

Date and Time: Saturday, May 4, 2024 2:11:00PM EEST

Job Number: 223507922

Documents (100)

1. [Who is terrorist, who is freedom fighter?](#)

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

2. [Death of former PM, violence overshadow vital Sri Lankan vote](#)

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

3. [World datelines](#)

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

4. [Sri Lankan troops and rebels suffer heavy casualties in clashes](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

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

5. [Top court hears pleas for refugee terrorists: Soften laws, don't send refugees, back to nations that use torture, human rights advocates argue](#)

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. [GIVE HOPE TO CHILDREN: THE INDEPENDENT CHRISTMAS APPEAL - 'MAKE ME A PRETTY LEG' SAID THE GIRL WITH A SMILE](#)

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. [Shelling, political death overshadow crucial 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

8. [No sign of Tigers, but beware the python; Safe holidays in dangerous places: 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

9. [WORLD IN BRIEF](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

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

10. [The Tigers' young recruit tells of being forced into war: Sri Lankan army puts 13-year-old captive on show to the press](#)

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

11. [Sri Lankan military repulses rebel counter attack, 36 killed](#)

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

12. [More than 130 drown as refugees flee Lankan military offensive](#)

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

13. [Tamil Rebels Release Hostages From Seized Ferry](#)

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

14. [Tamil terror blights Prince's Sri Lanka visit](#)

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

15. [By KRISHNAN GURUSWAMY Associated Press Writer *REPLACE*](#)

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. [The new face of 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

17. [Briefly](#)

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. [THE U.N. AT 50: THE PROTESTERS; Varied Voices With One Demand: Justice!](#)

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. [From the Crusades to kamikaze](#)

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. [SRI LANKA : LIFE RESUMES AS GUNS FALL SILENT IN BATTICALOA](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type

Narrowed by

News

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

21. [BRIEFLY](#)

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

22. [Suicide soars in the midst of 'paradise' isle gets a bad name for suicide stains the image of tops world suicide league; Sri Lanka 's tropical beauties mask a population giving way to despair, writes Jan 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,Newswires & Press
Releases; Timeline: Jan 01, 1984 to Dec 31, 2002

23. [TIGER TERROR TO TAKE TO THE AIR](#)

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

24. [INDIA : SLEUTHS UNCOVER TIP OF ICEBERG IN GANDHI'S KILLING AN INTER PRESS NEWS FEATURE](#)

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

25. [ROUNDUP: 56 civilians massacred by rebels in eastern Sri Lanka](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type

Narrowed by

News

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

26. [Crisis in the Gulf: The distant village where Saddam Hussein was the local hero](#)

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. [More than 130 drown as refugees flee Lankan military offensive](#)

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. [Little time for nostalgia as the Mrs B era ends 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

29. [SRI LANKA : COUNSEL IN DE ZOYSA CASE WANTS NEW INQUIRY](#)

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. [Government Says Tamil Guerrillas Kill 164](#)

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. [SRI LANKA : WOMEN JOIN ARMY'S FIGHT AGAINST INSURGENCY](#)

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. [SRI LANKA : MIRRORING THE CYCLE OF VIOLENCE](#)

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. [31 die in blasts; President survives suicide bombing](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

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

34. [Arts: In the lair of the Tiger - Television](#)

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. [SRI LANKA : MORE THAN 100 DIE IN OVERNIGHT VIOLENCE](#)

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. [Rebels Kill 140 Sinhalese in Six Attacks](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

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

37. [WORLD REPORT](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

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

38. [Rebels allege Pakistan 's involvement in Sri Lankan offensive](#)

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

39. [Villagers flee in eastern Sri Lanka after massacre](#)

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

40. [The use of terrorism](#)

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

41. [Rebels Set Condition For Release of Eight Hostages](#)

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

42. [*URGENT Explosion kills Cabinet minister, others 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

43. [*Advertisements for good and evil*](#)

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

44. [*- Insider notes from United Press International for Jan. 31 ...*](#)

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

45. [*Terrorists motivated by nothing but pure evil*](#)

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

46. [*Women have history on side*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type

Narrowed by

47. [*SRI LANKA : CREDIT PROGRAM GIVES HOPE TO DISABLED AND CARETAKERS*](#)**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, 200248. [*Kumaratunga's party takes small lead in early counting in crucial 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, 200249. [*Top court tackles issues of torture and terrorism: Two cases heard today could limit deportations*](#)**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, 200250. [*Kumaratunga's party takes small lead in early counting in crucial 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, 200251. [*TAMIL ASYLUM-SEEKERS SHOW SIGNS OF SYSTEMATIC MEDIEVAL-STYLE TORTURE*](#)**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

52. [RIGHTS- SRI LANKA : MUSLIM REFUGEES COULD LOSE LAND TO SQUATTERS](#)

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. [The Week in Review](#)

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. [Backwater bemusements](#)

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. [National briefs briefs briefs](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

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

56. [Site seeing 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

57. [FLAT EARTH](#)

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. [SRI LANKA : CIVIL WAR TAKES ITS TOLL](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

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

59. [American With Alleged Links With Tamil Rebels Deported](#)

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. [Yard to examine bomber's remains](#)

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. [SRI LANKA : ASSASSINATIONS WIPE OUT LEADERS, WIVES IN THE 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, Newswires & Press
Releases; Timeline: Jan 01, 1984 to Dec 31, 2002

62. [Exhumed bones bring terror to Sri Lanka ; Tim McGirk in Colombo finds parallels between security operations against Communists and 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

63. [Colombo riots against accord](#)

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. [ROUNDUP: Fourteen people killed in violent incidents 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

65. [The tragedy of Sri Lanka : a nation torn in two](#)

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. [19 civilians massacred by rebels in eastern 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

67. [TIGERS NOT CRIMINALS](#)

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, 200268. [Tigers at bay / Indian army surrounds Jaffna city](#)**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, 200269. [Terror under the microscope](#)**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, 200270. [SECURITY PROS SAY DEADLY BOMBINGS ARE LIKELY IN CITY](#)**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, 200271. [Human bombs top terror](#)**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, 200272. [President hurt in suicide blast - Poll campaign bombs kill 31](#)**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

73. [Top court weighs torture as factor in deportation: Justices to decide fate of national security threats](#)

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. [RIGHTS: UPROOTED CHILDREN VULNERABLE TO EXPLOITATION](#)

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. [RIGHTS- SRI LANKA : HEALING THE INNER WOUNDS OF ETHNIC 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

76. [NEWS IN BRIEF](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

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

77. [Study in contrasts as Jaffna struggles back to life](#)

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

78. [GENTLE PEACEMAKERS, OR DEADLIER THAN THE MALE?](#)

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. [*WWII sex slaves to be compensated by Japan*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

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Content Type
News

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

80. [*SECRET WAR RAGES IN SRI LANKA ; STATE WOMAN HELPS DIRECT AID IN REMOTE ISLAND NATION*](#)

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. [*President and prisoner*](#)

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. [*AT LEISURE 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,Newsires & Press
Releases; Timeline: Jan 01, 1984 to Dec 31, 2002

83. [*In today's politics, you can't tell the labels without a scorecard*](#)

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. [*Peasants turned into reluctant invaders*](#)

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. [*This week's TV highlights*](#)

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. [*AP Photos COI101-102*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

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

87. [*Ruling party takes lead in Sri Lanka 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,Newsires & Press
Releases; Timeline: Jan 01, 1984 to Dec 31, 2002

88. [*Sri Lankan ceasefire ends*](#)

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. [Shortages slow the recovery of war-ravaged northern 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

90. [Over 200 feared killed as rebels and forces battle in northern 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

91. [news items from asia-pacific desk of xinhua](#)

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. [Why the Israeli tail is again wagging the American dog](#)

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. [WORLD IN BRIEF](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type

Narrowed by

News

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

94. [news items from asia-pacific desk of xinhua](#)

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

95. [SRI LANKA : AT 14, SHE'S READY TO TAKE A CYANIDE PILL FOR THE TIGERS; CAPTURED DURING FIGHTING IN JAFFNA BY INDIAN SOLDIERS, ARUMUYAM MALAR IS ONE OF 48 GIRLS IN HER UNIT BATTLING 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

96. [World Briefing](#)

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

97. [The Blood All Over](#)

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

98. [A WORLD OF ARMS: A Deal Under Suspicion; For U.S. , Gun Sales Are Good Business](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type

Narrowed by

News

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

99. [URGENT Suicide bomber sets off explosion while Cabinet being installed](#)

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. [Tamils launch great armada as Jaffna crumbles](#)

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

Who is terrorist, who is freedom fighter?

Deseret News (Salt Lake City)

April 7, 2002, Sunday

Copyright 2002 The Deseret News Publishing Co.

Section: VIEWPOINT;

Length: 749 words

Byline: By Holger Jensen Scripps Howard News Service

Body

Fifty-seven Islamic nations ended a three-day conference in Kuala Lumpur by condemning terrorism "in all its forms" but failing to define it.

Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohammed tried to get them to agree on labeling any killing of civilians as terrorism. That included "the attacks on the World Trade Center on Sept. 11, the human bomb attacks by Palestinians and Sri Lanka's *Tamil Tigers* and the attacks against civilians by Israeli forces."

But he was forced to backtrack when Arab delegates unanimously rejected "any attempt to link terrorism to the struggle of the Palestinian people in the exercise of their inalienable right to establish an independent state."

It all boils down to that age-old question of who is a terrorist and who is a freedom fighter. Some of today's nations were, in fact, born of terrorism and some terrorists of yore are now respected statesmen and Nobelists.

Terrorism freed the southern Irish Republic from British rule and has forced Britain to relax its hold on Northern Ireland. Much of colonial Africa and parts of Asia were liberated by terrorist wars. Israel had its terrorists and the Palestinians, too.

The African National Congress used terror to fight white minority rule and now runs the government of South Africa. Robert Mugabe fought a terrorist war against the whites of Rhodesia and is using some of the same tactics to terrorize black political opponents in what is now Zimbabwe.

Algerians used terror to drive out the French and again are using it against the current military regime. Menachem Begin blew up the King David Hotel to drive the British out of Palestine. The Irgun and Stern Gang terrorized Palestinians before the creation of the state of Israel. And Yasser Arafat has employed terror against the Jewish state.

Yet, Begin won the Nobel Peace Prize for signing the Camp David accord, as did Arafat and two other Israeli leaders for signing the Oslo accord. And the ANC's Nelson Mandela, who spent most of his life imprisoned as a terrorist, is not only a Nobel laureate but hailed around the world as one of its premier peacemakers.

That's why the United Nations, which has spent years grappling to define terrorism, has never managed to do so. And that's why President Bush has been forced to admit that he cannot brand Arafat a terrorist simply on Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon's say-so.

Who is terrorist, who is freedom fighter?

While Sharon compares Arafat to Osama bin Laden, "that's not a comparison the president accepts," said White House spokesman Ari Fleischer, noting that Arafat participated in peace talks before they broke down and, for better or worse, remains a symbol of Palestinian aspirations.

However, Bush still sees Sharon's military offensive in the West Bank as a war on terrorism while the rest of the world sees it as a war on the Palestinian people. The latter view is reinforced by images of dead women and children, journalists being shot, churchmen being denied access to the birthplace of Jesus and Palestinian dead being buried in a hospital parking lot because Israeli troops won't let them be transported to a graveyard.

Even Israelis are troubled by this. Lev Grinberg, a sociology professor at Ben Gurion University who frequently writes for the daily Maariv, says the United States is "evil" for supporting Sharon, whom he considers as bad a terrorist as the suicide bombers he is after.

"In the public debate, state terrorism and suicide bombs are not considered as comparable," he wrote Tuesday. "The state terror and war crimes perpetrated by the Israeli government are legitimized as 'self-defense' while Arafat, even under siege, is demanded to arrest 'terrorists.' At the same time Sharon's responsibility for Israeli war crimes is completely ignored. Who should be arrested for the targeted killing of almost 100 Palestinians? Who should be sent to jail for the killing of more than 120 Palestinian paramedics? Who will be sentenced for killing more than 1,200 Palestinians and the collective punishment of more than 3 million civilians during the last 18 months?

"And who will face the international criminal tribunal for the illegal settlement of occupied Palestinian lands and disobeying U.N. resolutions for more than 35 years?"

Who indeed? Sharon and Arafat both have blood on their hands. Perhaps the European Union's Javier Solana was right in pointing out that "neither is a saint" and both sides would be better off with new leaders.

Holger Jensen is international editor of the Rocky Mountain News. E-mail: hjens@aol.com.

Load-Date: April 7, 2002

Death of former PM, violence overshadow vital Sri Lankan vote

The Record (Kitchener-Waterloo, Ontario)

October 11, 2000 Wednesday Final Edition

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Section: NEWS; Pg. E15; News

Length: 647 words

Dateline: COLOMBO

Body

COLOMBO -- As Sri Lankans waited for the results of an election that could stop a 17-year civil war, they also grieved yesterday for Sirimavo Bandaranaike, or Mrs. B, a former prime minister and the mother of the country's president.

Tens of thousands of people, including women in white saris and hundreds of saffron-robed Buddhist monks, grieved for Bandaranaike, 84, who died after casting her vote yesterday.

Shelling by Tamil Tiger rebels, election-eve killings and the death of Bandaranaike, 84, the world's first female prime minister and the mother of the current president, cast a pall over the parliamentary elections. The government imposed a curfew in Colombo between 11 p.m. and 6 a.m.

A bomb exploded minutes after voting ended, wounding 32 supporters of President Chandrika Kumaratunga's People's Alliance party at Ragama, 30 kilometres northeast of the capital, police said. One of the wounded was in critical condition.

Associated Press

Police blamed the attack on political rivalry between Kumaratunga's party and that of her chief rival, the United National party of former prime minister Ranil Wickremesinghe.

Kumaratunga, who did not issue a statement about her mother's death, sees the vote as a referendum on a proposed constitution that would give more power to Sri Lanka's north and east, where rebels are fighting for a homeland for the minority 3.2 million Tamils.

The president, who lost an eye to a suicide bomber on Dec. 18, hopes the new constitution will win over moderate Tamils, dim the appeal of the militants and bring an end to the war, which has killed 63,000 people and displaced one million.

Kumaratunga's People's Alliance took an early lead in postal ballots, which come from government or military officials or others posted in areas where they are not registered to vote, the Election Commission said today.

The commission said it had counted 46,500 postal ballots. People's Alliance got 21,500 votes against 15,907 by the main opposition United National party.

Death of former PM, violence overshadow vital Sri Lankan vote

While Sri Lankans wait for the election results, they have been asked to fly white flags in honour of their former prime minister. She will be buried in a state funeral Saturday. Friday and Saturday have been declared days of mourning.

Bandaranaike was elected prime minister July 20, 1960, six years before Indira Gandhi became the first woman leader of India.

She regained the office for a third time in 1994 when her daughter appointed her prime minister, but retired in August to let Kumaratunga appoint a conservative ahead of the elections.

Bandaranaike was replaced by Ratnasiri Wickramanayaka, who believes the rebels should be wiped out and that talks should only be held with moderate Tamils.

Voters at the school where Bandaranaike voted yesterday shortly before dying of a heart attack commented on her "good fortune," rather than the unusual timing of her death. Sri Lankans, the majority of whom are believers of astrology, thought the stars had been on her side.

Yesterday also marked the widow's 60th wedding anniversary.

"She was a very lucky woman," said 48-year-old T.K.H. Peiris, a polling agent. "She had been sick so long, but it is amazing that she was able to cast her vote before she died."

The race yesterday was primarily between the two main parties: Kumaratunga's People's Alliance and the United National party. A record 5,477 candidates were vying for 225 seats in parliament in the election.

Wickremesinghe has said that if his United National party wins, it would immediately reduce the fighting in the northern Jaffna peninsula and then negotiate with the rebels.

Several hours before news of Bandaranaike's death spread across this island country off the southern tip of India, **Tamil Tigers** shelled an administrative centre in Jaffna, which has been under siege since 1995.

Just after the polls closed, the two leading parties levelled accusations of vote-rigging.

Graphic

Associated Press; Buddhist monks pay their last respects to Sirimavo Bandaranaike, the former prime minister of Sri Lanka and mother of President Chandrika Kumaratunga, in Colombo yesterday. Bandaranaike, who 40 years ago became the world's first **female** prime minister, died of a heart attack yesterday after voting in Sri Lanka's parliamentary elections. She was 84.

Load-Date: October 10, 2002

World datelines

Deseret News (Salt Lake City)

January 24, 2002, Thursday

Copyright 2002 The Deseret News Publishing Co.

Section: WIRE;

Length: 742 words

Byline: Compiled from Deseret News wire services

Body

Algiers

Seven people were killed in a rebel raid and clashes between guerrillas and Algerian government forces, two local newspapers reported.

Austria

VIENNA -- The far-right Freedom Party withdrew its call for early elections, easing a government crisis triggered by a dispute over the party's threat to block EU membership for the Czech Republic.

China

BEIJING -- A Canadian follower of Falun Gong was expelled from China after being detained for protesting on Tiananmen Square in Beijing against the country's ban on the spiritual group, a Canadian diplomat said. Connie Chipkar, 61, left aboard a British Airways flight for London, the Canadian Embassy said.

France

PARIS -- One of France's leading intellectuals, sociologist Pierre Bourdieu, died Wednesday of cancer in a Paris hospital, colleagues said. He was 71.

India

GAYA -- The Dalai Lama fell ill again and postponed his teachings before tens of thousands of followers at Tibetan Buddhism's most sacred worship ceremony. The Dalai Lama told the gathering that he would not be able to sustain the rituals, which require him to sit still for at least five hours. "It will take some more time to recover fully," the Dalai Lama said, adding, "I still suffer from exhaustion and become tired very quickly."

Malaysia

KUALA LUMPUR -- The opposition Islamic party said it will field women candidates for the first time at the next general election, a move it says counters criticism it is biased against women. Parti Islam se-Malaysia central working committee member Lo' Lo' Mohd Ghazali said the party's highest decision making body, the Syura Council, agreed to the move earlier this month.

World datelines

Nepal

KATMANDU -- The government ruled out an early end to its state of emergency and said military operations against Maoist rebels would continue until they were disarmed or they surrendered. Officials said five policemen and nine rebels were killed in the latest clashes across the country as troops continued the operation against the rebels for the second month.

Netherlands

CAMP ZEIST -- Lawyers for a Libyan convicted for the 1988 Lockerbie bombing asked Scottish judges Thursday to review key trial testimony from the only witness to directly link him to the suitcase bomb that killed 270 people. On the second day of the appeal hearing for Abdel Basset Ali al-Megrahi, defense attorney William Taylor tried to persuade the five High Court judges to review the guilty verdict and order his immediate release.

Pakistan

ISLAMABAD -- President Pervez Musharraf said on parliamentary elections would be held in October to end three years of military rule. But the former army commando, who appointed himself president last year after seizing power in a bloodless October 1999 coup, said "checks and balances" would be implemented to prevent abuse of power by civilian governments.

Philippines

ZAMBOANGA -- The United States flew in more troops and equipment to the southern Philippines for joint military exercises aimed at battling Muslim insurgency. The troops, wearing combat fatigues and some carrying assault rifles, arrived hours after eight Muslim rebels were killed nearby in a clash with the local military.

MANILA -- A six-year-old girl drowned and more than 40 people were injured on Thursday when a hanging bridge in the town of Tanay collapsed from the weight of hundreds of people watching a boat race.

Russia

MOSCOW -- Scientists in Russia's far east have begun a count of the dwindling numbers of Siberian tigers, one of the world's endangered species, Itar-Tass news agency said. Tass quoted biologist Dmitry Pikunov of the Pacific Ocean Geography Institute as saying deep snow in which the beasts left clear prints meant scientists could carry out their census. Wildlife experts place the number of Siberian tigers at between 300 and 400 -- less than the number of tigers in captivity, estimated at around 490.

Sri Lanka

COLOMBO -- **Tamil Tigers** at the center of an ethnic war said government comments that it was considering lifting a ban on the rebels were encouraging and would help lead the way toward peace talks.

Vietnam

HANOI -- The government confirmed that it had placed a dissident journalist under detention, but denied the move was an effort to silence criticism of its border delineation treaties with China. Journalist Bui Minh Quoc, a critic of the Communist Party's monopoly of power and a free-speech advocate, was detained earlier this month and confined to his home in the hill town of Dalat.

Load-Date: January 24, 2002

Sri Lankan troops and rebels suffer heavy casualties in clashes

Deutsche Presse-Agentur

June 25, 1997, Wednesday, BC Cycle 09:10 Central European Time

Copyright 1997 Deutsche Presse-Agentur

Section: International News

Length: 417 words

Dateline: Colombo

Body

Sri Lanka government troops and Tamil separatists suffered heavy casualties with more than 150 dead on both sides and hundreds of others injured in overnight clashes around a northern town, military officials said Wednesday.

More than 1,000 rebels including women cadres and suicide bombers broke through the army's forward defences. They first attacked a bunker line and then troops all around with close-quarter battles raging for more than six hours since Tuesday night, around the Periyamadua area, 270 kilometres from the capital, Colombo.

More than 50 soldiers were confirmed killed in the battle, but military officials believe that the figure could rise as the clearing up operations are being completed.

Military officials confirmed that rebels had removed one artillery gun and four mortar guns. They said this was likely to pose a threat as rebels were bound to use them against the troops.

Military spokesman, Major I.N.K. Hewage, claimed that the troops by dawn managed to repulse the attack, but the affected area was still being cleared and they were unable to confirm own casualties.

So far at least 30 bodies of army personnel including those of a lieutenant colonel and a captain have been recovered.

Rebels of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) are also reported to have suffered heavy casualties in the counter-attack with more than 100 of their cadres being killed and hundreds of others injured.

The attack came as security forces began their advance from the Periyamadu area on Monday in the third phase of a major military drive to recapture a land route from the south of the country to the northern Jaffna peninsula.

Troops in the renewed offensive have so far lost 20 of their soldiers and claimed to have killed over 70 rebels since Monday.

Tuesday night's attack was seen as a move to prevent the security forces advancing.

On June 9, rebels using similar tactics to Tuesday's assault launched a massive attack on a brigade headquarters, blowing up an ammunition dump and killing over 180 soldiers.

In the June 9 attack at Thandikulam, ten kilometres south of where Tuesday's attack took place, rebels had also suffered heavy casualties with at least 350 of their cadres being killed and hundreds of others injured.

Sri Lankan troops and rebels suffer heavy casualties in clashes

The rebels fighting for an independent homeland for minority Tamils have thrown in all their resources to prevent the security forces advancing into areas held by them and securing of a land route. dpa da ba

Load-Date: June 25, 1997

End of Document

Top court hears pleas for refugee terrorists: Soften laws, don't send refugees, back to nations that use torture, human rights advocates argue

The Ottawa Citizen

May 23, 2001 Wednesday

FINAL EDITION

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Section: NEWS,; News

Length: 747 words

Byline: Janice Tibbetts

Body

The federal government was advised yesterday to prosecute refugee terrorists on Canadian soil rather than send them home to countries that torture their citizens.

Human rights advocates made the plea for softer anti-terrorism laws during a Supreme Court of Canada hearing into whether the federal government can deport two Toronto men who say they face maiming or death if they are returned to their homelands.

Amid heavy security, one of the men at the centre of the case, Manickavasagam Suresh of Sri Lanka, watched from the crammed spectator benches after getting permission from a judge to attend the hearing.

Several of the nine justices, as they peppered government lawyer Ursula Kaczmarczyk with questions, appeared skeptical of the federal Immigration Act provisions allowing the government to weed out suspected terrorists deemed to be a threat to Canada's security.

The Ottawa Citizen

Veteran Justice Frank Iacobucci led the pack with his assertion that sending people to countries where they would be tortured would "blow out of the water" international human rights conventions.

"That doesn't make any sense, does it?" he asked. "Isn't that the nature of the whole *raison d'etre* of the refugee law, which is to have freedom from persecution, and then to say, we're going to have that trumped by sending the person back to where there is a significant risk of torture."

Justice Charles Gonthier waded into the debate by stressing the "absolute prohibition" against torture that he suggested should override Canada's stated practice of balancing protection of Canadians and the rights of individual suspects.

Mr. Kaczmarczyk implored the court to allow Immigration Minister Elinor Caplan to retain her discretionary powers to deport suspected terrorists to avoid making Canada "a safe haven of the most welcoming kind" for terrorist fundraisers who conduct covert operations in Canada to support operations offshore.

The court reserved judgment and a ruling is not expected for several months.

Top court hears pleas for refugee terrorists: Soften laws, don't send refugees, back to nations that use torture, human rights advocates argue

At issue was whether Mr. Suresh, whom officials allege is a key fundraiser for the terrorist **Tamil Tigers**, and Mansour Ahani, a trained assassin with the Iranian secret service, have the constitutional right to remain in Canada despite being classified as security threats.

Mr. Ahani, who is in jail in Hamilton, did not attend the court hearings.

The UN High Commissioner for Refugees, a high profile intervenor in the case, piqued the court's interest when lawyer John Terry said the federal government should embrace alternatives to sending people to possible torture, such as prosecuting them in Canada or sending them to another country.

"The overarching purpose is to protect the life of refugees," said Mr. Terry. "The prohibition against sending someone back to torture should be absolute."

Barbara Jackman, the Toronto lawyer for Mr. Suresh and Mr. Ahani, agreed that Canada could create a new Criminal Code provision outlawing activities like terrorist fundraising and then proceed with charges when warranted.

As it now stands, there are no such prohibitions under Canadian law.

The court heard competing views on where Canada should set the bar in determining whether refugees will be tortured in their homeland, ranging from a "serious threat" to a "possible risk."

Mr. Suresh and Mr. Ahani, who came to Canada in 1990 and 1991 respectively, have been fighting their deportation for years.

The federal government describes Mr. Suresh as a "dedicated and trusted leader" of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam, an organization for Sri Lanka's ethnic minority that engages in torture, executions, ethnic cleansing of Muslims, kidnapping and forcible conscription of children.

He could be killed or tortured by beating, electric shock or burning if returned, the court was warned.

Mr. Ahani also argues he will face death if he is returned to Iran, where he says he was jailed after defecting from an Iranian state security mission to blow up safe houses containing **women** and children, all in support of the Islamic Revolution.

Mr. Suresh and Mr. Ahani are challenging a Federal Court of Appeal ruling last year that Canada's right to protect its citizens from accused terrorists outweighs the rights of individual suspects.

The pair, whose cases were heard separately yesterday, contends that the federal government is violating a Charter of Rights guarantee to freedom of association in groups that are not even outlawed in Canada.

Graphic

Color Photo: Tom Hanson, The Canadian Press ; Refugee, Manickavasagam Suresh, accused of funding a Sri Lankan terrorist, group, fears he'll be tortured if he is sent back to his homeland.

Load-Date: May 23, 2001

GIVE HOPE TO CHILDREN: THE INDEPENDENT CHRISTMAS APPEAL - 'MAKE ME A PRETTY LEG' SAID THE GIRL WITH A SMILE

The Independent (London)

December 23, 2000, Saturday

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Section: FOREIGN NEWS; Pg. 13

Length: 675 words

Byline: Peter Popham In Colombo

Body

THIS GROUP of aged but well-maintained bungalows on a prime site in central Colombo used to be called, with old-fashioned bluntness, the Hostel for Cripples. Amputees having peg legs fitted in the public hospital could rest in the dormitories here before and after their fittings. The hostel was run by the Colombo Friend-in-Need Society (Fins), a charity established in 1831.

But then, in 1985, the Sri Lankan civil war, simmering for years, erupted in a series of appalling massacres, and battles between Tamil insurgents and the Sri Lankan armed forces across much of the northern and eastern parts of the island, claimed by the **Tamil Tigers** as their "homeland". Suddenly, the Hostel for Cripples found itself flooded by amputees from the war zone - victims of bombs and mines, whose needs far outstripped what the state could provide.

With remarkable enterprise and dispatch, the old hostel turned itself into a full-service limb replacement centre for those in need, whether war victims or not. Since 1985 it has provided men, **women** and children with about 10,000 artificial limbs. More than one-third of these clients lost limbs to "civil commotion" - land mines hidden in paddy fields and the like. Sri Lanka's mayhem continues, and so does the flood of war-wounded. In 1999, the centre dealt with 385 civil commotion cases, and another 101 "gangrenous wounds" cases that were also often the result of war.

In 1998, Bob Parsons, the Englishman behind Hope for Children, the charity that The Independent has chosen as the recipient of this year's Christmas appeal, visited the Colombo centre and learnt that Fins was struggling to find funds for limbs for poorer children. Such limbs are a daunting expense. A plastic leg produced here, with what is called a Jaipur foot, costs about 5,000 rupees (pounds 70), two months' earnings for a poor man; an imported artificial arm costs twice that.

And the limb needs to be replaced about once a year until the child stops growing. Add the costs of the parents taking time off work and travelling to and from Colombo, and for many poor families it is too much to pay.

Arriving at the Fins centre, one is braced for a disturbing experience. Then the first person one sets eyes on is Neranjala, aged nine, a pretty girl with one leg, sitting on a bench waiting for her new replacement to be fitted.

If you lose a leg as an adult it must take years to adjust to the fact. But children are fabulously adaptable and Neranjala seems not in the least bothered - far less so than visitors such as us. It happened five years ago, she explains, when she was four. She was out in the chilli fields in her parents' smallholding in North Central Province. They were all in a hut at the side of the field, and she was fast asleep. There was talk locally of a wild elephant on

GIVE HOPE TO CHILDREN: THE INDEPENDENT CHRISTMAS APPEAL - 'MAKE ME A PRETTY LEG' SAID
THE GIRL WITH A SMILE

the rampage: her parents were guarding their fields. Her father had his rifle at the ready to frighten away the animal, but suddenly the elephant was upon them, smashing the hut and flattening her leg.

She has made the long journey to Colombo by bus with her mother. It is the second time she has had the limb replaced - if Fins had more money it could happen more often.

The schools are closed for the holidays now and Fins is full of children: a boy whose leg was destroyed in a car accident; a girl in yellow satin with a congenital deformity; a boy aged nine, with a similar problem.

To keep the costs down, nearly all the work of limb building is done in Fins workshops on the premises. The place is thus a curious hybrid of hospital and garage, and the air is full of the noise of electric saws and the smell of baking polypropylene. In the workshop, Christine McMonagle, a diminutive Glaswegian graduate in prosthetics and orthotics, is dashing from one task to another: fitting limbs, instructing trainees, supervising the manufacturing process.

The children and parents wait cheerfully, patiently, gratefully, passively, for as long as it takes. The girl in yellow satin says to Christine: "I want you to make me a really pretty leg!"

Graphic

Children at the Friend in Need Society in Colombo, where they receive artificial limbs Dominic Sansoni

Load-Date: December 23, 2000

Shelling, political death overshadow crucial elections

The Associated Press

October 10, 2000, Tuesday, BC cycle

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Section: International News

Length: 743 words

Byline: By BETH DUFF-BROWN, Associated Press Writer

Dateline: COLOMBO, Sri Lanka

Body

As Sri Lankans waited for the results of an election that could stop the 17-year civil war, they also grieved Tuesday for Sirimavo Bandaranaike, or "Mrs. B," the matriarch of the nation's politics.

Tens of thousands of people, including women in white saris and hundreds of saffron-robed Buddhist monks, grieved for Bandaranaike, 84, who died after casting her vote Tuesday.

Shelling by Tamil Tiger rebels, election-eve killings and the death of Bandaranaike, 84, the world's first female prime minister and the mother of the current president cast a pall over the parliamentary elections. The government imposed a curfew in Colombo between 11 p.m. and 6 a.m.

A bomb exploded minutes after voting ended, wounding 32 supporters of President Chandrika Kumaratunga's People's Alliance party at Ragama, 19 miles northeast of the capital, police said. One of the wounded was in critical condition.

Police blamed the attack on political rivalry between Kumaratunga's party and that of her chief rival, the United National Party of former Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe.

Kumaratunga, who did not issue a statement about her mother's death, sees the vote as a referendum on a proposed constitution that would give more power to Sri Lanka's north and east, where rebels are fighting for a homeland for the minority 3.2 million Tamils.

The president, who lost an eye to a suicide bomber on Dec. 18, hopes the new constitution will win over moderate Tamils, dim the appeal of the militants and bring an end to the war, which has killed 63,000 people and displaced 1 million.

Kumaratunga's People's Alliance took an early lead in postal ballots, which come from government or military officials or others posted in areas where they are not registered to vote, the Election Commission said Wednesday.

The commission said it had counted 46,500 postal ballots. People's Alliance got 21,500 votes against 15,907 by the main opposition United National Party.

Shelling, political death overshadow crucial elections

While Sri Lankans wait for the election results, they have been requested to fly white flags in honor of their former prime minister, affectionately known as "Mrs. B." She will be buried in a state funeral Saturday. Friday and Saturday have been declared days of mourning.

Bandaranaike was elected prime minister July 20, 1960, six years before Indira Gandhi became the first woman leader of India.

She regained the office for a third time in 1994 when her daughter appointed her prime minister, but retired in August to let Kumaratunga appoint a hard-liner ahead of the elections.

Bandaranaike was replaced by Ratnasiri Wickramanayaka, who believes the rebels should be wiped out and that talks should only be held with moderate Tamils.

Voters at the school where Bandaranaike cast her ballot Tuesday shortly before dying of a heart attack commented on her "good fortune," rather than the ironic timing of her death. Sri Lankans, the majority of whom are believers of astrology, thought the stars had been on her side.

Tuesday also marked the widow's 60th wedding anniversary.

"She was a very lucky woman," said 48-year-old T.K.H. Peiris, a polling agent. "She had been sick so long, but it is amazing that she was able to cast her vote before she died."

The race Tuesday was primarily between the two main parties: Kumaratunga's People's Alliance and former Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe's United National Party. A record 5,477 candidates were vying for 225 seats in parliament in the election.

Wickremesinghe has said that if his United National Party comes into power, it would immediately de-escalate the fighting in the northern Jaffna Peninsula and then negotiate with the rebels.

Several hours before news of Bandaranaike's death spread across this island nation off the southern tip of India, **Tamil Tigers** shelled an administrative center in Jaffna, which has been under siege since 1995.

Just after the polls closed, the two leading parties leveled accusations of vote-rigging.

The independent Center for Monitoring Election Violence urged the Elections Commissioner to annul the votes in at least 210 of the country's 9,500 polling centers.

The opening of the vote was preceded by two attacks that left three people dead, including a 6-year-old daughter of a ruling party official, police said.

The fatalities brought the total number of people killed in election violence to 66 since campaigning started five weeks ago.

On the Net:

Tamil rebels: <http://www.eelamweb.com>

Sri Lankan government: <http://www.priu.gov.lk>

Graphic

Shelling, political death overshadow crucial elections

AP Photos COL101,102, CLX101,103

Load-Date: October 11, 2000

End of Document

No sign of Tigers, but beware the python; Safe holidays in dangerous places: Sri Lanka

The Independent (London)

November 23, 1991, Saturday

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Section: WEEKEND TRAVEL PAGE; Page 51

Length: 2050 words

Byline: By ROYSTON ELLIS

Body

"Tigers attack police, massacre villagers" ran the headline in the local paper. It happened 25 miles north-east of where I was staying the night at Sigiriya village in Sri Lanka's heartland. The tigers referred to were the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (**LTTE**), not jungle beasts. Wild elephants are more of a danger to the tourists visiting Sigiriya than Tigers.

Sigiriya is famous for its toadstool of golden-hued granite, protruding 600 feet into the searing blue sky from a hot, flat wilderness of scrubland. In the fifth century a king domesticated the Lion rock, as it is known, by building a palace atop its three-acre summit. Only windswept foundations, and a rubbish dump, remain to reward the foolhardy few who climb to the top of the rock's sheer face with the help of narrow, caged-in ladders that must be more than 50 years old.

I started to climb the Sigiriya rock fortress at 6.30 in the morning before the sun, and the armed police who guard it, were up. The police came at seven from the Sigiriya Tourist Police post, a rundown rented building without mains electricity, where 42 policemen are stationed to provide security for tourists visiting the area.

I was the first on the rock that day, happy to grapple at my own pace with the extraordinary ascent through the two lion's paws carved out of the rock, without a crocodile of tourists clambering after me. But for the iron railings to cling on to, I would have been brushed off by the breeze, although I was thankful for the wind as it kept me cool in the sun.

Frescos from the fifth century of bare-breasted **women**, acknowledged as art treasures, can be seen on the side of the rock. You reach the viewing ledge by hauling yourself up an iron spiral staircase pegged to the rock's face. A sleeping watcher unwound himself like a snake charmer's cobra when I looked in. The frescos, shaded from the elements by a canvas awning and smeared with cement, looked better on postcards than in real life.

Busloads of tourists were arriving as I regained the stone steps leading to the water gardens at the rock's base. Local youths hovered in the shade of trees, waiting for hesitant tourists to whom they could offer guidance or sell postcards and wall plaques.

Most tourists on organised holidays in Sri Lanka visit Sigiriya as part of a tour of the cultural triangle formed by the ancient capitals of Anuradhapura, Polonnaruwa and Kandy. They spend a week yawning at ruins and joining scrums for hotel buffets before being allowed a week's respite at a beach resort. Two weeks is barely enough time to recover from jet lag so they have to wait for their holiday snaps to be developed to know where they have been.

No sign of Tigers, but beware the python; Safe holidays in dangerous places: Sri Lanka

The best way to see Sri Lanka is slowly; it took me 10 years since my first visit there to get to Sigiriya. Despite news stories emanating from Colombo about atrocities, most of Sri Lanka is safe for tourists, even those travelling independently.

Fighting between the **LTTE** and the Sri Lankan forces is taking place mostly on the Jaffna peninsula, about 240 miles north of Colombo and 140 miles north of Sigiriya. It may not seem far in terms of a developed country, but in an island of 25,332 square miles, much of which is rugged terrain of mountains, lakes and forests, it is a long way.

Despite its heavy density of population - about 670 people per square mile - there are areas where you will not see a soul, only the fibrous droppings of elephants or, on a surf-washed beach, clams frantically burrowing into the sand as you walk past.

The busiest place during the day is Colombo, not a lively city like Bangkok or Singapore, but nevertheless a developing one, with wide boulevards and garish mini skyscrapers alongside gracious colonial buildings. It is better experienced at night when the sun is down and the traffic at rest. Yes, it is safe to walk the streets after dark: watch for broken pavements rather than muggers.

The bombings and the brutal killings that characterised the late Eighties have passed when southern terrorists, the JVP, held the country to ransom and paralysed the city. One English Tory, staying at the Colombo Hilton when the Carlton Club was bombed, was moved to issue a statement to the Press saying he felt safer in Colombo than in London. It is a feeling that persists, inspired as much by the gentle smiles of the people as by the polite and thorough security checks whenever you enter a public building, bank or hotel.

Colombo is 20 miles from the airport and makes a good place to recover from the 12-hour flight from London before letting Sri Lanka enchant you. The city's main centre is still called the Fort, although the remains of the Portuguese and Dutch fortifications have vanished, leaving only some lone cannons pointing out to sea at the edge of Galle Face Green. This was a racecourse in the days of the British (1796 to 1947), when Sri Lanka was Ceylon. Now the Green is a dusty brown and serves as an evening promenade caressed by moist sea breezes. A stone at the water's edge records that Galle Face Walk was begun by Sir Henry Ward in 1856 and "recommended to his successors in the interests of the Ladies and Children of Colombo".

At the southern end of the Green is the Galle Face Hotel, established in 1864 and a favourite with nostalgia buffs although many bemoan either its decay or the whimsical way it is being restored. At the opposite (Fort) end, is the city's oldest (18 years) five-star hotel, the Ceylon Intercontinental, compact and clublike and recently renovated. Rooms at five other five-star hotels can be bargained down below the official rate of about pounds 45 a night.

After staying overnight in Colombo, I went by train to Bentota, the national tourist resort on the west coast, 40 miles south of Colombo. Trains in Sri Lanka are run without the pride of those in India but, if you get the right one, are tolerable. The Ruhunu Kumari, which leaves Colombo at 3.45 every afternoon, has a second-class compartment (there is no first) where seats can be reserved on the day or on board for 20p in addition to the fare. The journey south is spectacular as the single track runs alongside the sea, through villages and palm groves, giving tantalising views of the beach.

It was in Bentota that the JVP terrorists scored their biggest publicity stunt when, in 1988, their activities forced hotels to close and 8,000 tourists to be flown home. Now people speak in astonishment at the fear that prevailed in those days. All the police have to do now is deter beach boys from speaking to tourists.

I stayed in a guest house in Bentota where a room with a fan and ensuite bathroom with a shower cost pounds 3.60 for two, with full breakfast. With steak, fresh fish or grilled prawns costing less than pounds 2 a plate at the nearby French-owned Golden Gourmet restaurant, life was very agreeable.

There was no danger of boredom in Bentota since the broad, sandy beach and the sea, particularly tranquil from October to March, are only part of its attractions. Most of the hotels are on a spit with the sea on one side and the lagoon at the mouth of the lazy Bentota river on the other.

No sign of Tigers, but beware the python; Safe holidays in dangerous places: Sri Lanka

All kinds of watersports are available, including river safaris into the interior where water monitors masquerade as crocodiles and villagers tap toddy from the coconut trees as they have done for centuries. It is difficult to accept that Sri Lankans, appearing such placid people, could have indulged in the violent orgy that led to bodies being burnt on tyres by the roadside or dumped into this very river only two years ago.

From Bentota, a steam train - the Viceroy Special - takes tourists on jaunts to Kandy, with a stop on the way at an elephant orphanage. The Temple of the Tooth has the most famous relic of Buddhism in Sri Lanka: a tooth of the Buddha. Although hundreds of Sri Lankans and tourists file past the shrine every day, and a tooth casket is paraded through the streets in the annual perahera (procession), few have seen it. Heavy security at the temple indicates the importance of the relic to this predominantly Buddhist nation.

Independent travellers can go by Intercity Express from Colombo to Kandy, with all seats reservable from 10 days in advance, and wailing piped music and a bar with no beer as distraction from the lush, precipitous scenery. Railway police patrol the train to catch fare-dodgers rather than to protect passengers from terrorists.

Colombo residents still have doubts about journeying further north than Kandy and consider a train ride to Sigiriya as a dangerous adventure. It is not, even though the train you take is bound for Trincomalee, the town and harbour in the east that has been the scene of fierce fighting between the LTTE and Sri Lankan forces. It takes five hours by train, in a reserved second-class compartment, to Habarane, the nearest station for Sigiriya, about 55 miles from Trincomalee.

I had arranged for a car to take me to the Sigiriya Village Hotel since the bus service does not connect with the train. This unique, and environmentally-sound, hotel has been created by judicious landscaping out of scrubland, transforming a wasted area into a rich, tropical park where trees are treasured (and labelled so you know what you are looking at) and 80 species of bird call it home.

Accommodation is in cottages built, out of camouflaged concrete, to resemble the traditional mud dwellings of villages but with an interior layout like an up-market apartment. In furnishings and decor the cottages borrow from Sri Lankan themes of river, temple, festival and paddy field.

Two years ago, a gang of armed robbers, on the run from the south, raided the hotel, rounded up the guests and stole their valuables. They were soon caught. Now there are regular, armed police patrols at night through the hotel grounds. While walking along the jogging track one morning, I saw a notebook dangling from a tree. It was the police logbook where the patrols entered the time they passed. I wrote my own name in it, too.

Wild elephants are the only danger to visitors now, as they roam their ancient trails through the hotel's park, and possibly the python that cuddles tourists during the evening entertainment.

The risky climb to the top of the Sigiriya rock earns a certificate from the hotel's manager, granting the title of Senior Citizen in the Sigiriya Over-55 Club. It was only later that I realised it was not such a good souvenir to show people, since I am still under 55.

From Sigiriya by road it is a two- hour drive east to Polonnaruwa or north to Anuradhapura. I went to Anuradhapura, the furthest northern town that is safe for tourists to visit. The oldest accommodation there is in the Tissawewa Rest House in the former royal park where, because it is in the city's sacred area, no alcohol is sold.

A steward in white tunic with gleaming silver buttons and a white sarong was assigned to me on arrival to act as steward and room boy, a batman in the colonial manner. The rest house was built of wood and wide walls, high ceilings, broad verandas and doric columns, as a grand hotel at the beginning of this century. Monkeys gambol on the verandas.

Less than a mile away, on the avenue that leads to the sacred Bo tree, the Sri Maha Bodhi, the oldest historically documented tree on earth, the gutters ran with blood four years ago when the LTTE massacred pilgrims.

No sign of Tigers, but beware the python; Safe holidays in dangerous places: Sri Lanka

People in this tortured, beautiful land have grown accustomed to bloodshed and the slaughter of innocents. Yet, as I sat on the veranda and sipped a cup of Ceylon tea tasting of the woodsmoke from the open hearth where it was brewed, and gazed out at the 2,000-year-old park, it was hard to imagine that Sri Lanka is ever anything but serene.

Fact File

Getting there: Airlanka (reservations 071-439 0291/ information 071-491 0444) flies direct to Colombo from Heathrow. Excursion fares in December range from pounds 567 to pounds 632 return, dropping to pounds 480 from January to April 1992. The full economy fare of pounds 1,731 entitles a passenger to fly business class.

Information: Sri Lanka Tourist Board, 13 Hyde Park Gardens, London W2 2CU (071-262 5009). Rates at the Sigiriya Village Hotel (bookings through 94 1 698818; fax 94 1 699226) start at pounds 12 for two; a room for two at the Tissawewa Rest House (94 1 582995) costs about pounds 7.

End of Document

WORLD IN BRIEF

The Atlanta Journal and Constitution

July 13, 2000, Thursday,

Home Edition

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Section: News; Pg. 10A

Length: 681 words

Byline: From our news services

Body

U.S. sees China easing on Taiwan

China's defense chief told Defense Secretary William Cohen on Wednesday that Chinese leaders "have no intent to use force against Taiwan" even though they reserve the right to attack the island if it declares independence, U.S. officials said.

Gen. Chi Haotian, the Chinese defense minister, made the statement during talks with Cohen during Cohen's first visit to Beijing since China cut military ties with Washington last year following the U.S. bombing of China's embassy in Yugoslavia. American officials interpreted Chi's words as a sign that Beijing, which has rattled sabers at Taiwan for most of the past year, seems interested in softening its tone toward the island 100 miles off the Chinese coast.

The U.S. ambassador to China, Joseph Prueher, told reporters that the Chinese delegation appeared to be looking at the Taiwan issue, one of the most nettlesome subjects in Asia today, in a more positive manner than in the past.

CONSTITUTION

ASIA: Taliban rulers lift work restraints for women

Afghanistan's Taliban militia rulers agreed to rescind a new edict barring women from working for international relief agencies, a senior U.N. official said. The announcement came on the same day that the Taliban freed Mary Mackmakin, an American aid worker who had been held in a juvenile detention center since Sunday. The Taliban had agreed to let her go earlier, but she refused to leave until all her Afghan female employees, who were arrested along with her, also were released. The women were freed Wednesday.

Rebels accused of youth torture, recruitment

A human rights group accused the Tamil Tigers, a Sri Lanka rebel group, of forcing boys and girls as young as 10 to serve as guerrilla fighters, and of torturing those who refuse. The University Teachers for Human Rights --- a group made up largely of Tamil intellectuals --- said nine out of 15 children recruited from a school in the rebel-held northern town of Mallavi died during April and May in the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam advance on Jaffna city.

MIDDLE EAST: Iran held liable in 1996 deaths of 2 Americans

Iran rejected a U.S. court verdict that held it responsible for a terrorist bombing in Israel that killed two Americans. "The charges against Iran are sheer lies," Iran's Foreign Ministry spokesman Hamid-Reza Asefi said. A federal

WORLD IN BRIEF

court on Tuesday awarded the parents of Matthew Eisenfeld, 25, a rabbinical student from West Hartford, Conn., and Sara Duker, 22, of Teaneck, N.J., a total of \$ 327 million in damages. The two died in a Feb. 25, 1996, bus bombing in Jerusalem. The Americans' families had sued Iran under a federal law that allows victims to seek damages from nations that sponsor international terrorism.

EUROPE: 26 injured in plane accident in Austria

An Airbus 310 with 150 people aboard ran out of fuel and crash-landed at Vienna's Schwechat airport, slightly injuring 26 people. Austrian media said the plane "glided" toward the rough landing with the engines turned off, but that the force of impact ripped off an engine and badly damaged one wing.

Despite warning, car bomb injures 10

Fifteen minutes after a warning from a caller claiming to be a Basque separatist, a car bomb exploded outside a major Madrid department store, injuring 10 people. Four of the injured in the Spanish capital were policemen who rushed to the scene after learning of the warning. Two others were homeless people who had been sleeping outdoors.

THE AMERICAS: Cuban officials: U.S. law urges risky migration

Lawmakers in Cuba unanimously condemned a U.S. law they say encourages Cubans to migrate illegally to the United States, putting their lives and those of their children at risk. The Cuban Adjustment Act allows illegal Cuban immigrants who reach American soil to remain and apply for legal residency after a year. "It is a perverse policy, deliberately conceived to destabilize and suffocate Cuban society, cynically calculated to provoke death and suffering, shamelessly manipulating the tragedies that this law causes," said the proclamation approved by the National Assembly.

Graphic

Photo

A runner nearly gets gored during the sixth day of the running of the bulls at this year's San Fermin festival in Pamplona, northern Spain. The weeklong festival, made famous by U.S. author Ernest Hemingway, attracts thousands of revelers. / JON DIMIS/ Associated Press

Load-Date: July 13, 2000

End of Document

The Tigers' young recruit tells of being forced into war: Sri Lankan army puts 13-year-old captive on show to the press

The Guardian (London)

September 13, 2000

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Section: Guardian Foreign Pages, Pg. 17

Length: 682 words

Byline: Alastair Lawson-Tancred in Jaffna

Body

Renuka hobbles with the aid of a walking stick, accompanied by two women soldiers. An army intelligence officer says the girl was injured by a hand grenade while firing a rifle at a patrol. She looks drugged and ill, and answers questions only when her captors nod their approval.

She is 13. The ***Tamil Tigers*** have pressganged children as young as eight for their latest offensive in the northern peninsula of Sri Lanka. The government in turn is parading her before the few foreign journalists to visit the area.

Renuka says that she and scores of other girls joined the Tigers because they were warned of dire consequences if they refused.

"I personally met (the Tigers' leader) Velupillai Prabakaran," she says. "He told us that the only way we could obtain true freedom was by joining the struggle for an independent state for Sri Lankan Tamils called Eelam."

She says she was given a few weeks' military training in which she was taught to throw grenades and fire a rifle. Almost immediately afterwards she was caught up in heavy fighting.

Hundreds on both sides have died this month as the army has tried to push the Tigers away from Jaffna town, which is in government hands.

Renuka's evidence against the Tigers will make it impossible for her to return home without fear of retribution.

"She is considered to have betrayed the cause," the intelligence officer says, "especially because she did not take the cyanide capsule, which is mandatory for all rebels after they are captured."

Renuka is being held in solitary confinement in a dark and dirty cell in an army camp. The military authorities have the power to hold her for several months without trial. Then she is likely to be sent to a rehabilitation centre to join other orphaned or neglected Tamil children.

In recent days the armed forces have been shelling and bombing Tiger positions for up to 48 hours at a time. MiG fighters and helicopter gunships flying low over Jaffna town fire missiles in deafening salvos at all times of day and night.

Daya Somaundaram, one of the few child psychiatrists on the peninsula, says this has traumatised the children of the town, who are showing severe psychological scars.

The Tigers' young recruit tells of being forced into war: Sri Lankan army puts 13-year-old captive on show to the press

"It's not at all uncommon for children here to wake up screaming, become more reclusive or start bedwetting," she says.

"It's an understandable reaction to the ceaseless sound of bombs, and we have to remember that it's likely to be even worse for children in areas controlled by the Tigers, who are on the receiving end of most of the bombardments."

The army realises that its offensive is damaging young lives, but remains unrepentant. General Anton Wijendra, commanding officer of government forces on the peninsula, says: "It's a price we have to pay to rid this island of the scourge of terrorism."

Children suffer in other respects, too. Aid agencies say that about 110,000 people in the peninsula are displaced because of the war.

About 10,000 of them live in camps, where insanitary conditions and malnutrition are becoming more and more commonplace.

Medecins sans Frontieres concluded recently that about 20% of the displaced people on the peninsula were suffering from acute malnutrition.

About 80% of Jaffna's predominantly Tamil population is on rations, and only the most basic food items are available in the shops.

Evidence of the general election campaign, currently gripping the capital Colombo, is hard to find.

"People on the streets," says the Bishop of Jaffna, Thomas Savundaranayagam, "say that they're worried about more important things, such as ensuring their families survive the war."

"They want to secure enough food for their families and ensure that the education of their children is interrupted as little as possible."

Only about 20% of the people in Jaffna have a stable income, and often it is insufficient to cover the rising cost of living.

"The Jaffna peninsula is the largest open prison in the world," an aid worker says, "because it's only accessible from government-controlled areas by air and sea, and it can take months for local people to get permission to leave."

Load-Date: September 13, 2000

Sri Lankan military repulses rebel counter attack, 36 killed

Associated Press International

September 18, 2000; Monday

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Section: International news

Length: 752 words

Byline: DILSHIKA JAYAMAHA

Dateline: COLOMBO, Sri Lanka

Body

Backed by Russian fighter jets, soldiers repulsed a rebel counterattack in a battle that left 36 combatants dead and more than 200 wounded, a military spokesman said Monday.

The counterattack occurred Sunday in the northern city of Chavakachcheri, the same city that government soldiers captured earlier in the day, said Brig. Sanath Karunaratne, the spokesman. The city is 10 kilometers (six miles) east of Jaffna, the former rebel stronghold.

"The army, backed by air force fighter jets, retaliated against the attack," he said. At least 18 rebels and 18 soldiers were killed, he said.

Most of the 228 wounded soldiers were treated for minor injuries and returned to the front, he said, giving no figure for wounded rebels.

Karunaratne said the bodies of the rebels recovered from the battlefield will be returned to the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam through the International Committee of the Red Cross.

Independent verification of the casualty reports is not possible as neither side allows reporters into the battle zone.

Earlier on Sunday, MiG-27 fighter jets had helped the army recapture Chavakachcheri in an assault that the government said killed four soldiers and wounded 46. Government spokesman Ariya Rubasinghe had said Sunday that troops saw the rebels deserting their bases and defense lines.

Within seven hours they were back, using high-powered weapons to try to reclaim the town.

The rebels, fighting a 17-year war to create a homeland for the Tamil minority in the north and east, had wrested Chavakachcheri from the military during a major offensive in April and May.

The capture of Chavakachcheri is seen as a major victory for the government ahead of the Oct. 10 parliamentary election. Military gains against the rebels could win votes for the ruling People's Alliance.

More than 62,400 people have been killed in the conflict since 1983.

There has been no comment by the rebels on the recent attacks by the military.

Sri Lankan military repulses rebel counter attack, 36 killed

A bomb explosion at a police checkpoint killed at least three policeman on Monday, just a day after soldiers repulsed a rebel counterattack in the north that left 111 combatants dead and more than 200 wounded.

The explosion near the eastern town of Kalmunai occurred when police stopped a van to search it, said a constable at the Kalmunai police station, 220 kilometers (135 miles) east of the capital, Colombo. Three policemen were killed and six were wounded, police said.

Meanwhile, in the northern city of Chavakachcheri, soldiers repulsed a rebel counterattack late Sunday in a battle that left 111 dead. The clash occurred in the same city that government soldiers captured earlier in the day, said Brig. Sanath Karunaratne, the spokesman. The city is 10 kilometers (six miles) east of Jaffna, the former rebel stronghold.

Some of the dead included government soldiers, Karunaratne said. Most of the 228 wounded soldiers were treated for minor injuries, he said, giving no figure for wounded rebels.

The bodies of 18 rebels were recovered and handed to the International Committee of the Red Cross, Karunaratne said.

Another 75 bodies of rebels remained scattered in the area, government spokesman Ariya Rubasinghe said in his daily briefing on the war. He said a 15-year-old female rebel fighter was captured by the troops.

The government and human rights groups frequently accused the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam of using children as fighters in their 17-year war to create a homeland for the minority Tamils in the north and east. The Tamil Tigers have not responded to the charges and have made no comment on the government's recent offensive or the latest battles.

Independent verification of the casualty reports is not possible as neither side allows reporters into the battle zone.

Earlier on Sunday, MiG-27 fighter jets had helped the army recapture Chavakachcheri in an assault that the government said killed four soldiers and wounded 46. Troops on Sunday said they saw the rebels deserting their bases and defense lines.

Within seven hours the rebels were back, trying to reclaim the town.

The capture of Chavakachcheri the second largest town in the Jaffna Peninsula and about 300 kilometers (188 miles) from where Monday's bomb explosion occurred is seen as a major victory for the government ahead of the Oct. 10 parliamentary election. Military gains against the rebels could win votes for the ruling People's Alliance.

Earlier this year, the rebels wrested Chavakachcheri from the military.

More than 62,400 people have been killed in the conflict since 1983.

Load-Date: September 18, 2000

More than 130 drown as refugees flee Lankan military offensive

Deutsche Presse-Agentur

February 21, 1997, Friday, BC Cycle 13:47 Central European Time

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Section: International News

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Dateline: Colombo

Body

More than 130 minority Tamils fleeing a major military offensive in northern Sri Lanka are believed to have drowned after the trawler carrying them capsized off the northwest coast of the island, reports from the area said Friday.

The refugees, including women and children, were heading for nearby southern India when the overcrowded vessel capsized Wednesday.

So far only 85 bodies have been recovered while 20 survivors have returned, leading to speculation that the rest of 150 on board also may have died.

Rebels of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) reported the incident over their clandestine radio "Voice of the Tigers", and urged the public in the north in areas under their control to declare Saturday as a day of mourning.

Rebels claimed that all those who perished were refugees fleeing the major military offensive in progress in the northwestern Mannar. The operation began several days ago.

In a fresh development in the current Mannar district offensive troops advancing from two different flanks linked up on Friday taking control of a main highway which links the northern Vavuniya town to the northwestern Mannar area.

More than 15,000 persons have been displaced in the current offensive which was launched from Vavuniya on February 4 and followed up by another section of troops advancing from coastal camp at Mannar to link up on Friday.

The military has not officially confirmed the trawler incident but said civilians had been trying to flee the country over the past few weeks from Mannar in the wake of the offensive. They said some of them have been detected and sent back, while others have escaped.

The number of Tamils who have escaped to neighbouring India over the past two years has been put at more than 8,000.

Meanwhile in the capital an Air Force aircraft carrying troops to the north for the offensive against rebels in the north crashed into a marshy land as it was taking off from an air base in the capital, killing at least two security personnel and injuring 34 others.

More than 130 drown as refugees flee Lankan military offensive

The aircraft, an AN 32 carrying 55 security personnel with a four- man crew, was trying to take off from the Ratmalana air port, 10 kilometres south of the capital, when it slid along the runway and ended up in a marshy land.

The disaster was a continuation of woes to the Lankan air force which has already lost three air planes for this year and 13 since April 1995. dpa dvd mb 211322 GMT Feb 97

Load-Date: February 21, 1997

End of Document

Tamil Rebels Release Hostages From Seized Ferry

Associated Press Worldstream

September 06, 1995; Wednesday 10:19 Eastern Time

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Section: International news

Length: 365 words

Byline: DEXTER CRUEZ

Dateline: COLOMBO, Sri Lanka

Body

Tamil rebels on Wednesday released most of the 144 people who were aboard a ferry that the separatist guerrillas seized last week, the Red Cross said.

The people, who earlier had been taken on small boats to a rebel base on shore, were driven in vehicles to Jaffna Peninsula where rebel commanders are based in the north, and freed.

"The passengers are no longer in **LTTE** (rebel) custody. They are free to move around in the (rebel-held) peninsula," said Paul Fruh, acting head of the Red Cross in Sri Lanka.

"We will not take them into our care, but will arrange transport for them to travel to the (government-held) islands," Fruh said.

Most of the people on board the ferry were from the Tamil minority that the rebels are fighting for. But some are Tamils that oppose the guerrillas or come from the Sinhalese majority.

The rebels have been fighting for a homeland in the north and east for 12 years to redress what they see as discrimination by the Sinhalese, who control the government and the military. More than 36,000 people have been killed in the fighting.

The rebels had denied reports that two of the eight crew members were killed when the ferry was seized, and told the Red Cross the crew was being detained at an undisclosed location.

The ferry had been slightly damaged by a mortar shell which fell close to the vessel, but no one was hurt, Fruh said.

The Red Cross had been negotiating with the rebels since they seized the ferry Aug. 28 and used it to lure and sink two Sri Lankan gunboats, reportedly killing all 21 sailors.

Bachelor, with own digs, seeks friendly, young **female** willing to raise family. Call Blue at the Colombo zoo.

Blue is an orangutan who hasn't had **female** company in all his 14 years. And officials at the Colombo zoo are trying to play matchmaker for the lonely bachelor who spends most of the day staring at visitors.

There's been no luck so far for Blue, a gift from Australia, said zoo director P. Wijesinghe.

Tamil Rebels Release Hostages From Seized Ferry

The plight of the orangutan even moved an opposition lawmaker to ask the government on Wednesday to help the primate.

But another orangutan at the zoo, Koko, was lucky. He found a mate in Cursey, who was loaned by a nature park in Taipei.

(ne/kg)

Load-Date: September 6, 1995

End of Document

Tamil terror blights Prince's Sri Lanka visit

The Independent (London)

February 4, 1998, Wednesday

Copyright 1998 Independent Print Ltd

Section: NEWS; Page 11

Length: 701 words

Byline: Peter Popham

Body

The Prince of Wales arrived in Sri Lanka yesterday to join in the celebrations of the war-torn country's 50th anniversary of independence. Our correspondent witnessed the start of a visit constrained by security anxieties.

As Prince Charles stood on the podium in Colombo airport this afternoon, cannon shots rang out in salute, and a stray dog, clearly convinced that it was about to die, sprinted flat out across the runway. Then the long grass in front of the guns burst into flames and a fire engine raced up to put them out. Finally, the band marched off playing the theme tune from Monty Python's Flying Circus.

It was a promising start to a royal visit which terror and scandal have reduced to a ceremonial skeleton. At a temple east of Colombo which the Prince visited later in the afternoon, one of the treasures he inspected is a statue of the Fasting Buddha, eyes sunk into their sockets, stomach no more than a hole, limbs reduced to fleshless tendons.

The Prince's four-day Sri Lanka tour is a bit like that. Gone is the excursion to the old royal capital of Kandy, the prettiest town in the country and its religious heart. Gone, for reasons of royal face, is the investiture of Arthur C Clarke, the science fiction author about whom claims have been made that he paid for sex with young boys. Various meetings with exponents of intermediate technology and the like were mooted, but security concerns ruled them out.

The Prince's first stop-off was at a new factory making men's underwear for Marks & Spencer, a joint venture between Courtaulds and local firms. He unveiled a plaque. Then at the 17th-century Raja Maha Vijaraya temple he was swept up in a traditional temple procession with bare-chested drummers, women in shocking pink dresses waving fly whisks, and infant dancers in pointed hats. Escorted under a mammoth saffron parasol next to the abbot, he presented a plate of rose petals at the foot of a golden image of the Buddha of the Future inside the temple, and admired the wall paintings.

His arrival in the capital was a muted affair. The schoolchildren who were supposed to cheer and wave had been sent back to their studies lest one of them were to choose glorious martyrdom as a Tamil Tiger suicide bomber. So instead the streets were lined only with soldiers: some 10,000 have been deployed in Colombo over the anniversary period. This is a country which, thanks to the civil war, is celebrating 50 years of freedom through gritted teeth.

There is, however, far less touchiness about the colonial legacy of Sri Lanka than is found in, for example, India. Today, while the might of the country's armed forces rolls past Prince Charles in the official anniversary celebration, an alternative event in the hills east of Kandy will see the enthronement, at a place called Welassa, of an anti-British monk as the Prince of Welassa. Welassa - Wales, get it? The National Joint Committee of Buddhist Organisations

Tamil terror blights Prince's Sri Lanka visit

thinks the Prince should not have been invited and is staging the tongue-in-cheek event as a mild protest. But feelings amongst the population at large are not running high. Unlike in India, there was no freedom struggle in Sri Lanka: independence was handed them on a plate. Lord Salisbury is honoured as the father of the constitution. Prince Charles's arrival has caused little stir, but that is blamed on his lack of charisma. Were he to have brought his sons, William and Harry, it might have been different. When Diana, Princess of Wales died the grief here rivalled that in Britain.

It is rumoured that Prince Charles may steal time from his thin schedule to make a secret visit to Kandy, to inspect the damage that the Temple of the Sacred Tooth. If he were able to prowling about on his own he would find in Sri Lanka's streets numerous reminders of Britain of the Fifties: Morris Minor and Morris Oxford cars, advertisements for Lifebuoy and Sunlight soaps, Players Gold Leaf and Horlicks. Such a walkabout is very unlikely to happen, however, because as long as the Prince is in the country his safety will be a gigantic headache for the government. The temptation for the **Tamil Tigers** to punctuate his visit with a "spectacular" must be almost irresistible.

Load-Date: February 4, 1998

End of Document

By KRISHNAN GURUSWAMY
Associated Press Writer
REPLACE

Associated Press Worldstream

October 27, 1994; Thursday 13:03 Eastern Time

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Section: International news

Length: 418 words

Dateline: COLOMBO, Sri Lanka

Body

Prime Minister Chandrika Kumaratunga on Thursday said her government will not talk with the Tamil Tiger rebels until police complete the probe into the assassination of the main opposition candidate for president.

"We are not prepared to resume peace talks until we know that the Tigers are not responsible," Mrs. Kumaratunga told a news conference.

A woman Tiger rebel is suspected to have set off explosives strapped to her body and killed Gamini Dissanayake and 53 others at an election rally on Sunday. The Tigers have denied their involvement.

Meanwhile, police were searching for 10 Tamil women who lived near where Dissanayake was killed and may be linked to the bombing. Police also questioned 35 ethnic Tamils who were detained after the bombing.

Doctors found traces of cyanide in the mouth of one woman _ believed to be the suicide bomber whose head was severed and blown 30 yards (meters) by the blast, police said.

Tamil Tiger rebels wear cyanide capsules around their necks so they can bite them and commit suicide if they face capture.

A second cyanide capsule was found intact behind the stage where Dissanayake gave a campaign speech moments before he was killed, police said. It might have fallen when an accomplice fled.

Dissanayake was critical of peace talks with the rebels launched earlier this month by the two-month-old government.

A reversal of the government's decision to keep the door open for peace talks came after the opposition United National Party accused it of talking to the "murderers" of Dissanayake.

"The assassination has nothing to do with the peace process, but we will be asking for trouble if we go ahead with the talks," she said.

The prime minister claimed she also faced death threats from the opposition, but did not elaborate.

By KRISHNAN GURUSWAMY Associated Press Writer *REPLACE*

She felt that the Tigers or Dissanayake's own UNP, which is plagued by dissent, could be involved in Sunday's blast. "Both the UNP and the **LTTE** are known to murder for political gains. So it could be either of them," Mrs. Kumaratunga said.

The 11-year fight for a Tamil homeland by the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam has left over 34,000 people dead.

Police have stepped up security for both main presidential contestants.

Mrs. Kumaratunga, who led the People's Alliance to victory in parliamentary elections in August, is favored to win the presidency, Sri Lanka's most powerful post.

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(REG:EURO;)

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Load-Date: October 27, 1994

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The new face of terror

The Straits Times (Singapore)

April 22, 2002 Monday

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Section: WORLD

Length: 1024 words

Body

The spate of **female** suicide bombings in the Middle East this year is throwing the spotlight on the growing involvement of **women** in terror groups and is raising concern. SHEFALI REKHI of the Straits Times Foreign desk reports.

THERE was little to suggest that Ayat Al-akhras would end her life by detonating a bomb strapped to her body. She was 18, a bright student and engaged to be married in July.

Yet on March 29, the Palestinian from the Dehaishe refugee camp on the outskirts of Bethlehem crossed into Jerusalem, evading Israeli military checkpoints, belted herself with explosives and made her way into a crowded supermarket.

Minutes later, confronted by a security guard, she blew herself up, killing two others and leaving Israel even more unnerved.

She was the third **female** suicide bomber to strike the Jewish state this year.

In hot spots across the globe, a disconcerting trend is making intelligence and security experts sit up: **Women** are playing an increasingly active role in militant groups.

Women have been known to play supporting roles in such organisations.

But recent developments show that they are moving up the hierarchy, say experts.

They are now taking leadership positions and helping to implement their groups' missions, increasing the threat to society, they add.

'Earlier, **females** were not involved in combat roles in many militant outfits,' terrorism expert Rohan Gunaratna told The Straits Times in a telephone interview from Britain.

'But now you find that more groups are recruiting **women** and using them in the decision-making process.

'It is partly to do with the feminism thing, with **women** wanting to show that they are as good as men.'

Female militants are making their presence felt not only in the Middle East but also in Chechnya, South Asia and South-east Asia.

The new face of terror

Ambulance worker Wafa Idris, 26, from the Ramallah refugee camp, blazed the trail for women militants in the Middle East by blowing herself up in central Jerusalem in January this year.

Nablus University student Dareen Abu Ish then followed her example. She detonated herself in central Jerusalem in February, killing a policeman.

All three women bombers had been armed by the Al-Aqsa brigade.

The group is linked to Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat's Fatah movement, which claims to have a special unit for training female suicide bombers.

Chechnya, too, has had its first female suicide bomber.

Last December, the 25-year-old widow of a former member of an armed group approached regional military commander Gaidar Gajiyeu and blew herself up.

The commander and two of his guards were injured seriously while another guard and the bomber died in the blast.

And in Sri Lanka, research shows that women from the Black Tigers suicide-attack unit of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) carry out between 30 and 40 per cent of the group's suicide bombing missions.

In other parts of South Asia and South-east Asia, women are moving up the ranks in militant organisations although suicide attacks are not yet the norm there.

Indian forces report that Pakistani militants in Kashmir are using women as spies and 'enticers'.

Women are also important activists in the Maoist insurgency struggles in Andhra Pradesh and Bihar in India, according to the Regional Centre for Strategic Studies (RCSS) in Colombo.

In the Philippines, the number of women in the New People's Army (NPA), the military wing of the Communist Party of Philippines (CPP), has shot up from 20 per cent to more than 30 per cent in the past five years.

Congressman Satur Ocampo, who represents a party identified with the underground CPP, told The Straits Times that women were playing a more important role in the 12,000-strong army.

'Women have been able to formalise their role within the group, take up leadership positions and even lead fighting units,' he said.

In one ambush, the woman who led the raid waited to shake hands with wounded police before leaving.

Such is the reputation generated by the NPA that, in February, a top Philippine officer warned the public to be vigilant about their young sons.

'Charming and lovely' members of the NPA were out to recruit youngsters, he said.

RCSS executive director Dipankar Banerjee says measures should be taken to deal with the underlying causes of terrorism in South-east Asia.

Otherwise, the region could soon see suicide-bombings.

The growth of terrorism 'takes time, continued disaffection, external support, motivation and state neglect', he said.

'I reckon that in another five years or so, if such conditions prevail in any society in South-east Asia, suicide terrorism will make an entry; and a few years later, women terrorists may also be found,' he said.

Experts say militant groups are using women more frequently in their operations because they are less likely to raise suspicion.

The new face of terror

Women are also eager to prove themselves to be more capable than men, and the chances of them being detected by security forces are lower.

Researcher Yoram Schweitzer, of Israel's International Policy Institute for Counter-Terrorism, believes militant leaders often manipulate the **women** members of their groups to volunteer for suicide missions.

In a paper that he presented at an international conference on countering suicide terrorism in February last year, he said **women** militants were more to be found in groups with a nationalistic orientation such as the **LTTE** and the Kurdistan Worker's Party (PKK) in Turkey.

'The fundamentalist Islamic terror groups have never let **women** take part in their terrorist activities, let alone in suicide terrorism,' he said.

But that could be changing.

Following their crackdown on the Kumpulan Militan Malaysia (KMM) last June, police discovered the group had plans to set up a **women**'s wing.

Investigations showed that the wing was to involve the wives of the group's 200 members as well as other **women** who supported the group's goal of setting up an Islamic state through the use of force.

As Dr Bruce Hoffman, terrorism specialist at the Rand Corp, a prominent US think-tank, said in an interview: 'September 11 has taught us the inadequacy of going by past trends.

'We must be prepared for that which cannot be predicted.'

Load-Date: April 22, 2002

Briefly

The Ottawa Citizen

May 11, 1996, Saturday, FINAL EDITION

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Section: NEWS; BRIEFLY; Pg. A3

Length: 756 words

Byline: CITIZEN NEWS SERVICES

Body

The Harris government has embarked on an "orgy" of advertising to sell the merits of its budget, critics say. Liberal House Leader Jim Bradley said Friday that the government is spending more than half a million dollars to sell its fiscal plans. That figure includes \$ 280,000 to sell the budget and \$ 350,000 for ads following earlier announced spending cuts. "This is an inappropriate use of taxpayers dollars, particularly so when the government . . . is preaching restraint to everyone else," Bradley said.

Protesters arrested after sit-in at Indian Affairs

Police arrested seven people after a brief sit-in at the Hull office of the Indian Affairs department Friday afternoon. All seven were to be charged with public mischief after refusing staff and police requests to leave, said Hull police Sgt. Richard Michaud. The protesters were aboriginal students demonstrating against recent changes to social programs and for changes to federal government policies for native people, according to a press release.

Crab fishermen upset over changes to quotas

TRACADIE, N.B. -- About 500 crab fishermen marched on a federal Fisheries Department office in northeastern New Brunswick on Friday to express anger over quota allocations. The protesters work on mid-shore boats and are upset that some of their quota is being handed to inshore fishermen. They also want a meeting with federal Fisheries Minister Fred Mifflin. The protesters, whose season began earlier this week, are threatening to tie their boats up until they get that meeting. Mid-shore boats are larger than those in the inshore fleet, and generally work further off the shoreline.

Alligators had their day in court -- and lost

WINNIPEG -- A judge threw out a cruelty to animals charge against the organizers of an alligator show, after watching a videotape that showed a gator being poked, prodded, sat on and pulled by the tail. "On no occasion did the alligator appear to be provoked or agitated," provincial Judge Susan Devine concluded Friday when she viewed the tape of a well-muscled handler grapple with a thrashing gator in the Kachunga alligator show. The Red River Exhibition was charged by an animal rights group under a Criminal Code section that bans people from encouraging animals to fight.

Ex-cabinet minister makes parole after scandal

REGINA -- Less than a year after being sent to prison in a million-dollar scheme to defraud Saskatchewan taxpayers, a former provincial Tory cabinet minister is preparing for a comfortable life on day parole. Lorne

Briefly

McLaren, who became eligible for limited release Friday, won't be suffering financially when he settles into a Regina halfway house. The former labor minister, who is 67, will collect four pensions -- including more than \$ 1,200 a month from the legislative assembly. McLaren was sentenced to 3 1/2 years in prison last September after pleading guilty to defrauding taxpayers of more than \$ 1 million between 1987 and 1991.

Man gets 10 years for shotgun slaying

BELLEVILLE, Ont. -- A man who fatally shot another man behind a downtown bar last summer was sentenced Friday to 10 years in prison for manslaughter. Timothy Barnhart, 36, of the Tyendinaga Mohawk Territory, pleaded guilty to the reduced charge. He was originally charged with first-degree murder in the shotgun slaying of Roy Brown, 38, last June 1. Judge Stephen Hunter called it a "senseless, horrible act." Hunter said Barnhart was "clearly in a drug and alcohol induced stupor" when he shot Brown in the head.

Lougheed made chancellor of Queen's University

KINGSTON -- Former Alberta premier Peter Lougheed has been named chancellor of Queen's University. Lougheed will take over the post from retiring Chancellor Agnes Benedickson. Benedickson, the first **female** chancellor at Queen's, is leaving after 16 years in the job. Lougheed's sons, Stephen and Joseph, are both graduates of Queen's.

Former Mountie translator faces several charges

TORONTO -- A former RCMP employee involved in sensitive police intelligence investigations has been charged with attempting to obstruct justice. RCMP investigators allege Kumaravelu Vignarajah, a former translator for the force, is a high-ranking member of the **Tamil Tigers**, a guerrilla group fighting for a separate homeland in Sri Lanka. Vignarajah is also charged with perjury, relating to information he gave on his refugee claim when he arrived in Canada in 1989. Police said they believe he was trying to infiltrate the RCMP for the Tigers.

Load-Date: May 12, 1996

**THE U.N. AT 50: THE PROTESTERS;
Varied Voices With One Demand: Justice!**

The New York Times

October 23, 1995, Monday, Late Edition - Final

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Distribution: Foreign Desk

Section: Section A; ; Section A; Page 10; Column 4; Foreign Desk ; Column 4;

Length: 738 words

Byline: By CAREY GOLDBERG

By CAREY GOLDBERG

Body

The Tibetans chanted, "Shame on China!" The Cubans shouted, "Cuba, si! Castro, no!" The Kurds joined in with "Stop the Turkish fascism!" and the Pakistanis with "Go back, Bhutto!" The Belarus contingent yelled "Who is enemy of freedom? Lukashenko!" and a mass of Tamils prodded the Sri Lankan leader bluntly, "Out! Chandrika, out!"

But in all the cacophonous complaints voiced by several thousand protesters opposite the United Nations yesterday, there was one hoarse phrase that could be heard from groups as varied as Zairians and Taiwanese: "We want justice!"

That cry, in various forms, has floated up from a kind of international Speakers' Corner at Dag Hammarskjold Plaza for much of the 50 years that the United Nations has existed. As world leaders have practiced their oratory from grand podiums, their dissenters and victims, from across First Avenue, have clamored for their ears in a sort of extended political street theater.

The cast of protesters on Dag Hammarskjold Plaza and in nearby Ralph Bunche Park has changed; there is barely an echo left of the cold war conflicts that brought Soviet emigres to the streets or the Mideast turmoil that provoked Arabs and Jews to take up placards. But the plaza still stands as a forum of last resort for the people who see themselves as members of captive nations, for groups out of political favor in their homelands and for those who come from places where dissent can bring death.

"We get to speak for those Cubans who cannot speak," said Remberto Perez, regional director of the Cuban American National Foundation, whose members had brought a quilt sewn of more than 9,000 squares commemorating people who had died under the rule of President Fidel Castro, many with the label "fusilado" -- shot.

Nearby, under a blue tent and surrounded by hundreds of chanting compatriots, Tenzing Jamyang and five other Tibetans languished through the ninth day of a hunger strike they have sworn will be to the death -- unless the United Nations agrees to declare Tibet an occupied country illegally colonized by China.

THE U.N. AT 50: THE PROTESTERS; Varied Voices With One Demand: Justice!

A 24-year-old video librarian who lives in Chicago, Tenzing Jamyang said he despaired of finding any other way to get world attention.

"It is my birth duty to redeem Tibet," he said. "Since the last 26 years we have been protesting all over the world, but we never get any response from any country or the United Nations."

A similar desperation came from supporters of the separatist **Tamil Tigers** of Sri Lanka, more than 1,000 of them waving flags depicting a tiger on a field of red and demanding that the United Nations recognize their right to self-determination.

Like many of their counterparts across First Avenue, they felt deprived of the attention they saw as their due, and baffled about how to get it. By demonstrating they felt as if they were bringing their case to global viewers.

"We find our struggle has not been recognized by the international media, and other struggles have come to the front, like Bosnia," said Dr. V. Alaganar, a Tamil organizer. "But we deserve equal attention."

Their protest against Sri Lanka's President, Chandrika Bandaranaike Kumaratunga, included accusations that her Government continued to bomb Tamil places of worship and schools; along with leaflets, they passed out free videocassettes of the recent bombing of one site.

If the Tamils had few hopes of getting their problems to the forefront of the world agenda, the protesters representing the Mohajir of Pakistan had even fewer, aware that few Americans had ever heard of them and would care little for their problems if they had.

Mohajir protesters, representing a subgroup of 22 million people who migrated to Pakistan after the partition of India in 1947, charged that Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto's Government had ordered "dishonor, gang rapes and victimization" of Mohajir **women**.

Protesters did not fool themselves that the role of the United Nations guaranteed its interest in their problems. Like savvy advertisers, they resorted to attention-grabbers to make their problems more relevant.

A group of Belarus emigres knew that Aleksandr Lukashenko, the Russian-leaning leader of their small former Soviet republic, might hold little natural interest here. So they played the American angle to perfection, harking back to the recent scandal when American balloons flying over Belarus were shot down.

"Who shot American balloonists?" they chanted repeatedly. "Lukashenko!"

Graphic

Photo: Cuban-Americans in a flotilla of about 20 boats in the East River, protesting President Fidel Castro's visit. (Keith Meyers/The New York Times)

Load-Date: October 23, 1995

From the Crusades to kamikaze

The Sunday Times (London)

May 4, 1997, Sunday

Copyright 1997 Times Newspapers Limited

Section: Features

Length: 720 words

Byline: Andrew Wheatcroft

Body

ANDREW WHEATCROFT reads a coolly dispassionate study of holy war

What makes a young woman in Jerusalem strap sticks of dynamite around her body, walk into a public place and become a human bomb, killing dozens around her? What zealotry drives a man in Georgia, America, to gun down a doctor who is performing abortions in accordance with the law? In both cases, one a fundamentalist Muslim, the other a fundamentalist Christian, they are waging a holy war. For them and many others, the holy end justifies the evil means, and sanctifies their personal sacrifice of life or liberty.

In *God of Battles: Holy Wars of Christianity and Islam* (HarperCollins Pounds 25), Peter Partner concentrates on the tradition of the holy war in both Islam and Christianity, but it is much more widespread than the scope of his book suggests. The tradition was the inspiration of the Divine Wind, the kamikaze pilots of the second world war, just as today the fighters of the **Tamil Tigers** represent a narrow strain of self-sacrifice in Hindu tradition.

The peoples of the book - Jews, Muslims and Christians - seem gripped by the idea of holy war. It is a taint that flows deep in the bloodstream. Within each faith, a spirit of tolerance co-exists with a tradition of fanaticism. It is one of the strengths of Partner's chronicle that he covers so many instances and shows the choplogic of the current stereotype, which regards only Muslims as dangerous zealots and, in doing so, diverts attention from similar tendencies to fanaticism in other faiths.

In the tumult of the former Yugoslavia, for example, the savage old Christian tradition of crusade, which many thought dead, has risen again, justifying the murder of Bosnian Muslims. And also within Christianity, the same sectarian prejudices are played out. "We'll treat them as they treated us, down by the River Boyne", runs one old Protestant song.

Partner's book has many merits, but for so ghastly and visceral a subject it seems curiously bloodless. The author seems to have risen, dispassionately, above the horrors of holy war and its effects on human lives and bodies. This means that we survey the topic from a great height, coolly and analytically. He writes calmly, for example, of the capture of Jerusalem, the culmination of the first crusade in 1099, as an "appalling massacre of combatants and non-combatants alike...justified at the time as vengeance for the casualties that had been inflicted earlier upon the western army". He could have quoted Raymond of Aguilers, who struggled to make his way up the hill to the temple mount, through a mound of bodies and a cascade of blood that often came over his knees. That heap of bodies included men, women, children and animals: indeed, anything living was subsumed within the general blood lust. It is not far from here to the killing fields of Srebrenica.

From the Crusades to kamikaze

Oddly, Partner does not mention the civil war in what was briefly Yugoslavia, for those events do much to prove the point that he delicately makes. He suggests that this tendency to holy war is part of our common heritage, something to be guarded against. The best part of this excellent book concerns the shifting traditions of Islam in the 19th and 20th century, which should be compulsory reading for the Middle East desks in the State Department and the Foreign Office.

This is the only book I have read that comes to a fair and intelligent judgment on the Ayatollah Khomeini. Much less stimulating is the long and rather wearisome chronicle that trudges through the ancient and medieval world. The point that the author makes is one of continuity, that both the world of Islam and the societies still nominally Christian are conditioned by their past. Intolerance and the tradition of holy war are part of that heritage.

But the same passionate intensity that leads to suicide for the faith, or to bestial atrocity, can be turned to other ends. Partner shows that the word jihad , usually translated as holy war, can as easily mean struggle, in a purely ethical and spiritual dimension. Unfortunately, those for whom this persuasive book carries its most powerful message - the holy warriors, Christian, Muslim or Jewish - are those least likely to read it.

Andrew Wheatcroft is the author of *The Ottomans*, *Dissolving Images* and *The Habsburgs and Embodying Empire*

Graphic

Conflict; Books

Load-Date: May 7, 1997

End of Document

SRI LANKA: LIFE RESUMES AS GUNS FALL SILENT IN BATTICALOA

IPS-Inter Press Service

February 7, 1995, Tuesday

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Length: 704 words

Byline: by Rita Sebastian

Dateline: BATTICALOA, SRI LANKA, Feb. 7

Body

After 11 years of fierce fratricidal battle, peace is stepping gingerly in this eastern seaboard town, and the people are optimistic that this time around, it is here to stay.

Batticaloa, one of the nerve-centers of the bloody ethnic conflict between government forces and militant **Tamil Tigers** battling for an independent homeland in the island nation's north and east, is quietly returning to a normal and sane existence.

The government and the Tigers agreed on a temporary cessation of hostilities during their second round of talks early last month. The truce came into effect on Jan 8.

"The guns have remained silent and the people are happy," says young Marian Deepa, who works with an aid agency. "For the first time in years people have begun to venture out to earn a livelihood, whether it be fishing or working in the fields," she adds.

Marian is engaged in the sad task of enumerating the **women** widowed by the civil war, their family situation and their immediate needs. "Hundreds of them have lost their husbands in the war," says Marian.

The devastated populace is slowly picking up the threads of existence to build a new life structured around changed realities.

For the first time after failed peace talks led to a fresh outbreak in hostilities in June 1990, Tiger cadres are moving about freely in towns and villages. They are identifiable by the cyanide capsules around their necks.

"We see them when they come into town to buy provisions," says Abdul Majeed, 22, a taxi driver. "We have no problems with them coming into town. But there is a fear that if peace talks break down there could be war again and we would become the victims," he adds.

But Majeed favors forgiving the militants for the atrocities committed against his minority Muslim community and giving them a fresh chance.

Not everyone is so forgiving. The Sri Lankan Army has been replaced by a strong police contingent in the town that still remembers the loss of 564 comrades after the breakdown of peace negotiations in 1990.

Although they are hoping that peace will hold and the government will be able to negotiate a political settlement with the Tigers, they stress that they are prepared to "face any eventuality" this time.

SRI LANKA : LIFE RESUMES AS GUNS FALL SILENT IN BATTICALOA

But most of the citizens are hopeful that the eventuality will not arise and praise the government for taking the initiative to talk to the Tigers.

"It was a bold step taken by the new government to initiate peace talks and resolve this longstanding conflict, " says Bishop Kingsley Swampillai of the Roman Catholic Eastern Diocese.

And he, like the other citizens of Batticaloa, is hoping that the truce will hold. Critics say the hope is making the people overlook violations by the Tigers that may spell danger for peace in the long run.

The former militant People's Liberation Front of Tamil Eelam (PLOTE), which has now entered mainstream politics denies news reports that the Tigers have been infiltrating the district. "We have not seen any armed Tigers. We have only heard rumors," says a PLOTE spokesperson.

The Tigers themselves dismiss reports that the truce has given them an opportunity to build up their stocks of rations, fuel and food for the next round of battle.

Thilagar, who heads the group's economic wing in Vakrai, a township north of Batticaloa, dismisses the allegations as so much talk. "We are only buying things we have been deprived of for so long and which we need to carry out our normal activities."

He insists that the Tigers are all for peace, contrary to media reports that they are only buying time to strike with renewed vigor.

He has unlikely allies in the majority Sinhala community villages that dot the borders of the mainly Tamil-populated Eastern Province.

It is these villages that have lived in constant fear of attacks by the Tigers. But even here the villagers are confident that President Chandrika Kumaratunga will be able to work out a negotiated settlement with the militants.

A village headman in one of the border villages dismisses truce violations as the handiwork of Tiger dropouts.

The residents of Batticaloa are hoping -- some say against hope -- that if they wish hard enough, the temporary cessation of hostilities may spell lasting peace for their war-ravaged nation.

Load-Date: February 8, 1995

BRIEFLY

The Ottawa Citizen

November 23, 1995, Thursday, FINAL EDITION

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Section: NEWS; BRIEFLY; Pg. A10

Length: 760 words

Byline: CITIZEN NEWS SERVICES

Body

Israeli police official drops

murder conspiracy theory

JERUSALEM -- Israel's top police official has backed off from his theory that Yitzhak Rabin was killed in a large-scale conspiracy, saying only the gunman and his brother were involved in a plot to kill the prime minister. Police Minister Moshe Shahal's comments on Wednesday confirmed testimony by the director of the Shin Bet, the internal security service, who told a government commission this week Rabin was killed by a lone assassin.

Pope, Irish government square off in divorce vote

DUBLIN -- A debate on legalizing divorce in Ireland neared its end Wednesday, with the Pope urging voters not to wreck marriage and the government calling for a show of traditional Irish compassion to victims of marital breakdown. Supporters of keeping a 70-year-old ban on divorce and proponents of a constitutional change to allow remarriage fired a volley of closing shots to win undecided votes before a referendum Friday.

Woman gets 10 life terms

for killing 10 women, girls

WINCHESTER, England -- One of Britain's worst serial murderers went to jail for life Wednesday for killing 10 women and girls, including a daughter and a stepdaughter. Rosemary West, 41, sat impassively as a jury convicted her of seven counts of homicide. She was convicted earlier this week of three murders. Throughout the trial, she blamed the killings on her husband, Frederick West. He was found hanged in his prison cell last New Year's Day.

Tamil Tigers accused

of downing military plane

COLOMBO, Sri Lanka -- A military plane carrying 59 troops and three crew crashed into the Indian Ocean on Wednesday. The government blamed the Tamil Tiger rebels for downing the plane. The loss of the aircraft raised a death toll that has grown rapidly since the government launched its offensive against Tamil separatists last month. At least 2,000 people have been killed since the campaign began Oct. 17.

UN extends sanctions

BRIEFLY

on Libya over jet downing

UNITED NATIONS -- The UN extended sanctions against Libya on Wednesday to punish it for not surrendering suspects in the bombing of Pan Am Flight 103. The sanctions, including a ban on air travel and an arms embargo, were imposed in April 1992. They were extended Wednesday for 120 days. The plane exploded over Lockerbie, Scotland, in December 1988, killing 270 people, including two Canadians. The UN has demanded that Libya hand over two suspects to be tried in a United States or Scottish court.

Chirac cleared in probe

of Paris housing deal

PARIS -- French President Jacques Chirac has had a political cloud lifted from over his head. The Paris public prosecutor has dropped an investigation into his low-rent, city-owned apartment "in the absence of any clear offence." The case grew out of a March report in the satirical weekly *Le Canard Enchaîné* that Paris's Municipal Buildings Management Co. had bought Chirac's rented apartment in 1990, allegedly to save him from eviction or a sharp rent increase. Chirac, mayor of Paris until he became president last May, has confirmed renting the apartment for about \$ 3,500 Cdn a month, about half the market price, but denied any role in the decision to buy it.

Pedophiles face death

under proposed legislation

MANILA -- A Philippine congressional panel has approved a bill that would impose the death penalty on people who sexually abuse children. The bill, aimed at curbing a sex trade affecting an estimated 100,000 children, makes pedophilia punishable by a maximum penalty of death and fines of up to 250,000 pesos (\$ 13,000 Cdn). If the offender is a foreigner and the penalty imposed is a jail term, he can be deported only after serving his term. Present law punishes pedophiles with a maximum of life imprisonment. A foreigner can evade serving the penalty if the government decides to deport him immediately.

German library finds

long-lost Luther Bible

BONN -- The Latin Bible that Protestant reformer Martin Luther used to translate Christianity's holy book into German has been found after being lost for more than 200 years, the librarian who identified it said Wednesday. The volume, signed by Luther and covered with notes he made in its margins, was among thousands of Bibles stored at the Wuerttemberg State Library in Stuttgart, librarian Manuel Santos-Noya wrote in the *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung*. The Bible, printed in Lyon in 1519, went unnoticed for more than two centuries until the library began sorting its collection.

Citizen news services

Load-Date: November 24, 1995

Suicide soars in the midst of 'paradise' isle gets a bad name for suicide stains the image of tops world suicide league; Sri Lanka's tropical beauties mask a population giving way to despair, writes Jan McGirk

The Independent (London)

December 8, 1996, Sunday

Copyright 1996 Independent Print Ltd

Section: THE WORLD; Page 15

Length: 726 words

Byline: Jan McGirk

Body

Teen Beauty Returns Ring, Drinks Poison. Husband Kills Self When Wife Wanders. Gambler Gives Up after Losing Last Bet.

Lurid headlines like these used to be daily newspaper fodder in Sri Lanka, but all reports of suicide have vanished from the country's six government-controlled papers, following a recent directive from President Chandrika Kumaratunge's private office. The two state television channels and government radio were gagged as well.

By suppressing these titillating accounts of how lovesick and despairing Sri Lankans kill themselves, the president hopes, others might be discouraged from copying them. Sri Lanka needs to try something to bring down what may be the highest suicide rate in the world: according to a recent study by Colombo University, 46 of every 100,000 Sri Lankans kill themselves, putting the country significantly ahead of Hungary (38.6 per 100,000) and Finland, which attract international concern due to their abnormally high number of suicides.

Sociologists have often blamed gloomy northern climes for triggering suicidal angst. The rate is significantly lower in most of Latin America and southern Europe, and Caribbean nations such as Barbados and the Bahamas are near the bottom of figures compiled by the World Health Organisation. But Sri Lanka - which is omitted from the WHO statistics because it has not submitted figures for a decade - is a stereotypical tropical isle, with coral reefs, coconut palms and green tea gardens.

Something other than the climate is at work, and the major stress factor is the relentless and brutal civil war which has set the Tamil minority against the ruling Sinhalese for the past 13 years. But that alone would not be enough to account for Sri Lanka's high suicide rate. What pushes it to the top of the table are the myriad of domestic tragedies: the cuckolded husbands who drink insecticide, the abused wives who hang themselves by their saris, the unemployed men who end it all after betting the month's rent on a losing horse. In other wars it has often been noted that the civilian suicide rate declines, but not here.

Researchers at Colombo University, headed by a forensic surgeon, Hemamal Jayawardena, set out to determine why so many Sri Lankans kill themselves. The study revealed that suicides are most common in the northern and eastern portions of the island, where ethnic violence has not let up in more than a decade.

Suicide soars in the midst of 'paradise' isle gets a bad name for suicide stains the image of tops world suicide league; Sri Lanka 's tropical beauties mask a p....

The **Tamil Tigers**, led by the mysterious Velupillai Prabakharan, are notorious for their fanaticism; the elite Black Tigers carry cyanide pills around their necks in case of capture. Suicide bombings by the Tigers are frequent, and government soldiers who must face the suicide squads have a particularly high rate of self-destruction. Deaths among fighters on both sides can cause a loss of hope among their families, bringing more suicides.

The war has also damaged the economy. High achievers flee to employment elsewhere if they can, and the research shows that the long-term unemployed are at a higher risk of committing suicide. In contrast to neighbouring India, Sri Lanka is a highly literate society - more than 90 per cent can read and write - but that gives the disadvantaged a keener awareness of their plight.

Across the island, the most prevalent method of suicide is swallowing insecticide, which is on sale at even the remotest village shop. Strangulation is also common, particularly among **women** suicides, who typically are found dangling from the ceiling fans, saris knotted round their necks.

Sri Lanka is the only Buddhist nation in south Asia, and some claim that Buddhism's belief in reincarnation might make suicide appear less final. The faith's proponents deny this, saying that death by one's own hand postpones nirvana, because it interrupts the natural cycle of new lives. In any case, the study showed that suicide in Sri Lanka cuts across barriers of religion, caste and ethnicity.

This has brought the part played by the press under scrutiny. "The role of suggestion in suicide has been well documented abroad," pointed out Niresh Sumadasa, a Colombo sociologist. The press began dwelling on lurid personal stories in the late 1980s, when censorship stopped them reporting any military news. Editors filled the gap with articles on jilted lovers killing themselves, and found that they struck a sinister chord.

Load-Date: December 9, 1996

TIGER TERROR TO TAKE TO THE AIR

COURIER-MAIL

August 19, 1995 Saturday

Copyright 1995 Nationwide News Pty Limited

Length: 742 words

Byline: SHERWELL P

Body

KEYWORD-HIT Tiger terror to take to the air By PHILIP SHERWELL in Colombo IT is one of the most sought-after dinner dates in Jaffna: a last supper with The Great Leader, then off the next morning, buoyed by his words of wisdom, to blow yourself, your target and often a crowd of innocent bystanders to smithereens. The **Tamil Tigers** of Sri Lanka are the world's leading exponents of suicide bombings. And 50 years after the Japanese surrender brought World War II to an end, there are fears that kamikaze pilots could return to the skies of Asia: the rebels have reportedly launched a micro-light air wing. Tamil suicide bombers, known as Black Tigers, are blamed for the bloody attacks that claimed the lives of President Ranasinghe Premadasa in Colombo in 1993 and former Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi near Madras in 1991. Last week, another name was added to the lengthy roll call of "'martyrs" who have laid down their lives for Eelam _ an independent Tamil homeland _ when a rebel pushing a cart of coconuts set off a thunderous explosion in central Colombo, destroying one of the capital's government buildings and killing the bomber and 20 others. The mood is jittery in what was once the British colony of Ceylon, in the wake of an unprecedented autonomy-for-peace package offered by President Chandrika Kumaratunga. The faction's naval arm, the Sea Tigers, has specialised in suicide raids carried out by mine-laying frogmen or sailors ramming explosive-packed boats into government ships.

QNPAnd, as the spectre of aerial attacks haunts Colombo, nervous security chiefs have installed anti-aircraft guns to protect potential targets of kamikaze attacks, including Mrs Kumaratunga's residence. Expatriate Tamils with flying and aeronautical engineering experience are known to have returned from the West to join the guerrillas. Now they are thought to have acquired micro-light aircraft which could be assembled on the edge of Colombo, loaded with explosives and crashed into the city. The career path for a Black Tiger is short but spectacular. Even those who return from failed operations do not last long. Viewed as cowards or collaborators, they are killed back in Jaffna. But there are still more volunteers than places in the suicide squads. Those honoured with selection are invited to dine with the Tiger supremo Velupillai Prabakharan in rebel-ruled Jaffna on the eve of their missions. The bombers usually strap a home-made device of high explosives, shrapnel and ball-bearings to their bodies. The carnage they create is horrific. The **female** Tiger who blew up the opposition leader Gamini Dissanayake last October killed more than 50 other people gathered for an election rally. Her severed head ended up on top of a half-finished building nearby. After a Black Tiger dies in the line of duty, his or her family will be viewed with reverence and receive special treatment, including extra rations in the embargo-ringed peninsula. Most are Hindus who believe in reincarnation. When we visited Jaffna during the ceasefire earlier this year, the Tigers took us to see the parents of a suicide frogwoman. They told us of their pride at her sacrifice and said they would be willing for their other daughter, already injured in battle, to emulate her sister. The cult of the martyr is alive and thriving. At every other street corner, there is a memorial to fighters who have died in the struggle for Eelam, and the peninsula is dotted with their final resting places. The most famous are immortalised in towering cut-outs the height of palm trees. An estimated 50,000 people have died in bitter ethnic conflict characterised by atrocities and death squads on both sides. So far, Tiger targets have been domestic _ including fellow Tamil critics and rivals. But a shadowy

TIGER TERROR TO TAKE TO THE AIR

Tamil group thought to be a front for the Tigers this month renewed its threat to attack foreign tourists. Not that you need to be a Black Tiger to take your own life in the struggle. In another echo of Japanese wartime fanaticism, all Tiger recruits are handed cyanide capsules and taught that it is better to commit suicide than endure the shame of capture by the Sri Lankan military. They are nothing if not committed. The Sunday Telegraph, London TAMIL Tiger supremo Velupillai Prabhakaran . . . suicide martyrs fight for the honour of a last supper with the Great Leader before their bloody missions. Still more volunteers than places in the suicide squads

Graphic

PIC OF TAMIL TIGER BOSS VELUPILLAI PRABAKHARAN

Load-Date: October 1, 2003

End of Document

INDIA: SLEUTHS UNCOVER TIP OF ICEBERG IN GANDHI'S KILLING AN INTER PRESS NEWS FEATURE

IPS-Inter Press Service

June 13, 1991, Thursday

Copyright 1991 IPS-Inter Press Service/Global Information Network

Length: 388 words

Dateline: NEW DELHI, June 13

Body

Indian intelligence agencies are on the trail of a five-member Sri Lankan Tamil Tiger squad suspected to have plotted the assassination of former Indian prime minister rajiv Gandhi but the motives still remain obscure.

Sleuths probing last month's murder are reportedly closing in on four accomplices who were present at the site of the bomb blast in south india as the culpability of Sri Lanka's separatist tamil Tiger group is no longer doubted.

The fifth suicidal assassin died after she triggered a powerful explosion which massacred Gandhi and 17 others on May 21. The slain leader was receiving garlands and accolades from supporters of his Congress-I party at an election rally.

Reports from the south Indian city of Madras today said the assassination conspiracy was unravelling after police officials in Tamil Nadu state yesterday produced in court a mother and son who were charged with sheltering the gang of killers.

S. Bhagyanathan, a 25 year-old petty publisher who worked for the liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (***LTTE***) group of Sri Lankan rebels, and his 49-year old Mother Padma, a nurse, were this week picked up from their house in Madras, Tamil Nadu's capital.

The arrests have provided vital clues to India's Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) and a Special Investigation Team (SIT) appointed by the government.

Initially numbed by the world's first known "live bomb" assault, the detectives are said to be on the verge of a breakthrough after piecing together shreds of evidence gathered from the assassination site.

Photographs recovered from the camera of a photographer Haribabu, who died in the blast and is thought to have been working for the Tigers, were used to identify the five suspects.

After interrogating Sri Lankan rebel sympathisers in Tamil Nadu, officials established the suicidal girl assassin was named "Thanu" and her companion, who had posed as a journalist and escaped after the assassination, was "Sivarasan alias Raju."

A detailed investigation leading from Haribabu's pictures also led to the identification of two more ***women*** suspects who were lurking among a crowd of onlookers waiting for Gandhi's arrival.

INDIA : SLEUTHS UNCOVER TIP OF ICEBERG IN GANDHI'S KILLING AN INTER PRESS NEWS FEATURE

The sleuths are now pursuing these two accomplices hoping their arrest will lead them to the core team of Tamil Tiger suspects who are believed to be still lurking in south India.

Load-Date: June 15, 1991

End of Document

ROUNDUP: 56 civilians massacred by rebels in eastern Sri Lanka

Deutsche Presse-Agentur

September 18, 1999, Saturday, BC Cycle 09:41 Central European Time

Copyright 1999 Deutsche Presse-Agentur

Section: International News

Length: 423 words

Dateline: Colombo

Body

Fifty-six civilians belonging to the majority Sinhala community were hacked to death by Tamil rebels in attacks on three remote villages in eastern Sri Lanka, police said Saturday.

The massacre took place in the eastern Ampara district, over 300 kilometres from the capital, in a pre-dawn raid on Saturday, police and a member of parliament in the area, Y. Bakmeewewa, said.

Initial reports said the death toll exceeded 60, but police later confirmed that the number killed was 56 and the condition of five was critical.

Rebels were armed with sophisticated weapons, but had only used sharp knives and axes to kill the villagers as they did not want to alert the nearby police guard posts, the MP who visited the village said.

He said the villages which came under attack are areas where the majority Sinhala community lives and all victims are Sinhalese.

Police and army troops moved into the area looking for more bodies and any survivors, but later called off their search after all villagers were accounted for.

The military in the area blamed rebels of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (**LTTE**) who are fighting for an independent homeland for minority Tamils in the north and east of the country.

The massacre came three days after 22 minority Tamil civilians were killed when a marketplace in the northeast of the country was hit by a Sri Lankan Air Force bomber.

The Lankan military denied the attack, saying they did not target civilians and hit two rebel camps in the area, but the International Committee for the Red Cross (ICRC) confirmed civilians were killed in the attack at Mullaitivu.

Amnesty International also condemned the attack on the market.

Reports from the Ampara district said that in one of the villages known as Punchi-Sigiriya 47 civilians including 17 **women** and seven children were massacred.

Commandos of the elite Special Task Force (STF) were moved into the area early Saturday while additional troops were also being moved into the area, a military spokesman said. The Government Information Department flew in a group of journalists.

ROUNDUP: 56 civilians massacred by rebels in eastern Sri Lanka

The attack on the civilians was the biggest in two years.

Rebels have refrained from attacking civilians in recent years mainly due to international condemnations.

Political analysts said the rebels may try to justify the attack by saying it was retaliation for the Air Force bombing in Mullaitivu.

The minority ethnic conflict has claimed over 58,000 lives of rebels, security personnel and civilians in the past 16 years. dpa ad vc

Eds: Death toll revised

Load-Date: September 18, 1999

End of Document

Crisis in the Gulf: The distant village where Saddam Hussein was the local hero

The Independent (London)

October 21, 1990, Sunday

Copyright 1990 Independent Print Ltd

Section: FOREIGN NEWS PAGE; Page 12

Length: 670 words

Byline: From GABRIELLA GAMINI in Saddam Hussein Village, Sri Lanka

Body

THERE USED to be 600 families in Saddam Hussein Village. They lived in neatly-arranged little houses and prayed in their own, small mosque - all built in 1982 with an pounds 85,000 gift to local Muslims from, as the name suggests, the President of Iraq.

Four weeks ago, the ***Tamil Tigers*** came with guns and drove everybody out. They said the Muslims - like them, a minority in Sri Lanka - had failed to support the Tamils' guerrilla war for a separate homeland. It was, by all accounts, a bloody day. Survivors fled to camps set up in the nearby Muslim town of Eravur, and Saddam Hussein Village was left to the goats.

By the vicious standards of Sri Lanka's civil war, it was not a spectacular outrage, but the sacking of Saddam Hussein Village has helped to light a fire that might almost be seen from Baghdad. All across the country's eastern province, young men from Muslim towns and villages are taking up the rhetoric of the Iraqi leader in a jihad, an Islamic holy war, of their own.

They claim to have at least 500 fighters already, organised in a group called Jihad, though they are reluctant to discuss whether there is a structured leadership. I met small groups of them in remote border areas dividing Tamil and Muslim settlements throughout the east. One of them, "Ranseed", 23, from Saddam Hussein Village, told me: "We are arming and training more and more cadres in jungle camps in areas bordering Tiger-held territory." He and his fellow fighters patrol these borders and shoot at any Tamils that cross over. Tamils in refugee camps in these areas talk of armed Muslim youths raiding their homes on killing sprees. Another militant, Ali Mohammed, 19, who says his family was killed in the Tigers' raid on Saddam Hussein Village, said: "We joined to fight the Tigers, who are trying to take over the east in their separatist struggle."

The stirrings of militancy date back to August, after at least 300 Muslim civilians died in a series of massacres blamed on the Tigers. The Tigers turned on the Muslims because of their refusal to join the struggle for Eelam, an independent state. They accused Muslims of siding with Sri Lanka's Sinhalese majority and the government in Colombo, a critical factor in the eastern province where Muslims are the biggest single group - 500,000 of the 1.2 million people here. Descended mainly from Arab traders, Sri Lanka's Muslims are considered ethnic Tamils and they speak Tamil because, when first settling in coastal areas, they married Tamil ***women*** and converted them to Islam but adopted their language. But for decades, they have been a silent minority - apolitical, prosperous businessmen and farmers.

Crisis in the Gulf: The distant village where Saddam Hussein was the local hero

Now they are finding their voice, and it has Islamic, not to say Iraqi, accents. "We take pride in how Saddam Hussein, a great hero of our village, is voicing the power of Islam to the world," said "Ranseed". "We are the second minority to realise that in Sri Lanka the only way to defend our culture, religion and community is the power of the gun."

The Sri Lankan army stands, bemused, somewhere in the middle of all this. They recruit and train Muslim Home Guards and give them rifles to guard Muslim areas. "Some of us joined the Home Guards first, but then felt that we had to have an armed struggle of our own," said Ali.

Faith in the armed struggle and the example of Saddam have rapidly overtaken the tradition of keeping quiet. Teachers at Arafa Vidyalayam School, an Arabic language college in Eravur, speak out ardently for jihad and denounce "soft" Muslim MPs.

As dusk fell at Saddam Hussein Village, goats wandered in and out of the mosque, now overgrown with shrubs. Bullet holes scar the walls; posters urging holy war on the Tigers are plastered over shuttered shop doors. "Ranseed", with an old .303 rifle, was on "sentry duty" on a jungle road outside the village, positioning 10 men to repel any Tiger attack. "We're prepared to die to defend Islam and fight for our rights," he said. "We are sure our friend Saddam would be proud."

End of Document

More than 130 drown as refugees flee Lankan military offensive

Deutsche Presse-Agentur

February 21, 1997, Friday, BC Cycle 13:22 Central European Time

Copyright 1997 Deutsche Presse-Agentur

Section: International News

Length: 406 words

Dateline: Colombo

Body

More than 130 minority Tamils fleeing a major military offensive in northern Sri Lanka are believed to have drowned after the trawler carrying them capsized off the northwest coast of the island, reports from the area said Friday.

The refugees, including women and children, were heading for nearby southern India when the overcrowded vessel capsized Wednesday.

So far only 85 bodies have been recovered while 20 survivors have returned, leading to speculation that the rest of 150 on board also may have died.

Rebels of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) reported the incident over their clandestine radio "Voice of the Tigers", and urged the public in the north in areas under their control to declare Saturday as a day of mourning.

Rebels claimed that all those who perished were refugees fleeing the major military offensive in progress in the northwestern Mannar. The operation began several days ago.

In a fresh development in the current Mannar district offensive troops advancing from two different flanks linked up on Friday taking control of a main highway which links the northern Vavuniya town to the northwestern Mannar area.

More than 15,000 persons have been displaced in the current offensive which was launched from Vavuniya on February 4 and followed up by another section of troops advancing from coastal camp at Mannar to link up on Friday.

The military has not officially confirmed the trawler incident but said civilians had been trying to flee the country over the past few weeks from Mannar in the wake of the offensive. They said some of them have been detected and sent back, while others have escaped.

The number of Tamils who have escaped to neighbouring India over the past two years has been put at more than 8,000.

Meanwhile in the capital an Air Force aircraft carrying troops to the north for the offensive against rebels in the north crashed into a marshy land as it was taking off from an air base in the capital, killing at least two security personnel and injuring 34 others.

More than 130 drown as refugees flee Lankan military offensive

The aircraft, an AN 32 carrying 55 security personnel with a four- man crew, was trying to take off from the Ratmalana air port, 10 kilometres south of the capital, when it slid along the runway and ended up in a marshy land.

The disaster was a continuation of woes to the Lankan air force which has already lost three air planes for this year and 13 since April 1995. dpa dvd mb

Load-Date: February 21, 1997

End of Document

Little time for nostalgia as the Mrs B era ends; SRI LANKA

Sydney Morning Herald (Australia)

October 14, 2000 Saturday

Late Edition

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Section: NEWS AND FEATURES; International News; Pg. 23

Length: 989 words

Byline: Christopher Kremmer, Herald Correspondent, in Colombo

Body

The ceiling fans struggled to stir air heavy with humidity and regret. A great national leader had passed away, but the line of dignitaries waiting to pay their last respects was embarrassingly short.

In whispers, the horrid truth passed among friends, family and devotees Sirima Bandaranaike, the first woman elected to lead a democracy, had died on election day, and her successors were too busy ensuring their own political survival to pay homage

to her.

Even the arrival of President Chandrika Kumaratunga did not still the wagging tongues. She was, after all, the daughter of the deceased.

A politician herself, Mrs B as she was universally known, would have understood.

It was in this building, a once grand, now rather musty colonial bungalow, that her own political career accidentally began in 1959, when a Buddhist monk came calling and shot dead her husband, Solomon Bandaranaike, who was prime minister at the time.

Elected the following year, his widow unwittingly pioneered a trend that was to catch on big-time in South Asia. India, Pakistan and Bangladesh would all soon have women leaders, all of them closely related to deceased male politicians.

Ever since, the region's democracies have written their modern history according to ancient feudal laws.

So, it was appropriate that the mourners this week were largely ordinary Sri Lankans, mainly elderly people of Mrs B's own vintage, for whom her death was a timely reminder of a gentler, cleaner and more stylish political era.

It was not until Thursday that the desperate and expensive quest for a seat in Parliament concluded, with the Election Commission stamping its approval on what independent local observers said were polls marked by "decisive" rigging.

Today, Sri Lanka bids a formal farewell to Mrs Bandaranaike, who died of a heart attack soon after casting her vote on Tuesday, and whose body has been lying in state at her home since. But, like its too-busy politicians, the nation cannot afford to dwell too long on nostalgia.

Little time for nostalgia as the Mrs B era ends SRI LANKA

The bitter aftermath of the tainted polls means political leaders are further than ever from reaching a consensus on how to deal with the country's main problem the 18-year war against Tamil separatists fighting for independence in the north.

Mrs Kumaratunga is committed to reintroducing a package of reforms designed to empower the restive Tamil minority. The package was withdrawn from Parliament amid strong opposition shortly before the elections were called.

Although promising wide autonomy for the north and east, the reforms have failed to impress the Tamil Tiger guerrillas, who remain entrenched on the Jaffna peninsula, a few kilometres from Jaffna Town.

They demand the army withdraw from Jaffna first, as a signal of goodwill. But after a Tamil suicide bomber almost killed the President last December, there is precious little goodwill around.

Having a simple majority in Parliament would allow Mrs Kumaratunga to push through the reforms, but that might prove a pyrrhic victory.

"The President may have the numbers, but she doesn't have a consensus on devolution. The debate is back to square one," said the executive-director of the independent Centre for Policy Alternatives, Dr Paikiasothy Saravanamuttu.

By giving Tamils greater autonomy Mrs Kumaratunga hopes to wean the 18 per cent Tamil minority to the Government's side in its war against the Tigers.

But the strategy is deeply flawed, Mrs Kumaratunga's allies and opponents agree.

For a start, the army has of late been losing the war, and shows no sign of being able to eliminate the Tigers in the next few months, or even years.

Second, the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (**LTTE**) are ruthless exterminators of anyone they regard as collaborators with Colombo. Any plan that seeks to go around them is unrealistic.

Some question the very notion of a federal state based on language and religion.

"The devolution package creates de facto divisions where previously none existed," said Dr Darini Rajasingham-Senanayake, a social scientist. "If implemented it will territorialise ethnic identities, and begin deconstructing Sri Lankan multiculturalism."

The sad fact is that almost two decades of war have created a de facto partition of the island along ethnic lines.

Residents of Batticaloa, on the east coast, need official permission the equivalent of a visa to travel to the capital, due to fears of terrorist infiltration.

"The **LTTE** first introduced the pass system, which was then mimicked by the Government," Dr Rajasingham-Senanayake said. "The war machine has created its own structures, enforced on both sides by terror."

In recent years southerners have begun referring to the frontline separating government and rebel forces as "the border areas".

Migratory fishing communities that once moved from the west to the east coast during the monsoon are now stuck in the Government-run south-western region, their incomes depleted by security concerns. Traders transporting fish, coconuts and other commodities across the island are forced to pay unofficial customs duty to pro-Government Tamil militias.

Sixty thousand Muslims driven out of the north by the Tigers in October 1990, and still living in camps euphemistically called welfare centres, are threatened by laws that require forfeiture of lands left unoccupied for 10 years.

Little time for nostalgia as the Mrs B era ends SRI LANKA

Even the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) is despairing that the 171,000 people living in welfare centres, let alone Tamil refugees abroad, will ever return home.

"Everyone would prefer to see people returned to their homes," said Alan Vernon, a senior UNHCR program officer in Colombo. "But as there is no prospect of an early end to the conflict we would like to see more permanent relocation of displaced persons to safer areas."

The late Sirima Bandaranaike represented a time when the new Sri Lankan nation had hope, respect and new ideas. Such commodities risk being interred with her ashes at today's state funeral.

Graphic

ILLUS: Political pioneer ... Sirima Bandaranaike, seen here with the Chinese premier Zhou Enlai in 1963, was the world's first elected **female** prime minister. But her death this week was overtaken by more immediate political concerns.

Load-Date: July 24, 2007

End of Document

SRI LANKA: COUNSEL IN DE ZOYSA CASE WANTS NEW INQUIRY

IPS-Inter Press Service

August 31, 1990, Friday

Copyright 1990 IPS-Inter Press Service/Global Information Network

Length: 724 words

Byline: by Rita Sebastian

Dateline: COLOMBO, Aug. 31

Body

The lawyer for the family of murdered Sri Lankan journalist Richard de Zoysa says he is asking for an independent commission of inquiry after a court dismissed the case.

The magistrate inquiring into the abduction and killing of de Zoysa in February said yesterday he had discontinued proceedings because of insufficient evidence and contradictions in the testimony of witnesses.

Lawyer Batty Weerakoon said de Zoysa's murder was a "political killing" and therefore a proper police investigation and correct execution of the powers of the attorney general could not be expected.

Weerakoon told IPS: "An independent commission of inquiry will have far wider powers than a magistrate since judges will have to be appointed by the president. We have full confidence in the impartiality of the judiciary."

The state counsel, speaking for the attorney general said yesterday there had been several contradictions in the testimony by de Zoysa's mother, Manorani Saravanamuttu about the number of armed men who came to get her son, and their description.

Saravanamuttu named top police officer, Ronnie Gunasinghe, as being among six armed men who came to her house at 3:30 a.m. on Feb. 16. to take her son away in a jeep. She said Gunasinghe had been dressed in a white shirt and the others were in camouflage or black fatigues.

But the chairman of the Sri Lanka Bar Association said of the dismissal: "The attorney general must not bend over backwards just because the suspect is a senior police officer. Justice must be done to big and small."

De Zoysa's mutilated body was found the next day washed up on a beach near Colombo. He had been shot twice through the head.

De Zoysa was editor and the Colombo correspondent of Inter Press Service (IPS) and wrote extensively on his country's human rights situation at a time when hundreds of young men were being killed daily by shadowy vigilante groups hunting members of the ultra-leftist Peoples' Liberation Front (JVP).

Before he joined IPS, de Zoysa was a television newscaster and a renowned stage and film actor.

His mother and lawyer started getting death threats when the case was filed in Colombo in April warning them not to pursue the case. One anonymous letter warned ominously: "Mourn the death of your son. As a mother you must do so. Any other steps will result in death. Only silence will protect you."

SRI LANKA : COUNSEL IN DE ZOYSA CASE WANTS NEW INQUIRY

Saravanamuttu's lawyer advised her to leave the country and she is presently in Europe. She is due to receive the IPS international journalism award at ceremonies at the United Nations in New York Sept. 18.

The award is given every year to journalists who make an outstanding contribution to democracy and human rights in the Third World.

Saravanamuttu, who is a well-known medical doctor in Sri Lanka, has refused to be silenced. She said in an interview: "I have nothing to lose. I have no family, I have no children, I have nobody who is dependent on me . . ."

Before she left Sri Lanka, Saravanamuttu helped launch an organization called "Mothers for Human Rights" to locate people missing from the government's two-year crackdown on the JVP.

"Richard's mother told me many mothers had written to her, telling her to push ahead," said Mangala Samaraweera, a member of parliament who helped set up the organization. "She felt there were hundreds and thousands of women like her."

Independent sources say as many as 25,000 people died in the violence that raged across southern Sri Lanka between 1987 and 1989. The killings tapered off late last year after security forces captured and killed five top leaders of the movement.

Although there are more than 7,000 suspected JVP activists in jail, the group has resurfaced in the countryside. Posters saying in Sinhalese "we are still alive" have appeared in towns across southern Sri Lanka.

Underground JVP leaders seem to have benefited from looser surveillance because of the Sri Lankan military's preoccupation with fighting Tamil Tigers in the northeast of the country.

A resurgence in JVP activity could unleash fierce counter-attacks by death squads linked to the security forces. In late July 34 bodies were found dumped near the central city of Kandy.

Defense Secretary Cyril Ranatunge said in a magazine interview earlier this month: "Don't be complacent that terror can be contained by sending a few JVP-ers to jail. That's only wishful thinking."

Load-Date: September 2, 1990

Government Says Tamil Guerrillas Kill 164

The Associated Press

October 7, 1987, Wednesday, AM cycle

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Section: International News

Length: 731 words

Byline: By DEXTER CRUEZ, Associated Press Writer

Dateline: COLOMBO, Sri Lanka

Body

Tamil guerrillas ambushed a train and a bus during a series of attacks that killed 164 people on Sri Lanka's eastern coast, authorities said Wednesday.

Most of the victims of the attacks Tuesday night and before dawn Wednesday were civilians of the nation's majority Sinhalese ethnic group.

The attacks were a major blow to a peace plan sponsored by India. Indian peacekeeping troops, deployed in Sri Lanka since July 30, mounted patrols and guarded buildings in eastern Sri Lanka on Wednesday.

By nightfall Wednesday, most people remained indoors.

Police blamed the attack on the largest Tamil rebel group, the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam. The Tigers, who accepted the India-sponsored plan on Sept. 28, denied they were responsible.

In Washington, the State Department said it was "shocked and dismayed" by the escalation of violence in Sri Lanka and urged Sri Lanka and India to implement the peace accord.

The worst of the half-dozen attacks reported by police and military officials was the ambush of a train bound from Batticaloa to Colombo, the capital.

The attackers stopped the train and shot to death 40 passengers, mostly Sinhalese and Moslems, according to Batticaloa police official Ronnie Gunasinghe and the state radio.

Gunasinghe said Tamil passengers were spared and the train was set afire.

In Pullikuda, a fishing village north of Batticaloa, 38 Sinhalese were shot to death and all 75 homes were torched, Batticaloa police superintendent Nimal de Silva said.

Most of the attacks were in or near Batticaloa, about 150 miles northeast of Colombo, and 157 civilians and seven Sri Lankan soldiers were reported killed.

"It is clearly the work of the Tamil Tigers," de Silva said. "The women and children were butchered and the men were shot."

Government Says Tamil Guerrillas Kill 164

At their exile headquarters in Madras, India, the Tigers issued a statement condemning the attacks and denying responsibility.

Tamil guerrillas have waged a four-year battle for a separate nation in Sri Lanka, where the Sinhalese hold most senior government and military posts. The Sinhalese, mostly Buddhists, account for 75 percent of Sri Lanka's 16 million people. The predominantly Hindu Tamils comprise 18 percent.

India, which is predominantly Hindu and has a Tamil minority of 60 million, signed an accord with the Sri Lankan government on July 29 and promised to carry out a peace plan for its island neighbor.

The Tigers and other Tamil groups initially refused to go along with the accord, but last week the Tigers signed a separate agreement with India to accept the peace plan.

The latest killings followed at least 14 slayings Monday that appeared to be in retaliation for the deaths of 11 Tigers who committed suicide while in police custody.

In the village of Sagarapura near Trincomalee, 65 miles north of Batticaloa, Tamil attackers shot and killed 30 Sinhalese, including 15 children, according to a Sri Lankan military official who spoke on condition of anonymity.

In Batticaloa, 23 Sinhalese were stabbed or burned to death, De Silva said.

A Sri Lankan military spokesman in Colombo said 21 Sinhalese were killed Wednesday when their bus was halted near Batticaloa. A few minutes later the attackers stopped five men on motorbikes, shot them to death and took the bikes, according to the spokesman, who spoke on condition of anonymity.

In addition to attacks aimed at civilians, seven Sri Lankan soldiers were killed in two ambushes near Trincomalee on Wednesday, the military spokesman said.

In New Delhi, the United News of India said the Indian government has instructed its peacekeeping forces in Sri Lanka to "take all necessary measures" to halt the bloodshed.

India has 10,000 soldiers in Sri Lanka to enforce the peace plan, which calls for Tamil rebels to give up their arms in an exchange for an interim merger of the regional governments in the eastern and northern provinces. After one year, a referendum would be conducted to determine whether the two provinces should be merged formally.

The northern province, which includes the city of Jaffna, is almost entirely populated by Tamils.

The eastern province, which includes Batticaloa and Trincomalee, is about evenly divided among Tamils, Sinhalese and Moslems.

There were no official reports Wednesday of violence in Northern province. But a Tamil resident, speaking on condition of anonymity, said three Sinhalese civilians were killed in Vavuniya, south of Jaffna.

SRI LANKA: WOMEN JOIN ARMY'S FIGHT AGAINST INSURGENCY

IPS-Inter Press Service

July 12, 2001, Thursday

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Length: 907 words

Byline: By Kumudini Hettiarachchi

Dateline: VAVUNIYA, Sri Lanka, Jul. 12

Body

Lasantha Sumathipala joined the Sri Lankan army two years ago without telling her parents, fearing they would oppose the move.

Now, they accept what she's doing -- helping the state fight the 18-year-old Tamil Tiger insurgency.

"My parents now believe that women, too, have a duty towards their country, like the men," she said as she patrolled the Jaffna-Kandy road in the northern Vavuniya district with her colleagues.

Cradling AK-47 automatic rifles, the group of female soldiers in jungle green khaki and camouflage uniforms, which blend with the land dotted by palmyrah trees, is part of the Sri Lanka army's Women's Corps that works alongside their male colleagues.

Together with their male counterparts, they look for mines and bombs and then declare the road safe for passenger travel.

The women also handle the road pickets or guard duty along this main supply route and on the rail track to Vavuniya.

Vavuniya is a government-controlled town in the north, parts of which are under the rule of Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) rebels. The LTTE has been fighting since 1983 for a separate home for the minority Tamil community in the north and the east of the country, a campaign that has cost the lives of more than 60,000 people.

Ten years ago, there were hardly any women in the armed forces. Now female soldiers are being trained for combat duty but are yet to be deployed in offensive operations. Some of them, though, have seen action in army camps in war-torn areas under assault by the rebels.

"They are definitely an asset to the armed forces," noted a senior male military commander in the north.

At the headquarters of the Women's Corps Fourth Battalion at Medawachchiya, about 17 km south of Vavuniya, visitors are stopped at the gate by women soldiers with guns and a regimental policewoman carrying a cane.

After checking the credentials, visitors are sent through. In the camp men are scarce, and everything is spic-and-span. There is even a bakery, where delicious fresh, hot rolls come straight out of the oven.

SRI LANKA : WOMEN JOIN ARMY'S FIGHT AGAINST INSURGENCY

In charge of the camp is Lt. Col Amita Owitigama, one of the pioneering women who joined the then all-male bastion in 1979. Now holding the highest rank that women have reached (there are four other women at the same rank), she heads the Fourth Battalion, with 700 women under her command, serving in the Wanni region, including Vavuniya and Mannar.

"Our girls have to provide security to the main supply route which is the one taken by all the convoys bringing soldiers and food to Vavuniya," says Owitigama, a civil engineer.

Married to an army officer, this kind of job has posed no problem for her. She has a four-and-a-half-year-old daughter who is now in Colombo with her grandparents because she has to go to school.

"I grew up in an environment where the army was the main topic of discussion because my father was in the army. This is a different kind of job, but a very interesting one," she says.

The Fourth Battalion, Owitigama explains, is a comparatively new regiment formed more than two years ago. The soldiers, between the ages of 18 and 22, were given one and a half months' training with a stipulation that they cannot get married for three years after joining the army.

At the early stages when women joined the army, there were few problems with the men, but stern disciplinary action taken by the high command has put a stop to that. "Now there are no such problems," she says without elaborating.

Owitigama is proud of the achievements of her girls, not only in the field but also inside camp. "The girls brought the sand and the rubble from a river close by to build the bakery. We only had to buy the cement," said Owitigama, who is called "Ma'am" by her soldiers.

There are about 3,500 women in the five battalions which form the Women's Corps, with about 30 officers in each battalion. This comprises both the volunteers and regulars.

For most of the women, their home economic situation has also been a factor in their decision to join up. A soldier from Kantale in the eastern Trincomalee district says her village is very poor and the \$ 90 or more that she earns every month helps to keep the home fires burning.

The majority of Sri Lanka's armed forces are made up of rural youth, drawn more by the need for a job to support the family than protecting the nation.

"It's a very difficult job," this private says, but they do have a lot of fun in the camp when they are off duty. "We eat, drink, watch a movie before hitting the bunks." It reminded her of the fun times she had at school in Kantale.

Commanding Officer Owitigama's face clouds over as she speaks of the casualties among her women. It had been a double tragedy for the Fourth Battalion, she says.

"One girl was caught in a bomb blast, when she was travelling home on leave in an army lorry from the Wanni in 1999 and another was killed accidentally in Mannar when she was cleaning her gun on Oct. 26 of the same year."

For Second Lt. R.P.S. Kuragoda this seems an easier posting than her previous ones. She has served in both the north and the east.

She recounted she was in Kanagarayankulam in the north with 300 girls under her command in May-June 1998, when the battles erupted with the rebels in nearby Mankulam.

"We heard the battles, the shelling and were on the alert. Then we were told to take just our weapons and carry only whatever we could, whatever that was very valuable to us, and make a tactical withdrawal."

SRI LANKA : WOMEN JOIN ARMY'S FIGHT AGAINST INSURGENCY

End of Document

SRI LANKA: MIRRORING THE CYCLE OF VIOLENCE

IPS-Inter Press Service

August 1, 1990, Wednesday

Copyright 1990 IPS-Inter Press Service/Global Information Network

Length: 695 words

Byline: by Baffour Ankomah

Dateline: LONDON, Aug. 1

Body

With three women in the "starring" roles, a documentary film just released here uses words and poignant images to record the human side of the internecine conflict that has ruptured Sri Lanka.

"Three Women Speak Out", launched at a news conference today by "Article 19", the International Center Against Censorship, is a report on human rights abuses in the Indian Ocean nation.

Shot secretly earlier this year, the film catalogues the cycle of abduction, torture and murder that has enveloped the country.

The mother of murdered journalist Richard de Zoysa, one of Sri Lanka's best known journalists and former sub-regional editor of Inter Press Service (IPS), and two other women, are the film's co-stars.

De Zoysa was abducted from the home of his mother, Dr. Manorani Saravanamuttu, on Feb. 17 this year. His mutilated body was washed ashore several days later.

Saravanamuttu witnessed the abduction and has identified a chief superintendent of police in the capital, Colombo, as one of the men who took away her only son. The case is slowly making its way through the courts.

The film tells the story of Saravanamuttu and the two other women who, despite death threats, have elected to speak out for the thousands of men, women and children killed during the long standing conflict between the Sri Lankan government and the liberation army of Tamil Eelam, or Tigers.

"Article 19" is using the film to focus international attention on "life-threatening" conditions in the country.

The campaign is also to provide the three women and others with a channel to voice their fears and proposals for peace -- and to gain some protection through international publicity.

Further, the organization hopes to exert pressure on the Sri Lankan government and others involved in the conflict, in particular the Tamil Tigers, to stop the human rights violations.

In the film, de Zoysa's mother vows that she will not rest until justice is done to the killers of her son.

"What gives other men the right to take lives without reason, without cause, and then try to justify themselves?" she asks, sobbing. "They are so sure of themselves, they are so sure of their own protection, that they do not hesitate to wake up people, ask them questions, threaten them, hold guns to their throats, to get information that they want."

SRI LANKA : MIRRORING THE CYCLE OF VIOLENCE

"They come with a purpose. They come as killers," says Savaranamuttu.

"I have only managed not to cry by being angry . . .if there is justice at all today, it is a very, very faint glimmer at the end of a dark long tunnel, but I will fight, I will crawl along that tunnel."

Her views are shared by Sunila Abeyesekera, the other co-star who is head of the women and media collective in Colombo.

"The level to which the whole cycle of killing has sunk," she says, "is all so incredible. No one is safe -- from an infant of three or four months to an old grandfather who is lying in bed partially paralyzed.

"People still think we can manage, we'll survive if we keep our mouths shut."

But Abeyesekera thinks all the violence in the country since July 1987 had been based on the premise that various people had the right to impose their will at the point of the gun.

"Many people have died because they dared express an opinion and stand for something that they believed in.

"I think you have to make a choice and say, yes, if this is what I am going to die for, then let me die stating it, because so many people have died in vain without stating it and that's the pity of it," she emphasizes.

The third star of the film, a villager who is not named for fear of reprisals, paints a picture of excessive brutality perpetrated by government troops.

"Near the river," she says, "these young women were first raped, and then bottles were shoved in their genitals, then killed and thrown into the river."

According to her, the killers sometimes put tires around their victims and burn them alive.

"I was taken to the campus by some friends. There, you know, that lovely pond, that lovely pond with flowers around it -- there were 18 heads around it", the middle-aged woman says with a frightened look.

The film is to be shown to influential groups in Britain before it is released worldwide.

Load-Date: August 3, 1990

31 die in blasts;
President survives suicide bombing

The Advertiser

December 20, 1999, Monday

Copyright 1999 Nationwide News Pty Limited

Section: FOREIGN; Pg. 27

Length: 394 words

Byline: By RAHUL SHARMA in Colombo

Body

SRI Lankan President Chandrika Kumaratunga has escaped a **female** suicide bomber's assassination bid in one of two blasts which left 31 people dead.

About 180 people were wounded in the election rally blast in central Colombo, and in another bomb attack on another city rally.

Mrs Kumaratunga, who is seeking re-election, was at her final election rally before the presidential poll tomorrow.

She underwent surgery yesterday to remove shrapnel from her head. Doctors concentrated on an injury just above her left eye, a hospital source said.

"She may risk losing an eye," said one of the surgeons.

Police and witnesses said the bomber tried to jump over a barrier to get close to Mrs Kumaratunga as she walked to her car after addressing a meeting of her ruling People's Alliance.

The death toll in the blast rose to 21 when some of the 110 injured died in hospital. Soon afterwards a second bomb exploded at a meeting of the main opposition United National Party, in the Colombo suburb of Ja-Ela, killing at least 10 people and injuring 70.

Colombo's top policeman, deputy inspector-general T.N. de Silva, and some of Mrs Kumaratunga's security guards, as well as her driver, died in the first blast.

At least three senior ministers and some foreign journalists, including a Japanese television crew and a Reuters photographer, were among the injured.

At least 10 bodies, including that of the suicide bomber, were still lying at the scene hours later.

Mrs Kumaratunga made an appeal for calm from her hospital bed and asked people to pray for her, government ministers said on state-owned television.

There was no claim of responsibility but the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam, separatists fighting for a homeland for minority Tamils in Sri Lanka's north and east since 1983, were blamed.

31 die in blasts; President survives suicide bombing

More than 55,000 people have been killed in the war and the Tigers have been accused of previous assassinations, including the killing of then president Ranasinghe Premadasa in 1993.

Police said the attack was a carbon copy of the assassination of former Indian president Rajiv Gandhi by a **female** suicide bomber and suspected **LTTE** member in south India in 1991. US President Bill Clinton and British Foreign Minister Robin Cook led a chorus of international shock and concern over the bombing, with Mr Cook saying: "There is no place for violence in the democratic process."

Load-Date: March 7, 2002

End of Document

Arts: In the lair of the Tiger - Television

The Guardian (London)

October 24, 1991

Copyright 1991 Guardian Newspapers Limited

Length: 670 words

Byline: By NANCY BANKS-SMITH

Body

I thought thy bride-bed to have
deck'd, sweet maid,
And not have strew'd thy grave.

Hamlet

WE WERE some 40 minutes into this rather wrenching Inside Story (BBC 1) about the hell bent suicide squads of the **Tamil Tigers**. Three Tigers, all killed in action, all young girls, were being carried in open coffins to their graves, shrouded in flowers. The father of one mourned: 'I'm so sad I've lost my child. Who is going to look after me now?' A younger woman beside him hissed sideways: 'Shut up. Don't cry'. 'We are not worried' she said firmly to camera. 'She died for the nation.' This is the correct party line.

A band of young girls, who in any other country would have been drum majorettes, followed the funeral cortege. They were playing The Isle Of Capri. You had to be fairly well acquainted with the tune to recognise it but, half a century on and half a world away, there it was.

'Twas on the Isle of Capri that I found her

Neath the shade of an old walnut tree.

Oh, I can still see the flowers blooming round her

Where we met on the Isle of Capri.'

The flowers which bloomed around the young girl, pulled up round her chin like a flowered eiderdown, were that tropical pink and saffron so intense it looks false.

'She whispered softly

It's best not to linger.'

It is possible that the blanket coverage of flowers was tactful. Injuries can be extensive. The camera stayed on the face of one young Tiger until her words set up a swell of unease. She said she stood and fired until the enemy withdrew then 'A shell exploded in front of me. One piece took both my arms off. I tried getting up but I couldn't then

Arts: In the lair of the Tiger - Television

I saw both my arms shivering in front of me. I write with my mouth, load a rifle and throw bombs with my legs. I'm not worried as long as our leader is with us, as long as he guides us.'

Our leader is Velupillai Prabhakaran, who would be a household name if anyone could remember it. When it comes to names, Sri Lanka doesn't seem to know when to stop. This was his first appearance on western television and, after eight years of war, one must ask why. Claud Cockburn used to ask himself, whenever a politician spoke: 'Why is this bastard lying to me?' That may be excessive. 'Why is this bastard talking to me?' is reasonable. Prabhakaran's success as a guerrilla leader has been phenomenal, facing down even the Indian Army.

He is a solidly built chap with the mandatory moustache and a sudden, rather disconcerting smile. Which one should, perhaps, expect on a tiger. 'We require tight discipline,' he said. 'For example, our members do not indulge in any weaknesses. Our warriors do not drink alcohol, smoke, gamble or have sexual relations. They are free of such weaknesses.'

Oh, I see, I saw. This is a religion.

Tigers wear striped not spotted camouflage and cyanide capsules on a cord round their necks, so they cannot be taken alive. 'I decided that I personally would start wearing a cyanide phial. So all our warriors started to wear them' said Prabhakaran. At a passing-out parade, a squad of young women, small, dark, their black hair roped around their heads, received their capsule on a cord like a rosary. The sweat stood out on one girl's face in beads. More than 600 Tigers have died bleeding from the mouth, having bitten through the glass.

The elite, who call themselves Black Tigers, blow themselves up, taking as many of the enemy as possible with them. 'The thing that gives them the will power to do this is something I cannot talk about because it is of great secrecy' said the leader.

Stephen Lambert's report opened with a succession of snapshots of the minute of Rajiv Gandhi's life. The bomb disguised as a woman. The man bending towards her, smiling slightly. You can run the film to and fro, trying to read the future in her face. In the colour of her skin. In the shine on the skin like sweat.

The leader denies responsibility for Gandhi's assassination. 'It is false! We are adamant about this.' He could be telling the truth or, of course, Claud Cockburn could be right.

Load-Date: June 9, 2000

SRI LANKA: MORE THAN 100 DIE IN OVERNIGHT VIOLENCE

IPS-Inter Press Service

October 7, 1987, Wednesday

Copyright 1987 IPS-Inter Press Service/Global Information Network

Length: 737 words

Dateline: COLOMBO, Oct. 7

Body

More than 100 people died last night and this morning in eastern Sri Lanka, in attacks believed to have been carried out by Tamil militants.

Officials here put the death toll at around 150 and say almost all those killed were members of Sri Lanka's majority Sinhalese community.

The worst attack was on a train traveling from the eastern capital of Batticaloa to Colombo. 40 passengers were shot or hacked to death, and the train was completely burnt, according to official reports.

Twenty passengers in a bus were also massacred near Batticaloa. In the town itself, 25 men, women and children were reportedly rounded up and shot. They included prominent Sinhalese citizens of the town and their families.

In a fishing village near Sri Lanka's other major eastern city, Trincomalee, 25 people were gunned down, and unconfirmed reports say 33 people were killed in Eravur, a predominantly Moslem village near Batticaloa.

Officials have blamed all the attacks on the Tamil Tigers guerrilla group, and say they have intercepted messages from militant leaders authorizing their members to escalate violence.

The killings follow the suicide deaths Oct. 5 of 12 leading members of the Tiger group, who had been detained by the Sri Lankan security forces for alleged arms smuggling.

The Tigers reacted to the suicides by executing eight Sri Lankan soldiers they were holding hostage, and attacking Sri Lankan security forces positions in the north of the country. They also killed two Sinhalese civilians near the northern capital of Jaffna.

Some observers here see the mass murders in the east as an extension of the kind of retributory killings the Tigers frequently employed during their four-year war for a separate state for Sri Lanka's minority Tamil community.

Others described the massacres as part of a brutal campaign to drive the Sinhalese out of the Eastern Province, which the Tigers claim is part of a "traditional Tamil homeland."

This claim is hotly disputed by the Sinhalese and Muslims who make up 60 percent of the population in the Eastern Province, where 33 people have been killed in the past week in ethnic violence in and around Trincomalee.

An estimated 11,000 people, mainly Sinhalese and Moslems, are reported to be homeless.

SRI LANKA : MORE THAN 100 DIE IN OVERNIGHT VIOLENCE

Whatever the reason for the latest bout of killings, observers say, they are likely to place severe strains on the credibility of President Junius Jayewardene's government, and the peace accord he signed with Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi July 29.

Under that agreement, a 7,000-strong Indian peace-keeping force was deployed in the Northern and Eastern Provinces to maintain stability until provincial council elections, designed to give the Tamils a measure of regional autonomy.

The Indian force has since been augmented by around 2,000 para-military troops, and another 1,000 regulars, but so far does not appear to have been able to contain the communal violence.

Last week President Jayewardene reportedly told Indian Army Commanders that if they could not control the situation in Trincomalee, he would re-deploy his own troops, confined to barracks under the terms of the peace accord.

It appears likely that this call will be renewed in Parliament today, in a special debate on the country's security situation demanded by the opposition and agreed to by the government.

Several members of the ruling United National Party, including Prime Minister Premadasa, are known to have serious reservations about the peace accord, and the role of the Indian peace-keeping force.

Opposition groups in the Sinhalese-dominated south have strongly condemned the agreement, and its signing was accompanied by anti-government riots in several Sinhalese areas, as well as the capital.

Political analysts here say the future of the accord will depend to a great extent on what steps the Indian government will now take.

In a message to Jayewardene yesterday, Gandhi reiterated India's commitment to carrying out the provisions of the accord to the letter, "on its (India's) own, if necessary."

This has been interpreted here as a warning to both the Tigers, who have remained determinedly committed to the concept of a separate state, and to Sinhalese groups opposed to Tamil regional autonomy, that India will not permit any opposition to the agreement.

However, one observer here feels the escalating violence in Sri Lanka means Gandhi will now need to back that commitment with "deeds, and not words."

Rebels Kill 140 Sinhalese in Six Attacks

The Associated Press

October 7, 1987, Wednesday, PM cycle

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Section: International News

Length: 758 words

Byline: By PATRICK CRUEZ, Associated Press Writer

Dateline: COLOMBO, Sri Lanka

Body

Tamil rebels stabbed, shot or burned to death more than 140 Sinhalese civilians in a rampage overnight in eastern Sri Lanka, police and military officials said today.

At least 40 people were reported killed when a train was ambushed and set on fire near Batticaloa, about 140 miles northeast of Colombo, police said. Rebels also attacked a bus in the area, fatally shooting 21 people, police said.

Fighters brandishing axes, guns and daggers massacred 38 people in the nearby fishing village of Pullikuda, then burned down much of the town, police said. In neighboring Mamakan, six people were slain, they said.

In Batticaloa, 17 people were killed, many of them burned to death, they reported.

In a sixth attack, 27 people were slain in a village near Tricomalee, 65 miles north along the coast, police said.

Most of the dead were reported to be Sinhalese civilians. But Tamil sources said two of those killed in Batticaloa were an elderly Tamil couple shot by government forces.

Police blamed the rampage on the dominant rebel militia, the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam. The rebels have been fighting the Sinhalese-dominated government for four years to establish a separate nation for minority Tamils. Violence has continued despite the signing of a peace treaty in July by Sri Lanka and India, which has aided the rebels.

At their exile headquarters in Madras, India, the Tigers issued a statement condemning the attacks and denying responsibility.

The attacks late Tuesday followed at least 14 slayings a day earlier, apparently carried out by the rebels to avenge the suicide deaths of 11 of their men in police custody.

Police said they believed the Tuesday night killings was part of a rebel campaign to drive Sinhalese out of eastern Sri Lanka. The Tigers have accused the government of moving Sinhalese into the region to change its ethnic composition.

Nimal De Silva, superintendent of police in Batticaloa, said a band of rebels attacked Pullikuda, six miles north of Batticaloa, on Tuesday night.

Rebels Kill 140 Sinhalese in Six Attacks

"First reports indicate 75 houses in the village were burned and at least 38 occupants massacred," he said.

"It is clearly the work of the Tamil Tigers," he said. "The women and children were butchered and the men were shot."

Police said 17 people were killed in Batticaloa. De Silva said four members of one Batticaloa family, including a 6-month-old girl, were fatally shot and two members of another family were burned to death. There were no details available immediately on the deaths of the other 11 people in the city.

De Silva said an indefinite curfew was clamped on the Batticaloa district this morning and Indian peacekeeping troops and police were searching for the killers. At least 250 Sinhalese families have taken refuge in police stations, he said.

A Railway Department spokesman said armed men believed to be Tiger fighters halted and set ablaze a train about 18 miles east of Batticaloa on Tuesday night.

The spokesman, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said the attackers ordered passengers off and burned 14 cars of the train. Police said at least 40 people were killed.

The government's Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corp., meanwhile, said today that police intercepted radio messages in which Tiger leader Velupillai Prabhakaran ordered his men to drive Sinhalese from Batticaloa district.

Tamils predominate in northern Sri Lanka. Batticaloa and the rest of eastern Sri Lanka is about evenly divided between Sinhalese, Tamils and minority Moslems.

Tamils comprise about 18 percent of Sri Lanka's 16 million population. Most Tamils are Hindus and they say they are discriminated against by the Buddhist Sinhalese majority.

The rebels' 4-year-old insurgency claimed more than 6,000 lives, most of them civilians.

On July 29, India signed an accord with Sri Lanka to carry out a peace plan for the island. But the Tigers and other militias have refused to give up their weapons.

The peace plan calls for a joint government to rule the eastern and northern provinces.

Last week, the Tigers signed a separate agreement with India accepting the peace plan. But after 17 Tiger militiamen were arrested and 11 of them committed suicide, Prabhakaran reportedly sent a message to India backing out of the pact.

Indian officials and the Tigers have said the men swallowed cyanide because the Sri Lankan army was trying to take them to Colombo for questioning and the men believed they would be tortured.

Both Tamils and Sinhalese migrated to Sri Lanka thousands of years ago. The Tamils came from southern India and the Sinhalese from the Indian north.

WORLD REPORT

Windsor Star (Ontario)

September 17, 2002 Tuesday Final Edition

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Section: WORLD; Pg. C2; News; Brief

Length: 1750 words

Dateline: Berlin; London; Moscow; Vaesteraas, Sweden; Stockholm; Kupwara, India; Colombo; Beijing; Lhasa; Knoxville, Tenn.; Minneapolis-St. Paul

Body

Gloves come off as Stoiber slams immigration policy

Berlin

The gloves finally came off in Germany's hitherto tame general election campaign Monday as the two main parties fought over the highly charged issue of immigration.

Edmund Stoiber, the centre-right candidate who is slipping behind Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder in the polls, was accused by the ruling Social Democrats of "despicable" and "desperate" tactics after saying it would be "unacceptable" for more immigrants to enter Germany.

Gunther Beckstein, Stoiber's interior minister in waiting, went further, saying Schroeder's government had been trying to secretly land Germans with a "multicultural society."

He was referring to a recently agreed immigration law that paves the way for limited increases in the number of foreigners entering Germany and quicker processing of asylum applications.

Fire breaks out again on ship with hazardous cargo

London

Fire broke out again Monday on a cargo ship in the English Channel, hours after firefighters thought they had brought the blaze under control.

Compiled from Star News Services

The vessel was towed into Portsmouth Naval Base on the south coast at 11:45 a.m. and firefighters were trying to extinguish the flames.

They had planned to let the ship travel under its own power to nearby Southampton, thinking the fire had been contained.

"The fire had been smouldering during the night and there was always the possibility it could flare up again," said a coast guard spokesman. "By bringing it into harbour it will be possible to move the cargo around, making it easier to tackle the fire."

WORLD REPORT

The new fire was in an area containing only non-hazardous material, fire officers said. There were no reports that any cargo had been spilled.

A Sussex Fire Brigade spokeswoman said the vessel, which sailed from Antwerp for Tunisia, was carrying 512 tonnes of general cargo and 20 tonnes of unidentified dangerous cargo.

Minister's 'speak English' advice angers Labourite

London

A government minister's advice that immigrants should speak English at home "has no basis in reality," a legislator from the governing Labour party complained Monday.

Keith Vaz, a former Foreign Office minister, invited Home Secretary David Blunkett to spend a night with an Asian family to see how well they speak English.

English is not spoken in about 30 per cent of the homes of immigrants from Pakistan, India and elsewhere in South Asia, Blunkett said in an essay for a newly published book, Reclaiming Britishness.

"Speaking English enables parents to converse with their children in English, as well as in their historic mother tongue, at home and to participate in wider modern culture," Blunkett wrote, adding it helps overcome "the schizophrenia" he said bedevils generational relationships.

"No Asian family in Leicester does not speak English at home. In many cases they speak it better than Mr. Blunkett himself," Vaz said.

Liberals fight return of famed Moscow sculpture

Moscow

Russian liberals began collecting signatures Monday to block a plan to return the statue of Felix Dzerzhinsky, the founder of Russia's secret police, to its original site outside KGB headquarters.

The Moscow landmark was torn down by pro-democracy protesters during the first days of the August 1991 coup that ended the Soviet Union.

The mayor, Yuri Luzhkov, originally opposed the Communist plan to return the statue to Lubyanka Square, but is now backing it.

Luzhkov's announcement nearly coincided with the 125th anniversary of Dzerzhinsky's birth on Sept. 11.

The statue was erected in 1958 by sculptor Yevgeny Vuchetich and was a landmark in Soviet times before it was lifted from its pedestal by protesters using a crane borrowed from the U.S. embassy.

Court rules man accused of hijack plan to stay jailed

Vaesteraas, Sweden

A Swedish court ruled Monday that a man suspected of planning to hijack a London-bound airliner last month should remain in custody after a prosecutor said he needed more time to file formal charges.

The district court in Vaesteraas, 100 km northwest of Stockholm, agreed with the prosecutor's request that Kerim Chatty should remain jailed until Sept. 30 on preliminary charges of planning to hijack a plane and illegal possession of a weapon.

The 29-year-old suspect, whose father is Tunisian and mother is Swedish, attended the hearing dressed in sweat pants, a grey T-shirt and a green sweater.

WORLD REPORT

Social Democrats claim win for the Swedish left

Stockholm

Sweden's ruling Social Democrats have claimed victory in national elections after a close race with the centre-right opposition and were positioned to form a minority government.

"This is an important moment for me as party leader -- to win an election and go against a European trend, to win so clearly when in government," Prime Minister Goeran Persson said. "I'm happy and moved, but not so surprised."

With nearly 100 per cent of the vote counted, the long-governing Social Democrats are positioned to stay in power, provided they gain the support of the Left and Green parties in the 349-seat Riksdag, or parliament.

High turnout reported in vote despite threats

Kupwara, India

Voters in Indian Kashmir defied threats by Muslim militants and turned out in greater numbers than expected Monday for state elections, officials said.

Although one civilian was killed and there was scattered violence, the separatists failed to significantly disrupt the voting.

Kashmir, a flashpoint between India and Pakistan for five decades, had seen increasingly bloody attacks in recent weeks, with militants opposed to the election -- and in favour of independence or union with Pakistan -- stepping up their campaigns.

Militants have threatened to kill anyone who participates in the vote, which will be held over four days stretching into October. No results are expected to be made public until Oct. 12.

Tamil peace talks open in bid to end civil war

Colombo

Sri Lankan government officials began talks with Tamil Tiger rebels Monday in an effort to end a bitter civil war.

The talks, in a hotel in the Thai resort of Pattaya, are being brokered by the Norwegian government. They are scheduled to last three days.

The **Tamil Tigers** have been fighting for 19 years to carve out their own state in the north and east of the island.

The war has resulted in the deaths of an estimated 65,000 people.

The **Tamil Tigers**, who pioneered the use of the suicide bomber in the modern age, have transformed themselves from a guerrilla force into a proficient army. But diplomats say both sides have now come to the conclusion the war is unwinnable.

Sri Lanka is on the verge of bankruptcy. Loan repayments this year are expected to exceed GDP.

China orders investigation into mass food poisoning

Beijing

The Chinese government ordered police to investigate a mass food poisoning in the eastern city of Nanjing that reportedly killed scores of people, many of them middle school students.

WORLD REPORT

Government officials and hospitals refused to give an account of deaths in the poisonings, which were traced to a snack shop in Tangshan county, a rural district of Nanjing city. The Communist party headquarters in Beijing and China's cabinet ordered health officials to Nanjing to investigate.

More than 200 people had been poisoned and "a number" had died, according to reports in the media.

Envoys of Dalai Lama in formal meeting in Tibet

Lhasa

The first formal talks for more than two decades between representatives of the Dalai Lama and the Chinese-appointed government of Tibet have taken place in Lhasa.

Lekchok, the chairman of China's Tibetan Autonomous Region, said Monday he had met Lodi Gyaltsen Gyari and Kelsang Gyaltsen, the Dalai Lama's envoys to America and Europe, while they were in Lhasa to meet family members and pray at its sacred sites.

The last comparable meeting in Lhasa between the two sides took place in 1980.

Lekchok said: "As they have not visited since the 1950s, they were eager to learn about the development of Tibet and the great changes that have taken place."

But in a hint that the talks carried greater significance, Lekchok said negotiations on the future of Tibet would only be held with personal representatives of the 67-year-old Dalai Lama.

Toxic fumes from train wreck force evacuations

Knoxville, Tenn.

Thousands of Tennessee residents were still waiting to return to their homes Monday after a weekend train derailment that sent a cloud of toxic, fuming sulfuric gas over a large area.

About 3,000 people left their homes in Farragut, Concord and Southwest Knox County after the train wreck on Sunday, said Holt Clark, operations officer for the Knoxville-Knox County Emergency Management Agency.

Officials with Norfolk Southern Railway called in a clean-up crew that specializes in dealing with sulfuric acid.

There were no reports of fatalities, but an elderly woman and a Knox County sheriff's deputy were taken to area hospitals, authorities said.

Teen dies amid fighting over faith healing in U.S.

Knoxville, Tenn.

A teen at the centre of a legal firestorm over faith healing has died.

Jessica Crank died Sunday at the home where she and her family had been living, along with several members of a religious group. She was 15.

Jessica, who was diagnosed in late June with a rare form of bone cancer, was with her mother, Jacqueline Crank, her younger brother and members of the New Life Ministries church when she died. She also was a member of the church.

Her mother is charged -- along with Ariel Ben Sherman, who is dubbed Jessica's "spiritual father" and the religious group's spiritual leader -- with aggravated child abuse and neglect for allegedly ignoring medical advice to seek treatment for the girl and instead relying upon prayer.

Crank and Sherman now face the possibility that authorities will seek to upgrade the abuse charges to murder.

WORLD REPORT

Tracker in fair condition after black bear attack

Minneapolis-St. Paul

Miles Becker was tracking woodcocks he and colleagues had tagged when a black bear attacked him in a central Minnesota wildlife management area.

Becker, 24, was listed in fair condition after surgery. He suffered broken facial bones, puncture wounds to his head and left leg and a broken fibula.

The only other bear attack recorded in Minnesota occurred in 1987, when a **female** bear attacked campers, said Dave Garshelis, a biologist with the Department of Natural Resources.

Wildlife officials have set a trap for the bear.

Graphic

HORSE GUARD: Dutch Queen Beatrix's honour guard rides through smoke as they practise Monday for today's Princess Day parade at The Hague's Scheveningen beach. On Princess Day, the Dutch queen officially opens parliament after the summer break. Associated Press photo: Emiel Koning

Load-Date: September 17, 2002

End of Document

Rebels allege Pakistan's involvement in Sri Lankan offensive

Associated Press International

June 13, 1997; Friday 01:36 Eastern Time

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Section: International news

Length: 474 words

Byline: DEXTER CRUEZ

Dateline: COLOMBO, Sri Lanka

Body

Tamil Tiger rebels Friday accused Pakistan of helping Sri Lanka plan its military campaign to capture a vital highway in the guerrilla-controlled north.

Sri Lanka denied the allegation, calling it a sign of desperation by the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam.

"We feel we were quite capable of fighting the LTTE as we have been doing for many years," said Brigadier Sarath Munasinghe, the military spokesman.

The rebels, in a statement from their London office, said the Sri Lankan military's four-week-old offensive "was planned jointly with Pakistani military officials."

The guerrillas quoted independent sources but did not identify them.

The statement also said: "Pakistani officials converged at Sri Lanka's Anuradhapura army headquarters immediately prior to the launch of the military offensive."

Independent accounts are not available because the government has barred journalists from the area 135 miles (220 kilometers) north of Colombo, the Sri Lankan capital.

Sri Lanka has sent senior military officers to India, Pakistan and some western countries for training in the past. American soldiers were in Sri Lanka recently to train troops in evacuation techniques, reconnaissance, surveillance, radio operations and field engineering.

Pilots from East European states also are known to have flown Sri Lankan Air Force planes.

Early this week, more than 1,000 rebels attacked soldiers at two places 10 miles (16 kilometers) south of the government front line, destroying an ammunition dump and a bridge. The damaged bridge was repaired Wednesday, military officials said.

In their statement, the rebels claimed 325 government soldiers were killed in a massive rebel counterattack behind government lines early this week.

They said 80 of their fighters were killed, including 21 women. The military put the rebel death toll at 210.

Rebels allege Pakistan 's involvement in Sri Lankan offensive

On Wednesday, the defense ministry said the military had retrieved the bodies of 97 soldiers. Another 91 soldiers have been wounded.

But local newspapers quoting unidentified military officials reported Friday that 121 soldiers were killed in the attack and more than 387 were hospitalized.

Analysts said the rebel counterattack could slow the military's attempt to gain control of the highway to the Jaffna Peninsula, now accessible only by air and sea.

"It is a set-back, there are no two words about it ... Now they (soldiers) have to worry about their rear when pushing forward," said Harry Goonatilleke, a retired Air Force chief.

Senior military officials said the counterattack had been expected, but its ferocity stunned field commanders who until last Tuesday were slowly moving ahead in their offensive.

The rebels say that minority Tamils suffer discrimination at the hands of majority Sinhalese, who control the government and the military. The civil war has killed more than 48,000 people since 1983.

Load-Date: June 13, 1997

End of Document

Villagers flee in eastern Sri Lanka after massacre

Deutsche Presse-Agentur

September 19, 1999, Sunday, BC Cycle 04:24 Central European Time

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Section: International News

Length: 454 words

Body

Colombo (dpa)- Thousands of civilians living in villages in eastern Sri Lanka have fled their homes in fear of more attacks by suspected Tamil rebels after 56 people including women and children were massacred, reports from the area said Sunday.

The government moved in additional troops and deployed police commandos in villages in the Ampara district, more than 300 kilometers east of the capital, where Saturday's massacre took place, but villagers still stayed away from their homes overnight, the reports said.

"The civilians have moved into more populated areas and people who stayed in jungles have decided to return to the village by day and get back to the jungles at night", a journalist in the area said.

All civilians killed in the massacre were members of the majority Sinhala community.

The massacre also raised tension among the minority Tamil community living in the area as they feared reprisal attacks.

Tamil civilians living in remote areas bordering Sinhala villages had also moved away from their homes and shifted to more populated areas in fear of attacks, the journalist said.

Deputy Defence Minister, General Anuruddha Ratwatte has described Saturday's massacre as an "attack due to desperation" by the rebels "as they are being hit by the security forces in the Wanni region" (north of the country).

Tamil political parties said rebels of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) carried out the attack in retaliation for the bombing of a market place by the airforce, at Mullaitivu, 344 kilometers north east of the country where 22 Tamil civilians were killed.

Gen. Ratwatte denied that Air Force had bombed civilians and said a statement by the International Committee for the Red Cross (ICRC) claiming that persons killed were civilians could not be accepted.

President Chandrika Kumaratunga condemned the massacre in Ampara and said that the government will provide every assistance to the relatives of those killed in the Saturday's incident.

The two incidents where Tamil and Sinhala civilians have been killed over the week has been seen as a major setback to efforts being made by various groups to resolve the minority ethnic conflict through negotiations.

More than 10 groups in the recent weeks have been carrying out active campaigns that the conflict should be resolved through negotiations.

Villagers flee in eastern Sri Lanka after massacre

But Saturday's massacre of Sinhala civilians is likely to make it difficult for peace groups to carry out their campaigns.

Tamil rebels who claim to be fighting for an independent homeland for minority Tamils in the north and eastern parts of Sri Lanka condemned the airforce bombing of civilians, but have so far not commented on Saturday's massacre. dpa dv mb

Load-Date: September 19, 1999

End of Document

The use of terrorism

Windsor Star (Ontario)

May 17, 2002 Friday Final Edition

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Section: EDITORIAL; GEORGE JONAS; Pg. A8; Column

Length: 788 words

Byline: George Jonas

Body

On May 9, 39 people died in the southern Russian republic of Dagestan when Islamic militants, possibly from neighbouring Chechnya, planted a metal canister containing some five kilograms of TNT along the route of a parade commemorating Victory Day over the Nazis in the Second World War.

"Today's act was committed by scum for whom nothing is sacred," said Russian President Vladimir Putin, as he was reviewing Moscow's Victory Day parade in the Red Square. "We have the right to view (them) as we view Nazis."

Much as one favours the idea of national self-determination for Chechnyans, Palestinians, Sikhs, Tibetans, or any other group, it's impossible not to agree with Putin. Terrorists are Nazis, whatever their cause.

Southam News

Let's assume that in the Middle East conflict the Arab side is right. Let's assume that the Jews decided to steal the land that belonged to the Palestinians and achieved it by employing low cunning combined with brute force.

As a result, innocent Palestinians were turned into refugees outside Israel, or second-class citizens inside their former homeland occupied by the Jews.

If one puts the Palestinian side of the argument as high as this (it would be difficult to put it higher) does it justify terrorism?

Not for most people.

In this century, just as in preceding centuries, a number of ethnic groups have lost their homelands to their enemies.

Some became refugees and some became second-class citizens. Patriots fighting the conqueror were killed in battle, or exiled or executed.

Their children often grew up in refugee camps.

This happened to Latvians, Frenchmen, Estonians, Poles, Norwegians, Lithuanians, Ukrainians, Afghans, Tibetans, Czechs, Hungarians and ethnic Germans -- to mention only a few groups.

Some later regained their country's independence; some haven't to this day and perhaps never will.

The use of terrorism

But few if any of these groups ever engaged in systematic acts of terror. Not even against enemy civilians -- let alone neutral civilians in other countries.

In recent times, the Palestinians were the first to regard the loss of their land as a justification to murder civilians, including women and children. First they did so in Israel.

Neutral civilians

Eventually they extended their acts to Israeli (or Jewish) civilians and property in other countries. Finally they extended it to neutral civilians and property in countries all over the world.

They called these acts -- to use the word of Mahmoud Mohammad, convicted in Greece of killing an Israeli traveller in an attack on an El Al jet in Athens in 1968 -- a series of "advertisements" for the Palestinian cause. Mohammad later became a Canadian resident.

Mohammad's attack happened to be among the earliest acts of international terrorism. The watershed year was 1968.

That year saw the birth of the Provisional IRA as well as of the first terrorist groups in Europe and South America. The terror of the Tamil Tigers and the Sikh separatists came later.

The first Palestinian terrorist act outside Israel was the hijacking of an El Al plane in Rome on July 22. Mohammad's action in Athens, on Dec. 26, came second.

The 50-year-old Israeli killed, Leon Shirdan, was the first recorded victim of the postwar period of international terror, which has since claimed the lives of thousands of civilians.

Canada hosted a historic figure indeed when it gave shelter to Mohammad. (Immigration authorities have been trying to deport him for the last 14 years, but haven't succeeded yet.)

No group of French, Tibetan, Norwegian, or Czech partisans ever saw fit to "advertise" the plight of their homelands by shooting German, Russian, or Chinese civilians.

Even within their own occupied countries, the patriotic resistance concentrated on military targets.

Islamic militants

The idea of blowing up Swiss airliners -- or attacking German or Russian travellers in neutral Switzerland -- never occurred to French or Latvian patriots.

It has certainly occurred to some Palestinians.

It has occurred to Islamic militants in the Caucasus who, after killing eight people and injuring 40 in an outdoor market in Russian city of Vladikavkaz in April, last week blew up a score of elderly army musicians on parade, along with 13 children watching them, in the Caspian sea port of Kaspiisk.

That's what makes such people terrorists -- just as a Tibetan blowing up a Chinese jetliner in Amsterdam would be a terrorist. Except no Tibetan has committed such an act so far, while Islamic militants have.

This is the dividing line.

It has nothing to do with politics.

It has nothing to do with somebody's national cause being right or wrong.

It has only to do with good and evil.

Graphic

GEORGE JONAS

Load-Date: May 17, 2002

End of Document

Rebels Set Condition For Release of Eight Hostages

Associated Press Worldstream

September 07, 1995; Thursday 06:51 Eastern Time

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Section: International news

Length: 424 words

Byline: DEXTER CRUEZ

Dateline: COLOMBO, Sri Lanka

Body

Tamil separatists said on Thursday they will not release the eight crewmen of a ferry they seized unless Sri Lanka frees two imprisoned **female** guerrillas.

The demand was broadcast over the rebels' clandestine radio, and the government did not immediately respond to it.

The two jailed rebels were captured during a guerrilla attack on a northern navy base July 16 in which a navy transport ship and three rebel boats were sunk.

On Aug. 28, the insurgents seized the ferry off the coast of northeastern Sri Lanka and used it to lure and destroy two Sri Lankan navy gunboats, reportedly killing 21 sailors.

Since then, the separatists have freed 121 passengers, but are still holding 15 others and the eight crew members, according to the Red Cross, which has been in contact with the guerrillas.

The rebels, who are fighting for a homeland in Sri Lanka, suspect that the 15 passengers they are still holding hostage are members of a pro-government Tamil group. But the rebel broadcast Thursday didn't mention those 15 captives.

The 121 freed passengers were taken from the ferry on small boats and driven to the rebel stronghold of Jaffna in northern Sri Lanka where they were visited by Red Cross officials.

They are free to move about in the peninsula and the Red Cross is planning to transport them to their homes on islands off the peninsula that are under military control.

"But first we want some assurance from the **LTTE** (rebels) that they will allow this," said Paul Fruh, acting director of the International Committee of the Red Cross in Sri Lanka.

This week, the ferry was slightly damaged by a mortar shell fired by Sri Lankan forces that fell close to the vessel, but no one was hurt, Fruh said. For several days, the military shelled rebel boats moving between the coast and the ferry.

The ferry was still controlled by the rebels Thursday and was being monitored by Sri Lanka's navy and air force, off the coast of Mullaittivu, 280 kilometers (175 miles) northeast of Colombo.

Rebels Set Condition For Release of Eight Hostages

Elsewhere in Sri Lanka, the military said on Thursday that 12 Tamil rebels were killed when they tried to ram a navy gunboat on Sunday. Four small rebel boats were involved, one laden with explosives, and three of them were destroyed in the attack. The navy has denied a rebel claim that its gunboat also was destroyed.

The rebels have been fighting for a homeland in the north and east for 12 years to redress discrimination by the majority Sinhalese, who control the government and the military. More than 36,000 people have been killed in the fighting.

(dc/ne/twx)

Load-Date: September 7, 1995

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URGENT Explosion kills Cabinet minister, others in Sri Lanka

Associated Press International

June 7, 2000; Wednesday

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Section: International news

Length: 3716 words

Dateline: COLOMBO, Sri Lanka

Body

An explosion in the suburbs of the capital killed a Cabinet minister and at least nine others Wednesday, a military spokesman said.

C.V. Gooneratne, minister for Industrial Development, was killed, said Brig. Palitha Fernando.

Another Cabinet minister, minister of Transport A.H. M. Fowzie, said he had heard 14 were killed in the explosion.

The cause of the explosion and other details were not immediately known.

However, Tamil Tiger rebels, who have been fighting for 17 years to create a homeland for the minority Tamils in the east and north of the island nation, have previously used bombs to target government officials.

Red Cross workers are awaiting clearance from the government and rebels to visit thousands of civilians caught between the two warring sides in the north, said a spokesman for the relief agency on Wednesday.

"Both parties agree in principle to give the ICRC access to the area, but there is no agreement regarding the entry point," said Harsha Gunawardene, spokesman for the International Committee of the Red Cross.

About 12,000 civilians are trapped in Thennamarachchi, one of the four sectors of the northern Jaffna peninsula. Thennamarachchi is about 15 kilometers (nine miles) east of the city of Jaffna. The rebels control large tracts of the area after advances in April and May.

The ICRC is trying to work out an entry point suitable to both sides so Red Cross officials can enter the area "in order to assess and respond to the civilians' humanitarian needs," Gunawardene said.

Meanwhile, the two warring parties disagree on which direction the civilians should move.

"We want them to move to areas held by the army, while the rebels are trying to have them moved south to Wanni," said Brig. Palitha Fernando, military spokesman. "The rebels are doing this with the intent of recruiting the young people among this group to fight the war."

The Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam are banned in Sri Lanka, and could not immediately be reached through their London office.

URGENT Explosion kills Cabinet minister, others in Sri Lanka

At least 500,000 civilians live in Jaffna peninsula, which the rebels are trying to wrest back from the military. The city of Jaffna was the rebel capital from 1990-1995, after which the military took back the peninsula.

Fighting intensified in the last two months as the rebels made a series of lightning advances, overrunning several army camps to arrive at the doorstep of the city.

A suicide bomber detonated an explosion in the industrial suburbs of the capital on Wednesday, killing a Cabinet minister and 20 others, a hospital director said.

The remains of the bomber a severed head and limbs were scattered around a traffic island in the Ratmalana suburb of Colombo, as police officers gathered pieces of flesh and debris from the roadway.

Twenty-one people were killed, including Minister for Industrial Development C.V. Gooneratne, said the director of Kalubowila Hospital, Dr. W.G. Gunawordena.

He said the minister's wife was one of seven people in serious condition and a total of 60 injured had been brought to the hospital for treatment.

At the bomb site, police officers and army commandos on motorcycles kept a crowd pushed back. Police dragged one man from the scene into a jeep and drove away with him.

There was no immediate claim of responsibility.

However, the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam, who have fought for 17 years to create a separate homeland for the minority Tamils in the north and east of this island nation, have a unit of suicide bombers known as the Black Tigers, who are known for targeting government officials.

The gender of the bomber could not immediately be determined. The disfigured head had close-cropped hair like a man, and there were trousers on the body.

Gonadeniye Sumanatne, a Buddhist priest at a temple near the blast site said he had seen many bodies strewn across the road.

No cars were damaged in the area, indicating that the bomber had walked up to the minister. He had been surrounded by supporters and the deputy mayor of the area, who was also killed, according to the hospital director.

Police could not say why Goonaretna was on foot in the district that he represents in Parliament. Witnesses said he may have been collecting money for the war effort on War Heroes Day, set aside to recognize those who have died in battle.

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President Chandrika Kumaratunga had urged Sri Lankans in a speech before the explosion occurred to support the military and their families.

"This is the most sacred moment for the nation," said Kumaratunga, who was blinded in her right eye in an assassination attempt by a suicide bomber in December.

The army suffered a series of reverses in the northern Jaffna peninsula in April and May. But armed with new weapons purchased from abroad, the troops have stalled the rapid rebel advance that brought them to the doorstep of Jaffna, their capital from 1990-95.

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Gooneratne is the first minister of the current government to be assassinated.

There was no immediate claim of responsibility.

However, the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam, who have fought for 17 years to create a separate homeland for the minority Tamils in the north and east of the island nation, have a unit of suicide bombers known as the Black Tigers, who are known for targeting government officials.

Many of the injured had extensive facial injuries and their clothes were stained with blood.

One of them, G.A. Yohan, had an injured arm and eardrums and was having trouble hearing. "I was walking beside the minister's entourage when the explosion took place," he told The Associated Press. "All I remember is falling on the ground."

URGENT Explosion kills Cabinet minister, others in Sri Lanka

The gender of the bomber could not immediately be determined. The disfigured head had close-cropped hair like a man, and there were trousers on the body.

At the bomb site, police officers and army commandos on motorcycles kept a crowd pushed back. Police dragged one man from the scene into a jeep and drove away with him.

Gonadeniye Sumanatne, a Buddhist priest at a temple near the blast site said he had seen many bodies strewn across the road.

No cars were damaged in the area, indicating that the bomber had walked up to the minister. He had been surrounded by supporters and the area's deputy mayor, who was also killed, according to the hospital director.

Police could not say why Goonaretna was on foot in the district that he represents in Parliament. But witnesses said he may have been collecting money for the war effort on War Heroes Day, held for the first time to boost the morale of the military.

President Chandrika Kumaratunga had urged Sri Lankans in a speech before the explosion occurred to support the military and their families.

"This is the most sacred moment for the nation," said Kumaratunga, who was blinded in her right eye in an assassination attempt by a suicide bomber in December.

The army suffered a series of reverses in the northern Jaffna peninsula in April and May. But armed with new weapons purchased from abroad, the troops have stalled the rapid rebel advance that brought them to the doorstep of Jaffna, their capital from 1990-95.

Red Cross workers were awaiting clearance from the government and rebels to visit civilians caught in the fighting, a spokesman for the relief agency said Wednesday. About 12,000 civilians are trapped in one of the four sectors of the northern Jaffna peninsula, where at least 500,000 civilians live.

The Tamil Tiger rebels, outlawed in the United States, Sri Lanka and India, have been fighting since 1983 to create a homeland for the 3.2 million Tamils, who make up 18 percent of the nation's 18.6 million people. The war has left 62,000 people dead.

A suicide bomber shattered Sri Lanka's first-ever War Heroes Day, killing a Cabinet minister and 20 other people Wednesday during a fundraiser for the families of slain soldiers.

Minister for Industrial Development C.V. Gooneratne was assassinated as he walked among supporters in his parliamentary district in Ratmalana, an industrial suburb of the capital, Colombo.

Gooneratne, the bomber, and 20 other people were killed, said the director of Kalubowila Hospital, Dr. W.G. Gunawardena. The doctor said the minister's wife was among seven people seriously injured and that 53 others were treated at the hospital.

There was no claim of responsibility for the bombing. But it was similar to past attacks by the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam, which has been fighting for 17 years to create a separate homeland for minority Tamils.

The rebels have a suicide unit, the Black Tigers, known for targeting government officials and politicians.

A government statement said the motive was to mark "a day that was specially meant to pay tribute to the war heroes battling to maintain the ... territorial integrity of the nation." War Heroes Day was declared to boost the morale of the 40,000 troops fighting the rebels in northern Jaffna peninsula.

Before the bombing, all traffic in the capital stopped and people were told to observe two minutes of silence as Kumaratunga said in a televised speech, "This is the most sacred moment for the nation."

URGENT Explosion kills Cabinet minister, others in Sri Lanka

Jehan Perera of the Peace Council, an independent think tank, said the bombing was probably the Tiger's response to the holiday. He said that Gooneratne was "a soft target and a shocking choice" for assassination.

"He was not involved in the military end of the government. But he used to go about quite freely," Perera said.

After the bombing, mobs began attacking homes in Ratmalana belonging to minority Tamils, a government official said on condition he not be named.

Perera said Gooneratne was very close to his constituents.

"They would be so angry and upset they would want to retaliate at anyone," Perera said. "They cannot capture the Tiger. So they say these Tamil people are the nearest thing to a Tiger."

The government imposed a curfew on the bombed neighborhood and two adjacent suburbs, barring journalists from the area. The army's Rapid Deployment Force surrounded a low-cost housing area in the neighborhood and searched for more suspects, a member of the force told The Associated Press.

The Information Department issued a statement appealing to the public "to stay calm at a sensitive time such as this when emotions are running high." It said, "... Security measures have been taken to protect all communities from any backlash."

A survivor said the bomber had hopped out of a three-wheeler taxi and greeted the minister before detonating the bomb in an intersection.

G.A. Yohan, another survivor who had an injured arm and was having trouble hearing, said: "I was walking beside the minister's entourage when the explosion took place. All I remember is falling on the ground."

Afterward, the bomber's severed head and limbs were scattered around a traffic island.

Police dragged one man from the scene. Later, officers speaking on condition of anonymity said he was being investigated.

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U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan expressed profound shock at the suicide bomb attack and deplored the loss of innocent lives.

"In the strongest possible terms, the secretary-general reiterates his condemnation of terrorism from whatever quarter," U.N. spokesman Fred Eckhard said in New York.

A survivor, picks up 15th graf pvs

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In Washington, White House spokesman Joe Lockhart condemned the "reprehensible act" but urged a continuation of efforts to resolve the bitter conflict.

"Such terrorism should not and cannot detract from efforts to reach a negotiated solution to the current conflict in Sri Lanka," he said. "The United States stands firmly in support of a solution that offers justice and human rights for all the citizens of a unified, peaceful, and prosperous Sri Lanka."

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Advertisements for good and evil

Ottawa Citizen

May 20, 2002 Monday Final Edition

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Section: News; George Jonas; Pg. A14; Column

Length: 784 words

Byline: George Jonas

Dateline: TORONTO

Body

TORONTO - On May 9, 39 people died in the southern Russian republic of Dagestan when Islamic militants, possibly from neighbouring Chechnya, planted a metal canister containing some five kilograms of TNT along the route of a parade commemorating Victory Day over the Nazis in the Second World War.

"Today's act was committed by scum for whom nothing is sacred," said Russian President Vladimir Putin, as he was reviewing Moscow's Victory Day parade in Red Square. "We have the right to view (them) as we view Nazis."

Much as one favours the idea of national self-determination for Chechens, Palestinians, Tibetans, Sikhs or any other group, it's impossible not to agree with Putin. Terrorists are Nazis, whatever their cause.

The Ottawa Citizen

Let's assume that in the Middle East conflict the Arab side is right. Let's assume that the Jews decided to steal the land that belonged to the Palestinians, and achieved it by employing low cunning combined with brute force. As a result, innocent Palestinians were turned into refugees outside Israel, or second-class citizens inside their former homeland occupied by the Jews.

If one puts the Palestinian side of the argument as high as this (it would be difficult to put it higher), does it justify terrorism?

Not for most people. In this century, just as in preceding centuries, a number of ethnic groups have lost their homelands to their enemies. Some became refugees, and some became second-class citizens. Patriots fighting the conqueror were killed in battle, or exiled or executed. Their children often grew up in refugee camps.

This happened to Latvians, Frenchmen, Estonians, Poles, Norwegians, Afghans, Lithuanians, Ukrainians, Tibetans, Czechs, Hungarians and ethnic Germans -- to mention only a few groups. Some later regained their country's independence; some haven't to this day, and perhaps never will. But few if any of these groups ever engaged in systematic acts of terror. Not even against enemy civilians -- let alone neutral civilians in other countries.

In recent times, the Palestinians were the first to regard the loss of their land as a justification to murder civilians, including women and children. First they did so in Israel. Eventually they extended their acts to Israeli (or Jewish) civilians and property in other countries. Finally they extended it to neutral civilians and property in countries all over the world.

Advertisements for good and evil

They called these acts -- to use the word of Mahmoud Mohammad, convicted in Greece of killing an Israeli traveller in an attack on an El Al jet in Athens in 1968 -- a series of "advertisements" for the Palestinian cause. Mohammad later became a Canadian resident.

Mohammad's attack happened to be among the earliest acts of international terrorism. The watershed year was 1968. That year saw the birth of the Provisional IRA as well as of the first terrorist groups in Europe and South America. The terror of the **Tamil Tigers** and the Sikh separatists came later.

The first Palestinian terrorist act outside Israel was the hijacking of an El Al plane in Rome on July 22. Mohammad's action in Athens, on Dec. 26, came second. The 50-year-old Israeli killed, Leon Shirdan, was the first recorded victim of the postwar period of international terror, which has since claimed the lives of thousands of civilians. Canada hosted a historic figure indeed when it gave shelter to Mohammad. (Immigration authorities have been trying to deport him for the last 14 years, but haven't succeeded yet.)

No group of French, Tibetan, Norwegian or Czech partisans ever saw fit to "advertise" the plight of their homelands by shooting German, Russian or Chinese civilians. Even within their own occupied countries, the patriotic resistance concentrated on military targets. The idea of blowing up Swiss airliners -- or attacking German or Russian travellers in neutral Switzerland -- never occurred to French or Latvian patriots.

It has certainly occurred to some Palestinians. It has occurred to Islamic militants in the Caucasus who, after killing eight people and injuring 40 in an outdoor market in the Russian city of Vladikavkaz in April, this month blew up a score of elderly army musicians on parade, along with 13 children watching them, in the Caspian sea port of Kaspiisk.

That's what makes such people terrorists -- just as a Tibetan blowing up a Chinese jetliner in Amsterdam would be a terrorist. Except no Tibetan has committed such an act so far, while Islamic militants have.

This is the dividing line. It has nothing to do with politics. It has nothing to do with somebody's national cause being right or wrong. It has only to do with good and evil.

George Jonas is a Citizen columnist.

Load-Date: May 20, 2002

- Insider notes from United Press International for Jan. 31 ...

United Press International
January 31, 2002, Thursday

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Length: 808 words

Dateline: WASHINGTON, Jan. 31

Body

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Just as international hopes rise for a settlement in Cyprus, with Raul Denktash of the Turk-Cypriot north in direct talks with Glafkos Clerides of the Greek Cypriot south, Clerides is running into domestic flak over his daughter, his protg and a leaked document. President Clerides's daughter Katie, and Clerides government spokesman Michailis Papapetriu were part of a bi-communal working group, led by Harvard professor Robert Rotberg, chairman of the Foundation for Global Peace, who came up with an imaginative solution for a "United States of Cyprus." The group was funded through the United Nations Operations Service of the U.S. State Department. They proposed a rotating presidency, changing hands either every two years or, like the European Union, every six months; when a Greek Cypriot is president, a Turkish Cypriot becomes prime minister and vice versa; up to 9 percent of the (Turkish-occupied) land will be handed over to the Greek Cypriots; troops are withdrawn until eventually Turkey and Greece will each have 2,000 troops on the island and English, Turkish and Greek will be the official languages of the new state. Former deputy premier Mustafa Akinci, Denktash's most probable successor, and former foreign minister Kenan Atakol (very close to Denktash) were also on the group. Amid accusations of "treason," Papapetriu now says it was all "just an intellectual exercise."

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More power to the Ukraine press -- firepower, that is. Journalists in Ukraine have been authorized to carry handguns, military 9mm Makarov automatics modified to carry rubber bullets, by the Ministry of the Interior. Officials figures say seven journalists have been killed in the decade since independence. Journalists say the real figure is far higher. Tear gas guns are also approved.

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Forget Kim Philby or Allen Dulles or Alexander Orlov. The man who can claim to have been the real masterspy of the 20th century, Rameshwar Nath Kao, founder of India's Research and Analysis Wing, was sent discreetly to his rest last weekend at the Nigambodh Ghat cremation grounds in New Delhi. A close aide of Jawaharlal Nehru, who sent him to Ghana to establish independent Africa's first intelligence service, and a friend of China's Chou En Lai, Kao quietly destabilized two states and created two more. In 1968, with India still reeling from the surprises of the Chinese and Pakistani wars, Indira Gandhi split the old Intelligence Bureau and put Kao in charge of the new RAW. His first job was to stabilize the eastern frontier by fomenting subversion inside what used to be East Pakistan, and turn it into a pro-Indian Bangladesh with secret guerilla forces and an independence movement that would request Indian military intervention. Then he stole a march on China to bring the Himalayan kingdom of Sikkim into India. Then came his murky role in Sri Lanka, where Sinhalese officials see him as the mastermind behind the Tamil

- Insider notes from United Press International for Jan. 31 ...

Tigers, but never proved a thing. Always self-effacing, he never spoke to the media nor wrote any memoirs in his retirement bungalow at Vasant Vihar, but kept in touch with old contacts from Moscow, London, Tehran and Beijing, who all knew what was the real author of India's secret history.

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The Baltic States want to join NATO at this November's Prague summit -- but not at any price. The Latvian defense ministry looks like it is bowing to local protests against the building (by Lockheed-Martin) of a new NATO-compatible radar station on hills near the Audrini military airfield near the Russian border. Picked by surveyors as the best spot to combine Baltic area coverage with a 20-mile reach into Russian airspace, the radar station has aroused environmental protests and local health concerns. Defense Minister Girts Valdis Kristovskis said it looks like Latvia would fork out the extra money to build the access roads and power lines to relocate it 10 miles away.

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The Paris tourist industry is getting an un-seasonal boost from Japan, as planeloads of young Japanese **women** fly in on 'Amelie' package tours (6 days for \$1,510) to cash in their vouchers for coffee and crme brulee at the Montmartre Caf des Deux Moulins. They are on the pilgrimage for the French movie that has taken Tokyo's **female** 20-somethings by storm, and looks set for best foreign film at the Oscars -- which should get actress Audrey Tautou another luncheon invitation from France's President Jacques Chirac. The film about a delightfully wacky French waitress has broken all Tokyo records for a French movie, colonized the covers of woman's magazines with Amelie-mania, her taste in food and clothes and furnishings -- thanks to smart tie-in deals with the Tomorrowland clothing chain, with 135 outlets around Japan, restaurants serving "Amelie" menus based on the movie and 'Amelie' designs. Content: 11002000 11006000 04010000 16001000 16002000

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Terrorists motivated by nothing but pure evil

The Star Phoenix (Saskatoon, Saskatchewan)

May 16, 2002 Thursday Final Edition

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Section: Local; George Jonas; Pg. A17; Opinion

Length: 775 words

Byline: George Jonas

Body

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Much as one favours the idea of national self-determination for Chechnians, Palestinians, Sikhs, Tibetans or any other group, it's impossible not to agree with Putin. Terrorists are Nazis, whatever their cause.

Special to The StarPhoenix

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Load-Date: May 16, 2002

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Women have history on side

Herald Sun (Melbourne, Australia)

May 19, 2001, Saturday

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Section: WEEKEND FOCUS; Pg. 23

Length: 790 words

Byline: MATTHEW PINKNEY

Body

Australia's war of words over women on the front line would raise smiles elsewhere, writes MATTHEW PINKNEY

WHEN Australia's defence chiefs recently suggested women be permitted to join combat units, many would have wondered what exactly we were getting ourselves into.

Would our front lines bristle with ditzzy Private Benjamins or Xena-style warriors?

For the RSL, the answer was clear: women would be physically unable to carry the equipment needed by combat troops, they would encounter hygiene problems if unable to wash and faced a high risk of sexual assault if captured.

The organisation also claimed discipline could be affected if male troops

were unable to conquer the natural urge to defend women in danger.

While they have been modernised, the arguments echo the 1941 plea of the US Congressman who asked: "Who will then do the cooking, the washing, the mending, the humble homey tasks to which every woman has devoted herself? Who will nurture the children?"

In fact, women have combined the domestic and the horrific for centuries -- from Joan of Arc and Boadicea to the 23 US women awarded the Combat Action Medal in Operation Desert Storm.

While women concentrated in domestic war industries during the industrial age, many still distinguished themselves at the front.

One of the most remarkable was Frenchwoman Emilienne Moreaux, who in World War I fought in the trenches at Loos.

She returned to active service when France was invaded in 1940 and earned her second decoration for bravery, the Croix de Guerre.

In World War II, the sheer size of the war effort encouraged the formation of all-female American units, many of which were stationed close to combat zones.

Women have history on side

Letters screened by the US censor revealed men resented their new comrades, saying wives, sisters and girlfriends should be at home preserving what was good about life.

More damagingly, soldiers believed 90 per cent of women who served in military units were prostitutes.

IN Russia, the toll of the war against the Nazis meant gender niceties were swept aside and almost a million women took combat roles.

Renowned for her endurance, courage and stealth, Russian Lyudmila Pavlichenko is perhaps the greatest female sniper of any war, killing 309 Germans. And Lilya Litvyak, who carried flowers in her cockpit and was dubbed "the White Rose of Stalingrad", became famous for downing 12 German aircraft in a hopelessly outmoded fighter.

The all-female 588th night bomber regiment also overcame obsolete aircraft to fly 24,000 missions against German forces, who dubbed them the "nachthexen", or night witches.

But perhaps women have had their greatest impact in the more subtle roles of espionage and resistance.

Born in New Zealand, educated in Sydney and married to a Frenchman, Nancy Wake is credited with saving hundreds of Allied lives by controlling escape routes from occupied France.

SHE also distributed weapons to resistance fighters and once cycled more than 200km through German lines to find a radio operator for a crucial weapons drop.

Up to 25,000 women served in the Italian resistance, with several hundred murdered for refusing to give the Nazis crucial information.

Thousands of women served in Yugoslavia's Partizanka resistance force and a 1944 ambush, led by a female French guerilla, resulted in the deaths of more than 300 German soldiers and the destruction of about 100 trucks and Panzer tanks.

DURING the Vietnam war, US forces were shocked to learn the enemy literally was living beneath their feet.

Having discovered the vast labyrinth of tunnels at Cu Chi, about 30km northwest of Saigon, they launched an unprecedented blitz of bombs, shells, rockets and defoliants.

But when the Viet Cong attacks continued, the US deployed specially trained german shepherds to crawl into the tunnels and attack.

This was abandoned when the North Vietnamese began washing in stolen US army soap, confusing the dogs.

Finally, it was decided to send soldiers into the dark, trapped-filled maze.

The horror of the missions was made worse by kilometres of tiny passages -- built just wide enough for the thousands of Viet Cong women who spent years sniping and bombing the Americans.

In the 1970s, the IRA formed a women's unit trained in all aspects of terrorism, and the Red Cross recently estimated up to a third of Sri Lanka's Tamil Tigers were women.

If Australia decides to allow women on the front line, it will join a growing list of nations to make the move.

While many Germans predicted the recent decision to give women combat roles would cause chaos, the main problem so far is making soldiers observe the new rule that they must knock before opening barracks doors.

Women have history on side

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SRI LANKA: CREDIT PROGRAM GIVES HOPE TO DISABLED AND CARETAKERS

IPS-Inter Press Service

June 18, 2002, Tuesday

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Length: 806 words

Byline: By Feizal Samath

Dateline: PADAWIYA, Sri Lanka, Jun. 18

Body

In addition to grinding poverty, Hettihami Chandrawathie has to endure the pain of her son's mysterious and terrible affliction.

The still-to-be-diagnosed illness of 15-year-old Kamal Eranda, who lives in this poor hamlet in Sri Lanka's dry eastern region, has left him with the face of a 10-year-old and the emaciated body of an 8-year-old. He cannot speak or walk, and has little comprehension of the world around him.

"He has been like this since birth. We took him to all the doctors here and in Colombo but no one could tell us what is exactly wrong with him," says Chandrawathie, wiping away a tear as she gently rubs Eranda's brow.

But were it not for the Association of **Women** and Disabilities (AWD), Chandrawathie admits that her plight would have been worse. This non-governmental organization (NGO), based in the nearby north-central Anuradhapura district, has helped Chandrawathie earn income through vegetable cultivation.

"When we first came here, Chandrawathie asked for help financially so that she could stay at home and look after Eranda, and at the same time do some work. She suggested growing vegetables," says Narayanagedera Kamalawathi, founder-president of the association and herself a disabled person.

The AWD has also come to the rescue of other families with disabled kin in Padawiya, about 260 kilometers east of Colombo, where agriculture is the main source of income.

AWD's efforts are geared toward **women**. It has provided loans or seed capital of \$ 53 each to 77 **women** in Padawiya village, out of a total of 250 **women** who are disabled or who have children with disabilities.

"In addition to helping disabled **women**, we also help **women** whose children are disabled," says Palagasinghe Nirosha, an AWD project officer.

Every week, she visits some 77 recipients of AWD assistance in Padawiya to monitor the self-employment projects.

According to national figures, eight percent of Sri Lanka's 19.5 million people have some form of disability. However, the percentage of people with disabilities in Padawiya and its 3,000-odd families is higher than the national average.

"Most people here have some form of disability," Nirosha says. "People are traumatized by the war."

SRI LANKA : CREDIT PROGRAM GIVES HOPE TO DISABLED AND CARETAKERS

Over the past two decades, villagers have lived through regular reminders of this country's ethnic conflict, in which the Tamil Tigers have been waging a separatist war with government troops. The guns in this conflict have fallen silent since December, when the Tigers and the government agreed to embark on a peace process.

One survey in this village revealed that the disabled include the mute, the deaf, the blind and many who are crippled.

AWD founder Kamalawathi is determined to help them with the same passion that drove her to fight her own battles with disability.

Born with polio, the plucky young woman took to wheelchair racing and soon became a champion, winning all her events in Colombo. Overseas, she won gold at Japanese and Hong Kong events and a gold and silver in Indonesia for the 1,500-meter and 5,000- meter races.

She then got a job at the state-run Gem Corporation, where she had to climb up three or four flights of stairs daily to get to her office. It inspired her to help other women affected by disability in Sri Lanka.

"While there are several organizations helping women, there was no leadership given to disabled women and their families until we came along," says Kamalawathi.

After her association was formed in 1995 with Swedish and Canadian assistance, it began helping women with disabilities in the Anuradhapura.

The pattern that the AWD established since then -- providing loans to women to pursue self-employment projects -- is being promoted in Padawiya, too.

The loans are not repaid to the AWD but to small village committees that in turn dole out loans to the rest of the 250 women to set up self-employment projects, says Nirosha. "Since women can't go out to work as they have to care for a child with disabilities, we help them to earn some money at home."

"All the loans we have taken from the AWD are paid back to this committee which in turn gives loans to others at one percent interest. We have regular meetings and consider the needs of the affected families," adds Thimbiripolarachchige Senadheera, who heads one of the small village committees.

Senadheera himself is one of the beneficiaries of this program. The 23-year-old, who was born with deformed feet, received a 5,000-rupee loan from AWD to set up a carpenter's shop. The income he earns helps him take care of his ailing mother.

Currently, the AWD is planning to expand its work in the more war-affected regions of the country, including the northern Vavuniya district.

"Like many of the villages in Anuradhapura or Padiwiya, I have visited many disabled women in Vavuniya. The situation there is pretty bad and needs our help," says Kamalawathi.

Load-Date: June 19, 2002

Kumaratunga's party takes small lead in early counting in crucial elections

The Associated Press

October 11, 2000, Wednesday, BC cycle

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Section: International News

Length: 769 words

Byline: By BETH DUFF-BROWN, Associated Press Writer

Dateline: COLOMBO, Sri Lanka

Body

As Sri Lankans waited for the results of an election that could stop the 17-year civil war, they also grieved Tuesday for Sirimavo Bandaranaike, or "Mrs. B," the matriarch of the nation's politics.

Tens of thousands of people, including women in white saris and hundreds of saffron-robed Buddhist monks, grieved for Bandaranaike, 84, who died after casting her vote Tuesday.

Shelling by Tamil Tiger rebels, election-eve killings and the death of Bandaranaike, the world's first female prime minister and the mother of the current president, cast a pall over the parliamentary elections. The government imposed a curfew in Colombo between 11 p.m. and 6 a.m.

President Chandrika Kumaratunga's People's Alliance party took a lead in preliminary results.

The Election Commission said they had counted more than 2 million votes. News reports estimated that about 8 million ballots were cast.

According to early results, the Peoples' Alliance had won in 35 of the 160 electorates among 22 districts. The opposition United National Party of former Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesing had won 14 electorates.

Kumaratunga, who did not issue a statement about her mother's death, sees the vote as a referendum on a proposed constitution that would give more power to Sri Lanka's north and east, where rebels are fighting for a homeland for the minority 3.2 million Tamils.

The president, who lost an eye to a suicide bomber on Dec. 18, hopes the new constitution will win over moderate Tamils, dim the appeal of the militants and bring an end to the war, which has killed 63,000 people and displaced 1 million.

A bomb exploded minutes after voting ended, wounding 32 supporters of at Ragama, 19 miles northeast of the capital, police said. One of the wounded was in critical condition. Police blamed the attack on political rivalry between the People's Alliance and the United National Party.

Counting was slow as it is being done manually. The Election Commission said it was delaying counting in four of the country's 22 electoral districts after poll monitors called for vote in some areas to be annulled due to fraud and violence.

Kumaratunga's party takes small lead in early counting in crucial elections

While Sri Lankans wait for the election results, they have been requested to fly white flags in honor of their former prime minister, affectionately known as "Mrs. B." She will be buried in a state funeral Saturday. Friday and Saturday have been declared days of mourning.

Bandaranaike was elected prime minister July 20, 1960, six years before Indira Gandhi became the first woman leader of India.

She regained the office for a third time in 1994 when her daughter appointed her prime minister, but retired in August to let Kumaratunga appoint a hard-liner ahead of the elections.

Bandaranaike was replaced by Ratnasiri Wickramanayaka, who believes the rebels should be wiped out and that talks should only be held with moderate Tamils.

Voters at the school where Bandaranaike cast her ballot Tuesday shortly before dying of a heart attack commented on her "good fortune," rather than the ironic timing of her death. Sri Lankans, the majority of whom are believers of astrology, thought the stars had been on her side. Tuesday also marked the widow's 60th wedding anniversary.

"She was a very lucky woman," said 48-year-old T.K.H. Peiris, a polling agent. "She had been sick so long, but it is amazing that she was able to cast her vote before she died."

The race Tuesday was primarily between the two main parties: Kumaratunga's People's Alliance and Ranil Wickremesinghe's United National Party. A record 5,477 candidates were vying for 225 seats in parliament in the election.

Wickremesinghe has said that if his United National Party comes into power, it would immediately de-escalate the fighting in the northern Jaffna Peninsula and then negotiate with the rebels.

Several hours before news of Bandaranaike's death spread across this island nation off the southern tip of India, **Tamil Tigers** shelled an administrative center in Jaffna, which has been under siege since 1995.

Just after the polls closed, the two leading parties leveled accusations of vote-rigging.

The independent Center for Monitoring Election Violence urged the Elections Commissioner to annul the votes in at least 365 of the country's 9,500 polling centers.

The opening of the vote was preceded by two attacks that left three people dead, including a 6-year-old daughter of a ruling party official, police said.

The fatalities brought the total number of people killed in election violence to 71 since campaigning started five weeks ago.

On the Net:

Tamil rebels: <http://www.eelamweb.com>

Sri Lankan government: <http://www.priu.gov.lk>

Graphic

Kumaratunga's party takes small lead in early counting in crucial elections

Load-Date: October 12, 2000

End of Document

Top court tackles issues of torture and terrorism: Two cases heard today could limit deportations

The Gazette (Montreal, Quebec)

May 22, 2001 Tuesday

FINAL EDITION

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Section: NEWS,

Length: 861 words

Byline: JANICE TIBBETTS

Dateline: OTTAWA

Body

After dealing a death blow to capital punishment, the next legal frontier for the Supreme Court of Canada is torture.

In a pair of cases to be heard today, the high court will be the final arbiter on whether the federal government can deport refugee claimants to countries that impose beatings, electric shock, amputation and even death on their citizens.

At issue before the nine judges is whether two Toronto men in their mid-30s - Manickavasagam Suresh of Sri Lanka and Mansour Ahani of Iran - have the constitutional right to remain in Canada, despite being classified as security threats.

The two men have been fighting their deportations for years in Canada's courts.
Southam News

Suresh is accused of being a leader and fundraiser for the **Tamil Tigers**, a terrorist group that federal officials allege is responsible for the deaths of more than 50,000 civilians.

Ahani is said to be a trained assassin for the Iranian secret service who, like Suresh, lied about his past when he claimed refugee status in Canada a decade ago.

Human-rights advocates and refugee groups at home and abroad will join forces against the federal government as it seeks to convince the court to uphold an Immigration Act provision permitting the deportation of suspected terrorists.

The federal government will ask the court to avoid opening Canada's borders to terrorists, particularly since it is already a country of choice, second only to the United States, as a "base camp" for covert offshore fundraising.

"This case will determine whether Canada will become a haven for terrorists," Justice Department lawyers Ursula Kaczmarczyk and Cheryl Mitchell contend in a legal brief.

Top court tackles issues of torture and terrorism: Two cases heard today could limit deportations

"Terrorism and terrorist fundraising are serious threats to Canada's security, particularly as this country is seen as a venue of opportunity for terrorist groups to raise funds, purchase arms and conduct other activities to support their organizations and terrorist activities elsewhere."

The case, which is arguably the most significant appeal in the court's spring docket, comes only months after the Supreme Court ruled that Canadian fugitives Sebastian Burns and Atif Rafay cannot be extradited to face murder charges in the United States without assurances that they won't be executed.

In the January ruling, the court dropped a hint that Canadian sensibilities will not tolerate torture either.

Suresh and Ahani are challenging a Federal Court of Appeal ruling last year that Canada's right to protect its citizens from accused terrorists outweighs the rights of individual suspects.

But immigration and human-rights lawyers, armed with international treaties that Canada signed, argue that today's case will set a benchmark in a global campaign against torture.

"Under international law, the protection from being returned to torture is absolute and binding," say Amnesty International lawyers Michael Battista and Michael Bossin in their submission.

"Sending someone to a recognized risk of torture in order to preserve Canada's security is a case of the means corrupting the end. Deliberately exposing a person to torture weakens the historical and universal condemnation of torture and perpetuates escalating cycles of human-rights abuses."

The intervening United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees urges Canada to return refugees only as a last resort to countries that practice torture, particularly since it would be futile to seek assurances they won't be harmed.

"The risk of torture is not diminished when the country of refuge receives assurances from the refugee's country of origin that torture will not occur," the group says in its legal brief.

"If there are less restrictive means available, such as prosecution in the country of refuge or removal to a third country, then (deportation) cannot be justified."

Suresh and Ahani contend that the federal government is violating their Charter of Rights guarantee to freedom of association in groups that are not even outlawed in Canada.

"This court has recognized freedom of association as one of the hallmarks of a democratic society, distinguishing it from a totalitarian state," their lawyers, Barbara Jackman and Ronald Poulton, say in their written submission.

"It is not the place of Canadian officials to translate political positions on conflicts in other states into sanctions against individuals not engaged in unlawful activity."

To do so would "chill the speech" of non-citizens in Canada, particularly ethnic minorities who "may have causes in their homelands rooted in the pursuit of human rights for oppressed people," they say.

The federal government describes Suresh as a "dedicated and trusted leader" of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam, an organization for Sri Lanka's ethnic minority that engages in torture, executions, ethnic cleansing of their Sinhalese neighbours, kidnapping and forcible conscription of children.

Ahani argues that he will be killed if he is returned to Iran, where he says he was jailed after defecting from an Iranian state security mission to blow up safe houses containing women and children, all in support of the Islamic Revolution.

Top court tackles issues of torture and terrorism: Two cases heard today could limit deportations

End of Document

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The Associated Press

October 10, 2000, Tuesday, BC cycle

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Section: International News

Length: 763 words

Byline: By BETH DUFF-BROWN, Associated Press Writer

Dateline: COLOMBO, Sri Lanka

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Tens of thousands of people, including women in white saris and hundreds of saffron-robed Buddhist monks, grieved for Bandaranaike, 84, who died after casting her vote Tuesday.

Shelling by Tamil Tiger rebels, election-eve killings and the death of Bandaranaike, the world's first female prime minister and the mother of the current president, cast a pall over the parliamentary elections. The government imposed a curfew in Colombo between 11 p.m. and 6 a.m.

President Chandrika Kumaratunga's People's Alliance party took a lead in early counting.

The Election Commission said they had counted 327,123 votes - a fraction of the 8 million ballots that news reports estimated were cast.

Of the counted ballots, the People's Alliance received around 47 percent of the votes, followed by former Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe's United National Party with 36 percent.

Kumaratunga, who did not issue a statement about her mother's death, sees the vote as a referendum on a proposed constitution that would give more power to Sri Lanka's north and east, where rebels are fighting for a homeland for the minority 3.2 million Tamils.

The president, who lost an eye to a suicide bomber on Dec. 18, hopes the new constitution will win over moderate Tamils, dim the appeal of the militants and bring an end to the war, which has killed 63,000 people and displaced 1 million.

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The independent Center for Monitoring Election Violence urged the Elections Commissioner to annul the votes in at least 210 of the country's 9,500 polling centers.

The opening of the vote was preceded by two attacks that left three people dead, including a 6-year-old daughter of a ruling party official, police said.

The fatalities brought the total number of people killed in election violence to 66 since campaigning started five weeks ago.

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Graphic

Kumaratunga's party takes small lead in early counting in crucial elections

AP Photos COL101,102, CLX101,103

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TAMIL ASYLUM-SEEKERS SHOW SIGNS OF SYSTEMATIC MEDIEVAL-STYLE TORTURE

The Independent (London)

June 26, 2000, Monday

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Section: NEWS; Pg. 4

Length: 811 words

Byline: Ian Burrell Home Affairs Correspondent

Body

BRITISH DOCTORS are treating large numbers of Tamil asylum-seekers who show signs of having been subjected to medieval-style torture yet find their stories disbelieved by British immigration officers.

Shocking evidence has been gathered that people have been suspended upside down by ropes, while being beaten around the testicles and made to inhale noxious fumes. Others, held in camps by the Sri Lankan army, have been the victims of repeated male rape and having lighted cigarettes extinguished on their genitalia.

The internationally-reknowned Medical Foundation for the Care of Victims of Torture, in London, said that 489 Tamil torture victims had come to it for help last year, far more than any other ethnic group.

The growing medical evidence of systematic torture of Tamils by the Sri Lankan authorities comes at a time when British immigration officials are refusing the overwhelming majority of asylum applications from the region.

Currently around 95 per cent of applications from Tamils are refused, although nearly half of these are overturned on appeal. Only six years ago, all but 7 per cent of Tamil asylum-seekers were being given exceptional leave to remain.

The Medical Foundation's research officer Mary Salinsky, who interviewed 49 Tamil torture victims for a report published today, said many of them were being sent letters from the Home Office saying "the Secretary of State does not consider Tamils to be a persecuted group".

She said: "Evidence of torture given in interviews with Home Office staff is ignored or side-stepped, with the asylum-seeker's credibility questioned on inadequate grounds.

"The Home Office should accept medical evidence as sufficient proof of torture unless challenged by a medical expert of equal standing."

Doctors who have treated the torture victims are concerned that proposals by Home Secretary Jack Straw to revise European immigration standards could lead to Sri Lanka being designated a "safe" country from which all asylum applications are refused.

TAMIL ASYLUM-SEEKERS SHOW SIGNS OF SYSTEMATIC MEDIEVAL-STYLE TORTURE

Tamils are the largest single group of asylum-seekers coming to Britain, outstripping even the numbers of Chinese. In April, 535 people claimed asylum from Sri Lanka, with many people having been displaced by a recent flare-up in the civil war, which has claimed 60,000 lives in 17 years.

Tamils who are suspected of being members or supporters of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam, known as the **Tamil Tigers**, are being arrested and held in camps or prisons by the Sri Lankan army. The Tigers are fighting for an independent homeland in the north of Sri Lanka, which is dominated by the majority Sinhalese population.

The Independent this month reported concerns among human rights groups that Tamils who have been refused asylum in Europe were being searched by Sri Lankan immigration officials for scars, which are regarded as evidence of terrorist activity.

The Tigers have themselves been guilty of many serious human rights abuses and have deployed suicide bombers to assassinate government officials, killing scores of by-standers in the process.

British immigration officials say large numbers of Tamils are being smuggled into this country by highly-organised gangs trafficking in people.

Every one of the 49 Tamils interviewed for the Medical Foundation report had been kicked, punched and beaten with sand-filled plastic pipes. Two-thirds of those questioned had been cut with knives or bayonets, or burned with hot metal rods or cigarettes.

Half of the Tamils had been suspended upside down and made to inhale noxious fumes from burning chillies and a quarter had been semi-suffocated with a plastic bag placed over their head containing a smear of petrol.

A quarter of those interviewed - 47 men and two **women** - had been sexually assaulted or raped.

'WHEN I WOKE UP, SIX TOENAILS HAD BEEN REMOVED'

ANTHONIPILLAI Jeyaseelan, was a 21-year-old Tamil farmer when soldiers seized him. "They said from the look of my healthy body I was training for the guerrillas. But I was farming vegetables and studying for an A-level."

An informant identified him as a Tamil Tiger and he was thrown into the notorious Joseph detention camp. There, he was hung upside down and beaten with a cement-filled pipe. Semi-conscious, he signed a confession and was taken to another camp where he was tortured for a year.

Freed and re-arrested in 1993, he was taken to Eeraperiyakulam camp, where guards beat him with a metal rod on his exposed testicles. Cigarettes were put out on his arms and on his penis. "After four hours of beating I became unconscious. When I woke up six toenails had been removed. There was blood in my urine and vomit," he said.

He escaped from the camp, and Sri Lanka, in 1994. But on arrival in Britain, immigration officers did not believe his story and refused him asylum. In 1998, he finally won refugee status on appeal.

Ian Burrell

Graphic

Tortured: Anthonipillai Jeyaseelan David Rose

Load-Date: June 26, 2000

TAMIL ASYLUM-SEEKERS SHOW SIGNS OF SYSTEMATIC MEDIEVAL-STYLE TORTURE

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RIGHTS-SRI LANKA: MUSLIM REFUGEES COULD LOSE LAND TO SQUATTERS

IPS-Inter Press Service

August 15, 2000, Tuesday

Copyright 2000 IPS-Inter Press Service/Global Information Network

Length: 801 words

Byline: By Feizal Samath

Dateline: KALPITIYA, Sri Lanka, Aug. 15

Body

Habib Mullah longs to return to his home village far from this small fishing town on Sri Lanka's northwestern coast, where he lives with thousands of other displaced people.

Sitting in his thatched roof hut, his clothes hanging on a rope strung between cardboard walls, the middle-aged peasant worries about the small farm that he left behind 10 years ago.

"Can we go back with the situation like this? We are worried that we'll lose everything we have back home," he says, referring to the ethnic violence that drove him and the other Muslims from their homes in the northwestern town of Mannar.

Tens of thousands of Muslims, who are Sri Lanka's third largest community, fled Mannar in October and November 1990 when Tamil Tiger militants ordered them to leave the area or face death.

For the past 17 years, ***Tamil Tigers*** have unleashed a terror campaign, demanding a separate home for the minority Tamil people in the north and east of the Indian Ocean island nation.

Mannar had a mixed population of Tamils, the country's second largest ethnic group, Muslims and a few Sinhalese, the majority community.

Like Mullah, Sithy Nazira also thinks frequently of her former home. "I would like to know what would become of the land," says the Muslim woman, who fled Mannar with her eight children.

"If there is no problem we can go back, but can we? I think of my little plot of land back home and how we tended it," she adds, breaking down in tears.

Mullah and Nazira live in the Kandakuli refugee camp in Kalpitiya, some 175 km from the Sri Lankan capital. They arrived here by boat 10 years ago with the other Muslim refugees.

Now they are worried about permanently losing the land they left behind, because under Sri Lankan laws, owners forfeit land they have not occupied or used for a continuous period of 10 years.

The land can be claimed by anyone who has occupied and used it during this period. The Muslim refugees from Mannar do not know if anyone is living on their land.

RIGHTS- SRI LANKA : MUSLIM REFUGEES COULD LOSE LAND TO SQUATTERS

Rights groups are trying to help the refugees. The Colombo-based Center for Policy Alternatives (CPA), a think-tank and rights advocacy group, is backing a petition before the state-run Human Rights Commission (HRC), seeking justice for the Muslim refugees.

"The HRC is trying to formulate some amendments to exempt internally displaced people from the prescriptive law which allows non-owner users of land, possession on the grounds of continued, uninterrupted occupation," CPA Director Rohan Edrisinha told IPS in Colombo.

The petition has been filed by the Citizens Committee for Forcibly-Evicted People, a group based in Sri Lanka's northwestern region.

The ethnic crisis has displaced more than half a million people who live in refugee camps or homes of relatives across Sri Lanka. However, government officials say the land problem immediately affects the Muslims from Mannar.

"Except for the Kalpitiya refugees, others have not been displaced for periods of more than five years, so they don't have this problem right now," says an official in Colombo.

The refugees in Kalpitiya work with the local fishing community, cleaning and mending their nets and boats. The women help gather the onion harvest on the farms, being paid one rupee for each kilogram.

Community workers in the refugee camps say the Muslims are worried not only about their land back home, but also about losing the right to vote.

S.M. Mubarak, a local development worker from the nearby town of Puttalam, says the Muslim refugees are being denied voting rights.

"The constitution guarantees the right of residents to vote from wherever they are, but these refugees haven't had voting rights for the past 10 years," says Mubarak, who is with a non-governmental organization working in the refugee camps.

According to CPA's Edrisinha, his group and others are also fighting for the rights of internally displaced people to vote and access to basic services.

Officials say education and health care are provided to the refugees, though these are of a temporary nature. However, children of refugees often face hostility from local youngsters in schools, say officials.

The prolonged presence of the refugees in their midst is also distressing local residents. Mohamed Careem, who owns some of the land on which the refugee camp has been set up, knows the chances of the refugees returning to their homes are remote.

He is worried that he will never get back his land. When the refugees first arrived, local officials appealed to residents to provide land to house these people. Careem says he gave his land because he felt sorry for the refugees.

"I can't even pick the coconuts on my land because they've already been taken by the refugees. For the remaining nuts, I have to get a coconut picker. We cannot pick them with a stick because this will damage refugee huts," he says.

Load-Date: August 16, 2000

The Week in Review

Hamilton Spectator (Ontario, Canada)

January 15, 2000 Saturday Final Edition

Copyright 2000 Metroland Media Group Ltd

Section: OBSERVER; Pg. D02; News

Length: 758 words

Body

THE NATION

Incomes, savings down Vanier Institute says

If your family piggy bank shrank from roly-poly to rail-thin during the '90s, you're likely not alone. A report released by the Vanier Institute of the Family says incomes slipped throughout much of the past decade and savings accounts were cut to the bone.

Real average family incomes fell about 5.6 per cent, from \$48,300 Cdn in 1989 to \$45,600 in 1997 -- the latest available statistics for total family earnings, says Roger Sauve, author of the study for the research organization. "It is curious that even though the economy as a whole has recovered robustly from the recession of the early 1990s, family incomes have, on average, declined."

The Spectator

Manning optimistic in UA 'debate'

Like a battle-scarred veteran, Reform leader Preston Manning tried Wednesday to regroup his battered troops to rally behind the United Alternative flag.

"I'm going to get out of this foxhole and run up the hill and I'm hoping there's a bunch of other people who are going to come with me ... I don't see a split in Reform. I see a debate." He reiterated he would resign as Reform leader if his proposal to form a new party failed.

International terrorists using Canada as base

International terrorist groups are exploiting Canada's immigration system to find a safe haven and raise funds for activities abroad, according to the Canadian Security Intelligence Service.

The Egyptian Islamic Jihad, ***Tamil Tigers***, Sikh extremists, Kurdistan Workers Party, Hezbollah and extremist Irish groups all operate in Canada. "They appear to use Canadian residence to plan or support overseas activities ..."

THE PROVINCE

Harris, Cherry team up on organ donations

Premier Mike Harris has enlisted flamboyant hockey commentator Don Cherry to help double the number of organ donors and cut a 25 per cent fatality rate among those awaiting life-saving kidneys, livers and hearts. Cherry,

The Week in Review

whose daughter Cindy donated one of her kidneys to her brother Tim 20 years ago, says the importance of signing a donor card sinks home when it touches family. "All of a sudden my son came down with both kidneys gone and my world had gone. When it hits home, it gets to you." Doctors say Canada has one of the lowest organ donation rates in the Western world, and Ontario has one of the lowest rates in Canada.

Toyota has first layoffs at Cambridge plant

Ninety people are losing their jobs in the first layoffs in the history of Toyota's car assembly plant. The employees, all contract workers who have been with Toyota for less than a year, are being let go because the company anticipates a decline in sales of Corollas and Solaras -- models made at the plant in Cambridge.

The layoffs, which take effect later this month and in February, will leave the plant with 2,810 employees, including 170 contract employees.

Clement's blue about landfill sites

Environment Minister Tony Clement has brought together a group of industry leaders and told them to invent a better Blue Box. The province wants to divert to recycling and composting facilities about 50 per cent of the waste that normally goes to landfill sites.

THE WORLD

Abandoned by UN, women launch lawsuit

Two Rwandan women are setting out to sue the United Nations, saying it failed to stop the murder of their loved ones during the 1994 genocide in the east African country. It would be the first suit of its kind against the world body. Anonciata Kavaruganda and Louise Mushikiwabo say UN soldiers assigned to protect their families during the genocide by Hutu militants had abandoned them.

Queen Elizabeth buys into Internet company

Queen Elizabeth has jumped on the bandwagon of investors hoping to make money off the Internet, buying a \$164,000 Cdn stake in a new dot-com company. The monarch dipped into her personal fortune to take 5 per cent of the Millennium Mapping Co., which is building an aerial picture of Britain for a giant Internet map.

American firm helps with \$20m Mir bailout

Mir space station, which has orbited Earth empty since August, may get at least one more crew this year. Mir is due to be scrapped unless Russian officials find funds to keep it aloft. Russia's Energiya rocket builder said a U.S. firm, Golden Apple, had promised to send \$20 million to continue the program.

IRA mum on plans to destroy its arsenal

The Irish Republican Army was not commenting on a published report that it has invited witnesses to observe the destruction of some of its weapons later this month. The IRA also offered to seal its remaining arsenal in bunkers in the Republic of Ireland.

Load-Date: October 17, 2002

Backwater bemusements

The Weekend Australian
October 21, 2000, Saturday

Copyright 2000 Nationwide News Pty Limited

Section: REVIEW; Pg. R20

Length: 832 words

Byline: David Stratton

Body

Drowning Mona (M)

National release

Boiler Room (M)

National release

The Terrorist (M)

Sydney only; other states to follow

IN the small town of Verplanck, New York, just about everybody hates Mona Dearly (Bette Midler), and no wonder - foul-tempered, moronic and violent, Mona is a thoroughly nasty woman. So when she is killed after her car plunges into the Hudson River, no one is distressed -- certainly not her henpecked, two-timing husband, Phil (William Fichtner), or her imbecilic, beer-swilling son Jeff (Marcus Thomas). Nevertheless, local police chief Wyatt Rash (Danny DeVito) launches an investigation into what proves to be murder when it is revealed the brakes on Mona's car had been tampered with.

This small-scale but extremely amiable black comedy from director Nick Gomez and screenwriter Peter Steinfeld boasts a wonderful array of suspects. In addition to Mona's nearest and dearest, there is Bobby Calzone (Casey Affleck), Jeff's partner in a gardening enterprise, and waitress Rona (Jamie Lee Curtis) who has been spending motel time with Phil and Jeff (though not at the same time). Bobby is engaged to officer Rash's daughter, Ellen (Neve Campbell), which brings the investigation close to home.

But the whodunit strand of the film is not the prime concern of the film-makers. Mostly Drowning Mona is a bemused examination of life in this backwater which was, long ago, a test market area for the ultra cheap Yugo car. Yugos are still driven by the locals, their personalised numberplates speaking volumes about their owners. This is a place where everyone speculates as to how Jeff lost a hand and whether it was Jeff or Bobby who mowed down the dog belonging to one of their clients, where Ellen is endlessly troubled by the cost of catering her wedding reception and the local priest belligerently holds court at the local bar every night. This is a town where everybody knows everybody else's business, yet where lovers hold their afternoon trysts at the inaptly named Charm Motel.

Backwater bemusements

Beautifully enacted by a first-rate ensemble cast -- though Midler fans should be aware that she has the most marginal of roles -- Drowning Mona is a small-scale film of considerable wit and charm, with full marks for DeVito's engaging portrayal of the police chief up to his ears in suspects.

Not far away, geographically speaking, on New York's Long Island, is the HQ of the stockbroking firm featured in Boiler Room, an overlong and predictable indictment of yuppie greed. Looking decidedly old hat with its slavish references to Wall Street and Glengarry Glen Ross, the film centres on the whiny Seth (Giovanni Ribisi), a college drop-out and son of a demanding father (Ron Rifkin). Seth has gambling in his blood and his father, a judge, is understandably furious when he discovers his son is running a roulette wheel in his apartment. Through one of his gambling contacts Seth joins a small stockbroking firm where the chief recruiter (Ben Affleck) assures him and a roomful of other hopefuls that they will each be millionaires within three years.

The tediousness with which writer-director Ben Younger attacks these double-dealing, money-hungry characters cripples the film. Not only do Seth's colleagues know every line of dialogue from Wall Street, they behave just like the characters in Oliver Stone's film. A love affair with the company receptionist (Nia Long) merely adds to the already attenuated running time, and scenes involving a family man unwise enough to invest in one of Seth's dubious projects are ineptly handled.

There is no originality, no surprise and, despite some solid performances (especially Nicky Katt as Seth's ally in the decidedly shonky company), Boiler Room is instantly forgettable.

Indian film The Terrorist, introduces us to the fanatical Malli (Ayesha Dharkar), a teenage warrior first seen executing a prisoner during an unspecified jungle conflict. Malli is a member of a group of insurrectionists not unlike the Tamil Tigers and when she is selected by her unseen leader to assassinate a VIP, it is evident that we are watching a fictionalised story about the events leading up to the murder of Rajiv Ghandi.

Malli journeys to the town where the assassination is to take place and undergoes the specific training involved. These scenes are intercut with flashbacks depicting the death of her brother and her brief romantic encounter with a fatally wounded comrade. When she reaches her destination and is billeted with a kindly, talkative philosopher unaware of her mission, Malli feels the first stirrings of doubt.

Director Santosh Sivan is successful in portraying the ferocious dedication of this young women, despite withholding any specific political context from the audience. We have to take at face value Malli's suicidal adherence to whatever cause it is she is fighting for.

Perhaps this lack of information is what makes the film vaguely unsatisfying. As a study of a fanatic, the film is intriguing but, in the end, a bit frustrating.

Load-Date: March 1, 2002

National briefs briefs briefs

\$%Charleston Gazette (West Virginia) virginia) virginia)

October 17, 1997, Friday friday friday

Copyright 1997 Charleston Newspapers newspapers newspapers

Section: News; Pg. P2A P2A P2A

Length: 781 words

Body

Air Force jet crashes near base; pilot lives

FAIRBORN, Ohio - A military jet crashed Thursday near a busy interstate highway junction. The pilot ejected safely, and no one on the ground was injured.

The AV-8B Harrier on a training mission went down about 2 p.m. just 50 feet from I-675, near where it crosses I-70 in western Ohio. Witnesses on the ground and in another fighter said flames shot from the jet's engine moments before it crashed just northeast of Wright-Patterson Air Force Base. base. base.

Paul Cronley, 34, of Springfield, said he saw the pilot eject before the plane crashed.

The pilot, Capt. Stephen E. Brooks, 30, of Washington, Pa., landed in a nearby field. He suffered scrapes and bruises and was taken to the base hospital.

First U.S. baby born
from frozen eggs

ATLANTA - In what may be the first such case in the United States, a Georgia woman gave birth after being implanted with eggs that had been frozen.

Up to now, U.S. doctors have been able to produce pregnancies from

National briefs briefs briefs

frozen embryos - that is, eggs fertilized with sperm and then frozen - but eggs alone were considered too fragile to freeze.

The latest feat, which has been achieved only sporadically elsewhere, could give women some new options and sidestep some of the ethical objections to test-tube fertilization.

"This stretches the reproductive field as far as you can envision it right now," said Dr. Joe Massey, co-founder of Reproductive Biology Associates, the clinic that did it.

Gore praises Hollywood for producing 'Ellen'

BEVERLY HILLS, Calif. - Vice President Al Gore praised Hollywood on Thursday for producing the openly lesbian TV character "Ellen," saying she forced Americans to "look at sexual orientation in a more open light."

His remarks were reminiscent of Vice President Dan Quayle, who denounced TV character "Murphy Brown" for having a child out of wedlock. But Gore sided with the entertainment industry on the more recent pop-culture controversy. The title character in ABC's sitcom "Ellen" told her friends and family last season that she was gay. The star's show, comedian Ellen DeGeneres, made her homosexuality public about the same time.

No progress made

in averting Amtrak strike

WASHINGTON - Amtrak and the union that may strike next week did not meet Thursday but traded unfriendly faxes, each making statements that threaten the continued operation of commuter lines, as well as the railroad. The head of the bargaining committee for the Brotherhood of Maintenance of Way Employees, which has been negotiating for three years and will be free to strike at 12:01 a.m. next Wednesday, said that his union had reached an agreement with Metra, the commuter rail agency in the Chicago area.

National briefs briefs briefs

Compiled from wire reports

Iraq warns U.S.

on weapons inspections

UNITED NATIONS - Iraq has warned the United Nations that if the Security Council imposes any further sanctions on the country it will stop cooperating with inspectors monitoring the destruction of prohibited weapons, the chief of the inspection system said on Thursday. The official, Richard Butler, executive chairman of the U.N. Special Commission, which has been responsible since the end of the 1991 Persian Gulf war for destroying Iraqi weapons and the industries that could produce more, said on Thursday that Iraq's representative at the United Nations, Nizar Hamdoon, relayed Baghdad's warning to him on Wednesday.

Neither Butler nor Hamdoon would say how extensive the noncooperation would be. Several U.N. relief agencies work in Iraq, alleviating some of the hardships caused by the country's economic and diplomatic isolation.

Sri Lanka in shock

after massive bomb blast

COLOMBO, Sri Lanka - Vijay Gunawardene stood silently for a long time on Thursday, staring at the acres of rubble and twisted steel left by a huge truck bomb that devastated several showpiece buildings here on Wednesday morning and left 18 people dead, more than 110 injured, and Sri Lanka's 18 million people in a renewed state of shock.

Finally, Gunawardene, a 44-year-old Sri Lankan pharmaceutical salesman, offered a view characteristic of the gloom that has settled on this island nation after 14 years of guerrilla conflict. "This is an endless war," he said, muffling his voice so as not to disturb the cathedral-like stillness among crowds of people who had gathered in vigil near the blackened crater where half a ton of high explosives

National briefs briefs briefs

detonated beneath rice bags in the back of the truck.

About 50,000 people are estimated to have died in the conflict between government forces and the **Tamil Tigers**, an ethnic separatist group that was included in a list of 30 organizations formally identified as foreign terrorist groups by the State Department last week.

Compiled from wire reports reports reports

Load-Date: October 21, 1997

End of Document

[Site seeing; Sri Lanka](#)

Sydney Morning Herald (Australia)

May 31, 1997 Saturday

Late Edition

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Section: TRAVEL; Pg. 6

Length: 847 words

Byline: with Michael Gebicki

Body

TROLL through the Sri Lanka travel sites on the Web and you can almost hear the sighs. Considering its population - about 17 million - Sri Lanka is not particularly well documented and what there is makes free with the purple prose. The good news is that tourists do not seem to play a part in the longstanding conflict between the **Tamil Tigers** and the Government, though there are no-go areas.

BROAD BRUSH: Atevo Travel has a useful introductory page to Sri Lanka, encapsulating basic information on visas, currency, electricity and telecommunications. There are a brief history - with an outline of the present conflict, health and security risks - a suggested itinerary, tourist highlights and a brief cultural survey, as well as a physical sketch of the country. Go for the printable page, which bundles the total content in a neat package.

<http://www.atevo.com/info/dest/>

[wm/25SRILANKA/25SRILANKA-](#)

[Printable.html](#)

SCOOP: The Sri Lanka Info Page is a hard-headed round-up of news and current affairs links concerning Sri Lanka. Science, travel and tourism, culture and nature are canvassed in a broad-ranging survey of the state of the nation, with links to specialist journals. One of the most useful sets of links, "Daily Scoop", is a compilation of news items culled from authoritative sources such as Reuters and Associated Press - vital for keeping tabs on the latest rebel assault or the national cricket team's scores. "Entertainment" offers a melange of cultural snippets - music, drama, a kids' page, a guide to Sinhalese slang plus a joke page.

<http://www.lacnet.org/srilanka/>

EXPLORE: "Explore Sri Lanka" is a magazine aimed at tourists. The homepage introduces all the covers of the monthly magazine since August '96. The content is about what you'd expect from an airline in-flight magazine - glossy, inoffensive and info-taining. Food, festivals and cultural splendours are the staple. But there are also several off-the-beaten track places and events that would be well worth exploring.

[http://www.lanka.net/Directory/ ExploreSL/](http://www.lanka.net/Directory/ExploreSL/)

Site seeing Sri Lanka

GO BACK: Sri Lanka is one country where you might profit from the travel advisory issued by the United States' State Department. This sober analysis outlines no-go areas in the present conflict, the risk to travellers, medical facilities, crime and road conditions. While the information is primarily for US citizens, it's sufficiently general to be universally useful. The site cautions that while neither tourists nor foreigners have been targeted in the conflict, there is always the risk of being in the wrong place at the wrong time. Further, the possibility of delays or disruptions caused by terrorist action should be considered when making travel plans. The information has not been updated for almost a year.

<http://travel.state.gov/sri-lanka.html>

SNAPSHOTS: The Sri Lanka Photo Album explores various themes, including village life, wildlife, historical sites, festivals and art. The captions are intriguing. Under "Wild Life", for example, it reveals that the orphans at the Pinnewala Elephant Orphanage are raised by human foster parents who ply them with bottled milk five times a day and "an occasional swig of beer". It also explains that the baby elephants have lost their mothers to quarry accidents, shootings or lynch mobs.

<http://infolanka.com/photo/>

GUSH: Another "Welcome to Sri Lanka", this site can barely contain its delight as it gushes across "breathtaking hill country", "dramatic scenery", "ruined cities of ancient civilisation", "palm-fringed beaches", "exotic flora", and "an enticingly simple way of life". Wind back the hyperbole, however, and it is mostly accurate of this most variegated of islands. The general information on attractions, background reading, cricket, exchange rates and holidays is useful, and the homepage has diverse links. "Music" offers samples of Sri Lankan music, while "Travelogues" has some excellent travellers' tips on what to see and what to take, and seems especially valuable for backpackers.

<http://arachnid.cs.cf.ac.uk/Sri-Lanka/m-index.html>

TRANSCEND: Sri Lanka is one of the wellsprings of Buddhism, and BuddhaNet is just the place to bone up on the subject. There's a huge array of material for the novice and for those well down the path to liberation from the cycle of birth and suffering. From the Contents page, select from a set of links including a Buddhist Australia Directory, BuddhaNet Chat, What's On, an online library and a Q&A on Buddhism. There's also "Buddhazine", currently featuring articles on Buddhist art and architecture, women in Buddhism and a haunting gong sound file to create appropriate temple background noises. One of the most useful components is the Meditation Workshop, with heaps of concise, how-to information written in a no-nonsense style that will help maintain your sanity when your screen locks or your Internet Service Provider connection inexplicably flips out and won't restart.

<http://www2.hawkesbury.uws.edu.au/BuddhaNet/budnetp.htm>

You can access all the sites named through the Herald's Web site: <http://www.smh.com.au/daily/>

Load-Date: July 23, 2007

FLAT EARTH

The Independent (London)

June 11, 1995, Sunday

Copyright 1995 Independent Print Ltd

Section: THE WORLD; Page 15

Length: 771 words

Byline: Peter Walker

Body

Mufti rules strip

fatwa offside

FAMOUS victory for Egyptian sportswomen last week, when they managed to overturn a ban on women's soccer games on television. Women's football has had a good following in Egypt since the Seventies, and 18 million viewers looked forward to the competition between the top teams. Then came a fatwa from Islamic tele-evangelist Sheikh Mitwali Sharrawi.

Perhaps worried about air-time competition, the Sheikh declared that the normal soccer strip on the female form would "awaken the devil of temptation in men". The games must not be seen. The women players in turn sternly resisted the suggestion that they turn out in head-to-toe Islamic dress and veils, which, they felt, would reduce the attacking brilliance of their game.

To their rescue came the Grand Mufti - the supreme Islamic referee. After long deliberation, he arrived at the following judgments: (a) football is a sport; (b) players' modesty is a matter of personal choice, not of clerical fatwa.

Approach the bench

NOW A joke to cheer you up:

One of O J Simpson's lawyers comes up to his client.

"What do you want first, the good news or the bad news?"

"The bad news."

"The bad news is that the blood all over the crime scene is yours - the DNA tests prove it."

"Oh no! What's the good news?"

"The good news is that your cholesterol level is only 130."

Did you like that? Quite funny? O J's real-life lawyers didn't think so. But that was because of the circumstances in which they heard it. It was told to them by that twinkling-eyed Judge Ito, in his robes, on the bench, during a short recess.

FLAT EARTH

Objection? Overruled.

Man of platinum?

AS THE Polish journalist Ryszard Kapuscinski observed in his book on the Soviet Union, Imperium, the Soviet class system was nowhere more clearly on display than in its citizens' teeth.

The poorest people, when their teeth fell out, got dentures of base metal or other cheap materials; the middle ranks filled their jaws with silver.

If you were a Soviet bigshot, your mouth gleamed murkily with gold.

"No one," Kapuscinski says, "ever knew what Stalin's teeth were made of. Stalin never smiled."

Now we do know. His dentist has come out of the shadows of old age to tell us that Stalin, predictably, had to set himself apart from the common golden-toothed herd. He had platinum - there was lots of it, too: by the end of his life, he had but three of his own teeth left in his head.

Perhaps we can now hear something prophetic in Gromyko's famous remark about Mikhail Gorbachev when he first rode into view: "Mr Gorbachev has a nice smile, but his teeth are made of iron."

Iron? Does that word portend not only the rattle and fall not only of Gorbachev but of the whole rusty Soviet system - teeth and all?

A sauce and battery

HERE follows a short tale, in which all parties behave equally badly. It begins when two Vermont state troopers go into a fast-food joint and order fried eggs. The cook, clearly a bad lot who does not love the forces of law and order, laces their eggs with Tabasco.

Now both customers loathe Tabasco sauce but, being state troopers, they can't stop themselves greedily eating everything up and licking the plates clean. Then they charge the cook with assault.

In court, the cook claims that Tabasco traces were left on the griddle from a previous order. Disloyally, his employers say that cannot be true - no dish on the menu incorporates the sauce and Tabasco is never on the premises.

The judge however throws the assault charge out, stating that "contact of the Tabasco with the palate" amounts to consent. This seems to be bad law: if, for example, I set a plate of Tabascoed eggs in front of you and you don't eat it, it would follow that you have been assaulted.

The next day, the cook is sacked. Because of the court case? Dear me no, says the restaurant: because he broke company rules and "let a friend into the kitchen". That'll be the bloke bringing in the Tabasco. Strings and arrows HECTIC excitement at the Yamaha Music Centre in Colombo the other day. The phone ran hot and every piano in the place was sold in an hour. What could it mean, this sudden passion for the pianoforte?

Sri Lanka's government, engaged with the Tamil Tigers in a war of greatest savagery, had just announced that it was increasing excise tax on certain items to fill its war chest.

Fair enough. But by what bizarre process was it decided that the tax for new engines of death would be raised solely on the sale of stringed instruments - harpsichords, pianos and, if Sri Lanka runs to them, harps and lyres? Not even a mention of percussion or wind. Dis-chord: a tax on lyres?

Load-Date: June 12, 1995

FLAT EARTH

End of Document

SRI LANKA: CIVIL WAR TAKES ITS TOLL

IPS-Inter Press Service

January 16, 1995, Monday

Copyright 1995 IPS-Inter Press Service/Global Information Network

Length: 787 words

Byline: by Rita Sebastian

Dateline: COLOMBO, Jan. 16

Body

Pakiasothy Kumaradivel looks bewildered as he sails into the southern mainland from Sri Lanka's northern rebel stronghold of Jaffna.

"For the first time in years I was able to travel from the peninsula to the southern mainland without fear," he says as he looks across the lagoon that the military had declared a prohibited zone three years ago.

Since the government and rebel ***Tamil Tigers*** battling for an independent homeland in the island's north and east declared a cessation of hostilities from midnight Jan. 14, boats have been plying across the lagoon in the daytime.

Earlier, it was only under cover of darkness that beleaguered citizens could travel from one part of the country to another. "The almost three hour journey across the lagoon with searchlights fanning the waters from the two army camps that straddle the lagoon was a nightmare journey," says Kumaradivel.

Several citizens caught in the cross-fire between the rebels and the security forces had to pay with their lives. Overland routes still remain firmly sealed due to mutual suspicion between the warring parties.

A safe passage is only one of the worries for Sri Lanka's 18 million people caught in the devastating 11-year old ethnic conflict. Fierce fighting has forced more than 600,000 civilians to flee their homes and farms in the north and east.

They now live in squalor and degradation in crowded and unsanitary make-shift homes or welfare centres across the country. "These people have been denied their fundamental right to live with dignity as human beings," says Sri Lankan Rehabilitation Minister Mohammad Ashraf.

The Sri Lankan government has earmarked a nearly \$ 800 million rehabilitation package for the war-ravaged north, but it may be difficult to implement if peace between the warring sides proves ephemeral.

A visiting World Bank team in 1987 estimated that the civil war had cost Sri Lanka a whopping two billion dollars in damages. The figure would have multiplied many times over since then, economic experts say.

In human terms the war has been much more devastating. More than 30,000 people have been killed and thousands disabled. The war has also claimed most of Sri Lanka's top political leaders who have been wiped out in a spate of assassinations since 1983.

SRI LANKA : CIVIL WAR TAKES ITS TOLL

Thousands of women have been widowed and bear the burden of single parenting. Maternal and child mortality rates have skyrocketed with pre-natal clinics in the north yet to revive after a crippling economic embargo by Colombo put them out of business in 1990.

President Chandrika Kumaratunga partially lifted the embargo in October as a prelude to peace talks with the tigers.

According to a recent study by Dr. Somasundaram of the northern Jaffna Hospital, there was a significant increase in low birth weight babies from 19 percent in 1989 to 23 percent in 1991 and to 25 percent in 1992.

Prohibitive prices of milk and other foods after the embargo caused severe malnutrition in children, the doctor said. "Eighty percent of the children in the (Jaffna) peninsula are malnourished," says a health worker who heads a rural rehabilitation center in the north.

There has been no electricity in the peninsula for four years. The streets are plunged into darkness in the evenings with only an occasional kerosene lamp lighting the way. Students are used to studying by lamplight.

"Education has always been a priority in Jaffna and parents are ready to make any sacrifices so that their children will get a good education," says an academic from the north. This perhaps explains why schools and colleges have continued to function despite the war.

But engineers, doctors, scientists and other qualified professionals have been seeking asylum abroad to flee the fighting in a new version of brain-drain.

A fuel embargo has stalled the peninsula's transport system and spawned a bicycle culture with young and old alike biking miles to reach places of study or work. While this may be good for the environment, the country's verdant forests have suffered extensive damage because of the war.

Trees have been felled to build underground bunkers for both the rebels and government troops. The brief incursion by Indian troops under the 1987 Indo-Sri Lanka accord resulted in vast tracts of virgin countryside being converted into camps, sand-bagged sentry points and watch towers. Island forests on the edge of the roads have been scorched to prevent rebel ambushes.

"The civilian population caught between the two warring sides have paid a heavy price," says a retired bureaucrat who fled his native Jaffna for the south. He like thousands of others awaits peace promised by President Kumaratunga's initiatives. "I want to bury my bones in Jaffna -- God willing," he adds hopefully.

Load-Date: January 19, 1995

American With Alleged Links With Tamil Rebels Deported

Associated Press Worldstream

July 28, 1995; Friday 08:54 Eastern Time

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Section: International news

Length: 785 words

Dateline: COLOMBO, Sri Lanka

Body

An American arrested for alleged links with Tamil separatists was deported on Friday.

Kenneth Mulder, 26, from the state of Michigan, had worked with the National Christian Council in Colombo, a group of churches providing relief to areas hit by the fighting between the military and Tamil Tiger rebels in Sri Lanka's 12-year civil war.

Mulder was arrested July 21 by the military while trying to enter a rebel-held area in the north.

"Mulder was put aboard an Airlanka flight to Zurich in the early hours of this morning," said J.A. Ariyasena, the head of the department of immigration. He was expected to take an American Airlines flight from Zurich to New York.

"In the interest of good relations with the United States, we decided to expel him rather than prosecute him," said U.B. Kotakadeniya, deputy inspector-general of police.

Mulder arrived in Sri Lanka four months ago. After an earlier visit to rebel-held areas this month, Mulder put up a poster in his Colombo office criticizing President Chandrika Kumaratunga's fund-raising campaign to finance the war against **Tamil Tigers**.

The rebels have been fighting for a homeland for the minority Tamils in the north

In their heaviest one-day casualties in nearly two years, at least 200 Tamil rebels were killed in five battles with the military on Friday, officials said.

The fighting came as three influential Buddhist monks criticized the government for drawing up a peace plan aimed at ending the Tamil's fight for a separate homeland. They urged the government to pursue the war and shelve the plan, which politicians on both sides of the ethnic conflict had praised.

The separatists attacked four military camps in northeastern Sri Lanka, and at least 182 guerrillas died in the fighting, said Brigadier Sarath Munasinghe, a military spokesman.

Two government soldiers were killed and 20 injured in the raids at Welioya, Parakramapura, Jayasinghapura and Kokkuttoduva, the military said.

In another battle, army commandos raided a guerrilla base and killed at least 18 rebels, said army chief Lt. Gen. Gerry de Silva.

American With Alleged Links With Tamil Rebels Deported

The soldiers destroyed the rebel base inside guerrilla territory in Vetttilaikerni, de Silva said, then returned to their camp, 290 kilometers (180 miles) north of Colombo.

In the rebel attacks on the four military camps, the insurgents came by boat and over land shortly after midnight Thursday and were repulsed by troops who chased them into the jungle, de Silva said in Colombo.

The rebels fired a missile at a warplane, but missed, de Silva said. He also said two female Tamil rebel suicide bombers carrying explosives were among those shot and killed near the Welioya base.

Gunboats and warplanes strafed the rebels as they were trying to withdraw along the northeastern coast and destroyed at least 10 rebel boats, including five that had been captured from the navy two years ago, de Silva said.

"The main attack was on the Welioya camp, where the brigade headquarters are located. The other camps were attacked to cause confusion and prevent reinforcements moving in," said Munasinghe.

The camps are about 250 kilometers (160 miles) northeast of the capital, Colombo.

The one-day death toll of 200 rebels is the highest since Nov. 11, 1993, when 700 guerrillas died during a four-day attack on the Pooneryn military base in the north.

Since 1983, Tamil rebels have been fighting for independence for Tamils, who form 18 percent of the population. They allege discrimination by the Sinhalese majority, which controls the government and military.

At least 35,000 people have died in the civil war.

On April 19, the rebels broke a cease-fire and escalated their battle.

In separate letters sent to President Chandrika Kumaratunga, three monks from three of the four streams of Buddhism in Sri Lanka said the government should concentrate on winning the war. The letters were reported Friday by the state-owned Daily News.

"There is widespread unrest in the country because of the threat posed by separatists. It is not opportune to unveil political solutions at this crucial moment," said Rambukwelle Sri Vipassi.

The government's initiative would establish regional councils in all eight of Sri Lanka's provinces and give them wide powers to govern themselves. The plan drew praise from Tamil and Sinhalese leaders. On Friday a prominent Muslim added his endorsement.

Rauff Hakeem, general secretary of the Sri Lanka Muslim Congress said the plan was a "bold and progressive step" that took the Muslim community 7 percent of the population into account. About 70 percent of the country's 18 million people are Buddhist.

The plan seeks a constitutional amendment that would require a two-thirds vote in Parliament and a national referendum.

Load-Date: July 28, 1995

Yard to examine bomber's remains

The Sunday Times (London)

November 13, 1994, Sunday

Copyright 1994 Times Newspapers Limited

Section: Overseas news

Length: 764 words

Byline: Jon Swain

Body

PIECES of the severed head, a leg and a hand belonging to a woman suicide bomber are being examined by forensic scientists in London. This follows a request by Sri Lankan police for Scotland Yard's help in investigating the assassination of the war-torn country's leading opposition presidential candidate.

After the blast, police found the bomber's head on the roof of a two-storey building 25 yards from where the bomb exploded.

The remains were brought to London on an Air Lanka passenger jet. The senior Sri Lankan police officers who accompanied the remains have asked Scotland Yard's scientists to carry out DNA tests.

They have also asked for detailed tests on the head tissue to establish whether the woman had taken cyanide before blowing herself to pieces. Terrorists in the group believed to be responsible for the attack wear cyanide capsules on a string around their neck and bite them if captured.

Gamini Dissanayake, the opposition presidential candidate, and 55 other people were killed in the blast at a packed election rally of his United National party on October 24. It was one of the worst atrocities of Sri Lanka's civil war, in which at least 20,000 people have died.

The authorities have blamed a group called the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam, which has carried out many assassinations using suicide bombers during the past decade. They hope that the tests will confirm their suspicions.

Fighting for an independent homeland called Eelam for the minority Hindu Tamils in the north and west of the predominantly Buddhist country, the Tigers are now among the world's most feared and ruthless guerrilla forces. Many of their enemies have been killed, including Rajiv Gandhi, the former Indian prime minister.

Gandhi's assassination in 1991 was carried out by a suicide bomber who was suspected of being a member of the elite Black Tigers squad of heavily indoctrinated women whose husbands had already "martyred" themselves for the cause.

Dissanayake's killer is suspected of coming from the same background. In 1992 Ranasinghe Premadasa, the country's president, was killed by a bomber who strapped explosives to himself and rode a bicycle into the presidential party during a May Day parade. The Tigers have also tracked down, killed and terrorised hundreds of Tamil rivals in bloody purges.

Yard to examine bomber's remains

Dissanayake had little chance of winning last week's election. His party had opposed negotiations with the **Tamil Tigers** unless they agreed to lay down their arms. Meanwhile, Chandrika Kumaratunga, the prime minister and the leading presidential candidate, had launched a drive for peace, which was generally supported by an electorate tired of the war. Kumaratunga won on Wednesday with 62% of the votes, compared with 38% for Dissanayake's widow who had taken over his campaign.

It was a few minutes past midnight and Dissanayake had just completed a political speech on the outskirts of Colombo when a woman sitting in a front row detonated the bomb tied to her body. The politician's last words to his supporters as he looked at his watch were: "I wanted to say goodnight, but now I see it is good morning."

There was a huge explosion and the stage collapsed. The surrounding area was strewn with limbs and soaked by blood. Dissanayake died on the way to hospital.

He had been warned he was on a Tigers' death list but had declined extra security, even though his house had been bombed a few days earlier. Experts said he might have survived had he worn a flak jacket at the rally.

The Sri Lankan police had little to go on at first. But as in Gandhi's murder in Tamil Nadu in southern India, a photograph provided the first clue. A man photographing the rally was killed by the bomb, but his camera was recovered. When police developed and printed the film, one picture showed a woman hiding her head behind other people in the front row of the rally. Investigators believe that she was the suicide bomber who had not wanted to be photographed. Her accomplice, a man who left before the explosion occurred, was also photographed.

The election result has given the government the mandate it was seeking to resume peace negotiations with the Tigers, but in the past the guerrilla group has been wary of turning from a military to a political struggle.

Vellupillai Prabhakaran, its reclusive leader, is hiding in the Jaffna peninsula and is renowned for his strict personal discipline and tyrannical inflexibility. He values suicide as the ultimate form of military discipline and will not readily abandon his long and bloody struggle for an independent Eelam.

Graphic

Sri Lankan Terrorist

Load-Date: November 16, 1994

SRI LANKA: ASSASSINATIONS WIPE OUT LEADERS, WIVES IN THE FRONT

IPS-Inter Press Service

July 21, 1994, Thursday

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Length: 783 words

Byline: By Rita Sebastian

Dateline: COLOMBO, July 21

Body

In keeping with a South Asian tradition, widows of two assassinated Sri Lankan leaders have been recruited to fight in the August polls to parliament, raising the number of political widows in the fray to four.

Sarojini Yogeswaran, 60, and Srimani Athulathmudali, 48, are political greenhorns. Their only claim to fame is that their politically prominent spouses were killed.

The island's best known political widow is Sirima Bandaranaike, veteran leader of the main opposition Sri Lanka Freedom Party (SLFP) who donned her assassinated husband's mantle to become the world's first woman premier in 1960.

Chandrika Kumaratunge, her widowed daughter who is chief minister of the central province, is being groomed to take over from the mother. An astute politician, she could threaten president Dingiri Banda Wijetunge's re-election bid this year.

"Sri Lanka seems to be following a tradition of political widows stepping into the vacuum created by their husband's death," says a political commentator here.

"The Bandaranaiques have proved their mettle, but as for the new aspirants only time will tell," he adds.

Sarojini's husband Vettivelu Yogeswaran, chief of a moderate Tamil group, was gunned down in 1990 by the **Tamil Tigers**. Ruthless rebels, the Tigers have got rid of all their rivals over the years.

The lone gunman who shot dead Lalith Athulathmudali as he addressed a local election meeting last April is alleged to have been a Tiger guerrilla. The insurgents are battling Colombo for independence for Sri Lanka's minority Tamils.

Sri Lanka's ethnic war which broke out in 1983 also claimed the life of the Sri Lankan president, Ranasinghe Premadasa last year. He was killed by a Tiger suicide bomber as he was preparing to lead his party's may day procession in Colombo.

Hema Premadasa, his widow, was expected to run for parliament. But she is not contesting. The UNP claims she could not make up her mind if she wanted a party ticket, but the former first lady says she was unceremoniously dumped by a faction opposed to her.

The other four political widows will be the stars at election rallies across the country.

SRI LANKA : ASSASSINATIONS WIPE OUT LEADERS, WIVES IN THE FRONT

Athulathmudali's wife drew large crowds to the People's Alliance (PA) rally in Attangala, in the island's south, on July 17. Launching the party's campaign she said: "I have joined the PA to work towards realising the dreams of my late husband."

Athulathmudali who had vied fiercely with Premadasa for the ruling party's presidential ticket in 1989, was expelled along with several others from the UNP three years later for seeking to impeach Premadasa.

The dissidents launched the Democratic United National Front (DUNF), which is an alliance partner of the opposition SLFP.

Meanwhile, Sarojini Yogeswaran says her campaign is going to be very low-key. An independent candidate, she is hoping to win on the controversial slogan "Tamils vote only for Tamils".

"I will do some house-to-house campaigning and depend for the most part on my helpers who will distribute the campaign material that has been printed," according to Sarojini.

In a country where half the 17 million people are women, the widows will gain considerable electoral support.

Bandaranaike has won every election since her husband was assassinated by a Buddhist monk in September 1959. But her party never really recovered to challenge the ruling party after she lost the 1977 election to UNP's ex-President J.R. Jayewardene.

For six years, Bandaranaike herself was in the political wilderness after a special commission appointed by the UNP government found her guilty of abusing power during her second tenure as prime minister and stripped her of her civic rights.

But with her daughter Chandrika's return to the SLFP fold, the party's fortunes have dramatically improved.

The SLFP defeated the ruling party for the first time in 17 years in a local government election earlier this year, which was widely seen as a referendum on the UNP under President Wijetunge.

Daughter of two prime ministers, Chandrika's move into the political arena came quite naturally.

She and her actor-turned-politician husband Vijaya Kumaratunge broke away from the SLFP and formed their own party. But the hugely popular actor was killed by the JVP, a left-wing Sinhala radical group, which mounted a violent campaign to overthrow the government in the late-1980's. The JVP was crushed in 1988-89.

Chandrika, who lived abroad for some time, returned to Sri Lanka and to the SLFP in 1992. Sibling rivalry led her brother Anura who had hoped to inherit the party their father founded, to break off from the SLFP and join the UNP government.

Now, with her mother's health failing, Chandrika has already effectively taken over the reins of the party.

Load-Date: July 22, 1994

Exhumed bones bring terror to Sri Lanka; Tim McGirk in Colombo finds parallels between security operations against Communists and Tamils

The Independent (London)

January 11, 1994, Tuesday

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Section: INTERNATIONAL NEWS PAGE; Page 12

Length: 808 words

Byline: TIM MCGIRK in Colombo

Body

WHILE politicians in most countries like to keep skeletons locked safely inside closets, in Sri Lanka the government and opposition parties have started rattling human bones at each other.

It began when leaders of the opposition Sri Lankan Freedom Party on 3 January unearthed three mass graves on a misty, isolated mountaintop. These 40ft-deep tombs contain as many as 300 bodies, including those of schoolchildren and Buddhist monks.

The graves are inside the perimeter of a police camp, and the victims are thought to have been among the 30,000 Sri Lankans who went missing during the security forces' brutal war in 1989-1990 against Communist insurgents. Only one English-language newspaper, the Island, defied government censorship and published news of this grisly discovery.

Then the counter-attack of skeletons began. One opposition politician, Dharmadasa Wanniarachi, who was involved in exhuming the mass graves, last Wednesday found a skull propped against his front door. He took it as a message that his own head might soon be off.

The bone battle escalated over the weekend, when armed gangs raided three cemeteries and carted off seven skeletons. One of them again ended up on the doorstep of the same shaken politician. Most Sri Lankans are horrified by these developments. The four years that have passed since the government's terror campaign against the Communists might as well be a century; they would like to forget it. One foreign aid worker said: "It's as if the Sri Lankans had stored all the shame and horror in their memory on a hard disk and then thrown it away."

Many of the army and police officers implicated in the disappearances now hold senior positions, and despite the opposition's outcries, few expect a serious inquiry to be conducted into who killed the schoolchildren found in the mass graves on Mount Sooriya and why.

More alarming still is that while the south of the island has been relatively calm, and the foreign tourists have returned to the miles of white sand beaches under coconut groves, there is evidence that the security forces are returning to their dirty habits. This time, however, they are targeting the hundreds of thousands of ethnic Tamils living in Colombo, the capital. Unlike Sri Lanka's majority, who are Sinhalese Buddhists, most Tamils are Hindus. Many Tamils fled to Colombo to escape the civil war raging in the north and eastern parts of the island over the past 10 years between Tamil separatists and government troops.

Exhumed bones bring terror to Sri Lanka ; Tim McGirk in Colombo finds parallels between security operations
against Communists and Tamils

Foreign diplomats and human rights activists stress that while the crackdown against Colombo's Tamils is nowhere near the same magnitude of viciousness displayed during the repression of Communist rebels, there are sinister parallels. Thousands of Tamils have been jailed and interrogated, often by men in unmarked cars and plain clothes, and police at roadblocks often demand 500 rupee (pounds 8) bribes to let Tamil youths travel through different parts of the city. More ominously, the corpses of 10 Tamils have been found since October, dumped in Colombo and at the Negombo beach resort, 20 miles north, a popular destination for British tourists.

Neelan Tiruchelvam, a lawyer who is a Tamil, explained: "It's very disturbing. Tamils are being exposed to arbitrary and indiscriminate treatment. They're even rounding up women and old men."

The current repression stems from the army and police's growing frustration over two bruising setbacks in the battle against Tamil Tiger separatists: the assassination of the late president, Ranasinghe Premadasa, last May by a Tamil suicide bomber, and the loss of a key army garrison on the Jaffna peninsula on 13 November in which more than 1,300 soldiers died in a 36-hour slaughter.

Fears of the current President, D B Wijetunga, that more Tamil assassins are hiding in Colombo are probably justified: the odds are high that he is on the Tigers' death list. A cult of martyrdom exists among the Tigers, and over the past three years, Tamil fanatics also killed off a defence minister, an admiral and the opposition leader, Lalith Athulathmudali. Police recently found a bomb harness in the Mount Lavinia resort, on the outskirts of Colombo, similar to ones used to blow up the late president and in 1991, the Indian former prime minister, Rajiv Gandhi, also an enemy of the Tamil Tigers.

Neither the Tamil separatists nor the Colombo government are willing to talk peace, even though the war is causing the island to sink economically. Mr Wijetunga refers to the Tigers as mere "terrorists" and refuses to admit publicly that the conflict is an ethnic civil war.

No compromise will come from the Tigers. Their secretive and ruthless chief, Prabakharan, has kept under house arrest his three top commanders - all of whom participated in earlier truce negotiations with Colombo - and may soon execute them.

Load-Date: January 11, 1994

Colombo riots against accord

The Guardian (London)

July 29, 1987

Copyright 1987 Guardian Newspapers Limited

Length: 843 words

Byline: From DEREK BROWN

Dateline: COLOMBO

Body

Colombo was calm last night, after violent protests against today's planned signing of the Indo-Sri Lankan peace accord.

The centre of the capital became a battlefield yesterday as ill-prepared and under-manned police units struggled to contain rioting mobs of Sinhalese who believe their Government has sold out to Tamil separatists.

At least 19 people were killed, according to hospital officials. The judicial medical officer of the city's general hospital, Mr MSL Salgado, said that 18 bodies with gunshot wounds had been received.

The fury of the mob was directed at Government property rather than the Tamil minority in Colombo. Dozens of buses were turned into blazing barricades, and ministry buildings attacked. One block, housing the Ministry of Women's affairs and hospitals, was gutted.

The Government imposed a curfew from last night until Thursday morning and declared today a public holiday. Heavily armed troops and marines moved into the city and Colombo units of the part-time Home Guard were mobilised.

The eruption of Sinhalese anger has not deflected President Junius Jayewardene from offering semi-autonomy for Tamils in the north and east of the island.

While rioters were creating havoc in the capital, Government workers were hastily preparing for today's state visit by the Indian Prime Minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, the bete noir of the Sinhalese.

Ceremonial stands were raised in the street outside the presidential residence, under a pall of smoke from burning Government buildings. Photographs of a smiling Mr Gandhi were fixed to lamp standards, although many were torn down.

Units of cavalry and marines practised ceremonial drill on Galle Face Green, where the Indian leader is expected to land by helicopter. Riots raged a few hundred yards away, and frightened workers streamed out of the city centre past the rehearsals.

Scores of Sri Lankan flags fluttered over the devastation. Outside the stately official home of the Prime Minister, Mr Ranasinghe Premadasa, only the flag of Buddhism, the majority religion, flew in mute reminder that the second most powerful politician in the island is opposed to the accord.

Colombo riots against accord

Officials did not know last night whether Mr Premadasa would greet his Indian counterpart. Failure to do so would signal a disastrous split in the Sri Lankan ruling party, which has long championed the rights and supremacy of the Sinhalese majority.

Official information was scarce yesterday, as many Government offices were abandoned in the rush for safety. Reporters, seeking details of arrangements for today's ceremony, were allowed to wander around the deserted Foreign Ministry offices. The gates at the Indian High Commission, normally a centre of activity and information, were firmly closed and guards instructed to turn away all visitors.

The riots started after police fired teargas into a demonstration against the accord at the city's main bus station in the bazaar quarter of Pettah. More than a hundred people died when a car bomb exploded at the bus station on April 21, provoking a Government assault on Tamil strongholds in the northern Jaffna peninsula.

The rally centred around protests by several hundred Buddhist monks, noted for their Sinhalese nationalism, attended by the veteran opposition leader and former prime minister, Mrs Sirimavo Bandaranaike. Police were polite and co-operative at first and the gas attack came without warning. It started a furious battle, while Mrs Bandaranaike was whisked away.

The riot quickly spread from Pettah to the commercial centre of Colombo, without apparent direction or coordination. Young men halted buses, slewed them across road junctions, and set them on fire.

An attempt was made to burn down Lake House, the city headquarters of the Government-owned Daily News. Guards inside the building fired several shots at the crowd outside and at least one man was hit in the legs. Stones were hurled and kiosks next to the building were set on fire while workers scurried from a rear exit.

Sri Lankan television briefly summarised the riots last night without mentioning any deaths. The victims of the peace initiative are unlikely to be added to the official toll of 6,000 who have died in the four years of communal violence.

By AJOY BOSE

NEW DELHI - Mr Gandhi said yesterday that he was going ahead with plans to sign the accord with President Jayewardene today despite opposition from Tamils. He told leaders of opposition parties in New Delhi that the rejection of the accord by the main Tamil militant group, the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam, had in no way changed his plans. The leader of the Tamil Tigers, Mr Velupillai Prabhakaran, described the accord as a 'betrayal by India.' He said his group would not adhere to the proposed 17-point peace plan which includes an immediate ceasefire between Sri Lankan forces and Tamil militants in Colombo's northern province.

Mr Gandhi said that the attitude of the Tigers 'was very disappointing' since they had earlier accepted all the main proposals. 'They have now gone back on this,' he said.

Load-Date: June 13, 2000

ROUNDUP: Fourteen people killed in violent incidents in Sri Lanka

Deutsche Presse-Agentur

September 24, 2001, Monday, BC Cycle 10:56 Central European Time

Copyright 2001 Deutsche Presse-Agentur

Section: International News

Length: 469 words

Dateline: Colombo

Body

Fourteen people, including six civilians, have been killed in sporadic incidents in northern Sri Lanka, military officials said Monday.

Six family members were killed instantly Monday when the three-wheeler taxi in which they were riding ran over a pressure mine near Jaffna town, 396 kilometres north of Colombo.

The taxi driver, who earlier had been reported as having been killed, was listed as critically wounded.

Those killed were a young couple, their one-year-old daughter, the woman's parents and her sister.

They were traveling to the only air force base in northern Sri Lanka for a flight to the capital Colombo to visit the husband's parents, who were sick.

They had been told to report to the railway station in Jaffna town where they were to have undergone security checks before being transferred by the military to the Palaly airport, 21 kilometers away from the town.

The mine was believed to have been planted by rebels in an area heavily guarded by the army.

The military believed the rebels may infiltrated the area as civilians and planted the mine on the road, which is frequently used by security forces.

The northern Jaffna peninsula does not have road access from the south of the country because Tamil rebels of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (**LTTE**) dominate a significant part of the country between the peninsula and the rest of the country.

Civilians are either forced take a flight to Colombo or wait for a chance to travel by ship between Jaffna and Colombo.

In the other incidents reported since Sunday morning four soldiers and an equal number of rebels were killed in three separate incidents.

Rebels directed artillery fire on the troops killing three of them and wounding seven others on Sunday evening in the Mirusavil area of the Jaffna peninsula.

ROUNDUP: Fourteen people killed in violent incidents in Sri Lanka

In a similar incident, rebels fired mortar and artillery rounds at troops and security forces who returned the fire, killing three rebels and wounding two others in the Elathumaddval area of the Jaffna peninsula on Sunday.

Rebels killed a soldier close to the Vavuniya town, 254 kilometres north of Colombo, while a rebel **female** cadre was killed in the Muhamalai area of the Jaffna peninsula. Both incidents took place on Sunday.

In a separate incident, the Sri Lankan navy on Monday released an Indian ship carrying oil after it had been held for 24 hours at a northeastern port.

The oil tanker MT Rich, registered in Bombay (Mumbai), was detained on suspicion that it was carrying supplies to the Tamil rebels, but it was released after a full search.

The ship was detained Sunday off the northeastern Mullativu area, 360 kilometres northeast of Colombo, where four rebel boats recently were destroyed and more than 30 rebels were killed by the navy. dpa ad wp

Eds: releads, revises and combines to include new incidents

Load-Date: September 24, 2001

End of Document

The tragedy of Sri Lanka: a nation torn in two

The Advertiser

April 25, 1987 Saturday

Copyright 1987 Nationwide News Pty Limited

Length: 827 words

Byline: BILL GUY

Body

A GOVERNMENT has to be desperate or brutal, or both, to order the aerial bombing of its own territory and the killing of its own citizens. That extreme action was taken this week by the Sri Lankan Government and it is the measure of the chaos now ruling in a country that was once regarded as an Asian paradise.

Of course, the Government acted under a provocation that was itself extreme. Over four days the island's security and self-confidence had been shaken by a series of terrorist attacks resulting in the deaths of more than 300 civilians.

First, there was the Good Friday massacre of bus passengers caught in an ambush near Trincomalee; three days later 15 men, women and children were slaughtered in a nearby village; then on Tuesday explosives planted at a Colombo bus terminal caused carnage among homegoing workers.

President Jayewardene's Government immediately blamed Tamil separatists for the assaults - although there was no incontrovertible evidence of this and a number of Tamils were among the dead and mutilated.

The Air Force was ordered into action against Tamil strongholds in the northern peninsula of Jaffna and the warning went out that the aerial bombardments would continue until the attacks on civilians ceased.

This Government announcement glossed over an obvious

paradox in that the Air Force, however unwittingly, was itself attacking civilians. There is no way a bomb released at 3000 feet can discriminate between a ruthless Tamil guerilla and an innocent mother and child. And, indeed, civilians have been killed or wounded in the aerial attacks.

Whether or not the Tamil Tigers or Eros or any of the other score or so separatist splinter groups carried out the Trincomalee and Colombo massacres, the de facto civil war now convulsing Sri Lanka is essentially a conflict between the Tamil minority and the Sinhalese majority.

How did it come about? How was paradise lost?

There has always been the potential for conflict between Tamil and Sinhalese because of cultural, religious and linguistic differences. The two tribes literally don't speak the same language and the Tamils are predominantly Hindu while the Sinhalese are Buddhists.

Clashes arising from such basic differences were kept in check so long as the British ruled Ceylon, as the island was known in the days of the Empire. At the same time, the fuse for future explosions was lit during the British Raj.

The tragedy of Sri Lanka : a nation torn in two

Because the Tamils seemed more industrious than the easy-going Sinhalese, they were favored by the British as auxiliaries in administration. Although outnumbered four-to-one by the Sinhalese, the Tamils came to dominate the lower ranks of the public service and the professions.

The Sinhalese understandably resented the social and professional advances made by Tamils whom they saw not merely as pushy but also as alien since their original homeland was southern India

- where, in fact, 50m Tamils live today.

With independence in 1948, the Sinhalese saw their chance of revenge and it is the tragedy of the nation that most of the Sinhalese politicians who came to dominate government were keen to gratify this popular but base impulse.

In flagrant breach of the independence Constitution which sought to prohibit laws that discriminated against ethnic or religious communities, successive governments set about stripping the Tamils of their rights and status.

It had been established at independence, for instance, that both Sinhala and Tamil would replace English as the country's official languages. But within eight years, Sinhala was declared the only official language - with all the adverse implications that held for Tamils seeking education and employment.

Even earlier, the so-called Plantation Tamils - those who had been brought from India by the British to work the tea plantations of the central highlands - as distinct from the "Sri Lankan Tamils", were deprived of their citizenship and voting rights.

Increasingly, the Tamils saw no future under a political regime that offered them only further repression, and so began the moves for secession. The elder Tamils tried political ends to this means; when that failed, the younger Tamils took to the gun.

Now the country is caught in a spiral of violence: guerilla attack provokes military crackdown or communal killing which in turn provoke new guerilla attack.

Shaken by the damage this is causing to the social and economic structure of the island, the Jayewardene Government has recently made tentative offers of limited autonomy to the Tamils.

These have been spurned as too little too late by the increasingly militant Tamils who now see secession as their only salvation. This will never be conceded, says the Government which regards the unity of the nation as sacrosanct.

But there is no unity if one part of the nation is considered so much the enemy that it must be bombed. Better for all - and more realistic - to treat it as totally alien and give it its own frontier and territory.

Load-Date: September 19, 2003

19 civilians massacred by rebels in eastern Sri Lanka

Deutsche Presse-Agentur

October 23, 1995, Monday, BC Cycle 16:02 Central European Time

Copyright 1995 Deutsche Presse-Agentur

Section: International News

Length: 465 words

Dateline: Colombo

Body

Tamil rebels have massacred at least 19 civilians in eastern Sri Lanka as government forces press ahead with their offensive against separatists in the north, military officials said Monday. Initial reports on the massacre at Siyambalanduwa village, about 325 kilometres southeast of Colombo, said only seven civilians had been killed by rebels. But a subsequent search in the area revealed that 19 people, mainly women and children, had been shot and hacked to death. Police said some bodies were found in the jungle, suggesting some villagers had tried to escape when the attack took place early Monday. The attack was the fourth on civilian targets within 48 hours in the eastern part of the country as the rebels attempt to divert the army from the north. In the three earlier attacks 66 civilians, mainly Sinhalese, were shot and hacked to death. The attack on Siyambalanduwa came as the military claimed to have killed at least 75 rebels while losing 29 soldiers during their offensive Sunday. The operation was continuing Monday but no details of the offensive were released. The offensive in the north has been described as one of the biggest operations against rebels of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE). So far 105 soldiers and over 425 rebels have been reported killed in the operation code named 'Riviresa' (Sunray), which entered its seventh day on Monday. Military officials have indicated that they were on an all-out offensive to capture the rebel dominated northern Jaffna peninsula.

The government and the military have warned that the rebels could carry out attacks in areas outside the north in an effort to divert the attention of security forces. The attacks on civilians in the east and last Friday's attack on two oil reserves in Colombo have been described as rebel efforts to divert attention of forces. On Monday the deputy defence minister, Colonel Anuruddha Ratwatte, met newspaper editors and appealed to them to exercise restraint in reporting military matters over the next couple of weeks. Censorship on military news for the local media that was imposed last month is continuing. The government fears the rebels could incite a backlash on the minority Tamil community in the south of the country with disastrous implications for military offensive in the north. The Tamils are fighting in the north and eastern part of the country for an independent homeland for minority Tamils. They consider the northern peninsula as their stronghold and would stop at nothing to prevent the fall of Jaffna. An estimated 500,000 civilians living in the area are reported to have fled to areas south of the Jaffna peninsula, but the military said they would be able to make arrangements for them to return within the next three weeks. dpa ad jp

Load-Date: October 27, 1995

TIGERS NOT CRIMINALS

Herald Sun

November 29, 1995 Wednesday

Copyright 1995 Nationwide News Pty Limited

Length: 177 words

Body

THE reference made to the Tamil tigress in the article "The Dangerous **Female**" by Ronald Conway (Herald Sun, November 27) was inappropriate. Although only a little was said about the **Tamil Tigers**, the wrong implication was there in the big picture.

By comparing the **female** freedom fighters of Tamil Eelam with some notorious criminals, the article was capable of showing the freedom fighters as criminals. The author should realise the **Tamil Tigers** are soldiers of an ethnic group engaged in a war and are prepared to give up their lives to win justice. The **Tamil Tigers** should be seen at the same level as some of the world's best soldiers who fought many wars. The **Tamil Tigers** are not criminals; they act to defend their human rights and not to deny others' right to live in this world. They are fighting against human rights violation such as aggression, discrimination and injustice. It was a serious mistake to include freedom fighters in an article intended to discuss **women**'s capability for criminal actions. Disappointed Reader Glen Waverley

END OF STORY

Graphic

FREEDOM FIGHTER: THE **FEMALE** TAMIL TIGER IN SRI LANKA.

Load-Date: October 1, 2003

Tigers at bay / Indian army surrounds Jaffna city

The Sunday Times (London)

October 18 1987, Sunday

Copyright 1987 Times Newspapers Limited

Section: Issue 8515.

Length: 1781 words

Byline: JON SWAIN

Body

The mighty Indian army was yesterday surrounding the fortified Sri Lankan city of Jaffna, stronghold of the extremist ***Tamil Tigers***. However, even if the Indians beat the terrorists it will not end Sri Lanka's tragedy and could spark a far greater crisis.

AS INDIA began its massive onslaught against the ***Tamil Tigers*** last Saturday, an army lorry, white flag fluttering from its bonnet like all vehicles of the Indian peace-keeping force in Sri Lanka, rumbled into the northern city of Jaffna on a routine rice-distribution mission.

In the hectic preparations for the attack a local Indian commander had forgotten to warn his five Indian soldiers to cancel the trip. As the lorry laden with sacks of rice entered the city it was ambushed by the Tigers, even though the guerrillas had given their word that the peace-keeping force was welcome.

The soldiers were pulled to the ground disarmed and roped to lamp posts. They died in agony when the guerrillas, enraged by the Indian offensive, wrapped blazing tyres around their necks. Later, the Sri Lankan armed forces intercepted a guerrilla message back to the headquarters of Velupillai Prabhakaran, 32, the Tigers' commander-in-chief, describing this barbarity: 'We have fried the Indians,' the message said.

The Tigers, the most hardline of all the Tamil militant groups in Sri Lanka, have had a cruel and fanatical streak since Prabhakaran, a local fisherman's son and admirer of Chandra Bose, the Indian nationalist leader who opposed the British Raj, founded the movement in 1976. Atrocities come easily to the 2,500 guerrillas. The movement is one of the few Tamil extremist groups with no political ideology.

However, it considers terrorism a legitimate weapon in its armed struggle to establish a separate Tamil homeland in the north and east of the island. Its massacre of 200 Sinhalese villagers in the multi-racial eastern part of Sri Lanka earlier this month shattered the 10-week-old peace accord and forced the Indian army into last week's military showdown.

One week after the Indian attack on the hot and dusty little city of Jaffna, it is apparent that the tragic deaths of the five soldiers was only the first in a sequence of Indian army blunders. The commanders underestimated the strength, dedication and fighting skill of the Tigers. Unskilled in urban warfare, the army attempted a conventional advance that became bogged down.

The result is that the Tigers, fighting on their home ground, are defending Jaffna with remarkable success despite the huge disparity of strength between themselves and the Indians - the world's fourth largest army.

Tigers at bay / Indian army surrounds Jaffna city

On the day after the 'necklacing', with three brigades of Indian troops - 6,000 men - making a four-pronged attack on Jaffna, from approach roads to the north, east and southeast, the Tigers moved students out of a hostel on the medical campus of Jaffna college and occupied it themselves.

Soon after, Indian para-commandos made a helicopter-borne combat assault on the open green near the hostel in the hope of capturing Prabhakaran himself. But their intelligence about the Tigers' positions was wrong. Instead of taking up defensive positions after jumping the paratroopers felt secure enough to relax on the ground awaiting orders. This had fatal consequences.

The Tigers shot 29 paratroopers from their hideouts inside the hostel. Eyewitnesses said several of the fleeing Indians were chased into houses and shot dead. Tigers laid out the bodies in the street for the local population to gloat over. In other attacks the Tigers brutally stabbed and slashed several Indian soldiers to death.

SINCE the beginning of the fighting on October 10, Jaffna has been a closed city. Although the Indian army is fighting for a comprehensible objective - to crush the Tigers after they wrecked the July 29 peace accord signed by Rajiv Gandhi, India's prime minister, and Junius Jayewardene, the Sri Lankan president - it has restricted reporting to a minimum.

All civilian flights to Jaffna have been halted. Indian soldiers manning checkpoints have orders to turn back journalists trying to enter the peninsular.

The Sri Lankan government, having invited the Indian troops to enforce the peace accord, has kept silent on the exclusion. Any embarrassment that Colombo, the Sri Lankan capital, has felt over its blatant surrender of sovereignty to New Delhi has been compensated by India finally embarking on a show-down with the Tamil extremists.

The fervent hope among Sinhalese ministers is that the Indians will fight their way into Jaffna despite heavy losses. They believe the Tigers are ruthless terrorists who can only be broken by the killing of Prabhakaran and his top leadership.

The Tigers' intransigence on the accord's key political provisions - the merger of the northern and eastern provinces into a single Tamil-speaking unit, and a total arms-surrender - has made the hard-line guerrilla group the main obstacle to peace.

There are now at least 18,000 Indian troops in the island's north and east, and each day more are airlifted to Jaffna's Palaly airbase. The irony for Delhi is that India, which first sent forces to Sri Lanka in a peace-keeping role, gave the Tigers covert training and arms assistance and allowed them to maintain bases in India's southern Tamil Nadu state over the past 10 years. Last week the irate Indian authorities shut the final five Tiger bases in India.

Meanwhile, Jaffna is in chaos with the Tigers fighting a stubborn, last ditch battle for their city. Although they should have surrendered all their arms to the Indians after the accord, the Tigers probably handed over only about 20% of the weapons.

They have vast caches of arms and ammunition in Jaffna including a massive number of booby traps and home-made mortars. They have dug bunkers with communication and escape trenches. Nonetheless, the Indian advance is inflicting heavy casualties on the Tigers and causing mounting suffering among the civilian population.

One report spoke of the Tigers firing mortars from behind women and children. Another claimed Indian vehicles were crushing bodies of recently killed Tigers and civilians. Yet another referred to civilians lobbing grenades at Indians from houses and of explosives being planted at an Indian camp by a boy, aged five.

Some 375,000 people - half the population of the Jaffna peninsular - have been uprooted by the fighting. Many are sheltering in Hindu temples, schools and churches outside Jaffna often without sanitation, water or food.

Tigers at bay / Indian army surrounds Jaffna city

At Kandaswamy temple, the most sacred Hindu shrine in the peninsular, 40,000 were last week sheltering in the open air while the peninsular was lashed by torrential rain. Tens of thousands more are said to be trapped in the battered city itself where the Tigers are preparing a last-ditch stand.

Since the first hours of the fighting last weekend Jaffna's hospitals have overflowed with wounded. Oxygen bottles and bandages have run out. The supplies of drugs and water are exhausted and there is nothing to ease the pain of the wounded lying along the corridors and on the floors. In Jaffna general hospital there were reported to be 76 dead bodies of men, women and children and nearly 300 wounded.

Although the fighting dies down at night, the city is under an indefinite round-the-clock curfew and backed out by electricity cuts. The Indian offensive has been unfair to Jaffna.

THE CITY has for centuries been the chief town of the Tamil minority in Sri Lanka but ethnic violence began to tear the island apart at the beginning of the decade.

That was when Sinhalese police, avenging the murder of four colleagues, went on a rampage in Jaffna, burning Tamil shops, the town's library and its 97,000 rare Tamil books, and the home of Jaffna's separatist MP.

A middle-class city, Jaffna has a huge surplus of qualified young men, many of whom joined the ranks of Tamil militant separatists as tension increased. It has become the Tigers' stronghold over the past two years while the army dared not to venture out of the city's 17th-century Dutch fort. The Tigers were allowed to control the city's administration, including a newspaper and television station.

Last May, the Sri Lankan army, desperate to end the conflict which had claimed 6,000 lives, mounted a major offensive against the Tigers. It captured a chunk of the eastern peninsular but halted operations under pressure from India before it could move on Jaffna.

India accused the Sri Lankan government of 'genocide' against the Tamil people but two months later it signed the peace pact to end the hostility between the Tamil militant groups and the Sri Lankan forces and sent in troops to enforce the ceasefire.

Ten weeks later Jaffna's population is traumatised by the confrontation between the 'peace-keeping' force and the Tigers. Now the question is: will the battle of Jaffna be the end of the Tigers?

The Indian army yesterday fought its way to the city limits and was preparing for a major assault. If the Tigers make a death-and-glory stand Jaffna will almost certainly be reduced to rubble.

Parabhakaran is known for his steel will and yesterday was reported to have rejected the Indian government's ceasefire condition of a written undertaking to lay down arms and abide by the peace treaty. He is expected to fight to the last man.

It is hard to see when the battle will end. Jaffna has now become a question of prestige for India's huge conventional army. Before the offensive it claimed to be humiliated by the Tigers and had been given an ill-defined role in Sri Lanka by the politicians.

However, the army's biggest mistake has been over-confidence. Having fought the Sikhs in the Punjab it saw itself as an expert on sub-continent terrorist organisations. It believed it could wrap up the Tigers easily.

Now it has learnt the hard way that the Tigers belong to an extreme category of their own. They are tightly knit, instantly brave and inhumanly hard on their enemies.

Their fanaticism is such that in the last three weeks one Tiger starved himself to death in protest at the peace accord and 15 others swallowed cyanide in a mass suicide pact after they were arrested with arms. One, Kumarrapan, 29, an area commander, took the poison exactly one month and a day after his marriage.

Tigers at bay / Indian army surrounds Jaffna city

Even if the Indians win it will not be the end of the Sri Lankan tragedy. By attacking Jaffna the peace keepers have alienated a good section of the Tamil population, including moderates opposed to the Tigers reign of terror.

Although the punitive actions against the Tigers are wholly comprehensible, the tragedy is that the way India has gone about them may have precipitated a far greater crisis.

Load-Date: September 21, 2000

End of Document

Terror under the microscope

The Daily Telegraph (Sydney, Australia)

November 27, 2001, Tuesday

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Section: FEATURES; Pg. 16

Length: 899 words

Byline: PIERS AKERMAN

Body

TEL AVIV: In a quiet corner at Israel's Interdisciplinary Centre Herzliya outside this city, a team of psychologists and researchers is putting terrorism under an intense, high-powered microscope.

With input from intelligence services around the world, staff at the International Policy Institute for Counter-Terrorism are dissecting and charting the characteristics of those who carry out mass murder in an effort to both prepare those who might be targeted and better understand those who perpetrate such crimes.

Understandably, in a nation which has seen more than 30 attacks by suicide bombers since October 2000, there is no shortage of material to study and thousands here and abroad have attended courses run by senior researchers Ely Karmon and Yoram Schweitzer and their colleagues.

Their bottom line is that there is no excuse -- academic, socio-economic, nationalistic or ethnic -- for terrorism, for attacks on purely civilian targets, nor is there any rationale for terrorist activity.

MATP

"There is no real explanation why it arises in some societies and not in others," Mr Schweitzer said. "Terrorists can be people from

any category, any background, of either gender and any sexual preference.

"Similarly there is no excuse for terrorism. There may be grievances, impoverished people, dispossessed -- but not all of those affected by such circumstances kill uninvolved people."

The scientists note that Osama bin Laden has attempted to interpret Islam to support his murderous activities but that his manipulation of the Koran is unacceptable to the majority of the Islamic world.

"Even soldiers in non-combative situations are not legitimate targets under Islam," Mr Schweitzer said.

When it was pointed out that the Israeli Irgun gang had exploded a bomb in Jerusalem's King David Hotel killing scores of civilians in 1946, he countered with the argument that the area where the bomb had been placed was the British military headquarters and proposed that a "freedom fighter" could simultaneously be a terrorist.

Citing suicide attacks by **Tamil Tigers** in Sri Lanka, and by the Kurdish PKK (which uses only **women** agents) in Turkey, he stressed such bombers were not solely tools of Islamists.

Terror under the microscope

The institute's work shows that radical Islam's terrorist framework, which includes bin Laden's group, has been building since the oil crisis of 1973 brought wealth, political power and leverage to Third World states.

The process of proselytisation through mosques was hastened after the success of the Iranian revolution in 1979 brought a sense of psychological and military victory to Iranian radicals.

The attacks on the US Marines headquarters in Beirut in 1983 and the victory of the Afghan tribes over the Soviets in 1989, demonstrated that the superpowers were not immune to terror and provided a further huge psychological boost to international Islamic terrorism.

There is evidence that the jihad in America began before the fall of the Soviets in Afghanistan, with Islamic groups infiltrating black

organisations and enjoying support in prison communities.

As early as 1990, radical groups had plans to bomb the UN, New York's World Trade Centre and the Holland Tunnel.

Just as terrorists show no mercy, the academics believe none should be shown in dealing with terrorism.

They insist there must be no appeasement, no attempts to negotiate with terrorists.

The only solution is the elimination of those involved including those in the higher echelons who plan and support terrorism.

They stress that the al-Qaeda network must be tracked and destroyed, not because of what its members have done but because of their core policy.

The Taliban's reign in Afghanistan, they say, signalled to others the possibility of hijacking sovereign territory and with it, the ability to produce an industry of terror. These two elements must be tackled with no concessions.

Targeting those states which sponsor terrorism is a key element in eliminating or reducing of international terrorism.

Among those states today, Iran is the most active.

The academics say the price of supporting terrorism must be increased, noting that Libya has withdrawn from the scene since the US launched a raid against Muammar Gaddafi in 1986 in retaliation against the bombing of a German discotheque.

The stakes have been dramatically increased with

recent threats by terrorist organisations to use weapons of mass destruction, chemical and biological, and of course the attack on the World Trade Centre towers breached the taboo on the use of non-conventional weapons.

The outlook, these experts suggest, is grim. Iraq and Iran are working feverishly to obtain nuclear weapons and further use of biological weapons is a probability.

Like most Israelis, they have agonised over Israel's continuing policy of targeted killings, or assassinations of those involved in organised terrorism.

At the end of the day however, they believe that if a state is under threat or continuous assault from terrorists, the state is under an obligation to protect its people.

Terror under the microscope

"Such a policy cannot be equated with terrorism," Dr Karmon said. "It's much more moral and legal to select the people responsible for the attacks and to deal with them accordingly.

"Their suffering is because of the policies pursued by their leaders."

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(Piers Akerman is on a media tour sponsored by the Israeli Foreign Ministry.)

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SECURITY PROS SAY DEADLY BOMBINGS ARE LIKELY IN CITY

Daily News (New York)

May 19, 2002, Sunday

SPORTS FINAL EDITION

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Section: NEWS;; FRONT PAGE, SIDEBAR

Length: 837 words

Byline: By BOB PORT DAILY NEWS STAFF WRITER

Body

It's a New York nightmare. At rush hour in Grand Central Terminal, a young man descends the main staircase, raises his arms with a chant of "Allah Akbar" and detonates a bomb vest full of plastic explosives.

A circle of pressure and flame - laden with nails, bolts or ball bearings - fans outward, tearing randomly through the crowd. Huge terminal windows shatter to the street as commuters are hurled into stone and the screams of those left dismembered pierce the air.

This chilling scenario, and others like it, are being contemplated by police, the FBI and security planners in New York.

The systematic use of suicide bombers against Israel this spring has heightened concern among security experts that a suicide bomber will strike here.

As part of the NYPD's new, proactive approach to the threat, a contingent is in Israel undergoing training to detect suicide bombers. More effort urged Terrorism experts say a suicide bombing in New York is probably not a question of if but of who, where and when.

"I'd have to say it's probable," said James Kallstrom, Gov. Pataki's senior security adviser. "I hope it never happens, but I think we have to plan to the extent that we can for things like that."

"We as a country have missed many opportunities to do logical, simple things to prevent this kind of attack," Kallstrom said. "I think we should become a little more serious about what we do."

In 1997, it was luck as much as police instinct that foiled a pair of Palestinian suicide bombers hours away from blowing up a subway in Brooklyn.

Tipped off by a roommate with cold feet, city police burst into a Park Slope bomb workshop, shooting as one man reached for a button on a pipe-bomb vest wired to go off.

Since then, suicide martyrdom has won converts among Islamic clerics who find words in the Koran to justify bombings done in the name of jihad.

Techniques for belt bombing also have advanced, helped along by the Tamil Tigers, a Sri Lankan separatist group that has staged 250 suicide attacks over the last two decades.

SECURITY PROS SAY DEADLY BOMBINGS ARE LIKELY IN CITY

The Sri Lankan rebels stunned intelligence officials last year by pulling off a 14-man suicide attack on a government airbase that left 26 civil and military aircraft damaged or destroyed.

They have pioneered the use of women as belt bombers, the deployment of multiple bombers and the use of the Czech plastic explosive Semtex, which is four to five times more powerful than explosives Palestinians had been using - typically land-mine parts or a homemade bomb brew based on lighter fluid.

But terror experts say the sheer spectacle of this year's relentless suicide bombings in Israel - using women and children in addition to men as vessels of death - is likely to inspire terrorists elsewhere to elevate the one-person suicide tactic into a military strategy.

"Terrorism is theater," explained Brian Jenkins, a former official of Kroll Associates who is with the Rand Corp., a public-policy think tank.

"It's a deliberately dramatic act of violence calculated to create an atmosphere of alarm in which people will exaggerate the effect," he said.

"New York has historically been an arena of terrorist activity," said Jenkins. And, unfortunately, a suicide bombing here "would immediately guarantee the terrorist worldwide publicity."

Jenkins views suicide bombing as a cynical act of psychological manipulation.

"It's the suicide aspect that has mesmerized us," he said. "But the security issue is not the fate of the bomber, it's the fate of the victims," Jenkins said.

While Al Qaeda suicide bombers may choose targets in New York, experts believe such attacks are more likely to be individual efforts than parts of organized campaigns.

"Here, at least in the Islamic community, there's no social support for that kind of activity" as there is in the Mideast, said David Rapoport, editor of the London-based Journal of Terrorism and Political Violence. Two ways to stop them We need a "common-sense methodology" for stopping terrorists while respecting civil rights, Kallstrom said.

"There are two ways," he said: "better intelligence and don't give them the ability to be here.

"This is not a matter of putting another 70,000 cops on the task force" but of getting more sophisticated intelligence-gathering technology, Kallstrom said.

"We've never had adequate databases to cross-pollinate between agencies - never," he said.

"The day before the Trade Center [attack], one of the terrorists was stopped on I-95 in Maryland," Kallstrom said. "He was doing 90 miles an hour. What if we had better access to databases for state troopers? That might have made the difference."

As a first step, New York has installed a network of secure computers - one in each police department in the state - to share terror-related counterintelligence.

"We need better information to reach state and local police," Kallstrom said.

His second goal, tighter immigration policy, depends on Washington. "We need," he said, "to not let people who would kill us into the United States."

'I'd have to say it's probable.'

JAMES KALLSTROM

SECURITY PROS SAY DEADLY BOMBINGS ARE LIKELY IN CITY

Graphic

THOMAS MONASTER DAILY NEWS SCARY FBI is facing prospect of suicide bombings in places such as Grand Central Terminal.

Load-Date: May 20, 2002

End of Document

Human bombs top terror

The Cairns Post/The Cairns Sun (Australia)

September 18, 2001, Tuesday

Copyright 2001 Nationwide News Pty Limited

Section: NEWS; Pg. 8

Length: 839 words

Body

THEY are deadly killing machines, human weapons whose aim is to kill as many people as possible by killing themselves.

The devastating events in the United States last Tuesday in which hijackers seized aircraft and crashed them into the World Trade Centre in New York and the Pentagon in Washington were the most deadly suicide attacks ever.

But the strategy is not new. It has been cultivated for two decades in the Middle East where Israel has borne the brunt of dozens of suicide attacks by Palestinian Islamic militants opposed to its existence.

"No country is immune to such attacks," Boaz Ganor, an Israeli expert on the phenomenon, said.

He said such strikes, which also have taken place in recent years in Sri Lanka, India and Turkey, were so deadly because the weapon was "a human smart bomb".

"Suicide terrorism is a growing phenomenon. We see this in the number of states that suffer from this," Mr Ganor said. "This method works for the terrorists as they achieve what they want to achieve, they get much more casualties."

Palestinian suicide bombers are given a bomb, usually packed with nails for more deadly effect, which they are told to detonate in a crowded place so that as many people as possible will be killed and maimed, Israeli experts say.

They are taught they will not be committing suicide which is forbidden by Islam but rather martyring themselves for God and will go straight to heaven.

"Those who are actually involved are highly brain-washed and indoctrinated so they do it blindly," Palestinian analyst Khalil Shikaki said.

They require no skills, other than pressing the detonator of a bomb, and are usually chosen because they are young, religious, poor and easily malleable.

But the Israeli experts say the profile of suicide attackers has changed since a Palestinian uprising against Israeli occupation erupted last year after peace talks broke down.

Older, more educated, men have strapped explosives to their bodies and blown themselves up in recent months. Last week, a Palestinian teacher detonated a bomb outside a Jerusalem hospital when confronted by police a block away from a pizzeria where a bomber killed 15 people - mostly women and children - a month ago.

Human bombs top terror

The first attack by an Arab Israeli suicide bomber on September 9 raised the spectre for Israel of an "enemy within" the Jewish state.

The middle aged man, married with 10 children, killed three people when he blew himself up at a railway station in the northern Israeli city of Nahariya.

Mr Ganor said a suicide attack was particularly effective because "it gives the ability to be accurate" and since the attacker is killed "it leaves no trace of the organisation".

Modern suicide operations are believed to have their roots in post-revolutionary Iran where thousands of soldiers became human minesweepers, walking through minefields towards their Iraqi enemy and certain death during the 1980-1988 Iran-Iraq war which claimed the lives of nearly one million people on both sides.

Shi'ite Muslim guerillas in Lebanon adopted the strategy during Israel's invasion in 1983.

The guerillas drove trucks filled with explosives into the Beirut headquarters of French and American peacekeepers and killed themselves along with 241 US marines and 58 French paratroopers. A similar attack killed 60 people at the headquarters of Israeli intelligence in the Lebanese port of Tyre.

Shortly after the Lebanon attacks, the US and France ended their peacekeeping missions. Israel eventually withdrew its troops from Beirut to a security zone in south Lebanon, which the army left in May 2000.

"Their success in achieving their objectives is something that could have been a factor in making other Islamic groups use suicide attacks to achieve their goals," Mr Shikaki said.

But he said the series of Palestinian attacks against Israel in recent years had failed to pressure it to end its occupation of the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Israelis, Mr Shikaki explained, viewed these suicide bombings as strikes against "the very existence" of the Jewish state.

The stated aim of the militant Hamas and Islamic Jihad groups - behind the suicide bombing campaign in Israel - is to set up an Islamic state in the West Bank, Gaza Strip and Israel.

Suicide attacks spread to the **Tamil Tigers** in Sri Lanka and India, where a suicide bomber killed former Indian prime minister Rajiv Gandhi in 1991.

The Workers Party of Kurdistan (PKK) employed the method to carry out more than a dozen attacks against Turkish personnel in the 1990s, frequently using **female** suicide bombers.

"Suicide attacks are the weapon of the weak. This is clearly not something that a stronger party would use as those who have tanks or airplanes or nuclear weapons do not need to use suicide attacks," Mr Shikaki said.

"It's very difficult to combat someone who is determined to kill himself or herself. What you want to combat is the environment that leads to this, including political grievances and cultural issues."

And, Mr Ganor said, copycat attacks could follow last week's suicide strikes in the US.

Load-Date: November 12, 2001

President hurt in suicide blast - Poll campaign bombs kill 31

The Daily Telegraph (Sydney, Australia)

December 20, 1999, Monday

Copyright 1999 Nationwide News Pty Limited

Section: WORLD; Pg. 23

Length: 497 words

Byline: RAHUL SHARMA

Body

SRI Lankan President Chandrika Kumaratunga escaped a **female** suicide bomber's assassination bid in central Colombo yesterday.

Thirty-one people were killed and 180 wounded in this and another bomb attack only days before a presidential poll in which Ms Kumaratunga is seeking re-election.

The President was taken to hospital following one of the blasts. Officials claimed her right eye was injured but state radio yesterday quoted doctors as saying she was out of danger.

Witnesses said the bomber tried to jump a barrier to get close to Ms Kumaratunga as she was walking back to her car after addressing a meeting of her ruling People's Alliance on the last day of campaigning before tomorrow's vote.

The death toll in this explosion rose to 21 when some of the wounded succumbed to their injuries in hospital. About 110 people were wounded.

Soon after a second bomb exploded at a meeting of Sri Lanka's main opposition United National Party in Ja-Ela, a Colombo suburb, killing at least 10 people and injuring 70.

A senior police official and several of Ms Kumaratunga's security guards as well as her driver died in the first blast and a former army commander died in the second.

Ms Kumaratunga made an appeal from her hospital bed for calm and asked people to pray for her.

There was no immediate claim of responsibility but the spotlight fell on the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam, separatists fighting for a homeland for minority Tamils in Sri Lanka's north and east since 1983.

More than 55,000 people have been killed in the war and the **LTTE** has been accused of previous attacks on presidents, including one in 1993 in which President Ranasinghe Premadasa was killed.

After Saturday's explosions, hundreds of troops were deployed on the streets of Colombo. Authorities imposed a curfew in the capital and the adjoining Gamapaha district.

At least three senior ministers and some foreign journalists, including a Japanese television crew and a Reuters photographer, were among the injured at the ruling party's rally.

President hurt in suicide blast - Poll campaign bombs kill 31

At least 10 bodies, including that of the suicide bomber, were still lying at the scene of the blast several hours after the explosion. A fireworks display was taking place near the rally when the bomb exploded, witnesses said.

British Foreign Minister Robin Cook condemned the perpetrators of the blasts.

"I am concerned by reports of injuries to the President. I wish her a speedy recovery. There is no place for violence in the democratic process," he said.

"It is essential that the forthcoming elections are held peacefully in an atmosphere free of intimidation and violence."

Terror blitz

* THE suicide bomb attack was the latest in a long line of bombings by Tamil rebels. Attacks this year included:

* July 29: Moderate Tamil politician Neelan Thiruchelvam killed by a suicide bomber who approached his car in a Colombo suburb.

* September 24: Eighteen people killed and 30 injured in a mine attack on a military convoy in Batticaloa east of Colombo.

Load-Date: March 4, 2002

End of Document

Top court weighs torture as factor in deportation: Justices to decide fate of national security threats

The Ottawa Citizen
May 22, 2001 Tuesday
FINAL EDITION

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Section: NEWS,; Crime

Length: 927 words

Byline: Janice Tibbetts

Body

After dealing a death blow to capital punishment, the next legal frontier for the judges of the Supreme Court of Canada is torture.

In a pair of cases to be heard today, the high court will be the final arbiter on whether the federal government can deport refugees to countries that impose beatings, electric shock, amputation and even death on their citizens.

At issue before the nine judges is whether two Toronto men in their mid-30s -- Manickavasagam Suresh of Sri Lanka and Mansour Ahani of Iran -- have the constitutional right to remain in Canada, despite being classified as security threats by Canadian authorities.

The men have been fighting deportation for years in Canada's judicial system. Mr. Suresh is accused of being a leader and fundraiser for the **Tamil Tigers**, a terrorist organization federal officials allege is responsible for the death of more than 50,000 civilians. Mr. Ahani is said to be a trained assassin for the Iranian secret service, who, like Mr. Suresh, lied about his past when he claimed refugee status in Canada a decade ago.

The Ottawa Citizen

Human rights advocates and refugee groups at home and abroad will join forces against the federal government as it seeks to convince the court to uphold an Immigration Act provision permitting the deportation of suspected terrorists.

The federal government will ask the court to avoid opening Canada's borders to terrorists, particularly since it is already a country of choice, second only to the United States, in being used as a "base camp" for covert offshore fundraising.

"This case will determine whether Canada will become a haven for terrorists," Justice Department lawyers Ursula Kaczmarczyk and Cheryl Mitchell contend in a legal brief.

"Terrorism and terrorist fundraising are serious threats to Canada's security, particularly as this country is seen as a venue of opportunity for terrorists groups to raise funds, purchase arms and conduct other activities to support their organizations and terrorist activities elsewhere."

Top court weighs torture as factor in deportation: Justices to decide fate of national security threats

The case, which is arguably the most significant appeal in the court's spring docket, comes only months after the Supreme Court ruled that Canadian fugitives Sebastian Burns and Atif Rafay cannot be extradited to face murder charges in the United States without assurances that they won't be executed.

In the January ruling, the court dropped a hint that Canadian sensibilities will not tolerate torture either.

Mr. Suresh and Mr. Ahani are challenging a Federal Court of Appeal ruling last year that Canada's right to protect its citizens from accused terrorists outweighs the rights of individual suspects.

But immigration and human rights lawyers, armed with international treaties that Canada signed, argue that today's case will set a benchmark in a global campaign against torture.

"Under international law, the protection from being returned to torture is absolute and binding," say Amnesty International lawyers Michael Battista and Michael Bossin in their written submission.

"Sending someone to a recognized risk of torture in order to preserve Canada's security is a case of the means corrupting the end. Deliberately exposing a person to torture weakens the historical and universal condemnation of torture and perpetuates escalating cycles of human rights abuses."

The intervening United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees urges Canada to return refugees only as a last resort to countries that practise torture, particularly since it would be futile to seek assurances they won't be harmed.

"The risk of torture is not diminished when the country of refugee receives assurances from the refugee's country of origin that torture will not occur," the group says in its legal brief.

"If there are less restrictive means available, such as prosecution in the country of refugee or removal to a third country, then (deportation) cannot be justified."

Mr. Suresh and Mr. Ahani both contend that the federal government is violating their Charter of Rights guarantee to freedom of association in groups that are not even outlawed in Canada.

"This court has recognized freedom of association as one of the hallmarks of a democratic society, distinguishing it from a totalitarian state," say their lawyers, Barbara Jackman and Ronald Poulton, in their written submission.

"It is not the place of Canadian officials to translate political positions on conflicts in other states into sanctions against individuals not engaged in unlawful activity."

To do so would be to "chill the speech" of non-citizens in Canada, particularly ethnic minorities who "may have causes in their homelands rooted in the pursuit of human rights for oppressed people," the lawyers argue.

The federal government describes Mr. Suresh as a "dedicated and trusted leader" of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam, an organization for Sri Lanka's ethnic minority that engages in torture, executions, ethnic cleansing of Muslims, kidnapping and forcible conscription of children.

Mr. Ahani argues that he will be killed if he is returned to Iran, where he says he was jailed after defecting from an Iranian state security mission to blow up safe houses containing women and children, all in support of the Islamic Revolution.

Ms. Jackman notes that the Americans have already dealt with the issue of torture and that an individual cannot be sanctioned because of association with a group.

She stresses the court has already used international human rights norms in determining legislative limits in other immigration cases.

Top court weighs torture as factor in deportation: Justices to decide fate of national security threats

Load-Date: May 22, 2001

End of Document

RIGHTS: UPROOTED CHILDREN VULNERABLE TO EXPLOITATION

IPS-Inter Press Service

December 18, 2001, Tuesday

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Length: 872 words

Byline: By Suvendrini Kakuchi

Dateline: YOKOHAMA, Japan, Dec. 18

Body

Nuri, a Bangladeshi girl faced with grinding poverty at home, was eight years old when she was taken to Pakistan by a man who promised her a job.

"My family was poor and so I went with a man who promised to find me a job. But I ended up in Pakistan where I realized I was sold to a brothel," she is quoted as saying in a document distributed here by the International Labor Organization (ILO) at the Second World Congress on Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children.

For his part, 16-year-old Yasodaran is a Sri Lankan boy who was forcibly recruited to work as a rebel soldier for the separatist **Tamil Tigers**. As is typical of other victims, he is from a poor family and illiterate, having left school when he was in the sixth grade to work on a tea estate.

"I tried to run away from the training camp but the rebel group was vigilant and controlled all my movements," said the young boy.

These two examples show two facets of child trafficking, which can involve the recruitment and transportation of young people within national borders or across countries, for stealing, begging, domestic and farm work, marriages, illegal adoption and sex work.

Often, children end up in one or a combination of these. "Exploitation is often progressive: a child trafficked into one form of labor might then be further abused in commercial sex," according to an ILO report on trafficking.

During discussions here today, experts and activists pointed out that trafficking has become more complicated over the years, and highlight a kind of commercial sexual exploitation different from child sex tourism, for instance.

Dorothy McArthur of the non-governmental group Save the Children says trafficking is being given impetus by rapid and uneven urbanization, migration and racial and other forms of discrimination, against the backdrop of globalization.

"These have contributed to the expansion of the supply of child labor, and fuels demand for commercial sexual exploitation," she said.

In addition, the growth of the sex industry and the advent of new modes of transport have made it easier for criminals to move more quickly and easily across borders.

RIGHTS: UPROOTED CHILDREN VULNERABLE TO EXPLOITATION

"Children provide the cheapest raw material. Trafficking them needs no investments, and produces a lot of money to make yet more money (for other trafficking activities)," explained Panudda Boonpala, senior program officer for the ILO's International Program on the Elimination of Child Labor (IPEC).

"The situation is getting worse," said Panudda, referring more to the numerous forms of trafficking than to the numbers of people trafficked, because estimates of the latter are difficult to make.

Trafficked youngsters -- who are often transported by organized crime groups -- often find themselves in vulnerable situations. For instance, domestic workers are at the mercy of single employers, rarely have access to education and are sometimes forced to provide sex as well.

In Africa, children are trafficked from rural to urban areas within the country and outside of it, and trafficking for domestic work is common among and between West African countries.

There are some 10,000 Nigerian women and children in the sex trade in Italy, some of them as young as 12 years old, according to a report by the first pan-African conference on trafficking held in Abuja in February.

Margherita Amadeo, UNICEF communication officer for western and central Africa, reports the trafficking of young girls from the region for destinations in Europe like Italy and the United Kingdom.

ILO estimates the number of child prostitutes in South Africa at 28,000 to 30,000, about half of whom are between 15 and 18 years old.

UNICEF documents the flow of women and girls from Burma, Laos, Vietnam and Cambodia into Thailand, while Thai girls are trafficked for sex work to places like Japan and Singapore.

Japan is the largest market in Asia, with 150,000 mainly Asian women in the sex trade. Indonesian girls are trafficked to Taiwan and Hong Kong to provide cheap factory work and Filipino girls are sent to Japan.

Some 200,000 sex workers are trafficked from Nepal to India each year and 40,000 are below the age of 16 years.

UNICEF said that some 250,000 women and children in China are victims of trafficking and 30 to 90 percent of the marriages result from trafficking. The Chinese government is also battling the trade in small boys who are bought by families for illegal adoption because of a desire for sons, added a UNICEF report.

In response, some activists are lobbying to make trafficking not only a transnational crime but one against humanity, saying this can be argued under the statute for an International Criminal Court.

Participants at a workshop on human security said that the trade in children should be seen not only as a criminal act but also as a violation of human rights.

Professor Kinhide Mushakoji of the International Movement Against All Forms of Discrimination and Racism, an NGO working against racial discrimination, pointed to weak political will by governments and called for greater awareness in recipient countries on the situation faced by trafficked children.

"Human security should be made a global issue and governments must work together and with concerned NGOs to end the trade," he said.

Load-Date: December 19, 2001

RIGHTS-SRI LANKA: HEALING THE INNER WOUNDS OF ETHNIC WAR

IPS-Inter Press Service

October 22, 2000, Sunday

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Length: 834 words

Byline: By Renuka Senanayake

Dateline: COLOMBO, Oct. 22

Body

The bespectacled Roman Catholic priest wears his cassock only inside the church or when he is travelling out of the Tamil Tiger rebel-held area of Wanni, some 350 km north of the Sri Lankan capital.

The religious habit makes it possible for Edmond Reginold to leave and re-enter the region, which has seen some of the worst violence unleashed by the 17-year-old Tamil Tiger insurgency. Both rebels and government troops permit him to move in and out of Wanni.

Reginold is a familiar sight in Wanni as he rides around on his kerosene-powered motorcycle in search of children, women and old people traumatized by the ethnic violence.

"These people need a lot of help," says Reginold during one of his trips to Colombo. The priest, with a band of volunteers, runs the only psychological counselling center in Wanni.

Nearly 500,000 people live inside the territory controlled by the Tamil Tigers whose violent campaign aims to secure a separate home for the minority Tamil people in this Indian Ocean island nation. For nearly a decade, Wanni has been under a severe economic embargo, imposed by the government to cut off support for the rebels.

Reginold was among the 350,000 people who were driven to Wanni from their homes in the northern Jaffna peninsula five years ago, following a fierce battle there between government troops and the army.

Most residents of Wanni have been displaced more than once by the ethnic violence. For the past four years, government troops have been battling the rebels in this area to clear a highway that runs through the region up north to Jaffna.

The battle has driven tens of thousands of civilians to seek temporary refuge in churches, temples and schools.

"During this time we worked very closely with the people, there were many who attempted to commit suicide and suffered severe depression," says Reginold, who is a professionally trained counsellor. He works with a team of 11 girls and 10 boys, trained by him.

The priest uses art and play therapy to help the children. "It is very effective. Pictures reveal the trauma they carry," he says. The ethnic violence has orphaned hundreds of children in Wanni.

RIGHTS- SRI LANKA : HEALING THE INNER WOUNDS OF ETHNIC WAR

During the therapy sessions, the children mostly draw pictures of war. They are amazed to see the picture of a train. A rail track runs through Wannī, but the children have never seen a train on it because the railway line has not been used since the violence began.

"When we concentrate on the children, we are concentrating on a whole generation," says Reginold, who also lost a member of his family in the violence.

He and his team looks for scarred minds in hospitals, schools, medical centers, and homes for elders. At schools, they talk to students, identify their problems and explain how they can get over these.

Training sessions are also held for pre-school teachers, health care workers, and care givers at children's homes, to help them identify trauma-related problems.

"We are talking of a vast area. Here people cannot afford to drop in at our center as transport is another depressing problem in Wannī. Our field counsellors identify cases and report to me," he says. His counselling center is simple mud wall-and-coconut thatch-roof house.

Members of his team ride between 30 to 40 km a day on bicycles to visit those needing their help. Motorcycles are too expensive to use, with a litre of kerosene costing 200 rupees (about \$ 2.70).

The steep fuel price is a result of the government-imposed economic embargo, which is meant to make things difficult for the rebels. In government controlled areas, a litre of kerosene sells for less than one-tenth this price.

The economic embargo has affected local livelihoods and the provision of basic health care to the people.

A ban on the sale of fishing equipment and farm fertilizer has made it difficult for the locals to make a living. Most Wannī residents were either farmers or fishermen, before they were driven here by the violence in Jaffna.

The sale of petrol and diesel is rationed. There is a ban on the sale of electric batteries for fear that these could fall into the hands of the rebels. Even the sale of some medicines and medical equipment, is banned. Thousands of children suffer from malnutrition, says Reginold. Hospitals are overcrowded and doctors are scarce.

For Reginold, keeping his links with Colombo is crucial. He comes to Colombo whenever he gets a chance. Once he gets permission from the rebels, he takes a one-day military pass to enter Vavuniya, the closest army center, where he has to apply for a special pass to travel south to Colombo.

This time it took him more than 10 days to obtain the travel pass in Vavuniya. In Colombo, he has to register with the police division in the area where he plans to stay. For ordinary civilians living in Wannī, this journey is an impossible dream.

"This hassle is worth compared to what I can take back home. I mainly shop for books for my colleagues and spend time with people who are involved in the same type of work," says Reginold with a smile.

Load-Date: October 24, 2000

NEWS IN BRIEF

The Philadelphia Inquirer

NOVEMBER 22, 1999 Monday SF EDITION

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The Philadelphia Inquirer

Found on Philly.com

Section: NATIONAL; Pg. A02

Length: 913 words

Body

IN THE NATION Popularity of drug use dropping among teens

Drug use is becoming more unpopular among teenagers, according to an annual survey by the Partnership for a Drug-Free America. The 12th survey of more than 6,000 U.S. teenagers, released today, found that 40 percent of those questioned felt that "really cool" teens did not use drugs - an increase of 5 percentage points from last year. Use of marijuana, inhalants, methamphetamines, LSD, cocaine and crack cocaine were all down.

Four dead after shootings at Indiana party

A man angry at being thrown out of a party at an apartment building returned with a gun early yesterday, killing three people and wounding two others before taking his own life, Angola, Ind., authorities said. Identities of the suspect and other victims were not immediately available.

Gates Foundation gives \$26 million to UNICEF

The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation in Seattle has given \$26 million to UNICEF to pay for programs fighting maternal and neonatal tetanus, which caused more than 215,000 deaths in developing nations last year, the foundation announced yesterday. The disease, which killed just one U.S. newborn in 1998, is one of the world's most serious ailments afflicting infants and their mothers. It can be prevented by immunizing women with a vaccine.

Animal-research center vandalized

Animal-rights activists are suspected of vandalizing a Washington State University research center and destroying equipment used in animal research, authorities said yesterday. The Avian Health Laboratory and parts of the Disease Diagnostic Laboratory, both in Puyallup, Wash., were broken into late Friday or early Saturday. Equipment was smashed, chlorine was poured throughout the building, and slogans were spray-painted on walls, including the letters "ALF," said sheriff's spokesman Ed Troyer. ALF is the abbreviation for Animal Liberation Front, which last month claimed responsibility for break-ins at several labs at Western Washington University in Bellingham.

U.S. seeks deportation of former Nazi guard

NEWS IN BRIEF

A 76-year-old native of Poland who now lives in Ellenville, N.Y., has been charged with lying about his ties to Nazi Germany when he was sworn in as a U.S. citizen in 1955. Authorities are seeking to strip Mykola Wasylyk of his citizenship and have him deported. Wasylyk served as an armed guard in a Nazi slave labor camp in World War II, according to a civil complaint filed in U.S. District Court.

IN THE WORLD Jordan releases some Palestinian detainees

Jordan released about two dozen detainees from the militant Palestinian group Hamas yesterday, but four freed leaders were immediately flown to Qatar. It was not known whether the men were flown out of their own accord. The government had offered to free the men if they pledged to leave the country, but Hamas had rejected the offers.

Anger over plans for mosque in Nazareth

Israel issued more assurances yesterday that it would protect Christian interests in Nazareth, the town where Jesus grew up, despite approving the construction of a mosque there. The decision to build the mosque angered the Vatican and cast a cloud over a planned pilgrimage by Pope John Paul II to Nazareth in March. Christian leaders plan to close the local basilica and other churches in the Holy Land on Nov. 22 and 23 in protest.

35 killed in attack on shrine in Sri Lanka

The Sri Lankan church said at least 35 refugees were killed and 60 wounded when a 450-year-old Catholic shrine in the northern Wanni region came under attack. The Sri Lankan military and rebel ***Tamil Tigers*** blamed each other for the killings. A church statement did not blame anyone for the attack but said the holy shrine of Our Lady of Madhu, a major pilgrimage site for Catholics, had come under fire late on Saturday, when some 300 government soldiers were in the compound.

Brazilian peasants end protest over farmland

About 200 Brazilian peasants demanding land abandoned a six-day protest outside President Fernando Henrique Cardoso's countryside farm yesterday to start peaceful negotiations, authorities said. Members of the Landless Movement, which promotes invasions of unused farmland, have been camped in makeshift tents on a dirt road outside Cardoso's ranch in Buritis, about 190 miles from Brasilia, since Tuesday.

Remains of Hurricane Lenny over open water

The remnants of Hurricane Lenny spun northeastward over the open Atlantic yesterday as residents of the northeastern Caribbean tallied the cost of its three-day visit to the islands. Lenny killed at least 13 and brought flooding rains and destructive winds to more than four million people.

Militants linked to Pakistan bombing

Militant supporters of deposed prime minister Nawaz Sharif claimed responsibility yesterday for a bomb explosion that killed six people in Lahore, the capital of Pakistan's eastern Punjab province. The bomb ripped through a market in Lahore, Sharif's hometown, on Saturday. Two children were among the dead. Eighteen people were wounded.

Central Venice under high water

Venice was swamped yesterday as water levels reached their highest point for 14 months in torrential rain lashing Italy. More than a third of the historic center of Venice was under water, and levels reached 4 feet above the normal tide mark.

Pope canonizes 12 people as saints

NEWS IN BRIEF

Pope John Paul proclaimed 10 Spaniards and two Italians saints in a solemn ceremony at the Vatican yesterday, bringing to 296 the total number of Catholics he has canonized in his 21-year reign.

Load-Date: October 22, 2002

End of Document

Study in contrasts as Jaffna struggles back to life

THE AUSTRALIAN

June 21, 1996, Friday

Copyright 1996 Nationwide News Pty Limited

Length: 494 words

Byline: AMAL JAYASINGHE

Body

AN elderly man sits in front of an old typewriter in this warbattered town doing a brisk business filling out police compensation claims for homes damaged during years of ethnic strife.

Mr K. Arulanathan, 62, and his instant business centre outside the partly bombed main hospital face little competition with no shortage of customers wanting neatly typed reports.

Residents pay 10 rupees (25c) a page to fill out a mandatory claim typed in triplicate to qualify for compensation that the Government hopes to pay to hundreds of thousands of home owners affected by the years of fighting.

His make-shift "office" consists of a small wooden stool, a few sheets of carbon paper, a stack of poor-quality A4 paper and a 25-year-old Royal typewriter. "Business is very good for me. I draft the complaint in a style acceptable to the police," Mr Arulanathan said as two women and a man waited patiently. "I work six hours a day and earn enough for myself and my three children." Business has improved considerably since the departure of the separatist Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam, who ruled the town as the capital of their de facto State until they were dislodged late last year. Officials said about 80 per cent of homes in the region, the symbol of Tamil separatism and seat of the minority Hindu culture in Sri Lanka, have been damaged by fighting. Gone is a parallel civil administration set up by the Tigers since they were given the Jaffna peninsula on a platter by a former president, Ranasinghe Premadasa, in exchange for peace talks, which broke down in June 1990.

More than 50,000 people have died since the separatist campaign erupted in 1972 and escalated into an intense guerilla war from July 1983.

Jaffna's top rehabilitation official, Mr Somapala Gunadheera, said his main priority was restoring food supplies to 400,000 refugees who returned to Jaffna and repairing their homes.

The reconstruction work was expected to cost 18 billion rupees (\$412 million), mostly from foreign donors.

Military officials said their success in taking Jaffna led to the unexpected influx of people who fled the fighting late last year.

"We have managed to wean the people away from the LTTE," a senior military commander said.

"But that may not last if we are not able to show some results in the rehabilitation front."

An elderly man said: "People will not support armed groups.

But the Government must see that we have enough to eat."

Study in contrasts as Jaffna struggles back to life

At the root of the Government's problems in Jaffna is the lack of a mainland supply route to the town, once known for its dark grapes, red onions and chillies.

The Tigers, driven out in a fierce battle that cost the lives of 500 soldiers and an estimated 3000 rebels, have withdrawn to the jungles to the south and control the main road to Jaffna.

Military officials said there was an urgent need to open a land route to this former Tiger citadel, but such a move would require a fresh offensive that promised to be just as bloody.

Load-Date: March 1, 2002

End of Document

GENTLE PEACEMAKERS, OR DEADLIER THAN THE MALE?

COURIER-MAIL

November 25, 1995 Saturday

Copyright 1995 Nationwide News Pty Limited

Section: MONITOR; Pg. 25

Length: 823 words

Byline: WILSON B

Body

KEYWORD-HIT Gentle peacemakers, or deadlier than the male? R UDYARD Kipling it was who told us that the female of the species is more dangerous than the male, and it has been a week to consider that, in Britain especially, but in other places too in our troubled world. Two women dominated the news here in very different ways, but each through a show of shivering power: Princess Diana, whose clever and gripping television appearance has put an entire royal dynasty at threat; and Rosemary West, a study in horror unmatched in the recent criminal history of the female of the species. Endless psychobabble followed about both women, mostly by men. It was generally agreed that in each case the wife was a stronger personality than the husband. In the case of Rose West, witnesses who knew both her and her dead husband, Fred, had no doubt she was the lead in this particular dance of death. The fascination with a monstrous or powerful woman shone through in both stories. It is the same fascination that makes Elizabeth I more interesting than, say, James I, or Catherine the Great more intriguing than Peter the Great. Or is it? Or is that just another hangover of male prejudices in a world where opinion has been formed by images created by men? One of the questions all this raises is: whatever happened to the image of women as gentle peacemakers? In the present climate of egalitarianism, I suppose that might be considered a sexist question, in that it typecasts an entire gender.

QNPBut, the reason that Elizabeth and Catherine and Joan of Arc _ or Golda Meir, Indira Gandhi or Margaret Thatcher _ held our attention so strongly is that they were not only mould-breakers, but of infinitely more strength than their contemporary male counterparts. In India, when I worked there, the joke went that Mrs Gandhi was "the only man in a Cabinet of old women" _ and, when you think of it, that is not really a sexist joke. Still, in India of all societies, women were not only seen as peacemakers but as the matriarchal influence in every home that kept wanton and silly men under some kind of control. Has that changed? Well, yes. It was a young Tamil woman, garlanded in the traditional marigolds of goodwill, who in May, 1991, walked to present a necklace of flowers to Indira Gandhi's son, Rajiv, and, as he approached her, smiling, set off the huge bomb she had wrapped around herself beneath her sari, killing him and her, and many others. Since then, the Tamil Tigers have produced platoons of fearsome young female fighters, many of them only in their low teens, prepared to die for their obscure nationalist/religious cause. The woman as warrior is not new _ it is as old as mythology _ but still rare enough for us to devote special attention to it. Then, just what is the fascination? Without doubt the most chilling play I have seen in the past 10 years on the London stage was the Diana Rigg Medea, Euripides's story of the woman who murders her two adored young sons rather than lose them to her husband and his new woman. The combination of Dame Diana's beauty and the bloodstained finale was more shocking than, for example, Titus Andronicus could ever be. For this was a woman. So, it is nothing new. Euripides lived in the fifth century before Jesus Christ and, clever old playwright that he was, he knew a ripping yarn when he heard one, and knew the appeal of a story about a powerful, inexorable woman. Perhaps, then, should we dismiss the theory of "gentle peacemaker" altogether? It would seem to me that we might drop "gentle" from the equation straight away. Let's take a couple of

GENTLE PEACEMAKERS, OR DEADLIER THAN THE MALE?

acknowledged peacemakers _ Florence Nightingale and Mother Theresa. Each was or is as tough as boot leather. Anyone who has had anything to do with hospitals or battlefields will know the steely inner strength of nurses. In the case of the ghastly Rose West, the jury found that, unaided, she killed her stepdaughter and then, with her wretched husband, killed her natural daughter. Even if Fred West were still alive _ he went to his suicide still defending his wife, and trying to protect her from justice _ he probably would not be seen to be as great a monster as Rose. The answer would seem to be that we judge women differently, and I presume that is something that modern feminists would want to change, along with everything else. Perceiving women as ""gentle peacemakers" is probably as offensive to these as ""docile homemakers" or even ""loving partners". Men, they would argue, try to cast all women in the image of their mothers. And maybe they would be right. I suppose the answer is that, on all the great moral issues, women and men basically are not that much different. As the final barriers break down, equality of attitudes will go hand in hand with the more tangible marks of equality. It will become a question in a modern Sociology II paper. The female of the species is deadlier than the male. Discuss.

Load-Date: October 1, 2003

End of Document

WWII sex slaves to be compensated by Japan

USA TODAY

July 20, 1996, Saturday,

ATLANTA FINAL EDITION

Copyright 1996 Gannett Company, Inc.

Section: NEWS;

Length: 790 words

Body

A private fund started with government money will pay \$ 18,500 in compensation to each of the approximately 300 Chinese women who were forced to provide sex for Japanese soldiers during World War II. Part of the money will come from the Japanese government, which has up to now refused to pay direct compensation. The payments will be in lump sums to the women starting later this summer. Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto also will write a letter to each of the women apologizing for their suffering, he said. "It will clearly be an apology expressing remorse," Harada said. The first two of a group of Chinese women sex slaves who are suing the Japanese government for \$ 740,000 in compensation testified before a Tokyo court Friday about their treatment during the war as "comfort women."

U.S. TO TURN OVER SAILOR: The United States agreed Friday to turn over a 20-year-old sailor to Japanese police. The sailor, whose name was withheld, is from the guided missile frigate USS McClusky. He will be immediately arrested after the handover. Police said Kaori Tanigawa, 20, was cut in the throat and had her handbag stolen while walking in a park in Sasebo, near Nagasaki on Tuesday morning. She identified the attacker as a "foreigner." Last October, Washington agreed to hand over military personnel who are suspects in serious criminal cases in Japan and not wait for them to be indicted. This sailor will be the first under the deal.

BEAR POACHERS ARRESTED: Thailand's tourism authority has warned

WWII sex slaves to be compensated by Japan

South Koreans not to visit Thailand in order to eat bear, *The Nation* newspaper reported. Bears are protected under Thai law. Five South Korean tourists currently face up to four years in prison and \$ 1,600 in fines after police discovered 24 bear paws and entrails in their van. Bear parts are thought to have medicinal properties and are a lucrative business in Asia.

WARNING TO SINGAPORE: Singapore elder statesman Lee Kuan Yew criticized younger Singaporeans for taking prosperity for granted and lacking the commitment of their forbears to keep the country strong. "In the 1960s and 1970s, everybody knew we were in peril. Now, that sense of obligation is not so strong," he said. In a speech to trade unionists, Lee also said government ministers and civil servants should be paid good salaries to discourage corruption and attract good people. Singapore officials, whose salaries are pegged to two-thirds the prevailing salary in private business, are among the best paid in the world.

TAMIL TIGERS ON OFFENSIVE: Sri Lanka Tamil rebels sank a navy gunboat with 40 government soldiers aboard. A rebel Sea Tiger naval wing suicide boat rammed the gunboat with soldiers landing to reinforce defenders of a besieged army camp. It was not immediately clear how many casualties there were in the naval attack. Government troops are under heavy attack from rebels who claim to have killed 500 soldiers when they overran the strategic Mullaitivu camp, 175 miles from Colombo. The latest attacks come a week before the 13th anniversary of anti-Tamil riots that began the ethnic conflict in which more than 50,000 people have died.

ROW OVER ASIAN ISLANDS: A territorial dispute has broken out over a lighthouse built on an East China Sea island claimed by Japan, China and Taiwan. In a rare collaboration, China and Taiwan together lodged a protest. Japan's coast guard confirmed that the Tokyo-based Nihon Seinen-sha (Japan Youth Federation) sailed to the Senkakus, known in China as the Diaoyu Islands, and built a lighthouse 16 feet high on one of the small uninhabited islands about 190 miles west of Okinawa and 125 miles east of Taiwan. Japan reiterated its claim to the Islands, but said it would not respond to the protest.

SUU KYI AT CEREMONY FOR FATHER: Burma's democracy leader Aung San Suu Kyi placed flowers at her father's tomb during state ceremonies commemorating his assassination. Government and military dignitaries watched as Nobel Prize winner Suu Kyi publicly honored Gen. Aung San, the Burmese independence hero. Critics wondered if she would dare attend the ceremony because of her deteriorating relationship with the military junta. The nightly state-run television noted

WWII sex slaves to be compensated by Japan

Suu Kyi's appearance, but didn't mention her by name. The service coincided with the opening of a foreign ministers meeting of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations in Jakarta, Indonesia, where Burma will be granted observer status. In an interview published Friday in the French daily Le Monde, Suu Kyi urged ASEAN to reconsider its decision. She said it would "only reinforce the regime in place without improving the situation." Earlier this week, Suu Kyi urged the European Union in a smuggled videotape to adopt strict economic sanctions against Burma as a means of forcing the ruling military junta to give up power.

Graphic

PHOTO, B/W, Yvonne Chang, Reuters; PHOTO, B/W, Charles Dharapak, AP; WWII sex abuse: Li Xiumei and Liu Mianhuan to get \$18,500. Protest: Activists demand more than observer status for Burma in a meeting of Asian foreign ministers in Bangkok.

Load-Date: July 20, 1996

End of Document

SECRET WAR RAGES IN SRI LANKA; STATE WOMAN HELPS DIRECT AID IN REMOTE ISLAND NATION

Wisconsin State Journal (Madison, WI)

January 8, 1995, Sunday,

ALL EDITIONS

Copyright 1995 Madison Newspapers, Inc.

Section: Forum,

Length: 855 words

Byline: BY ED TRELEVENFM; WISCONSIN STATE JOURNAL

Body

Driving from La Crosse to Madison during her recent holiday break, Lora Wuennenberg tried to reconcile her life in Sri Lanka with the empty, rolling Wisconsin countryside.

"It's hard to think that a place like that is on the same planet as Madison," said Wuennenberg, assistant country director in Sri Lanka for CARE, the international relief organization. "I'm fortunate that I've been able to experience both. It puts a very different perspective on the issue of poverty and need."

Wuennenberg, a Madison West High School graduate, has spent the better part of the past 15 years working overseas, mostly in Third World countries that are geographically and culturally distant from Wisconsin. She has spent eight years with CARE, the past 2+ in Sri Lanka.

Sri Lanka is an island nation in the Indian Ocean's Bay of Bengal, just off India's southern tip. Its 11-year civil war, pitting the rebel Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam against government forces, has claimed more than 30,000 lives and left refugees struggling to keep families together.

Parliamentary and presidential elections this year have raised hopes that the fighting may someday end. Chandrika Kumaratunga, elected prime minister in August and president in November, has promised talks with the **Tamil Tigers**, who in the past had sought complete separation from Sri Lanka but will now accept autonomy for their region in Sri Lanka's north.

Most affected by the fighting, said Wuennenberg, are **women** and children who have lost sons, husbands and fathers. And they are among Sri Lanka's poorest, left in harm's way without the means to avoid the conflict. Their lives are constantly disrupted and they lack permanent housing, food and other vital services. Wuennenberg works in the northern and eastern sections with about 150,000 refugees. She works beside six other Americans and Europeans and about 150 Sri Lankan nationals.

CARE's work concentrates on helping Sri Lankans become self-sufficient. Agricultural programs, providing irrigation and seeds and other economic development and health projects have become the cornerstones of CARE efforts in Sri Lanka.

In the past, CARE had supplied food to Sri Lanka's hungry, but those functions have since been taken over by the Sri Lankan government and other local organizations.

SECRET WAR RAGES IN SRI LANKA ; STATE WOMAN HELPS DIRECT AID IN REMOTE ISLAND NATION

Americans and other Europeans working in Sri Lanka don't feel the danger that relief workers in other world hot spots, said Wuennenberg, despite hearing the occasional sounds of shooting and shelling.

"I have a sense of being careful," said Wuennenberg. "But I'm much more focused on the task and people that we're working with. I don't operate out of fear of it all."

CARE's good reputation in Sri Lanka also helps smooth problems through negotiation. "Unlike some other countries, they recognize that CARE and other agencies have an important role to play," said Wuennenberg. "It's easier in Sri Lanka than in similar situations elsewhere."

But poor roads and difficult terrain don't help, said Wuennenberg, especially because CARE has to truck in all of its supplies. Continued fighting also means conditions are likely to change rapidly.

"We can't do much planning because things tend to be short term," said Wuennenberg. Some Sri Lankans also have expectations of Westerners that are unrealistically high. With so much need, relief workers sometimes find themselves listening to refugees' every trouble.

"There may be the expectations that people have that as foreigners and Americans, we can be as generous as Santa Claus, but that's not always the case," said Wuennenberg.

But it's that sense of urgency that makes working in Sri Lanka both difficult and exhilarating, said Wuennenberg.

"That's the hard part, but it's what hooked me into this kind of work," said Wuennenberg. "It's the immediacy, the urgency that has hooked me in day after day."

Sri Lanka is far back in the consciousness of most Americans. Despite the costly civil war, news from Sri Lanka is rare, and efforts to raise money here for relief efforts don't fare as well as for other places that make network television news.

"Growing up in Madison had a big impact on my interest in international travel and working internationally," said Wuennenberg. "The international community at the university had a big influence."

A keen interest in third world affairs led her to go abroad after studying at UW-Madison and earning a degree at New York University. Her first job was with the YMCA's programs in Senegal, and she has since worked in Bangladesh and the Philippines.

But back home in Wisconsin, the world seems a very different place.

"I just think how lucky Americans are," said Wuennenberg. "I know that not everybody feels that way. But I just feel grateful at what we have in this country." "Bosnia or Rwanda hits the people on TV. They're easier for people to see," said Wuennenberg. "Sri Lanka is small and remote. It's not easy to raise funds for Sri Lanka."

The bulk of CARE's funding comes from private donations and grants from U.N. agencies and other government agencies.

Wuennenberg's interest in other cultures started in Madison.

Graphic

Lora Wuennenberg Map of Sri Lanka

Load-Date: January 10, 1995

SECRET WAR RAGES IN SRI LANKA ; STATE WOMAN HELPS DIRECT AID IN REMOTE ISLAND NATION

End of Document

President and prisoner

The Times (London)

February 13, 2002, Wednesday

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Section: Features

Length: 1161 words

Byline: Vanya Kewley

Body

A life in Sri Lankan politics has cost Chandrika Kumaratunga dear, says Vanya Kewley

For a woman whose vision is to bring peace to her country, Chandrika Kumaratunga's horizons are now very restricted. Entrenched in her residence, surrounded by steel barriers, army roadblocks and armed security, she has become a hostage of a war which has held Sri Lanka in a state of siege for nearly two decades.

"I'm a prisoner," she says. "If I go into the garden there are a lot of hulking men around me. One day I burst out crying because I did not have the freedom to walk in my own garden.

"I don't leave this house more than once a month. It is terrible because the greatest pleasure in my life is not going to a nightclub or a restaurant - although I love good food -but to walk on a road among ordinary people. To sit on a beach looking at the sea with an easel and paint. Just to sit anywhere in the open and look at a beautiful tree."

The Executive President of Sri Lanka, and, until recently, defence and finance minister, is speaking in the drawing room of the mansion of a former colonial Governor of Ceylon, in downtown Colombo. We walk through a vast drawing room with painted ceilings and chandeliers, once the scene of glittering balls.

"I love gardening," she says, looking out onto an immaculate garden with neat borders of tropical plants. But beyond the white frangipani fringing the electrified perimeter fence, the war that has raged for 18 years between the separatist Liberation Tigers of Tamil Elam (*LTTE*) and the Government. It is a conflict that has claimed the lives of 60,000 people, including those of Kumaratunga's father and husband.

With her two children, Yasodara, 20, and Bimukthi, 18, studying abroad, she now lives alone in the mansion with a dedicated staff. She fills her time with work on state papers and has a loyal band of friends, many from her childhood, but she appears lonely and still clearly misses her husband. When I ask her about him, for a brief moment, a softness crosses her face. "Although it has been nearly 14 years, yes, I miss him very much," she says. "We had a very good relationship. It was a very rich one, too."

She married Vijaya Kumaratunga, a leading opposition politician and film idol, in 1978. A decade later, he was gunned down in front of her and their two children. Her father, Solomon Bandaranaike, was assassinated by an opposition party terrorist when she was 14. Then two years ago, a Tamil suicide bomber targeted Kumaratunga herself. In the attempt, 26 people were killed, scores were injured, and she lost the sight of one eye.

Kumaratunga was born into politics. "My father was already a senior minister when I was born. After his assassination, my mother took over and was elected the world's first *female* Prime Minister in 1961. So, from a very

President and prisoner

early age, I've known that life in politics wasn't going to be easy. But my parents imbued us with a deep sense of commitment to the country and the people, especially poor people. I felt very strongly that we had to do something for them."

She was born to high-caste aristocrats with immense wealth. Her paternal grandfather was so feudal that only nobles of the same rank as himself were permitted to eat at his table. But when her father became head of the family, he dispensed with the feudal trappings, and encouraged his children to do the same.

From the age of five, Kumaratunga played with the poor village children and her parents fostered her precocious concern for the poor. After her father's assassination in 1959 (by a demented Buddhist monk convinced that Bandaranaike was giving too much leeway to the Tamil minority) her mother, Sirimavo, took over and began a wide-ranging programme of reform and development. She brought in the Land Reform Act, whereby no citizen could own more than 50 acres of land.

The Bandaranaiques owned more than 100,000 acres. "My mother was probably the only leader in the world who nationalised her own family's wealth!" the President says. "It was given to poor landless farmers."

Her mother's most fateful step was to push through legislation, initiated by her husband, to replace English with Sinhala as the official language and make Buddhism the official religion. This inflamed ethnic Tamils (brought in by the British as indentured labour) who make up one fifth of Sri Lanka's 18 million people. It also started the country's slide towards war. Ironically, Kumaratunga came to power on a peace ticket in 1994 and again in the 1999 elections.

Kumaratunga's mother died last October, the latest chapter in a life dogged by personal tragedy. In 1978, when she married Vijaya Kumaratunga, she was already elected to parliament. She emerged as a political leader when she and her husband established the Sri Lanka People's Party. Then, on a warm spring morning on February 16, 1988, her life was devastated.

"It was a holiday. The children were home from school. My husband was going to some function. He was walking back to the car, holding Yasodara by the hand, when I heard shots.

"I saw five men standing round this figure on the ground. Then all I saw was a chap standing over this figure pumping bullets into his head. I didn't know it was my husband. My daughter, who was then seven, came up screaming and crying 'Tathi! Tathi!' ('Daddy! Daddy!')."

After the assassination, she says, Yasodara didn't talk about her father for years. "Even now when his films are on TV, she just switches them off. It is only recently that she started talking about him.

Bimukthi, then five, also saw the shooting. "He reacted by getting angry with me, stamping his feet and throwing tantrums. For three or four months after the assassination I did nothing but cry. I had to get away, otherwise I would have killed myself. So I went to London." (In fact she stayed there for three years as a research fellow at the Commonwealth Institute).

Systematic violence only came to Sri Lanka in 1978 when the **LTTE** launched a war of sporadic guerrilla attacks, fighting for an independent Tamil state, which no Sinhalese government would ever give. The violence erupted in nationwide pogroms against the Tamils in 1983 -40 per cent of the world's suicide bombings have been Sri Lankan -and brought terrorism to the doorstep of every Sri Lankan.

Elections are now invariably accompanied by violence and assassinations. The general election last December led to more than 200 deaths and 2,000 incidents of serious violence.

After the attempt on her life, the security straitjacket tightened around her. Her children beg her to leave politics but she is immune to the constant death threats.

President and prisoner

Her presidency runs until December 2005, and Kumaratunga will remain the Tamils' primary target. "The Tigers are out to get me, in or out of politics. Sometimes they wait ten to 15 years. I don't fear for my life. Assassination happens to people in my position. You forget thinking about yourself, otherwise you would die of fear."

Load-Date: February 13, 2002

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AT LEISURE IN LANKA

Sunday Herald Sun

October 10, 1993 Sunday

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Length: 802 words

Byline: BURNS J

Body

THE traffic was banking up and everyone was becoming hot and bothered. But despite the cacophony of tooting from our bus driver and countless others behind us, it was obvious the local in control of the ox-driven cart in front was in no mood to move or go faster.

Finally, our driver found a space and we were off, only to be confronted by an elephant strolling along the road with his handler.

Spend some time on the roads of Sri Lanka and you're sure to come across such examples of animal transport, as well as buses overflowing with commuters, and motorcyclists who seem not to have heard of speed limits.

But the traffic is only one part of this Indian Ocean island, formerly Ceylon, which has spectacular scenery ranging from dense jungle to tea plantations and white sandy beaches.

Remnants of settlements dating back more than 2000 years are still standing and are open for public inspection, as are the country's many temples and mosques.

An ideal way to see the scenery and experience the culture is to drive from Sri Lanka's capital, Colombo, to the Hill Country and the towns of Kandy and Nuwara Eliya.

At the start of the journey you'll pass waterlogged rice paddies where farmers still use water buffaloes to plough the fields.

Then, as the road narrows and starts the climb up to Nuwara Eliya, the scenery changes to misty blue mountains, green valleys, cascading waterfalls and verdant tea-covered hills.

A visit to Nuwara Eliya offers the chance to experience what life must have been like under the British from 1796 to 1948. Indeed, walk around the city and you'll find it hard to believe you're in Sri Lanka and not Britain. Many of the avenues, walks, houses and parks are faithful recreations of England.

Nuwara is also the ideal place to experience Sri Lanka's famous tea. Due to the altitude, the plantations around town are known to provide some of the best tea in the world.

Also in this region is Adam's Peak, one of the world's holiest mountains.

On the summit is a footprint that Moslems believe was made by Adam after he was cast out of the Garden of Eden.

AT LEISURE IN LANKA

Hindus believe it was made by their Lord Shiva, while Christians believe it was made by the Apostle of the East, St Thomas. Buddhists claim it belongs to Lord Buddha.

The township of Kandy has special significance for Buddhists and Sri Lanka as a whole.

Built on a large man-made lake and bordered on three sides by the Mahaweli River, this city held off invading forces for more than 300 years, and as such, was the last capital of the Sinhalese kings.

It is also the home of the magnificent golden-roofed medieval Dalada Maligawa temple and the Sacred Tooth Relic.

Buddhists believe the tooth, which is stored within a casket, belongs to Lord Buddha. While the tooth is hardly ever seen, the casket is on display in an inner shrine area.

Another popular spot is the Mahaweli River. The scenery is so spectacular that part of the film Indiana Jones and the Temple of Doom was shot here.

Also worth a visit are Sri Lanka's ancient cities, including Anuradhapura, Sigiriya and Polonnaruwa.

Anuradhapura is the best known of the three, dating back to the fifth century BC. A number of the Buddhist monuments here are well over 2000 years old.

At Sigiriya, Sri Lanka's ancient history is at its most melodramatic.

The rock fortress was the stronghold of a fifth century king who murdered his father.

Built around a 200-metre rocky outcrop, Sigiriya is best known for the paintings of beautiful women found on a sheltered ledge on the side of the rock.

The summit features remains of the vast palace of Kasyapa, complete with bathing pools and platforms for dancing girls.

As well as its history, Sri Lanka also features beautiful and unpolluted beaches, with soft sand and palm trees.

While the beaches in the north are also renowned, this area is very much off limits to tourists because it is where the conflict is greatest between the rebel Tamil Tigers and the Sri Lankan Government.

If you are planning to visit Sri Lanka it's also important to realise you are visiting a developing country.

There is begging, especially in the bigger cities such as Colombo, and you will often find yourself accompanied by persistent self-appointed "guides".

But the scenery and history of the island makes up for any slight annoyance you may feel.

AT A GLANCE AIR Lanka, British Airways, Thai International, Singapore Airlines and Malaysian Airlines all fly to Sri Lanka via Singapore, Kuala Lumpur or Bangkok.

Destination International is offering a Sri Lanka cultural special which costs \$1389 and includes return airfares ex-Melbourne with Qantas and Air Lanka, six nights accommodation at Browns Beach Hotel, breakfasts and transfers. Details: 670-5966.

END OF STORY

Graphic

AT LEISURE IN LANKA

Drive time: A journey across the Indian Ocean island of Sri Lanka,formerly Ceylon, will take you past elephants, rice paddies, mosques,monuments and spectacular scenery. (COLOR)

Load-Date: November 28, 2003

End of Document

In today's politics, you can't tell the labels without a scorecard

The Ottawa Citizen

March 15, 1992, Sunday, FINAL EDITION

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Section: FORUM; (NEWS); THE MEDIA; Pg. B2

Length: 849 words

Byline: CHRIS COBB; CITIZEN

Body

A good friend of mine looked up from her newspaper some weeks ago and asked: "What's the difference between a right winger and a left winger?"

I was amazed at the question. This woman has a university degree, reads newspapers, listens to all the right radio programs and generally knows what's going on.

I gave an approximate answer - left-wingers range from NDP to Communist; right wingers from conservative to fascist. Communists would be left-wing extremists and fascists right-wing extremists.

"Well, how can the people who tried to overthrow Gorbachev be right wing conservatives?" she responded. "I thought they were hardline Communists."

Tough question, I thought.

"Well," I responded, "everything's relative."

She smiled, skeptically, and continued reading.

I decided her question was not as simplistic as it first sounded. This is a confusing world and the media, ever in search of handy, yet often meaningless labels, don't always help matters.

The gang that tried to take over the Kremlin last August was often referred to as right-wing, even though they were dyed-in-the-wool Communists. A political scientist might understand the subtlety.

Last weekend, I saw a reference that concluded President Rafsanjani of Iran has "liberal" tendencies. Liberal! Not, I would bet, to thieves who have had their hands cut off, or to the thousands of women arrested by morality police for not wearing veils (public lashing is the punishment). Does not being quite as nasty as Ayatollah Khomeini really qualify as liberal?

U.S. Democratic presidential hopeful Paul Tsongas referred to himself last week as a "pro-business liberal." President Rafsanjani is currently courting western business interests to help his troubled economy. Maybe he and Tsongas should get together. They obviously have lots in common.

We have hardliners, radicals, militants, reformers, extremists and moderates. They appear on the left, right and the centre. But who are they?

In today's politics, you can't tell the labels without a scorecard

Everyone in the west was happy to accept Mikhail Gorbachev as a moderate reformer until Boris Yeltsin came along. Then it was not uncommon to read about Gorbachev - a loyal Communist till the end - being a hardliner on certain matters.

A few years ago while on a settlement in Northern Israel I was involved in a conversation about cross-border raids into Israel by Palestinians. Without thinking, I referred to the raiding Palestinians as guerrillas. The heated, animated discussion suddenly became cold and silent.

"They are not guerrillas," said one Israeli gravely. "They are terrorists. Do not make that mistake."

There's a nobility in being a guerrilla. Terrorists, on the other hand, are among the lowest, most cowardly forms of humanity. Yet they do essentially the same thing -- disrupt society, kill and maim people in the name of a cause.

So how do you decide?

Ask Palestinians which word best describes those involved in cross-border raids against Israel. They would not choose "terrorist."

There are many examples, past and present: the Viet Cong, the FLQ, the FMLN in El Salvador, the IRA in Ireland, the Sikhs (always referred to as militant) in Punjab, the Basques in Spain, the Tamil Tigers in Sri Lanka.

Those who have some knowledge of such terrorist/guerrilla organizations probably have an emotional bias about each one. It is likely, for example, that most of us would consider the IRA terrorists, but be more on the guerrilla side when it comes to the FMLN in El Salvador.

Journalists reporting from foreign lands are influenced by well-organized government propaganda machines, personal values and values of the society they come from. They often seek easy descriptions that will help them understand the complex forces at work in a foreign land. This is particularly true of reporters "parachuted" into countries for one-off assignments.

Reporting on complex situations from far-away places can be a tough job. (Accurately and clearly explaining what is going on in Yugoslavia or in the former Soviet Republics is one of the toughest). The reporter has to give the audience back home both the news and some context for the news. That's when the labelling and the shorthand come in handy.

At the height of the Cold War, when there were essentially two opposing sides, or ideologies, in the world and only the odd renegade faction here and there, a journalist's life was easier.

But international politics has now become so factionalized that words like liberal, hardliner, left winger, right winger are meaningless and should disappear altogether. After all, one country's liberal is another country's neo-fascist.

As Canada heads into pre-election posturing, we might also issue a note of domestic caution.

The Reform party, which could upset our familiar three-party apple cart, is referred to as being right-wing. What does that make the Conservative party? Or the Liberals and NDP for that matter?

It's easy to say a political party is right-wing. Or left-wing.

But what does it really mean?

Chris Cobb is the Citizen's media writer

Load-Date: March 15, 1992

Peasants turned into reluctant invaders

The Guardian (London)

May 12, 1988

Copyright 1988 Guardian Newspapers Limited

Length: 863 words

Byline: By DEREK BROWN

Dateline: TRINCOMALEE

Body

This battered but still lovely place has known many invaders from the sea: Tamils, Portuguese, French, and British. Now it is being invaded from the land, by the Government of Sri Lanka itself.

The new invaders are Sinhalese peasants. They are being pushed forward, unarmed, into the front line of savage ethnic conflict. The aim is to thwart the main point of last year's Indo-Sri Lankan accord, which was to create a secure homeland for the Tamil minority by merging the Northern and Eastern provinces and giving them a measure of self government.

Whichever community controls Trincomalee district controls the geographical hinge between north and east and it is clear that Colombo is determined that the Sinhalese should dominate in this strategic place.

The result might ultimately be that Sinhalese votes in provincial elections and in the referendum that is supposed to follow could swing the Eastern Province against joining the north or at least provide a pretext for keeping Trincomalee itself out of the new Tamil zone, thus splitting it in two.

Whatever happens, people on the ground, as many of them as possible, are a basis for political influence and argument.

The biggest thrust is along the main road from Colombo, beyond the town of Habarana. There, the road enters a no man's land where Tamil terrorists have for five years fought the Sinhalese without mercy. The road, pockmarked by landmine craters, crudely repaired, winds through thick forest.

On either side are the new settlers, encamped in primitive wattle-and-daub huts, some with a vegetable patch scratched from the jungle, a few with access to a water handpump and virtually none with electricity.

There are thousands of them. They are densely packed near Habarana, and thin out, like a lance, as the road crosses the border of Trincomalee district, in Eastern Province. As more and more invaders are lured into service by offers of land and money, their colonies stretch towards the ultimate prize: Trincomalee town.

Last October Tamil militants fell upon the unarmed Sinhalese minority in the town. They were driven from their homes, which were then looted and burnt. Now there are dismal acres of charred stumps, which once were Sinhalese shops and houses. It takes an expert local guide to distinguish them from the rubble of Tamil property, destroyed in earlier excesses.

Peasants turned into reluctant invaders

Trincomalee has reverted to being an overwhelmingly Tamil town, with a small minority of Muslims and others. So long as it has a Tamil majority, it sustains the dream of separation - either the Eelam nation sought by extremists, or the modest measure of self government which remains the key provision of the accord. The first is anathema to the Colombo Government; the second only marginally less repugnant.

The Government says it will hold elections for a new joint provincial council, as soon as the troops of the Indian Peace-Keeping Force eliminates Tamil Tiger terrorism. The same Government is doing its best to sabotage that prospect of peace, by organising and encouraging a new wave of Sinhalese colonists.

There are hundreds of new camps within Trincomalee district. They are heavily guarded by Sri Lankan troops and Home Guards - unsmiling young men armed with shotguns and Lee Enfield rifles. Sinhalese settlements are also springing up in an arc around Trincomalee town. Some are being put up to rehouse genuine refugees.

But most Tamils are convinced that the Sinhalese influx consists largely of new colonists; desperately poor peasants from the south and centre of the island who can be tempted by a few thousand rupees (the going rate is equivalent to Pounds 135) and a patch of land into risking their lives.

The risk is horribly real. The **Tamil Tigers**, smashed as a military force by the Indians, have been driven deep into the jungles of the north and east. Their softest available targets now are the Sinhalese colonists.

Last year, on Good Friday, more than 100 Sinhalese bus passengers were killed on the main Colombo-Trincomalee road, near Habarana. Since then, hundreds more, **women** and children included, have died in landmine blasts, ambushes, and village raids.

The civil power has virtually evaporated here. There have been improvements in recent weeks, with restored bus services, more food supplies getting through, and petrol becoming available. The little fleet of venerable Morris Minor taxis is once more earning a precarious living.

All of this is due, not to the Sri Lankan Government, but to the Indian Peace-Keeping Force. The Indian soldiers have, on occasion, killed innocent civilians themselves, after their own men have died in landmine blasts and the like. But they are generally disciplined and the local population of 26,000 to engage in a semblance of economic activity.

The farmers are simply too scared to work in the fields where once the human Tigers roamed. So now there are real wild boar, regiments of black-faced langur monkeys and even occasional destructive forays by wild elephants from the reserves far inland. The farmers are now allowed to own guns, so they cannot scare off the beasts. The land is shaggy with weeds and scrub and the people are hungry for peace.

Load-Date: June 8, 2000

This week's TV highlights

The Guardian (London)

July 1, 1989

Copyright 1989 Guardian Newspapers Limited

Length: 865 words

Byline: By DAVID NEWNHAM

Body

Monday

Love, **Women** and Flowers (Channel 4, 9.0). 'Behind every beautiful flower there is a death.' Not literally, of course - but the Columbian flower worker whose eloquence captures the spirit of this film is entitled to poetic licence. She has leukaemia, induced by the pesticides which protect the carnations mass-produced for our button-holes. Conditions in the greenhouses cause sinusitis, rheumatism, eczema and miscarriages. It means cheap blooms for us - big bucks for the owners.

Byline: Embracing the Bear (BBC1, 9.30). This new series of authored documentaries - which presumably means that we are told for once whose views are being expressed - begins with a contribution from Enoch Powell. In 1941, Lt Powell argued that we would lose the war without the USSR. Forty years on, the splendidly bemedalled Rt Hon. visits the country he has always considered Britain's natural ally and tries out his views on defence chiefs and the poet/Deputy Yevtushenko. Seems it's now respectable to hear out the old 'rivers of blood' merchant.

The Tokyo Trial (Channel 4, 11.50). General MacArthur used six different fountain pens to sign Japan's instrument of surrender, thereby providing souvenirs for Mr President and all his men. He then convened a far-East version of the Nuremberg Trials, hearing indictments against 28 alleged war criminals. The world wanted to see Hirohito Himself in the dock, but Machiavellian MacArthur needed the god-emperor as a puppet ruler. This four-hour marathon (Part 2 on Thursday) draws on half a million feet of fascinating archival film.

Tuesday

The State of Democracy (BBC2, 8.15). Week-long series examines Britain's constitution - the one they wrote in vanishing ink. Jonathan Dimbleby conducts discordant views from Left and Right, and the finale on Sunday promises a national debate on individual liberties and democracy. Enlightening for anybody who still believes they have any right to anything at all.

Bandung File (Channel 4, 9.0). What do blacks and Asians in Britain think of Thatcher? The man born in Barbados but resident in Britain for 20 years, who fought in the Falklands and Northern Ireland but was then told he must pay to have his UK passport renewed, doesn't rate her too highly. The young urban go-getter at her computer terminal admires 'her presentation and the way she follows through what she believes in'. Quite so. The survey marks a welcome return for this weekly 'magazine' programme.

Wednesday

This week's TV highlights

Paradise (BBC1, 8.10). Not so much a recommendation as a warning. Lee Horsley stars in this new series which I think is supposed to herald the return of the western. Lee plays gunslinger Ethan Allen Cord. When Cord shoots people from a distance, they die: all of them. He, on the other hand, just won't take his shots. Any of them. If that doesn't get up your nose then the hairstyles will - and the clothes. It's all pure Eighties - a well-fed Wild West, complete with revolting kids. As for the story, I simply can't be bothered. But rest assured it's packed full of morals. Yugh.

Dispatches (Channel 4, 8.30). Back to the serious stuff - and no looking out of the window at the back there! Sri Lanka has problems, and they're complicated. Here goes. President Premadasa is trying to do a deal with the Tamil Tigers, who are bent on separatism. The Indian Army arrived two years ago to impose order - but they might have longer-term intentions of their own. The majority Sinhalese community want neither a deal with the Tamils, nor whatever the Indians might have in mind. So some of them have taken to murdering politicians. This ITN film expands on that brief run-down. Any questions?

ScreenPlay: Testament of a Child (BBC2, 9.25). New series of dramas opens with Lucy Gannon's play about a family accused of child abuse. This is television, so the family are nicely middle-class and attractive. I suppose it's meant to increase the impact (I mean, you expect that sort of thing from the lower orders, don't you ..) Anyway, you're in for a provocative and moving - not to say harrowing - hour and five minutes. One thing, though. The paediatrician whose diagnosis sets the ball rolling is the spitting image of Marietta Higgs. A trifle unnecessary, I think.

Discussion on Child Abuse: With Esther Rantzen (BBC2, 11.15). Esther gets in on the above act, complete with distinguished guests.

Thursday

Under the Sun (BBC2, 9.30). 'Like a fish sleek and tasty, your eye like a Seiko watch and your brow joined as one ..' The Arabs who drive camel herds 800 miles from central Sudan to the land of Egypt sing these latter-day Songs of Solomon as they cross the thorny wastes. Whether to their girls or their camels is not entirely clear. Never mind: for sheer texture and poetry, this is programme of the week.

Friday

Couples Arguing (Channel 4, 1.15am). This programme was first shown three years ago. (No it wasn't) Yes it was. (Wasn't) Was. Anyway, these two San Francisco film-makers invited couples to have their arguments filmed .. (Why bother telling them about a repeat, for heaven's sake?) Meet Ernie and Elvin, Gloria and Nathan, Tancha and Michael .. (Why does it matter what their NAMES are? It's so TYPICAL of you ..)

Load-Date: June 13, 2000

AP Photos COI101-102

Associated Press International

April 17, 2001; Tuesday

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Section: International news

Length: 586 words

Byline: DILIP GANGULY

Dateline: COLOMBO, Sri Lanka

Body

The Sri Lankan government on Tuesday accused an American journalist wounded in a skirmish between government troops and Tamil separatists of not seeking mandatory permission to visit rebel-held areas, and blamed her injury on rebel fire.

Marie Colvin, a reporter for Britain's Sunday Times, "did not obtain permission to enter or visit uncleared areas," chief government spokesman Ariya Rubasinghe said in a statement.

Under Sri Lankan law, journalists wanting to travel to areas controlled by the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam must obtain written permission from the Defense Ministry. Rubasinghe did not say if the government will bring charges against Colvin, 44.

"The facts that have emerged so far indicate that she has had her own secret agenda with the LTTE," he said, but did not elaborate.

Rubasinghe said the government advised Sri Lankan embassies to be careful when making visa recommendations.

The London-based American journalist sustained four shrapnel wounds in her head, eye, chest and arms when she was caught in fighting Monday.

She underwent surgery at the Colombo Eye Hospital and was in stable condition Tuesday.

Sri Lanka's Tamil Tiger rebels have been fighting since 1983 for a homeland in the north and east for minority Tamils, saying they face discrimination by the majority Sinhalese. The often-violent campaign has left more than 63,000 people dead.

The statement by Rubasinghe said that Colvin was found wounded following a confrontation that erupted when rebels tried to cross forward defense lines held by government troops in the town of Vavuniya late Monday.

"On detection of the movement by Listening Post (of government troops), terrorists had opened fire and thrown grenades. Troops retaliated with small arms fire and grenades and after a few minutes terrorists fled the area," it said. "On a subsequent search, troops found a foreign woman lying injured."

An army helicopter flew her to Colombo from Anuradhapura, 160 kilometers (100 miles) north of Colombo, where she received initial treatment.

At the hospital in Colombo, Colvin's left eye and forehead were bandaged when paramedics took her out of the operating room on a stretcher. She was conscious.

Colvin, believed to be the first foreign journalist to travel to the rebel-held northern territory since 1995, was caught in the skirmish hours before a five-day truce by government troops expired.

After spending two weeks in rebel-held territory, Colvin was being escorted by the guerrillas to the government-held town of Vavuniya when an army patrol detected them.

The Foreign Correspondents' Association of Sri Lanka called on the government to change the rules on access to the war zone. It said procedures should be established for journalists "to be assisted to cover the northeast conflict independently and adequately and to minimize as far as possible the risk necessarily involved in such work."

Colvin won the award for Best Foreign Correspondent in last month's British Press Awards. In a report in the most recent Sunday Times, Colvin described her experiences with guerrillas and told of her difficult journey to reach Tamil Tiger headquarters in Mawlaikudi.

"After two weeks in the Tamil-held area, I set out southwards late in the evening. Government lines lay a 24-hour walk away; my Tiger guides promised to lead me back across them under the cover of darkness," she said in her last dispatch Sunday.

Colvin received a Courage in Journalism Award from the International Women's Media Foundation last year.

(ddj/lak)

Load-Date: April 17, 2001

Ruling party takes lead in Sri Lanka elections

The Associated Press

October 11, 2000, Wednesday, BC cycle

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Section: International News

Length: 536 words

Byline: By BETH DUFF-BROWN, Associated Press Writer

Dateline: COLOMBO, Sri Lanka

Body

President Chandrika Kumaratunga's ruling party appeared on the verge of winning a majority of Parliament seats Wednesday on a promise to end the country's 17-year civil war.

With more than 90 percent of the vote in the Parliament election tallied, Kumaratunga's People's Alliance had 48 percent of the vote, or 88 seats in the 225-member Parliament. The opposition United National Party was next with 39 percent and 72 seats. Other parties were winning the balance of the seats.

With the votes in one district still to be counted, the elections commissioner announced that the final results would not be made public until Thursday.

Tuesday's vote in this island nation off India's southern tip was tumultuous, marked by violence, death and accusations of vote rigging.

With a 10 p.m. curfew imposed, many people remained at home Wednesday, monitoring state radio and television for results. Soldiers patrolled the capital with AK-47s slung over their shoulders, stopping cars at checkpoints.

The driving election issue was the civil war between rebels of the Tamil minority and the government, which is dominated by majority Sinhalese. The violence has raged for 17 years, leaving 63,000 people dead and displacing an additional 1 million people.

Kumaratunga - who lost vision in one eye in a Tamil Tiger rebel suicide bombing on Dec. 18 - has sought to push through a new constitution granting more autonomy to the provinces in an effort to placate Tamils and sideline rebels fighting for a separate homeland in the north and east.

With only a one-seat majority in the last Parliament, members of Parliament blocked her attempts to pass the constitution, so Kumaratunga saw Tuesday's vote as a referendum on her plan.

Though Kumaratunga has pledged to bring an end to the war, her government has spent some \$375 million in military hardware and weapons in recent months, Army Brig. Sanath Karunatellike told The Associated Press. The hardware was purchased from China, Pakistan, Ukraine and Czechoslovakia.

Ruling party takes lead in Sri Lanka elections

"She will keep the military option open, because given the track record of the **LTTE** (Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam), she cannot afford to lower her guard," said Jehan Perera, an analyst with the National Peace Council, an independent think tank.

"If the political efforts fail, she may have no other option but to go flat out after the separatists," he said.

Although the People's Alliance gained the most seats in the 225-member Parliament, it still needs at least 113 seats to form its own government without resorting to a coalition.

Deputy Elections Commissioner K. Senanayake said that 75 percent of the 12 million registered voters cast ballots in the country's 11th parliamentary elections on Tuesday.

At least 71 people were killed during the five-week campaign and on polling day, according to the independent Center for Monitoring Election Violence.

The elections were also marred by the death of former Prime Minister Sirimavo Bandaranaike, 84, who died of a heart attack moments after voting.

A state funeral will be held Saturday for Bandaranaike, the world's first **female** prime minister and Kumaratunga's mother.

On the Net:

Tamil rebels: <http://www.eelamweb.com>

Sri Lankan government: <http://www.priu.gov.lk>

Graphic

AP Photos COL101-105,107,109

Load-Date: October 12, 2000

Sri Lankan ceasefire ends

United Press International

April 19, 1995, Wednesday, BC cycle

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Section: International

Length: 543 words

Byline: BY IQBAL ATHAS

Dateline: COLOMBO, April 19

Body

The Sri Lankan government reimposed an embargo on separatist-held territory Wednesday following the sinking of two Navy gunboats and an announcement rebels were ending a cease-fire agreement. After a two hour meeting with Sri Lanka's National Security Council, President Chandrika Kumaratunga decided to reimpose an economic embargo on the northern Jaffna peninsula, which is controlled by the separatist forces of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam. "In view of the unilateral decision taken by the LTTE to terminate the cessation of hostilities agreement...the government is compelled to reconsider some of its decisions," an official government statement said. The move to reinstate the ban comes just days after the government lifted a 5-year-old embargo on movement of fuel and other commodities to the region. Twelve Navy personnel were killed and 21 injured as blasts ripped through two Sri Lankan Navy gunboats moored in Trincomalee Harbor on the island's northeast side at about 1 a.m. The incident occurred hours after separatist leader Velupillai Prabhakaran sent a letter to the Sri Lankan president calling off the 3 1/2-month-old cease-fire. "This in itself was an act that dishonored the agreement the Tigers made with President Kumaratunga," a senior government official said of the communique, "Both sides agreed to give the other 72 hours notice of their intent to resume hostilities." Government forces throughout the island were placed on full alert Wednesday and security forces were ordered to "hit back hard" if attacked by rebels.

The Sri Lankan Navy commander, Vice Admiral Mohan Samarasekera said Navy frogmen recovered the remains of four rebels, including two women, who had placed underwater explosives on the gunboats. Following the sinking of the naval vessels, the rebels' clandestine radio station announced there would be no more peace talks with the government. The end of the cease-fire is a major blow to Kumaratunga, who won last year's presidential elections on a platform pledging to end Sri Lanka's 12 year civil war, which has cost more than 30,000 lives. Kumaratunga has made a number of concessions to the separatists in the past several months in an effort to keep the peace process moving. In addition to ending the economic embargo on Jaffna, the government also offered millions of dollars in aid to rebuild the badly-damaged rebel-held north. "Now the government is back to square one," a senior government official said. The government had turned down several rebel demands, including the closure of a military base situated in the heart of separatist- controlled territory. Since the early 1980s, successive Sri Lankan governments have fought to quell an ethnic Tamil separatist movement in the island nation's northern and eastern regions. The Tamils, who trace their ethnic roots to southern India, have been waging war against Colombo's majority Sinhalese government in an effort to establish an independent homeland. The end of the cease-fire also casts doubt on Kumaratunga's participation in talks of the Aid Sri Lanka Consortium scheduled for later this month in Paris. The Consortium of Western nations was expected to consider development aid for Sri Lanka's war ravaged areas.

Sri Lankan ceasefire ends

Load-Date: April 20, 1995

End of Document

Shortages slow the recovery of war-ravaged northern Lanka

Deutsche Presse-Agentur

June 22, 1996, Saturday, BC Cycle 02:05 Central European Time

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Section: International News

Length: 551 words

Byline: By Anthony David

Dateline: Jaffna

Body

War-ravaged northern Sri Lanka, now under the control of security forces, is undergoing a slow rehabilitation process with civilians complaining of food shortages, hospitals lacking medicines and schools functioning without the basics, visiting reporters were told.

During a visit organised by military officials to the northern Jaffna peninsula, local and foreign journalists spoke freely with civilians and found that food shortages were the most worrying problem to most of the 400,000 persons living under security forces' control.

The northern Jaffna peninsula was liberated by security forces in a major military drive carried out in three stages against the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam. The **LTTE** claims to be fighting for an independent homeland for minority Tamils in the northern and eastern regions.

Some rebels have slipped into the liberated area posing as civilians, but have not been able to carry out attacks other than a few sporadic incidents of mine explosions and grenade assaults.

"If the government does not handle the food distribution properly and provide us with medicines we feel that the 'boys' (rebels) will capitalise on this to get public support again," retired teacher L. Arulanathan warned.

He said the "boys", as the rebels are known, could win public sympathy as they are still among the people, although most of them do not have weapons.

One of the main problems the government is facing to step up food distribution and send other supplies to northern Jaffna peninsula was that all provisions need to be transported by sea or air as rebels continue to control the central part of the northern province.

Many of the civilians are appreciative of the conduct of the military during the offensive, but visiting journalists met at least three **women** who claimed to have been raped by security forces and several others who said they were injured in shell and artillery attacks.

The three rape victims, from the same family, claim three of their male family members were killed. The three **women** were undergoing treatment in a government hospital in Point Pedru.

Shortages slow the recovery of war-ravaged northern Lanka

The main hospital for the peninsula, situated in Jaffna town, has been able to put into operation only 380 of its 1,015 beds and is still managing with only half the number of doctors it needs.

The hospital's director, Dr. N. Kanagarathnam, said it was difficult to perform operations because important medicines had yet to arrive from the capital, Colombo, by sea.

The official heading rehabilitation work in the peninsula, Somapala Gunadheera, believes that it has been an achievement to get hospitals into operation and food distribution started after 10 years of rebel control.

"We need more time to develop the area and one of our main obstacles is that we do not have a land route," he said.

Gunadheera said the rehabilitation plan is estimated to cost 13 billion rupees (260 million dollars) and the Lankan government has appealed for foreign assistance.

Civilians in the peninsula now appear to be undecided and the government needs to make more effort to keep them on its side, the journalists were told during their visit.

More than 36,000 people are estimated to have been killed since 1983 in the rebels' campaign for a separate state.
dpa ad vc/kr

Load-Date: June 24, 1996

Over 200 feared killed as rebels and forces battle in northern Lanka

Deutsche Presse-Agentur

June 10, 1997, Tuesday, BC Cycle 11:50 Central European Time

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Section: International News

Length: 541 words

Dateline: Colombo

Body

Government troops fought pitched battles to drive off Tamil separatists who infiltrated through the forward defences and attacked a Brigade Headquarters, blew up an ammunition dump and fired artillery indiscriminately in northern Sri Lanka.

In an attack which commenced early Tuesday off at Thandikulam, 260 kilometres north of the capital, over 200 rebels, soldiers and civilians were feared killed, according to unofficial reports.

More than 500 fighters of the rebels of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (**LTTE**), most of them **women** cadres and some of them suicide bombers infiltrated the around 2 a.m. local time and started attacking the brigade headquarters and artillery gun positions.

"They infiltrated the area like flies and started attacking us from all directions," a soldier injured in the battle front said.

Heavy fighting between the two sides continued until early hours, but smaller groups of rebels were reported to be trapped in the area and were carrying out attacks on the security forces.

"The area is not fully cleared and search operations were on even Tuesday evening," a military official in the area said.

The ammunition dump of the security forces was destroyed when rebels fired mortar bombs.

A military spokesman said the main aim of the attack seemed to be to disrupt the ongoing major military offensive which is in progress beyond Thandikulam since May 13.

It was only last week the military moved heavy equipment including artillery guns to the Thandikulam area for the ongoing offensive where some 20,000 soldiers are involved. Troops have moved at least 15 kilo metres from Thandikulam and the security in the captured areas including the forward defences have been handed over to the Police and Naval personnel, mainly due to shortage of men.

Rebels had indiscriminately fired artillery into the military controlled areas causing at least three deaths and injuring more than 100 others. At least 30 injured persons have been admitted to the Vavuniya hospital.

A local Red Cross official said he saw three headless bodies of civilians who were believed to have been killed by artillery attacks.

Over 200 feared killed as rebels and forces battle in northern Lanka

More than 500 civilians have fled and arrived in the northern Vavuniya town - south of where the attack took place.

An official military statement issued Tuesday evening said that "troops at present are in the process of securing the area, with a view of clearing the area completely. Details of casualty figures will be known only on completion of this clearing operation".

Unconfirmed reports said that among the 200 killed there could be over 50 soldiers.

At least 80 soldiers injured in the battle had been brought to a hospital in the north central part of the country.

Rebels claiming to be fighting in the north and eastern parts of the country for an independent homeland for minority Tamils have been seriously threatened with the recent military drive against them as troops are heading to secure a land route between the south of the country to the northern Jaffna peninsula.

If the route is secured the government would be able to send food supplies to the north by road and gain public support from the citizens in the northern Jaffna peninsula. dpa ad

Load-Date: June 10, 1997

End of Document

news items from asia-pacific desk of xinhua

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FEBRUARY 7, 1995, TUESDAY

Length: 657 words

Dateline: hong kong, february 7; ITEM NO: 0207102

Body

following are news items from the asia-pacific desk of xinhua in hong kong today: hke020701 --roundup: nz to review national day celebrations hke020702 --major news in australian press hke020703 --major news in philippine english newspapers hka020704 --foreign exchange rates in hong kong hke020705 --s. africa proposes to set up indian ocean trade bloc hke020706 --myanmar prepares for world women's conference hke020707 --major news in indian newspapers hke020708 --system installed in nz to cut down air crashes hka020709 --dutch computer group eyes chinese market hke020710 --hepatitis g found in australia hke020711 --major news in pakistani press hka020712 --macao media expects sino-us trade war averted hka020713 --major foreign exchange rates in philippines hke020714 --u.s. urged to understand others' culture hka020715 --toy maker to open complex in shenzhen, china hke020716 --afghan govt confirms fall of kunduz hke020717 --thai stock exchange gains 52 points hke020718 --lanka's peace teams to function after hke020719 --italian president to visit india soon hke020720 --indian congress succumbs to lure of populism hke020721 --bangladesh's manufacture registers only 1 pc growth hka020722 --macao govt grants branch of bank of china right hke020723 --donors pledge continued aid to sri lanka hke020724 --sri lanka to re-introduce inland fisheries hke020725 --thai check-clearing center opens hke020726 --mushrooming of slums in delhi hke020727 --nine kg of heroin seized in bangladesh hke020728 --nz politicians criticize maori protesters hke020729 --philippine economy up 5.1 percent in 1994

hke020732 --pakistan to send peacekeeping troops to haiti hke020733 --foreign exchange rates in hong kong hke020734 --aussie minister to visit us on trade issue hke020735 --sri lanka to revamp nationwide housing hke020736 --abare expects wool prices to rise hke020737 --aussie exports of mineral products expected to rise hka020738 --neolithic cultural relics unearthed in macao hke020739 --manila to award foreign bank branch licenses hke020740 --sri lanka's peace talks expected to resume soon hke020741 --trading on hong kong stock exchange hke020742 --vanuatu premier to asia-pacific climate conference hke020743 --nepali deputy pm calls on indian president hka020744 --weather information for asian-pacific cities hke020745 --aussie trade minister to visit india, jordan, israel hke020746 --australian dollar loses over half us cent hke020747 --australian stock market volatile hke020748 --manila to determine nature of metal found in cagayan hke020749 --direct exchange rates in india hke020750 --india to explore new avenues for oil, gas hke020751 --lte calls for permanent ceasefire in sri lanka hke020752 --philippine merchandise exports up in 1994 hka020753 --roundup: hk stock market topping 8,000 points hke020754 --pak opposition offers help on karachi issue hke020755 --share prices ease on profit-taking in s'pore hke020756 --pak govt welcomes opposition's offer of cooperation hke020757 --former minister expelled from congress party hke020758 --soeharto calls for control of inflation hke020759 --four killed in traffic accident in w.java, indonesia hke020760 --k.l. stocks end higher hke020761 --us company to explore oil, gas in pakistan hke020762 --indonesia to develop marshland in south kalimantan hke020763 --indonesia seeks higher haj quota hke020764 --malaysia to produce motorcycle hke020765 --roundup: s'pore industrialists optimistic hke020766 --chinese ambassador to pakistan meets chamber leader hke020767 --eradication of faked medicine urged in indonesia hke020768 --roundup: asia to address climate change hke020769 --more indonesian companies licensed to export workers hke020770 --malaysia to modernize postal service hke020771 --bangladesh weekly tea sale witnesses

news items from asia-pacific desk of xinhua

good demand hke020772 --japan to help indonesia with industrial safety hke020773 --bangladesh president calls
for practical education

Load-Date: February 8, 1995

End of Document

Why the Israeli tail is again wagging the American dog

The Southland Times (New Zealand)

April 19, 2002, Friday

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Section: FEATURES; OPINION;; THE WORLD

Length: 943 words

Byline: GWYNNE DYER

Body

LAST weekend's condemnation of terrorism by Palestinian Authority chairman Yasser Arafat is no more likely to make Israel withdraw from Palestinian cities on the West Bank than the distant sound of US President George Bush stamping his foot.

Killing Arabs is what Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon does best -- and he hasn't even smashed up the Gaza Strip yet.

Mr Arafat's "deep condemnation for all terrorist activities, whether it is state terrorism, terrorism by a group, or individual terrorism," was hypocritical, of course.

He may not have had any real control over the recent wave of Palestinian suicide-bombers but he was certainly a practising terrorist in an earlier phase of his career.

His organisation spent most of the 70s and 80s hijacking airliners and killing innocent people in a successful campaign to rebrand anonymous "refugees" as "Palestinians" with some rights to the land of Palestine.

But Mr Sharon is also a hypocrite. He has been killing innocent people ever since 1953 when his "anti-terrorist" Unit 101 destroyed the Palestinian village of Qibya and killed 69 people, most of them women and children, in revenge for the murder of a Jewish woman and her two children by Palestinian terrorists.

Until recently, his worst crime was the ghastly massacres in the Palestinian refugee camps of Sabra and Chatila in 1982 but what happened in Jenin this month may run it a close second. Mr Sharon cynically uses the word "terrorism" only as a synonym for "killing Israelis" though he clearly understands that terror can be a rational strategy for Israelis, too.

President Bush naively supposes that terrorism -- a word he used 24 times in one recent five-minute speech -- is some blind, malevolent and essentially irrational force that can be "rooted out." But Mr Arafat tells it like it is.

"State terrorism, terrorism by a group or individual terrorism." That is the real context in which events are unfolding.

Terrorism is not an ideology; it is a technique, equally available to governments, to organised groups and even to individuals like Timothy McVeigh. If you leave state terrorism out of the equation, you cannot understand what is happening either strategically or morally.

Why the Israeli tail is again wagging the American dog

State terror is a staple of world history. Often it is used against a country's own population, as in Stalin's purges or Argentina's "dirty war." At other times, it is directed against a foreign enemy, as in the British Bomber Command's campaign against German cities in World War 2, or the nuclear "balance of terror" that was at the heart of the old Cold War.

The power of the state is very great so state terrorism often achieves impressive results. Non-state terrorism is generally less effective but "national liberation wars" are a striking exception. The colonial power has all the heavy weapons so the nationalists resort to ambushes, assassinations and bombings to convince the foreigners that it is time to go home.

And since the foreigners do have the alternative of going home, it's relatively easy to make the cost of staying seem too high.

From Vietnam and Algeria to Cyprus and Rhodesia, the nationalists' strategies depended heavily on terrorism and in the end they won.

Leaders like Jomo Kenyatta, of Kenya, and Yitzhak Shamir, of Israel, once condemned by Britain as terrorists, were invited to have tea with the Queen for they had become the legitimate leaders of independent countries. Since Israel's current campaign against the Palestinians is in many senses the last colonial war, a similar outcome is likely there sooner or later.

But that's where it ends: A government that cannot cut its losses and "go home" to somewhere else is a tireless and ruthless opponent.

Terrorism rarely works for ethnic or religious minorities trying to break away from an existing country, like the **Tamil Tigers** of Sri Lanka or the Irish Republican Army in Northern Ireland, and for those without a distinct ethno-religious base it never works.

From the anarchists who assassinated half a dozen heads of state in Europe and America in the late 19th century to the Red Brigades, Montoneros and Weathermen of the 1970s, terrorists trying to overthrow their own governments (or the entire international order, in the more delusional cases) have been ruthlessly crushed in relatively short order. Al-Qaida, needless to say, fits into this group.

As a man who has spent more than half his life leading a national liberation struggle, Mr Arafat knows all this by heart. That is why he will only condemn "terrorism by a group, or individual terrorism" in the same breath as "state terrorism" and why he never loses confidence in the ultimate emergence of a Palestinian state.

Mr Sharon never publicly acknowledges the moral equivalence of the two forms of terror but he shares Mr Arafat's understanding of the way the world works. He has devoted his life to thwarting the emergence of a Palestinian state and he is as adept and ruthless in the use of state-backed terror as Mr Arafat is in its mirror-image.

The odd man out is George Bush who thinks there is a moral distinction between a Palestinian teenager wearing an explosives belt who kills an innocent Israeli family and Israeli soldiers in Jenin who kill an innocent Palestinian family.

Even as suspicions mount that the Israeli Army is concealing a massacre in Jenin, Mr Bush is more moved by the news of a single suicide-bomb attack in Israel and so once again the Israeli tail wags the American dog.

Gwynne Dyer is a London-based independent journalist whose articles are published in 45 countries.

CAPTION:

Ariel Sharon and Yasser Arafat play their deadly games in the Middle East.

Why the Israeli tail is again wagging the American dog

Picture: REUTERS

Load-Date: July 16, 2002

End of Document

WORLD IN BRIEF

The Atlanta Journal and Constitution

October 26, 2000, Thursday,

Home Edition

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Section: News; Pg. 5B

Length: 970 words

Byline: From our news services

Body

Yugoslav leader vows to work for stable region

Declaring that Europe needs a "stable Balkans," Yugoslavia's president Wednesday promised a new era of regional cooperation, and a senior U.S. official said he looked forward to Yugoslavia rejoining "the community of nations" soon.

"Yugoslavia has turned to its future and to improving relations, both bilateral and multilateral relations," President Vojislav Kostunica told a one-day summit of Balkan leaders in Skopje, Macedonia. "That is very important for us."

The Balkan leaders hailed the democratic changes in Yugoslavia since the fall from power this month of Slobodan Milosevic, who waged four ethnic wars in the region during the past decade.

CONSTITUTION

Kostunica's attendance at the regional summit --- the first by a Yugoslav leader in three years --- was his latest step toward ending the international isolation imposed on his country during the Milosevic era.

After the summit, Kostunica conferred for about 2 1/2 hours with the U.S. ambassador to the United Nations, Richard Holbrooke, who said Washington's admiration for the change in government in Belgrade "can hardly be expressed, it is so great."

ASIA: Young hostage takers killed in Sri Lanka

Thousands of Sri Lankan villagers stormed a rehabilitation center, killing 24 former child soldiers who had taken a camp officer hostage. The former soldiers, ages 14 to 25, had taken the officer hostage and demanded that they be released from the institution. All were either surrendered Tamil Tigers or suspected of belonging to the rebel army.

North Korea pressed for nuclear arms details

At a news conference after a briefing with South Korean and Japanese officials, U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright said it is "absolutely essential" for North Korea to disclose details of its nuclear weapons capabilities if its relations with the United States are to reach their potential.

EUROPE: New clues emerge in Concorde crash

WORLD IN BRIEF

Paul-Louis Arslanian, head of a French technical team investigating the crash of the Air France Concorde in July said a metal strip thought to have caused the disaster "definitely" came from a Continental DC-10 that had been on the same runway minutes before. The strip is believed to have sliced open a Concorde tire on takeoff, causing huge chunks of rubber to punch through left-side fuel tanks.

Push for polygamy fizzles in Russia

Flamboyant Russian politician Vladimir Zhirinovsky tried to woo lawmakers into legalizing polygamy, but parliament gave him a big brushoff, rejecting the proposal by a wide margin. Zhirinovsky proposed allowing Russian men to take up to four wives, saying that would help stop the proliferation of homeless and fatherless children.

75 are feared dead in military plane crash

A Russian Defense Ministry plane slammed into a mountain while trying to land in bad weather in Georgia. All 75 people on board were feared dead.

Far-right politician is shot in Germany

A gunman shot and wounded a far-right politician in the southern German town of Hohenstadt. Uwe Weiss-Stuessgen, 42, a truck driver who is a local leader in the National Democratic Party, was shot twice as he walked to his parked vehicle. His condition was serious but not life-threatening, police said. The party said left-wing anti-fascist activists probably were behind the attack, but it also suggested the shooting might have been encouraged by Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder's calls for the public to resist the far right and its racist ideas.

Italy displays relics seized from smugglers

A 2,500-year-old Greek drinking cup stolen nearly two decades ago was the prize among recovered relics Italy showed off after regaining more than 900 smuggled artifacts from the United States and European countries. The single biggest cache --- 300 amphora, vases, terra cotta statues and other objects -- - had been smuggled into the United States by a U.S. citizen using a pasta import company as cover, police said. An Italian art theft police official, Gen. Roberto Conforti, said U.S. customs agents in Atlanta and Los Angeles helped recover some of the relics.

THE AMERICAS: More lawmakers seized as Colombia vote nears

Three more Colombian congressmen were reported kidnapped in the latest in a string of political abductions on the eve of elections this weekend. The abductions of Sen. Antonio Guerra and Reps. Anibal Monterrosa and Luis Felipe Villegas brought to eight the number of lawmakers and candidates kidnapped since Saturday. The government condemned the kidnappings, but says it has no plans to cancel Sunday's nationwide gubernatorial, mayoral and town council elections.

Two U.N. agencies to get new leaders

At the United Nations in New York, Thoraya Ahmed Obaid, a U.S.-educated Saudi woman, was named executive director of the U.N. Fund for Population Activities, which has made the expansion of women's rights central to its mission of cutting population growth worldwide. Secretary-General Kofi Annan also nominated Ruud Lubbers, a former prime minister of the Netherlands, to be the new U.N. high commissioner for refugees.

AFRICA: Ebola death toll climbs in Uganda

The death toll in Uganda from an Ebola outbreak climbed to 63, with 175 cases identified. In Switzerland, World Health Organization spokesman Valery Abramov said the epidemic could last up to three months, but WHO officials in Gulu have been more optimistic about containing the outbreak within a month. Experts from the Atlanta-based Centers for Disease Control and Prevention are helping Uganda control the outbreak.

COMING UP

WORLD IN BRIEF

A two-day conference on stemming the trade in "blood diamonds" --- gems whose illicit sales help bankroll some of Africa's most brutal civil wars --- continues today in Britain. Delegates from 37 nations are attending the conference. Next month, the U.N. General Assembly will debate the issue.

Graphic

Photo

Vojislav Kostunica says Yugoslavia has "turned to its future."

Load-Date: October 26, 2000

End of Document

news items from asia-pacific desk of xinhua

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MARCH 9, 1995, THURSDAY

Length: 684 words

Dateline: hong kong, march 9; ITEM NO: 0309115

Body

following are news items from the asia-pacific desk of xinhua in hong kong today: hke030901 --violent crime on rise in new zealand hke030902 --nz raises social benefits to match inflation hke030903 --major news in australian press hke030904 --major news in philippine newspapers hke030905 --nz import orders decline hke030906 --major news in indian newspapers hke030907 --myanmar, china to sign contract on joint venture hka030908 --major foreign exchange rates in philippines hke030909 --asian markets contribute to tourism in australia hke030910 --thai, vietnamese officials hold talks on sea hke030911 --major news in pakistani press hke030912 --nepali congress leaders claim unity achieved hke030913 --bangladesh, myanmar to begin border trade hke030914 --roundup: malaysian ringgit firm against greenback hke030915 --security tightened at us, pak embassies in india hke030916 -- ltte denies opposition to foreign mediation hke030917 --hi-tech water cannon developed in india hke030918 --s'pore calls for open regionalism hke030919 --afghan taliban attacks kabul hka030920 --chinese ambassador extends greetings to myanma women hke030921 --sri lankan govt ready with proposals for ending war hke030922 --myanmar pm leaves for vietnam hke030923 --afghan president to attend eco summit in pakistan hke030924 --huge loss in bangladesh's autonomous bodies hke030925 --transactions at philippine stock exchange hke030926 --india bank concerned at inflationary trends (1) hke030927 --india bank concerned at inflationary trends (2) hke030928 --labor defeated in canberra election hke030929 --new apec study center to be set up in nz hke030930 --thai minister calls meeting on dollar's impact hke030931 --high demand for baht raises interbank rate ;03090753

following are news items from the asia-pacific desk of xinhua in hong kong today: hke030933 --laotian cabinet reshuffle approved hke030934 --bangladeshi pm leaves for copenhagen world summit hke030935 --thailand backs indian ocean group hke030936 --thailand willing to host eu-asean summit hke030937 --aussie employment rate surges in february hke030938 --trading on hong kong stock exchange hke030939 --foreign exchange rates in hong kong hka030940 --goldlion holdings poised for rebound hke030941 --us first lady to visit pakistan hke030942 --volume and prices of hk external trade increase hke030943 --pakistan to play leadership role in muslim world hke030944 --adb funds education study in kazakhstan hke030945 --pak govt refutes zhirinovsky's offensive remarks hke030946 --philippine central bank raises interest rate hke030947 --aussie dollar firmer hka030948 --myanmar, china to establish joint venture hke030949 --aussie bourse ends softer hke030950 --killing incident not to affect pak-us ties: spokesman hke030951 --weather information for asian-pacific cities hke030852 --chinese province' goods fair opened in kuala lumpur hke030953 --large canadian trade delegation to visit india hke030954 --indonesian company to join sub cable project hke030955 --assistance for philippine agrarian reform to hike hke030956 --fat consumption reduction suggested in india hke030957 --60 small airports to be expanded in indonesia hke030958 --2 mln dlrs for information on killing criminals hke030959 --trade transit accord signed among 4 asian countries hke030960 --indonesia may lose share of japanese plywood market hke030961 --indonesian govt. firm on greater regional autonomy hka030962 --42 kilograms of heroin seized in hong kong hka030963 --foreign exchange rate in india hka030964 --karachi stock exchange index decreases hke030965 --singapore share prices rebound hke030966 --international securities meeting opens in bangkok hke030967 --s'pore ministry to begin investigation on barings hke030968 --roundup: strong yen sends shock waves to manila hke030969 --nepal, india

news items from asia-pacific desk of xinhua

hold talks on controlling crimes hke030970 --india, uk set up defense consultative group hke030971 --nepal to import rice from india hke030972 --nepali govt reiterates need to solve land problems hke030973 --roundup: bhutto ends successful visit to s'pore ;03091652 09/03/95

Load-Date: March 10, 1995

End of Document

**SRI LANKA: AT 14, SHE'S READY TO TAKE A CYANIDE PILL FOR THE
TIGERS;
CAPTURED DURING FIGHTING IN JAFFNA BY INDIAN SOLDIERS,
ARUMUYAM MALAR IS ONE OF 48 GIRLS IN HER UNIT BATTLING FOR
INDEPENDENCE**

The Independent (London)

August 23, 2000, Wednesday

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Section: FOREIGN NEWS; Pg. 11

Length: 783 words

Byline: John Greenway In Jaffna

Body

ARUMUYAM MALAR, is 14 years old and already knows how to fire a semi-automatic assault rifle, throw grenades and take a cyanide pill. "If I had one when I was captured I would have swallowed it," said the girl fighter with the Liberation **Tamil Tigers** of Eelam, who was caught by government forces in the Jaffna peninsula last month.

The Tigers, a tenacious force of only a few thousand that has fought the numerically superior Sri Lankan Army for an independent homeland for 17 years, inspires that sort of zeal in its cadres.

Shifting in her plastic seat underneath a mango tree, Arumuyam looks in equal part a shy girl in her early teens, with averted eyes and a charming smile, and a rebel guerrilla reluctant to talk about what she knows. As she has been with the Tigers since the age of seven, she probably knows quite a lot.

"An older girl came to the house one day and told my sister, who was looking after me, that she would take me shopping, but instead she took me to the Tigers," she said through an interpreter.

She has not seen or had contact with her family since. Her father had died and her mother was in hospital at the time she was press-ganged but her uncle was later told by the Tigers that she was with them.

The 48 girls and **women** in her unit had an intensive daily routine - marching drills, weapons-handling and radio communications - that began at 4.30am and went through the heat of the day until 4pm. Even then, their day might not be over, as they would often spend an hour during the night on sentry duty, watching over their thatch-roofed hideout.

She was caught in July on the Jaffna frontline after being wounded in her right hip by a mortar round. It was her first time in combat, she said in a quiet, unemotional voice. "Before then I had no battle experience.

"But we lived as brothers and sisters and we all had the intention to fight." Asked if she thought it was wrong that a girl of her age should be fighting a war, she refused to answer, responding only with a fixed smile. She doesn't answer again when asked if she ever had any toys, but this time Arumuyam allows herself a little chuckle and looks at her feet.

SRI LANKA : AT 14, SHE'S READY TO TAKE A CYANIDE PILL FOR THE TIGERS; CAPTURED DURING FIGHTING IN JAFFNA BY INDIAN SOLDIERS, ARUMUYAM MALAR IS ONE OF 48 GIRLS I....

She begins to tell how the soldiers who captured her gave her a beating but is cut short by the army translator.

The government claims the drafting of child soldiers is a measure of how desperate the Tigers are to reclaim Jaffna, the regional capital they took from the government a decade ago before losing it in 1995. Jaffna has been bracing for another assault since the Tigers' May offensive moved the frontline to the eastern outskirts of the town. The Sri Lankan Army's top field commander expects it in the next three weeks.

"Their interest is Jaffna, there is no doubt about that, because for them, if there is no Jaffna, there is no state," Major General Anton Wijendra said from within his fortified command post within range of the enemy's guns. The government forces were committed to stopping them, he added.

For those in Jaffna town and surrounding areas still in government hands, it is a nervous and fearful wait for the calm of the last six weeks to be broken.

The buildings bear the scars of previous battles, with collapsed top floors and saucer-shaped holes blown out of the masonry. Walking down the main shopping street you are told over and over again by vendors selling their goods at inflated prices that they just want peace.

Most of the town's residents were displaced when the war swept through before, and many are expecting they will soon have to leave again. The sound of intermittent mortar and artillery shells can be heard day and night.

"We are used to a type of gypsy life for 10 years now," said Kingsley Rajanayagam, after he emerged from a narrow lane in the eastern part of the town, two miles from the front line.

Mr Rajanayagam, a regional manager for a Sri Lankan bank, said the major concern of most people at the moment is their safety and some are no longer prepared to wait it out.

"At the speed with which people are leaving, I think in the near future, there will be nobody left in Jaffna," he said. A third of the 500,000 population of Jaffna and the surrounding peninsula, almost exclusively Tamil, has already been displaced by the recent advances of the Tigers.

Most have moved in with relatives in other parts of the country or taken up residence in the many abandoned houses in the western half of the peninsula, but some 20,000 are housed in makeshift refugee camps.

When the attack comes, most people will shift to the western half of the peninsula and hope that the battle is fought only around Jaffna itself and the air and sea ports to the north, said a spokesman for a Catholic aid group.

Graphic

Arumuyam Malar was recruited at seven and fought for the first time last month, when she was wounded Thomas Crampton/AP

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World Briefing

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Compiled By Terence Neilan

Body

ASIA

INDONESIA: MASS RALLY FOR VOTE -- With the police and soldiers nowhere in sight, hundreds of thousands of demonstrators rallied in Aceh province to call for independence from Indonesia. People of all ages and walks of life paraded around the provincial capital of Banda Aceh demanding a vote on whether to end Indonesian sovereignty. The rally was peaceful and came after President Abdurrahman Wahid conceded that a referendum is a possibility after a similar ballot in East Timor. (Reuters)

INDIA: TALKS CANCELED -- The Government has forced the postponement of a seven-nation summit meeting planned for Nov. 26-28 in Nepal. India, the largest member of the South Asia Association for Regional Cooperation, objected to taking part in the meeting because of the recent military takeover in neighboring Pakistan. No new date for the conference has been set. Barry Bearak (NYT)

PAKISTAN: NUCLEAR VOW -- In his first news conference since joining the new military government as foreign minister, Abdul Sattar promised that Pakistan would never be the first to conduct any further tests of nuclear weapons. He said the nation "cannot afford" an arms race "nor is it necessary." Meanwhile, Gen. Pervez Musharraf, who now controls the country, has left on a trip to Qatar, Turkey and Kuwait. Barry Bearak (NYT)

SRI LANKA: ARMY DIGS IN -- Government troops tried to set up new defenses to stop one of the most successful offensives by the Tamil Tigers in the nation's 16-year ethnic war. The military defeats come as Prime Minister Chandrika Kumaratunga faces elections next month. Her government has re-imposed censorship on press reporting of war news. Barry Bearak (NYT)

MYANMAR: BRITON TO RETURN -- A British activist freed two months after being jailed for protesting military rule in Myanmar said she would return there to work on an anti-narcotics research project. Rachel Goldwyn, 28, was sentenced to seven years but was freed after promising not to get involved in Myanmar politics. Miss Goldwyn said

World Briefing

that after her release she was shown counter-narcotics operations near China and offered to carry out research on efforts to combat drugs if released. No date has been set for her return. (AP)

EUROPE

GERMANY: GOVERNMENT TO ADD TO SLAVE FUND -- In an attempt to bring new impulse to stalled compensation talks for slave laborers under the Nazis, the government offered to contribute an additional \$550 million to a Holocaust restitution fund. The latest pledge is intended to put pressure on German industry to raise its offer to \$3.2 billion from its current \$2.1 billion. Alan Maimon (NYT)

NORTHERN IRELAND: MITCHELL RETURNS -- George J. Mitchell returned to Belfast for the 11th week of his mission to try to break the deadlock over putting the terms of the Northern Ireland peace accord into place. The former senator spent the past week briefing President Clinton and the prime ministers of Britain and Ireland, Tony Blair and Bertie Ahern, on the chances of success of his effort, expected to end this week. Warren Hoge (NYT)

FRANCE: LEFTISTS MEET -- European leftist leaders, in power in 11 of the European Union's 15 member states, met in Paris for the Socialist International's 21st congress to discuss new formulas for dealing with today's issues. Prime Minister Tony Blair of Britain said the center-left must "jettison outdated doctrine and dogma that stands in our way." But France's prime minister, Lionel Jospin, said capitalism "must be constantly controlled and regulated." Suzanne Daley (NYT)

MIDDLE EAST

KUWAIT: VOTE ON WOMENS RIGHTS -- Kuwait's all-male Parliament is expected to vote today on whether to allow women a right to vote. The poll would be the first major test of a decree last spring by the country's Emir, Sheik Jaber al-Sabah, that would extend voting rights to women. Members of the legislature have argued that the Emir's decree represents an overreaching of his powers, but some liberals among them have warned that Kuwait's foreign relations might be harmed if the plan is rejected. Douglas Jehl (NYT)

ISRAEL: A REACTOR DEATH -- The Atomic Energy Commission, which rarely makes public statements and almost never refers to its nuclear reactor in Dimona, sent out an unusual beeper message. It said it "regrets that today at noon an employee died in a 12-foot fall while preparing scaffolding for a welding job at the nuclear research center in the Negev." The commission may have been seeking to curtail speculation about the cause of death if the fact of it emerged. Deborah Sontag (NYT)

THE AMERICAS

GUATEMALA: OPPOSITION OUT AHEAD -- The opposition candidate Alfonso Portillo, 48, seemed set to win the country's first presidential elections since the end of its 36-year civil war, partial results showed. It was not immediately clear if Mr. Portillo, left, of the rightist Guatemalan Republican Front, had captured enough votes to avoid a Dec. 26 runoff. With more than 65 percent of the vote counted, Mr. Portillo had nearly 48 percent of the vote compared with about 32 percent for Oscar Berger of the governing pro-business Party for the National Advancement. (Reuters)

AFRICA

World Briefing

GUINEA: RENOUNCING GENITAL CUTTING -- Dozens of people, mainly women, handed in their excision knives and blades at a ceremony in eastern Guinea to renounce the genital cutting of girls. The ceremony in Kouroussa, some 300 miles east of the capital, Conakry, drew a crowd of thousands. **Female** genital cutting continues in Guinea even though it is illegal and those convicted face life imprisonment. (Agence France-Presse)

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Graphic

Photo

Map

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The Blood All Over

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Celia W. Dugger is co-chief of the New Delhi bureau of The New York Times.

By Celia W. Dugger; Celia W. Dugger is co-chief of the New Delhi bureau of The New York Times.

Body

Chandrika Bandaranaike Kumaratunga, the president of Sri Lanka, is a virtual prisoner in the fortress of her official residence, locked away in a lovely, white-washed mansion from the suicide bombers who prowl the traffic-clogged streets of the capital, Colombo. They wait for a chance to blow themselves up and take her with them, all in the cause of a separate homeland for the country's ethnic Tamil minority. Even with parliamentary elections crucial to the future of her government looming on Oct. 10, Kumaratunga, a formidable, instinctive campaigner, has not appeared at public rallies because of fears she will be killed.

Late one night in August, she sat with regal formality behind an imposing, antique desk in her darkened office, her lustrous black hair swept back in a bun, and over the next two hours she talked about murder in a torrent of precisely enunciated words. It is a defining theme, not only of her life, but also of Sri Lanka's post-independence history. In the matter-of-fact manner that other political leaders might employ in conversing about economic policies or diplomatic conundrums, she spoke of children chopped to pieces, burning piles of bodies and corpses floating in rivers. Her broad, expressive face, bathed in the glow of light from a desk lamp, was by turns animated and as hard as stone as she described in clinical detail the incidents of violence that have torn her life apart.

She was 14, in class at convent school, when her father, the prime minister, S.W.R.D. Bandaranaike, the Oxford-educated scion of an elite Sinhalese family, was assassinated by a Buddhist monk in 1959 on the veranda of the family home. His was the first political murder -- the original sin -- in this lush island nation that has since seen tens of thousands more killings committed by government-sponsored death squads, Sinhalese leftist insurgents and separatist Tamil guerrillas, among others. Kumaratunga's father was succeeded by her mother, Sirimavo Bandaranaike, who became the first in

a line of widows and bereaved children to rise to power across South Asia -- in India, Pakistan and Bangladesh, as well as Sri Lanka -- following assassinations.

Kumaratunga was 42 at the time of her second ordeal. She was standing on the doorstep of her home in 1988 when a hit man from a leftist group shot her husband, Vijaya, himself a rising politician, a film idol and the father of

The Blood All Over

her children, then 5 and 7. "I was the only one who ran toward the scene -- the others ran away; so I must have had some inkling of this courage always," she said. "I saw the murderer pumping bullets into my husband's head." The killer glanced at her, she said, then fled. By the time she got to her husband, "he had no more head." Half a million people attended his funeral, which was carried live on state television.

The cameras were rolling again last December when Kumaratunga herself came close to death at a campaign rally on the grounds of Colombo's town hall. It was pouring rain that night, just three days before elections that would decide whether she would be re-elected president for a second term. Thousands were waiting for her beneath umbrellas and soggy newspapers. When she arrived, she waved jubilantly to the crowd and flashed a dazzling smile. After she spoke about her plan to bring peace to the nation, she descended from the dais. Journalists encircled her, thrusting microphones in her face.

Then she emerged into the clear. In one camera frame, she is walking confidently toward her chauffeur-driven car. In the next, the lens is filled with a shimmering explosion of orange light. A **female** suicide bomber from the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam had detonated the explosives strapped to her waist, propelling bits of her shredded flesh and hundreds of ball bearings toward Kumaratunga. The cameras next found the president crouched and bloody on the pavement, surrounded by the howls of the dying.

As she sat in the dark of her office, she recounted how she had kept her wits. "A lot of the men were screaming, crying and terrified and saying, 'Am I going to die?' I was directing operations even at that time. Blood was pouring from my two eyes." One piece of shrapnel had entered the bridge of her nose, damaging her optic nerve and blinding her right eye. A pellet lodged in her neck. "There it is, you can feel it," she said, rubbing a finger on the underside of her chin. A third projectile came within a quarter-inch of her brain. Once she was in the car, her driver headed for the official residence, but she exclaimed, "Are you mad?" and ordered him to take her to a hospital.

In the hospital, she recalled, she felt as if she were floating above a room full of weeping people. She heard one of them say that Sinhalese youth were vowing to kill every last Tamil in retaliation for the bomber's attack. In the past, bouts of anti-Tamil rioting had raged with the complicity of earlier governments. People had been burned alive. Hundreds had been murdered. She roused herself to consciousness and summoned her secretary. She told him to go on television with a message to the people. "Tell them I'm fine," she said. "And then I thought of a little shrewd move. I know that when people are excited and wanting violence, when they go to a place of worship, they do become calm. I said, 'Tell them my only request is that first they should remain calm and don't try to harm anybody, and secondly that they should all go to their places of worship and pray for me.'" That night, the peace held.

Days later, having won with 51 percent of the vote, Kumaratunga took office. Upon mentioning her children in her inaugural address, she lowered her bandaged face into her hand. Her ragged breathing was amplified over the microphone as she struggled to compose herself. She went on to say: "I have suffered our nation's sorrow in every way humanly possible. In the vicious pain of losing a father. In the loving pain of motherhood. In the soul-destroying pain of losing a husband. And now, finally, I have nearly stepped over the threshold of my life into the deep abyss of the unknown darkness, only to be miraculously saved by the powers that be in order that I serve your further."

Since the attack, Kumaratunga has lived in claustrophobic splendor, a charismatic, partly blinded ruler, emotionally scarred by each phase of her country's violent past. She has had losses enough in her 55 years to become the embodiment of a politics of sorrow. She remains the only Sinhalese leader to have repeatedly risked her political future for the idea that the grievances of the Tamil minority must be addressed. At the same time, she has allowed herself to undermine these very goals by becoming snared in enmities with her Sinhalese rivals that have derailed the country's best hopes for peace. Like Sri Lanka itself, the president seems torn between contradictory impulses of reconciliation and revenge.

It is sometimes said in Colombo that Kumaratunga's father planted the seeds of Sri Lanka's ethnic conflict, that her mother nurtured them and that she has been left to reap the bitter harvest. Her father, Bandaranaike, was the first national leader to successfully exploit the ethnic tensions between the Tamils and the Sinhalese for electoral gain. During the British colonial era, when Sri Lanka was still known as Ceylon, the predominantly Hindu Tamils, who made up a little more than a fifth of the population, had come to be disproportionately represented in the civil

The Blood All Over

service and the professions. This aroused a deep resentment among the mostly Buddhist Sinhalese majority, who constituted about 70 percent of the population.

In the 1956 election that made him prime minister, Bandaranaike tapped into the festering Sinhalese anger toward the Tamil-speaking minority, campaigning for a Sinhala-only language policy. The first violent clashes between the Tamils and the Sinhalese flared after his election over this emotional issue. Following his assassination, his wife, Sirimavo, pursued policies that further inflamed Sinhalese-Tamil tensions during her two stints as head of state, from 1960 to 1965 and 1970 to 1977.

The Bandaranaike children grew up in the thick of Sri Lankan politics. "We breathed, ate, drank and lived politics," said Kumaratunga, who was the middle child. She remembers sitting on the arm of her father's chair, absorbing it all. Her political education continued while she was a student radical at the University of Paris in the 1960's. "I was on the barricades," she said. "I became a revolutionary there."

Back in Sri Lanka, she worked on land reform issues in her mother's government. But in 1977, her mother was swept from office. Kumaratunga, then in her 30's, showed a streak of independence from her mother, personally and politically. The next year, despite her mother's disapproval, she married Vijaya Kumaratunga, a magnetic, politically ambitious movie star from a lower caste. Anura, Kumaratunga's estranged brother, said his sister's husband was seen as being out of her league. "He'd sit on the ground and drink arrack with his cronies," he said. "That was different from Chandrika sitting with her friends, sipping wine and discussing movies and theater."

During the 17 years the Bandaranaike family was out of power, Sri Lanka saw the ghastly maturation of a political culture of violence that found ready recruits in the alienated ranks of its educated, unemployed youth, both Tamil and Sinhalese. The country had done a remarkable job of building a literate society, but its state-dominated Socialist economy had failed to produce enough jobs -- a situation that bred what Lal Jayawardena, who was an economic adviser to President Kumaratunga, called "endemic insurrection."

The Tamil rebellion, which began in 1983 after horrific anti-Tamil riots raged through Colombo, has become one of the world's most vicious, intractable civil wars, claiming more than 60,000 lives. The Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam, a ruthless separatist group that sends child soldiers into battle and young people on suicide missions, has been fighting for a separate nation in the country's north and east, which it considers the historic Tamil homeland.

Just a year after the war began, Kumaratunga and her husband broke with her family's Sri Lanka Freedom Party (S.L.F.P.) to start their own party, which took a much more liberal line on power-sharing with the Tamils. "The S.L.F.P. was becoming impossibly chauvinistic," Kumaratunga said. Their new party was on the verge of announcing an alliance with several Tamil groups in 1988 when Vijaya Kumaratunga was murdered by Sinhalese radicals. Fearing for her own life, Kumaratunga and her two children moved to London, where they remained until the early 1990's.

Back in Sri Lanka in 1992, Kumaratunga returned to politics, rejoining the S.L.F.P. and quickly rising to prominence. Her brother, Anura, overshadowed, joined the family's despised political rival, the United National Party. According to Anura, his sister's rise was the result of a failed political gambit by their mother. "My mother played this game between her two children: she'd promote me when Chandrika was too strong and Chandrika when I was too strong," he said.

In November 1994, Kumaratunga was elected president in a landslide victory, redeeming the Bandaranaike family's claim on power by promising a war-weary nation that she would start talks with the ***Tamil Tigers*** and introduce a new constitution that would give the Tamils more regional autonomy. Both Tamils and Sinhalese hoped she would have the magic to bring peace.

But things quickly went very wrong. In April 1995, her government's negotiations with the Tigers collapsed when the rebels sunk two warships in Trincomalee harbor. Feeling tricked, the president went to war with a vengeance. The last six years have been among the bloodiest in the country's history. According to official estimates, 8,502 of the 13,542 troops killed in the conflict have died since she took office.

The Blood All Over

Kumaratunga has also been unable to forge a consensus with the rival U.N.P. for the new constitution and did not have the votes to get it adopted in Parliament without opposition support. Her last-ditch effort to negotiate a compromise with the U.N.P. leader Ranil Wickremesinghe collapsed in acrimony this summer. She then sought to ram the constitution through Parliament in a matter of days.

On Aug. 3, Kumaratunga left the safety of her residence for a rare trip to Parliament to introduce the constitution. Helicopters hovered overhead, anti-aircraft guns sat menacingly on the lawns and police boats floated in the small lake that surrounds the Parliament building, ready to repel any attack. During her impassioned hour-and-a-half-long speech, U.N.P. members heckled her, tore the proposed constitution into little pieces and even set it on fire.

These vituperative exchanges between Kumaratunga and the political opposition discouraged intellectuals and peace advocates. "I have enormous respect for her instincts on the ethnic question," said Rohan Edrisinha, director of the Center for Policy Alternatives in Colombo. "But she's also such a chaotic, arrogant person that you sometimes despair that she has the necessary management skills for a negotiated settlement and the discipline to compromise when necessary."

President Kumaratunga's ability to break the country's political impasse depends on winning a big majority in the coming parliamentary elections. But instead of barnstorming the country, she is trapped at home behind barricades and bunkers fortified with olive green sandbags. Last month, as candidates fanned out across the nation, she plodded on with the mundane tasks of running the government. She listened patiently to the gripes of chamber of commerce representatives and met with members of a child-protection task force. During a two-hour session with wildlife and zoo officials, she inquired into the state of elephants, leopards and turtles.

At times, she seemed to carry the frustration of her political seclusion lightly. "The knowledge that you can get bumped off is not fun," she said with a wry smile as she posed for a photo shoot on the colonnaded veranda of her residence. She offered to change into a more flattering blue sari and tugged on the silken cloth that draped over her shoulder and across her midriff. "Let's hide the rolls of fat," she said with a rich laugh. At one point, she crossed her arms and looked queenly. "I'll be imperious," she declared impishly. Then, an instant later, she turned on a flamboyant smile -- wide and womanly.

But she also showed a darker side. In a conversation at the presidential residence last month, she was spoiling for a fight. She seemed less the tragic figure seeking to heal a wounded nation and more the politician out to settle scores. She zestfully accused Wickremesinghe of watching as men were tortured at a secret state-run interrogation facility in the late 1980's. A commission of inquiry she appointed concluded in a report published in February that Wickremesinghe was "indirectly responsible" for the torture chambers, but it produced no evidence that he witnessed incidents of torture, nor did it recommend his criminal prosecution. Without giving any hard evidence, she declared that she was "fairly convinced" that Wickremesinghe knew in advance that the Tigers were sending a suicide bomber to kill her. She also alleged that her father's assassination had been masterminded by the U.N.P. leader at the time, J.R. Jayewardene -- a view scholars dispute.

The phone jangled. It was her media minister. They chatted about a letter to her from Wickremesinghe that had been published in a newspaper that day. In it, the opposition leader angrily denied her accusations about his involvement in torture and the assassination attempt on her. "If there is any substance to your accusations then the police will question and if necessary arrest me," he wrote. "I challenge you to put up or shut up." No charges have been brought against him.

Kumaratunga told her minister to ignore the letter: "It is absolute lies and the writing of a deranged mind."

When she hung up, she promptly went back to savaging the opposition leader. For more than 10 minutes, she described how Wickremesinghe, when he was minister of education 12 years ago, blocked her 5-year-old son's admission to Royal College, an exclusive, government-run school -- a charge Wickremesinghe later denied.

It is hard to see how Kumaratunga and the U.N.P. will work together after this rancorous election season -- and she does not seem interested in the prospect, anyway. She said she held her tongue about Wickremesinghe until 1998, hoping he would compromise on the constitution, and that had got her nowhere. After Tuesday's elections, in a

The Blood All Over

move that will inevitably bring court challenges, she plans to have Parliament declared a constituent assembly and get the constitution adopted by a simple majority, without U.N.P. support.

She also seems to have very nearly given up on making a deal to end the war with Velupillai Prabhakaran, the rebel leader of the **Tamil Tigers**, who is presumed to have dispatched the suicide bomber to kill her. "Mr. Prabhakaran is mentally ill, seriously," she said, adding later, "The momentum of violence and terror he has begun, he's gotten caught up in the cogwheels of that, and I don't think he can extricate himself."

Kumaratunga has interpreted her survival in the suicide bombing as a sign that she has been chosen by the gods to achieve peace, but lately her efforts have brought her only bitter frustration. As she sat at her desk that afternoon in a bright pink sari, railing at the opposition and vowing to go it alone, this stubborn, combative woman who has shown such magnanimity and endured so much pain seemed herself to have become entangled in the cogwheels of Sri Lanka's dead-end politics.

<http://www.nytimes.com>

Graphic

Photos: President Kumaratunga moments before a suicide bomber from the **Tamil Tigers** tried to assassinate her. (Video Still by Nobuhiro Ikeda/NHK Associated Press)(Raghu Rai)

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**A WORLD OF ARMS: A Deal Under Suspicion;
For U.S., Gun Sales Are Good Business**

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By RAYMOND BONNER

Body

The Solomon Islands, a tiny country in the Pacific with 400,000 people, has no army and a police force of barely a thousand (including traffic patrols). But last summer the Government purchased enough equipment to outfit a small combat unit -- assault rifles, machine guns, helmets and boots, and two small airplanes -- from an American company.

At the Pentagon and the United States Customs Service, officials expressed misgivings about the sale, fearing the weapons were destined for rebels in nearby Papua New Guinea. Others argued that it would be better for the Solomon Islands to invest in health and education. Australia and New Zealand opposed the deal, saying it was irresponsible to bring more weapons into the region.

But the State Department agreed the arms were needed by the police and issued the necessary licenses.

Since then a newly elected Government in the Solomon Islands, suspicious about the motives for the arms deal, has opened an investigation and tried to cancel it.

While the sale was small -- \$3.4 million -- it offers a window into the workings of the small-arms trade, which has fed terrorist organizations and civil wars from Afghanistan to Rwanda. Within the United States Government, arguments that such sales might fuel a war or go to a Government with a poor human rights record are routinely drowned out by arguments that the deals will be good for business.

Even as the end of the cold war has brought a decline in Government sales of tanks and jet fighters, the private trade is booming. From annual sales of \$2 billion to \$3 billion during the cold war, private shipments rose past \$25 billion in 1996, Government records show.

Private sales of small military weapons are more difficult to track than the transfers of military hardware by the Pentagon. The agencies that license private sales, including the State and Commerce Departments and the Customs Service, will not release information about who gets licenses for what weapons because the records are considered confidential business information.

A WORLD OF ARMS: A Deal Under Suspicion; For U.S. , Gun Sales Are Good Business

But it is small arms -- assault rifles, pistols, mortars -- that fuel regional, ethnic and nationalist wars.

"Available in abundance, cheap to buy, requiring little training to use, small arms have become the weapons of choice for the present-day conflicts fought mostly in the streets and back lanes by irregular troops in violation of accepted standards of humanitarian law," the United Nation's Under Secretary General for Disarmament, Jayantha Dhanapala, said at a recent conference in Oslo on controlling the weapons trade. More than 80 percent of the victims of small-arms fire are women and children, he said.

Joost Hilterman, director of the Arms Control Project at Human Rights Watch, characterized the Solomon Islands deal as "fairly typical." Major governments like the United States, Russia and China, he said, license weapon sales for commercial reasons without caring much about the consequences. And while an individual deal might mean little for a large nation, the consequences can be devastating for the region where the weapons go.

A senior American military officer who has served in the Pacific agrees. "Here you have a country that has virtually no money for basic services for its citizens, for schools, hospitals, roads," he said. "What is the compelling reason for spending money on arms? Can't we just be the ones to say no?"

The Clinton Administration has promoted international treaties to curb illegal trade in firearms because these generally end up in the hands of street criminals, crime syndicates or organizations that Washington considers terrorist, like the separatist Tamil Tigers in Sri Lanka.

But there is a growing movement by groups like the British-American Security Information Council and the International Committee of the Red Cross, and by governments like Norway and Belgium, to control the legal trade as well.

"If you want to control the illegal trade in light weapons, there have to be more controls on the legal trade, beginning with more transparency," said Lora Lumpe, director of the Arms Sales Monitoring Project at the Federation of American Scientists in Washington.

Most shipments of light weapons receive "little or no Congressional or public scrutiny," she said. The State Department, she explained, is only required to report to Congress on individual military sales in excess of \$14 million; many, like the one to the Solomon Islands, fall below that amount.

The Solomon Islands deal would probably have remained secret had it not been for the change of Government there last August, just weeks after the prior Government had ordered the weapons.

The new Government is trying to learn more about the American company that sold the weapons, Century Arms. The company is one of the largest arms traders in the United States but its activities are shrouded in secrecy. The State and Commerce Departments and the Customs Service all declined to provide any information about the licenses the company has received for arms deals.

Century Arms has offices in St. Albans, Vt., and Boca Raton, Fla. Calls to both of these offices asking for comment on the Solomon Islands sale were not returned.

While the State Department has defended the Solomon Islands shipment because the weapons "would be used by the Royal Solomon Islands Police," the new Government there does not think so. It asked the New Zealand Government to seize one of the ships carrying the weapons, and the arms are now being held in New Zealand while the Solomon Islands Government searches for a buyer.

Later articles will report on other aspects of the spread of arms around the world.

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URGENT Suicide bomber sets off explosion while Cabinet being installed

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Body

A suicide bomber set off an explosion Thursday near the home of Sri Lanka's president as her new Cabinet was being sworn in, police and witnesses said.

One policeman and the suicide bomber died on the spot and 15 people were wounded, police said.

The bomber triggered explosives wrapped on his body after a police patrol challenged him near the Town Hall area, about a mile (1.6 kilometers) from President Chandrika Kumaratunga's residence Temple Trees, where the installation ceremony was being held.

A witness said the man was walking along the road when a police jeep stopped and wanted to check him.

Kumaratunga's People's Alliance won the most seats in Oct. 10 parliamentary elections and formed a new government. Parliament convened Wednesday and the new Cabinet was being installed Thursday.

The government is engaged in a war against rebels of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam, who have fought since 1983 to carve out a homeland for the Tamil minority in the north and east. The rebels are accused of frequent bombing attacks in the capital, including a suicide bombing last December that blinded Kumaratunga in her right eye.

The **Tamil Tigers** usually do not claim responsibility for suicide bombings, but acknowledge having a suicide bombing unit.

A suicide bomber set off an explosion Thursday near the home of Sri Lanka's president as her new Cabinet was being sworn in, police and witnesses said.

One policeman and the suicide bomber died on the spot and 15 people were wounded, police said.

The bomber triggered explosives wrapped on his body after a police patrol challenged him near the Town Hall area, about a mile (1.6 kilometers) from President Chandrika Kumaratunga's residence where the installation ceremony was being held.

A witness said the man was walking along the road when a police jeep stopped and wanted to check him.

Kumaratunga's People's Alliance won the most seats in Oct. 10 parliamentary elections and formed a new government. Parliament convened Wednesday and the new Cabinet was being installed Thursday.

URGENT Suicide bomber sets off explosion while Cabinet being installed

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The bomber triggered explosives wrapped on his body after a police patrol challenged him near the Town Hall area, about a mile (1.6 kilometers) from President Chandrika Kumaratunga's residence Temple Trees, where the installation ceremony was being held.

Police said the man was first seen on a road that some Cabinet members were using to reach the president's home for the ceremony and they may have been the intended target.

"A police patrol in plainclothes had spotted the man moving in a suspicious manner" near a Buddhist temple, said police spokesman Rienzie Perera. "He was first questioned and then he started running."

Another patrol chased and stopped him, and he set off the explosion, Perera said.

Kumaratunga's People's Alliance won the most seats in Oct. 10 parliamentary elections and formed a new government. Parliament convened Wednesday and the new Cabinet was being installed Thursday.

The government is engaged in a war against rebels of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam, who have fought since 1983 to carve out a homeland for the Tamil minority in the north and east. The rebels are accused of frequent bombing attacks in the capital, including a suicide bombing last December that blinded Kumaratunga in her right eye.

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A suicide bomber set off an explosion Thursday near the home of Sri Lanka's president shortly before her new Cabinet was sworn in, police and witnesses said.

The suicide bomber died on the spot and 23 people, including three officers, were wounded, police and hospital officials said.

The bomber triggered explosives wrapped on his body after a police patrol challenged him near the Town Hall area, about a mile (1.6 kilometers) from President Chandrika Kumaratunga's residence Temple Trees, where the installation ceremony was being held.

Plainclothes police officers spotted the man "moving in a suspicious manner" near a Buddhist temple on a road that some Cabinet members were using to reach the ceremony, said police spokesman Rienzie Perera. "He was first questioned and then he started running."

Another patrol chased and stopped him, and he set off the explosion, Perera said.

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URGENT Suicide bomber sets off explosion while Cabinet being installed

The Tamil Tigers usually do not claim responsibility for suicide bombings, but acknowledge having a suicide bombing unit.

A suicide bomber blew himself up Thursday and wounded 23 people, including three American women, near the home of Sri Lanka's president shortly before her new Cabinet was sworn in.

The bomber died on the spot and 23 people were wounded, including three officers and the three Americans, said Dr. Hector Weerasinghe, director of the National Hospital.

He said two of the women received minor injuries but he was worried about the third, who had a chest wound. The U.S. Embassy confirmed three Americans were injured, but gave no details.

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The rebels, outlawed in Sri Lanka, the United States and India, usually do not claim responsibility for suicide bombings, but acknowledge having a suicide bombing unit.

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The bomber triggered explosives wrapped on his body after a police patrol challenged him near the Town Hall area about a mile (1.6 kilometers) from President Chandrika Kumaratunga's residence, Temple Trees.

The bomber triggered explosives wrapped on his body after a police patrol challenged him near Town Hall, about two kilometers (1.2 miles) from Temple Trees, Kumaratunga's residence.

Kumaratunga's People's Alliance won Oct. 10 parliamentary elections and the Cabinet installation was to have taken place Thursday at her home, which she seldom leaves because of assassination fears. She was blinded in the right eye by a suicide bomber on Dec. 18.

However, the ceremony was moved to Queen's House, Kumaratunga's normally vacant official residence, which is about three kilometers (1.8 miles) from the blast site. No reason was given for the last-minute change of venue.

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The bomber triggered explosives wrapped on his body after a police patrol challenged him near Town Hall about a mile (1.6 kilometers) from President Chandrika Kumaratunga's residence, Temple Trees.

Colombo's main recreation park, popular tourist shops and office complexes are located nearby.

Kumaratunga, whose People's Alliance won the Oct. 10 parliamentary elections, had planned to install the new Cabinet at her home, which she seldom leaves because of assassination fears. She was blinded in the right eye by a suicide bomber on Dec. 18.

The ceremony was transferred to Queen's House, her normally vacant official residence, nearly two miles (three kilometers) from the blast site. Officials gave no reason for the last-minute change.

Police said the suicide bomber was spotted on a road that Cabinet members were expected to use to reach Kumaratunga's home, and they may have been the intended targets.

"He was first questioned and then he started running," police spokesman Rienzie Perera said. "When another patrol chased and stopped him, he set off the explosion."

The government is engaged in a war against Tamil rebels who have fought since 1983 to carve out a homeland for the Tamil minority in the north and east. The rebels are accused of frequent bombing attacks in the capital.

The rebels, outlawed in Sri Lanka, the United States and India, usually do not claim responsibility for suicide bombings, but acknowledge having a suicide bombing unit.

The new ministers were seated in Queen's House at 10 a.m. when the explosion occurred near Town Hall. Kumaratunga came 30 minutes later and a 42-member Cabinet, nearly double the size of the previous ministry, was sworn-in.

Kumaratunga kept the important finance and defense portfolios to herself and appointed a former Tamil rebel into her Cabinet for the first time.

Douglas Devananda, leader of the Eelam People's Democratic Party, was assigned the rehabilitation ministry for the north, where most of Sri Lanka's 3.2 million Tamils live.

Devananda's party is opposed to the division of Sri Lanka into Tamil and Sinhalese majority areas as demanded by the rebel Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam.

URGENT Suicide bomber sets off explosion while Cabinet being installed

A suicide bomber triggered explosives wrapped to his body Thursday, killing himself and two bystanders and wounding 21 others shortly before Sri Lanka's president installed her new Cabinet.

The bomber blew himself up after being challenged by a police patrol. He was killed on the spot, while a wounded policeman and civilian died later at the National Hospital, said Dr. Hector Weerasinghe, the hospital director. Among the wounded were three American women and two police officers.

The military said the suicide bomber was a member of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam, which has fought since 1983 for a homeland for the minority Tamil people in the north and east of the country.

The blast occurred at 10 a.m. (around 0500 GMT) near Town Hall, about two kilometers (1 mile) from the residence of President Chandrika Kumaratunga. The capital's main park, tourist shops and office complexes are also nearby.

Kumaratunga's People's Alliance won the Oct. 10 parliamentary elections, and she had planned to install the new 42-member Cabinet Thursday at her home, which she seldom leaves for fear of assassination. She was blinded in her right eye by a suicide bomber on Dec. 18.

The swearing-in ceremony was moved at the last minute to her official residence, the normally unused Queen's House, which is about three kilometers (2 miles) from the explosion site.

Police said the suicide bomber was spotted on a road that Cabinet members were expected to use to reach Kumaratunga's home, and they may have been the intended targets.

"All indications and evidence suggest that the attack was carried out by the terrorists," Brig. Sanath Karunaratne, a military spokesman, told The Associated Press.

One of the American women, Barbara Barker, suffered a chest wound but was not in critical condition, Weerasinghe said. The two others, Pat Manteleone and Nansie Jubitz, received minor injuries.

The U.S. Embassy would only confirm that three Americans were wounded, but declined to give any details.

The police and military accused the rebels of three suicide bombings that killed 45 people during the election campaign.

The rebels usually do not claim responsibility for suicide bombings, but acknowledge having a suicide bombing unit called the "Black Tigers."

In the new Cabinet, Kumaratunga retained her control of the finance and defense ministries and appointed, for the first time, a former Tamil rebel to the government.

Douglas Devananda, leader of the Eelam People's Democratic Party, was named rehabilitation minister for the north, where most of Sri Lanka's 3.2 million Tamils live. His party opposes division of Sri Lanka into Tamil and Sinhalese areas as demanded by the rebels. More than 62,000 people have died in the war.

The rebels did not mention the bombing on their Web site. Tamilnet, which gives the rebel perspective of the civil war, reported the bombing without comment.

Meanwhile, in Norway, peace envoy Erik Solheim said Thursday that he will withdraw from national politics to concentrate on mediating Sri Lanka's civil war.

Solheim, a member of parliament from the Socialist Left party, was appointed Norway's special envoy for Sri Lanka in March. He had been granted leave from parliament and would have been up for re-election next year.

Norway, which has brokered in some of the world's worst conflicts, revealed late last year that it was trying its quiet diplomacy in Sri Lanka.

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On the Net:

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Government site: www.priu.gov.lk

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Also Thursday, Tamil Tiger rebels shot down an air force MI-24 helicopter gunship that was flying to assist army troops battling a renewed militant attack in the north, defense officials said.

The helicopter, carrying four crew members, was shot down near Nagar Kovil in the northern Jaffna Peninsula, as battles raged in the area, said Military Spokesman Brig. Sanath Karunaratne.

Nagar Kovil is about 35 kilometers (20 miles) from Jaffna city.

The crew was rescued from the burning wreckage, said an air force official who refused to be named.

On the Net:

Rebel site: www.eelamweb.com

Government site: www.priu.gov.lk

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Tamils launch great armada as Jaffna crumbles

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Body

TIM McGIRK

Vavuniya, northern Sri Lanka

Using an armada of leaky skiffs and outboard motors that sputter along on a mixture of kerosene and coconut oil, Tamil rebels have launched one of the biggest sea evacuations seen in recent times.

More than 120,000 Tamil men, women and children are queuing on the Jaffna peninsula to be taken by Tiger rebels across the dunes and on to the tiny boats that will carry them on a two-and-a-half-hour journey across a vast lagoon whipped by monsoon rains. The Tamils are fleeing an invasion of the peninsula by the Sri Lankan armed forces, who are intent on capturing Jaffna, the rebel citadel.

Jaffna may fall within days, once the soldiers have defused mines and booby-traps left by the Tamil Tigers. But the troops will find a city emptied of its 300,000 souls. All have fled, save for a few priests caring for elderly people too infirm to move. Hidden around Jaffna are probably a number of Black Tigers - the rebel suicide commandos - who are expected to make a last stand in the city they had once hoped to make capital of Eelam, their independent Tamil state. "Most of the Tigers have left Jaffna. They've crossed the lagoon," said a weary refugee priest who walked through the government checkpoint near Vavuniya. The guerrillas have not run in panic, but after suffering nearly 1,000 losses in two weeks of fighting with the Sri Lankan forces, they have been ordered to retreat. They are now hiding in the jungle on the other side of the lagoon.

The authorities accuse the Tigers of herding people out of Jaffna and using them as "a human shield for their own military evacuation". The guerrillas may have wanted to protect lives; or they may want to show that Tamils fled the city because they refused to live under government domination. Wary of international opinion, the army does not dare to strafe the refugee flotilla skittering across the lagoon, though it easily could.

Only a few refugee families left Tiger territory by road, through the minefields of a jungle no man's land and into the government-controlled south. Some said it was because the Tigers refused to let them pass unless they paid 50,000 rupees (pounds 500) for a "three-month visa" into enemy territory. Others insisted that few Tamils wanted to go south because they were afraid of reprisals by the island's majority Sinhalese. Unable to halt the army's assault on Jaffna, the Tigers lately have turned on easier prey, massacring Sinhalese and Muslim villagers in the borderlands.

Tamils launch great armada as Jaffna crumbles

These refugees voiced bitterness towards their supposed protectors. After the Tiger chief, Velupillai Prabakharan, broke off peace talks with the government in April and restarted the 12-year-old civil war, many Tamils now openly express fear and distrust of their rebel leaders. "The Tigers may have a dream of Eelam, but not the people. All we want is peace," said one Tamil refugee who came with his family. "We are ready to compromise."

Other recent travellers into the battle zone spoke of a "sense of betrayal" now felt by the Tigers towards the Tamils. A school principal, a teacher, a civil servant, and a dozen businessmen were all killed recently as "traitors". The various Jaffna churches, which in the past supported the Tamil struggle, are no longer as keen to do so. "The Tigers came to the schools and asked the principals to help in a recruiting drive. The principals refused. They said 'We can't go to homes and ask parents to give up another son and daughter'," a priest said. It is a far cry from the days, not long ago, when many impressionable Tamil teenagers were eager to join the elite Black Tigers and become suicide commandos. Now the Tiger ranks are thinning. Advancing soldiers have found dead rebels - boys and girls - as young as 13. Jaffna refugees claim that the city's bishops pleaded with Tiger commanders several days ago to resume peace talks with the government.

"The Tigers gave us no answer," one priest said, even though in August, President Chandrika Kumaratunga offered Tamils greater autonomy, giving them control over their own land rights, education, and police force.

So far, observers claim that the Sri Lankan forces have taken care to keep down civilian casualties. One recent traveller to Jaffna said: "I heard shells falling all the time and I thought thousands must be dying, but that's just not happening."

More than 400,000 Tamils are trapped by the fighting. They are camping in schools, Hindu temples, convents, anywhere that gives shelter from the monsoon rains. Where they are huddled, in Chavakachchi, is less than six miles from the battle zone, and the hammering of artillery shells and mortars is relentless.

The fratricidal aspects of this conflict are also apparent. The northern Tamils and the southern Sinhalese have co-existed on this island for centuries. Some blame the British colonialists for upsetting the equilibrium by giving the minority Tamils a boost.

The Sinhalese government cannot decide whether the Tamils, like a rebellious younger brother, should be coddled or beaten. So, confusingly, it does both.

Even in the Tiger-run areas, Colombo still pays salaries to teachers, bank clerks and postmen. It also sends food and the very few supplies which the inventive Tigers cannot use for war purposes.

Tamil refugees are in no immediate danger of starving, according to relief agencies. But the danger exists that, denied proper medicine and water purifiers by the government, since these too are bizarrely considered to be materiel, Tamils fleeing the war may soon find themselves facing a far more deadly enemy: a cholera epidemic.

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