terrorism law have come from central Jharkhand state. A record 3,200 cases have been registered there under POTA, with several of them involving juveniles and nearly all of them targeted aboriginals or 'dalit'.

When POTA's passage was being discussed in parliament in 2002, India's Interior Minister Lal Krishna Advani declared that those who opposed it were being "anti-national".

Advani and the BJP got their way with the law largely because parliament was then recovering from the shock of the Dec. 13, 2001 aborted attempt by a suicide squad to blow up the legislative building.

Objections raised by opposition politicians at the time -- that the law loosely defined key terms such as 'terrorist organization' and what constituted 'support' for such organizations and 'proceeds' from giving such support -- were easily dismissed.

Long-time complaints that India's criminal procedure code, drawn up during the repressive colonial period and still largely intact, was marked by deficient investigation and serious procedural lapses were ignored to produce what many said was a parallel and more draconian criminal system.

What followed was embarrassing even for the BJP. It had to stand by and watch while Vaiko (one name), a member of parliament from southern Tamil Nadu state and a close ally, was picked up under POTA.. Vaiko was incarcerated for making a speech praising the Sri Lankan militant group Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE).

Vaiko, who leads a local party in the opposition in Tamil Nadu, was released on bail on Feb. 7, after spending 18 months in jail.

Some of the eight supporters of his party who were incarcerated for similar durations were present at the People's Tribunal, but were bound by court orders restricting them from making public statements while on bail.

Gonsalves said the testimonies have greatly helped rising demands to have POTA repealed and get rid of "half-way measures" such as occasional amendments and a 'review committee' set up by the government to examine cases of abuse.

"We plan to bring more voices of POTA victims to the forefront and have them documented so that we can build up a strong case for the repeal of the act," he said.

**Load-Date:** March 31, 2004

## **17 rebels kills in northern Sri Lanka**

Xinhua General News Service

December 8, 2007 Saturday 1:18 AM EST

Copyright 2007 Xinhua News Agency

**Section:** WORLD NEWS; Political

**Length:** 190 words

**Dateline:** COLOMBO

### **Body**

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The military in Sri Lanka said Friday that 17 Tamil Tiger rebels were killed and over 18 injured in pre-emptive strikes launched by the Army in the northern Mannar district in the morning.

The Media Center for National Security said in a statement that the confrontation between the troops and the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (**LTTE**) erupted around 11:50 a.m. (0620 GMT) in the Narikkulam area.

The statement said six **LTTE female** cadres were among the killed.

During the confrontation the troops destroyed five bunkers of the **LTTE** and the Army suffered no casualties.

Clashes between the two sides began to focus in the north after the military claimed in mid-July that the rebels had been totally cleared from the Eastern Province.

Claiming discrimination at the hands of the Sinhala majority, the **LTTE** has been fighting the government since the mid-1980s to establish a separate homeland for the minority Tamils in the north and east.

More than 5,000 people have been killed in the new wave of violence since the end of 2005, making the Norwegian brokered ceasefire agreement exist only on paper.

**Load-Date:** December 9, 2007

## HighLights of the AAP National Wire at 14:45, May 2

AAP Newsfeed

May 2, 2007 Wednesday 2:40 PM AEST

Copyright 2007 Australian Associated Press Pty. Ltd.



**Section:** DOMESTIC NEWS

**Length:** 1409 words

### **Body**

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#### HIGHLIGHTS NATIONAL

ADELAIDE - Labor leader Kevin Rudd has dismissed internal party rumblings over the opposition's industrial relations plans as a fact of political life. (Workplace Rudd Lead (pix available))

MELBOURNE - Labor will continue to talk to business in a bid to shape an industrial relations policy fair to business and workers, deputy Labor leader Julia Gillard said today. (Workplace Gillard Lead)

Workplace Nightlead to come

CANBERRA - Prime Minister John Howard has distanced himself from his close friend, Liberal senator Bill Heffernan, over his comments that Julia Gillard is unfit to lead the country because she is "deliberately barren". (Heffernan Lead)

Heffernan Nightlead to come

CANBERRA - Prime Minister John Howard says next week's 2007-08 budget will put downward pressure on interest rates. (Rates Howard)

SYDNEY - Australians paying off a mortgage and credit card bills can stop sweating, for now, thanks to the central bank's announcement to leave interest rates untouched this morning. (Rates Economists Nightlead)

Budget07 Nightlead to come

CANBERRA - Environment Minister Malcolm Turnbull says Australia is on track to meet its Kyoto Protocol requirements for greenhouse gas emissions, disputing claims it would surpass them. (Climate Turnbull)

Climate Nightlead to come

SYDNEY - A coal company will axe 250 contractor jobs by the end of the month at its mining operations in the NSW Hunter Valley. (Coal Allied)

Coal Allied Nightlead to come

BRISBANE - Police have shot dead a man after he took another man hostage at a convenience store in south-east Queensland. (Shot Lead)

Shot Nightlead to come

PERTH - The exhausted crew of a stricken Australian yacht have almost given up hope of finding a crewmember washed overboard in wild seas deep in the Southern Ocean. (Overboard Nightlead, to come)

SYDNEY - A former close friend of man whose wife died in a cliff fall says there is a "99 per cent chance" the woman's death was not accidental. (Campbell)

Campbell Nightlead to come

MELBOURNE - A Melbourne woman who had sex with a 15-year-old boy while she was drunk has avoided jail. (Bennett)

SYDNEY - Evert Ploeg's love of painting hands inspired him to paint conductor George Ellis in a portrait which has won this year's Archibald People's Choice award. (Archibald Nightlead)



## HighLights of the AAP National Wire at 14:45, May 2

SYDNEY - Overweight dogs may soon get a scientific leg-up to help shed unwanted puppy fat, after an Australian biotech company's animal weight loss drug successfully passed its first stage of testing. (Stirling)

SYDNEY - Telstra says its tentative agreement with the federal government to build a \$4 billion fibre optic high speed broadband network has been undermined by the competition regulator. (Telstra. N/L to come)

MELBOURNE - The AFL has hit out at what it calls "disturbing" media focus on further punishment for fallen West Coast Eagles star Ben Cousins. (AFL Cousins Anderson. AFL N/L to come)

NEW YORK - Australian-born media mogul Rupert Murdoch is making a stunning multibillion-dollar move on The Wall Street Journal. (US Newscorp Nightlead. Seeking more)

PORT MORESBY - Solomon Islands Prime Minister Manasseh Sogavare expects Australian lawyer Julian Moti to be made attorney-general this month despite him being wanted by Australia to face child sex charges. (Solomons Moti)

LOS ANGELES - Steve Irwin's expert crew of Australian crocodile wranglers are set to fly to Los Angeles to solve one of the city's great mysteries - where's Reggie? (US alligator Irwin)

LONDON - Safely returned from a kite-skiing expedition through the world's polar bear capital, Australian adventurer Cynan Rhodes is planning his next challenge. (UK Beardodging)

SYDNEY - Infections are the leading reason Australian babies and toddlers are admitted to hospital, the nation's largest study of childhood admissions has found. (Infection)

SYDNEY - A drug being developed by a subsidiary of Australian pharmaceutical company Novogen Ltd is showing promising signs it may be effective in tackling late-stage ovarian cancer. (Novogen)

SYDNEY - A tampon-based test which allows women to self-check for very early signs of cervical cancer will only confuse and stress those who use it, specialists say. (Tampon)

SYDNEY - Australian sleep experts release a review of sleepiness among judges. (Sleepy, to come)

SYDNEY - A 10-week stint in sequins and heels on Dancing with the Stars has introduced singer Kate Ceberano to a whole new audience. (Ceberano)

SYDNEY - The cast of feature film Fantastic Four, including Jessica Alba, parade for cameras tonight at a sneak preview of the movies in Sydney. (Fantastic, with pix, to come)

SYDNEY - Google is having to search the United States for IT workers to staff the search engine's growing operations in Australia. (Google)

CANBERRA - Sri Lanka's secretary of foreign affairs Dr Palitha Kohona today tipped further arrests in Australia over illegal fundraising for the Tamil Tigers terror group. (Terror Tamil. Terror N/L to come)

CANBERRA - Singapore Airlines says new figures on the boom in Asia-Pacific aviation are proof it should be granted access to the lucrative trans-Pacific route. (Aviation Nightlead, to come)

CANBERRA - A national inquiry into the use of medication to treat attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) already is underway and should be completed later this year, Health Minister Tony Abbott says. (ADHD Abbott. ADHD N/L to come, exSydney)

SYDNEY - A former telephone operator has told an inquest she overheard details about the fatal shooting of five Australian-based newsmen in East Timor in 1975. (Balibo. N/L to come)

SYDNEY - A long-term employee's role as a union delegate did not give him a cloak of immunity for making false allegations against car parts manufacturer Tristar, the Federal Court has been told. (Tristar)

SYDNEY - A farmer has undergone emergency surgery after staggering three kilometres in NSW's central west to get help after he was apparently shot by an intruder. (Farm Lead. N/L to come)

SYDNEY - A working group will be established to examine options for Sydney's Spit Bridge on middle harbour, after the NSW government abandoned its election promise to widen the road. (Spit Lead. N/L to come)

MELBOURNE - Victorian Treasurer John Brumby says the Howard government needs to invest more money in capital works and a skilled labour force in next week's federal budget. (Budget07 Vic. Budget Vic N/L to come)

MELBOURNE - A Melbourne father who was found guilty of the manslaughter of his infant son has been jailed for at least two years. (Klamo. N/L to come)

MELBOURNE - ACTU secretary Greg Combet will decide by Friday whether he will be a candidate for the Labor Party in this year's federal election. (Combet)

BRISBANE - Two senior doctors at a north Queensland hospital are being investigated for official misconduct following the employment of four unregistered interns. (Interns. N/L to come)

BRISBANE - A breakthrough project which turns beer wastewater into electricity has won a \$140,000 grant from the Queensland government. (Beer)

BRISBANE - Nuclear power stations, nuclear facilities and radioactive waste dumps are now banned in Queensland. (Nuclear Qld)

## HighLights of the AAP National Wire at 14:45, May 2

BRISBANE - One of two men accused of kidnapping, torturing and robbing a businessman has been granted bail in Queensland's Supreme Court. (Thomas)

BRISBANE - About 80 animals have been killed in an arson attack on a pet store in southern Queensland. (Animals Nightlead)

ADELAIDE - Labor leader Kevin Rudd defends ALP celebrity recruits as fantastic election candidates. (Candidates, pix available, to come)

ADELAIDE - The school leaving age in South Australia will be raised from 16 to 17 in 2009 as part of new measures to ensure all children are either in school, training or at work. (Age)

ADELAIDE - A long running industrial dispute at tyre giant Bridgestone has ended with workers in Adelaide accepting a new enterprise agreement. (Bridgestone)

ADELAIDE - More than 3,000 tonnes of hay has been destroyed in a shed fire north of Adelaide. (Hay)

PERTH - A cold case review that cleared Andrew Mallard of the murder he spent 12 years in prison for could soon become public. (Mallard, to come)

HOBART - Extra funding has been made available to help prevent suicides in Tasmanian rural communities faced with increasing stress from drought. (Howard Tas Lead)

HOBART - About two-thirds of Tasmania has been officially declared drought stricken by the state government. (Drought Tas)

**Load-Date:** May 3, 2007

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End of Document

## HighLights of the AAP National Wire at 14:45, May 1

AAP Newsfeed

May 1, 2007 Tuesday 2:46 PM AEST

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Section: DOMESTIC NEWS

Length: 1466 words

### Body

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#### HIGHLIGHTS NATIONAL

MELBOURNE - Two Melbourne men charged today with terrorism-related offences are accused of being members of the Tamil Tigers, police said. (Terror Vic. Nightlead, Backgrounder to come.)

LOS ANGELES - Australia has been praised in a new US government report for its effort to combat terrorism domestically and in South East Asia, while Iran and Indonesia have been criticised. (Terror Report Aust)

CANBERRA - Prime Minister John Howard says Labor is using "bully boy" tactics against the business community following the business backlash against Labor's new industrial relations policy. (Workplace Howard. N/L to come)

CANBERRA - Prime Minister John Howard today promised next week's budget would be economically responsible and maintain a strong surplus. (Budget07 Howard. Budget07 N/L to come.)

SYDNEY - The Balibo Five were shot by Indonesian military chiefs after trying to surrender and had their blood smeared on a painting of an Australian flag, a coronial inquest was told today. (Balibo)

BRISBANE - The Australian sense of a "fair go" could be why Australians are pouring millions of dollars into internet scams, a senior fraud investigator says. (Scam Nightlead)

CANBERRA - Prime Minister John Howard today accused Opposition Leader Kevin Rudd of borrowing a European emissions reduction target then seeking to work out what impact that will have on Australia. (Climate Howard. N/L to come.)

SYDNEY - The new husband of a "naive" woman who died in a suspicious cliff fall was a predator who stalked his wife for her money, an inquest has been told. (Campbell. N/L to come)

SYDNEY - Federal Water Minister Malcolm Turnbull has his head in the sand or the clouds when it comes to climate change, says a Sydney mayor annointed by the Labor leadership to challenge him at this year's federal election. (NEWHOUSE. Wrap on Labor candidates on merit)

SYDNEY - American Sydney Kings' basketball star Bryant Matthews sexually assaulted a woman after a night "mixing" with his new teammates at an inner-city hotel, a court has been told. (Matthews)

CANBERRA - It's official: women are better drivers than blokes, at least according to one survey. (Drivers)

SYDNEY - St George Bank Ltd has posted a more than 14 per cent lift in first half earnings on the back of strong lending volumes and managed funds growth and increased its guidance for the full year. (St George. N/L to come)

ADELAIDE - Selectors have warned against annointing Cullen Bailey as the new Shane Warne after giving the 22-year-old legspinner a Cricket Australia contract. (Cricket Aust Nightlead to come)

more

## HighLights of the AAP National Wire at 14:45, May 1

LOS ANGELES - Australia's David Hicks was being treated "safely and humanely" at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, ahead of his transfer to an Australian prison, the US military said today. (Hicks US)

PORT MORESBY - Australia is being unfair in demanding Papua New Guinea authorities prosecute those responsible for Australian lawyer Julian Moti's escape from PNG to the Solomon Islands, says PNG's Foreign Minister Paul Tiensten. (PNG Moti)

LONDON - A location team has arrived in Darwin to scour the Australian outback for a place to film a new UK television series in which obese teenagers will have to hunt for food if they want to eat. (UK Fat)

SYDNEY - Scientists hope to solve the mysteries of schizophrenia with a world-first plan to collect brain data from thousands of Australian sufferers. (Schizophrenia)

CANBERRA - Thousands of Australian couples struggling to become pregnant can now access cheaper medical help after expanded Medicare funding for invitro fertilisation began today. (Sperm)

SYDNEY - Breastfeeding for longer does not protect babies from developing asthma or eczema as young children, according to Australian research which conflicts with national guidelines. (Breast)

CANBERRA - Mouthwash is the latest problem drink amongst Alice Springs' indigenous population, locals say. (MOUTHWASH to come)

CANBERRA - Labor has received a healthy result in today's Newspoll despite a slight drop in support, opposition treasury spokesman Wayne Swan says. (Newspoll Swan)

CANBERRA - A study showing depression and anxiety costs business almost \$10 billion a year highlights the need for employers to recognise the issue and provide treatment, a mental health group says. (Mental)

CANBERRA - The University of Canberra (UC) will reveal the details of its plan to shed a "significant" number of staff tomorrow, but will not confirm exact numbers. (UNIVERSITY to come)

SYDNEY - Prime Minister John Howard today announced a \$1.4 billion program to boost Australian industry and promote exports. (Industry Howard. N/L to come )

SYDNEY - Former NSW opposition leader John Brogden stepped back into the public spotlight today to speak about his fight with depression after attempting to take his own life two years ago. (Brogden. N/L to come)

SYDNEY - An internal police investigation has been launched after a suicidal highway patrol officer was saved from harming himself at a Sydney police station. (Police N/L to come.)

SYDNEY - Maxine McKew has moved in and has introduced herself to the locals in Bennelong with a 15-metre long billboard declaring herself as their "Fresh Face". (MCKEW)

SYDNEY - A woman driving a convertible has been threatened by three men wielding baseball bats in a carjacking in Sydney's eastern suburbs overnight. (BASEBALL. N/L to come)

SYDNEY - Security guards stepped in to physically stop a so-called ambush fashion parade outside the Australian Fashion Week's headquarters in Sydney today. (Fashion. N/L to come)

MELBOURNE - Victoria's state budget to be handed down at 3pm (AEST). Initial story and sidebars will be followed by

Budgetvic Nightlead and Budgetvic Analysis, plus factboxes.

MELBOURNE - Underworld figure turned author Mark "Chopper" Read appeared in a Melbourne court today where he was fined \$300 for careless driving. (Read)

MELBOURNE - Thrillseekers can now take in a unique view of Melbourne from a glass-floored cube hanging from the side of the city's tallest building. (Eureka)

MELBOURNE - Rock legend Max Merritt has been released from hospital in Los Angeles after treatment for a rare auto-immune disorder. (Merritt)

MELBOURNE - Detectives are investigating whether two robberies within four days involving swords in the same Melbourne suburb, are related. (Sword)

BRISBANE - A man repeatedly stabbed his wife and slit her throat while two of their crying children listened to her screams outside the bedroom, a Brisbane court has heard. (Abusoud)

BRISBANE - A colony of bats has taken over the roofs and walls of a Queensland school, driving students and teachers from classrooms. (Bats)

BRISBANE - The recent acquittals of two men in separate cases where their actions resulted in the death of others highlights the need for a review of Queensland law, the opposition says. (LEGAL QLD to come)

BRISBANE - Koalas could be extinct in south-east Queensland in the next 20 years, thanks to urban development and the "almighty dollar", a koala researcher said today (KOALAS to come, with pix)

GOLD COAST - Two men who BASE jumped from the world's tallest residential tower, the Q1 building on the Gold Coast, have each been fined \$750. (Base)

ADELAIDE - The South Australian government will review the 15 per cent shareholder cap on oil and gas giant Santos. (Santos Cap)

ADELAIDE - SA Premier Mike Rann defends federal Labor's controversial preselection of celebrity candidate Nicole Cornes. (Candidates)

ADELAIDE - People who steal copper from electricity lines and sub-stations are feeding drug habits, South Australian energy company ETSA Utilities says. (Copper)

## HighLights of the AAP National Wire at 14:45, May 1

DARWIN - Infrastructure is the winner in an otherwise conservative Northern Territory budget handed down today. (BudgetNT)

DARWIN - Two NSW men face charges in the Northern Territory after they were allegedly caught with excessive numbers of fish stashed in the back of their ute. (Fish)

HOBART - British yachtsman Tony Bullimore hopes to end his latest solo round-the-world voyage as he was to start it today - by playing Waltzing Matilda at full blast. (Bullimore Lead (Pix and graphic available))

PERTH - Western Australia will spend almost \$450 million on public housing and fast tracking land release approvals to ease its housing affordability crisis. (Housing WA)

PERTH - Construction union heavyweight Joe McDonald will face six different trials for trespassing on building sites in Perth. (McDonald to come)

PERTH - A man accused of gunning down his former mate, a bikie, outside a Perth aquatic centre was seen by police trying to dispose of evidence, a court has been told. (Montani to come)

PERTH - A sheep farm has been hailed as a biological hotspot after it was found to be home to some of Western Australia's rarest native vegetation and wildlife. (Sheep to come)

**Load-Date:** May 2, 2007

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## World Report

Windsor Star (Ontario)

March 28, 2007 Wednesday

Final Edition

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**Section:** NEWS; Pg. B2; World Report

**Length:** 1336 words

**Byline:** Compiled from Star News Services

### **Body**

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#### MIDEAST

##### EVEN AMBULANCES IN IRAQ ARE TARGETS OF INSURGENTS

BAGHDAD - Two truck bombs shattered markets in Tal Afar, Iraq, on Tuesday, killing at least 63 people and wounding dozens in the second assault in four days on a predominantly Shiite Muslim city hit by a resurgence in violence a year after it was held up as a symbol of U.S. success.

After the bombings, suspected Sunni Muslim insurgents tried to ambush ambulances carrying the injured out of the northwestern city but were driven off by police gunfire, Iraqi authorities said.

A major Sunni insurgent group reported its military leader was slain outside Baghdad, an assault likely to deepen an increasingly bloody rift between al-Qaida in Iraq and opponents of the terror group in Sunni communities west of the capital.

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#### EUROPE

##### SLAVERY PROTESTER GETS WITHIN YARDS OF QUEEN

LONDON - A protester demanding an apology for slavery got within yards of Queen Elizabeth II and the Prime Minister Tony Blair at a service to mark the abolition of the trade Tuesday.

The bicentennial commemoration in Westminster Abbey ground to a halt when Toyin Agbetu, 39, suddenly strode out in front of the altar shouting, "you should be ashamed" and "this is an insult to us."

Security guards rushed to subdue him as the Queen and Prince Phillip looked on.

Outside the Abbey, Agbetu said: "The Queen has to say sorry. There was no mention of the African freedom-fighters. This is just a memorial for William Wilberforce." He was later arrested. He had been invited to the ceremony as the founder of an African pressure group called Ligali.

As such, he had passed through security before entering.

## World Report

## POLISH TEENAGERS STEAL BUS, SELL IT FOR SCRAP

WARSAW - Three teenagers in Poland were arrested after coming up with the money-spinning idea of stealing a bus and selling it for scrap, police said Tuesday.

The three 16-year-old boys took the vehicle from an out-of-town shopping centre west of Warsaw, police spokesman Krzysztof Lenarczyk was quoted as saying.

"They then drove it right to a scrap metal yard and sold it for 2,600 zlotys (US\$894)," Lenarczyk said.

The three youngsters were detained and now face a juvenile court hearing.

The scrap metal merchant was also arrested and will have to answer charges of receiving stolen goods.

## TEAR GAS USED TO CLEAR RIOTERS FROM RAIL STATION

PARIS - French police used tear gas to clear out 100 youths from a major Paris subway station on Tuesday after a row over a ticket at the Gare du Nord station descended into a riot.

Officers arrested at least nine people and two others were injured when they clashed with police at the station, where the mainline Eurostar and Thalys terminals are a major gateway from Paris to the rest of Europe.

Dozens of rioters attacked windows, vending machines and shops in the main hall of the subway station in the afternoon, and it took police until nearly midnight to clear the station of rioters.

The trouble started when a 33-year-old without a ticket jumped the barriers in the subway station and was stopped by railway officials, police said.

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## NORTH AMERICA

## WHITE HOUSE SPOKESMAN HAS RECURRENCE OF CANCER

WASHINGTON - The colon cancer that Tony Snow successfully battled two years ago has returned and spread to the presidential spokesman's liver, the White House said Tuesday.

President George W. Bush, making a brief statement to reporters in the Rose Garden, struck an optimistic tone that echoed how aides said Snow was feeling. The president spoke with Snow early Tuesday, and said he looks forward to the day that his spokesman "comes back to the White House and briefs the press corps on the decisions that I'm making."

## MAN HELD AFTER STASH OF PANTIES, BRAS FOUND

PULLMAN, Wash. - A Washington state man has been charged with theft and burglary after police said they found 42 kilograms of women's underwear at his home.

Garth Flaherty, 24, may have taken as many as 1,500 panties, brassieres and other undergarments from apartment complex laundry rooms before he was caught, police Cmdr. Chris Tennant said.

A man was seen taking underwear from two laundry rooms Saturday and a witness recorded his licence plate number.

Flaherty was identified from photographs, Tennant said.

Police found enough underwear in his bedroom to fill five garbage bags, Tennant said.

"He said he had a problem," Tennant said.

## World Report

Flaherty has been jailed on 12 counts of second-degree burglary and one of first-degree theft.

The underwear will be held as evidence until the case is resolved, after which their disposition is uncertain, Tennant said.

"Would you really want them back?" Tennant asked. "I would say not."

## JURY SPARES WOMAN FROM DEATH PENALTY IN POISONING

DALTON, Ga. - Jurors decided Tuesday to spare the life of a former 911 dispatcher convicted of poisoning her boyfriend with antifreeze -- the same way she had killed her husband six years earlier.

Lynn Turner could have faced the death penalty for the 2001 murder of Randy Thompson, a Forsyth County firefighter and father of Turner's two children. Instead, the jury sentenced her to life in prison without parole.

She was already serving a life term following her 2004 conviction in the antifreeze death of her police officer husband, Glenn Turner in 1995.

Lynn Turner pleaded not guilty in both cases and did not testify at trial or during her sentencing hearing Monday.

Prosecutors said she was motivated by greed for the victims' life insurance money.

Tests on the victims' bodies showed they were poisoned with ethylene glycol, a sweet, odourless chemical in antifreeze. During the 2004 trial, prosecutors suggested it could have been placed in foods such as Jell-O.

## HOUDINI WIDOW'S KIN DON'T WANT HIS BODY DISTURBED

NEW YORK - The family of Harry Houdini's widow wants to block a plan to exhume the escape artist's remains, saying a disinterment to determine whether he was murdered smacks of sensationalism.

"It is our firm belief that Bess Houdini would never approve of this," said a statement from her grandnephews, John and Jeffrey Blood. "The family believes this is likely being done to promote sales of a recent book on Harry Houdini, suggesting he may have been murdered."

A spokesman for Houdini's grandnephew, who supports the exhumation, and one of the new biography's authors on Tuesday quickly protested the Bloods' suggestion.

"I'm sorry that Bess's side of the family feels that way, because this is not a publicity stunt in any shape or form," said Larry Sloman, co-author of *The Secret Life of Houdini*. "This is not something frivolous. This is a serious scientific study."

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## ASIA

## TAJIK LEADER BANS HIGH SCHOOL GRAD PARTIES

DUSHANBE, Tajikistan - President Emomali Rakhmon has banned high school graduation parties in this largely Muslim Central Asian country, the latest in a string of edicts on Tajik cultural and social life.

Rakhmon said he was concerned about the "pompous" and "excessive luxury" of school festivities, according to his press service. Earlier, he ordered a ban on the use of cellphones and private cars at high schools.

## UN CHIEF 'DISTURBED' BY ESCALATING VIOLENCE

UNITED NATIONS - UN chief Ban Ki-moon is "disturbed" by the extensive violations of the ceasefire in Sri Lanka and urges the rival sides to resume negotiations without preconditions, his press office said Tuesday.



## World Report

Ban, who is on his way to Saudi Arabia to attend an Arab summit, appealed to Sri Lankan authorities and Tamil Tiger separatists "to break this vicious cycle of attack and retaliation, which only leads to more bloodshed and victims."

He urged the two sides to return to the negotiating table "as soon as possible, without preconditions."

Earlier Tuesday, the Sri Lankan military bombed suspected Tamil Tiger rebel targets across the island's embattled northeast, the second straight day of air strikes. Tuesday's air attacks by the Sri Lankan military came a day after **Tamil Tigers** separatists flew single-engined planes over the main military air base adjacent to Sri Lanka's only international airport and dropped bombs, killing three airmen and wounding 16 others.

## Graphic

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Colour Photo: Toyin Agbetu. ;

Colour Photo: Tony Snow. ;

Photo: Harry Houdini. ;

**Load-Date:** March 28, 2007

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End of Document

*Travel: Pack your trunks for Sri Lanka!; Your Holiday BIRMINGHAM MAIL READERS DICK AND PAT MARSH, FROM OLDBURY, HAD THE GOOD FORTUNE TO FIND THEIR SHANGRI-LA IN SRI LANKA It's Local Newspaper Week and the Birmingham Mail is joining other papers across the country highlighting and celebrating the part we play in our communities. We believe passionately in giving readers a voice and here is an example...*

Birmingham Evening Mail

May 9, 2007, Wednesday

Staffordshire Edition

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**Section:** FEATURES; Pg. 28

**Length:** 1167 words

## Body

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'SRI Lanka' is but the latest name for the teardrop shaped island nestling off India's southern coast.

Previously known as Ceylon, the island was also called Taprobane by Roman merchants and Serendib by Arab traders, this latter name being the source of the English word serendipity.

With the tsunami a part of island's recent history and tales of the continuing battle between the government and the ***Tamil Tigers*** regularly appearing in the British media we had some concerns about a trip there.

But we found it to be an engaging and stimulating experience, serendipity indeed.

Our itinerary began with an overnight flight from Heathrow to Colombo. Our party of 15, mixed couples and individuals, were then whisked into a small coach for a five-hour trip to our first resting place, a chalet-style hotel beside a lake in the north of the island.

This was our base for three nights, allowing us to explore key local sights including the former capital town/fortress of Sigiriya, a massively imposing settlement on the top of a huge rock outcrop, one side of which is adorned with paintings of beautiful maidens and the front of which has extensive water gardens.

The locals understandably call this the 'eighth wonder of the world' and for visual impact and testimony to man's ingenuity the claim has great merit. From the same base we visited the Namal Uyana natural forest, a site of religious, conservation and geological interest, developed by the dedication of a Buddhist monk.

Adjacent to the hotel was a Safari Park which provided a very enjoyable elephant ride through jungle and lake, although the certificates issued in commemoration of our "daring and adventurous ride" were a bit OTT.

By this time we were really beginning to appreciate the fantastic range of wildlife. On the elephant ride, for example, we saw mongoose, brown kite, various herons, two of the five kingfisher varieties on the island, and (at least!) two

Travel: Pack your trunks for Sri Lanka ! Your Holiday BIRMINGHAM MAIL READERS DICK AND PAT MARSH, FROM OLDBURY, HAD THE GOOD FORTUNE TO FIND THEIR SHANGRI-LA IN....

chameleons. Near the hotel we saw palm squirrels, monkeys and land monitors. We did not see the crocodiles which apparently live in the lake but pose no threat.

Before moving on we visited the Dumbulla cave temples, a series of caves with large and small statues of the reclining Buddha, wall and ceiling art, some dating back to the 1st Century.

By now we were also coming to appreciate how efficient suspension systems need to be to cope with the Sri Lankan roads and how majestic much of the scenery is.

Onwards to Kandy, generally regarded as the most picturesque of the island's cities. For us it was also evocative of Indian cities, with its jumble and bustle and our first sighting of an American restaurant chain. More were to follow in the capital Colombo but generally it was good to see a predominance of local cafes and restaurants. Whilst in Kandy we joined the general tourist throng at the daily cultural show, an energetic and accomplished tribute to music and dance traditions and an exhibition of walking on hot coals.

A week into the tour we visited the premier tourist attraction in Sri Lanka, the elephant orphanage. Over 80 of the magnificent creatures live here; the young are bottle-fed 35 litres a day, the lame and maimed are cared for and the entire herd is taken to the local river each afternoon to bathe, wash, frolic and generally enjoy themselves for the benefit of the large tourist audience. It is a wonderful spectacle.

Meanwhile, our culinary repertoire had been extended with the sampling of red bananas, our wildlife list increased with sightings of fruit tree bats and, less impressively because they are chained as tourist attractions, porcupines.

We also took in the Botanical Gardens at Kandy, one of many British legacies cherished by the islanders. As daily visitors to Warley Woods we know a good tree when we see one and this place had dozens to marvel at, including our favourite the Java Fig, otherwise known as the Umbrella tree.

The size of the nuts on some of the palms is shown by their common names eg. the "cannonball" and "bomb" trees.

The following day we moved 'up country', partly by coach, partly by local train. The hour on the train was fun, and much more comfortable than the train trip we took on our penultimate day when we joined Colombo commuters in their daily attempt to create a new world record for the number of people in a single carriage.

Anyway, the first train was moving us towards Nuwara Eliya, a small and very British town perched high in the hills. The days of colonial rule are evoked by the Country Club where we stayed the night; jacket and tie obligatory (supplied if necessary). This was the town where we did our first supermarket shop and sampled our first "pint" (625ml actually) outside of the hotel world. The Windsor Bar may not be as comfortable as its Needless Alley namesake but it produces a pint of very acceptable beer for 50p, about half the going hotel rate.

En route to N'Eliya we had seen the vast tea plantations that carpet many of the upper slopes of this part of the island.

The tea picking itself is a female trade, the men being involved in managing the land and transporting the tea. We stopped at a tea factory to see the process and sample the product.

The journey down the mountainside provided spectacular views of a changing terrain and inspiring waterfalls as we moved from the wet zone to the dry zone before undertaking a four-hour jeep safari in Yala National Park.

This was another splendid opportunity to observe the flora and fauna; no leopard sightings but wild elephants, boar, buffalo, jackal, crocodile and a variety of wonderful birds including the painted and adjutant storks. The outing was also a tribute to the ancient Land Rovers that carried us across some very rough terrain.

On to our last hotel on the Indian Ocean, where we were to spend the final few days of the holiday "winding down" before the long flight home. We were able to get out into the local area and experience the undoubted warmth of

Travel: Pack your trunks for Sri Lanka ! Your Holiday BIRMINGHAM MAIL READERS DICK AND PAT MARSH, FROM OLDBURY, HAD THE GOOD FORTUNE TO FIND THEIR SHANGRI-LA IN....

the local people, make a fleeting visit to Colombo and take a coach ride along the southern coast so badly affected by the tsunami.

The hotel facilities were good, the ocean was invitingly near and warm, and satellite TV gave live coverage of the Blues' cup tie against Reading.

And yet more wildlife to enjoy, including giant water monitors, fish eagles and turtles galore.

Twelve nights in Sri Lanka was a great holiday. Perhaps our only reservation was the number of product demonstration/ retail opportunities. Nothing, however, could diminish our enthusiasm for an intriguing, stimulating and beautiful island.

So you want to be a travel writer?

Send us an article of between 500 and 800 words about your holiday. Tell readers what you did and give us your top tips. Don't forget to include some of the snaps you took and most importantly a photo of yourself.<sup>10</sup> We'll publish the best in our weekly travel section. Send your article and pictures to Travel Desk, Birmingham Mail, PO Box 78, Weaman Street, Birmingham, B4 6AY, or email to [edstephens@mrn.co.uk](mailto:edstephens@mrn.co.uk)

## Graphic

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BATH TIME... the elephant orphanage is Sri Lanka's premier tourist attraction.; WILD TIMES... Pat and Dick Marsh enjoyed an elephant ride.

**Load-Date:** May 9, 2007

## **WORLD at 1700GMT**

AP Worldstream

December 25, 2005 Sunday

Copyright 2005 Associated Press

**Section:** INTERNATIONAL NEWS

**Length:** 1377 words

### **Body**

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#### HIGHLIGHTS:

Update: JAPAN-TRAIN. Express derails in north Japan, kills two.

New: ISRAEL-PALESTINIANS. Sharon orders steps to stop rocket fire from Gaza.

New: US-IRAQ: Joint chiefs chairman says military deployments in Iraq may change in '06,

New: CHRISTMAS in BAGHDAD. Daily woes dampen Christmas.

New: FRANCE-TSUNAMI. Girl who saved tourists from tsunami honored.

New: YOUNGER ATLANTIC CITY: Once a haven for seniors, Atlantic City drawing the young.

New: RUSSIA-AFRICANS KILLED: Youths kill African student, wound another in St. Petersburg.

LIBYA-AIDS TRIAL: Libyan court orders retrial of Bulgarian nurses, Palestinian doctor

TRIPOLI, Libya - Libya's supreme court overturns the death sentences of five Bulgarian nurses and a Palestinian doctor convicted of infecting children with the HIV virus, and orders a retrial. The decision appears to be an attempt to end the standoff between Libya and the West over the case, which has poisoned Libyan leader Moammar Gadhafi's attempts to rebuild ties with the West. BC-ME-GEN--LIBYA-AIDS TRIAL. Developing. By Khaled El-Deeb.

CHRISTMAS: Pilgrims fill Bethlehem; Pope urges action on signs of hope in Mideast

BETHLEHEM, West Bank - After a year marked by bloodshed and devastating natural disasters, Christian pilgrims pack Bethlehem's Manger Square and flock to the Vatican to pray for a more tranquil 2006. Pope Benedict XVI praises signs of hope in the Middle East, while in Asia, grieving relatives gather at beaches and mass graves to remember the thousands killed by the tsunami a year ago. BC-ME-GEN--CHRISTMAS-WORLD. By 1730GMT. By Sarah El Deeb. AP Photos.

-BC-EU-REL--VATICAN-CHRISTMAS. VATICAN CITY - Pope Benedict XVI marks his first Christmas as pope, calling for the "signs of hope" in the Middle East to be confirmed by actions on the ground and urging peace in Africa, Asia and elsewhere in the world. Moved. By Nicole Winfield. AP Photos.

-BC-EU-GEN--BRITAIN-CHRISTMAS-ARCHBISHOP. LONDON - Archbishop of Canterbury praises two families who showed forgiveness to violent criminals. Moved.

WORLD at 1700GMT

BAGHDAD, Iraq - Hundreds of Shiites spill into Baghdad streets to support their governing religious coalition, which took a large lead in the Dec. 15 elections and has been the target of opposition vote rigging claims. At least 16 people were killed in violence around the country. BC-ME-GEN--IRAQ. Moved. By Patrick Quinn.

-BC-ME-GEN--IRAQ-CHRISTMAS IN BAGHDAD. BAGHDAD, Iraq - At Bassem Khedhr's home a green tree flickers with lights and the women baked holiday pastries. But hardships of daily life dampened festivities. Khedhr missed Christmas Mass because he had to fix the generator; danger rules out such treats as the amusement park. Moved. By Mariam Fam, AP Photos.

-BC-EU-GEN--BRITAIN-IRAQ HOSTAGES. LONDON - The Muslim Association of Britain renews its calls for the release of British hostage in Iraq. BC-EU-GEN--BRITAIN-IRAQ HOSTAGES. Upcoming.

ISRAEL-PALESTINIANS: Sharon orders implementation of steps to stop rocket fire from Gaza

JERUSALEM - Prime Minister Ariel Sharon orders the military to stop Palestinians from firing rockets at Israel from Gaza, officials say, implementing a plan that includes a no-go zone in northern Gaza to keep militants away from areas they use to launch the rockets. BC-ME-GEN--ISRAEL-PALESTINIANS. Moved. By Mark Lavie.

BRITAIN-QUEEN. Queen gives somber Christmas message, remembering 2005 disasters

LONDON - Queen Elizabeth II delivers a somber Christmas address, remembering those who suffered in last year's deadly Asia tsunami and in the London suicide bombings in July 7. "This last year has reminded us that this world is not always an easy or a safe place to live in, but it is the only place we have," says the monarch, spending Christmas at the royal family's Sandringham estate in eastern England. BC-EU-GEN--BRITAIN-ROYAL CHRISTMAS. Moved. By Tariq Panja. AP Photos.

RUSSIA-AFRICANS KILLED: Youths kill African student, wound another in St. Petersburg

ST. PETERSBURG, Russia - One African student is stabbed to death and another is seriously wounded in separate attacks on the same street in St. Petersburg, prosecutors and a student activist say. The city prosecutors' office says investigators consider racism the most probable motive, Russian news agencies report. BC-EU-GEN--RUSSIA-KILLING. Moved. By Irina Titova.

US-IRAQ: Joint chiefs chairman says map of military deployments in Iraq may change in '06

WASHINGTON - The number of U.S. troops remaining in Iraq in 2006 will be determined by the insurgency as well as the capabilities of Iraqi forces, the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff says. Gen. Peter Pace says the United States does not have a specific goal for troop numbers, but rather "off-ramps and on-ramps based on what we have on the ground." BC-NA-GEN--US-JOINT CHIEFS CHAIRMAN-POWELL. Moved. By Larry Margasak.

EXECUTION DEBATE: Looming executions unlikely to ease crowding on California's death row

SAN FRANCISCO - The execution of Crips gang co-founder Stanley Tookie Williams and the looming lethal injections of two more men early next year have revived a long-running discussion over whether executions will accelerate in California, home to the nation's largest death row. BC-NA-GEN--US-CALIFORNIA EXECUTIONS. Moved. By David Kravets.

YOUNGER ATLANTIC CITY: Once a haven for seniors, Atlantic City drawing younger crowds

ATLANTIC CITY, New Jersey - Rejuvenated by an edgy new casino, trendy clubs and beach bars and a vibrant music scene, Atlantic City is evolving into a nightlife hotspot for people in their 20s, 30s and 40s who once saw it as one big neon-lit retirement home. And the new kids in town are changing the way the casinos do business. BC-NA-FIN--US-YOUNGER ATLANTIC CITY. Moved. By John Curran.

MOGADISHU, Somalia - Warlords and civilians install a council to govern Somalia's capital, an action that further fragments the nation but that could bring the city under the control of a single group after 14 years of anarchy. Sixty-four members of the new council are sworn in to act as legislators, formalizing a break with Somalia's transitional government. BC-AF-GEN--SOMALIA-NEW ADMINISTRATION. Upcoming. By Osman Hassan.

SRI LANKA: Pro-rebel lawmaker shot dead in eastern Sri Lanka amid escalating violence

COLOMBO, Sri Lanka - Unidentified gunmen shoot and kill a pro-rebel legislator as he attends midnight Mass at a church in eastern Sri Lanka, the Defense Ministry says, sparking fears of a return to civil war in the island

WORLD at 1700GMT

nation.nine other people are wounded including the wife of slain lawmaker Joseph Pararajasingham, 71. The government blames the **Tamil Tigers**.BC-AS-GEN--SRI LANKA-VIOLENCE. Moved. By Dilip Ganguly.

TOKYO - An express train derails in northern Japan, killing two people and injuring more than two dozen others, officials say. BC-AS-GEN--JAPAN-DERAILED TRAIN. Developing. By Mari Yamaguchi.

TSUNAMI ANNIVERSARY: Christmas celebrations tinged with sadness in tsunami zone

BANDA ACEH, Indonesia - The parents of children who were snatched away by the tsunami pray at mass graves, while Western tourists return to palm-fringed beaches to lay wreaths for lost friends one year after an earthquake unleashed the tsunami. BC-AS-GEN--TSUNAMI-YEAR. Moved. By Chris Brummitt. AP Photos.

WITH:

-BC-AS-GEN--TSUNAMI-YEAR-WHERE ARE THEY NOW. Children were among the most vulnerable when the tsunami swept the Indian Ocean's rim a year ago, and the stories of those who survived were among the most miraculous and hope-inspiring. But painful echoes from the tragedy linger one year later. Moved. AP Photos.

-BC-EU-GEN--FRANCE-TSUNAMI-GIRL HONORED. PARIS - A French children's magazine named as its "Child of the Year" a British schoolgirl who was credited with saving about 100 tourists at a Thai beach when the tsunami struck last year.

NORTH KOREA-JAPAN: Japanese official says North Korea agrees to Japanese proposal on talks

BEIJING - Japan and North Korea have agreed to set up working groups to resolve key sticking points preventing the Asian rivals from establishing diplomatic ties, a Japanese envoy says. BC-AS-GEN--CHINA-JAPAN-NKOREA. Developing. By Peter Enav. AP Photos.

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YOUR QUERIES: Contact your local AP bureau, the Europe & Africa Desk in London at +44 207 427 4300 or the Americas Desk in New York at +1 212 621 1650.

**Load-Date:** December 25, 2005

## **Even Good Health System Is Overwhelmed by Tsunami**

The New York Times

January 9, 2005 Sunday

Late Edition - Final

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**Section:** Section 1; Column 1; Foreign Desk; Pg. 10; ASIA'S DEADLY WAVES: MEDICAL CARE

**Length:** 1225 words

**Byline:** By DENISE GRADY

**Dateline:** KALMUNAI, Sri Lanka, Jan. 6

### **Body**

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Carmen Ramirez de la Pistina, a physician from Spain who works for the aid group Doctors Without Borders, was speaking to exhausted health officials here in southeastern Sri Lanka and suggesting they could do even more to forestall an epidemic in local refugee camps.

Now, more than a week after the tsunami, she said, disease and even more death "can explode in front of us."

The camps have been free of epidemics, despite crowding and latrines. Sri Lanka has a strong health care system, reflected in low infant mortality and long life expectancy, and health specialists say the country's doctors and health officials have averted a medical disaster by setting up the camps quickly and running them well, particularly in providing clean drinking water immediately.

But now the local medical staff is tired and overwhelmed after working in emergency conditions since the tsunami. Some staff members were killed, clinics were wiped out and vehicles were destroyed. Tempers seemed short at times at the meeting. A doctor pleaded for help in providing care at the 16 camps in his area, 6 of which could be reached only by boat.

Now Dr. Ramirez de la Pistina was noting a weakness in the system. Here and there, cases of diarrhea have occurred, but camp records did not provide enough detail to tell if a deadly disease like cholera or typhoid might be at work. It is essential to detect such problems early for doctors to stop an infectious disease from sweeping through a camp. The Sri Lankan doctors agreed: they needed better record keeping, with strict criteria for making diagnoses and identifying cases. In crisis mode, perhaps, they had let slide an essential rule of public health.

More than 500,000 people have been displaced, Sri Lanka's Ministry of Health said. Many thousands have left the camps to live with relatives or go home, but many more have nowhere to go. For them, life in the camps will drag on for weeks and months. Keeping them healthy will be an enormous challenge to the health care system. The camps, in tent cities, and in schools, Buddhist temples and churches, house 100 to 1,000 needy people.

Infectious disease is a constant threat, and officials have their hands full trying to keep it at bay. Now, with the prospect of people living in camps for extended periods, doctors have to worry about pregnant **women**, infants and children who need vaccinations. At a camp in Kalmunai, a doctor made a special effort to encourage pregnant **women** to be examined.



## Even Good Health System Is Overwhelmed by Tsunami

Preventing outbreaks takes vigilance and sticking to specific routines like disinfecting drinking wells with chlorine and nagging people to wash their hands. Survivors are generally in good health but many are grieving, having lost one or more relatives. Some doctors say the bereaved need counseling or therapy, but others say people will cope with sadness in their own way. The threat of sickness looms because of the lack of toilets and because flooding has contaminated many wells. Clean drinking water has to be trucked in. At camps in Ampara, about an hour inland, heavy rains filled latrines. The earth is saturated, so no more pits can be dug.

Even in camps with real toilets, septic tanks overflow. Health officials say they need trucks to pump out the latrines and tanks.

But doctors visit the camps every day, and they say they see no outbreaks of infectious disease. Respiratory infections and cases of diarrhea have occurred, they say, but not in worrisome numbers.

[A doctor at a field clinic set up by the Finnish Red Cross near Pottuvil said Friday that it was like any other outpatient clinic -- a steady stream of minor ailments. But just after he said that, a family rushed up, carrying a limp baby who was quite ill.

"They were here before," the doctor told a translator. "She has a lung infection. I told them to go to the hospital in Pottuvil." But they had no transportation. The doctor recruited a volunteer to take them.]

Four camps visited last week in Ampara were clean and organized, with plenty of food and water, enough food to give departing families a month's worth of rations, with bags of Sri Lankans' beloved chili powder. Storerooms were piled high with donated clothes. Families were living in classrooms, which are essentially outdoors in Sri Lanka, like picnic shelters in the United States. A 3-year-old girl slept on her back on a mat on the floor. Nearby lay a month-old baby. The sharp smell of the antiseptic Betadine hung everywhere, meaning that the doctors were making their daily visit and swabbing every cut in sight.

Many were eager to tell their stories, and encouraged others to speak up, sometimes pulling them forward and saying, "She lost two children," or "He lost his wife." When the wave came, a mother snatched her 2-year-old daughter and ran, but the water overtook her and swept the child away. A woman with two daughters grabbed each by a leg and saved them. Another woman clinging to the top of a coconut tree saw her mother floating by just in time to pull her from the water by the hair. They know neighbors helped them down from the tree when the water receded, but neither really remembers it.

Survivors said hardly anyone in this coastal region, except for fisherman, knew how to swim. But they also said they doubted swimming would have made a difference. The wall of water smashed brick houses in Kalmunai to rubble. The beach there looks like a brick factory exploded.

Some psychologists say recounting the details of a catastrophe soon afterward can help people recover. "I think they're bouncing back quite quickly," said Dr. Mayoni Pingamage, who visits several camps every day. "A lot have lost a family member. They seem all right, at least outwardly."

Ampara's 358-bed general hospital admitted 927 people on the day the tsunami struck, said Dr. P.K.C.L. Jayasinghe, its medical superintendent. As victims were brought in, he ran a triage, sorting out patients to decide whom to treat first.

The hospital is modern, and Dr. Jayasinghe said it had experience in treating mass casualties because southeastern Sri Lanka is prone to floods and terrorist attacks from a separatist group, the Tamil Tigers. In the past two years he has taken courses in triage and disaster management. Now 35, he has been running the hospital for five years.

Most tsunami victims had head injuries, cut, scrapes, bruises or broken bones, including compound fractures in which the bone sticks out through the skin. Of the 927 who were admitted, only six died, from head injuries, lung damage or septic shock. On Jan. 5, about 150 people were still in the hospital.

## Even Good Health System Is Overwhelmed by Tsunami

The hardest cases have been people who inhaled saltwater, Dr. Jayasinghe said. It had to be suctioned out. The salt harmed the lungs and caused heart failure in some patients. All needed ventilators to help them breathe, and most recovered.

"No one seems to have any experience with this," he said. "We can't find anything, not even on the Internet."

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### Bank Aid Could Exceed \$1 Billion

COLOMBO, Sri Lanka, Jan. 8 (Reuters) -- The World Bank could give more than \$1 billion to countries hit by the tsunami, its chief, James D. Wolfensohn, said on a visit Saturday, cautioning that he was "wildly concerned" about how aid was spent. The bank has pledged \$250 million, but could go to \$1 billion, he said.

<http://www.nytimes.com>

## Graphic

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Photo: Tsunami victims yesterday at a refugee camp in Valaichchenai, Sri Lanka, where doctors fear that crowding and latrines will cause epidemics. (Photo by Petros Karadjias/Associated Press)

**Load-Date:** January 9, 2005

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## *Finally, a chance to escape plantation*

The Toronto Star

October 23, 2005 Sunday

Copyright 2005 Toronto Star Newspapers, Ltd.

**Section:** NEWS; Pg. A13

**Length:** 1305 words

**Byline:** Martin Regg Cohn, Toronto Star

### **Body**

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The romance of tea estates is a powerful tonic: verdant hills blanketed in mists, plantation managers dining in colonial-era bungalows, women pluckers deftly tossing emerald tea leaves into cane baskets.

But the reality is a bitter brew. Plantation workers in Sri Lanka's lush highlands occupy the lowest rung of society - condemned to a life of virtual servitude.

Now, a Canadian development project is trying to undo decades of discrimination and neglect by helping the country's most vulnerable workers wean themselves from their dependency on the paternalistic tea plantations.

Toiling under the tropical sun, they emerge from the damp tea bushes with their ankles bloodied by leeches. By night, they languish in shacks with corrugated roofs, huddling near kerosene lamps to keep rats at bay.

The grim working conditions are the least of their worries.

The plantation, for all its hardships, is the only home they have ever known: the place where they were born, where their parents died - and where their grandparents first arrived from India as indentured workers.

The real trouble - harassment and incarceration - comes when the tea pluckers venture beyond the sprawling plantation grounds without proper birth certificates or National Identity Cards. In the outside world, they are treated as non-persons, turned away from bank lineups or taken away at police checkpoints.

For decades, plantation workers were non-citizens despite being born on Sri Lankan soil, off India's southeast coast.

Barred from citizenship after independence in 1948, they were treated as outsiders - so-called "Indian Tamils" - whose ancestors were brought in by the British from Tamil Nadu to do the work others wouldn't touch.

Today, they are trying to reclaim their rights, thanks to a \$4 million aid program run by World University Service of Canada to help them take advantage of changes to Sri Lankan laws.

"They are looked down upon because their parents came as indentured labourers," says Bill Duggan, a WUSC manager heading the Plantation Communities Project.

"They were brought over basically as slaves," he explains. "They were born on the estate and never thought they'd leave the estate."

### Finally, a chance to escape plantation

That mentality is changing, as the younger generation tries to break free from that cradle-to-grave cycle. Management is also trying harder to retain its rapidly declining workforce by easing the backbreaking workload and improving conditions.

As ownership of the plantations has changed - founded by the British in the late 1800s, tea estates were taken over by the Sri Lankan government after independence and later privatized - so has management's outlook. WUSC is bringing unions and owners together to give workers more control over their lives.

"The tea industry in Sri Lanka is in serious trouble," notes Duggan. "They've got to increase productivity and profits, but they are hemorrhaging workers like crazy. There are serious labour shortages because young people don't want to work there with the stigma and living conditions."

The tea estates employ about one of every 20 workers in the population of 20 million. Sri Lanka's plantations are the world's largest source of tea exports and remain the country's biggest earners of hard currency. But for ordinary tea workers, getting ahead - or even getting out - can be a constant struggle.

When Anthony Lazarus dared to leave the plantation, he was stopped at a train station in the capital, Colombo, where police detained him for failing to produce an identity card.

The tea worker was kept incommunicado for three days and beaten by officers who suspected him of involvement with the **Tamil Tigers** - the guerrilla group seeking separate statehood for indigenous Tamils in the northeast.

"Everything was done for us by the tea estate, so I depended on the plantation to provide me with a birth certificate," says Lazarus, 47. "They promised, but it never happened.

"Now, we require documentation for everything. My birth certificate is required for my children's birth certificate."

Bank loans, welfare payments, voter registration, school enrolment, marriage and passports are among the basic rights denied to workers without ID cards or birth certificates.

"Even if I die, it's required," Lazarus says.

The WUSC program, funded by the Canadian International Development Agency, sends trained staff into the highlands to help Tamil-speaking tea workers, many of them barely literate, fill out forms in the language of the majority Sinhalese.

"Now, I have proof that I am alive," Lazarus says, showing off his identity documents in the darkness of his plantation home.

At the nearby Dunsinane plantation, Chandralatha Vythilingam says she never needed the ID card on the estate, where she started plucking tea leaves at age 12. But when she was turned back at an army checkpoint, she realized her vulnerability.

"I was really frightened because the police accused me of lying," says Vythilingam, 32.

She is one of the fastest pluckers on the plantation, collecting an average of 30 kilograms of tealeaves daily, but her Grade 4 education has always been a handicap. She sought help in a market town to fill out the official forms but was only swindled out of her money.

"Everything is done in Sinhala at the government offices," she says, pursing her lips. "I had lost all hope."

After waiting several years in vain, she turned to a mobile WUSC clinic and obtained her documents within three months.

"Instead of praying to God, I can now thank WUSC for this," she says, beaming.

### Finally, a chance to escape plantation

Still, documentation is only an essential first step. Workers face daunting obstacles in obtaining an education and vocational training, and many face difficulties at home from the scourge of alcoholism.

Little wonder so many young people are desperate to move on.

"I didn't want to stay on the estate and do the same job as my father," says Muniyandy Sathivel, 34, who was born on the plantation.

"How can you continue living like this? There is no electricity, only a kerosene lamp - and if a rat tips it over, it will catch fire."

Backed by a WUSC training course, Sathive obtained bank loans and has become a profitable farmer supplying chickens to the area.

But his brother, local union leader Ramaya Darmaraj, 47, says pluckers can barely survive on a base salary of 135 rupees (\$2) a day.

Estate manager Christopher Stork, a fourth-generation tea planter, says dependency is a hard habit to break. He sees the acquisition of identity cards and birth certificates as the prerequisite to bolstering workers' self-reliance - and keeping them happier by easing their problems with banks and the security forces.

"The identity card was a godsend to these workers," he says, sipping an after-lunch tea in his estate bungalow. "Now, we're getting the workers involved and letting them manage their lives."

To be sure, that's not solving all the plantation's problems, but the partnership with WUSC is improving relations with the union.

Founded 100 years ago by the British, the estate was a "white elephant" when Stork took over four years ago but is no longer losing money.

He defends the low wages as unavoidable in a highly labour-intensive industry facing stiff overseas competition from Vietnam, Kenya and India, where workers earn even less. Higher wages will come only when mechanization makes the declining workforce more productive, Stork argues.

Currently, the short, thick tea bushes are painstakingly plucked by hand, with only the top two leaves harvested on a rotating schedule - demanding but unrewarding work.

"We prefer to employ women because they look upon the plants as one of their children; they are treated with special care," the plantation manager says.

But for the workers, the question is about when they will be better able to care for themselves - and their offspring - rather than merely nurturing tea plants.

## Graphic

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martin regg cohn toronto star "Instead of praying to God, I can now thank WUSC for this," says tea plucker Chandralatha Vythilingam, displaying the National Identity Card she finally obtained with help from a Canadian NGO.

**Load-Date:** October 23, 2005

Finally, a chance to escape plantation

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## *Where worlds collide; Cover story*

The Sun Herald (Sydney, Australia)

November 13, 2005 Sunday

Late Edition

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**Section:** TRAVEL; Pg. 16

**Length:** 1242 words

**Byline:** Mimi Spencer

### **Body**

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Mimi Spencer visits a land of striking contradictions.

IT HAS been said that if all the inhabitants of Sri Lanka were to leave the island for six months they would return to nothing but a vast consuming blanket of vegetation. You can almost feel this island growing beneath your feet. The intensely orange earth is home to giant bamboo, rubber trees, fat pineapples, towering teak, king coconut, coffee, tea, cocoa, bananas red, yellow, green and some of the warmest, most welcoming people on the planet.

And this is where the contradictions begin. It is also an island nation haunted by the violence of the ***Tamil Tigers***, still intent on their separatist agenda. With a presidential election looming, this vital, vibrant place seems more fragile still. And then, of course, there was the tsunami, which devastated a thin crescent of coastline to the east and south.

Yet this flawed jewel is more than worth the journey. It is some sort of paradise, an immediate assault on the senses. A snake of schoolchildren pass by in snow-white uniforms, their feet bare; men in slacks stare from shacks; ***women*** in emerald saris dodge tuktuks. A roadside glass cabinet houses a weeping Jesus; another is home to Buddha. Next door, a Hindu temple is overrun with carvings of the gods, executed in random paint-box colours. Motorbikes career past, laden with boxes of fish and bolts of batik. A snake crosses the road. I could have sworn it looked left and right first, which is more than the human inhabitants seem to manage.

The easiest and safest way to get around Sri Lanka is to hire a driver, who will also act as your guide, money changer and translator. Mine is Karu, a man well-versed in the history, traditions and quirky driving practices of his native land.

Driving through this country is ideal in many ways, as long as you don't have a problem with triple-overtaking. It gives the foreign observer time to drink in this stew of colour and sound. A man squats in the dust, fixing the broken spokes of a bicycle wheel. Bungalows huddle beneath the shelter of palms, a jumble of coconuts, stray dogs and tall lilies at the gate. A kingfisher sits patiently on a telegraph pole.

There is something jarring about stepping from all this into the rarefied atmosphere of a top-notch resort hotel. The Beach at Negombo, 20 minutes' drive from Colombo Airport, is a five-star affair, designed in a breezy, modern style. The rooms are generous, with vast baths, waterfall showers and impressive views over the Indian Ocean. In the morning, square-sailed catamarans fill the view as far as the eye can see, out early to secure the catch of the day.

## Where worlds collide Cover story

On the three-hour drive to Kandy we stop at Spice Garden Number 27. A genial gentleman ushers me past his specimen chillies and cardamom, vanilla pods and sandalwood, ingredients in his Ayurvedic cures for acne and flatulence, baldness and erectile dysfunction. I spend 2000 rupees (\$26) on a slimming tonic made from unripe pineapples and lime juice. It is the least I can do, having enjoyed a complimentary cup of hot chocolate and an invigorating scalp massage, while macaque monkeys larked about in the coconut palms overhead.

Villa Rosa, our next overnight stop, is perched at the peak of the hill in Asgiriya, near Kandy, looking out over the lush, deep valley of the Mahaweli, Sri Lanka's longest river. From its lookout balcony you can spot the white tip of a stupa rising above the trees. Or herons, cormorants or a green parakeet soaring above the men on bamboo rafts who dredge illegally for sand at the water's edge.

In the evening the idle visitor can sit beneath Venus, serenaded by a chorus of exotic nocturnal sounds. Excellent curries are brought to your table at a time of your choosing: pumpkin, green bean, aubergine, with sambals of onion or coconut, chutneys and pastes made from coriander and curry leaf and sweet, heavy mango.

The next morning Karu accompanies me to the captivatingly named "Temple of the Tooth" in the centre of Kandy. It houses Sri Lanka's most sacred Buddhist relic, a molar of the Lord Buddha himself, said to have been smuggled out of India in the hair of a princess in 1542. Today it resides in a seven-deep nest of gold caskets, locked behind silver doors. The faithful, curiously, bring it breakfast and lunch, queuing to offer curry and rice and, perhaps, coconut sambal.

That night I take in the Kandyan dancers at the city's cultural centre. European tourists watch as the traditional mask dance is performed, symbolising the killing of a cobra by the mythical Gurula bird.

"This is usually performed to drive away evil spirits," my program notes tell me, "and is still being used today as a method of psychiatric treatment."

I leave Kandy on the morning train, meandering through forests of pine and eucalyptus towards the hill stations of Nuwara Eliya and Bandarawela in the southern highlands. For 500 rupees the observation carriage at the rear of the train offers fantastic views, softer seating and the chance to share spiced chickpeas with a family of Sinhalese on their way to a wedding in the hills.

The clickety-clack is meditation-inducing and your eye seeks out the incongruous in the landscape. A man sits on a discarded sofa in the middle of the rainforest. Vermillion hibiscus grows lazily over a pile of mattresses dumped beside a waterfall. A woman breaks rocks with a chisel, her washing strung out overhead like prayer flags. Another makes bricks by hand beneath a sign saying, "This way to the Giga Hut, the leading edge in superhighway". A water buffalo treads rice, watched by a man on a mobile phone.

This is where eras and worlds collide. In Sri Lanka, computers are switched on at an auspicious time decreed by the local astrologer. Marriages are ordained by horoscope.

On my final night I stay in Bentota, on the south-western coast of the country, where there is no avoiding the legacy of the Boxing Day tsunami. Taru Villas is right on the beach, small and perfectly formed, slim and chic.

My veranda looks out on tall coconut palms and beyond to the ocean, and 5pm brings tea and a delicate slice of coconut cake accompanied by the chants from a nearby temple. The Colombo to Galle train trundles past the end of the garden its cargo of men hanging from open doors and windows.

It's only when you cross the track to reach the ocean's shallows that you truly realise the appalling cost of the tsunami. It took 38,000 lives on this island. Remarkably, it spared Taru Villas entirely, despite devastating an area a few kilometres up the coast.

Down the coast, of course, Galle took the hit. There's no doubt that scars remain the flattened buildings at the roadside, the temporary camps still home to many.



## Where worlds collide Cover story

But, like the land itself, the country seems to be healing, growing, moving on. Tourists are returning, and rightly so. Sri Lanka may be shaped like a tear-drop, but the beauty of this place will make you smile.

## TRIP NOTES

- Getting there: Singapore Airlines flies to Colombo via Singapore, from \$1279 plus taxes. Cathay Pacific flies via Hong Kong, from \$1199 plus taxes.

Phone Flight Centre on 131 600 for bookings and details. Australian nationals receive a 30-day visa on entry.

- Staying there: The Beach hotel at Negombo, see [www.lanka.net/jetwing/royaloceanic](http://www.lanka.net/jetwing/royaloceanic).

Villa Rosa at Asgiriya, see [www.villarosa-kandy.com](http://www.villarosa-kandy.com).

Taru Villas, Bentota, see <http://srilanka.com/booking/travel/detail/TL00297>.

- Useful websites: [www.srilankatourism.org](http://www.srilankatourism.org) or [www.srilanka.com](http://www.srilanka.com).

## Graphic

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FIVE PHOTOS: FERTILE LAND: Clockwise from main picture, stilt fisherman wait for a catch; friendly faces of Sri Lanka; fresh spices; the citadel of Sigiriya. Pictures: Getty Images MAP: Sri Lanka

**Load-Date:** June 20, 2007

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## *Can we win over women in war against terror?*

The Straits Times (Singapore)

November 19, 2005 Saturday

Copyright 2005 Singapore Press Holdings Limited

**Section:** Review - Insight

**Length:** 1285 words

**Byline:** Zuraidah Ibrahim

### **Body**

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HER female form - a figure usually seen as a source of life - had been re-engineered for death.

Her makeover revealed a waist swathed in thick translucent tape, with red wires attached to a black cylinder that was meant to blow her up in a surge of flame and metal.

The would-be suicide bomber, Sajida al-Rishawi, appeared on the front pages of newspapers worldwide after her bomb failed to detonate.

She had joined her husband who was part of a troupe of three suicide bombers who last Sunday killed more than 50 people in three blasts across Amman, Jordan.

Until now, the women associated with militant men have remained largely a forgotten group.

Thus far, investigations into terrorist networks have tended to focus on the flows of messages, money and munitions, while neglecting the social - including domestic - environments that sustain these purveyors of hatred.

Like other working men, many of the militants have wives and sisters who may be completely in the dark about their activities, or, at the other extreme, share their convictions and even partner them in their ventures, as Sajida did.

Women have been forgotten partly because they have not featured prominently in the catalogue of carnage so far. Conventional wisdom about Muslim extremists states that their women are docile creatures completely subservient to their husbands' commands, incapable of independent action, and thus irrelevant to the study of terrorism.

But as Sajida's case has reminded us, women can become players too, though this is hardly a triumph for gender equality. There have also been female suicide bombers among Palestinian fighters and the Tamil Tigers of Sri Lanka. There were women in the commando units of Germany's Red Army Faction, and scores of Acehnese women trained in military tactics, some forming a much feared but elusive 'widows battalion'.

True, they remain exceptions rather than the norm for militant movements. But even when women are not at the sharp end of such groups, they may be playing important supportive roles behind the scenes.

This appears to be the case within the network most relevant to this part of the world, the Jemaah Islamiah or JI.

After spending time with several wives of alleged JI members in the course of an academic research project, I am convinced the war on terror must involve winning over the hearts and minds of women.

## Can we win over women in war against terror?

Women are part of the glue holding key JI members together as a cohesive yet far-flung network. Several of the prominent men are connected to each other by marriage.

Contrary to stereotypes about Taleban-style subjugation of women, these wives may be well educated. This is in keeping with South-east Asia's long history and deep culture of strong women.

Indeed, the JI men may take pride in having intelligent wives who do not confine their conversations to the upbringing of children or the dinner menu, but are able to hold forth on geopolitics and religion. Educated wives may even be a source of social prestige.

Some of the women I met were eloquent about what they saw as the persecution of fellow Muslims in strife-torn places, whether it is Ambon at one time or Palestine at another, or Afghanistan and Iraq now. They held strong views on the need to uphold Muslim dignity and uplift the lot of the ummah in a world dominated by the West.

Yet, they were not empty vessels ready to be filled with the men's ideas. A couple of them admitted candidly that there was something wrong about religious classes that were so fixated on wiping out injustices. They had attended classes conducted by Abu Bakar Bashir, the alleged spiritual leader of the JI, and Hambali, said to be the operations leader of the group.

That these leaders had spent time teaching women is itself a sign of the importance they placed on winning over members of the fairer sex.

The women's level of exposure was probably not as intense - many went for monthly classes compared with their husbands' weekly lessons.

The Singapore Government's 2003 White Paper on the JI reported that it had a women's wing. Hambali's wife was allegedly its head before she was nabbed along with him that August.

The women I spoke to in the region said they did not know of the wing. They may not have been feigning their ignorance. According to another source, the women's wing was likely a brainchild of Hambali that never took off.

However, even if the women's involvement was never structured, the JI men seemed to treat women's potential seriously.

This suggests that education on its own is no panacea in the fight against this scourge.

In the aftermath of the Afghan war, Americans placed great emphasis on Afghan girls and women going back to school, believing that from education would come emancipation and resistance to regressive thinking.

This might be the case in rural settings, but enough research has been done to show that Muslim women who receive a modern education in urban centres are not automatically immune to fundamentalist religion.

The women I met found their own ways of reconciling their modern education and personal ambitions with their husbands' conservative ways.

There were several cases of bedroom negotiations that would sound familiar to any married couple. For example, in return for putting on the full veil covering her face, one of the wives extracted the concession from her husband that she could continue to go out to work every day to further herself.

After their husbands' arrests, the women have had to become even more creative. Instead of returning to their families, several have chosen to take on the challenge of acting as de facto heads of their households.

A couple of the wives in Malaysia have even become volunteers in human rights groups, working alongside non-Muslim Chinese and Indian activists, to fight for their husbands' freedom.

## Can we win over women in war against terror?

Commentators often imply that the militants' actions are completely dictated by certain narrow and perverted scriptural teachings, as if the believers are programmed robots. Yet, the cases I came across show that the situation on the ground is never so black and white.

The women are open to multiple influences, and are driven by various goals, ranging from the geopolitical to the domestic and the personal.

Therein lies both an opportunity and a threat.

The danger is in falsely assuming that the likes of the JI men can find only ignorant village women to marry them, and that rising education levels will limit the growth of such movements.

In fact, there are educated Muslim women in the region who have turned their backs on Western notions of gender equality, seeking refuge in conservative, textual interpretations of their faith.

However, there is also an opportunity for the forces of moderation and peace. These are women who are applying their reason and trying to solve the practical problems of life. And, as they try to balance their roles as mother and wife with their own needs for self-fulfillment, they are hardly helpless slaves in their households. They wield great influence, if not power.

Napoleon once said that an army marches on its stomach, highlighting the role of logistics in warfare.

It would not be an exaggeration to say that a terror group such as JI marches on its heart. Its men are not independent of their wives.

Win over the women and militant Islam will struggle to spread in the region.

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## BETTER EDUCATED BUT NOT LESS INVOLVED

The danger is in falsely assuming that...rising education levels will limit the growth of such movements. In fact, there are educated Muslim women in the region who have turned their backs on Western notions of gender equality, seeking refuge in conservative, textual interpretations of their faith.

**Load-Date:** November 18, 2005

**ACTIVITY BREAKS: DAMBULLA, WE HAVE LIFT OFF;  
WITH THE SCI-FI WRITER ARTHUR C CLARKE AS A PASSENGER, ALLAN  
CALDER**

The Independent (London)

April 3, 2004, Saturday

Copyright 2004 Independent Print Ltd

**Section:** First Edition; FEATURES

**Length:** 1211 words

**Byline:** ALLAN CALDER Silent flight: a balloon passes over the jungles of Sri Lanka

## **Body**

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On my third hot-air balloon flight in Sri Lanka I had to fly a local deity, the scientist and science fiction writer Arthur C Clarke. Sir Arthur is greatly revered by the Sri Lankans as he has lived in the country since the Fifties and has put a lot of money and effort into the promotion of science and the island itself.

I had arrived a month earlier to become chief pilot of the country's first balloon ride operation. It was to be based 100 miles from the capital, Colombo, in the thickly-wooded centre of the island close to the Dambulla and Sigiriya World Heritage Sites and the architect Geoffrey Bawa's superb Kandalama Hotel. I had spent most of the intervening time driving around wondering where a balloon could land.

Finding places to take off was easy: Sri Lankans are mad about cricket and there are many pitches. A balloon goes with the wind and can only alter direction by changing height and finding different wind currents. If no wind was available to find a cricket ground, the choices seemed to be jungle, lakes and paddy fields. Closer inspection offered some hope - the odd meadow here, a disused dry paddy field there, and even some empty lakes.

My initial test flights had not been very instructive. The first took me from the cricket ground at the Kandalama Hotel just across the Kandalama Tank (an enormous, ancient reservoir) to the beach on the other side. The second was no better - the cloud proved to be lower than it appeared and gave me very little room to manoeuvre, while the wind was light and variable. After drifting erratically over the jungle for a while, I managed to land back on the very cricket pitch that I had launched from.

I was to fly Arthur C Clarke from the cricket pitch at the Culture Club Resort in Dambulla to another resort hotel on the Kandalama Tank to open an "Eco Village" extension. The take-off for 2004: A Balloon Odyssey was smooth and accompanied by lots of waving and cheering. But 15 minutes into the flight, the balloon started going up and down of its own accord. After about an hour in the air, a small strip of uncultivated land with a track leading from it to the Dambulla-Matale Road appeared. Down we went to what was, in the circumstances, a reasonable landing. The field was very muddy, as was the track. This did not worry the great man as he sat on a chair and was carried to his vehicle.

The fourth flight was the first with paying passengers on board. It was also the first time I really appreciated the spectacular beauty of the Sri Lankan countryside. The day was clear, with just a few scattered clouds, the winds

## ACTIVITY BREAKS: DAMBULLA, WE HAVE LIFT OFF; WITH THE SCI-FI WRITER ARTHUR C CLARKE AS A PASSENGER, ALLAN CALDER

light but not unduly so. The flight took us over the reservoir and to the south of the rock temple at Dambulla. We landed in a meadow with easy access to the Colombo Road. Commercial ballooning had come to Sri Lanka.

It had taken a while. A lifting of the six-year ban on domestic flights had quickly followed the December 2001 ceasefire between the government and the Tamil Tigers. This in theory opened the way for commercial helicopter, aircraft and balloon flights to take place over the country. In practice any kind of operation is severely hampered by the Sri Lankan Air Force, which controls all the air space. With the notable exception of the United States, most aviation authorities have a problem with balloons - they can take off and land almost anywhere, so there is no independent record of flights.

Fortunately the Sri Lankan Civil Aviation Authority, with years of very little to do, was keen to encourage any form of civil aviation. The staff eased our way the best they could. The Air Force proved somewhat intractable until the Prime Minister stepped in and told them they could not prevent balloon flights. We got the green light early in November 2003, and the operation acquired a routine.

A typical flight takes off at about 7.15am from beside the Kandalama Tank. The balloon climbs slowly, giving splendid views of the hills to the east and the Kandalama Hotel cunningly built into the rocks to the south. Drifting over the island in the middle of the reservoir, eagles, kites, egrets, parrots, kingfishers, bulbuls, storks, bee-eaters and even the odd sleeping owl take to the air and fly beneath the balloon. One morning we saw a flock of peacocks - a rare sight from the ground, an awesome one from above.

At 1,000 feet you get a panoramic view of the rocks sticking out of the jungle, notably Sigiriya to the north, the lakes, paddy fields and the massive golden Buddha at Dambulla. Often there is a light ground mist giving an ethereal feel.

After crossing the reservoir the balloon descends to 50 feet or so above the trees and the small, low houses where the majority of people live without electricity or running water. At the sound of the balloon, women with babies in their arms, children and men wearing only sarongs look up and wave. Dogs bark and cows try to free themselves from their tethers. Just ahead a tree starts to shake violently; we have disturbed a troop of monkeys who start jumping from tree to tree.

Past the trees we fly over a bizarre mosaic of oddly-shaped paddy fields. The balloon is heading towards Dambulla and its celebrated Rock Temple - which, as a sacred shrine, is the one place in the area we are forbidden to fly over at any height. But as if guided by the Buddha we skirt just to the north. The Test cricket ground, the scene of England's most ignominious one-day defeat, comes in to view with the beautiful Ibbankatuwa Tank behind it. Beyond are more paddy fields and groves of coconut palms and cashew nut trees. After a rustle in the undergrowth a wild boar breaks cover just below us.

We ascend over another rock and there, just beyond some pineapple trees, is a dried up wewa (lake), perfect for landing. We have been flying for nearly an hour, and after a gentle landing the balloon is kept inflated to make it easier for the crew to find us, which they do almost immediately. Even though we appear to be far from any road or track, with only one little house a couple of hundred yards away, within minutes the balloon is surrounded by more than a hundred people who seem to appear from nowhere. The passengers are amazed by this reception and take dozens of pictures, particularly of the children, with the balloon as a backdrop. As Arthur C Clarke said during the flight: "The Wright brothers got it wrong. This is the way to fly."

The author is chief pilot for Adventure Centre Asia Balloons (00 94 777 588 360; balloons@wow.lk), the only balloon ride firm approved by the Sri Lankan Civil Aviation Authority

### TRAVELLER'S GUIDE

#### GETTING THERE

ACTIVITY BREAKS: DAMBULLA, WE HAVE LIFT OFF; WITH THE SCI-FI WRITER ARTHUR C CLARKE AS  
A PASSENGER, ALLAN CALDER

The only airline flying direct between the UK and Sri Lanka is SriLankan Airlines (020-8538 2000; [www.sri-lankanairlines.com](http://www.sri-lankanairlines.com)), which flies frequently between Heathrow and Colombo; next month, you could pay around pounds 500 for a return through discount agents. The alternative from Birmingham, Manchester or Glasgow, is on its partner, Emirates (0870 243 2222; [www.emirates.com](http://www.emirates.com)) via Dubai. Lower prices are often available on Qatar Airways from Heathrow or Manchester via Doha.

RED TAPE

British visitors to Sri Lanka do not require visas for short-term visits.

MORE INFORMATION

Sri Lanka Tourist Board in London: 020-7930 2627; [www.srilankatourism.com](http://www.srilankatourism.com).

**Load-Date:** April 3, 2004

## *Everybody's gone surfing*

The Times (London)

January 3, 2004, Saturday

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**Section:** Features; Travel; 7

**Length:** 1310 words

**Byline:** Carolyn Fry

### **Body**

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Now that it's safe to go back, surfers are heading to the coast. Carolyn Fry reports

DURING the civil conflict in Sri Lanka, a small number of surf-loving Australians regularly returned to their favourite beach on the island's southeast coast. The risk of being shot during violent battles between ***Tamil Tigers*** and the Army was a small price to pay for the opportunity of surfing alone at Arugam Bay where 6ft barrelling waves, some of the finest in the world, sweep in to the shore.

"In the early Nineties it was brilliant," said Graham John "Hawkey" Hawkes, a veteran surfer with long, tangled blond locks and red leathery skin. "The waves were awesome and there were only five people in the water. We used to hear a lot of gunfire in the night but we felt safe."

I was sitting on the front terrace of the only surf shop in Arugam Bay, while Hawkey and his wave-riding friends Michael "The Boxer" Leeson and Anne Gillard supped beer and reminisced about the war years. Simply getting to the bay had been a tough challenge then: it wasn't unusual for the guys to reach Monaragala, some 70km (45 miles) away, only to hear that the bus had been bombed. When Singhalese drivers refused to carry them onwards into the Tamil-occupied area, the only option was to bribe Special Task Force personnel. "They would drive through the jungle like a rocket," recalled The Boxer. "If there was action through there it was a close thing."

Now, with Sri Lanka enjoying its second year of peace, you're more likely to meet an elephant than a Tamil Tiger on the dusty, single track road into Arugam Bay.

I'd counted eight as I arrived late one evening with three of Britain's best young surfers: Lloyd Cole, Reubyn Ash and John Buchorski. With surfboards bundled high on our minibus roof, we'd bounced our way along the dusty 186-mile (300km) route from Colombo to see if Arugam's surf lived up to the legend.

Having heard so much about Arugam Bay's waves, I expected to see some as I made the short walk from my palm-roofed cabana at Stardust Beach Hotel to the sea the next morning. Nature, however, had other ideas. As I wandered north along the deserted cinnamon sand, past snoozing guards at the Special Task Force checkpoint and a football pitch grazed by water buffalo, the warm waves lapping my ankles were barely more than a ripple. At breakfast, the boys looked anxious as they tucked into plates of toast and woodapple jam and drank steaming cups of Sri Lankan tea. "Don't worry," soothed Per Goodman, Stardust's aging Danish owner.

"They will come."



## Everybody's gone surfing

And three days later they did. I had got up early to watch the sunrise, and arriving on the beach just as sky lightened, I could clearly make out lines on the sea surface advancing rhythmically towards the shore. Each low wall of water gained height as it drew near, finally curling forward into a mass of white foam.

Turning south, I headed for the point a mile or so away at the end of the bay. A shallow reef lies just offshore here, which makes the waves higher than other breaks in the area. This would be where I would find the surfers.

Sure enough I met Lloyd, John and Reubyn limbering up on the sand. Reubyn was first in the water, ducking under the foam breakers on his board, then spinning 180 degrees ready to catch a ride back in. As the first wave curled towards him he was up in an instant, gliding down its green, glassy face before flipping back up to the top to repeat the ride over and over. Then the others were there too, one minute racing down smooth slopes of water, the next spinning across the wave apex, doused in the spray blowing off the breakers.

That Arugam Bay began attracting surfers has much to do with Stardust's eccentric owners, Merete Scheller and Per Goodman. The couple came to Sri Lanka in 1979 as part of a round-the-world trip and found the bay when they stuck a pin in the map to choose their next destination. The place seemed so desolate when they arrived that Per wanted to move on immediately, but Merete persuaded him to stay the night.

In the end, the place captivated them so completely they gave up their travels and bought a piece of land on the beach. "The site was just barren sand, under a sky of stars or hot sun," recalled Merete. "There was one coconut tree. In the shade of this tree, the masons started mixing their mortar and concrete."

From these humble beginnings, Stardust Beach Hotel took shape. Today a new main building houses airy en suite rooms, while cabanas are dotted around in the sand garden. Circular stepping stones and flaming coconut lamps seductively lead the way past frangipani trees, hibiscus and bougainvillea to the open-sided dining room, where the head waiter Ramesh and his crew serve up fresh prawns, crab and lobster, home-made ice-cream and Granny's chocolate cake. In between eating or surfing, there are canoes from which to spot monitor lizards and wild monkeys around the lagoon, plus yoga lessons and relaxing reflexology massages.

Although other small guest houses and hotels have sprung up beside Stardust, the village still has the sleepy feel of a place that time forgot. As I explored the main street, bullocks grazed and goats suckled in the dust, as smiling women cycled slowly past, babies balanced on their handlebars.

Progress has been late in coming to Arugam Bay. Electricity arrived as recently as 1995 and telephones only became widely used in 1997 (though a sign in the empty telephone box outside Siam Reggae Bar still reads, "This kiosk is temporarily out of service due to modernisation").

Change is on its way, though. The recent Tokyo Donor conference pledged Pounds 2.6 million to Sri Lanka. Some of that money will almost certainly reach the southeast coast, one of Sri Lanka's poorest regions. Annual visitor numbers have already rocketed from a few hundred to several thousand since the peace deal. And with surfing now one of the fastest growing sports in the world, numbers are certain to increase rapidly. In May, the British Professional Surfing Association plans to hold a major surf contest.

As the afternoon sun sank behind A-bay's Surf Shop, Hawkey and his mates seemed resigned to sharing their waves with a new generation of young, keen surfers. The Boxer proudly admitted that at 56 he was now the oldest surfer in the bay. He'd never give it up, he said, it was his life. But he would happily share his knowledge of the ocean -and war stories -with anyone who came.

"More and more Australians back home are doing it now," he said, in his slow, Antipodean drawl. "Everyone wants to surf, everyone wants to wear surf clothing.

Sooner or later they'll come to Arugam Bay -and when they finally do they will wonder why they never came before."

## Everybody's gone surfing

[www.timesonline.co.uk/travel](http://www.timesonline.co.uk/travel) Tour the world at Times Online travel

## NEED TO KNOW

Getting there: Carolyn Fry flew with Sri Lankan Airlines (020-8538 2001, [www.srilankan.aero](http://www.srilankan.aero)), which offers 11 flights a week from Heathrow to Colombo. Fares start at £509 return plus taxes.

Where to stay: Travel and Tours Anywhere Ltd (0800 0931411, [www.exploresrilanka.biz](http://www.exploresrilanka.biz)) offers surfing holidays to Arugam Bay and Hikkaduwa. A 15-day holiday to Arugam Bay including flights, transfers and B&B accommodation in a guest house costs from £699pp. 14 days in Hikkaduwa costs from £599pp.

Hire of boards and surfing lessons can be arranged.

The Stardust Hotel (00 94 632 248191, [www.arugambay.com](http://www.arugambay.com)) has rooms from about £13 a night.

When to go: The waves at Arugam Bay are best between May and September during the dry season. During the off-season, Sri Lanka's main surf spot on the southwest coast, Hikkaduwa, has good waves.

Reading: Sri Lanka (Lonely Planet, £12.99); Fit to Surf: The Surfer's Guide to Strength and Conditioning (McGraw Hill, £9.99).

Further information:

Sri Lanka Tourist Board (020-7930 2627, [www.srilankatourism.org](http://www.srilankatourism.org)).

[www.arugambay.com](http://www.arugambay.com).

**Load-Date:** January 3, 2004

## **Twelve killed in Lanka clashes**

Indo-Asian News Service

March 21, 2007 Wednesday 2:30 PM EST

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**Length:** 198 words

**Byline:** Indo-Asian News Service

**Dateline:** Colombo

### **Body**

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Colombo, March 21 -- At least four soldiers and eight Tamil Tiger rebels were killed in a clash in Sri Lanka's troubled eastern Batticaloa district early Wednesday.

Defence officials said Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (**LTTE**) cadres attacked four army camps in the region killing four troops and injuring 14.

The fire was retaliated, the officials said. At least eight bodies of **LTTE** rebels, including a **female**, were recovered from the battlefield, they added. More than 30 rebels were also reported injured.

The search operation is still going on in the region.

The army also claimed to have recovered some weapons and ammunition from the encounter site.

Regular clashes between the **LTTE** and the troops erupted in July last year, with at least two key Tigers being captured. The two sides are currently being locked in a fierce battle in Batticaloa's Thoppigala area, which remains one of the major hideouts for the **LTTE** in the east.

The escalation of the armed conflict since December 2005 has claimed over 4,000 lives so far, throwing into jeopardy the Norwegian backed process of direct negotiations.

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**Load-Date:** March 21, 2007

## **Sri Lankan bus bombing leads to retaliatory airstrikes as island skids toward war**

Associated Press International

June 15, 2006 Thursday 3:48 PM GMT

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**Section:** INTERNATIONAL NEWS

**Length:** 869 words

**Byline:** By ERANGA JAYAWARDENA, Associated Press Writer

**Dateline:** KABITHIGOLLEWA Sri Lanka

### **Body**

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Suspected Tiger rebels attacked a crowded bus Thursday in northern Sri Lanka, triggering a pair of hidden explosives that killed at least 64 people in the worst violence since a 2002 cease-fire, officials said. The government quickly launched retaliatory airstrikes against rebel-held positions.

With peace talks largely abandoned and leaders of both sides trading accusations, Thursday's violence, which injured at least 78 people, pushed this tropical island nation further toward outright war.

The dead included at least 15 schoolchildren, their blue uniforms coated with blood and gore as authorities lined up corpses on the floor of a nearby hospital so relatives could identify them.

The rebels, a secretive but highly organized and well-armed movement that has been fighting for two decades to create a homeland for the country's minority Tamils, denied any responsibility for the attack, suggesting it was done by shadowy forces they say are trying to create unrest.

But officials insisted Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam rebels were responsible.

"This is a barbaric act of the LTTE," said government spokesman Keheliya Rambukwella. "Their aim is to provoke a backlash."

Rebel leaders said the Sri Lankan air force had made about five bombing runs on the outskirts of the Tiger-controlled town of Kilinochchi.

"There are casualties but we don't know the exact figures. People are tense, confused and some are fleeing," a senior rebel official, Seevaratnam Puleedevan, told The Associated Press.

Military spokesman Brig. Prasad Samarasinghe confirmed jets had dropped bombs on rebel positions, but only said the air force was taking "limited" deterrent action.

The blast was caused by a pair of mines hanging from a tree and detonated from a remote position, Samarasinghe said. Rigging explosives to trees or bicycles is a common Tiger tactic, officials say, done so the ground does not absorb as much of the force of a blast.

## Sri Lankan bus bombing leads to retaliatory airstrikes as island skids toward war

Police said most of the victims were ethnic Sinhalese, the island's majority ethnic group, and that many were traveling to the funeral of a policeman killed Monday in another attack believed to have been committed by the rebels.

Officials said it was not clear if the bus was targeted because many passengers were going to the funeral.

Late Thursday afternoon, the bus remained knocked on its side as heavily armed soldiers stood nearby, its roof stained with blood while shoes, a mobile phone and women's purses were scattered around.

At the hospital, relatives could barely contain their grief.

"They are all gone," screamed Bandula Gamini, who lost his wife, son and mother-in-law in the blast. Gamini, who had been unable to get a seat, was standing three rows behind the rest of his family when "there was this blast and I recall being trapped."

Gamini was eventually pulled from the bus by a pair of policemen.

A doctor at the hospital where the victims were taken, S.B. Bothota, said 15 schoolchildren were among the 64 people killed. Another 78 people were wounded, he said.

Meanwhile, dozens of people were fleeing small villages nearby, fearing the attack could trigger more violence. They were taking shelter in school where soldiers had been deployed to protect them.

Rebel commanders met quickly to map out their next moves.

"Our Central Command is discussing about possible defensive measures we need to take to protect our Tamil people," Puleedevan said earlier.

The Tigers dismissed accusations they were behind the attack, with Puleedevan suggesting the attack could be "the work of forces seeking to create ethnic tension."

"The Liberation Tigers condemn the attack on civilians in strongest possible terms," Puleedevan was quoted as saying by TamilNet, a pro-Tiger Web site.

The Tigers fought for 20 years to carve out a separate homeland for the country's 3.2 million minority Tamils, who are largely Hindu, saying years of oppression by the majority Sinhalese Buddhists left them no other choice.

The fighting left the Tigers with control of large parts of the north and east, where they run their own de facto state.

A cease-fire four years ago ended full-scale fighting, but sporadic violence has persisted. There was a brief calm after the 2004 tsunami, which left 35,000 Sri Lankans dead and which many hoped would bring the two sides together, but they quickly fell to squabbling over control of aid money.

The situation grew worse in August, with the assassination of Foreign Minister Lakshman Kadirgamar, a killing blamed on the Tigers.

Four months later, the Tigers killed 12 navy sailors the first major attack in four years and the situation on the ground has only deteriorated since then, with violence that has left more than 600 soldiers, rebels and civilians dead.

Both sides have blamed the other for the violence, and the Tigers also routinely blame a breakaway rebel faction for attacks on civilians.

Diplomatic efforts to quell the violence and get the peace process back on track have not fared much better.

The Tigers pulled out of peace talks in April, and then last week scuttled negotiations by refusing to meet representatives of the government side after arriving in Oslo, the venue for the talks.

Sri Lankan bus bombing leads to retaliatory airstrikes as island skids toward war

Associated Press Writer Krishan Francis contributed to this report.

**Load-Date:** June 16, 2006

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End of Document

## *Remembering Bali - Cracking the bombers*

Courier Mail (Queensland, Australia)

October 13, 2003 Monday

Copyright 2003 Nationwide News Pty Limited

**Section:** FEATURES; Pg. 9

**Length:** 2837 words

**Byline:** Rory Callinan, David Murray, Cindy Wockner

### **Body**

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#### BALI YEAR ONE

'I will never forget him pinning me to the bed and making me look him in his eyes as the doctor sliced through my arm and hand with a razor blade'

One man would prove crucial to the cracking of the Bali bombing conspiracy, but to confess would condemn two of his brothers, write Rory Callinan, David Murray and Cindy Wockner in the third and final part of our series on the tragedy

THE POLICE station in Bali's capital of Denpasar was virtually deserted at 2am. A squad of Indonesian officers escorted a man through the empty buildings into a small dusty room in the station's criminal investigation section.

An officer dimmed the lights. Another activated the video recorder. Images of charred bodies without limbs, without heads -- the corpses of children, women, men -- burned black, appeared on the television screen.

The officers showed little reaction -- they had seen the tape several times before. Their captive tried not to look. Then he started to cry and put his head in his hands.

The officers looked at each other in triumph. Finally, one of the Bali bombers had shown remorse.

The captive was Ali Imron, a 33-year-old Islamic teacher, whose subsequent confession would sign the death warrant for three of the Bali bombers, including two of his brothers.

It was the culmination of an extraordinary investigation which had begun hours after the Bali blasts had echoed through Jalan Legian at Kuta Beach.

AUSTRALIAN Federal Police Director of National Investigations, Tim Morris, had been asleep at his Canberra home when the phone rang. The message was stark: "Bali's gone off . . . a number of Australians have been killed."

It was 6am, Australian time, on October 13.

Morris, a previous visitor to Bali, thought it probably had been an accident, such as a gas explosion. "We knew a lot of places in Asia use big gas cylinders to cook, and I was familiar with that area of Kuta," he said. "It wasn't inconceivable that one of those had exploded, but it (the situation) quickly developed."

## Remembering Bali - Cracking the bombers

Thousands of kilometres away in a hotel room in Timika, in southern Irian Jaya, Indonesian police officer General I Made Pastika also was in bed when his phone rang. It was his wife. Watch the news, she told him, there's been a bombing in Bali.

He turned on the television, tuned into CNN and, while he was shocked by the attack on his homeland, little did he know just how much the terrorist attack would affect his life.

BACK in Canberra, Morris took only five minutes to drive to the AFP's Garema Place office in Northbourne Ave. Information was flooding in.

Some AFP officers had been in Bali at the time of the blast: seven investigating people-smuggling and drugs; three others holidaying there after a stint in East Timor.

Two of them, Nicolle Haigh and Tim Fisher, had been sitting in the Sari Club when the bomb detonated.

They were injured in the blast. Fisher had minor injuries but Haigh had serious burns. She was now in the Sanglah Hospital in Denpasar, crying out in pain.

"Stop, please stop," she cried over and over as a nurse tried to insert a needle into one of her veins.

Her burns were causing the veins to become difficult to locate.

Through the pain she could hear people arriving at the hospital, desperately looking for loved ones. But no one knew she was there. She wondered if the AFP was looking for her.

A few kilometres away, a small, intent figure was hunched over a computer in an Indonesian Warnet Internet shop. He was plugged into the Internet, downloading updates of the bombing from the Indonesian news wire service Detik.com. Abdul Aziz, the mastermind of the Bali bombing, was enjoying what he saw.

IN CANBERRA, Morris was told AFP officer Haigh was among the missing. The hunt now had become personal.

By this time Haigh had been shifted into a dirty bed in a back ward in Sanglah Hospital. Flies were buzzing around wounds on her back, legs, arms and hands -- one of which soon would require an impromptu operation without anaesthetic.

She could hear people crying for their lost relatives. Others were moaning in pain.

Aziz, meanwhile, had left the telephone shop. He headed back to the place where several of his accomplices waited, the Pulau Pinang boarding house.

He later told his interrogators that he had prayed for the success of the plan.

BY 9.30am, Australian time, Morris was in the first of the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade crisis meetings, with intelligence and military representatives trying to formulate a response.

The Royal Australian Air Force had assigned an Orion aircraft to fly in agency representatives to assess the required level of response. Still there had been no confirmation, Morris remembers, that the bombing had been a terrorist attack.

But later that day, he says, the Australian Security Intelligence Organisation made the assessment that the bomb had been "more likely than not the work of Jemaah Islamiyah".

IN CENTRAL Java, village mechanic and Jemaah Islamiyah terrorist Amrozi was listening to the radio in his workshop in the tiny settlement of Tenggulun. His wife heard him laughing louder and louder.

Surprised, she asked him what was going on. He told her, there had been a bomb in Bali.



## Remembering Bali - Cracking the bombers

BACK in Bali the AFP still was looking for Haigh. Agent Morgan had last seen the pretty blonde heading to the Sari Club with her two friends. He now was searching desperately through the horrifying carnage of Bali's hospitals and morgues overflowing with victims.

About 2pm, after visiting 10 hospitals and medical centres, he walked into the back ward of Sanglah. He noticed a patient whose eyes followed him as he walked into the ward -- it was Haigh.

She had just been told doctors would have to slice her arm open from shoulder to wrist to stop it swelling -- but there was no anaesthetic. Morgan leaned over and placed his arm across her chest.

"I will never forget him pinning me to the bed and making me look him in his eyes as the doctor sliced through my arm and hand with a razor blade," she later wrote in the Australian Federal Police journal.

Despite the pain, she knew she would survive -- the AFP had found her.

JUST before midnight, the RAAF Orion with its emergency contingent of Australians landed at Denpasar airport. Also landing in Denpasar at the same time was the AFP's leading forensic investigator Julian Slater, who had been diverted from Jakarta where he was about to give a lecture on forensics to Indonesian police.

Now the Indonesian police would learn much more watching him work in the blood-soaked ruins of Kuta nightclubs.

Slater was to assess the scene, what forensic investigation was needed and how to establish a disaster victim identification, or DVI, unit.

He said: "We all knew it was possible. September 11 had brought home that. It was a shock but there was no panic."

Concerned about security and aware there was little that could be done at that late hour at the site, the AFP held briefings in their hotel before agents tried to snatch some sleep.

Meanwhile, thousands of tourists intent on fleeing the island were flooding into the airport where they were being given questionnaires to fill out. The questionnaires later would produce about 600 witness statements, many of which were conflicting but still, they gave the AFP a bank of information.

Some passengers at the airport had come direct from the blast zone and were still in the clothes they had been wearing. The AFP obtained some of the clothes for testing as well as film from cameras, Morris said.

In Kuta, Slater headed out to the site. The 20-year AFP veteran had honeymooned in Bali and knew Jalan Legian, but he was unprepared for what he saw.

"I am a very experienced crime scene investigator but mass casualty bombings are not an area where anybody in Australia has a great deal of experience," he said. "It (the blast zone) was just so big. We knew somewhere in there was all this physical evidence.

"It was in there and you just think, 'How on earth are we going to work our way through this and get through those things that are not important?'. "

The AFP immediately noted several problems at the blast site: People still were wandering around contaminating the area, and the sheer power of the bomb had gouged a massive crater into the street, shattering a water main which now was washing away potential evidence.

The AFP liaised with Indonesian police to tighten security and fix the water main. The Indonesians took their instructions to the letter -- so tightly did they guard the site they briefly blocked some AFP officers from entering.

In the meantime, the forensic team quickly sorted out its roles. Eventually, more than 50 Australian DVI investigators would be on-site and at the height of operations, more than 400 Indonesian police and some 50 Australian Federal Police officers would be working in Bali.

## Remembering Bali - Cracking the bombers

Hundreds more officers in Australia were providing back-up to the Indonesian-based unit. The Australian units also were supported by scores of officers from other law-enforcement agencies around the country.

By arrangement, all DVI work would be handled by Australians. They would work side by side with Indonesian police on forensic investigation.

BY NOW the bombers were dispersing rapidly, Aziz and the rest of his fellow terrorists speeding northwest back to their Javanese homelands.

Unnoticed by authorities, they had slipped on to ferries departing Bali and melted back into the general population, resuming their normal lives in their small villages across Java.

Abdul Aziz settled back into his usual routine in Cilegon, West Java, with his pregnant wife, Zakiah -- visiting the supermarket, doing the shopping like any other local, according to his neighbours.

Amrozi, who had bought the bomb van and chemicals, busied himself fixing cars and mobile telephones in his village in Tenggulun in East Java.

Mukhlas, the leader of JI in Singapore and Malaysia and a key planner in the attack, was lying low near Solo in Central Java.

On October 19, Indonesian police in Java arrested Abu Bakar Bashir, the radical preacher who had associated with many of the Bali bombers through his Java and Malaysian schools.

BUT BASHIR was charged with Jemaah Islamiyah-associated bomb attacks in Jakarta, and his arrest sparked demonstrations among his supporters.

In Bali, General Pastika was walking a political tightrope: The evidence was starting to stack up, but to state that Indonesian terrorists and Jemaah Islamiyah were involved could create a political firestorm.

His Indonesian forensics experts were doggedly reassessing the evidence. Soon after the blast they had found the chassis of the L300 Mitsubishi van. Initial inspections of the chassis revealed no trace of the identifying marks.

About three weeks after the blast, Pastika decided to go to the local Hindu temple to pray, according to AFP Bali operation commander Graham Ashton. Midway through the prayer session his mobile rang: A subordinate was calling to ask whether he was praying for the success of the investigation.

Pastika said "yes", and the caller said: "Well, your prayers have been answered."

They had found that crucial chassis identification -- a DPR number mandatory to every public transport vehicle in Indonesia -- the one number Amrozi had missed when preparing the van.

ANOTHER breakthrough destined to spark international shockwaves came from a West Australian pathologist. The AFP had found human remains in the ceiling above Paddy's Bar. They tested them for DNA and found they were from one person.

Beneath the remains was a crater in the floor of the bar.

The West Australian pathologist, part of the forensic team, had noticed something familiar about one of the bodies in the morgue. He had previously seen pictures of bombing attacks by Sri Lankan terrorists.

The Sri Lankan **Tamil Tigers** were notorious for carrying out suicide blasts with custom-made vests packed with explosives. He noted the similarity between one badly damaged body and those of the **Tamil Tigers**.

At first his theory was treated with extreme caution. But DNA evidence and postmortem results matched the remains in the ceiling of Paddy's Bar to the badly damaged body in the morgue.

## Remembering Bali - Cracking the bombers

THE third important breakthrough centred on the detection of potassium chlorate from explosive residue around the blast site. The chemicals were major components of the explosive mix used to make the bombs.

Until that time Australian investigators had not been aware of it being widely used in bomb-making in the region. But the potassium chlorate was the JI terrorists' modus operandi.

The potassium chlorate was difficult to detect because it broke down in water, said Slater. And the effect of the broken water main in the street and the fire-fighting had dissolved much of it.

The AFP analysts started testing the overhanging power lines, signs on nearby buildings, the tops of trees and street signs which had escaped the firefighting deluge. Luckily, it did not rain in Bali for several weeks after the blast.

THE investigation finally was starting to come together. On November 6, about 6am, Amrozi was awakened in his East Java village by his wife -- police were at the front door. The DPR number on the van chassis had led them to Amrozi.

"I guessed the police were looking for me in connection with the bomb explosion in Bali," Amrozi later told his interrogators.

Under questioning, he admitted buying the explosives and owning the mini-van. Police also found a receipt for chemicals in his home.

Two days later investigators arrested shop-owner Silvester Tendean for selling chemicals to Amrozi.

Other raids on November 12 uncovered automatic weapons and ammunition hidden in the jungle outside Amrozi's village.

Indonesian police also found another vital clue in Amrozi's house -- a piece of paper with the name "Kudama" and a telephone number.

The "Kudama" name had been picked up in conjunction with a Christmas bombing but police were at a loss to identify the man.

After subsequent inquiries, police believed "Kudama" was Abdul Aziz.

ON NOVEMBER 21, Aziz settled into seat 25 of a passenger bus aboard a Sumatra-bound ferry. After 30 days on the run through West Java, hiding in the homes of friends, he was about to flee to Malaysia.

He had been cautious about his activities, but was keeping in touch with his associates with 20-second mobile phone calls. Despite the brevity of his calls, police had been using mobile phone triangulation technology to track his movements.

The calls led them to two of his associates, who revealed his escape plans.

When police boarded the bus and arrested him, Aziz didn't try to struggle. He was unarmed, and he wasn't wearing his trademark red hat or carrying his laptop.

It was at this point that Pastika started to seriously believe that Jemaah Islamiyah was the prime culprit.

"I understood very clearly at this time that this Bali bombing had a relationship, and a very clear link with JI," he said.

On December 4, a group of police officers stormed a simple dirt-floored cement home in the Klaten district in Central Java. Inside, they found Mukhlas.

## Remembering Bali - Cracking the bombers

During the struggle Mukhlas tried to grab a pistol -- an action he would later say was prompted after one of the officers "squeezed my testicles".

The Indonesian police had arrested half of the Jemaah Islamiyah Bali bomb cell. A group of other associates including Hernianto, who had intimate involvement in the Bali plot, also was arrested, but the battle wasn't over.

POLICE had to get the men through the Indonesian court process, in which justice can be an unknown quantity at the best of times.

It was here that Ali Imron, Amrozi's younger brother, and the only Bali bomber to show remorse, turned on his fellow terrorists. The terrorist who had broken down after viewing video of his handiwork gave damning testimony.

By early October, 34 suspects involved in the Bali bombing were either sentenced or before the courts, awaiting sentence or trial.

Of these, three of the key players in the terrorist conspiracy have been sentenced to death by firing squad -- Amrozi, Abdul Aziz and Mukhlas.

Ali Imron received a life sentence. Also facing life in prison is Mubarak, alias Hutomo Pamungkas, who was a financial and logistics operative during the Bali campaign.

In addition to the major players, minor conspirators have been sentenced in the Denpasar District Court since trials started in May, including those involved in armed robberies to fund the bombing and those who harboured and sheltered the bombers while they were on the run.

These include Idris, alias Jhoni Hendrawan, arrested on June 12 this year, and Abdul Ghoni and Sawad, who helped to assemble the bombs before October 12. They are awaiting trial.

On August 11 this year, police raided an apartment complex in Thailand.

Inside they found "Asia's Osama Bin Laden" -- Hambali.

He is currently being kept in an undisclosed location.

FOOTNOTE: In February this year Agent Haigh went back to work on light duties at the AFP's Brisbane office. She is still wearing a partial burns suit.

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**Load-Date:** October 12, 2003

## *Sri Lanka Tamil Tiger woman leader hurt in ambush*

Xinhua General News Service

March 1, 2005 Tuesday 11:30 AM EST

Copyright 2005 Xinhua News Agency

**Section:** WORLD NEWS; Political

**Length:** 128 words

**Dateline:** COLOMBO

### **Body**

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A top Tamil Tiger woman leader and two other women rebels were seriously injured by gun fire in eastern Sri Lanka, police said Monday.

The police at Thirukkovil, 420 km east of Colombo, said two gunmen who arrived on a motor cycle had blocked the three wheeler taxi in which the women were traveling and fired at them.

Although no one had claimed responsibility for the attack, it is believed to have been mastermind by the renegade faction of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE).

The renegades led by Karuna who was a former LTTE's eastern commander was blamed for the murder on Feb.7 of the LTTE's eastern political leader E Kousalyan.

The Tigers accused a paramilitary group working alongside government troops of carrying out the attack.

**Load-Date:** March 1, 2005

## **Sickening Sri Lanka attack**

Canberra Times (Australia)

June 17, 2006 Saturday

Final Edition

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**Section:** A; Pg. B08

**Length:** 119 words

**Byline:** The Canberra Times

### **Body**

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WEDNESDAY's ambush of a bus in northern Sri Lanka was a sickening attack, even by the standards of a civil war that has claimed the lives of tens of thousands over three decades.

More than 60 civilians were killed in the blast, including many women and children. This was easily the deadliest attack on the island since the government and the separatist Tamil Tigers signed an uneasy truce over four years ago.

The Tigers have denied they were behind this attack. But the fact that most of the dead are from the majority Sinhalese community points to the rebels' involvement, as does the type of explosives used.

This is an edited extract of an editorial that appeared in yesterday's edition of the London Independent.

**Load-Date:** June 16, 2006

### **3 female rebels killed in Sri Lanka north**

Xinhua General News Service

November 5, 2007 Monday 4:00 AM EST

Copyright 2007 Xinhua News Agency

**Section:** WORLD NEWS; Political

**Length:** 155 words

**Dateline:** COLOMBO

#### **Body**

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The troops in Sri Lanka killed three **female** Tamil Tiger rebels in a battle with one soldier being killed in the country's north on Sunday, the military said Monday.

The Army said that three **female LTTE** (Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam) members were killed when the Army used heavy weapons for countering the rebels fire destroying a rebels' bunker at Thampanai in the Vavuniya district around 03:00 p.m. local time ( 1030 GMT).

One soldier was also killed and another injured due to **LTTE** mortar attack, said the Army.

Fighting has been an almost daily occurrence in northern Sri Lanka since mid-September.

Claiming discrimination at the hands of the Sinhala majority, the **LTTE** has been fighting the government since the mid-1980s to establish a separate homeland for the minority Tamils in the north and east.

More than 5,000 people have been killed in the new wave of violence since the end of 2005.

**Load-Date:** November 6, 2007

## **Powell: U.S. leads march to democracy**

United Press International

March 31, 2003 Monday

Copyright 2003 U.P.I.

**Length:** 2202 words

**Byline:** By ANWAR IQBAL

**Dateline:** WASHINGTON, March 31 (UPI)

### **Body**

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Secretary of State Colin Powell Monday described the United States as a leader in a world "marching toward democracy and respect for human rights."

Amnesty International, however, said there's a "widening gap between America's words and action."

Powell, who released the State Department Human Rights Report for 2002, reported a general improvement around the world, but warned that in some places people are still denied these basic rights.

Human rights, the secretary said, were "not grounded exclusively in American or Western values but their protection worldwide serves a core U.S. national interest."

Commenting on the report, Amnesty International said: "As the scale and intensity of the war on terror increases, the distance between the words in this report and the actions of the U.S. government is greater than it has been in more than a decade."

Powell said this year's report covers 196 countries, ranging from defenders of human rights and democracy to the worst violators of human dignity.

"No country is exempt from scrutiny," he added.

"Despite the generally honest and factual character of the report, it is reduced in value by being set adrift from this administration's development of foreign policy," said William F. Schulz, executive director of Amnesty International USA.

"The report serves as a gauge for our international human rights efforts, pointing to areas of progress and drawing our international human rights efforts, pointing to areas of progress and drawing our attention to new and continuing challenges," said Powell.

"When the administration does acknowledge the torture, abductions and killings that the report compiles so extensively, the policies it enacts are often selective, inconsistent and damaging to human rights," warns Amnesty International.

"In a world marching toward democracy and respect for human rights; the United States is a leader, a partner and a contributor. We have taken this responsibility with a deep and abiding belief that human rights are universal," declared Powell.



## Powell: U.S. leads march to democracy

Over the period that the report covers, Amnesty International says it has documented Washington's elective attention to human rights, including the White House's citing torture in Iraq as partial justification for military action while dismissing concerns about its own ill-treatment of prisoners, including transfers of prisoners to countries where they are at risk of torture.

"The U.S. is the Jekyll and Hyde of human rights, at once praising the protection of human rights and discarding those protections at will," said Schulz. "In the name of combating terror, the U.S. has turned a blind eye to the effects its own actions have to the detriment of human rights in the world. Missing from this report is any shred of contrition for the rights trampled this past year as a result of increased U.S. support of governments that commit abuses," he added.

The report points out:

-- In Asia, democratic politics continued to develop in East Timor, with the ratification of a constitution, election of a president, and efforts to establish governance based on the rule of law and human rights protections. Taiwan's strides were also notable, with consolidation and improvement of civil liberties catching up to its free and open electoral system.

-- The push to meet European Union entry requirements resulted in positive human rights developments in aspirant countries. Turkey passed extensive human rights reform packages that covered a broadening of laws on freedom of speech, political activity and association, and fair trial. At the same time torture, although illegal, was still a serious problem and restrictions on freedom of the press remained.

-- Other positive developments in Europe included the first general elections in Bosnia and Herzegovina to be conducted by local (not international) authorities since the Dayton Peace Accords. Macedonia also reaffirmed the strength of its democracy through peaceful elections while its parliament laid the legal groundwork for improving civil and minority rights by completing nearly all of the constitutional and legislative actions related to the Framework Agreement.

-- In the Middle East, several positive steps were taken. In May, the first open municipal council elections were held in Bahrain, and in October women joined men in exercising their right to vote for the first time in nearly 30 years to elect a national parliament. Morocco saw its first open elections in September, and in Qatar, a new constitution has been drafted and municipal elections are scheduled for April 2003. Female candidates will participate for the second time.

-- In Russia, a new Criminal Procedure Code that took effect in July permitted for the first time the application of existing Constitutional provisions that only upon a judicial decision could individuals be arrested, taken into custody or detained. The changes appeared to be having an effect on police, prosecutorial behavior and the judicial system, although there were reports of non-compliance in some regions.

-- The Chinese also continued to carry out some structural reforms in the areas of the rule of law and democracy. Direct elections at the village level took place in several provinces and pressure to move them to higher levels grew. Economic reform has led to legal reform, and legislatures continued experimenting with public hearings to incorporate public opinion into policy.

Political rights:

-- In 2002 six nations in the Western Hemisphere -- The Bahamas, Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica and Jamaica -- held elections for their chief of state or government. The Organization of American States, which adopted a democracy charter in 2001, put its collective commitment into action in 2002 with vigorous efforts to resolve the political crisis in Venezuela.

-- In Africa, Kenya's free election and peaceful transfer of power in December signaled hope for the consolidation of democratic politics there. A political crisis in Madagascar during the first half of 2002 was eventually resolved, and

## Powell: U.S. leads march to democracy

legislative elections were held. In Swaziland, respect for rights and rule of law took steps backward with a government declaration that it would not abide by court decisions.

-- In 2002 China continued to commit serious human rights abuses in violation of international human rights instruments and at year's end, a spate of arrests of political dissidents and the imposition of the death sentence on two Tibetans, the continued detentions of Rebiya Kadeer, Wang Youcai, Qin Yongmin and others, and restrictions on religious freedom and repression of some ethnic minorities were particularly troubling.

-- Zimbabwe's government has used a systematic campaign of violence and intimidation against stated and perceived supporters of the opposition, even to the extent of routinely and publicly denying food to these individuals. The government manipulated the composition of the courts and repeatedly refused to abide by judicial decisions, which undermined the judiciary.

-- In Central Asia, several republics of the former Soviet Union resisted positive change. In Turkmenistan the human rights situation deteriorated markedly after an attack on President Niyazov's motorcade in November, leading to serious violations of due process under the law including widespread arrests and forced evictions of suspects' families, use of torture, threats of rape and summary trials.

-- In Kazakhstan the government's poor human rights record worsened, including selective prosecution of opposition leaders and a pattern of media harassment suggesting an attempt to silence media critics. While there were positive steps in the first half of 2002, such as registration of the first human rights non-governmental organization and abolition of prior censorship of the media in Uzbekistan, there were also setbacks that are a cause of concern, including at least four deaths in detention due to torture.

-- The Kyrgyz Republic held a regional by-election in October, judged by independent monitoring groups to be marred by irregularities such as multiple voting and lax standards of voting eligibility. Harassment of media and civil society continued and police killed six unarmed protesters.

-- Pakistan's military regime began the process of restoring elected civilian governance at the national and provincial level in October. Observers deemed the elections to be flawed, but the new government seems reasonably representative.

## Internal and other conflicts:

-- Throughout 2002, Sri Lanka made progress in implementing a cease-fire agreement between the government and the Liberation Tigers of Tamil-Eelam. Prisoners have been exchanged, roadblocks reduced, internally displaced persons returned, and investigations into abuses by security forces have increased. There were unconfirmed reports that LTTE continued to commit extra-judicial killings, but observers believe the number decreased in 2002. There were also reports that LTTE continued to conscript children.

-- In Nepal, the Maoist campaign included killings, bombing, torture, forced conscription of children and other violent tactics. Government forces were accused of killing civilians and abusing others suspected of Maoist sympathies.

-- The war in Sierra Leone was officially declared over in January, and the Revolutionary United Front was disarmed. Remarkably peaceful presidential elections were held in May, although there were reports of election irregularities.

-- Elsewhere in Africa, conflicts continued to fuel human rights abuses. In Cote d'Ivoire, a coup attempt and ensuing civil unrest sparked violations by government and rebel forces. In the Democratic Republic of the Congo, major abuses continued. Rwanda withdrew its troops by October, and Uganda only had 1,000 troops left in the country at year's end.

-- After 27 years, peace came to Angola in February. The former National Movement for the Total Liberation of Angola, or UNITA, rebel movement has disarmed and is transitioning into an unarmed political party, and the government -- working with the opposition -- is beginning to move the country toward new elections. The massive human rights violations of the civil war have come to an end, although an increase of abuses in Cabinda Province is

## Powell: U.S. leads march to democracy

worrisome. The primary focus will now be on the civil and political rights necessary for the conduct of free and fair elections as well as the establishment of the rule of law throughout the country.

-- Eritrea's record worsened through 2002. However, all recorded Ethiopian prisoners of war from the former conflict were released. Ethiopia also released the last of the Eritrean POWs during 2002.

-- In the Chechnya conflict, Russian forces and Chechen rebels continued to commit serious human rights violations. Government forces committed extra-judicial killings and at times used indiscriminate force, which resulted in civilian casualties. A number of government "cleansing" operations involved extensive abuses of civilians. Chechen rebels increased their killings of civilian officials and militia associated with the Russian-appointed Chechen administration. On Oct. 23, approximately 41 members of Chechen terrorist groups took more than 750 people hostage in a Moscow theater. The terrorists killed one hostage; another 128 hostages died in the rescue effort.

-- Iraq's Republican Guard and other members of the security apparatus committed widespread and systematic human rights abuses including killings, torture, disappearances, rapes and imprisonment of Iraqi political opposition and ethnic and religious minorities.

-- In Cambodia, incidents of extra-judicial killings began to increase as the country prepares for 2003 elections amidst a culture of impunity and with serious shortcomings in the government's investigations.

-- In Afghanistan there was dramatic improvement over the past year, but respect for human rights varied widely in different parts of the country. The reappearance of the Taliban's Department of Vice and Virtue, in the form of the new authority's Department of Accountability and Religious Affairs, bears monitoring. Likewise, reprisals against ethnic Pashtuns -- albeit with a limited religious dimension -- occurred in areas controlled by some local Northern Alliance commanders.

-- Other internal conflicts have a more pronounced religious dimension. Saudi Arabia continued to deny religious freedom to non-Muslims by prohibiting them from engaging in public worship. In some cases, non-Muslim individuals and private gatherings of worshippers were subject to harassment, leading to arrest, detainment, torture and deportation. Shiite Muslims faced widespread discrimination, including imprisonment and torture.

-- Sectarian violence erupted in India's Gujarat Province in February, where as many as 2,000 people -- mostly Muslims -- died. Elections in Jammu and Kashmir, and in Gujarat, were held successfully despite widespread terrorist violence and the new state government has proposed steps to ease repression and reduce alienation. Throughout India however, light punishment for instigators of violence and perpetrators of abuse remained a stumbling block to further improvement.

**Load-Date:** April 1, 2003

**HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL DISCUSSES REPORT OF SECRETARY-  
GENERALS SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE ON CHILDREN AND ARMED  
CONFLICT SELECTS COUNTRIES FOR UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW  
FROM 2008 TO 2011**

States News Service

September 22, 2007 Saturday

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**Length:** 4863 words

**Byline:** States News Service

**Dateline:** GENEVA, Switzerland

## **Body**

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The following information was released by the United Nations:

The Human Rights Council this afternoon discussed the report of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict, Radhika Coomaraswamy. It also selected the countries to be reviewed in the Universal Periodic Review, providing a calendar of work for the Council for the next four years, from 2008 to 2011.

The countries selected to undergo the Universal Periodic Review process at the first session of the Universal Periodic Review Working Group in 2008 were Bahrain, Ecuador, Tunisia, Morocco, Indonesia, Finland, United Kingdom, India, Brazil, Philippines, Algeria, Poland, Netherlands, South Africa, Czech Republic, and Argentina.

Radhika Coomaraswamy, Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict, said she had committed herself to country visits and advocacy to bring about a high level attention to the plight of children affected by armed conflict. Her primary focus had been in four areas: child soldiers, sexual violence against children, safety and access of humanitarian aid, and rehabilitation and reintegration of children.

In the general debate, delegations raised a number of issues, including that the multifaceted nature of violence presented new threats to children affected by armed conflicts. The use of children in armed conflict should be considered a war crime. It was immoral that children should be victims of the competition to control diamonds, oil or for geo-strategic influence. Speakers said the international community should address the root causes of conflicts and all States should undertake a binding legal obligation to observe international humanitarian law. Others noted that child soldiers and children associated with fighting forces should be specifically included in peace agreements. All States should focus on the special needs of children in armed conflict situations, bearing in mind their total vulnerability.

Speaking as concerned countries in the context of the presentation of the report of the Special Representative were the Democratic Republic of Congo, Myanmar, Sri Lanka and Sudan.

Speaking this afternoon were the representatives of Pakistan for the Organization of the Islamic Conference, Egypt for the African Group, Portugal for the European Union, Australia, Switzerland, New Zealand, Thailand,

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Luxembourg, Nepal, Turkey, Slovenia, United Kingdom, Organisation Internationale de la Francophonie, Canada, Liechtenstein, Italy, Japan and Tanzania.

Also speaking were Asian Legal Resource Centre, Women's International Zionist Organization, and International Educational Development.

China and South Africa spoke after the selection of the countries to undergo the Universal Periodic Review process.

The next meeting of the Council will be at 10 a.m. on Monday 24 September, when it will take up its agenda item on human rights situations that require the Councils attention and hold a general debate on the topic.

### Report Before the Council

The report of Radhika Coomaraswamy, the Secretary-Generals Special Representative for Children and Armed Conflict (A/HRC/4/45), highlights the significant advances made in the efforts of the international community to ensure tangible protection for children affected by armed conflict and outlines strategies that will be undertaken to ensure the institution of an era of application of international child protection standards and norms since the adoption of Security Council resolution 1612 (2005) on 26 July 2005. The report also recognizes that the creation of the Human Rights Council places human rights on an equal footing with security and economic development, and that the Council will hence serve as an important component of and a critical partner in efforts to ensure the application and enforcement on the ground of international norms and standards to protect childrens rights and to end impunity for violating parties.

The report recognizes that, despite the progress that has been made, the Office of the Special Representative continues to receive reports of grave violations being committed against children by parties in several situations of armed conflict and, therefore, that much remains to be done to ensure the protection of the rights of children affected by armed conflict. To this end, the Special Representative has put forward a two-year strategic framework to strengthen and consolidate the gains made in the past and to meet the new challenges in the period ahead. The report concludes that the United Nations human rights system must continue to play a crucial role and actively support the protection of the rights of war-affected children on the ground. The Special Representative recommends that the Human Rights Council support the monitoring and reporting mechanism for children and armed conflict in all situations of concern, and that it recognize and make an integral part of the agenda of its future sessions the five categories of grave violations against children other than child soldiering.

### Presentation of Report of Secretary-Generals Special Representative for Children and Armed Conflict

RADHIKA COOMARASWAMY, Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict, presenting her report, said she had committed herself to country visits and advocacy to bring about high level attention to the plight of children affected by armed conflict. Her primary focus had been in four areas: child soldiers, sexual violence against children, safety and access of humanitarian aid, and rehabilitation and reintegration of children.

On Sri Lanka, the Special Representative said that the LTTE had not complied with its commitments regarding non-recruitment and release of child soldiers, and there were credible reports of Sri Lankan military collusion in such practices, and that humanitarian workers had been killed and non-governmental organizations threatened. Continuing violence exacerbated the plight of internally displaced children and humanitarian delivery.

In Darfur, Ms. Coomaraswamy said there was a culture of impunity in violence against children, aggravated by a security vacuum. The Government of National Unity and Government of Southern Sudan had made commitments on monitoring by the United Nations Childrens Fund and the United Nations Mission in Sudan, allocation of resources, criminalization of child soldier recruitment, and safety and protection for humanitarian personnel. These and the UN action plan to identify and release children associated with the armed forces, were being monitored.

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In Burundi she remained deeply concerned at lack of compliance by the FNL over reintegration of child soldiers, and in the Democratic Republic of the Congo there were still many children in the armed forces as well as sexual violence and a climate of impunity. Because of time limitations, she said she was unable to speak about her visit to Lebanon, but the full text of her statement was available.

#### Statements by Concerned Countries

SEBASTIEN MUTOMB MUJING (Democratic Republic of the Congo) said the Democratic Republic of the Congo had undergone, throughout its long war, the sad phenomenon of recruitment and use of children in armed conflict. In the national army, all young boys and girls recognised as minors had been demobilised and reintegrated in civilian life. The different leaders of the rebel groups which used children to protect the gold and diamond mines that financed the war had been brought to justice. The phenomenon of child warriors had significantly diminished since the end of the war, and would totally disappear when the foreign rebel groups, the groups which did not want to make peace, and the rebels under General Laurent Nkunda were disarmed. Once disarmed, children recruited and used by these groups would be demobilised and reintegrated into their normal way of life. On the judicial level, the Government had just adopted the draft law on the Code for Child Protection, which covered every aspect of the life of the child.

U. NYUNT SWE (Myanmar) said Myanmar wished to share with the Council the latest developments in the country. Concrete steps had been taken to prevent recruitment of under-aged children into the military. Recruitment procedures, procedures for discharge from military service, reintegration into society, public awareness measures and punitive action had been adopted into a plan of action. The Government had invited the Special Representative in a spirit of cooperation with the United Nations in this matter. During her visit, Ms. Coomaraswamy had had the opportunity to visit the military recruitment centre. Her visit had been a successful and fruitful one. Measures had been taken in response to her recommendations.

SHIRANI GOONETILLEKE (Sri Lanka) said Sri Lanka urged the United Nations agencies to make clear that there would be zero tolerance on child recruitment. Sadly, the LTTE argued that the issue was comparatively unimportant. According to the United Nations Childrens Fund (UNICEF), the figure of over 6,000 children in the LTTE forces was likely to represent only one third of the actual figure. UNICEF also had statistics on the numbers recruited by the break-away Karuna faction. Sri Lanka had said at the Security Council that it would investigate allegations made against sections of the government security forces for complicity in the abduction of children by the Karuna faction, and a high level inter-disciplinary committee had been created to this end. Sri Lanka had also ratified the Convention on the Rights of the Childs Optional Protocol on children in armed conflict. Child recruitment was criminalized under the penal code. Besides the child recruitment issue, the Government had focused on healthcare and free education in the conflict areas. The Human Rights Commission of Sri Lanka had widened its mandate to include child rights violations. There were efforts to mobilize funding and resources and establish more permanent infrastructures for surrendeeds. The Government called on the LTTE and Karuna faction to cease child recruitment and return children to their families.

RAHMA SALIH ELOBIED (Sudan) said Sudan had examined the report and listened carefully to the statement of the Special Representative. Concerning paragraph 2.a on monitoring mechanisms, it was important to include the Government in monitoring according to Security Council resolutions, and obtaining information from the Government. It was also important to state what were the sources of information. Information that was published in the statement should first have been given to the Government, or at least given in the report. Concerning the recruitment of children and their exploitation as soldiers, Sudan had lived for a long time in conflict. Since peace had been re-established in many areas, the Government had been working seriously and relentlessly to deal with these consequences, including the child soldiers used by the armed forces outside the scope of the Sudanese Army, which latter set 18 as a minimum age of recruitment. Work was being done to combat the phenomenon of the recruitment of children.

Interactive Dialogue on Report of Secretary-Generals Special Representative on Children and Armed Conflict

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MASOOD KHAN (Pakistan), speaking on behalf of the Organisation of the Islamic Conference (OIC), said that the OIC was glad to hear that steady progress had been made in establishing the monitoring and reporting mechanism. The OIC attached high value to the work of the UN Security Councils Working Group on Children in Armed Conflict. Empirical evidence indicated that systematic and consistent violations of the rights of children happened most frequently in situations of foreign occupation. The past decade had seen important gains in the elaboration of international legal standards for the protection of children. Without a deliberate effort by the international community to insist on the implementation and respect of existing laws, the vulnerability of children would persist. Girls were particularly vulnerable in situations of armed conflicts. The protection of the human rights of the girl child should be made the focus of greater attention by United Nations bodies. The Special Representative should continue to advocate against all violations against children wherever they occurred. The international community should address the root causes of conflicts and all States should undertake a binding legal obligation to observe international humanitarian law. UN peacekeeping or observer missions should include observation and reporting on the treatment of children and measures to offer them protection. The principal endeavour of the Council should be to ensure the protection of children in armed conflicts before conflicts broke out.

IHALB GAMALELDIN (Egypt), speaking on behalf of the African Group, said African countries had committed themselves to ensure childrens welfare since the World Summit in 1990, and to work towards creating stability and peace and implement the Charter on the Rights and Welfare of Children. African countries had collaborated with the United Nations Childrens Fund and the Special Representative and her predecessor, exhorted warring parties to keep children out of conflicts, and had urged rehabilitation, re-training and reintegration in civil society. The use of children in armed conflict should be considered a war crime. African countries had urged zones and corridors of peace for protection and delivery of humanitarian aid in conflict situations.

Statistics in the report were deeply disturbing. The United Nations generally and the Security Council in particular had to play a more active role in tackling situations where children were being brutalized. All conflict situations involving the victimization and violation of women and children should be treated in equal measure. It was immoral that children should be victims of the competition to control diamonds, oil or for geo-strategic influence.

CAROLINA LOPES (Portugal), speaking on behalf of the European Union, said the multifaceted nature of violence presented new threats to children affected by armed conflicts. In the last year, major steps had been taken in the fight against impunity in different international judicial bodies, and the Special Representative should explain what further steps could be taken to fight impunity for child-related war crimes or crimes against humanity, and, in particular, how could sexual abuse/exploitation and violence against children, especially girls, be addressed in a more effective way. Child soldiers and children associated with fighting forces should be specifically included in peace agreements. The European Union had strong concern about any recruitment and use of children in armed conflicts, contrary to international law. Girls or young women that were sexually abused during wartime continued to be faced with discrimination and social stigmatisation in post-conflict society. What measures could be applied to ensure the societal re-integration of both these young women and their children, the European Union asked.

GUY O'BRIEN (Australia) said that the breakdown of social protection due to conflict threatened all children with separation from their families. In an armed conflict, children on all sides were especially vulnerable and needed protection and care. The high-level of displacement caused by the escalating conflict in Sri Lanka, which affected thousands of children, was of concern. All parties were called upon to ensure that all forms of forced recruitment and abduction of children were ended and that necessary action to hold accountable those responsible for such practices was being taken.

NATALIE KHOLI (Switzerland) asked the Special Representative to comment on progress regarding recommendations by the Security Councils Working Group on Children in Armed Conflict, and follow-up that the Working Group envisaged. Switzerland also noted with appreciation the strategic reinforcement of the partnership between the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights and the mandate-holder, and related capacity building, and asked for the Special Representatives comments on cooperation surrounding the implementation of Resolution 1612.

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AMY LAURENSEN (New Zealand) said the Special Representative was thanked for her good work and making progress on this issue. All States should focus on the special needs of children in armed conflict situations, bearing in mind their total vulnerability. Member States should sign and ratify the Optional Protocol on the involvement of children in armed conflict. Children were at risk in conflict situations all over the world. The ongoing situation in Sri Lanka had brought with it worrying increases in human rights violations, and the parties involved should set up a cease-fire, and commit themselves to returning to the peace process. All stakeholders should use the opportunity for dialogue presented by the High Commissioners visit.

PITCHAYAPHANT CHARNBHUMIDOL (Thailand) said that the Human Rights Council could serve as an important component to ensure the application of the international standards to protect children. Children were one of the most vulnerable groups in any society. Our world was still not a world where children could live in freedom. Thailand supported the work of the Special Representative. It was important that the whole United Nations system become involved. Any study had to be impartial and fair. Thailand supported the Security Councils Working Group on Children in Armed Conflict.

JEAN FEYDER (Luxembourg) said the report contained vital information on forced recruitment, sexual violence, abductions and humanitarian provisions for children. The notion of the duty to protect was an important principle for States to abide by. Luxembourg welcomed the cooperation between the Special Representative and the United Nations Children's Fund in connection with the Machel study. Reports were due from the Security Councils Working Group on Children in Armed Conflict on Sri Lanka, Nepal and Somalia soon, and Luxembourg asked if there were any indications on these yet.

BHARAT RAJ PAUDYAL (Nepal) said that as a State party to the Convention on the Rights of the Child and its two Optional Protocols, Nepal attached great importance to the protection and promotion of the rights of the child. Even during the difficult time of armed conflict, the Government had always taken extra measures and care to protect the child and other vulnerable groups. The Comprehensive Peace Accord also explicitly banned the recruitment or exploitation of children under the age of 18 in any kind of security force, and provided for the rehabilitation of the children affected by the conflict. Nepal intended to invite the Special Representative to find ways on how her work could contribute to the protection of the rights of the child in the context of the ongoing peace process. With regards to the reference to Nepal in some paragraphs of the report, the armed conflict had already ended 10 months before the time of preparation of the report; therefore, the context and circumstances had changed.

TUGBA SARAYONLU ETENSEL (Turkey) said that the Special Representatives report clearly demonstrated why children's rights should remain high on the agenda of the Council. In all armed conflicts, children were the most vulnerable group and the first exposed to the negative consequences of the general break down of society. A solution to the problem could only be reached by taking a comprehensive approach. The Human Rights Council should ensure that children's rights were protected in all situations of concern. How could the Council address children's rights in a more systemic manner and effectively contribute to the international efforts to eliminate violence against children?

EVA TOMIC (Slovenia) said that the Machel study provided a platform for the future: what was the strategic role of the Human Rights Council in this platform in addressing the rights of children in armed conflict, and how could the Council and other agencies inter-link for a comprehensive and effective approach? Slovenia also asked how the Universal Periodic Review might contribute to the monitoring and reporting mechanisms established under Security Council Resolution 1612.

KATRIONA GASKILL (United Kingdom) said child protection advisers, through their monitoring and reporting activities, had helped to increase the attention given to the rights and needs of war-affected children on the United Nations peace and security agenda. They had also played an important role in efforts to mainstream child protection issues into the work of other components of peacekeeping operations. In May 2007, the Department of Peacekeeping Operations report on the impact of child protection advisers made recommendations aimed at improving the selection process for the advisers, clarifying their role, improving coordination with other actors, and



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enhancing the support and guidance. How could these recommendations be taken forward, the United Kingdom asked'

LIBERE BARARUNYERETSE of Organisation internationale de la francophonie, said that the Organisation Internationale de la Francophonie attached much importance to the work of the current session. This would improve human rights work in the field. The Organization Internationale de la Francophonie wished to be involved in the Universal Periodic Review preparatory phase as it could contribute to the strengthening of capacities. The current reports under consideration and the responses to these questions should strengthen the dialogue between cultures and nations. A strict respect of the institutional text was called for. All reports should be distributed to the delegations in a timely manner in all official UN languages, at least 15 days before the session.

NADIA STUEWER (Canada) said there had been important progress in the implementation of Security Council Resolution 1612 and action plans for monitoring the situation of violence against children in armed conflict. In the Democratic Republic of the Congo, some specific recommendations of the Security Councils Working Group had yet to be put into action. How could countries like Canada support implementation of the Secretary Generals recommendations' Canada would also like to know whether the parties in Sri Lanka had made progress on the Working Groups recommendations of June 2007.

ISABEL FROMMELT (Liechtenstein) said the report of the Special Representative showed that despite the progress made in this regard, grave violations committed against children by parties in situations of armed conflict continued unabated. The facts were appalling: there were more than 30 reported situations of concern, 2 million children had been killed in armed conflicts, 6 million disabled, and more than 250,000 continued to be exploited as child soldiers. The Human Rights Council should support the monitoring and reporting mechanism for war-affected children in all situations of concern, and contribute to it by making the issue an integral part of its agenda. The Human Rights Council should play a critical role in ensuring the application and enforcement on the ground of international norms and standards to protect the rights of the child and in particular to end impunity for violating parties.

ROBERTO VELLANO (Italy) said that the situations described in the report were of deep concern. The protection of children was of utmost importance. On the deeper engagement of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, how was a coordinated and more cooperative framework being envisaged within which stakeholders should work and which concrete measures could be taken to that end'

OSAMU YAMANAKA (Japan) said recruitment and sexual exploitation of children in armed conflict was a serious violation of childrens rights. Child soldiers had difficulties in reintegrating in post conflict societies. The resolution of this problem was the responsibility of the international community as a whole. Countries who had not done so should be urged to sign the Optional Protocol and the international community should cooperate closely to this end. Monitoring should function in line with the objectives. Concrete actions taken by the international criminal court were also welcomed. Strengthened cooperation and streamlining of measures and frameworks was required.

MATHEW MWAIMU (Tanzania) said involving children in armed conflict was one of the disasters which the world was experiencing today. Such a phenomenon curtailed many childrens rights. Such tendencies should not be condoned, as they denied children the right to enjoy their childhood. Breaking the stage of childhood created a gap in life which could not be compensated - it became a loss over a lifetime. In recognition of this problem, Tanzania had taken a number of measures to combat it. Tanzania was a peaceful country in a troubled region, but had endeavoured to promote conflict resolution in the neighbourhood, as well as in the Great Lakes region as a whole, with part of the commitment being to minimise the suffering of children involved in the conflicts in the region. All parties involved in conflict should follow suit.

SOO A. KIM, of Asian Legal Resource Centre, said that the ongoing use of armed children in many of Asias armed conflicts was of concern. Conflicts resulted in large numbers of children being affected, including suffering trauma. Children were often recruited from tribal communities, as these were frequently located in conflict zones. In anti-state militias, girls were reportedly being used for sexual gratification. Child soldiers living conditions were invariably

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very poor. They were often denied adequate food. Children were used as scouts and to test the land for anti-personnel mines.

RAMA ENAV, of Womens International Zionist Organization, said that despite rocket attacks and casualties, Israeli schools encouraged peace and tolerance, whereas Palestinian schools were often named after terrorists, and children were incited to violence and hatred. Childrens TV programmes inculcated Palestinian children into Jihad and indoctrinated them with hatred, terrorism and political violence. How could peace be achieved when young minds were infused with this desire to kill'

KAREN PARKER, of International Educational Development, said Mr. Alan Rock was unable to actually visit the Tamil-controlled areas in Sri Lanka, and was severely restricted in his ability to visit Tamil areas at all. As the war was almost exclusively in the Tamil areas, International Educational Development wondered how anyone could assess the impact of the armed conflict on children when unable to visit the affected areas. What would the Special Representative do to look into the other, more critical areas affecting hundreds of thousands of children implicated in this armed conflict'

#### Concluding Remarks by the Special Representative

RADHIKA COOMARASWAMY, Special Representative of the Secretary General on children and armed conflict, in concluding remarks, said that this topic had strong support, as it was the only human rights topic the Security Council was addressing. With regard to the Democratic Republic of the Congo, she agreed that there was improvement and that the Government was making efforts, although there were serious concerns about impunity. With regard to Myanmar, the Government had been very cooperative and violations were being investigated. With regard to Sri Lanka, there were some positive steps from the side of the Government to investigate allegations, although some factions were continuing to function under impunity.

On Palestine and Israel Ms. Coomaraswamy said that the issues had been reviewed with both authorities. On both sides the use of certain textbooks was a fact. A Committee to review textbooks of both sides, to check if they did not give out a wrong view of reality, had been set up. More States would be reviewed. With regard to the African Groups remarks, all great violations and situations of concern everywhere in the world would be looked at.

Ms. Coomaraswamy said that in October of this year a report would be presented on the topic to the Security Council which would deal with the fighting of impunity, the recruiting of children in armed conflicts and the dealing with children survivors.

#### Statements made after the Selection of the Countries for the Universal Periodic Review

LA YIFAN (China) congratulated the Council for the selection process, as it was the start of the much-awaited Universal Periodic Review process.

GLAUDINE J. MTSALI (South Africa) said the formula assured the objectivity of selection of Universal Periodic Review countries, but political leaders of countries needed to be informed of their pending subjection to review and a road-map of steps that States should take in preparing for the review was needed, as well as standards for compilations. Representation on the Troika should be uniform for all States and composition issues made clear.

For use of the information media; not an official record

**Load-Date:** September 25, 2007

## ***Sri Lankan Tamil rebels accused of killing rival party activist***

Xinhua General News Service

September 18, 2004 Saturday 5:00 AM EST

Copyright 2004 Xinhua News Agency

**Section:** WORLD NEWS; Political

**Length:** 168 words

**Dateline:** COLOMBO

### **Body**

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Sri Lankan Tamil Tiger rebels have been accused of killing of an activist belonging to a rival Tamil political party.

Police said at the northwestern town of Puttalam that the town's political organizer of the Eelam People's Democratic Party (EPDP) Thambiturai Sivakumaran was gunned down by suspected gunmen belonging to the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (**LTTE**) rebels at around 11:00 a.m. ( local time) on Saturday.

Sivakumaran was on his way home from his office when unknown gunmen who arrived on a motorcycle fired at him and shot him dead.

EPDP, a former militant group of the minority Tamil community, entered the democratic mainstream politics in 1987. EPDP leader Douglas Devananda is a government minister.

The **LTTE** treats Devananda's party as traitors to the self determination wishes of the minority Tamils.

Early July, Devananda himself narrowly escaped an assassination attempt by a **female** suicide bomber of the **LTTE** in which four policemen were killed.

**Load-Date:** September 19, 2004

## **Sri Lanka raise attack damage toll**

UPI

October 24, 2007 Wednesday 12:30 PM EST

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**Length:** 150 words

**Dateline:** COLOMBO, Sri Lanka, Oct. 24

### **Body**

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An air and ground attack by Tamil rebels inflicted more damage on a Sri Lankan airbase this week than first reported, the country's prime minister said.

After the attack Monday, officials said three aircraft were destroyed in the attack, as well as a helicopter that crashed while flying to the besieged northern base at Anuradhapura, 130 miles north of Colombo.

Wednesday, Sri Lankan Prime Minister Ratnasiri Wickremanayake told Parliament eight aircraft, including a key spy plane, had been demolished, a BBC correspondent reported.

More than 30 people were killed in the attack by the separatist **Tamil Tigers** group who struck the base with two small bomber aircraft and a number of male and **female** suicide bombers.

The government denied rebels' allegations the bodies of their dead were stripped naked, lined up on open trailers and displayed in a town square on the way to the mortuary, the report said.

**Load-Date:** October 25, 2007

## **POLITICS: U.N. MUST PROTECT CHILDREN IN WAR - NGOS**

IPS-Inter Press Service

January 9, 2004, Monday

Copyright 2004 IPS-Inter Press Service/Global Information Network

**Length:** 979 words

**Byline:** By Thalif Deen

**Dateline:** UNITED NATIONS, Jan. 9

### **Body**

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A coalition of groups is urging U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan to prepare an annual list of governments and groups that recruit or use child soldiers or fail to protect children during military conflicts.

Such a regular list, it says, would keep such violators of international obligations constantly "named and shamed".

"From Congo and Liberia to Iraq, Myanmar and Colombia, girls and boys are subject to appalling violence and deprivation of their fundamental rights," said the Watchlist on Children and Armed Conflict in a 43-page report released Friday.

The study, which estimates 300,000 children under the age of 18 are still directly involved in armed conflicts worldwide, was released ahead of a Security Council meeting on child soldiers scheduled for Jan. 20.

It says many countries do not adequately protect children, a situation exacerbated by impeded access of civilians to much-needed humanitarian assistance in times of conflict.

As a result, says the study, "more children die from malnutrition, diarrhoea and other preventable diseases in conflict situations than die as a direct result of fighting."

It wants Annan to expand existing lists of violators beyond those countries and groups that use child soldiers, to include nations that do not adequately protect children.

So far, the secretary-general has compiled two lists of violators: first, countries whose conflicts are on the Security Council agenda, including Afghanistan, Burundi, Ivory Coast, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Liberia and Somalia.

A second list includes the Republic of Chechnya of the Russian Federation, Colombia, Myanmar, Nepal, Northern Ireland, the Philippines, Sri Lanka, Sudan and Uganda.

The coalition not only wants the lists merged into one but also for the single list to be updated annually.

In most of the countries named by Annan, child soldiers are used by armed groups, not national governments.

The armed groups listed by the secretary-general include Liberians United for Reconciliation and Democracy (LURD), the Juba Valley Alliance and Rahanwein Resistance Army in Somalia, Mai-Mai and the Union des

## POLITICS: U.N. MUST PROTECT CHILDREN IN WAR - NGOS

Patriotes Congolais in the Democratic Republic of Congo, the Front pour la defense de la democratie of Burundi and several factions associated with the former Northern Alliance in Afghanistan.

The coalition is demanding that these lists be "significantly expanded". "We are disappointed by the limited action by the United Nations last year," Julia Freedson of the coalition told reporters Friday.

The Watchlist coalition includes Care International, International Save the Children Alliance, Norwegian Refugee Council, Women's Commission for Refugee Women and Children, World Vision International and Coalition to Stop the Use of Child Soldiers.

Freedson said the group was particularly distressed that the Security Council did not act despite the fact that some violators were "well known".

According to a report released last year by the London-based Coalition to Stop the Use of Child Soldiers, these violators also include Angola, Kosovo, Republic of Congo, Sierra Leone and Guinea-Bissau.

Alarming, Freedson said, the substantial international legal framework established to protect children is failing in the most fundamental ways.

She said the current system for monitoring and reporting on violations against children in armed conflict is "woefully inadequate". "The time has come for follow-up action," Freedson added.

"The major shortcoming is that no rigorous and effective system exists to coordinate these activities, and direct them through the necessary steps to achieve the goal of compliance."

It is also necessary to expand the spectrum of violations to include killing and maiming; rape and other grave sexual violence against children; the illicit exploitation of natural resources and the illicit trade in small arms, Andrew Johnson of the International Save the Children Alliance, told reporters.

Kathleen Hunt of Care International called for tighter measures and time-bound plans to fight the recruitment of child soldiers.

"We are not saying it has to stop by midnight," she said, pointing out that the United Nations should follow up on assurances given by armed groups and governments not to use child soldiers.

In Sri Lanka, the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), which has been battling a separatist war in the northeast of that country, has a long record of using child soldiers and of breaking commitments to stop, according to the Sri Lanka government.

In a list of recommendations to the Security Council, the coalition "strongly urges" all 191 member states to end immediately all sales of arms and military assistance to parties that violate international law and recruit child soldiers.

It is also calling for specific deadlines by which parties must submit information on the steps they are taking to end children recruitment and use in conflicts, and the creation of concrete, time-bound plans to end these abuses.

Annan was asked to establish a task force on compliance and follow-up, which would include representatives of the United Nations, U.N. agencies and non-governmental organizations (NGOs).

"One way for the Security Council to start making significant progress would be by concentrating its efforts on a single conflict situation or region where egregious abuses have been repeatedly documented," the report said.

This would help test and refine mechanisms for gathering crucial information for the Council's use, tighten coordination among various agencies, and test the effectiveness of graduated remedies.

POLITICS: U.N. MUST PROTECT CHILDREN IN WAR - NGOS

The 1990 U.N. Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) set the legal minimum age for recruitment of soldiers at 15. But an optional protocol to the CRC, which came into force in 2003, outlaws the involvement of children under 18 in any hostilities, and sets strict standards for the recruitment of those under 18.

**Load-Date:** January 12, 2004

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End of Document

## **EU condemns Sri Lanka suicide bombing**

Associated Press International

April 25, 2006 Tuesday 6:05 PM GMT

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**Section:** INTERNATIONAL NEWS

**Length:** 148 words

**Dateline:** VIENNA Austria

### **Body**

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The Austrian presidency of the European Union on Tuesday condemned a suicide bombing in Sri Lanka and expressed its condolences to the government and relatives of the victims.

"This appalling act of terrorism must not be allowed to threaten the prospects for peace in Sri Lanka," the EU said in a statement released in Austria, which currently holds the rotating presidency of the 25-nation bloc.

Earlier Tuesday, a lone Tamil Tiger **female** suicide pretending to be pregnant to conceal explosives triggered a blast near a car at military headquarters in Colombo. The bomber killed eight people and injured 27 others, a military spokesman said.

In response, Sri Lanka's military launched air strikes against Tamil Tiger-held areas near a strategic port.

The EU called on both the Sri Lankan government and the **Tamil Tigers** to "refrain from further actions liable to jeopardize the peace process."

**Load-Date:** April 26, 2006



## *Violence resumes in Sri Lanka*

UPI

November 2, 2005 Wednesday 12:07 PM EST

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**Length:** 152 words

**Dateline:** BATTICALOA, Sri Lanka, Nov. 2

### **Body**

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The relative peace that descended on Sri Lanka in the wake of last year's tsunami apparently has ended.

Armed factions are once again vying for supremacy while assassinations and abductions go on in broad daylight, The New York Times reports.

The report says there is no safety even at a tsunami relief camp in Batticaloa in the north where three women have been widowed since February.

The women told the newspaper their husbands had once opposed the Tamil Tigers separatist group but had given up politics. The report said their claims could not be verified.

The current situation has flared despite a cease-fire agreement in 2002 between the Tigers and the Sinhalese government.

The Tigers have fought for more than 20 years for a separate state in the north and the northeast. Norwegian officials, in charge of monitoring cease-fire violations, have been able to do little to stop the bloodshed, the report said.

**Load-Date:** November 3, 2005

## *Rights and wrongs*

Ottawa Citizen

March 4, 2003 Tuesday Final Edition

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**Section:** News; Pg. A11; Letter

**Length:** 159 words

**Byline:** Asoka Weerasinghe

### **Body**

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Re: Protecting human rights will help fight terrorism, March 3.

The conclusion by Amnesty International's Alex Neve that protecting human rights will fight global instability is nonsense.

The Ottawa Citizen

During the first decade of the Tamil terrorist war with the Sri Lankan government's armed forces, Amnesty International was critical of the government's application of excessive force against the Tamil terrorists, claiming government forces were violating the codes of human rights. Thus the *Tamil Tigers* were provided a cloak of respectability by Amnesty International. The terrorists went on massacring the innocent men, *women* and infants, shooting them at point-blank range and chopping them with machetes in the thousands during raids. There wasn't even a squeak from Amnesty International to go after the Tamil terrorists for violating the right to life of many innocent civilians. So much for protecting human rights.

Asoka Weerasinghe,

Gloucester

**Load-Date:** March 4, 2003

## HighLights of the AAP National Wire at 14:45, July 11

AAP Newsfeed

July 11, 2007 Wednesday 2:52 PM AEST

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**Section:** DOMESTIC NEWS

**Length:** 1623 words

### **Body**

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#### HIGHLIGHTS NATIONAL

BRISBANE - Australian Federal Police (AFP) will today lodge a court application to extend the time they can hold Indian doctor Mohamed Haneef without charge. (UK Bombs Haneef (pix available))

BRISBANE - A Muslim doctor detained over the UK terror plot is being allowed to exercise his religious beliefs in a Brisbane watchhouse, police say. (UK Bombs Atkinson. See also UK Bombs India)

UK Bombs Aust Nightlead to come, with pix

CANBERRA - The federal government says Opposition Leader Kevin Rudd's plan to give the competition watchdog new powers to monitor grocery prices is not new and retailers say prices would not drop under the proposal. (Grocery Daylead)

CANBERRA - Labor's proposed inquiry into supermarket retailing needs to examine competition, not just prices, former consumer watchdog head Allan Fels says. (Grocery Fels)

Grocery Nightlead, Analysis to come

SYDNEY - Attorney-General Philip Ruddock has refused to confirm or deny reports that 20 home-grown terrorists could be at large in the Australian community, poised to launch a major attack. (Terror Aust Ruddock. See also Internet Ruddock to come)

SYDNEY - Anti-terror police in NSW are confident they are prepared for Sydney's APEC Summit but have no way to protect against "the lone wolf factor", the NSW Police Force's head of counter-terrorism says. (APEC Security Kaldas)

APEC Security Nightlead to come

SYDNEY - Some Australians believe that rapists whose victims are drunk or dressed "provocatively" should be treated with more leniency in court, a study shows. (Rape)

ADELAIDE - Foreign Minister Alexander Downer says Labor needs to "come clean" and explain its real policy on Iraq before the federal election. (Iraq Aust Downer Lead)

Iraq Aust Nightlead to come

HOBART - A giant squid washed up dead on Tasmania's west coast is one of the biggest ever found, weighing in at 250 kilograms, with a cross section as big as a truck tyre and longer than a station wagon. (Squid Nightlead, to come (pix available))

SYDNEY - Women who start hormone replacement therapy long after going through menopause will do themselves more harm than good, new Australian research shows. (HRT, to come - Embargoed until 0001 AEST Thursday)

CANBERRA - Labor's accusation that the government has cried wolf over travel advisories is absolutely reprehensible, Foreign Affairs minister Alexander Downer says. (Terror Indon Downer. Seeking more)

SYDNEY - The first meeting for creditors of nine companies making up the Australian arm of failed trans-Tasman property group Bridgecorp was being held in Sydney today. (Bridgecorp, to come)

## HighLights of the AAP National Wire at 14:45, July 11

MELBOURNE/BRISBANE - Reaction to footage involving an alleged brawl at a Melbourne pub involving several star footballers including Michael Voss and Fraser Gehrig. (AFL Brawl, to come)

ADELAIDE - Solomon Islands Prime Minister Manasseh Sogavare has made his country a laughing stock by appointing a rape suspect as his attorney-general, Foreign Minister Alexander Downer says. (Solomons Downer Lead. N/L to come)

AUCKLAND - The Australian government's crackdown on indigenous child sex abuse is facing renewed fire in New Zealand, this time from the country's Green Party. (Indigenous NZ)

LOS ANGELES - Sydney is losing its shine as one of the world's great cities for a holiday. (US Holiday (with factbox))

SYDNEY - Australian hospital patients needlessly died or were put at serious risk at least 130 times between 2004 and 2005, a new report shows. (Hospitals. Seeking more)

SYDNEY - Australian band Daddy Cool's reformed line-up will perform nationally with US surf-rock legends The Beach Boys in November. (Daddy)

SYDNEY - It Takes Two winner Jolene Anderson says in her home town of Kempsey on the NSW mid-north coast, it's her father Archie who claims celebrity status. (Anderson)

SYDNEY - Radio shock jock Kyle Sandilands will be a surprise Big Brother intruder this weekend. (Sandilands)

CANBERRA - Labor MP Peter Garrett smoked it when he was in his 20s and former US president Bill Clinton said he "did not inhale", but for Labor leader Kevin Rudd marijuana has never been part of his scene. (Marijuana Rudd)

CANBERRA - Climate change sceptic Finance Minister Nick Minchin urges Australians to watch controversial documentary challenging global warming theory on ABC TV tomorrow night. (Climate Swindle, to come)

CANBERRA - Prime Minister John Howard accuses Victorian govt of playing election year politics by refusing to sign national water plan (Water Howard, to come)

CANBERRA - A key quarterly agriculture index has surged 15.5 per cent on year ago levels, offering another sign farmers are slowly climbing out of a financially disastrous drought period. (Agriculture Index)

CANBERRA - An Australian-designed contraceptive implant for dogs is on the brink of approval for European pooches. (Dogs, to come)

CANBERRA - Universities will have to provide more accurate information about tertiary applications and offers to receive funding under a federal government plan to establish a database of university places. (Universities)

SYDNEY - A crew member of the Black Hawk helicopter that crashed and killed two people last year has told an inquiry he disregarded evacuation procedures as he fought to save his life. (BlackHawk. N/L to come)

SYDNEY - One of the eight men of interest in the cruise ship death of Dianne Brimble says he had no involvement with her because he was seasick and in bed. (Brimble. N/L to come)

SYDNEY - Emergency crews are trying to prevent an explosion after oil was spilt on bags of volatile ammonium nitrate fertiliser aboard a ship in the port of Newcastle. (Ammonium Lead. N/L to come, with graphic)

SYDNEY - A Labor government would take its cues from Japan to transform the "arc of instability" in the Asia-Pacific region, opposition foreign affairs spokesman Robert McClelland says. (Pacific McClelland)

SYDNEY - The NSW government has refused to withdraw from state schools a controversial songbook with a song apologising to Aborigines, despite complaints it amounts to political propaganda. (Sorry Della)

SYDNEY - Human error caused a hatch to fly off a train on the Sydney Harbour Bridge, causing chaos for thousands of commuters, an investigation has found. (Rail. N/L to come)

SYDNEY - An accused murderer allegedly denied medical treatment because of her parents' belief in Scientology was too ill to face a Sydney court today. (Stabbings Daylead)

MELBOURNE - A Sydney man charged over links to a terrorist organisation, Sri Lanka's **Tamil Tigers**, met with the group's leader, who is wanted over the murder of former Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi, a court was told today. (Rajeevan. N/L to come)

MELBOURNE - Talks between officials of the University of Melbourne and the academics union will begin today to try to avert job losses forced by a deficit in funding in the arts faculty. (Faculty. N/L to come)

MELBOURNE - A joint investigation by the Australian Federal Police (AFP) and overseas law enforcement agencies has led to the arrest and charging of three men in Melbourne over the importation of 12 kg of cocaine. (Cocaine)

MELBOURNE - A baby was treated for smoke inhalation after an electric radiator set fire to her room in Melbourne last night. (Radiator)

## HighLights of the AAP National Wire at 14:45, July 11

BRISBANE - The Queensland government is to launch an advertising campaign discouraging discrimination against overseas-trained doctors. (Doctors Advert)

BRISBANE - A second person has died following a house fire at Hervey Bay, north of Brisbane, today. (Body Lead)

BRISBANE - A baby that was dumped in a Gold Coast toilet block was blessed and given a symbolic religious bracelet before flying to Ireland to be reunited with his mother. (Baby Qld (Pic available))

BRISBANE - The federal government's crackdown on indigenous child sex abuse in the Northern Territory is a punitive response which will not work, Queensland's Child Safety Minister Desley Boyle says. (Indigenous Boyle)

BRISBANE - One of Queensland's female political pioneers, Yvonne Chapman, will retire next year. (Councils Chapman. Councils N/L to come)

BRISBANE - Sugar cane farmers in north Queensland are being warned about a possible outbreak of a devastating crop disease. (Smut)

BRISBANE - The Queensland government has blamed a rise in litigation cases against Queensland Health on claims made by former patients of Bundaberg surgeon Jayant Patel. (Patel, to come)

BRISBANE - The Queensland government will carry out two studies into the use of amphetamines, including ice, within the state. (Ice, to come with pix)

BRISBANE - The Queensland government has been forced to defend the amount of money it spends on artwork in public hospitals. (Art, to come)

BRISBANE - More than one in five Queensland children are overweight or obese, new figures show. (Obesity)

BRISBANE - Queensland Health will this year undertake a major review of oral health services, and employ a chief dentist. (Dental)

PERTH - A ninth man has been charged with alleged child sex offences in the West Australian town of Halls Creek. (Indigenous WA)

PERTH - Two women accused of assaulting infants by swaddling their legs at a day care centre to appear in court. (Turtle, to come)

PERTH - Two outlaw motorcycle gang members wanted on assault charges have given themselves up to police after a month on the run. (Mercanti Lead. N/L to come)

DARWIN - A man accused of taking a sleeping 10-year-old girl from her bed and sexually assaulting her at a remote Aboriginal community will remain in police custody. (Girl Nightlead)

HOBART - Animal activists have got their claws into a Tasmanian zoo as it awaits delivery of two Bengal tigers. (Tigers)

**Load-Date:** July 11, 2007

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End of Document

## HighLights of the AAP National Wire at 14:45, Sept 13

AAP Newsfeed

September 13, 2007 Thursday 2:53 PM AEST

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**Section:** DOMESTIC NEWS

**Length:** 1595 words

### **Body**

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#### HIGHLIGHTS NATIONAL

CANBERRA - Voters are likely to see more of federal Treasurer Peter Costello during this year's election as he stamps his authority on his leadership prospects. (Leadership Costello)

CANBERRA - Prime Minister John Howard may still be leading the Liberals, but half of them don't want him there, Opposition Leader Kevin Rudd said today. (Leadership Rudd Lead)

Leadership Nightlead, Analysis to come

BRISBANE - Queensland Governor Quentin Bryce has described the elevation of Anna Bligh to state premier as a history-shaping event. (Bligh Ministry Lead (with factbox and pix))

BRISBANE - Incoming Queensland treasurer Andrew Fraser says his youth could be viewed as a bonus, as the 30-year-old today becomes the state's second-youngest treasurer. (Fraser. See also Fraser Profile on file)

TO COME: Bligh Nightlead, Bligh Scene, Bligh Women, Fraser Nightlead

BRISBANE - With a final thank you to the people who made him Queensland's second-longest serving Labor premier, Peter Beattie has officially resigned. (Beattie Lead (pix available))

SYDNEY - The price of basic foods could increase within weeks as the ongoing drought threatens the NSW winter crop, NSW Primary Industries Minister Ian Macdonald says. (Drought NSW Lead)

LOS ANGELES - Australia's drought, which has sparked record wheat prices, is hurting Americans at supermarket checkouts across the US. (US Drought Aust)

Drought Nightlead to come

MELBOURNE - Solarium user Clare Oliver, who died today after a long fight with skin cancer, will leave a legacy that will help save Australians from the deadly disease, her doctor said. (Solariums Lead (Pix, factbox available))

MELBOURNE - The Australian Solarium Association says it is sad about the death of skin cancer victim Clare Oliver, 26, today but refuses to admit tanning salons were responsible. (Solariums Association)

Solariums Nightlead to come

SYDNEY - Australia's leading junk food manufacturers have been lambasted for their "tricky and aggressive" marketing to children in a new report calling for a major overhaul of advertising regulations. (Junk, to come with factbox - Embargoed until 0001 AEST Friday)

BENGKULU, Indonesia - Huge aftershocks rumbled across Indonesia's Sumatra island today, as rescue teams sped to the area after a massive 8.4-magnitude earthquake killed at least six people. (Quake Indon Nightlead)

PERTH - A tsunami has failed to appear at Christmas and Cocos islands off the West Australian coast following a second strong earthquake off Indonesia. (Quake Aust Lead)

## HighLights of the AAP National Wire at 14:45, Sept 13

CANBERRA - The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has warned the Reserve Bank of Australia (RBA) that it should tread carefully on future interest rate decisions given recent global financial market turbulence. (IMF)

Economy Nightlead to come

CANBERRA - Australian troops in Iraq had more to do with Australia being a loyal US ally than aiding the war-torn nation's interests, a former Iraqi minister said today. (Iraq Aust Allawi)

Iraq Aust Nightlead to come

MELBOURNE - Australia's largest private health insurer Medibank Private, which is set to be privatised if the federal coalition government is returned to power, today posted a 47.5 per cent rise in annual earnings. (Medibank Private, to come)

CAPE TOWN, South Africa - An embarrassed Ricky Ponting has slammed the performance of his team after Australia were stunned by minnows Zimbabwe in their opening match of the Twenty20 World Championship. (Cricket 20 Aust Second Daylead)

TO COME: Cricket 20 Aust Nightlead with factbox, Cricket 20 Aust Analysis

LOS ANGELES - Two-time Oscar nominee Joaquin Phoenix has written to Agriculture Minister Peter McGauran demanding Australia "ensure the humane treatment" of sheep. (US Peta - Embargoed until 1500 AEST today)

LONDON - Australian financial whiz Steve Bellotti is to appear as a star witness in fellow Aussie banker Malcolm Perry's \$24.5 million racial discrimination case against a German investment bank. (UK Perry Daylead)

PORT MORESBY - Australia and New Zealand should do more to help Pacific Island nations prevent illegal fishing off their shores, environmental group Greenpeace says. (Pacific Tuna)

SYDNEY - Fat mothers and too much time in front of the television are the best predictors of whether a child will become obese, a study has found. (Obese)

SYDNEY - Australian scientists have made a stem cell breakthrough that could shed light on mysterious reproductive ailments suffered by millions of women. (Womb)

SYDNEY - Despite being the fastest growing form of cancer and one of the most prevalent, four in five Australians do not know what lymphoma is. (Lymphoma, to come)

SYDNEY - The Chaser's APEC motorcade stunt has proved a major ratings success for the ABC, helping to pull in 2.24 million viewers for last night's TV show. (Chaser. See also APEC Democrats exAdelaide. N/L to come)

SYDNEY - Thoughtful and considerate oil paintings of icebergs have won 26-year-old Nathan Hawkes the ninth annual Brett Whiteley travelling art scholarship. (Whiteley)

SYDNEY - While some may debate the merits of the recent APEC meeting in Sydney, one thing is for certain, it generated an big increase in international calls. (APEC phones)

CANBERRA - The government will make sure 72 Sri Lankans whose refugee claims have been approved will not languish in the Nauru detention centre for years, Immigration Minister Kevin Andrews. (Boat Andrews. See also Boat Andrews Daylead)

CANBERRA - The federal government denies the Australian Security Intelligence Organisation (ASIO) has blocked an entry visa for a foreign terrorism expert. (Atwan)

CANBERRA - Aspiring high school teachers should have to complete arts or science degrees before undertaking specific studies in education, an inquiry into teaching standards has recommended. (Teaching)

SYDNEY - Vulnerable workers have lost up to 31 per cent of their income under Work Choices legislation, NSW Industrial Relations Minister John Della Bosca says. (Workplace Della. Seeking more)

NEWCASTLE - A former NSW government minister and one of his Labor party branch presidents have both pleaded not (not) guilty today to child sex offences. (Orkopoulos Nightlead, to come)

SYDNEY - A public housing officer who took bribes for allocating Sydney public housing says all the kickbacks he received went "into the poker machines". (Norris. N/L to come)

SYDNEY - A man who sued the NSW Scouts Association and his former scoutmaster over years of sexual abuse has been awarded more than \$1.2 million in damages. (McCrae)

SYDNEY - The body of a woman has been found inside a house near Newcastle. (Body. N/L to come)

SYDNEY - A former NSW police officer who indecently assaulted five women aged between 15 and 19 has been jailed for more than two years. (Tink. N/L to come)

SYDNEY - Workers from a carbon trading company are appealing to the NSW government to save them from unemployment caused by the state's failed carbon trading scheme. (Scheme)

MELBOURNE - Three men facing terrorist charges raised large funds for Sri Lanka's Tamil Tigers, a Melbourne court has been told. (Tamil Vic Lead (pix available) N/L to come)

MELBOURNE - Previously, Danni (Danni) Turner had to rely on a polling booth official or a family member to fill out her voting form at election time. (Election Blind (Pix available))

## HighLights of the AAP National Wire at 14:45, Sept 13

MELBOURNE - The Victorian government is likely to win two by-elections on Saturday because federal political "static" has distracted voters, a leading political commentator says. (Byelections Economou)

MELBOURNE - Four of Australia's largest cycling organisations have joined forces and called on both major political parties to get behind bike riding. (Cycle)

BRISBANE - A joyride turned to disaster today after a 14-year-old boy took his mother's car and drove himself and a younger friend into the path of a road-train near Brisbane. (Crash Lead)

BRISBANE - Restricted horse movements have begun in Queensland under a system that allows the animals to be transported in areas not affected by equine influenza (EI). (Stallions Qld)

BRISBANE - Queensland councils have until next Friday to decide if they will hold plebiscites on the amalgamations being forced onto them by the state government. (Councils)

BRISBANE - A Brisbane judge has cleared a Gold Coast solicitor of lying to the state's crime watchdog. (Hickey)

BRISBANE - A Sri Lankan man has narrowly avoided being deported after his conviction for groping women on public buses. (Fareed)

BRISBANE - A Queensland government initiated inquiry into petrol prices has opened its public hearings in Brisbane. (Petrol, to come)

BRISBANE - Backpackers, who spent \$3 billion in Australia last financial year, are "worth their weight in gold" and must be encouraged to keep coming, Tourism Minister Fran Bailey says. (Backpackers)

ADELAIDE - Winemaker from South Australia's McLaren Vale named red winemaker of the year award at International Wine Challenge in London. (Wine Award)

PERTH - A West Australian Supreme Court judge has told a corruption inquiry his advice led to the charging of a man whose murder conviction was later quashed by the High Court. (Mallard. N/L to come)

PERTH - A man has turned himself in over the shooting of another man in a remote West Australian Aboriginal community. (Shoot. N/L to come)

DARWIN - It's dirty, brown and everywhere. (Soil)

HOBART - The only regret Harry Quick seems to have is that he had to whack a few heads to make the Labor Party take notice of him. (Quick)

**Load-Date:** September 14, 2007



***FORGOTTEN (BUT NOT GONE); If doctors edited newspapers... The frontline physicians at Medecins Sans Frontières have chosen the 10 humanitarian crises that should have been given more coverage in 2007.***

The Independent (London)

December 20, 2007 Thursday

First Edition

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**The**  **INDEPENDENT**

**Section:** WORLD; Pg. 30

**Length:** 1481 words

**Byline:** Claire Soares and Daniel Howden

## **Body**

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### Colombia

While the cocaine trade regularly features in the headlines, little attention is devoted to the scale of the internal refugee crisis. After four decades of civil conflict that has evolved from a war of political ideologies to a struggle for territory and control over the narcotics trade, large numbers of Colombians live in areas controlled by militia or guerrillas. With basic human rights under threat and unpredictable violence endemic in many rural areas, millions have fled to the shantytowns - or barrios - that ring every major town. Nearly four million people live in these insecure settlements cut off from basic state services such as mains electricity, water and health care. In the endless slums that now choke the capital, Bogota, areas are divided up and fought over by the same paramilitaries and left-wing rebels that blight and dominate the countryside.

### Sri Lanka

After a quarter of a century of fighting, this year will be remembered among the bloodiest in Sri Lankan history. The civil war between the government forces and the separatist **Tamil Tigers** flared back into life last year and has kept worsening. International efforts to resolve the conflict have made no headway as key figures on both sides appear to have decided that a military solution is possible. Targeted bombings, mine attacks, suicide bombings, abductions, recruitment of child soldiers have all followed. The civilian toll in a country already flattened by the 2004 tsunami has been horrendous. Hundreds of thousands of people in need of humanitarian aid have been forced to flee to makeshift camps and the situation has been compounded by a climate of hostility and suspicion towards aid agencies. MSF is among the few agencies still operating in frontline areas, such as Point Pedro and Vavuniya, where doctors are desperately needed.

### Somalia

## FORGOTTEN (BUT NOT GONE) If doctors edited newspapers... The frontline physicians at Medecins Sans Frontières have chosen the 10 humanitarian crises that should....

Violence in Somalia hit some of the worst levels in more than 15 years in 2007, prompting UN officials to declare it the worst humanitarian crisis in Africa, surpassing even Darfur in its horror and hopelessness. Ethiopia invaded Somalia on Christmas Day last year and easily overpowered the Union of Islamic Courts, but ever since insurgents have been staging increasingly ferocious guerrilla style attacks, particularly in the capital, Mogadishu.

Aid workers say one million people have fled their homes, including 60 per cent of Mogadishu's population. This week mortar shells slammed into a crowded market in the capital, killing a dozen people including a mother and her three children, and a foreign journalist was kidnapped. Just yesterday, the UN called for the creation of "safe zones" so that aid could get through to the most vulnerable.

### Burma

The extraordinary democracy protests by the Buddhist monks in one of the most repressive countries on earth put Burma back atop the news agenda this year. But the nature of ordinary life under the military junta has remained a dim part of the picture. High levels of malaria and HIV are made unimaginably worse by the negligence of a regime that spent only 1.4 per cent of its budget on health care. Despite the overwhelming need, there are few humanitarian groups able to work within the country and those that do so have to operate under severe restrictions. Comparatively few donors are willing to fund operations in the country for fear of indirectly supporting the regime. Further complicating the situation is the absence of any clear statistics on the health situation. The UN says that as many as 360,000 Burmese, out of 50 million, are living with HIV.

### Malnutrition

There may not have been a headline-catching food crisis in 2007 on a similar scale as the one that beset Niger last year, but malnutrition is still a disturbing way of life for many in west and east Africa and south Asia, and is associated with the deaths of five million children under the age of five. MSF is campaigning for international donors to scale up their funding for ready-to-use foods, milk and peanut-based pastes that do not need to be kept in a refrigerator, so can be sent out into the rural mud-hut villages where mothers can feed them to their babies at home, rather than being forced to trek miles to the nearest clinic. In Maradi, Niger aid workers are using these pastes to boost the diets of 62,000 children during the seasonal lean period and stop them becoming malnourished in the first place.

### Chechnya

Ninety-nine per cent of the electorate here turned out to vote for Vladimir Putin in the recent Russian presidential election. Such a result defies belief in the breakaway Muslim republic crushed by Mr Putin's forces in the second Chechen war. The Putin-installed strongman who rules the republic, Ramzan Kadyrov, made sure that his boss would not be disappointed. Under his authoritarian rule, Mr Kadyrov has cowed the separatists and terrified their families through torture and abduction. The capital, Grozny, flattened by Russian bombs, has been rebuilt, and the airport reopened. But two wars have left psychological and physical scars on the civilian population with large numbers of people suffering from high levels of anxiety, insomnia and depression. As the military conflict with Russia fades into the background with only sporadic clashes now reported, and western leaders no longer openly challenge Russia on its human rights abuses in the republic, humanitarian needs remain critical.

### Zimbabwe

With each new headline warning of economic meltdown in Zimbabwe the litany of impossible statistics has grown this year: inflation at 12,000 per cent, three million fleeing the country, 85 per cent unemployment. Under this extraordinary strain, what had been among the best healthcare systems in Africa has collapsed. As many as 3,000 people are dying every week from HIV/Aids and the chronic absence of life-extending antiretroviral drugs is accelerating this death march.

As many as four million people are in danger of starvation according the World Food Programme and the fuel crisis means that rural clinics are treating patients who have sometimes walked for days in search of medical treatment.

FORGOTTEN (BUT NOT GONE) If doctors edited newspapers... The frontline physicians at Medecins Sans Frontières have chosen the 10 humanitarian crises that should....

The fate of the 83-year-old President, Robert Mugabe, continues to dominate coverage of the country that was once seen as the poster boy of post-colonialism, but it is the impoverished people of this beautiful southern African country paying the price of a man-made crisis.

#### Central African Republic

While neighbouring Chad and the western Sudan region of Darfur have made their way into global media coverage, the tiny landlocked Central African Republic finds itself starved of attention. This "phantom state" in the middle of Africa has no government institutions functioning outside the capital, in the north bandits and warring factions constitute the law of the land. Rights groups say hundreds of civilians have been executed and at least 100,000 people caught in the crossfire of rival armed groups have fled their villages and are hiding in forests and bush. Complicating a perilous internal situation are the CAR's unpredictable neighbours. The potential for the whole region to tip over into chaos is immense. A small contingent of EU peacekeepers is due to be deployed in the New Year.

#### Democratic Republic of Congo

With the country's first democratic elections in decades successfully completed in 2006, the Congolese might have been forgiven for expecting an easier time in 2007. But those out in the east, in the North Kivu region, have seen little sign of the stability that re-elected President Joseph Kabila promised. Instead, fighting between armed groups has raged for much of the year and the government is in open combat with rebel leader Laurent Nkunda. Hundreds of thousands of homeless people are hiding in the forest because their villages are no longer safe. They are scavenging food to stay alive and trying to dodge the cholera that is rampant throughout much of the region. And for the women living in this area, there is another nightmare to face: sexual violence is alarmingly high. A peace conference has been scheduled for next week to try to calm the troubled region, but few are optimistic of a rapid solution.

#### Tuberculosis

Kairat, from Uzbekistan, on the right, was among the 500,000 people to be diagnosed with multi-drug-resistant tuberculosis this year. But he was one of the lucky ones, moving to one of the few hospitals in the region to get specialist care. But even those who do get treatment have to rely on a highly toxic and expensive cocktail of drugs that often trigger violent side-effects and has to be taken for two years. Amazingly, there have been no major advances in treatment of the disease since the 1960s, and the most commonly used test to diagnose TB was developed at the end of the 19th century and detects only half the cases. An estimated \$900m is needed every year for research and development but only \$206m has been made available.

**Load-Date:** December 20, 2007

## Highlights of the AAP National Wire at 20:00, May 3

AAP Newsfeed

May 3, 2007 Thursday 7:59 PM AEST

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**Section:** DOMESTIC NEWS

**Length:** 1573 words

### **Body**

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#### HIGHLIGHTS NATIONAL UPDATED

CANBERRA - The mining industry has offered a compromise to end the impasse between Labor and business over the federal opposition's new industrial relations policy. (Workplace Nightlead)

SYDNEY - Former prime minister Gough Whitlam will be quizzed by an inquest into whether his government covered-up the deaths of five Australian-based journalists in East Timor. (Balibo Nightlead)

SYDNEY - Brisbane mother Philippa Yelland was to be reunited with her three children tonight after they were found happy, safe and well in Tasmania, six weeks after disappearing with their father. (Robertson Nightlead (Pix available))

CANBERRA - Federal Health Minister Tony Abbott has backed beleaguered Liberal senator Bill Heffernan, saying he should not be sacked for calling deputy Labor leader Julia Gillard "deliberately barren". (Heffernan Nightlead)

CANBERRA - The treasurer has pledged that next Tuesday's budget will be aimed at families, while being economically competent to keep pressure off interest rates. (Budget07 Nightlead. See also Budget07 Analysis plus various Budget07 sidebars)

MIDDLE EAST - An Australian military commander in the Middle East has defended as "second to none" the psychological support for Australian troops serving in Iraq and Afghanistan. (Mideast Aust (Pix available))

SYDNEY - Like Australia's cricketers, the World Cup arrived in Sydney today somewhat the worse for wear. (Cricket Aust Fronter. See also Cricket Aust Nightlead)

SYDNEY - Consumers should be aware they will still receive telemarketing calls even if they sign onto the federal government's 'Do Not Call' register, the peak direct marketing body says. (Call Nightlead)

MELBOURNE - An airfare price war is looming after Tiger Airways today confirmed plans to expand into Australia with hopes of carrying two million passengers in its first year. (Tiger Nightlead (With Factbox))

BRISBANE - Australian researchers have developed a world-first blood test that could save the lives of tens of thousands of bone marrow transplant patients across the world. (Transplants)

SYDNEY - Westpac Banking Corp Ltd is looking forward to another strong performance for the full year after lifting first half earnings by almost 12 per cent. (Westpac Nightlead (with pics). See also Westpac Fronter)

PERTH - A contrite Jeff Farmer has been warned that the twilight of his football career could be spent playing for a prison team if he does not learn to control his temper. (AFL Farmer Nightlead)

LOS ANGELES - Alleged Australian fugitive and conman Gabriel Pennicott is expected to make a plea for freedom when he appears in a Canadian court for a bail hearing on Friday. (Canada Pennicott)

SYDNEY - Cancer experts say they won't tamper with Australia's punchy "Slip, Slop, Slap" anti-sun slogan in light of new research which downplays the role of sunscreen. (Sunscreen)

## HighLights of the AAP National Wire at 20:00, May 3

SYDNEY - Researchers are investigating whether spending time in an incubator as a pre-term baby affects a person's romantic relationships in later life. (Preterm)

MELBOURNE - Bollywood actress Shilpa Shetty blames a "lunatic fringe" for the controversy surrounding her and actor Richard Gere's over-the-top kiss at an AIDs charity event. (Shetty Lead (pix available))

SYDNEY - Hollywood director Sam Raimi is living a "double dream come true" as the man charged with bringing arguably the most beloved Marvel Comics superhero, Spider-Man, to life. (Raimi)

SYDNEY - It Takes Two celebrity contestant Ernie Dingo has previous performing experience but insists he isn't going into the show with an unfair advantage. (Dingo)

SYDNEY - Australian Fashion Week maintained its buzz into the penultimate day, with stylist-turned-designer Alice McCall showing her latest offerings to a packed house. (Fashion McCall. See also Fashion Goot)

SYDNEY - A popular technology news website has chosen to brave the wrath of big business and let its contributors publish a code that breaks the copy protection locks on next generation DVDs. (Digg)

SYDNEY - Few people outside the IT world would have heard of Mark Spencer but the 30-year-old American's technology could seriously change the world of telecommunications. (Asterisk)

EDS: Story keyword NET PHONES included on earlier highlights will NOT be moved

CANBERRA - Foreign bribery laws will be bolstered as the government moves to put in place safeguards recommended by the report into the AWB kickbacks scandal. (AWB Bribery (with factbox))

CANBERRA - Patients who sue their doctors for medical mistakes such as botched surgeries or an incorrect diagnosis are waiting years for settlement, new figures show. (Indemnity - Embargoed until 0001 AEST Friday)

CANBERRA - Australia and Indonesia are to establish a joint taskforce of immigration and police agencies to combat people-smuggling. (Migration)

CANBERRA - The federal government has been accused of turning a blind eye to Tamil Tigers' activities in Australia, allowing the separatist group to build up its air attack wing. (Terror Aust Tamil)

SYDNEY - Sydney stands to benefit as host city for the upcoming APEC summit but its residents should flee the city during the three-day-long event, NSW Premier Morris Iemma says. (APEC Nightlead)

SYDNEY - When Janet Campbell's close-knit family warned her about her new boyfriend's reputation as a "gold-digger", she said she was going to call the relationship off, a Sydney inquest has been told. (Campbell Nightlead (Pix available))

SYDNEY - Paedophile Kenneth Davidson Tillman was today ordered back behind bars after the NSW government successfully appealed against his release. (Tillman Nightlead)

SYDNEY - Privately-owned companies are to blame for congestion at Hunter Valley port and rail facilities and the consequent loss of 250 coal jobs, NSW Premier Morris Iemma says. (Coal Nightlead)

SYDNEY - A woman whose ex-husband twice tried to arrange her murder has told a court her daily life has become one of terror, and she's afraid to tell her children where she is in case they tell their father. (Wade)

MELBOURNE - The sister-in-law of fugitive drug boss Tony Mokbel remains in jail after being refused permission to sell the family home to pay a \$1 million surety. (Mokbel)

MELBOURNE - The consortium trying to take over national carrier Qantas is banking on a late rush of acceptances to get the \$11.1 billion deal over the line before it closes tomorrow. (Qantas)

MELBOURNE - The Victorian government is wasting its record revenue streams and failing to deliver the services the state needs, Opposition treasury spokesman Kim Wells has told state parliament. (BudgetVic Nightlead)

MELBOURNE - A Victorian diving company has been fined \$200,000 after for failing to ensure the safety of an inexperienced scuba diver who drowned during a trip off the Mornington Peninsula. (Grant Nightlead (Pix available))

MELBOURNE - Janelle knows exactly what she would do to the intruder who indecently assaulted her while she fed her newborn son in a Melbourne shopping centre's baby change room. (Breast Nightlead (pix available))

BRISBANE - A man allegedly telephoned Jetstar threatening to blow up the budget carrier's aircraft because he was angry about an excess baggage charge, a Brisbane court has been told. (Malizani)

BRISBANE - A new machine that will speed up the diagnosis process for women with early breast cancer, ultimately freeing-up hospital beds, is being trialled in Brisbane in a world-first study. (Cancer)

BRISBANE - A shop assistant who was taken hostage by a knife-wielding man in south-east Queensland says he thought his life was about to end before police shot dead his attacker. (Shot Nightlead)

BRISBANE - A scalper hoping to get rich quick by selling State of Origin tickets on an internet auction website has been busted. (League Origin Scalper)

BRISBANE - The recent unearthing of the largest bones of any dinosaur known in Australia signify the start of the country's own "dinosaur rush", experts say. (Dinosaur (pix available))

## HighLights of the AAP National Wire at 20:00, May 3

ADELAIDE - A South Australian property developer and racehorse breeder has been sentenced to 320 hours of community service after pleading guilty to 68 charges of breaching corporate laws. (Pettingill)

ADELAIDE - A staunch republican who headed South Australia's successful bid for the \$6 billion air warfare destroyer project will be the state's next governor. (Governor SA Nightlead (Pix available))

PERTH - Rescuers were hoping for a miracle tonight as they searched for a Perth man who was swept off a yacht in the Southern Ocean on Monday. (Overboard Nightlead (File pix available))

PERTH - Hopes of finding alive a man believed to have jumped from a ferry into the Indian Ocean off Perth have all but gone, police say. (Ferry 2nd Nightlead)

PERTH - The death of an Australian-born US soldier in Iraq was a love story, not a war story, his grieving father said in Perth today. (Iraq Adkins Nightlead)

DARWIN - One of three Australian soldiers injured by a roadside bomb in Iraq is back on home soil and in "high spirits", despite requiring further medical treatment. (Iraq Aust Nightlead (Pix available))

DARWIN - A group of traditional land owners has begun legal action against the federal government over the expansion of the Northern Territory's largest zinc mine. (McArthur)

LAUNCESTON - Prime Minister John Howard has pledged a multi-million dollar election sweetener in northern Tasmania in an effort to retain two key marginal Liberal seats. (Howard Tas)

**Load-Date:** May 4, 2007

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End of Document

## **WORLD at 1700GMT**

AP Worldstream

December 18, 2005 Sunday

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**Section:** INTERNATIONAL NEWS

**Length:** 1527 words

### **Body**

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#### HIGHLIGHTS:

Update: WTO MEETING. Negotiators reach agreement in step toward global trade pact.

Update: BOLIVIA-ELECTION. Bolivians cast ballots in presidential election.

Update: IRAQ. Elections officials say two-thirds of vote tallies collected.

Update: COLOMBIA-VENEZUELA. With jokes and smiles, Chavez and Uribe put aside differences.

New: SRI LANKA-PEACE TALKS. Peace talks hit new snag on venue choice.

New: US-FUTURE E-MAILS. 'Hope you're still alive': Sites let people send selves e-mail in future

HONG KONG - WTO negotiators cut a last-minute deal on ending farm export subsidies and other trade barriers, claiming modest progress toward their goal of forging a global trade pact by late 2006. The agreement was a badly needed breakthrough for the World Trade Organization, whose credibility was on the line following devastating collapses of two of its last three key meetings. BC-AS-FIN--WTO MEETING. Moved. By Elaine Kurtenbach. AP Photos. With highlights

-BC-AS-GEN--WTO-PROTESTS. HONG KONG - Thousands of anti-WTO protesters march through the streets of Hong Kong. Moved. By Helen Luk. AP Photos.

-BC-AS-FIN--WTO-EU. HONG KONG - EU trade chief Peter Mandelson calls the final draft of a WTO agreement "acceptable" - saving the meeting from failure, but not quite a success either. Moved. By Sam Cage.

IRAQ: Violence in Iraq shatters election calm as Cheney makes surprise visit

BAGHDAD, Iraq - Three days of relative calm after Iraq's first election for a full-term parliament since the fall of Saddam Hussein are shattered by a string of attacks that leave nearly two dozen people dead as U.S. Vice President Dick Cheney makes a surprise visit to Baghdad. BC-ME-GEN--IRAQ. Developing. By Qassim Abdul-Zahra. AP Photos BAG118-121.

#### ALSO:

-BC-NA-GEN--US-BUSH-IRAQ. WASHINGTON - U.S. President George W. Bush is using the Iraqi election to stake claim of progress in war. By 1900GMT; Bush speech scheduled for 0200GMT Monday. By Pete Yost. AP Photos.

## WORLD at 1700GMT

-BC-ME-GEN--IRAQ-SERGEANTS SCHOOL. HAMMAM AL ALIL, Iraq - Young Iraqi soldiers will soon begin arriving in this small northern town for leadership training. By 1700GMT. By Chris Tomlinson. AP Photos XCT101-102.

BOLIVIA-ELECTION: Socialist Indian leader in tight race with conservative former president

CATORCE de SEPTIEMBRE, Bolivia - Socialist Evo Morales waves coca branches as he heads to vote amid jubilant townsfolk who hope to see him become Bolivia's first Indian president and end a U.S.-backed anti-drug campaign against their crops. Pre-election polls show Morales with a slight lead over conservative former president Jorge Quiroga. BC-LA-POL--BOLIVIA-ELECTION. Developing; polls start closing from 2000GMT, first results expected around 2230GMT. By Fiona Smith. AP Photos. With glance.

-BC-POL--BOLIVIA-MORALES.

-BC-POL--BOLIVIA-QUIROGA.

ISRAEL-PALESTINIANS: EU chief warns bloc could stop aid to Palestinians if Hamas wins elections

JERUSALEM - Europe's top diplomat warns the EU might cut off vital funding to the Palestinian Authority if the militant Hamas wins next month's parliamentary election, reflecting international alarm after the Islamic movement's near sweep of a round of local voting in the West Bank. BC-ME-GEN--ISRAEL-PALESTINIANS. Lead by 1700GMT. By Mark Lavie. AP Photos JRL101-104.

ZARQAWI: Jordan military court sentences al-Zarqawi, two militants to death

AMMAN, Jordan - Jordan's military court sentences al-Qaida in Iraq chief Abu Musab al-Zarqawi to death for a second time for a failed suicide bombing along the Iraqi border a year ago. He and a second militant are sentenced in absentia. A third is in custody. BC-ME-GEN--JORDAN-TERRORISM. Moved. By Jamal Halaby.

-BC-ME-GEN--EMIRATES-GULF SUMMIT. ABU DHABI, United Arab Emirates - Arab leaders consider a plan to declare the Gulf a nuclear weapons-free zone and to get Iran to join in attempts to reduce tensions over its controversial nuclear program. Moved. By Tarek Al-Issawi. AP Photos.

CONGO REFERENDUM: Voters saying 'yes' or 'no' in referendum on draft constitution

KINSHASA, Congo - Congo's war-beleaguered people vote in the country's first national ballot in more than three decades, voting on a draft constitution meant to put the country on the path to democracy and lasting peace. BC-AF-GEN--CONGO-REFERENDUM. Moved; results expected before end of year. By Anjan Sundaram. AP Photos DRC101,102,104.

TANZANIA-ELECTIONS: Ruling party candidate declared winner of presidential race

DAR ES SALAAM, Tanzania - Jakaya Kikwete, candidate for the ruling Revolutionary Party, has won Tanzania's presidential election with more than 80 percent of the vote, the chairman of the National Electoral Commission says. BC-AF-POL--TANZANIA-ELECTIONS. Moved. By Sukhdev Chhatbar.

DEADLY LIGHTNING: Lightning strikes church in northern Malawi, killing 11 worshippers

BLANTYRE, Malawi - At least 11 people were killed and several more injured when a bolt of lightning struck a church congregation in the north, church officials said. BC-AF-GEN--MALAWI-LIGHTNING. Moved. By Raphael Tenthani.

POISONED RIVER: Residents in Russian city await the holidays - and toxic slick of chemicals

KHABAROVSK, Russia - Natalya Veresova has already put a gift for her 12-year-old under the Christmas tree: a bottle of clean drinking water. This Russian Far Eastern city is preparing for a toxic slick of chemicals that spewed last month from a Chinese factory upriver and is predicted to arrive in Khabarovsk sometime next week. BC-EU-GEN--RUSSIA-POISONED RIVER. Moved. By Yuras Karmanau. AP Photos XSG101-106.

NOVELIST ON TRIAL: Turkish government caught in bind as it debates trial of top novelist

ISTANBUL, Turkey - The trial of Orhan Pamuk has left Turkey's government in a bind: it can prosecute a top novelist for articulating insulting the Turkish national identity and outrage an EU that demands freedom of expression, or it can drop the case and anger its nationalist grass-roots. BC-EU-GEN--TURKEY-NOVELIST ON TRIAL. Moved. By Louis Meixler. AP Photo of Dec. 16: IST105.



WORLD at 1700GMT

COLOMBIA: With jokes and smiles, Chavez and Uribe put aside differences

SANTA MARTA, Colombia - One leader sometimes wears a red beret and calls himself a revolutionary. The other prefers pressed white shirts and considers himself a no-nonsense crusader against a bloody insurgency. Presidents Hugo Chavez of Venezuela and Alvaro Uribe of Colombia are diametrically opposed in many ways, but they appear to have put aside their differences to build an uncommon friendship. BC-LA-GEN--COLOMBIA-VENEZUELA. Upcoming. By Ian James. AP Photos.

US-SPYING: Leading Democratic U.S. senator calls for probe into domestic spying

WASHINGTON - Senate Democratic Leader Harry Reid calls for a congressional investigation into President George W. Bush's decision to authorize a domestic eavesdropping program while Sen. John McCain says the White House needs to answer why it did not seek court warrants for the super-secret spying. BC-NA-GEN--US-DOMESTIC SPYING. Moved. By Hope Yen.

FUTURE E-MAILS: 'Hope you're still alive': Sites let people send selves e-mail in future

NEW YORK - In April 2009, a man named Greg is supposed to get an e-mail. The e-mail will remind Greg that he once dated a woman named Michelle and planned to study computer science. "More importantly," the e-mail says, "are you wearing women's clothing?" The e-mail was sent by none other than Greg himself - through a Web site called FutureMe.org. BC-NA-TEC--US-FUTURE E-MAILS. By 1900GMT. By Nahal Toosi.

BHUTAN: Report: King to step down in 2008, hold first vote for parliamentary democracy

GAUHATI, India - King Jigme Singye Wangchuck says in a surprise announcement that he will step down as ruler of the Himalayan nation in 2008 and hold the country's first national elections for a parliamentary democracy, state media reports. BC-AS-GEN--BHUTAN-KING. Moved. By Wasbir Hussain.

PEACE TALKS: Sri Lanka, Tamil Tiger peace talks hit new snag on venue choice

COLOMBO, Sri Lanka - The resumption of peace talks with the Tamil Tigers hits another road block after the rebels reject a government proposal to hold future negotiations in Asia instead of Europe, reports say. BC-AS-GEN--SRI LANKA-PEACE TALKS. Moved. By Ruwan Weerakoon.

INDIA-STAMPEDE: At least 42 flood victims killed in stampede in southern India

MADRAS, India - Thousands of flood victims waiting in line for relief vouchers stampede into a government-run distribution center in southern India. At least 42 people are killed and dozens more injured, police say. BC-AS-GEN--INDIA-STAMPEDE. By K. N. Arun. AP Photo MAS101.

ITALY-BANK PROBE: Politicians search for solution to problem of Bank of Italy chief

ROME - Politicians search for a quick way to ease Italy's embattled central bank chief out of office as news reports say criminal probes of his dealings are widening. BC-EU-FIN--ITALY-BANK PROBE. Moved. By Frances D'Emilio.

LAGOS, Nigeria - Authorities ground all Boeing 737 planes across Nigeria for a spot safety check, stranding thousands of travelers. BC-AF-GEN--NIGERIA-AIRPLANES GROUNDED. Moved. By Dalue Mbachu.

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YOUR QUERIES: Contact your local AP bureau, the Europe & Africa Desk in London at +44 207 427 4300 or the Americas Desk in New York at +1 212 621 1650.

**Load-Date:** December 18, 2005

## *Human rights award winners announced*

UPI

May 4, 2007 Friday 10:17 PM EST

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**Length:** 165 words

**Dateline:** GENEVA, Switzerland, May 4

### **Body**

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The founders of University Teachers for Human Rights in Sri Lanka and a prisoners' rights activist in Burundi are the winners of the 2007 Martin Ennals Award.

The award, named after the first secretary-general of Amnesty International, is sponsored by a group of 11 human rights organizations.

Two of the winners, Rajan Hoole and Kopalasingham Sritharan, have been working for 18 years to expose the effects of civil war in Sri Lanka on children, women, minorities and the displaced. They have reported on human rights violations by the Tamil Tigers and the Sri Lankan government.

The two men have been operating underground since a colleague, Rajani Thiranagama, was assassinated more than a decade ago.

Pierre Claver Mbonimpa, a former police officer in Burundi, was falsely imprisoned for two years. Since his release, he has been exposing conditions in the jails of Burundi.

Mbonimpa advocates for the human rights of all groups in Burundi, whether Tutsi, Hutu or Batwa, award sponsors said.

**Load-Date:** May 5, 2007

## **44 PARTITION OF INDIA**

The West Australian (Perth)

August 25, 2005 Thursday

METRO

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**Section:** FEATURES; Pg. 12

**Length:** 1371 words

**Byline:** SARAH ROBERTS

ANDRE MALAN

ZOLTAN KOVAKS

PAM BROWN

ALAN KIRK

### **Body**

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After 200 years of British rule, the independence movement in India gained momentum after World War I when Mohandas "Mahatma" Gandhi and the Indian National Congress adopted a strategy of non-violent civil disobedience to urge British withdrawal. But Gandhi's vision of a single, unified nation was opposed by the All India Muslim League, led by Mohammed Ali Jinnah, which pushed for a separate Muslim state.

On June 3, 1947, British viceroy Louis Mountbatten announced his partition plan which, in recognition of religious differences and related violence, divided the subcontinent into Pakistan (with a Muslim majority) and India (mostly Hindu). The division led to the movement of about 15 million people (though estimates vary) across the new borders and about one million deaths from violence and rioting.

Jawaharlal Nehru became India's first prime minister and Jinnah was appointed governor-general of Pakistan, but died in 1948, the same year Gandhi was assassinated by a Hindu extremist. The partition sparked continuing conflict between India and Pakistan, mostly over the disputed territory of Kashmir. (SR)

### **45 HANSON'S MAIDEN SPEECH**

On September 10, 1996, Pauline Hanson, the Independent member for Oxley in Queensland and self-described "fish and chip shop lady", delivered a maiden speech in the House of Representatives that ignited a raging debate on the issues of free speech, racism and immigration.

Its theme, that "a truly multicultural country can never be strong or united", struck a chord with many Australians, but was attacked by others, as well as by our Asian trading partners, who said Ms Hanson was bigoted. (AM)

## 44 PARTITION OF INDIA

**46 BANANA REPUBLIC**

Banana republic traditionally refers to a country with an unstable or corrupt government and an economy heavily reliant on one product or on foreign help. The term was originally applied to the poor Central American country of Honduras in about 1910, after bananas and foreign-owned fruit companies became the main drivers of its economy.

In 1986, the phrase achieved notoriety in Australia with then treasurer Paul Keating's warning that the country's soaring foreign debt would lead it to become "a third-rate economy . . . a banana republic".

At the time, Australia's current account deficit - a measure of how much it owed other countries - was the worst it had ever been (the deficit hit a record level this year).

Keating's words caused panic on financial markets, the Australian dollar plunged and the Federal government lost its AAA foreign currency credit rating. (SR)

**47 WAITING FOR GODOT**

Irish writer Samuel Beckett's 1950s play *Waiting for Godot* is the most famous work of what became known as the theatre of the absurd.

The early performances of the play about two tramps waiting for help from a landlord called Godot puzzled audiences. Since then, there has been much interpretation of the work, whose rich symbolism invites audiences to explore possible meanings. (ZK)

**48 ONE-CHILD POLICY**

The one-child policy was established in 1979 to limit communist China's population growth. It restricts couples to one child. Fines, pressures to abort a pregnancy, and even forced sterilisation can result from second or subsequent pregnancies. The rule is restricted to ethnic Han Chinese living in urban areas, and does not apply to people living in rural areas and members of ethnic minorities.

By one estimate the policy has reduced population growth in the country of 1.3 billion by as much as 300 million people over the past 25 years. However, it has had some shocking side-effects, including abortion, abandonment and even infanticide, arising out of the preference of many people for their one child to be a boy.

It has also created an imbalance in the gender ratio, with 118 boys born for every 100 girls. (AM)

**49 ROSETTA STONE**

For thousands of years before Christ, Egyptians chipped and chiselled records of their lives and hopes for the afterlife on to the walls of their tombs and temples, and wrote them on rolls of papyrus, the paper created from a Nile water plant.

But the picture language they used, called hieroglyphics, was forbidden from the seventh century when Arabs took control in Egypt and it slowly faded into obscurity, until finally no one could decipher it. The full history of an amazing culture that stretched back nearly 3000 years before Christ was lost.

Then an accident of war gave researchers the clue to unlock the secrets of the Egyptians.

Napoleon, at war with the British and keen to cut them off from India, had invaded Egypt. His plans fell apart when his fleet was destroyed by the British at the Battle of the Nile in 1798. Napoleon escaped back to France but his army was marooned, along with the scientists and explorers who had travelled with it. Left with little else to do, they threw themselves into unveiling monuments left by the pharaohs.

## 44 PARTITION OF INDIA

A year later a French officer called Bouchard or Boussard, digging near the town of Rosetta (now Rashid), about 50km from Alexandria, found a block of black basalt about 114cm long which became known as the Rosetta Stone. It bore inscriptions in three languages and became the key to understanding hieroglyphics.

Apparently inscribed by priests at the royal city of Memphis, just outside modern Cairo, it bears the same passage written in three languages. Two were Greek and demotic, a cursive form of Egyptian hieroglyphics. The third was hieroglyphics.

It was some years before the full significance of the find was realised.

In 1801, the French army in Egypt surrendered and the stone passed into British hands (it is now one of the British Museum's most famous artefacts).

Englishman Thomas Young began deciphering the scripts and this work was continued in 1821 by Frenchman Jean-Francois Champollion. He was the first Egyptologist to realise that some of the signs were alphabetic, some syllabic and some determinative, standing for the whole idea being expressed. Rather than being able to be read like script made up of letters in a modern alphabet, the meaning of hieroglyphics emerges from the interplay of the symbols.

The door to the past was finally open. (PB)

## 50 ILIAD AND ODYSSEY

These works, epic poems attributed to Homer (about 700BC), are among the foundations of Western literature. Their influence on Western writing and culture over the millenniums is inestimable and continues today.

The Iliad tells the story of the siege of Troy by Greek forces led by King Agamemnon. The cause of the conflict is that Paris, son of King Priam of Troy, has run away with the wife of Agamemnon's brother Menelaus - Helen, the epitome of womanly beauty down the ages.

Here on Homer's battlefield we meet the heroes of Greek legend, the greatest of whom is Achilles.

The story that the infant Achilles was dipped into the River Styx by his mother to make his body invulnerable, except for the heel by which she held him, is the origin of the expression Achilles heel. He was killed by an arrow wound in his heel.

When we refer metaphorically to a Trojan horse, we recall the Greek trick of using a big, hollow wooden horse with warriors concealed inside it to gain entry to Troy to bring about its downfall.

The Odyssey tells the story of the wanderings of one of the Greek leaders, Odysseus (in Latin, Ulysses), on his way home to Ithaca after the sacking of Troy.

It describes his many adventures, including encounters with fabulous mythical beings, on his 10-year journey. That, of course, is where the word odyssey comes from. (ZK)

## 51 TAMIL TIGERS

Formed in the early 1970s, the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam is a formidable guerilla army which has fought government forces for independence for Tamil areas of Sri Lanka. Its core activists are poor farm workers hurt by reforms and jobless urban youth who suffered discrimination by the Sinhalese majority.

Tigers are accused of ethnic cleansing to create a Tamil state.

Women are prominent among the fighters, who have cyanide capsules to take if caught and are said to number about 10,000.

## 44 PARTITION OF INDIA

Suicide bombing was a favoured tactic until a Norwegian-brokered truce came into force three years ago. India accuses reclusive Tigers' leader Velupillai Prabhakaran of sending

the suicide bomber who killed former Indian prime minister Rajiv Gandhi

in 1991. (AK)

## Graphic

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Supporters of the All India Muslim League's demand for the separate state of Pakistan take part in a London demonstration in 1946.; Irish writer Samuel Beckett.; Rosetta stone.; Tamil Tiger women march through the rebel-held town of Kilinochchi in 2002 to mark the anniversary of the first woman rebel killed in combat.

**Load-Date:** August 25, 2005

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End of Document

## ***Detained female journalist released in Sri Lanka***

Xinhua General News Service

March 22, 2007 Thursday 5:00 AM EST

Copyright 2007 Xinhua News Agency

**Section:** WORLD NEWS; Political

**Length:** 167 words

**Dateline:** COLOMBO

### **Body**

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A Sri Lankan court here Thursday released a **female** journalist detained for over four months for allegedly helping Tamil Tiger rebels.

Manusami Parameswari, a young Tamil attached to the Sinhala language weekly Mawbima newspaper was arrested by the Terrorism Investigation Division of the police and was detained without charges being filed against her in court.

Local and international media watch dog institutions had campaigned for her release.

She was arrested late November last year and she filed a fundamental rights petition in the Supreme Court against her detention.

The Supreme Court was told on Wednesday by the State Attorney that the state was not planning to press any charges against the detained journalist.

"Parameswari's release is a triumph for truth and justice," the local media watch dog, the Free Media Movement said in a release.

The **Tamil Tigers** have fought for decades to create an independent homeland for Sri Lanka's ethnic Tamil minority.

**Load-Date:** March 23, 2007

## **WORLD at 0200 GMT**

AP Worldstream

September 17, 2005 Saturday

Copyright 2005 Associated Press

**Section:** INTERNATIONAL NEWS

**Length:** 1523 words

### **Body**

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#### HIGHLIGHTS:

Update - AFGHAN-ELECTIONS: Afghanistan holds landmark legislative elections amid fears of violence.

Update - UN-GENERAL ASSEMBLY-IRAN: Iran offers to allow foreign countries and companies to take part in uranium enrichment.

Update - INDONESIA-TROOP WITHDRAWAL: Withdrawal of Indonesian troops from Aceh met with relief, worry.

New - UN-SUMMIT-MUGABE INTERVIEW: Zimbabwe leader says hungry people can eat potatoes if there's no corn.

New - US-KATRINA-BUSH AGENDA: Analysis -- Crisis overtakes Bush's agenda, rearranging second-term landscape.

Update - US-IRAQ: Iraqi leader invites foes to join political process.

Biz - INDONESIA-EXXON DEAL: Indonesia, Exxon Mobil conclude deal to tap lucrative oil field.

AFGHAN-ELECTIONS: Afghanistan holds landmark legislative elections amid fears of violence

KABUL, Afghanistan - Afghans went to the polls Sunday to elect a new legislature, with voters hoping to entrench a fragile democracy after a quarter-century of war and sideline the Taliban militants who fought to undermine the vote. BC-AS-GEN--AFGHAN-ELECTIONS. Moved; developing. Polls close at 1130 GMT. By Amir Shah. AP Photos. AP Graphics AFGHAN VIOLENCE, AFGHAN ELECTION.

UNITED NATIONS: Kofi Annan urges world leaders to move quickly on U.N. reforms, terrorism

UNITED NATIONS - Secretary-General Kofi Annan, armed with what he called the most significant blueprint for reform in U.N. history, opened the annual General Assembly by urging countries to quickly create new human rights and peacebuilding machinery, and address the risks of nuclear proliferation and "catastrophic terrorism." BC-UN-GEN--UN-GENERAL ASSEMBLY. Moved. By Nick Wadhams. AP Photos NYRD101, 107, 108.

- BC-UN-GEN--UN-GENERAL ASSEMBLY-IRAN. UNITED NATIONS - Iran's president proclaimed his country's "inalienable right" to nuclear energy and offered to let foreign countries and companies participate in his nation's uranium enrichment program to prove that Tehran is not producing nuclear weapons. Moved. By Sam F. Ghattas. AP Photos.

GERMAN ELECTIONS: Conservative challenger Merkel faces off against Schroeder



## WORLD at 0200 GMT

BERLIN - Conservative challenger Angela Merkel heads into Sunday's election with a good chance of unseating incumbent Gerhard Schroeder to become Germany's first **female** chancellor. The large number of undecided voters, however, leaves it unclear whether she can win the convincing mandate she needs to forge ahead with tax and labor market reforms. BC-EU-POL--GERMANY-ELECTION. Developing; polls open at 0600 GMT, close 1600 GMT, with early results soon after. By David Rising. AP Photos. AP Graphics GERMANY ELN ISSUES, GERMANY OVERVIEW.

- BC-EU-POL--GERMANY-ELECTION-MERKEL PROFILE.

- BC-EU-POL--GERMANY-ELECTION-SCHROEDER PROFILE.

- BC-EU-POL--GERMANY-ELECTION-ISSUES.

- BC-EU-POL--GERMANY-ELECTION-COALITIONS.

SRI LANKA: President calls Tamil rebels an "ominous" threat and calls for U.N. support

UNITED NATIONS - Sri Lanka's president said terrorism in her country was creating a level of distress similar to that of last year's tsunami, calling the current domestic situation "ominous" as she voiced support for targeted U.N. sanctions against armed rebel groups such as the **Tamil Tigers**. BC-UN-GEN--UN-GENERAL ASSEMBLY-SRI LANKA. Moved. By Robin Hindery.

NEW ZEALAND ELECTION: Prime Minister Helen Clark to start seeking new coalition partners

WELLINGTON, New Zealand - Prime Minister Helen Clark on Sunday began the process of cobbling together deals with possible coalition partners to form a stable minority government following her narrow win in New Zealand's nail-biting election. BC-AS-POL--NEW ZEALAND-ELECTIONS. Moved. By Ray Lilley. AP Photos AUK115-117.

KOREAS-NUCLEAR: North Korea nuclear talks head into Sunday as China draft fails to bridge gaps

BEIJING - Talks on ending North Korea's nuclear arms program stretched into Sunday, as the U.S., North Korea and others at the multiparty negotiations failed to agree on a Chinese proposal that would let Pyongyang keep its civilian atomic power program after it disarms. BC-AS-GEN--KOREAS-NUCLEAR. Moved. By Elaine Kurtenbach.

INDONESIA-TROOP WITHDRAWAL: Indonesian troops to begin rapid troop withdrawal from Aceh province

LHOKSEUMAWA, Indonesia - The rapid demilitarization of Aceh picks up steam Sunday with thousands of Indonesian soldiers preparing to leave the province - a major concession in a deal with rebels to end one of Southeast Asia's longest running wars. BC-AS-GEN--INDONESIA-TROOP WITHDRAWAL.Moved; developing. Troops scheduled to depart at 0400 GMT.

KATRINA-EVACUATION: Money that Congress set aside for evacuation plan went elsewhere

UNDATED - As much as eight years ago, Congress ordered the federal emergency agency to develop a plan for evacuating New Orleans during a massive hurricane - but the money went to studying the bridge that spans Lake Ponchartrain, officials say. The outcome provides one more example of the failure to prepare for a foreseeable catastrophe, says the lawmaker. BC-NA-GEN--US-KATRINA-EVACUATION. Moved. By Rita Beamish. AP Photos WX101-102.

- BC-NA-GEN--US-HURRICANE KATRINA. NEW ORLEANS - Some business owners are allowed back into the city to get a head start on opening the rollicking bars, stores and restaurants New Orleans is famous for. Moved. By Brett Martel. AP Photos.

- BC-NA-ANL--US-KATRINA-BUSH AGENDA. WASHINGTON - Hurricane Katrina swamped President George W. Bush's second-term domestic agenda, reordering his priorities and changing the political landscape. Moved. By Tom Raum.

MEXICO-REBELS: Zapatista rebel leader plans six-month, solo tour of Mexico

LA GARRUCHA, Mexico - Mexico's Zapatista rebels struggled amid shouts and catcalls to hammer out the details of the new movement that they pledged would "shake this country up," starting with a six-month nationwide tour by rebel leader Subcomandante Marcos. BC-LA-GEN--MEXICO-ZAPATISTAS REBORN. Moved. By Mark Stevenson. AP Photos.

WORLD at 0200 GMT

UN-MUGABE: AP Interview: Zimbabwe leader says hungry people can eat potatoes if there's no corn

UNITED NATIONS - The African leader some call a hero and others a destructive despot suggests people in his country aren't hungry, they just can't eat their favorite food.

President Robert Mugabe of Zimbabwe, said in an interview with The Associated Press that his people are "very, very happy" though aid agencies report 4 million of 11.6 million face famine. BC-UN-GEN--UN-SUMMIT-MUGABE INTERVIEW. Moved. By Michelle Faul. AP Photo XUN205-206.

IRAQ: Sectarian bombings, propaganda bombardment: Iraqis under fire from all sides

BAGHDAD, Iraq - Iraqis, still stunned by sectarian violence that took more than 200 lives last week alone, are coming under an increasing propaganda bombardment by all sides: the Americans, the government and the insurgency. The most recent broadside: An anonymous paid diatribe that labels al-Qaida in Iraq the "followers of the devil." BC-ME-GEN--IRAQ-PROPAGANDA WAR. Moved. By Tarek El-Tablawy.

- BC-ME-GEN--IRAQ. BAGHDAD, Iraq - Sectarian violence stretches into a fifth day, with a car bomb ripping through a market in a poor Shiite Muslim neighborhood in Baghdad, killing at least 11 people. Moved. By Slobodan Lekic. AP Photos. AP Graphic IRAQ WEEK IN REVIEW.

- BC-NA-GEN--US-IRAQ. NEW YORK - Iraq's president extended a hand to those opposed to his U.S.-backed government, urging them to participate in the political process but insisting that they give up violence. Moved. By Sam F. Ghattas.

ISRAEL-PALESTINIANS: Palestinian police fire in the air to keep back stone-throwing trespassers

RAFAH, Gaza Strip - Palestinian forces seal off three crossing points along Gaza's porous southern border, fire warning shots in the air and beat back crowds in their strongest effort yet to halt the chaotic flood of people in and out of Egypt since Israel's withdrawal from the area. BC-ME-GEN--ISRAEL-PALESTINIANS. Moved. By Sarah El Deeb. AP Photos PPC102,104.

POPE'S LAST DAYS: Vatican account of late pope's last words: 'Let me go to the Father's house'

VATICAN CITY - Pope John Paul II's last words, mumbled weakly in Polish, were: "Let me go to the house of the Father," according to a Vatican account of the pontiff's final days. BC-EU-REL--VATICAN-JOHN PAUL'S LAST WORDS. Recap has moved. By Frances D'Emilio.

CHECHNYA: One-time aide to late rebel leader Maskhadov reported killed

MOSCOW - Prominent warlord Akhmad Avdorkhanov, a one-time aide to the late Chechen rebel leader Aslan Maskhadov was killed in Chechnya, a top official in the pro-Kremlin Chechen administration says. BC-EU-GEN--RUSSIA-CHECHNYA. Moved. By Judith Ingram.

INDONESIA-OIL: Indonesia, Exxon Mobil conclude deal to tap lucrative oil field

JAKARTA, Indonesia - Indonesia and U.S. petroleum giant Exxon Mobil Corp. signed a revenue- and production-sharing agreement that will allow the U.S. firm to tap East Java province's massive Cepu oil field and meet Indonesia's growing domestic demand for oil. BC-AS-FIN--INDONESIA-EXXON DEAL. Moved.

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YOUR QUERIES: The editor in charge is Peter James Spielmann at the Americas Desk in New York. Contact your local AP bureau, the Americas Desk at +1-212-621-1650 or [ami@ap.org](mailto:ami@ap.org), or the Asia Desk in Bangkok at +66-2-632-6911.

**Load-Date:** September 18, 2005

**A quiet revolution For a century Rotarians have been doing good in a low-key way, planting trees and taking tea with hospital patients. Then they decided to eradicate polio from the face of the planet**

Financial Times (London, England)

February 5, 2005 Saturday

Copyright 2005 The Financial Times Limited

**Section:** FT WEEKEND MAGAZINE - Feature; Pg. 16

**Length:** 1445 words

**Byline:** By BRIAN CATHCART

## **Body**

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It is Monday evening in Gants Hill, east London, and in the function room of a big, old-fashioned Italian restaurant 30 people are at dinner, having a fine old time. It's not that the food is especially good, because it's not, or that the wine and beer are flowing particularly generously, because no one is drinking much. It's just that, unmistakably, they are enjoying each others' company.

Such is the babble of voices that when "President Melvyn" decides it's time to bring things to order he must ring a bell, and the clang provokes laughter and more chatter before hush descends. The formalities then pass with a briskness that tells of well-worn familiarity: the secretary rattles through the minutes; the announcements are reeled off; Melvyn tells a joke, which he apparently always does, and his audience groans, which they apparently always do. Only the apologies slow things down. A member has had heart surgery and someone reports on progress. Another has seen him more recently and has up-to-date and graphic details. Questions are asked, concern is expressed and good wishes are sent.

The members of Redbridge Rotary Club - around me sit a dentist, a doctor, an accountant, someone who works at the BBC, a textile importer - are a friendly, cosy crew, as I suppose they would have to be, for they have been spending their Monday evenings together like this, week in, week out, over stroganoff and fricassee, mousse and meringue, coffee and mints, for years and years. They are also more diverse than I expected. As one member put it, the club is "one-third Asian, one-third Jewish and one-third, well, the rest". He might have added that it is also something like one-third women. If you have ever imagined a Rotary dinner, I'll bet it didn't look like this.

Rotary has been the cause of gatherings of this kind for 100 years this month, though the original club - a handful of lonely Chicago businessmen - used to meet over lunch rather than dinner. Now a worldwide institution, it plans to mark its centenary with a vast party in the city of its birth in June, as well as a most unusual gift to the world. It is to give a progress report on this gift that somebody has come from the Rotary equivalent of head office tonight to address the Redbridge club. When members are raising Dollars 600m, they are entitled to the odd update on where their money is going.

Just a few days earlier in northern Nigeria tens of thousands of people had taken part in an operation that rivals a general election or a census in its scale and outreach. The aim, using the simple technique of knocking on every door, was to trace and identify every child under five years of age and then to place on each little tongue two drops of polio vaccine. There are something like 13 million such children in the region and each vaccination costs about

A quiet revolution For a century Rotarians have been doing good in a low-key way, planting trees and taking tea with hospital patients. Then they decided to era....

40p. The vaccinators have to be trained and transported; the vaccine has to be kept chilled; the children's families must be persuaded to give their consent. And the whole cumbersome business has to be repeated in a few weeks, and then again, and again, in the hope of reaching every child at least four times. As if that is not ambitious enough, something similar is happening in India, where the aim is to reach no fewer than 170 million children in a single week. It takes an extraordinary logistical effort, but the vaccinators come close. And then they must do it again in a month's time, and again after that.

Barring some disaster, these vaccination drives in Nigeria and India, together with others in Afghanistan, Egypt, Mali and a few other countries, will very soon rid the world of polio for ever. The virus, which half a century ago haunted the classrooms of Britain and which as recently as the 1970s crippled or killed half a million children around the world each year, will simply cease to exist on this planet. That is Rotary's centenary gift to us, and to itself.

It is not working alone. Three partners - the World Health Organisation (WHO), Unicef and the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) - complement its work and assist in its delivery. Many governments and organisations have also put up money. But no one disputes that Rotary drives the enterprise. In the words of Bruce Aylward, chief co-ordinator of polio eradication at WHO: "From now on all public-private partnerships will measure themselves against Rotary International in polio. WHO, Unicef, CDC - none could have done what Rotary has been able to do in terms of consistency of vision and leadership. They couldn't have done it without us. We couldn't have done it without them."

By next year, Rotary will have contributed that sum of Dollars 600m, but there is more. Many thousands of Rotarians (including a few from Redbridge) have also taken part in the vaccination operations. And Rotary clubs and leaders in the west and the developing world have arm-twisted politicians and bureaucrats, guerrilla chiefs and religious leaders from Washington to Uttar Pradesh, from Manila to London. More than that, they had the idea.

The story is often told in Rotary circles of how, back in 1979, the then president of Rotary International, a Queensland accountant called Clem Renouf, read an article about the eradication of smallpox in Reader's Digest and wondered whether there were any other diseases that could be stamped out. He asked a medical friend, who said, yes - polio. Soon, the idea was linked with the centenary, but it was nearly 10 years before the vital partnership with WHO, Unicef and CDC took shape and piecemeal national projects gelled into a global drive for a once-and-for-all solution.

The polio virus is vulnerable, since it preys only on human beings and there are excellent vaccines. But it is stubborn and travels quickly, so a surviving pocket of human carriers, no matter how small, can quickly reinfect large areas. "This disease is just an aeroplane ride away," Paul Buyers reminds the Redbridge Rotarians. "No one is safe until we are all safe."

Buyers is the man from head office, someone who represents British clubs in the inner councils of Rotary International at Evanston, Illinois. He talks about the Philippines, Bolivia and Haiti; he tells of a Rotarian who negotiated a vaccination truce with the ***Tamil Tigers*** of Sri Lanka; he explains that even after the last infection is recorded, years of expensive surveillance will be needed. And as he talks - it is a message he has delivered many times before at such dinners - a beer glass is circulating among the diners, filling with fivers and tenners. On this occasion they raise a quick Pounds 200, which Buyers promises to double from central funds. There are 1,841 clubs in Britain and Ireland, and 30,000 clubs worldwide: Dollars 600m over 16 years begins to make sense.

There is another speaker tonight, or rather two, representing a small London charity called Kith and Kids, and Redbridge Rotary will dip into its kitty to help there too. This is more familiar Rotarian territory: the minutes spoke of buying defibrillators, planting trees, tea with patients at a local hospital.

When the members stand outside Tesco shaking plastic buckets at Christmas, it is this sort of work they have in mind: the homely do-gooding faithfully recorded in local papers beneath pictures of men in chains of office holding outsized cheques - the work that has earned Rotary its dull-but-worthy image. In fact, the polio campaign, with its global impact, is a freakish departure. For most of its existence Rotary has discouraged co-operation on any large

A quiet revolution For a century Rotarians have been doing good in a low-key way, planting trees and taking tea with hospital patients. Then they decided to era....

scale in order to preserve the primacy of the local clubs, making polio eradication its first truly "corporate" global undertaking.

But what an undertaking it is. From 350,000 new infections worldwide in 1988, the total fell to just 988 last year, according to the most recent figures. Relentlessly, the virus is being squeezed from the human world, and if the last new infection doesn't happen in the centenary year of 2005 it will probably come a year later, by which time there will be 5 million healthy children in the world who, but for polio eradication, would be crippled or dead.

Soon after 10pm Paul Buyers has sat down and the Redbridge Rotarians are remembering they have homes to go to. As chairs scrape backwards, Melvyn Warwick issues a few last-minute reminders and tongue-in-cheek fines are levied on members who have breached some fictitious rules - in fact, everyone merrily stuffs some cash in the fine box as it goes around. Good done, lives transformed, hope given where there was none - all come with bad jokes, awkward speeches and half-embarrassed generosity. And next Monday it will be the same.

**Load-Date:** February 4, 2005

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End of Document

## VOA NEWS: BOMB KILLS SIX SRI LANKAN SOLDIERS

US Fed News

August 26, 2006 Saturday 6:21 AM EST

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**Length:** 142 words

**Byline:** US Fed News

**Dateline:** WASHINGTON

### **Body**

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The Voice of America issued the following story:

Sri Lankan officials say a bomb blast killed six soldiers and wounded several others Saturday in the northern Jaffna peninsula.

The improvised device exploded as soldiers cleaned up the area after a failed attempt by Tamil Tiger rebels to capture the peninsula.

In the capital of Colombo, police say they found a major weapons cache and arrested at least 17 people, including two women.

Authorities say the suspects were planning a major attack. Police say they seized hand grenades and mines in the raid.

Meanwhile, Tamil Tigers released a policeman Saturday, who had been held for nearly a year after he strayed into rebel territory while pursuing a pedophile.

The release followed a request from Ulf Henricsson, the outgoing head of the team monitoring the 2002 ceasefire between the government and rebels.

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**Load-Date:** November 30, 2006

*Climate of fear;*

*IN FOCUS: DAVID MORGAN explains how everyone's civil liberties are being stolen shamelessly in the name of the war on terror.*

Morning Star

June 12, 2003

Copyright 2003 People's Press Printing Society Ltd

**Section:** Pg. 7

**Length:** 1518 words

**Byline:** DAVID MORGAN

## **Body**

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ON September 11, an act of terrorism took place, leaving thousands massacred in its wake. Hundreds of thousands were arrested and tortured. Bodies of the dead are still missing and people remain afraid to speak out openly about what happened to them.

In addition, close to 10 per cent of the country's population became refugees. I refer not to 2001, but to 1973, not to New York, but to Chile, when the CIA-backed coup of fascist dictator Augusto Pinochet overthrew the popular socialist government and murdered prime minister Salvador Allende.

The events of September 11 1973 were a clear example of the greatest terrorism - state terrorism.

Regimes steeped in blood are not exceptional historically and they still operate, but they don't feature in President Bush's "axis of evil."

Today, anyone fleeing such a dictatorship is more likely to be branded a terror - ist than accepted as a political refugee.

This is one of the chilling results of Britain's Terrorism Act 2000 and AntiTerrorism, Crime and Security Act 2001.

The war on terrorism is not against "state terrorism" if the state in question is pro-Western, no matter how repressive it might be.

But it is very definitely against those who resist oppression and state reaction everywhere.

The wars on terrorists and refugees are complementary means by which the wealthy and powerful in the world control resistance to widening social injustices.

It can be understood as a management strategy, engineered by the major corporations in alliance with Western states, designed to facilitate the smooth and ongoing exploitation of the globe's resources, including its people, who are viewed as economic units and sources of expendable labour.

Unlike capital, labour is not to be permitted to travel freely across the globe, but is to be ever more tightly controlled by tough controls.

Climate of fear; IN FOCUS: DAVID MORGAN explains how everyone's civil liberties are being stolen shamelessly in the name of the war on terror.

The strategy is not confined to combating terrorism, but marks a declaration of war on the basic civil liberties of everyone, although governments carefully disguise it as an attack simply on asylumseekers and terrorists.

This increasing repression long predates the events of September 11 2001.

After the suicide attacks, the war on terrorism simply became more internationalised as states stepped up co-operation.

The public were told that a new deadly danger had emerged, making civil liberties a luxury.

EU countries backed US efforts to eradicate international terrorism and swiftly adopted new security measures.

This US-led global offensive against all political dissent targets individuals, mass movements and so-called "rogue states."

Refugees are a linked problem for the West, because their appearance in great numbers is a reminder, first and foremost, of the chaos caused by the numerous unresolved conflicts existing across the world.

Most refugees coming to Europe over recent years originate from regions of profound conflict such as Afghanistan, Iraq, the Congo and Nigeria.

Invariably, these are not simply local conflicts but ones where Western interventions play a large role.

The arms trade and oil interests in the Middle East and Africa are just the most obvious examples of the West's destabilising interventions.

It is outrageous that the same Western politicians who are overseeing these strategies of intervention then condemn people who arrive on their doorstep, having been forced to leave their homelands as a result.

With utter shamelessness, they have termed this new imperial assertiveness as "humanitarian intervention."

The systematic attack on asylum-seekers first gathered pace seriously after the fall of the Soviet bloc.

Barely had the dust settled when the idea of "fortress Europe" was born, in the face of mass migration from the collapsed eastern economies and elsewhere.

The concept of a "political refugee" was originally refined during the cold war, when anti-communist dissidents became useful tools of the West.

"Political refugees" from pro-Western regimes today have become a far less attractive proposition.

New anti-terrorist legislation starkly illustrates the close collaboration between the British government and overseas repression.

The 2001 list banning political organisations in Britain comprises the Kurdistan Workers' Party, the **Tamil Tigers** and various Arab, Palestinian, Iranian and Islamic groups. Almost identical lists have now been issued in the US and across the EU.

A common feature is that these groups are involved in protracted conflicts with repressive Western allies.

Such conflicts have given rise to large diaspora communities all over Europe.

Under recent legislation, these communities are now criminalised, breeding a climate of intimidation and fear.

A prime example of how domestic repression ties in with the pursuit of a new aggressive foreign policy was seen when US Secretary of State Colin Powell cited the arrest of a suspected Algerian terror cell in London in his attempt to persuade the UN to back the war against Iraq.



Climate of fear; IN FOCUS: DAVID MORGAN explains how everyone's civil liberties are being stolen shamelessly in the name of the war on terror.

People arrested on alleged terrorist offences are almost always charged solely with immigration-related matters such as forging travel documents.

Forged documents are commonplace among asylum-seekers - they are a necessity and certainly not evidence of terrorism. This much has been known for years, so why fabricate a panic about it now?

In the current harsh political climate, those who resist are branded as terrorists and those who arrive uninvited are treated as sub-human species. Both must now be "dealt with."

Governments intend to save money by withdrawing state support. The fact that asylumseekers are separate from the "general public" makes it easier for the authorities to get away with dealing with them unjustly.

This includes locking people up indefinitely prior to any formal charges being brought or considered. An alleged terrorist can now be detained, literally, forever.

Today's world may be characterised as one in which divisions between the centre - the West - and the periphery, ie everywhere else, are widening as economic and financial crises deepen.

Facing crippling debts, many regions are experiencing acute problems such as mass unemployment, poverty and homelessness, which, in turn, exacerbate social tensions, leading to a crisis of confidence in the state's ability to manage the system.

In the globalised economy, terrorising dissent and strictly controlling population movements are two closely related strategies for ensuring the system's survival.

The false links that are drawn between terrorism and asylum and repeated constantly in the media and by politicians add to a climate of fear .

Recent British anti-terrorist legislation has broadened the definition of who is a terrorist and what constitutes a terrorist act to make the distinctions almost meaningless.

New laws cover normal activism such as expressing support for a political cause and even wearing party colours or the emblem of a movement, such as the hammer and sickle.

This policy is no accident. It is a highly political action designed to control dissent at home and abroad, denying legitimacy to popular struggles for national liberation and social change.

In the globalised economy, where privatisation is the norm to be imposed everywhere, the people are forced to accept a progressively smaller share of the world's increasingly monopolised resources.

Not only are the vast majority of asylum-seekers simply not terrorists but they have never committed any crime.

They are just men, women and children exercising their basic human right to flee persecution and find sanctuary elsewhere.

More authoritarian Western states are now setting a dangerous example to regimes worldwide by giving a green light to persecution and repression.

Anti-terrorism legislation in Britain permits countries abroad, like Turkey, for example, to repress their own dissidents.

It simultaneously denies those dissidents an escape from persecution by claiming asylum.

Global governments are openly showing their true colours as representatives of the narrow interests of the boardroom elites, whom John Pilger aptly describes as "the new rulers of the universe."

Climate of fear; IN FOCUS: DAVID MORGAN explains how everyone's civil liberties are being stolen shamelessly in the name of the war on terror.

In the new globalised world, people are to be coerced into accepting worse conditions, longer hours, weaker trade union rights, low pay, insecurity in the job market, diluted health and safety legislation, abolition of the retirement age, all in the interests of a remodelled "flexible labour market."

Across the world, there is rising mass unemployment and workers lucky enough to hold a job cannot strike and can be shot or jailed for demonstrating.

A profoundly brutalised and ugly world is emerging. The treatment of refugees and attempts to define normal political action as terrorism are simply the most explicit examples of creeping global authoritarianism.

It can only ultimately be defeated by building links across communities and strengthening the confidence of the mass movement.

David Morgan is a member of the Campaign against Criminalising Communities (CAMPACC), a group set up to oppose the attacks on civil and political liberties signalled by the enactment of Terrorism Act 2000.

## Graphic

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DARKSIDE: Tony Blair has presided over a drastic reduction of our civil liberties.

**Load-Date:** June 12, 2003

## MONKS STEP IN

The Sun

December 30, 2004

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**Section:** SRI LANKA; MONSTER QUAKE; HELP IS ON WAY

**Length:** 171 words

### **Body**

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23,000 DEAD

MISSING: UNKNOWN

BUDDHIST monks are handing out rice and curry to survivors at temples.

The death toll on the island rose steadily yesterday as corpses continued to be pulled from rivers and lagoons. An estimated million people are homeless.

In a rare gesture, the government invited leaders of the Tamil Tigers separatist movement to help relief efforts.

The Tigers echoed a government appeal for aid just a month after vowing to restart the war stopped by a ceasefire two years ago.

Their leader Velupillai Prabhakaran issued a statement of condolence to the southern Sinhalese he has been fighting for more than two decades.

Health authorities began receiving reports of widespread diarrhoea -caused by drinking contaminated water -and measles. Bodies are being photographed, fingerprinted and buried without being identified.

In the country's second city, Galle, nearly all the homes within half a mile of the coast were destroyed or damaged. All 135 children at an orphanage run by Tamil women rebels were killed.

**Load-Date:** December 31, 2004

## *Wooing the rich, shooing the poor*

Hindustan Times

January 9, 2006 Monday 9:30 AM EST

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**Length:** 2032 words

**Byline:** PK Balachandran Hindustan Times

**Dateline:** NEW DELHI, India

### **Body**

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NEW DELHI, India, Jan 9 -- "Rising India" with its new-found passion for the dollar, is assiduously cultivating the rich, successful and famous overseas Indians, mainly resident in the prosperous West.

They are being sought out, honoured and feted in extravagant jamborees. Celebration of a Pravasi Bharatiya Divas has no objective other than attracting overseas investment.

This is by no means unjustified, given the needs of a growing India. China had done the same thing vis-?-vis the Overseas Chinese community and gained enormously.

But what is regrettable, in the Indian context, is that a country which extols Mahatma Gandhi as the Father of the Nation, is turning a blind eye to the existence of millions of overseas Indians who are poor and looking to India for help.

It is worth remembering at this juncture that while being an expatriate lawyer in South Africa, Gandhi had deliberately shifted his focus from serving the small community of rich Indian businessmen to fighting for the rights of the poor Indian coolies who were in a majority there.

And Gandhi had a lot to do with the shaping of government of India's Overseas Indians policy before independence.

Today, New Delhi's Overseas Indians policy has turned full-circle and has everything for the rich Indian and little or nothing for the poor.

The bulk of the people of Indian origin in Sri Lanka, Malaysia, South Africa, Fiji, Mauritius and the West Indies are poor.

#### Conditions of Indian Origin Tamils in Sri Lanka

The 1.5 million-strong Indian Origin Tamils (IOT) of Sri Lanka, are a good example of a community of poor overseas Indians who need help from India.

According to PP Devaraj, President of the Sri Lanka chapter of the Global Organisation of People of Indian Origin (GOPIO), 88.13 per cent of the IOT live in the plantation areas of Sri Lanka, and 80% of them are below the (upper) poverty line.

## Wooing the rich, shooing the poor

At least 56 per cent of the plantation or estate workers get less than Sri Lankan Rupees (SLRs) 1,500 per month (INR 750 or \$15 per month).

The average monthly income of the plantation worker is 50 per cent of the income of the general rural worker and 25 per cent of the income of the urban worker.

According to a 2005 publication of the Colombo-based Foundation for Co-existence (FOC) and the Foundation for Community Transformation (FCT), an IOT worker in the plantations gets less than SLRs 60 a day (payment in the other areas in Sri Lanka ranges from SLRs 200 to SLRs 500).

In the estates, payment is also related to fulfilling a minimum quota of picking 15 kgs a day. Late comers are not allowed to work.

According to 1996-97 data, the overall literacy rate in the plantation sector is 76.9 per cent. This is very good by Indian standards, but not so by Sri Lankan standards where the overall literacy rate is 94.5 per cent.

And 23.9 per cent of the estate sector people have had no schooling at all, while in the rest of the rural sector, only 7.9 per cent have not had any schooling.

Only 1.2 per cent of the boys and girls in the plantation sector go up to the school final exam (called GCE-Advanced level), while in the rest of the rural sector, 18.3 per cent do.

The 800 odd plantation schools are grossly understaffed, with a shortage of 3040 teachers.

There should be 1200 persons in the Principals' Grade in these schools, but there are only 524.

In the Sri Lanka Education Administrative Service (SLEAS), there are only two Class I officers from the IOT community. Their numbers in the Class II and Class III categories are 8 and 15 respectively.

Although the IOT are 7 per cent of Sri Lanka's population of 20 million, very few enter the universities. The IOT have accounted for less than 1% of the intake since 1950.

Lack of education severely affects employability. Take for instance the situation in Nuwara Eliya district, a typical tea plantation area in Central Sri Lanka.

Here, the IOT are 51.3 per cent of the population, but in the district office of the Ministry of Health, 496 of the 532 staff are Sinhalas and only 28 are Tamils.

In the matter of health and nutrition, the gap between the requirement and the existing condition is wide. Only 53.7 per cent of the estate population has access to medical facilities and only 11.7 per cent to hospitals.

This is reflected in the state of health of the estate population. Taking the year 1995, for which comparative figures are available, infant mortality was 28.5 per 1000 live births in the estate sector and 12.5 in the island as a whole.

In 2000, 30.9 per cent of the estate children were stunted, while in the rest of the rural sector the figure was 12.8 per cent.

The estate workers live in unhygienic conditions. 28 per cent of the households have no toilet. A typical "line house" is a 10 ft by 12 ft ill-ventilated malodorous cell with an open drain running along the door.

A dozen or so men, women and children may be cooped up in such a house.

Drunkenness and wife beating are common among the estate Tamils. In 90 per cent of the cases, the women hand over their wages to the men, 60 per cent of whom are heavy drinkers. According to Devaraj, there are estates, which supply liquor on credit with the idea of enslaving the workers' families.

### Wooing the rich, shooing the poor

The conditions of life in the plantations have to be seen in contrast to the importance of the estate sector in the economy of Sri Lanka.

The estate sector accounts for about 20 per cent of Sri Lanka's foreign exchange earnings and 4 per cent of the GDP. About 20 per cent of the country's labour force is in the plantations.

#### India's hands off policy

So long as Sri Lanka and India were part of the British Empire, the government of India took some interest in the IOT, in their wages and working conditions.

But come independence in 1947 (in the case of India), and 1948 (in the case of Sri Lanka), the view changed. India looked on indifferently as Sri Lanka refused citizenship to the million odd persons of Indian origin, mostly IOT.

In 1953, following India's refusal to take them, they became "stateless".

The problem of statelessness was partially solved with New Delhi and Colombo signing pacts, which stipulated the numbers that each country would take.

People were earmarked for either for India or Sri Lanka without taking their consent. "We were treated like a commodity in the market than as human beings," observed the most important IOT leader, the Late Soumyamurthi Thondaman of the Ceylon Workers' Congress (CWC).

The grant of citizenship by Sri Lanka was dependent on repatriation by India.

But since India was dragging its feet on granting citizenship and repatriation, and many IOT did not want to be repatriated, the grant of Sri Lankan citizenship was also delayed.

#### IOT distance themselves from India

However, in the late 1970s and in the 1980s, S Thondaman lessened the dependence on India and looked more towards striking political deals with the powers-that-be in Sri Lanka itself, namely, the mainstream Sinhala parties.

In turn, the mainstream Sri Lankan political parties saw the value of the IOT vote bank and were keen on striking deals with the CWC.

And over a period of a decade, governments gave citizenship to virtually all IOT.

While S Thondaman's service in this respect was invaluable, he did not uplift the community economically and socially.

Adequate political representation in parliament, government and the local bodies, did not translate into economic benefits for the poor majority.

The small elite among the IOT, who were traders in Colombo, and who had nothing to do with the plantations, benefited from the rise of the CWC as a force in Sri Lankan politics.

The plantation workers merely voted as told, and got little or nothing in return, except physical protection and some increase in wages from time to time.

Educational and economic backwardness continued to be the hallmarks of the community.

India kept up its links with S Thondaman and the CWC and continued to keep an Assistant High Commissioner in Kandy, the capital of the Central Province, which had the single largest concentration of IOT. But India had little or no role in the life of the plantation worker.

#### IOT move to identify with Sri Lankan Tamils

### Wooing the rich, shooing the poor

There is a tendency in India, and indeed the rest of the world, to look at only the Sri Lankan Tamils and not the IOT.

This is because the Sri Lankan Tamils attract attention. They are aggressive, articulate, educated and international, while the IOT are not. Many of the IOT themselves have moved away from India and want to consider themselves "Sri Lankan Tamils".

Many identify themselves with the aspirations of the Sri Lankan Tamils and even support the LTTE, which is their "sole representative."

The Sri Lankan Tamils are a more advanced community, and in the context of the LTTE-led armed struggle, their sense of power has also gone up.

The IOT would like to be part of this powerful community, rather than keep its identity by maintaining its links with India. About 200,000 IOT have already registered themselves in the census as Sri Lankan Tamils.

Mainstream IOT leaders want to retain identity

While minor leaders of the IOT like P.Chandrasekharan and Mano Ganesan want to identify closely with the Sri Lankan Tamils, mainstream leaders do not want to do so.

The CWC leader Arumugan Thondaman and others like PP Devaraj of the Global Organisation of People of Indian Origin (GOPIO) feel that the problems of the Sri Lankan Tamils and the IOT are vastly different and the solutions would also have to be different.

The mainstream IOT leaders are also aware that the Sri Lankan Tamils will not give equality to the IOT.

The Sri Lankan Tamils consider themselves superior to all other Tamils.

India can help reinforce identity

It is felt that India can help the IOT maintain their identity and individuality.

India-aided programmes to uplift the community economically and educationally should go a long way towards instilling confidence in the IOT and enhancing their self-esteem.

The rapid strides that India has taken in the economic field, will make identification with it desirable and productive too, Devaraj feels.

India changes stance

Devaraj observes that there is a perceptible change now in India's stance.

India has undertaken to improve laboratory facilities in 40 estate schools and build a modern hospital in Dik Oya. But the long standing demand for teacher training is yet to be met.

Devaraj says that India needs to go beyond the CWC and establish contact with all IOT political groups, leading intellectuals, academicians, researchers, professionals and businessmen, to broad base its interest in the community and develop concrete plans for the uplift of the community.

"There should be a core group working on this problem and maintaining the links. Institutionalisation is necessary to ensure continuity," he said.

The IOT are now divided and amorphous. It has to be united, and India is now well placed to be the unifier, Devaraj observes.

## Wooing the rich, shooing the poor

India's economic growth and its special political position in Sri Lanka should enable it to influence matters relating to the IOT, he says.

Asked if the majority Sinhallas would oppose India's special interest in the IOT, Devaraj said that the Sinhallas would not object because they themselves wanted India to share the burden of uplifting the community.

"Moreover, India is now following a policy of helping all communities in Sri Lanka. There can be no complaint of discrimination under these circumstances," he said.

About a year-and-half-ago, thanks to the efforts of Devaraj and GOPIO headquarters in New Delhi, the government of India agreed to stop bracketing Sri Lanka with Pakistan and Bangladesh, thus making the people of Indian origin in Sri Lanka equal to people of Indian origin living in countries outside the subcontinent.

India has now made people of Indian origin in Sri Lanka eligible for Overseas Indian citizenship.

But only a few (about 10,000) of the IOT will be able to avail of this facility because the vast majority are too poor to be able to pay the registration fee of \$270.

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**Load-Date:** January 11, 2006



## ***Tigers deny involvement in Sri Lanka blast***

United Press International

July 8, 2004 Thursday

Copyright 2004 U.P.I.

**Length:** 162 words

**Dateline:** COLOMBO, Sri Lanka, July 8 (UPI)

### **Body**

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Tamil separatists in the Indian Ocean island nation of Sri Lanka Thursday denied involvement in a suicide bombing that killed four police officers.

The bombing Wednesday in the capital Colombo also killed the **female** suicide bomber and authorities suspected the separatist **Tamil Tigers**.

Six more police officers and three civilians were injured in the attack.

A statement from the Tigers strongly condemned the attack, saying such acts caused "severe damage to the peace process," the BBC reported.

"We deny involvement in violence. We assume this act of violence could be the work of anti-peace elements," the statement said.

It was the first such incident in Colombo since a ceasefire was signed between the rebels and the government in February 2002.

But relations between the Tigers and the government have deteriorated this year over the case of renegade rebel leader Colonel Karuna, who tried to set up a separate rebel group. The attempt was crushed by the mainstream Tigers.

**Load-Date:** July 9, 2004

## ***Sri Lankan suicide bomber tries to assassinate government minister***

Associated Press International

November 28, 2007 Wednesday 3:55 AM GMT

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**Section:** INTERNATIONAL NEWS

**Length:** 180 words

**Dateline:** COLOMBO Sri Lanka

### **Body**

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A ***female*** suicide bomber disguised as an office worker blew herself up in the heart of Colombo on Wednesday, killing one person in an apparent attempt to assassinate a government minister, the military said.

The attack took place outside the office of Douglas Devananda, the minister of social services and the leader of the Eelam People's Democratic Party, an ethnic Tamil party seen as a rival to the ***Tamil Tigers*** rebel group, the military said.

Devananda, the repeated target of assassination attempts, was not injured in the attack, the military said. The blast killed one of his staff members and critically injured another, said Dr. Hector Weerasinghe, the medical director of Colombo National Hospital. A third person was lightly injured, he said.

The Tamil Tiger bomber, a handicapped woman, mingled with other office workers during the morning rush hour before detonating her explosives at 8:05 a.m., the military said in a statement.

The rebel group, listed as a terror organization by the United States and the European Union, has carried out more than 240 suicide bombings.

**Load-Date:** November 28, 2007

**Multiculturalism vs. 'multihomelandism'; Many of the issues we attribute to multiculturalism have more to do with citizens' attachments to homelands (actual and wished-for) outside Canada**

Ottawa Citizen

December 21, 2007 Friday

Final Edition

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**Section:** NEWS; Pg. A13

**Length:** 1053 words

**Byline:** Natalie Brender, Citizen Special

## **Body**

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Following the recent release of 2006 census results showing the astonishing scope of immigration and diversity in Canada, scores of pundits have questioned whether Canadian multiculturalism is up to the challenge of coping with all this diversity. A typical litany of "problem cases" for multiculturalism might feature events such as the Hérouxville ban on stoning women; racist comments at the Bouchard-Taylor commission on reasonable accommodation; and MP Ujjal Dosanjh's testimony at the Air India inquiry that he still faces threats from Sikh extremists intent on using violence to carve out a national homeland in India.

But one of these things is unlike the others. Matters of culture, roughly speaking, the first two may be; not so when it comes to the extremism that has cost Mr. Dosanjh and many other Canadians dearly. What's at stake in the latter case is the nature of some citizens' activities in pursuit of a political aim abroad. And this problem concerns not the diversity of cultures within Canada but the nature and impacts of our citizens' active attachments to diverse homelands (actual and wished-for) outside Canada's borders.

It's important to notice these facts clearly. They may help in trying to disentangle culture from the many red herrings that make discussions about multiculturalism even more fraught than they already are. But equally pressing, they should lead us to recognize that "multihomelandism" is a pervasive Canadian reality in its own right -- one that poses a panoply of hard questions whose common elements often go unrecognized in public debate.

Take, for instance, the uproar that ensued last spring in British Columbia when politicians from most major parties attended a Sikh parade in which floats celebrated one of the masterminds of the 1985 Air India bombing. Or the controversy that has attended other politicians' attendance at Tamil community events widely believed to be fundraisers for the LTTE terrorist group fighting for an independent homeland in Sri Lanka. Both of these incidents call into question whether Canada's politicians are adequately committed to identifying and denouncing those fringe elements of ethnic minority groups who pursue homeland agendas through violence.

A broader look at other recent flashpoints of "multihomelandism" fills out the picture. Recall the public outcry about "citizens of convenience" -- and the Harper government's promise to review dual citizenship laws -- in the wake of the August 2006 evacuation of Canadian citizens from Lebanon.

Multiculturalism vs. 'multihomelandism'; Many of the issues we attribute to multiculturalism have more to do with citizens' attachments to homelands (actual and....

We have also seen concerns about "divided loyalties" arising over the French citizenship of Liberal Leader Stéphane Dion and Governor General Michaëlle Jean. Here too, not culture but the nature of citizens' attachments to countries outside Canada was where the controversy lay.

It may well be, as pollster Michael Adams' recent book *Unlikely Utopia* proclaims, that Canada leads the world in making multiculturalism work within our borders.

But even if that's so, we certainly don't distinguish ourselves when it comes to grappling with issues related to our citizens' attachments to a truly global range of homeland countries.

The fact that many of our citizens are actively tied to homeland countries on every continent is more than just a by-product of Canada's country-blind immigration policies from the 1960s onward. It's also a vital component of national prosperity in decades ahead. In the face of an aging population and labour-force shortages, only by continuing to attract immigrants from all continents will our prospects remain strong. In an age of increasingly fast and intense international travel and communication, Our immigrants' home-country attachments are, perhaps even more than in decades past, robustly active.

But politicians, pundits and the public only sporadically confront the implications of these facts -- and when they do, the reaction often takes sensationalized, hostile or opportunistic forms. Proposals to restrict dual citizenship, or to ban dual citizens from holding high office, are hardly constructive options in a world of increasing international movement -- particularly given Canada's need to recruit talented immigrants to choose our country over others.

That truth is tacitly acknowledged in the recent federal tabling of "lost Canadian" legislation, which extends dual citizenship to those unjustly deprived of it. The product of lengthy and wide-ranging House Committee hearings and internal bureaucratic review, the proposed amendments to the Citizenship Act are notably silent with respect to the concerns about the "unfair" exercise of dual citizenship that arose in the post-Lebanon evacuation hysteria. Further review of the details of Canada's citizenship policy in an era of transnational movement may well be called for -- but within the context of a frank public acknowledgement from the government that dual citizenship is here to stay as a Canadian reality, and that its rights and protections apply equally to citizens of western and non-western origins alike.

Hard thinking about the implications of citizens' attachments to foreign homelands is needed on other fronts as well. The temptation for politicians and parties to pander to diaspora group pressures for extremist foreign policy positions toward homeland countries is a troubling reality in Canada. And notwithstanding the unfairness of holding immigrants -- particularly those from non-western countries -- to higher standards of citizenship than native-born Canadians, there indisputably needs to be more candid discussion about the value and purpose of Canadian citizenship as something that poses substantive obligations to this country, whatever other national attachments our citizens may have.

In short, what is needed across all levels of Canadian society is

a far more sustained grappling with the realities of "multihomelandism."

We are overdue for a shift in national conversations, away from the current almost-exclusive focus on multiculturalism toward questions of what being Canadian means, here at home, in a world of increasing international movement and engagement.

Natalie Brender, formerly a policy adviser to the Hon. Bill Graham as minister of foreign affairs, is writing a book called *Our Home and Native Lands: How 'Multihomelandism' Matters to Canada*.

## Graphic

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Multiculturalism vs. 'multihomelandism'; Many of the issues we attribute to multiculturalism have more to do with citizens' attachments to homelands (actual and....

Photo: Jana Chytilova, The Ottawa Citizen; A Sikh parade in Ottawa. Many of our citizens are actively tied to homeland countries on every continent. ;

**Load-Date:** December 21, 2007

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End of Document

## **Five more dead in Sri Lanka violence: reports**

Deutsche Presse-Agentur  
April 27, 2006 Thursday 5:20 PM EST

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**Section:** POLITICS

**Length:** 177 words

**Dateline:** Colombo

### **Body**

---

Five soldiers were killed in Sri Lanka Thursday, a day after at least 12 civilians were reportedly killed and tens of thousands displaced in air strikes by security forces in the Tamil-

held north-east of the country, reports said.

Three soldiers were killed in a mine blast near Jaffna and another mine explosion killed two sailors, the BBC reported.

The killings came amid hopes of a return to calm on the island in the aftermath of Tuesday's suicide bombing in Colombo that killed 11 people and prompted two days of air strikes by the military against Tamil-held areas in the north.

The Tamil Tiger rebels said tens of thousands of people had fled the air attacks, which they said killed at least 12 civilians in the Sampoor area, 260 kilometres north-east of Colombo.

The upsurge in violence, which threatens the fragile Norwegian-

brokered Sri Lankan peace process, came after a **female** suicide bomber Tuesday killed 11 people inside Sri Lankan army headquarters in Colombo.

The **Tamil Tigers** have denied responsibility for the suicide bombing.

**Load-Date:** April 28, 2006

## **7 Civilians killed in northern Sri Lanka**

Xinhua General News Service

April 12, 2007 Thursday 10:00 AM EST

Copyright 2007 Xinhua News Agency

**Section:** WORLD NEWS; Political

**Length:** 147 words

**Dateline:** COLOMBO

### **Body**

---

At least seven civilians were shot dead Thursday in northern Sri Lanka in an attack blamed on Tamil Tiger rebels, officials said.

Defense officials here said that Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (**LTTE**) rebels had stormed into the majority Sinhala community village of Avaranthalawa in the northern Vavuniya district at around 4:45 p.m. local time (1115 GMT) Thursday.

They then fired at the villagers, killing seven of them, including at least three **women** who were around 50 years old.

The police at Settikulam are carrying out investigations.

Defense officials said the Tiger rebels have stepped up attacks against civilians.

Government troops and **LTTE** rebels are currently being locked in fierce battles in the island country's north and east.

More than 4,000 people have been killed since December 2005 despite a Norwegian-arranged truce in place.

**Load-Date:** April 13, 2007

## **Explosion kills 17 in Sri Lanka capital**

UPI

November 29, 2007 Thursday 1:16 AM EST

Copyright 2007 U.P.I. All Rights Reserved



**Length:** 198 words

**Dateline:** COLOMBO, Sri Lanka, Nov. 29

### **Body**

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A bomb went off in front of a shopping complex in a suburb of Colombo, Sri Lanka, killing 17 people and injuring 39 more, various reports said.

LankaPage.com, quoting the Sri Lankan defense ministry, reported the attack occurred Wednesday during the evening rush hour.

The attack was the latest in a spate of exploding violence between the government and the **Tamil Tigers**, who have waged a years-long campaign for a separate home for the minority Tamils on the Indian Ocean island nation.

The report said the bomb, believed to have been in an unattended parcel at a counter, went off when a security guard tried to open it.

The report, quoting hospital officials, said the dead included nine men and eight **women**. Among those injured were three children. The death toll was expected to rise, the report said.

In another attack Wednesday, a woman suicide bomber killed herself and a minister's aide while reportedly targeting Sri Lanka's Social Services Minister Douglas Devananda, who was not injured.

The BBC reported Devananda has been targeted by the Tigers before as he is seen as an opponent of the rebels.

The rebels have suffered heavy casualties in the recent campaigns by security forces.

**Load-Date:** November 30, 2007



## **Bus blast kills 15 in southern Sri Lanka; police suspect suicide bomber**

Associated Press International

January 6, 2007 Saturday 11:15 AM GMT

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**Section:** INTERNATIONAL NEWS

**Length:** 182 words

**Dateline:** COLOMBO Sri Lanka

### **Body**

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A bomb tore through a passenger bus in southern Sri Lanka on Saturday, killing at least 15 people and wounding dozens more, police said, in the second bomb blast blamed to hit the country in as many days.

Police said they believe a suicide bomber triggered the blast in Meetiyagoda, some 95 kilometers (59 miles) south of the capital, Colombo.

"There is a **female** body inside the bus and looking at the damage the blast has caused around her, we suspect that she could have been a suicide bomber," said Upul Ariyaratne, a senior police official.

He said there were about 65 passengers inside the bus at the time of the blast and about 40 had been admitted to hospital.

Saturday's blast came a day after six people died in a similar bus blast near the capital. Authorities have blamed separatist **Tamil Tigers** for that blast.

On Saturday, the insurgents denied involvement in both bombings.

"We totally deny that. We did not do that, that's all I can say," the rebels' military spokesman, Rasiah Ilanthirayan, told The Associated Press by telephone from the Tigers' northern stronghold of Kilinochchi.

**Load-Date:** January 7, 2007

## Major Tamil attacks

The Independent (London)

October 17, 2006 Tuesday

Fourth Edition

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# The INDEPENDENT

**Section:** WORLD; Pg. 24

**Length:** 200 words

**Byline:** Rachel Shields

## Body

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### **21 May 1991**

Suicide bomber kills the Indian Prime Minister, Rajiv Gandhi, during a visit to Tamil Nadu, in revenge for his support of Sri Lanka. 18 civilians are also killed

### **1 May 1993**

**Tamil Tigers** strike at the heart of the Sri Lankan government by assassinating President Ranasinghe Premadasa during a May Day parade

### **24 October 1994**

An opposition politician, Gamini Dissanayaka, is killed along with 58 bystanders by a **female** suicide bomber during a presidential election campaign in the capital, Colombo

### **31 January 1996**

91 people are killed and more than 1,400 injured when a Tamil Tiger suicide bomber detonates a truck containing more than 1,000kg of explosives at the Central Bank in Colombo. Most victims were bystanders or small shopkeepers

### **25 April 2006**

One week after pulling out of peace talks, rebels bomb Sri Lankan army headquarters in Colombo, and wound the head of the army, Sarath Fonseka, in an assassination attempt

### **5 June 2006**

64 civilians, many of them children, are killed by a mine attack on a bus, prompting a major escalation in the conflict, including government air strikes on Tamil Tiger positions

## Major Tamil attacks

**26 June 2006**

Suicide bomber kills the leading Sri Lankan General Parami Kulatunga in Colombo

**Load-Date:** October 17, 2006

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End of Document

## **Bus blast kills 15 in southern Sri Lanka; police suspect suicide bomber**

The Canadian Press(CP)

January 6, 2007 Saturday

Copyright 2007 Press News Limited All Rights Reserved

**Section:** FOREIGN GENERAL NEWS

**Length:** 185 words

**Byline:** AP

### **Body**

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COLOMBO, Sri Lanka (AP) \_ A bomb tore through a passenger bus in southern Sri Lanka on Saturday, killing at least 15 people and wounding dozens more, police said, in the second bomb blast blamed to hit the country in as many days.

Police said they believe a suicide bomber triggered the blast in Meetiyagoda, some 95 kilometres south of the capital, Colombo.

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"We totally deny that. We did not do that, that's all I can say," the rebels' military spokesman, Rasiah Ilanthirayan, told The Associated Press by telephone from the Tigers' northern stronghold of Kilinochchi.

**Load-Date:** January 7, 2007

## **TAMIL TIGER KILLED IN BATTLE LINKED TO GANDHI MURDER**

The Independent (London)

April 16, 2004, Friday

Copyright 2004 Independent Print Ltd

**Section:** First Edition; FOREIGN NEWS; Pg. 26

**Length:** 194 words

**Byline:** DILIP GANGULY IN COLOMBO

### **Body**

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A RENEGADE Tamil Tiger commander has shot dead a rebel agent that his forces linked to the 1991 assassination of Rajiv Gandhi, India's prime minister.

Lieutenant-Colonel Neelan Sinnathamby was killed by Vinayagamoorthy Muralitharan hours before the commander fled his base in eastern Sri Lankan jungles, said the TamilNet website which reports on rebel affairs.

Muralitharan, also known as Karuna, broke away from the ***Tamil Tigers*** last month in a regional dispute, but the northern-based rebels defeated his renegade forces in an assault this week.

Karuna's men captured Colonel Sinnathamby in March, after the breakaway. Mr Gandhi, the son of murdered Prime Minister Indira Gandhi and then leader of India's Congress party, was killed when a ***female*** Tamil Tiger blew herself up next to him at a campaign appearance in southern India in May, 1991. Indian officials accused Tiger leader Vellupillai Prabhakaran of masterminding the killing.

Karuna's spokesman, Varathan, said the colonel had given the suicide bomber contacts and directions for the Madras near where Mr Gandhi was killed.

TamilNet said Colonel Sinnathamby had been blindfolded, and his hands tied. (AP)

**Load-Date:** April 16, 2004

## *The orphanage of grief*

DAILY MAIL (London)

December 30, 2004

Copyright 2004 Associated Newspapers Ltd.

**Section:** ED\_2ND\_04; Pg. 11

**Length:** 189 words

### **Body**

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AN entire orphanage was swept away and its 135 children killed by the waves that hit Sri Lanka on Sunday.

The appalling tragedy happened in the island's north east section, which is controlled by rebel **Tamil Tigers**.

Yesterday they dug mass graves to bury thousands of bodies as the island's toll reached 22,400.

The devastated orphanage was run by **women** members of the Tigers. 'We have only found bodies so far,' said Tiger leader Colonel Soosai. 'We have not received any aid from the government yet.' It is thought that many of the children were the sons and daughters of Tamil Tiger fighters killed in the civil war. Compounding the problem for the rebels is the fact that they are hemmed in by a heavily landmined border.

Last night aid workers said there was a new threat from up to a million plastic landmines which had been uprooted by floodwaters.

The Tigers said nearly 10,000 people had perished in areas they control, while almost as many again were missing.

After two decades of war in which 64,000 people have been killed, Sri Lanka's worst natural disaster has finally given the Tigers and the government a common enemy.

**Load-Date:** December 31, 2004

## 10 Sri Lankan Tamil rebels released on bail

Xinhua General News Service

October 15, 2004 Friday 1:00 PM EST

Copyright 2004 Xinhua News Agency

**Section:** WORLD NEWS; Political

**Length:** 144 words

**Dateline:** COLOMBO

### **Body**

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A total of 10 Sri Lanka's Tamil Tiger rebels were released on bail on Thursday in the eastern Batticaloa district, the pro-rebel Tamilnet said.

The group of rebels of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Tiger rebels (**LTTE**) were release under the orders of the country's Court of Appeal on cash bail, 50,000 rupees (about 485 US dollars) for each and with two sureties, each signing a bond for the same amount.

The rebels have been handed over to their representatives in the rebel-controlled territory in the east under the supervision of the truce monitors, the Sri Lanka Monitoring Mission.

The rebels including four **females** were arrested by police in July this year and charged under the Offensive Weapons Act.

The **LTTE** rebels have been observing a Norwegian-brokered ceasefire since February 2002 when the two sides entered a truce agreement.

**Load-Date:** October 15, 2004

## *Murali walks tightrope in country riven by war*

The Sunday Telegraph (LONDON)

December 9, 2007 Sunday

Copyright 2007 Telegraph Group Limited All Rights Reserved

**Section:** SPORT; Cricket; Pg. 10

**Length:** 1005 words

**Byline:** SCYLD BERRY

### **Body**

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WAKING UP to yesterday's newspapers must have been gratifying for the president of Sri Lanka, Mahinda Rajapaksa. His publicity campaign could not have gone better. It was a coup of the nicest kind.

There on the front pages was a photograph of the president shaking the hand of the man of the moment, Muttiah Muralitharan, and presenting the world record-holder with the key to a new Peugeot car. The Sri Lankan cricket board had announced that they would give the car to Muralitharan in Kandy during the first Test against England. But President Rajapaksa - the country's chief executive, far more powerful than the Prime Minister - had re-arranged it so that he himself would present the car at a ceremony at the president's residence in Colombo.

This propaganda coup was as well timed as a Kumar Sangakkara cover drive. While Muralitharan, a Tamil, was bowling Sri Lanka to victory over England last week, 2,554 other Tamils were being detained by the security forces, some of them in appalling conditions without food or sanitation. They had been arrested in Colombo following the two bomb attacks on Nov 28 by the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam which killed 19 people and injured many more.

Never, except in Sri Lanka, has international cricket been staged in a country at war. The game was played in South Africa during the Boer War, and in India and Pakistan during the vivisection that was partition, but only a little. What is being played out now in Sri Lanka is unique: uniquely tragic and sad, because the number of recorded deaths in this civil war has recently topped 70,000, apart from the innumerable disappearances; but uniquely fascinating too is Muralitharan's position in a society which has become almost irreparably polarised, although here used to be the one place on earth where all major religions co-existed harmoniously.

Analogy might be helpful. Suppose the football team representing Northern Ireland at the height of 'the troubles' soared to No 2 in the world largely on the strength of their star goal-scorer, who was a Catholic while the rest of the team were Protestant. But this analogy is over-simple because there are two Tamil communities in Sri Lanka, which when combined make up about 11 per cent of the population.

By far the larger community consists of Tamils who have lived in Sri Lanka since time immemorial: Jaffna Tamils, they are sometimes called, after the northern city which has been their cultural centre and would be the capital of the independent state of Tamil Eelam if the Tigers had their way. Jaffna is currently controlled by the Sri Lankan army but cut off from the rest of the country except by sea and air. Cricket, like much else, has been obliterated in the north and east over the past 25 years.

Of Sri Lanka's 106 Test cricketers, only four have been Tamil. Traditionally they were the country's fast bowlers, big and burly, like Vinodhan John, who opened the bowling in their inaugural Test in England in 1984. On that same



## Murali walks tightrope in country riven by war

first morning Tamil demonstrators ran on to the pitch at Lord's, to huffs and guffaws, but almost a quarter of a century later those grievances have not been fully addressed.

The only Tamil in Sri Lanka's current team - since the batsman Russel Arnold retired - is Muralitharan, who comes from the smaller of the two communities, the Plantation or Estate Tamils. When British tea-planters in Victorian times wanted the leaves picked, slavery was no longer an option and the Sinhalese didn't fancy back-breaking work.

So, from south India, slight and wiry Tamils were imported, among them Muralitharan's grandfather. The community still picks tea in the lush hills between Kandy and Nuwara Eliya: and some are stateless, not wanted by Sri Lanka or India, a problem which Britain left behind.

Muralitharan's father, Muttiah, studied hard and set up a biscuit factory on the outskirts of Kandy (he never had time to play cricket). The family business now employs 300 people of all communities. On the production line women in caps laugh and chatter, the machinery comes from Italy and India, and a bus ferries the workers to and from home. And enough money was made to send the son as a weekly boarder to St Anthony's College, where he prattled in the dorm and discovered his extraordinary gift, which culminated in his bowling Paul Collingwood last Monday. It was in his home town, too, and yet the 3,000 England supporters were barely outnumbered by locals, which raised the question of how many more would have celebrated if he had been Sinhalese.

Muralitharan has walked a tightrope, resisting politicians from all sides, at least until his hand was seized last Friday. Yet he has used his position to become a philanthropist of the highest order. Some cricketers from Australia have set up a charity almost as a fashion accessory but Muralitharan has been

doing it discreetly for a long while.

On Dec 26, 2004, he was driving to a project he funds in Seenigama for a prize-giving and might have been drowned by the tsunami if he hadn't been 20 minutes late. His Foundation for Goodness helps two dozen villages in the Sinhalese south in every field of development from computer literacy to female empowerment.

The civil war, meanwhile, continues to kill, as the Anglican Bishop of Colombo reminded readers in one of yesterday's newspapers, which the president might not have eagerly turned to. "The recent arrest and detention of Tamils in very large numbers is both arbitrary and discriminating. That it will further divide us does not seem to matter to those who carry a mandate from the people for good governance." Bishop Duleep de Chickera referred to the bus bomb which killed 15 civilians last week in the third fatal attack during England's tour and added, bravely: "Such human suffering and humiliation are the consequences of the war policies and strategies of the Government and the LTTE."

Muralitharan has become the world's No 1 bowler, and Test record-holder, but what he has done on the field is minor compared to what he does off it.

**Load-Date:** December 9, 2007

## **Two Female rebels killed in northern Sri Lanka**

Xinhua General News Service

November 3, 2007 Saturday 6:00 AM EST

Copyright 2007 Xinhua News Agency

**Section:** WORLD NEWS; Political

**Length:** 164 words

**Dateline:** COLOMBO

### **Body**

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Two **female** rebels were killed in a confrontation between government troops and Tamil Tiger rebels in northern Sri Lanka on Friday, the military said Saturday.

The Media Center for National Security said in a statement that the two **female LTTE** (Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam) were killed in a battle triggered off by the rebels at Navathkulam in the northern district of Vanuniya around 2:30 p.m. local time (0900 GMT).

No damages were caused to the troops during the incident, the military added.

Fighting has been an almost daily occurrence in northern Sri Lanka since mid-September.

Claiming discrimination at the hands of the Sinhala majority, the **LTTE** has been fighting the government since the mid-1980s to establish a separate homeland for the minority Tamils in the north and east.

More than 5,000 people have been killed in the new wave of violence since the end of 2005, making the Norwegian brokered ceasefire agreement exist only on paper.

**Load-Date:** November 4, 2007

## **HighLights of the AAP National Wire at 19:30, Sept 24**

AAP Newsfeed

September 24, 2007 Monday 7:32 PM AEST

Copyright 2007 Australian Associated Press Pty. Ltd.



**Section:** DOMESTIC NEWS

**Length:** 1699 words

**Dateline:** BRISBANE Sept 24

### **Body**

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The Queensland racing industry was plunged into crisis today with two cases of suspected equine influenza (EI) in racehorses trained at Doomben. (Stallions Qld N/L. See also Stallions Vic N/L)  
Stallions Nightlead to come

CANBERRA - The federal government is proposing companies get credit for cutting greenhouse gases before an emissions trading scheme begins, but not for efforts made before this year. (Climate Nightlead, takes in ke Energy)

CANBERRA - Federal Environment Minister Malcolm Turnbull says he plans to follow the advice of a scientific report he's received on Tasmania's proposed \$2 billion pulp mill, but he won't reveal the decision for about a week. (Pulp Nightlead)

CANBERRA - Three Australian soldiers were wounded and an explosive detection dog killed in two separate roadside bomb attacks by Taliban extremists in southern Afghanistan last week. (Afghan Aust Nightlead (Pic available))

CANBERRA - Australia will continue to ride the minerals boom, the federal government's chief resources forecaster says. (Commodities Nightlead)

ADELAIDE - A forecast halving of Australia's 2008 wine grape vintage could drive up to 1,000 growers out of the industry. (Wine Nightlead)

DARWIN - Child sex charges against the late Bob Collins were formally withdrawn in a Darwin court today, as his lawyer said the former Labor senator would never get the chance to clear his name. (Collins Nightlead)

MELBOURNE - Investigators were tonight poring over data recorders and eyewitness evidence to determine what caused a smash between two trams in central Melbourne that left 18 people injured. (Trams Nightlead (With Pix, Factbox))

MELBOURNE - Test cricket great Shane Warne has hit back at his ex-wife Simone Callahan, saying claims he cheated on her while they were attempting a reconciliation are wrong. (Warne Nightlead)

## HighLights of the AAP National Wire at 19:30, Sept 24

MELBOURNE - The Australian stock market closed at record highs today as investors finally took back all the ground lost in big falls over late July to mid-August. (Stocks Fronter)

MELBOURNE - Winner of the Brownlow Medal to be announced tonight. (AFL Brownlow)

CANBERRA - Senior ministers have denied any panic in government ranks despite yet another poll showing the coalition heading for a landslide loss in the looming federal election. (Election Second Nightlead (takes in skedded Howard N/L. See also Rudd Andrews, Hawke)

BRISBANE - The equine influenza (EI) crisis has taken a dramatic turn in Queensland with the first likely cases of the disease in racehorses suspected at Doomben in metropolitan Brisbane. (Stallions Qld Lead. See also Stallions Vic N/L)

CANBERRA - Three Australian soldiers were wounded and an explosive detection dog killed in two separate roadside bomb attacks by Taliban extremists in southern Afghanistan last week. (Afghan Aust Nightlead (Pic available))

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MORE jlw

CANBERRA - John James lay on the operating table, a hole in his head and a nurse showing him flashcards. (Brain Nightlead (Pix available))

SYDNEY - Regional broadcaster Prime Television is launching a new website, which it envisages will become a mouthpiece for regional and rural Australians. (Iprime)

SYDNEY - Former US boy band singer Joey Fatone has been confirmed as the host of an Australian talent show The Singing Bee for the Nine Network. (Singing)

SYDNEY - The Australian film industry is entering a period of creativity and productivity after a decade in the doldrums, film critic Peter Thompson says. (Masterclass)

CANBERRA - An influx of migrants has helped the Australian population grow faster over the past year than ever before. (Population. See also Population Vic)

## HighLights of the AAP National Wire at 19:30, Sept 24

CANBERRA - Women with postgraduate qualifications are earning between \$3,000 and \$10,000 a year less than their male counterparts, new figures show. (Postgraduates. EDS: Embargoed until 0001 AEST Wednesday)

CANBERRA - Federal Indigenous Affairs Minister Mal Brough has condemned the Northern Territory government for running a newspaper advertisement saying the commonwealth's new NT takeaway alcohol restrictions will fail. (Indigenous Ad)

CANBERRA - On the eve of a major drought summit, the NSW Shires Association has called for more help for families facing financial and social ruin as the big dry continues its stranglehold on communities. (Drought )

SYDNEY - A security guard badly injured in a shootout with three robbers at a Sydney club may have wounded one of the bandits before they fled empty-handed. (Shot Nightlead)

SYDNEY - Three-year-old Joshua Dundas was so excited about his mother buying a pineapple he ran across the road to tell his older brother. (Dundas)

SYDNEY - Sydney broadcaster Alan Jones honestly believed consent had been given to broadcast the name of a juvenile witness in a murder trial, a judge has been told. (Jones Nightlead)

SYDNEY - It's been hailed as legislation that might help Sydney catch up with the Melbourne hotel culture of small, intimate bars, but approval is not likely any time soon. (Parliament NSW Nightlead)

SYDNEY - A Sydney man who lobbed a flaming bag over the gates of the prime minister's Kirribilli residence for a second time has been ordered to undergo psychiatric treatment. (Treble)

MELBOURNE - Opposition Leader Kevin Rudd has been attacked for a dishonest "pattern of behaviour" involving his health and private dealings. (Andrews Rudd)

MELBOURNE - A barmaid served a patron a shot of disinfectant as a joke at a Melbourne nightclub causing him to become violently ill, a court has been told. (Craig Nightlead)

MELBOURNE - A Victorian man accused of murdering his three sons by driving his car into a dam suffered traumatic grief on the night of the tragedy, his social worker told a court today. (Farquharson )

MELBOURNE - An expert on security issues in South Asia has told a Melbourne court that Sri Lanka's Tamil Tigers organisation has roots which run deep in Australia's Tamil community. (Tamil )

GEEELONG - From scarecrows to premiers, it seems everyone is getting behind Geelong in its bid to finally break a 44-year AFL premiership drought. (AFL Cats Town)

BRISBANE - The Australian victim of a terrifying robbery in Kenya, which resulted in the murder of one of his colleagues, has returned home to Brisbane. (Kensington)

BRISBANE - A woman will undergo psychiatric testing, before being sentenced for a drunken Friday the 13th prank, which ended in the slaughter and decapitation of a goat at a Brisbane church. (Arnold Lead)

BRISBANE - Pensioners have used a forum with federal Community Services Minister Mal Brough to push for a rise in the rate paid to single people. (Pension)

BRISBANE - A motorcyclist has been killed in a collision with a freight truck in Brisbane, taking the state's road toll to nine since the beginning of school holidays on Friday afternoon. (Toll Qld Nightlead)

ADELAIDE - The leaking of the police interview with then alleged terror supporter Mohamed Haneef was a move Australian Federal Police (AFP) commissioner Mick Keelty says he's never seen before. (Haneef Keelty)

PERTH - A prosecutor has called for the immediate detention of a 13-year-old boy who with four others tortured a schoolmate, whipping him with a thorny branch, hanging him up by his underpants and forcing him to sit in a grave. (Bully)

## HighLights of the AAP National Wire at 19:30, Sept 24

PERTH - The family of murdered eight-year-old Perth girl Sofia Rodriguez-Urrutia-Shu have expressed anger at revelations their daughter's killer was investigated by British police in 2001. (Arthurs Nightlead)

CANBERRA - A row has broken out between a branch of the nurses union in Perth and the national chapter of the Australian Nurses Federation and ACTU over anti-Work Choices advertisements. (Workplace WA Nightlead)

CANBERRA - Federal Indigenous Affairs Minister Mal Brough this week will visit a troubled West Australian Aboriginal community where almost 30 men and boys have been charged with child sex offences since April. (Barnham)

DARWIN - From a bush balladeer to a theatrical lawyer, the Northern Territory likes its top public servant with plenty of character. (Administrator NT Nightlead)

DARWIN - Australia's first helium plant will be built in the Northern Territory. (Helium)

HOBART - Tasmanian Premier Paul Lennon and Hobart Lord Mayor Rob Valentine have reassured shoppers the city is open for business, two days after the \$50 million Myer department store blaze. (Myer Nightlead (pix available))

**Load-Date:** September 25, 2007

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## HighLights of the AAP National Wire at 19:30, July 11

AAP Newsfeed

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**Section:** DOMESTIC NEWS

**Length:** 1651 words

### **Body**

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#### HIGHLIGHTS NATIONAL UPDATED

BRISBANE - An Indian doctor under police detention in Brisbane for the past nine days over his possible links to the foiled UK bomb attacks, has finally spoken with his wife in India. (UK Bombs Aust Nightlead (pix available). Second Nightlead to come, following outcome of court application for extended detention)

CANBERRA - Consumers are fed up feeling ripped off at the supermarket and believe the federal opposition's plan for the competition watchdog to more closely monitor grocery prices is long overdue. (Grocery Nightlead)

CANBERRA - He might have been a few cents off, but Kevin Rudd has a pretty good idea of what it costs to feed a family. (Grocery Analysis)

SYDNEY - New South Wales' counter-terrorism chief has admitted police are worried about "the lone wolf factor" in their security preparations for Sydney's APEC Summit. (APEC Security Nightlead)

SYDNEY - Some Australians believe that rapists whose victims are drunk or dressed "provocatively" should be treated with more leniency in court, a study shows. (Rape)

BANGKOK - The Socceroos have been caught up in new security fears over Australians travelling to Indonesia as their Asian Cup campaign threatens to take them to high-risk Jakarta. (Soccer Asian Aust Security. See also Terror Indon Downer)

CANBERRA - Labor warns that Australian troops could be left "holding the baby" in Iraq if the government doesn't outline a strategy for the withdrawal of its forces. (Iraq Aust Nightlead)

SYDNEY - A person of interest in the cruise ship death of Dianne Brimble had his evidence cut short today after a Sydney coroner described his lack of memory as "contemptuous". (Brimble Nightlead)

SYDNEY - Women who start Hormone Replacement Therapy long after going through menopause will do themselves more harm than good, new Australian research shows. (HRT - Embargoed until 0001 AEST Thursday)

HOBART - A giant squid washed up dead on Tasmania's west coast is one of the biggest ever found, weighing in at 250 kilograms, with a cross section as big as a truck tyre and longer than a station wagon. (Squid Nightlead (pix available))

SYDNEY - Australian investors of the failed trans-Tasman property group Bridgecorp are unlikely to recover all their money, the company's receiver says. (Bridgecorp)

BRISBANE - The release of crucial video evidence of Michael Voss's part in an ugly Melbourne pub brawl has his lawyer considering an application to have his court case thrown out. (AFL Brawl Nightlead)

CANBERRA - Australia has warned the Solomons Islands it has become a laughing stock for appointing a man facing child sex charges as its top law officer. (Solomons Aust Nightlead)

AUCKLAND - The Australian government's crackdown on indigenous child sex abuse is facing renewed fire in New Zealand, this time from the country's Green Party. (Indigenous NZ)

## HighLights of the AAP National Wire at 19:30, July 11

LOS ANGELES - Sydney is losing its shine as one of the world's great cities for a holiday. (US Holiday (with factbox))

CANBERRA - Doctors and public hospital managers today defended their record after a new report found 130 serious mistakes occurred in Australia's public hospitals in one year. (Hospitals Nightlead)

SYDNEY - An experimental breast cancer drug designed to treat the most aggressive tumours is closer to registration after approval from a federal government board. (Breast)

SYDNEY - Grinspoon frontman Phil Jamieson has accused a nurse of outing his drug addiction, saying he felt his right to privacy had been "completely raped". (Jamieson)

SYDNEY - Australian band Daddy Cool's reformed line-up will perform nationally with US surf-rock legends The Beach Boys in November. (Daddy)

SYDNEY - It Takes Two winner Jolene Anderson says in her home town of Kempsey on the NSW mid-north coast, it's her father Archie who claims celebrity status. (Anderson)

CANBERRA - Senior federal government minister Nick Minchin has admitted he smoked dope at high school, but says he can't recall whether he and Peter Garrett shared a joint at college. (Marijuana Nightlead)

CANBERRA - Aboriginal activist Mick Dodson says the federal government does not need to seize land from indigenous communities to combat child abuse in the Northern Territory. (Indigenous Dodson)

CANBERRA - Federal Finance Minister Nick Minchin says more land must be released for housing, otherwise house prices will only escalate further and make it even harder for first time home buyers to get into the market. (Housing)

CANBERRA - A federal government minister today encouraged people to watch a controversial documentary that argues humans are not responsible for climate change. (Climate Swindle)

CANBERRA - Prime Minister John Howard says he's worried the Victorian government is playing federal election politics by holding up the national water plan. (Water Howard)

CANBERRA - A key quarterly agriculture index has surged 15.5 per cent on year ago levels, offering another sign farmers are slowly climbing out of a financially disastrous drought period. (Agriculture Index)

CANBERRA - An Australian-designed contraceptive implant that lets male dogs keep their family jewels intact is set to be approved for European pooches. (Dogs - Embargoed until 0300 AEST Thursday)

SYDNEY - Three defence personnel who survived a fatal helicopter crash had to ditch their evacuation training and scramble from the sinking Black Hawk, an inquiry has been told. (BlackHawk Nightlead)

SYDNEY - Just over a week after the Pasha Bulker salvage operation, Newcastle emergency workers today were again on high alert after an oil spill aboard a cargo ship. (Ammonium 2nd Nightlead (With Graphic))

SYDNEY - A Labor government would take its cues from Japan to transform the "arc of instability" in the Asia-Pacific region, opposition foreign affairs spokesman Robert McClelland says. (Pacific McClelland)

SYDNEY - The Pasha Bulker will be handed back to its owners later this week, says the salvage company which hauled the 225-metre coal carrier off a NSW beach. (Ship)

SYDNEY - A 29-year-old Sydney man has been warned he faces "significant" jail time after he pleaded guilty to forcing his underage girlfriend into prostitution. (Salvatore Nightlead)

SYDNEY - Sydney drivers are more likely to use the "one finger salute" but are more courteous than motorists in Melbourne and Brisbane, a survey has found. (Drivers)

SYDNEY - The state's rail chief admits his organisation "lacks a maintenance culture" after human error led to a train becoming stranded on the Sydney Harbour Bridge triggering commuter chaos across the city. (Rail Nightlead)

MELBOURNE - A Sydney man with alleged links to the Sri Lankan terrorist organisation the Tamil Tigers met with a man wanted over the murder of former Indian prime minister Rajiv Gandhi, a Melbourne court heard today. (Rajeevan Nightlead)

MELBOURNE - A fire has broken out at Melbourne's controversial "triangle" site in St Kilda, where developers plan to replace iconic venues with a new entertainment precinct. (Triangle)

MELBOURNE - Three men have appeared in a Melbourne court over their alleged role in an international cocaine ring. (Cocaine Nightlead)

MELBOURNE - The Melbourne building which served as Australia's High Court before a new one was built in Canberra has been included in the National Heritage List. (Heritage)

MELBOURNE - A Victorian nursing home carer has been cleared of indecently assaulting a 94-year-old dementia patient but still stands accused on eight other charges, including three counts of rape. (Alexander)

BRISBANE - The Queensland government is to launch an advertising campaign discouraging discrimination against overseas-trained doctors. (Doctors Advert)

BRISBANE - The man who entered a burning house in south-east Queensland to try to save an elderly woman said he acted on instinct. (Body 2nd Nightlead)

BRISBANE - The Queensland government will consider banning smoking in cars carrying children in a review of the state's smoking laws. (Smoking Qld)



## HighLights of the AAP National Wire at 19:30, July 11

BRISBANE - A teenage schoolgirl and her boyfriend were so desperate to be together they plotted to "silently kill" her strict parents by slashing their throats, a court has heard. (Hockey)

BRISBANE - A baby that was dumped in a Gold Coast toilet block was blessed and given a symbolic religious bracelet before flying to Ireland to be reunited with his mother. (Baby Qld (Pic available))

BRISBANE - A tiny south-west Queensland council is taking on the state government over an opinion poll showing support for controversial forced council amalgamations. (Councils Nightlead)

BRISBANE - More than one in five Queensland children are overweight or obese, new figures show. (Obesity)

BRISBANE - Queensland Health raids have netted more than \$100,000 worth of banned ice pipes, bongs and bong parts in Brisbane and the Gold Coast. (Bongs)

PERTH - Western Australia is calling for other states and the commonwealth to send police officers to help stop paedophilia in the state's Aboriginal communities. (Indigenous WA Nightlead)

PERTH - A childcare worker committed assault by tying down a baby's legs with bedsheets to help it sleep at a Perth child care centre, a magistrate says. (Turtle)

PERTH - Two outlaw motorcycle gang members wanted on assault charges have given themselves up to police after a month on the run. (Mercanti Lead. N/L to come)

DARWIN - A man accused of taking a sleeping 10-year-old girl from her bed and sexually assaulting her at a remote Aboriginal community will remain in police custody. (Girl Nightlead)

DARWIN - The town camps of Alice Springs have backed a move by the Northern Territory government to ban alcohol in the hotspots notorious for crime, violence and substance abuse. (Indigenous Camps)

HOBART - Animal activists have got their claws into a Tasmanian zoo as it awaits delivery of two Bengal tigers. (Tigers)

**Load-Date:** July 11, 2007

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## *The mystic touch*

Canberra Times (Australia)

February 4, 2007 Sunday

Final Edition

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**Section:** A; Pg. 10

**Length:** 1508 words

**Byline:** The Canberra Times

### **Body**

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FOR PEOPLE who have, in recent years, seen more than their fair share of tragedy, Sri Lankans smile an awful lot.

The smile is often preceded by the national greeting, ayubowan, delivered with hands joined, as in prayer, which means "may you live a long life".

That might sound a bit hollow to the relatives of the 32,000 killed in the tsunami two years ago, or of the many thousands killed in the continuing conflict between the national government and the *Tamil Tigers*.

But life expectancy in Sri Lanka remains a healthy 72.

The happiness experts who pop up almost daily might argue that this is linked to that ubiquitous smile.

But it might also owe something to the benefits of a philosophical and healthcare system that goes back thousands of years.

Ayurveda is a Sanskrit word meaning "the science of life". Based on Hindu philosophy, it was first conceived in India more than 5000 years ago and arrived in Sri Lanka 2500 years later, at about the same time as Buddhism.

While we were grappling with fire and gazing proudly at our rough flint tools, the Sri Lankan king Buddhassa, himself an eminent physician, was building hospitals.

Setting out on an Ayurvedic journey through this island shaped like a teardrop, my first stop was Ayurveda Pavilions, a collection of 12 beautiful villas in Negombo, on the west coast just outside Colombo, which has twice been voted the world's best spa. The huge villas, inspired by the traditional midah, or ancestral house, have their own verandas and private courtyards.

Set around grounds filled with tropical foliage and medicinal plants, they are exquisite.

Mine boasted not just a medley of comforts but a little library of improving tomes. Don't Worry, Be Healthy: A Buddhist Guide to Health and Healing and How to Live as a Good Buddhist nestled alongside the New Testament in German, French and English. It was the first of many reminders that this is a country whose religiously diverse population (70 per cent Buddhist, 15 per cent Hindu, 7.5 per cent Christian and 7.5 per cent Muslim) live extremely harmoniously.

## The mystic touch

As soon as I'd unpacked, Dr Sujeewa was dispatched to my garden to set me on the path to health and healing.

Ayurveda was, she said, a system based as much on prevention as cure, one whose main aim was to balance the three central energies, or doshas: vatta, pitta and kapha.

Vatta, apparently, is like air, and imbalances can cause pain, migraine and paralysis. Pitta is like fire, and imbalances can cause digestive, hormonal and skin disorders.

Kapha is like water, and imbalances can cause high cholesterol, respiratory problems and colds.

The balance of the different doshas varies according to weather, state of mind and diet, she said. I was predominantly pitta, which made me "very intelligent" but "very vengeful".

The treatment, which would involve lots of cooling foods and oil massages, would start immediately. A tiny, pretty woman washed my feet with sandalwood powder and then poured warm oil onto my neck and scalp. With delicate, circular movements, and little flutterings of her fingers, she slowly massaged it in.

Once she'd finished, she was joined by another tiny, skinny colleague and together they tackled my body.

It's really quite something to have two people massaging you at once: two hands clasping your own while two other hands gently knead your stomach and, indeed, quite vigorously, your breasts.

After a soothing herbal tea, a delicious dinner, an excellent night's sleep and a healing breakfast of red rice, curry, rotis and the traditional green rice soup known as "herbal porridge", it was time to get going.

N EXT STOP was history and nature, in the area known as the Cultural Triangle, via the elephant orphanage in Pinnawela.

I'm not sure that it necessarily had anything to do with Ayurveda, but the 150-odd elephants were, when I arrived, all coated in mud.

In an amusing parody of my lovely treatment, they tried to scrape it off themselves, and each other, before lumbering to the river for a proper bath.

There are sometimes wild elephants around our next destination, Vil Uyana, a new eco resort near the extraordinary rock fortress at Sigiriya.

Dr Shiromi Wijesinghe, the hotel's Ayurvedic physician, told me more about Ayurveda excellent for paralysis, fistulae and haemorrhoids, apparently and liaised with the chef to provide exquisite, healing meals.

I could only gasp at the "treatment", too: another sublime massage and facial, with aromatic oils and herbal masks, followed by a soak in a candle-lit, flower-filled herbal bath.

En route to Galle next morning, we stopped at Siddhalepa hospital, a private Ayurvedic hospital run by the Hettigoda family, one of the biggest manufacturers of Ayurvedic products worldwide.

The hospital, according to one consultant, Dr Tudor Senadheera, treats 25 to 30 outpatients a day, and has room for about 20 patients in private rooms.

Does he, I wondered, use astrology in his diagnostic work? "Oh yes," he replied, with a firm nod. "It is essential to see the situation in the stars."

In this, he is hardly alone. Most Sri Lankans wouldn't dream of taking a major decision without consulting an astrologer including its politicians.

At the Barberyn Beach resort, at Weligama, where I was to spend the next six days, Dr Pushpa took me firmly in hand.

### The mystic touch

My pulse was weak, she told me. My blood was thin. My blood pressure was low and my tongue indicated an excess of toxins or ama.

She would prescribe plenty of herbal medicines, all made on the premises, a strict diet and a daily regime of oils, relaxation and herbal baths. I thought the beauty of the place alone would heal me.

The sister resort of Barbelyn Reef, the first Ayurvedic resort in Sri Lanka, Barbelyn Beach is set on a hillside overlooking a palm-fringed beach.

The 6ha grounds have been beautifully landscaped and the views in every direction are stunning.

Built in 2003 and unaffected by the tsunami, Barbelyn Beach is comfortable, plain and unpretentious.

The health centre feels like a health centre, not a spa. The treatments are administered largely by young women in stripey pinafores, like school uniforms, in simple cubicles with functional lighting and plain white tiles and they are amazing.

First, I was ensconced, wearing only my knickers, in a chair in front of a mirror, and left to contemplate my spare tyres, while a young woman massaged my head and back.

Then I was moved to the couch where a second woman joined her in pummelling me all over with pungent oils and patting me with hot herbal "puddings".

Feeling, and smelling like a fatty joint of meat, I was led downstairs to lie in a kind of casket, with my face over a pot of steaming herbs. After 20 minutes of snoring over the scent of sandalwood, it was out to the herbal garden, where I was covered in heated, oil-infused cotton-wool packs and a honey herbal face pack, and left to listen to the birds, and the monks in the temple chanting.

When the packs were removed, I was taken to a shower, where a smiley older woman anointed me with a herbal milk before leaving me to have a shower and then leading me to my herbal bath. With a metal jug, she splashed hot herbal water on my back, stomach, knees and feet.

This extraordinary ritual took place every day, except one, after a delicious lunch and before an equally delicious four-course dinner.

The strict "control diet" that Dr Pushpa had put me on was, in fact, a delight. You could stuff your face with fruit, vegetables, rice, rotis, curries and soups, and drink unlimited quantities of coconut water and fresh fruit juice.

I couldn't imagine how I could lose weight on it - and, indeed, I didn't. When Dr Pushpa next weighed me, I had put on half a kilo.

It was time, she told me, for virechana karma, or "body cleanse", the only part of my Barbelyn trip that I can't say I enjoyed.

This involved rising at six for a stomach massage and a disgusting herbal "decoction" and then spending most of the day stuck in my room in order to make frequent, urgent trips to the loo.

Still, it could have been worse.

Some people are prescribed vamana karma, a vomiting treatment, some raktha mookshana karma, or bloodletting with leeches, and others vasthi karma, enemas with herbal potions, oils or cow's urine.

After a day monitoring the size and shape of my stools, as instructed, and eating only rice gruel, I did lose the half kilo I had gained - Ayurveda is, clearly, not a quick fix. Over a couple of weeks, most people do lose a few kilos.

I didn't have a couple of weeks, although I wanted to stay forever.

### The mystic touch

I left, armed with herbal pills, face packs and pastes, stories of dramatic health improvements and a fierce determination to come back.

E N ROUTE to the airport, I spent a night at the Siddhalepa health resort in Wadduwa, where I had a herbal facial and did meditation with a Buddhist monk - but it just wasn't the same.

Does Ayurveda work? I don't know. Much of it sounds to me like nonsense, but the results, both anecdotal and in studies, particularly relating to Alzheimer's, paralysis and skin disorders, can be impressive. The Independent

**Load-Date:** February 3, 2007

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## **'The producers always want me to sing about sex'; THE HOT SEAT**

Sydney Morning Herald (Australia)

September 22, 2007 Saturday

First Edition

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**Section:** SPECTRUM; Arts & Entertainment; Pg. 4

**Length:** 1454 words

**Byline:** M.I.A. talks to Ben Sisario

### **Body**

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MAYA ARULPRAGASAM'S Brooklyn apartment was a neglected mess when she finally returned to it after six months overseas. But it took only a day to straighten it up and turn it into her version of a pied-a-terre, a makeshift multimedia headquarters. An audio mixing board, film canisters and shiny gold and black dancing outfits stand on one side of the apartment and half an uneaten papaya waits on a table in the back.

Arulpragasam, better known as the rapper M.I.A., is in town for only about a week before going on tour, and when I ask when she will return to the spacious studio in Bedford-Stuyvesant, a Caribbean and African immigrant neighbourhood, she shrugs. "I spent time finding that couch," she says, pointing to one of the few items of furniture, "and I haven't even sat in it."

Displacement is nothing new for M.I.A. In fact, she seems to thrive on it. A description of her life and music is inevitably like one of those old movie montages in which a plane zigzags across a map from continent to distant continent. She left Sri Lanka at the age of nine, a refugee from an ethnic civil war that's still roiling, and discovered hip-hop in a London housing project. After art school in Britain she began making music that was simple and handmade but had a far-reaching ambition, with flirty yet brutally evocative lyrics set against whip-crack electro beats, dancehall reggae and Brazilian baile funk.

Her debut album, *Arular* (2005), sold a modest 129,000 copies but hit a critical jackpot, both in the mainstream press and the blogosphere. For her follow-up, *Kala*, released earlier this month, the original strategy was the conventional one: to pair with brand-name producers and shoot for pop hits. But things did not go according to plan. Instead, the album became, by necessity and by choice, another restless, far-flung journey.

Blocked from returning to the US for most of the last year because of delays in renewing her working visa, she wound up travelling to India, Jamaica, Trinidad and Australia, where she recorded with the Wilcannia Mob. The resulting songs feel airborne and deliberately rootless. The enormous drums of *Boyz*, for example, were recorded in India but the rest of the song - a Bollywood-tinged club banger about the rowdy, war-starting sex - was made in Trinidad. *World Town* rewrites a Baltimore hip-hop anthem for a violent Third World ghetto. The dizzyingly abstract percussion loop of *BirdFlu* is spiked with Indian dhol drums and chicken squawks.

"I'm just trying to build some sort of bridge," she says of her work. "I'm trying to create a third place, somewhere in between the developed world and the developing world."

## 'The producers always want me to sing about sex' THE HOT SEAT

M.I.A. has called Kala her "feminine" album and her tribute to the everyday sacrifices of her mother, for whom it is named (her first, Arular, was named after her father). She worked as a seamstress, raising three children on her own. As M.I.A. spends part of an afternoon shopping for fabric and medallions to sew onto an outfit for a performance that night, it isn't hard to imagine a little of her mother in her. One of her new songs, Jimmy, is based on an early '80s Bollywood disco hit, which she said evoked comforting childhood memories of dancing at parties and weddings. "This album is also about the other stories," she says. "The good things you remember."

But politics are still front and centre in Kala. Arular was partly rooted in her own experience of escaping a war zone; in Kala she moves beyond her own story, embracing the role of globe-trotting, chest-beating ambassador for all the world's downtrodden. In her new videos she commands armies of male dancers and the album is full of Bono-esque declarations. "M.I.A., Third World democracy/I got more records than the KGB," she asserts in the Clash-sampling Paper Planes. On 20 Dollar, about the availability of cheap guns in Africa, she boasts, "I put people on the map that never seen a map."

Travel exigencies may have prevented her from doing much recording in America but, as M.I.A. frames the story now, she also became disillusioned early on with the prospect of making a pop album, dismissing the privilege of working with big-name producers. "By the time I got to America," she says, "every amazing producer I could have possibly gone to work with, Paris Hilton had already been there. So I carried on doing my thing elsewhere. Because you know what? Me and Paris would deliver the same song, right? Because technically they always want me to sing about sex. And guess what? She has more time on her hands to sing about that than me."

(In the end Timbaland produced one track on the album, Come Around, a mediocre leftover from sessions for his own recent solo record.)

Arular had a limited sonic scope - it's basically an upbeat party record, until you notice the narratives of violence and frantic escape - but Kala globalises the M.I.A. sound even further. The trade-off is that despite such exhilarating moments as Boyz and BirdFlu, the album is less unified than its predecessor.

But M.I.A.'s methods created other problems: it turns out that it's quite complicated for a major record label to release an album recorded all over the world with an ad hoc cast of local collaborators who were not initially asked to sign legal releases. "I didn't realise how anal everyone is when it comes to paperwork," she says without a trace of sarcasm.

And then there are her politics to consider. The issues she raises are far more complex and discomfiting than pop's usual calls for peace and recycling. And given the dearth of outspoken young **female** stars, she's a rarity.

Still, her objectives have not been spelt out very clearly, leading to robust debate online and in the music press about her perceived sympathies with the Palestine Liberation Organisation ("Like PLO I don't surrender," she sings in Sunshowers from Arular) and the **Tamil Tigers**, known for their suicide bombing. Sensing radical chic, Slate magazine said the agitprop of the lyrics and artwork on her first album felt "more like an idle attempt at provocation than engaged expression".

M.I.A. denies any political advocacy and says that despite her use of jingoistic imagery her songs come from the point of view of the powerless noncombatant. "I wanted it to be about how confusing it is to talk about things as a civilian when you are caught up in something like that," she says of Arular.

Even in conversation M.I.A. leapfrogs the planet. Over a couple of hours she discusses an uncle who works for Amnesty International in Sri Lanka; describes shooting a gun into the Baltimore sky on New Year's Eve with Blaqstarr, one of the producers on Kala; wonders whether Nelson Mandela deserves her respect as a good family man; and recounts a trip to Liberia to help reintroduce former child soldiers into society. "I went there just as a human being," she says. "I wanted to see what a country looks like after a war because I come from a place that has never seen the end of it."

## 'The producers always want me to sing about sex' THE HOT SEAT

These generally have not been blockbuster topics in pop music and, given M.I.A.'s unorthodox recording choices, the bad track record of British rappers in the American market and her intense if ambiguous political messages, they raise the question of how much impact she can have on the mainstream.

Jimmy Iovine, chairman of her American label, Interscope, compares her to Patti Smith and Lou Reed. "The really left-of-centre artists," he says, "you really wonder about them. Can the world catch up? Can the culture meet them in the middle? That's what the adventure is. It doesn't always happen but it should and it could."

M.I.A., 32, says she has already reached an important goal. "The fact that I'm even in the music game," she says, "the fact that I even get questioned on who I am and what I'm doing here - it's enough." Her biggest priority, she adds, is "staying by my creativity, because that is actually the only thing I have".

Late that night at Studio B, a club in the heart of hipster Brooklyn, M.I.A. takes the stage in lace-up gold tights and immaculate white high-top sneakers. That sight alone draws a lusty cheer.

The biggest response from the far-beyond-sold-out crowd, though, is for Pull Up the People, a favourite from Arular, in which she calls herself a soldier and "a nice, nice fighter". With a sharp beat and quirky hooks, it's the kind of song that works perfectly on a dance floor regardless of whether the dancers know or care anything about the lyrics. But this crowd knows them well. As M.I.A. holds out the microphone to her fans, they chant her signature line.

"I've got the bombs to make you blow," they holler. "I got the beats to make it bang."

Kala is out now on XL/Remote Control. M.I.A. plays The Forum, Moore Park, on Friday.

## Graphic

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PHOTO: Photo: Jim Cooper/AP

**Load-Date:** September 21, 2007



## **Sri Lankan rebels hold military drills to show their strength despite recent defeat**

Associated Press International

July 13, 2007 Friday 11:29 AM GMT

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**Section:** INTERNATIONAL NEWS

**Length:** 1076 words

**Byline:** By RAVI NESSMAN, Associated Press Writer

**Dateline:** INSIDE REBEL TERRITORY Sri Lanka

### **Body**

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Separatist Tamil Tiger guerrillas in green striped camouflage assaulted a mock government fort with gunfire, rockets and pipe bombs in an early morning drill Friday at a secret location in rebel-held territory in northern Sri Lanka.

Rebels escorted reporters along back roads to a training base at a secret location to demonstrate that they are still a powerful military force, despite the government's announcement a day earlier that it had wrested control of eastern Sri Lanka for the first time in 13 years.

The rebels said they have simply switched from conventional warfare to guerrilla tactics in the east, and they still maintain a large swath of territory in the north that they run as a virtual state.

"Gaining territory is not victory, it is a false hope. We will again come out and attack (the government)," said Lt. Col. V. Nishaanthan, the "offensive and defensive training master" who led the drills Friday.

Rebel leaders said the exercise was intended as practice for coming attacks on nearby government positions. As fighters prepared for the drills, shells fired by government forces exploded in the distance. Reporters allowed onto the training base had to agree to keep the location secret.

Many of the fighters were dressed in the striped fatigues that have become a rebel trademark. Others wore olive green uniforms with ammunition vests. Many wore flip flops and when they ran in formation a loud thwacking sound followed them. A few were barefoot.

The training ground was a vast plain of white sand, dotted with small patches of brush. Rusting bullet cases lay on the ground, signaling it has been used before, but not recently.

"We can't keep a training base for a long time in this area," said Rasiah Ilanthirayan, the Tamil guerrillas' military spokesman, pointing to the threat of government airstrikes.

The drills began with three **female** fighters charging a foxhole. When they reached the ditch, one fighter shot point blank into it several times.

## Sri Lankan rebels hold military drills to show their strength despite recent defeat

When asked what the fighters would have done if the soldiers inside had surrendered, officials at first said they would take them prisoner.

But Ilanthirayan laughed: "It's a war. It's not kindergarten."

The Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam have been fighting for an independent homeland in the country's north and east for more than two decades, citing discrimination from Sri Lanka's Sinhalese majority. The conflict has killed an estimated 70,000 people on this island nation southeast of India. A 2002 Norwegian-brokered truce has all but collapsed thanks to new fighting in the past 20 months that has left 5,000 people dead.

The Tamil Tiger rebels have waged conventional attacks against government forces, but have also attacked military and civilian targets in government-held areas and carried out more than 240 suicide bombings. They are listed as a terror group by the United States and European Union.

"We can easily change our tactics and strategy from a conventional army to more of a guerrilla unit," said S. Puleedevan, secretary general of the **LTTE** Peace Secretariat, who escorted reporters to the drill.

The rebel force, a cult-like army where fighters carry cyanide capsules to swallow in case of capture, is thought to number about 10,000. Human rights groups accuse them of recruiting child soldiers a practice the rebels say they will phase out by the end of the year.

The group also maintains a large flotilla that it uses for attacks and to smuggle weapons and goods to its section of the island. In March, the guerrillas launched their first airstrike, using a single-propeller plane to bomb an air force base next to the international airport outside Colombo.

The government and rebels routinely shell each other over the so-called Forward Defense Lines between rebel-held territory and the largely government-controlled Jaffna peninsula in the north. The Sri Lankan military also sends tiny units of its own soldiers into rebel territory to lay mines and carry out guerrilla attacks, according to human rights groups.

The exercises Friday were geared toward more conventional fighting. During the main drill, a unit of soldiers took positions behind brush in the field about 100 meters (330 feet) from a mock fort made of logs and mud and surrounded by rings of concertina wire.

The attack intended to be a nighttime operation began with the launching of a rocket-propelled grenade, and then a cacophony of rifle fire rang out. A trio of **female** fighters off in the distance dressed in the Tamil Tiger uniform of checked shirts, black pants and their long hair braided and tied into buns manned a 50-caliber machine gun that laid down more covering fire.

A single-file line of fighters approached the fort. Two ran ahead and placed a long white pipe bomb which the rebels say has been newly designed to be lighter and more powerful under the first circle of concertina wire, then blew it up.

They blew up a second and a third defensive wall as well, sending sand flying into the air and shaking the earth. The fighters then overran the fort.

"This is very crucial to first attack the enemies' front line to make a gateway to enter into the nerve part of the military complex," Nishaanthan said.

Puleedevan said the guerrillas learned about warfare from the experiences of Napoleon, Clausewitz, Machiavelli, examples from the two world wars, the more recent fighting in Bosnia and East Timor, and from firsthand experience.

"We learn everything, whatever is available, and we are still learning," he said.

Sri Lankan rebels hold military drills to show their strength despite recent defeat

The commanders also show their fighters films like "Saving Private Ryan," "Blackhawk Down," and "Finding Nemo," he said, without explaining how such entertainment helps train troops.

In brief interviews, several fighters repeated the group's rhetoric and praised the rebels' leader, the rarely seen Velupillai Prabhakaran.

Nishaanthan, the commander of the exercise, said he joined the rebels 19 years ago "to liberate our Tamil people from the oppressors." Of the 300 people he went through training with, he knows of only 10 to 15 who are still alive.

Thambiraja Ravindran, 26, a platoon leader, said he joined two years ago because "the oppressive force is committing a lot of atrocities against our people."

"We are not running as (the government) says. We are prepared to fight against all its movements and operations," he said. "We strongly believe, under the guidance of our leader, that we will soon achieve our goals, and those running will be the forces of Sri Lanka."

**Load-Date:** July 14, 2007

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End of Document

## **SRI LANKA: ACTIVISTS FEAR BIG DONORS WILL IGNORE REAL NEEDS**

IPS-Inter Press Service

June 4, 2003, Monday

Copyright 2003 IPS-Inter Press Service/Global Information Network

**Length:** 1058 words

**Byline:** By Feizal Samath

**Dateline:** COLOMBO, Jun. 4

### **Body**

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Ask farmer Saranaris from Sri Lanka's north-west whether the future lies in economic growth and private-sector-led development and he says, "I want to continue growing rice, but the big donors tell me to grow something else."

At Illukulam village in the same region, returnees displaced by the country's 20-year-old conflict are offered support by the Asian Development Bank (AsDB) to grow crops other than their traditional rice. They have no place to store the rice, but a spanking new pre-school lies closed and unused.

Residents in the north and east, the regions most affected by the conflict between minority Tamils and majority Sinhalese, worry that little attention is being paid to agriculture and fishing, which account for 80 percent of the local economy.

But these issues are unlikely to be on the discussion table when foreign donors and institutions meet in Tokyo June 9-10. That, activists say, is because Sri Lanka's future has virtually been signed, sealed and delivered by these donors.

It does not help that the meeting is being boycotted by the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (**LTTE**) guerrillas, who say they are frustrated by the slow pace of development and rehabilitation in the north-east. The rebels, who fought a bloody rebellion until a ceasefire came into place more than a year ago, suspended peace talks with Colombo in April.

Some say that the effort to 'regain Sri Lanka' -- as the development plan to be given to the donors is called -- ignores the needs of the people for whom it is supposed to make a difference

Instead of stressing agriculture and fisheries - the main livelihood of people in the north-east -- the document follows the formula of putting a heavy focus on physical infrastructure and big-ticket projects, critics say.

Jayanandan Joseph, a 58-year old peace coordinator in Jaffna in the north-east, stresses that while the donor summit is important, the people must remain the ultimate beneficiaries. "Often the poor are at the wrong end of the stick and don't get the benefits of development," he said by telephone.

Efforts to revive the local economy can be said to have succeeded if concrete changes, going far beyond growth figures or percentages, take place - when schools are rebuilt, children are able to learn, unemployment is reduced and **women** are given respect, he says.

## SRI LANKA : ACTIVISTS FEAR BIG DONORS WILL IGNORE REAL NEEDS

"Whether it is big business or small business or industries, people should get the benefits and be able to live in dignity," he added.

The 'Regaining Sri Lanka' document, which the World Bank helped prepare and will be presented to close to 100 countries, lending agencies and international organizations, deals extensively with employment and labor, education, finance and investment, infrastructure development, and improving productivity. But there is no section on agriculture.

It says rapid economic growth is possible only "we aggressively seek investment and market possibilities for our goods and services around the world". It puts a major share of responsibility on the private sector for providing the resources that "will be needed for the reconstruction requirements that peace brings".

"This cannot be avoided. It is the private sector that makes the decisions that determine productivity and it is on this basis that future growth will depend," the policy document says.

But social scientist Sunil Bastian says the government must be careful of banking too much on good figures. "The proposals for growth are preoccupied with macro issues, with little or no relation to rural needs. It doesn't even take into account the debates across the country on water rights and land market issues," he explained.

This stems from what he and other critics call the main weakness of the 'Regaining Sri Lanka' document, which is its preoccupation with having the country achieve 10 percent economic growth to reflect reconstruction efforts.

Bastian says that he favours economic growth, but growth alone is not enough. "Even if we concentrate on the economic aspects of our lives, there is enough evidence around the world to show that the focus on economic growth alone will not alleviate poverty," he said. In Tokyo, the Sri Lankan government hopes to raise \$ 3.3 billion over a three-year period in a programme that focuses on accelerated growth and reducing poverty through private-sector led development.

The World Bank, however, appears to be pleased with the 'Regaining Sri Lanka' document. "It is a clear departure from the previous unsustainable policies of redistribution and transfers to alleviate poverty," the bank said in a recent document.

Ironically, some officials of multilateral agencies said at a recent gathering of economists here that some programmes have indeed failed because of donors' policies - and because governments of developing countries allowed donors to dictate the terms of development.

"Don't allow donors to own projects. Be careful of bad advice," said Peter Harrold, country director of the World Bank. "Often it has been proven that home-spun projects succeed more than donor-driven ones."

When recipient governments lack skills in preparing projects, Harrold said, they tend to rely on donors, which then dictate terms.

In fact, one could argue that there are too many projects in Sri Lanka, Harrold added. For instance, he says that a visit to the mainly Sinhalese southern part of the country shows "so many" offices of government projects -- but people still do not have services like water, power or basic infrastructure.

"A vast amount of the funds to the south hasn't been utilized for the people's benefits. The money is spent on bureaucracy and project offices," he added.

Activists say it is time for donors to heed some of their own advice - and to reorient their plans for Sri Lanka's reconstruction along lines closer to the needs of people in war-ravaged areas.

"There is a heavy concentration on infrastructure and focus on big investment aimed at generating jobs and alleviating poverty, but where is the attention to traditional livelihoods?" asked Nimalka Fernando, chairwoman of the Tokyo-based International Movement Against Discrimination and Racism (IMADR), which has been lobbying for greater participation by civil society at next week's meeting of donors.

SRI LANKA : ACTIVISTS FEAR BIG DONORS WILL IGNORE REAL NEEDS

"In such a case, what are we regaining in Sri Lanka if the livelihoods of the people are being taken away?" she said.

**Load-Date:** June 5, 2003

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End of Document

## **SRI LANKA: PARLIAMENTARY MONK TARGETS ALCOHOL, TOBACCO**

IPS-Inter Press Service

February 8, 2006, Wednesday

Copyright 2006 IPS-Inter Press Service/Global Information Network

**Length:** 1113 words

**Byline:** By Kalinga Seneviratne

**Dateline:** COLOMBO, February 8 2006

### **Body**

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A Buddhist monk who introduced a bill in the Sri Lankan parliament to control the sale of tobacco and alcohol says he has received wide support in a country known for the deep ethnic and religious divisions. Omalphe Sobitha, parliamentarian representing the pro-Sinhalese Buddhist National Heritage Party (JHU), believes that his private member's bill might even help his party shed its "extremist image."

"JHU is not extremist or Sinhala chauvinist, but acting on the behalf of all ethnic and religious groups. The Christians, Muslims and Hindus are all supporting our bill," he told IPS in an interview. "We brought this (bill) to save our people, not to condemn anyone."

Sri Lankan President Mahinda Rajapakse owes his victory leading the Sri Lanka Freedom Party (SLFP) in the November elections to support from the JHU, in return for which he had pledged a tough stance against Tamil militant groups that have been waging a two-decade-old civil war to create a separate Tamil homeland in the north and east of the island.

Rajapakse's victory immediately jeopardized a truce forged between the Sri Lankan government and the main militant group Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (**LTTE**) in February 2002. However, the two sides have, through international pressure, agreed to sit down together for peace talks in Geneva later this month.

Sobitha's bill, which was presented to parliament this month, was immediately challenged in court by the powerful tobacco and alcohol industries on the grounds that it violated freedom of expression and free choice and the right to engage in a fair trade. The two industries provide more than 15 percent of government tax revenues.

If passed, the legislation will establish a statutory body that would regulate the sale of cigarettes and alcohol. Its aim is to ban the sale of cigarettes and alcoholic products in supermarkets.

"Our people are getting addicted to alcohol at an alarming rate, and recent surveys have shown that Sri Lanka has the highest per capita consumption rates for alcohol in the world," noted Sobitha. "We cannot stop the sale of alcohol or tobacco, but we can surely control its sale."

Sri Lanka also happens to have one of the highest suicide rates in the world, indicating a high degree of stress and frustration among its people that has been blamed on the long-running civil war.

Sobitha says that in a country where a majority of the people are Buddhists, it is a shame that the government and the people have not been heeding the advice given by the Buddha more than 2,500 years ago on the protection of personal wealth and well-being.

## SRI LANKA : PARLIAMENTARY MONK TARGETS ALCOHOL, TOBACCO

"Among the three major reasons for not been able to protect your wealth is alcohol, gambling and loitering at night," said Sobitha. "Alcohol not only destroys your wealth, it also has an impact on the welfare of others, especially when domestic violence, abuse of women and children, are on the increase."

Christian churches, which vehemently opposed another bill Sobitha introduced last year seeking to stop "unethical religious conversions," are now strongly backing his anti-substance abuse legislation.

The heads of five Christian denominations have filed a petition in court to appear and support the bill. They said the bill is a means of promoting social and national welfare and arresting social and cultural decline due to alcohol and tobacco abuse -- which the Christian churches have also declared as major social evils afflicting the nation.

About 74 percent of Sri Lanka's 20 million people are Sinhalese, most of them Buddhist, while the predominantly Hindu Tamils constitute 18 percent. Christians and Muslims form 7 percent and 8 percent of the population, respectively.

Non-governmental organizations (NGOs), which have labeled the JHU as 'extremist,' are also backing the bill. The Sri Lanka Federation of NGOs Against Drug Abuse has fully endorsed the proposals in the bill, and said that all citizens in the country must get behind it.

Sobitha has also received praise for the bill from the International Federation of NGOs for the Prevention of Drugs and Substance Abuse for an initiative which takes over from where others failed.

Over the past 30 years, attempts to bring in legislation in the Sri Lankan parliament to control the trade in tobacco and alcohol have died due to industry and underworld pressure.

A number of studies in recent years have pinpointed alcohol abuse as being at the root of many social ills. A consistent finding has been that Sri Lanka's adolescents need access to information about the dangers of alcohol and smoking.

Research commissioned by the Norwegian development agency FORUT in 2004 found that the effects of alcohol on the community were enormous. The poor were affected the most, with many male breadwinners spending the bulk of their incomes on alcohol, resulting in domestic violence and crime.

The Sri Lanka Medical Association (SLMA) has described the bill as "a long overdue step" and called for legislation to implement the provisions of World Health Organization's Framework Convention on Tobacco Control that Sri Lanka ratified in November 2003.

"Sri Lanka took the lead in drafting such legislation and presenting it to parliament few years ago. But this was not taken to the logical end. We are not aware of the influences that led to the proposed legislation being allowed to die a quiet death," the SLMA said in a statement indicating that powerful lobbies have acted against controls on tobacco and alcohol use.

But Sobitha is disappointed at the lack of support shown by parliamentary colleagues. "The MPs have a duty to protect the people from the social ills created by smoking and alcohol consumption. They have the chance now to show that they care," he said.

The monk needs the support of his colleagues because the bill will need a two-thirds majority in parliament to pass or be put to a referendum, if the courts rule that it violates existing constitutional provisions.

Sobitha is confident the court would rule in his favor.

"It is not easy to get a private member's bill passed in parliament. Not only do you need to get it passed through three readings, but many vested interests try to block the process," noted Sobitha, adding that criminal syndicates and the underworld had stakes in stalling the bill. "If they get rid of the member, the bill dies with it."



## SRI LANKA : PARLIAMENTARY MONK TARGETS ALCOHOL, TOBACCO

But, he said, the JHU will tap into the wide community support and will soon start a public awareness campaign around the country to pressure members of parliament into supporting it.

"On this issue we can show how harnessing national harmony could overcome heavy odds and allow parliament to act on the behalf of people," a confident Sobitha said.

**Load-Date:** February 9, 2006

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End of Document

## **Black-belted Tamils raise tensions in Sri Lanka**

Deutsche Presse-Agentur

February 12, 2003, Wednesday 11:35 Central European Time

Copyright 2003 Deutsche Presse-Agentur

**Section:** Miscellaneous

**Length:** 174 words

**Dateline:** Colombo

### **Body**

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Anti-riot squads were deployed in a northern Sri Lankan town on Wednesday to defuse tensions between the army and rebels over Tamil **female** fighters wearing black leather belts around their waists.

The dispute broke out after the military attempted to remove the black belts around two **female** Tamils when they tried to enter the government-controlled Jaffna peninsula, 390 kilometers north of the capital Colombo on Wednesday.

Scandinavian monitors in Sri Lanka - watching over the near year-old ceasefire - were also called in mediate the dispute.

Sri Lanka's military considers the black belt a part of the uniform of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (**LTTE**) rebels, and does not want Tamils enter government areas wearing the clothing.

Under a ceasefire agreement between **LTTE** rebels and the government, Tamils cannot enter military-controlled areas in uniform.

Tensions escalated between civilians, backed by the rebels, and the military who attempted to remove the black belts from the Tamil **women**. dpa ad rk

**Load-Date:** February 12, 2003

## **Suspected youth arrested near Sri Lanka minister residence**

Xinhua General News Service

July 1, 2005 Friday 9:00 AM EST

Copyright 2005 Xinhua News Agency

**Section:** WORLD NEWS; Political

**Length:** 175 words

**Dateline:** COLOMBO

### **Body**

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Sri Lankan police said that five youth have been rounded up near a government minister's residence Thursday night.

The police in the south Colombo area of Bambalapitiya said Friday that five youth were behaving suspiciously near the residence of the Minister Douglas Devananda around 11:00 p.m. local time when they came to be arrested.

They are Tamil youth from the northern province and had lodged up in a lodging house in the capital.

Devananda, leader of the Eelam People's Democratic Party, is a hated rival of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (**LTTE**) rebels.

He survived an assassination attempt in July last year in his ministry offices when a suicide **female** rebel of the **LTTE** blew herself in the nearby police station.

The Tigers are blamed for continued assassinations of their rivals as well as men belonging to the military intelligence units.

The government on Thursday condemned the killing of three soldiers attached to the military intelligence by the Tigers in the eastern district of Batticaloa.

**Load-Date:** July 2, 2005

## *The roundup*

Guardian Weekly

March 25, 2005 - March 31, 2005

Copyright 2005 Guardian Publication, Ltd.

**Section:** The Week; Vol. 172, No. 14; Pg. 2

**Length:** 1033 words

### **Body**

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#### **Americas**

##### **Judge upholds gay marriage**

Gay rights groups in California were celebrating victory after a judge in San Francisco ruled that the state's ban on homosexual marriage was unconstitutional. Judge Richard Kramer's decision is likely to go to appeal to the state's supreme court.

##### **Rap queen guilty of perjury**

Lil' Kim, who defines herself as rap music's Queen Bee, was convicted of perjury for lying about a gun battle in 2001 between rival rappers outside a Manhattan radio station. Kimberley Jones, 30, was found guilty of three charges of perjury and one count of conspiring with a co-defendant to lie before the grand jury. Each count carries a maximum sentence of five years in prison.

##### **Ten die in student gun rampage**

A high school student shot his grandparents dead and then walked through the corridors of his school in northern Minnesota shooting at people, leaving seven more dead and more than a dozen injured before turning the gun on himself. The boy had taken the service weapon of his grandfather, who was a policeman.

#### **Cold war policy maker**

George Kennan, the diplomat who virtually single-handedly established the policy of containment adopted by the US to curb Soviet expansionist tendencies during the 40 years of the cold war, has died aged 101.

#### **Europe**

##### **Italy softens troops pullout threat**

Silvio Berlusconi appeared to soften his threat to pull troops out of Iraq in September, saying the date could be changed. The Italian prime minister has been under huge domestic pressure over Italy's staunch support for US

## The roundup

policy in Iraq after a senior intelligence officer, Nicola Calipari, was killed by US troops in Baghdad while rescuing an Italian hostage.

### **Franco's last stand**

The last statue in Madrid of General Francisco Franco was removed amid chants of "Franco, Franco" and fascist salutes from about 300 supporters of the former Spanish dictator.

### **Russia rewards informers**

Russia announced that it had "fulfilled its promise" by paying the equivalent of \$ 10m to those who betrayed the whereabouts of the Chechen separatist leader, Aslan Maskhadov, who was killed by special forces earlier this month.

### **French go cool on constitution**

A survey by the popular daily newspaper Le Parisien found that 51% of those who have decided how they will vote on May 29 are planning to reject the EU constitution. If the French were to reject the constitution, it could plunge the EU into institutional paralysis and set back the European project by 15 years.

### **Turkish journalists condemn laws**

A new Turkish penal code, which experts say contains severe restrictions on freedom of expression, has provoked mass protests from the country's media.

### **Bomb attacker jailed**

A Paris court jailed Djamel Beghal, a 39-year-old Algerian, for 10 years for organising a suicide bomb attack on the US embassy. Beghal claimed his confession was obtained under torture in Dubai in 2001.

## **Middle East**

### **Serial killer executed in public**

Several thousand Iranians cheered as a man convicted of murdering at least 20 people, most of them children, was publicly executed in Pakdasht. Muhammad Bijeh, 24, was given 100 lashes before he was hanged by a rope attached to a crane.

### **Iraqi police chief assassinated**

The man in charge of the police anti-corruption unit in the northern city of Mosul was assassinated by a suicide bomber as insurgents marked the second anniversary of the US-led war against Saddam Hussein with a wave of violence across Iraq. Meanwhile Lt Jack Saville, a US army platoon leader who ordered his troops to throw two Iraqi prisoners into the Tigris river, was sent to military prison for 45 days and ordered to pay a \$ 12,000 fine.

## The roundup

**Bulldozer firm sued**

The parents of Rachel Corrie, the US peace activist who was crushed to death by an Israeli army bulldozer in the Gaza Strip, is suing Caterpillar Inc, the machine's US manufacturer, accusing the firm of war crimes. The firm denies any responsibility.

**Theatre director killed by blast**

Jon Adams, a British theatre director, was named as the victim of a suicide car bombing in Qatar, which officials believe is the first attack on western interests by al-Qaida in the tiny Gulf state.

**Asia****Sri Lanka and Tamils close to deal**

Under pressure from foreign donors, the Sri Lankan government and Tamil Tiger guerrilla leaders are close to signing their first agreement since peace talks stalled 18 months ago. A deal will release millions of dollars in post-tsunami aid for rebuilding houses, schools and hospitals in areas of the north and east controlled by the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE).

**Nepal 'facing humanitarian crisis'**

Nepal is heading towards the "abyss of humanitarian crisis" because fighting between the army and Maoist rebels has disrupted the flow of essential supplies, international donors said. The tough language will be hard for the Himalayan state's rulers to swallow as foreign aid accounts for 75% of its development budget.

**Kyrgyz leader condemns protesters**

The Kyrgyzstan president, Askar Akayev, condemned protesters in the south of the country who have declared a people's government in the wake of parliamentary elections. The president's supporters won all but six of the parliament's 75 seats.

**Africa****Namibia gets new parliament**

A parliament, largely made up of South West Africa People's Organisation MPs, was sworn in the day before Namibia's founding father, Sam Nujoma, handed over power to Hifikepunya Pohamba.

**Somali village raid kills 22**

Twenty-two people, mainly women and children, died in their beds when rival ethnic Somali clansmen attacked a village before dawn in Mandera, northeastern Kenya.

**Bishop rejects Aids funding**

## The roundup

The bishop of South Rwenzori in Uganda, Jackson Nzerebende Tembo, has rejected about \$ 350,000 to help Aids victims in his area because it comes from the US diocese of Central Pennsylvania, which supported the election of a gay bishop two years ago.

## Oceania

## Be a sport and stop studying

Young Australians are hiding their academic talents and feigning an interest in sport to avoid being ostracised by their peers, according to research at the University of New South Wales. Miranda Gross said the trend could be traced to the early convicts' distrust of wealth, power and learning.

## Graphic

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Picture, Last salute: sympathisers in Madrid protest against the removal of a statue of Spain's former dictator, Francisco Franco, Photo: Pierre-Philippe Marcou/AFP

**Load-Date:** April 4, 2005

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End of Document

## **Tamil rebels commemorate suicide bombers in Sri Lanka**

Deutsche Presse-Agentur

July 5, 2003, Saturday 11:16 Central European Time

Copyright 2003 Deutsche Presse-Agentur

**Section:** Politics

**Length:** 186 words

**Dateline:** Colombo

### **Body**

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Tamil rebels Saturday commemorated the 16th anniversary of launching suicide bomb attacks in their separatist war in Sri Lanka with a variety ceremonies in northern and eastern parts of the country, reports from the area said.

Rebels held ceremonies, both in areas held by them and in areas controlled by government security forces.

The ceremonies in government-controlled areas were attended by rebels in civilian clothing as under a current truce with the government they cannot enter such areas in military garb.

The Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (**LTTE**) carried out the first suicide bomb attack on a military camp in Nelliady, 420 kilometres north of the capital on July 5, 1987 killing 40 soldiers.

Since then 241 **LTTE** suicide bombers including 54 **females** have carried out similar attacks, which became one of their most successful tactics against security forces and politicians.

The current president, Chandrika Kumaratunga, survived a suicide bomb attack in 1999, but lost sight in one eye.

Over 1000 persons have been killed in suicidal attacks by the rebels. dpa david mga

**Load-Date:** July 10, 2003



**WELCOME TO 'ASK STATE DEPARTMENT' -- AN ONLINE INTERACTIVE  
FORUM WHERE YOU CAN SUBMIT QUESTIONS TO SECRETARY RICE AND  
OTHER STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIALS.**

States News Service

July 10, 2007 Tuesday

Copyright 2007 States News Service

**Length:** 2405 words

**Byline:** States News Service

**Dateline:** WASHINGTON

## **Body**

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The following information was released by the U.S. Department of State:

Thank you to all who submitted questions on the Freedom Agenda. We just celebrated Independence Day in the United States, a celebration that gives us a chance to reflect on the importance of freedom and liberty. The United States has a long tradition of supporting democracy and human rights abroad, and I appreciate all the great questions on this important topic.

If you would like to keep on on the latest, be sure to check [www.state.gov](http://www.state.gov) and [www.state.gov/g/drl](http://www.state.gov/g/drl) for information on the Freedom Agenda.

Let's get started.

Question: Do you think there is a chance of bettering the situation in Myanmar? What measures ought to be taken to make this brutal dictatorship disappear in order to free the people there? What do you think of China backing this regime? Isn't China a power far too influential in the region so that we may conclude that there is no solution unless China is willing to take part in promoting freedom, human rights and democracy?

Mr. Krilla: Thanks for the question.

The long-term prospects for improving the social, humanitarian, and economic conditions in Burma depend on the willingness of Burma's military regime to engage in meaningful reform. This would require the regime to release all political prisoners, including Aung San Suu Kyi, and engage in a genuine dialogue with the leaders of Burma's democracy movement, leading to a transition to a civilian, democratic government that respects human rights. Burma also would need to invest seriously in health, education, and infrastructure and abandon its human rights violations, including attacks against civilians in ethnic minority areas, which have resulted in the outflow of approximately 200,000 refugees to neighboring countries.

The United States provides humanitarian aid to Burmese living in Thailand's border areas near Burma. Many of these people are refugees and displaced persons, due to the poor conditions in Burma, and the American development agency USAID has a range of programs to serve them, including programs that promote governance, health, education and HIV/AIDS services.

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SUBMIT QUESTIONS TO SECRETARY RICE AND OTHER STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIALS.

China quickly is becoming Burma's most important partner, offering debt relief, economic development grants, and soft loans used for the construction of infrastructure and light industry in Burma. China has an important role to play in convincing Burma's ruling generals that only through good governance and the rule of law will Burma achieve unity, stability, and prosperity.

Question: As someone who has personally overseen some important steps of African countries towards stabilization and democracy, what special agenda does the President's Freedom Agenda contain for Africa? Is there hope for so many countries which cannot be called but "failed" states with regard to human rights and freedom? What can be done to reduce the culture of corruption in African countries?

Mr. Krilla: Thanks for the question on Africa. I spent several years living there, and have dedicated a good portion of my career to working with Africa's leaders, NGOs and citizens to promote freedom and democracy on the continent, which is a vital component of U.S. foreign policy and the Freedom Agenda.

Examples of democratic governance in Africa can be seen in countries such as Botswana, Ghana, Mali, and South Africa. In the past year, the Democratic Republic of the Congo (D.R.C.) held its first democratic and credible presidential and legislative elections in more than 40 years; democratic elections were held in Benin, Madagascar, and Mauritania; and Uganda adopted a multiparty political system. The advances in these countries provide hope for all of Africa in relation to good governance.

The United States uses many tools to promote democracy and freedom in Africa. These include assistance to strengthen government institutions and electoral processes, to build the capacity of civil society to advocate for reform, and programs to promote free and independent media.

Our assistance includes programs to target corruption, in countries such as Zambia, Chad, Liberia, and The Gambia. We help develop modern, efficient, and transparent legal systems, promote accountability for projects financed by oil revenues, and encourage greater transparency in the extractive industries.

The Millennium Challenge Corporation is another way in which we promote good governance and efforts to combat corruption. The MCC just added two aid agreements in Africa - one with Mozambique, and another for Lesotho. This brings the total MCC programs in Africa to \$2.4 billion out of \$3.9 billion for the program overall. That means Africa is getting a good share of this new program which promotes self-sufficiency.

Question: Mr. Krilla, what is your opinion about the democracy and freedom in Venezuela under Chavez's leftist regimen and what is the U.S. going to do to stop him while he is promoting the socialism, populism and antiamericanism in South America and also making agreements with Iran, Cuba, and buying weapons in Russia.

Mr. Krilla: President Chavez is a democratically elected leader. Nevertheless, the United States, and the international community, are increasingly concerned that the Government of Venezuela is not ruling in a democratic fashion. Our 2006 Country Report on Human Rights Practices in Venezuela noted that the human rights situation during the year was characterized by politicization of the judiciary and harassment of the media and of the political opposition, all manifestations of the increasing concentration of power in the executive branch. Recently, President Chavez refused to renew the broadcast license of the oldest independent television station in Venezuela, RCTV. Numerous international NGOs have condemned the closure of RCTV as a severe blow to media freedom.

According to the Inter-American Democratic Charter, to which Venezuela is a signatory, democratically elected governments have an obligation to govern democratically. We are working with the Organization of American States to press Venezuela to respect the rights of its citizens. In her remarks before the OAS General Assembly in Panama on June 4, Secretary Rice called on the OAS to send the Secretary General to Venezuela for a mission to analyze the situation. Secretary Rice also raised the closure of RCTV and the growing threats to freedom of expression in Venezuela. She echoed the United States Senate's call in Senate Resolution 211 for OAS leadership and action. "[T]he members of the OAS must defend freedom where it is under siege in our hemisphere and we must support freedom wherever and whenever it is denied."

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SUBMIT QUESTIONS TO SECRETARY RICE AND OTHER STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIALS.

In regard to President Chavez's pursuit of arms deals, the U.S. has communicated our concerns about Chavez's arms buildup in the past, and will continue to do so.

Question: Why do we continue to tolerate a virtual invasion from Mexico? It seems the U.S. has done very little to demand human rights reforms and massive redistribution of wealth through land reforms, and universal education programs necessary to true democracy from our closest neighbor. The President has squandered his relationship with his "good friend" Vincente Fox and now we have an even worse situation than when he entered office. We should not be asking what is wrong with U.S. Immigration law and the U.S. economy but what is wrong with Mexico's laws and economy!

Mr. Krilla: Thank you for your question concerning U.S.-Mexico relations. During President Bush's most recent trip to Mexico in March, he and Mexican President Felipe Calderon discussed ways to make both nations safer, and more prosperous. They acknowledged that economic growth and job creation are vital to reducing poverty and inequality in Mexico, and as an essential component to any future immigration reform. In addition to our strong trade and investment relationship with Mexico, the United States is committed to supporting the Mexican government's efforts to increase access to education, health care, and affordable housing.

We also have a keen interest in promoting sound human rights reform and the respect for rule of law. For instance, in order to advance the work of human rights defenders in Mexico, my Bureau funded a program in 2006 to strengthen the capacity of Mexican human rights NGOs (particularly those dealing with violence against women and discrimination against indigenous peoples) and enhance the mechanisms for monitoring, investigating, and documenting human rights violations. Throughout the project, seven human rights workshops were conducted, which included training in such themes as legal strategies, international systems of human rights protections, and tactics for enhanced human rights investigations. The project improved the capacity of human rights defenders as public watch-dogs by strengthening their techniques for building public constituencies for human rights in order to reduce the tolerance and incidence of human rights violations. The Departments of State and Justice are also working with the Government of Mexico and with NGOs to reduce trafficking in persons in and through Mexico.

Question: What is President Bush's assessment of the human rights situation in Sri Lanka? Ambassador Richard Boucher and several human rights groups have raised concerns of HR violations in Sri Lanka by both the government and the terrorists. How would the U.S. administration address such concerns?

Mr. Krilla: We are aware that the return to conflict in Sri Lanka has contributed to a deterioration of human rights conditions in the country. According to the most recent Country Report on Human Rights Practices for Sri Lanka, the government's respect for human rights declined in 2006, due in part to the breakdown for the Cease-Fire Accord. Reports of torture, extra-judicial killings, and curtailment of press freedoms are on the rise. Human rights monitors also report arbitrary arrests and detention, denial of fair public trial, government corruption and lack of transparency, infringement of freedom of movement, and discrimination against minorities. There were numerous reports that armed paramilitary groups linked to government security forces participated in armed attacks, some against civilians. The U.S. Government is also concerned about reports of disappearances, as well as the large number of internally displaced persons.

Human rights abuses in Tiger-controlled areas are also widespread. The LTTE continues to control large sections of the north and east and engage in politically motivated killings; suicide attacks; disappearances; torture; arbitrary arrest and detention; denial of freedom of speech, press, and of assembly and association; and the recruitment of child soldiers.

We have repeatedly stressed our human rights concerns to the Sri Lankans at all levels, including President Rajapaksa. U.S. Ambassador Robert Blake and the embassy in Colombo are fully engaged in efforts to foster an environment of respect for human rights in Sri Lanka. Assistant Secretary Richard Boucher was clear during his May visit that we need serious action now. We are pressing President Rajapaksa to allow the Commission of Inquiry he established last year to freely investigate specific human rights incidents and produce tangible results. We are also looking for ways to build human rights capacity and support increasing staffing and activities for the

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Colombo office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights. Together with our allies, we will continue to work towards brokering a lasting peace agreement between the government and the LTTE and urge both sides to uphold the cease-fire and eliminate human rights abuses.

Question: Muslim journalist Shoaib Choudhury is standing trial on July 18 in his home country, Bangladesh, for simply speaking out in positive ways encouraging dialog w/ Israel. If the U.S. and others do not come to his aid, his own government may sentence him to death. Is the U.S. State Department doing anything to advocate for this fine man?

Mr. Krilla: The U.S. continues to call on the Government of Bangladesh to uphold due process and the rule of law. Choudhury's trial on sedition charges has been postponed several times and was last scheduled to begin on June 28. An Embassy official will most likely observe the trial if and when it commences. We have raised Mr. Choudhury's case on numerous occasions with the government and will continue to monitor the situation closely.

Question: How do you judge the aspect of "nation building" in the context of the President's Freedom Agenda? Do you think there is a realistic way to promote vital democracies in the Middle East with Lebanon facing so many troubles, with the Palestinian cause still being unsolved and with dictatorships like Iran and Syria undermining the democracies of Israel and Lebanon?

Mr. Krilla: The President has said that the greatest way to take on extremism is by promoting freedom because freedom is what all people, in all cultures, aspire towards. The struggles you mention in the Near East are not reasons to give up on freedom in the region - in fact, it is all the more reason to support those who are pushing for their voices to be heard.

We think that freedom unleashes the potential of a nation, from economic development to determining how a country is governed. This doesn't mean that we think democracy is like chemistry, where you have elections, a good constitution, and then you have democracy. In fact, there is no one-size-fits all. Different peoples will find different ways of democracy. The important thing is that we stand by them to help them find their own way.

In regards to the examples you cite, Secretary Rice said recently that under the right circumstances and with the right support, the people of the Middle East "can indeed triumph and triumph democratically." That being said, it is especially hard for democracy to take hold in a place in which it has not taken hold before, and when there are individuals and groups determined to prevent it. We remain dedicated to the President's vision of two democratic states, Israel and Palestine, living side by side in peace and security, and believe that the Lebanese people deserve an independent and secure country with a democratically elected government free of Syrian influence.

Thank you all for your questions. I am sorry we could not get to them all, but check back on the [www.state.gov](http://www.state.gov) website for more webchats.

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