

Date and Time: Saturday, May 4, 2024 2:08:00PM EEST

Job Number: 223507864

Documents (100)

1. [Tamil Tigers: Most lethal suicide outfit](#)

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, 1984 to Dec 31, 2002

2. [ROUNDUP: Tamil Tigers launch new attacks 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, 1984 to Dec 31, 2002

3. [Troops cut off in siege by Tamil Tigers](#)

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, 1984 to Dec 31, 2002

4. [SRI LANKA : TAMIL TIGERS REJECT NEW ELECTIONS](#)

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, 1984 to Dec 31, 2002

5. [Tamil Tigers lose 200 as attacks fail](#)

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, 1984 to Dec 31, 2002

6. [SRI LANKAN ARMY IN OFFENSIVE TO HIT TAMIL TIGERS](#)

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, 1984 to Dec 31, 2002

7. [TAMIL TIGERS - WOMEN OF 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, Newswires & Press
Releases; Timeline: Jan 01, 1984 to Dec 31, 2002

8. [Indian troops sweep eastern Sri Lanka to flush out Tamil Tigers](#)

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, 1984 to Dec 31, 2002

9. [SUICIDE RAIDS PUT JAFFNA IN REACH OF TAMIL TIGERS](#)

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, 1984 to Dec 31, 2002

10. [UPI Focus; Tamil rebels take more government bases](#)

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, 1984 to Dec 31, 2002

11. [SRI LANKA : TIGERS KILL MINISTER IN SUICIDE BOMB BLAST; REBELS LEAVE DEADLY MARK WITH HUGE EXPLOSION KILLING 21, WHILE THE SINHALESE GOVERNMENT STEPS UP REPRESSION OF SUSPECT CIVILIANS](#)

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, 1984 to Dec 31, 2002

12. [Tamil Tiger guerrillas deny involvement in Premadasa's killing](#)

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, 1984 to Dec 31, 2002

13. [Tamil Tigers in ceasefire deal](#)

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, 1984 to Dec 31, 2002

14. [Tamil Tigers in ceasefire deal](#)

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, 1984 to Dec 31, 2002

15. [RIGHTS: U.S. WRITER'S GROUP HONORS ABDUCTED SRI LANKA POET](#)

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, 1984 to Dec 31, 2002

16. ['Next time maybe we die' fears Tigers' victim](#)

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, 1984 to Dec 31, 2002

17. [Army hunts Tamil Tigers after Sinhalese villagers massacred](#)

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, 1984 to Dec 31, 2002

18. [26 to hang in Gandhi killing: Tamil Tigers behind murder plot, judge 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, 1984 to Dec 31, 2002

19. [13 KILLED IN SUICIDE BOMBING BY TAMIL TIGER](#)

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, 1984 to Dec 31, 2002

20. [Stopping suicide bombings: Sri Lanka managed to reach pact with Tamil Tigers](#)

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, 1984 to Dec 31, 2002

21. [Defense disputes Tamil Tiger involvement in Gandhi slaying](#)

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, 1984 to Dec 31, 2002

22. [Foreign desk](#)

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, 1984 to Dec 31, 2002

23. [Jaffna attack kills Gandhi assassination suspect](#)

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, 1984 to Dec 31, 2002

24. [Four death sentences confirmed for Rajiv Gandhi's assassination](#)

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, 1984 to Dec 31, 2002

25. [LTTE Sri Lankan army camp at 10th mile post Pulmoddai completely annihilated by LTTE forces](#)

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, 1984 to Dec 31, 2002

26. [LTTE ADMITS ATROCITIES, HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSES: FRENCH MAGAZINE](#)

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, 1984 to Dec 31, 2002

27. [*The eye of the white tigress: The women of the Tamil Tigers fight to the death, frequently their own. Adel Balasingham is one of them. She is white, 40, British and enjoys gardening. She carries an AK-47 machine gun and wears a cyanide necklace in case she's caught*](#)

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, 1984 to Dec 31, 2002

28. [*Tiger and Australian wife banned for terrorist links NO ENTRY*](#)

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, 1984 to Dec 31, 2002

29. [*Banned Tiger and Aussie wife who backs terrorists NO ENTRY*](#)

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, 1984 to Dec 31, 2002

30. [*Sonia Gandhi wants mercy for husband's assassin*](#)

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, 1984 to Dec 31, 2002

31. [*POLITICS: INDIA WON'T INTERFERE IN SRI LANKA PEACE TALKS*](#)

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, 1984 to Dec 31, 2002

32. [WAR ON REBEL KILLERS](#)

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, 1984 to Dec 31, 2002

33. [ROUNDUP: Sonia Gandhi and family want mercy for husband's assassins Es: adds details](#)

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, 1984 to Dec 31, 2002

34. [Sri Lanka army confident as it drives Tamil Tigers back](#)

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, 1984 to Dec 31, 2002

35. [Security dragnet in Colombo as Prince Charles begins visit * 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, 1984 to Dec 31, 2002

36. [SRI LANKA : ETHNIC CONFLICT ENTERS NEW DIMENSION IN BRUTALITY](#)

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, 1984 to Dec 31, 2002

37. [ROUNDUP: Four death sentences confirmed for Rajiv assassination](#)

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, 1984 to Dec 31, 2002

38. [Fighting leaves 25 Sri Lankans dead](#)

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, 1984 to Dec 31, 2002

39. [Sri Lanka guerrilla leader terrorist to Sinhalese, hero to Tamils](#)

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, 1984 to Dec 31, 2002

40. [Desperate Tamils seek volunteers to defend stronghold](#)

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, 1984 to Dec 31, 2002

41. [Separation by suicide; In Sri Lanka, children as young as 11 are being recruited as soldiers to the fanatical Tamil Tigers. Tim McGirk reports from Batticaloa on a war without end](#)

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, 1984 to Dec 31, 2002

42. [REBELS KILL 61 IN ATTACK ON 3 SRI LANKAN VILLAGES; TAMIL TIGERS LIKELY WERE AVENGING AIR FORCE BOMBINGS, OFFICIALS SAY](#)

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, 1984 to Dec 31, 2002

43. [Tamil Tigers claim Indian naval 'piracy' led to their leader's death](#)

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, 1984 to Dec 31, 2002

44. [Sri Lankan troops kill 26 Tamil rebels, war spreads to 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, 1984 to Dec 31, 2002

45. [32 Sinhalese Killed, Police Blame Tamil Tigers](#)

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, 1984 to Dec 31, 2002

46. [Sri Lankan Troops Kill 26 Rebels](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type

News

Narrowed byPublication Type: Newspapers,Newswires & Press
Releases; Timeline: Jan 01, 1984 to Dec 31, 200247. [Tamil massacres claim 197 lives in 2 days](#)**Client/Matter:** -None-**Search Terms:** "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors**Narrowed by:****Content Type**

News

Narrowed byPublication Type: Newspapers,Newswires & Press
Releases; Timeline: Jan 01, 1984 to Dec 31, 200248. [Massacre of innocents ends truce](#)**Client/Matter:** -None-**Search Terms:** "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors**Narrowed by:****Content Type**

News

Narrowed byPublication Type: Newspapers,Newswires & Press
Releases; Timeline: Jan 01, 1984 to Dec 31, 200249. [LTTE Sri Lankan armed forces kill two Tamil civilians in Vembu village \(Batticaloa district\)](#)**Client/Matter:** -None-**Search Terms:** "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors**Narrowed by:****Content Type**

News

Narrowed byPublication Type: Newspapers,Newswires & Press
Releases; Timeline: Jan 01, 1984 to Dec 31, 200250. [Sri Lanka 's Tamil rebels attack northern bases](#)**Client/Matter:** -None-**Search Terms:** "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors**Narrowed by:****Content Type**

News

Narrowed byPublication Type: Newspapers,Newswires & Press
Releases; Timeline: Jan 01, 1984 to Dec 31, 200251. [SRI LANKA : RIGHTS GROUPS ASK VOICE IN PEACE TALKS Commentary By Vasantha Sritharan*](#)**Client/Matter:** -None-**Search Terms:** "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors**Narrowed by:****Content Type**

News

Narrowed byPublication Type: Newspapers,Newswires & Press
Releases; Timeline: Jan 01, 1984 to Dec 31, 2002

52. [SRI LANKA : TAMILS FEAR BLOODBATH IF POLLS GO AHEAD](#)

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, 1984 to Dec 31, 2002

53. [Sri Lanka fighting](#)

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, 1984 to Dec 31, 2002

54. [Ceasefire raises hopes of peace in 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, 1984 to Dec 31, 2002

55. [Tamil conflict at India 's doorstep](#)

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, 1984 to Dec 31, 2002

56. [Gandhi inquiry focuses on the accomplices](#)

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, 1984 to Dec 31, 2002

57. [Tamil Tigers are purring like pussycats of peace](#)

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, 1984 to Dec 31, 2002

58. [*India 's extension of ban on Tamil Tigers won't affect peace process, says Sri Lankan 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, Newswires & Press
Releases; Timeline: Jan 01, 1984 to Dec 31, 2002

59. [*Sri Lanka kills child 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, 1984 to Dec 31, 2002

60. [*Tamil Tiger leader calls assassination of Rajiv Gandhi 'tragic incident'*](#)

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, 1984 to Dec 31, 2002

61. [*Tigers using boys, girls in front lines*](#)

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, 1984 to Dec 31, 2002

62. [*Sri Lanka : State of emergency issued as Tamil rebels accused of mass killing*](#)

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, 1984 to Dec 31, 2002

63. [SRI LANKA -FINANCE: \\$ 850 MILLION FOR PEACE AND DEVELOPMENT](#)

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, 1984 to Dec 31, 2002

64. [Tamil Tigers blamed for village slaughter: Grim reply to Premadasa's reconciliation message](#)

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, 1984 to Dec 31, 2002

65. [WORLD UP CLOSE: CAMPAIGN OF FEAR; ESCALATION OF CIVIL WAR FORCES SRI LANKAN VILLAGERS INTO FLIGHT](#)

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, 1984 to Dec 31, 2002

66. [Sri Lankan town is scarred, strafed and far from normal](#)

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, 1984 to Dec 31, 2002

67. [INDIA ORDERS ACTION AFTER 160 KILLED 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, 1984 to Dec 31, 2002

68. [THE DEADLY BIRDS OF FREEDOM](#)

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, 1984 to Dec 31, 2002

69. [AUSSIE NURSE ADELE JOINS GUERRILLA 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, Newswires & Press
Releases; Timeline: Jan 01, 1984 to Dec 31, 2002

70. [After Ferocious Fighting, Sri Lanka Struggles With Peace](#)

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, 1984 to Dec 31, 2002

71. [TAMIL CHILDREN OF JAFFNA ARE TAUGHT TO FIGHT, NOT THINK](#)

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, 1984 to Dec 31, 2002

72. [THE LTTE INTERNATIONAL SECRETARIAT Sri Lankan Govt. bombs Tamil school within hours of press censorship](#)

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, 1984 to Dec 31, 2002

73. [ATROCITIES OCCURRING IN SRI LANKA TOO](#)

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, 1984 to Dec 31, 2002

74. [Tigers give up bid for independence](#)

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, 1984 to Dec 31, 2002

75. [Sri Lanka Seeks More Emergency Rule](#)

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, 1984 to Dec 31, 2002

76. [Guerilla girl power seeks role rebuilding Sri Lanka ; The best-trained female guerillas in the world also recognise a solemn moral obligation to the future](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

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Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newspapers,Newswires & Press
Releases; Timeline: Jan 01, 1984 to Dec 31, 2002

77. [AP Photos COL101-102](#)

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

78. [*Indians pour in as battle for Jaffna rages: Tamil Tigers 'holding their own' with heavy house-to-house fighting*](#)

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, 1984 to Dec 31, 2002

79. [*What One-Eyed Jack knows; India 's police are close to unravelling the plot behind Rajiv Gandhi's killing. Yet one man continues to elude them, says Tim McGirk*](#)

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, 1984 to Dec 31, 2002

80. [*Tamil inmates, prison guards clash 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, 1984 to Dec 31, 2002

81. [*No safe passage for travellers in a land tearing itself apart; On the road to Jaffna , Terry McCarthy met those fleeing fighting between the Sri Lankan army and Tamil Tigers. He reports from Medawachchiya*](#)

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, 1984 to Dec 31, 2002

82. [*DEVELOPMENT- SRI LANKA : NO END TO ETHNIC TENSION*](#)

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

83. [TAMIL TIGER'S TRIUMPH CAPS A LIFETIME OF WAR AND 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, 1984 to Dec 31, 2002

84. [Tamil Tigers drop independence claim: Surprise concession gives peace talks with Sri Lanka a flying start](#)

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, 1984 to Dec 31, 2002

85. [IN SRI LANKA , TIGERS RULE THE NIGHT UP FRONT](#)

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, 1984 to Dec 31, 2002

86. [118 DIE IN TAMIL RAIDS ON MILITARY](#)

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, 1984 to Dec 31, 2002

87. [Indians Advance to Center of Rebel Stronghold; 700 Civilian Deaths Alleged](#)

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, 1984 to Dec 31, 2002

88. [GUERRILLA IN OUR MIDST](#)

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, 1984 to Dec 31, 2002

89. [18 rebels killed in Sri Lanka fighting](#)

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, 1984 to Dec 31, 2002

90. [Cowards and their bombs](#)

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, 1984 to Dec 31, 2002

91. [AP Photos COL 102, 105, 107, AP Graphic SRI LANKA BOMB](#)

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, 1984 to Dec 31, 2002

92. [In Sri Lanka 's Civil War, a Stately Town Has Already Lost](#)

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, 1984 to Dec 31, 2002

93. [LTTE Sri Lankan army continues its shell attack on Vadamaratchi](#)

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, 1984 to Dec 31, 2002

94. [Sri Lankan suicide bomber the latest in a string of female assassins](#)

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, 1984 to Dec 31, 2002

95. [Sri Lanka 's War of Widows To Set Pace for Peace Talks](#)

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, 1984 to Dec 31, 2002

96. [11 killed by 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, 1984 to Dec 31, 2002

97. [Presidential call to act 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,Newsires & Press
Releases; Timeline: Jan 01, 1984 to Dec 31, 2002

98. [Presidential call to act 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, 1984 to Dec 31, 2002

99. [*Villagers killed in Tamil revenge raid / Sri Lankan ethnic unrest*](#)

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, 1984 to Dec 31, 2002

100. [*SRI LANKAN SUICIDE BOMBER BELONGED TO WING OF TAMIL REBELS*](#)

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, 1984 to Dec 31, 2002

Tamil Tigers: Most lethal suicide outfit

The Straits Times (Singapore)

April 22, 2002 Monday

Copyright 2002 Singapore Press Holdings Limited

Section: WORLD

Length: 323 words

Body

WIDELY believed to be the world's most lethal, well-organised and disciplined terrorist outfit, the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (**LTTE**) has launched the largest number of suicide attacks in the past two decades: 168 between 1980 and 2000.

A Jane's Defence Weekly study by terrorism expert Dr Rohan Gunaratna shows other terrorist outfits committed a total of 103 suicide bombings in the same period.

The **LTTE** is also the only outfit which has killed two world leaders - India's former prime minister Rajiv Gandhi and former Sri Lankan president Ranasinghe Premadasa - by suicide bombings.

Security experts say the group has been sharing its expertise with other groups, including Osama bin Laden's Al-Qaeda network.

Dr Bruce Hoffman, terrorism specialist at US think-tank Rand Corp, says **LTTE**-made suicide vests have been found in the Middle East.

In the **LTTE**, indoctrination begins at a young age. The message: Banish the fear of death from your minds, be prepared to lay your lives fighting for a separate state of Eelam and, if captured, consume the cyanide pill fastened around your necks.

Dr Gunaratna says the group has a sophisticated one-year training programme and its research units regularly test the explosives on dogs and cats.

In the late 80s, **LTTE** leader Velupillai Prabhakaran began to encourage **women** warriors as a surprise factor in attacks and to tackle depleting manpower.

According to Nanyang Technological University assistant professor Shyam Tekwani, who has been studying the **LTTE** since the mid-80s, the group used the Western concepts of liberation and equality for **women** to attract **women** warriors.

As they had a Westerner leading the **women**'s brigade - Australian Adele Balasingham, wife of **LTTE** ideologue Anton Balasingham - it worked for them. **Women** warriors now hold both political and military command positions. 'The **women** are a force to reckon with making **LTTE** deadlier and more lethal,' he said. --Shefali Rekhi

Load-Date: April 22, 2002

Tamil Tigers: Most lethal suicide outfit

End of Document

ROUNDUP: Tamil Tigers launch new attacks in northern Sri Lanka

Deutsche Presse-Agentur

November 5, 1999, Friday, BC Cycle 11:14 Central European Time

Copyright 1999 Deutsche Presse-Agentur

Section: International News

Length: 290 words

Dateline: Colombo

Body

Separatist Tamil rebels pounded security forces in northern Sri Lanka with artillery Friday after killing hundreds of soldiers and recapturing vast areas from the military in recent days.

The Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (**LTTE**) stepped up their attacks on forward defences at Mankulam, 300 kilometers northeast of the capital, after taking control of the adjoining Ampakamam area.

In one of their most intense offensives this year, the rebels fighting for an independent homeland for minority Tamils have used hundreds of cadres, including **women**, on the battle front.

Details of damages inflicted in the latest fighting were not immediately known, but hundreds are believed to have been killed in recent days.

Rebels recaptured the Ampakamam area, eight kilometers east of Mankulam, where government troops began an offensive code named Watershed Phase II on October 28.

The **Tamil Tigers** in recent battles also took control of the towns of Oddusuddan and Nedunkerny, reportedly leaving more than 1,000 people dead, missing in action or injured.

The government has admitted to 107 of its soldiers being killed but said nothing about soldiers missing in action.

The Defence Ministry has claimed that 115 rebels were killed on Wednesday and Thursday.

Some soldiers who went missing in action had now reported back to adjoining camps, but exact details and figures were not available.

Villagers living near a military complex at Welioya village, 280 kilometers from the capital, have fled their homes since the **LTTE** started its artillery attacks there.

The government has sent reinforcements to the north after rebels captured more than 140 square kilometers from the government, according to news reports. dpa dv fz

Eds: re-leads, updates throughout

Load-Date: November 5, 1999

ROUNDUP: Tamil Tigers launch new attacks in northern Sri Lanka

End of Document

Troops cut off in siege by Tamil Tigers

The Independent (London)

May 9, 1995, Tuesday

Copyright 1995 Independent Print Ltd

Section: INTERNATIONAL; Page 11

Length: 507 words

Byline: Tim McGirk

Body

With the Sri Lankan military's air-bridge to the north of the island cut off, authorities fear it will be impossible to send reinforcements to save 20,000 troops pinned down in camps besieged by Tamil guerrillas.

The 12-year conflict took a deadly twist when guerrillas belonging to the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (***LTTE***) for the first time used surface- to-air missiles last week to down two out of the three planes that Sri Lanka's feeble air force has to ferry troops and supplies to the north.

With strategic bases at Pooneryn, Elephant Pass and Palaly now under heavy Tiger attack, Colombo officials are worried they will be unable to bring in fresh troops to stave off defeat.

The Sri Lankan bases deep inside the Tiger-held region have enough ammunition and supplies to last several weeks. But authorities claim that, as the separatist guerrillas tighten their siege, the army will be unable to evacuate its wounded soldiers.

This escalation in Sri Lanka's civil war comes after the Tigers' leader, Vilupillai Prabhakaran, on 19 April broke off a 100-day ceasefire, the longest so far in this conflict, which has already claimed 34,000 lives. Many Sinhalese, who are a majority on the island, as well as the Tamils living under ***LTTE*** control on Jaffna peninsula, seemed hopeful that talks between the ***LTTE*** and envoys of the Prime Minister, Chandrika Kumaratunga, would lead to a genuine peace.

Mrs Kumaratunga was elected last year because she promised to bring peace to the island. But since the ceasefire ended, more than 230 Sri Lankan soldiers and police have been killed, and her generals are pressing her to take harsh reprisals. Not only were the two aircraft downed, but on 19 April a Tiger suicide squad of two men and two ***women*** also blew up two of the navy's eight gunboats.

Many of the Sri Lankan generals believe their criticism of Mrs Kumaratunga for being too liberal is now proving well-founded. Mr Prabhakaran used the respite of the truce to plot a major offensive against the military, both in the north and the east of the island. ***Tamil Tigers*** who infiltrated during the ceasefire yesterday ambushed an elite commando patrol in the Ampara district of eastern Sri Lanka, killing 19.

Mrs Kumaratunga seems to have given up hope of a renewed ceasefire and has recently described the Tigers' leader as "a merciless megalomaniac who has killed every single person who was opposed to him".

Diplomatic sources in Colombo claim that the Sri Lankans are quietly trying to seek military aid before the Tigers overrun the northern camps.

Troops cut off in siege by Tamil Tigers

India is seen as a possible donor, since the LTTE is held responsible for assassinating the former prime minister, Rajiv Gandhi. But India has officially denied it was approached for military assistance. An Indian "peace-keeping force" sent to Sri Lanka by Gandhi suffered heavy casualties before it withdrew in 1989, and it is doubtful that India's current Prime Minister, Narasimha Rao, facing possible elections in the autumn, would make the mistake of sacrificing Indian troops again.

Load-Date: May 10, 1995

End of Document

SRI LANKA: TAMIL TIGERS REJECT NEW ELECTIONS

IPS-Inter Press Service

July 13, 1990, Friday

Copyright 1990 IPS-Inter Press Service/Global Information Network

Length: 558 words

Byline: by Rita Sebastian

Dateline: COLOMBO, July 13

Body

The dominant Tamil rebel group has rejected the government's offer to hold new elections for the governing council in Tamil areas, thus further dimming hopes for a political solution to the escalating ethnic conflict on the island-nation.

The Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (**LTTE**), popularly known as the **Tamil tigers**, instead demanded for "full" regional autonomy and charged that thousands of Tamil civilians had been killed in the government's "all-out" war against the **LTTE**.

A Tamil Tiger spokesman in London said in a telephone interview yesterday that the Sinhalese-majority government should concede "regional autonomy with full political powers" to the Tamil minority if Colombo seeks a political solution to the conflict.

"We will boycott provincial council elections if they are held and continue our liberation struggle to carve out an independent state of Eelam," the spokesman said.

The spokesman also alleged that thousands of civilians had died in the month-long war and thousands more had fled the Tamil areas.

He called on the government to stop its "all-out" war against the Tamils.

Last month, Colombo dissolved the north-east provincial council and called for nominations before Aug. 1 in preparation for fresh elections.

These moves were in response to demands of **LTTE**, which had questioned the legitimacy of the north-east provincial council during peace talks with the government.

The **LTTE** had boycotted the original polls for the provincial council, allowing rival Tamil groups to take control.

But the year-old peace talks collapsed June 11 when Tiger forces attacked government troops.

Cabinet spokesman Ranil Wickremesinghe said yesterday that moves for elections in the north-east region could be postponed in view of the renewed hostilities.

Meantime, the war continues to take a mounting toll on both combatants and civilians.

SRI LANKA : TAMIL TIGERS REJECT NEW ELECTIONS

The latest count showed casualties among government troops adding up to 341 killed and 412 wounded, said Defense Secretary General Cyril Ranatunge.

He said 80 percent of the injured servicemen had their limbs blown off by land mines and booby traps left behind by the tigers.

The army suffered a major setback July 11 when Tamil rebels overran a military camp defending a state television relay station in northern Kokavil, some 150 miles north of the capital, killing about 45 soldiers.

The Tigers claimed they lost 18 of their fighters, six of them women.

The Sri Lankan government has toughened its position following the recent rash of fighting. The state Minister for Defense Ranhan Wijeratne has said there will be no ceasefire and no negotiations until the Tigers lay down their arms.

The influx of about 20,000 refugees into neighboring south India is seen by Colombo as a ploy by the Tigers to win sympathy for their cause.

In a conciliatory speech last week, President Ranasinghe Premadasa kept the door opened to negotiations under the auspices of the international community.

But this has been met by a strong reaction from the Sri Lankan press, which launched a concerted campaign to keep India out of a mediatory role in the present conflict.

Meanwhile, an all-party Sri Lankan delegation will visit India next week as part of Colombo's efforts to inform its South Asian neighbors of the progress of the conflict.

"Their mission is not to prove anything but to explain the situation," Wijeratne said.

Load-Date: July 15, 1990

Tamil Tigers lose 200 as attacks fail

THE WEEKEND AUSTRALIAN

July 29, 1995 Saturday 0 Edition

Copyright 1995 Nationwide News Pty Limited

Length: 576 words

Byline: AMAL JAYASINGHE

Body

SRI LANKAN government forces repulsed attacks by Tamil Tiger guerillas on five bases in the north-east of the country yesterday killing at least 200 rebels for the loss of two soldiers, military sources said. The navy and the air force were called in to support ground troops that beat off the simultaneous attacks by the separatist Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam, a military spokesman, Mr Sarath Munasinghe, said. He said hundreds of rebels, including **female** cadres, mounted the pre-dawn offensive against five military facilities at Weli Oya, Kokkuthuduvai, Kokkilai, Janapakura and Jayasinghepura. Two soldiers were killed and another 22 wounded, 13 of them seriously, in the fierce three-hour battle. Mr Munasinghe said the Tigers suffered heavily in the well executed army counter-offensive based on advance information. The latest offensive comes only two days after it was revealed that the Sri Lankan Government was preparing to launch a comprehensive new peace deal under which the **LTTE** would control their own autonomous region. Leaked accounts of the proposals to amend the Constitution say the Government plans a "union of regions", with eight districts controlling most of their own affairs through legislative and executive branches. They would have control of taxation, law and order, development programs, health and education. The central Government would retain jurisdiction over defence, currency, foreign affairs, elections and overseas trade. A crucial question is whether the northern and eastern regions, where Tamils are the biggest ethnic group, would be merged into a single administrative unit.

AFP, The Times This would roughly correspond to the basic territorial demands of the **LTTE**, who want a fully independent homeland. But as political negotiations continued in the capital Colombo, the Tigers relentlessly attacked military bases yesterday. In one incident the **LTTE** fired a heat-seeking surface-to-air missile at an air force helicopter transporting troops to the battle field but the pilot managed to dodge it as he was flying low, Mr Munasinghe said. It was the first time the rebels were known to have fired a heatseeking missile outside the LTTE held northern Jaffna peninsula where they have downed three aircraft since April. Mr Munasinghe said the military was prepared for the **LTTE** offensive. Two suicide **women** cadres of the **LTTE** were shot dead by soldiers as they tried to break into the Weli Oya camp. "As they were hit, they exploded in a ball of fire. Obviously they were strapped with explosives," Mr Munasinghe said. Earlier this month, the **LTTE** used 17 suicide cadres known as Black Tigers to blast a navy ship. "They have learnt a bitter lesson. We have reports that 47 terrorists' bodies are outside the Weli Oya brigade headquarters alone," Mr Munasinghe said, adding the air force and the navy destroyed several rebel boats. Military sources said that at least 69 bodies of **LTTE** men were found at the Kokkuthuduvai army camp located along the coast. Military figures showed at least 200 rebels had been killed during the three-hour battle. As the fighting died down, hundreds of soldiers began a clearing operation looking for **LTTE** bodies and explosives and antipersonnel mines outside the five camps. The **LTTE** is leading a violent campaign to establish an independent homeland for Sri Lanka's 2 million Tamil minority. More than 50,000 people have died in bitter fighting in the **LTTE**'s drawn-out guerilla campaign since 1972.

Tamil Tigers lose 200 as attacks fail

Load-Date: October 1, 2003

End of Document

SRI LANKAN ARMY IN OFFENSIVE TO HIT TAMIL TIGERS

Courier Mail (Queensland, Australia)

July 27, 1996, Saturday

Copyright 1996 Nationwide News Pty Limited

Length: 560 words

Byline: CRUEZ D

Body

KEYWORD-HIT

Sri Lankan army

in offensive to

hit **Tamil Tigers**

By DEXTER CRUEZ in Colombo AFTER suffering its worst defeat in the 13-year civil war last week, Sri Lanka's army said it launched a new offensive yesterday to strike back at the Tamil Tiger rebels.

Under air cover and backed by artillery, hundreds of soldiers moved out from their base at Elephant Pass southward toward Kilinochchi, the new headquarters of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam, a military communique said.

At a police station in Colombo, police paraded Tamil rebel suspects in front of survivors of a commuter train bombing that killed up to 70 people, hoping to identify the terrorists, officials

said.

QNP

At least 40 young Tamils from the war-torn north, including about a dozen **women**, have been picked up in police sweeps of Tamil neighbourhoods near Dehiwala station, where the bombing occurred on Wednesday, police officials said on condition of anonym

SRI LANKAN ARMY IN OFFENSIVE TO HIT TAMIL TIGERS

ity.

Details of the fighting in the north were not immediately available. But the statement from military spokesman Maj or Tilak Dunuwille said advancing columns of troops had overcome heavy resistance.

The district of Kilinochchi was ordered under curfew, and civilians were advised to take shelter in schools, churches or Hindu temples, the statement said.

The Elephant Pass garrison, which guards a causeway linking the mainland to the Jaffna Peninsula, is 10km from Kilinochchi, to where the guerrillas fled when the army captured their former headquarters at Jaffna City last December.

The statement said the aim of the mission was "'destroying LTTE terrorists and their strongholds in the mainland of the Northern Province".

Elephant Pass is 55km across unoccupied scrub jungles north-west of Mullaittivu, the coastal base that the Tigers overran last week.

Exchanges of mortar fire between the rebels and the 2000-man relief force continued yesterday.

The reinforcements reached Mullaittivu on Wednesday but found few survivors of the 1200-man garrison, which the rebels claim to have wiped out. Only 30 soldiers have been found so far.

In the capital, police made no announcement of breakthroughs in the hunt for the commuter train bombers.

Two bombs exploded within seconds of each other on two cars of the commuter train, wounding 350 people. A third bomb was discovered and defused.

Immediately after the blasts, police detained two Tamils at the train station whom passengers claimed had acted suspiciously.

SRI LANKAN ARMY IN OFFENSIVE TO HIT TAMIL TIGERS

The Government has blamed the bombing on the Tamil Tigers, who have fought since 1983 for an independent homeland for the Tamil minority.

More than 43,000 people have been killed in the civil war in this predominantly Sinhalese country.

The Tigers have denied responsibility for the bombing.

Fears of an anti-Tamil backlash have failed to materialise, but more than 100 Buddhist monks in saffron robes demonstrated yesterday outside Colombo's main railway terminal to protest against the bombing.

"We condemn the terrorist massacres," read the white posters

painted in blood-red lettering.

"We are also telling countries like America and Norway to stop helping the Tigers who are massacring innocent civilians," said Mahapokulukulane Nagitha, of the Inter Universities Buddhist Clergy Association.

In Parliament, the Mullaitivu battle was the subject of a heated argument.

The Opposition accused the Government of hiding details of the military's defeat.

Associated Press

Load-Date: March 1, 2002

TAMIL TIGERS - WOMEN OF WAR

SUNDAY MAIL (QLD)

April 1, 1990 Sunday

Copyright 1990 Nationwide News Pty Limited

Length: 735 words

Byline: SKELTON R

Body

Tamil Tigers - **women** of war J AYA Mylvagaham carries the badge of all guerrilla fighters _ an impeccably maintained AK47 rifle. Around her neck hang two glass capsules of cyanide.

For six years the platoon commander, 26, has been waging war against the Sri Lankan and Indian armies in the far north of Sri Lanka.

Miss Mylvagaham, as the leader of a 30-member all-woman platoon of **Tamil Tigers**, has set up ambushes, manned road blocks and carried supplies. Since the Tigers launched the separatist revolt in 1983, 11,000 people have died _ many of them civilians.

QNP

Miss Mylvagaham, like all ""Tamil Tiger-type ladies", wears two cyanide capsules around her neck. Death, she says, is preferred to rape and torture.

""Some of our **women** were captured by Indian troops before they had a chance to take their capsules. Their bodies were never found, but we know they were tortured and raped."

The Tiger **women** form an unusual part of the Tamil liberation front. Their existence in the male-dominated guerrilla force runs contrary to social and religious conventions.

""I had no alternative but to fight. The Sri Lankan troops were murdering our people and destroying our property. It is a dangerous war where there is no place for fear when the bullets fly," she said.

The war has been particularly vicious, with both sides committing atrocities. Entire families, including young children, have been butchered and tortured in the so-called war of liberation which has gone largely unnoticed and under-reported.

Jaya Mylvagaham is something of a paradox; while she uses the tactics of the terrorist, her self-proclaimed cause is to bring Swiss-style democracy to the Tamil-dominated north.

When Tiger casualties reached crisis point, the leadership turned to the **women** and teenage boys _ 11- and 12-year-olds _ to take the place of fallen frontline fighters.

Miss Mylvagaham, surrounded by her 30-woman cadre, conducted her first interview since leaving the Tamil Tiger jungle camp a week ago from her new two-storey headquarters.

On the walls are pictures and posters of her platoon's 27 martyrs.

TAMIL TIGERS - WOMEN OF WAR

The heroine is Lieutenant Imelda who was killed with six other women when Indian troops overran their road block last year.

Outside, men trim the grass while upstairs boys mop the floors and tidy away rifles and ammunition. The women are alert, disciplined and, by Sri Lankan standards, highly educated.

Many are graduates or former students from Jaffna University.

Despite the presence of military hardware, the atmosphere is relaxed and almost jovial.

Young cadres respectfully interrupt their leader, correcting her English and embellishing her stories with extra snippets of information.

Miss Mylvagaham: "'We are trying to get peace, but we are unable to . . .'" Cadre: "'Give up the struggle.'" Miss Mylvagaham: "'The talks are the first step in the fight for . . .'" Cadre: "'Freedom.'"

Asked if cadres could marry _ even though boyfriends are banned, along with alcohol and cigarettes _ she says: "'Of course.'"

The cadres laugh. Miss Mylvagaham quit her political science course at Jaffna University in 1984 to join the Tigers. She says the war of liberation has nothing to do with Marxist-Lenninist ideals but the creation of a Swiss-style state of Tamils.

"'We want a separate state where we can run our lives without interference from Colombo. We want self-rule and we do not want to be discriminated against,'" she says.

"'In Switzerland there are no problems between the Italians, Germans and French. It is an ideal model for us. We are not interested in socialist revolution.'"

Following the withdrawal of India's 28,000-strong peace-keeping force last week, the Tiger ladies, as they are known by their male officers, have moved out of the jungle and into the streets of Jaffna.

Their appearance, pedalling their bicycles down the dusty road with AK47s and rocket launchers strapped to their backs, is a jolt to the town's traditionally chauvinistic citizens.

The women form part of the Tigers' "'police force", maintaining an uneasy peace while front leaders negotiate with the Sri Lankan Government of Ranasinghe Premadasa for the establishment of an autonomous zone for Tamils.

According to Western diplomats in Colombo, President Premadasa and his Government have come to a de facto agreement with Tamil Tigers which will allow them to run the Tamil-controlled northern reaches of Sri Lanka as a separate state within a new federation.

Graphic

PIC OF TAMIL TIGERS COMMANDER MISS JAYA MYLVAGAHAM AND HER CADRES PREPARE FOR COMBAT

Load-Date: September 24, 2003

Indian troops sweep eastern Sri Lanka to flush out Tamil Tigers

The Guardian (London)

February 13, 1988

Copyright 1988 Guardian Newspapers Limited

Length: 472 words

Byline: From JOHN RETTIE

Dateline: COLOMBO

Body

After weeks of calling the shots in the eastern Batticaloa district, the **Tamil Tigers** yesterday came under intense pressure during an Indian army sweep intended to drive them from their last stronghold.

Thousands of Indian troops, bolstered by reinforcements in the past fortnight, combed curfew-bound Batticaloa town, the jungles to the west and the Amparai district to the south for Tiger fighters.

During the past four weeks, the Tigers had brought civil administration in Sri Lanka's eastern province to a halt, threatening to kill anyone who collaborated with the Indians.

The Tiger campaign prevented the authorities from scheduling elections to the semi-autonomous provincial council, which are at the core of last July's Indo-Sri Lankan peace agreement. Nobody would dare to incur the Tigers' wrath by standing for election.

The Indians were anxious to show Tamil civilians that their military presence in the north and east, and the peace agreement as a whole, are not a source of misery and suffering. They were eager for elections to be held as soon as possible, so that a provincial Tamil government can be set up to manage the area's affairs.

Anxious to avoid the hundreds of deaths - Indian soldiers, **Tamil Tigers** and civilians - that resulted from their battle against the militants in northern Jaffna peninsula last October, the Indians were being much more circumspect in their house to house searches yesterday.

Local residents said the Indian soldiers conducted the house searches and the screening of hundreds of men 'very carefully' and behaved 'quite reasonably.'

The Indian army's technique in Batticaloa is in one important respect similar to that used in the militant stronghold of Jaffna - saturate the town with troops. Reinforcements have been pouring in for the past two weeks, swelling Indian ranks to between 10,000 and 15,000 soldiers.

An hour after dawn Indian troops went to houses in the centre of Batticaloa ordering all men - except one who was allowed to stay at home to look after the **women** and children - to report at a variety of assembly points.

One local resident who went to the stadium said he and up to 400 others had to sit on the grass in the burning sun, with no food, for several hours. Eventually they were made to file past a tent, where an informer behind a grill screened them for **Tamil Tigers**.

Indian troops sweep eastern Sri Lanka to flush out Tamil Tigers

Only one young man was picked out, and he was blindfolded and led away. But according to this resident, no one was ill-treated, and they were allowed to go home in the afternoon.

Other residents reported seeing helicopter gunships firing at the inland lagoon, apparently warning fishermen and others not to attempt to cross it. There were no reports of casualties.

Having learned the lessons of Jaffna, the Indians are clearly doing everything they can to avoid unnecessary violence.

Load-Date: June 8, 2000

End of Document

SUICIDE RAIDS PUT JAFFNA IN REACH OF TAMIL TIGERS

The Independent (London)

May 11, 2000, Thursday

Copyright 2000 Independent Print Ltd

Section: FOREIGN NEWS; Pg. 14

Length: 482 words

Byline: K J M Varma In Colombo And Peter Popham In Madras

Body

THE **TAMIL Tigers** are poised to recapture Jaffna town in the far north of Sri Lanka today after a devastating assault on government positions yesterday, combining suicide tactics with powerful artillery barrages.

In an assault of massive intensity, Tamil fighters launched wave after wave of suicide attacks to smash government positions at Ariyali, three miles from Jaffna, the biggest town in the Jaffna peninsula. According to the Tigers they also seized a crucial bridge, and cut Highway 9 - the main road linking the far north of Sri Lanka to the south - driving a wedge between government forces.

The Sri Lankan government said the assault began at 3am, two days after the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam - who are fighting for an independent state in the north and east of the island - offered the government a ceasefire on condition that its troops vacate the peninsula.

The government wasted no time in rejecting the offer, and in parliament yesterday the deputy defence minister, General Anurudha Ratwatte, said: "We will fight till the last man rather than vacate Jaffna."

The end may now be close. The "suicide waves" of infantry, in which lines of young guerrillas, many of them **women** and children, hurl themselves at the enemy and the lines behind them trample on their fallen bodies, is one of the techniques by which the Tigers have succeeded in destroying the morale of the Sri Lankan army's raw recruits.

Underwritten by an affluent and loyal Tamil diaspora around the world, the Tigers now seriously outgun government troops, as yesterday's artillery bombardment showed. The Sri Lankan government's feverish arms-buying spree of the past fortnight, in which Israeli helicopter gunships were at the top of the shopping list, now appears to have come too late. Likewise the decision to increase taxes to raise \$ 20m (pounds 13m) for the war effort.

What happens now? India, beset by conflicting urges, stands dithering on the sidelines, but the Sri Lankan army's desperate position may now force it to act. India is extremely reluctant to intervene militarily: its attempt to end the conflict by sending in a peace-keeping force 13 years ago ended in humiliation and the assassination by the Tigers of the Indian prime minister Rajiv Gandhi. But with 27,000 Sri Lankan troops now at the mercy of the **Tamil Tigers**, India's hand may be forced.

SUICIDE RAIDS PUT JAFFNA IN REACH OF TAMIL TIGERS

Yesterday there was hectic diplomatic activity in Colombo and Delhi aimed at saving the soldiers' lives. India has a fleet of its transport aircraft ready in south Indian air bases, which can organise the rescue of soldiers if necessary. Indian diplomats in Colombo confirmed that talks were in progress but refused to be drawn on details.

If Jaffna falls, it will be by far the worst humiliation the Sri Lankan army has suffered in the 17-year civil war. Even an evacuation of troops may only be possible with the Tigers' permission.

Graphic

Tiger suicide raids have demoralised the enemy

Load-Date: May 11, 2000

End of Document

UPI Focus;
Tamil rebels take more government bases

United Press International
December 18, 1999, Saturday

Copyright 1999 U.P.I.

Section: INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Length: 388 words

Byline: By RAVI R. PRASAD

Dateline: COLOMBO, Sri Lanka, Dec. 18

Body

Separatist **Tamil Tigers** said Saturday they have overrun a strategic government position on the road to the northern Jaffna peninsula while capturing a couple of other navy bases along the peninsula's coast line.

The Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam claimed that hundreds of government soldiers were killed or wounded in fierce battles as the rebels mounted a fresh attack on the key Elephant Pass base Saturday morning. The rebels said they lost 78 fighters, including 36 **women**, in the clashes.

A statement issued by the **LTTE**'s London-based International Secretariat said the rebels took two positions of the Sri Lankan navy along Jaffna's coastline.

"Paranthan army camp, situated strategically on the southern sector of Elephant Pass base complex, has fallen to the **LTTE** fighters today after intense fighting that lasted more than 24 hours," a rebel statement said.

The statement said rebels captured a huge cache of weapons from the two navy bases along with sophisticated radar equipment.

A helicopter of the Sri Lankan air force providing air cover to ground troops was shot down by the rebels over the Kilali lagoon in the peninsula. The armed forces have recovered bodies of all the four crew members.

The rebels, reports from Jaffna said, have opened new fronts on the peninsula. The Tigers were shelling the Thamarachchi sector, forcing hundreds of civilians to flee their homes.

Meanwhile, the Defense Ministry denied rebel claims, saying government troops were still controlling the Paranthan base. A military statement said government forces blunted several rebel assaults.

Admitting that 18 soldiers had been killed and 57 wounded, the ministry said 110 rebels were killed in the fighting.

The rebels made attempts to breach the defenses of the Kilali lagoon but were unsuccessful, a government statement said. The Sri Lankan air force helicopters attacked rebel boats landing **LTTE** forces on the coast and sank several of them, military officials said.

UPI Focus; Tamil rebels take more government bases

The **Tamil Tigers**, who are fighting for a separate Tamil homeland for the minority Tamil community, have intensified their military operations and overrun several government positions in the northern Wanni mainland and the Jaffna peninsula in recent weeks.

Analysts say the rebels' gains may have an impact on the outcome of the presidential elections, scheduled for Dec. 21.

Load-Date: December 19, 1999

End of Document

**SRI LANKA: TIGERS KILL MINISTER IN SUICIDE BOMB BLAST;
REBELS LEAVE DEADLY MARK WITH HUGE EXPLOSION KILLING 21,
WHILE THE SINHALESE GOVERNMENT STEPS UP REPRESSION OF
SUSPECT CIVILIANS**

The Independent (London)

June 8, 2000, Thursday

Copyright 2000 Independent Print Ltd

Section: FOREIGN NEWS; Pg. 15

Length: 524 words

Byline: Peter Popham In Delhi

Body

THE LIBERATION Tigers of Tamil Eelam made their deadly mark on Sri Lanka's first ever War Heroes' Day yesterday, with a suicide bombing that killed a government minister as he led a "peace procession" through his constituency, as well as a municipal mayor and 20 other people.

No organisation claimed responsibility for the attack, but it is universally assumed to have been the work of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (**LTTE**), whose Black Tigers outfit has developed the suicide assassination into a ghastly sort of fine art. The most high-profile victim was Mr CV Gunaratne, minister for industrial development in the Sri Lankan government.

It was the first major attack in Colombo since the **LTTE**'s big offensive started in March, during which they seemed, at one time, to be on the point of seizing the northern city of Jaffna and even over-running the whole Jaffna peninsula, which has always been the heartland of Sri Lanka's Tamils. From 1990 to 1995, most of the peninsula was under **LTTE** control.

The **Tamil Tigers** have been fighting the Sri Lankan government for the past 17 years with the aim of creating a Tamil homeland in the north and east of the island to be called Tamil Eelam, a notion dreamed up in the mid-Seventies. Sri Lanka's Tamils, Hindus originating in south India who have shared the island with the Buddhist Sinhalese for 2,000 years, number about 3.2 million; half a million have fled abroad. Tamils constitute some 18 per cent of the republic's 18 million population.

In the past three weeks, however, the **LTTE**'s offensive appears to have run into the sand, as the Sri Lankan forces, bolstered by infusions of men and weapons from Israel and Pakistan, began to fight back. The **LTTE** is believed to have some 6,000 cadres under arms, and in seizing Elephant Pass, the gateway to the Jaffna Peninsula, they defeated a far more numerous enemy.

But analysts believe that, in trying to seize not only Jaffna city but also the strategic air base of Palali and the port of Kankasanturai, they have become drastically overstretched.

A Tiger attack in Colombo on War Heroes' Day was thus widely feared, if only as a way for the **LTTE** to remind the world that it is still around. And as the Black Tigers, many of them **women**, have proved over and over again, there

SRI LANKA : TIGERS KILL MINISTER IN SUICIDE BOMB BLAST; REBELS LEAVE DEADLY MARK WITH HUGE EXPLOSION KILLING 21, WHILE THE SINHALESE GOVERNMENT STEPS UP REPRESS....

is no cast-iron defence against bombers who are prepared to kill themselves, as well as their victims, by detonating explosives strapped to their bodies.

President Chandrika Kumaratunga herself lost an eye and narrowly escaped death in December when a Black Tiger detonated herself at a rally shortly before the presidential election.

Mr Gunaratne, perhaps lulled into a dangerous sense of security by the fact that he was in his own constituency, an industrial suburb 15km (six miles) south of Colombo, was on foot at 2pm when the bomb went off; he was said to have joined the procession only shortly before. He was the first minister in the present government to have been attacked.

t A Thai foreign ministry spokesman has denied that a half-built miniature submarine discovered in a shipyard in southern Thailand was destined for the **Tamil Tigers** in Sri Lanka.

Graphic

C V Gunaratne: Minister was among the dead

Load-Date: June 8, 2000

Tamil Tiger guerrillas deny involvement in Premadasa's killing

United Press International
May 1, 1993, Saturday, BC cycle

Copyright 1993 U.P.I.

Section: International

Length: 663 words

Dateline: NEW DELHI, India

Body

Sri Lanka's Tamil Tiger guerrillas said Saturday they had no role in the assassination of the island nation's president, Ranasinghe Premadasa.

"We are not involved in this...This assassination is not our work," a London-based spokesman of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam told United Press International by telephone.

Premadasa, 69, was killed Saturday by a suicide bomber while leading a May Day procession in Colombo, the Sri Lankan capital. Police in Colombo said they suspected the involvement of the LTTE in the assassination.

The slaying came just days after Premadasa's main political opponent, Lalith W. Athulathmudali, was assassinated.

Governing party members blamed the Tamil Tigers for Athulathmudali's assassination, but the slain politician's followers claimed the president was behind the killing.

A LTTE spokesman said his organization was not involved in either assassination.

Premadasa spearheaded a major military offensive against the Tamil Tigers. Athulathmudali, as national security minister under former President Junius R. Jayewardene, coordinated a major military campaign against the Tigers.

Premadasa became president in 1989 after outmaneuvering his two principal rivals in the ruling United National Party, Athulathmudali and Gammini Dissanayake.

Athulathmudali served in Premadasa's Cabinet but rebelled and sponsored an unsuccessful impeachment motion in Parliament against him. During Athulathmudali's funeral last Wednesday, mourners carried placards saying, "Premadasa is a Murderer."

Once the self-proclaimed "island of paradise," Sri Lanka turned into an island of blood in 1992 under Premadasa's government. Armed with emergency powers, the government let loose gun-toting party activists, militiamen and police on young leftist rebels belonging to the majority Sinhalese community.

Almost overnight, bodies of hundreds of slain youths appeared in public. Months later, some 40,000 youths are still reported missing, according to local and international human-rights groups.

The LTTE is one of the world's best organized and trained guerrilla groups. Its members have carried out many suicide attacks that have been openly acknowledged by the organization.

Tamil Tiger guerrillas deny involvement in Premadasa's killing

The Tigers, who control much of Sri Lanka's northern Jaffna peninsula and parts of the Eastern Province, have been waging a bloody guerrilla campaign for the past one decade for an independent homeland for the island's 2.5 million minority Tamils.

Sri Lanka's armed secessionist movement began after hundreds of minority members were slain in the 1983 anti-Tamil riots in Colombo and elsewhere on the island.

The Tamils claim widespread discrimination by the Sinhalese majority, which dominates the Sri Lankan government and military.

India, which has 55 million Tamil citizens who sympathize with the cause of Sri Lanka's ethnic minority, originally aided the **Tamil Tigers** but later turned openly hostile toward the group.

Tiger chief Vellupillai Prabhakaran has been charged by New Delhi with involvement in the 1991 assassination of former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi, who was killed by a **female** suicide bomber in Tamil Nadu state.

The Indian government has sought Sri Lanka's help in extraditing Prabhakaran to face trial in the Gandhi slaying case even though the island's military has tried unsuccessfully for nearly one decade to capture the Tamil guerrilla chief.

New Delhi claims Prabhakaran masterminded the Gandhi killing to avenge the 1987 Indian military intervention in Sri Lanka. The operation, carried out on behalf of President Jayewardene's government Colombo, failed to crush the Tamil separatist rebellion.

Several hundred Indian soldiers perished in the operation, which many analysts call "India's Vietnam." Premadasa was a major Sri Lankan critic of the operation.

The Indian government last year outlawed the **LTTE** -- an action that invited ridicule from some opposition politicians who questioned how an organization based overseas could be banned.

Tamil Tigers in ceasefire deal

The Times (London)

September 21 1989, Thursday

Copyright 1989 Times Newspapers Limited

Section: Issue 63505.

Length: 593 words

Byline: From CHRISTOPHER THOMAS, Colombo

Body

Indian troops and the leading Tamil guerrilla group, the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam, halted their two-year war yesterday, bringing an unaccustomed but fragile measure of peace to the ravaged northern and eastern regions of Sri Lanka.

Hostilities ended officially at 6am. For a while there was a startling tranquillity after two weeks of some of the bloodiest fighting. But it was quickly shattered at Jaffna, in the Northern Province, when Tigers battled with rival Tamil groups, an ominous portent for peace prospects.

The Tigers announced last night they would reciprocate the Indian Government's unilateral ceasefire, but reserved the right to self-defence against either the Indian Army 'or its quisling armed groups' a reference to their hated Indian-backed rivals.

Delhi has spent the past fortnight inflicting one last severe beating on the Tigers before calling the truce.

Its fierce assault was at times wildly indiscriminate, killing many innocent people, according to accounts from several independent sources.

The Colombo Government is now anxiously awaiting word of India's plans to get its 40,000 troops off the island. The absence of any announcement yesterday was being regarded here with some suspicion. There are many who doubt whether India seriously intends to be out of Sri Lanka by December 31.

The Tigers, weakened but far from crushed by the latest Indian onslaught, battled with Indian troops right up to the final hours before the Indians stopped fighting yesterday.

The Indian death toll in two years has passed 1,000, with twice that number badly injured.

Tiger officials were incensed yesterday by a statement by General AS Kalkat, the Commander of the Indian Peace-Keeping Force in Sri Lanka, that he would take action against anybody caught with weapons, grenades or explosives, regardless of the ceasefire.

Exceptions would be made only for people guarding leading figures, MPs and provincial politicians. To the Tigers, that seemed like a thinly-veiled threat to continue action against them.

Tamil Tigers in ceasefire deal

The rebels' announcement of a ceasefire was somewhat grudging, and couched in qualifications. They said they suspected that India had ulterior motives in calling a truce, and reserved the right to end the ceasefire if Delhi decided to 'opt for the policy of military occupation'.

The agreement signed by Sri Lanka and India on Monday, in which they announced the Indian ceasefire against the Tamil Tigers, is already being severely tested, with Colombo and Delhi putting significantly different interpretations on it.

Colombo insists India gave an assurance that it would make all efforts to complete the withdrawal of its 40,000 troops by December 31. India does not accept that, declaring that its pull-out by that date is conditional on solid guarantees for the safety of Tamils in the north and east.

India is seeking an unequivocal public pledge by the Tigers that they will not attack rival groups once Indian forces have gone. Mr Rajiv Gandhi, the Prime Minister, who faces a general election this winter, is acutely aware of the electoral importance of 55 million Tamils in the southern Indian state of Tamil Nadu.

President Premadasa is believed to be considering a brief ceasefire against Sinhalese extremists in the Sinhalese-dominated south and west of the island, possibly for 72 hours, to build on the improved atmosphere in the north and east.

The carnage continued yesterday in the south and east. More than 30 bodies were found in a village 25 miles west of Colombo, among them five Buddhist monks and six women.

Load-Date: September 22, 2000

End of Document

Tamil Tigers in ceasefire deal

The Times (London)

September 21 1989, Thursday

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Section: Issue 63505.

Length: 593 words

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Load-Date: September 22, 2000

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RIGHTS: U.S. WRITER'S GROUP HONORS ABDUCTED SRI LANKA POET

IPS-Inter Press Service

September 9, 1992, Wednesday

Copyright 1992 IPS-Inter Press Service/Global Information Network

Length: 370 words

Byline: by John Santella

Dateline: NEW YORK, Sept. 9

Body

Thiagarajah Selvanaithy, a Tamil poet and actress abducted by rebel forces in Sri Lanka over a year ago, was honored this week by the PEN American Center, the U.S. affiliate of the International Writer's Association.

Selvanaithy was named as PEN's 1992 Freedom-to-Write Award recipient. The award is given annually to two writers who have shown courage in exercising and defending freedom of expression, and have suffered as a result.

Selvanaithy, 28, was reportedly abducted by members of the **Tamil Tigers** of Tamil Eelam (**LTTE**) on Aug. 30 last year. There has since been no news concerning her health or whereabouts.

Selvanaithy's abduction occurred the day before she was due to appear in a play about the role of **women** in the Palestinian intifada, according to a PEN report. PEN contends she was targeted because of her outspoken criticism of the Tigers and their methods of dealing with dissent on the Jaffna peninsula.

A third-year theatre and dramatic arts student at the University of Jaffna, Selvanaithy was also a published poet, an actress and an advocate for **women's** issues. In 1985, she was one of the founders of a feminist magazine called "Tholi".

In 1989, she helped to launch "Poorani", a **women's** center in Jaffna which aimed to help **female** victims of the violent conflict between the Tamil minority, represented by the **Tamil Tigers**, and the ruling national party based in the Sinhalese majority.

The "Censorship News", a British-based publication, reported in its Aug. 30 issue that newspapers and journals are strictly controlled in the **LTTE**-dominated north and east Sri Lanka, and that many Tamils who have criticized or opposed the Tiger's tactics have been detained or executed.

The report also said that the detention of more than 20,000 civilians in the **LTTE**-controlled areas has been documented.

"It is time for the Tigers to demonstrate that peaceful, well-intentioned criticism from within their own community is not only tolerated, but encouraged," PEN's Edmund Keeley stated, calling for Selvanaithy's release.

Earlier this year, PEN named Haitian journalist Jean Mario Paul as the first Freedom-to-Write award recipient for 1992. He was released from prison two weeks later, the writer's group reported.

RIGHTS: U.S. WRITER'S GROUP HONORS ABDUCTED SRI LANKA POET

Load-Date: September 11, 1992

End of Document

'Next time maybe we die' fears Tigers' victim

South China Morning Post (Hong Kong)

November 12, 1995

Copyright 1995 South China Morning Post Ltd.

Section: Pg. 8

Length: 398 words

Byline: From SCOTT MCKENZIE in Trincomalee

Body

HIS humble home was burned out and his family sought refuge in a "safe" town closer to Colombo. As Rasiah Devanarayana slept three nights ago, 20 rebel **Tamil Tigers** crept into his tiny mud hut, forced him out of bed and held automatic guns on him while they torched his home.

Yesterday, he tried to put the pieces of his life back together as he hoped he would not again become a target of the **Tamil Tigers** who effectively own the night in this northeastern region of Sri Lanka.

Mr Rasiah, like so many others, was a target because he is Sinhalese, and so ethnically unacceptable to the Tamil rebels fighting for an independent homeland in the north and east of the country.

By day, the military operates regular, heavily armed checkpoints on all roads in the strategic Trincomalee area. By night, the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (**LTTE**) slaughter, burn and pillage as part of a rearguard action.

They aim to draw soldiers from the north to tackle low intensity hit-and-run missions at a time when they are poised to seize control of the northern rebel stronghold of Jaffna.

The Tigers are experts at this sort of warfare; a warfare that terrifies ordinary Sri Lankans like Mr Rasiah.

"I have done nothing. I am a farmer, but still I was attacked. Next time maybe I will die or my family will be here and they will die," he said.

He was one of the luckier ones. Earlier this month **LTTE** soldiers hacked to death five villagers and set alight their huts in the eastern hamlet of Kandahelagama.

Last month they killed more than 100, mostly Sinhalese men, **women** and children, in a series of raids on isolated villages in the east.

Throughout the east, security by day remains tight and the need to maintain a strong presence to combat the Tigers is obvious on the road linking Trincomalee to the north.

The Sunday Morning Post passed through frequent military checkpoints where individuals were questioned and sometimes searched.

Bridges were heavily fortified with machine-gun nests.

'Next time maybe we die' fears Tigers' victim

Even in Trincomalee town the Tigers have continued to strike blows. Yesterday, three police officers were shot dead by suspected rebel soldiers.

Security is tight as the Government proceeds with what it hopes will be a last push to Jaffna.

The offensive began in mid-October, but has been thwarted by rain and mines laid by withdrawing separatist soldiers.

Graphic

(Photo: Mark Ralston); Burned out: Sri Lankan villager Rasiah Devanarayana outside all that was left of his home following a night-time visit by **Tamil Tigers**.

Load-Date: November 14, 1995

End of Document

Army hunts Tamil Tigers after Sinhalese villagers massacred

The Guardian (London)

March 19, 1988

Copyright 1988 Guardian Newspapers Limited

Length: 668 words

Byline: By JOHN RETTIE

Dateline: COLOMBO

Body

When the ***Tamil Tigers*** struck again last night near Amparai, 100 miles to the south of Trincomalee, it was just as a highrowered Sri Lankan delegation stepped off the plane from New Delhi after talks on how to deal with a series of such massacres near Trincomalee.

Creeping out of the jungle well after dark, the Tigers fell upon the first houses within reach, clubbing and hacking to death 13 victims, including five children, so as to avoid alerting two nearby army units with gunfire.

The deaths bring to about 90 the number of civilians massacred since the beginning of the month. Seventy-five of them were Sinhalese.

Until last night, all of them had died in and around the Trincomalee district.

In fact, it is Trincomalee that has been uppermost in the minds of the government and armed forces since the massacres began.

They were particularly incensed by a false report last Tuesday that a busload of Tamils had been pulled out of their vehicle and shot, in reprisal for yet another massacre of Sinhalese the previous day.

So yesterday they flew a party of journalists to Trincomalee for an intensive series of briefings, and a visit by helicopter to the scene of Monday's massacre in the village of Galametiya.

Scattered over several square miles, the village nestles under hills coated by dense jungle, from where marauding Tigers descended, killing and burning. Today it is crawling with soldiers and home guards, like the man who locked his stable door after the horse had bolted.

As is the way of anti-guerrilla groups the world over, several of the home guards sported black tee-shirts with a yellow skull and crossbones over the words 'Death to the terrorists.'

As the marauding media, also heavily protected by the army, descended on the village, curiosity rather than fear overwhelmed the inhabitants. Because the village is so scattered, few had seen the killings.

But on the way, we walked passed a burned-out motorcycle, its twisted wreckage on the grass verge telling a tale more pathetic even than the burned-out houses where people had been killed.

Army hunts Tamil Tigers after Sinhalese villagers massacred

It had belonged to the highly respected village schoolmaster, who had been riding along the dirt road last Monday afternoon, with his wife on the pillion.

Suddenly shots rang out, and his wife fell badly wounded on to the road. The schoolmaster tried desperately to drag her into the cover of bushes at the roadside, but was himself shot dead.

His wife is in hospital fighting for her life.

But two days later a few miles further north, the Sri Lankan army got its own back. They pursued a group of Tigers from the site of another massacre and killed eight of them at their jungle hideout, as well as two young women who were with them.

'I suppose you're very pleased with yourselves?' I asked Major Nanda Malawarachchi, a genial giant in olivegreen fatigues who was escorting us. His black eyes sparkled and a huge grin spread over his chubby face. 'Aren't we just!' he said.

As dusk fell, we passed a group of little children trotting along with their sleeping mats. Where were they going?

'To the Buddhist temple,' explained Major Malawarachchi. 'The whole village sleeps there now. They daren't stay in their houses at night.'

The Sri Lankan army, frustrated by the massive Indian military presence, and enraged by the ease with which scores of Sinhalese have been massacred, now feels it has a role again in Trincomalee.

But it wants more. At his base in Trincomalee town, Colonel 'Lucky' Wijayaratne explained crisply that 'we cannot just wait for the terrorists to come into our areas and attack, and then go away. This is a joint operation with the Indians.'

That the Indians do not accept. Mr Natwar Singh insisted in parliament in Delhi that there would be no joint operations. To agree to that would lay the Indians open to the Tamil Tigers' extravagantly-phrased charge in a recent statement that 'the Indian Government is conniving with the forces of extreme Sinhalese chauvinism in the attempted genocide of the Tamil people.'

Load-Date: June 8, 2000

26 to hang in Gandhi killing: Tamil Tigers behind murder plot, judge says

The Ottawa Citizen

January 29, 1998, Thursday, FINAL EDITION

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Section: NEWS; Pg. A10

Length: 419 words

Byline: RAHUL BEDI; THE DAILY TELEGRAPH

Dateline: NEW DELHI

Body

Twenty-six people were sentenced yesterday to hang for conspiring to assassinate former Indian prime minister Rajiv Gandhi.

In a 2,000-page judgment, special Judge V. Navaneetham held the separatist **Tamil Tigers** of Sri Lanka solely responsible for masterminding Mr. Gandhi's murder by a **female** suicide bomber at an election rally at Sriperumbudur, 65 kilometres from Madras, in May 1991.

Velupillai Prabhakaran, leader of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam, and his two top aides were convicted in their absence but not sentenced. India's federal government has sought their extradition from Sri Lanka for more than three years. The fugitives have been waging war against their government for an independent Tamil homeland since the mid-1980s.

Two of the 26 who stood trial, including the man who built the bomb, were convicted of murder. Others, such as those accused of helping plan the assassination or providing transportation, housing or food to those involved, were found guilty on charges such as aiding and abetting.

All the defendants were tried under special terrorist laws that permit the death penalty. Such sentences are rare in India, although they have been common in cases of political assassination.

Officials from the Central Bureau of Investigation said the hearing had been delayed -- making it India's longest assassination trial -- because 12 of the 38 people arrested soon after the assassination committed suicide to conceal information. Most of them bit into cyanide capsules.

Mr. Gandhi and 17 others died after a member of the Tigers' **women** suicide squad garlanded the former prime minister at an election rally and simultaneously detonated the belt of plastic explosive tied around her waist and chest. Investigating officials said the assassination had been meticulously rehearsed for nearly nine months.

The **Tamil Tigers** held Mr. Gandhi responsible for committing the Indian army to disarming their cadres in northern Sri Lanka following a tenuous peace treaty they were tricked into signing with their federal government in Colombo.

The Indian Peace Keeping Force met stiff resistance from well-armed and committed Tiger guerrillas and were forced to withdraw without achieving their objective more than two years later.

26 to hang in Gandhi killing: Tamil Tigers behind murder plot, judge says

Hundreds of police officers were posted to the area where the trial was held. Southern India is heavily populated by ethnic Tamils with strong ties to the Tamils in Sri Lanka, but initial response to the sentencing was muted.

Graphic

Black & White Photo: Rajiv Gandhi was slain in 1991.

Load-Date: January 30, 1998

End of Document

13 KILLED IN SUICIDE BOMBING BY TAMIL TIGER

The Scotsman

January 6, 2000, Thursday

Copyright 2000 The Scotsman Publications Ltd.

Section: Pg. 10

Length: 692 words

Byline: Ian Mackinnon In New Delhi

Body

A TAMIL Tiger suicide bomber killed herself and 13 others yesterday in an attack at the gates of the Sri Lankan prime minister's office, less than three weeks after the president was blinded in one eye by an identical assassination attempt.

The prime minister, Sirima Bandaranaike, who is ill and rarely goes to the office in the capital, was unhurt in the blast, which killed security staff and passers-by in the leafy suburb.

Within hours two gunmen killed a leading lawyer, Kumar Ponnambalam, who was an outspoken apologist for the Tamil Tiger separatists, as he drove his Mercedes through a Tamil area of Colombo.

Three days ago the recently re-elected president, Chandrika Kumaratunga, attacked hardline opponents in a television address.

It prompted speculation that the tone served as a green light to extreme elements among the Sinhalese majority to eliminate her detractors.

The latest suicide bombing -a tactic used exclusively by the Liberation ***Tamil Tigers*** of Eelam (***LTTE***) - demonstrated the organisation's ability to strike at will in Colombo to bolster its 17-year fight for an independent northern homeland.

Police estimate that there may be as many as ten more suicide bombers lurking among the capital's large Tamil-speaking community and expect further similar attacks.

President Kumaratunga, 52, was injured by shrapnel and 21 supporters and bodyguards were killed when a ***female*** suicide bomber blew herself up at a Colombo election rally on 18 December, despite intense security.

Yesterday's attack in a diplomatic enclave in the south of the coastal city took place in the morning rush-hour after guards at the office questioned a woman who been acting suspiciously.

The woman had been pacing up and down outside the building when she was approached and questioned by a member of the prime minister's security division.

As she replied in Tamil the officer summoned a nearby fruit vendor to translate. But as they approached the woman, thought to have been wearing an explosives-packed vest, detonated the device.

13 KILLED IN SUICIDE BOMBING BY TAMIL TIGER

Two women police officers and a 60-year-old civilian were among those who died, though diplomats at the nearby Russian and Saudi embassies were unhurt.

Later yesterday, the president posthumously promoted six of the security officials.

However, there were question marks last night over the intended target.

One report suggested that despite her illness, the wheel-chair bound prime minister had been intending to visit the office to greet constituents for the new year.

Another suggestion was that the unpopular defence minister, Anuraddha Ratwatte, who sometimes went to the building, may have been the bomber's intended victim.

Two hours later Mr Ponnambalam was murdered by two gunmen on foot as he drove his car.

The lawyer, who has represented Tamils in cases against the government, was shot at close range with a pistol.

Observers believe that Mr Ponnambalam, who ran for president in 1982 and was often regarded as the unofficial spokesman for the Tamil Tigers, could have been murdered by a rival Tamil group or extreme elements in the security forces.

However, his death clearly represents a setback to the LTTE.

"This is definitely a big blow to the Tamil Tigers," said Iqbal Athas, a leading commentator.

"He was regarded as their mouth-piece in Colombo."

Yet with the suicide bombing Mr Athas also felt the LTTE had delivered a clear message to President Kumaratunga in the wake of her hard-hitting television speech.

"She escaped the attempt on her life," he said. "But in her message to the nation she vowed to crack down on the Tigers. This demonstrates they still have the power to strike in Colombo."

Jehan Perera, of the Colombo-based Peace Council pressure group, believed the bombing may have been an attempt to further ratchet up the psychological pressure on Mrs Kumaratunga by striking at her mother.

"Certainly the president is under a lot of pressure," he said.

"When she was on television she spoke in a very unusual way. She had never taken this confrontational, aggressive attitude, polarising the opposition.

"This could have given the spark to Sinhalese extremists to attack Mr Ponnambalam."

Load-Date: January 11, 2000

Stopping suicide bombings: Sri Lanka managed to reach pact with Tamil Tigers

The Gazette (Montreal, Quebec)

August 8, 2002 Thursday Final Edition

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Section: Editorial / Op-ed; Pg. B3

Length: 742 words

Byline: THOMAS L. FRIEDMAN

Dateline: COLOMBO, Sri Lanka

Body

It's often forgotten that while suicide bombing started in the Middle East, the people who perfected suicide as a weapon of war were the **Tamil Tigers** militia here in Sri Lanka, the island-state off the southern tip of India.

In the last decade, Tamil suicide bombers, many of them **women**, killed about 1,500 people, including an Indian prime minister and a Sri Lankan president. And in a bizarre twist, the Tigers filmed many of their suicide bombings to show and motivate their troops.

But since last December, a ceasefire between the Tigers - who have been militating for a separate state for Sri Lanka's Tamil Hindu minority in the northeast - and the government, which is dominated by the Buddhist Sinhalese majority, has halted all suicide bombings. No one can be sure it will last, after 18 years of civil war. But it's still worth examining how suicide was defused here and whether any of this might apply to Palestinians and Israelis.

New York Times

To begin with, one of the key factors in halting Tamil suicide bombings was the Tamil diaspora, living in North America, Europe and India. This Tamil diaspora had been the main source of funding for the **Tamil Tigers**. But the Tamil diaspora is made up largely of middle-class merchants and professionals, and when in the late 1990s the United States, Britain and India all declared the Tigers a "terrorist" group, not freedom fighters, the Tamil diaspora became embarrassed by them and started choking off their funds.

"The Tamil diaspora started out as a force encouraging Tamil radicalism, but eventually, it evolved into a source for moderation," said Suresh Premachandran, head of a Tamil rights party in Sri Lanka. "Sept. 11 changed that even more. People here knew after that there would never be any sympathy for any suicide bombers."

Unfortunately, in the Middle East Arabs and Muslims continue to indulge, justify, praise or provide religious legitimization for Palestinian suicide bombers, even after Sept. 11. The Palestinians have convinced themselves, with the help of many Arabs and Europeans, that their grievance is so special, so enormous that it isn't bound by any limits of civilized behaviour, and therefore, they are entitled to do whatever they want to Israelis. And Israelis have convinced themselves that they are entitled to do virtually anything to stop it.

Second, Sri Lankans had to pay retail for their extremism. They had no oil or foreign powers to finance their war. And because so much domestic savings was diverted to the war, Sri Lanka's roads and infrastructure today are decrepit. It is not surprising, therefore, that the peace movement, which blossomed in the last two years, was led by

Stopping suicide bombings: Sri Lanka managed to reach pact with Tamil Tigers

the business community - particularly after the **Tamil Tigers** blew up Colombo's airport in July 2001 and sent the country into an economic tailspin.

"The business community finally said, 'Enough is enough,'" said Mahesh Amalean, chairman of MAS Holdings, Sri Lanka's leading apparel maker. "That turned the tide. Our motto became 'Sri Lanka first.'"

Israelis and Palestinians, by contrast, get to buy their extremism wholesale. Palestinians could engage in suicide bombings without becoming destitute because the Arab states are always ready to pass the hat for them. Israelis have been able to build insane settlements in the heart of the West Bank, because the United States was ready to provide aid with no limits attached.

Third, in Sri Lanka the government realized it had no military solution for suicide bombers - that the only way they could be stopped was if the Tigers themselves could be induced to turn them off. The Tigers, meanwhile, realized that while they could terrify the government with suicides, they couldn't even hold their own ethnic capital, Jaffna. So they both finally opted for negotiations. Unfortunately, the Palestinians abandoned a peace offer and opted instead for the delusion that suicide bombing will get them more, and Ariel Sharon has opted for a purely military response.

Finally, while Jews and Arabs have carried out their war with all the world watching - and often meddling in ways that prolonged the conflict - Sri Lankans have conducted their war, in which 64,000 people have died, with almost no coverage.

"Ours has been a forgotten war, and we've had to live with our mistakes and to find our own way out," said Milinda Moragoda, one of the government's peace negotiators. "It had its disadvantages but also its advantages."

Graphic

Photo: GEMUNU AMARASINGHE, AP; A Sri Lankan soldier and a police officer escort a suspected Tamil Tiger from the scene of a suicide bombing in Colombo in June 2000. The blast killed a cabinet minister and 20 others.

Load-Date: August 8, 2002

Defense disputes Tamil Tiger involvement in Gandhi slaying

United Press International
June 24, 1993, Thursday, BC cycle

Copyright 1993 U.P.I.

Section: International

Length: 392 words

Dateline: MADRAS, India

Body

A defense attorney disputed the prosecution contention Thursday that Sri Lankan **Tamil Tigers** assassinated Rajiv Gandhi, saying the former Indian prime minister had reached a secret accord with the guerrillas just weeks before the killing.

Defense lawyer T. Rama Doss quoted several prosecution witnesses saying that the **Tamil Tigers** had no motive to kill Gandhi since they had reached an accord with him during unpublicized meetings in New Delhi.

Gandhi had agreed to support, if he returned to power in the 1991 elections, the rebel demand for a separate homeland for the Sri Lankan Tamil minority, the attorney contended.

A total of 26 Indian and Sri Lankan Tamils are on trial before a special court on charges of involvement in the May, 1991 slaying. Another 25 Tamils wanted by police, including the alleged masterminds of the murder conspiracy, committed suicide to escape arrest.

Chief Prosecutor P. Rajamanickam earlier argued that Sri Lanka's Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam guerrilla organization plotted the killing in a "devilishly unique" way, employing a young **female** suicide bomber.

The bomber strapped plastic explosives to her waist and detonated them as she tried to garland Gandhi at a public meeting southwest of Madras in India's Tamil Nadu state, the prosecutor said.

The blast, just days before the final round of balloting in national elections, killed Gandhi and 17 others. It decapitated the bomber. Gandhi's Congress party narrowly won the elections.

The prosecution argued that the **LTTE** masterminded the Gandhi slaying to avenge the 1987 Indian military intervention in Sri Lanka. The **LTTE**, however, has denied involvement in the killing.

Gandhi ordered the troops into northern Sri Lanka to crush the Tamil Tiger guerrilla movement. The operation, carried out on behalf of the Sri Lankan government, failed to subdue the separatist rebellion.

Several hundred Indian soldiers perished in the operation, which many analysts call "India's Vietnam."

The Tigers, who control much of Sri Lanka's northern Jaffna peninsula and parts of the Eastern Province, have been waging a bloody guerrilla campaign for the past one decade for an independent homeland for the island's 2.5 million minority Tamils.

Defense disputes Tamil Tiger involvement in Gandhi slaying

The Tamils claim widespread discrimination by the Sinhalese majority, which dominates the Sri Lankan government and military.

End of Document

Foreign desk

The Ottawa Citizen

January 28, 1992, Tuesday, FINAL EDITION

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Section: NEWS; Pg. A6

Length: 260 words

Byline: ASOKA WEERASINGHE

Body

Reporter Rhoda Metcalfe's Jan. 19 article, "Shattered by civil war," gives the impression that there have been selective killings by Sri Lankan armed forces of "more than 40,000 Tamils" in their fight for a separate nation, Eelam. This is far from the truth.

We are not sure how she arrived at that figure, but what she ignored reporting were the thousands of innocent Sinhalese -- men, women, children and infants plucked from their mothers' arms -- hacked to death by the Tamil Tiger terrorists in remote villages.

By mid-1991, there were 200,000 such Sinhalese refugees being taken care of by the Sri Lankan government.

Amnesty International, in its latest report, highlights a large number of human rights violations and atrocities by the Tamil Tigers including torture, committed after they reneged on the peace talks with the government in June 1990.

Ms Metcalfe also failed to mention the several unilateral ceasefires declared by the government and the numerous calls made by President Ranasinghe Premadasa to the LTTE to denounce violence and come to the negotiation table.

While the government of Sri Lanka continues its commitment to finding a political solution to the problem of the Tamil-speaking people through consultation, compromise and consensus, the Tamil Tigers are continuing to unleash a reign of terror as a means of attaining a mono-ethnic, racist Tamil state.

Asoka Weerasinghe

Director of Communications High Commission of Sri Lanka

Load-Date: January 28, 1992

Jaffna attack kills Gandhi assassination suspect

THE AUSTRALIAN

November 14, 1995 Tuesday 0 Edition

Copyright 1995 Nationwide News Pty Limited

Length: 483 words

Byline: -SOURCE- AFP, Reuters

Body

SRI Lankan troops closing in on the Tamil Tiger stronghold of Jaffna had killed a woman guerilla wanted for the assassination of the former Indian prime minister Rajiv Gandhi, it was revealed yesterday. A spokesman for the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam said the women's wing leader, known by her nom de guerre, Akila, had been "martyred" in the defence of Jaffna" about two weeks ago. A spokesman for the Sri Lankan military, meanwhile, said the month-long advance on Jaffna town in northern Sri Lanka continued and that fierce resistance by LTTE was being overcome. "We are very close to the Jaffna university," said the chief spokesman, Mr Sarath Munasinghe. "We can go into Jaffna any time. Troop morale is very high, and soldiers are just waiting to go to Jaffna." But we are making some preparations so that we do not have to take unnecessary risks. We are at the moment concentrating on aerial surveillance before we go in." At least 319 soldiers and 1459 LTTE guerillas have been killed in the fighting, the worst since Sri Lankan troops launched a similar offensive in the sprawling Jaffna peninsula in 1987. The LTTE said from its London headquarters that Akila was one of the victims of the current government offensive, which began on October 17 and has been within reach of Jaffna for more than a week. "Lieutenant-Colonel Akila attained martyrdom . . . during the defence of Jaffna," a LTTE statement said. "She was also a veteran of several battles . . . and proved invaluable in assisting the development of the LTTE women fighters division." Akila, who joined the LTTE in 1987, was one of three LTTE leaders wanted by Indian authorities for Gandhi's assassination by a woman suicide bomber in southern India in May 1991. The others are the LTTE supremo, Mr Velupillai Prabhakaran, who is accused by Indian investigators of masterminding the assassination, and the LTTE intelligence chief known as Pottu Amman. New Delhi asked Colombo in June 1995 to extradite the three. Indian investigators charged 41 Indian and Sri Lankan Tamils with Gandhi's killing. Until Akila's alleged death, 26 were facing trial in India, 12 were dead and three were sought by Indian authorities. The LTTE has denied involvement in the assassination. The Tamil Tigers said in their statement that Sri Lankan troops were advancing "towards Jaffna town along three fronts with the assistance of tanks and armoured vehicles". It accused the army of shelling several villages heavily with artillery and mortars, and said that LTTE guerillas were offering "stiff resistance . . . and inflicting heavy casualties on the army". Military officials admitted that the Tigers were fighting back in a fierce rearguard action to defend Jaffna town. About 70 Tigers were killed in fighting yesterday, raising their death toll to more than 250 since the army resumed its push on Friday after a week-long lull, military sources said.

Load-Date: October 1, 2003

Four death sentences confirmed for Rajiv Gandhi's assassination

Deutsche Presse-Agentur

October 8, 1999, Friday, BC Cycle 06:55 Central European Time

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Section: International News

Length: 275 words

Dateline: New Delhi

Body

The Indian Supreme Court Friday confirmed death sentences for four prisoners for the 1991 assassination of former prime minister Rajiv Gandhi.

Judges rejected by two to one appeals by Nalini, her husband Murugan, Perarivalan and Santhan against the court earlier upholding a death sentence by a special court in the southern city of Madras.

The dissenting judge recommended a life term for Nalini because she is the mother of a small child.

The accused may still challenge the constitutional validity of the sentence or, finally, seek clemency from President K.R. Narayanan.

In a May 11 judgement, the Supreme Court confirmed death sentences imposed on the four, reduced the sentences of three others to life in jail and released the remaining accused.

A total of 26 people, all alleged activists or sympathizers of the Sri Lankan separatist Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (**LTTE**), had originally been sentenced to death in Madras.

Rajiv Gandhi, then the opposition leader, was killed on May 21, 1991 along with 17 others by Dhanu, a Sri Lankan Tamil woman suicide bomber, in the southern state of Tamil Nadu while campaigning for his Congress Party in parliamentary elections.

LTTE chief Velupillai Prabhakaran, his intelligence chief Pottu Amman and **LTTE women's** wing leader Akhila were among the 41 accused. Only 26 could be brought to trial. The others either died or were hiding in rebel strongholds in northern and eastern Sri Lanka.

The "**Tamil Tigers**" opposition to Gandhi stemmed from his sending Indian peacekeeping forces to Sri Lanka to end the secessionist conflict there in favour of the Colombo government. dpa mvb fz

Load-Date: October 8, 1999

LTTE

Sri Lankan army camp at 10th mile post Pulmoddai completely annihilated by LTTE forces

M2 PRESSWIRE

February 1, 1996

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Length: 559 words

Body

After 20 minutes of heavy fighting Sri Lankan army camp at the 10th mile post Pulmoddai in the Eastern province was completely annihilated by LTTE forces Pulmoddai 10th mile post army camp in Trincomalee was completely wiped out by LTTE forces on Sunday night at 11.55 p.m. (28-01-96). After twenty minutes of heavy fighting the camp fell into the hands of the LTTE. After capturing military equipments, the camp was completely destroyed.

Unable to face this severe attack, the army fled away carrying with them the injured soldiers. It should be noted that this camp was erected after chasing away the Tamils from Thennamarawadi area in 1993. LTTE forces captured military equipments after bringing the army camp under control, then demolished the generators and camp buildings.

14 soldiers including an officer were killed and many injured soldiers ran away. There is no casualties in LTTE. According to military sources the fierce battle went on for four hours and women LTTE fighters were also engaged in this fighting. They further stated, only three soldiers were wounded and they are being treated at Anuradhapuram hospital.

Tamil Fisherman missing A fisherman engaged in fishing in the Jaffna lagoon near Kalmunai area is missing according to his relatives. S. Marsy a fisherman from Kurunagar, Valigamam went missing since the last few days, after the Sri Lankan navy started attacking fishermen in this area.

Daring attack on patrol unit at Mankindimalai by LTTE forces Three soldiers died and several injured from a patrol unit during the attack by LTTE forces, about 1000 metres from Mankindimalai army camp in Mullaitivu district. 3 army personnel died in this attack. LTTE also attacked another army unit which came from Mankindimalai to support this unit.

No further information available regarding this.

Three S.T.F (Special Task Forces) including a sub-inspector died In a confrontation with the S.T.F in Amparai district with LTTE, 3 policemen including a sub-inspector were killed. An S.T.F patrol unit with a 'Buffle' armoured vehicle encountered the LTTE on Pamagama Pottuvil road at Sastheriveli on Monday at 8.05 a.m. (29-01-96). One S.T.F. person died on the spot. Another unit of S.T.F. from Aruhambai which came with a 'Buffle' armoured vehicle in support, was also attacked by the LTTE, and they retreated with heavy losses.

Mass protest march in Batticaloa district Mass protest march on a large scale was conducted (on Sunday 28-01-96) by the Tamils in memory of mass murders committed by the Sri Lankan army in 1987 at Kokadichcholai. More

LTTE Sri Lankan army camp at 10th mile post Pulmoddai completely annihilated by LTTE forces

than five thousand people and students jointly conducted this protest march, shouting slogans against the Sri Lankan government.

The protest march which started from Ampilandurai with the effigy of Chandrika and Ratwatte went through Kadukkamunai, Arasady road and came to Kokadichcholaï at 12 noon. Another protest march from Malizhaditheevu, Pandariyaveli and Munakkadu villages came to Kokadichcholaï and the effigies were burnt at Kokadichcholaï temple junction. A public meeting was conducted after this and Mr. Durai, Political representative of Batticaloa, Amparai district and Mr. Arumuganathan, Kokadichcholaï Hindu temple trust also addressed this rally.

CONTACT: **LTTE** International Secretariat

Tel: +44 (0)181-470 8593

Load-Date: May 23, 1997

End of Document

LTTE ADMITS ATROCITIES, HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSES: FRENCH MAGAZINE

Malaysia General News

April 27, 2000, Thursday

Copyright 2000 Pertubuhan Berita Nasional Malaysia

Length: 438 words

Dateline: COLOMBO, April 27, 2000

Body

Members of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (**LTTE**) have admitted to atrocities and human rights abuses in their drawn-out insurgency against the Sri Lanka government, according to a recent edition of the French magazine Le Point reported in a Sri Lankan newspaper Thursday.

Quoting the magazine, the Daily Mail said **LTTE** members interviewed in the Batticoloa jungles about 300 kilometers northeast of Colombo spoke freely of executing captured military personnel and summarily executing civilians branded by the **LTTE** as traitors.

One fighter, identified only as "Mariana," who fought in an **LTTE**s offensive in November last year, said wounded Sri Lankan soldiers were routinely executed by the advancing **LTTE**.

Apparently trying to prove Tiger **women** are ferocious fighters, she was quoted as saying her "sister cadres" take no prisoners, killing any captured or wounded soldiers "on the spot."

The claims apparently back up reports by the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) that no new prisoners have been reported by the **LTTE** since 1994.

"Mariana" was reported as also saying any soldiers taken alive have their blood extracted for use in **LTTE** hospitals, then are left to die or are killed outright.

The **LTTE** members interviewed by Le Point also described complete totalitarian control in **LTTE** areas.

"No one escapes the law of the Tigers. For traitors there is a bullet in the head," one **LTTE** fighter was quoted as saying.

According to the Le Point article, "traitors" in **LTTE**-held areas are executed before an assembly of local villagers, are decapitated and their heads are then exhibited by the roadside, usually tied to lamp posts.

Political indoctrination in **LTTE** areas begins in early youth, the magazine added, with propaganda posters promoting a virtual "Cult of Prabhakaran," the **LTTE** leader, in the schools.

Other reports have said boys and girls as young as 11 years are recruited in clear violation of international law against "child soldiers," often snatched from their parents at gunpoint.

Young girls, mostly recruited between the ages of 11 and 13, are also used as suicide bombers, "honored" by having their suicide kit presented personally by **LTTE** leader Velupillai Prabhakaran, it was reported.

LTTE ADMITS ATROCITIES, HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSES: FRENCH MAGAZINE

"If we are needed to explode, we'll readily explode," "Mariana" was quoted by the French magazine as saying.

More than 55,250 have so far died in the 17-year-long civil war.

The **LTTE** is fighting for a separate homeland for the Tamil minority in Sri Lanka's northeast where the majority of inhabitants are ethnic Tamils.

Load-Date: April 28, 2000

End of Document

The eye of the white tigress: The women of the Tamil Tigers fight to the death, frequently their own. Adel Balasingham is one of them. She is white, 40, British and enjoys gardening. She carries an AK-47 machine gun and wears a cyanide necklace in case she's caught

The Guardian (London)

June 1, 1991

Copyright 1991 Guardian Newspapers Limited

Length: 947 words

Byline: By GABRIELLA GAMINI

Body

She wore a bulky denim belt packed with plastic explosives and steel pellets, beneath her loose tunic and trousers. Now the dismembered remains of Rajiv Gandhi's presumed assassin are published in gory 'reconstruction' throughout the Indian press. Could she be a colleague in blood of these battle-hardened Tamil Tiger **women** in Sri Lanka? Did she, like them, wear a cyanide capsule around her neck in case the detonator failed?

The **women** fighters of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (**LTTE**), photographed here near Jaffna, carrying captured AK-47s, M16s, Sterling sub-machine guns and grenades. They are fiercely proud of their skills in face-to-face combat. Several are believed to belong to the **LTTE**'s suicide squad - the Black Tigers.

At least 30 **women Tamil Tigers** have died in the past three years. In one incident, six held an important bridge in Jaffna until killed by Indian artillery. Their posters are displayed as martyrs to the cause.

One Tamil freedom fighter still very much alive is Adel Balasingham, a 40-year-old Australian-born British citizen. At first she appears frail and soft spoken. She says her favourite pastime is tending the vegetable garden. But the AK-47 machine gun strapped around her shoulders tells a different story.

For over a decade she has lived through the bloody civil war in northern Sri Lanka. She has roughed it in muddy trenches and was once on the run for 48 hours, through water-logged paddy fields, escaping a military search. And when the bombs come really close, she is forced to leave the comfort of her bed for a bunker.

She has been a Tamil Tiger guerilla, fighting for an independent Tamil homeland from the Sinhalese government of Sri Lanka, since the seventies. She turned to a life in the tropical jungles of north and east Sri Lanka rather than a career as a teacher in Melbourne after she married a Tamil student she met in London in 1978. She was studying social sciences at the South Bank Polytechnic while Anton Balasingham - today the Tiger's chief political ideologue - was at London's Goldsmith College.

'We hit it off because at the time we were both fighting racism and the growth of neo-fascist groups in England,' she explains. 'Bala, (as she calls the international spokesperson of the **Tamil Tigers**) told me about the oppression of the Tamil people at the hands of the majority Sinhalese. I came to Sri Lanka to see it for myself, then joined the Tigers.' It began, she says, as a political movement to gain rights for the minority Tamils who represent one third of Sri Lanka's population. But it has evolved into a ruthless war.

The eye of the white tigress: The women of the Tamil Tigers fight to the death, frequently their own. Adel Balasingham is one of them. She is white, 40, Britis....

According to Balasingham, she abandoned earlier hopes of achieving autonomy for Tamils through political means. She underwent rigorous military training for three years and although she has never killed, she says she would have no qualms about doing so. 'When it comes to it, I will kill. I will do whatever it takes to get autonomy for the Tamil people. I have dedicated my life to the fight for self determination. Although I did not initially advocate the use of guns, it became inevitable, and I backed it because it was the only way to protect these people.

'You have to understand that this country is ruled by the power of the gun; our weapons were the only tools we could use to defend our people from attacks by the Sinhalese security forces,' she claims, referring to massacres in 1983 and 1987 when thousands of Tamil civilians were killed.

'Tamil areas are now being bombed day and night. They claim its a war against us, but it's a war on the community,' she says. We sat in the dark on the steps of her jungle hide-out in the northern peninsula of Jaffna while bombs rained down on nearby villages. The bombing of the Tiger stronghold of Jaffna started months ago and, despite hundreds of civilian deaths, the Sri Lankan government has made little headway against the Tiger guerillas.

Adel Balasingham has made her mark in the movement but is mocked by Sri Lankan politicians as 'Balasingham's barmaid'. She works in hospitals with civilians caught in the war and edits the movement magazine, Voice of the Tigers. Most significantly, however, she has encouraged women to join the military wing of the Tigers, which is growing in numbers every day. 'I felt it was important for women to join since they are suffering just as much.'

She has trained them and organised women-only camps who plan their own operations against military targets in Jaffna. 'Some of these girls have been raped by Sri Lankan soldiers and others have seen their families killed so they have a right to defend their people.'

At least 3,000 women cadres now form part of the Tigers' fighting force, a remarkable number in a Hindu-dominated society in which women traditionally represent the stability of home and family. 'It shows the strength of feeling for the struggle in the Tamil community,' claims Balasingham. She says they have highlighted women's issues and rights in a male-dominated society.

Life as a Tigress, which has taken her from one jungle hide-out to another, has not been easy, she says, but she feels part of it and could never leave. 'I suppose sometimes my Tamil brothers and sisters wonder what I am doing here.' But she regards 'Eelam' - the putative Tamil state - as her home and speaks fluent Tamil. She hopes her parents accept this as she says she will not return to the West.

'I don't know what they think; they just have to understand. I am in this too deep. I need this community as much as they need me. I have learnt to live with guerrilla war and am prepared to die for the Tamil cause,' she says, adjusting the AK-47 cartridges strapped tightly around her waist.

Load-Date: June 9, 2000

Tiger and Australian wife banned for terrorist links; NO ENTRY

Sydney Morning Herald (Australia)

December 21, 1999 Tuesday

Late Edition

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Section: NEWS AND FEATURES; International News; Pg. 9

Length: 832 words

Byline: CHRISTOPHER KREMMER in Colombo

Body

Just weeks before Saturday's suicide bomb blast targeting Sri Lanka's President Chandrika Kumaratunga, the Australasian Federation of Tamil Associations says a key member of the **Tamil Tigers** was refused entry to Australia.

A spokesman for the federation, Mr K. Ravichandra, said Dr Anton Balasingham requested the visit so his Australian wife could see her elderly parents.

The federation says Dr Balasingham, who is married to Ms Adele Wilby, made the request through the Tamil community in Britain, where he is undergoing kidney treatment.

"Dr Balasingham had indicated to us ... that he would like to make a personal visit to Australia, primarily to allow his wife to see her parents, whom she hasn't seen for years now," Mr Ravichandra said.

On November 15, at a meeting in Canberra, the federation took the matter up with the director of the India and South Asia section of the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Mr Graeme Lade.

But the federation, which lobbies on behalf of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (**LTTE**), a group banned by several countries including the United States, was to be disappointed.

In a letter to the Federation dated November 30, Mr Lade responded that "[Foreign Minister Mr Alexander] Downer will not meet with Tamil groups unless they renounce the terrorist activities of the **LTTE** in writing".

But according to Mr Ravichandra, Mr Lade went further, telling him that given Mr Downer's view on the issue, Dr Balasingham a British passport holder would be unwelcome to visit Australia "because he is so closely associated with the **LTTE**".

Mr Lade was on leave last night and not available for comment.

Depending on which side you believe, Mr Balasingham is either a mild-mannered Marxist who serves as a mere "political adviser" to the **Tamil Tigers** supreme leader, Velupillai Prabhakaran, or the brains behind the group's terrorist strategy.

According to an editorial in the Sri Lankan English language daily newspaper The Island : "Balasingham is reputed to be the mentor of Prabhakaran, whose hands are splattered with the blood of thousands of Sri Lankans, that of

Tiger and Australian wife banned for terrorist links NO ENTRY

Indian Premier Rajiv Gandhi and [former Sri Lankan] President [Ranasinghe] Premadasa. The tag of 'political adviser' is a cover for him to move freely in western countries to work for this terrorist organisation."

Mr Balasingham, a former Tamil journalist and translator at the British High Commission in Colombo, developed links with Australia after his first wife died and he met a young nurse from Warragul, in Victoria, who was studying with him in London.

Adele Wilby, or Adele Ann as she is sometimes referred to in LTTE literature, is prominent in the women's wing of the organisation, which boasts an estimated 3,000 fighters. She has appeared in videos garlanding young Tamil women soldiers who wear ampules of cyanide to swallow to avoid capture.

Female cadres are also well represented in the ranks of the "Black Tigers" suicide corp, one of whose members tried to assassinate Mrs Kumaratunga at an election rally in Colombo on Saturday. Sri Lankan military officials have accused her of involvement in the indoctrination of recruits as young as 12.

In a BBC interview in 1991 she said she and her husband had moved to Jaffna in 1991. "Here we're involved in the political training of the fighters, among other things," she said.

In Women Fighters of the Liberation Tigers, published in 1993 by the LTTE Press, Adele Ann writes that women who join the Tigers are telling society that "they are not satisfied with the social status quo; it means they are young women capable of defying authority; it means they are women with independent thoughts ..."

Under Sri Lankan law, the couple would face trial for belonging to a banned organisation if they surrendered or were arrested.

Ms Wilby's mother, Betty, who is in her 70s, said she had no comment to make on her any plans by her daughter to visit Australia.

After the fall of Jaffna to the Sri Lankan Army in 1995, the Balasinghams fled with the rest of the LTTE into the jungles of the northern Wanni district. The couple arrived in London in May.

On November 26, Heroes' Day, on which LTTE martyrs are honoured, Dr Balasingham addressed a crowd of 6,000 supporters at the London Arena. Adele was on stage with him, dressed in a sari.

A Sri Lankan newspaper said Dr Balasingham's mission in Britain was to "raise a pound a day" from Tamil expatriates to help finance the Tigers' war effort, and to lobby for continued British support for third party mediation to end the conflict.

Australia's policy towards the Tamil question has clearly hardened since a senior representative of the group, Mr Lawrence Tilakar, visited Australia in 1996. On that occasion, Mr Downer refused to address a conference Mr Tilakar was attending in Canberra.

A DFAT official said Ms Wilby's involvement in Sri Lanka's civil war could become an issue under the Foreign Incursions Act, which bans Australians being active in conflicts abroad, if she were to return to Australia.

Graphic

Illus: Downer and out ... Adele Wilby, left, and Dr Anton Balasingham.

Load-Date: August 8, 2007

Tiger and Australian wife banned for terrorist links NO ENTRY

End of Document

Banned Tiger and Aussie wife who backs terrorists; NO ENTRY

Sydney Morning Herald (Australia)

December 21, 1999 Tuesday

Early Edition

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Section: NEWS AND FEATURES; International News; Pg. 9

Length: 813 words

Byline: CHRISTOPHER KREMMER in Colombo

Body

The Federal Government turned down a request to visit Australia by the chief ideologue of the ***Tamil Tigers*** guerilla organisation, and his Australian wife, just weeks before Saturday's suicide bomb blast targetting the Sri Lankan President, Mrs Chandrika Kumaratunga.

Dr Anton Balasingham expressed his interest in visiting Australia through the Tamil community in Britain, where he is staying while receiving treatment for a kidney ailment.

"Dr Balasingham had indicated to us ... that he would like to make a personal visit to Australia, primarily to allow his wife to see her parents, whom she hasn't seen for years now," said Mr K. Ravichandra, a spokesman for the Australasian Federation of Tamil Associations.

On November 15, at a meeting in Canberra, the federation took the matter up with the director of the India and South Asia section of the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Mr Graeme Lade.

But the federation, which lobbies on behalf of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (***LTTE***), a group banned by several countries including the United States, was to be disappointed.

In a letter to the Federation dated November 30, Mr Lade responded that "[Foreign Minister Mr Alexander] Downer will not meet with Tamil groups unless they renounce the terrorist activities of the ***LTTE*** in writing".

But according to Mr Ravichandra, Mr Lade went further, telling him that given Mr Downer's view on the issue, Dr Balasingham a British passport holder would be unwelcome to visit Australia "because he is so closely associated with the ***LTTE***".

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According to an editorial in the Sri Lankan English language daily newspaper The Island : "Balasingham is reputed to be the mentor of Prabhakaran, whose hands are splattered with the blood of thousands of Sri Lankans, that of Indian Premier Rajiv Gandhi and [former Sri Lankan] President [Ranasinghe] Premadasa. The tag of 'political adviser' is a cover for him to move freely in western countries to work for this terrorist organisation."

Banned Tiger and Aussie wife who backs terrorists NO ENTRY

Mr Balasingham, a former Tamil journalist and translator at the British High Commission in Colombo, developed links with Australia after his first wife died and he met a young nurse from Warragul, in Victoria, who was studying with him in London.

Ms Adele Wilby, or Adele Ann as she is sometimes referred to in **LTTE** literature, is prominent in the **women's** wing of the organisation, which boasts an estimated 3,000 fighters. She has appeared in videos garlanding young Tamil **women** soldiers who wear ampules of cyanide to swallow to avoid capture.

Female cadres are also well represented in the ranks of the "Black Tigers" suicide corp, one of whose members tried to assassinate Mrs Kumaratunga at an election rally in Colombo on Saturday. Sri Lankan military officials have accused her of involvement in the indoctrination of recruits as young as 12.

In a BBC interview in 1991 she said she and her husband had moved to Jaffna in 1991. "Here we're involved in the political training of the fighters, among other things," she said.

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Under Sri Lankan law, the couple would face trial for belonging to a banned organised if they surrendered or were arrested.

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Australia's policy towards the Tamil question has clearly hardened since a senior representative of the group, Mr Lawrence Tilakar, visited Australia in 1996. On that occasion, Mr Downer refused to address a conference Mr Tilakar was attending in Canberra.

A DFAT official said Ms Wilby's involvement in Sri Lanka's civil war could become an issue under the Foreign Incursions Act, which bans Australians being active in conflicts abroad, if she were to return to Australia.

"There's some doubt about how legally water-tight the act is ... but she's pretty incriminated," the official said.

Graphic

Illus: Downer and out ... Adele Wilby, left, and Dr Anton Balasingham.

Load-Date: August 8, 2007

Sonia Gandhi wants mercy for husband's assassin

Deutsche Presse-Agentur

November 18, 1999, Thursday, BC Cycle 10:47 Central European Time

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Section: International News

Length: 369 words

Dateline: New Delhi

Body

Sonia Gandhi, the leader of the main opposition Congress Party, has sought mercy for a woman sentenced to death for the assassination of her husband former premier Rajiv Gandhi, a leading women's activist said Thursday.

Mohini Giri, former chief of the semiofficial National Commission for Women, said Gandhi wants the death sentence for Nalini to be commuted to life imprisonment because she is the mother of a seven-year-old daughter.

"I have personally met Sonia Gandhi and pleaded Nalini's case. Gandhi has also favoured Nalini's commutation and said that no child should be orphaned or suffer by an act of state" Giri said.

She said Gandhi has also spoken to President K.R.Narayanan, urging him to show mercy on Nalini.

The death sentences on Nalini, her husband Murugan and two others originally scheduled for November 5 have been stayed in view of the president's receiving clemency pleas on their behalf.

The sentence on the couple, Santhan and Perarivalan, were confirmed last month by the Indian Supreme Court. The court also reduced the sentences of three others to life imprisonment and released 19 others.

Murugan and Santhan are Sri Lankan nationals and activists of the separatist Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) while Nalini and Perarivalan are Indians.

A total of 26 people, all alleged LTTE activists or sympathizers, had originally been sentenced to death by a special court in the southern city of Madras but the Supreme court commuted.

Rajiv Gandhi, then the opposition leader, was killed on May 21, 1991 along with 17 others by Dhanu, a Sri Lankan Tamil woman suicide bomber, in the southern state of Tamil Nadu while Gandhi was campaigning for his Congress Party in parliamentary elections.

LTTE chief Velupillai Prabhakaran, his intelligence chief Pottu Amman and LTTE women's wing leader Akhila were among the 41 accused. Only 26 could be brought to trial. The others either died or were hiding in rebel strongholds in northern and eastern Sri Lanka.

The Tamil Tigers' opposition to Gandhi stemmed from his sending Indian peacekeeping forces to Sri Lanka in a move seen as supporting the Colombo government in its conflict with Tamil separatists. dpa mvb wp

Sonia Gandhi wants mercy for husband's assassin

Load-Date: November 18, 1999

End of Document

POLITICS: INDIA WON'T INTERFERE IN SRI LANKA PEACE TALKS

IPS-Inter Press Service

April 11, 2002, Thursday

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Length: 1224 words

Byline: By Ranjit Devraj

Dateline: NEW DELHI, Apr. 11

Body

Having burnt its fingers trying to broker an aborted peace accord in Sri Lanka in 1987, India is not likely to accept Tamil Tiger leader Velupillai Prabhakaran's appeal for New Delhi's involvement in the current peace initiative between him and Colombo.

"India's participation is crucial for the peace process. We do not want to alienate India. Without the support and sympathy of the people and government of India, this problem cannot be solved," Prabhakaran declared at a press conference deep in Tiger-controlled territory in northern Sri Lanka yesterday.

But Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee today ruled out any role by India in the proposed talks between the Sri Lankan government and the Tigers, and said a ban on the Tigers in this country would remain.

"We are not going to be part of any negotiations or interfere in any talks between the Sri Lanka government and the **LTTE** (Liberation of **Tamil Tigers** Eelam)," Vajpayee said in his first reaction to Prabhakaran's plea that India play a role in efforts to end the 19-year-old civil war in Sri Lanka.

However, Vajpayee, who returned from a tour of Singapore and Cambodia today, said the government would "sympathetically" consider the request to give medical assistance to the ailing Tigers' spokesman, Anton Balasingham, in India.

Asked about Prabhakaran's proposal for Indian participation, Vajpayee said: "In front of us, there is only one proposal and that is for providing medical treatment to ailing Balasingham in the country."

Vajpayee's hands-off attitude to Sri Lanka is a far cry from that of the opposition Congress party, which brokered a 1987 Sri Lankan peace accord but paid dearly for it by becoming embroiled in a war with the **LTTE** after it tried to militarily guarantee the success of that pact.

The man who was India's High Commissioner in Sri Lanka when that tripartite accord was signed, J.N. Dixit, however, insisted that India could not stay out of any solution to the Tamil problem in neighboring Sri Lanka.

"The durability and sustainability of any peace process will depend on India's support," he told a television interviewer. Still, there is little chance that New Delhi, which was once deeply involved in the Tamil conflict and had its peacekeeping troops in Sri Lanka, will change its declared intention not to get involved in the civil war of its neighbor.

POLITICS: INDIA WON'T INTERFERE IN SRI LANKA PEACE TALKS

This is because first, Prabhakaran is wanted in this country for the 1991 assassination of former Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi, blamed on the Tamil Tigers. Second, the intentions of the Tigers' leader are regarded as suspect by some, given his record of backing out of ceasefires and peace talks in the past.

"Prabhakaran may have declared his intentions to take the path to peace, but he did not outline any basic negotiating position at the press conference," said Professor S.D. Muni of the Jawaharlal Nehru University here.

The editor of Frontline magazine, N. Ram, described yesterday's press conference as a "fiasco" for the LTTE and the Sri Lankan government, because it indicated no headway in a final settlement to the Tamil rebels' violent campaign for a separate homeland.

The LTTE is due to begin peace talks in May with the Sri Lankan government in Thailand, aimed at ending the conflict that has claimed 64,000 lives.

Ram said that Prabhakaran, by not denying the LTTE's involvement in Gandhi's assassination in his first public appearance in 12 years, had as good as admitted to the sensational murder, believed to have been carried out on his orders by a female suicide bomber at an election rally in southern Tamil Nadu state in 1991.

In that state, which lies across the Palk Strait that separates it from Sri Lanka, India has a Tamil community of 62 million people.

Prabhakaran, who faced a barrage of questions on the assassination from Indian journalists at yesterday's press conference, said unemotionally that he thought Gandhi's assassination "tragic", but that it was best relegated to the past.

At one point, Balasingham told Indian journalists, many of whom had come from Tamil Nadu: "You want to dominate the press conference. You have come all the way to ask these questions. We are now involved in a peace process and you want to rake up the past," he said.

"We are not in a position to make any comments at this stage," Balasingham said. "We want to establish friendly, positive and constructive relations with the government of India."

Speaking in the Tamil language, Prabhakaran said: "We want to engage the government of India. Our people love India and the people of India. We are culturally and ethnically linked to the Indian subcontinent. India is our fatherland."

But Prabhakaran and the LTTE backed out of the 1987 peace accord brokered by India after the Sri Lankan navy arrested 20 top LTTE cadres in the Palk Straits, in violation of the terms of the accord.

After Gandhi refused to intervene, the captured LTTE men committed suicide by swallowing their trademark cyanide capsules. Prabhakaran declared war against the Indian army, which was overseeing implementation of the accord.

After fighting a bloody and inconclusive war with the LTTE in the jungles of northern Sri Lanka from 1987 to 1990, in which 1,150 Indian soldiers died, the Indian army withdrew from the island nation and left the LTTE crippled but still a viable fighting force.

Prabhakaran, who has a reputation for being ruthless and uncompromising, is widely believed to have ordered Gandhi's assassination out of revenge for the reverses suffered by the LTTE in its war with the Indian army. But many also believe that he was only carrying out a hatchet job for Indian conspirators who wanted Gandhi out of the way.

In any event, the Indian government's reaction was swift. It ordered the closure of the LTTE's bases and training camps in Chennai and strung out along the coast of Tamil Nadu.

POLITICS: INDIA WON'T INTERFERE IN SRI LANKA PEACE TALKS

This was a change from India's past involvement, such as Rajiv Gandhi's intervention by air-dropping supplies during a military blockade of Sri Lanka's Jaffna peninsula by the government in Colombo.

The Gandhi assassination also had consequences for local Indian politics. It proved disastrous for the regional Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK) or Dravidian Advancement Party, which has always backed the Tigers.

In 1991, it lost to its rival, the All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (AIADMK), which opposes the Tigers and enthusiastically enforced New Delhi's ban on the LTTE when it was in power in Tamil Nadu state.

The chief minister of Tamil Nadu, Jayaraman Jayalalitha, who re-emerged as such following the AIADMK electoral win last year, has refused permission to Balasingham to use Tamil Nadu as a base for peace talks. "We will not allow any member of the LTTE to set foot in Tamil Nadu for whatever reason," Jayalalitha said.

Jayalalitha said the AIADMK was firm that Prabhakaran should be extradited to India for Gandhi's assassination, and that the Sri Lankan government should allow India's armed forces to carry out his arrest.

Meanwhile, Gandhi's opposition Congress party denounced Prabhakaran's press conference as an attempt to rehabilitate himself and "legitimize his political status".

The party criticised the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) for failing to get Prabhakaran extradited for the Gandhi assassination, although the Congress itself failed to do that while in power until 1996.

Load-Date: June 17, 2002

WAR ON REBEL KILLERS

Herald Sun

October 23, 1995 Monday

Copyright 1995 Nationwide News Pty Limited

Length: 493 words

Byline: AMAL JAYASINGHE

Body

THE Sri Lankan military yesterday said the war against rebel Tamil guerrillas had escalated after nearly 200 people, including 73 Sinhalese civilians including children, were shot and hacked to death overnight. Military spokesman Sarath Munasinghe said the military's offensive in the northern Jaffna peninsula was unstoppable and the fall of Jaffna town, the capital of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), was imminent. "We have now launched the biggest ever military offensive in Jaffna. The LTTE cannot stop our march to Jaffna by killing innocent unarmed civilians," Mr Munasinghe said. The separatist war, which began in 1972, has claimed more than 50,000 lives as the LTTE attempts to establish an independent homeland called Eelam in the north and east of the nation. Heavy hand-to-hand battles raged in the Jaffna peninsula as security forces captured the village of Atchchelu, just 8km from Jaffna town, which the Tigers have vowed to defend to their last man. Official figures showed 197 people were killed yesterday, among them 14 soldiers and an estimated 106 Tamil Tigers and 73 Sinhalese villagers hacked to death by Tamil rebels in the island's east, said Mr Munasinghe. Four civilians were killed when they were caught in crossfire and two Tamils were killed by a mob in the capital Colombo in other incidents yesterday. Mr Munasinghe said the LTTE's spectacular bombing of the main oil storage depots here on Friday as well as the massacre of civilians was to divert the attention of security forces from the island's north.

We are going to put an end to this violence by the LTTE. We are going to liberate the Tamil people from the LTTE in Jaffna. So please don't cause any trouble elsewhere to distract us," he said. He said the latest military offensive, launched earlier in the week, was being intensified to capture the town of Jaffna. Western diplomats said the LTTE's attacks against non-military targets indicated the guerrillas were convinced that, for the first time in five years, the army threat to Jaffna town was serious. Mr Munasinghe said an unspecified amount of infant food was sent to the area to feed children likely to be made refugees by the offensive. "We have also sent a lot of women soldiers to take care of the civilians who are going to be displaced. A ministerial team is already looking into the refugee aspect," Mr Munasinghe said. The government was also activating the para-military civil defence force to help police maintain law and order in the rest of the country as fighting intensified in the north, Information Minister Dharmasiri Senanayake said. A city-wide night curfew was lifted at dawn yesterday as security was tightened at the international airport, state radio and television stations and elsewhere. Police Inspector-General W. B. Rajaguru said several Tamil rebels who were involved in the attacks on the oil storage depots on Friday may still be roaming the streets. - APPEND OF STORY

Graphic

ALERT: A SRI LANKAN AIRFORCEMAN SCRAMBLES FOR COVER AS SUSPECTED TIGERS OPEN FIRE.

WAR ON REBEL KILLERS

Load-Date: October 1, 2003

End of Document

ROUNDUP: Sonia Gandhi and family want mercy for husband's assassins
Es: adds details

Deutsche Presse-Agentur

November 18, 1999, Thursday, BC Cycle 11:17 Central European Time

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Section: International News

Length: 410 words

Dateline: New Delhi

Body

Sonia Gandhi, the leader of the main opposition Congress Party and her family are against the execution of four people sentenced to death for the assassination of her husband former premier Rajiv Gandhi, a leading women's activist said Thursday.

"Sonia Gandhi categorically said that neither she, nor her son or daughter wanted any of the four convicts to be hanged" Mohini Giri, the former chief of the semiofficial National Commission for Women,

told reporters.

Giri said Gandhi particularly wants the death sentence for Nalini, the only woman to be sentenced to death in the case, to be commuted to life imprisonment because she is the mother of a seven-year-old daughter.

"I have personally met Sonia Gandhi and pleaded Nalini's case. Gandhi has also favoured Nalini's commutation and said that no child should be orphaned or suffer by an act of state," Giri said.

She said Gandhi has also spoken to President K.R.Narayanan, urging him to show mercy on Nalini.

The death sentences on Nalini, her husband Murugan and two others originally scheduled for November 5 have been stayed in view of the president's receiving clemency pleas on their behalf.

The sentence on the couple, Santhan and Perarivalan, were confirmed last month by the Indian Supreme Court. The court also reduced the sentences of three others to life imprisonment and released 19 others.

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Rajiv Gandhi, then the opposition leader, was killed on May 21, 1991 along with 17 others by Dhanu, a Sri Lankan Tamil woman suicide bomber, in the southern state of Tamil Nadu while Gandhi was campaigning for his Congress Party in parliamentary elections.

ROUNDUP: Sonia Gandhi and family want mercy for husband's assassins Es: adds details

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The **Tamil Tigers**' opposition to Gandhi stemmed from his sending Indian peacekeeping forces to Sri Lanka in a move seen as supporting the Colombo government in its conflict with Tamil separatists. dpa mvb wp

Load-Date: November 18, 1999

End of Document

Sri Lanka army confident as it drives Tamil Tigers back

The Guardian (London)

June 25, 1990

Copyright 1990 Guardian Newspapers Limited

Length: 574 words

Byline: By CHRISTOPHER MORRIS in Polonnaruwa, Eastern Sri Lanka

Body

APART from army checkpoints, the road from Polonnaruwa to the eastern coast was deserted.

Alongside it, shattered electricity pylons and bullet-scarred buildings were evidence of the fighting which took place last week, as the army overran Tamil Tiger positions and pushed through to the beleaguered garrison at Kiran.

One former Tiger camp, still painted in striped camouflage, had had its roof blown off and a message scrawled on the wall: 'Taken by 4th battalion, Gemunu Watch, June 1990.'

At Kiran, Major-General Denzil Kobbekaduwa, the commander of Sri Lankan forces in the Eastern Province, was in a confident mood. Sitting in the remains of the battered army camp, now relieved after being under siege from the Tigers for nearly two weeks, he explained his strategy: gain control of the centres of communication, then take the fight to the guerrillas in the jungle.

That the centres of communication were not already under control came as something of a surprise.

Two days previously, the government had said the entire Eastern Province had already been liberated. But three or four miles south of Kiran fighting was still taking place, with the government forces inching forward, wary of Tiger mines and snipers.

The story was the same in other areas along the coast, and the army has still not moved into the town of Batticaloa.

Kiran had certainly taken a battering. Most of the roofs had been destroyed by mortar fire, and shattered masonry and glass lay everywhere. Relief, one soldier said, had come just in time.

While the area behind the front line around Kiran was eerily quiet, further north at Trincomalee it was a different story. Refugees were in evidence all around the town, in camps or simply sitting by the side of the road according to government figures nearly 200,000 people have been displaced by the fighting.

The refugees in Trincomalee are divided along ethnic lines: Tamil, Sinhalese and Muslim, each with their own camps. At a Muslim camp on the outskirts of town, people argued among themselves about how the fighting started.

'It was the Tigers.' 'No, no, don't say that, it was the army.' The mood turned ugly as the police arrived, brandishing guns, not keen to see journalists talking to the refugees.

The soldiers were more composed and keen to explain their strategy.

Sri Lanka army confident as it drives Tamil Tigers back

The Tigers had attacked positions three miles north of the town, and the army was now driving them back again. Brigadier Lakshman Wijeratne admitted that the dense civilian population was a problem for the troops.

Leaflets had been air-dropped an hour before they began their offensive, appealing for people to leave the area.

Many people, mostly Tamils, had heeded the advice. Hundreds were standing by the side of the road, surrounded by bicycles, boxes and babies in shopping bags. Many seemed nervous of being taken to a camp in a Sinhalese area.

On a ridge seven miles north of Trincomalee, the army's forward positions looked over the valley below, where Tiger bunkers and landmines lurked. Nine soldiers were killed in the area when a mine exploded on Saturday night.

But the men of the Sri Lankan Light Infantry shared the confidence expressed earlier by their commander.

The military has acknowledged it had issued a false report a day earlier about the massacre of 62 Muslim men, women and children by the separatists.

Officials said that only three Muslim men were killed when Tamil Tigers looted a village in eastern Sri Lanka.

Load-Date: June 12, 2000

End of Document

Security dragnet in Colombo as Prince Charles begins visit; * SRI LANKA

Sydney Morning Herald (Australia)

February 4, 1998 Wednesday

Late Edition

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Section: NEWS AND FEATURES; International News; Pg. 10

Length: 604 words

Byline: CHRISTOPHER KREMMER Herald Correspondent in Colombo, and agencies

Body

Sri Lankan armed forces and police were on maximum alert yesterday as Prince Charles arrived in Sri Lanka to participate in elaborate 50th independence day celebrations.

Hundreds of airmen, some armed with heavy machine-guns, were posted in and around the airport when the plane carrying the prince and his entourage arrived at Bandaranaike International airport.

Three Air Force helicopters were seen circling the airport for more than hour before the heir to the British throne arrived. The Foreign Minister, Mr Lakshman Kadirgamar, and several other government officials were present at the airport to welcome the prince.

The capital, Colombo, was virtually sealed off to trucks and other heavy vehicles to prevent a suicide vehicle-bombing during the ceremonies, a police official said.

Authorities have clamped down hard on the movement of people and vehicles amid rumours that separatist rebels have infiltrated the city with up to eight suicide bomb squads planning to disrupt the anniversary. Prince Charles will be the chief guest at the main ceremony scheduled today at the parliamentary complex at Sri Jayawardene Kotte in Colombo, but a civic reception by the Colombo city in his honour has been cancelled due to fears of rebel attacks, organisers said.

The massive security operation and changeable schedule have disrupted normal life in Colombo. "It's crazy - the whole city is in chaos," said one resident, whose normal 15-minute drive to work had been transformed into a two-hour ordeal of road diversions and vehicle searches.

Much of the disruption in Colombo was caused by the relocation of the main celebrations from the central town of Kandy, following a bomb blast there last week which killed 16 people and damaged Sri Lanka's holiest Buddhist shrine. The Government blamed the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (**LTTE**), known also as the **Tamil Tigers**.

Prince Charles's visit has been overshadowed by the continuing war being waged by the **LTTE** fighters from the Tamil minority community, who claim their rights have been denied by the Sinhalese majority ever since independence.

Security dragnet in Colombo as Prince Charles begins visit * SRI LANKA

"They [the Tamils] would be feeling that for them there has been no independence - unless they are given their Tamil rights, their right to live, their right to security," said Mrs Sarojini Yogeswaran, who was elected mayor of Jaffna Town on the northern Tamil majority Jaffna Peninsula last week.

Sri Lanka has been under a national state of emergency since 1983, when the separatist war began, and security is an obsession in government-controlled areas.

Colombo bears the scars of a string of suicide bombings by the LTTE. The windows of skyscrapers in the main Fort district of the city are still boarded up from the last attack in October.

Prince Charles was to begin his schedule yesterday with a visit to a garment factory with President Chandrika Kumaratunga. He was later to visit an ancient Buddhist temple at Kelaniya, a suburb of the capital.

On the eve of the Prince's arrival, Sri Lankan soldiers shot dead 10 female Tamil Tigers and captured another while clearing a northern military camp after a weekend battle with the rebels, officials in the north said yesterday.

Troops confronted the guerillas in the northern region of Kilinochchi on Monday, a day after a major battle in which nearly 400 combatants died, they said.

"The women were either trying to get out of the camp or had come in to sabotage," a senior military official said by telephone from northern Jaffna.

He said the military had cleared Tamil Tiger rebels from most of the area around the camp, apart from the southern tip of a town also called Kilinochchi.

Graphic

Two illus: Colombo prepares for the 50th anniversary of independence . . . military police in ceremonial dress conduct a motorcycle drill, above, and workers erect national flags for today's celebrations. Photos by REUTERS/A. LOKUHAPUARACHCHI and AP/G. AMARASINGHE

Load-Date: July 23, 2007

SRI LANKA: ETHNIC CONFLICT ENTERS NEW DIMENSION IN BRUTALITY

IPS-Inter Press Service

April 22, 1987, Wednesday

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Length: 761 words

Byline: by Kunda Dixit

Dateline: COLOMBO, April 22

Body

Yesterday's massive bomb explosion in the Sri Lankan capital, which is now believed to have killed up to 170 people, has brought a new dimension of brutality to the island's bloody four-year-old ethnic conflict.

The death toll in the blast was unprecedented even by Sri Lankan standards. The explosion was calculated to cause the maximum number of casualties and bring the horrors of the conflict to the heart of the country's capital -- so far relatively unscathed by the fierce fighting going on in the northeast of the island.

Colombo's two main hospitals are reported to be crowded with over 300 people injured in the explosion, and officials made frantic appeals for blood donations through radio and television.

People thronged the streets of the capital this morning to shop for essentials while the city-wide curfew was lifted for four hours.

The curfew, designed to thwart the possibility of communal clashes breaking out in Colombo's mixed neighborhoods, will be reimposed through tomorrow morning.

Yesterday's blast took place during a heavy evening thundershower just as commuters on their way home filled the city's central bus terminal opposite the railway station.

The blast destroyed at least four buses and seriously damaged 30 others, and could be heard five miles away.

Eyewitnesses spoke of piles of bodies and scattered limbs, burning vehicles and chaos as rescue services tried to get near the wounded through the torrential rain.

The bomb appeared to have been planted in a private bus parked in the terminus, nearby shopkeepers were quoted as saying.

The government immediately blamed the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (**LTTE**), known here simply as the **Tamil Tigers**, and the Eelam Revolutionary Organization of Students (EROS) for the blast. But spokesmen for the guerrilla groups in the south Indian city of Madras denied involvement.

"There is evidence to show that the **LTTE**, with the connivance of the EROS, was responsible," the official media center here said late last night.

SRI LANKA : ETHNIC CONFLICT ENTERS NEW DIMENSION IN BRUTALITY

It blamed the guerrilla groups for trying to provoke the people so as to create conditions for the division of the island.

"We appeal on the people to remain calm and stay indoors. Peace should be the goal of everyone opposed to Eelam," the communique said.

Eelam is the name Tamil separatist guerrillas give to the homeland they are fighting to create in northeastern Sri Lanka. More than 5,000 people, mostly civilians, have been killed in the past four years of violence.

There has been a sharp escalation in the scope and brutality of the violence in the past week.

On April 17, Good Friday, 127 passengers were slaughtered when the buses they were travelling in were ambushed near the eastern port city of Trincomalee 170 miles northeast of here.

The next day 16 villagers, including five women and five children, were butchered in a village near the site of the ambush.

The government blamed the attacks on the Tamil Tigers and called off a unilateral nine-day ceasefire it had declared to mark the new year. It also dispatched 5,000 troops to the east to flush out militants.

Although Tamil militant groups denied responsibility for those attacks as well, most of the victims in all three attacks have been from the island's predominantly-Buddhist Sinhalese majority.

The Tamil Tigers are the dominant separatist guerrilla group on the island.

It has suffered considerable setbacks in the past few months because of stepped-up government military offensives in the northeast bitter infighting with rival guerrilla groups like EROS.

Several top Tiger leaders were killed in February when a bomb they were trying to plant on a tanker truck exploded accidentally.

In March, the Tiger commander for northern Sri Lanka, S. Krishnakumara (also known as "Kittu") was seriously wounded in a grenade attack by a rival militant group. Both his legs were amputated.

If the Tamil separatists were indeed responsible, analysts here see the latest series of massacres as an attempt to ease the government's military pressure in the northern Jaffna Peninsula -- which is the Tiger stronghold.

Government security forces have been able to extend the perimeter of their camps in the north in recent months, and a fuel blockade clamped on the peninsula in January is still very much in force.

But like the victims of yesterday's bomb victims in Colombo, it is mostly the civilians who have been caught in the crossfire or are bearing the brunt of the hardships in the north.

If the past week of bloodshed is any indication, there is sure to be more suffering and more casualties in the days to come.

ROUNDUP: Four death sentences confirmed for Rajiv assassination

Deutsche Presse-Agentur

October 8, 1999, Friday, BC Cycle 10:43 Central European Time

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Section: International News

Length: 407 words

Dateline: New Delhi

Body

The Indian Supreme Court on Friday confirmed the death sentences for four prisoners convicted of the 1991 assassination of former prime minister Rajiv Gandhi.

Judges rejected by two to one appeals by Nalini, her husband Murugan, Perarivalan and Santhan against the court earlier upholding a death sentence by a special court in the southern city of Madras.

The dissenting judge recommended a life term for Nalini because she is the mother of a small child. Nalini is an Indian citizen while the other accused are Sri Lankans.

The judges also rejected a petition by the federal police Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) seeking a review of the court's acquittal of all the 26 accused in the case on charges under the country's anti-terrorist laws.

The four accused may still challenge the constitutional validity of the sentence or, finally, seek clemency from President K.R. Narayanan.

A committee in the southern city of Madras organizing the defence of the accused said it has launched a campaign to collect thousands of signatures on a mercy petition to Narayanan following the judgement.

The convenor of the committee said the petition would be presented to the president in about ten days. Pazha Nedumaran said the committee would also contact human rights organizations, parliament deputies and intellectuals to take up the matter with authorities.

In a May 11 judgement, the Supreme Court confirmed death sentences imposed on the four, reduced the sentences of three others to life in jail and released the remaining accused.

A total of 26 people, all alleged activists or sympathizers of the Sri Lankan separatist Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (**LTTE**), had originally been sentenced to death in Madras.

Rajiv Gandhi, then the opposition leader, was killed on May 21, 1991 along with 17 others by Dhanu, a Sri Lankan Tamil woman suicide bomber, in the southern state of Tamil Nadu while campaigning for his Congress Party in parliamentary elections.

LTTE chief Velupillai Prabhakaran, his intelligence chief Pottu Amman and **LTTE women's** wing leader Akhila were among the 41 accused. Only 26 could be brought to trial. The others either died or were hiding in rebel strongholds in northern and eastern Sri Lanka.

ROUNDUP: Four death sentences confirmed for Rajiv assassination

The "**Tamil Tigers**" opposition to Gandhi stemmed from his sending Indian peacekeeping forces to Sri Lanka to end the secessionist conflict there in favour of the Colombo government. dpa mvb fz

Eds: adding details

Load-Date: October 8, 1999

End of Document

Fighting leaves 25 Sri Lankans dead

United Press International

June 10, 2000, Saturday

Copyright 2000 U.P.I.

Section: GENERAL NEWS

Length: 364 words

Byline: By RAVI R. PRASAD

Dateline: COLOMBO, Sri Lanka, June 10

Body

Twenty five Sri Lankan soldiers were killed and 50 were wounded Friday night in fierce fighting between government troops and the Tamil Tiger guerrillas in Sri Lanka's northern Jaffna peninsula.

A statement issued by the government's special media information center Saturday said one officer and 24 soldiers were killed in the fighting, while another officer and 49 soldiers were wounded.

The statement said that government soldiers attacked rebel strongholds and bunker lines along the Sarasalai - Puttur, a few miles south of Jaffna. The troops destroyed several rebel bunkers in the fighting that continued for hours.

The government claimed two women were killed when rebels fired mortars at a civilian colony in Puttur and Meesalai.

The separatist Tamil Tigers claim they repulsed an attempt by the government troops to advance south of Sarasalai. The government troops suffered heavy casualty in the fighting, the rebels said in a statement from London.

The International secretariat of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam said six civilians were killed and many more wounded when the government artillery shelled civilian settlements in Sarasalai and Maduvil areas. The rebels alleged that air force bombers pounded civilians after the government's ground troops were forced to withdraw owing to stiff resistance offered by the guerrillas.

International aid organizations have expressed concern over the mounting civilian casualties in the northern peninsula where fighting broke out in April with the LTTE launching an offensive to regain control over its former stronghold.

More than 70,000 people have been killed in the ethnic conflict over the past 17 years. Efforts by the Sri Lankan government and the international community to find a negotiated political solution to the conflict have failed as the LTTE has refused to negotiate.

The guerrillas are pressing ahead with the military option to carve out a separate homeland for the minority Tamil community in the north and east of the Indian Ocean Island.

Fighting leaves 25 Sri Lankans dead

A Tamil Tiger suicide bomber assassinated a senior government minister Wednesday, which analysts view as a statement by the guerrillas that they were not willing to talk peace.

Load-Date: June 11, 2000

End of Document

Sri Lanka guerrilla leader terrorist to Sinhalese, hero to Tamils

The Canadian Press (CP)
February 23, 2002 Saturday

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Section: FOREIGN GENERAL NEWS

Length: 615 words

Body

COLOMBO, Sri Lanka (AP) _ Rebel leader Velupillai Prabhakaran, who signed a landmark ceasefire agreement with the Sri Lankan government, is considered a terrorist by six countries but a hero by minority Tamils yearning for their own homeland.

Prabhakaran is the founder of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam, which has fought since 1983 to carve out a nation for the mostly Hindu Tamils in northern and eastern Sri Lanka, where the mostly Buddhist Sinhalese dominate.

Not all of Sri Lanka's three million ethnic Tamils back Prabhakaran's **Tamil Tigers**, but many agree they are oppressed by the 15 million Sinhalese.

AP

The Sinhalese consider the 47-year-old Prabhakaran a bloodthirsty killer who uses human bombs: young Tamils who detonate explosives wrapped around their bodies attempting to kill politicians, military figures and anyone around them.

Those suicide bombers, called Black Tigers, assassinated former Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi and former Sri Lankan President Ranasinghe Premadasa.

Rebel fighters, including children, wear cyanide capsules around their necks and are ordered to die rather than be captured.

About 65,000 people have been killed in the civil war. On Friday, the rebels and the government signed a ceasefire deal, renewing hopes for peace in this ravaged tropical island off India's southern tip.

Prabhakaran initialled the deal in a jungle hideout and handed it to Norway's ambassador. The Sri Lankan government then signed it.

I have a strong belief that our nation will have peace, but I am under no illusion that achieving it will be easy," Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe told soldiers in Vavuniya.

The **Tamil Tigers** use the Internet and satellite phones to transmit daily battlefield reports or ceasefire news to overseas supporters, who raise funds and handle public relations.

The rebel arsenal includes Stinger missiles, which the military says were purchased from Afghan rebel groups.

Sri Lanka guerrilla leader terrorist to Sinhalese, hero to Tamils

Prabhakaran runs the **LTTE** with absolute power. He demands total commitment from his fighters and has ordered them to abstain from sex and cut all personal ties _ edicts he does not follow.

Prabhakaran was born Nov. 26, 1954, the youngest of a lower-level bureaucrat's four children. His own childhood was violent. He was suspended from elementary school after exploding a crude time bomb in a bathroom, and never returned.

In 1973, when Sri Lankan detectives visited his home to investigate the activities of young Tamil radicals, he bolted, making the first of many trips to neighbouring India.

Prabhakaran returned in 1974 and carried out his first political assassination, killing Alfred Duriappah, mayor of Jaffna, the northern city that Tamils consider the centre of their culture.

He launched the **LTTE** in May 1976, naming himself chairman of a five-member central committee.

In 1983, he led an ambush that killed 13 soldiers. The killings were followed by anti-Tamil riots in Colombo, in which thousands of minority members were killed and thousands fled to the north and east. The riots are considered the start of the civil war.

Prabhakaran met his wife, Madivadani, during a 1984 protest in Jaffna, and married her the next year in the southern Indian city of Madras, capital of Tamil Nadu state. They have a daughter, Dwarka, and a son, Charles Anthony.

Tamils in Sri Lanka and India have close cultural and family ties, and the Tigers have received important support from Tamil Nadu.

Under Rajiv Gandhi, India sent peacekeeping troops to Sri Lanka and forced Prabhakaran to sign a peace accord in 1987. He quickly regrouped and turned his guns against the Indians, who withdrew in 1990.

A year later, Gandhi was assassinated by a **female** member of the Black Tigers.

Load-Date: June 6, 2002

Desperate Tamils seek volunteers to defend stronghold

THE AUSTRALIAN

November 1, 1995 Wednesday 0 Edition

Copyright 1995 Nationwide News Pty Limited

Length: 598 words

Byline: AMAL JAYASINGHE

Body

TAMIL Tigers yesterday declared a "war emergency" in northern Sri Lanka and appealed for volunteers to protect their main stronghold after Government forces moved to within 5km of Jaffna. Aid workers reported that roads out of Jaffna were packed as Tiger fighters and civilians responded to appeals by Tiger Radio to flee the town in the face of the government advance. In a statement from their London office, the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam said Tamils in the Jaffna Peninsula faced the "most critical situation in their long history". The head of the Tigers' political section, Mr Thamil Chelvan, appealed to youths "to prevent the Sri Lankan army from attaining its objective of capturing Jaffna, and to wrest back territory conquered by the invading army". Earlier, the Sri Lankan military said its airforce had pounded rebel positions and heavy ground battles were raging as the army captured a key town from Tamil guerillas, leaving 161 dead from both sides. Government troops had captured the small village of Urelu and controlled 90 per cent of the larger Neerveli town after ferocious battles with the Tigers. The Sri Lankan military confirmed the Tiger-declared state of emergency and said the Tigers also imposed curfews. "By declaring an emergency and curfews (in Jaffna) it is very clear that the **LTTE** intends to restrict the movement of civilians so that they can be forcibly armed to fire at advancing troops," the military said. The military put its casualties as 69 killed and 130 wounded in a two-day battle for Neerveli.

AFP, ReutersIt claimed 92 Tigers had been killed and 350 wounded. The **LTTE** statement said Tigers had put up a "ferocious counter attack" at Neerveli, about 10km north-east of Jaffna, and had killed more than 100 soldiers. It did not say whether Neerveli had fallen. The Tigers admitted losing 20 of their own cadres. A military spokesman said security forces were continuing their push into rebel-held territory against stiff resistance. The Tigers have two other well fortified towns - Urumpirai and Kopai - to the southwest of Neerveli - both of which had been bombed by the air force, the military said. Defence officials said the military had also destroyed a base of the Air Tigers, a new wing of the **LTTE** which is responsible for anti-aircraft weapons guns and a unit known to have acquired six microlight aircraft. The Tigers accused the air force of "widespread, indiscriminate bombing of the Jaffna Peninsula" in which 27 people were killed, many of them **women** and children. The military meanwhile reported that Tigers had massacred more Sinhalese civilians in the south-east of Sri Lanka. It said eight Sinhalese peasants gathering firewood had been hacked to death, bringing to 124 the number of civilians killed in six similar Tiger massacres in the past eight days. A military spokesman said the massacres were aimed at blunting the military campaign in the Jaffna Peninsula. The army has signalled the offensive as an attempt to capture Jaffna in the most determined effort yet to destroy the **LTTE**. The latest fighting at Neerveli ended a two-day lull which allowed the military to consolidate in the area newly captured from the **LTTE** since launching the offensive on October 17. The latest casualties raised army losses in the ongoing offensive to 196 soldiers killed and more than 500 wounded. The army's estimate of **LTTE** losses has risen to 612 killed and more than 1500 wounded. The military has not given figures for civilian casualties, but a Roman Catholic priest who travelled from the region said up to 40 Tamil civilians had been killed.

Desperate Tamils seek volunteers to defend stronghold

Load-Date: October 1, 2003

End of Document

Separation by suicide; In Sri Lanka, children as young as 11 are being recruited as soldiers to the fanatical Tamil Tigers. Tim McGirk reports from Batticaloa on a war without end

The Independent (London)

November 30, 1995, Thursday

Copyright 1995 Independent Print Ltd

Section: COVER STORY; Page 2-

Length: 1791 words

Byline: TIM MCGIRK

Body

It has the makings of a grotesque parable: on Sri Lanka, one of the most splendid islands on earth, two races that are virtually identical - the Sinhalese and the Tamils - are trying to exterminate each other to prove their difference.

Sinhalese and Tamils marry each other. They play cricket together. Some of them worship the same gods. Their languages may be different, and the Tamils tend to live in the north and eastern parts of the island, while the Sinhalese, who are a majority, inhabit the southern coasts and the central highlands, but the two communities also share a peculiar trait: they are quick to kill themselves out of petulance.

This paradisaical island of temples, flowering trees and tea gardens must have one of the highest suicide rates in the world. The daily newspapers are full of men who drink insecticide because their wives won't lend them 10 rupees to bet on horses, or teenagers who hang themselves because their parents have denied them a motor scooter.

Perhaps the only distinguishing characteristic between the Sinhalese and the Tamils is that the Tamil separatist chief, Velupillai Prabhakaran, a brilliant guerrilla tactician and propagandist who likes being called "Big Brother" - has succeeded in channelling this island-wide death wish into the ultimate terrorist weapon: the Tamil suicide killer. His Tamil cadres don't kill themselves because they were jilted by their girlfriends (sex, alcohol and tobacco are prohibited, anyway). It is for the glory of Eelam, an independent Tamil state, that they become human bombs.

Indoctrination began early inside the Tamil mini-state of Jaffna, which the rebels have ruled for the past five years. As Dr Rajan Hoole, a former Jaffna University professor, explains: "From the time they are toddlers, climbing on fake weapons in the playgrounds, to the time they graduate as fighters and are given cyanide capsules to hang around their necks, it is drummed into them what a glorious cause it is to die for Eelam."

Often, the Tigers recruit teenagers. Dr Daya Somasunderam, a psychiatrist at Jaffna hospital, had one young patient who had fought for the **Tamil Tigers** for four years. He was suffering from aggressive behaviour. "After one attack where he lost many comrades, he was shown a video of murdered **women** and children and told his enemies had done this," the doctor says. The teenager was then ordered on a raid of a Sinhalese village.

"He recounted how he killed the people, how he held a child by its legs and bashed its head against a wall, and how he enjoyed the mother's screams. Afterwards, his comrades found him difficult to control. He felt anger and

Separation by suicide; In Sri Lanka, children as young as 11 are being recruited as soldiers to the fanatical Tamil Tigers. Tim McGirk reports from Batticaloa

contempt when he saw people enjoying themselves at temples and wedding festivals," the doctor says. The boy was 15 when he entered the psychiatric ward, 11 when he joined the rebels.

Such brainwashing is effective. Since 1989, Tamil suicide commandos, called the Black Tigers, are suspected of having blown up a Sri Lankan president, a former Indian premier, an opposition politician in Colombo, a defence minister, several generals and numerous oil depots, navy vessels and army camps. The Sinhalese are understandably petrified of the Black Tigers.

A few racial stereotypes exist. The Tamil is said to be calculating and vengeful, the Sinhalese violently impulsive. But these fail to explain how two peoples who shared this island peacefully for centuries have become so murderously estranged.

The ethnic split was a long time coming. In the Sixties and Seventies, politicians whipped up Sinhalese resentment against the Tamil minority. The Tamil language was denied equal status, and the Tamils, who are hardworking and well educated, were elbowed out of government jobs and universities. Armed Tamil revolt against the Sinhalese began after 1983 riots in the Sri Lankan capital, Colombo, in which nearly 3,000 Tamils were slaughtered.

At present, the Sri Lankan government - whose president, prime minister and army generals are all Sinhalese - is laying siege to the northern city of Jaffna, hammering the centre of Tamil culture and commerce into a landscape of rubble. Around 400,000 Jaffna Tamils have been made refugees and are camping in the monsoon rains without enough food or medicine. At the same time, Sri Lanka's president, Chandrika Kumaratunga, was recently forced to leave Colombo for a week because of a threat on her life. One MP remarked: "The president and her cabinet are scared for their lives."

A year ago, it seemed as though this 12-year-old ethnic war, in which nearly 40,000 people have died, might end. Ms Kumaratunga was voted in because she promised peace. Widowed herself by a political assassin, Ms Kumaratunga was supported by Tamils, Sinhalese and Muslims. But a six month-long ceasefire broke last April when the separatists, who are called the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), sent in suicide frogwomen to sink two navy gunboats anchored in Trincomalee harbour. Soon after, the Tigers massacred over 20 Sinhalese fishermen. Ms Kumaratunga felt she had no choice but to unleash a military offensive of 20,000 troops against the Tigers' territory in northern Sri Lanka.

In Colombo, the Sinhalese have been buying up fireworks to celebrate the day when Jaffna is conquered. Newspapers have been predicting "imminent" victory in Jaffna every day for three weeks. Even though the Tiger chief on Monday admitted that the military may "hoist the flag in Jaffna and gloat over the capture of the Tamil kingdom", the 1,000 Tiger defenders still holed up in the city are making the troops pay in heavy casualties. The Sri Lankans admit to losing over 450 soldiers, but military spokesmen put the rebels' toll at above 1,700 dead.

Although Jaffna's capture is being seen as a great psychological gain for the government, the Tigers are ensuring that it will achieve little beyond that. The Tigers have laid mines and booby-traps, so the troops may only be able to take Jaffna by destroying it first.

To keep the Tigers at bay, the government has been forced to raise a military of over 100,000 men, which is larger than Britain's even though Sri Lanka is a much smaller, poorer country. To mount the assault on Jaffna, the government had to close down 35 army and police camps in the eastern provinces. Following textbook guerrilla tactics, the Tigers left some units behind to defend Jaffna but moved most of their fighting force into the eastern districts emptied by the security forces.

In the east, the remaining army commanders found to their alarm that the size of the enemy forces had increased dramatically. "The other day we had 38 men in a patrol wiped out," says one senior officer, shaking his head in disbelief. "They were attacked by 500 Tigers." The LTTE may lose Jaffna, but they now control most of Batticaloa and Trincomalee districts along the coast.

Separation by suicide; In Sri Lanka , children as young as 11 are being recruited as soldiers to the fanatical Tamil Tigers. Tim McGirk reports from Batticaloa

My first sign of the Tigers occurred on the highway to Batticaloa, just an hour's drive beyond Polonnaruwa, where coaches filled with German tourists had stopped to view ancient Buddhist pagodas beside a shimmering lake. The war was not so far away. That morning, a Tiger force had crept out of the jungle of scrub palms and waited in the tall marsh grass beside the highway for an army patrol. The soldiers were fresh recruits, their first day out of boot camp, and they blundered into the Tigers' ambush. Invisible in the tall grass, the Tigers cut down 20 soldiers in minutes, stole their guns and ammunition, and disappeared into the jungle. I saw the dead and wounded being carted back in a speeding armoured personnel carrier, the survivors' faces wild with fear.

In Batticaloa, a town beside a lagoon where church steeples are silhouetted against a grey, liquid sky, police at the roadblocks were edgy. A Tiger suicide team was rumoured to be in town. From an army base near an old colonial stone fort, heavy artillery boomed out at suspected rebel positions hiding on the far side of the lagoon. It was Prabhakaran's birthday, and the army brigadier had been told that the Tigers, in celebration, would try to raise an LTTE flag from the clock tower.

The big bash was on the other side of the lagoon, in Tiger country. There, villages were decorated with buntings and palm leaves, yet the Tamil songs crackling over the loudspeakers sounded like dirges. They were. "Prabhakaran prefers that we celebrate this not as his birthday but as martyr's day, when one of his wounded comrades died with his head in our leader's lap," explained one young Tiger, sharp and clean as a boy scout. He carried an AK-47, but he looked like a boy who would help an old lady carry her firewood, not like a child-soldier capable of butchering sleeping mothers and babies.

A group of us were taken to a schoolhouse to meet a Tiger deputy commander, Karikalan. In his mid-thirties, he was a warrior turned ruthless bureaucrat, whose array of pens in his breastpocket seemed more dangerous than his pistol. He grinned - giggled, actually - only once. That was when asked if the president was on the Tigers' death list. He replied: "Our leader says that anyone who causes the death of Tamils in large numbers must be eliminated."

The Tiger commander denied government reports that Prabhakaran had fled to India. Prabhakaran is said to be a shy man. He is seen only by his bodyguards, his deputies and Black Tigers. The suicide assassins are given a last supper by Prabhakaran before their fatal mission. "Prabhakaran is not a runaway leader. He's there in Jaffna telling the cadres what to do. He's prepared to shed his life for the cause," the commander said.

Commander Karikalan said the Tigers would never accept the government's ceasefire offer, which comes attached to a devolution package giving the Tamils considerable autonomy over the north and eastern provinces. "The LTTE will never agree to a deal offered at the point of a gun, as long as the army occupies Jaffna," he said.

A Tamil gave me a ride on the crossbar of his bicycle along a path that led out through rice paddies and salt flats to a lagoon. A small boat ferried us across. Some soldiers challenged us on the other side. "Who did you see? The Tigers?" It seemed best to say no. "How could you not see them?" a sergeant insisted, exasperated. "The place is crawling with them. There are thousands out there." His gesture took in the entire horizon of water and grey marshes. He let us go, and later that night his camp was attacked.

Many Sri Lankans, Sinhalese and Tamils alike, are being led to hope that with the collapse of Jaffna the Tigers will be defeated. The military knows better. "This war will go on for months, maybe years," says one senior officer. The soldier at the ferry landing was right. The Tigers were everywhere.

Load-Date: November 30, 1995

**REBELS KILL 61 IN ATTACK ON 3 SRI LANKAN VILLAGES;
TAMIL TIGERS LIKELY WERE AVENGING AIR FORCE BOMBINGS,
OFFICIALS SAY**

St. Louis Post-Dispatch (Missouri)

September 19, 1999, Sunday, FIVE STAR LIFT EDITION

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Section: NEWS, Pg. A5

Length: 345 words

Byline: The Associated Press

Dateline: BORAPOLA, SRI LANKA

Body

Tamil Tiger rebels, led by women waving machetes and firing guns, raided three Sri Lankan villages Saturday and massacred 61 Sinhalese residents as they slept or fled into rice fields, the military said.

At least 11 children were among the dead, some with their heads smashed, military officials said on the condition of anonymity. Fifty civilians and five policemen were injured.

"I survived because they could not find me," said Rankothabandi Peter, 70, who escaped the 90-minute rampage by 100 rebels.

Military officials said the rebels probably killed the Sinhalese to avenge the deaths of 21 Tamil civilians in air force bombings of rebel-held areas Wednesday.

The Sinhalese, the majority ethnic group in Sri Lanka, control the military and the government. The Tamil Tiger rebels accuse them of oppressing the Tamil minority, which accounts for about one-fifth of the island nation's population.

The raid started early Saturday in Borapola, a village of mostly rice farmers. The area, 125 miles east of the capital Colombo, is mostly under government control and far from the Tamil Tiger strongholds in the north and the east.

"I heard gunshots first, then the scream coming from frightened people and then again the scream that people who are dying make, and I knew our village was under attack," Peter said.

He asked his son, daughter-in-law and two grandchildren to flee and then hid in a corner of the veranda, covering himself with rice straw and leaves.

The International Committee of the Red Cross said 46 people, including the 11 children, were killed in Borapola. The rest were in the villages of Bedi Rekka and Sinnawatta.

One man, M. Premasiri, lost his entire extended family of 14 people.

REBELS KILL 61 IN ATTACK ON 3 SRI LANKAN VILLAGES; TAMIL TIGERS LIKELY WERE AVENGING AIR FORCE BOMBINGS, OFFICIALS SAY

"Some of our relatives had come for a religious function. I had gone to a nearby village to get supplies for a feast, and I stayed back there," Premasiri said. "When I returned this morning, I found all are dead, gone."

No one took responsibility for the attacks. A military spokesman blamed the Liberation **Tamil Tigers** of Tamil Eelam, who are fighting for a Tamil homeland.

Graphic

PHOTO THE ASSOCIATED PRESS Photo - Siriyawathi Kolabege grieves for her slain relatives, whose bodies lay on the ground before her at her house in Gonagalla, Sri Lanka. Tamil Tiger rebels attacked three villages on Saturday before dawn.

Load-Date: September 19, 1999

End of Document

Tamil Tigers claim Indian naval 'piracy' led to their leader's death

United Press International
January 20, 1993, Wednesday, BC cycle

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Section: International

Length: 777 words

Dateline: NEW DELHI, New Delhi

Body

Sri Lanka's Tamil Tiger rebels said Wednesday their second-ranking leader died with nine comrades in a ship blaze because of an "act of piracy" in international waters by the Indian Navy.

Tiger leader Sadasivam Krishnakumar Kittu, who had an artificial leg, perished last Saturday when the guerrilla-owned ship went up in flames after being seized by Indian forces in the Indian Ocean.

"The interception of the ship in international waters was a high-handed act of piracy by the Indian Navy," the world secretariat of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam organization said in a statement faxed from Paris to United Press International's New Delhi office.

"India is accountable for the actions which resulted in Kittu's death -- actions which are gross violations of international law," the statement said.

The Indian defense ministry said the ship was set ablaze by the Tigers themselves and that Navy troops rescued nine people on board who jumped into the sea from the blazing vessel.

The 36-year-old Kittu, based in Europe, was said to be on a peace mission to the Tigers' jungle headquarters in northern Sri Lanka.

The ship incident followed the release of two Sri Lankan law enforcement officers by the Tigers in what was seen as a move to help promote a peace initiative on the small island-nation, where hundreds of thousands of people have died in violence since 1983.

The Tigers, who control much of Sri Lanka's northern Jaffna peninsula and parts of the Eastern Province, have been waging a guerrilla campaign for the past one decade for an independent homeland for the island's Tamil minority..

The ship, named MV Ahat, had 10 **Tamil Tigers** and nine crew members on board and was heading for Jaffna when it was intercepted by an Indian naval frigate and a Coast Guard vessel, according to the Indian government.

The rebel statement said besides Kittu, one colonel, one major, three captains and three lieutenants of the Tiger force and another Tamil died when the ship caught fire and capsized while being brought under naval escort to the southern Indian port city of Madras.

The Tigers claimed "the ship had been fired on by the Indian Navy to compel Kittu to surrender."

Tamil Tigers claim Indian naval 'piracy' led to their leader's death

The Indian defense ministry said four bodies were recovered from the deck before the wrecked vessel capsized.

"The four bodies (were) so badly mutilated and charred that it is difficult to immediately determine if Kittu's is among them despite the artificial leg he was wearing," ministry spokesman P.S. Bhatnagar earlier said.

According to Bhatnagar, the nine rescued men had been detained in Madras.

Kittu lost a leg in a 1987 grenade attack and went to Britain to be fitted with an artificial limb.

In 1990, Britain ordered Kittu's deportation, prompting the Tamil leader to seek political asylum in Switzerland. When it became clear that Bern was unlikely to grant his request, Kittu left last year for an undisclosed European destination.

The Tiger statement said, "The Tamils the world over and the international community cannot and should not allow crimes such as this to go unpunished."

The defense ministry had said the ship was "carrying arms, ammunition and explosives." According to the rebel statement, "India (has sought) to divert attention from its act of piracy by claiming the ship carried arms and ammunition."

India, which has 55 million Tamil citizens who sympathize with the cause of Sri Lanka's 2.5 million Tamils, originally aided the Tigers but later turned openly hostile toward the group.

Tiger chief Vellupillai Prabhakaran has been charged by New Delhi with involvement in the 1991 assassination of former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi, who was killed by a female suicide bomber.

The Indian government has sought Sri Lanka's help in extraditing Prabhakaran to face trial in the Gandhi slaying case even though the island's military has tried unsuccessfully for nearly one decade to capture the Tamil supreme leader.

New Delhi claims Prabhakaran masterminded the Gandhi killing to avenge the 1987 Indian military intervention in Sri Lanka. The operation, carried out on behalf of Colombo, failed to crush the Tamil separatist rebellion.

The Indian government last year also outlawed the Tamil Tiger group -- an action that invited ridicule from some opposition politicians who questioned how an organization based in another nation could be banned.

Sri Lanka's armed secessionist movement began after hundreds of minority members were slain in the 1983 anti-Tamil riots in Colombo and elsewhere on the island.

The Tamils claim widespread discrimination by the Sinhalese majority, which dominates the Sri Lankan government and military.

Sri Lankan troops kill 26 Tamil rebels, war spreads to east

The Associated Press

May 31, 2000, Wednesday, PM cycle

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Section: International News

Length: 452 words

Byline: By DILIP GANGULY, Associated Press Writer

Dateline: COLOMBO, Sri Lanka

Body

Sri Lankan commandos retaliated after a Tamil Tiger attack and soldiers raided rebel hide-outs, killing 26 rebels in separate fighting today, the government said.

Meanwhile, the government admitted for the first time today that the war against Tamil rebels in the northern Jaffna peninsula has forced more than 8,000 people out of their homes.

The commando assault in Ampara, 125 miles east of Colombo, came after rebels attacked a police camp with mortars, state-run radio said. The radio reported 18 rebels killed, including 14 women.

The government set up commando camps after reports that the Tamil Tigers were increasingly using the Muslim-majority area to recruit combatants.

"The encounter is still going on and I can only say that that it has been very successful," said the area's Police Chief Brian Amugama. "The (Special Task Force) commandos were able to locate the terrorists and take appropriate action."

In northern Sri Lanka, where most of the fighting in the Tamil Tigers' separatist war has taken place, soldiers raided two rebel hide-outs, killing eight rebels, the government's chief spokesman Ariya Rubasinghe said. Government troops also recovered arms and ammunition, he said.

There was no independent confirmation of the reports as neither the government nor the rebels allow journalists into the area. The Sri Lankan government has also imposed news censorship.

The Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam, or LTTE, are fighting to carve out a homeland for the country's 3.2 million minority Tamils. The rebels allege that the majority Sinhalese discriminate against the Tamils. The government says Tamils have equal rights.

Gen. Sarath Munasinghe, the government's top official in charge of rehabilitation, said local authorities had registered 8,352 people displaced by the fighting. International aid workers, however, estimate that as many as 150,000 people of the peninsula's half-million residents have been displaced.

"All such persons are provided with cooked meals in the first three days and thereafter dry rations free of charge," Munasinghe, said. "Basic requirements of sanitation, health and drinking water were provided."

Sri Lankan troops kill 26 Tamil rebels, war spreads to east

U.S. Undersecretary of State Thomas Pickering expressed concern during his visit to Colombo on Monday that there was a "humanitarian crisis" brewing in the north.

A physician with the relief organization Doctors Without Borders, Manana Anjaparidze, told The Associated Press last week that people have moved into temples, mosques and churches, sharing meager food supplies and sleeping on cement floors.

She said amenities at the religious sites and relief camps are primitive: toilets are few, water and power supplies inadequate or erratic, and medical care insufficient.

Load-Date: June 1, 2000

End of Document

32 Sinhalese Killed, Police Blame Tamil Tigers

The Associated Press

February 28, 1989, Tuesday, PM cycle

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Section: International News

Length: 533 words

Byline: By PATRICK CRUEZ, Associated Press Writer

Dateline: COLOMBO, Sri Lanka

Body

Attackers raided a Sinhalese village of rice farmers in eastern Sri Lanka, shooting or hacking to death at least 32 people - nine of them children, officials said today.

Police and military officials blamed the attack on a separatist Tamil guerrilla group, but a spokesman for the group denied responsibility.

The target of Monday night's attack was the village of Welikande in the Polonnaruwa district about 100 miles northeast of Colombo, according to the police, who spoke on condition of anonymity.

A military official in Colombo said the bodies of 19 men, four women, and nine children were found. He said most of the victims were hacked to death but some of the men were shot. He said two village men were also missing.

The police blamed the attack on the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam, the most powerful of the Tamil separatist groups that have been waging a bloody campaign of guerrilla warfare and massacres since 1983.

The ethnic struggle against the Sinhalese majority of this island off the southern tip of India has claimed more than 8,500 lives.

The Welikande attack was the third massacre this month blamed on the Tigers in northeastern Sri Lanka. At least 75 people died in the three attacks.

On Feb. 11 in Dutuwewa, 36 Sinhalese were shot and stabbed to death. On Feb. 22 at Sinhapura, seven Sinhalese were killed.

The Tigers' information office in London denied the first two attacks were the work of their people. In telexes to Colombo newspapers, the Tigers blamed the Dutuwewa and Sinhapura raids on "quislings of the Indian government" trying to discredit the Tigers.

A Tiger leader telephoned The Associated Press on Monday to deny his men were behind the Welikande killings. Speaking of all three attacks, he said: "These killings are being done by armed groups who want to discredit our just struggle on behalf of the Tamil people."

Speaking on condition of anonymity, he added: "They are being done to give the Indian occupational forces and the Sri Lankan army and police a right to kill Tamils." He did not elaborate.

32 Sinhalese Killed, Police Blame Tamil Tigers

An Indian peacekeeping force has been deployed in Sri Lanka since the summer of 1987 in an effort to disarm the Tigers.

A former Tamil rebel leader from a rival group claimed the Tigers were on "a headline-hunting exercise."

Vartharaja Perumal, now chief minister of the northeastern administrative council, said the Tigers had been "badly mauled" by Indian troops and were "showing off their fangs by killing innocent Sinhalese."

Perumal used to be the leader of the Eelam People's Revolutionary Liberation Front, which once fought alongside the Tigers but now says it has surrendered its arms in an effort to enter the political mainstream.

He is in Colombo this week to press his demands for the government to embark on a promised rehabilitation project for the predominantly Tamil northeast.

Tamils, who are mostly Hindus, comprise 18 percent of Sri Lanka's 16 million people and say they are discriminated against in jobs and education by the Sinhalese majority that dominates the government and military.

Sinhalese, who are mostly Buddhists, account for 75 percent of the population. There also is a small Moslem minority and an even smaller Christian community.

End of Document

Sri Lankan Troops Kill 26 Rebels

Associated Press Online

May 31, 2000; Wednesday

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Section: International news

Length: 454 words

Byline: DILIP GANGULY

Dateline: COLOMBO, Sri Lanka

Body

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Load-Date: May 31, 2000

End of Document

Tamil massacres claim 197 lives in 2 days

Herald

October 8, 1987 Thursday

Copyright 1987 Nationwide News Pty Limited

Length: 626 words

Byline: WIMALADASA V

Body

COLOMBO, WEDNESDAY One hundred and sixty-seven civilians, mostly Sinhalese, have been killed in an upsurge of communal violence by Tamil guerrillas in Sri Lanka's north and east during the past 24 hours.

With the death of 30 others in similar circumstances on Tuesday, the number dead in 48 hours totals 197.

The main Tamil Tiger group, Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (**LTTE**), which says it will not abide or accept the laws of Sri Lanka has begun a campaign of massacres of innocent civilians.

According to Tamil sources, **LTTE** leader Velupillai Prabhakaran has told his men to wipe out or drive out Sinhalese from the Eastern Province.

Despite assurances from the 12,000-strong Indian peacekeeping force that they would maintain the peace, **Tamil Tigers** have been able to go ahead with their murderous campaign of violence.

In Batticaloa, in the Eastern Province, 40 people were shot and butchered in their homes, while 45 others were shot, massacred and burnt in a Colombo to Batticaloa train close to Batticaloa station. The entire train was then reduced to matchwood. Most of the passengers were Sinhalese and Muslim.

At Lahugala, near Pottuvil, Tigers stopped a bus and killed 20 passengers, and at Padaviya, in the Central Province, a typical Sinhalese village, 27 farmers were knifed and then shot dead.

At Eravur, also in the Eastern Province, a group of Tigers killed 25 fishermen in their huts.

At Palluruwa, near Vavuniya, two landmine explosions killed seven soliders and wounded 12 others. Three civilians were killed in the same area.

In addition to killings, the Tigers have burnt 75 houses in Batticaloa Residents are disgruntled with the Indian peacekeepers and have complained to the Sri Lankan authorities that the Indian troops are ineffective and are not preventing violence.

In all incidents of massacres the Indian forces got to the spot of trouble only to clear it of the dead and dying.

It was pointed out that in four years of ethnic violence Sri Lankan soliders were able to prevent at least the present type of violence in the main towns.

Sri Lankan security forces continue to be confined to barracks in accordances with the terms of the Indo-Sri Lankan peace accord.

Tamil massacres claim 197 lives in 2 days

Opposition leader Anura Bandaranaike asked in Parliament yesterday why Indian troops were forcing Sri Lanka's army to remain in barracks, in the face of the present violence against Sinhalese civilians.

The south of the country is extremely tense as reports come in of more and more massacres of Sinhalese and the Government has placed all security forces in the south on alert.

But, in a measure to restore peace in the northern and eastern provinces India today ordered its troops to use force on Tamil militants.

An Indian Government statement issued today expressed "deep shock and repulsion at the wanton and brutal killings of innocent men, women and children by the LTTE".

It said Indian peacekeeping troops in Sri Lanka had been "instructed to take all necessary measures to deal with the situation that has arisen".

The Indian Government would use all the force at our command to restore peace, the statement said.

The statement also said the LTTE appeared "determined to prevent the implementation of the Indo-Sri Lankan agreement" and "India would not tolerate this".

The statement declined to say whether India's troops had yet begun operations to enforce the order.

Meanwhile, the first instance of a civilian backlash against the killing of their countrymen was reported in Dambulla, in the Central Province, where a hartal (demonstration) was staged.

And three LTTE men of the 17 who swallowed cyanide capsules died yesterday, bringing the total to 15.

DAILY TELEGRAPH, REUTER

END OF STORY

Load-Date: September 19, 2003

Massacre of innocents ends truce

Guardian Weekly

April 26, 1987

Copyright 1987 Guardian Publication, Ltd.

Section: LE MONDE; Pg. 12

Length: 799 words

Byline: By Patrice Claude

Dateline: NEW DELHI, April 19/20

Body

In north-eastern Sri Lanka, 122 people, mostly Sinhalese farmers, women and children, travelling in three municipal buses and two trucks were mowed down by gunmen on Good Friday along an isolated stretch of road flanked by jungle some 55 kilometres southwest of the big port of Trincomalee. It was a hot and humid monsoonal afternoon. As the small convoy bumped along, 40 gunmen with automatic weapons waited hidden in the dense vegetation on the side of the narrow road. In a minute 122 people were killed outright cut to pieces by bullets and 60 others left wounded, some of them in critical condition. A government spokesman in Colombo promptly accused Tamil separatists in general and the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) in particular of perpetrating this "diabolical slaughter", the most murderous in the island since the LTTE massacred 150 Sinhalese civilians in Anuradhapura in May 1985. The government of President Junius R. Jayewardene announced it was immediately ending the nine-day truce it had unilaterally declared for the Sinhalese Buddhist New Year.

A general open-ended curfew has been imposed, particularly relevant to the Trincomalee district, and major military reinforcements have been pressed into service to find the criminals in a region for the most part controlled, not by the army, but by the dreaded police "special forces". The torrential rains will give the killers enough time to disappear underground.

In Madras, capital of the southern Indian state of Tamil Nadu, where all rebel Sri Lankan Tamil movements still maintain at least their offices, the LTTE said on Friday evening that it had no news of the "so-called massacre". By Saturday morning there was still no reaction from the Indian government in New Delhi, which has often been accused by Colombo of sympathising with "Tamil terrorists". Indian experts who have been engaged in mediation efforts between the rebels and Colombo, say in private they are "shattered" by the reports of a massacre carried out just when a flicker of hope was beginning to appear. Last week President Jayewardene announced he was ready to come to New Delhi to resume negotiations with the Tamils under Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi's auspices.

While not trying to clear the LTTE of possible involvement in the case (relations between the Indian authorities and the Tamil "Tigers" have gone from bad to worse in recent months), New Delhi points out that the Trincomalee region is not an LTTE stronghold, but rather the home base of another Tamil separatist group, the Eelam People's Liberation Front (EPLF), which is itself engaged in a fratricidal struggle with the LTTE and is alleged to cooperate occasionally with the Sri Lankan security forces.

After a 15-year absence, another terrorist revolutionary group, a Sinhalese one, the People's Liberation Front (JVJ), has lately been getting back into the news. On April 15, a commando unit of the JVJ, which was involved in the big

Massacre of innocents ends truce

1971 insurrection crushed in a bloodbath, raided a military camp in Kandy, in the centre of the island, getting away with a score of modern weapons. On Good Friday, the day of the Trincomalee massacre, five powerful bombs were found on the big Victoria Dam in Kandy and defused. Police have been placed on general alert throughout central and southern Sri Lanka to counter any possible JVJ operation.

But to go back to the Good Friday slaughter, nobody is very clear as to why the LTTE, which for four years has been fighting to establish an independent state in the north and east of the island, should have decided to strike so brutally at this moment. The massacres and reprisals in Sri Lanka since the 1983 anti-Tamil pogroms, which took about 8,000 lives, are usually in response to specific situations. Now, no Tamil civilians seem to have been massacred, no major bombing of their regions carried out by the government forces in recent days.

True, the LTTE, which has practically wiped out its rivals by force of arms in its Jaffna stronghold, is apparently in a precarious enough position to try to attempt a diversionary operation in the Eastern Province in order to ease the military pressure it is subjected to in the north.

The Sri Lankan army, better-trained and disciplined than before, has in recent months shown it is in a position to retake Jaffna Town and the peninsula from the LTTE. But this "final operation" could succeed, however, only at the cost of a huge massacre among the million-strong civilian population among who the rebels move around undetected. So far, President Jayewardene has refused to order the general assault for what he says are "humanitarian" reasons, but perhaps more because he fears possible Indian reactions. Friday's slaughter might well have prompted him to change his mind.

End of Document

LTTE

Sri Lankan armed forces kill two Tamil civilians in Vembu village (Batticaloa district)

M2 PRESSWIRE

January 30, 1996

Copyright 1996 M2 Communications Ltd.

Length: 529 words

Body

On Wednesday (24-01-1996) at 4.30 p.m., a trigger happy Sri Lankan army patrol unit indiscriminately opened fire on Tamil civilians in the village of Vembu village close to Kalkudah in the Batticaloa district. Two innocent Tamil civilians, K. Sumathy **female** age 20 and Kathiravel Male age 57 were killed on the spot. The young girl Sumathy who was killed in this attack was a refugee from the village of Vahaneri that lay only a few kilometres away.

A young male child Shanthakumar age 12 and Chithravel male age 57 escaped death but were seriously wounded by the army fire. They have been admitted to the hospital at Batticaloa. The officer in charge of the nearby Sri Lankan army camp established within the close by Paper factory, chose to protect his guilty soldiers by simply discounting the incident as one that happened during cross fire.

Sri Lankan armed forces round up Tamil villages in Batticaloa On Thursday (25-01-1996) early morning, the Sri Lankan armed forces suddenly rounded up the Tamil villages of Arumugathan Kudiyiruppu, Chavukkady, and the coastal villages of Thalavai in the Batticaloa district. Not a single person was allowed to come in or go out of the villages by the army till noon. The armed forces threatened the villagers and used force to enter each and every house.

All bus services and every traffic through the main Badulla street in Chenkalady was ordered to be stopped by the armed forces. The villages of Karadiyanaru, Unnichai, Marappalm and Urugamam that lay further down were also cut-off from the rest of Batticaloa, as a direct consequence of this unruly act. The food supply for these villages also ran out.

We will not give up our armed struggle until the safety and security of the Tamil people is guaranteed says Karikalan deputy political leader of **LTTE** 80 percent of the eastern province is under the control of the **LTTE**. Our political objective is to liberate our land - Tamil Eelam, from Sinhala hegemony. We are an oppressed people. We will not give up our armed struggle until the safety and security of the Tamil people is guaranteed, Mr Karikalan the deputy political leader of the **LTTE** said in the press conference.

He further added that the **LTTE** was not responsible for the bomb blasts that occurred in public places. We are not connected in any way to the 'Bullock cart bomb' that was found in Vantharumoolai said the deputy political leader of the **LTTE**. The Peoples alliance government is not genuine in its approach to solve the Sinhala nation's conflict with the Tamil people. They only want to continue the war against the Tamil people. They do not want a peaceful solution. They do not like a permanent solution, said Mr Karikalan.

LTTE Sri Lankan armed forces kill two Tamil civilians in Vembu village (Batticaloa district)

Justice and right is on our side. We have enough physical and moral strength to continue our struggle. When the Indian army came, many thought we will not survive. We overcame every obstacle because of the moral strength and the guidance of our great leader Mr. Pirabakaran, said Mr Karikalan the deputy political leader of the **LTTE**.

CONTACT: Political Committee, Liberation Tigers of
Tamil Eelam
Tel: +44 (0)181-470 8593

Load-Date: May 23, 1997

End of Document

Sri Lanka's Tamil rebels attack northern bases

Associated Press International

December 20, 1999; Monday 13:20 Eastern Time

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Section: International news

Length: 2118 words

Dateline: COLOMBO, Sri Lanka

Body

Tamil Tiger rebels attacked two northern military bases Monday at the gateway to the Jaffna Peninsula, a military spokesman said.

During the past week, the rebels have pushed troops back from several camps guarding the Elephant Pass causeway that links the mainland to the northern peninsula, the rebel's former stronghold.

If Elephant Pass fall to the rebels, it will open up a land route to Jaffna City, which the rebels lost to government forces in 1995.

The Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam, the group blamed for an assassination attempt that wounded President Chandrika Kumaratunga on Saturday, has said its fighters were closing in and were now just two kilometers (1.5 miles) from Elephant Pass.

"This morning the **LTTE** launched two attacks, firing at our defense lines" near the causeway, Brigadier Sunil Tennakoon told reporters. "Our troops successfully repulsed the attacks," he said.

Independent confirmation of the situation in the northern battlefield is impossible as the government does not allow reporters into the area.

Tennakoon claimed that monitored **LTTE** radio transmissions and estimates from ground troops indicated that at least 1,000 rebels were killed or wounded in the fighting since Dec. 11 when the rebels started its latest campaign. He was not able to give a breakdown of the numbers of rebels killed and wounded.

Tennakoon said 87 soldiers were killed and 870 wounded in the nine days of fighting.

Last month, the **LTTE** overran scores of army camps and towns in the northern Wanni region south of the peninsula, claiming vast

reas that the military had captured over the previous two years.

Police cordoned off the hospital where President Chandrika Kumaratunga was recovering from bomb injuries Monday, fearing a second assassination attempt against her.

Sri Lanka 's Tamil rebels attack northern bases

Police said they had information that suicide bombers remained in Colombo, two days after two assailants detonated explosives they were carrying at separate election rallies by Mrs. Kumaratunga and by the largest opposition party.

A total of 33 people were killed and 137 wounded in the explosions. Mrs. Kumaratunga was slightly injured by shrapnel in the face that required surgery around one eye.

The government has said the presidential election would proceed as scheduled on Tuesday, in a vote that will determine how Sri Lanka will try to end the 16-year conflict with Tamil rebels that already has claimed more than 61,000 lives.

Traffic was diverted Monday from the roads leading to a private hospital in downtown Colombo where the president was being treated.

Police officials said they were taking preventive measures to counter any new security threat from the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam, the separatist group believed to be behind Saturday's twin attacks.

The main fear appeared to be from truck bombs, which the LTTE has successfully used in the past.

Government spokesman Ariya Rubasinghe said Mrs. Kumaratunga was improving but was unable to say when she would leave hospital.

On Sunday, she addressed the nation from her hospital bed to appeal for calm during the election and for Tamils to reject terrorism.

"The Tamil people must clearly and without hesitation decide whether they are going to continue to strengthen the hand of terror and murder by their secret, silent or partial support of the LTTE," she in a statement broadcast on national radio and television.

Most mainstream Tamil political parties have said they will not support Mrs. Kumaratunga's re-election bid, expressing disappointment that she failed to meet her pledge to end the ethnic war. Tamil support had been largely responsible for her 1994 landslide victory.

Political analysts expect her election prospects to improve after the bombing, arguing that the attack may harden the opinion of the majority Sinhalese against the pledge by opposition candidate Ranil Wickremesinghe to reopen peace negotiations with

he Tamil Tigers.

Police threw a cordon around the hospital where President Chandrika Kumaratunga was recovering from bomb injuries Monday, fearing a second assassination attempt against her ahead of presidential elections Tuesday.

Officials said they had information that more suicide bombers were still in Colombo, two days after two assailants blew themselves up at separate election rallies by Mrs. Kumaratunga and by the largest opposition party.

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Among the dead was Colombo's police chief and a journalist working for a local television station.

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A report on the TamilNet web site, which is known to express views sympathetic to the Tamil rebels, identified the bomber as a female employee of the Colombo municipal council.

Sri Lanka 's Tamil rebels attack northern bases

An official from the Criminal Investigation Department confirmed the bomber's gender but said she had not been identified.

Initial police reports said investigators had found a wig at the site and suspected the assailant had been a man in a woman's clothing. That view was changed after the bomber's severed head was found intact.

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"We don't expect to get to work until tomorrow," said an irate driver, turned back by a policeman.

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he **Tamil Tigers**.

President Chandrika Kumaratunga was shifted from a hospital to her barricaded home Monday, hours after police intelligence reports spoke of a likely second assassination attempt against her.

Mrs. Kumaratunga, who is running for re-election Tuesday, left the private hospital after receiving treatment for facial and eye injuries from shrapnel inflicted by a suicide bomb that went off at her campaign rally Saturday night.

"Yes, she has been shifted to her home. Beyond this I am not going to say anything," said Ariya Rubasinghe, the director of the government's Information Department.

Earlier, police officials said they had intelligence that more suicide bombers were still in Colombo.

A total of 33 people were killed and 137 wounded by two suicide bombers at separate campaign rallies by Mrs. Kumaratunga and by the largest opposition party.

The president was slightly injured in the face and required surgery around one eye. Among the dead was Colombo's police chief and a journalist working for a local television station.

Mrs. Kumaratunga was shifted to Temple Tress, her official residence. The compound, is secured by three rings of security forces sheltered behind bunkers.

Sri Lanka 's Tamil rebels attack northern bases

The government has said the presidential election would proceed as scheduled on Tuesday, in a vote that will determine how Sri Lanka will try to end the 16-year conflict with Tamil rebels that already has claimed more than 61,000 lives.

A report on the TamilNet web site, which is known to express views sympathetic to the Tamil rebels, identified the bomber as a **female** employee of the Colombo municipal council.

An official from the Criminal Investigation Department confirmed the bomber's gender but said she had not been identified.

Initial police reports said investigators had found a wig at the site and suspected the assailant had been a man in a woman's clothing. That view was changed after the bomber's severed head was found intact.

On Sunday, Mrs. Kumaratunga addressed the nation from her hospital bed to appeal for calm during the election and for Tamils to reject terrorism.

"The Tamil people must clearly and without hesitation decide whether they are going to continue to strengthen the hand of terror and murder by their secret, silent or partial support of the **LTTE**," she in a statement broadcast on national radio and television.

Most mainstream Tamil political parties have said they will not support Mrs. Kumaratunga's re-election bid, expressing disappointment that she failed to meet her pledge to end the ethnic war. Tamil support had been largely responsible for her 1994 landslide victory.

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he **Tamil Tigers**.

President Chandrika Kumaratunga, recovering at home Monday from injuries suffered in a suicide bombing at a campaign rally, sought support to pursue her peace program or crush rebel fighters with military force.

"The moment has come to stop the cult of violence and live in peace. This is my appeal as we step into the 21st century," she said in a quavering voice on national television. She was seated on a sofa with her head and right eye swathed in bandages.

Mrs. Kumaratunga, who is up for re-election Tuesday, left the hospital Monday after receiving treatment for facial and eye injuries from shrapnel inflicted by the bomb. She was shifted to her official residence, which is secured by three rings of security forces sheltered behind bunkers.

Thirty-three people were killed and 137 wounded by the two suicide bombers at separate rallies held Saturday by Mrs. Kumaratunga and by the largest opposition party. Among the dead was Colombo's police chief and a journalist working for a local television station.

Before the weekend bombings, Mrs. Kumaratunga had been seen as the underdog. But some analysts now say the weekend bombings could rouse the sympathy vote and help her win.

"The **LTTE** has made it very clear that it wants Mrs. Kumaratunga out of the picture at all cost, and this may harden attitudes of many Sinhalese against the **LTTE**," said Jehan Perera with the Peace Council, an independent think-tank. "My feeling is that this would create a sympathy vote and will help her at the election."

The government has said the presidential election would proceed as scheduled on Tuesday in a vote that will determine how Sri Lanka will try to end the 16-year conflict with Tamil rebels that already has claimed more than 61,000 lives.

Sri Lanka 's Tamil rebels attack northern bases

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Load-Date: December 20, 1999

SRI LANKA: RIGHTS GROUPS ASK VOICE IN PEACE TALKS Commentary

By Vasantha Sritharan*

IPS-Inter Press Service

September 10, 2002, Tuesday

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Length: 1228 words

Dateline: COLOMBO, Sep. 10

Body

Civil society groups, both here and overseas, are demanding that room be made for human rights monitoring in next week's peace negotiations between the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (**LTTE**) and the Sri Lankan government.

The demand that the peace process take into account rights concerns has become increasingly critical since the two parties signed a formal ceasefire agreement in February -- and this will be tested when the first round of talks starts on Sept. 16 in Thailand.

Since February, widespread violations by the **LTTE** in the areas of child conscription and recruitment, abductions, ransom taking and intimidation of political opponents in the north and east have continued, and have even increased in areas where the group did not previously have such unrestricted direct access.

This has dismayed many who have tried to defend the present process, aimed at ending the nearly two-decade old conflict between the state and **Tamil Tigers** seeking a separate homeland.

Even the Norwegian-led Sri Lankan Monitoring Mission (SLMM), charged with overseeing compliance with the ceasefire agreement, made some harsh criticism of the **LTTE**'s behavior in July.

Undeniably, the Norwegian-facilitated peace process has brought a halt to the fighting and a semblance of normalcy to the people so long ground down by the war. Killings of civilians, routine for so many years, have virtually stopped.

But the underlying reality shows that this normalcy is very fragile.

Consistent documentation by the University Teachers for Human Rights (Jaffna) (UTHR(J)) has shown that the **LTTE**'s use of child soldiers, forcible conscription, and other systematic exploitation in eastern Sri Lanka is ongoing. This widespread problem goes to the very core of the group's relationship with the civilian population.

The disappearance of more than half a dozen political opponents, abducted in total violation of the memorandum of understanding signed by the two parties, may be the thin end of the wedge.

The agreement signed between the government and the **LTTE** at the behest of the Norwegian government did play a crucial role in constraining both parties from breaking the ceasefire. But it is conceptually and practically a very weak mechanism to deal with the civilians' predicament under the **LTTE**'s dispensation.

SRI LANKA : RIGHTS GROUPS ASK VOICE IN PEACE TALKS Commentary By Vasantha Sritharan*

However, most civilians are hoping that the peace mission will be effective, and are relying on it to usher in justice and ease their plight.

Many, especially in the eastern Batticaloa district, have complained to the local monitoring committee when there were violations. This forced the SLMM to speak out strongly against child recruitment and abduction by the LTTE in its July and August reports.

But the LTTE still controls all expression within the Tamil community. The Tamil media's complete censorship of reporting on the SLMM's July statement is an indication of things to come in the future event of an interim administration controlled by the LTTE.

It is in this context that one must ask how the process can help to create a basis for long-term peace.

Since the government and the LTTE are bent on creating an interim administration as the first step to resolving the conflict, what is the role of civil society in defining the overall agenda?

How can one be sure that the interim administration would be open and accountable, given the socio-political reality of the country's north and east, where most Tamils live? Is there a possibility of democratic openness that would allow the different segments of society to assert themselves?

Anti-Muslim violence at the end of June left the peace process looking very vulnerable. Given the LTTE's history of anti-Muslim violence and current attitudes, the Muslims have legitimate fears of an LTTE-controlled interim administration.

Making an interim administration feasible would require willingness from the LTTE to allow space for the assertion of Muslim identity.

But what of the others? Can women come forth and demand that their children be allowed to go to school without fear of being forcibly taken away? Will those who have already been taken away be released soon? Would independent political activity be allowed to re-emerge under an LTTE-controlled interim administration?

Knowing the political environment in the north and east, it is unrealistic to expect the state structures such as the courts and other institutions to function independently when it comes to LTTE violations.

Hence the peace process must infuse independent monitoring bodies to safeguard the interests of the civilian population and create space for the people to assert themselves.

In this regard, it is critical that a human rights expert be present -- as an advisor during the September talks when an interim administration is discussed.

Even after child recruitment by the LTTE was established beyond dispute, the LTTE has continued to deny it, brushing aside report after report. That puts the onus on civil society organizations outside the north and east and other structures such as the United Nations and the Red Cross to play a more active role in enforcing accountability.

Issues of human rights are paramount in the conflict in Sri Lanka, not only as a transitional justice question but to counter the hold of authoritarian ideologies in social and political institutions at large.

In the east, people feel insecure and are afraid to openly oppose what is happening in their midst. Parents who have lost their children live in isolation and horror. Talking of "normalization" while ignoring the above seems to be the approach favored by many.

If human rights concerns are not brought into the peace talks, then the talks will merely be infusing funds and giving power to the LTTE to show that this abnormal situation is "normal".

SRI LANKA : RIGHTS GROUPS ASK VOICE IN PEACE TALKS Commentary By Vasantha Sritharan*

In the short term this would be useful for the government and the LTTE. But this shortsighted approach to peace could end in disaster.

The experience of the Sierra Leone peace process is instructive. After the signing of the Lom Peace Agreement on July 7, 1999, many Sierra Leoneans believed, though with much skepticism, that the country was at last on the path toward real reconciliation and an end to violence, destruction and human rights abuses.

However, the resumption of hostilities in May 2000 severely jolted these hopes. Both the government and the Revolutionary United Front (RUF), the rebel group notorious for its rights abuses, were faulted for the failure.

The human rights community had been concerned about the peace deal, which gave immunity to the RUF leaders.

In August 1999, a New York Times article commented that the U.N. Commission for Human Rights, Amnesty and Human Rights Watch were sure to condemn "any peace treaty or political accord that promises to let human rights abusers off the hook -- even when continued conflict risks destroying a country," as in Sierra Leone.

But the view that the RUF abuses were part of Sierra Leone's war culture -- and could be ignored in the name of peace -- proved terribly wrong as the events in May 2000 showed. Only the intervention of British troops and the capture of the RUF leader brought a semblance of normalcy and placed the peace process back on track.

Surely this has lessons for the Sri Lankan peace process.

*Vasantha Sritharan is a member of the University Teachers for Human Rights (Jaffna), an independent human rights watchdog in Sri Lanka.

Load-Date: September 11, 2002

SRI LANKA: TAMILS FEAR BLOODBATH IF POLLS GO AHEAD

IPS-Inter Press Service

September 12, 1988, Monday

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Length: 934 words

Dateline: JAFFNA, Sept. 12

Body

As the Sri Lankan government prepares to announce local elections for the island's turbulent northeast, people here say there will be a bloodbath if the polls are held.

Sri Lankan President Junius Jayewardene announced the merger of the country's Tamil-dominated Northern and Eastern Provinces over the weekend, paving the way for elections to Provincial Councils in November.

The merger announcement is one of the terms of the Indo-Sri Lanka Peace Accord, signed in July last year with the intention of giving the island's Tamil minority a degree of autonomy in the northeast of the country, which they regard as their homeland.

The rest of Sri Lanka was virtually paralyzed today after the militant Peoples' Liberation Front (JVP) called for a total shutdown to protest the death in police custody of a human rights lawyer.

The Sinhalese JVP is against the peace accord and the merger, which it says has sold the country out to the Tamils. The group's military wing is said to be behind the killing of hundreds of ruling party supporters, security officials and moderate politicians.

The dominant Tamil militant group, the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (**LTTE**) have been fighting the estimated 49,000 Indian peacekeeping troops who were sent to Sri Lanka to help implement the peace pact.

Scars of the fierce house-to-house battles between the guerrillas and the Indian Army for control of this Tiger stronghold in northern Sri Lanka are still visible in the streets of Jaffna.

The citizens of the war-ravaged town fear that if New Delhi and Colombo decide to go ahead with the Provincial Council elections without the Tigers taking part, there is certain to be more killings.

They feel that candidates, their families and even voters on polling day will be targets of the militants.

There is a mood of gloom and despair in Jaffna, and the majority of people interviewed expressed resentment of the presence of Indian troops and the decision to go ahead with polls without the **LTTE**'s concurrence.

"Unless the **LTTE** is brought in there can be no credible elections," says Patrick Antony, a 24-year-old leader of the 2,000 strong Art Faculty Student Union here.

Antony's union has boycotted classes to join a group of **women** on a relay fast in Jaffna's main Hindu temple. The **women** want the release of their sons, who were taken into custody under Sri Lanka's Prevention of Terrorism Act (PTA).

SRI LANKA : TAMILS FEAR BLOODBATH IF POLLS GO AHEAD

Official sources in Colombo said all political prisoners held under the PTA, except for LTTE members, would be released next week following Jayewardene's merger proclamation.

Jaffna's Catholic Bishop Deogu Pillai, for one, is a sad and disappointed man. Jaffna has seen continuous strife since 1984, and he says the children are growing up in a climate of violence.

"Even little children in schools play war games. They pretend make-believe bombs are exploding and take cover," he says.

The bishops says the outside world has forgotten the plight of the Tamils, who are going through great hardship with the collapse of the civilian administration.

Despite Indian claims that the situation in Jaffna is normal, the town's Secretariat works only one day in a month to pay the salaries of civil servants because of LTTE threats.

All other government offices are closed. The bank functions only three days a week, and the LTTE makes sure its decrees are heeded with threats of reprisals.

"It is not only fear that makes us obey. Ninety percent of the population supports the LTTE who have sacrificed their lives for the demands of the Tamils," says Kanegasan Velupillai, a Jaffna businessmen.

The Indians, who were enthusiastically welcomed with flowers and garlands last July, are now looked upon by most Jaffna citizens as an occupying force.

"It is not a peacekeeping force we have here, but an army of occupation," says a member of the Jaffna Citizens' Committee. "Let them go and let us have a United Nations peacekeeping force."

But Indian military officers stationed in Sri Lanka deny the charge. They say the support for the LTTE is mainly out of fear of reprisals and that the LTTE itself has been militarily crushed and is on the run.

In the political vacuum of the north, the Citizen's Committee has taken upon itself the task of articulating the peoples' grievances.

Jaffna citizens are irritated by the constant searches and restrictions on movement within the Jaffna Peninsula by Indian troops manning check points.

Indian peacekeeping forces are now concentrating on raiding LTTE hideouts in the jungles south of Jaffna, near the town of Vavuniya.

The road from Colombo to Jaffna passes through these jungles, and the trip is made longer and more hazardous by the various armed militant groups that patrol their territories.

Highway robbers have also sprung up, and there have been numerous cases of robberies of buses.

At the Indian checkpoints, bus passengers are asked to get down while the vehicle is searched. All passengers have to walk past "spotters" belonging to rival Tamil militant groups, who the Indians use to identify Tiger guerrillas.

Moderate Tamil leaders like Apipillai Amirthalingam of the Tamil United Liberation Front (TULF) say the provincial polls will not have validity if the Tigers do not take part.

"We are suggesting that there should be a ceasefire and the Tamil Tigers should be given the opportunity of coming to the electoral process," Amirthalingam says.

But all indications show that the LTTE is in no mood to compromise.

And in the tense and volatile climate of the north, there is every likelihood that if the Provincial Council elections go ahead, the weeks leading to the polls will be bloody.

SRI LANKA : TAMILS FEAR BLOODBATH IF POLLS GO AHEAD

End of Document

Sri Lanka fighting

United Press International
July 25, 1990, Wednesday, BC cycle

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Section: International

Length: 493 words

Byline: BY IQBAL ATHAS

Dateline: COLOMBO, Sri Lanka

Body

Tamil guerrillas killed 9 Sinhalese villagers in north-central Sri Lanka and clashes between rebels and security forces left at least 38 rebels dead, a senior military official said Wednesday.

The official said the villagers were killed Tuesday evening when rebels of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam entered the village of Damminna, about 135 miles north of Colombo, and began shooting.

Nine villagers were killed, including 3 women and 2 children, he said.

"We believe that the LTTE launched this attack on innocent civilians in retaliation for the killing of 6 of their cadres by 45 policemen who escaped from their custody last week in eastern Batticaloa district," the official said.

On Wednesday, the army and police began searching the surrounding countryside for the rebels responsible for the killings, the official said.

In a separate incident Tuesday, security forces killed 37 Tiger rebels during a four-hour battle around the Kilinochchi army camp, about 175 miles north of the capital, the official said.

The battle helped drive rebels from the area around the military post, which had been under siege for the past month, the official said.

Also, during a separate encounter in the eastern district of Amparai, troops shot dead a rebel during a routine patrol, he said.

Fighting between government forces and Tamil rebels erupted June 11 after guerrillas attacked four military bases in eastern Sri Lanka.

Since then, more than 1,500 soldiers, rebels and civilians have been killed in the northern and eastern provinces where the Tigers are fighting to establish an independent homeland for Sri Lanka's minority Tamil population.

The rebels believe a separate state is necessary because of years of discrimination by the majority Sinhalese, who are mostly Buddhist and who control the Colombo government.

The Sri Lankan government battled but failed to defeat several Tamil separatist groups from 1983 until 1987 when, in a bid to end the violence, Colombo signed a peace accord with India.

Sri Lanka fighting

Under the terms of the agreement, India sent thousands of soldiers as a peace-keeping force to maintain law and order and to supervise the surrender of weapons by Tamils who agreed to disarm in exchange for greater autonomy in Tamil areas.

The only group who refused to participate was the **Tamil Tigers**, who claimed the accord did not fulfill the aspirations of the Tamil people.

The development triggered a war between the **Tamil Tigers** and the Indian army that killed at least 1,100 soldiers and 600 rebels.

India failed to defeat the rebels and finally withdrew last March, leaving behind a fragile cease-fire between Colombo and the guerrillas.

That cease-fire, which many analysts hoped would evolve into a lasting peace, was shattered last month when the rebels attacked the military bases in eastern Sri Lanka.

Rebel leaders and government negotiators reached two cease-fire agreements within days after fighting started but both plans failed.

End of Document

Ceasefire raises hopes of peace in Lanka

United Press International
December 22, 2001, Saturday

Copyright 2001 U.P.I.

Length: 865 words

Dateline: COLOMBO, Sri Lanka, Dec. 22

Body

Fireworks lit up the overcast sky of the Sri Lankan capital Colombo Friday night as television and radio channels broke the news of government's decision to hold a cease-fire during the festive season.

In many parts of the country, people came out of their houses to celebrate. The government's decision to reciprocate the unilateral, month-long cease-fire announced by the separatist Tamil Tiger guerrillas with a matching cessation of hostilities has pulled the people out of the shadow of fear.

After two decades of bloody war that has claimed over 70,000 lives, it would be the first time that the nation would be celebrating Christmas without the fear of suicide bombings and attacks by the Tamil Tamils.

"It is the most wonderful thing that could happen before the birth of infant Jesus," said Anslem Cenn, who works with a travel company. "We had been praying for this moment all along. Now we hope this new government will bring peace to the nation."

In the northern Wanni mainland, which is controlled by the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam, the Tamils will be able to celebrate the Hindu festival of Pongal next month without the fear of Air Force dropping bombs or the Sri Lankan army's artillery shelling their villages.

"The response is excellent. Christmas is the only festival that is celebrated by all communities, Sinhalese and Tamils," said Selvaratnam Sinnathurai, as he rushed to the ticketing office of Helitours, the subsidiary of Sri Lankan air force which operates civilian flights to the northern Jaffna peninsula.

On the eve of his departure to India, new Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe met President Chandrika Kumaratunga and announced the cease-fire. Though the announcement was not unexpected, what surprised most was the president's willingness to go along with Wickremesinghe's decision.

Last year Kumaratunga had refused to reciprocate the cease-fire declared by the **LTTE**. She had maintained that the government would order cessation of hostilities only after the rebels come forward for talks. For five months the guerrillas continued their cease-fire continuously urging the government and President Kumaratunga to give up her bellicose attitude. Finally, they called off the cease-fire in April this year.

The government's decision to reciprocate the cease-fire of the **LTTE** has raised hopes of peace in the country. It has also evoked positive and encouraging response from the international community.

Within hours of declaring cease-fire, the British government said that it was ready to throw its weight behind a new peace initiative in Sri Lanka. "This is an excellent opportunity for all concerned to work together to renew the peace

Ceasefire raises hopes of peace in Lanka

process. I hope this will be a genuine cease-fire that will be maintained," said the British Home Secretary Jack Straw.

India, the closest neighbor of Sri Lanka, announced that it would support the peace moves, but would not mediate unless both parties to the conflict, the Sri Lankan government and the **Tamil Tigers**, request its intervention.

The Sri Lankan government, on its part, is all set to revive the derailed Norwegian peace initiative. "India can help us in the peace process, but we will restart the Norwegian efforts," said Tyronne Fernando, the new foreign minister, who left for India with Wickremesinghe Saturday.

Fernando said that the Prime Minister would meet his Indian counterpart Atal Behari Vajpayee and other senior ministers to seek their help in resolving the protracted ethnic conflict.

While the hopes are very high that the new government of the United National Party would engage the **LTTE** in talks and try find a political solution to the ethnic conflict, many are skeptical going by **LTTE**'s track record of reneging promises.

In 1994 when President Chandrika Kumaratunga's People's Alliance came to power with a resounding mandate for peace, the government held talks with the **LTTE**. A truce was signed on January 8, 1995, but 100 days later the **LTTE** unilaterally broke the peace accord blasting two Navy ships at the eastern Trincomalee navy base.

The **LTTE**, in those 100 days, amassed weapons and oiled its war machinery to take on the government troops. Since then they have continued fighting the armed forces ferociously. The guerrillas assassinated at least half-a-dozen senior politicians and scores of senior military officials. But they failed in their attempt to kill Kumaratunga. She lost her right eye in the suicide bomb attack carried out by a **female** guerrilla.

Though most of the Tamil political parties have supported the truce, they too fear that the **LTTE** and its chief Velupillai Prabhakaran, who claims to have learned his war strategies watching Clint Eastwood films, may prove to be a slippery customer for the UNP government.

The armed forces and the police have removed most of the checkpoints in the capital and elsewhere in the country, but they are not prepared to lower their guard in the north and east.

"The terrorists could use this opportunity to smuggle in their suicide cadres and weapons into the capital," said a senior police officer. "They have done it in the past and nothing prevents them from doing it again." Content: 11001000 11006000 16001000 16002000 16003000

Load-Date: December 23, 2001

Tamil conflict at India's doorstep

Christian Science Monitor (Boston, MA)

May 16, 2000, Tuesday

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Section: WORLD; Pg. 6

Length: 906 words

Byline: Janaki Bahadur Kremmer, Special to The Christian Science Monitor

Dateline: NEW DELHI

Highlight: Guerrillas in Sri Lanka battle to take Jaffna, just across the water from India's Tamil Nadu state.

Body

It's been called India's Vietnam. And as Sri Lanka's civil war continues to escalate off India's southern coast, the 17-year conflict threatens to draw in its larger neighbor once again.

For the Liberation Tigers of the Tamil Elam (**LTTE**), the tiny Jaffna Peninsula at the tip of the teardrop-shaped island symbolizes the collective desire for an ethnic homeland. The mainly Hindu Tamils say they are fighting discrimination by the majority Buddhist Sinhalese. United since British colonial rule, tensions between them increased after independence in 1948.

In the past month, **LTTE** fighters have fought Sri Lankan troops to come closer to taking Jaffna than they've been since losing the stronghold to the government five years ago.

In April, the **LTTE** took the garrison of Elephant Pass, which links the Jaffna Peninsula with the rest of Sri Lanka. Now the city of Jaffna itself appears ready to fall.

The last three phone lines to Jaffna from the capital, Colombo, were cut by Sri Lankan authorities days ago to enforce a news blackout imposed May 4. A Public Security Act is in force, which allows the government to seize property and ban demonstrations. Aid workers contacted by satellite phone say the situation looks "very bleak," as between 2,000 and 5,000 highly motivated **Tamil Tigers** are overwhelming the 25,000 to 40,000 Sri Lankan forces who reportedly have little offensive capacity and the highest desertion rate in the world.

Observers in Colombo say Tiger artillery fire has surprised Sri Lanka's forces, using "global positioning system" [GPS] technology to hit their targets. "Militarily we have lost everything we were going to give away in negotiations [with the Tigers]," says a senior Sri Lankan political figure in Colombo.

Just across the water from Jaffna lies India's state of Tamil Nadu, whose inhabitants share ethnic ties with Sri Lanka's Tamils. Tamil Nadu, the size of Florida, is home to about 55 million people. And Jaffna is closer to Tamil

Tamil conflict at India 's doorstep

Nadu than Cuba is to Florida: Already, civilians fleeing the peninsula are crossing the Palk Strait to reach Tamil Nadu.

"Tamil nationalism is very strong," says Pamanabhan RanganathChari, director of the Institute of Peace and Conflict studies in New Delhi, who is a Tamil. "Apart from the fact that the quarrel [in Sri Lanka] is between two groups of settlers, both of whom originated from India many hundreds of years ago, the fact is that the Tamils still have very strong ... ties with their brethren in Sri Lanka. People from northern India and New Delhi can't really understand the strong Tamil bond."

India's earlier support

In fact, earlier in the conflict, New Delhi had given support to Tamil militants, under what was often described as a misguided policy. Former Indian Prime Minister Indira Gandhi believed that it was in India's interest to show solidarity with the ethnic Tamils.

But during the government of her son Rajiv Gandhi, an accord was signed in 1987 under which a 6,000-strong Army contingent (the Indian Peace Keeping Force) provided protection for civilians in Jaffna. The IPKF faced guerrilla fighters - some of them barely in their teens - in a densely populated urban area already fortified and extensively land-mined. Their problems were complicated by the fact that it was impossible to distinguish between the Tigers and the Tamil civilians.

Public opinion in India turned against the government and 1,500 soldiers died before Indian troops pulled out in 1990. Prospects for further Indian involvement withered when Rajiv Gandhi was assassinated in southern India in 1991, allegedly by a **female LTTE** suicide bomber.

India doesn't want a 1987 reprise. Nor can it ignore the powerful Tamil parties in its governing coalition. Delhi-based political analyst Mahesh Rangarajan says that if India decides to help in Sri Lanka and if Tamil civilians are killed in the process, Tamils may pull out of India's government and cause its collapse.

On the other hand, after nuclear tests last year and President Clinton's visit this March, India finds its higher profile heightening awareness of its regional influence. To ignore Sri Lanka's plight might be viewed as an abdication of responsibility at a time when it is lobbying hard for a permanent seat on the United Nations Security Council.

India has scotched any speculation that it will give military assistance to the Sri Lankan Army. Even a delegation of Sri Lanka's Buddhist monks, who have historically opposed Indian involvement, petitioned the Indian high commissioner to Sri Lanka for military help. But India has said that it is ready to mediate between the Sri Lankan government and the **LTTE** if approached by both sides. Norwegian facilitation began slowly earlier this year with both government and **LTTE** acceptance. And a handful of Western countries have also made the offer to mediate, if Sri Lanka and the **LTTE** both come to the table.

President Kumaratunga's attempts

For her part, Sri Lankan President Chandrika Kumaratunga has stuck to a strategy that depends on defeating the **LTTE** militarily, while working with her political opposition to devolve power to Tamil regions in the north and east.

Tamil conflict at India 's doorstep

But with politicians in the central government eyeing elections scheduled in August and the **LTTE** gaining territory, they so far seem unwilling to give up control.

* Staff writer Robert Marquand contributed to this report.

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Load-Date: May 15, 2000

End of Document

Gandhi inquiry focuses on the accomplices

The Independent (London)

June 10, 1991, Monday

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Section: FOREIGN NEWS PAGE; Page 10

Length: 483 words

Byline: From TIM MCGIRK in New Delhi

Body

WHO killed Rajiv Gandhi? Three weeks after the former Indian prime minister was blown up, investigators still do not know the identity of the **female** suicide bomber or to which terrorist group, if any, she belonged.

The team of India's top 25 police investigators have proof that Gandhi's killer did not act alone. Police claim that the suicide bomber may have had up to three accomplices mingling at the Congress (I) Party rally on 21 May at Sriperumbudur when she bent down to touch Gandhi's feet in a gesture of respect, triggering the plastic explosives strapped around her waist.

The bomb was packed with thousands of steel pellets which sheared off Mr Gandhi's face and killed 19 other people. All that remained of the supposed assassin was her dark-skinned head and legs. Police are trying to match this woman's head with photographs from the intelligence files of known Sri Lankan Tamil extremists. So far, identification has escaped them.

Strangely enough, the clues which point to an assassination squad have emerged from film shot several seconds prior to the blast by a freelance photographer. Police believe that the photographer, Hari Babu, 22, may have been hired by the assassins even though he was among those killed in the blast.

The first shot on his film was of four people: a middle-aged Congress Party worker and her daughter, a young woman with glasses holding a sandalwood garland - who is suspected of being the suicide bomber - and a young man who was clutching a notepad. He stepped away seconds before the blast and vanished.

One Madras newspaper, The Hindu, yesterday cited sources from the Central Bureau of Investigation claiming that the man with the notebook was "a very senior operative of the **LTTE Tamil Tigers** intelligence".

After Gandhi's murder, a man fitting the male suspect's description burst into a hospital in Kanchipuram, not far away, demanding medical treatment for an injured woman, police said. The photographer seems to be the most promising lead. Police said that Babu had bought the garland which the assassin placed around Gandhi's head a split-second before the killing.

It is not known yet, however, if the photographer was a collaborator or a dupe of the assassins. Some Indian newspapers claim that Babu associated with the Tamil separatists and had visited their Sri Lankan stronghold. But others claim he was merely a decoy, helping the assassins to penetrate the VIP area.

However, the **Tamil Tigers** had everything to lose by killing Gandhi. Such an act would rebound on the guerrillas, who have been using Tamil Nadu as the main support base in their combat against the Sri Lankan army. But the

Gandhi inquiry focuses on the accomplices

spokesman did not rule out the possibility that several Tamil militants, acting on their own, may have decided to take revenge on Mr Gandhi for sending the Indian army into Sri Lanka in 1987 to act as a buffer between the Tamils and the Sri Lankan army.

End of Document

Tamil Tigers are purring like pussycats of peace

The Guardian (London)

April 3, 1990

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Length: 673 words

Byline: By CHRIS NUTTALL in Jaffna

Body

THE tiger roaring in the centre of red guerrilla flags flying all over Jaffna has become a pussycat in the aftermath of India's withdrawal from Sri Lanka.

The king of the Wanni jungles himself, Velupillai Prabhakaran, supreme commander of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam, emerged from two-and-a-half years in hiding on Sunday to purr about peace.

Throughout this northern peninsula, where more than a million Tamils form 99 per cent of the population, many of his fighters wander around without weapons now, safe in the knowledge that their enemies have all fled.

And there are angels with dirty faces to watch over them: cherubic boys barely taller than their rifles take up occasional point duties and young women go out on patrols. Malini and Arthi, both in their twenties, are typical of the hundreds of Tigresses now operating in Jaffna. Dressed in combat fatigues, their long black hair tightly plaited and tied with ribbons, they confessed shyly to killing several Indian soldiers with the AK-47s lying in their laps.

They are veterans of the Battle of Jaffna, the offensive launched by the Indian Peacekeeping Force in October 1987 after the Tigers had refused to surrender their arms and accept a compromise to their demands for a separate state in the north and east.

Thousands of civilians died in the bombardment and hundreds of buildings were flattened. More than 650 Tigers and 1,100 Indian soldiers were killed in two years of urban and then jungle guerrilla warfare, as the Tigers were pushed south into the Wanni wilderness.

'We have laid ambushes for the Indians, and attacked their army posts,' said Malini, describing the work of her all-women unit.

'We are not allowed to smoke, drink or wear make-up. We can have boyfriends, but we must serve for five years and not marry until we are 23.'

In Jaffna, there are six women of their age to every man, which explains the growth in the Tigers' female recruitment. Many of the men have been killed in fighting or fled forced conscription.

The Tigers have easily defeated their opponents, the Tamil National Army. The TNA moved into areas vacated by the Indian army during its final pullout, completed on March 24. Hundreds of TNA members left for India with the peacekeeping force which had supported them.

Tamil Tigers are purring like pussycats of peace

With the Tigers declaring an end to their 17-year war with the government during talks in Colombo, Jaffna is more peaceful now than it has been for a decade. The only show of major force involves Prabhakaran's security. Elite armed guerrillas line the balconies of the villa chosen as his new lair.

In a conference room on the ground floor, he read out a statement on Sunday lauding the achievements of his fighters. Dressed in combat fatigues, he looked the part of the ruthless guerrilla leader.

But the softness of his voice belied the macho appearance. In an interview afterwards, he saw a peacetime role for himself as a social worker.

'I would prefer to do social services rather than become a politician,' he said. 'If there is a permanent peace, I will become involved in social rehabilitation, such as helping handicapped children.'

'Always wars ignore these people, so I will help them. War and violence were imposed on us, but at heart we want peace. It is because we love the people that there is a readiness to die.'

The Tigers' political leaders face critical talks in Colombo this week. President Ranasinghe Premadasa expects the guerrillas to surrender their weapons before fresh elections to the North-Eastern council, the devolved body set up in 1988 now accepted by the Tigers as a temporary answer to their demands for autonomy.

The Tigers will not do this and they expect the government to remove a requirement in the constitution for their candidates to swear an oath of allegiance to a unitary state.

Prabhakaran spoke of peace on Sunday, but emphasised that the Tigers could still roar: 'If justice is denied to our people and if oppression is unleashed, we will not hesitate to resume the armed struggle to uphold their freedom,' he said.

Load-Date: June 12, 2000

India's extension of ban on Tamil Tigers won't affect peace process, says Sri Lankan minister

Associated Press International

May 15, 2002 Wednesday

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Section: INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Length: 309 words

Byline: KRISHAN FRANCIS; Associated Press Writer

Dateline: COLOMBO, Sri Lanka

Body

India's decision to extend a ban on Tamil Tiger rebels will not affect the Sri Lankan government's plans to hold peace talks with the guerillas next month, a Cabinet minister said Wednesday.

"The ban will have no impact on the peace process," said the Minister for Rehabilitation Jayalath Jayawardena.

On Tuesday, India extended for two years a ban against the Liberation Tigers of Tamileelam fighting for a separate homeland for minority Tamils in Sri Lanka.

India imposed the ban after former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi was killed in a suicide bombing by a **female** Tamil Tiger rebel in 1991. The ban has been extended every two years since then.

A decision taken by a sovereign state would not hamper the peace efforts of another country, Jayawardena said.

The rebels have been fighting Sri Lankan government forces since 1983. More than 64,000 people have died in the civil war, one of Asia's longest.

In February, the Sri Lankan government and the rebels signed a Norway-brokered cease-fire agreement. They are scheduled to hold peace talks next month in Thailand.

The rebels are also outlawed by the United States, Britain, Canada and Australia.

India's 55 million Tamils, who mostly live in the southern state of Tamil Nadu, share linguistic and family ties with those in Sri Lanka.

The main Tamil political party alliance in Sri Lanka expressed on Wednesday its disappointment over India's decision to extend the ban.

"It won't help the peace process," said Murugesu Sivasithamparam, leader of the Tamil United Liberation Front, or TULF.

The TULF, in alliance with three other parties, have 16 seats in the country's 225-member legislature.

India 's extension of ban on Tamil Tigers won't affect peace process, says Sri Lankan minister

Sri Lankan Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe will visit India in June to brief Indian Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee and other leaders about the developments in the peace efforts, a spokesman for Wickremesinghe said.

Load-Date: May 16, 2002

End of Document

Sri Lanka kills child soldiers

United Press International
December 24, 2000, Sunday

Copyright 2000 U.P.I.

Section: GENERAL NEWS

Length: 355 words

Byline: By RAVI R. PRASAD

Dateline: COLOMBO, Sri Lanka, Dec 24

Body

The Sri Lankan government troops killed more than a dozen rebel child soldiers Saturday in a bloody battle in the northern Jaffna peninsula.

Military spokesman Brig. Sanath Karunaratne said Sunday that government soldiers attacked and captured a rebel position at Navatkuli, south of Jaffna town. In the ensuing battle 18 rebel soldiers were killed by commandos.

"We later found that the dead cadres included 14 ***female*** child soldiers and 4 male child soldiers. Seven rebels were captured alive by the ground troops," Brig. Karunaratne told the United Press International.

The armed forces mounted a major military offensive Friday and captured some 20 square miles of the rebel-held territory. The toll in the fighting reached 200. Rebel radio transmissions monitored by government troops revealed that 154 ***Tamil Tigers*** had been killed in the fighting.

The armed forces have admitted to losing 24 soldiers and an officer in the battle.

"Our losses were minimal when compared with the magnitude of the operation and the area that we captured," Brig Karunaratne said.

The recent offensive has again exposed rebels' claims that they had stopped using child soldiers.

"The Tigers are using children as cannon fodder. They are forcibly deploying children to fight a conventional army, violating all international laws, norms and practices," the military spokesman said.

The latest offensive was launched by the government troops 12 hours after the rebels offered to hold a month-long unilateral ceasefire and urged the government to reciprocate positively.

The government Saturday rejected the appeal and informed the guerrillas that it would continue with the military operations, dashing all hopes of peace.

The Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam have not responded to the government's announcement. Defense analysts say that the rebels might announce withdrawal of their ceasefire announcement that scheduled to go into force midnight Sunday.

Sri Lanka kills child soldiers

The **LTTE** has been fighting for a separate homeland for the minority Tamil community carved out of the north and east of Sri Lanka. More than 70,000 people have been killed in the protracted ethnic conflict.

Load-Date: December 25, 2000

End of Document

Tamil Tiger leader calls assassination of Rajiv Gandhi 'tragic incident'

Associated Press International

April 10, 2002 Wednesday

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Section: INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Length: 334 words

Dateline: KILINOCHCHI, Sri Lanka

Body

The Tamil Tiger rebel chief, who has been convicted for the assassination a decade ago of former Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi, on Wednesday called the killing "tragic" and urged India to lift a ban against his organization.

Velupillai Prabhakaran, founder and sole leader of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam, was speaking at his first news conference in 15 years in rebel-held territory in northern Sri Lanka.

"It (was) a tragic incident that has happened 10 years ago. We are not in a position to make a comment now," Prabhakaran said, responding to Indian reporters who asked him about his conviction by an Indian court for the May 21, 1991, assassination of Gandhi.

Gandhi, the son of slain Prime Minister Indira Gandhi, was killed in an explosion triggered by a **female** Tamil Tiger who greeted him while he was campaigning for elections in the southern Indian state of Tamil Nadu.

The **LTTE** was angered by Gandhi's decision to send Indian troops as peacekeepers to northern Sri Lanka in 1987 as part of an accord with the Sri Lankan government to broker peace.

The Indian troops ended up fighting with the Tigers and withdrew from the island nation in 1990.

Prabhakaran called on India to lift its ban of the Tigers and resume ties.

"The Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam wants close ties with India," he said.

The rebel group, which has waging an 18-year war for a separate homeland in this island-nation off the southern tip of India, is also banned as terrorist by the United States, Britain, Canada, Australia and Sri Lanka.

India's 55 million Tamils, who mostly live in the southern state of Tamil Nadu, share linguistic and family ties with those in Sri Lanka.

In the early 1980s, hundreds of thousands of Sri Lankan refugees sailed across the Palk Straits to take refuge in Tamil Nadu. A dozen guerrilla groups, including the **Tamil Tigers**, then used India as a base for their campaign against Sri Lankan troops.

But support evaporated for the Tigers in Tamil Nadu following the assassination of Gandhi.

Tamil Tiger leader calls assassination of Rajiv Gandhi 'tragic incident'

Load-Date: April 11, 2002

End of Document

Tigers using boys, girls in front lines

United Press International
December 24, 2000, Sunday

Copyright 2000 U.P.I.

Section: GENERAL NEWS

Length: 361 words

Byline: By RAVI R. PRASAD

Dateline: COLOMBO, Sri Lanka, Dec 24

Body

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The government Saturday rejected the appeal and informed the guerrillas that it would continue with the military operations, dashing all hopes of peace.

The Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam have not responded to the government's announcement. Defense analysts say that the rebels might announce withdrawal of their ceasefire announcement that scheduled to go into force midnight Sunday.

Tigers using boys, girls in front lines

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Load-Date: December 25, 2000

End of Document

Sri Lanka: State of emergency issued as Tamil rebels accused of mass killing

The Ottawa Citizen

October 27, 1995, Friday, FINAL EDITION

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Section: NEWS; Pg. A9

Length: 530 words

Byline: AMAL JAYASINGHE; THE GUARDIAN

Dateline: COLOMBO

Body

Sri Lanka was placed on a "war footing" Thursday, after suspected Tamil rebels carried out their fifth massacre in as many days, killing 24 Sinhalese and raising communal tensions throughout the country.

The industries minister, Clement Gooneratne, said the cabinet had approved a proposal to place the whole country on full military alert to tackle the rapidly deteriorating security situation.

"A proposal moved by me to place the country on a war footing was approved by cabinet last night," Mr Gooneratne said. "A subcommittee to do the job has been set up."

Security forces were deployed in the capital to guard schools and key government installations such as state radio and television, power stations and irrigation dams amid fears that rebels of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (**LTTE**) would carry out more bombings.

The implications for the move were not spelt out immediately, but officials said that all of Sri Lanka was likely to be placed under a state of emergency.

More than 770 Tamil rebels, security personnel and civilians have died in the latest wave of violence, which erupted when the army launched its anti-rebel drive in the northern Jaffna peninsula on October 17, according to the military.

The government decision to declare a virtual state of war came as the Tamil rebels were accused of carrying out another massacre of Sinhalese in the north central district of Anuradhapura yesterday Thursday.

Survivors said two groups of **LTTE women** rebels armed with guns, swords and machetes emerged out of the surrounding jungles early Thursday and shot and hacked their way through the cluster of hamlets.

An 18-year-old mother and her seven-day-old infant were among the dead in the village of Herath Halmillewa, they said. The rebels set fire to several huts before fleeing.

The defence ministry responded to the massacre by arming the villagers to defend themselves against future attacks, but local officials said most villagers were fleeing to safer areas.

Sri Lanka : State of emergency issued as Tamil rebels accused of mass killing

The road out of the village, which is situated in the Welioya district lodged between government and Tamil controlled areas, was jammed with vans, buses and tractors as peasants fled.

The military said the massacres were aimed at forcing security forces to withdraw troops from the north of the country, and deploy them instead to protect civilians in vulnerable villages.

But the military spokesman, Sarath Munasinghe, said the massacres would not divert attention from the Jaffna offensive.

"We are just not ready to pull our men from the battle front."

Update

The issue: Sri Lanka was placed on full military alert on Thursday after suspected Tamil rebels carried out a fifth massacre.

What it means: The **Tamil Tigers** are waging a campaign for an independent homeland in the island's northern and eastern regions, and Jaffna is their psychologically important symbol of Tamil separatism.

What's next: Security forces were deployed to guard schools and key government installations amid fears of more bombings.

What's new: The country's defence ministry has responded to the massacre by arming villagers to defend themselves against future attacks.

Graphic

AP photo/ RAMPAGE: A young mother and her six-day-old infant were among 24 people killed by Tamil rebels

Load-Date: October 28, 1995

SRI LANKA-FINANCE: \$ 850 MILLION FOR PEACE AND DEVELOPMENT

IPS-Inter Press Service

April 28, 1995, Friday

Copyright 1995 IPS-Inter Press Service/Global Information Network

Length: 783 words

Byline: By Angeline Oyog

Dateline: PARIS, Apr 28

Body

International donors today pledged the government of Sri Lanka \$ 850 million in assistance to boost its economic reform and social development programs -- and support precarious peace negotiations with Tamil separatists.

"We got approximately what we had sought," said Sri Lankan President Chandrika Bandaranaike Kumaratunga who led her country's negotiations with donors during a meeting organized by the World Bank at its European offices in Paris.

Donors may also add to the initial pledges amounting to \$ 850 million and commit more resources to the reconstruction of the north and the east of Sri Lanka, once peace has been struck up with the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (**LTTE**).

After two dry years during which Sri Lanka received no support from aid donors, the commitments made this week was a message of strong support in a difficult aid environment.

The donors and Sri Lanka agreed on the need to improve the quality of education, training and health and emphasized the importance of widening access of **women** to the services.

According to Paul Isenman, World Bank country director for South Asia region, donors discussed at length the recent resumption of hostilities by the **Tamil Tigers** that could have disastrous effects on Sri Lanka's reform and reconstruction programmes.

Kumaratunga won the Presidential elections last November with a clear majority, leaning on a platform of peace negotiations with Tigers to end the ethnic conflict that has torn the country apart for 11 years.

A ceasefire which took effect last Jan. 8 in the contested Jaffna peninsula in the north, the bastion of the guerrillas, was holding up until the Tigers announced the end of the ceasefire last week and bombed two navy ships in the north east port of Trincomalee on Apr. 21.

Donors agreed with the Sri Lankan government that there is no higher priority than peace if the country is to achieve its full economic potential.

They urged the Sri Lankan government to continue its efforts to seek a political resolution to the conflict, and stressed the need for consultations with the **LTTE** on national reconstruction programs.

SRI LANKA -FINANCE: \$ 850 MILLION FOR PEACE AND DEVELOPMENT

At the same time, they deplored the recent resumption of hostilities by the LTTE and urged the separatist movement to reestablish the ceasefire and to engage in talks in search of a durable solution.

"It is unfortunate that for reasons best known to them, the rebel leadership has decided to break the agreement on a cessation of hostilities," said Kumaratunga.

"But the situation is not lost at all. I don't think that the peace process has been defeated," said Kumaratunga, calming fears that the government would respond to the Tigers' attacks with a military solution bringing peace talks to an end.

The recent attacks, she said, were only a temporary setback and isolated events. "As our commitment to peace and democracy within a united Sri Lanka is total, we shall not be discouraged by this setback. We are willing to go anywhere, any place, any length to seek a peaceful and honorable resolution acceptable to our people, of a problem which has seriously retarded our country's progress."

"We are trying very hard to contain the situation and to keep it from spilling into another war. We knew that making peace with a ruthless organization was not going to be easy. It will take time," said the president.

"The Tamil people have confidence in the government and that we are sincere in our efforts to bring peace and establish a system where all peoples will live in equality," said Kumaratunga.

Although press freedom watchdogs see signs of a return of censorship, the peace negotiations was also accompanied by greater freedom of the press and better and more complete coverage of the armed conflict.

Human rights groups like Amnesty International took note of the over-all improvement in the human rights situation in Sri Lanka after Kumaratunga was elected.

A spokesman of Amnesty in Paris said there have been fewer cases of people reported missing since Kumaratunga became President and moved to full her promises to improve Sri Lanka's human rights record.

Some rights abusers have been brought to trial and members of security forces have been made to indemnify the families of disappeared persons. An investigation of the murder of IPS Colombo bureau chief Richard de Zoysa in 1990 has also been started.

"Before Kumaratunga, disappearances were permanent. Civilians were picked up, killed and buried who knows where. Entire villages would also disappear," the Amnesty spokesman said.

Amnesty's 1994 report pointed to the arbitrary arrests of thousands of suspected dissidents, both Tamil and Sinhalese. The LTTE was also accused of human rights violations and executing its prisoners.

Load-Date: April 29, 1995

Tamil Tigers blamed for village slaughter: Grim reply to Premadasa's reconciliation message

The Guardian (London)

March 1, 1989

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Length: 505 words

Byline: By CHRIS NUTTALL

Dateline: COLOMBO

Body

Police yesterday recovered the bodies of 37 Sinhalese villagers, shot or hacked to death in an attack on a settlement on the border of Sri Lanka's Eastern Province.

It was the fifth massacre of a bloody February, in which 97 people have been killed in raids on settlements in the east.

The Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam, the only group still fighting for a separate state in the north and east, were again blamed for the massacre.

Police said an armed gang of around 20 men had stormed the village of Borawewa just inside the island's North Central Province on Monday night.

Villagers were cut to death with knives or swords in their homes, or shot as they tried to run away. Four women and nine children died and four people were wounded.

The injured included a Sri Lankan soldier who was hit when a landmine exploded as members of the security forces were called to the scene. The attackers had booby-trapped approach roads to the village with a series of pressure mines.

There appears to have been no particular political motive for the latest attack other than to show that the Tigers are still alive and killing after a 16-month offensive against them by the 50,000-strong Indian peacekeeping force.

The Tigers have been blamed for February's massacres because they follow a similar pattern - night raids on villages of opposing communities in disputed border areas, where Tamil militants resent any 'colonisation' of areas they consider to be theirs.

The attacks have usually been timed in protest at a particular event - Independence Day on February 4, general election day on February 15. On Monday, the timing was as senseless as the killings, although the attack served as a slap in the face for President Ranasinghe Premadasa who asked the Tigers at the weekend to give up violence and open negotiations with him or any other party.

The Tigers last night denied any involvement in the murders. In a statement similarly worded to their previous four denials in February, they said they condemned this 'act of terrorism'.

Tamil Tigers blamed for village slaughter: Grim reply to Premadasa's reconciliation message

'We strongly suspect that this heinous crime could have been executed by Indian-backed groups with the intention of achieving India's strategic objectives in our country,' the statement said.

The Tigers were clearly blaming other Tamil groups for the killings, and were accusing India of trying to vilify as well as destroy their organisation. But their denials are viewed as hardly credible by Sri Lankans.

The latest massacre came on the same day as anit-government extremists in the JVP closed down the North Central Province's main city of Anuradhapura with a strike call. It was a grim message to President Premadasa that his appeal for national reconciliation was unlikely ever to win a positive response from the two groups most responsible for division and violence.

The presidential and parliamentary elections of the past three months have given the country a fresh-faced government and the chance of a new beginning. But to start with, it is having to face up to the same old problems.

Load-Date: June 13, 2000

End of Document

**WORLD UP CLOSE: CAMPAIGN OF FEAR;
ESCALATION OF CIVIL WAR FORCES SRI LANKAN VILLAGERS INTO
FLIGHT**

Dayton Daily News (Ohio)
November 8, 1995, WEDNESDAY,
CITY EDITION

Copyright 1995 The Dayton Daily News

Section: INFOPLUS,

Length: 1416 words

Body

Amid the bougainvillea gardens and banana groves of central Sri Lanka's jungles, a war of terror has cut an ugly scar across the human landscape.

When the terror struck, Malhamige Mallika clutched her 18-month-old baby as a dozen teen-aged guerrillas torched her house and murdered her aunt, cousin and five-day-old niece.

"People who hid under the beds, they pulled them out and shot them," Mrs. Mallika said.

Families like the Mallikas have become casualties of the 12-year war between the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam and the Sri Lankan government.

In October, the military mounted its largest offensive ever against the Tamil rebels. The rebels accuse the government, run by the majority Sinhalese, of discrimination, and want an independent homeland for Tamils.

Thousands of soldiers have fought their way to within three miles of the rebel stronghold of Jaffna. They have been clearing land mines and booby traps and consolidating their positions for several days.

The rebels have responded with massacres of Sinhalese villagers in an attempt at a psychological terror campaign. Dozens of villagers have been hacked, burned and shot to death in recent weeks.

The fighting also has forced nearly half a million Tamils to flee their homes in the northern peninsula of Jaffna. Before the escalation, nearly 900,000 people had lived there.

More than 37,000 people have died since 1983 in the war for an independent Tamil homeland. This page looks at the current fight and flight in Sri Lanka.

EXODUS

* The ***Tamil Tigers***' campaign of fear has sparked the exodus of villagers in Tamil-held territory, which is as much as one-third of Sri Lanka.

* In the area of Herath Halmillewa, more than 3,000 villagers have fled with all their possessions to nearby towns to seek refuge in open-air schools and hospital compounds, leaving in their wake a trail of depopulated villages.

WORLD UP CLOSE: CAMPAIGN OF FEAR; ESCALATION OF CIVIL WAR FORCES SRI LANKAN VILLAGERS INTO FLIGHT

- * Without enough soldiers or police to protect every village, the government has begun to arm villagers, hoping to involve more civilians in a war still seen as distant.
- * "It's an utter sense of helplessness," said Chandra Kanthan, a lecturer at the University of Jaffna and a prominent peace activist. "People don't know where to go."
- * Kanthan said 3,000 civilians had sought refuge last week at the university, while the arrival of the autumn monsoon played havoc with those trying to escape the city on dirt roads.
- * Other agencies reported tens of thousands of Tamils fleeing Jaffna to the town of Chavakacheri, 12 miles away, where Tamil groups and international relief agencies want the government to declare a safe area for civilians.
- * Jaffna, once a city of 125,000 people that has been the center of Tamil culture for centuries, was left all but deserted, according to a relief worker.
- * "The roads are full of people on the move," said a field worker for the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. Almost 900,000 people live on the Tamil-dominated Jaffna Peninsula, and about 500,000 of them are said to be fleeing the area.

UPDATE

- * The government reported a week ago that more than half a million people have fled the government offensive against Tamil rebels.
- * The Sri Lankan government closed schools across the country Thursday and deployed additional troops in the capital city of Colombo, bracing for possible reprisals from the **Tamil Tigers**.
- * On Friday, Tamil separatists moved their self-proclaimed government a few miles east of Jaffna City, the capital of their northern stronghold, to the same area as government troops, vowing to continue their fight even if the city falls.
- * Tamil rebels set fire to an oil tanker in eastern Sri Lanka on Saturday as the government pressed its offensive in the north. The fire from the tanker, parked near the railroad station in Batticaloa, spread to an unoccupied passenger train and destroyed three cars, military officials said. No one was injured.
- * On Tuesday, the Sri Lankan army was reported to be closing in on Jaffna City after three weeks of combat. The fall of the city could so erode the Tamils power base that they could give another look to peace proposals from President Chandrika Bandaranaike Kumaratunga.

JUST THE FACTS

- * The Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (**LTTE**) began fighting for a homeland in 1983. More than 37,000 people have been killed in the 12-year civil war.
- * In attacks of the past three weeks, suspected members of the **LTTE** shot or hacked to death hundreds of Sinhalese villagers, set fire to dozens of houses and reopened a valuable, and tragic, front in their war against the Sri Lankan government.
- * The **Tamil Tigers** apparently want to instill fear among the masses and divert the attention of the Sri Lankan military, which has launched a major offensive against the rebel stronghold of Jaffna in the country's far north.
- * Tamils accuse Sri Lanka's majority Sinhalese of discrimination. The Sinhalese control the government and the military in the island nation south of India.
- * By the military's count, the three-week-old "Operation Sunrise" has left nearly 1,000 **Tamil Tigers** dead and 3,000 wounded, against 221 government soldiers killed and 536 injured.

WORLD UP CLOSE: CAMPAIGN OF FEAR; ESCALATION OF CIVIL WAR FORCES SRI LANKAN VILLAGERS INTO FLIGHT

- * Many Sri Lankans say the government offensive is a personal triumph for President Chandrika Bandaranaike Kumaratunga, 50, a widow who won power 15 months ago on a pledge to seek negotiated peace.
- * After easing the army's siege of Jaffna and sending peace missions to negotiate with the Tamil leaders, she was stunned by a rebel offensive in April. The rebels broke a three-month cease-fire and carried out a series of devastating attacks that rocked Sri Lankan army, air force and naval units.
- * On a war footing, Mrs. Kumaratunga sent representatives to the United States, Britain, France, Israel, Russia and a dozen other countries seeking military advice, and, where possible, aircraft, boats, armored vehicles and infantry weapons.
- * After \$ 500 million in purchases - huge by the standards of this country of 18 million people - she ordered military commanders to plan a fall offensive with the doubtful objective of capturing Jaffna.
- * Last week, after her troops fought their way through two key junction towns that guard the road access to Jaffna from the north, Mrs. Kumaratunga went on television to repeat the message that won her election in 1994: that the war started in 1983 because of unrequited grievances of the ethnic Tamil minority against the Sinhalese majority to which Mrs. Kumaratunga belongs, and that there will be no peace without political concessions to the 1 million northern Tamils whose cause has been championed by the rebels.
- * Mrs. Kumaratunga said she was confident that "we have convinced the vast majority of people in this country - Sinhalese, Tamil, Muslim, Burgher, everybody - that the war is one thing, and the resolution to the ethnic conflict is another." She said that the ethnic conflict would not end even if the Sri Lankan military defeated the rebels.

QUOTES

I am a refugee now. I have nowhere to go.

A.G. Anulawathi, a Sri Lankan refugee

The Tamil people are crying out for a just solution to their problems and the only way to do that is to find a political solution.

Chandrika Bandaranaike Kumaratunga, president of Sri Lanka, Sinhalese

WEEKLY NEWS QUIZ

1. Roberta Williams is one of the few well-known women in her field - designing computer games. One of her biggest projects took more than 200 people working over two years with a budget of \$ 4 million. The game, played on seven CD-ROMs, uses real actors in a computer-generated world of terror. Whats the name of the game? (Sunday/Business)
 - a. Myst
 - b. Phantasmagoria
 - c. Lost Worlds
2. A research team in Ontario reports that theyve discovered something better at breaking up blood clots than anything scientists have engineered to date. They hope to use it in a drug for heart-attack patients. Where is this substance found? (Saturday/A-Section)
 - a. Kiwi fruit
 - b. Leeches

WORLD UP CLOSE: CAMPAIGN OF FEAR; ESCALATION OF CIVIL WAR FORCES SRI LANKAN
VILLAGERS INTO FLIGHT

c. Bat saliva

3. About 50 protesters from the Miami Valley marched through Yellow Springs on Sunday to complain about an event scheduled at John Bryan State Park. What is the event? (Monday/B-Section)

a. Motorcycling on the trails

b. Bow-hunting for deer

c. Cutting timber

4. This playwright has 30 plays to his credit and holds the record for the most hits in the American theater, as well as the greatest number of plays adapted for film. He has earned four Tonys, two Emmys and a Pulitzer Prize. Who is he? (Sunday/ EntertainmentPlus)

a. Sam Shepard

b. Arthur Miller

c. Neil Simon

Answers to the last quiz: 1-c; 2-a; 3-c; 4-b

Notes

The sources of information for this page include the New York Times News Service, the Scripps Howard News Service and the Associated Press. Page compilation and design: Doretta Donovan, Brad Lendon and Nichelle Smith.

Graphic

PHOTOS: (1) On the move: These government soldiers were among thousands headed for the guerrilla stronghold of Jaffna City during last week's military offensive. This photo was taken near Neerveli town., ASSOCIATED PRESS, (2) Seeking refuge: A family of Tamil refugees who fled Jaffna arrive in Colombo. Behind them is a poster of President Kumaratunga., ASSOCIATED PRESS, (3) Roberta Williams: A leading creator of computer games., MAP: SRI LANKA, Sri Lankan troops advance

Load-Date: November 12, 1995

Sri Lankan town is scarred, strafed and far from normal

Sydney Morning Herald (Australia)

June 22, 1996 Saturday

Late Edition

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Section: NEWS AND FEATURES; International News; Pg. 24

Length: 864 words

Byline: JUDITH FAHEY

Body

Sri Lanka wants the world to believe things have returned to normal in Jaffna since government forces seized control from the **Tamil Tigers**. But things are not quite what the Government claims, writes Herald Correspondent JUDITH FAHEY.

Jaffna: At the Hindu Ladies' College the girls have assembled in the school hall to await their honoured guests.

A small group of **women** in colourful saris is waiting outside. One suddenly announces: "They're here." And the **women** hurry to their places in the front row.

Students and staff stand to attention as the visitors arrive. The visitors saunter in casually, array themselves across the stage and start shooting: the media has arrived in Jaffna.

It is one of the first opportunities journalists have had to see Jaffna since the province was made off-limits to them 14 months ago.

The photographers, representing Sri Lankan and Indian organisations, stroll around the hall, capturing candid shots of the girls, who are pristinely groomed and dressed in white frocks, socks and shoes, with their black hair plaited into braids.

The reporters want to know how life has changed in Jaffna since the Sri Lankan Army wrested control of the Tamil town from the Liberation **Tamil Tigers** of Ellam (**LTTE**) guerillas last December.

But confronted by camera-laden city men, the girls are desperately shy. Lacking the quotes they need, the reporters prompt them for a response, any response.

Life is better for you now, no? The girls look at one another for support and smile.

So you feel good, you just want peace, yes? More looks to one another and a murmured, uncertain, "yes".

Sri Lanka's Department of Information had invited a group of journalists to see the alleged success of the offensive known as Operation Riveresi, in which the Sri Lankan forces seized control of Jaffna town from the **LTTE**.

The conductor of the tour was Sri Lanka's Director of Information, Ariya Rubasinge, who has an obsession with order and likes to be respected. He is seldom taken seriously by journalists unless they want a favour.

Sri Lankan town is scarred, strafed and far from normal

A heavy contingent of soldiers was on hand to ferry the visitors from one institution or conference centre to another, passing through the scarred and strafed ruins of Jaffna's suburbs as they went.

Many of the solid cement houses were left with nothing but a wall or two standing, although some remained in perfect condition with flourishing gardens.

The first port of call was the boardroom of the University of Jaffna, where the acting Vice- Chancellor told of his plan to return things to "normalcy".

Exams would be held in July to signify this. He admitted much of the university's equipment had been stolen during Operation Riveresi but the biggest problem was that a large proportion of the students and staff had been displaced and were scattered in Colombo, and the east of the island.

It would take time for them to get the necessary security clearances to return to Jaffna.

Despite the acting Vice-Chancellor's pronouncements, "normalcy" looked a long way off.

There wasn't a student to be seen on the campus; the grounds and halls, on the other hand, were crawling with Sri Lankan soldiers.

At the second port of call the "media representative for the province of Jaffna" gave a pep talk on how life there was returning to normal. Smiling benignly, he spoke in cliches: "You must understand this is a firefighting exercise ... it is a super-human job we have done."

Few journalists bothered to take notes.

At a boys' school the students insisted they were happy with life under the new regime. Pushing things a little, defence spokesman Brigadier Monasinge prompted one class: "Hands up who wants to join the Sri Lankan Army." Not a hand was raised. "Well, hands up who wants to play cricket." They broke out in eager smiles.

Later the group was flown by helicopter to Point Pedro in the far north of the peninsula. The small town was taken by Sri Lankan forces only five weeks ago.

The idea was to show how well things were going at Jaffna's only functioning hospital, by giving reporters more than an hour's freedom to explore those roads that were not blocked by army posts. The town is totally isolated as the surrounding area remains under Tiger control.

The streets were deserted; the only scene of any activity was an office where the weekly food distribution is handled. The residents depend on food shipped to the port by relief agencies. They are desperately poor, yet accommodating to the stranger.

It was impossible to gauge the villagers' thoughts on the new regime in Point Pedro, but an anaesthetist at the hospital, Dr Pierre Zickler of Doctors Without Borders, said support for the Tigers remained strong - the Tigers had always fed and looked

after these people.

Father J. P. E. Selvaraja, effectively in charge of the town's Catholic community after remaining there through every turn of the 14-year ethnic war, said the military had changed its attitude towards the Jaffna people in the past six months.

As a result they accepted the new regime. The Tigers had lost their hold. Even so nothing could be certain.

"You'd never get a Jaffna man to tell you what he thinks," Father Selvaraja said. "He'll know what to do when the time comes."

Sri Lankan town is scarred, strafed and far from normal

Load-Date: July 23, 2007

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INDIA ORDERS ACTION AFTER 160 KILLED IN SRI LANKA

Sydney Morning Herald (Australia)

October 8, 1987 Thursday

Late Edition

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Section: NEWS AND FEATURES; Pg. 13

Length: 377 words

Byline: Source: Reuter

Body

NEW DELHI, Wednesday: India has ordered its troops to use force to restore peace in north and east Sri Lanka where Tamil militants have killed nearly 160 people in 24 hours.

A Government statement expressed "deep shock and revulsion at the wanton and brutal killings of innocent men, women and children by the LTTE" (Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam).

It said Indian peace-keeping troops, in Sri Lanka to enforce a July 29 peace accord, had been reinforced and "instructed to take all necessary measures to deal with the situation that has arisen".

In Colombo, a military spokesman said 40 of the victims, who were shot and hacked to death in the flood of violence, were passengers in a train travelling from Batticaloa to Colombo.

Another 25 Sinhalese, including women and children, were massacred by the Tigers at the village of Eravur, and four men were shot dead in a Sinhalese village near Vavuniya, he said.

In Batticaloa, 230 kilometres north-east of Colombo, 17 people died in raids on their homes and another 21 were shot dead when the rebels attacked a bus.

In the nearby fishing village of Pullikuda, fighters brandishing axes, guns and daggers massacred 38 people before burning down much of the town, and in neighbouring Mamakan, police said six people were killed.

According to Tamil sources, Tigers leaders had issued orders that all Sinhalese be killed or driven away from the northern and eastern provinces, which the Tamils claim is a homeland.

Officials said the wave of violence was launched by the Tigers after 17 of their members, who were in Government custody, attempted to commit suicide on Monday by swallowing cyanide. Thirteen of them died, the most recent in a military hospital yesterday.

The Tigers retaliated by murdering eight soldiers they had held captive since March. They then attacked two military camps and other security posts in the north and east.

India ordered its troops today to use force to restore peace in north and east Sri Lanka. A government statement expressed "deep shock and revulsion at the wanton and brutal killings of innocent men, women and children by the

INDIA ORDERS ACTION AFTER 160 KILLED IN SRI LANKA

Tamil Tigers. It said Indian peacekeeping troops had been reinforced and "instructed to take all necessary measures to deal with the situation that has arisen".

Load-Date: July 20, 2007

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THE DEADLY BIRDS OF FREEDOM

Scotland on Sunday

July 29, 2001, Sunday

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Section: Pg. 16

Length: 1239 words

Byline: Tom Farrell

Body

THEY stride confidently forward, the **female** warriors of one of the world's most feared and tightly disciplined guerrilla armies. In this area of the tropical island of Sri Lanka, a woman usually wears a cotton or silk sari . Black hair flows down her back and bangles and jewellery adorn her wrists.

These **women** look strikingly different. They wear black pants, tunics belted at the waist and have their hair tightly braided or cropped short. In their Tamil language, they are called cutantira p-paravaikal (Freedom Birds). They are members of the **women**'s wing of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (**LTTE**).

Last week the **Tamil Tigers** carried out their most audacious attack yet when they infiltrated Sri Lanka's main air force base and international airport and destroyed or damaged eight military and five civilian aircraft, leaving 18 people dead. It was a devastating blow to the government of president Bandaranaike Kumaratunga, which had spent millions of pounds on new weaponry. Even worse, it came at a time when the vital tourist industry was starting to recover.

A large chunk of eastern Sri Lanka and most of the island's northern extremity is now under the direct control of the Tigers, such has been their effectiveness in beating back the Sri Lankan army.

The 'Freedom Birds' are considered to be the best-trained and most effective **women**'s wing of any insurgent movement in the world today.

Kantha, 25, is just over 5ft tall. In peacetime, it is likely that she would conform to the traditions of her Hindu culture and would be married and raising children.

Now she stands beside a high bamboo fence outside her home in the rebel-held village of Paddipallai. Kantha acts as a cadre in the local political office of the Tigers who, in areas under their control, run their own police, banking and intelligence gathering systems.

She says she joined the **Tamil Tigers** at the age of 15. Five years earlier, her elder brother, also a Tiger, was killed in a fire-fight with government forces.

Her home is a small one-storey cottage without electricity or piped water, shielded from the equatorial glare by sloping coconut palms. Her parents look on approvingly as she and another girl cadre, a teenager from Mannar district, proudly display a Chinese made T-56 rifle, probably pilfered from the corpse of a slain government soldier.

THE DEADLY BIRDS OF FREEDOM

When Kantha joined the movement she was given a necklace, containing a vial of white potassium cyanide crystals. She holds it close to her mouth and pretends to bite.

All fighters, male or female, are instructed to kill themselves if captured by the enemy. There are stories of how government troops, having surrounded Tiger jungle camps, overran them only to find all within in their death throes on the ground, having bitten en masse upon their cyanide capsules.

"The Women of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam are the most inspired, highly disciplined and brave women freedom fighters the world has produced," claims one overseas propaganda leaflet.

"They have adopted neither the mother's role, nor the wife's, nor any role of sexual subservience to men. Their actions have taken the form of militant womanhood, fighting for the life of the community, the most progressive concept yet to enter the field of women's emancipation."

Intelligence reports in the Sri Lankan capital, Colombo, estimate that there are around 18,000 active fighters, 4,000 of whom are women.

Kantha dons her battle uniform, olive green fatigues striped like a tiger's hide. If instructed to do so by the central command, she will strap explosives to her body and infiltrate government-controlled areas.

She will then detonate the explosives, instantly killing herself and perhaps dozens of the enemy. There can be no greater honour for a Tiger cadre than to be selected for a suicide-bombing mission.

It was on May 21, 1991 that a woman in her early thirties named 'Dhanu' detonated herself at an election rally near the Indian city of Madras, killing the Indian prime minister, Rajiv Gandhi, herself and 15 others.

A woman suicide bomber attempted to assassinate the Sri Lankan president, Chandrika Kumaratunga in Colombo in December 1999. The president survived, but lost one of her eyes in the attack.

"It is the best-trained female wing of any guerrilla or terrorist organisation in the world," says Dr Rohan Gunaratna, a Sri Lankan expert on insurgency movements, who has written extensively on the Tigers. "Increasingly, they work together with their male counterparts in almost all the aspects of the LTTE from intelligence gathering to frontline operations to naval operations."

He adds that the rise of the female warrior has had less to do with paramilitary political correctness than the grim necessities of warfare. "Because of the depletion of the adult male rank and file, there is a higher propensity for the LTTE to recruit women."

If a particularly devastating strike has been executed, the bomber will enter local mythology as a folk hero or heroine. About nine kilometres north of Kantha's village is a cemetery named Marveerar Ilam (Great Heroes' Resting Place). Contrary to Hindu tradition, the bodies (or body parts) of 'martyrs' are buried, not cremated. A large banner hangs atop the arched entrance showing a roaring machine gun.

At the village of Kokkadichchola the Tigers' presence is announced by banners depicting a fanged and snarling feline between two crossed rifles.

It is an unremarkable-looking cluster of concrete and thatch huts, where civilians on bicycles and the occasional Honda traverse the dusty main street.

At the Tigers' 'finance office', Selva Krishnakumar, 30, sits by a typewriter, appearing nondescript in his shirt and sarong. But when he rises, he reveals his left leg to be prosthetic. He says he fought in Jaffna for seven years and was relocated here in 1995, after his leg was severed at the knee by a landmine.

At the nearby village of Mahiladithivu the head school teacher is a young Tamil woman, nicknamed 'Baby' who struggles with a pronounced limp. She bears ugly bullet scars on both knees.

THE DEADLY BIRDS OF FREEDOM

In January 1991, after two soldiers on a tractor were blown to pieces by a landmine, the Army massacred 152 people. 'Baby' recounts how many civilians were killed while hiding in a rice mill. Then aged 22, she herself was shot in both legs and left for dead. She will never walk properly again.

For those women who join the 'Freedom Birds', the regime is an austere one. Male and female Tiger units train, work and fight separately and are banned from tobacco, alcohol and sex. Punishments for breaking this conduct code range from solitary confinement to expulsion to execution.

And civilians living in Tiger-held areas are strictly policed, local matters involving land disputes, domestic violence or 'anti-social' behaviour being hastily resolved in Tiger-run courts. Particularly heinous crimes warrant a unique form of execution called 'lamp-posting' where the condemned is tied to a wooden pole with a sign describing his crimes around his neck, then shot in the head.

At an all-female camp in the village of Arasadithivu, there are around two dozen fighters, ranging in age from late teens to early thirties. They are encouraged to see a role model in Second Lieutenant Malathy, the movement's first female martyr, cut down on October 10, 1987 during a battle in Jaffna.

Accordingly, October 10 is marked as 'Tamil Eelam Women's Day' in Tiger-held areas.

Load-Date: August 1, 2001

End of Document

AUSSIE NURSE ADELE JOINS GUERRILLA WAR

SUNDAY MAIL (QLD)

July 1, 1990 Sunday

Copyright 1990 Nationwide News Pty Limited

Length: 1627 words

Byline: SKELTON R

Body

Aussie nurse Adele joins guerrillas' war They would have shot us dead, never taken us alive. Adele Wilby was just a nurse from Warragul in Victoria until she fell in love with a Tamil Tiger. Now she is a guerrilla leader training soldiers. She speaks to RUSSELL SKELTON.

ADELE Wilby cuts an improbable figure as she strolls through the dust of the Tamil Tigers' camp.

Her small dog, Jimmy, bounds along at her feet, accompanied by an escort of two teenage soldiers armed with AK-47s.
QNP

Her elfin features, pale skin and wry smile present an extraordinary contrast to the dark features of the young cadres with their fixed expressions and tiger-striped jungle greens.

She looks more like the easy-going Melbourne nursing sister she once was than the strong-willed guerrilla leader she has become.

Yet pictures of Adele Wilby are splashed regularly on the front pages of the newspapers in Colombo, the Sri Lankan capital. She edits the English-language newsletter put out by the Tamil Tigers separatist group and acts as official secretary of its negotiating committee with the Sri Lankan Government.

She is the inspiration behind the Tigers' women's movement and is widely regarded as an influential voice on a range of issues.

With her simple, civilian dress, she seems an unlikely member of the extremist Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE, the most powerful of several Tamil secessionist groups).

She is reluctant to talk about her personal life. When she does discuss her experiences, the talk is unassuming and devoid of the Marxist clichés that dominate the movement's usual propaganda.

For Adele Wilby, a former school-friend of boxer Lionel Rose and the daughter of a retired railway worker, the journey to Jaffna in northern Sri Lanka has been a long and dangerous one.

What began as the youthful urge to "see Europe" ended with her signing up with the Tamil Tiger separatists in their brutal civil war against the Government of Sri Lanka.

Her first encounter with the world of liberation politics came 17 years ago when, as a young nurse from Prince Henry's Hospital in Melbourne, she enrolled at the London Polytechnic to study social science.

AUSSIE NURSE ADELE JOINS GUERRILLA WAR

Her tutor was Doctor Anton Balasingham, a Tamil Marxist scholar who wrote his PhD dissertation on Freud and socialism.

"That was a very exciting time," she said. "London was the focal point for so many different political groups _ we went to ANC (African National Congress) meetings and became involved.

"My views changed as I travelled in Europe and studied and worked in the community. I became aware of what was happening in the world. I spent a year in Africa."

Adele and Anton married, returning to Sri Lanka to join the Tamil movement and later the LTTE.

She finds it difficult casting her mind back to the days when she was a schoolgirl growing up with her two brothers and a sister in Warragul: "It all seems such a long way off and I think it is hard for my old friends to understand.

"It's very hard for them to relate to what I am doing, so I don't talk about it, it is easier that way."

She admits with a laugh that her "career path" has taken an unusual direction: "You could describe me as the black sheep of the family _ I'm not like the rest of them at all.

"It was not a very political family, I became radicalised when I went overseas. My father was a union organiser, but he was not a big influence on my political views."

Her parents know of her extraordinary life and she regularly visits them: "They know and they understand what I'm doing. There have been long periods when they worried about me, when I did not contact them."

Her husband is the movement's chief political strategist, the second most important figure in the LTTE after the supreme leader, Velupillai Prabhakaran.

The shrewd and scholarly doctor has provided the Tigers with a seemingly coherent political strategy and a plausible public image. He leads the LTTE negotiating team in peace talks with the Colombo Government.

The Tigers' struggle hails back to 1972 when Ceylon became the Republic of Sri Lanka. The Tigers want an autonomous region for the Tamils where they can practise their Hindu religion and live free of interference from the Sinhalese Buddhist-dominated central Government.

In 1976 the Tamil United Liberation front made this the main plank in its election platform. By 1983 the Colombo Government had imposed a state of emergency, including a curfew and press censorship, but failed to stop severe rioting and violence.

In 1987 the Indian Government brought in troops, ostensibly as a peace-keeping force, and soon found itself embroiled in a bitter and ferocious civil war.

In the three years that the Tigers fought Indian and Sri Lankan troops, official estimates place the number of deaths at 6000 civilians, 1200 Indian soldiers and 800 Tiger cadres.

That does not count battles with other groups in the south in which human rights workers say the death toll could run to 20,000.

The struggle has been a long and bloody one with all sides accusing each other of atrocities.

Wilby admits to dismay at the extent of the killing, but predictably puts the blame on the Indian troops.

On a more philosophical level she says: "I am not sure that the killing is anything to do with the Buddhist or Hindu religion and the belief in reincarnation, but there are obvious parallels with Cambodia, particularly with the JVP (the Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna or People's Liberation Front, another Marxist terrorist group) in the south."

AUSSIE NURSE ADELE JOINS GUERRILLA WAR

She rejects the notion that life somehow is cheaper in Asia: ""People who are fighting are not afraid of death, but they value life.

Nobody wants to die."

When fighting first broke out between Indian troops and the Tigers in Jaffna two years ago, Wilby and her husband fled into the jungle.

They were on the Indian army's ""most wanted" list and the troops had orders to shoot them on sight.

Wilby remembers that time well: ""The Indian troops were searching for us. Whenever they came into villages they would ask: "Have you seen a white woman?".

""Our friends were the dogs; when you heard them barking you knew it was time to move on to another village. There is no question, they would have killed us at any time _ they would have shot us dead, never taken us alive."

She recalls one particularly close escape: ""We were sleeping in a village when word came that the Indian troops had it surrounded. The villagers helped us through each circle of troops, telling us when it was safe to move.

""When the last line passed, we were lying in a field just a few feet away from them. Anton could have reached out and touched them, they were so close."

Her life on the run has taught Wilby many things, including not to be attached to possessions. ""We soon realised that all we needed was a change of clothing and Anton's medicine (he is a diabetic). That was all we ended up carrying."

It took the withdrawal of the Indian forces in early April and an uneasy truce between the Tigers and the Government in Colombo to give the couple a reprieve.

Even now that the last Indian troops have left Sri Lanka and they have ceased to be a target of the army's death squad, they take few chances, always travelling with three or four heavily-armed cadres.

She has encountered moments of great sadness and courage. ""The Tamils are really great people; I will never forget what they did for us," she said. ""Local villagers suffered at the hands of Indian troops."

She speaks of one occasion when the troops went on a rampage after seven soldiers were killed in a Tiger ambush.

""They went into a small village near Point Pedro and killed 62 civilians. The bodies were left in the streets for days at the orders of the Indian troops. It was appalling, the smell was ghastly and the people were so distraught at not being able to give the dead a proper funeral."

Wilby is particularly proud of the Tamil Tiger women cadres. At the Jaffna Tiger headquarters, she speaks openly about the role the women played against the Indians.

""They are very good fighters, they fought the Sri Lankan Army and did very well. They are fully-trained _ they had to learn all that the men had to," she said.

Since the fighting stopped, the women have begun to concentrate on ""self-improvement" and welfare activities. ""We are talking through the political dimensions of the women, we are talking about enlightened feminism.

""Tamil society is particularly oppressive for women. Their roles are strictly separated from the men, and the evil of arranged marriages and dowries still exists."

While all the talk is enthusiastic, it is also troubling to this outsider. The women cadres speak easily about the changes they are bringing to traditional Hindu values.

AUSSIE NURSE ADELE JOINS GUERRILLA WAR

But what of themselves, how has Ms Wilby's brand of enlightened feminism changed them?

The answer comes from Jaya, a young platoon commander who completed an honors degree in political science at Jaffna University before taking up life with the gun.

Asked what she plans to do now that peace prevails in the Tamil heartland, she said: "It is not up to me to decide what is best, it's up to the party to decide."

But does she not have some ambition as an independent women? "No, I am devoting myself to the movement, I will serve in whatever way is decided."

Wilby smiles her bright smile and says: "These girls are great _ write a nice piece about them."

ABOVE: Adele Wilby . . . "You could describe me as the black sheep of the family."

BELOW: A Tamil peasant walks down a battle-scarred street in Jaffna after fighting between Tamil Tigers and Indian troops.

ABOVE: The Tamil Tiger women cadres. RIGHT: Adele's husband, strategist Dr Anton Balasingham.

LEFT: Adele Wilby with Tiger platoon commander Jaya Mylvaganam, 27.

ABOVE: Indian peace-keeping troops leave Sri Lanka last year.

Graphic

PICS OF ADELE WILBY, A TAMIL PEASANT, TAMIL TIGER WOMEN CADRES, ADELE'S HUSBAND DR ANTON BALASINGHAM, INDIAN PEACE-KEEPING TROOPS LEAVING SRI LANKA ADELE AND TIGER PLATOON COMMANDER JAYA MYLVAGANAM, PIC OF ADELE ALSO APPEARS ON PAGE 1

Load-Date: September 24, 2003

After Ferocious Fighting, Sri Lanka Struggles With Peace

The New York Times
April 9, 2002 Tuesday
Late Edition - Final

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Section: Section A; Column 3; Foreign Desk; Pg. 6

Length: 1200 words

Byline: By CELIA W. DUGGER

Dateline: BATTICALOA, Sri Lanka, April 5

Body

The reclusive Tamil rebel leader who has dispatched more suicide bombers than anyone in the world, is expected to surface Wednesday for his first public meeting with reporters in more than a decade -- the most remarkable sign of a peace process now gathering momentum on the island once known as Ceylon.

Velupillai Prabhakaran, the leader of the **Tamil Tigers**, has battled the government of Sri Lanka for 18 years. He has been branded a terrorist by the United States and Britain and is wanted by India for the assassination of a former prime minister.

Now, after a cease-fire he signed with the government in late February, the guerrilla strategist is comfortable enough to surface without fear of government arrest.

During three months of successive cease-fires by the separatist Tamil rebels and the country's new government, no one has been killed on Sri Lankan soil. That in itself is an achievement. The fighting here has claimed more lives -- at least 62,000 -- in this small nation of 19 million people than the United States lost in Vietnam.

There have been many recent scenes that have Western diplomats shaking their heads in amazement.

On the first visit in 20 years by a Sri Lankan head of government to the northern Tamil town of Jaffna, Ranil Wickremesinghe, the new prime minister and a practicing Buddhist from the Sinhalese majority, was mobbed by rapturous Tamils last month when he showed his respect for Hindu tradition by taking off his shirt to enter a revered temple. Most Tamils are Hindu.

In government-held cities in the north and east, which would constitute the separate Tamil nation sought by the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam, large crowds have rallied openly for the Tigers, who are still formally banned in Sri Lanka.

The first face-to-face peace talks in seven years between the government and the rebels -- brokered by Norwegian diplomats -- are expected to begin in May or June. Sri Lankans of all ethnicities are relieved that the guns have fallen silent -- the ruling party won strong endorsement for its strategy in an overwhelming victory in local elections last month -- but a terrible anxiety underlies the hope of a negotiated settlement.

After Ferocious Fighting, Sri Lanka Struggles With Peace

Mistrust between the Tamil Tigers and the large Muslim minority in the east could derail progress toward a settlement. Tiger leaders did not grant interviews requested in a letter delivered to them in the rebel-held north or through intermediaries here in Batticaloa in the east.

People in eastern Sri Lanka -- part of the territory rebels claim as the separate Tamil nation they call Eelam -- say they know firsthand the brutalities committed both by government troops and rebels.

In government-controlled areas, where Tigers are allowed ever greater freedom to operate, many fear that the rebels will also have greater freedom to abuse their power.

Any effort for peace is haunted by ghosts. In 1990, the Tigers massacred more than 125 Muslims during evening prayers at two mosques here in the Batticaloa district. That same year, the Tigers gave Muslims in the northern, Tamil-dominated Jaffna peninsula 24 hours to get out. Tens of thousands who fled are still homeless and living in camps.

Muslims, who say the Tigers have stepped up extortion of "taxes" from them since the cease-fire, have no direct representative in the peace talks, though their political support is crucial to the ruling coalition.

"Who will represent the needs and rights of Muslims?" asked Nawaz Muhammad, now a human-rights activist, who said his 22-year-old sister was abducted and killed by the Tigers in 1990.

Some Tamils, too, are fearful. A 19-year-old Tamil woman described her harrowing escape earlier this month from a Tiger training camp after being conscripted at gunpoint in February. She and three other young women -- one 17 and two 16 -- all had their long black hair crudely shorn. Despite threats of beatings if they ran away, the foursome spent five nights hiking, hiding and sleeping by day, until they stumbled on an army post.

The two youngest girls said they were kidnapped by the Tigers on March 26 as they walked through their village to a math tutor.

All four say they cannot go home.

"It's very scary," said the 19-year-old, talking of the Tigers roaming increasingly free. "If I go back to my village, I'll be spotted."

Many people wonder whether the Tigers, universally known by the initials LTTE, can change from a totalitarian military organization to a political party that submits to elections.

"Is the LTTE going to evolve into a Stalinist or Sandinista regime?" asked Milinda Moragoda, one of the two key officials in the Sri Lankan government on the peace talks. "I don't know."

Most analysts believe that the newly elected government is inclined to let the Tigers rule the north and east of Sri Lanka for perhaps two to three years without elections while negotiators try to resolve the conflict.

Mr. Moragoda said the government would seek to ensure democratic safeguards for the substantial Muslim and Sinhalese populations in the east, as well as the Tamils who dissent from Tiger domination. In any permanent settlement, the government has ruled out giving the Tigers a separate state, but has been willing to discuss much greater autonomy for Tamils within a democratic Sri Lanka.

Both sides are continuing to recruit troops and maintain their arsenals. The Tigers are a formidable, disciplined military force, with an estimated 4,000 trained soldiers. Suicide bombings are their trademark -- Mr. Prabhakaran has sent forth some 220 suicide bombers, compared to about 70 from Hamas, said Rohan Gunaratna, a researcher at the Center for the Study of Terrorism and Political Violence at the University of St. Andrews in Scotland.

Under the cease-fire agreement, the Tigers have consolidated their position because rival armed Tamil groups have been required to turn over their weapons.

After Ferocious Fighting, Sri Lanka Struggles With Peace

The government is taking risks that would leave the Tigers refreshed and strengthened for war if talks were to break down, as they have before.

The United States Embassy in Colombo recently warned the Tigers that they would face further international isolation if credible reports of recruitment of children and abduction and extortion continue.

Fear of the Tigers is palpable in Batticaloa. A leading citizen was plain-spoken in an interview about the group's terrorist tactics, then pleaded not to be quoted. "If I stick my neck out, they'll chop it off," he said.

One of the few fearless or foolhardy enough to comment publicly is the Rev. Harry Miller, a 78-year-old Jesuit priest from New Orleans who came to Batticaloa in 1948 and has been selected by the government to help monitor the cease-fire.

He said no one would dare speak out against the Tigers for dread of a severe retaliation. "They will get back at you one way or another and usually it will be quite horrible," Father Miller said.

He told of a family he knew that was pressured by the Tigers to give up a son -- and sent a mentally retarded son. The Tigers beat the young man badly and dumped him at the family's home. He had to be hospitalized.

"Will the parents make a report to the police?" the priest asked rhetorically. "People do not report against the LTTE."

<http://www.nytimes.com>

Graphic

Photo: Velupillai Prabhakaran, who has led a violent Tamil insurgency, agreed to a cease-fire with the Sri Lankan government in February. (Agence France-Presse)

Load-Date: April 9, 2002

End of Document

TAMIL CHILDREN OF JAFFNA ARE TAUGHT TO FIGHT, NOT THINK

Sydney Morning Herald (Australia)

May 17, 1993 Monday

Late Edition

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Section: NEWS AND FEATURES; Pg. 10

Length: 657 words

Byline: LOUISE WILLIAMS

Body

The Tamil children of the besieged Jaffna peninsula in Sri Lanka's north were unable to respond to a question about what they would do when the war was over because they had always understood it would be a fight to the death.

The children, said Reverend Selvadurai Jeyanesan of the Uniting Church, were confused by this alternative vision of the future because their daily lives were consumed by the 16-year-old conflict between Sri Lanka's security forces and the **Tamil "Tigers"** of the **LTTE** (Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam).

Mr Jeyanesan, who is visiting Sydney, was speaking about conditions for some 900,000 civilian Tamils who have been virtually cut off from the outside world for more than nine months by Sri Lankan government troops.

His own clandestine journey out of the war zone involved a three-hour boat trip across a lagoon under cover of darkness. The lagoon is officially closed by the Sri Lankan armed forces and trips depart as the "Tigers" engage the soldiers in battle.

In four months 328 civilians have died making the trip. Earlier this year the crowds on the banks of the lagoon swelled to 12,000 waiting for a chance to dash.

The siege is aimed at the **Tamil Tigers**, who control much of the northern State and are fighting for an independent homeland.

All roads to the peninsula are closed and food and supplies are shipped into a northern port by the International Red Cross, with the exclusion of 45 items that can be used to wage the war. The definition of war materials is broad and includes paper that can be used to print propaganda, batteries that can be used in bombs and petrol.

The "Tigers" have been blamed for the recent assassination of Sri Lankan President Ranasinghe Premadasa by a suicide bomber and the similar assassination of the former Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi in 1991.

The trademark of the "Tigers" is the capsule of cyanide they carry around their necks in order to commit suicide if they are captured.

TAMIL CHILDREN OF JAFFNA ARE TAUGHT TO FIGHT, NOT THINK

Mr Jeyanesan said the young people of the Jaffna peninsula were immersed in a military culture. From the age of 12 they joined the "Tigers", encouraged by posters which exhort the Tamils "to fight, not think" and by their parents' tales of the often violent oppression of Sri Lanka's ethnic and religious minority.

Of their suicide pledge, he said: "I do not believe it is in the culture for them to want to die, but it is part of a passionate desire for a homeland."

He said the real losers in the military stalemate were the civilian majority, who had been reduced to a life of destitution.

There is no longer any motorised transport; fishing communities are banned from the waters and children in bombed-out schools scratch their lessons in the sand.

Rare pictures brought out from the peninsula show thousands of refugee families living in huts of mud and twigs, bullock carts and idle cars, and government buildings ruined by bombing. "Two-thirds of the families can no longer work, and the electricity and petrol shortage means that they are cutting down the trees to cook, any trees, and soon there will be an environmental disaster."

Mr Jeyanesan said only 32 per cent of food needs was being supplied by the International Red Cross and many children were malnourished.

So many young men have died in the conflict that the female-to-male ratio is three-to-one.

The issue of aiding the Tamil civilians is internationally sensitive, because of the terrorist tactics employed by the "Tigers".

An Amnesty International spokesman said human rights abuses were occurring on both sides, but that the civilians were trapped.

Some 2.7 million Tamils live in Sri Lanka, mostly in the north, where one entire Tamil province and part of a second are controlled by the "Tigers". The predominantly Hindu Tamils are ethnically and religiously distinct from Sri Lanka's majority Sinhalese, who are mainly Buddhist.

"Our past experience was so bad it is difficult to ask the Tamils to give the struggle up," he said.

Graphic

Illus: Rev Selvadurai Jeyanesan ... the children scratch lessons in the sand. Picture by ANDREW TAYLOR

Load-Date: July 21, 2007

THE LTTE INTERNATIONAL SECRETARIAT
Sri Lankan Govt. bombs Tamil school within hours of press censorship

M2 PRESSWIRE

September 25, 1995

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Length: 306 words

Body

25 school going children were among 40 Tamil civilians killed on the spot when Sri Lankan Pucara Planes bombed the Nagerkoil Central School in the Jaffna peninsula on Friday 22nd September. Nearly 100 others were injured, most of them students in the same school.

Elsewhere in the area, 15 other civilians were also killed in the course of the same bombing raids.

The bombing of the school happened RI 12.50 p.m. during the school's lunch break. When several of the school children were gathered under a shade tree in the school compound. Pieces of human flesh were strewn around the area including the tree branches, making identification impossible.

Earlier, on the same day, Pucara bombers targeted Manalkadu and Katkovalam in the Vadamardchi area killing six persons. A small Catholic church was also damaged in the bombing.

In another incident in the early hours of the same day, intense shelling from the Palaly army camp killed seven members of the same family including four children of varying ages, The shelling began at 3.00 a.m. and continued until 7.00 a.m.

The intensified aerial bombing and shelling by Sri Lankan government forces came about within hours of the government's imposition of Press Censorship midnight September 21.

Apart from the 68 civilians and school Students on 22 September, three others including a Small boy age 9 were killed on the previous two days in a spate of wild bombing raids in the Vadamardchi area in which at least 30 others were seriously injured.

On 20th September artillery shells fired from the Palaly Army camp damaged the roof of a nunnery at Achchuveli causing injuries to 3 **women** who had taken shelter there.

Political Committee, Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam

CONTACT: THE **LTTE** INTERNATIONAL SECRETARIAT

Tel: +44 (0)181-470 8593

Load-Date: May 27, 1997

ATROCITIES OCCURRING IN SRI LANKA TOO

Canberra Times (Australia)

September 30, 1999, Thursday Edition

Copyright 1999 The Federal Capital Press of Australia Pty Limited

Section: Part A; Page 8

Length: 363 words

Body

THE RECENT news concerning the massacres committed in East Timor against defenceless civilians has rightly shocked Australians. The stand taken by Prime Minister Howard and President Clinton and the Vatican to stop these acts of terrorism has gladdened the hearts of all those who revolt against violation of human rights.

Close upon the heels of the Timor massacres and violation of human rights of defenceless Timorese comes the sad news of another instance of a massive violation of human rights in Sri Lanka, allegedly committed by the Tamil Tigers, reputed to be the world's most ruthless group of terrorists.

Tiger terrorists are reported to have, in a horrendous pre-dawn attack earlier this month, broken into three remote Sinhala farming villages in eastern Sri Lanka and massacred 54 innocent civilians in cold blood. It is reported that the dead included 14 children under the age of five years, 17 women and 23 men. About 50 people are reported to be seriously injured.

Without restricting our attention to violations of human rights in places mainly closer to home, the Australian Government and the Churches should join the international community in condemning the Tamil Tigers for these acts of dastardly terrorism committed in Sri Lanka.

The United States Government has rightly outlawed the Tamil Tigers as being terrorists. Australia too should follow the US example and outlaw the Tamil Tigers and ban their supporters from collecting funds from thousands of hapless Tamils who live in Australia.

It is also high time that the UN Commissioner for Human Rights brands the leaders of the Tamil Tigers as violators of human rights and prosecutes them for crimes committed against humanity.

Similarly, all instances of violations of human rights by the Government of Sri Lanka, including the recently reported indiscriminate bombing and consequent killings of innocent Tamil civilians, should be treated as war crimes and those responsible prosecuted.

This UN action, apart from stopping the carnage of innocent Sri Lankan civilians, might lead to the two parties to the conflict agreeing to come to the negotiating table for peace discussions.

ANURA WEERERATNE Nicholls

Load-Date: September 30, 1999

ATROCITIES OCCURRING IN SRI LANKA TOO

End of Document

Tigers give up bid for independence

The Australian

September 19, 2002, Thursday

Copyright 2002 Nationwide News Pty Limited

Section: WORLD; Pg. 8

Length: 437 words

Byline: Kimina Lyall * Southeast Asia correspondent in Jomtien, Thailand

Body

THE ***Tamil Tigers*** formally abandoned their bid for an independent state yesterday, claiming their ambition now was to gain "autonomy" and "self-determination" in northeastern Sri Lanka.

Chief ideologue of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam Anton Balasingham and Sri Lanka's Constitutional Affairs Minister G.L. Peiris, outlined broad agreement for establishing an "interim administration" in the island's Tiger-controlled north and east.

Although details were sketchy, both sides agreed such an administration would be a "step" forward in a lasting peace process.

MATP

With a plea for international aid and a commitment that the "first priority" was to rehabilitate the war-torn north with demining and resettlement programs, Professor Peiris said they were considering a "pledge conference" to attract immediate aid money.

Mr Balasingham said his organisation had never wanted statehood, merely a "homeland" and that the Tigers already had an administration operating in areas under their control but now they needed "international recognition" for such self-governance.

"We are striving our level best to work out a permanent solution that will end all forms of violence, including armed struggle," he said.

But he reserved the right to resort to a fight for full independence should the proposal fail.

Both parties said the talks had been "cordial and constructive" and moderator Vidar Helgesen (Norway's Foreign Affairs State Secretary) suggested the two four-member delegations "actually seemed like they had a pretty good time".

The three days of talks, at a secluded navy base south of Bangkok, follow a Norway-brokered ceasefire signed in February.

Not discussed at the talks, however, was how to respond to alleged war crimes during the 19-year war marked by more than 200 suicide bombs and numerous massacres.

Professor Peiris said it was not the time for retribution and not a question of vengeance.

Tigers give up bid for independence

"We have to put all that behind us ... that was not a matter that arose during the discussions that we had during the last couple of days," he said.

Mr Balasingham said that during the talks, he had kept in contact with reclusive **LTTE** leader Velupillai Prabhakaran, who was "very happy and satisfied with the whole process".

Two Australians are among the four-member Tiger delegation, Mr Balasingham's wife Adele and Jay Maheswaran.

Mrs Balasingham, a non-Tamil, is a senior advocate for the Tiger's **women**'s organisations and Mr Maheswaran, who said the talks were "fantastic", is a Melbourne-based leader of the Tamil Rehabilitation Organisation.

Dates were set for a further three meetings between now and January.

Load-Date: September 18, 2002

End of Document

Sri Lanka Seeks More Emergency Rule

Associated Press Online

January 6, 2000; Thursday 23:12 Eastern Time

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Section: International news

Length: 2158 words

Byline: DILIP GANGULY

Dateline: COLOMBO, Sri Lanka

Body

The government asked Parliament today to extend emergency rule, accusing Tamil Tiger rebels who have conducted a string of bomb attacks recently of trying to destabilize the small island nation.

Defense Minister General Anuruddha Ratwatte put forward the request in Parliament a day after a Tamil rebel blew herself up outside the prime minister's office, killing herself and 12 others in the third major guerrilla attack in the past 18 days in Colombo. The prime minister was not in her office at the time of the attack.

The emergency rule allows the armed forces to search any home and detain any person on suspicion of involvement with the rebels, who have been fighting a secessionist war in the north and east since 1983. The emergency rule has been in force for more than two years across Sri Lanka, and the government needs Parliament's approval every month.

"The government cannot take any chances, and steps have to be taken in the national interest by extending the emergency rule," said Ratwatte, who is coordinating the government's war efforts against the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam. Ratwatte has escaped two assassination attempts.

Parliament is expected to approve the motion later today.

There was unprecedented security in and around Parliament today. Anti-terrorist commandos with dogs scanned the area.

On Wednesday, a **female** assassin killed herself as police tried to question her outside the office of Prime Minister Sirimavo Bandaranaike.

It wasn't clear whether she wanted to attack the 82-year-old prime minister, who mostly works from home because of poor health but had been expected at the office Wednesday.

Two hours later, unidentified gunmen on motorcycles shot and killed a pro-rebel Tamil politician, Kumar Ponnambalam. The motive for slaying the 60-year-old politician was not known.

Three weeks ago, another **female** suicide bomber blew herself up at an election rally of President Chandrika Kumaratunga, the prime minister's daughter. Kumaratunga suffered a serious eye injury.

Sri Lanka Seeks More Emergency Rule

Police said today the woman was a member of the Black Tigers, a group they characterized as the deadliest weapon in the armory of the rebels.

The LTTE describes the Black Tigers as a "major wing" of its fighting formations and the female commandos as "Birds of Freedom."

A female LTTE suicide bomber killed former Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi in 1991 in southern India.

Male and female suicide bombers begin training as children, sometimes at the age of 10.

About half of the Tamil Tiger rebels are women.

Police raided small hotels in the Sri Lankan capital early today and detained 160 Tamils for questioning regarding a suicide bomber attack outside the prime minister's office that killed 13 people, police and witnesses said.

Those detained were visiting Colombo, the capital, from other parts of the island nation. Police began questioning them for possible involvement in Wednesday's attack, which was the third major guerrilla attack in the past 18 days in Colombo.

Also today, the defense minister requested Parliament extend emergency rule in Sri Lanka, accusing Tamil Tiger rebels of trying to destabilize the small island nation.

The emergency rule allows the armed forces to search any home and detain any person on suspicion of involvement with the rebels, who have been fighting a secessionist war in the north and east since 1983. The emergency rule has been in force for more than two years across Sri Lanka, and the government needs Parliament's approval every month.

"The government cannot take any chances, and steps have to be taken in the national interest by extending the emergency rule," said Defense Minister Gen. Anuruddha Ratwatte, who is coordinating the government's war efforts against the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam. Ratwatte has escaped two assassination attempts.

"The LTTE terrorists continue to attack the security forces in order to destabilize" the island nation, Ratwatte said.

Parliament is expected to approve the motion later today. There was unprecedented security in and around Parliament, with anti-terrorist commandos and dogs patrolling the area.

In Wednesday's attack, a female assassin set off explosives strapped to her body as police tried to question her outside the office of Prime Minister Sirimavo Bandaranaike.

It wasn't clear whether she was targeting the 82-year-old prime minister, who mostly works from home because of poor health but had been expected at the office Wednesday.

Two hours later, unidentified gunmen on motorcycles shot and killed a pro-rebel Tamil politician, Kumar Ponnambalam. The motive for slaying the 60-year-old politician was not known.

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A female LTTE suicide bomber killed former Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi in 1991 in southern India.

Male and female suicide bombers begin training as children, sometimes at the age of 10.

Sri Lanka Seeks More Emergency Rule

About half of the Tamil Tiger rebels are women.

Police today arrested the parents and a sister of the suicide bomber who killed 13 people outside the prime minister's office, state-run radio reported.

In the capital, Colombo, police picked up 200 Tamils from cheap hotels for questioning in connection with Wednesday's blast, a senior police official and witnesses said.

The Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corp. said federal investigators traced the suicide bomber to a village in eastern Batticaloa district. They arrested her parents and a sister. The radio did not mention the charges.

Also today, Parliament extended emergency rule. Anti-terrorist commandos with sniffer dogs checked the area near Parliament amid unprecedented security.

The defense minister accused Tamil Tiger rebels of trying to destabilize the small island nation.

"The government cannot take any chances and steps have to be taken in the national interest by extending the emergency rule," said Defense Minister General Anuruddha Ratwatte, who is coordinating the government's war against the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam.

The emergency rule allows the armed forces to search any home and detain any person on suspicion of involvement with the rebels, who have been fighting a secessionist war in the north and east since 1983. The emergency rule has been in force for more than two years across Sri Lanka, and the government needs Parliament's approval every month.

The guerrillas are fighting for a homeland where they say minority Tamils will not be discriminated against by the majority Sinhalese.

Wednesday's blast was the third major guerrilla attack in nearly two weeks.

The rebels "continue to attack the security forces in order to destabilize (Sri Lanka)," said Ratwatte, who survived two assassination attempts himself.

The bomber blew herself up as police questioned her outside the office building of Prime Minister Sirimavo Bandaranaike. Police said she was a member of the Black Tigers, the suicide squad of the Tamil Tigers.

It wasn't clear whether she wanted to attack the 82-year-old prime minister, who mostly works from home because of poor health but was expected at the office later in the day.

Two hours after the blast, unidentified assailants gunned down Kumar Ponnambalam, 60, a pro-rebel Tamil politician. The motive was not known.

Three weeks ago, a woman blew herself up at an election rally of President Chandrika Kumaratunga who is the prime minister's daughter. Kumaratunga suffered a serious eye injury.

The parents and sister of a suicide bomber who killed 13 people were among more than 200 Tamils rounded up by Sri Lankan police Thursday, officials said.

All were arrested in the capital, Colombo, and will be questioned about their possible involvement in Wednesday's bombing outside the prime minister's office, officials and witnesses said.

Around midnight, police imposed a curfew in Colombo and two suburbs until Friday afternoon, state television announced. The report cited national security reasons, but offered no other details.

Some 3,000 armed policemen fanned out across the capital to look for rebels, a top police officer said on condition of anonymity. About two years ago Colombo was similarly sealed off to allow door-to-door searches for Tamil guerrillas.

Sri Lanka Seeks More Emergency Rule

The state-run Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation radio said federal investigators traced the suicide bomber who was blown up in the blast to a village in eastern Batticaloa district. They arrested her parents and a sister. The radio did not mention the charges.

The Parliament also extended emergency rule Thursday.

"The government cannot take any chances and steps have to be taken in the national interest by extending the emergency rule," said Defense Minister General Anuruddha Ratwatte.

A woman blew herself up Wednesday as police questioned her outside Prime Minister Sirimavo Bandaranaike's office. Police said she was a member of the Black Tigers, the suicide squad of the Tamil Tigers. It was the third major guerrilla attack in nearly two weeks.

The guerrillas have been fighting security forces for 16 years to carve out Eelam, a homeland where they say minority Tamils will not be discriminated against by the majority Sinhalese.

It wasn't clear whether the bomber wanted to attack the 82-year-old prime minister who mostly works from home because of poor health, but had been expected to go to the office later in the day.

The rebels "continue to attack the security forces in order to destabilize (Sri Lanka)," said Ratwatte, who tabled the motion in Parliament to extend the emergency rule. Rattawate himself has survived two assassination attempts.

Emergency rule allows armed forces to search houses or detain anyone on suspicion of involvement with the rebels. It has been in force for more than two years across Sri Lanka, but Parliament must reapprove it every month.

Three weeks ago, a woman bomber blew herself up at an election rally for President Chandrika Kumaratunga who is the prime minister's daughter. Kumaratunga suffered a serious eye injury.

The parents and sister of a suicide bomber who killed 13 people were among more than 700 Tamils detained in a two-day roundup by Sri Lankan police, officials said Friday.

All were arrested in the capital, Colombo, and will be questioned about their possible involvement in Wednesday's bombing outside the prime minister's office, authorities said.

The sweep began Thursday, with 200 people arrested, and continued Friday with 500 more detentions.

Authorities also planned to question the suspects, almost all from the island's Tamil minority, about possible links with the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam, a separatist group blamed for engineering three suicide attacks in the past three weeks. The three attacks killed 50 people.

About 4,500 armed policemen fanned out across Colombo on Thursday and Friday to look for rebels or their sympathizers, a top police official said on condition of anonymity.

Citing national security concerns, police prohibited people from leaving or entering Colombo, Dehiwalla or Mount Lavinia until Friday afternoon.

Colombo was similarly sealed off about two years ago to allow door-to-door searches for Tamil guerrillas.

The streets of Colombo were empty Friday, as residents huddled at home in front of televisions to see what was happening in the city.

Emergency rule allows the armed forces to search houses or detain anyone on suspicion of involvement with the rebels. It has been in force for more than two years across Sri Lanka, but Parliament must reapprove it every month.

Sri Lanka Seeks More Emergency Rule

Wednesday's suicide bomber, who died in the blast, was traced to a village in eastern Batticaloa district, state-run Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corp. radio said.

The bomber blew herself up as police tried to question her outside the office of Prime Minister Sirimavo Bandaranaike, who was not in the building at the time.

Police said the bomber was a member of the Black Tigers, the suicide squad of the **Tamil Tigers**. The police arrested her parents and a sister, but did not disclose the charges, the radio reported.

It wasn't clear whether the bomber wanted to attack the 82-year-old prime minister, who works mostly from home because of poor health.

Three weeks ago, a woman bomber blew herself up at an election rally for President Chandrika Kumaratunga who is the prime minister's daughter. Kumaratunga suffered a serious eye injury.

The guerrillas have been fighting security forces for 17 years to carve a homeland in Eelam, where they say Sri Lanka's 3.2 million minority Tamils will not be discriminated against by the majority Sinhalese.

The Sinhalese comprise 14 million of the country's 18.6 million people.

Load-Date: January 6, 2000

***Guerilla girl power seeks role rebuilding Sri Lanka;
The best-trained female guerillas in the world also recognise a solemn
moral obligation to the future***

Sunday Tribune (Ireland)

August 11, 2002

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Section: Pg. 18

Length: 1155 words

Byline: TOM FARRELL KILINCHCHI

Body

THE **female** guerillas are easy to spot on the main street of Kilinochchi, the Tamil Tiger 'capital' in Sri Lanka's northern province. Most **women** here wear the traditional shalwar kameez or a patterned sari, their flowing black hair tied back. The **female** guerillas have their hair cropped boyishly short or tightly braided.

They wear shirts belted at the waist and black pants. A few are kitted out in the combat uniform, tight green fatigues banded to blend with the tropical undergrowth.

The **women**'s wing of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (**LTTE**) has existed since 1984, and in the last decade - which has seen a heavy death toll on the male fighters - they have come ever more to prominence and are now recognised as the best-trained and most disciplined **female** guerillas in the world.

Thamilini (30) is head of the **women**'s political wing in Kilinochchi and her own sister was killed when the town was captured by the Tigers in 1998.

This was during a massive Sri Lankan army (SLA) offensive codenamed 'Jaya Sikuru' ('Certain Victory') to open the Tigerheld A-9 highway.

She sees her sisters both as fearless patriots and gun-toting feminists, with a mission to liberate Tamil **women** in a very patriarchal, Hinduist culture. A burly woman of unusual height, Thamilini's delicate sing-song voice carries an underlying menace when she speaks of the "morality codes" the Tigers impose in their areas.

"The main reason for this male oppression is pornography and illegal alcohol and so we try to take strict measures against their usage in our territories. That's why we are able to control this situation " These "strict measures" are reason for men to watch their step in Kilinochchi. There are stories of habitual sexual harassers being lured by pretty girls to secluded locations, only to be beaten senseless by gangs of **women** cadres known as Sutanira-Paravaikal (Freedom Birds).

"We were taught that we have to not only be involved in the military operations, we have to start on our society, we have liberation in education and employment opportunities, " says Thamilini. "We have to get social status in the society, so that's why we have to fight in this way." The **women**'s wing first came to prominence during 1987-90, when Indian prime minister Rajiv Gandhi sent 60,000 troops to the island as 'peace keepers'.

Guerilla girl power seeks role rebuilding Sri Lanka ; The best-trained female guerillas in the world also recognise a solemn moral obligation to the future

When the **LTTE** pulled out of peace talks, the 'Indian Vietnam' that commenced left 1,200 of its troops dead and 3,000 maimed.

'**Women's** Day' in rebel-held areas is observed on 2 October, honouring the martyrdom of Second Lieutenant Malathy in 1987. Malathy was part of a crack all-**female** unit that had attacked Indian troops entering Jaffna city in Soviet T-72 tanks. Mortally wounded by the Indians, Malathy swallowed cyanide.

Like all cadres, male or **female**, Thamilini also carries a vial of cyanide on a black string around her neck, to be taken if captured by enemy forces. "In our movement, we abide by certain concepts. That is, we won't be an obstacle to the continuation of our struggle. When we are captured by the enemy, we don't want our struggle interrupted by our arrest, and by killing ourselves, we won't be an obstacle."

Women have formed the backbone of the 'Black Tiger' suicidebomber unit which, before 11 September, was the world's most effective and ruthless. In the 1980s and 1990s, the Tigers executed twice as many suicide bombing missions as Hamas and Hezbollah combined. It is believed the 'suicide jacket' used by Hamas bombers was sold to them by the Tigers.

It was a 31-year-old woman named 'Dhanu' who killed Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi, herself and 15 others at an election rally near Madras in May 1991. While garlanding Gandhi, Dhanu pulled the detonator cord on a string of shrapnel grenades concealed under her dress. Her head, remarkably unscathed, was afterwards recovered 60 metres from the point of the explosion.

The worldwide impact of 11 September probably weighs heavily on the mind of the **LTTE's** 48-year-old leader, Vellupillai Prabhakaran. The movement was already reeling from the ban imposed by British Home Secretary Jack Straw the previous March, leading to the closure of its London office. The SLA's Deep Penetration Unit had also made several excursions into **LTTE** territory, assassinating a number of senior cadres.

After the Tigers came close to capturing Jaffna in May 2000, the SLA purchased new and more effective weaponry and was believed to have acquired Ukrainian 'fuel air' bombs last summer.

But after 11 September, millions of dollars worth of Tiger assets were frozen in various bank accounts. Although hardly bankrupt, with millions of dollars still being raised through legal business activities, the movement's income has been reduced considerably.

It is probably small consolation that the Sri Lankan economy is also in a dire condition.

The 5 December elections resulted in a narrow victory for the United National Party (UNP) led by Ranil Wickremesinghe.

The UNP ruled from 1977 to 1994 and pursued a particularly hardline stance against Tamil nationalists, allowing the security forces to commit horrendous civilian massacres throughout the 1980s and early 1990s.

A consortium of legal Tamil parties banded together as the Tamil National Alliance (TNA), endorsing the **LTTE** as the "sole representatives of the Tamil community" during the campaign.

Wickremesinge's critics charge that - knowing he needed TNA support to win - he capitulated to the **LTTE's** demands, calling a ceasefire and signing a Moratorium of Understanding (MOU) that is biased towards the Tigers.

Ahead of peace talks scheduled for Thailand this month, there is a huge need for reconstruction in the north and east of the country. The lands on either side of the A-9 highway are heavily mined. The UNP's Minister for Refugee Rehabilitation and Resettlement, Dr Jayalath Jayawardena says: "There are supposed to be about one million landmines in the north and east so we have to de-mine the entire areas, and most of the cities and houses have been destroyed. We have to start from zero, with no basic infrastructure facilities, the roads, the drinking water, houses, electricity and nothing is there. So it is a huge process and I don't think that by utilising our own resources, we will be able to rehabilitate the entire area. We will be depending on the international donors as well as our ex-

Guerilla girl power seeks role rebuilding Sri Lanka ; The best-trained female guerillas in the world also recognise a solemn moral obligation to the future

patriots to help us." Kilinochchi itself is not much more than a huge shanty town, its stone buildings shattered by mortar fire and most walls peppered with bullet holes. The women cadres are convinced victory will be theirs someday. Not that a victorious Tigress will be idle. "Soon after we achieve our Tamil Eelam, we have a lot of work to build up our society and our country, " predicts Thamilini.

Few of the 'Freedom Birds' see themselves as future wives or mothers. Says Thamilini: "We don't take that idea seriously because it would disturb our life in the movement."

Graphic

Above left, battle-hardened members of the Tamil Tigers women's wing. Above, the remains of a government base in northern Sri Lanka, overrun by the Tigers two years ago. Below, a boy poses with a live rocket retrieved close to the A-9 highway, scene of heavy fighting between the rebels and government forces

Load-Date: October 22, 2002

End of Document

AP Photos COL101-102

Associated Press International

September 18, 1999; Saturday 09:01 Eastern Time

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Section: International news

Length: 436 words

Byline: GEMUNU AMARASINGHE

Dateline: BORAPOLA, Sri Lanka

Body

Tamil Tiger rebels, led by women waving machetes and firing guns, raided three villages in southeastern Sri Lanka on Saturday and massacred 61 Sinhalese villages as they slept or fled into rice fields, the military said.

Among the dead were at least 11 children, some corpse were found with their heads smashed, military officials said on condition of anonymity.

Fifty civilians and five policemen were injured.

Military officials said the rebels probably killed the Sinhalese to avenge the deaths of 21 Tamil civilians in air force bombings of rebel-held areas on Wednesday.

Sinhalese are the majority ethnic group in Sri Lanka and control the military and the government. Tamils form about one-fifth of the island-nation's 18.5 million population.

"I survived because they could not find me," said Rankothabandi Peter, 70, who escaped the 90-minute rampage by 100 rebels.

The raid started at 1:40 a.m. (1940 GMT Friday) in this village of mostly rice farmers in Ampara district. The area, 200 kilometers (125 miles) east of Colombo, is mostly under government control and far away from the Tiger strongholds in the north and the east.

The government rushed army reinforcements to the area.

"I heard gun shots first, then the scream coming from frightened people and then again the scream that people who are dying make and I knew our village was under attack," Peter said.

He asked his son, daughter-in-law and two grandchildren to flee and then hid himself in a corner of the verandah. He covered himself with rice straw and leaves to avoid detection.

No one claimed responsibility for the attacks in Borapola and the nearby villages of Bedi Rekka and Sinnawatta. But military spokesman Maj. Nishantha Wadugodapitiya blamed the Liberation Tamil Tigers of Tamil Eelam, or LTTE, who are fighting for a homeland for the minority Tamils.

Since the war erupted in 1983, more than 58,000 people have been killed.

AP Photos COL101-102

The International Committee of the Red Cross said 46 people 11 of them children were killed in Borapola, a village of 300 families. The rest were killed in the other villages.

Many people were killed as they slept. The rebels set fire to the houses and fired bullets at those fleeing. They then chased the villagers into the rice paddies and chopped off their heads.

The bodies were lying on the ground 10 hours after the attack.

One man, M. Premasiri, lost his entire extended family of 14 people.

"Some of our relatives had come for a religious function. I had gone to a nearby village to get supplies for a feast and I stayed back there," said Premasiri.

"When I returned this morning I found all are dead, gone."

Load-Date: September 18, 1999

End of Document

**Indians pour in as battle for Jaffna rages: Tamil Tigers 'holding their own'
with heavy house-to-house fighting**

The Guardian (London)

October 21, 1987

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Length: 489 words

Byline: From DEREK BROWN

Dateline: COLOMBO

Body

Fierce fighting continued yesterday in the centre of Jaffna with little sign of Tamil Tiger resistance crumbling in the face of a massive Indian Army onslaught.

The Indians poured yet more troops into the north and east of Sri Lanka, using an Indian Airlines Boeing 737 diverted from the national commercial network, as well as military transports.

Delhi sources said that another 6,000 soldiers were on the way. If true, that would raise the minimum estimated presence on the island to more than 20,000, or two full divisions.

But according to accounts from both sides of the fighting, the Indians' vast superiority in fire power has neither daunted the Tigers' morale, nor crushed their ability to hit back.

In Jaffna itself, where two of the five attacking forces linked up on Monday, there was heavy house-to-house fighting. A third column was battling towards the town centre, and two more were still struggling to reach the municipal boundary.

A Jaffna student, who has joined the growing exodus of refugees, said here yesterday that Tiger units were firing at the advancing troops from as close as 20 yards. This, he explained, was not because the rebels were particularly heroic or foolhardy. It was rather their way of avoiding the Indian artillery.

'The way they are fighting, they can only be killed by (small arms) firing, not by shelling,' he said.

The Indians have insisted throughout the 11-day offensive that they have used little artillery and no air cover to minimise civilian casualties.

That claim was yesterday sagging under a heavy, and remarkably uniform, weight of evidence from refugees and the few scraps of independent information coming out of the Jaffna peninsula.

The infantry advance, the student said, was preceded by a systematic artillery barrage. He had heard heavy guns firing daily, and had seen two women killed by the washing well in the Hindu Ladies' College, one of the main refugee camps where thousands have sought shelter from the fighting.

'The people have no food, but they are not worried about that. Even if they are starving, they worry only about security. 'They have no cover from the shelling', he said.

Indians pour in as battle for Jaffna rages: Tamil Tigers 'holding their own' with heavy house-to-house fighting

He also flatly denied the Indian claim that there had been no air strikes. He had seen helicopters and fixed wing aircraft of the Sri Lanka air force attacking with bombs and machine guns.

The Sri Lankans, indeed, have more or less openly admitted that their aircraft were used last week, but they have insisted that the operations were only on the direct request of the Indians.

The student brought with him the latest grisly statistics from Jaffna hospital, where only the emergency department was functioning.

The hospital authorities, as of Monday morning, had officially received 282 bodies of civilians - a sharp rise on the 76 reported a week ago today.

The authorities also said that 600 civilians have been wounded to their knowledge, and that 400,000 have fled their homes.

Load-Date: June 13, 2000

End of Document

What One-Eyed Jack knows; India's police are close to unravelling the plot behind Rajiv Gandhi's killing. Yet one man continues to elude them, says Tim McGirk

The Independent (London)

July 1, 1991, Monday

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Section: EDITORIAL PAGE; Page 21

Length: 1509 words

Byline: By TIM MCGIRK

Body

He is the most hunted man in India. Nicknamed "One-Eyed Jack", he is suspected of having organised the assassination of Rajiv Gandhi, the former prime minister. There are roadblocks around every city, town and village in southern India. Navy cutters patrol the coastline in case he tries to flee to Sri Lanka. Every police officer has been made to memorise the fugitive's mannerisms, his squint and the way he tilts his dark, intelligent face to compensate for having lost an eye.

His real name is thought to be Sivasaran, but he uses nine aliases. He is armed, dangerous and supposedly prefers death to capture. He carries a cyanide pill taped to the inside of his collar.

Gandhi was killed on 21 May by a **female** suicide bomber working under One-Eyed Jack's command. Unless he is caught - alive - the true story of who was behind the assassination may never be known. For without his confession, the Indian government may never prove what it suspects: that Gandhi's assassination was planned and executed by the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (**LTTE**), a Sri Lankan guerrilla organisation.

The group's motive is compelling: in July 1987 Gandhi sent an Indian army contingent into Sri Lanka to act as peace-keepers in the conflict between the Sri Lankan government and the Tamil minority living in the north of the island. The operation ended in debacle. By the time the Indian troops were pulled out in 1989, they had killed more than 2,000 Tamils and raped many **women**.

Rajiv Gandhi's death, in a sense, was karmic retribution. His mother, Indira, is indirectly to blame: it was she who in 1983 first allowed the **LTTE** to use the southern Indian state of Tamil Nadu as a base against the Sri Lankan army, and it was her agents who first taught the Tamil guerrillas how to wire a bomb similar to the one that killed her son.

D K Karthikeyan, 51, an inspector-general of Hyderabad, was an odd choice to head the investigation team to hunt down One-Eyed Jack. While in charge of intelligence in Karnataka state, he had been accused of spying for a corrupt party boss, and was consigned for several years to a minor diplomatic post.

Inspector-General Karthikeyan was given a long list of suspects, but only two clues: the head of the suspected woman terrorist, now floating in a vat of embalming fluid; and a battered camera. A roll of undeveloped film had been found inside a cheap camera among the bomb wreckage.

What One-Eyed Jack knows; India's police are close to unravelling the plot behind Rajiv Gandhi's killing. Yet one man continues to elude them, says Tim McGirk

Gandhi had many enemies. If the killing had occurred in northern India, suspicion would have fallen immediately on Sikh militants who in 1984 had also murdered his mother. The Indian elections, too, had whipped up resentment against Gandhi by Hindu fanatics.

The Sri Lankan Tamils did not seem the likeliest suspects on Inspector-General Karthikeyan's list. Despite the clashes between the Indian peacekeeping force and the Tamil Tigers, the state government continued to let the guerrillas ferry guns and supplies to Sri Lanka from the mainland.

What puzzled the chief investigator was that the LTTE seemed to be friendly with Gandhi. Two months before the assassination, Gandhi had held "cordial" talks at his home in Delhi with Kasi Anandan, a senior LTTE representative. Indeed, the Tigers had everything to lose by assassinating Gandhi. If the case could be proved and those guilty caught, Delhi would deport many of the 200,000 Sri Lankan Tamil refugees, the LTTE would sacrifice its support bases in Tamil Nadu, and its fund-raising and propaganda offices in London, Paris and the US would be shut.

On the morning of Gandhi's death, the women queueing for the public baths in a bustling neighbourhood of Madras were getting impatient. A dark-skinned woman had spent 30 minutes at the water pump, washing her face. One of the others recalled: "We joked that maybe she was trying to lighten her skin."

Police later identified the woman as Chitralekha, alias "Thanu", a 25-year-old Sri Lankan Tamil from Jaffna. She was to be Gandhi's assassin. On the fatal afternoon, Thanu and her accomplices had gathered in the cramped Madras flat of a secretary named Nalini, whom police accuse of being a key participant in the suicide squad. According to police, One-Eyed Jack, an LTTE bomb expert and intelligence officer, then attached the belt laden with explosives that Thanu wore strapped to her back. The other accomplice was another young Sri Lankan woman, Subha.

The killers were picked up at 4:30pm by a young freelance photographer, Haribabu, who seems to have been the assassins' dupe. He was hired by them, he had told friends, "to take a picture of a Congress woman who was garlanding Rajiv Gandhi". His real role was to help One-Eyed Jack, who was posing as a reporter with a notepad, get closer to Gandhi.

They arrived early at the election rally. Thanu and Nalini approached a female sub-inspector and asked to be allowed near the dais where Gandhi was to deliver his speech. The policewoman refused.

Haribabu ran into a fellow Madras journalist, Bhagwan Singh, and introduced One-Eyed Jack to him as "a partner in a photo studio". Mr Singh says: "He gave me a weak, forced smile and retreated a few feet to wait until Babu had finished speaking."

At 10:15pm, Gandhi arrived at the fairground and was immediately mobbed by admirers. Thanu, with the photographer Haribabu close behind her, snapping away, rushed towards Gandhi. The sub-inspector, Anusuya, said: "I tried to stop her from getting close, but Mr Gandhi smiled and said to me: 'Don't worry. Relax.'"

Those were Gandhi's last words. Thanu had placed the sandalwood garland around his neck. Smiling, she bent down, as if to touch his toes in a gesture of respect. Instead, she triggered the explosive belt, catching Gandhi full in the face with a blast of deadly pellets. It sounded like no more than a loud firecracker, but 19 people were killed in the explosion, including Gandhi, his assassin, Thanu, and the photographer Haribabu.

Miraculously, Haribabu's camera survived the blast. The roll was developed, revealing nine shots. The final frame showed a blob of pale fire - the explosion itself. Two frames backwards was a woman holding a garland intended for Mr Gandhi, her expression a nervous grimace; and a man with a notepad. Advancing one frame, the detectives saw the woman with the garland closing in on Gandhi. The man with the notebook had stepped out of the picture, vanishing seconds before the explosion.

What One-Eyed Jack knows; India 's police are close to unravelling the plot behind Rajiv Gandhi's killing. Yet one man continues to elude them, says Tim McGirk

Inspector-General Karthikeyan was then able to match the photograph of the woman with the garland to the dismembered head kept at the morgue. All the other corpses had been claimed by relatives.

Police raided the hut in a Madras slum where Haribabu had lived with his father and confiscated everything they could find. The detectives discovered the 65-rupee receipt for the sandalwood garland, but little else of apparent value.

It seemed that the killers had covered their tracks completely. An amateur video of Gandhi's death had also been taken, but when the Tamil Nadu state police finally turned it over to Inspector-General Karthikeyan it had been heavily censored. The local press said this was to conceal the cowardice of the police, many of whom hid in nearby palm groves after the blast. In desperation, the chief investigator had airplanes fly over Tamil-held parts of Sri Lanka, dropping thousands of posters showing Haribabu's pictures of the two prime suspects.

More than a week later detectives got their first lead. Police at a roadblock near a southern beach used by the LTTE guerrillas stopped a motorcyclist carrying 10,000 rupees and two cyanide pills in his sports bag. The pills are standard-issue for the Tiger guerrillas, although the die-hards keep one around their neck instead of tucked away in a bag.

Under interrogation, the motorcyclist confessed to being an LTTE cadre. He had with him a Madras telephone number that matched up to one found in Haribabu's room. It belonged to the secretary, Nalini. She may have been tipped off by a Tamil sympathiser within the state police force that the police were after her. She fled Madras, but was caught on 14 June. Her mother and brother were also arrested.

Based on testimony from Nalini's family, police were able to reconstruct the surviving assassins' escape after the blast. One-Eyed Jack, Nalini, and Subha, the other suspect, headed west towards Bangalore. Had they gone south towards Sri Lanka, they might have all escaped; in the confusion after Gandhi's killing no alert was sounded for six hours. Instead, they looped back to Madras and holed up at Nalini's house. Then, on 25 May, the fugitives journeyed up to a Hindu temple where, as Nalini's mother later explained, "We tried to wash away our sins." More likely, say police, they were trying to meet an LTTE contact who failed to appear.

Inspector-General Karthikeyan is convinced that One-Eyed Jack is still in India; police tapped a telephone call from a known LTTE militant in Madras seeking help in arranging the assassin's flight. Even if he is caught, his cyanide capsule may ensure that we never hear the full story.

Tamil inmates, prison guards clash in Sri Lanka

Associated Press International

January 6, 2000; Thursday 14:46 Eastern Time

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Section: International news

Length: 1531 words

Dateline: COLOMBO, Sri Lanka

Body

A riot at a Sri Lankan maximum security prison left one person dead and 33 suspected Tamil rebels and prison guards injured, police said Thursday.

The inmates at the Kaluthara Prison were on a protest fast demanding that authorities expedite their trial. They were being held on suspicion of having links with the **Tamil Tigers**.

The riot started after jail officials ignored suggestions that they stay away from the area where the fast was going on, said Rex Janson, the officer in charge.

In the past, the prisoners stopped protests after authorities agreed to look into their demands. Kaluthara is 40 kilometers (25 miles) south of Colombo.

Thirty-four persons, including six prison officials, were hospitalized. One of them, a suspected Tamil rebel, later died.

Hundreds of people have been arrested and detained in half a dozen prisons around Sri Lanka on suspicion of being Tiger rebels,

who are fighting for an independent homeland for minority Tamils.

The government asked Parliament Thursday to extend emergency rule, accusing Tamil Tiger rebels who have conducted a string of bomb attacks recently of trying to destabilize the small island nation.

Defense Minister General Anuruddha Ratwatte put forward the request in Parliament a day after a Tamil rebel blew herself up outside the prime minister's office, killing herself and 12 others in the third major guerrilla attack in the past 18 days in Colombo. The prime minister was not in her office at the time of the attack.

The emergency rule allows the armed forces to search any home and detain any person on suspicion of involvement with the rebels, who have been fighting a secessionist war in the north and east since 1983. The emergency rule has been in force for more than two years across Sri Lanka, and the government needs Parliament's approval every month.

"The government cannot take any chances, and steps have to be taken in the national interest by extending the emergency rule," said Ratwatte, who is coordinating the government's war efforts against the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam. Ratwatte has escaped two assassination attempts.

Tamil inmates, prison guards clash in Sri Lanka

Parliament was expected to approve the motion later Thursday.

There was unprecedented security in and around Parliament on Thursday. Anti-terrorist commandos with dogs scanned the area.

On Wednesday, a **female** assassin killed herself as police tried to question her outside the office of Prime Minister Sirimavo Bandaranaike.

It wasn't clear whether she wanted to attack the 82-year-old prime minister, who mostly works from home because of poor health but had been expected at the office Wednesday.

Two hours later, unidentified gunmen on motorcycles shot and killed a pro-rebel Tamil politician, Kumar Ponnambalam. The motive for slaying the 60-year-old politician was not known.

Three weeks ago, another **female** suicide bomber blew herself up at an election rally of President Chandrika Kumaratunga, the prime minister's daughter. Kumaratunga suffered a serious eye injury in the bombing which killed 23 people and wounded more than 100.

Police said Thursday that the woman was a member of the Black Tigers, a group they characterized as the deadliest weapon in the armory of the rebels.

The **LTTE** describes the Black Tigers as a "major wing" of its fighting formations and the **female** commandos as "Birds of Freedom."

A **female LTTE** suicide bomber killed former Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi in 1991 in southern India.

Male and **female** suicide bombers begin training as children, sometimes at the age of 10.

About half of the Tamil Tiger rebels are **women**.

The Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam have been fighting for a separate homeland for the minority Tamil people since 1983, in a war that has killed 61,000.

The rebels say that the only way the 3.2 million Tamils can prosper is to be separated from the 14 million Sinhalese concentrated in the central and southern part of Sri Lanka.

Police raided small hotels Thursday in the Sri Lankan capital and detained 160 Tamils for questioning regarding a suicide bomber attack outside the prime minister's office that killed 13 people, police and witnesses said.

Those detained were visiting Colombo, the capital, from other parts of the island nation. Police began questioning them about possible involvement in Wednesday's attack.

Also Thursday, the government urged Parliament to extend emergency rule, accusing Tamil Tiger rebels of trying to destabilize the nation.

Defense Minister, pickup 2nd graf, 1st Ld-Writethru

Police on Thursday arrested the parents and a sister of the suicide bomber who killed 13 people outside the prime minister's office, state-run radio reported.

And in the capital Colombo, police picked up 200 Tamils for questioning in connection with the blast, according to a senior police official and witnesses.

Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation said federal investigators traced the suicide bomber who was blown up Wednesday's blast to a village in eastern Batticaloa district. They arrested her parents and a sister. The radio did not mention the charges.

Tamil inmates, prison guards clash in Sri Lanka

Also Thursday, the Parliament extended emergency rule.

"The government cannot take any chances and steps have to be taken in the national interest by extending the emergency rule," said Defense Minister General Anuruddha Ratwatte, who is coordinating the government's war against the Tigers.

Wednesday's blast was the third major guerrilla attack in nearly two weeks.

The rebels "continue to attack the security forces in order to destabilize (Sri Lanka)," said Ratwatte, who brought forth the motion to extend emergency rule. Rattawate himself has survived two assassination attempts.

The emergency rule allows armed forces to search houses or detain anyone suspected of involvement with the rebels. It has been in force for more than two years across Sri Lanka and requires Parliament's approval every month.

Anti-terrorist commandos with sniffer dogs checked the area near Parliament Thursday amid unprecedented security.

On Wednesday, a woman blew herself up as police questioned her outside the office building of Prime Minister Sirimavo Bandaranaike. Police said she was a member of the Black Tigers, the suicide squad of the **Tamil Tigers**.

The guerrillas have been fighting security forces for 16 years to carve out a homeland for the minority Tamils who say they have suffered under majority Sinhalese rule.

It wasn't clear whether the attacker planned to target the 82-year-old prime minister.

Two hours after the blast, unidentified assailants gunned down Kumar Ponnambalam, a pro-rebel Tamil politician.

Three weeks ago, another woman bomber blew herself up at an election rally for President Chandrika Kumaratunga who is the prime minister's daughter. Kumaratunga suffered a serious eye

njury from the attack.

The parents and sister of the woman whose suicide bombing outside the prime minister's office killed 13 people were arrested Thursday, state-run radio reported.

In the capital, 200 Tamils also were taken in for questioning in connection with the Wednesday blast, a senior police official and witnesses said.

Meanwhile, some 3,000 armed officers fanned out across Colombo searching for the rebels, a top police official said on condition of anonymity. Around midnight Thursday, police imposed a curfew in the capital and two suburbs.

Citing national security concerns, police prohibited people from leaving or entering Colombo, Dehiwalla or Mount Lavinia until Friday afternoon, state-run Roopavahini television reported. It did not say whether foreign tourists were included in the curfew.

The suicide bomber, who died in the blast, was traced to a village in eastern Batticaloa district, state-run Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corp. radio said. Her parents and a sister were arrested. The charges were not mentioned.

The bomber blew herself up as police sought to question her outside the office of Prime Minister Sirimavo Bandaranaike, who was not in the building at the time. Police said the bomber was a member of the Black Tigers, the rebel **Tamil Tigers**' suicide squad.

The guerrillas have been fighting security forces for 16 years to carve out Eelam, a homeland where they say the minority Tamils will not be discriminated by the majority Sinhalese.

Wednesday's blast was the third major guerrilla attack in nearly two weeks.

Tamil inmates, prison guards clash in Sri Lanka

The rebels "continue to attack the security forces in order to destabilize (Sri Lanka)," said Defense Minister General Anuruddha Ratwatte, who himself has survived two assassination attempt.

Parliament again extended emergency rule, which has been in force for more than two years but needs renewal approval every month. Emergency rule allows armed forces to search houses or detain anyone on suspicion of involvement with the rebels.

It wasn't clear whether the bomber wanted to attack the 82-year-old prime minister, who usually works from home because of poor health but was expected to attend the office later in the day.

Two hours after the blast, unidentified assailants gunned down Kumar Ponnambalam, 60, a pro-rebel Tamil politician. The motive was not known.

Three weeks ago, a woman bomber blew herself up at an election rally of President Chandrika Kumaratunga, the prime minister's

aughter. She suffered a serious eye injury.

Load-Date: January 6, 2000

No safe passage for travellers in a land tearing itself apart; On the road to Jaffna, Terry McCarthy met those fleeing fighting between the Sri Lankan army and Tamil Tigers. He reports from Medawachchiya

The Independent (London)

June 26, 1990, Tuesday

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Section: FOREIGN NEWS PAGE; Page 12

Length: 713 words

Byline: From TERRY MCCARTHY in Medawachchiya

Body

THE FOUR Catholic nuns were standing by the roadside with their small suitcases, waiting patiently for their fate to be decided. The nearest town was 10 miles away, and the only traffic was Sri Lankan army trucks bringing ammunition for an attack on a Tamil Tiger camp two miles away.

In their flowing grey robes and black head-scarves, the nuns perspired in the sun, clutching the crucifixes around their necks. "You cannot go up there," said one. "There is fighting. When you come back, you can give us a lift? We are coming from Jaffna, going to Colombo. We are waiting you."

A quarter of a mile further on, the army was setting up its guns around a camp called Ghost River. Two Muslim men tried to come through from the direction of the Tigers' camp, but the soldiers would not let them pass, despite their pleas, fearing they might be informants for the guerrillas. The soldiers had dug trenches around their camp, put up barbed wire and were smoking nervously. The road ahead was not blocked, they said, but they would begin firing in about 30 minutes.

The second time around, the nuns were smiling. "You see," said Sister Hilda. "Very dangerous." The four, two Sinhalese and two Tamil, had spent the last two days travelling 80 miles by ferry, tractor and on foot from Jaffna, where 273 Sri Lankan army troops and policemen are besieged in the town's fort by a much larger force of Tigers. The nuns' convent was in Colombo, another 150 miles to the south. They said they fled Jaffna after the Sri Lankan air force dropped leaflets on the town last week warning civilians to leave.

The **Tamil Tigers** yesterday said Sri Lankan forces had strafed Jaffna with rockets and dropped a large number of 50kg napalm bombs, setting off fires which damaged the new Jaffna market, rows of shops, a **women's** college and a hotel. Several other towns and villages on the Jaffna peninsula had been shelled and attacked from the air.

Earlier this week, an officer in the army's headquarters in Anuradhapura, from where the military operations in the north are being directed, said the Tigers had been trying to breach the walls of the fort with 106mm recoilless canons. Food was short, and though the air force had tried night drops, only one out of nine food pallets fell inside the fort. "They are having a tough time," he said. The army is planning a joint sea and air attack round the fort.

Most of the Tamil refugees were staying in villages close to Jaffna, but the nuns had decided to take the risk of crossing the lines, trusting in their habits and crucifixes to give them safe passage. At the Ghost River camp, the

No safe passage for travellers in a land tearing itself apart; On the road to Jaffna , Terry McCarthy met those fleeing fighting between the Sri Lankan army and....

two Tamil nuns had allowed their Sinhalese sisters to do the talking, and eventually the soldiers had let them through.

Sri Lanka is a complex patchwork of two races, Sinhalese and Tamil, and four religions - Buddhist, Hindu, Muslim and Christian. The war is steadily tearing the patchwork apart. Seventy per cent of the island's population of 17 million is Sinhalese, and most of them are Buddhist. The 2.5 million Tamils are predominantly Hindu, but with a large sprinkling of Christians. The rest are Sinhalese-speaking Muslims. To lessen communal tension and avoid the possibility of racial riots, the government has repeatedly declared that the current war is against the Tiger "terrorists", and not against the Tamil people. But deep-seated racial suspicion on both sides and the difficulty of identifying a guerrilla in civilian clothes has led to a de facto separation of refugees.

The Tamils are heading north, while the Sinhalese and Muslims flow southwards. The Sinhalese have no problems at army checkpoints, but the Muslims, who do not automatically fall on either side of the conflict, have more problems. Yesterday the government said that more than 200,000 people had been made homeless in the two weeks of fighting.

- COLOMBO - The military has acknowledged that it falsely reported that Tamil Tiger guerrillas had hacked to death 62 Muslim men, women and children in a village in eastern Sri Lanka last Friday, AP reports. Officials said only three Muslim men were killed, and that their earlier report had been based on faulty information from villagers. The allegation was reported by international news agencies and appeared in The Independent.

End of Document

DEVELOPMENT-SRI LANKA: NO END TO ETHNIC TENSION

IPS-Inter Press Service

June 29, 2000, Thursday

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Length: 789 words

Byline: By Feizal Samath

Dateline: COLOMBO, Jun. 29

Body

Sri Lanka's unending ethnic war is the biggest block to social development goals pledged by nations five years ago and under review now at a global conference in Geneva, say experts.

A sharp escalation in violence since April by Tamil Tiger rebels is not only draining funds and government energy away from efforts to reduce poverty and joblessness, it is also negating a key goal set by the landmark March 1995 World Summit on Social Development.

The heavily armed Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (***LTTE***) are battling for a separate home for minority Tamils in the Indian Ocean island nation, alleging discrimination by the majority Sinhala community.

More than 60,000 people have been killed in ethnic violence that broke out in 1983 and in its early days saw vicious race riots in which scores of Tamils were killed by Sinhala mobs.

"Every time a bomb explodes in Colombo, Tamils in the city shudder and worry whether they would be attacked," says Maheswary Velautham, a Tamil human rights lawyer.

"The Tamils had a lot of faith in President Chandrika Kumaratunga solving this problem peacefully when she took office in November. But all their hopes have been dashed," he adds.

Declining public faith in the government's ability to find its way out of the crisis shows that Sri Lanka has a long way to go in keeping its promise to "promote social integration" made with 185 other nations at the Social Summit held in Copenhagen in 1995.

President Kumaratunga was among the 117 prime ministers and presidents who met in the Danish capital for the largest gathering of heads of state and government that pledged to put an end to poverty, unemployment and social disintegration.

Five years later, this week, the Sri Lankan government is presenting its progress report card to a special U.N. General Assembly Session in Geneva that is taking stock of efforts made by nations towards the 10 Social Summit goals.

Leading social development experts here wonder what Social Services Minister Sumedha Jayasena would have to tell the Geneva conference.

DEVELOPMENT- SRI LANKA : NO END TO ETHNIC TENSION

"If you look at all the issues that were raised at the 1995 summit and pledges made, Sri Lanka has failed in most or all of them," says Tudor Ariyaratne, leader of Sri Lanka's biggest community-based NGO, Sarvodaya, who won Asia's version of the Nobel Prize, the Ramon Magsaysay award for community development.

"Social progress...what nonsense. We are on reserve gear...we have hit the bottom," he adds.

Others disagree. According to Ranjit Wanigaratne, a social development consultant with a United Nations agency, 'there has been substantial progress on social development in the past decade though this is not the popular perception.'

The nation has gains to show in the fields of literacy and women's empowerment, but these have not been matched by economic growth.

Experts attribute various reasons for this, but agree that the ethnic conflict has been a major factor in hobbling economic growth. There are little signs yet of a beginning to the end of one of the world's worst and longest running internal conflicts.

"Kumaratunga is committed to end the war but she is a loner. Both the main political parties -- who are responsible for this state of affairs -- are bickering over politics while people are dying," says Ariyaratne.

The ruling People's Alliance (PA) and the main opposition United National Party (UNP) are working hard to prepare a political peace package to bring the Tamil Tigers to the negotiating table.

But most political analysts are skeptical and believe that the peace initiative will have no effect on the Tigers. Peace groups, supporting minority Tamil rights, have increased in recent years, but at the same time Sinhala hardliners are firmly resisting any peace deal.

Ariyaratne, a Sinhala, says moderate Tamils are having a tough time, caught between the government and the rebels.

"There is little change in the past five years. The war has escalated, the Tamils living in the capital are constantly under threat and the two parties fight over politics. The whole issue has stagnated," says Sivanesa Chelvam, a Tamil newspaper editor.

The war has forced the government to find extra money to buy more arms for its troops battling the Tamil Tigers. This has meant that fewer funds are available for crucial social development initiatives.

According to Ariyaratne, Sri Lankan hospitals are still crowded due to fewer doctors and drugs are in short supply. "There have been various changes in the education structure over the years but I don't see any improvement in the system," he adds.

Sri Lanka has, however, progressed in the field of women's rights. "While women's groups are becoming more vocal, men also realize that they cannot take women for granted," says Ariyaratne.

Load-Date: June 30, 2000

TAMIL TIGER'S TRIUMPH CAPS A LIFETIME OF WAR AND MURDER

The Independent (London)

May 28, 2000, Sunday

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Section: FOREIGN NEWS; Pg. 22

Length: 1000 words

Byline: Peter Popham In Delhi

Body

AFTER A WEEK of indecisive encounters, the battle of Jaffna is temporarily becalmed. Jaffna city enjoyed a lull in the fighting yesterday after the ***Tamil Tigers*** declared a 12-hour ceasefire to enable civilians to move to safety. Government sources made no comment, but the city seemed quiet. But with the Indian Navy standing by to help evacuate Sri Lankan troops if necessary, no one doubts that the peninsula's future still hangs in the balance.

Velupillai Prabhakaran, the leader of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (***LTTE***), has never been so close to achieving his life's goal. On Friday in an interview, Sri Lankan President Chandrika Kumaratunga even offered him the job of Jaffna chief minister to try to lure him to the negotiating table. One can almost hear his snort of contempt.

Son of a government official, raised in a fishing village on the north of the Jaffna peninsula, Prabhakaran as a youth was enraged by majority Sinhalese discrimination against his community. He was first blooded at the age of 19, when he shot the Sinhalese mayor of Jaffna dead in his car at point blank range. Today, after a lifetime of murder and 17 years of civil war, it is unlikely that the 46-year-old guerrilla leader of the Tamils is interested in anything so tame as chief ministership, even if delivered on a plate. He is poised, after all, on the brink of victory - a victory that could plunge the whole republic into mayhem.

In a sense, Prabhakaran has never been anything more than a renegade, a bandit. His political views appear non-existent, though there are Marxists among his hangers-on. His speciality has always been ruthless and cold-blooded murder. Everybody who stood in his way - rival leaders of the Tamil insurgency, his own lieutenants, democratically elected leaders of both Sri Lanka and India - has been brutally dispatched. But if there were no more to Prabhakaran than this, the Sri Lankan army would have cornered him before now.

Instead, he and his cadres of the Liberation Tigers stand on the verge of an extraordinary victory. Five weeks ago, turning military arithmetic on its head, the ***LTTE***'s force of about 5,000 guerrillas overwhelmed the massively more numerous Sri Lankan Army defenders of Elephant Pass, the narrow neck of land that is the key to control of the northern Jaffna peninsula, and surged forward towards Jaffna city.

Fighting in the peninsula has continued ever since. Jaffna city has yet to fall to the Tigers; the government has been feverishly buying arms and drafting in reinforcements to shore up defences. But for many observers, the fall of the peninsula is no longer a matter of if, but when.

What's the big deal, some wonder. Jaffna city has fallen before: from 1990 to 1995 it was run by the Tigers. But the Tigers have never before held Elephant Pass - now they have the peninsula by the throat. In the past fortnight they have also menaced Palaly air base and Kankesanthurai port. ***LTTE*** and government sources differ wildly on how

TAMIL TIGER'S TRIUMPH CAPS A LIFETIME OF WAR AND MURDER

close the Tigers' artillery got to hitting Palaly. But what's significant is that throughout the earlier years of Tiger control of Jaffna city, the government's hold on Palaly was never imperilled. If it were yielded or even put out of action for an extended period, Prabhakaran would have brought about the de facto partition of Sri Lanka. Tamil Eelam - a separate state on the island for the Tamils, the prospect dreamed up in 1975 - would be closer than ever before to reality.

The reason that prospect is a fearsome one not merely for Sinhalese but also for an uncountable number of Tamils is to be found in the personality of Velupillai Prabhakaran. For once the outside world has absolutely no excuse for mistaking their man.

In the process of building the LTTE to its present state, Prabhakaran has exploited certain tendencies which, other Tamils suggest, are morbidly present in their community. Chief among these is a willingness to follow leaders blindly and unquestioningly, and a readiness to sacrifice their lives in what they consider a righteous cause. "No other race except the Japanese has such a propensity for self-sacrifice," says a distinguished Tamil writer and journalist who lived in Colombo for 40 years before moving to Madras. "No other Indians are so willing to follow leaders," echoes a young Tamil journalist in the same city.

Reliance on suicide has been crucial to Prabhakaran's success. His cadres always go into battle with cyanide capsules on a chain around their necks, and swallow poison without hesitation to avoid capture.

But in 1987 the Tigers began to explore the real possibilities of kamikaze when a cadre known as Miller drove a lorry full of explosives into a building full of troops. Murderous self-sacrifice has since become the Tigers' trade mark. Their most shocking success came in 1991 when a Tiger called Dhana garlanded the Indian prime minister, Rajiv Gandhi, then blew him - and herself, and a dozen bystanders - to bits by igniting a jacket packed with explosive.

The Tigers, women nearly as numerous as men, rush towards the enemy in human waves, much as Japanese troops rushed the Americans during the Pacific War; those mowed down are trampled by the ones behind. A recent video of Tigers fighting in the run-up to Elephant Pass shows them standing in full view of the enemy to fire their machine guns, as if they were children and the enemy's shells were no more lethal than paintballs.

Chandrika Kumaratunga calls Prabhakaran - the man she has just offered to make chief minister of Jaffna - "a psychopath". That's the extreme view. But listen to an Indian Tamil politician who knows the man well, and has had only friendly dealings with him. "Prabhakaran can never be a politician or a president," he told me. "He cannot learn politics - it requires too many compromises. He can only be a fighter. He will have to die in the fighting. That is the only answer."

A great many Sri Lankans on both sides of the war would utter a fervent "Amen" to that.

Graphic

Prabhakaran: on the brink of victory DEXTER CRUEZ

Load-Date: May 30, 2000

Tamil Tigers drop independence claim: Surprise concession gives peace talks with Sri Lanka a flying start

The Guardian (London)

September 19, 2002

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Section: Guardian Foreign Pages, Pg. 16

Length: 730 words

Byline: John Aglionby, South-east Asia correspondent

Body

The Tamil Tiger separatists have abandoned their quest for full independence from Sri Lanka, announcing at the end of three days of preliminary peace talks in Thailand yesterday that they are negotiating only for autonomy.

But the significant concession was accompanied by a warning from their chief negotiator, Anton Balasingham, that they would not begin to disarm until a final peace deal had been signed.

"We demand the recognition of our homeland," he said, referring to the northern and eastern parts of the island. "When we say homeland it doesn't mean separate state."

He added that independence could not be ruled out entirely. "We (always) have the right to fight for independence and statehood," he said. "I hope that situation may not arise."

The talks, mediated by the Norwegian government at a Thai naval base, are the first for seven years. They follow seven months of virtual calm since a ceasefire was signed in February after 19 years of fighting in which more than 64,000 lives have been lost.

The Sri Lankan government's chief negotiator, GL Peiris, told the news conference that he was "pleased" about the Tigers' climbdown.

"(Their aspirations) can be fulfilled within one country if we set about it in the proper way," he said.

In the Sri Lankan capital, Colombo, the significance of the announcement was reflected by a five-year high on the tiny stock market, which had already risen 34% this year.

Analysts said it was a "huge" breakthrough which demonstrated both sides' good faith and commitment to peace.

Nilan Fernando of the Asia Foundation said he was "shocked" by the news.

"I think everyone suspected this was a huge compromise they would have to make. But that they would come out with it at this early stage, so early in the process, is surprising."

He said the Tigers' stance on decommissioning their standing army and navy was only to be expected and could be compared to that of the IRA.

Tamil Tigers drop independence claim: Surprise concession gives peace talks with Sri Lanka a flying start

"Their position on this is unlikely to change in later talks," he said. "It's likely to stay until the very end."

Mr Peiris said he understood the Tigers' position on disarmament. The two sides agreed to start further confidence-building measures immediately, a statement from the Norwegian mediators said.

These will include a joint taskforce for humanitarian and reconstruction activities which will "have responsibility for the identification, financing and monitoring of urgent humanitarian and reconstruction activities in the north and east".

Its priorities will be to hasten the clearance of millions of landmines and the resettlement and rehabilitation of 100,000 internally displaced people.

The two sides asked the international community to finance the taskforce, and especially the mine clearing. The three ministers in the government delegation are to leave immediately on a fundraising mission to the US, where they will join their prime minister, Ranil Wickremesinghe.

The Norwegian deputy foreign minister, Vidar Helgesen, who chaired talks, joined the appeal for money.

"It is in the interest of the world community to see Sri Lanka's peace process succeed," he said. "But they can't act rapidly unless donors act rapidly to support the people of Sri Lanka, constructing peace from below while their leaders construct peace from above."

The talks will reconvene at the naval base at the end of October and there will be further sessions in December and January, each lasting four days.

The first controversial issue, the composition of the Tigers' interim administration, is likely to be discussed in October.

"We already have a massive permanent administrative structure in the areas under our control," Mr Balasingham said. "What we need is international legitimacy so we can coordinate and work with the government of Sri Lanka and the international community."

Violent road to self-rule autonomy

1948 Ceylon gains independence from Britain. The Sinhalese-dominated parliament reduces Tamil citizenship rights

1972 Tamil New Tigers, later renamed Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam, formed by Velupillai Prabhakaran

July 1975 Tigers kill Alfred Duraiappah, who had ordered the violent break-up of a Tamil conference the previous year

May 1991 Former Indian prime minister Rajiv Gandhi killed by a **female** Tiger suicide bomber

May 1993 President Ranasinghe Premadasa killed by suicide bomber

Feb 2002 Tigers and government sign a ceasefire

Load-Date: September 19, 2002

IN SRI LANKA, TIGERS RULE THE NIGHT UP FRONT

The Toronto Star

May 22, 2000, Monday, Edition 1

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Section: NEWS

Length: 1746 words

Byline: Martin Regg Cohn

Body

KALYANAPURA, Sri Lanka - Emerging from their jungle hideouts at dusk, armed guerrillas swept into the paddy fields as farmers harvested the latest crop.

Moving silently, they captured four young farm hands, and killed another on the spot. Then the rebels took their time setting fire to the rice fields.

But before pulling out, the feared ***Tamil Tigers*** - fighting for an ethnic homeland in Sri Lanka - left a message for the Sinhalese residents of this isolated hamlet: Within a week, the village would be wiped out.

Every night since last week's attack, frightened families have been hiding in the malarial jungle, sleeping on tattered mats. They return to their mud- brick homes only at sunrise, when government soldiers return from barracks to man daytime checkpoints.

After 17 years of bloody ethnic strife, the army works only the day shift in Sri Lanka's remote areas. And the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (***LTTE***) rule the night.

Now, Sri Lanka's civil war, which has left 60,000 dead, is reaching the endgame. Tiger fighters have scored spectacular territorial gains in recent months, sparking a desperate and highly publicized government counter-attack in the northern Jaffna peninsula.

But if the Tigers complete their conquest of Jaffna - they penetrated government defences earlier this month - the next battles will be here, in the villages surrounding the historic port of Trincomalee, 180 kilometres to the south.

Trincomalee has erected street banners proclaiming itself the "City of Peace, " but humanitarian aid officials are updating their contingency plans in anticipation of a massive refugee crisis if the fighting migrates south.

The conventional warfare in the north has overshadowed the terrorism along Sri Lanka's northeastern coast. Villagers speak of more than 30 kidnappings and 15 deaths in recent years and they point to the destruction of religious temples and schools as a mark of Tiger terrorism.

22 killed by guerrillas near a Buddhist temple last week In 1995, the guerrillas destroyed a Buddhist temple in the hamlet

of Kiwulakadawala, which now marks the end of the road beyond

IN SRI LANKA , TIGERS RULE THE NIGHT UP FRONT

which government soldiers will not travel.

Last month, they bombed a large school building in Gomarankadawala, leaving a shell of crumbling brick and twisted steel in their wake, and one dead teenager.

The guerrillas struck hard again last Wednesday, killing 22 people near a Buddhist temple in Batticaloa, 100 kilometres further south.

Fierce fighting raged in Jaffna Peninsula yesterday as a Norwegian delegation headed for the war-torn island to help broker peace, Reuters reports.

While diplomacy appeared to be on the move, the Sri Lankan army said it was trying to beat back the rebels around Chavakachcheri, a strategic town at the heart of the peninsula.

The **LTTE** said Saturday it had taken control of the town after heavily armed commandos, backed by artillery and mortar fire launched a multi-pronged attack at dawn and sent troops fleeing after 12 hours of intense fighting.

Chavakachcheri lies some 15 kilometres east of Jaffna city, the cultural capital of the Tamil homeland for which the **LTTE** has been fighting since 1983.

The loss of Chavakachcheri would put the rebels close to the last defence lines of the army at Kodikamam, a short distance to the east. If that fell, **LTTE** fighters could link up on the highway and squeeze the troops further north.

The **LTTE** controls most of the area that lies toward the key Elephant Pass, east of Kodikamam. The military last month lost their Elephant Pass base on an isthmus linking the peninsula with the rest of Sri Lanka, opening the possibility for them to recapture Jaffna city, which fell to the government in 1995.

Norwegian Deputy Foreign Minister Raymond Johansen was due to arrive in Colombo today with special envoy Erik Solheim for three days of talks with the country's leaders.

The battles and bombs, kidnappings and killings, have left deep psychological wounds in the Kalyanapura port area, whose hardships are a microcosm of Sri Lanka's strife. The Sinhalese make up more than 80 per cent of Sri Lanka's population of 18 million people, but in this region there is a mix of Sinhalese Buddhists and Tamils, both Hindu and Muslim, living side by side in roughly equal numbers.

While ordinary people preach tolerance, the guerrillas resort to terrorism.

"We Sinhalese never want to harm anyone, we want to live peacefully, and we invite Tamils to eat in our homes," says the area's chief monk, G. Sumanasara, a sweet-faced man draped in the orange-red robes of a devout Buddhist.

Sitting under the tin roof of the village's new temple, he beseeches a visiting reporter: "Please send a message to the **LTTE** not to harm innocent farmers in this area."

His plea for peace has been answered by the destruction of his historic temple, and the bombing of the school where he is vice-principal. For other villagers, the price has been even higher.

Kadirathage Rankeranhmy, 50, has a bloodied eye, a bruised forehead and rope burns where rebels tied his hands after they invaded the paddy fields last week. Now, he counts himself among one of the few survivors of the Tigers' attacks.

'We want to live

in peace with

the Tamils' 'I told them, 'We want to live in peace with the Tamils, we are all brothers,' " he recounted in an interview under the shade of

IN SRI LANKA , TIGERS RULE THE NIGHT UP FRONT

a jackfruit tree. "Why are you doing this to us?"

It was a dialogue of the deaf. The Tigers understand only Tamil, and Rankeranhamy speaks only the language of the Sinhalese majority.

Ignoring his pleas, the guerrillas struck him across the forehead with a rifle butt and bound him with his blue sarong. But a burst of gunfire distracted the kidnappers, giving Rankeranhamy a chance to escape with his life - though not that of his son, Vimal Chandrakumara, 21, who is still missing and presumed dead.

Rankeranhamy's wife Vimalawathi sobs uncontrollably over the fate of their son, and recalls the deaths of her parents 10 years ago. They fled the village soon after, but returned because "we were born here, this is our ancestral home," Rankeranhamy says.

Now, they fear for the future of their village. "Once the fighting over there (in Jaffna) is finished, they will come here," Rankeranhamy frets.

Ethnic strife is a legacy of British rule, when the Hindu Tamil minority occupied privileged positions in the colonial administration. After independence in 1948, Sinhalese Buddhists retaliated by making their mother tongue the sole official language, and reserving the best jobs for themselves.

Tensions culminated in 1983, when Sinhalese mobs, enraged by the deaths of 13 soldiers in the north, launched a pogrom that killed nearly 2,000 Tamils. Many Tamils sought refuge abroad in subsequent years - including more than 150,000 who came to Canada, which is now home to the largest number of Sri Lankan emigres of Tamil descent.

Against that backdrop, high- school dropout Velupillai Prabhakaran founded the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam, an obscure band of guerrillas which set out in 1976 to demand a separate state for the 3.2 million Tamils.

For 17 years, the Tigers have mounted suicide bombings against Sinhalese civilians, destroyed sacred temples and assassinated any of their more moderate Tamil brethren who dared to defy their extremism. The group is notorious for its recruitment of impressionable child soldiers and teenage ***female*** fighters, and for ordering its cadres to swallow cyanide capsules if captured.

"In the northern and eastern parts of the country, the ***LTTE*** has tortured, killed and 'disappeared' people it accused of being informers," New York- based Human Rights Watch concluded in a bulletin last week. "The ***LTTE***'s use of child soldiers has caused many displaced persons to flee from ***LTTE*** territory."

'Ethnic cleansing started here in the early 1980s' Now, five years after being pushed out of predominantly Tamil Jaffna, which they ruled as a virtual state from 1990 to 1995, the Tigers have the government on the run again. And they are flexing their muscle along the more ethnically mixed northeast coastal areas.

"Ethnic cleansing - perhaps the West heard the words rather late," says Asoka Jayawardhana, governor of Northern and Eastern provinces. "Ethnic cleansing started here in the early '80s."

The guerrillas not only target innocent farmers but local politicians. Though Sri Lanka has a robust democratic tradition, province-wide elections have not been held here since 1988, nor municipal votes since 1994, because the army cannot guarantee security.

Protected by a phalanx of security guards, Jayawardhana sips tea on the veranda of his official residence overlooking Trincomalee's deep water port, and cites the dozens of politicians who have been assassinated in recent years. He admits his forces are overwhelmed by the task of protecting politicians, let alone civilians.

IN SRI LANKA , TIGERS RULE THE NIGHT UP FRONT

"They have eliminated every type of opposition and there is a lot of fear that if they get power, there will be a lot of massacring of their own people, " he says. "We just don't have enough forces for the villages."

It is a humbling admission from a retired army general, who boasts of fighting in the jungles of Sri Lanka, but cannot make the temples or schools safe. Even in so-called "cleared areas" supposedly under government control, the Tigers come at night to extort money from shopkeepers.

The governor's authority is even more feeble in so-called "uncleared areas" where the Tigers rule unchallenged. Across these vast swaths of territory, teachers and nurses get danger pay from the government, but their working conditions are dictated by the Tigers.

In fact, the **LTTE** declared public holidays in the uncleared areas last month to celebrate recent Tiger military victories in the Jaffna Peninsula.

Even the rare tourist must look over his shoulder. The guerrillas routinely target the secluded Nilaveli Beach Resort, just north of Trincomalee, which was built a quarter-century ago in anticipation of a tourist boom, but which sits empty most nights.

On a recent raid, the Tigers jumped the spiked fences to steal food and televisions from the luxury bungalows.

At the root of the conflict, the Tigers see the Sinhalese as settlers trespassing on Tamil territory. Eighty years ago, the Sinhalese population in Trincomalee district was less than 5 per cent, and Tamils made up more than 53 per cent. By 1981, the Sinhalese and Tamil Hindu communities were roughly balanced with the Muslims.

Graphic

MARTIN REGG COHN / TORONTO STAR

BOMB DAMAGE:

G. Sumanasara, the chief monk of Gomarankadawala village, stands beside a crumbling school building which was bombed by Tamil rebels last month. MARTIN REGG COHN / TORONTO STAR

ARMED GUARD:

Protected by a member of Sri Lanka's home guard, a young Sinhalese girl works in the rice paddies raided last week by Tamil Tiger guerrillas.

Load-Date: May 22, 2000

118 DIE IN TAMIL RAIDS ON MILITARY

Herald Sun

July 29, 1995 Saturday

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Length: 253 words

Body

COLOMBO - Heavy fighting raged in north-eastern Sri Lanka yesterday as security forces repulsed a Tamil Tiger guerrilla attack on five camps, killing at least 116 rebels, the military said. The navy and the air force were called in to support ground troops which beat off the simultaneous attacks by the separatist Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam, military spokesman Sarath Munasinghe said.

He said hundreds of rebels, including female cadres, mounted the pre-dawn offensive against five military facilities. Two soldiers were killed and 22 wounded, 13 of them seriously. The guerrillas fired a heat seeking surface-to-air missile at an air force helicopter transporting troops to the battlefield but the pilot dodged it. It was the first time the rebels were known to have fired a heat seeking missile outside the Tamil Tiger-held northern Jaffna peninsula, where they had shot down three aircraft since April. Soldiers shot dead two suicide women cadres of the Tamil Tigers as they tried to break into a camp. "As they were hit, they exploded in a ball of fire," Mr Munasinghe said. "Obviously, they were strapped with explosives." This month, the Tamil Tigers used 17 suicide cadres, known as Black Tigers, to blast a navy ship. Military figures showed at least 116 rebels had been killed during the yesterday's three-hour battle. The Tamil Tigers are seeking an independent homeland for Tamils on the Jaffna peninsula. More than 50,000 people have been killed in the guerrilla campaign since 1972.- APPEND OF STORY

Graphic

-KEYS- -LIB- -SECT- NEWS

Load-Date: October 1, 2003

Indians Advance to Center of Rebel Stronghold; 700 Civilian Deaths Alleged

The Associated Press

October 19, 1987, Monday, AM cycle

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Section: International News

Length: 732 words

Byline: By EARLEEN FISHER, Associated Press Writer

Dateline: COLOMBO, Sri Lanka

Body

Indian soldiers fought off Tamil rebels Monday and advanced to the center of the separatists' stronghold in Jaffna, Indian officials said. Town leaders said the battle killed nearly 700 civilians.

Indian officials called the high estimate of civilian casualties "simply not true."

A land mine exploded in eastern Sri Lanka, killing at least 30 Tamil students and an Indian soldier, a police official in Batticaloa said. State radio put the death toll at 40.

No independent verification was available of the situation in Jaffna, 185 north of Colombo on the Jaffna Peninsula, where Sri Lanka's Tamil minority is predominant. India will not let journalists into the combat zone.

An estimated 17,000 Indian soldiers are on the island to enforce a peace agreement the two governments signed in July, hoping to end a 4-year-old civil war between Tamils and the ethnic Sinhalese-dominated government that has taken more than 6,000 lives.

In Jaffna, Indian troops achieved a major breakthrough Monday when a force pushing in from the west linked up with another in an old Dutch colonial fort on the southern waterfront, an Indian official in New Delhi said.

"The western pincer of the Indian Peacekeeping Force has advanced farther and reached the heart of Jaffna town," Foreign Ministry spokesman D.K. Maitra told reporters.

"They have secured the microwave (television relay) station, the town hall and the main bus stand. They have also secured the main telegraph office, which was heavily boobytrapped. Mopping up operations are now on."

Over the weekend, Indian troops fought their way to the city limits on the northern and eastern sides of Jaffna, according to Indian and Sri Lankan officials.

The Indians have had a tough battle with guerrillas of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam. The Tigers want to establish an independent Tamil nation called Eelam in northern and eastern Sri Lanka, the tea and spice island just south of India formerly known as Ceylon.

About 75 percent of Sri Lanka's 16 million people are Sinhalese, most of them Buddhist, and 18 percent are Tamils, nearly all of whom follow Hinduism, the predominant religion of India. Most of the remaining 7 percent are descended from Arab traders and European colonists.

Indians Advance to Center of Rebel Stronghold; 700 Civilian Deaths Alleged

India became embroiled in the Sri Lankan ethnic struggle in part because of its own Tamil minority of about 60 million. While Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi's government was trying to mediate the conflict, it allowed Tamil guerrillas to maintain exile headquarters in Madras, capital of Tamil Nadu state in south India.

An appeal from the Jaffna citizens' committee Monday urged President Junius R. Jayewardene to end the 10-day-old Indian offensive.

A copy of the letter was sent to the Tamil-language newspaper Virakesari in Colombo. It spoke of "indescribable bombing and shelling and aerial strafing" in which "almost 700 innocent civilians have died."

An editor of Virakesari said the letter carried the signatures of 14 community leaders including M. Panchalingam, the national government's chief representative in Jaffna.

Maitra, the Indian Foreign Ministry spokesman, said Indian troops were "operating under a great deal of care and restraint to ensure minimum loss of civilian life and property ... even when the LTTE (Tiger militia) has been using women and children as human shields.

"There have been some reports, perhaps spread by the LTTE, of very large civilian casualties in the Jaffna area. This is simply not true."

He denied Indian forces used heavy artillery or air strikes, but residents who fled Jaffna last week said they saw planes bombing and helicopters strafing on Oct. 13. The residents said they were afraid to let their names be published.

Indian officials say 8,000 Indian soldiers are deployed on the Jaffna Peninsula and the rest on the east coast around the cities of Batticaloa and Trincomalee, where the Tigers also operate.

Fleeing Jaffna residents said about 500 Tiger fighters were in the city and 1,500 more at various points on the peninsula. The city had a peacetime population of 150,000, but tens of thousands are said to have left during the Indian offensive.

A senior Sri Lankan official said privately that about 50,000 civilians remain in Jaffna.

In Batticaloa, police inspector S. Yatawari said the land mine blew up a bus carrying Tamil students to the city from Jaffna. He said the attack appeared to be the work of the Tamil Tigers.

GUERRILLA IN OUR MIDST

Sunday Herald

June 10, 1990 Sunday

Copyright 1990 Nationwide News Pty Limited

Length: 1450 words

Byline: SKELTON R

Body

ADELE WILBY cuts an improbable figure as she strolls through the dust of the Tamil Tigers camp. Her small dog Jimmy bounds along at her feet, accompanied by an escort of two teenage soldiers armed with AK-47s. Her elfin features, pale skin and wry smile present an extraordinary contrast to the dark features of the young cadres with the fixed expressions and tiger-striped jungle greens. She looks more like the easy-going Melbourne nursing sister she once was, than the strong-willed guerilla leader she has become.

Yet pictures of Adele Wilby are splashed regularly on the front pages of the newspapers in Colombo, the Sri Lankan capital. She edits the English-language newsletter put out by the Tamil Tigers separatist group and acts as official secretary of its negotiating committee with the Sri Lankan Government. She is the inspiration behind the Tigers' women's movement and is widely regarded as an influential voice on a range of issues. With her simple, civilian dress she seems an unlikely member of the extremist Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (the most powerful of several Tamil secessionist groups on the island). She is reluctant to talk about her personal life. When she does discuss her experiences, the talk is unassuming and devoid of the Marxist clichés that dominate the movement's propaganda.

For Adele Wilby, former school friend of boxer Lionel Rose and the daughter of a retired Warragul railway worker, the journey to Jaffna in northern Sri Lanka has been a long and dangerous one. What began as the youthful urge to "see Europe" ended with her signing up with the Tamil Tiger separatists in their brutal civil war against the Sri Lankan Government.

Her first encounter with the world of liberation politics came 17 years ago when, as a young nurse from Prince Henry's Hospital in Melbourne, she enrolled at the London Polytechnic to study social science. Her tutor was Dr Anton Balasingham, a Tamil Marxist scholar who wrote his doctoral dissertation on Freud and socialism. "That was a very exciting time," she recalls. "London was the focal point for so many different political groups - we went to ANC (African National Congress) meetings and became involved. My views changed as I travelled around Europe and studied and worked in the community. I became aware of what was happening in the world." Adele and Anton married, returning to Sri Lanka to join the Tamil movement and later the LTTE. She finds it difficult casting her mind back to the days when she was a schoolgirl growing up with her two brothers and a sister in Warragul: "It all seems such a long way off and I think it is hard for my old friends to understand. It's very hard for them to relate to what I am doing, so I don't talk about it, it is easier that way." She admits with a laugh that her 'career path' has taken an unusual direction: "You could describe me as the black sheep of the family - I'm not like the rest of them at all. It was not a very political family, I became radicalised when I went overseas. My father was a union organiser, but he was not a big influence on my political views," she says. Her parents know of her extraordinary life and she regularly visits them: "they know and they understand what I'm doing. There have been long periods when they worried about me, when I did not contact them." Her husband is the LTTE's chief political strategist, the second most important

GUERRILLA IN OUR MIDST

figure in the movement after the supreme leader, Velupillai Prabhakaran. the shrewd and scholarly doctor has provided the Tigers with a seemingly coherent political strategy and a plausible public image. He leads the LTTE negotiating team in peace talks with the Colombo government.

THE TIGERS' STRUGGLE hails back to 1972 when Ceylon became the Republic of Sri Lanka. The Tigers want an autonomous region for the Tamils where they can practise their Hindu religion and live free of interference from the Sinhalese Buddhist-dominated central government. In 1976 the Tamil United Liberation front made this the main plank in its election platform. By 1983 the Colombo government had imposed a state of emergency, including a curfew and press censorship, but failed to stop severe rioting and violence. In 1987 the Indian Government brought in troops, ostensibly as a peace-keeping force, and soon found themselves embroiled in a bitter and ferocious war.

In the three years that the Tigers fought Indian and Sri Lankan troops, official estimates place the number of deaths at 6000 civilians, 1200 Indian soldiers and 800 Tiger cadres. That does not count battles with other groups in the south in which human rights workers say the death toll could run to 20,000. The struggle has been a long and bloody one with all sides accusing each other of atrocities.

Wilby admits to dismay at the extent of the killing, but predictably puts the blame on the Indian troops. On a more philosophical level she says: "I am not sure that the killing is anything to do with the Buddhist or Hindu religion and the belief in reincarnation, but there are obvious parallels with Cambodia, particularly with JVP (the Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna or People's Liberation Front, another Marxist terrorist group) in the south." She rejects the notion that life is somehow cheaper in Asia: "People who are fighting are not afraid of death, but they value life. Nobody wants to die." When fighting first broke out between Indian troops and the Tigers in Jaffna two years ago, Wilby and her husband fled into the jungle; they were on the Indian army's "most wanted" list and the troops had orders to shoot them on sight. Wilby remembers that time very well: "The Indian troops were searching for us - whenever they came into the villages they would ask: 'Have you seen a white woman?'. Our friends were the dogs, when you heard them barking you knew it was time to move on to another village. There is no question, they would have killed us at any time - they would have shot us dead, never taken us alive."

Her life on the run has taught Wilby many things, including not to be attached to material possessions. "We soon realised that all we needed was a change of clothing and Anton's medicine (he is a diabetic)," she says. It took the withdrawal of the Indian forces in early April and an uneasy truce between the Tigers and the government in Colombo to give the couple a reprieve. Even now that the last Indian troops have left Sri Lanka and they have ceased to be a target of the army's death squad, they take few chances, always travelling with three or four heavily-armed cadres.

She has encountered moments of great sadness and courage. "The Tamils are really great people; I will never forget what they did for us," she says, "local villagers suffered at the hands of Indian troops." She speaks of the occasion when the troops went on a rampage after seven soldiers were killed in a Tiger ambush. "They went into a small village near Point Pedro and killed 62 civilians. The bodies were left in the streets for days at the orders of the Indian troops. The smell was nasty and the people were so distraught at not being able to give the dead a proper funeral." Wilby is particularly proud of the Tamil Tiger women cadres. At the Jaffna Tiger headquarters she speaks openly about the role the women played against the Indians. "They are very good fighters, they fought the Sri Lankan Army and did very well. They are fully-trained - they had to learn all that the men had to," she says. Since the fighting stopped, the women have begun to concentrate on "self improvement" and welfare activities. "We are talking through the political dimensions of the women, we are talking about enlightened feminism. Tamil society is particularly oppressive for women. Their roles are strictly separated from the men, and the evil of arranged marriages and dowries still exists." While all the talk is enthusiastic, it is also troubling to this outsider. The women cadres speak easily about the changes they are bringing to traditional Hindi values. But what of themselves, how has Ms Wilby's brand of enlightened feminism changed them? The answer comes from Jaya, a handsome young platoon commander who completed an honours degree in political science at Jaffna University before taking up life with the gun. Asked what she plans to do now that peace prevails in the Tamil heartland she responds: "It is not up to me to decide what is best, it's up to the party to decide." But does she not have some ambition as an independent woman? "No, I am devoting myself to the movement, I will serve in whatever way is decided." Wilby smiles and says: "These girls are great - write a nice piece about them."

END OF STORY

Graphic

Adele Wilby. A **female** Tamil Tiger platoon. Adele Wilby with a Tigerplatoon commander. Below, Dr Anton Balasingham, Wilby's husband and chiefstrategist.

Load-Date: September 24, 2003

End of Document

18 rebels killed in Sri Lanka fighting

United Press International

May 31, 2000, Wednesday

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Section: GENERAL NEWS

Length: 455 words

Byline: By RAVI R. PRASAD

Dateline: COLOMBO, Sri Lanka, May 31

Body

The Sri Lankan security forces Wednesday foiled an attempt by the separatist Tamil Tiger guerrillas to overrun a police camp in the east of the country killing 18 rebels.

The state-run Radio Sri Lanka said that Wednesday afternoon a large group of rebels had attacked a camp of the Special Task Force of the police at Nugelanda in the eastern Ampara. The STF personnel repulsed the attack inflicting heavy casualties among the Tamil Tiger rebels.

The radio said quoting STF officials that 18 Tamil guerrillas, including 11 women cadres, were killed in the fighting. Some 26 guerrillas were wounded. The STF repulsed the attack and forced the rebels to withdraw along with their casualty.

Police sources in Ampara told United Press International over phone that the rebel attack on the STF camp was one of the biggest in the east in the last couple of years. More than 50 Tamil Tiger rebels had surrounded the camp and were armed with sophisticated weapons. The rebels fired rockets and grenades at the camp, but the STF personnel withstood the assault and repulsed it.

The STF camp, they said, is based close to a Sinhala settlement some 25 miles away from Ampara town. The STF personnel have been protecting the villagers, who belong to the majority Sinhala community and are often targeted by the rebels. The rebels cross over to Ampara from the jungles along the border of Ampara and Batticaloa districts, which serves as a training ground for the Tamil Tigers.

Meanwhile, reports from India said that the government has put the coast guard and the navy on full alert to check the infiltration of Tamil Tigers into the southern Indian state of Tamil Nadu.

Newspapers and agencies have quoted a navy spokesman as saying that the coast guard and the navy have been directed to ensure that the rebels do not sneak into the Indian maritime boundary and land on the Ramanad coast.

The security of the Indian coastline has been stepped up following reports that the Tamil Tigers might try to send their injured cadres to Tamil Nadu for treatment. In the past, the guerrillas have used safe houses in Tamil Nadu and Karnataka for the treatment of their injured and maimed cadres.

18 rebels killed in Sri Lanka fighting

The district authorities of the coastal towns have appealed to the fishermen not to carry passengers from Sri Lanka on their return to the coast. A large number of fishing boats plying in the region are suspected to be used by the **Tamil Tigers** and Sri Lankan refugees to reach Tamil Nadu.

The Indian government has confirmed that more than 400 refugees had arrived in Tamil Nadu over the past month. The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees had urged India not to close its doors to the civilians fleeing the battle in Sri Lanka's northern Jaffna peninsula.

Load-Date: June 1, 2000

End of Document

Cowards and their bombs

Hobart Mercury (Australia)

February 12, 1996, Monday

Copyright 1996 Nationwide News Pty Limited

Length: 486 words

Byline: MOORE M

Body

THE cowardly murderers of the IRA have again proved how vulnerable society is to fanatics and to those who skulk in the shadows.

The horrendous slaughter less than a fortnight ago in Colombo, in which 88 were killed and nearly 1500 injured, shook the world as again terrorism proved its deadly capacity to maim and damage.

The message from the Tamil Tigers and their suicide truck laden with explosive has been reinforced in London, where the IRA has again shamed its cause by detonating a bomb which killed at least two and injured more than a hundred.

Although the Tamil Tigers and the IRA are oceans and continents apart, there is a similarity in their methods.

They are methods used by most who claim to be fighting for freedom.

They include acts which generate terror, aimed particularly against unarmed civilians _ men, women and children _ to try to politically destabilise and morally undermine their opponents.

Both the Tamil Tigers and the IRA have shown no compunction when it comes to slaughtering innocents to try to further their cause; both reveal an obdurate stupidity in failing to realise that they strengthen, not weaken, the resolve of those they seek to demoralise.

The governments of Great Britain and Sri Lanka have shown time and again that they will not be blackmailed by acts of terrorism nor otherwise coerced by those who believe murder is a tool to be used in negotiation.

The populations of both countries, although they often live in fear and want fervently for the killing to stop, have not shown any lack of backbone.

Determination The people of Great Britain and Sri Lanka have refused to demand of their governments that they acquiesce to the greed of the terrorists.

This inner strength, this determination, points to the major flaw in the strategy of the Tamil Tigers and the IRA.

Their murderous activities are based on an assumption that any sign from the opposition is willing to talk indicates a weakness to be exploited _ generally by committing another act of barbarity.

The terrorists do not seem to want to acknowledge that a willingness to talk is part of the system of compromise which enables a democracy to function.

Cowards and their bombs

They also do not want to accept that talking does not bring instant solutions. Negotiations are just that _ a method of trying to find answers acceptable to all sides.

They also fail to understand, or do not want to accept, that negotiations mean both sides must give ground, that if one side wants to appear a total winner, then the other must be a loser. Such a scenario ultimately and inevitably means both sides lose.

In Great Britain, both sides had come close to peace.

Children and adults who have known nothing but war wept in thought of it.

But the men with bombs were not satisfied. Their actions can only raise the question of whether they, and their counterparts in Sri Lanka, really do want the killing to stop.

Load-Date: March 7, 2002

AP Photos COL 102,105,107, AP Graphic SRI LANKA BOMB

Associated Press International

January 5, 2000; Wednesday 19:07 Eastern Time

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Section: International news

Length: 562 words

Byline: DILIP GANGULY

Dateline: COLOMBO, Sri Lanka

Body

The suicide bomber who blew herself up outside the prime minister's office Wednesday was a member of the deadliest wing of Tamil Tiger separatists, senior police officials say.

The woman the latest **female** assassin to carry out a high-profile attack killed herself and 12 others as police became suspicious and questioned her outside the office of Prime Minister Sirimavo Bandaranaike. It wasn't clear if the bomber's exact target was the 82-year-old prime minister, who normally works from home but was due in Wednesday.

Two hours later, in a nearby Tamil neighborhood, gunmen on motorcycles shot pro-rebel Tamil politician Kumar Ponnambalam in the head as he was driving. Neither police nor party officials would comment on a possible motive for the killing of the 60-year-old.

The explosion, which left body parts and pools of blood outside the white walled compound, came three weeks after another woman blew herself up at an election rally, leaving President Chandrike Kumaratunga the prime minister's daughter with a serious eye injury.

Police identified the woman only as a member of the Black Tigers, a group they characterized as the deadliest weapon in the armory of **Tamil Tigers**, a rebel group that has waged a 17-year civil war for independence in the Sri Lankan north.

Handbills and the Tigers' Web site describe the Black Tigers as a "major wing" of their fighting formations and the **female** commandos as "Birds of Freedom."

Women have been responsible for some of the region's most prominent assassinations including that of Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi in 1991 and Sri Lankan President Ranasinghe Premadasa in 1993. The **Tamil Tigers** have denied being involved in those killings.

Male and **female** suicide fighters begin training at an early age, sometimes as young as 10 years old, and learn various types of combat, anti-terrorist officers say. The young girls are told glorious stories from Hindu epics of how **women** fought the nation's enemies.

About half the **Tamil Tigers** are **women**. Senior police officials say they idolize the charismatic rebel group leader, Velupillai Prabhakaran. Because of the subservient role of **women** in Tamil society, they are more ready to follow

orders without question, although the Tamil Tigers says they liberate women from the rules of Sri Lanka's traditional society, which is dominated by the majority Sinhalese, who are Buddhist.

Anti-terrorist officers say women are also chosen for suicide missions because they won't face the stringent body searches men do at check points. While there are some female Sri Lankan security officers, there are not enough to post at all vulnerable places. As a result, women are asked more frequently for an identity card, while men are physically frisked.

In Wednesday's bombing, a guard outside the prime minister's office thought the woman seemed suspicious and called her over for an identity check. She produced an identification card saying she was Sinhalese. But when she couldn't speak the language properly police called for a Tamil translator, the Defense Ministry said. At that point, she blew herself up.

Six people died on the spot. Of the 29 hospitalized with shrapnel injuries, seven died later.

Analysts have predicted that Wednesday's attack would goad the president into revving up the war against separatists in the north.

oth Kumaratunga's father and husband were assassinated.

Load-Date: January 5, 2000

In Sri Lanka's Civil War, a Stately Town Has Already Lost

International Herald Tribune (Neuilly-sur-Seine, France)

August 25, 2000, Friday

Copyright 2000 International Herald Tribune

Section: News; Pg. 1

Length: 1308 words

Byline: By Thomas Crampton ; International Herald Tribune

Dateline: JAFFNA, Sri Lanka

Body

Once a fashion capital where both Tamil and Sinhalese women strolled in the latest saris amid stately colonial-era buildings, Jaffna now has been militarized, polarized and physically flattened by a 17-year civil war. "We were so happy and serene back when it was calm," said C. Kuharajan, who like many Sri Lankans prefers to use only an initial as a first name. "Now even the railway tracks are destroyed, and my youngest daughter has never seen a working train in her life."

Trapped between two warring armies, Jaffna Peninsula's half-million traumatized residents have in recent months been forced into perpetual migration to avoid fighting as the separatist Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam encroach on areas held by government troops. The city has had periods of peace, but residents are more likely to recall past disruptions, such as when the Tamil Tigers emptied the city by force in 1995 to allow its guerrilla soldiers a safe retreat among fleeing refugees. Mr. Kuharajan has lost three homes over the course of the war, and it is not unusual to meet families who have been forced to flee a dozen times. Thousands of buildings have been destroyed, and virtually every structure in the city of Jaffna - homes, Hindu temples, Christian churches - bears the scars of war. Children are prohibited from playing in city parks. The sound of gunfire, mortars, multibarreled rocket launchers and fighter jets can be heard at all hours, and the United Nations recently abandoned de-mining efforts because the devices were being replaced too quickly. Camouflaged troops man highly disruptive roadblocks at every central intersection within government-controlled sectors, while Tamil Tiger suicide soldiers strap on belts of explosive before wandering the streets in search of targets. Transportation to the outside world barely exists.

"Welcome to the world's largest open-air prison camp," is a common greeting to those arriving at the makeshift landing area for a Red Cross-sponsored boat that comes several times per month and serves as the only regular transport link for civilians. With room for only 400 passengers and priority given to those who are ill, the boat has a five-month waiting list of 30,000 people. Few Colombo-based foreign ambassadors have been to the city, and the military has banned all journalists since May, apart from a small group of foreign reporters permitted a brief visit last week. The war has destroyed every aspect of agricultural export in what is one of Sri Lanka's most fertile regions. Celebrated Jaffna raisins are no longer sent abroad, the best mango trees are behind razor wire in the military's high-security zone, and many of the palmyra trees that were tapped to make a popular, sweet alcoholic drink that Sri Lankans call toddy have been chopped down by the armed forces to build bomb-proof defensive bunkers. "Superior firepower is needed to defeat the Tamil Tigers," said Major General Lionel Balagalle, the newly appointed commander of the Sri Lankan Army. "But without winning hearts and minds of the Jaffna people, we lose the war."

In Sri Lanka 's Civil War, a Stately Town Has Already Lost

Relations between the military and local residents are strained as soldiers balance security concerns against the inconvenience and resentment caused to the local population. Once the largest local employer with an annual catch of more than 20,000 metric tons, Jaffna's fishing fleet has been docked due to the military's fear of a seaborne infiltration by the Tamil Tigers. "You are looking at a fisherman who cannot fish," said Thomas Kennedy, 30, a Tamil-speaking Christian who lost his boat and nets when the military seized and occupied his pier in January, forcing nearby residents to leave. Now living in a relocation camp 6 kilometers (4 miles) from the sea, Mr. Kennedy and several hundred other landlocked fishermen live beneath makeshift huts covered with plastic sheets and spend their time tying nets in the hope that they might one day fish again. Disillusioned boys and girls from such camps supply new recruits to the guerrilla army. Despite anxiety among his 4,500 students caused by rumors of a new Tamil Tiger offensive, the University of Jaffna's vice-chancellor, P. Balasundarampillai, insisted on holding exams as scheduled this week. "I told students that by stopping now, they could lose a whole year of education and that is too much to sacrifice, " Mr. Balasundarampillai said. The university has canceled classes during Mr. Balasundarampillai's tenure only once, for two weeks of heavy fighting in early May. The dangers of Jaffna have kept half the university's professorships empty. Junior-staff delegations sent overseas for training often never return. Construction financing shortfalls have left the third floor of a library, started in 1981, in a skeletal state. Despite the continued fighting, residents say life in the city has improved recently. Telephone service for the half-million people on the peninsula is better; there are now 80 lines for outgoing and incoming calls. Recently released Indian movies are on sale at downtown shops that also blast out Tamil rock music. The offices of Uthayan, Jaffna's main newspaper, have been shelled by government troops as well as Indian troops who occupied Jaffna on an unsuccessful peacekeeping mission from 1987 to 1990. One air strike killed one staff member and wounded two seriously. Grenades tossed into the presses once wounded a security guard, and the Tamil Tigers have threatened to shut down the newspaper on several occasions. Now the editorial staff of 14 works in a room bunkered by stacks of newspapers. Paying several times the standard price of newsprint in Colombo, the newspaper prints 18,000 copies of its 12- page edition seven days a week. But N. Vithyatharan, the paper's co-editor, doesn't think life will remain calm for long. He expects an offensive by the Tamil Tigers soon to try to take Jaffna. "If the Tigers capture Jaffna, the government will turn their rocket launchers on our city again," Mr. Vithyatharan said. "My car is full of gas, and we have the press ready to move if the fighting comes near." Although the government has vowed repeatedly to keep the nation united and defeat the Tamil Tigers, the people of Jaffna already have become divorced from the rest of Sri Lanka. Residents of Jaffna must carry special identity cards; they need hard-to-obtain permission to visit Colombo and must check in regularly with police while there. Beyond broadcast range of Sri Lankan television, families instead watch Tamil-language programs from India and listen to radio broadcasts by the Tamil Tigers' Voice of the Tiger. Language lies at the root of the conflict. Policies initiated in the 1950's by Soloman Bandaranaike, then prime minister and the father of the current president, dethroned English as the official language in favor of Sinhalese. That shattered the longstanding racial harmony between the Sinhalese, who make up 75 percent of the nation's population, Tamils, who make up 18 percent, and other ethnic groups. When the Tamil Tigers declared Jaffna would be their independent homeland, the city's Sinhalese residents fled south, leaving an almost purely Tamil population. Polarized by decades of separate schooling that emphasized ethnic languages over English, the two sides can literally no longer communicate. Jaffna civilians speak Tamil, while government soldiers communicate in Sinhalese. A conversation between a soldier and a civilian can require a translator. The outcome is strong civilian empathy for Tamil Tiger guerrillas whom residents also readily criticize for vicious acts of war. "The Tigers get my sympathy, but not my support," said a mother of six who requested anonymity and strongly condemned both armies. "With all their bombs, my children are forced to grow up in a land of sulfur."

Load-Date: August 25, 2000

LTTE

Sri Lankan army continues its shell attack on Vadamaratchi

M2 PRESSWIRE

January 30, 1996

Copyright 1996 M2 Communications Ltd.

Length: 411 words

Body

As far back as from April 1995, the Sri Lankan armed forces have been continuously attacking the simple villages of Vadamaratchi with artillery shell fire launched from their military base at Palaly. In the yesterday's (17-01-1996) shell attack on the village of Valvettiturai, Five innocent civilians were killed, Four civilians severely wounded and many houses were damaged.

Details of the five people killed are; Yasotha **female** age 18, Yoharajah Pamini **female** age 16, Manikam Moorthy male age 68, Ayathurai Balachandran male age 50, Pothathamby male 49.

Pothathamby who fled from the village of Puthur to escape from the recent Sri Lankan military offensive on Jaffna and now residing as a displaced person at Valvettiturai met his death in a gruesome manner. His abdomen was split open and his head was severed from his body when a shell exploded close to him.

On the same day as a result of the shell attack Four civilians were also severely wounded at Valvettiturai, and have been admitted to the nearby hospital at Manthikai. Details of two of the wounded civilians are available; they are: Chithamparapillai Rajendram male age 52, Muthaiya male age 21. On that day another civilian was seriously injured, in the adjoining village of Thondamanaru, as a result of the shell attack.

The Tamil area of Vaharai in the East comes under direct Sri Lankan military attack. In the shell attack of 16-01-1996, that was launched by the Sri Lankan armed forces on the Tamil area of Vaharai in the East, four civilians were severely wounded and several houses were destroyed. The details of the wounded (all from Vaharai) as a result of shell attack are: Kandan Jeyarani infant **female** age 7, Chinnadurai Mariamah **female** age 25, Thambipillai Saraswathy **female** age 32, Kandan Chandrakumar male age 18, Ponniah Chelliah male age 28.

On the same day two supersonic military aircrafts belonging to the Sri Lankan air force also dropped bombs on Vaharai at about 12 noon. The Vaharai hospital received a direct hit. Three civilians were seriously injured and several dwelling houses were also destroyed by the bombing raids of the supersonic fighter aircraft. The details of the wounded as a result of bombing raid are: Yoharajah male age 48 from Kathiravely, Thangavelu male 42 from Vaharai, Sivanatham male age not available from Vaharai.

CONTACT: Political Committee, Liberation Tigers of
Tamil Eelam
Tel: +44 (0)181-470 8593

Load-Date: May 23, 1997

LTTE Sri Lankan army continues its shell attack on Vadamaratchi

End of Document

Sri Lankan suicide bomber the latest in a string of female assassins

The Associated Press

January 5, 2000, Wednesday, AM cycle

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Section: International News

Length: 624 words

Byline: By DILIP GANGULY, Associated Press Writer

Dateline: COLOMBO, Sri Lanka

Body

The suicide bomber who blew herself up outside the prime minister's office Wednesday was a member of the deadliest wing of Tamil Tiger separatists, senior police officials said, as well as the latest prominent **female** assassin in south Asia.

The woman killed herself and 12 others as police became suspicious and questioned her outside the office of Prime Minister Sirimavo Bandaranaike. It wasn't clear if the bomber's exact target was the 82-year-old prime minister, who normally works from home but was due in Wednesday.

Two hours later, in a nearby Tamil neighborhood, gunmen on motorcycles shot pro-rebel Tamil politician Kumar Ponnambalam in the head as he was driving. Neither police nor party officials would comment for the record on a possible motive for the killing of the 60-year-old.

The explosion, which left body parts and pools of blood outside the white walled compound, came three weeks after another woman blew herself up at an election rally, leaving President Chandrike Kumaratunga - the prime minister's daughter - with a serious eye injury.

Police identified the woman only as a member of the Black Tigers, a group they characterized as the deadliest weapon in the armory of **Tamil Tigers**, a rebel group that has waged a 17-year civil war for independence in the Sri Lankan north.

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Sri Lankan suicide bomber the latest in a string of female assassins

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Six people died on the spot. Of the 29 hospitalized with shrapnel injuries, seven died later.

Meanwhile, analysts predicted that Wednesday's attack would goad the president into revving up the war against separatists in the north. Both Kumaratunga's father and husband were assassinated.

"This may not be totally bad, because then those in power will have to make clear decisions to end the crisis," said C.A. Chandraprema, a political analyst.

Jehan Perera of the National Peace Council agreed that the two recent suicide bombings would affect Kumatunga. They "are going to have a very serious impact on her mind."

Graphic

AP Photos COL102,105,107, AP Graphic SRI LANKA BOMB

Load-Date: January 6, 2000

Sri Lanka's War of Widows To Set Pace for Peace Talks

Christian Science Monitor (Boston, MA)

November 9, 1994, Wednesday

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Section: THE WORLD; INTERNATIONAL; Pg. 2

Length: 733 words

Byline: Eric Weiner, Special to The Christian Science Monitor

Dateline: COLOMBO, SRI LANKA

Highlight: Presidential vote pits candidates with different ideas on civil war

Body

ON Nov. 9 Sri Lankans will cast their votes in a presidential election that will likely determine the course of the country's 11-year civil war, one of Asia's longest-running guerrilla conflicts.

The two leading candidates, both women, offer very different ideas of how to deal with the Tamil Tigers, a guerrilla group that has been fighting for a separate homeland for the country's ethnic Tamil minority.

The voting marks the end of a campaign marred by violence, including the assassination on Oct. 24 of the opposition candidate, Gamini Dissanayake. He was killed in a bomb blast during a campaign rally near Colombo, the capital. Two days later, the United National Party (UNP) chose Dissanayake's widow, Srima, as its new candidate.

In fact, voters will choose between two widows for the country's most-powerful post. Chandrika Kumaratunga, the current premier and leader of the People's Alliance Party also lost her husband to the endemic political violence here.

Mrs. Dissanayake, a lawyer with little political experience, has been abruptly thrust into the political limelight. "I am very shocked...." she told The Island, a Colombo newspaper. "But I

Sri Lanka 's War of Widows To Set Pace for Peace Talks

have a strange determination to carry on the work that [my husband] has done."

Dissanayake has not held any public rallies, conveying her message instead through the media. Her advertisements unabashedly appeal to voters' sympathies. Campaign posters show her standing with her late husband in an old photograph. Her campaign motto is equally direct: "Fulfill His Dream."

The sympathy appeal seems to have worked with some. "He's not dead," says Sarath Fernando, a taxi driver, pointing to a picture of the slain candidate on his dashboard. "He's winning."

Preelection polls, however, suggest that Mrs. Kumaratunga is leading the race. Some analysts believe the "sympathy vote" tactic, which has helped propel several South Asian leaders into office, won't work this time. "People are tired of that phenomenon," says Jayedeve Ugangoda, a professor at Colombo University. "They don't want any more weeping widows appealing to their tears, as well as their votes."

Even after the bombing, the campaign has been marred with violence. On Nov. 5, three people were killed in Kagalle when fighting broke out between supporters of the two major parties. On Nov. 6, one person was killed and 15 wounded when a bomb exploded at a UNP meeting in Pannala. More than 40,000 police officers will be deployed at polling stations around the country.

The main issue of the campaign has been the pace of peace talks with the **Tamil Tigers**. Under the Sri Lankan Constitution, the president oversees the country's military, and therefore could dictate the pace of the peace process. Dissanayake, the opposition candidate, has promised that, if elected, she would not hold any peace talks with the Tigers until they laid down their arms.

During her three months in office, however, Kumaratunga eased an economic embargo on the Jaffna Peninsula, an area controlled by the

Tamil Tigers, and opened preliminary peace talks with the rebels. Some Sri Lankans believe she moved too quickly. "These things should have come in stages rather than ... at once," says Vijitha Yapa, a Colombo businessman.

Kumaratunga, meanwhile, has not abandoned her peace-maker image. In her campaign posters, she is dwarfed by a large white dove floating in the background. Responding to charges that she's been too soft on the **Tamil Tigers**, Kumaratunga said in a campaign

Sri Lanka 's War of Widows To Set Pace for Peace Talks

speech, "Our government has not granted any special favors to [Tigers]. We have only expressed... our sincere and determined commitment to bring an end to the murderous ... war."

In fact, many Sri Lankans are weary of a war that has disrupted life and hampered growth of the country's otherwise robust economy. Sri Lankans enjoy the highest standard of living in South Asia, with per capita incomes twice that of nearby India and Bangladesh. Sri Lankan business leaders are trying to transform Sri Lanka into the financial and trade hub of the region. But that hasn't

happened, partly because the war with the **Tamil Tigers** consumes a fourth of all government spending.

The recent assassination is only the latest incident in a pattern of political violence that is decades old. Unlike previous killings, however, this one provoked little public outrage.

"People have seen so many assassinations and bombings ... they are just numb," says Arjuna Mahendran, an economist here.

Graphic

PHOTO: GESTURES OF KINDNESS BETWEEN RIVALS: Prime Minister Chandrika Kumaratunga (l.) expresses her condolences to Srimala Disanayake, wife of the slain opposition presidential candidate and now a candidate herself. The two differ on how to open negotiations with militant Tamil rebels., ANURUDDHA LOKUHAPUARACHCHI/ REUTERS

Load-Date: November 10, 1994

11 killed by suicide bomber

The Evening Standard (London)

January 5, 2000

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Section: Pg. 4

Length: 220 words

Byline: Patrick Sawyer

Body

AT LEAST 11 people were killed and 29 wounded by a suicide bomber near the Sri Lankan prime minister's office in Colombo today.

Prime minister Sirimavo Bandaranaike was not in her office at the time of the bomb explosion which occurred on a road commonly used by politicians, army officers and VIPs.

The bomber, a woman, triggered the explosion when she was stopped by security guards as she walked past the prime minister's office.

Police suspect the **Tamil Tigers** - responsible for a catalogue of atrocities in recent years - were behind the blast.

"Two **women** constables and two policemen of the prime minister's office, a passerby and the suicide bomber were killed in the explosion," said Jagath Jayawardena, deputy inspector general of police.

Officials said that five others had died while being taken to hospital.

Five of the injured are in a serious condition and many others critical.

An emergency services official said: "It appears the bomb was very powerful as most of the wounded have shrapnel injuries."

The military office that directs the war against the **Tamil Tigers** is located near the prime minister's office and senior generals often use the road there. On 18 December, a suspected Tamil Tiger suicide bomber blew herself up at a campaign rally for President Chandrika Kumaratunga, Bandaranaike's daughter.

Load-Date: January 6, 2000

Presidential call to act on terror

The Times (London)

October 11, 2001, Thursday

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Section: Features

Length: 446 words

Body

From the President of Sri Lanka.

Sir, Last Saturday I was to have made a speech on international terrorism at the opening session of the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) in Brisbane (letter, October 3). While the conference has been postponed, the international community has now actively signalled its resolve to overcome fear and prepare for a long and difficult fight against terrorism.

After September 11 every terrorist the world over should understand that the vast majority of governments and peoples have at last awakened to the evil of their wicked, freedom-hating, life-destroying terror. This has been doubly reinforced by the military action which began on Sunday.

I and the people of my country know the devastating cost of terrorism at first hand. My father and my husband were killed by extremist groups. In December 1999 the **Tamil Tigers** very nearly succeeded in assassinating me by using a **female** suicide bomber, killing 26 people and causing me serious injury, including the loss of my right eye.

For the last 18 years the **Tamil Tigers** have engaged in an armed conflict against the democratically elected governments of my country. Over 62,000 men, **women** and children have died in this conflict. I urge the Governments of the United Kingdom, Canada and Australia, countries with large and mainly law-abiding Tamil communities, to demonstrate their determination to stamp out the fundraising and propaganda work of the **Tamil Tigers**.

Against the tragic background of the terrorism suffered by my country, my Government was quick to offer its full support and co-operation to President Bush and Prime Minister Blair in their efforts to unite the world against terrorism. We appreciate their strong determination to make a measured but decisive response to the terrorist attacks in the United States.

Today I call on the heads of the other nations of the Commonwealth countries, which represent nearly one third of the world's population, to adopt a declaration condemning all forms of terrorism wherever they might be practised, and to commit themselves to taking every action at their disposal to root out and eliminate all campaigns of terror, whilst employing democratic means to resolve genuine issues of contention.

Later this month I will be writing to all my fellow heads of government inviting them to form a Commonwealth Coalition Against Terrorism. I look forward to the active implementation of this initiative over the coming weeks and months and at the recon-vened CHOGM early next year.

Presidential call to act on terror

Yours faithfully, CHANDRIKA BANDARANAIKE KUMARATUNGA, President of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka, Colombo-1, Sri Lanka.

October 9.

Load-Date: October 18, 2001

End of Document

Presidential call to act on terror

The Times (London)

October 11, 2001, Thursday

Copyright 2001 Times Newspapers Limited

Section: Features

Length: 446 words

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October 9.

Load-Date: October 11, 2001

End of Document

Villagers killed in Tamil revenge raid / Sri Lankan ethnic unrest

The Guardian (London)

February 5, 1987

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Length: 404 words

Byline: From JOHN RETTIE

Dateline: COLOMBO

Body

A militant Tamil separatist group killed about 12 Sinhalese villagers yesterday, Sri Lanka's independence day, in revenge for last week's death of 200 Tamils at the hands of the security forces.

The attack was launched on two Sinhalese-speaking villages 20 miles from the south-eastern town of Amparai. Last week's security forces operation against the **Tamil Tigers**, during which several massacres occurred, was in a Tamil-speaking area around Kokkadicholai, 30 miles further north.

Forty attackers burst into the villages, Mantottama and Tottama, early yesterday while the villagers slept. In one village, they herded the entire population of about 35 into a house and locked them in with two bombs.

The bombs failed to explode, but many people jumped panic-stricken from the windows. The attackers then opened fire, killing two men, four **women**, and three children.

The Joint Operations Command (JOC) said that 18 people were injured, half of them seriously. According to the villagers, the attackers told them that it was a reprisal for the killing of 200 Tamils in the security forces operation last week.

It may have been no coincidence that yesterday was independence day. The **Tamil Tigers** are still officially fighting for a separate Tamil state, although they have recently scaled down their demands to a federal arrangement.

The two villages may have been selected because they are in an entirely Sinhalese-speaking area, with no nearby Tamil population on whom vengeance could be wreaked.

It was traditionally a Tamil area, but has been colonised by Sinhalese since independence in 1948 - possibly an additional reason for the attack. According to the JOC, the assailants were probably **Tamil Tigers** who came from bases in the jungle nearby.

Meanwhile in Colombo, Mr Bruce Cyr, the American consultant and former manager of a prawn farm at the centre of a controversy over last week's security sweep in Kokkadicholai, was told yesterday that no charge would be made against him. After an interview with three senior officers of the security forces, he was also told he would not be deported.

On Tuesday the Government's media centre retracted a statement that he would be prosecuted for allegedly failing to report a murder last year, and for making 'false statements' about the death of 22 of the company's employees during the security operation. The correction was made after representations from the American embassy.

Villagers killed in Tamil revenge raid / Sri Lankan ethnic unrest

Load-Date: June 9, 2000

End of Document

SRI LANKAN SUICIDE BOMBER BELONGED TO WING OF TAMIL REBELS

St. Louis Post-Dispatch (Missouri)

January 6, 2000, Thursday, FIVE STAR LIFT EDITION

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Section: NEWS, Pg. A8

Length: 242 words

Byline: The Associated Press

Dateline: COLOMBO, SRI LANKA

Body

The suicide bomber who blew herself up outside the prime minister's office Wednesday was a member of the deadliest wing of Tamil Tiger separatists, senior police officials said.

The woman killed herself and 12 others as police became suspicious and questioned her outside the office of Prime Minister Sirimavo Bandaranaike.

It was unclear whether her exact target was the 82-year-old prime minister, who normally works from home but was due in Wednesday.

Two hours later, in a nearby Tamil neighborhood, gunmen on motorcycles fatally shot a pro-rebel Tamil politician, Kumar Ponnambalam, as he was driving. Neither police nor party officials would comment on a motive for the killing.

The explosion, which left body parts and pools of blood outside the white, walled compound, occurred three weeks after another woman blew herself up at an election rally, leaving President Chandrika Kumaratunga - the prime minister's daughter - with a serious eye injury.

Police identified the woman only as a member of the Black Tigers, a group they characterized as the deadliest weapon in the armory of **Tamil Tigers**, a rebel group that has waged a 17-year civil war for independence in the Sri Lankan north.

Women have been responsible for some of the region's most prominent assassinations - including that of Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi in 1991 and Sri Lankan President Ranasinghe Premadasa in 1993. **Tamil Tigers** have denied taking part in those killings.

Load-Date: January 6, 2000