

**Date and Time:** Saturday, May 4, 2024 2:30:00PM EEST

**Job Number:** 223508182

## Documents (100)

1. [\*Fleeing teenager injured by LTTE fire\*](#)

**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, 2008 to Mar 30, 2009

2. [\*Fourteen flee LTTE\*](#)

**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, 2008 to Mar 30, 2009

3. [\*Scores dead in Sri Lanka fighting: military\*](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

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

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**

Publication Type: Newspapers, Newswires & Press  
Releases; Timeline: Jan 01, 2008 to Mar 30, 2009

4. [\*AFP 2000 GMT News Advisory\*](#)

**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, 2008 to Mar 30, 2009

5. [\*Bodies of LTTE handed 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, 2008 to Mar 30, 2009

6. [\*Troops in hunt for Tigers chief\*](#)

**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, 2008 to Mar 30, 2009

7. [\*Troops in hunt for Tigers chief\*](#)

**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, 2008 to Mar 30, 2009

8. [\*Hospital shelled in Sri Lanka as fighting escalates\*](#)

**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, 2008 to Mar 30, 2009

9. [\*Centerville grad's career is ministry\*](#)

**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, 2008 to Mar 30, 2009

10. [\*Civilians flee LTTE 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, 2008 to Mar 30, 200911. [1ST LEAD: Suicide bomber sets off explosion in northern Sri Lanka](#)**Client/Matter:** -None-**Search Terms:** "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors**Narrowed by:****Content Type**

News

**Narrowed by**Publication Type: Newspapers,Newswires & Press  
Releases; Timeline: Jan 01, 2008 to Mar 30, 200912. [Congress appeals to Lanka for ceasefire](#)**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, 2008 to Mar 30, 200913. [Parents sell daughter to LTTE](#)**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, 2008 to Mar 30, 200914. [Sri Lankan government minister killed in bomb explosion, military says](#)**Client/Matter:** -None-**Search Terms:** "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors**Narrowed by:****Content Type**

News

**Narrowed by**Publication Type: Newspapers,Newswires & Press  
Releases; Timeline: Jan 01, 2008 to Mar 30, 200915. [Memorandum on Lankan Tamils issue submitted to Counsul General](#)**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, 2008 to Mar 30, 2009

16. [\*UN says unable to leave Sri Lanka 's war-torn north\*](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

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

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers,Newswires & Press  
Releases; Timeline: Jan 01, 2008 to Mar 30, 2009

17. [\*President - Solheim discuss situation in the North\*](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

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

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers,Newswires & Press  
Releases; Timeline: Jan 01, 2008 to Mar 30, 2009

18. [\*Hospital shelled in Sri Lanka fighting, nine 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,Newswires & Press  
Releases; Timeline: Jan 01, 2008 to Mar 30, 2009

19. [\*Vaiko hits out at Pranab on Lankan issue\*](#)

**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, 2008 to Mar 30, 2009

20. [\*Arrack intended for LTTE areas found\*](#)

**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, 2008 to Mar 30, 2009

21. [\*Navy rescues more civilians\*](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

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

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers,Newsires & Press  
Releases; Timeline: Jan 01, 2008 to Mar 30, 2009

22. [Bus attack kills 12 civilians as Sri Lanka celebrates 60th anniversary](#)

**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, 2008 to Mar 30, 2009

23. [Public help to identify female suicide bomber](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

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

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers,Newsires & Press  
Releases; Timeline: Jan 01, 2008 to Mar 30, 2009

24. [SPRITUAL LEADER SRI SRI RAVISHANKAR TO VISIT MANDAPAM CAMP](#)

**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, 2008 to Mar 30, 2009

25. [Gordon's in trouble - but can Ken save him? \(1\) A close Mayoral race shows that Labour's prospects nationally could depend on how the party fares in London next week \(2\) Mr Livingstone doesn't hide the fact that he is shopsoiled. 'I'm not horrible,' he told me in a rare moment of spontaneity. 'I'm just power hungry'](#)

**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, 2008 to Mar 30, 2009

26. [Forty one LTTE cadres killed in Wanni](#)

**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, 2008 to Mar 30, 2009

27. [\*LTTE's Lt. Col. Selvy killed in action\*](#)

**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, 2008 to Mar 30, 2009

28. [\*Forty one LTTE cadres killed in Wann\*](#)

**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, 2008 to Mar 30, 2009

29. [\*The eight rows of pews at St. Fatima's church in Colombo were mostly empty RIGHTS- SRI LANKA : 'Do They Know It's Christmas\*](#)

**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, 2008 to Mar 30, 2009

30. [\*22 Killed In Female Suicide Attack In Lanka\*](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

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

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers,Newswires & Press  
Releases; Timeline: Jan 01, 2008 to Mar 30, 2009

31. [\*Sri Lanka warns civilians in combat zone\*](#)

**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, 2008 to Mar 30, 2009

32. [As war in Sri Lanka ebbs, Tamils still feel mistreated](#)

**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, 2008 to Mar 30, 2009

33. [UN expresses concern about civilians' safety in Lanka](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

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

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers, Newswires & Press  
Releases; Timeline: Jan 01, 2008 to Mar 30, 2009

34. [As war in Sri Lanka ebbs, Tamils still express sense of being excluded](#)

**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, 2008 to Mar 30, 2009

35. [Suicide attacker kills 20 soldiers at Sri Lanka checkpoint Fleeing civilians among casualties](#)

**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, 2008 to Mar 30, 2009

36. [Navy rescues 643 civilians](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

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

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**

Publication Type: Newspapers,Newswires & Press  
Releases; Timeline: Jan 01, 2008 to Mar 30, 2009

37. [\*Suicide attacker kills 20 soldiers 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, 2008 to Mar 30, 2009

38. [\*Protester burns to death to free his people\*](#)

**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, 2008 to Mar 30, 2009

39. [\*International briefs\*](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

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

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**

Publication Type: Newspapers,Newswires & Press  
Releases; Timeline: Jan 01, 2008 to Mar 30, 2009

40. [\*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, 2008 to Mar 30, 2009

41. [\*Emerging Taliban may be culprits TERRORISTS TARGET CRICKET - UNSTABLE PAKISTAN\*](#)

**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, 2008 to Mar 30, 2009

42. [\*Sword mightier than pen as journalist deaths rise to six\*](#)

**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, 2008 to Mar 30, 2009

43. [\*Sri Lanka : 16 patients killed in hospital shelling\*](#)

**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, 2008 to Mar 30, 2009

44. [\*Prabhakaran still in charge of LTTE: Army spokesman\*](#)

**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, 2008 to Mar 30, 2009

45. [\*International briefs\*](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

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

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers,Newswires & Press  
Releases; Timeline: Jan 01, 2008 to Mar 30, 2009

46. [\*Rickshaws of the night Postcard 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, 2008 to Mar 30, 2009

47. [AIADMK SAYS SESSION VIOLATES ASSEMBLY RULES](#)

**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, 2008 to Mar 30, 2009

48. [Blast inside zoo wounds 4 in Sri Lanka , military says](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

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

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers,Newswires & Press  
Releases; Timeline: Jan 01, 2008 to Mar 30, 2009

49. [LTTE suspect reveals vital information](#)

**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, 2008 to Mar 30, 2009

50. [The AFP Asia news agenda](#)

**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, 2008 to Mar 30, 2009

51. [UN peacekeepers needed to prevent Sri Lanka bloodbath: MEP](#)

**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, 2008 to Mar 30, 2009

52. [Persons escaping from LTTE held areas tell horrific tales](#)

**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, 2008 to Mar 30, 2009

53. [9 killed in hospital attack](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

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

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers,Newsires & Press  
Releases; Timeline: Jan 01, 2008 to Mar 30, 2009

54. [Spain moves jailed ETA members nearer home](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

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

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers,Newsires & Press  
Releases; Timeline: Jan 01, 2008 to Mar 30, 2009

55. [Spain moves jailed ETA members nearer home](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

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

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers,Newsires & Press  
Releases; Timeline: Jan 01, 2008 to Mar 30, 2009

56. [Navy rescues 71 civilians fleeing from LTTE clutches](#)

**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, 2008 to Mar 30, 2009

57. [In defence of Douglas Devananda](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

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

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

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Publication Type: Newspapers,Newswires & Press  
Releases; Timeline: Jan 01, 2008 to Mar 30, 2009

58. [UN peacekeepers needed to prevent Sri Lanka bloodbath: MEP](#)

**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, 2008 to Mar 30, 2009

59. [UN says pleading crowds halt Sri Lanka pull-out](#)

**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, 2008 to Mar 30, 2009

60. [2ND LEAD: Suicide bomber kills 22 in northern Sri Lanka](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

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

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**

Publication Type: Newspapers,Newswires & Press  
Releases; Timeline: Jan 01, 2008 to Mar 30, 2009

61. [Yet again bags with explosives, AK 47 bullets found in sea](#)

**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, 2008 to Mar 30, 2009

62. [NATION REMEMBERS RAJIV GANDHI, THE ARCHITECT OF MODERN INDIA](#)

**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, 2008 to Mar 30, 2009

63. [More Civilians escape from LTTE grip](#)

**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, 2008 to Mar 30, 2009

64. [ROUNDUP: Four civilians killed, 25 injured in Sri Lanka bus attack](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

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

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers,Newswires & Press  
Releases; Timeline: Jan 01, 2008 to Mar 30, 2009

65. [Asia-Pacific news calendar](#)

**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, 2008 to Mar 30, 2009

66. [The humane act of demining](#)

**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, 2008 to Mar 30, 2009

67. [NEWS DIGEST](#)

**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, 2008 to Mar 30, 2009

68. [News Digest](#)

**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, 2008 to Mar 30, 2009

69. [It's a frightening world Sport 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, 2008 to Mar 30, 2009

70. [Conflicts, crackdowns mar 2008 Asian rights record: HRW](#)

**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, 2008 to Mar 30, 2009

71. [The 1530 GMT News Advisory](#)

**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, 2008 to Mar 30, 2009

72. [Prep-Today in History](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

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

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers,Newswires & Press  
Releases; Timeline: Jan 01, 2008 to Mar 30, 2009

73. [Wellawatte rail track bomber arrested](#)

**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, 2008 to Mar 30, 2009

74. [The AFP Asia news agenda](#)

**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, 2008 to Mar 30, 2009

75. [Air force jets destroy rebel hide-out; clashes kill 30 insurgents, military says](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

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

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers, Newswires & Press  
Releases; Timeline: Jan 01, 2008 to Mar 30, 2009

76. [PM targeted at State Drama festival?](#)

**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, 2008 to Mar 30, 2009

77. [Civilians Ignore LTTE's Death Threats & Flee Un-cleared Areas](#)

**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, 2008 to Mar 30, 2009

78. [War heroes' mothers to get 25 pc from compensation schemes](#)

**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, 2008 to Mar 30, 2009

79. [Ampara blast 12 killed, 36 injured](#)

**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, 2008 to Mar 30, 2009

80. [FEATURE: "Then they came for me" - remembering Lanka's Wickrematunga](#)

**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, 2008 to Mar 30, 2009

81. [Four civilians killed in LTTE bus attack: military](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

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

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**

Publication Type: Newspapers,Newswires & Press  
Releases; Timeline: Jan 01, 2008 to Mar 30, 2009

82. [Thosuands gather at Tamil peace protest](#)

**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, 2008 to Mar 30, 2009

83. [Rule of all: Satisfying democratic aspirations of minorities](#)

**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, 2008 to Mar 30, 2009

84. [Over 10500 civilians rescued this month: Defence Ministry](#)

**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, 2008 to Mar 30, 2009

85. [Suffering fishermen of the prohibited seas](#)

**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, 2008 to Mar 30, 2009

86. [International Women's Day](#)

**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, 2008 to Mar 30, 2009

87. [SRI LANKA : U.N. PROBES CIVILIAN DEATHS AS GUNS FALL SILENT](#)

**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, 2008 to Mar 30, 2009

88. [NGOs' darling: Louis Arbour](#)

**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, 2008 to Mar 30, 2009

89. [Security concerns make Sri Lanka suspend SMS services](#)

**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, 2008 to Mar 30, 2009

90. [Battle continues: 19 IDPs rescued by the Navy](#)

**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, 2008 to Mar 30, 2009

91. [Xinhua world news summary at 1530 GMT, Feb. 3](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

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

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers,Newswires & Press  
Releases; Timeline: Jan 01, 2008 to Mar 30, 2009

92. [Female suicide bombers growing threat in Iraq](#)

**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, 2008 to Mar 30, 2009

93. [AFP 1100 GMT News Advisory](#)

**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, 2008 to Mar 30, 2009

94. [Red Cross evacuates wounded from Sri Lanka war](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

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

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers,Newsires & Press  
Releases; Timeline: Jan 01, 2008 to Mar 30, 2009

95. [Sri Lanka : 16 patients killed in hospital shelling](#)

**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, 2008 to Mar 30, 2009

96. [ASSEMBLY ADJOURNED SINE DIE AFTER 40-DAY SESSION](#)

**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, 2008 to Mar 30, 2009

97. [The 0530 GMT News Advisory](#)

**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, 2008 to Mar 30, 2009

98. [Civilians flee from LTTE area](#)

**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, 2008 to Mar 30, 2009

99. [Sri Lanka : 16 patients killed in hospital shelling](#)

**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, 2008 to Mar 30, 2009

100. [Red Cross evacuates wounded from Sri Lanka 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, 2008 to Mar 30, 2009

## **Fleeing teenager injured by LTTE fire**

Daily News (Sri Lanka)

March 10, 2009 Tuesday

Copyright 2009 The Associated Newspapers of Ceylon Ltd. All Rights Reserved

**Length:** 178 words

**Dateline:** Colombo

### **Body**

---

Colombo, March 10 -- A young **female** was injured when **LTTE** cadres indiscriminately fired at a group of civilians seeking protection with the Security Forces on Sunday in Puthukudiyiruppu.

Military spokesman Brigadier Udaya Nanayakkara said 45 civilians fleeing from the grip of the Tigers had come under **LTTE** fire while they were making escape from the uncleared area on Sunday. "A 17 year old **female** injured by the **LTTE** fire was treated at the Army medical corp before she was transfered to hospital," he added. He said however, the fleeing civilians were rescued by the Army. "Troops of 8 SLLI (Sri Lanka Light Infantry) under Brigade 581 operating in the Puthukudiyiruppu east rescued civilians fleeing from the **LTTE** clutches". The **LTTE** cadres are holding civilians as human shield to slow down the Security Forces humanitarian operation in the Vanni and liberate civilians. He said over 40,000 displaced civilians arriving from the Vanni were resettled in the Vavuniya and Mannar IDP welfare centres. Published by HT Syndication with permission from Daily News Sri Lanka.

For any query with respect to this article or any other content requirement, please contact Editor at [htsyndication@hindustantimes.com](mailto:htsyndication@hindustantimes.com)

**Load-Date:** April 1, 2009

### **Fourteen flee LTTE**

Daily Mirror (Sri Lanka)

July 8, 2008 Tuesday 3:44 PM EST

Copyright 2008 Wijeya Newspaper Ltd. All Rights Reserved

**Length:** 77 words

**Byline:** Report from Daily Mirror brought to you by HT Syndication.

**Dateline:** Colombo

### **Body**

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Colombo, July 8 -- Fourteen Tamil civilians including 8 males and 6 **females** arrived at the Pulmoddai army camp seeking refuge around 11.00 yesterday morning, the defence ministry said.

According to the sources the refugees were residents of Thawaladdi in Mulaithiuvu. The refugees have said that they had fled their homes due to the unbearable harassments committed by the **LTTE** against civilians.

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-723695

For any query with respect to this article or any other content requirement, please contact Editor at [htsyndication@hindustantimes.com](mailto:htsyndication@hindustantimes.com)

**Load-Date:** August 11, 2008

## Scores dead in Sri Lanka fighting: military

Agence France Presse -- English

October 10, 2008 Friday 7:29 AM GMT

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**Length:** 212 words

**Dateline:** COLOMBO, Oct 10 2008

### **Body**

---

Sri Lanka troops backed by fighter jets have moved deeper into Tamil Tiger territory in the island's north, killing 39 rebels, the defence ministry said Friday.

The military lost two soldiers during heavy clashes Thursday across several northern fronts, a ministry statement said.

The air force said fighter jets carried out three bombing missions Friday over the Tiger-controlled Kilinochchi area, attacking a communication centre and what it described as a training camp for suicide bombers.

The Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (**LTTE**) said the bombs fell on a civilian settlement, killing two **women** and injuring seven others.

Sri Lanka's agriculture minister, Maithripala Sirisena, escaped an assassination attempt Thursday when a **female** suicide bomber attacked his convoy, killing two people and injuring six others.

The minister was not hurt, but the vehicle carrying his secretary was damaged in the attack and the deputy agriculture minister, Siripala Gamlath, was among those injured.

Sri Lankan troops are hoping to take control of Kilinochchi which has been the rebels' administrative centre for the past decade.

Sri Lanka pulled out of a six-year Norwegian-brokered truce in January, since when the military says 7,366 rebels and 727 soldiers have been killed.

mg/gh/jah

**Load-Date:** October 11, 2008

## AFP 2000 GMT News Advisory

Agence France Presse -- English

March 7, 2009 Saturday 8:10 PM GMT

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**Length:** 512 words

**Dateline:** PARIS, March 7 2009

### **Body**

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Duty Editor: Andrew Gully

Tel: (33) 1 4041 4636

-- TOP STORIES --

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+ Palestinian PM resigns

+ Tsvangirai flown to Botswana

+ Obama to visit Turkey soon

+ Madagascar opposition leader 'in hiding'

Mideast-Palestinian-politics,5thlead

RAMALLAH, West Bank

The Western-backed Palestinian prime minister Salam Fayyad steps down to try to pave the way for the formation of a national unity government and reconciliation with Hamas.

700 words moved by Hossam Ezzedine

We have also moved: Mideast-Palestinian-politics-Fayyad,PROFILE

Zimbabwe-politics,4thlead-WRAP

HARARE

Zimbabwe Prime Minister Morgan Tsvangirai is flown to neighbouring Botswana for medical tests after being seriously injured in a car crash that killed his wife.



## AFP 2000 GMT News Advisory

650 words 2100 GMT

Turkey-US-diplomacy,2ndlead-WRAP

ANKARA

US President Barack Obama will soon visit Turkey, Secretary of State Hillary Clinton announces, as she visits strategic ally Ankara to repair ties damaged over the Iraq war.

650 words 2030 GMT. Picture

Madagascar-politics,4thlead

ANTANANARIVO

Madagascar opposition leader Andry Rajoelina tells AFP he has gone into hiding, two days after security forces attempted to arrest him at his home amid an ongoing power struggle with President Marc Ravalomanana.

650 words 2015 GMT by Gregoire Pourtier

FILING PLANS BY REGION

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-- EUROPE --

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Finance-economy-Britain-banking-company-LBG,7thlead

LONDON

The British government says it will take a majority stake in Lloyds Banking Group and guarantee toxic assets, leaving only two major British banks outside the state's control.

650 words 2100 GMT

US-Britain-Ethiopia-attacks-Guantanamo,lead

LONDON

A British resident detained at Guantanamo for more than four years gives his first interview since being released and tells how conditions worsened at the US detention centre after the election of President Barack Obama.

600 words 2130 GMT

Ireland-religion-child-sex-abuse-Vatican,lead

DUBLIN

An Irish Roman Catholic bishop at the centre of a row over his handling of clerical child sex abuse allegations in his diocese has stepped aside, church authorities say.

560 words moved

-- AFRICA --

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Sudan-conflict-Darfur-warcrimes,WRAP

KHARTOUM

Sudanese President Omar al-Beshir is to travel to Darfur on Sunday, in his first visit since the International Criminal Court issued a warrant for his arrest for war crimes in the western region.

700 words moved by Peter Martell. Pictures

Women-rights,WRAP

MONROVIA

More than 400 high-profile women, including two heads of state, press for equal rights for half the world's population as they gather in Liberia on the eve of International Women's Day.

650 words 2030 GMT

-- ASIA --

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Pakistan-Afghanistan-unrest,4thlead

MIRANSHAH, Pakistan

Taliban militants shoot down a suspected drone aircraft in a Pakistani tribal area bordering Afghanistan, officials said.

500 words moved

SriLanka-unrest-fighting,lead

COLOMBO

At least 32 Tamil Tigers are killed in heavy fighting in Sri Lanka's embattled northeast where government troops have cornered the rebels, the defence ministry says.

400 words moved

afp

**Load-Date:** March 8, 2009

## **Bodies of LTTE handed over**

Daily Mirror (Sri Lanka)

November 5, 2008 Wednesday 1:39 PM EST

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**Length:** 73 words

**Byline:** Report from Daily Mirror brought to you by HT Syndication.

**Dateline:** Colombo

### **Body**

---

Colombo, Nov. 5 -- Bodies of 12 **LTTE** cadres were handed over to the International Committee of the Red Cross at the Omanthai Entry/Exit point on Monday evening, the military said.

It said the remains were those of ten **female LTTE** cadres and two males who were killed at Paddaniyalvillu during the fighting between the security forces and the **LTTE** in Kilinochchi on Saturday.

Published by HT Syndication with permission from Daily Mirror.

-870345

For any query with respect to this article or any other content requirement, please contact Editor at [htsyndication@hindustantimes.com](mailto:htsyndication@hindustantimes.com)

**Load-Date:** November 5, 2008

## *Troops in hunt for Tigers chief*

The Australian

February 9, 2009 Monday

1 - All-round Country Edition

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**Section:** WORLD; Pg. 16

**Length:** 488 words

### **Body**

---

COLOMBO: Sri Lankan troops have smashed the ***Tamil Tigers***' mini-state and cornered the remaining rebels, but officials say they must catch their elusive leader to declare final victory.

The threat came as the Government said at least 10,000 civilians had escaped Sri Lanka's war zone since Wednesday.

“Over 10,000 civilians have come to Kilinochchi while 139 others have come to Jaffna since the Independence Day,” a government spokesman said yesterday. “Among the rescued civilians are over 2800 children and about 3000 women.”

The spokesman added that medical care, food and water were being provided at the frontlines for the fleeing civilians, who were among those held by the Tigers as “human shields”.

Government reports of the civilians' movement and recent army advances cannot be verified as journalists, aid groups and international observers are not allowed into the conflict zone.

The air force carried out raids on locations where Tiger chief Velupillai Prabhakaran, 54, was suspected to have sheltered over the weekend, but there had been no word about his whereabouts, the military said.

President Mahinda Rajapakse warned the remaining rebels to surrender or face death.

“I want to tell the Tigers: lay down arms and surrender to security forces,” he said.

Security forces in a two-year drive have taken both the political and military headquarters of the Tigers, once regarded as the world's most ruthlessly effective guerilla outfit.

Earlier, Mr Rajapakse declared that Prabhakaran's Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam would be defeated in days, raising questions on what to do with Prabhakaran, if he were taken alive.

The Tigers' supremo was sentenced in absentia to 200 years in jail for his involvement in the January 1996 bombing of the Central Bank of Sri Lanka and for killing 91 people.

He is also wanted in neighbouring India for the 1991 assassination of former Indian premier Rajiv Gandhi.

## Troops in hunt for Tigers chief

``He has to face justice here," Sri Lankan Defence Secretary Gotabhaya Rajapakse said last month. ``He has to be tried and then hanged for his crimes."

Sri Lankan troops have already captured several underground bunkers where Prabhakaran is believed to have lived.

Former Tamil rebel-turned-politician Dharmalingam Sithadthan said his erstwhile comrade had run out of time, unless he had already escaped.

``My belief is that he has already slipped out of the country," he said. ``If he has not done it already, then his chances of escaping are very slim."

Mr Sithadthan said Prabhakaran might not be able to mingle with the Tamil population and remain disguised as an ordinary citizen. He was known to have many enemies within the minority Tamil community.

Prabhakaran had crushed dissent within his group and killed thousands of rival rebels in the early stages of the 30-year Tamil militancy to take the leadership of the separatist drive.

Many bereaved relatives might be waiting to settle scores, Mr Sithadthan said.

**Load-Date:** February 8, 2009

## *Troops in hunt for Tigers chief*

The Australian

February 9, 2009 Monday

2 - All-round First Edition

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**Section:** WORLD; Pg. 16

**Length:** 488 words

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**Load-Date:** February 8, 2009

## **Hospital shelled in Sri Lanka as fighting escalates**

Agence France Presse -- English

February 2, 2009 Monday 9:45 AM GMT

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**Length:** 617 words

**Byline:** Giles Hewitt

**Dateline:** COLOMBO, Feb 2 2009

### **Body**

---

Shells hit a crowded hospital in northeast Sri Lanka, killing at least nine people and raising fears Monday for thousands of civilians caught in a final military push against Tamil Tiger rebels.

Heavy fighting erupted in the narrow strip of land where the rebels have been cornered, the defence ministry said adding that troops used war planes to bomb suspected Tiger positions while the rebels used artillery.

The ministry said a total of 46 Tiger rebels were killed in separate clashes on Sunday, but did not say if security forces suffered any casualties.

The bombed hospital, which is in rebel-held territory and houses around 500 patients, took direct hits in two separate shelling incidents on Sunday, aid agencies and medical workers said.

At least nine patients were killed and 15 injured.

"We're shocked that the hospital was hit, and this for the second time in recent weeks," said Paul Castella, head of the International Committee of the Red Cross delegation in Sri Lanka's capital, Colombo.

The ICRC did not say which side was responsible for the shelling, but the army denied involvement, saying it was carried out by the rebels in a bid to "discredit" the military.

"We know the exact location of the hospital. We will not hit it," said military spokesman Brigadier Udaya Nanayakkara. "We are ready at any moment to arrange safe passage for civilians in that area."

The hospital is inside the 300-square-kilometre (110-square-mile) area of jungle where remnants of the rebel Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (**LTTE**) are staging a final stand against a year-long military offensive.

The United Nations says up to 250,000 non-combatants are trapped in the area. The Sri Lankan government says the figure is closer to 120,000.

Aid agencies say hundreds of civilians may already have been killed in the crossfire and scores more injured, including children as young as 10 days old.



## Hospital shelled in Sri Lanka as fighting escalates

A government-set deadline for the LTTE to allow civilians to leave the combat zone expired on Saturday night, after which the military said it would launch fresh operations to "liberate" the civilians by force.

With the Tigers on the brink of defeat, the government has rejected international calls for a ceasefire, saying it intends to wipe out the rebel force and finally end Asia's longest-running ethnic conflict.

Tiger rebels took up arms in their fight for a separate Tamil homeland in 1972.

T. Varatharajah, the regional director of health services stationed in the damaged hospital, said the shells had hit the staff quarters, the female ward, the mortuary and the kitchen.

"It's a very tense situation now," Varatharajah told AFP by telephone. "There is no proper power or water supply and staff are spending their time in the bunkers in between treating patients."

The doctor said many patients' relatives were also staying in the hospital grounds, bringing the number of people inside the compound to around 1,000.

"Most of the staff have also moved in with their families," he added.

The UN arranged an evacuation of some 350 wounded people and their relatives from the combat zone last week, and negotiations are underway for the transfer of a further 250 patients from the hospital.

The government has blocked any independent media access to the conflict area and to the camps housing those displaced civilians who have managed to flee the fighting.

The UN children's agency UNICEF says tens of thousands of children are among those caught in the firing line, and that babies as young as 10 days old have been wounded in the fighting.

"We have clear evidence that children are being caught in the crossfire, and that children are being injured and killed," said UNICEF's regional director for South Asia, Daniel Toole.

**Load-Date:** February 3, 2009

## *Centerville grad's career is ministry*

Dayton Daily News (Ohio)

August 21, 2008 Thursday

Copyright 2008 Dayton Newspapers, Inc.

**Section:** CENTERVILLE AND WASHINGTON TWP; Pg. RH-2

**Length:** 462 words

**Byline:** HEREABOUTS SANDRA BAER

### **Body**

---

Liz Preston Doyle has traveled the globe since graduating from Centerville High School in 1972.

Doyle, the daughter of Ann Preston of Greenville and former Centerville School District superintendent Richard Preston, now deceased, embarked on a career of Christian ministry only two days after her graduation.

"Northern Ireland was the most dangerous place in the world I could think of, and God led me to bring the peace of Jesus there," said Doyle, who can be seen on BBC documentary footage standing on a traffic island at a dangerous Belfast intersection preaching and strumming her guitar while singing Christian songs.

"In the crowd, was the man who would become my husband, Syd Doyle."

Liz Preston Doyle's family experienced a religious conversion and began attending the Centerville First Baptist Church, now called the Cross Point Vineyard, in 1968 after seeing the effects of a healing that Ann Preston experienced at the church following a difficult time in her life.

Doyle's neighbor, Pat Riner Howard, invited Preston to attend the church.

"It was a remarkable healing," said Doyle, who now lives in Michigan, but recently gave a presentation at the Cross Point Vineyard. "After that, we all independently gave our hearts to Christ."

After meeting Syd Doyle on the streets of Belfast, Ireland, Liz Preston Doyle followed him to Glasgow, Scotland, and began to attend the Bible college where Syd was studying.

After graduating, the couple married and traveled to England, where they started three churches.

"There were no progressive churches meeting people's social needs," said Doyle, who worked with people who were illiterate, or involved in drugs or motorcycle gangs. "My husband was beaten up, but our church became the biggest one there."

In addition to starting churches and evangelizing for "Nation's Light Ministries," which was founded by the Doyles, Liz Doyle started Releasing Daughters of the Last Days, an organization formed to advocate for women around the world.

## Centerville grad's career is ministry

"I go to other countries to teach things and to meet other Christian women and help them to reach out to people around them in whatever way they can," said Doyle, who has two grown children and grandchildren. "We encourage them and train them to win their nations to Jesus Christ through the love of God."

Doyle has faced danger, like the time in 2006 when she addressed a crowd of 70,000 at an evangelical event in Pakistan, and again when she crossed political lines in Sri Lanka from an area occupied by the Tamil Tigers to that controlled by the government.

"I'm on the front lines," said Doyle, whose husband accompanies her to give his own presentations.

"I get to meet all kinds of people. It's certainly not boring."

More information

Visit [www.nationslight.org](http://www.nationslight.org) or [www.releasingdaughters.com](http://www.releasingdaughters.com).

## Graphic

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Liz Preston Doyle

**Load-Date:** August 23, 2008

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End of Document

## **Civilians flee LTTE terror**

Daily Mirror (Sri Lanka)

May 27, 2008 Tuesday 3:04 PM EST

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**Length:** 96 words

**Byline:** Daily News Sri Lanka

**Dateline:** Colombo

### **Body**

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Colombo, May 27 -- Seven civilians including two women sought shelter on Sunday afternoon with Navy and police personnel jointly manning the fishing marshal point in Pallimunai, the Media Centre for National Security said.

According to a spokesman from the MCNS, six civilians who fled Vedithaltivu had reached Pallimunai on Sunday at around 2.30 p.m.

"The civilians who fled from the atrocities of the LTTE disclosed that they escaped due to unprecedented hardship and forced LTTE recruitment," he added.

Report from Daily News Sri Lanka brought to you by HT Syndication.

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**Load-Date:** September 16, 2008

## 1ST LEAD: Suicide bomber sets off explosion in northern Sri Lanka

Deutsche Presse-Agentur

February 9, 2009 Monday 8:22 AM EST

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**Section:** POLITICS

**Length:** 214 words

### **Body**

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DPA POLITICS SriLanka Conflicts 1ST LEAD: Suicide bomber sets off explosion in northern Sri Lanka  
Eds: Updates death toll =

Colombo (dpa) - A female suicide bomber posing as a civilian entered a government-controlled area from the Tamil rebel-held area in northern Sri Lanka Monday morning and detonated herself at a welfare centre, at least 17 people and injuring about 45 others, the Defence Ministry said.

The explosion went off in the Visuamadu area, 360 kilometres north-east of the capital, where the military is receiving hundreds of civilians before they are sent to transit camps.

Military spokesman Brigadier Udaya Nanayakkara said that so far at least one soldier and several civilians have been reported killed.

Among the victims were mainly women and children, said the authorities, who blamed the rebel Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam for the attack.

The incident came as fighting continued between government troops and Tamil rebels, in what the military described as the last phase of its long drive to defeat the Tamil rebels. The army said it had

surrounded the LTTE in a 150-square-kilometre long stretch of land on Sri Lanka's north-eastern coast.

International aid organizations estimate that around 200,000 civilians remain trapped in the area.

Feb 0909 0822 GMT

**Load-Date:** February 10, 2009

## **Congress appeals to Lanka for ceasefire**

UNI (United News of India)

March 23, 2009 Monday

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**Length:** 644 words

**Dateline:** New, Delhi

### **Body**

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New, Delhi,. Ap -- Expressing "deep pain" at the deteriorating humanitarian situation in Sri Lanka, the Congress today called upon Colombo to declare a ceasefire to resolve the crisis in a democratic way.

The statement from the ruling party was released by AICC Spokesman Anand Sharma here, who is also the Minister of State for External Affairs. The Congress appeal assumes significance in the context of a general strike called by the ruling DMK in Tamil Nadu tomorrow demanding a ceasefire in the troubled Island Nation and also in view of the expected visit of Sri Lankan President Mahinda Rajapaksa's Senior Advisor Basil Rajapaksa as special emissary for discussions with Indian officials on the latest developments, including the worsening humanitarian situation and mass exodus of Tamil civilians. "Indian National Congress calls upon the Sri Lankan government to ensure in every possible way the safety and security of its Tamil-speaking population, especially in the area where its security forces are battling the LTTE," the statement said, calling upon Colombo to "declare a ceasefire so that the humanitarian crisis can be resolved in a demonstrable way." The Congress reiterated its "firm belief" that a lasting solution to the ethnic strife in Sri Lanka would only be possible through democratic and political means and not through military campaigns. "Indian National Congress is deeply pained at the deteriorating humanitarian situation in Sri Lanka.

Thousands of innocent Tamil men, women and children are stranded and caught in the crossfire. "INC has always advocated the fulfilment of the legitimate aspirations of the Tamil-speaking minority of Sri Lanka within the framework of a United and Federal Sri Lanka. The blueprint for this solution had been worked out by the late Rajiv Gandhi and forms an essential part of the India-Sri Lanka peace accord of 1987," the statement said. Expressing "deep pain" at the deteriorating humanitarian situation in Sri Lanka, the Congress today called upon Colombo to declare a ceasefire to resolve the crisis in a democratic way. The statement from the ruling party was released by AICC Spokesman Anand Sharma here, who is also the Minister of State for External Affairs. The Congress appeal assumes significance in the context of a general strike called by the ruling DMK in Tamil Nadu tomorrow demanding a ceasefire in the troubled Island Nation and also in view of the expected visit of Sri Lankan President Mahinda Rajapaksa's Senior Advisor Basil Rajapaksa as special emissary for discussions with Indian officials on the latest developments, including the worsening humanitarian situation and mass exodus of Tamil civilians. "Indian National Congress calls upon the Sri Lankan government to ensure in every possible way the safety and security of its Tamil-speaking population, especially in the area where its security forces are battling the LTTE," the statement said, calling upon Colombo to "declare a ceasefire so that the humanitarian crisis can be resolved in a demonstrable way." The Congress reiterated its "firm belief" that a lasting solution to the ethnic strife in Sri Lanka would only be possible through democratic and political means and not through military campaigns. "Indian National Congress is deeply pained at the deteriorating humanitarian situation in Sri Lanka. Thousands of innocent Tamil men, women and children are stranded and caught in the crossfire. "INC has always advocated the fulfilment of the legitimate aspirations of the Tamil-speaking minority of Sri Lanka within the framework of a United and Federal Sri

## Congress appeals to Lanka for ceasefire

Lanka. The blueprint for this solution had been worked out by the late Rajiv Gandhi and forms an essential part of the India-Sri Lanka peace accord of 1987," the statement said. Published by HT Syndication with permission from United News of India.

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**Load-Date:** April 23, 2009

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## **Parents sell daughter to LTTE**

Daily Mirror (Sri Lanka)

November 3, 2008 Monday 3:34 PM EST

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**Length:** 94 words

**Byline:** Report from Daily Mirror brought to you by HT Syndication.

**Dateline:** Colombo

### **Body**

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Colombo, Nov. 3 -- The **LTTE** paid Rs.25,000 to the parents who reportedly permitted one of their children to join the organization, a **female** suspect revealed to the police.

The suspect, from the north and currently under detention by the Terrorist Investigation Division (TID) had told the police that her parents handed her to the **LTTE** for money.

Inquiries revealed that she had undergone one year's training in Kilinochchi as a suicide cadre and come down to Colombo to carry out a mission on a VIP.

Published by HT Syndication with permission from Daily Mirror.

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**Load-Date:** November 3, 2008



## ***Sri Lankan government minister killed in bomb explosion, military says***

The Associated Press

January 8, 2008 Tuesday 8:13 AM GMT

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**Section:** INTERNATIONAL NEWS

**Length:** 205 words

**Dateline:** COLOMBO Sri Lanka

### **Body**

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A Sri Lankan government minister was killed Tuesday in a roadside bombing near the capital that was blamed on Tamil Tiger rebels, the military said. Seven other people were wounded.

D.M. Dassanayake, who held the position of nation-building minister but was not a member of the Cabinet, died in a hospital after his car was caught in the explosion in the Ja-Ela area, about 12 miles north of Colombo, military spokesman Brig. Udaya Nanayakkara said.

"We have still not arrested anybody but the suspicion is on the LTTE," Nanayakkara said, referring to the rebels by the initials of their movement's formal name, the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam.

Tamil Tiger rebels often target top political or military officials.

In April 2006, a female suicide bomber failed to kill Army Commander Lt. Gen. Sarath Fonseka, who was critically wounded but resumed work after treatment.

In December 2006, Defense Secretary Gotabhaya Rajapaksa escaped a bomb attack without injuries.

In November, a female suicide bomber failed to kill a government minister, killing an aide instead.

The last successful assassination took place in June 2006, when the rebels killed Maj. Gen. Parami Kulatunga, the third highest-ranking military officer, in a bomb attack.

**Load-Date:** January 9, 2008

## Memorandum on Lankan Tamils issue submitted to Counsul General

UNI (United News of India)

March 10, 2009 Tuesday

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**Length:** 598 words

**Dateline:** Puducherry

### **Body**

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Puducherry, Mar. 10 -- A delegation led by MDMK leader Vaiko today called on the Consul General of France Jollie Rayat at the French consulate here and submitted a memorandum seeking the intervention of the French Government to ensure a ceasefire in Sri Lanka where Tamils were allegedly being massacred.

Later, talking to newspersons, Mr Vaiko charged the Sri Lankan army with killing innocent Tamils, including women and children, and a memorandum seeking the intervention of the French Government was submitted to the Consul General of France. It was the French Government which had initiated more interest for the Eelam Tamils in the European Union, he said, adding with Puducherry still having French connection, steps should be taken by the French Government to protect the Tamils in Sri Lanka. Mr Vaiko said Russia had prevented the taking up of the Sri Lankan issue in the UN twice and India was the sole reason for it...Now it was up to the French Government to exert pressure on the UN to bring an end to the raging war in Sri Lanka. It was the Sri Lankan government which violated the ceasefire announced by the LTTE, Mr Vaiko alleged. Tamizhar Desiya Iyyakkam leader Pazha Nedumaran said innocent Tamils were being killed in Sri Lanka and a memorandum urging the French Government to mount pressure on the UN and European Union to ensure a ceasefire was handed over to the Consul General of France. According to Mr Nedumaram, Jollie Rayat had assured to forward the memorandum to French President Nicolas Sarkozy and Ambassador of France Jerome Bonnafont in India. Besides Mr Vaiko and Mr Nedumaran, the delegation comprised Viduthalai Chiruthaigal Katchi legislator Ravi Kumar, PMK Parliamentary party leader M Ramadass and CPI state secretary Na Ra Kalainathan. A delegation led by MDMK leader Vaiko today called on the Consul General of France Jollie Rayat at the French consulate here and submitted a memorandum seeking the intervention of the French Government to ensure a ceasefire in Sri Lanka where Tamils were allegedly being massacred. Later, talking to newspersons, Mr Vaiko charged the Sri Lankan army with killing innocent Tamils, including women and children, and a memorandum seeking the intervention of the French Government was submitted to the Consul General of France. It was the French Government which had initiated more interest for the Eelam Tamils in the European Union, he said, adding with Puducherry still having French connection, steps should be taken by the French Government to protect the Tamils in Sri Lanka. Mr Vaiko said Russia had prevented the taking up of the Sri Lankan issue in the UN twice and India was the sole reason for it...Now it was up to the French Government to exert pressure on the UN to bring an end to the raging war in Sri Lanka. It was the Sri Lankan government which violated the ceasefire announced by the LTTE, Mr Vaiko alleged. Tamizhar Desiya Iyyakkam leader Pazha Nedumaran said innocent Tamils were being killed in Sri Lanka and a memorandum urging the French Government to mount pressure on the UN and European Union to ensure a ceasefire was handed over to the Consul General of France. According to Mr Nedumaram, Jollie Rayat had assured to forward the memorandum to French President Nicolas Sarkozy and Ambassador of France Jerome Bonnafont in India. Besides Mr Vaiko and Mr Nedumaran, the delegation comprised Viduthalai Chiruthaigal Katchi legislator Ravi Kumar, PMK Parliamentary

Memorandum on Lankan Tamils issue submitted to Counsul General

party leader M Ramadass and CPI state secretary Na Ra Kalainathan. Published by HT Syndication with permission from United News of India.

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**Load-Date:** March 31, 2009

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## **UN says unable to leave Sri Lanka's war-torn north**

Agence France Presse -- English

September 14, 2008 Sunday 6:01 AM GMT

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**Length:** 208 words

**Dateline:** COLOMBO, Sept 14 2008

### **Body**

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The United Nations said Sunday its aid staff were unable to comply with a Sri Lankan government order to quit the war-torn north of the island because of protests by local civilians.

UN agencies say some 160,000 people have been displaced in the past few months in the districts of Mullaitivu and Kilinochchi as the government steps up its offensive against Tamil Tiger rebels.

Some 70,000 people have fled due to fighting in the past two months alone.

UN agencies began pulling out of the region on Thursday after Colombo said it could not guarantee the safety of aid workers.

"We have temporarily suspended withdrawing our staff, vehicles and other equipment. Large groups of civilians continue to block our offices in the Wanni since Friday," UN spokesman, Gordon Weiss told AFP.

He said thousands of men, women and children were protesting outside UN and other international aid agency offices in Kilinochchi to stop aid workers from leaving.

"The Sri Lankan government is very much aware of the present situation," he said, adding that the UN's Colombo offices were waiting further instructions from their headquarters in New York.

The Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) have warned against the pullout, saying it cause a "humanitarian crisis."

**Load-Date:** September 15, 2008

## **President - Solheim discuss situation in the North**

Daily Mirror (Sri Lanka)

September 24, 2008 Wednesday 4:46 PM EST

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**Length:** 586 words

**Byline:** Report from Daily Mirror brought to you by HT Syndication.

**Dateline:** Colombo

### **Body**

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Colombo, Sept. 24 -- Norway was requested to assist in the government's continuing humanitarian efforts to bring relief, especially to the people of the North, providing such assistance is directed through the government rather than through other organizations.

This request was made during bilateral discussions between President Mahinda Rajapaksa and the Norwegian Minister of Environment and International Development Erik Solheim, on the sidelines of the 63rd UN General Assembly sessions in New York on Monday. Mr. Solheim called on the President at his hotel accompanied by Jon Hansen Bauer, Special Envoy associated with the Sri Lanka Monitoring Mission.

Discussions on current developments in Sri Lanka included the President's approach towards a sustainable peace and the need to eliminate terrorism, the Presidential secretariat said. `It was shown that the government's current policy mirrored the developments taking place in the East, with the defeat of **LTTE** terrorism in the country.

This was seen as a positive step towards the achievement of Sri Lanka's overall goal of peace and democracy, island wide. It was seen that results of the recent elections to the first ever Eastern Provincial Council was a clear reflection of the endorsement of the government's policies by the people of the East, their willingness to embrace democracy over terrorism, and a recognition of the de-merger of the Eastern Province from the North.

President Rajapaksa said the Government was now addressing humanitarian issues in the North, and that the **LTTE** was trying to use civilians as human shields in the areas where it was faced with the advancing Sri Lankan troops, which efforts by the terrorists had to be prevented. It was shown that humanitarian assistance was being extended to the people in the North, with decisions taken at the highest levels of government, to ensure the safety of civilians and adequate provisions for them.

Meanwhile an agreement was reached on future areas of cooperation between Sri Lanka and Iceland in the key areas of geo-thermal energy, fisheries development and **women's** empowerment, at bi-lateral discussions between President Mahinda Rajapaksa and Iceland's Prime Minister Geier Haarde in New York on Monday.

The discussions took place when Iceland's Prime Minister called on the Sri Lankan President at the latter's hotel, in New York, where both leaders are present for the 63rd Session of the UN General Assembly.

Premier Haarde, who appreciated the growing cooperation between Sri Lanka and Iceland, recalled the earlier visit to his country by President Rajapaksa, as Minister of Fisheries, and the recent visit of Sri Lanka's Minister of Foreign Affairs to Iceland as symbolic of the close relationship between the two countries.

President - Solheim discuss situation in the North

The discussions centered on the possibilities for future cooperation. This included bi-lateral agreements involving investment promotion in Sri Lanka and the avoidance of double taxation. These are now reaching finalization and are expected to be ready for signature when the Icelandic Premier visits Sri Lanka very soon. Measures will also be taken for enhanced airline connectivity between the two countries, as well as increased tourism to Sri Lanka.

President Rajapaksa expressed his appreciation of the contribution of Iceland to the development of Sri Lanka and the efforts of Iceland to implement the mandate of the Sri Lanka Monitoring Mission, during its operation in Sri Lanka.

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**Load-Date:** September 25, 2008

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## **Hospital shelled in Sri Lanka fighting, nine killed**

Agence France Presse -- English

February 2, 2009 Monday 7:27 AM GMT

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**Length:** 602 words

**Byline:** Giles Hewitt

**Dateline:** COLOMBO, Feb 2 2009

### **Body**

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Shells hit a crowded hospital in northeast Sri Lanka, killing at least nine people and raising fears Monday for thousands of civilians caught in a final military push against cornered Tamil Tiger rebels.

The hospital, which is in rebel-held-territory and houses around 500 patients, took direct hits in two separate shelling incidents on Sunday, aid agencies and medical workers said.

At least nine patients were killed and 15 injured.

"We're shocked that the hospital was hit, and this for the second time in recent weeks," said Paul Castella, head of the International Committee of the Red Cross delegation in Sri Lanka's capital, Colombo.

The ICRC did not say which side was responsible for the shelling, but the army denied involvement, saying it was carried out by the rebels in a bid to "discredit" the military.

"We know the exact location of the hospital," said military spokesman Brigadier Udaya Nanayakkara. "We are ready at any moment to arrange safe passage for civilians in that area."

The hospital is located inside the 300-square-kilometre (110-square-mile) area of jungle where remnants of the rebel Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (**LTTE**) are staging a final, desperate stand against an overwhelming, year-long military offensive.

The United Nations says up to 250,000 non-combatants are trapped in the area. The Sri Lankan government says the figure is closer to 120,000.

Aid agencies say hundreds of civilians may already have been killed in the crossfire and scores more injured, including children as young as 10 days old.

A government-set deadline for the **LTTE** to allow civilians to leave the combat zone expired on Saturday night, after which the military said it would launch fresh operations to "liberate" the civilians by force.

## Hospital shelled in Sri Lanka fighting, nine killed

With the Tigers on the brink of defeat, the government has rejected international calls for a ceasefire, saying it intends to wipe out the rebel force and finally end Asia's longest-running ethnic conflict.

Tiger rebels took up arms in their fight for a separate Tamil homeland in 1972.

T. Varatharajah, the regional director of health services stationed in the damaged hospital, said the shells had hit the staff quarters, the female ward, the mortuary and the kitchen.

"It's a very tense situation now," Varatharajah told AFP by telephone. "There is no proper power or water supply and staff are spending their time in the bunkers in between treating patients."

The doctor said many patients' relatives were also staying in the hospital grounds, bringing the total number of people inside the compound to around 1,000.

"Most of the staff have also moved in with their families," he added.

The UN arranged an evacuation of some 350 wounded people and their relatives from the combat zone last week, and negotiations are currently underway for the transfer of a further 250 patients from the hospital.

The government has blocked any independent media access to the conflict area and to the camps housing those displaced civilians who have managed to flee the fighting.

On Saturday, troops overran a camp used by "Black Tiger" suicide bombers, uncovering a large arms cache and the bodies of 14 rebel fighters, the army said, adding that a second camp was captured and nine bodies recovered later the same day.

The UN children's agency UNICEF says tens of thousands of children are among those caught in the firing line, and that babies as young as 10 days old have been wounded in the fighting.

"We have clear evidence that children are being caught in the crossfire, and that children are being injured and killed," said UNICEF's regional director for South Asia, Daniel Toole.

**Load-Date:** February 3, 2009



## ***Vaiko hits out at Pranab on Lankan issue***

UNI (United News of India)

January 24, 2009 Saturday

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**Length:** 609 words

**Dateline:** Cuddalore

### **Body**

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Cuddalore, Tamil. Na -- Assailing External Affairs Minister Pranab Mukherjee for his statement on Sri Lanka, MDMK Leader Vaiko today blamed the Indian Government for the current situation in Sri Lanka wherein ethnic Tamils were being killed in the conflict between the Armed Forces and the LTTE.

Speaking to reporters here after paying respects to the mortal remains of VCK activist Jothi alias Tamizhvendan who died after committing self immolation for the Lankan Tamil cause, Mr Vaiko said the supply of arms and equipment to the Island Nation by India led to the killing of innocent Tamils there. "Mr Mukherjee's statement (in Parliament yesterday saying the war has entered the final phase and India cannot interfere in the affairs of Sri Lanka ) is worse than the bombs hurled in the conflict. It is like mixing poison in water",he said. "It is India which is conducting the war. The leadership of the party leading the government at the Centre is to blame",he added "Mr Mukherjee's statement cannot be forgiven. He thinks the objective has been achieved. This cannot be forgiven," he said. "A hospital has been bombed. This has not happened anywhere else in the world so far. Young Tamil women are being molested with victims themselves stating the happenings". "Despite all this, Mr Mukherjee's statement did not contain even one word condemning the happenings in Sri Lanka even as other nations were forthcoming in assailing the incidents," Mr Vaiko claimed. Venting his ire on Tamil Nadu Chief Minister and DMK President M Karunanidhi, Mr Vaiko said Mr Mukherjee's statement came within an hour of the DMK delegation meeting UPA Chairperson Sonia Gandhi at New Delhi seeking intervention in the Sri Lankan issue. "The Tamil Nadu Chief Minister is entirely to blame for this," he added. Assailing External Affairs Minister Pranab Mukherjee for his statement on Sri Lanka, MDMK Leader Vaiko today blamed the Indian Government for the current situation in Sri Lanka wherein ethnic Tamils were being killed in the conflict between the Armed Forces and the LTTE. Speaking to reporters here after paying respects to the mortal remains of VCK activist Jothi alias Tamizhvendan who died after committing self immolation for the Lankan Tamil cause, Mr Vaiko said the supply of arms and equipment to the Island Nation by India led to the killing of innocent Tamils there. "Mr Mukherjee's statement (in Parliament yesterday saying the war has entered the final phase and India cannot interfere in the affairs of Sri Lanka ) is worse than the bombs hurled in the conflict. It is like mixing poison in water",he said. "It is India which is conducting the war. The leadership of the party leading the government at the Centre is to blame",he added "Mr Mukherjee's statement cannot be forgiven. He thinks the objective has been achieved. This cannot be forgiven," he said. "A hospital has been bombed. This has not happened anywhere else in the world so far. Young Tamil women are being molested with victims themselves stating the happenings". "Despite all this, Mr Mukherjee's statement did not contain even one word condemning the happenings in Sri Lanka even as other nations were forthcoming in assailing the incidents," Mr Vaiko claimed. Venting his ire on Tamil Nadu Chief Minister and DMK President M Karunanidhi, Mr Vaiko said Mr Mukherjee's statement came within an hour of the DMK delegation meeting UPA Chairperson Sonia Gandhi at New Delhi seeking intervention in the Sri Lankan issue. "The Tamil Nadu Chief

## Vaiko hits out at Pranab on Lankan issue

Minister is entirely to blame for this," he added. Published by HT Syndication with permission from United News of India.

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**Load-Date:** March 31, 2009

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## **Arrack intended for LTTE areas found**

Daily Mirror (Sri Lanka)

November 14, 2008 Friday 1:51 PM EST

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**Length:** 192 words

**Byline:** Report from Daily Mirror brought to you by HT Syndication.

**Dateline:** Colombo

### **Body**

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Colombo, Nov. 14 -- The military, yesterday, uncovered an attempt to smuggle a large consignment of arrack bottles to the uncleared **LTTE** areas in Vavuniya.

Army headquarters said that the Army had found a consignment of 3129 bottles of liquor, 238 beer cans, 4068 pairs of footwear, five photocopiers, sixteen toner cartridges for photocopiers, a stock of leathercloth, polythene and trouser material, packed in corrugated paperboard boxes, and apparently left for safe-keeping in a shop in Vavuniya town.

"Troops had made the detection, on information provided by a captured **female** Tiger cadre who had been caught earlier with a Claymore mine. This Tiger cadre was supposed to take charge of the consignment when instructed to by the **LTTE**," the Army said.

Inquiries had confirmed that smuggling of liquor, through clandestine routes, had gone on for some time in the past, with the **LTTE** keeping them in Vavuniya, as the transit base, it said. The woman, now in custody, had been extensively used by the Tigers, and had mingled with civilians in cleared areas, investigations confirmed.

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**Load-Date:** November 14, 2008

## *Navy rescues more civilians*

Daily News (Sri Lanka)

March 5, 2009 Thursday

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**Length:** 214 words

**Dateline:** Colombo

### **Body**

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Colombo, March 5 -- Another batch of 97 civilians, fleeing from uncleared areas of Mullaitivu, using six fiber glass boats, were rescued by the Sri Lanka Navy, in the seas East of Point Pedro yesterday.

The small boats were overcrowded and was moving very slowly and precariously when Navy personnel intervened to save their lives, sources said. The group had consisted of 60 adults (26 males and 34 **females**) and 37 children. Navy sources said that they had spotted the white-flag hoisted dinghies, moving at an alarmingly slow speed due to over-crowding and had made a quick rescue move, to escort the fear-stricken passengers to the Munai Beach. The rescued had been immediately provided with food and medical assistance, and those in need of advanced treatment were rushed to the hospital after the initial treatment provided by the Naval medical personnel. The Navy also added that the civilians escaping **LTTE** clutches using sea routes were on the rise. The Navy also intervened to rescue another batch consisting of more than 30 civilians the day before. They added that special arrangements were in place with, Naval personnel and vessels consisting rescue and medical teams deployed in the North-Eastern seas. Published by HT Syndication with permission from Daily News Sri Lanka.

For any query with respect to this article or any other content requirement, please contact Editor at [htsyndication@hindustantimes.com](mailto:htsyndication@hindustantimes.com)

**Load-Date:** April 1, 2009

## **Bus attack kills 12 civilians as Sri Lanka celebrates 60th anniversary**

The Canadian Press(CP)

February 4, 2008 Monday

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**Section:** FOREIGN GENERAL NEWS

**Length:** 529 words

**Byline:** RAVI NESSMAN, AP

### **Body**

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COLOMBO, Sri Lanka \_ Sri Lanka celebrated the 60th anniversary of its independence today amid a heavy security clampdown.

No attacks were reported in Colombo, the capital, where the main celebrations took place.

But Tamil rebels are suspected of being behind the bombing a civilian bus in the Welioyo region, 240 kilometres northeast of the capital. Military officials say the bombing killed 12 civilians and wounded 17 others.

Another roadside bombing in the southeastern town of Buttala killed one soldier and injured two others.

The blasts came amid a wave of attacks targeting civilians across Sri Lanka.

On Sunday, a **female** suicide bomber blew herself up inside Colombo's main railway station, killing 11 people and wounding 92 others. A day earlier, a bomb on a bus killed 18 people, mostly Buddhist pilgrims, in the central town of Dambulla.

In an attempt to block such attacks in the capital, troops sealed off many roads and a major cellphone operator shut off its text messaging service throughout the morning as officials and residents gathered for the national ceremony.

President Mahinda Rajapaksa railed in a televised speech against the Tamil Tiger separatist rebels and said current economic and security difficulties would be over soon.

He reiterated the government's vow to crush the rebels after decades of warfare, despite an escalation of the conflict in recent months.

"Our defence forces have achieved victories that were never before seen," he said. "Terrorism is facing a defeat that it has never before faced."

Top government officials have said they hope to defeat the rebels by the end of the year.

The independence celebration began with a 21-gun salute and a parade by hundreds of army, navy, air force and police officials, along with tanks, artillery guns and multiple rocket launchers.

Twelve naval gunships and fast-attack craft sailed off the coast, while 26 fighter jets and attack helicopters flew overhead.

## Bus attack kills 12 civilians as Sri Lanka celebrates 60th anniversary

Thousands of troops, local dancers and religious leaders paraded along Colombo's coastal road in the independence celebration.

The **Tamil Tigers** have been fighting since 1983 for an independent homeland for ethnic minority Tamils after decades of marginalization by Sinhalese-dominated governments. More than 70,000 people have died.

A 2002 ceasefire ushered in several years of calm and fostered hopes that peace would prevail, but the truce broke down, with renewed fighting over the last two years claiming some 5,000 lives.

The government officially pulled out of the ceasefire last month and forced independent Nordic monitors to leave the country.

The government ousted the guerrillas from their strongholds in the east last year, and daily fighting rages along the front lines in the jungles of the north, where the rebels still control a de facto state.

A string of battles in the north Sunday killed 36 rebels and one soldier, the military said Monday. The rebels were not available for comment, but the two sides routinely give widely differing death tolls.

The government blames the rebels for the recent attacks on civilian targets inside government-held territory, which continue despite a maze of checkpoints throughout the country.

**Load-Date:** February 5, 2008

## **Public help to identify female suicide bomber**

Daily News (Sri Lanka)

October 11, 2008 Saturday 3:20 PM EST

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**Length:** 204 words

**Byline:** Daily News Sri Lanka

**Dateline:** Colombo

### **Body**

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Colombo, Oct. 11 -- Information on the **female** suicide bomber at Verahera, Boralesgamuwa on Thursday can be given on 119, 2662311, 2662323 or 2854931, the Media Centre for National Security said yesterday.

This **female LTTE** cadre is reported to have lingered around Colombo and suburbs during the past few days. Security Forces request public assistance to conduct investigations. Police investigators have traced the SIM card of the mobile phone used by her right up to the suicide blast and also the ID card. Police have traced several calls made and received by her. Police are trying to ascertain the identities of those who called her and are also looking for a person who has been seen in her company.

Police have questioned eight persons in connection with the incident. The Government Analyst has determined that her suicide jacket contained 1.5 Kg of explosives and ball bearings, adding to a total weight of 4 kg.

The bomber's head has been torn into pieces making identification difficult.

It has been revealed that the suicide terrorist and her accomplices had known the exact times regarding the arrival of the Minister from the vapmagul ceremony.

Report from Daily News Sri Lanka brought to you by HT Syndication.

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**Load-Date:** October 11, 2008

## **SPRITUAL LEADER SRI SRI RAVISHANKAR TO VISIT MANDAPAM CAMP**

UNI (United News of India)

January 24, 2009 Saturday 6:30 PM EST

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**Length:** 206 words

**Byline:** Report from UNI brought to you by HT Syndication.

### **Body**

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Ramanathapuram, Tamilnadu Jan 24 (UNI) World-renowned spiritual leader and founder of the Art of Living, Sri Sri Ravi Shankar would visit the Mandapam Special Refugee Camp in Ramanathapuram on January 26 and hold a mass meditation for a peaceful solution to the ethnic Tamils issue in the island nation. He would also address the Tamil refugees camp sources said here today. The spiritual leader would visit the camp in the afternoon and address the 3000-odd displaced Tamils. He would also distribute dhotis and sarees to the inmates, before conducting a prayer for them. Ravi Shankar's visit was arranged following heavy influx of refugees from the war-torn Sri Lanka to Tamil Nadu in the wake of the ongoing fighting between the Lankan army and the Tamil rebels **LTTE**. Meanwhile, the inmates of the camp were in a jubilant mood over the news that the spiritual leader would be coming to meet them. Arrangements were being made to receive the saint. Police are making tight security arrangements in view of Sri Ravi Shankar's visit. Presently, as many as 3262 refugees, including 1154 **women** comprising 986 families were being accommodated in the camp, the sources added.

Published by HT Syndication with permission from UNI.

-969951

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**Load-Date:** February 11, 2009



**Gordon's in trouble - but can Ken save him?; (1) A close Mayoral race shows that Labour's prospects nationally could depend on how the party fares in London next week (2) Mr Livingstone doesn't hide the fact that he is shopsoiled. 'I'm not horrible,' he told me in a rare moment of spontaneity. 'I'm just power hungry'**

The Evening Standard (London)

April 23, 2008 Wednesday

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# London Evening Standard

**Section:** A; Pg. 13

**Length:** 1073 words

**Byline:** ANNE McELVOY

## Body

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WE ENTER the final furlong of the great Mayoral Handicap facing that rare thing an election which could go to either of the main contenders.

"A knife edge" is the taut summary of a leading Labour figure heavily involved in Ken's campaign. "Just too close to call." I cannot find a single person in the Labour hierarchy who will say with certainty, "Ken is going to win". The best offer is "Voters are coming back to us it's just a question of whether it happens quickly enough", which is a long way from bankable.

Over at Camp Boris, the mood is brighter, if nervy, as befits a spirited yearling's trainers: "We can't afford any mistakes," says one.

Mr Johnson has learned fast on this campaign but his case tends to stutter after a prolonged period of exposure. It gave him his worst TV outing on Newsnight last week. It also means that he still needs to "seal the deal" to stop potential voters wavering back to the devil they know.

The main weakness of Mr Livingstone's third-term bid is that the old saw of "Ken just being Ken" looks less appealing when subjected to the close scrutiny of the hardest-fought election since the Mayoralty began.

Boris is likeable. Ken by the admission of his campaign manager, Tessa Jowell, is "not liked by everyone" (you can say that again). Her defence that amiability is not "essential" rings hollow.

Mayors are part of the public face of a city. A bit of likeability doesn't go amiss.

Gordon's in trouble - but can Ken save him? (1) A close Mayoral race shows that Labour's prospects nationally could depend on how the party fares in London next....

The tensions for New Labour in credibly endorsing Mr Livingstone are palpable.

A flawlessly centrist figure drafted in to make Ken attractive to middleclass Londoners, Ms Jowell found herself bogged down in awkward questions at the Evening Standard's debate on Monday about Ken's embrace of the extremist Muslim preacher Al Qaradawi, and his decision to address an organisation with close links to the **Tamil Tigers** at the Zoroastrian Centre in Rayners Lane.

Well, there's a Monty Python element to enjoy here. Alas, the attentions of the anti-terror squad to the organisation make it rather less amusing.

Of course, Mr Livingstone was not playing footsie with the **Tamil Tigers** for fun. A vote is a vote. If his old "rainbow coalition" of Left-liberal London, a higher proportion of **women** voters than his rival and a preponderance of ethnic support shines through the thunder of the campaign, Ken can still recapture the castle.

More than ever now, a Labour Party tethered to Gordon Brown is holding onto that prospect of a London victory to lift its spirits: one drowning man clutching another.

Mr Livingstone and Mr Brown come from different parts of the radical

Labour tradition: Ken the maverick master of interest groups, Gordon the stolid poverty crusader itching to control the machinery of state.

Both have been round the block for a while and both face a generational insurgency from their main opponents. "If the message next week is that tough, flawed old Ken can still beat feisty Boris," says one minister, "That would be very welcome omen for the other tough, flawed figure, Gordon Brown, facing his young pretender." Mr Livingstone doesn't hide the fact that he is shopsoiled. "I'm not horrible," he told me in a rare moment of spontaneity.

"I'm just power-hungry." That's Ken at his disarming best: at once frank, manipulative and utterly distinctive.

Labour fears that his power-hunger may no longer be persuasive enough. He has not been put ahead by any of the major polling organisations since Mori in February, so any swing back to him had better happen quickly now.

What really worries Mr Brown and Co is that a collapse in London, combined with a domino effect of councils in marginal seats, would be seen as harbingers of failure nationwide.

"There is a huge historical irony lurking here," says one long-standing architect of New Labour's strategy. "Ken was always a sideshow. But after all the drama of Gordon's accession and the change from Blair, it could all simply come down to how he does in London." Nationally, the mood is grim for the Government. Mr Brown, as one of his aides admits, is "spreading himself thin" in the run-up to the local elections next Thursday. He will make only one more appearance with Ken before the vote, being preoccupied with the need to stamp out rebellion among generally reliable MPs on his abolition of the 10p tax band. This is not just a crisis in Labour, it is a crisis within Brownism, too and the first time we have seen it so openly and destructively displayed.

It cuts both ways, though. An escape for Ken next week would force David Cameron back to the drawing board on tactics. London has been a golden prize for the revived Tories. Their national polling (see Guardian/ICM this week) is still not stratospheric, despite the Government's woes. They badly need to bring this trophy home to set a course for No 10..

Mr Johnson's energetic campaign has, to his credit, brought them very close to the prize. I must take issue with my esteemed colleague Andrew Gilligan's contention that it does not matter if the candidate had, in a previous job, shown himself to be "crap at the general day-to-day stuff [like] checking the expenses but great at the strategic vision".

The point about the Mayoralty is not just about vision but delivering on that vision. Making sure things are done on time and costed properly is part of the job. It is a state of mind which applies in large things as well as small. Just as

Gordon's in trouble - but can Ken save him? (1) A close Mayoral race shows that Labour's prospects nationally could depend on how the party fares in London next....

Ken has rightly, if belatedly, been held to account for his lapses here, so we should expect Boris to be which means he should be on top of the general day-to-day stuff.

It thus remains a weakness that even Mr Johnson's supporters are desperate to discover who is actually going to run the place if he wins the race.

He can take comfort in the knowledge that the Ken campaign has failed in one important point. It has not really made its main charge stick that Boris is a dangerous liability to the capital city. We may view with some suspended disbelief the prospect that Boris will exhibit all the orderly virtues of public life. But the "Disaster Candidate" tag has not found much of an echo.

There is Labour's wider agony in a nutshell. What is the Gordon national message but "Don't risk it all in hard times by trusting the Tories"? If London does embark on the magical mystery tour of a new Mayor, it will have sent a message that the risk of change is sometimes worth taking. In that case, the writing on the wall for Gordon will be very large indeed..

## Graphic

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One drowning man clutching another: more than ever, a Labour Party tethered to Brown needs a Livingstone victory to lift its spirits

**Load-Date:** April 23, 2008

## **Forty one LTTE cadres killed in Wanni**

Daily Mirror (Sri Lanka)

September 13, 2008 Saturday 2:56 PM EST

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**Length:** 164 words

**Byline:** Report from Daily Mirror brought to you by HT Syndication.

**Dateline:** Colombo

### **Body**

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Colombo, Sept. 13 -- Latest fighting across the Wanni region left at least 41 **LTTE** cadres and a soldier dead on Thursday, the military said. The Defence Ministry said that the fiercest battle on Thursday took place in the Kilinochchi district, where 19 **LTTE** cadres and one soldier were killed and 11 soldiers were wounded.

Twelve rebels were killed in three separate clashes in Vavuniya, and 10 rebels killed in skirmishes in Welioya and Jaffna, the ministry said.

Meanwhile, on Thursday, the army handed over bodies of 14 more **LTTE** cadres to the representatives of the International Committee of Red Cross (ICRC), to be given to the **LTTE** at Omanthai entry/exit point.

The army said that those bodies were of seven **females** and seven males who were killed while fighting the troops in the Welioya and Vavuniya sectors. Four of those bodies were collected from the Welioya front and the remaining 10 from north of Vavuniya.

Published by HT Syndication with permission from Daily Mirror.

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**Load-Date:** September 13, 2008

## **LTTE's Lt. Col. Selvy killed in action**

Daily Mirror (Sri Lanka)

June 2, 2008 Monday 3:13 PM EST

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**Length:** 146 words

**Byline:** Report from Daily Mirror brought to you by HT Syndication.

**Dateline:** Colombo

### **Body**

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Colombo, June 2 -- The **LTTE** announced that one of its top **female LTTE** cadres was killed in battle last week. The **LTTE** peace secretariat said that Selvy who held the Tiger rank of 'Lt. Col' was killed during a clash at the Mannar FDL on May 25.

"Even her seniors within the **LTTE** feared her for her stringent adherence to rules and the extreme austere life that she led and expected others in the movement to lead.

To her subordinates she was the counsellor who could be approached with any kind of problem. Yet they too feared her for her absolute honesty. There were rare instances in her life as a leader of a frontline unit where she dared to disobey orders of her seniors that she clearly perceived as unwise.

At her funeral her seniors expressed their respect for her decisions of this type," the **LTTE** said.

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**Load-Date:** August 11, 2008

## **Forty one LTTE cadres killed in Wanni**

Daily Mirror (Sri Lanka)

September 12, 2008 Friday 5:01 PM EST

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**Length:** 164 words

**Byline:** Report from Daily Mirror brought to you by HT Syndication.

**Dateline:** Colombo

### **Body**

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Colombo, Sept. 12 -- Latest fighting across the Wanni region left at least 41 **LTTE** cadres and a soldier dead on Thursday, the military said. The Defence Ministry said that the fiercest battle on Thursday took place in the Kilinochchi district, where 19 **LTTE** cadres and one soldier were killed and 11 soldiers were wounded.

Twelve rebels were killed in three separate clashes in Vavuniya, and 10 rebels killed in skirmishes in Welioya and Jaffna, the ministry said.

Meanwhile, on Thursday, the army handed over bodies of 14 more **LTTE** cadres to the representatives of the International Committee of Red Cross (ICRC), to be given to the **LTTE** at Omanthai entry/exit point.

The army said that those bodies were of seven **females** and seven males who were killed while fighting the troops in the Welioya and Vavuniya sectors. Four of those bodies were collected from the Welioya front and the remaining 10 from north of Vavuniya.

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**Load-Date:** September 12, 2008

***The eight rows of pews at St. Fatima's church in Colombo were mostly empty; RIGHTS-SRI LANKA: 'Do They Know It's Christmas***

IPS (Latin America)

January 12, 2009 Monday

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**Length:** 1058 words

## **Body**

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Beside the altar a young man with a receding hairline was setting up a slideshow on the plight of the tens of thousands displaced in war-torn northern Sri Lanka, run to the accompaniment of Bob Geldof and Midge Ure's 1984 number, 'Do they Know It's Christmas?'.

This was a special, pre-Christmas prayer service for civilians trapped in the Vanni or areas still under the control of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (**LTTE**).

'I ask you to pray for our people, Sinhalese, Tamil, Muslim and Burgher,' Father Praveen Mahesen from the northern Jaffna Peninsula told his small congregation, referring to the country's main ethnic groups. Sinhalese make up of about 74 percent while the Tamils follow with around 15 percent.

The teardrop shaped island has been ravaged, since 1983, by sectarian violence that now seems to have reached a decisive point. In January 2008, the Sri Lankan government officially pulled out of a ceasefire signed in 2002 with the **LTTE** -- called the 'Tigers' for short -- and pushed for a military solution to the conflict.

Sri Lanka's army is now poised for a final assault on Kilinochchi, the once bustling town that serves as the political hub of the Tigers. The Tigers however have been putting up a stiff resistance and the weeks leading to Christmas saw hundreds of combatants killed on both sides.

Clashes were reported on Christmas Eve and even on Christmas Day.

On Dec.15, five Bishops -- three Catholic and two Anglican-- made a plea for a Christmas truce. 'A temporary truce will be of immense benefit to the people of Vanni in areas under Tiger control,' they said.

The Bishops also requested the "two sides to explore setting up of demilitarised zones with the assistance of the International Committee of the Red Cross (CRC). If requested, leaders from all religions are ready to assist in this task".

That plea for peace fell on deaf ears. The Sri Lankan government had declared that 2009 will be the year decisive victories while the Tigers have said that their cadres are dug in for the long haul.

'2009 will go down in Sri Lanka's history as the year of victory. We will wipe out terrorism and liberate our people,' President Mahinda Rajapakse told a gathering of religious leaders on Dec. 22.

Christmas week saw the Tigers in a defiant mood with its political head B. Nadesan indicating that they were prepared for the government onslaught. 'It is not the real estate that matters. Our freedom struggle will continue to

The eight rows of pews at St. Fatima's church in Colombo were mostly empty RIGHTS- SRI LANKA : 'Do They Know It's Christmas

create war towns until our struggle reaches its goal -- until we win,' he told the Reuters news agency in an e-mail interview published on Dec. 23.

International humanitarian agencies have repeatedly warned that the fate of the over 230,000 displaced, now remaining in areas east of Kiliochchi, was precarious. Last week The Representative of the United Nations Secretary-General for the Human Rights of Internally Displaced Persons, Walter Kälin, became the latest dignitary to express concern.

In a letter to the Sri Lankan government he said that food and other essential items for those trapped in the Vanni were in short supply despite the World Food Programme (WFP) transporting supplies with the assistance of government agencies and other relief groups.

'The Representative acknowledged the Government's continuing efforts to enable humanitarian convoys to reach the estimated 200,000-300,000 internally displaced persons in the region but stressed that current supplies of food, medicine, emergency shelter and sanitation materials are inadequate to meet the severe and increasing needs of the displaced. The Representative has called on the Government to significantly improve access for more humanitarian relief and humanitarian personnel to reach all civilians in need,' a U.N. statement said.

Kälin also requested the Tigers to allow internally displaced persons (IDPs) to move out of areas under their control and raised the possibility of the Tigers using the civilians for military purposes.

'The Representative is concerned by reports that the LTTE is restricting IDPs' freedom of movement and ability to seek safety in another part of the country. Only the most limited and narrow exception would be allowed for a temporary relocation or restriction of civilians, and only then for imperative military reasons or when safety of the civilians so requires. The Representative also cautions that the intermingling of combatants or military objectives within a civilian population violates at a minimum the duty to take precautionary measures and to respect the principle of distinction.'

On Tuesday, the New York-based rights group Human Rights Watch called on the Sri Lankan government to ensure freedom of movement for civilians fleeing the fighting. 'The Sri Lankan government should stop arbitrarily detaining civilians fleeing fighting in the northern Vanni region,' HRW said in a report.

Food, however, is getting into the Vanni. The WFP said that it transported 870 MT of supplies on Christmas Eve, the largest weekly convoy since the relocation of U.N. and other international humanitarian agencies out of the Vanni in mid-September.

'Although WFP planned to send 750 tons of food weekly, delays because of technical, administrative and weather-related constraints (security, bad road conditions, flooding) have prevented the full requirements to be met," a statement said. The government also says there is no food shortage in the Vanni. 'There was no food shortage in the Vanni and Jaffna and the Government is getting the fullest cooperation of all key actors including the WFP and ICRC in the endeavour to provide supplies to the civilians," Commissioner General of Essential Services S.B. Divarathne said.

But those who organised the prayer service in Colombo felt that the plight of the civilians trapped in the Vanni was nowhere on the national psyche as this small nation of 22 million people went into the yearend holidays with crackers and fireworks and Christians and Catholics dressed resplendently for midnight mass.

'There were no prayers or mention of hundreds of thousands of displaced men, women and children, with inadequate shelter, food, medicine, education, water and sanitation,' Rukshan Fernando, the young man with the receding hairline, wrote in a blog post. He had just finished attending midnight mass. © 2009 NoticiasFinancieras - IPS - All rights reserved



The eight rows of pews at St. Fatima's church in Colombo were mostly empty RIGHTS- SRI LANKA : 'Do They  
Know It's Christmas

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End of Document

## **22 Killed In Female Suicide Attack In Lanka**

RTT News (United States)

February 9, 2009 Monday

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**Length:** 251 words

### **Body**

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(RTTNews) - A **female** suicide-bomber, posing as a civilian, entered a welfare center at a government-controlled area in northern Sri Lanka Monday morning and detonated her explosives, killing more than 22 persons and injuring over 90 others, besides herself, media reports said.

The explosion went off in the Visuamadu area of Mullaitivu district, 360 km northeast of capital Colombo, where the military is receiving hundreds of civilians before they are sent to transit camps.

Some reports said the suicide-bomber, in a group coming to an area where there were members of the security forces, blew herself while being frisked by **female** soldiers.

The Sri Lankan military said most of those killed were troops, but more than eight civilians also died.

The attack came as fighting continues to rage between troops and Tamil Tiger rebels in what the military describes as the last phase of its effort to end the country's over two-decade-long civil war.

The Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (**LTTE**), fighting since 1983 for a separate state for the nation's ethnic 12 per cent Tamil minority after decades of alleged marginalization by the Sinhalese majority, has not yet claimed responsibility for the attack.

Aid organizations estimate that around 200,000 civilians are still trapped in the last remaining rebel-held territory, a 150-kilometre-long stretch of land on the northeastern coast.

For comments and feedback: contact [editorial@rttnews.com](mailto:editorial@rttnews.com)

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**Load-Date:** April 16, 2010

## *Sri Lanka warns civilians in combat zone*

Agence France Presse -- English

February 2, 2009 Monday 2:19 PM GMT

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**Length:** 652 words

**Byline:** Giles Hewitt

**Dateline:** COLOMBO, Feb 2 2009

### **Body**

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Sri Lanka issued a stark warning to civilians trapped in fighting with Tamil Tiger rebels Monday, a day after shells hit a crowded hospital in the northeast combat zone, killing at least nine people.

A government statement said the fight against the cornered Tigers was at "the decisive stage" and that it could not guarantee the security of tens of thousands of non-combatants living outside a designated "safety zone" in rebel-held territory.

"The government calls on all civilians to enter the demarcated 'safety zone' as soon as possible," the statement said.

"The government cannot be responsible for the safety and security of civilians still living among LTTE (Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam) terrorists," it added.

A year-long military offensive has pushed the once-powerful LTTE back into 300-square kilometre (110-square mile) jungle area on the island's northeast coast.

The United Nations says up to 250,000 non-combatants are trapped in the area. The Sri Lankan government says the figure is closer to 120,000.

Aid agencies say hundreds of civilians may already have been killed in the crossfire and scores more injured, including children as young as 10 days old.

A hospital in the area with 500 patients, took direct hits in two separate shelling incidents on Sunday, aid agencies and medical workers said.

At least nine patients were killed and 15 injured.

"We're shocked that the hospital was hit, and this for the second time in recent weeks," said Paul Castella, head of the International Committee of the Red Cross delegation in Sri Lanka's capital, Colombo.

## Sri Lanka warns civilians in combat zone

The ICRC did not say which side was responsible for the shelling, but the army denied involvement, saying it was carried out by the rebels in a bid to "discredit" the military.

"We know the exact location of the hospital. We will not hit it," said military spokesman Brigadier Udaya Nanayakkara. "We are ready at any moment to arrange safe passage for civilians in that area."

With the Tigers on the brink of defeat, the government has rejected international calls for a ceasefire, saying it intends to wipe out the rebel force and finally end Asia's longest-running ethnic conflict.

Tiger rebels took up arms in their fight for a separate Tamil homeland in 1972.

There was heavy fighting in the narrow strip of land where the rebels have been cornered, the defence ministry said, with war planes bombing suspected Tiger positions.

Military officials said jet aircraft carried out five bombing sorties on Monday but details were not immediately available.

The ministry said a total of 46 Tiger rebels were killed in separate ground clashes, but did not say if security forces suffered any casualties.

The government has accused the Tigers of using civilians as a human shield and preventing them from moving into the safety zone on the edge of the rebel-held territory.

The Tigers insist the non-combatants are free to leave, but say they are scared of moving to areas under military control.

T. Varatharajah, the regional director of health services stationed in the damaged hospital, said the shells had hit the staff quarters, the female ward, the mortuary and the kitchen.

"It's a very tense situation now," Varatharajah told AFP by telephone. "There is no proper power or water supply and staff are spending their time in the bunkers in between treating patients."

The doctor said many patients' relatives were also staying in the hospital grounds, bringing the number of people inside the compound to around 1,000.

"Most of the staff have also moved in with their families," he added.

The UN arranged an evacuation of some 350 wounded people and their relatives from the combat zone last week and negotiations are underway for the transfer of a further 250 patients from the hospital.

The government has blocked any independent media access to the conflict area and to the camps housing those displaced civilians who have managed to flee the fighting.

**Load-Date:** February 3, 2009

## *As war in Sri Lanka ebbs, Tamils still feel mistreated*

The International Herald Tribune

February 7, 2009 Saturday

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**Section:** NEWS; Pg. 1

**Length:** 1126 words

**Byline:** Mark McDonald - The New York Times Media Group

**Dateline:** COLOMBO

### **Body**

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They can be seen on nearly every block in the center of Sri Lanka's capital, the grim-faced young soldiers standing at their posts, checking faces, checking IDs, warily checking anything that seems out of the ordinary.

And in nervous, war-weary Colombo, that means checking anyone who looks to be an ethnic Tamil.

"We cannot move about the city, not at all, and it's only Tamils who are being stopped for checking," said a frustrated shopkeeper, a middle-aged Tamil man selling sports equipment. "This government, no one can speak against them. If I talk, maybe you will not see me here tomorrow. I can disappear."

The man dug into a stack of cricket shirts and pulled out a plastic bag. Inside was yet another bag that held a folded-up Tamil-language newspaper - not forbidden, he said, but certain to raise suspicions and whispers among his Sinhalese neighbors and the authorities.

"The government newspapers are just telling lies, but our young Tamil boys are knowing about all the people being killed by the army in the north," he said. "These boys are becoming young lions. They will grow up to be lions. You will see."

The government's quarter-century war with ethnic Tamil separatists does appear to be in its final stages now, with the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam backed into a small wedge of jungle along Sri Lanka's northeastern coast.

President Mahinda Rajapaksa predicted this week that the war was just days from ending, and one of his senior ministers said the military campaign was in its "mopping up" stages. The defense secretary also rejected calls from the United States, Britain, Japan and the European Union for a negotiated truce; he said the military would continue to press the fight until the Tigers unconditionally surrendered.

The government's assertions about the fighting are difficult to confirm because of restrictions on independent journalists' access to the war zone.

But even with the end of conventional warfare, anger and resentment are likely to linger for many Tamils in the north, anger at what they call decades of official marginalization, resentment over discriminatory education policies and suppression of the Tamil language by administrations dominated by the Sinhalese Buddhist majority.

## As war in Sri Lanka ebbs, Tamils still feel mistreated

"These problems won't be sorted unless there's a fair resolution after the war," said S. Thiayaraja, a Tamil businessman in the mountain resort town of Nuwara Eliya. He said such a resolution would have to include government-financed development in the Tamil areas of the north - schools, infrastructure, housing - as well as some political autonomy, with more Tamils being accepted into the military, the police and the civil service.

"It also won't be sorted until Prabhakaran is found," Thiayaraja said, referring to Velupillai Prabhakaran, the LTTE leader.

Prabhakaran is a legend and inspiration among Tamil activists, and rumors have been swirling here in the capital over his whereabouts, especially since the government recently claimed to have taken over his underground lair. One report from the Defense Ministry also said security forces had found a training camp for suicide bombers that included the room where the bombers had their going-away "final dinner of death" with the Tigers' leader.

Some say Prabhakaran is still at the head of the Tiger forces, ready to fight to the last. A waiter at the upscale Gallery Café in Colombo said he was sure that Prabhakaran was in Malaysia. The driver of a three-wheeled taxi in the capital said he was certainly hiding in the sprawling Indian city of Madras, in the state of Tamil Nadu.

Another theory holds that one of Prabhakaran's in-laws owns a large shipping business and the fugitive leader has found sanctuary aboard one of his relative's vessels.

Prabhakaran and the LTTE began fighting for a separate Tamil homeland in 1983, its first assault coming in an ambush of government troops. When subsequent anti-Tamil riots left hundreds dead, the battle was fully joined.

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A woman bomber also struck the motorcade of General Sarath Fonseka in April 2006. The general, the head of the Sri Lankan Army, was wounded in the attack, and he is now being hailed as a hero in Sri Lanka for having led the military to the brink of success against the Tigers.

But many here also fear that the end of conventional warfare will mean a return to suicide bombing as the Tigers' default tactic, especially in Colombo. The security lockdown of the capital, they say, is almost certain to continue.

Still, the prevailing emotion all across Sri Lanka - from the majority Sinhalese, minority Tamils, Muslims, expatriate residents - seems to be relief that at least the major fighting is coming to an end. They blame the war for the ruin of Sri Lanka's once-splendid tourism business, as well as a damaging spike in food prices, a 20 percent rate of inflation and unemployment that has just passed 6 percent.

The war and its accompanying security measures have frightened most foreign tourists away from Colombo. And in the Buddhist resort town of Kandy, in central Sri Lanka, the hotels, guest houses and Ayurvedic retreats are nearly empty, even at what should be the height of tourist season.

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Southern Tamils in Nuwara Eliya say they feel little ethnic connection and few political sympathies for the so-called Jaffna Tamils fighting for independence in the north. Nuwara Eliya's predominantly Tamil population of shopkeepers, blue-collar workers and tea-pickers also feels socially estranged from the northern Tamils.

"We are Tamils, too, but they look down on us as lower-caste people," said a real estate broker who would only give his name as Bandara. "They consider us only good for cleaning toilets. I went to the north in 2004, and they wouldn't even give me a glass to drink water. They gave me only a hollow coconut. In Sri Lanka, that's how you treat a dog."

As war in Sri Lanka ebbs, Tamils still feel mistreated

Ramalingam, the laborer, agreed: "We're not brothers."

Neck deep in a hole of rock and dirt, he was hand-digging the footings for a new house. He looked up from the hole, smiled slyly and said, "Maybe this could be Prabhakaran's grave. Maybe soon."

**Load-Date:** March 4, 2009

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End of Document

## *UN expresses concern about civilians' safety in Lanka*

UNI (United News of India)

March 24, 2009 Tuesday

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**Length:** 694 words

**Dateline:** United, Nations

### **Body**

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United, Nations,. Ap -- The UN has voiced deep concern over the safety of tens of thousands of civilians trapped in a shrinking pocket of land on Sri Lanka's northeast coast where fighting rages between the military and the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (*LTTE*).

The situation in the area is chaotic and reliable information is difficult to obtain, the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) said. According to the Sri Lankan Ministry of Defense, over 60,000 civilians fled the area since 20 April, with nearly 83,000 leaving between October 2008 and April 2009. More than 81,000 are now accommodated in camps. "While there are no verifiable numbers of overall casualties, we believe that significant numbers have been killed and injured in the military operation," UN spokesperson Marie Okabe told reporters yesterday. Delivering aid to those trapped in the combat area remained shipment remains difficult as well. Some 1,200 tonnes of humanitarian assistance, which was due to embark for the area on 19 April could not leave due to the fighting, according to OCHA. No assistance has been delivered to the conflict area since April 1. In addition, available stocks of non-food items to internally displaced persons (IDPs) who have fled to the Vavuniya district will soon be exhausted because of the large influx of new arrivals. In response to influx, the UN Population Fund (UNFPA) said that it was providing some 25,000 hygiene packs for women and girls to meet the needs of the large number of IDPs. In addition, the agency said that it has provided over 20 beds to furnish the proposed post-natal care unit at a hospital in Vavuniya. Along with other UN agencies and humanitarian organizations, UNFPA voiced deep concern over the plight of tens of thousands of civilians unable to flee the fighting. "Women and girls have unique needs," said agency representative Lene K Christiansen. "The UNFPA is working with government and non-governmental partners to ensure that these needs are not overlooked in the current crisis." The UN has voiced deep concern over the safety of tens of thousands of civilians trapped in a shrinking pocket of land on Sri Lanka's northeast coast where fighting rages between the military and the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (*LTTE*). The situation in the area is chaotic and reliable information is difficult to obtain, the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) said. According to the Sri Lankan Ministry of Defense, over 60,000 civilians fled the area since 20 April, with nearly 83,000 leaving between October 2008 and April 2009. More than 81,000 are now accommodated in camps. "While there are no verifiable numbers of overall casualties, we believe that significant numbers have been killed and injured in the military operation," UN spokesperson Marie Okabe told reporters yesterday. Delivering aid to those trapped in the combat area remained shipment remains difficult as well. Some 1,200 tonnes of humanitarian assistance, which was due to embark for the area on 19 April could not leave due to the fighting, according to OCHA. No assistance has been delivered to the conflict area since April 1. In addition, available stocks of non-food items to internally displaced persons (IDPs) who have fled to the Vavuniya district will soon be exhausted because of the large influx of new arrivals. In response to influx, the UN Population Fund (UNFPA) said that it was providing some 25,000 hygiene packs for women and girls to meet the needs of the large number of IDPs. In addition, the agency said that it has provided over 20 beds to furnish the proposed post-natal



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**Load-Date:** April 24, 2009

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## *As war in Sri Lanka ebbs, Tamils still express sense of being excluded*

The International Herald Tribune

February 7, 2009 Saturday

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**Section:** NEWS; Pg. 3

**Length:** 1126 words

**Byline:** Mark McDonald - The New York Times Media Group

**Dateline:** COLOMBO

### **Body**

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They can be seen on nearly every block in the center of Sri Lanka's capital, the grim-faced young soldiers standing at their posts, checking faces, checking IDs, warily checking anything that seems out of the ordinary.

And in nervous, war-weary Colombo, that means checking anyone who looks to be an ethnic Tamil.

"We cannot move about the city, not at all, and it's only Tamils who are being stopped for checking," said a frustrated shopkeeper, a middle-aged Tamil man selling sports equipment. "This government, no one can speak against them. If I talk, maybe you will not see me here tomorrow. I can disappear."

The man dug into a stack of cricket shirts and pulled out a plastic bag. Inside was yet another bag that held a folded-up Tamil-language newspaper - not forbidden, he said, but certain to raise suspicions and whispers among his Sinhalese neighbors and the authorities.

"The government newspapers are just telling lies, but our young Tamil boys are knowing about all the people being killed by the army in the north," he said. "These boys are becoming young lions. They will grow up to be lions. You will see."

The government's quarter-century war with ethnic Tamil separatists does appear to be in its final stages now, with the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam backed into a small wedge of jungle along Sri Lanka's northeastern coast.

President Mahinda Rajapaksa predicted this week that the war was just days from ending, and one of his senior ministers said the military campaign was in its "mopping up" stages. The defense secretary also rejected calls from the United States, Britain, Japan and the European Union for a negotiated truce; he said the military would continue to press the fight until the Tigers unconditionally surrendered.

The government's assertions about the fighting are difficult to confirm because of restrictions on independent journalists' access to the war zone.

But even with the end of conventional warfare, anger and resentment are likely to linger for many Tamils in the north, anger at what they call decades of official marginalization, resentment over discriminatory education policies and suppression of the Tamil language by administrations dominated by the Sinhalese Buddhist majority.

## As war in Sri Lanka ebbs, Tamils still express sense of being excluded

"These problems won't be sorted unless there's a fair resolution after the war," said S. Thiayaraja, a Tamil businessman in the mountain resort town of Nuwara Eliya. He said such a resolution would have to include government-financed development in the Tamil areas of the north - schools, infrastructure, housing - as well as some political autonomy, with more Tamils being accepted into the military, the police and the civil service.

"It also won't be sorted until Prabhakaran is found," Thiayaraja said, referring to Velupillai Prabhakaran, the LTTE leader.

Prabhakaran is a legend and inspiration among Tamil activists, and rumors have been swirling here in the capital over his whereabouts, especially since the government recently claimed to have taken over his underground lair. One report from the Defense Ministry also said security forces had found a training camp for suicide bombers that included the room where the bombers had their going-away "final dinner of death" with the Tigers' leader.

Some say Prabhakaran is still at the head of the Tiger forces, ready to fight to the last. A waiter at the upscale Gallery Café in Colombo said he was sure that Prabhakaran was in Malaysia. The driver of a three-wheeled taxi in the capital said he was certainly hiding in the sprawling Indian city of Madras, in the state of Tamil Nadu.

Another theory holds that one of Prabhakaran's in-laws owns a large shipping business and the fugitive leader has found sanctuary aboard one of his relative's vessels.

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Still, the prevailing emotion all across Sri Lanka - from the majority Sinhalese, minority Tamils, Muslims, expatriate residents - seems to be relief that at least the major fighting is coming to an end. They blame the war for the ruin of Sri Lanka's once-splendid tourism business, as well as a damaging spike in food prices, a 20 percent rate of inflation and unemployment that has just passed 6 percent.

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**Load-Date:** March 4, 2009

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## **Suicide attacker kills 20 soldiers at Sri Lanka checkpoint; Fleeing civilians among casualties**

The International Herald Tribune

February 10, 2009 Tuesday

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**Section:** NEWS; Pg. 3

**Length:** 523 words

**Byline:** Thomas Fuller - The New York Times Media Group

**Dateline:** COLOMBO

### **Body**

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A **female** suicide bomber hiding among refugees fleeing the war zone in northern Sri Lanka killed at least 20 soldiers and 8 civilians at a checkpoint Monday, the government said.

The attack, which also left dozens wounded, took place in the northern district of Mullaitivu in an area that the government said had been liberated from Tamil Tiger rebels who are defending a small strip of land along the northeastern coast of the country.

A string of victories in recent weeks has raised hopes that more than two decades of intermittent civil war between government forces and the **Tamil Tigers** may soon be over.

The rebels now control only about 160 square kilometers, or about 60 square miles, of territory, the government says.

But the suicide attack raised the prospect that the Tigers, who were among the first insurgents to use suicide bombers as a military tactic, could fight on even if they lose all the territory under their control.

"They are left only with these types of tactics," Brigadier Udaya Nanayakkara, a spokesman for the Sri Lankan military, said of the rebels. He estimated that they now numbered 700.

The woman detonated her explosives as she was being searched, he added. Sri Lankan television showed images of bodies, including that of a child, being carried away from the site of the attack.

The military would now change its procedures for processing civilians fleeing the fighting, Brigadier Nanayakkara said.

"We'll have to check civilians one by one," he said. "It's going to take more time."

Colombo, the capital, is under heavy military and police surveillance with soldiers patrolling the streets and vehicles routinely stopped at dozens of sandbagged checkpoints. Residents are constantly reminded to be vigilant and to report anything suspicious.

## Suicide attacker kills 20 soldiers at Sri Lanka checkpoint Fleeing civilians among casualties

The government is pressing ahead with its campaign against the Tamil Tiger rebels in the north. It announced Monday that its fighter jets attacked what it described as a rebel naval facility.

On Saturday, 15 to 20 rebels were killed when they tried to cross into government-held territory, the Defense Ministry said.

But the offensive is hamstrung by the presence of anywhere from 100,000 to 250,000 civilians caught in the war zone, some of which is thick jungle.

The government says that it has been encouraged by the thousands of civilians who have left rebel-held territory and says it is providing camps for all those displaced by the conflict.

But the attack Monday exposed both the danger for civilians and the difficulty for the military in separating fighters from refugees.

Mahinda Rajapaksa, the president of Sri Lanka, predicted in a speech to the nation last week that within "a few days we will decisively defeat the terrorist force that many repeatedly kept saying was invincible."

But analysts believe that defeating the rebels - let alone quelling subsequent guerrilla activity - could take weeks or months.

"I don't see this being conclusively wrapped up in the next few days," said Alan Keenan, an analyst for the International Crisis Group who is based in Colombo.

"My sense is that some remnants will survive and that we have weeks to go," he said.

**Load-Date:** February 15, 2009

## **Navy rescues 643 civilians**

Daily News (Sri Lanka)

March 19, 2009 Thursday

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**Length:** 232 words

**Dateline:** Colombo

### **Body**

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Colombo, March 19 -- The Sri Lanka Navy yesterday rescued 643 civilians fleeing the uncleared areas using boats in the northern high seas, after chasing away four Tiger craft which were pursuing them to prevent their escape.

Navy sources said that alert Naval personnel had acted swiftly to avert a major tragedy after seeing a flotilla of small dinghies carrying civilians, being hunted down by four Tiger craft which were directing fire at the civilian boats. In the face of Navy retaliatory fire the Tiger boats had fled, Navy sources said. The rescued consisted of 419 adults (207 males and 212 **females**) and 224 children (111 boys and 113 girls). The group had been found on board 35 dinghies. Navy Spokesman Captain D.K.P. Dassanayake said that senior **LTTE** leaders such as Soosai, Rangan, Maran, Alagan and Illayawan were heard giving orders to fetch back all fleeing civilians according to their communications intercepts. The badly shaken civilians were immediately provided with refreshments and necessary medical facilities, before directing them to welfare centres, Dassanayake added. He further said that the Navy had made special arrangements to assist those who were fleeing the Tigers via sea routes, with vessels being deployed in the seas off Mullaitivu, consisting of stand-by rescue and medical teams on board. Published by HT Syndication with permission from Daily News Sri Lanka.

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**Load-Date:** March 20, 2009

## **Suicide attacker kills 20 soldiers in Sri Lanka**

The International Herald Tribune

February 10, 2009 Tuesday

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**Section:** NEWS; Pg. 4

**Length:** 523 words

**Byline:** Thomas Fuller - The New York Times Media Group

**Dateline:** COLOMBO

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**Load-Date:** February 15, 2009

## *Protester burns to death to free his people*

Harrow Times

February 18, 2009 Wednesday

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**Section:** NEWS (NEWS)

**Length:** 527 words

**Byline:** Tristan Kirk

### **Body**

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A TAMIL from Harrow poured petrol over his head and burned himself to death in protest at the civil war which is devastating large parts of the population of Sri Lanka.

Murukathasan Vanakulasingham left his family last Tuesday to fly to Switzerland and take part in a mass protest against the attacks on Tamils by the Sri Lankan government.

But on Thursday night, hours before he was expected to fly home and return to his job, the 27-year-old computer science graduate set fire to himself outside the gates of the United Nations headquarters in Geneva.

He left a letter ten metres away, explaining he had sacrificed his life to draw attention to the plight of his fellow Tamils who are caught up in an increasingly bloody civil war.

Murukathasan's family found out about his death when it was reported on websites, and they spoke to the Harrow Times about the anguish of finding out he had taken his own life.

His sister Arumdevi, 24, said: "All he did for the last few weeks was watch television and get angrier and angrier that nobody was doing anything about how many people are dying. He was very sad.

"Everyone is calling and saying he is equal to gold, they are praising what he has done."

Murukathasan lived with his family in Grange Avenue, in Belmont, since 2000, and had been working for the last few months as a cashier at the local Sainsburys.

He was expected back at work on Friday, but when he did not return, his family started scouring the Internet for any news of him.

The protest Murukathasan went to join was sparked by reports 120 Tamil women were forced by Sri Lankan soldiers to abort their children.

The government and Tamil Tigers, a separatist guerilla organisation, have been embroiled in a 25-year civil war, with the Tigers fighting for an independent state in north and east Sri Lanka.

In recent months, the country's government has started an aggressive crackdown to try to win the war, but this has led to the deaths of many Tamils.

## Protester burns to death to free his people

His brother Velmurugam, 24, said his brother should be remembered as a martyr who died for the people of his country.

He said: "He wanted to protest about what he was seeing happen in Sri Lanka, but nobody knew he was going to do this.

"We are sad because we have lost a life, but we are very proud of what my brother has done.

"There is a genocide going on, 100 people are dying every day. But the international community doesn't want to do anything about it.

"We want there to be freedom for the people of Sri Lanka because that will be the price of his sacrifice."

Murukathasan's father has flown out to Geneva to identify the body and bring his son home to Harrow, and his mother Puveneswary has been inconsolable since hearing of her son's death.

The Tamil community is planning a memorial service and funeral in Harrow, when it is thought as many as 50,000 could come to pay their last respects.

Councillor Thaya Idaikaddar, who represents Roxeth ward and is a leader in the international Tamil community, said: "Even though I appreciate and admire his courage and what he has done, I am pleading with people not to do it.

"We don't want any further incidents like this, we don't want any more loss of human life."

**Load-Date:** July 18, 2012

## International briefs

Telegraph Herald (Dubuque, IA)

March 9, 2009 Monday

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**Section:** A; Pg. 5

**Length:** 577 words

**Byline:** The Associated Press

### **Body**

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Former Israeli head faces rape charges JERUSALEM - Former Israeli President Moshe Katsav will be charged with raping a woman who once worked for him and other sex crimes against former female employees, the Justice Ministry said Sunday. The charges stem from a series of complaints filed by four women who worked for Katsav when he was tourism minister in the 1990s and president earlier this decade. They have accused him of crimes including rape, sexual assault and sexual harassment. Katsav contends he is innocent and a victim of a political witch hunt.

Nearly a year ago, he called off a plea bargain that would have allowed him to escape jail time. Defense lawyer Tzion Amir told Israel TV that state prosecutors "don't have evidence or a case" and that his client would be "dramatically acquitted." Katsav resigned in 2007, two weeks before his seven-year term expired, under a plea bargain that would have required him to admit to lesser charges of sexual misconduct, but in a dramatic reversal last April, he declared he would stand trial to clear his name.

Scores die in battle for rebel enclave COLOMBO, Sri Lanka - Fierce fighting between Sri Lankan troops and ethnic Tamil separatists defending their last remaining enclave has left about 100 rebels dead in two days of fighting, the military said Sunday. The army has ousted the Tamil Tigers from most of their strongholds in an all-out offensive the government hopes will end the South Asian island's 25-year civil war. The rebel holdouts are confined to about 20 square miles of jungle and beach near Mullaittivu on the northeastern coast along with up to 200,000 terrified civilians.

China: Quake's strength caused schools to fall BEIJING - The strength of last year's massive earthquake in southwestern China was the main reason so many schools collapsed, an official said Sunday, ignoring claims that shoddy construction was to blame. The 7.9-magnitude temblor in May left nearly 90,000 people dead or missing, many of them schoolchildren killed in the collapse of 7,000 classrooms - while other nearby buildings stood. The deaths have become a sensitive political issue for the government, with parents staging protests demanding investigations. Many parents have also been subjected to intimidation and financial inducements to silence them. Wei Hong, executive vice governor of Sichuan, said the total number of schoolchildren killed - also a touchy issue - had not yet been calculated. In September, a Chinese government scientist acknowledged that a rush to build schools in recent years likely led to construction flaws - the first official admission that low building standards may have been behind the students' deaths. FBI to help probe border guards' mutiny DHAKA, Bangladesh - A team from the FBI will assist Bangladeshi police investigating last month's bloody mutiny by border guards that killed more than 70 people - mostly army officers, a government minister said Sunday. Police also said Sunday that they have so far arrested 36 suspects out of the more than 1,000 border guards charged in the mayhem. The two-day insurrection shook Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's two-month-old elected government and raised tension with the powerful military, which has staged 21 coup attempts in the past. Foreign Minister Dipu Moni said two agents from the U.S. Federal Bureau of Investigation were expected to arrive late Sunday in the Bangladeshi capital, Dhaka, to make an initial assessment.

International briefs

**Load-Date:** March 16, 2009

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**News items from Asia-Pacific Desk of Xinhua**

Xinhua General News Service

October 21, 2008 Tuesday 12:04 AM EST

Copyright 2008 Xinhua News Agency

**Section:** WORLD NEWS; Political

**Length:** 644 words

**Dateline:** HONG KONG Oct. 20

## **Body**

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Following are news items from the Asia-Pacific Desk of Xinhua in Hong Kong Monday:

Roundup: Hong Kong stocks end sharply higher, boosted by China shares

(Special for CAFS) Philippines eyeing alternative markets for overseas workers amid financial turmoil

Feature: Local people flee amid concern of Cambodian-Thai armed confrontation

Taiwan stocks fall 0.58 pct with thinner turnover

Dollar moves up to lower 102 yen in Tokyo

Foreign exchange rates in Hong Kong -- Oct. 20

Trading on Hong Kong Stock Exchange -- Oct. 20

Rate cuts good for Australian farmers, says minister

Ruling Nepali communist parties agree to form army integration panel

Foreign exchange rates in India

Thai Govt., Parliament agree to amend Article 291 to draft new charter

Xinhua Asia-Pacific news summary at 1000 GMT, Oct. 20

Major foreign exchange rates in Sri Lanka

Colombo stocks close down

HK airport introduces self-service airline check-in kiosks

Hong Kong's jobless rate climbs 3.4 pct

Thai, Cambodian PMs may talk at Asem summit in China

Thai stocks up 1.20 percent

## News items from Asia-Pacific Desk of Xinhua

Singapore shares end higher

Foreign exchange rates in Singapore

Foreign exchange rates in Laos

Foreign exchange rates in Vietnam

Indonesian shares close up

Vietnam stock market index ends down

Indonesia hopes for investment from world Islamic economic fund

Xinhua summary of Asia-Pacific stocks news at 1100 GMT, Oct. 20

Italy calls for helping Pakistan against terrorism

Indian stock market ends up

2nd Ld-Writethru: At least 2 Chinese citizens killed in Seoul

6th Int'l Symposium on Nephrology, Urology and Transplantation to be held in Pakistan

Bangladeshi Army Chief on 6-day visit to Pakistan

Sri Lanka Condemns EU investigation of human rights

(Sports) Myanmar to take part in Asian U-19 women soccer qualifier matches

Weather information for Asia Pacific cities -- Oct. 20

Gold price flat in Hong Kong -- Oct. 20

3rd LD Writethru: At least 2 Chinese citizens killed in Seoul

3rd LD Writethru: Foreign female aid worker shot dead in Afghan capital

Urgent: Suicide attack kills 2 NATO soldier in N. Afghanistan

China Enterprises Index surges 6.19 pct -- Oct. 20

1st LD Writethru: Suicide attack kills 2 NATO soldier in N. Afghanistan

Myanmar to tax on purchase of confiscated real estate

Malaysia tin market closes lower

Philippines eyeing alternative markets for overseas workers amid financial turmoil

Malaysia stock market closes mixed

Foreign exchange rates in Malaysia

Macao's gaming tax income exceeds 400 mln USD in September

S.Korean president says financial crisis could offer opportunity

Sri Lankan president says Tamil Tigers leaving ranks

News items from Asia-Pacific Desk of Xinhua

ASEM 7 to discuss global financial crisis: Indonesian official

Security forces kill 7 militants in NW Pakistan

Firing incident leaves three dead in NW Pakistan

World Bank commits 1.34 bln USD aid to Bangladesh

Auto sales up 12.8 percent in September in Malaysia

Flooding takes 11 lives in central Vietnam

Timor-Leste PM threatens to arrest protesters

Number of cell phone users in Bangladesh comes down

Seven rebels surrender in Philippines for government money offer

Top U.S. diplomat says to support Pakistan's offensive against militants

Foreign investment in Malaysia's manufacturing sector hits high: official

More Malaysians visit Macao this year

Global financial crisis affects Singapore's real economy: minister

Financial turmoil adds to challenges for climate talk: British diplomat

Afghan team arrive in Pakistan for tribal council talks

Two journalists injured in blast in SW Pakistan

Xinhua Asia-Pacific news summary at 1600 GMT, Oct. 20

Bank deposits safe: Indian PM

**Load-Date:** November 4, 2008

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## **Emerging Taliban may be culprits; TERRORISTS TARGET CRICKET - UNSTABLE PAKISTAN**

Sydney Morning Herald (Australia)

March 4, 2009 Wednesday

First Edition

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**Section:** NEWS AND FEATURES; International News; Pg. 11

**Length:** 575 words

**Byline:** Daniel Flitton

### **Body**

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PAKISTAN is a country in chaos. The extremist threat is growing, the grip of the fragile democratic government loosening, and the economy is in tatters. The army, a nest of nationalist suspicion over the aims of nuclear rival India, is severely compromised

There are very real worries the country could soon collapse.

This brazen attack on the Sri Lankan cricket team is only the latest marker of Pakistan's downward spiral. Like the bomb that flattened the Marriott Hotel in Islamabad last September or the assassination of Benazir Bhutto, the strike yesterday is a clear sign Pakistan is the world's most dangerous hot-spot.

But the tangle of problems inside the country have an enormous impact on the wider region - indeed, the world.

The rampage in India's commercial capital Mumbai last November was blamed on militants helped from across the border. The terrorist cell that struck London's transport network in 2005 trained in Pakistan - and the Taliban in Afghanistan have carved out a haven in the restive tribal lands of Pakistan.

Finding the culprit behind yesterday's attack is no easy task and, with so many conflicts swirling around both the targets and the location, the accusations will be fierce.

Suspicion will naturally fall on the **Tamil Tigers**. It would be an act of extreme desperation for the Tigers to attack the national team, let alone in Pakistan, said to be traditional source of arms for the rebel movement. Nor have the Tigers typically carried out attacks abroad, barring the 1991 assassination of the former Indian prime minister Rajiv Gandhi by a **female** suicide-bomber.

Others will reach into the depths of Pakistan's murky political scene to find blame, pointing the finger at supporters of Nawaz Sharif, the former prime minister. Lahore is a Sharif stronghold and only last week he was again banned from seeking office. Sharif blames the ruling on President Asif Ali Zardari - widower of Bhutto and a bitter political rival.

The spectre of Lashkar-e-Toiba, one of the most notorious Islamist groups in the region and blamed for shootings in Mumbai, will also hang in the air. But most likely, the so-called Pakistan Taliban will be the focus of concern.

## Emerging Taliban may be culprits TERRORISTS TARGET CRICKET - UNSTABLE PAKISTAN

The spread of this extremist movement is the greatest threat to Pakistan's stability. It springs from capricious efforts over decades by hardliners in the Pakistani military to exploit Islamist ideology to fight proxy wars, against India in the disputed territory of Kashmir or in an attempt to control Afghanistan. Now the extremists have turned back against the Government in Islamabad. Sensitivity over US missile attacks against suspected Taliban and al-Qadea hideouts in the border lands near Afghanistan is fuelling their rage.

The Pakistan Taliban is not yet a co-ordinated movement guided by a single objective, but they will attack when and where the opportunity presents.

Claude Rakisits is an Australian-born security specialist based in Geneva and spent the past fortnight in Pakistan talking with officials and academics. He has watched Pakistan over many years, and says there is now a real sense of political crisis in the country.

"All these attacks also confirm that the Pakistan security apparatus is not managing to deal effectively with the security situation," he says. "The aim of the Taliban militants is to destabilise the Pakistani state. Unfortunately, they are being assisted indirectly by the politicians who are too busy fighting among each other."

**Load-Date:** March 3, 2009

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## *Sword mightier than pen as journalist deaths rise to six*

Sydney Morning Herald (Australia)

January 17, 2009 Saturday

First Edition

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**Section:** NEWS AND FEATURES; International News; Pg. 14

**Length:** 558 words

**Byline:** MATT WADEI N NEW DELHI

### **Body**

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IT HAS been a bloody start to this year for media workers on the Indian subcontinent.

Out of the six journalists killed across the world this year, four are from this part of the world.

But that's not unusual. South Asia - which includes India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Afghanistan, Nepal, Sri Lanka and Bhutan - is the riskiest place on earth for media workers, says the Brussels-based media watchdog, the International News Safety Institute.

It has released figures showing 10 media workers died in India last year, the equal second largest number after Iraq. Pakistan was fifth on the institute's list of most dangerous countries.

"We consider South Asia to be just about the most dangerous region in the world for journalists to work, especially local reports, because almost every country in the region has some sort of conflict going on," said Sarah de Jong, the institute's deputy director.

These conflicts range from little-known insurgencies in India to full-blown wars in Sri Lanka and Afghanistan.

However, the problem is not just one of media workers being caught in crossfire and random acts of violence. Ms De Jong said there had been a worrying rise in the number of South Asian journalists being assassinated.

"There is significant evidence of journalists being targeted to silence their work," she said.

This trend was brutally underscored when a leading Colombo newspaper editor, Lasantha Wickramatunga, was shot dead while driving to work last week. An extraordinary "editorial from the grave" blaming the Sri Lankan Government for his death has made Wickramatunga's assassination all the more controversial.

He was the 16th media worker slain in Sri Lanka over the past three years as war rages between the Government and the **Tamil Tigers**.

While Colombo mourned Wickramatunga, another cruel assault on freedom of speech was taking place in Nepal. On Sunday night a young journalist was hacked to death by 15 attackers in her apartment at Janakpur, a small town 240 kilometres south-east of the capital Kathmandu.

## Sword mightier than pen as journalist deaths rise to six

Uma Singh, in her 20s, was known for her reports on women's rights and politics. She was also a strident critic of the Hindu caste system and the tradition of dowry, where a bride's parents are forced to give cash, jewellery and expensive gifts to the groom at the time of wedding. Locals heard Singh's killers telling her: "This is for writing so much."

She was the fourth journalist killed in Nepal in two years.

In Afghanistan the number of independent media outlets has risen recently, but it is still a hazardous place for reporters, especially those who express views contrary to clerics. The South Asia Media Monitor 2008 records the case of a journalism student, Sayed Perwiz Kambaksh, 23, who was sentenced to death for "disseminating defamatory remarks about Islam" after he wrote an online article criticising local teaching about the rights of women. His sentence was commuted to 20 years.

India has a vibrant media featuring thousands of newspapers and more than 60 news channels. However, journalists are also frequently threatened.

K. K. Katyal, who heads the Indian chapter of the South Asia Free Media Association, said: "This includes physical violence as well as attacks on houses and offices."

The association blames "rogue elements" in political parties, religious groups and insurgency groups for much of this abuse.

## Graphic

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PHOTO: Vigil . . . activists light candles for the assassinated newspaper editor, Lasantha Wickramatunga. Photo: AP

**Load-Date:** January 16, 2009

## **Sri Lanka: 16 patients killed in hospital shelling**

Associated Press International

February 11, 2009 Wednesday 12:18 AM GMT

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**Section:** INTERNATIONAL NEWS

**Length:** 576 words

**Byline:** By RAVI NESSMAN, Associated Press Writer

**Dateline:** COLOMBO Sri Lanka

### **Body**

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At least 16 patients being treated at a makeshift hospital in the northern Sri Lankan war zone were killed by shelling, the Red Cross said, as the military accused rebel fighters of killing 19 other civilians fleeing the area.

The United Nations, meanwhile, said Tuesday it was outraged by the "unnecessary" deaths of hundreds of people inside rebel territory and urged both sides to avoid fighting in civilian areas.

The government accuses the Tamil Tiger rebels of holding civilians hostage in the war zone to use as human shields against the military's offensive. The rebels deny the accusation.

International human rights groups say more than 200,000 civilians are believed trapped in the patch of territory still under rebel control.

Reports of civilian deaths have increased in recent weeks, and the Red Cross, the last major aid agency allowed to operate in rebel-held territory, said at least 16 patients were killed Monday in shelling near a community center in the town of Putumattalan, where medical workers had evacuated many sick and wounded civilians.

"We are shocked that patients are not afforded the protection they are entitled to," said Paul Castella, head of the Sri Lankan delegation of the International Committee of the Red Cross. Castella did not say who was behind the shelling.

On Tuesday, local fishermen helped Red Cross workers ferry about 240 of the patients to a specially chartered boat anchored off Putumattalan to evacuate them from the war zone, said Sarasi Wijesinghe, a Red Cross spokeswoman.

The patients' injuries were making the operation difficult, she said.

"Most of them can't sit upright. They have to be lying down. A lot of care has to be exercised," she said.

She said 140 other patients remained at the makeshift hospital, but the aid group hoped to evacuate them Wednesday.

The patients had fled the last functioning hospital in the war zone in Puthukkudiyiruppu last week after it came under repeated artillery barrages that killed several patients.

## Sri Lanka : 16 patients killed in hospital shelling

In recent days, the military has reported an increasing flow of civilians out of the war zone.

Military spokesman Brig. Udaya Nanayakkara said the insurgents fired early Tuesday on a group of more than 1,000 trying to escape the war zone in Udayarkattu. The attack killed 19 and wounded another 75, the military said.

Confirmation of the reported shooting was not possible because independent journalists are barred from the war zone. The rebels could not be reached for comment because communications to the north have largely been severed.

More than 1,000 civilians fled Tuesday, and 6,599 reportedly crossed Monday, even as a **female** bomber killed 19 soldiers and 10 civilians at an army checkpoint.

The Tamil Tiger rebels have been fighting since 1983 for an independent state for minority Tamils. Government troops have forced the rebels into a broad retreat in recent months and officials say they are on the verge of crushing the insurgency and ending a war that has killed more than 70,000 people.

In Geneva, the U.N. refugee agency said it was "outraged by the unnecessary loss of hundreds of lives and the continued suffering of innocent civilians" inside rebel territory. It urged the government and **Tamil Tigers** to avoid fighting inside a government-designated "safe zone" where many civilians were reportedly killed.

"Without respect for international humanitarian law by both parties, the bloodshed will continue," the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees said.

**Load-Date:** February 11, 2009

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**Prabhakaran still in charge of LTTE: Army spokesman**

Daily Mirror (Sri Lanka)

March 16, 2009 Monday

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**Length:** 166 words

**Dateline:** Colombo

**Body**

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Colombo, March 16 -- Army Spokesman Brigadier Udaya Nanayakkara yesterday said that **LTTE** Leader Velupillai Prabhakaran has not fled the country and is still hiding in the Puthukuduiruppu area.

He said that according to information received by them Prabhakaran is directing **LTTE** activities from his hideout in Puthukuduiruppu. He said the army had earlier discovered several underground bunkers that were suspected to have been occupied by Parabhakaran and he could still be in such a bunker within the last pieces of territory held by the Tigers. A senior military officer said that the 'Radha Regiment' that was providing personal security to Prabhakaran had also been sent to the battlefield on a directive by the Tiger Leader. Although the **female** cadres of the 'Radha Regiment' had not been sent to the battlefield earlier now, **female** cadres were also deployed on the frontlines due to the shortage of fighters in the **LTTE**. Published by HT Syndication with permission from Daily Mirror Sri Lanka.

For any query with respect to this article or any other content requirement, please contact Editor at [htsyndication@hindustantimes.com](mailto:htsyndication@hindustantimes.com)

**Load-Date:** April 1, 2009

## International briefs

Telegraph Herald (Dubuque, IA)

August 21, 2008 Thursday

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**Section:** A; Pg. 8

**Length:** 574 words

**Byline:** The Associated Press

### **Body**

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4 foreign activists detained in China BEIJING - Two elderly Chinese women who applied to hold a protest during the Olympics were ordered to spend a year in a labor camp, a relative said Wednesday. Police later squelched a pro-Tibet demonstration. The women still were at home three days after being officially notified they would have to serve a yearlong term of reeducation through labor, but were under surveillance by a government-backed neighborhood group, said Li Xuehui, the son of one of the women.

Li said no cause was given for the order to imprison his 79-year-old mother, Wu Dianyuan, and her neighbor Wang Xiuying, 77. Meanwhile, swarms of plainclothes police set upon four foreign activists early Thursday as they tried to stage a protest against Chinese rule over Tibet - the latest in a series of unsanctioned demonstrations to occur during the Olympics. Norway: Russia to cut military ties with NATO OSLO, Norway - Russia has informed Norway that it plans to suspend all military ties with NATO, Norway's Defense Ministry said Wednesday, a day after the military alliance urged Moscow to withdraw its forces from Georgia. NATO foreign ministers said Tuesday they would make further ties with Russia dependent on Moscow making good on a pledge to pull its troops back to preconflict positions in Georgia. However, they stopped short of calling an immediate halt to all cooperation. The Nordic country's embassy in Moscow received a telephone call from "a well-placed official in the Russian Ministry of Defense," who said Moscow plans "to freeze all military cooperation with NATO and allied countries," Espen Barth Eide, state secretary with the Norwegian ministry said. Sri Lankan troops break through rebel defenses COLOMBO, Sri Lanka - The Sri Lankan military says it has broken through the Tamil Tigers' defenses in recent weeks, ending a prolonged stalemate and stirring predictions of an imminent rebel defeat after 25 years of civil war. Troops overran a major rebel naval base on July 16, then pushed deep into the north, capturing four more bases and entering the rebel's heartland in the Kilinochchi district for the first time in 11 years. Prime Minister Ratnasiri Wickramanayake speculated that troops might seize the rebels' administrative capital in the town of Kilinochchi by the end of the week. Sarkozy visits Kabul after soldiers killed KABUL, Afghanistan - French President Nicolas Sarkozy vowed Wednesday that French troops would stick it out in Afghanistan despite an exceptionally deadly attack and frustration at home about the war. "We have to be here," he said while visiting Kabul, adding that he had no regrets about sending 700 reinforcements to the French contingent. Sarkozy spoke to French troops from units who lost some of the 10 soldiers killed in a fierce Taliban ambush and firefight in mountains about 30 miles east of Kabul on Monday. It was the deadliest attack on international troops in Afghanistan since 2005. France outlaws TV shows for babies PARIS - France's broadcast authority has banned French channels from marketing TV shows to children under 3 years old, to shield them from developmental risks it says television viewing poses at that age. The ruling also ordered warning messages for parents on foreign baby channels that are broadcast in France - such as Baby TV, which is owned by Rupert Murdoch's News Corp., and BabyFirstTV, which has ties to News Corp.'s Fox Entertainment.



International briefs

**Load-Date:** August 21, 2008

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## *Rickshaws of the night; Postcard Sri Lanka*

The Sun Herald (Sydney, Australia)

November 23, 2008 Sunday

First Edition

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**Section:** TRAVEL; Pg. 9

**Length:** 487 words

**Byline:** Andrew Taylor

### **Body**

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On Colombo's dark, deserted streets, Andrew Taylor gets an offer he can refuse.

I'm hurtling along Colombo's main drag, Galle Road, in the back of a rickety auto-rickshaw, when the driver turns to me with a wide grin. "My friend, how do you like Sri Lankan girls?" he asks, showing off teeth as healthy as an old graveyard.

Girls are low on my to-do list, below avoiding a traffic accident and getting shot by one of those heavily armed soldiers nervously patrolling the streets following attacks by the Tamil Tigers.

It's past midnight and I've just dropped off my friend, Ana, who's explained to the driver, in Sinhalese, where I want to go, farewelling me with the words: "Don't pay more than 500 rupees."

But I tell him politely that, yes, his womenfolk are the prettiest I've ever met, just as you tell a parent that their baby is the cutest.

My driver continues to sing the praises of Sri Lankan women. Then, without warning, he swerves across three lanes of traffic to make a right turn. "I see my friend," he says.

The friend promptly joins me in the back of the rickshaw and gives me a ghetto-style handshake while we continue our journey through Colombo's dark and deserted streets.

"Ah, is this the right way?" I ask.

"My friend, do not worry. You are safe with us," the driver replies with another toothy grin.

A few minutes later, we come to a stop. The friend leaps out of the auto-rickshaw, runs across the road to a parked car and opens its door.

It's beginning to dawn on me that my wallet, if not several vital organs, are now at risk. "Why have we stopped?" I demand, summoning the authority of Mr Bean.

"My friend, do not worry," he says, as a voluptuous woman, presumably Sri Lankan and wearing the type of outfit favoured by employees of Pure Platinum and The Governors Pleasure, climbs in next to me.

## Rickshaws of the night Postcard Sri Lanka

It's now the rupee finally drops - far from wanting to steal my kidneys, my driver wants to show me some old-fashioned hospitality and at a reasonable price no doubt.

"My friend, you like?" he asks.

To his surprise, I turn down his offer, feign indignation and stomp out of the rickshaw.

"My friend, my friend, where do you go?" the driver calls, anxious not to lose his fare.

He has a point. I'm in a dark, deserted, strange city under military curfew and really don't want to attempt to explain to a young soldier why I've turned down a prostitute just hours before my flight home.

So I climb back in. The driver refrains from further discussion.

However, by the time we (finally) arrive at my destination, his good humour returns.

"My friend, 700 rupees," he says.

What happens next will be familiar to any strung-out tourist in Asia - we argued over \$3. So much so, a crowd gathers. I'm sure they're placing bets on who will fold first. In the end, I do the mature thing - throw 400 rupees at the driver and stamp off, threatening to call the police.

He picks up the crumpled notes and yells: "My friend, you are crazy."

## Graphic

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Photo: AFP

**Load-Date:** November 23, 2008

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## **AIADMK SAYS SESSION VIOLATES ASSEMBLY RULES**

UNI (United News of India)

October 23, 2008 Thursday 6:14 PM EST

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**Length:** 245 words

**Byline:** Report from UNI brought to you by HT Syndication.

**Dateline:** Puducherry

### **Body**

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Puducherry, Oct 23 (UNI) AIADMK State Secretary A Anbazhagan, MLA, today alleged that the one-day Winter Session of the Territorial Assembly was conducted by violating the Puducherry Legislative Assembly Conduct and Business Rules, 1966. Addressing the press here, Mr Anbazhagan said the administration converted the private member resolution tabled by DMK, MDMK and PMK members, into a government resolution, which was not included in the list of business. Moreover, the resolution contained remarks criticising the Union Government for providing arms to Sri Lanka. Chief Minister V Vaithilingam, while doing so and getting the resolution passed, failed to oppose the wordings of the members though the content did not figure in the government resolution. A debate was also not allowed on the subject, he claimed, adding this was taken up only to please the supporting parties, including those supporting the LTTE. This need to be condemned strongly, he said. Mr Anbazhagan also accused Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M Karunanidhi of concentrating on organising human chain to divert the attention of the people from other serious issues such as power tariff hike prevailing in the state. He also urged the administration to take immediate steps to provide the announced bonus to the unorganised sector labourers and textile workers here and pending wages to women self-help groups who were engaged in clearing garbage.

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**Load-Date:** October 23, 2008

## **Blast inside zoo wounds 4 in Sri Lanka, military says**

Associated Press International

February 3, 2008 Sunday 7:28 AM GMT

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**Section:** INTERNATIONAL NEWS

**Length:** 537 words

**Byline:** By KRISHAN FRANCIS, Associated Press Writer

**Dateline:** COLOMBO Sri Lanka

### **Body**

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A grenade exploded at a zoo on the outskirts of Sri Lanka's capital on Sunday, wounding four people, the military said, as fierce battles between soldiers and **Tamil Tigers** in the restive north left 27 insurgents dead.

The attack took place in the bird sanctuary at a zoo in Dehiwela, a suburb of Colombo, military spokesman Brig. Udaya Nanayakkara said, adding it was not clear who was behind the latest blast or their motives.

More than 700 people have been killed in intensified violence since the government withdrew from a cease-fire with the Tamil Tiger guerrillas last month.

The attack came as a bomb blamed on Tamil Tiger rebels ripped through a bus loaded mostly with elderly Buddhist pilgrims in central Sri Lanka on Saturday, killing at least 18 people and wounding 51 others. The blast occurred in Dambulla town about 150 kilometers (90 miles) northeast of Colombo, said Nanayakkara, blaming the rebels.

In Sri Lanka's volatile north and northeast, meanwhile, fighting between troops and rebels Saturday left 27 guerrillas dead. The clashes were in northern Vavuniya and Mannar districts and in Welioya village of the northeastern front, the defense ministry posted on its Web site.

Rebel spokesman Rasiah Ilanthirayan could not immediately be reached for comment on the fighting or the bombing. The Tigers, listed as a terror organization by the U.S. and European Union, routinely deny responsibility for attacks against civilians.

It was not possible to verify battle details independently because the area is restricted to journalists. Both the government and the rebels routinely exaggerate damage inflicted on each other and undercount their own casualties.

Bus driver Rohana Wijesiri said Saturday he was taking about 100 passengers, mainly elderly, ethnic Sinhalese **women**, to the holy city of Anuradhapura.

"When we were passing Dambulla there was a huge blast and the door near my seat got blown away," Wijesiri said.

The explosion tore apart the vehicle's top and sides. A severed hand could be seen among the bloodstained bags, glass and other debris strewn several meters (yards) from the vehicle.

## Blast inside zoo wounds 4 in Sri Lanka , military says

"I do not remember what happened next, but I was running on the road. I saw my conductor fallen on the ground. He too got up and started running with me" Wijesiri said.

"As it (the bus) came near me, I heard thunder. I got thrown away," said Kankeaarachige Michael, a 52-year-old businessman, who was standing by the road when the blast occurred.

"When I saw blood gushing out of my body, I realized it was a bomb," Michael said Saturday at Dambulla Base Hospital where he was being treated. He lost an eye in the attack.

President Mahinda Rajapaksa warned Sri Lanka's Sinhalese not to be provoked by the bombing.

The guerrillas have been fighting since 1983 for an independent state in the north and east for the country's ethnic Tamil minority after decades of being marginalized by Sinhalese-dominated governments. The fighting has killed more than 70,000 people.

Most Sinhalese are Buddhists while most Tamils are Hindus. There are Christians in both ethnic groups.

Civilians have borne the brunt of the violence over the past month with three attacks on passenger buses killing dozens, including many schoolchildren.

**Load-Date:** February 4, 2008

## **LTTE suspect reveals vital information**

Daily Mirror (Sri Lanka)

November 8, 2008 Saturday 2:03 PM EST

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**Length:** 98 words

**Byline:** Report from Daily Mirror brought to you by HT Syndication.

**Dateline:** Colombo

### **Body**

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Colombo, Nov. 8 -- A suspected **LTTE** woman cadre who was arrested recently by the Mannar police and handed over to TID had provided vital information on terrorists who might be roaming around in Colombo disguised as beggars, expectant women, or somebody seeking treatment. They are supposed to carry explosives hidden inside shoes, or in the false bottom of traveling bags.

Police requested the public to be vigilant about any stranger who might be acting in a suspicious manner as he or she could be a terrorist in disguise.

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**Load-Date:** November 8, 2008

## *The AFP Asia news agenda*

Agence France Presse -- English

January 4, 2008 Friday 2:52 AM GMT

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**Length:** 589 words

**Dateline:** HONG KONG, Jan 4 2008

### **Body**

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Duty Editor: Trudy Harris

News Desk: + 852 2829 6211

#### ASIA NEWS HIGHLIGHTS ON FRIDAY

- + Musharraf denies role in Bhutto killing
- + Japanese shares close down sharply
- + Myanmar marks independence anniversary

ISLAMABAD: Full coverage of Pakistan crisis after President Pervez Musharraf says there was no government involvement in death of Benazir Bhutto but admits he is "not fully satisfied" with the probe so far (PAKISTAN-ATTACKS-BHUTTO)

TOKYO: Reporting on Japanese share prices which slump 4.0 percent on the first session of 2008 on worries about the health of the US economy and oil prices which have hit above the symbolic 100-dollar mark (STOCKS-JAPAN)

YANGON: Covering as Myanmar marks the 60th anniversary of its independence from Britain amid global pressure for reform and tightening sanctions against the junta following its bloody crackdown on dissent last year (MYANMAR-HISTORY-POLITICS-60YEARS)

#### OTHER NEWS ITEMS:

BANGKOK: Moving a story about the fifth year of a separatist insurgency in Thailand's Muslim-majority south (THAILAND-SOUTH-UNREST-ANNIVERSARY)

COLOMBO: Reporting on escalating fighting between government troops and ***Tamil Tigers*** in northern Sri Lanka after authorities in Colombo officially scrap a ceasefire agreement with the ethnic rebels (SRILANKA-UNREST)

HONG KONG: Tennis. Third day of JB Group Classic tournament (TENNIS-HKG)



## The AFP Asia news agenda

JAKARTA: Monitoring search for bodies from floods and landslides last week that left more than 120 people dead or missing on densely populated Java island (INDONESIA-FLOODS-LANDSLIDE)

KATHMANDU: Monitoring political situation in Nepal after former Maoist rebels return to government following a deal to abolish the monarchy and declare the country a republic (NEPAL-POLITICS)

NEW DELHI: Reporting on India's weekly inflation figures (INDIA-ECONOMY-INFLATION)

-- India's largest private-sector power utility firm Reliance Energy's unit Reliance Power is to announce details of the country's largest IPO aimed at raising an estimated three billion dollars (INDIA-ENERGY-COMPANY-RELIANCE-IPO)

-- Following developments after the first-ever general elections in Bhutan (BHUTAN-VOTE)

-- Tennis. ATP Chennai Open (TENNIS-IND-ATP)

SEOUL: Reporting as North Korea steps up the rhetoric, saying it will build up its "deterrence" because the United States is stepping up preparations for a nuclear war (NKOREA-NUCLEAR-WEAPONS)

-- Monitoring work of transition team for president-elect Lee Myung-Bak (SKOREA-POLITICS)

SINGAPORE: Reporting on world oil trading in Asia after crude hits 100 dollars a barrel (COMMODITIES-ENERGY-OIL-ASIA-PRICE)

SYDNEY: Cricket. Third day of second Test between Australia and India in Sydney (CRICKET-AUS-IND)

-- Tennis. Australian Men's Hardcourts in Adelaide (TENNIS-AUS-ATP)

-- Tennis. Mixed teams Hopman Cup in Perth (TENNIS-AUS-HOPMAN)

-- Tennis. Australian Women's Hardcourts in Royal Pines (TENNIS-WTA-AUS)

TAIPEI: Monitoring after prosecutors launch probe into alleged large-scale vote-buying just days before parliamentary elections (TAIWAN-VOTE)

-- Taiwan end-December forex reserves (FOREX-TAIWAN-BANK-RESERVES)

TOKYO: Covering political developments as Prime Minister Yasuo Fukuda dismisses reports of a January cabinet reshuffle amid flagging public support (JAPAN-POLITICS)

-- Monitoring foreign exchange trading as the dollar languishes against the yen and the euro ahead of a key US employment report (FOREX-ASIA)

WELLINGTON: Tennis. WTA Auckland Classic quarter-finals (TENNIS-WTA-NZL)

-- Cricket. First Test between New Zealand and Bangladesh in Dunedin (CRICKET-NZL-BAN)

afp

**Load-Date:** January 4, 2008

## **UN peacekeepers needed to prevent Sri Lanka bloodbath: MEP**

Hindustan Times

February 13, 2009 Friday

Copyright 2009 HT Media Ltd. All Rights Reserved

**Length:** 239 words

**Dateline:** London

### **Body**

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London, Feb. 13 -- A leading member of the European Parliament says the situation in Sri Lanka is now so critical that the UN must send a peacekeeping mission to prevent a civilian massacre.

Robert Evans, Chairman of the European Parliament Delegation for Relations with South Asia, called on UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon to send a peacekeeping mission as soon as possible. "All the evidence suggests that about a quarter of a million people are not just stuck in limbo, but could be caught in a ghastly bloodbath," said Evans, who belongs to Britain's ruling Labour party. Evans said Tamil civilians have a "natural reticence and fear" of accepting a Sri Lankan government offer "to come over to their side". "They are terrified of Sri Lankan troops and their 'holding camps'". Equally there are stories suggesting that the **LTTE** has or might shoot anyone who tries to escape from the areas that remain under their control. "There could be as many as 250,000 men, **women** and children massacred in the next few days unless the international community acts immediately," he added. Evans said he has discussed the worsening situation in Sri Lanka with Foreign Office Minister Mark Malloch-Brown, and European Commissioner for External Relations Benita Ferrero-Waldner and was in Oslo on Tuesday meeting Norwegian minister and former peace negotiator Erik Solheim. Published by HT Syndication with permission from Indo-Asian News Service.

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**Load-Date:** April 1, 2009

## ***Persons escaping from LTTE held areas tell horrific tales***

Daily Mirror (Sri Lanka)

February 14, 2009 Saturday

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**Length:** 170 words

**Dateline:** Colombo

### **Body**

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Colombo, Feb. 14 -- Several displaced persons from the Mullaithivu area who were admitted to the Trincomalee hospital with gunshot injuries said they were used as human shields by the **LTTE** and had they were forced to creep into trenches to escape the gunfire.

They say that they were left to starve for days until the ICRC served them biscuits and water. Many of the injured had been taken hostage by the **LTTE** without providing them treatment. The displaced persons who were ferried to Trincomalee by the ICRC were elderly men, **women** and children. They said only those injured and in critical condition were released by the **LTTE**. One of them said the **LTTE** shot dead 15 young men who attempted to flee from Pudukudiyirippu area. The doctors who examined them said many of the refugees were not in a position to walk due to dehydration and starvation. They were given first aid by the Medical Unit of the Sri Lanka Navy before being admitting to hospital. Published by HT Syndication with permission from Daily Mirror Sri Lanka.

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**Load-Date:** April 1, 2009

## **9 killed in hospital attack**

Northern Territory News (Australia)

February 3, 2009 Tuesday

1 - Edition

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**Section:** WORLD; Pg. 8

**Length:** 262 words

### **Body**

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COLOMBO, Sri Lanka: Three artillery barrages struck a hospital in Sri Lanka's chaotic war zone, killing nine patients, the Red Cross said yesterday.

Dr Thurairajah Varatharajah, the top government health official in the area, said the shells in at least two of the attacks on Sunday appeared to have been fired by the Sri Lankan army.

They caused extensive damage to the overcrowded Puthukkudiyiruppu hospital, one of the last functioning health institutions inside rebel-held territory, he said.

The three attacks hit a kitchen, a chapel and the women and children's wing of the hospital, Red Cross spokeswoman Sarasi Wijeratne said yesterday.

The attacks killed nine people and wounded 20 others, she said. The aid agency did not say which side fired the shells.

The UN confirmed the hospital was hit several times on Sunday.

“It seems to have struck the pediatric ward, a 30-bed ward filled to overflowing. The last communication that we had from our staff member on the ground was that they were still counting the dead,” UN spokesman Gordon Weiss said yesterday. “We’re at a loss to understand why people would shell a hospital.”

Military spokesman Brigadier Udaya Nanayakkara said the army was not responsible for the attacks and blamed the rebels, the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam.

“Now the LTTE is firing very desperately everywhere artillery ... one of these shells may have fallen into that area,” he said.

The military has repeatedly denied killing civilians in their offensive to wipe out the Tamil Tiger rebels and end the island nation's 25-year-old civil war.

**Load-Date:** February 2, 2009

## *Spain moves jailed ETA members nearer home*

Cape Times (South Africa)

March 26, 2009 Thursday

e2 Edition

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**Section:** Pg. 2

**Length:** 257 words

### **Body**

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The Spanish government is moving jailed members of the militant Basque separatist group ETA to prisons closer to their homes in an attempt to persuade the group to give up their armed struggle, press reports said yesterday.

More than half of Italians "totally disagree" with Pope Benedict XVI's remarks on condom use, which stirred global controversy as he travelled to Aids-ravaged Africa last week, according to a poll published yesterday. Only one in five respondents to a poll by the left-leaning daily La Repubblica backed the pope's view that condom use could further the spread of Aids on the continent.

Police say an explosion in a city in south-eastern Turkey has killed one person and wounded two others. Police say the cause of the blast in Mardin city is still under investigation.

No need for women to be MPs, says Saudi prince

Islamic Saudi Arabia, the world's biggest oil exporter, has no need for women members of parliament or elections, a senior prince said in remarks published yesterday.

A woman, who gave birth aboard an international flight without anyone noticing, was charged by New Zealand police with abandoning the baby after it was found in a toilet rubbish bin.

Sri Lankan government troops have overrun a hideout of the Tamil Tiger rebels' feared intelligence chief, the defence ministry said yesterday. But there was no sign of Pottu Amman, who along with Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) leader Velupillai Prabhakaran, is believed to have either fled the island or is still hiding in a narrow strip of jungle.

**Load-Date:** March 26, 2009

## *Spain moves jailed ETA members nearer home*

Cape Times (South Africa)

March 26, 2009 Thursday

e1 Edition

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**Section:** Pg. 2

**Length:** 256 words

### **Body**

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**Load-Date:** March 25, 2009

## *Navy rescues 71 civilians fleeing from LTTE clutches*

Colombo Times

March 27, 2009 Friday

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**Length:** 107 words

### **Body**

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Colombo, March 27 -- Sri Lanka Navy rescued total of 71 innocent Tamil civilians who had been fleeing from **LTTE** clutches in two separate occasions yesterday, 25 March.

The first group consisted of 26 civilians including 6 males, 9 **females** and 11 children had fled the **LTTE** clutches on 4 small boats and were found 6 AM by Sri Lanka Navy at Point Pedro.

The second group reached Pulmoddai area at about 11 AM, sources said. 45 civilians including 15 males, 17 **females** and 13 children of 14 families are among the escapees.

They have been sent to welfare centers after providing with food and refreshments by the Sri Lanka Navy, the sources added.

**Load-Date:** May 5, 2009

## *In defence of Douglas Devananda*

Daily Mirror (Sri Lanka)

June 25, 2008 Wednesday 3:09 PM EST

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**Length:** 2009 words

**Byline:** Daily News Sri Lanka

**Dateline:** Colombo

### **Body**

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Colombo, June 25 -- If Douglas Devananda did not exist, the democratic system would have had to invent him. Any resolution or even sustainable management of North-South relations in Sri Lanka, any successful attempt at nation-building and conflict transformation, devolution and autonomy, requires the fulfilment of the following four conditions: that the Sri Lankan State have a moderate Tamil partner; that the Sinhalese - especially the Sinhala leadership-- have a Tamil leader they can trust; that the Tamils have a moderate leader who can negotiate with the State as well as the Sinhala community; and that this moderate Tamil leader is capable of survival and standing up to Tiger terrorism.

Of the Northern Tamil leaders, particularly of the Jaffna Tamil ones, only Douglas Devananda fulfils all these conditions. Politically, Douglas is more moderate than even Anandasangaree, who insists that no settlement of Sri Lanka's ethnic question is possible within the framework of a unitary State.

He does not mean an over-centralised unitary State or this unitary State as it currently exists. He means a unitary State as such. Anandasangaree strongly feels that a solution is possible only within a federal State, and dogmatically insists upon the Indian model of (quasi) federalism.

In sum, Anandasangaree is a throwback to the days of the old Federal party, which failed to obtain anything of value out of the Sri Lankan polity for the Tamils. He still demands too much from the Sri Lankan State and the Sinhalese and is thus unable to obtain anything of significance for the Tamil people.

Why is Douglas definable as a moderate realist and Sangaree as a Utopian? Let me explain by way of a short and seeming detour. The official submission of Britain to the Universal Periodic Review of the UN Human Rights Council, defined the UK as a unitary country comprising England, Scotland and Wales, and including her overseas territories. The paragraph ran on however to mention the extensive devolution of power to the (non-English) regions.

The UK therefore is a unitary State with extensive devolution of power. Northern Ireland is a residue of a 450 year old colonial situation-Britain's oldest. After decades of guerrilla warfare by the IRA and peaceful political agitation by figures ranging from Bernadette Devlin to the martyr Bobby Sands for the cause of a united independent Ireland, the Catholics agreed to a settlement within the bounds of a unitary State with a strong measure of devolution.

There is no reason, political or moral, that the Tamils of Sri Lanka should pass up the chance of speedy and sustainable reform by demanding greater political space than Northern Ireland's Catholics.



## In defence of Douglas Devananda

Any holdout for more is but a measure of the superiority complex of the Jaffna Tamils, and is unattainable because it will not be accepted by the Sinhalese who comprise the overwhelming majority on the island.

A realistic solution to the ethnic conflict requires that the Sinhalese will move speedily towards accepting ---and the Sri Lankan State towards implementing - a strong measure of devolution of power to the provincial assemblies, while the Tamils accept that the settlement will not exceed the bounds of the unitary state, while it may certainly stretch those boundaries to the utmost.

Sinhalese flexibility is intertwined with Tamil moderation. When SJV Chelvanayagam asserted that the Bandaranaike-Chelvanayagam Pact is an interim step, he critically undermined his political partner, SWRD, because the opponents of the Pact were able to raise the query, "interim to what?"

Thus, the Sinhalese need to be reassured that the final status of the settlement does not jeopardise the unity and one-ness of the country by sliding to an ethno-federalism which may be on a continuum with merger with Tamil Nadu.

It was, after all, no Sinhala chauvinist but the JNU's Prof Urmila Phadnis who drew attention to the "autonomist-secessionist continuum" in Sri Lankan Tamil nationalist politics-- and Karl Marx who bitterly opposed Mikhail Bakunin's advocacy of federalism, much preferring a unitary State.

The danger in sharing power with Anandasangaree and his allies is threefold. In the first place, he raised his voice in criticism of the Tigers only after the LTTE prevented the re-opening of the Jaffna Public library. By contrast, Devananda has been clashing with the Tigers since he and Kittu were the military chiefs of the EPRLF and LTTE respectively, in Jaffna in the mid-1980s.

He owes Prabhakaran, a blood debt: his own blood, that of his brother and many comrades, and now Maheswary.

Secondly, Anandasangaree is neither tough enough nor street-smart enough to defend both himself and a democratic opening, while Devananda is a survivor; almost a survivalist.

Thirdly, Anandasangaree adheres to the Indian model as an article of faith. He is therefore highly likely to imitate the erstwhile Chief Minister Vardharajaperumal and (under pressure from allies and advisors) shuttle to Delhi to seek enhancement of devolution beyond a unitary State.

In doing so, he will ensure the loss of even provincial autonomy for the Tamil people and cause needless friction between Sinhalese and Tamils, and Colombo and Delhi - as did Perumal. Since Devananda's programme is one of 13th Amendment now, graduating to 13 plus through the APRC consensus, the above mentioned dangers are minimal.

Douglas Devananda has worked with and within the State system for twenty years, with three Sri Lankan Presidents from the Sinhala community: Ranasinghe Premadasa, Chandrika Bandaranaike Kumaratunga and Mahinda Rajapaksa. It was Premadasa who first called him "thamby" (little brother), as does President Rajapaksa today. Except for a brief intermission he has been a Cabinet Minister from the 1990s, which makes him a senior Minister.

He is trusted and respected by the Sri Lankan Armed Forces. His access to and relations with decision-makers and policy makers in New Delhi is superior to most and second to none.

Though some, far less intelligent than he, have short-sightedly attempted to keep him from international audiences in New York and Colombo, he would be a wonderful asset for Sri Lanka with the outside world, and far more so than many other "moderate" or dissident Tamils. He could be for the Northern Tamils, what S. Thondaman (Thondaman Sr.) was for his community.

Douglas is no Uncle Tom Tamil. He has traversed the entire contemporary Tamil political experience; lived it, suffered and sacrificed for it. He grew up in a family of Marxists and trade union leaders - his uncle and mentor K.C.

## In defence of Douglas Devananda

Nithyanandan had recruited DEW Gunasekara, present Minister of Constitutional Affairs, Communist leader and recent recipient of a Cuban award, into the Communist Party.

Deva joined the Tamil youth militancy in his teens, and became a founder member of GUES and EROS and later the EPRLF. He trained with the Palestinians in Lebanon. When I first heard of him he was in custody, having been wounded in a bank heist that went sour, in Tirukkivil. In the Movement he was "Deva".

The EPRLF would talk of him with affection and awe; he was boyish but distinctive-tough, a little wild, dedicated to his fighters and his cause.

During the Welikada prison massacres, he held at bay, clinging to the bars of the jail cell with a sheet rapped around his arm, the mob of crazed, hard-core Sinhala criminals who had butchered with edged weapons, dozens of Tamil political detainees including my friend Dr Rajasundaram, gouging out the eyes of many.

When the prisoners were finally transferred to Batticaloa after the second massacre, Douglas was one of those who initiated the successful prison break.

Nirmala Nithyanandan stayed behind on Tiger orders and was rescued by them. Whether it was leading the abortive attack on the Naval base at Karainagar, in which his kid cousin who had insisted on joining, lost her life, or swimming across to India shores when his boat capsized and his followers drowned (a gentle, good humoured young Royalist, Ahilan Paramaswamy, swallowing seawater and gasoline leaking from the boat's engine), Deva was distinctive, in the quality of his courage, commitment, perseverance, dedication and discipline.

The Tigers pulled his ailing brother out of an ambulance, together with another friend and comrade code-named Ibrahim, and murdered them both.

Premadasa and Ranjan Wijeratne were very fond of this spirited young man, trusted him instinctively, spotted his potential, inducted him into the mainstream and built him up politically. I recall a photograph of a heavily armed Douglas in shorts walking with his fighters and Ranjan Wijeratne on a newly liberated island of Jaffna. When the impeachment conspiracy was launched against Premadasa, it was Douglas who pasted the first pro-Premadasa posters on the city walls.

Premadasa, Chandrika and Mahinda Rajapaksa have all found him a staunch ally and good friend, who will never be slave, serf or stooge but will speak his mind, without however embarrassing the elected leader of the country with duplicity and public dissent unlike certain other leaders of the minority communities.

Why is there a campaign against Douglas from within the hegemonic strata of the Tamil community in Jaffna, Colombo and the Diaspora? Why is he being treated as a political Untouchable? Because having entered the democratic mainstream in 1989 he has remained there throughout. Because he is the only Tamil politician from Jaffna to be a senior Minister today, having occupied a Cabinet post for over a decade.

Because he has had good relations with three successive Sri Lankan presidents, President Premadasa, Chandrika Kumaratunga and Mahinda Rajapaksa: all three presidents knew that he was a firm, loyal ally. Because he is willing to accept a political solution within the existing unitary Sri Lankan Constitution.

Because he has long taken the firm position that after the Indo-Lanka Accord of 1987 the main source of the suffering of the Tamil people has been Prabhakaran and the LTTE which turned their back on the chance of peace and prosperity and renewed their war against India and Sri Lankan administrations. Because he supports the military efforts to defeat the LTTE and its leader Prabhakaran.

Because he has put forward viable proposals for devolution of power which can be instantly implemented. Because, while a close friend of India, his identity is Sri Lankan, and will never lobby anyone to put pressure on or intervene in this country. Nor will he migrate to any other.

The US State Department's latest Report on Patterns of Global Terrorism, an authoritative source, mentions Devananda as having survived "at least eleven" attempts on his life by the LTTE.

## In defence of Douglas Devananda

From a machine gun attack on his office in Colombo, through a spike in his skull in the Kalutara prison, to several suicide bombers, mostly women, those are eleven good reasons why Douglas Devananda and none other must be the long term partner and all of the democratic community, ranging from the Sri Lankan State to international actors. No one knows better than he, the true character of terrorism and how to combat it. He knows it in his flesh.

Simultaneously, no one is more of a symbol of the transition from guerrilla to democratic politician. (Whether he knows it or not, Chandrakanthan-Pillaiyan-- follows in Devananda's footsteps). It is because Velupillai Prabhakaran knows all this, that he has tried so persistently to kill Devananda, and by his ability to survive, Douglas has demonstrated that he is the true - democratic--alternative to Prabhakaran.

Douglas epitomises "the loneliness of the long distance runner" (as Allan Sillitoe put it). The Sinhalese political class must realise that Douglas Devananda is the last and the only living Tamil leader from the North, who will accept a settlement within the existing Constitutional framework of Sri Lanka. After that, there will be no one and it will be too late.

He is the last bridge between North and South.

Report from Daily News Sri Lanka brought to you by HT Syndication.

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**Load-Date:** September 16, 2008

## **UN peacekeepers needed to prevent Sri Lanka bloodbath: MEP**

Indo-Asian News Service

February 13, 2009 Friday

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**Length:** 255 words

**Dateline:** London

### **Body**

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London, Feb. 13 -- A leading member of the European Parliament says the situation in Sri Lanka is now so critical that the UN must send a peacekeeping mission to prevent a civilian massacre.

Robert Evans, Chairman of the European Parliament Delegation for Relations with South Asia, called on UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon to send a peacekeeping mission as soon as possible.

"All the evidence suggests that about a quarter of a million people are not just stuck in limbo, but could be caught in a ghastly bloodbath," said Evans, who belongs to Britain's ruling Labour party.

Evans said Tamil civilians have a "natural reticence and fear" of accepting a Sri Lankan government offer "to come over to their side".

"They are terrified of Sri Lankan troops and their 'holding camps'". Equally there are stories suggesting that the **LTTE** has or might shoot anyone who tries to escape from the areas that remain under their control.

"There could be as many as 250,000 men, **women** and children massacred in the next few days unless the international community acts immediately," he added.

Evans said he has discussed the worsening situation in Sri Lanka with Foreign Office Minister Mark Malloch-Brown, and European Commissioner for External Relations Benita Ferrero-Waldner and was in Oslo on Tuesday meeting Norwegian minister and former peace negotiator Erik Solheim. Published by HT Syndication with permission from Indo-Asian News Service. For more information on news feed please contact Sarabjit Jagirdar at [htsyndication@hindustantimes.com](mailto:htsyndication@hindustantimes.com)

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**Load-Date:** August 10, 2009

## **UN says pleading crowds halt Sri Lanka pull-out**

Agence France Presse -- English

September 14, 2008 Sunday 8:59 AM GMT

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**Length:** 278 words

**Dateline:** COLOMBO, Sept 14 2008

### **Body**

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The United Nations said Sunday its aid staff were unable to comply with a Sri Lankan government order to quit the war-torn north of the island because of protests by local civilians.

UN agencies say some 160,000 people have been displaced in the past few months in the districts of Mullaittivu and Kilinochchi as the government steps up its offensive against Tamil Tiger rebels.

Some 70,000 people have fled due to fighting in the past two months alone.

UN agencies began pulling out of the region on Thursday after Colombo said it could not guarantee the safety of aid workers.

"We have temporarily suspended withdrawing our staff, vehicles and other equipment. Large groups of civilians continue to block our offices in the Wanni since Friday," UN spokesman Gordon Weiss told AFP.

He said crowds of men, women and children were protesting outside UN and other international aid agency offices in Kilinochchi to stop aid workers from leaving.

"The Sri Lankan government is very much aware of the present situation," he said.

Sri Lanka's minister for disaster management, Mahinda Samarasinghe, said the government hoped to resolve the issue "as early as next week."

"With the exception of the ICRC (the International Committee of the Red Cross), other aid workers must to leave Wanni by September 29," Samarasinghe said.

ICRC mans the checkpoint between government and rebel-held areas and undertakes to hand over bodies between military and guerrillas, as well as providing medical services.

"ICRC provides services that no one else can," the minister said.

The Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) have warned against the pullout, saying it would cause a humanitarian crisis.

UN says pleading crowds halt Sri Lanka pull-out

**Load-Date:** September 15, 2008

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## 2ND LEAD: Suicide bomber kills 22 in northern Sri Lanka

Deutsche Presse-Agentur

February 9, 2009 Monday 8:49 AM EST

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**Section:** POLITICS

**Length:** 271 words

### **Body**

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DPA POLITICS SriLanka Conflicts 2ND LEAD: Suicide bomber kills 22 in northern Sri Lanka  
Eds: Changes headline, updates death toll, adds detail =

Colombo (dpa) - A **female** suicide bomber posing as a civilian entered a government-controlled area from the zone held by Tamil rebels in northern Sri Lanka Monday morning and blew herself up at a welfare centre, killing at least 22 people and injuring about 45 others, the Defence Ministry said.

The explosion went off in the Visuamadu area, 360 kilometres north-east of the capital, where the military is receiving hundreds of civilians before they are sent to transit camps.

Military spokesman Brigadier Udaya Nanayakkara said that so far at least 14 soldiers and eight civilians have been reported killed.

Among the victims were **women** and children, said the authorities, who blamed the rebel Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam for the attack.

The area has been cordoned off and the injured were being evacuated to a hospital about 70 kilometres from the blast site.

The incident came as fighting continued between government troops and Tamil rebels, in what the military described as the last phase of its long drive to defeat the Tamil rebels. The army said it had

surrounded the **LTTE** in a 150-square-kilometre large stretch of land on Sri Lanka's north-eastern coast.

International aid organizations estimate that more than 200,000 civilians remain trapped in the area. According to the government about 11,000 civilians crossed over into government-controlled areas since January 1, but many more are believed to be trapped in the fighting zone.

Feb 0909 0849 GMT

**Load-Date:** February 10, 2009

## 2ND LEAD: Suicide bomber kills 22 in northern Sri Lanka

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## *Yet again bags with explosives, AK 47 bullets found in sea*

UNI (United News of India)

February 13, 2009 Friday

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**Length:** 704 words

**Dateline:** Nagapattinam

### **Body**

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Nagapattinam, Tamil. Na -- Just two days after a bag containing explosives and bullets was found floating in the sea off Tarangampadi, two more bags with ammunition meant for AK 47 rifle, grenades and improvised explosive device were washed ashore near Tarangampadi today.

The bags tied together were found along the coast near Veerankoil North Street in Tarangambadi by fishermen who informed the police. On information, Porayar Police rushed to the spot and recovered the bags. Thanjavur Range DIG of Police Abay Kumar Singh and Nagapattinam SP Ashwin Kotnis rushed to the spot. While one was a canvas bag, the other looked more like a waist pouch. The bag contained 147 rounds of ammunition meant for A K 47 rifle, four magazines, three hand grenades, one pyro chemical grenade and an improvised explosive device (IED) with suspected RDX. There were five cyanide capsules and women's undergarments in the pouch, sources said. DIG Abay Kumar Singh, however, denied the presence of cyanide capsules. Since the bags contained cyanide capsules, Q Branch Police suspect it might have belonged to a Sea Tiger cadre of the LTTE, who perhaps got killed or wounded mid sea. Asked about the nature of explosive material found in the IED, SP Ashwin Kotnis said it was suspected to be RDX. He, however, hastened to add that the nature of explosive material could be determined only after the chemical analysis by ballistic experts. Experts from Bomb Detection and Disposal Squad have been sent from Tiruchirapalli to defuse the bombs. It may be recalled the fishermen of Chandrapadi had found a similar bag floating in the sea five km off Tarangampadi Coast and brought it ashore on March eight. The bag contained 153 bullets meant for pistols and two hand grenades apart from medicines, biscuits, noodles, clothes, a pair of shoes and a slip of paper suspected to be a medical prescription issued by a hospital in Puthukudiyiruppu in Sri Lanka. The grenades were now diffused. Police have issued a warning to the fishermen to be alert and not to open any mysterious parcels found floating in the sea. Just two days after a bag containing explosives and bullets was found floating in the sea off Tarangampadi, two more bags with ammunition meant for AK 47 rifle, grenades and improvised explosive device were washed ashore near Tarangampadi today. The bags tied together were found along the coast near Veerankoil North Street in Tarangambadi by fishermen who informed the police. On information, Porayar Police rushed to the spot and recovered the bags. Thanjavur Range DIG of Police Abay Kumar Singh and Nagapattinam SP Ashwin Kotnis rushed to the spot. While one was a canvas bag, the other looked more like a waist pouch. The bag contained 147 rounds of ammunition meant for A K 47 rifle, four magazines, three hand grenades, one pyro chemical grenade and an improvised explosive device (IED) with suspected RDX. There were five cyanide capsules and women's undergarments in the pouch, sources said. DIG Abay Kumar Singh, however, denied the presence of cyanide capsules. Since the bags contained cyanide capsules, Q Branch Police suspect it might have belonged to a Sea Tiger cadre of the LTTE, who perhaps got killed or wounded mid sea. Asked about the nature of explosive material found in the IED, SP Ashwin Kotnis said it was suspected to be RDX. He, however, hastened to add that the nature of explosive material could be determined only after the chemical analysis by ballistic experts. Experts from Bomb Detection and Disposal Squad have been sent

## Yet again bags with explosives, AK 47 bullets found in sea

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**Load-Date:** March 31, 2009

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## **NATION REMEMBERS RAJIV GANDHI, THE ARCHITECT OF MODERN INDIA**

UNI (United News of India)

May 21, 2008 Wednesday 6:03 PM EST

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**Length:** 258 words

**Byline:** Report from UNI brought to you by HT Syndication.

**Dateline:** New Delhi

### **Body**

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New Delhi, May 21 (UNI) The nation today remembered its youngest Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi who was assassinated on this day in 1991 by a woman **LTTE** suicide bomber while campaigning for the general elections in Tamil Nadu. President Pratibha Patil, Vice President Mohd Hamid Ansari, Prime Minister Manmohan Singh and Congress President Sonia Gandhi led the nation in paying homage to the architect of IT revolution and modern development in India at his samadhi Vir Bhoomi.

Rahul Gandhi and Priyanka Vadra also paid respects to their father at Vir Bhoomi. Several Union Ministers including Shivraj Patil and A K Antony were present on the occasion. Coming a day prior to the beginning of the final year of the UPA government in office, this day assumes special significance and is being observed as 'Anti-Terrorism Day'. The Mahila Congress organised a blood donation camp at the AICC headquarters here. Undeterred by incessant rains, a large number of party workers and people from all walks of life came out to pay tributes at the samadhi. The Delhi Pradesh Congress Committee (DPCC) organised a function at Rajiv Bhawan here where thousands of Congress workers and senior Party leaders paid homage to the late leader. Speaking on the occasion, DPCC president Jai Prakash Agarwal, MP, said Rajiv Gandhi will always be remembered for bringing computer revolution in the country, giving voting rights to those of 18 years and 33 per cent reservation for **women** through the Panchayati Raj.

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**Load-Date:** May 21, 2008

## **More Civilians escape from LTTE grip**

Daily News (Sri Lanka)

November 11, 2008 Tuesday 3:13 PM EST

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**Length:** 103 words

**Byline:** Daily News Sri Lanka

**Dateline:** Colombo

### **Body**

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Colombo, Nov. 11 -- A group of civilians escaping from the **LTTE** grip had come to the cleared area seeking protection from the Security Forces last morning in Thanankilappu, Jaffna.

Military Spokesman Brigadier Udaya Nanayakkara said 15 civilians comprising five males, eight **females** and two children arrived in Thanankilappu around 7 a.m. crossing the Kilaly lagoon from their home in the uncleared area of Paranthan. The fleeing civilians were provided all facilities from the Welfare Centre and directed to the Thelippai Kakesnathurai IDP centre.

Report from Daily News Sri Lanka brought to you by HT Syndication.

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**Load-Date:** November 11, 2008

## **ROUNDUP: Four civilians killed, 25 injured in Sri Lanka bus attack**

Deutsche Presse-Agentur

July 11, 2008 Friday 1:22 PM EST

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**Section:** POLITICS

**Length:** 280 words

**Dateline:** Colombo

### **Body**

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DPA POLITICS SriLanka Conflicts ROUNDUP: Four civilians killed, 25 injured in Sri Lanka bus attack Colombo

Suspected Tamil rebels Friday fired at a civilian bus in south-eastern Sri Lanka, killing at least four passengers and injuring 25 others, senior police superintendent Ranjith Gunasekara said.

Gunasekara said the bus, carrying 40 passengers, came under fire in Buttala, 360 kilometres south-east of the capital Colombo, on Friday morning killing three persons instantly and a fourth succumbing to his injuries later.

A 12-year-old child and two women were among those killed, Gunasekara said. Military spokesman Brigadier Udaya Nanayakkara said Tamil rebels were responsible for the attack.

A search operation has been mounted in the area for the attackers, but no arrests had been made by Friday evening.

A series of similar attacks on buses, including one with a claymore mine that killed 27 civilians on January 16 this year have taken place in the area since late last year.

The government earlier blamed the attacks on the rebels of the

Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) and stepped up security in the region.

A wildlife park in the area was closed for nearly three months and reopened after the army carried out a series of search operations in the area.

Military officials said the rebel attacks in the area were an attempt to divert the attention of the security forces who are engaged in military operations against the rebels in the north.

The attack also comes ahead of an annual religious pageant in the area which attracts thousands of pilgrims. Some 6000 police and

## ROUNDUP: Four civilians killed, 25 injured in Sri Lanka bus attack

security personnel have been deployed to provide security for the function.

Jul 1108 1322 GMT

**Load-Date:** July 12, 2008

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## *Asia-Pacific news calendar*

Agence France Presse -- English

October 23, 2008 Thursday 12:45 AM GMT

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**Length:** 1423 words

**Dateline:** HONG KONG, Oct 23 2008

### **Body**

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Asia-Pacific news calendar from Saturday, October 25 to Friday, November 21:

Saturday, Oct 25

MUMBAI: India's leading domestic airline Jet Airways to report second quarter earnings

TAIPEI: Taiwan's pro-independence opposition party stages a huge rally

TOKYO: Dutch Foreign Minister Maxime Verhagen visits Japan (until Oct 28)

DHAKA: Cricket. Bangladesh v New Zealand. Second Test begins

TOKYO: Football. J-League matches

TOWNSVILLE, Australia: RugbyL. World Cup. England v Papua New Guinea

Sunday, October 26

HANOI/MOSCOW: Vietnamese President Nguyen Minh Triet visits Russia (until Oct 29)

HANOI: Slovak Prime Minister Ribert Fico visits Vietnam (until Oct 28)

TOKYO: Tokyo International Film Festival closes

CANBERRA: Rugby League. World Cup. Scotland v France

GOLD COAST, Australia: Motor sports. IndyCar race

SYDNEY: Rugby League. World Cup. Australia v New Zealand

TOKYO: Football. J-League matches

Monday, October 27

## Asia-Pacific news calendar

SRINAGAR, India: Separatists opposed to New Delhi's rule over Indian Kashmir plan protests to mark the anniversary of the arrival of Indian troops in the region in 1947

HONG KONG: Climate conference 2008

MANILA: International conference on labour migration (until Oct 30)

TOKYO: Britain's Prince Charles and his wife Camilla visit Japan (until Oct 31)

SYDNEY: Rugby League. World Cup. Tonga v Ireland

Tuesday, October 28

MALE: The Maldives votes in a presidential run-off pitting Asia's longest-serving leader, incumbent Maumoon Abdul Gayoom, against former political prisoner Mohamed "Anni" Nasheed

HONG KONG: Expo Asia International Trade Fair on Environmental Protection (until Oct 31)

KATHMANDU: Start of the three-day Tihar festival

NEW DELHI: India celebrates the year's main Hindu festival of Diwali

TOKYO: Court rules on appeal of former Japanese Red Army militant sentenced to life in prison for attacks including 1974 seizure of French embassy in The Hague

YOKOHAMA, Japan: Court rules on naval officer charged with leaking confidential data on US warships

Wednesday, October 29

BANGKOK: Prosecutors decide whether to bring securities fraud charges against former Thai prime minister Thaksin Shinawatra

TOKYO: Japan releases preliminary industrial production index for September

SINGAPORE: Aviation Outlook Asia, a conference for regional airline executives (until Oct 31)

WELLINGTON: New Zealand trade data for September released

PHNOM PENH: Cambodia celebrates coronation day of King Norodom Sihamoni

Thursday, October 30

HO CHI MINH CITY: Movie star Michelle Yeoh joins 2,000 Vietnamese children on city march to promote motorcycle crash helmet use for youths and children

KATHMANDU: UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon scheduled to visit Nepal to assess the country's ongoing peace process

MUMBAI: India's state-run oil exploration firm ONGC to report second quarter earnings, ending September

SINGAPORE: Pre-trial hearing for Australian television correspondent Peter Lloyd who has been charged with drugs trafficking

SINGAPORE: Constitutional challenge filed by late opposition leader J. B. Jeyaretnam expected to be heard in High Court

ULAN BATOR: Vietnamese President Nguyen Minh Triet visits Mongolia (until Oct 31)

Friday, October 31



## Asia-Pacific news calendar

KUALA LUMPUR: Preliminary arguments related to opposition leader Anwar Ibrahim, who faces trial on sodomy charges, continue in a Malaysian court

KUALA LUMPUR: A Malaysian court to decide whether to call for defence Abdul Razak Baginda, a close associate of deputy premier Najib Razak and two police officers for the murder of a Mongolian woman in 2006

BANGKOK: Bank of Thailand's monthly economic report

HONG KONG: 3rd Asia Pacific Regional Conference of International Association for Suicide Prevention 2008 (until Nov 3)

NEW DELHI: India's biggest telecoms firm Bharti-Airtel to report second quarter earnings

PHNOM PENH: Cambodia celebrates birthday of former King Norodom Sihanouk

SINGAPORE: Court to rule on a battle between the Brunei Investment Agency and the sultanate's playboy Prince Jefri Bolkiah over a Singapore mansion

TOKYO: Bank of Japan holds one-day policy meeting

TOKYO: Japan releases unemployment rate for September, Tokyo's consumer price index for October and nation's consumer price index for September

OBIIHIRO, Japan: Auto. Rally of Japan (until Nov 2)

SYDNEY: Rugby League. World Cup. Samoa v Tonga

Saturday, November 1

FUKUOKA, Japan: Dalai Lama visits Japan (until Nov 7)

JAKARTA: Britain's Prince Charles expected to visit Indonesia to encourage inter-faith dialogue (until Nov 5)

PATTAYA, Thailand: Miss International Queen, one of the world's largest transgender beauty pageants

GOLD COAST, Australia: Rugby League. World Cup. New Zealand v PNG

WOLLONGONG, Australia: Rugby League. World Cup. Fiji v France

Sunday, November 2

YANGON: Six-month anniversary of devastating Myanmar cyclone

MELBOURNE: Rugby League. World Cup. Australia v England

Monday, November 3

BANGKOK: Thai inflation report

HANOI: ASEAN task force on AIDS meeting (until Nov 5)

HONG KONG: Retail sales statistics

SINGAPORE: Court to hold closed-door hearing into contempt allegations filed by the government against the Wall Street Journal Asia and two editors (until Nov 7)

TOKYO: Culture Day, a public and market holiday

Tuesday, November 4

## Asia-Pacific news calendar

BANGKOK: Third hearing for alleged Russian arms dealer Viktor Bout

SINGAPORE: Singapore Energy Conference featuring international experts on sustainable energy

ZHUHAI, China: China Airshow 2008 (until Nov 9)

MELBOURNE: Horse racing. Melbourne Cup

Wednesday, November 5

MANILA: October inflation data

GOSFORD, Australia: Rugby League. World Cup. Scotland v Fiji

SYDNEY: Rugby League. World Cup. Ireland v Samoa

Thursday, November 6

COLOMBO: Sri Lanka's government to present its 2009 budget including a major hike in defence expenditure to fight the **Tamil Tigers**

DHAKA: End of former Bangladeshi prime minister Sheikh Hasina's parole, which allowed her to travel to North America for medical treatment

HANOI: Vietnam, Laos, Cambodia and Myanmar Summit on Cooperation and Development (until Nov 7)

MANILA: Monetary board meeting on policy rates

THIMPHU: Coronation of Bhutanese King Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck

SHANGHAI: Golf. HSBC Champions tournament (until Nov 9)

Friday, November 7

HONG KONG: Coffee Fest Asia (until Nov 9)

MANILA: October foreign exchange reserves data

MIE, Japan: Golf. USLPGA Tour Mizuno Classic (until Nov 9)

Saturday, November 8

WELLINGTON: New Zealand general election

NEWCASTLE, Australia: Rugby League World Cup. England v New Zealand

HONG KONG: Cricket. Annual Hong Kong sixes tournament (until Nov 9)

TOKYO: Football. J-League matches.

Sunday, November 9

TOKYO: Spanish King Juan Carlos and Queen Sofia visit Japan (until Nov 14)

PHNOM PENH: Cambodia marks Independence Day from France

SHANGHAI: Tennis. ATP Tennis Masters (until Nov 16)

TOWNSVILLE, Australia: Rugby League World Cup. PNG v Australia

Monday, November 10

HONG KONG: Government to release external trade statistics

TOKYO: Japan publishes September machinery orders)

Tuesday, November 11

PHNOM PENH: Cambodia celebrates water festival (until Nov 13)

Wednesday, November 12

MANILA: September export data

Thursday, November 13

TOKYO: Japan releases September balance of payments data and revised September industrial production data

GOTEMBA, Japan: Golf. Taiheiyo Masters (until Nov 16)

MACAU: Motor Sport. Macau Grand Prix (until 16)

Friday, November 14

BANGKOK: Six-day funeral begins for Thailand's late Princess Galyani

BANGKOK: Fourth hearing for alleged Russian arms dealer Viktor Bout

BANGKOK: Ruling in the case of Canadian paedophile Christopher Neil

COLOMBO: The leader of Sri Lanka's **Tamil Tigers**, Velupillai Prabhakaran, is to deliver his annual policy address marking the rebels' 'Heroes' Day'

RAIPUR, India: State elections in the Maoist insurgency-hit eastern Indian state of Chhattisgarh (second phase of polls to be held on Thursday, Nov 20)

Saturday, November 15

SINGAPORE: Activists may be planning to hold the community's first outdoor gay rights protest

BRISBANE, Australia: Rugby League. World Cup. First semi-final

Sunday, November 16

BANGKOK: Main cremation ceremony for Thailand's late Princess Galyani

NAGOYA, Japan: Rugby Union. Test match. Japan v United States

SYDNEY: Rugby League. World Cup. Second semi-final

TOKYO: Athletics. Tokyo **women's** marathon

Wednesday, November 19

FIJI: Football. World Cup qualifier. New Zealand v Fiji

Thursday, November 20

TOKYO: Bank of Japan opens two-day policy meeting

Asia-Pacific news calendar

TOKYO: Japan releases October trade statistics

HONG KONG: Golf. Hong Kong UBS Open (until Nov 23)

Friday, November 21

TOKYO: Bank of Japan governor Masaaki Shirakawa holds a press conference at the end of policy meeting

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**Load-Date:** October 23, 2008

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## *The humane act of demining*

Sunday Observer (Sri Lanka)

June 15, 2008 Sunday 1:30 PM EST

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**Length:** 784 words

**Byline:** Report from the Sri Lanka Sunday Observer brought to you by HT Syndication.

**Dateline:** Colombo

### **Body**

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Colombo, June 15 -- The East is resetting its normal day to day life along with many people resettling in their homelands. With the liberation of these areas from the Tiger clutches by the security forces of Sri Lanka the next threat comes with the buried deadly devices of the LTTE - unexploded ordnance, UXOs in short, in the uncleared areas. This is high risk to the Government's resettling process.

With the prime objective of clearing areas contaminated with mines and unexploded ordnances (UXOs), the Ministry of Nation Building is successively progressing on the National Mine Action Program in association with the Sri Lanka Army, UNDP and several International Non Governmental Organisations, specialised in de-mining.

Speaking to the Sunday Observer, Advisor and the Chairman of the National Steering Committee for Mine Action, M.S. Jayasinghe said almost 60 percent of the work has been completed.

"As per the initial surveys carried out by the Information Management System on Mine Action there were about one million land mines and UXOs in the abandoned battlefields. So far we have collected 271,000 such items and as we proceed we feel the tally will be not that high," Jayasinghe added.

Presently nine mine clearing organisations are functioning the Sri Lanka Army contributing in more than 50 percent of the work bad while INGOs like, Halo Trust, Danish Demining Group, Mine Advisory Group (MAG), Swiss Foundation for Mine action (FSD), Horizon, Norwegian People's Aid (NPA), Sarvatra, Milinda Moragoda Institute for People's Empowerment (MMIPE) do the rest.

According to the Chairman of the National Steering Committee, a sum of 32 m US dollars have been spent on this project since its initiation.

This National Mine Action program initiated in June in the year 2002. The amount is totally funded by foreign aid and carried out under the purview of the Ministry of Nation Building and Estate Infrastructure.

Progress of the action program is being reviewed and evaluated on a regular basis at the National Steering Committee at the Ministry. This quarterly progress report is based on the data furnished by the UNDP Information Management System for Mine Action. The National Steering Committee Act as the supreme body of the decision making for the national mine action program.

This project consists of two major components - Mine clearance and the Mine Risk Education.

## The humane act of demining

The program was initially carried out in the conflict affected areas and in the adjoining districts of Jaffna, Kilinochchi, Mullaitivu, Vavuniya, Mannar, Trincomalee, Batticaloa, Ampara, Anuradhapura and Polonnaruwa. Currently the program in Kilinochchi and Mullaitivu areas have been suspended due to **LTTE** threats. In all these areas prioritization, operational coordination, and tasking is presided over by the respective District Secretaries.

National Mine Action program is exclusively a government owned program, the Ministry of Nation Building confirms.

As the program is conducted according to international norms and regulations set up by the United Nations this program includes a Mine Risk Education Program. UNICEF is conducting these programs with its partners Wight Pigeon, Sarwodaya and some other local organisations. MRE programs are basically focuses the children, youth, **women** and men those who are already resettled and who are resettling.

The education programs are in the form of dramas, games, group discussions, house to house visits, lectures, material distribution, community mapping, exhibition and so on.

"Because of this education program the risks on lives of innocent people have reduced drastically," Mr. Jayasinghe added.

This program that runs along with the demining process has reduced the monthly average casualty rate to 'zero' by end of September 2007 since classification of records from 2002. National Mine Action Policy is not so much about mines as it is more about people and their interactions with a mine infested environment.

Land mines are first and foremost a humanitarian concern and must be addressed from this perspective.

It is an impediment to rehabilitation and sustainable development. It is estimated that 730 villages are affected with land mines and UXOs. The Government of Sri Lanka wishes to have a mine free land most probably by the end of 2008 except some parts in North and Trincomalee areas and high security zones.

This is more of a humanitarian, public health and social economic implicating issue in particular of its impact on lives, livelihood, and once more generally creating an environment which should be safe and conducive to peace building, reconstruction and development.

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For any query with respect to this article or any other content requirement, please contact Editor at [htsyndication@hindustantimes.com](mailto:htsyndication@hindustantimes.com)

**Load-Date:** October 1, 2008

## **NEWS DIGEST**

Canwest News Service

August 19, 2008 Tuesday

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**Length:** 2156 words

### **Body**

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Chief offers \$50,000 in rewards for homicide tips - (CNS-UPDATE2-GANG- SHOOTING)

The chief of the Samson Cree Nation is offering \$50,000 in rewards for information leading to the arrest and conviction of those responsible for the five most recent homicides on his Alberta reserve.

It's an attempt to help bring an end to the gang violence that's been plaguing the community.

Chief Marvin Yellowbird announced the offer of \$10,000 per homicide on his way into an emergency meeting of community members and RCMP in the wake of the latest fatal shooting on the reserve.

Delena Dixon, also known as Delena Lefthand, was killed on the Samson Cree First Nation on Saturday night.

She is the third young person shot there in less than a month.

Lefthand was killed in a home after a number of men fired guns at it.

She was struck in the head and died after being airlifted to Edmonton.

RCMP have said they believe Lefthand was not the intended target and that the shooting was likely gang-related.

Dozens of sick, dead cats taken from Montreal home - (CNS-UPDATE-ANIMAL- HOUSE)

Residents watched in disgust as nearly 30 sick cats and pigeons and several dead cats, pigeons and a squirrel were removed from a smelly, cluttered apartment Monday in Montreal's Notre Dame de Grace district.

A man in his 40s who lives in the second-floor apartment was taken away by ambulance for a medical evaluation, police said.

There was a very strong odour, said the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals.

It said the apartment was crammed with furniture and the floors and walls were spattered with feces.

The 20 living cats found roaming the apartment and nine living pigeons in cages were taken to the SPCA for treatment.

Six or seven cat carcasses were found in the fridge freezer.

A second, larger freezer in the basement contained about 30 more animal carcasses, including cats.

Sick babies born at same hospital, one day apart -(CNS-INFANT-INFECTIION)

## NEWS DIGEST

Health officials revealed Monday that two Alberta babies who contracted a severe - and in one case fatal - bacterial infection were born only a day apart at the same Lethbridge hospital, leading critics to call for an independent probe.

A local health region investigation found no evidence the newborns acquired the infection at the hospital.

But provincial opposition parties and patient advocates said there should be a further review of the births, which took place on July 28 and 29.

The two infants were transferred from Lethbridge to Calgary last week after developing an unidentified bacterial infection.

One of the babies, a boy, has since died, while the other newborn is still in hospital.

The baby girl who was infected - Annabell Forslund - remains in hospital and has undergone several surgeries.

Officials would not provide an update on her condition, citing privacy legislation.

The baby boy who passed away has not been identified.

Harper casts Conservatives as force for unity, multiculturalism - (CNS-CXN- HARPER)

Prime Minister Stephen Harper cast the Conservatives as a force of national unity and multiculturalism this evening in a speech seemingly designed to challenge the stereotypes facing the Conservatives as they head into a possible fall election.

Speaking to party supporters at a fundraising barbecue in the suburban Toronto riding of Mississauga-Erindale, the prime minister seemed to make a deliberate attempt to soften the Conservative image.

Harper noted that his party appointed the first **female** cabinet member and first aboriginal senator, along with electing the first MPs from a long list of ethnic groups.

He then accused the former Liberal government of exploiting regional and ethnic differences to remain in power.

Harper's government passed legislation setting a fixed election date of Oct. 19, 2009. However, the new law still allows the Governor General to dissolve Parliament at the advice of the prime minister. Harper seems increasingly prepared to take that step, telling reporters last week that the current minority Parliament has become ``dysfunctional."

Harper's speech ignored the charges made earlier Monday by Jean Chretien, who said the prime minister made a political blunder by failing to attend the Olympic opening ceremonies in China, undoing decades of goodwill between the two countries.

Non-profit group raised millions for **Tamil Tigers** - (CNS-TAMIL-FUNDS)

An RCMP report released Monday says a Toronto non-profit group wired more than \$3 million to overseas bank accounts, some of them linked to the **Tamil Tigers**, before being shut down by the government in June for alleged terrorist financing.

The report provides the first detailed look at the banking activities of the World Tamil Movement, a Toronto-based group accused of bankrolling Sri Lanka's **Tamil Tigers** guerrillas.

Most of the money, \$1.9 million, went to an account at the Bumiputra Commerce Bank in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, which the RCMP report says ``is utilized as a vehicle to forward money to the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam from Canada."



## NEWS DIGEST

Public Safety Minister Stockwell Day announced on June 16 that his government had added the WTM to Ottawa's official list of terrorist groups, alongside the likes of al-Qaida, Hamas and Hezbollah.

The WTM is the first Canadian community group to be listed.

The WTM has denied any involvement in terrorist fundraising.

Man charged in bus beheading held in psychiatric facility - (CNS-GREYHOUND- BEHEADING)

The man accused of beheading a fellow Greyhound bus passenger last month, and eating parts of the victim's body, has agreed to be represented by a lawyer, the Winnipeg Free Press is reporting.

Vincent Li was also recently moved from a Manitoba jail to a locked psychiatric facility.

The developments come as Li continues to meet with medical officials for a court-ordered mental-health evaluation that will determine if he will stand trial for the July 29 killing of Tim McLean on a Greyhound bus near Portage la Prairie, Man., about 80 kilometres west of Winnipeg.

Li's next court date is Sept. 8.

Defence lawyer Alan Libman confirmed Monday he expects to act on behalf of Li, Libman said he hasn't spoken with Li's wife, Anna, and doesn't know if she has returned to Winnipeg to meet with her husband.

Libman said he will not apply for bail for his client.

New Democrat says judge 'failed' 7-year-old Katelynn prior to her death - (CNS-CXN-UPDATE-KATELYNN-JUDGE)

An Ontario NDP member of provincial parliament says the Ontario judge who awarded custody of seven-year-old Katelynn Sampson to a woman now charged with her death should be investigated for misconduct.

Peter Kormos says he has filed a complaint with the Ontario Judicial Council asking it to look into Justice Debra Paulseth's conduct.

On Monday, Kormos released documents showing how he believes Paulseth "failed miserably" in her responsibility to protect the girl's interests.

The documents include forms showing the judge failed to appoint a children's lawyer or to order an assessment, even when those options plainly were available to her.

She also ignored laws compelling her to take the child's best interest into account.

Katelynn was found dead in a Toronto apartment building in early August.

One officer described her injuries as the worst he had seen in 20 years on the job.

Donna Irving and her live-in boyfriend, 46-year-old Warren Johnson, are charged with second-degree murder.

Illegal drugs flyer violated government rules, opposition says - (CNS-TORY- FLYER)

Opposition MPs say flyers sent out by the federal Conservative party last week violate rules forbidding members of Parliament from using their free postage privileges to send out campaign material.

People across the country were blitzed last week with pamphlets touting the Tories' tough-on-crime approach to illegal drugs.

According to rules distributed to every MP by the office of the Speaker of the House, such flyers may not contain "provincial, municipal or local election campaign material." Nor can the flyers request "re-election support."

## NEWS DIGEST

But the Conservative flyer includes a depiction of an election ballot with the names of four federal party leaders and an arrow pointing to Prime Minister Stephen Harper.

The question above the ballot asks, "Who do you think is on the right track on crime?"

The flyer asks the recipient to fill out the ballot and mail it back to the House of Commons free of charge.

NDP ethics critic Pat Martin has lodged a formal complaint with the Office of the Speaker, accusing the Tories of thumbing their nose at parliamentary rules.

Canadians warming to federal election, poll says - (CNS-POLITICS-POLL)

A new Ipsos-Reid poll says Canadians are warming to the idea of a federal election "to clear the air."

The poll, conducted exclusively for Canwest News Service and Global National, also says that if an election were held today, the ruling Conservatives would only be able to score another minority government.

It put the Conservatives' popularity at 36 per cent, the Liberals at 30 per cent, the NDP at 14 per cent and the Green party at 10 per cent.

Six per cent were undecided.

The poll says the proportion of Canadians who favour an election has risen to 40 per cent from 27 per cent in March.

Moreover, the proportion of Canadians who said "there's no need for an election at the moment" dropped dramatically to 38 per cent from 66 per cent.

Pollster Darrell Bricker says the findings suggest signals from Harper and the Liberal leader that they are itching for an election fight are starting to have an impact on what Canadians are thinking.

Prentice plays oil card to lubricate gummed-up border trade - (CNS-PRENTICE)

Industry Minister Jim Prentice played the Canadian oil card to an American audience Monday in a bid to lubricate the flow of cross-border trade, which he warned is being gummed up by post-9/11 security measures.

And he trumped his message at the Americas Competitive Forum in Atlanta with a promise of tougher environmental regulations on Canadian oilsands development, addressing concerns that have been expressed in the U.S. about the environmental damage of such development.

Despite the environmental challenges in developing the Canadian oilsands, he said Prime Minister Stephen Harper "insists that Canada be the most responsible environmental producer of oil and gas in the world."

Prentice, meanwhile, also noted that concerns have been raised by business groups on both sides of the Canada-U.S. border that the "thickening" of the border since the terrorist attacks on the U.S. are standing in the way of realizing the full economic potential of the trade deal.

Clement slams CMA's support for injection sites - (CNS-UPDATE4-CMA-MEETS)

Federal Health Minister Tony Clement assailed the Canadian Medical Association Monday for supporting Vancouver's supervised drug-injection site, arguing that allowing heroin addicts to shoot up is against a health professional's code of ethics.

Clement's speech to the CMA's annual meeting in Montreal drew an angry reaction from doctors.

Dr. Bonnie Cham, chairwoman of the CMA's ethics committee, accused the minister of manipulating medical ethics to advance the Conservative government's political agenda.

## NEWS DIGEST

In a news conference after the speech, Brian Day, the CMA's outgoing president, said Clement was ``off base" in criticizing physicians' medical judgment on the issue.

Clement said the supervised injection site undercuts the ethics of medical practice and sets a debilitating example for all physicians and nurses who might begin to question whether it's all right to allow someone to overdose under their care.

Clement did not go so far as to call for the closing of Insite, Canada's sole supervised drug-injection site, which was established in 2003 as a pilot project.

However, he recommended that the centre's \$3-million annual budget be redirected toward drug treatment and providing housing for sex workers in Vancouver's East Side.

Arctic pipeline could threaten wildlife reserves: report - (CNS-ARCTIC-BIRDS)

Newly released documents reveal the Harper government has been warned that the ecological ``footprint" of the proposed Mackenzie Valley pipeline on an Arctic bird sanctuary could exceed the threshold deemed acceptable by Environment Canada.

The pipeline would carry natural gas from the Mackenzie River delta in the Northwest Territories to markets in the rest of Canada and the United States.

Conservationists fear it could threaten the Kendall Island Bird Sanctuary, a 623 square-kilometre patch on the coast of the Beaufort Sea.

The Canadian Wildlife Service, Environment Canada's conservation branch, recommends that the physical impact of development be limited to one per cent of the sanctuary's area.

Documents obtained by Canwest News Service suggest government officials had concerns much earlier that the footprint of the pipeline could exceed the one- per-cent limit.

Other documents suggest Environment Canada officials have since estimated the threshold may have already been surpassed.

**Load-Date:** August 19, 2008

## News Digest

Canwest News Service  
August 18, 2008 Monday

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**Length:** 2174 words

### **Body**

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The documents include forms showing the judge failed to appoint a children's lawyer or to order an assessment, even when those options plainly were available to her. She also ignored laws compelling her to take the child's best interest into account.

Katelynn was found dead in a Toronto apartment building in early August. One officer described her injuries as the worst he had seen in 20 years on the job. Donna Irving and her live-in boyfriend, 46-year-old Warren Johnson, are charged with second-degree murder.

Illegal drugs flyer violated government rules, opposition says - (CNS-TORY- FLYER)

Opposition MPs say flyers sent out by the federal Conservative party last week violate rules forbidding members of Parliament from using their free postage privileges to send out campaign material.

People across the country were blitzed last week with pamphlets touting the Tories' tough-on-crime approach to illegal drugs.

According to rules distributed to every MP by the office of the Speaker of the House, such flyers may not contain "provincial, municipal or local election campaign material." Nor can the flyers request "re-election support."

## News Digest

But the Conservative flyer includes a depiction of an election ballot with the names of four federal party leaders and an arrow pointing to Prime Minister Stephen Harper. The question above the ballot asks, "Who do you think is on the right track on crime?"

The flyer asks the recipient to fill out the ballot and mail it back to the House of Commons free of charge.

NDP ethics critic Pat Martin has lodged a formal complaint with the Office of the Speaker, accusing the Tories of thumbing their nose at parliamentary rules.

#### New laws take toll on dangerous, drunken driving - (CNS-UPDATE-STREET-RACING)

For the first time in Canada, vehicles seized from a couple of repeat drunk drivers have been handed over to new owners under Ontario's drinking and driving vehicle forfeiture law.

Today Attorney General Chris Bentley handed the keys to the forfeited vehicles to members of the Ontario Community Council on Impaired Driving.

The council will use the two cars in its work raising awareness about the dangers of drinking and driving.

Police also said today that another relatively new piece of provincial legislation has netted a "scary" number of violators charged with street racing, extreme driving and stunt driving.

In less than one year, police in Ontario say they have laid thousands of charges and seized thousands of vehicles under Bill 203, which came into effect on Sept. 30, 2007.

It gives police in Ontario the authority to seize vehicles and to suspend licences if drivers were caught street racing, stunt driving or taking part in what has been termed "extreme" or dangerous driving.

#### Canada sends chemical, biological suits to Philippines - (CNS-CHEMICAL- EQUIPMENT)

The Canadian government has shipped chemical and biological defence equipment to the Philippines and will soon send personnel to train special forces and other units in its use.

Canadian officials donated 300 protective suits to senior military representatives in Manila several weeks ago and an agreement signed by the two countries notes that Canadian personnel will train Filipino troops in the use of the equipment which will be used to respond to a chemical, biological or nuclear attack, chemical spills or gas explosions.

Neither Foreign Affairs nor the Defence Department is commenting on the donation.

The shipment of gear is worth \$209,000 and will be given to the Special Operations Group of the Filipino military, the government's Bureau of Fire Protection, the Department of Health and the Environmental Management Bureau.

#### Lawyers tear into federal justice minister - (CNS-JUSTICE)

Justice Minister Rob Nicholson appeared to be on a collision course with members of the legal establishment today as he tried to promote the Conservative government's aggressive law-and-order agenda.

At a meeting of the Canadian Bar Association, Nicholson was challenged for failing to focus on dwindling legal aid, refusing to protest death sentences imposed on Canadians abroad and axing legal programs - including one that helped fund groups fighting for equality rights.

Montreal lawyer Simon Potter, former president of the 37,000-member association, chastised Nicholson for the Conservative government's policy of not pleading for clemency for Canadians who face the death penalty when they have been tried in countries deemed to be democratic.

## News Digest

Nicholson calmly fielded questions for about 45 minutes. He faced the strongest attacks from lawyers who appealed for federal intervention to help Canadians who cannot afford legal fees.

Canadians warming to federal election, poll says - (CNS-POLITICS-POLL)

A new Ipsos-Reid poll says Canadians are warming to the idea of a federal election ``to clear the air."

The poll, conducted exclusively for Canwest News Service and Global National, also says that if an election were held today, the ruling Conservatives would only be able to score another minority government. It put the Conservatives' popularity at 36 per cent, the Liberals at 30 per cent, the NDP at 14 per cent and the Green party at 10 per cent. Six per cent were undecided.

The poll says the proportion of Canadians who favour an election has risen to 40 per cent from 27 per cent in March. Moreover, the proportion of Canadians who said ``there's no need for an election at the moment" dropped dramatically to 38 per cent from 66 per cent.

Pollster Darrell Bricker says the findings suggest signals from Harper and the Liberal leader that they are itching for an election fight are starting to have an impact on what Canadians are thinking.

Prentice plays oil card to lubricate gummed-up border trade - (CNS-PRENTICE)

Industry Minister Jim Prentice played the Canadian oil card to an American audience today in a bid to lubricate the flow of cross-border trade, which he warned is being gummed up by post-9/11 security measures.

And he trumped his message at the Americas Competitive Forum in Atlanta with a promise of tougher environmental regulations on Canadian oilsands development, addressing concerns that have been expressed in the U.S. about the environmental damage of such development.

Despite the environmental challenges in developing the Canadian oilsands, he said Prime Minister Stephen Harper ``insists that Canada be the most responsible environmental producer of oil and gas in the world."

Prentice, meanwhile, also noted that concerns have been raised by business groups on both sides of the Canada-U.S. border that the ``thickening" of the border since the terrorist attacks on the U.S. are standing in the way of realizing the full economic potential of the trade deal.

Clement slams CMA's support for injection sites - (CNS-UPDATE2-CMA-MEETS)

Federal Health Minister Tony Clement assailed the Canadian Medical Association today for supporting Vancouver's supervised drug-injection site, arguing that allowing heroin addicts to shoot up is against a health professional's code of ethics.

Clement's speech to the CMA's annual meeting in Montreal drew an angry reaction from doctors.

Dr. Bonnie Cham, chairwoman of the CMA's ethics committee, accused the minister of manipulating medical ethics to advance the Conservative government's political agenda.

In a news conference after the speech, Brian Day, the CMA's outgoing president, said Clement was ``off base" in criticizing physicians' medical judgment on the issue.

Clement said the supervised injection site undercuts the ethics of medical practice and sets a debilitating example for all physicians and nurses who might begin to question whether it's all right to allow someone to overdose under their care.

Clement did not go so far as to call for the closing of Insite, Canada's sole supervised drug-injection site, which was established in 2003 as a pilot project.

## News Digest

However, he recommended that the centre's \$3-million annual budget be redirected toward drug treatment and providing housing for sex workers in Vancouver's East Side.

Arctic pipeline could threaten wildlife reserves: report - (CNS-ARCTIC-BIRDS)

Newly released documents reveal the Harper government has been warned that the ecological ``footprint" of the proposed Mackenzie Valley pipeline on an Arctic bird sanctuary could exceed the threshold deemed acceptable by Environment Canada.

The pipeline would carry natural gas from the Mackenzie River delta in the Northwest Territories to markets in the rest of Canada and the United States.

Conservationists fear it could threaten the Kendall Island Bird Sanctuary, a 623 square-kilometre patch on the coast of the Beaufort Sea.

The Canadian Wildlife Service, Environment Canada's conservation branch, recommends that the physical impact of development be limited to one per cent of the sanctuary's area.

Documents obtained by Canwest News Service suggest government officials had concerns much earlier that the footprint of the pipeline could exceed the one- per-cent limit.

Other documents suggest Environment Canada officials have since estimated the threshold may have already been surpassed.

**Load-Date:** August 18, 2008



## *It's a frightening world Sport terror*

The Gold Coast Bulletin (Australia)

March 7, 2009 Saturday

B - Main Edition

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**Section:** Pg. 42

**Length:** 615 words

### **Body**

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AS the cricket world reels in the wake of the attack by a dozen or so brazen men in Lahore on buses containing the Sri Lanka cricket team and Test officials, including two Australian umpires, we find ourselves at a crossroads in more ways than one.

Front of mind is the future of international cricket in Pakistan and, if it dies there, in the other cricketing nations.

And there are the questions over Pakistan's ability or desire to control terrorism within its borders.

The Australians caught in the bloody ambush on Tuesday have condemned the so-called security that had been assigned to protect the convoy.

We have to wonder whether suggestions that some in authority knew the shooting was about to start are on the money.

Then by extension, there is the dilemma now confronting sports authorities elsewhere on the sub-continent. Given the carnage in Mumbai last year, possibly inflicted by the same terror organisation that so easily launched the attack this week - seemingly unchallenged by Pakistani authorities despite the deaths of six policemen and two others - security questions now have to be asked of and contemplated by Indian cricketing authorities, the Indian government and its military.

Delhi is to host the Commonwealth Games next year. Is the event viable or could it be destroyed by security concerns?

Australians live in a different world to what goes on in countries such as Pakistan and India. To us, cricket is a sport and as passionate as we may be for the men who wear the baggy green, it remains a sport.

Not so on the sub-continent where it is not stretching the truth to say the game has become a religion - and therein lies at least part of the problem.

Without doubt there were all sorts of political reasons for the Lahore incident, but as one report yesterday revealed, terrorists in Pakistan see cricket as evil and sinful, foisted upon Muslims by the British and a distraction that needs to be curbed.

## It's a frightening world Sport terror

Millions, however, still follow the game passionately in Pakistan. The tragedy of the Tuesday attack therefore is that the other cricketing nations, having already steered clear, now want no part of any tour there - possibly forever. And so the terrorists appear to have won.

Pakistan captain Younus Khan this week said sport had a pivotal role to play in his homeland, because if cricket was to die, then generations could be swayed by more sinister influences.

“Our future as a nation is in our youngsters' hands,” he said. “Sport helps to make good human beings. If the sport is not there, the children can do silly things. We have to be very careful about that.”

The great dilemma with terrorism is that its atrocities can appear to be random and no orthodox defence exists against it.

In Australia, a huge amount of money has been ploughed into fighting terrorism - with underwhelming results within our borders. The Haneef case was an international embarrassment and yesterday, counter-terrorism laws were reported to have suffered another blow after charges were dropped against three Melbourne men accused of being members of the Tamil Tigers and providing funds to the Sri Lankan group.

Our greatest security remains the ocean surrounding our island nation and a Muslim community that is largely peaceful.

But given our love of sport, we should not be putting up the shutters and becoming isolationist.

Terror threats should not stop us or anyone playing cricket or any other sport.

It would be ridiculous to contemplate a series in Pakistan. Sadly, it has become and will remain a no-go zone. But Ponting's men should play the Pakistanis in Dubai next month.

And Australia should not baulk at sending the cream of its sportsmen and women to Delhi next year.

**Load-Date:** March 7, 2009

## **Conflicts, crackdowns mar 2008 Asian rights record: HRW**

Agence France Presse -- English

January 14, 2009 Wednesday 3:32 PM GMT

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**Length:** 650 words

**Dateline:** WASHINGTON, Jan 14 2009

### **Body**

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Human Rights Watch (HRW) Wednesday blamed Asian giants China and India for abuses against their own citizens but also for backing military dictatorships such as Myanmar.

In its annual report for 2008, the New York-based group detailed worsening trends in much of Asia, including China's Olympic-year crackdown on civil liberties and its repression of protests across the Tibetan plateau.

Wars turned more bloody in Afghanistan, which saw the "worst violence since the fall of the Taliban," and Sri Lanka, where the government last January formally scrapped a ceasefire with the separatist **Tamil Tigers**.

Conflicts also flared up again in less-watched hotspots, including Muslim regions of Thailand and the Philippines, while Indonesian forces in remote West Papua "continue to engage in abuses ... with virtual impunity," it said.

HRW pointed to some progress in parts of South Asia, including the return to civilian rule in Pakistan after the end of the Pervez Musharraf presidency, and improvements ahead of polls in Bangladesh last month.

Elections in Nepal, where Maoists took power and the king abdicated, "marked a new era... after a decade of conflict that claimed over 13,000 lives."

But HRW also highlighted tighter restrictions on freedom of association, expression and religion in China, which it said "broke its promise to improve human rights in conjunction with its hosting of the 2008 Summer Olympic Games."

In Tibet, where simmering anger against Chinese rule erupted into major protests last March, HRW said that following mass arrests of suspected demonstrators the whereabouts of several hundred detainees remained unknown.

HRW also criticised Asia's other population giant, India, for "serious abuses," including in the disputed Himalayan region of Kashmir, which was again rocked by major unrest in 2008.

The report pointed to India's "pattern of denial of justice and impunity" and a "failure to protect **women**, children and marginalized groups such Dalits, tribal groups and religious minorities."

## Conflicts, crackdowns mar 2008 Asian rights record: HRW

India, as an emerging global player, was now often placing economic and strategic interests over rights concerns as it tried to compete with China in countries such as Myanmar, said HRW.

"As the world's most populous democracy, India might be expected to be at the forefront of global efforts to promote human rights," it said. "However, its current foreign policy often would make a confirmed dictator proud."

In Myanmar, also known as Burma -- which HRW said also draws support from China, Russia and Thailand -- democracy leader Aung San Suu Kyi went into her sixth straight year of house arrest, one of over 2,150 political prisoners.

"The Burmese military continues to violate the rights of civilians in ethnic conflict areas and extrajudicial killings, forced labour, land confiscation without due process and other violations continued in 2008," said the report.

When Cyclone Nargis struck the country last May, "more than two million people waited for weeks for relief operations to reach them" after the reclusive regime denied access to foreign aid groups.

Life in Asia's other hermit state, North Korea, remained even more dire, with the regime continuing to "enslave" citizens in prison camps and executing people for crimes that include hoarding food, said the report.

Reports that leader Kim Jong-Il suffered a stroke in September "could have far-reaching consequences for human rights and governance," the group said.

Across much of Southeast Asia, human rights were also on shaky ground.

In Thailand "the end of a military-installed administration has not led to the restoration of rights and democracy" as political tensions "led to protracted protests and occasional deadly clashes."

Cambodia "continued its drift toward authoritarianism" as Prime Minister Hun Sen consolidated power through flawed July elections, while a tribunal to address Khmer Rouge-era crimes made slow progress.

**Load-Date:** January 15, 2009

## *The 1530 GMT News Advisory*

Agence France Presse -- English

August 24, 2008 Sunday 3:22 PM GMT

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**Length:** 634 words

**Dateline:** HONG KONG, Aug 24 2008

### **Body**

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Duty Editor: Danny McCord

News Desk: +852 2829 6211

-- WORLD HEADLINES --

BEIJING: Spectacular close to Olympic Games

ISLAMABAD: Coalition to make decision on judges

DENVER: Obama has thin lead as makes history

-- BEIJING OLYMPICS --

Oly-2008,4thlead-WRAP

BEIJING

The Beijing Olympics, played out against a background of political intrigue and featuring 16 days of compelling and controversial action, draws to a spectacular close.

750 words moved by Chris Foley. Picture, graphic and video

We have also moved: Oly-2008-China,ANALYSIS

Oly-2008-China-economy,ANALYSIS

Oly-2008-China-sports-system

Oly-2008-China-politics,REAX

LONDON

## The 1530 GMT News Advisory

China wins praise around the world for organising an extraordinary Olympics and Germany predicts the Beijing Games will have an "irreversible" impact on Chinese society, but human rights groups are strongly critical.

500 words 1600 GMT

Oly-2008-2012-Britain-celebrations

LONDON,

Around 40,000 people including record-breaking American swimmer Michael Phelps join a massive street party to celebrate 2012 hosts London taking over from Beijing as the Olympic city.

600 words 1630 GMT by Guy Jackson. Picture

-- ASIA --

Pakistan-politics,2ndlead-WRAP

ISLAMABAD

Pakistan's fragile coalition government is facing a Monday deadline on reinstating judges sacked by former president Pervez Musharraf that could determine whether its major parties split.

650 words moved

Afghanistan-unrest-civilians-US,2ndlead

HERAT, Afghanistan

An investigation has found that more than 90 civilians, mostly women and children, were killed in coalition air strikes days ago, an Afghan government minister says.

650 words moved by Mohammad Reza. Picture

India-Kashmir-unrest-religion,2ndlead-WRAP

SRINAGAR, India

Indian security forces enforce a strict curfew in Kashmir, a day ahead of a major rally planned by separatists who oppose Indian rule in the Muslim-majority region.

450 words moved by Izhar Wani

Afghanistan-unrest-France,2ndlead

KABUL

Less than a week after a bloody Taliban ambush that killed 10 French soldiers in Afghanistan, new watchwords for the troops are vigilance and intelligence, the top French general here says.

600 words moved GMT by Herve Asquin. Video

Pakistan-Afghanistan-unrest,WRAP

KHAR, Pakistan

Pakistan rejects a ceasefire offered by Taliban militants in a troubled tribal region near the Afghan border as troops killed seven more rebel fighters.

500 word moved.

SriLanka-unrest,lead

COLOMBO

Sri Lanka is braced for intense fighting as troops close in on the **Tamil Tigers**' political capital, with local election results backing the government's war strategy, analysts say.

550 words moved by Amal Jayasinghe. Picture

-- AMERICAS --

US-vote,3rdlead

DENVER, Colorado

Democrat Barack Obama has only the narrowest of margins over Republican rival John McCain with Americans still wary of his crusade for change, as he makes history by becoming the first black presidential nominee this week.

700 words 1630 GMT by Stephen Collinson. Picture, video, graphic

We will also move: US-vote-Obama-West,lead

-- EUROPE --

Georgia-Russia-conflict,4thlead-WRAP

BATUMI, Georgia

A US Navy destroyer carrying relief supplies arrives at a port in Georgia in a sign of US support for its ally as Russian troops dig in further up the coast.

850 words 1500 GMT by Calin Neacsu. Graphic. Picture.

France-Italy-mountaineering-avalanche,6thlead

ANNECY, France

Helicopters and rescue teams scan the Alpine snow for signs of life after 10 climbers -- among them five Austrians and three Swiss -- go missing when an avalanche hurtles down a slope near France's highest mountain.

550 words moved GMT. File picture

-- AFRICA --

Somalia-unrest-media-kidnap,lead

MOGADISHU

The Somali government said that a hunt has been started for Australian, Canadian and Somali journalists abducted near the dangerous capital of Mogadishu on Saturday.

500 words moved

afp

**Load-Date:** August 25, 2008

The 1530 GMT News Advisory

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End of Document



## *Prep-Today in History*

Broadcast News (BN)

April 10, 2008 Thursday

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**Section:** GENERAL AND NATIONAL NEWS

**Length:** 617 words

**Byline:** CP

### **Body**

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Today is April 10th.

Today marks the anniversaries of two disasters --

In 1912, the "Titanic" set sail from Southampton, England on its maiden voyage. On the night of April 14th, the luxury liner struck an iceberg about 150 kilometres south of Newfoundland's Grand Banks and sank within hours. More than 15-hundred people perished. The catastrophe prompted measures to improve safety at sea, particularly the establishment of a patrol to make known the location of icebergs.

And in 1997, Manitoba began bracing for what turned out to be the highest Red River flood levels since 1852. The province formally requested the army's help in sand bagging efforts. The flood turned southern Manitoba into a lake and forced 28-thousand people from their homes as entire towns were cut off behind ring dikes.

Also on this date:

In 1684, an ordinance banned emigration from French Canada to English colonies in the south.

In 1812, the United States called out the militia in preparation for the war against Canada that began on June 18th.

In 1829, Salvation Army founder William Booth was born in Nottingham, England.

In 1841, Halifax obtained its city charter.

In 1865, conservationist Jack Miner was born in Ohio. In 1908, he founded one of North America's first bird sanctuaries at his farm at Kingsville, Ontario. After Miner's death in 1944, the federal government declared the week of his birthday National Wildlife Week.

In 1875, the North West Mounted Police received permission to build a post -- it became the city of Calgary.

In 1889, the enlarged Welland Canal was opened between Lakes Erie and Ontario.

In 1919, Mexican revolutionary leader Emiliano Zapata was ambushed and killed by government troops.

In 1925, "The Great Gatsby" by F. Scott Fitzgerald was first published.

In 1932, Paul von Hindenburg defeated Adolf Hitler in a run-off election for the German presidency.

## Prep-Today in History

In 1937, an act of Parliament created the Trans-Canada Airlines, now Air Canada.

In 1953, the first feature-length 3-D movie in colour -- "House of Wax," starring Vincent Price -- premiered in New York.

In 1959, Canada's first privately-owned nuclear research reactor began operating at McMaster University in Hamilton.

In 1972, the U-S and Soviet Union joined dozens of other countries in signing an agreement to ban biological warfare.

In 1990, the Mulroney government's G-S-T bill was passed by the Commons on a vote of 144-to-114.

In 1998, marathon Northern Ireland peace talks produced a landmark settlement on governing the British-ruled province. The accord was approved by voters in Northern Ireland and the Irish Republic six weeks later.

Also in 1998, an Ontario government inquiry reported that serious mistakes by police, prosecutors and forensic scientists helped wrongfully convict Guy Paul Morin (gee paul MOHR'-in) of killing his young, Toronto-area neighbour in 1984.

In 2006, the Conservative government of Stephen Harper outlawed the Tamil Tigers, making it illegal for anyone in Canada to support or help the group fighting for an independent Tamil state in Sri Lanka.

In 2007, Canada defeated the U-S 5-1 to win the gold medal at the women's world hockey championship in Winnipeg.

Today's birthdays:

Actor Harry Morgan is 93.

Actor Max von Sydow (SEE'-dow) is 79.

Actor Omar Sharif (shah-REEF') is 76.

Former N-F-L coach-turned T-V analyst John Madden is 72.

Former N-F-L quarterback and T-V analyst Don Meredith is 70.

Actor Steven Seagal (seh-GAL') is 56.

Former diplomat and journalist Pamela Wallin is 55.

Actor Peter MacNichol is 54.

Singer Mandy Moore is 24.

Actor Haley Joel Osment is 20.

Thought for today: "The passion to get ahead is sometimes born of the fear lest we be left behind." -- American philosopher Eric Hoffer (1902-1983).

**Load-Date:** April 10, 2008

## **Wellawatte rail track bomber arrested**

Daily Mirror (Sri Lanka)

June 6, 2008 Friday 3:55 PM EST

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**Length:** 287 words

**Byline:** Daily News Sri Lanka

**Dateline:** Colombo

### **Body**

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Colombo, June 6 -- Jatheesan Balasubramanian, 30, the main Tiger suspect in the Wellawatte railway bomb incident was taken into custody at the Irattaperiyakulam police road block at Vauniya. The arrest was made at around 6.00 p.m. on the day of the incident.

Immediately after the incident, he had got into a Vauniya-bound bus to reach Mullaitivu, investigations reveal.

While escaping, the suspect had dropped his identity card which police recovered. The National Intelligence Bureau and the Colombo Crimes Bureau had alerted all police stations in the North and the East with the suspect's photograph. At the time of arrest, the suspect had in his possession a signed photograph.

A resident of Mullaitivu, he has been identified as a hardcore member of the **LTTE**, he had also been employed at K.S. Trading Co., Nawala.

Under interrogation by National Intelligence Bureau sleuths, information relating to several bombings in the city have been elicited from the suspect. He had admitted his role in the Wellawatte railway bomb blast during the interrogation.

His temporary abode at Wattala has been sealed and three inmates have also been arrested.

Interrogation has led to the discovery of high explosive material, and a stock of weapons by the Bambalapitiya and Wellawatte police teams from a computer school at Wellawatte on Wednesday.

Twenty Seven suspects including three **women** have been taken into custody. Among the cache of explosives discovered by the sleuths are five kilograms of C-4 grade high explosive material, five detonators, one micro pistol and a magazine. The 27 suspects have been detained at Wellawatte police for further questioning.

Report from Daily News Sri Lanka brought to you by HT Syndication.

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For any query with respect to this article or any other content requirement, please contact Editor at [htsyndication@hindustantimes.com](mailto:htsyndication@hindustantimes.com)

**Load-Date:** September 16, 2008

## Wellawatte rail track bomber arrested

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End of Document

## *The AFP Asia news agenda*

Agence France Presse -- English

September 5, 2008 Friday 2:41 AM GMT

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**Length:** 650 words

**Dateline:** HONG KONG, Sept 5 2008

### **Body**

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Duty Editor: Frankie Taggart

News Desk +852 2829 6211

ASIA NEWS HIGHLIGHTS ON FRIDAY:

- + Pressure mounts on Thai government
- + Final push for Pakistan presidential poll
- + US envoy in China for NKorea nuke talks

BANGKOK: Full coverage of Thailand's political crisis, one day after the government proposed a national referendum to defuse anti-government protests that have sparked a state of emergency in Bangkok (THAILAND-POLITICS-PROTEST)

ISLAMABAD: Full coverage ahead of Saturday's election for president, including a piece from the home city of the front-runner, Benazir Bhutto's widower Asif Ali Zardari (PAKISTAN-VOTE)

BEIJING: US envoy Christopher Hill due in Beijing for international talks about concerns over North Korea's moves to reverse disablement of its nuclear plant (NKOREA-NUCLEAR-WEAPONS)

OTHER STORIES:

BEIJING: Covering the events surrounding the Beijing Paralympics that open on Saturday. We will run a report on the everyday hassles encountered by handicapped in the Chinese capital (OLY-2008-PARALYMPICS)

-- Monitoring situation in China's Muslim-populated Xinjiang region, which is experiencing its greatest spike in violence in years with 39 people reported killed there last month (CHINA-XINJIANG-UNREST)

COLOMBO: Reporting as Sri Lanka's **Tamil Tigers** resist a government offensive aimed at dismantling the rebels' de facto mini-state (SRILANKA-UNREST)

## The AFP Asia news agenda

JAKARTA: Moving a feature on Indonesian political parties use of celebrities to capture the popular vote (INDONESIA-VOTE-POLITICS-ENTERTAINMENT)

KOLKATA: Reporting on talks to end bitter protests against a plant slated to make the world's cheapest car (INDIA-ECONOMY-AUTO)

MANILA: Inflation hits 17-year high (PHILIPPINES-ECONOMY-INFLATION)

-- Moving analysis on whether violence in the Philippine south could spill over into neighbouring countries (PHILIPPINES-MUSLIM-UNREST-ATTACKS-ANALYSIS)

NEW DELHI: Reporting from flood-hit Bihar state where tens of thousands of villagers remain cut off by floods caused when a monsoon-swollen river changed course (INDIA-FLOODS)

PORT MORESBY: Australian Defence Force officials say that the suspected body of World War II airman found in the Papua New Guinea jungle is in fact a tree branch. (PNG-AUSTRALIA-US-JAPAN-WWII-AIRMAN)

SEOUL: Watching reaction to reports that North Korea has started rebuilding nuclear plants (NKOREA-NUCLEAR-WEAPONS)

-- Monitoring financial markets shaken by the won's fall against the dollar and fears of capital flight (SKOREA-ECONOMY)

SINGAPORE: Reporting on world oil prices trading mixed in a market preoccupied with falling demand (COMMODITIES-ENERGY-OIL-ASIA-PRICE)

SYDNEY: Australia swears in its first ever **female** governor-general, the official representative of Britain's Queen Elizabeth II as the country's head of state. (AUSTRALIA-POLITICS-ROYAL-**WOMEN**)

-- The Australian government's climate change adviser expected to recommend how quickly and by how much the country should aim to slash its greenhouse gas emissions to help ease global warming (AUSTRALIA-CLIMATE-EMISSIONS-WARMING)

TAIPEI: Government to release August inflation figures at 0800 GMT (TAIWAN-ECONOMY-INFLATION)

-- Monitoring developments in a money-laundering case implicating former president Chen Shui-bian and family (TAIWAN-POLITICS-CORRUPTION-CHEN)

TOKYO: Following race to become prime minister after Yasuo Fukuda's sudden resignation as new candidates call for generational change (JAPAN-POLITICS)

-- Following reaction after North Korea delays a probe into the fate of Japanese abductees due to the change of government in Tokyo (JAPAN-POLITICS-NKOREA-DIPLOMACY)

-- Following reaction to defence ministry white paper that warns that Russia is stepping up military drills near Japan. Mikhail M. Bely, Russian ambassador to Japan, speaks to the press at 0300 GMT (JAPAN-MILITARY-RUSSIA)

-- Japanese share prices slip 2.54 percent (STOCKS-JAPAN)

-- The yen soars in Asian trade (FOREX-ASIA)

afp

**Load-Date:** September 5, 2008

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End of Document

## **Air force jets destroy rebel hide-out; clashes kill 30 insurgents, military says**

Associated Press International

January 17, 2008 Thursday 6:58 PM GMT

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**Section:** INTERNATIONAL NEWS

**Length:** 605 words

**Byline:** By KRISHAN FRANCIS, Associated Press Writer

**Dateline:** COLOMBO Sri Lanka

### **Body**

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Air force jets bombed and destroyed a hide-out occupied by senior Tamil Tiger rebel leaders in northern Sri Lanka on Thursday, while artillery fire and ground clashes killed 30 insurgents, the military said.

The air raid followed an upsurge in violence in the civil war including an attack on a passenger bus that killed at least 27 people on Wednesday, the official end of a six-year cease-fire between the government and rebels a pact that had largely been ignored in recent years.

The air force targeted the rebel hide-out near Kilinochchi, the insurgents' de facto capital, and pilots confirmed they had destroyed the target, military spokesman Brig. Udaya Nanayakkara said.

Nanayakkara said top rebel officials used the compound, but that he did not know who was there at the time of the attack.

The pro-rebel TamilNet Web site said a civilian area was targeted by the air force, and a 32-year-old man was killed and seven others were wounded.

Nanayakkara said the military had no reason to target a civilian settlement.

"It was definitely a (rebel) leaders' camp. They won't let civilians settle in that area," he said.

He said soldiers captured a 3-kilometer (1.8-mile) stretch of road connecting Uyilankulam and Adampan villages in northern Mannar district after a battle Wednesday that killed nine rebels.

Though small, the stretch is seen as strategic in the military's push to take rebel-held territories in Mannar district, Nanayakkara said.

He said nine other rebels were killed during a clash elsewhere in Mannar on Wednesday.

Early Thursday, commandoes also advanced into rebel territory in Mannar and destroyed a bunker, killing four **female** rebels, he said.

A lone rebel exchanged gunfire Thursday with soldiers in northern Jaffna but later gave up and committed suicide by biting a vial of cyanide to avoid being captured, he said.



Air force jets destroy rebel hide-out; clashes kill 30 insurgents, military says

He said seven other rebels died in several other clashes across the north Wednesday.

Rebel officials could not immediately be reached for comment on the clashes.

On Wednesday in southeastern Sri Lanka, suspected rebels detonated a 20-kilogram (45-pound) roadside bomb by a passenger bus as it traveled through the town of Buttala, about 240 kilometers (150 miles) southeast of Colombo.

Gunmen then shot the panicked passengers as they tried to flee, witnesses said.

On Thursday, the death toll from the attack rose to 27 most of them from gunshots and injured 61 others, Nanayakkara said.

The assailants then retreated into the bush, shooting and killing six farmers they met along the way, he said.

Soon after the attack, a second roadside bomb struck an armored military vehicle in the same region, injuring three soldiers, he said.

On Thursday, soldiers confronted a group of rebels in the jungles near the site of the bus bomb and one soldier was wounded in the clash, Nanayakkara said.

The European Union on Thursday condemned the attack on civilians and reiterated "strong concerns" about the government's decision to abrogate the cease-fire.

"This deadly spiral of violence has to stop immediately, and I once again urge all parties to comply with their obligations under international law to protect civilians," EU External Relations Commissioner Benita Ferrero-Waldner said in a statement.

President Mahinda Rajapaksa called Wednesday's attacks "unmitigated brutality" on the part of the rebel movement while pursuing its "unacceptable goal of separation."

The **Tamil Tigers**, who have fought since 1983 to create a separate homeland for ethnic minority Tamils, did not comment on the attacks, but the group routinely denies responsibility for such attacks.

On the Net:

TamilNet: <http://www.tamilnet.com>

**Load-Date:** January 18, 2008

## **PM targeted at State Drama festival?**

Daily Mirror (Sri Lanka)

June 24, 2008 Tuesday 3:15 PM EST

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**Length:** 298 words

**Byline:** Daily News Sri Lanka

**Dateline:** Colombo

### **Body**

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Colombo, June 24 -- Police are probing if a former director of the State Film Corporation now in custody, was planning to target the Prime Minister during the State Drama Festival at the BMICH.

Former State Film Corporation Director K. Devadasan and a lodge owner in Wellawatte were arrested by the National Intelligence Unit last week following information provided by a Black Tiger who was arrested with 6.5kg C4 explosives earlier this month in Wellawatte.

"Devadasan was serving as Director of the Film Corporation from May 2004 to February 2006," Police media spokesman SSP Ranjith Gunasekera said.

"He was invited to attend the film festival at the BMICH by the Cultural Affairs Director as it is a norm to invite former members of the Board.

"Prime Minister Ratnasiri Wickramanayaka was the chief guest at the event," he said.

During interrogation, the Black Tiger suicide cadre had revealed that the **LTTE female** suicide cadre who blew herself at the Fort railway station on February 2 had strapped the explosives inside Devadasan's shop.

"Devadasan owns an upper floor shop at a supermarket in Kotahena. During a search operation, police unearthed a **female** dress and bomb assembling material hidden inside the shop," he added.

SSP Gunasekera pointed out when Devadasan was arrested, police found an invitation card with his name to the film festival where the Prime Minister was the chief guest.

"The National Intelligence Unit are probing whether Devadasan had assisted the Black Tiger to carry out a suicide attack targeting the Premier at the Drama festival," he told the Daily News.

Investigations are also on to ascertain whether the dresses found at Devadasan's shop had been used by other **women** suicide bombers.

Report from Daily News Sri Lanka brought to you by HT Syndication.

-706929

PM targeted at State Drama festival?

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**Load-Date:** September 16, 2008

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## **Civilians Ignore LTTE's Death Threats & Flee Un-cleared Areas**

Colombo Times

March 8, 2009 Sunday

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**Length:** 92 words

### **Body**

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Colombo, March 8 -- DURING Saturday (7) about four hundred and eighty-five civilians consisting of men , women and children escaped form the clutches of Tiger terrorists reached Army controlled areas of MUNANI, CHAMPIANPATTU, VETTALAIKENI and CHUNDIKULAM and sought the protection of Army.

They were directed to relief villages after giving them refreshments by the troops.

It was the previous day (6) that LTTE terrorists fired and killed three Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) and injured two more while they were escaping to cleared areas in boats.

**Load-Date:** May 5, 2009

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## **War heroes' mothers to get 25 pc from compensation schemes**

Daily Mirror (Sri Lanka)

May 16, 2008 Friday 3:16 PM EST

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**Length:** 279 words

**Byline:** Daily News Sri Lanka

**Dateline:** Colombo

### **Body**

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Colombo, May 16 -- Mothers of fallen soldiers will be entitled to receive 25 per cent from any of the compensation schemes paid to their families in keeping with a Cabinet decision.

Prime Minister Ratnasiri Wickramanayaka said Cabinet has approved another paper to reduce the period of service of women soldiers attached to the Voluntary Women Force of the Sri Lanka Army had to serve, to be entitled to their pensions.

The Prime Minister was speaking at the Virumawa Surakimu programme at the John de Silva Memorial Hall on Wednesday organised by the Seva Vanitha Unit of the Prime Minister's Office.

Prime Minister Wickramanayaka asked the Seva Vanitha Unit Chairman, Kusum Wickramanayaka to devise a programme to help mothers of fallen soldiers to develop their places of living.

The Prime Minister said he will make arrangements to get this programme off the ground soon.

"There are enough people and businessmen in this country who love their country and will contribute to such a programme," he said.

"It is thanks to our servicemen that the Eastern Province has seen a new dawn.

"It is their sacrifices that contributed to such an achievement," the Prime Minister said.

"Their dedication and commitment have lifted the spirit of servicemen fighting terrorists in that region," he said.

The Security Forces are confident about the Government's stance to eliminate terrorism. There is only one way that the country can have peace and that is by eliminating the LTTE, he pointed out. The Government is clear on this position and it has taken a decision to end terrorism without delay," the Prime Minister added.

Report from Daily News Sri Lanka brought to you by HT Syndication.

-659593

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War heroes' mothers to get 25 pc from compensation schemes

**Load-Date:** September 16, 2008

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## **Ampara blast 12 killed, 36 injured**

Daily Mirror (Sri Lanka)

May 10, 2008 Saturday 2:58 PM EST

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**Length:** 294 words

**Byline:** Report from Daily Mirror brought to you by HT Syndication.

**Dateline:** Colombo

### **Body**

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Colombo, May 10 -- At least twelve persons were killed and 36 injured when a bomb exploded inside 'City Café' Hotel in the Ampara town at 5.40 p.m. yesterday, Army Spokesman Udaya Nanayakkara said.

Brigadier Udaya Nanayakkara told the LTTE had planted this parcel bomb to target 'innocent civilians'. He said the police were currently conducting investigations into the incident.

Meanwhile, sources in Ampara said pavement vendors normally gathered at this hotel for evening tea every day.

"This is a hotel where a large number of people get together for tea in the evening," sources said.

Ampara

Following the blast, the hotel building collapsed to the ground. Among the dead were two women and eight men. One body had been mutilated beyond recognition.

However, there were contradicting statements about the bomb blast, made by the UNP and the National Unity Alliance (NUA) shortly after the incident.

Initial reports said it was a failed attempt on the life of NUA leader and Minister Ferial Ashraff. A party spokesman said Mrs. Ashraff had passed the spot a few minutes before the blast.

Meanwhile, Ampara District UNP Organiser, Daya Gamage claimed that it was an attempt by some elements to assassinate him.

"The explosion took place in a hotel just adjoining the garment factory belonging to me. The bomb went off a minute after I reached my office from the factory. All vehicles entering Ampara are subject to a thorough check except those used by government Ministers involved in election campaign. So, I wonder how this bomb was smuggled into the town despite such a tight security blanket," he said.

He said five female employees of his garment factory were also among those injured in the incident.

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-652678

## Ampara blast 12 killed, 36 injured

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**Load-Date:** August 11, 2008

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## **FEATURE: "Then they came for me" - remembering Lanka's Wickrematunga**

Deutsche Presse-Agentur  
February 8, 2009 Sunday 10:17 AM EST

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**Section:** POLITICS

**Length:** 817 words

### **Body**

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DPA POLITICS SriLanka Media    FEATURE: "Then they came for me" - remembering Lanka's Wickrematunga  
By Can Merey, dpa    =

Colombo (dpa) - The came for him in the morning.

The editor-in-chief of the last newspaper critical of the Sri Lankan government, Lasantha Wickrematunga, was on his way to work at the Sunday leader in Colombo.

His killers were following on motorbikes. Then they blocked the path of his car and opened fire.

Wickrematunga's death proved the biggest blow yet in Sri Lanka for press freedom which, like other civil rights, has fallen victim to

the war against the LTTE Tamil rebels.

On Sunday, a month after his murder, relatives, friends and colleagues gathered at his grave in Colombo. Wickrematunga had anticipated his death - and left behind a political time bomb.

The 50-year-old had written his own obituary, which was published in the Sunday leader, headlined "And Then They Came for Me".

"When finally I am killed, it will be the government that kills me," he wrote, and addressed the following words to President Mahinda Rajapakse:

"In the wake of my death, I know you will make all the usual sanctimonious noises and call upon the police to hold a swift and thorough inquiry. But, like all the inquiries you have ordered in the past, nothing will come of this one, too."

And so it has proved: a month after the father of three was killed, neither the hitmen nor those behind his murder have been produced.

Rajapakse has brushed off all accusations against himself and insists his government guarantees press freedom. But this has little chance in today's Sri Lanka.

## FEATURE: "Then they came for me" - remembering Lanka's Wickrematunga

While the South Asian nation was still at 89th position in the Reporters Without Borders press freedom index in 2003, last year it had dropped to 165th - out of 173 countries.

Only countries like North Korea, Iran or Burma were counted lower - countries with governments which, in contrast to that in Colombo, make no pretence of being democratic.

According to government figures, since the beginning of 2006, shortly after Rajapakse came to power, nine journalists have been murdered - eight Tamils and Wickrematunga, who was a member of the majority Sinhalese section of the population.

Amnesty International speaks of at least 14 media workers having been unlawfully killed in that period while, it says, "others have been arbitrarily detained, tortured and allegedly disappeared while in the custody of security forces."

More than 20 journalists have left the country in response to death threats, Amnesty adds.

A human rights lawyer in Sri Lanka says the country has become "a police state" in which only government news can be published, where the press has been silenced and there is no freedom of expression.

A reporter who declined to be named said: "It has never been so dangerous to be a journalist," adding: "There is no official censorship, but this is much worse than censorship."

Those critical of the government, he said, risked being branded as

LTTE supporters - a potentially deadly label.

Just how sensitive the government can be was something which German ambassador Juergen Weerth recently experienced.

After a short speech he delivered on behalf of the diplomatic corps at Wickrematunga's funeral, he was summoned to the Foreign Ministry.

The Sunday Leader is the last newspaper to refuse to be intimidated. Lasantha Wickrematunga founded it in 1994 with his elder brother Lal, and with eight editors.

To begin with, the circulation was just 7,000. Today, the English-language and Sinhalese editions sell each Sunday to more than a quarter of a million readers.

Lasantha Wickrematunga, who was regarded as the best investigative journalist in the country, will be sorely missed at the paper.

Unopened letters lie in the murdered editor-in-chief's office. Photographs of his three children remain under the glass plate atop his desk.

A photograph of his smiling brother hangs in the office of publisher Lal Wickrematunga, who has taken over Lasantha's job.

He also has three children, with whom he never travels in the same car, out of fear of being attacked. Each day he takes a different route to work and never follows regular hours, in order to remain unpredictable and thwart potential attackers.

## FEATURE: "Then they came for me" - remembering Lanka's Wickrematunga

His wife telphones him every half hour to know where he is, he says. His parents and his remaining siblings live abroad, most of them in Toronto. He's the last to stick it out in Sri Lanka.

No one in the editorial team has failed to turn up for work after

Lasantha's murder, says Lal Wickrematunga - although one of the women colleagues, Dilrukshi Handunnetti, cautions that journalism is "something I wouldn't want anyone I love to get into."

But she sees herself as duty-bound to carry on. That also applies to Lal Wickrematunga. "I need to see that Lasantha's work is done," he says. "I won't go," the 58-year-old insists. "If we do anything else here, Lasantha would have died in vain."

Feb 0809 1017 GMT

**Load-Date:** February 9, 2009

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**Four civilians killed in LTTE bus attack: military**

Indo-Asian News Service

July 11, 2008 Friday 1:24 PM EST

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**Length:** 126 words

**Byline:** Report from Indo-Asian News Service brought to you by HT Syndication.

**Dateline:** Colombo

## **Body**

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Colombo, July 11 -- At least four civilians were killed and 26 wounded when suspected Tamil Tiger guerrillas fired at a bus in southern Sri Lanka Friday, the defence ministry said.

The authorities said a group of Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (**LTTE**) opened fire at the bus at the 49th mile post along the Buttala-Kataragama main road around 10.15 a.m., killing three passengers instantly.

The bus was plying from Moneragala towards Kataragama in a region dominated by the majority Sinhalese community.

The victims included two **women** and a 12-year-old child, the ministry said, quoting sources at the Kataragama hospital. A fourth victim succumbed to injuries at the Hambantota hospital.

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**Load-Date:** July 11, 2008

## *Thosuands gather at Tamil peace protest*

Asian Image

February 2, 2009

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**Section:** UK NEWS (UK)

**Length:** 825 words

### **Body**

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Tens and thousands of Tamils in the UK came together to march in London to highlight the plight of an estimated Tamil civilians caught up violence in Sri Lanka.

The demonstrators showed solidarity with their brethren facing deadly peril in Sri Lanka. The march proceeded peacefully and was organised in less than a week by Action Committee Against Genocide of Tamils, an umbrella body made up of several Tamil organisations.

It began at Millbank, Central London and continued till Temple Place where it ended at 6pm.

Protesteors said thousands of Tamil civilians have been killed and maimed over the past few days by indiscriminate aerial bombing (including cluster bombs) and artillery attack.

With the monsoon rains in full force, the civilians' plight is further magnified by the lack of food, shelter and medical assistance.

The wounded are being left without medical treatment. The Norwegian Foreign Minister, Jonas Gahr Støre, in a statement issued on Tuesday 27 January said his government condemned the ongoing war in Sri Lanka, which has caused "unacceptable sufferings to the civilians," in the country.

Utterly horrified by the carnage unfolding in Sri Lanka, the peace marchers called on the international community to prevail on Sri Lanka to bring about an internationally sponsored immediate permanent ceasefire to be followed by peace negotiations. Showing much emotion, they also called on the international community to provide urgently needed humanitarian relief to the many thousands of civilians suffering untold misery.

The emergency requires blood, medicines, medical equipment, sanitation, food supplies and temporary shelter to be delivered immediately to save the lives of the civilians.

So far, despite calls for an immediate ceasefire by the UK, EU and many other countries, the Sri Lankan regime has refused to do so and continues its onslaught with impunity.

The peace campaigners also called on the international media to expose the truth about this unfolding humanitarian catastrophe by getting around the cynical methods the Sri Lankan government has employed hitherto to suppress the truth.

After banishing the international media, the NGOs and the UN agencies from the conflict zone and silencing the local media by assassinating leading journalists, the current hard-line Sri Lankan regime has succeeded in

## Thosuands gather at Tamil peace protest

suppressing the truth emerging about what is widely accepted as a genocidal war against the centuries old Tamil civilisation in Sri Lanka.

Over the last few weeks the civil war in Sri Lanka has severely intensified. As the Sri Lankan occupying Army continues advancing into the north, Tamils civilians have been cornered into a 250 square kilometre area of land.

The International Red Cross estimates that a quarter of million Tamil civilians trapped in the 'safe zone' continue to face indiscriminate aerial bombardment and a lack of access to any basic food, sanitation or health care.

Whilst the government claims to have designated this area as a war-free zone, the UN has repeatedly stated that there has been continued aerial bombardment of the area, with bombs falling on hospitals and ambulances.

Over 450 people are thought to have died within the last 8 days, with many more seriously injured. Despite this the government has banned all aid from entering the area, along with NGOs and media, and has refused to enter into a ceasefire.

Witnessing the plight of their fellow Tamils in Sri Lanka, British Tamils came together to show their outrage at the humanitarian crisis.

The crowd included British Tamils from every generation, from children right through to their grandparents, as well as Tamils from every aspect of British life, such as doctors, lawyers, accountants, engineers and businessmen and women.

In an overwhelming show of solidarity for the cause, Tamil shops, businesses and Tamil Schools around the country remained closed during the hours of the protest.

Several organisations, such as the British Tamil schools and UK university societies (e.g. Kingston Tamil School, University of Nottingham Tamil Society) and the Tamil Youth Organisation were present to express the views of second generation British Tamil youths.

The protesters marched behind a large banner reading 'Call for immediate ceasefire in Sri Lanka. Sri Lanka! Stop bombing Tamil civilians. Sri Lanka! Allow Humanitarian Aid'.

Sri Lankan Tamil MPs belonging to the Tamil National Alliance (TNA), Mr Sivajilingam and Mr Jeyanthamoorthy spoke about the long suffering civilians and the need for a permanent negotiated solution between the warring parties.

Mr David Pararajasingham spoke on behalf of the British Tamils Forum.

He discredited reports that the LTTE is preventing civilians from leaving and stated that 'it is the will of the people to stay with the LTTE. The people are scared of being murdered, raped and tortured by the Sri Lankan Army'. He concluded by saying that 'Tamil Eelam is not negotiable, but Eelam will negotiate'.

**Load-Date:** February 2, 2009

## *Rule of all: Satisfying democratic aspirations of minorities*

Daily Mirror (Sri Lanka)

March 28, 2009 Saturday

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**Length:** 1307 words

**Dateline:** Colombo

### **Body**

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Colombo, March 28 -- In Sri Lanka, previous exercises in constitutional change have done exactly the opposite. It is well known that the Republican Constitution of 1972 abolished the protection of minorities and established a unitary state. But it is less often recognised that it also took away rights from the majority of Sinhalese people, and concentrated power in the hands of the government. The Constitution of 1978 further concentrated power in the hands of one person - the president - and took away more rights, including the right to life. The adverse consequences for Tamils were immediately obvious, as several thousands disappeared, were tortured and killed; but the devastating consequences for Sinhalese did not become apparent until some years later. This very Constitution, under which tens of thousands of Sinhalese disappeared, were tortured and killed between 1987 and 1990, is what the Sinhala nationalists are now trying so hard to preserve. And the separate state for which the LTTE has been fighting would be exactly the same, with absolute power concentrated in the hands of one man - Prabhakaran - and the majority of citizens deprived of all rights, including the right to life.

From this angle, it can be seen that the conflict in Sri Lanka has been between a Sinhalese political elite fighting for a Sinhalese unitary state and the LTTE fighting for a Tamil unitary state. Both leaderships have been unwilling to share power, either with minorities in their area of jurisdiction or with the majority of their own community. Their goals have therefore been irreconcilable not only with each other, but also with democracy. The majority of people in all communities would, on the contrary, benefit from constitutional changes that strengthen democracy, and there is therefore no conflict between their interests on the basis of ethnicity. The great virtue of spelling out the idea of constitutional change as a necessary measure to restore and strengthen democracy in Sri Lanka is that it quickly becomes clear that such change is not only in the interests of Tamils - and that, too, only those in the northeast, leaving out Hill-country Tamils and others living in the south. In fact, such a change would empower the vast majority of the people of Sri Lanka - indeed, all but the small elite who currently control all the power. In mid-2007, a poll by the Marga Institute of Colombo suggested that when Sinhalese people realised that devolution could actually bring government closer to them, the majority supported it. Unfortunately, the way in which the issue of devolution has usually been posed suggests that it is a zero-sum game, with more power for Tamils resulting in less for Sinhalese. It needs to be clearly explained to the people of Sri Lanka that democratic devolution is actually a win-win strategy, ensuring peace and strengthening the rights of all people of all ethnic groups - bar a tiny minority who currently exploit and oppress the rest. The LTTE may be defeated militarily, but unless the democratic aspirations of the minorities are satisfied, conflict will surely spring up again. Conversely, if Tamils enjoy democratic rights and freedoms in the whole of Sri Lanka, why would they want to fight for a much smaller separate state in which their democratic rights are suppressed? Furthermore, the military victory has been won at the cost of a dangerous erosion of democracy in the south, exemplified by the harassment and murder of a large number of journalists, including Lasantha Wickrematunga. Reversing this trend will also depend on a common struggle for democracy by people of all communities. Common interest As a Sinhala-speaking half-Burgher Tamil from the south, who is also

an activist focusing on labour and women's rights, I feel that the simplistic way in which identities are commonly defined in Sri Lanka today is one reason why a solution to the crisis has thus far remained elusive. Such an approach erases important elements of identity, including class, caste, gender, political belief and even the mixed ethnicity that is so common in Sri Lanka. In my neighbourhood, there are many middle- and lower-income Sinhalese, some of whom I have known since my childhood; I know for a fact that they do not hate Tamils, because they protected my family in both 1958 and 1983. They may insist that I share their meal with them, but if they are asked to share power with the Tamils, I suspect their response would be, "What power? We don't have any. How can we share what we don't have?" And indeed, given that most of them struggle to make ends meet on insecure incomes in the informal sector, their sense of powerlessness is understandable. Those with formal employment may not be much better off. When I started working with women garment workers in the late 1980s, simply undertaking to organise in the Free Trade Zones was to risk disappearance and death. Since then, there has been considerable progress in winning the right to freedom of association, but hard-won wage gains are currently being snatched away by runaway inflation. Back in 1990, when I interviewed women widowed by the Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna (JVP) insurgency and the government's counter-insurgency, their sense of powerlessness was overwhelming. I imagine they experience a similar feeling of despair now, as it becomes increasingly difficult to survive economically. Would it be surprising if such people get the feeling that Tamils are demanding more power than they themselves possess? Or that they could allow themselves to be persuaded that devolution would rob them of part of their country, and that this would be a concession to the Tigers, who are killing Sinhalese? Such arguments need to be countered by explanations that, far from leading to a separate state, devolution within a democratic framework is the best insurance against separatism and war; that it would empower not just minorities but also the majority of the Sinhalese; and that those who oppose it and campaign for a unitary state are interested not in the welfare of the majority, but only in the power of a small political elite. The All Party Representative Committee (APRC), set up to find a political solution to the ethnic crisis, got off to a good start when the Majority Report of the panel of experts was released in December 2006, and Professor Tissa Vitharana later produced a draft proposal incorporating most of the elements of the Majority Report. But the task of building consensus around proposals for constitutional change that would be acceptable to the democratic majority among the minority communities later ran into trouble. What is grievously lacking in this process, and what has allowed the Sinhalese nationalists to sabotage it time and again, is a mass campaign to convince the Sinhalese majority that devolution within a democratic framework is as much in their interests as it is in the interests of the minorities. Particularly in the current environment of military 'victory' fervour, it is critically important that the APRC proposals be released to the public without any dilution, and that a mass campaign be launched to support them. The campaign would need to draw in everyone who has been opposed to the war and in favour of democracy: progressive political parties, trade unions, women's groups, religious organisations, academics and intellectuals, students, journalists, NGOs and others. The campaign should result in a popular outcry among Sinhalese against anyone who tries to derail the process of constitutional reform. Politicians need to get the message that the electorate will reject them if they put obstacles in the way of a democratic constitution. That is the only solution to Sri Lanka's ethnic crisis. Published by HT Syndication with permission from Daily Mirror Sri Lanka.

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**Load-Date:** March 30, 2009



## **Over 10500 civilians rescued this month: Defence Ministry**

Daily Mirror (Sri Lanka)

February 11, 2009 Wednesday

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**Length:** 349 words

**Dateline:** Colombo

### **Body**

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Colombo, Feb. 11 -- The Defence Ministry said that 10501 civilians belonging to more than 1500 families were given refuge since the first of this month.

According to Defence sources in the Wanni and Jaffna, over 10000 civilians have come to Kilinochchi while 139 others have come to Jaffna since the National Independence Day last week. Among the rescued civilians are over 2800 children and about 3000 women, the Defence Ministry said. Arrangements have been made at the frontlines to provide immediate medical care and refreshments to the civilians seeking refuge with the security forces.

Transportation of patients to the hospitals and others to civilian welfare centres elsewhere has also been provided by the security forces, the Defence Ministry said. A senior Defence official explaining about the sudden increase of civilians escaping the terrorist clutches in Wanni said it was a result of a well-planned rescue mission launched by the security forces. "We have planned to meet these circumstances since the inception of the current phase of operations. We knew that the terrorists would resort to their cowardly tactic of hiding behind a human shield." "Army manoeuvres have been planned and executed with great care in order increase the opportunity of the civilians to get out of the human shield. Navy deployments have been changed with more boats assigned for search and rescue missions for those civilians taking a sea route to flee LTTE clutches. As a result the terrorist barricades against civilian movements have been weakening and more escape routes have been opened for the civilians to come out of the human shield," he said. "Like all our other manoeuvres in this operation against terrorism, this rescue mission is also well planned and executed by the professionals. Indeed we have proven the zero civilians casualty policy of ours is not just another term but something that can be practiced; but it needs a great deal of professionalism on the part of the armed forces," the Defence Ministry said. Published by HT Syndication with permission from Daily Mirror Sri Lanka.

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**Load-Date:** April 1, 2009

## *Suffering fishermen of the prohibited seas*

Daily Mirror (Sri Lanka)

September 4, 2008 Thursday 3:41 PM EST

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**Length:** 335 words

**Byline:** Report from Daily Mirror brought to you by HT Syndication.

**Dateline:** Colombo

### **Body**

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Colombo, Sept. 4 -- The fisher-folk in Serakkuliya village are in a predicament due to the prevailing restrictions on fishing and for want of minimum facilities of a fisheries village.

Serakkuliya village is approximately 15 miles from Mannar on borders of the Puttalam district. The residents of this traditional fisheries village are today struggling for existence against different odds. They pointed out that they use traditional fishing gear for off shore fishing during daytime, but they are compelled to use prohibited fishing gear and resort to night fishing regardless of its damage to the aquatic resources in the lagoon if the prevailing restrictions are not lifted.

Secretary of the Fisheries Society Clode Lincoln said "The hardships faced by us today are due to the restrictions on fishing. Many fishermen have taken to other trades to make a living. Many of them have resorted to illegal sand mining and cutting mangroves for firewood. Illegal liquor trade is going on unchecked. Many married women have gone abroad for employment to provide a better living standard for their children but it resulted in family breakdowns. Child abuse and rape of young women are increasing in alarming proportions. The area is now free of LTTE threats, so the government should withdraw the restrictions on fishing."

President of the Fisheries Society Milroy Wasantha said "It is unavoidable that the fishermen use prohibited fishing gear regardless of its impact on breeding of fish.

We admit that we must cooperate with the government at this curtail moment. However, it is sad that the government is not concerned about our predicament. We request the authorities for permission to engage in deep sea fishing from 6am to 9pm."

Several women who were fishing in the lagoon said their hardships compelled them to take to fishing to supplement the family income. They requested the authorities to look into their grievances and to provide relief.

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-794743

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## Suffering fishermen of the prohibited seas

**Load-Date:** September 4, 2008

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## International Women's Day

Daily News (Sri Lanka)

March 7, 2009 Saturday

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**Length:** 808 words

**Dateline:** Colombo

### **Body**

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Colombo, March 7 -- Tomorrow, women all over the world will celebrate the International Women's Day. In Sri Lanka too, various events have been organised by the Government and the private sector to mark this significant day in the calendar.

There are some on both sides of the gender divide who question the need for a separate day for women. But the truth is that the world needs to focus its attention on women on days such as these. Gender discrimination still exists even in the developed West and there are many countries where women are treated as second class citizens in male dominated societies. True, women have come a long way since the world first marked the International Women's Day in 1911. Almost all countries have given women the franchise, jobs which were previously dominated by men have been opened to women and the education and health of women are considered a priority. Yet, women suffer silently in many societies both at domestic and social levels. One of the biggest problems confronting women and girls is domestic and other forms of violence including physical and sexual abuse. Physical and sexual harassment of women is ingrained in many societies and not many women dare speak against such acts. There are many victims of rape who bear the trauma throughout their lives due to fear of stigma and the denial of social opportunities. It is very appropriate that the UN has chosen to highlight violence against women on this women's day with the theme 'women and men united to end violence against women and girls'. As the theme suggests, the involvement of men is essential to prevent violence against women. Since most cases of domestic violence and even rape go unreported, methods have to be evolved to hear the stories of such victims. Moreover, countries must do more in terms of law enforcement to deter domestic violence and sexual harassment of women. The punishment for sexual and other offences against women in many countries is hardly adequate - the offenders are known to commit the same offences once released from jail. That is just one of the major issues affecting women here and abroad. According to the United Nations, women do two-thirds of the world's work but receive only 10 per cent of the world's income and own less than one per cent of land. Globally there is still a gender pay gap, a lack of women parliamentarians, and women's health overall around the world is worse than that of men. There are many developing countries where the education of the girl child is neglected. Girls and women are treated virtually as slaves in some societies. The UN's Millennium Development Goals envision a better future for women and girls. While it is highly unlikely that these goals could be met by 2015, steady progress is being made with regard to the emancipation of women worldwide. Sri Lanka's track record in this regard is rather impressive, despite being a developing country. Sri Lanka was one of the first countries in the world to grant voting rights for women, well before gaining Independence in 1948. Even developed countries envy some of our indices with regard to women and girls. Infant and maternal mortality is low, healthcare and education standards for women are high and many women hold top positions in the Government and private sectors. One worrying factor is that political representation by women is still at a very low level in Sri Lanka, compared even to its neighbours, despite producing the world's first woman Prime Minister. Many reasons have been cited for this

## International Women's Day

situation, including the complexities of the Proportional Representation system which requires a vast amount of funds and manpower for campaigning purposes and the inherent trend of violence in our electoral landscape. But the lack of women's representation denies women at large a voice in the decision-making process, be it in the village or Parliament. This issue has to be addressed on a priority basis. It is gratifying to note that the major parties are making a conscious effort to include more women in their lists at every election. The liberation of the North and the East has posed a challenge vis-a-vis the uplift of women and girls traumatised by years of conflict and LTTE tyranny in these provinces. Their educational, nutritional and social standards are low. The Women's Affairs, Education and Health Ministries should work in unison for their rehabilitation and integration to society. Among them are child soldiers conscripted by the LTTE. The liberation of women is a task not only for the Government and women's groups. The society as a whole should be involved in this effort. It is women who give life to our world. All have a responsibility to ensure equal opportunities and a better life for women the world over. Published by HT Syndication with permission from Daily News Sri Lanka.

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**Load-Date:** April 1, 2009

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## **SRI LANKA: U.N. PROBES CIVILIAN DEATHS AS GUNS FALL SILENT**

IPS - Inter Press Service

February 5, 2009 Thursday

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**Length:** 873 words

**Byline:** Sherazad Hamit

**Dateline:** UNITED NATIONS, May 22, 2009

### **Body**

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The Sri Lankan government, which has claimed military victory against a 26-year-old brutal insurgency in the country's northern and eastern provinces, will be battling charges of violating humanitarian law at a special session of the U.N. Human Rights Council (HRC) in Geneva next week.

A rash of similar charges has also been made against the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (**LTTE**) which unsuccessfully fought for a separate nation state in Sri Lanka.

The warring parties are accused of killing, wittingly or unwittingly, thousands of civilians, including **women** and children, despite several appeals by the United Nations and international humanitarian organisations to observe a no-fire zone in the conflict areas.

The move to penalise both the Sri Lanka government and the **LTTE** has been initiated primarily by the European Union.

The special session, scheduled to take place May 26, is being convened at the request of 17 of the 47 members of the HRC, including Canada, France, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands, Slovakia, Slovenia, Switzerland and Britain.

"It is hoped that the holding of this special session will contribute towards the cause of peace," HRC president Martin Ihoeghian Uhomoibhi was quoted as saying,

The HRC has had only 10 previous special sessions relating to, among others, Palestine, Lebanon, Darfur, Myanmar and the Democratic Republic of Congo.

According to a statement by the Geneva-based U.N. Watch released Friday, Sri Lanka has "preempted scrutiny" by the Human Rights Council by submitting its own resolution, supported by 12 allies, that praises the South Asian nation for winning the war against a "terrorist group" and calls for funding by the international community.

The text, titled "Assistance to Sri Lanka in the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights", has been co-signed by Indonesia, China, Saudi Arabia, India, Pakistan, Malaysia, Bahrain, the Philippines, Cuba, Egypt, Nicaragua and Bolivia.

Meanwhile, several international human rights and humanitarian agencies are raising concerns about restricted access to civilians and the government's insistence on a limited international role.

## SRI LANKA : U.N. PROBES CIVILIAN DEATHS AS GUNS FALL SILENT

Around 60,000 to 80,000 civilians, reportedly the last of those trapped within the conflict zone, have been making their way to the checkpoints and camps at Vavuniya and Manik Farm over the last several days.

The U.N. and international aid groups have been granted limited access to the areas in and around the conflict zone, leaving them unable to confirm the status of the internally displaced not already in camps and to deliver much needed assistance.

"We hope all civilians are out of the conflict zone. It is hard to be absolutely sure," said U.N. under-secretary-general John Holmes, the world body's chief humanitarian coordinator.

"Whenever access is denied we are concerned. There were promises made that were never fulfilled. I think our main concern is to help the people who have got out," he told reporters Wednesday.

The Office of the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and International Red Cross have been receiving civilians and monitoring their processing into camps. The World Food Programme has also set up feeding tents to tend to the malnourished as soon as they arrive.

At least 220,000 civilians have already reached the camps in Vavuniya and Manik Farm, both of which have been receiving the latest influx of the internally displaced. The sheer numbers of civilians and the speed of their arrival have put an even greater strain on the health, sanitation, and water systems, described by the UNHCR as sub-standard.

By the end of the week, the number of internally displaced persons (IDPs) is expected to have grown to more than 250,000, said Ann Veneman, executive director of the U.N. children's agency UNICEF, which is building latrines, bathing facilities and nutritional centres for the malnourished.

The UNHCR has erected over 25,000 shelters and plans on 10,000 more to speed up decongestion in the major camps. However, the agency continues to face restrictions to entering IDP sites imposed by authorities, hindering its ability to deliver assistance to those unable to reach camps, U.N. officials say.

The Sri Lankan government has vowed that up to 80 percent will be resettled by the end of 2009 - a target Holmes called "ambitious" in light of the magnitude of the crisis.

He stressed that reconstruction and de-mining had to take place quickly in order to prevent the issue being used as a pretext for preventing the displaced from returning to their homes.

In addition to mobilising humanitarian assistance efforts and facilitating a political reconciliation process, Holmes urged the government to provide relief workers with full and unconditional access to civilians, and to expedite the screening and separation of former combatants from civilians.

The separation of former combatants and sympathisers from the civilian population has become a particularly sensitive issue following reports that three Tamil doctors working for Physicians for Human Rights (PHR) were recently interrogated at Olanthai and have yet to be released.

In response to these reports, Holmes reminded the government that "these are people who have performed heroically and deserve every praise and care."

**Load-Date:** May 25, 2009

## **NGOs' darling: Louis Arbour**

Sunday Observer (Sri Lanka)

May 4, 2008 Sunday 2:50 PM EST

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**Length:** 1627 words

**Byline:** Report from the Sri Lanka Sunday Observer brought to you by HT Syndication.

**Dateline:** Colombo

### **Body**

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Colombo, May 4 -- I was wrong when I said earlier that "the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, Ms. Louis Arbour, was sitting on her French-Canadian backside doing sweet nothing."

On the contrary, she had been doing quite a lot, so much so that one of her compatriots, Lead Counsel, Christopher Black, told the International Criminal Tribunal Rwanda (ICTR) that "the sooner she is indicted for being an accessory to mass murder and war crimes and thrown to prison the better it is".

According to Canadian Black, Ms. Arbour, 61, is a "criminal, corrupt (and) a shame to all Canadians." (UPI report, April 9, 2008).

Ms. Arbour was the Chief Prosecutor of ICTR trying the Rwandans accused of crimes against humanity. The Rwandan genocide is one of the blood-curdling inhuman scandals of the 20th century, with big powers like France, UK and USA accused of being complicit in the atrocities.

It all began when the airplane carrying Rwandan President Juvenal Habyarimana and Cyprien Ntaryamira, the Hutu president of Burundi, was shot down as it prepared to land in Kigali, on April 6, 1994. Both presidents died and it was the catalyst for the genocide.

In 1997, Ms. Arbour was informed by her chief of investigations into the Rwandan genocide, Australian Michael Hourigan, Q.C., and his team, including FBI agent Jim Lyons and Canadian police officers assigned to their unit that it was the Rwandan Patriotic Front (RPF) led by Paul Kagame who had shot down the plane and massacred all those people.

"But instead of indicting Paul Kagame and the RPF men who had murdered all those people she ordered Hourigan to come to The Hague where she told him to kill the investigation and to burn his notes", said Mr. Black.

"This makes her an accessory to mass murder and a war criminal," said Black.

UPI reported: "Barrister Black points a finger at the UN, the US, Canada and Belgium as the culprits in helping the RPF to carry out the alleged assassinations. She did this on the instructions of the US government in violation of her oath to be independent as prosecutor, argues Mr. Black."

In a sworn affidavit, the Lead Investigative Prosecutor of ICTR, Michael Hourigan, an Australian QC, recommended that President Kagame himself, be prosecuted for the assassination of Habyarimana in 1997. But Chief UN Prosecutor, Louise Arbour of Canada, ordered him to drop the Kagame investigation; to forget it ever happened;



and, to burn his notes. Hourigan resigned rather than comply and copies of his original notes are now part of the ICTR public record for all to see, wrote The Jurist.

The Jurist added: "The Hourigan affidavit makes clear that the "Rwanda Genocide" cover-up has been going on for at least a decade, but the reasons for the cover-up did not become clear until late 2007, when a senior Clinton administration diplomat, Brian Atwood, was confronted with UN documents describing a 1994 "cover-up" meeting with the Rwandan Foreign Minister in Kigali and the UN's Kofi Annan.

According to the UN documents, U.S.-sponsored human rights reports by investigator Robert Gersony had documented massive military-style executions of civilians by Kagame's troops, during and after the final 90 days of the four-year Rwanda War.

"The former Rwandan Foreign Minister at the meeting, Jean Marie Ndagiyimana, testified at the ICTR that, rather than participate in the proposed "cover-up," he resigned and went into exile, where he remains today.

His ICTR testimony confirmed that Clinton's USAID Chief for Africa, Brian Atwood, and the chief of the UN Department of Peace Keeping Operations Kofi Annan, were both in his office in late October 1994 urging him to assist in the "cover-up" the war crimes committed by Kagame's forces," said the Jurist.

Before Black went on the attack against Ms. Arbour, French Judge Bruguiere (famous for indicting "The Jackal") had accused her for not prosecuting President Kagame and members of the inner circles of his government for the Rawan genocide. Bruguiere had also met with Kofi Annan in late 2006 to personally urge the U.N. Rwanda Tribunal to prosecute Kagame for the assassination of Juvenal Habyarimana. It was this war crime that re-ignited the four-year Rwanda War and the massive civilian killings in the war's final 90-days.

Given the enormity of the crimes against humanity committed by even nuns, priests and Seventh Day Adventists Ms. Arbour was morally obliged to pursue every bit of evidence against the suspects. But she didn't. It is pretty plain that Ms. Arbour, the high priestess of justice, has been acting as a willing puppet in the hands of big powers manipulating the international justice system to serve their political ends.

All this is relevant to the Sri Lankan situation where our pusillanimous academics, hired NGO hacks and the servile media treated Ms. Arbour as if she was a kind of a judicial goddess whose word must be treated with utmost reverence.

Predictably, our bootlicking henchaiyas consider imported justice as being far superior to the home made justice.

To them the values dictated by the West - however corrupt, biased and self-serving they may be - should be accepted and followed to the letter of law without any deviation. To these obsequious hacks, whose knees are swollen from genuflecting before their foreign gods, the Arbours, the Alan Rocks and the IIGEPs are super human beings who should be worshipped with the finest pick of flowers from their gardens, if they have any.

Acres of space were allotted by subservient vassals in the print media to glorify Ms. Arbour who is now accused of being a war criminal for turning a blind eye to the gory details of the Rwandan genocide.

The cover-ups, the deceptions, the lies, the biases and the unmitigated self-interests of international power-brokers and institutions that pretend to be concerned with human rights had exacerbated and perpetuated violence globally. Rwanda would have been a better place without Ms. Arbour and the big powers who were accused, with documentary evidence, of being a party to genocidal attacks against the minority Tutsis.

When she came to Sri Lanka in October 2007 Ms. Arbour made a song and dance about the government's refusal to let her visit Killinochchi. Apart from shaking hands with the war criminals and abductors of Tamil children what else could she have achieved for peace in Sri Lanka?

Would she have read the riot act and told the **Tamil Tigers** that she would haul them up before an international court for war crimes and crimes against humanity? She is notorious for dismissing the hard evidence presented to

her (example: Rwanda) and the chances were that she would have come away from Killinochchi, if she was allowed to go there, exonerating them or sympathising with them like Kofi Annan.

Sri Lankans should never forget how Kofi Annan, the former Secretary-General of the UN, extended "his sincere condolences and deepest sympathies" to E.Kaushalyan, a senior political leaders of the LTTE, Eastern Province Division, and others Tiger apparatchiks who were waylaid and killed by a rival Tamil faction in February 2005.

Kaushalyan was a lieutenant in the killing machine of the Tigers before he was promoted to be the political leader of the Eastern Province.

But why did Kofi Annan, the CEO of the UN and the leading light of human rights, go out of his way to extend his deepest sympathies to a mere lieutenant in the Pol Potist regime in the Vanni?

He had never offered his condolences to higher ranking officers of the Iraqi army killed by US-UK fire power. So why did Annan sympathize with the death of an insignificant official in the Tiger outfit? What purpose did it serve other than to lend a hand to the Tiger outfit - a banned terrorist organization headed by a war criminal wanted by India and Sri Lanka for crimes against humanity? Did it help to save peace and the Ceasefire Agreement which was being violated by the Tigers even as he spoke?

Judging by the official statement issued by the spokesperson for Annan in New York (February 8, 2005) it was meant to preserve peace. It said: "The Secretary-General urges all parties to exercise calm and restraint so as to avoid actions that could disrupt the Cease-fire Agreement of February 2002 or the long-term interest of peace in Sri Lanka."

But what did this foolish statement of Annan achieve? The condolences offered by the CEO of human rights to a minor apparatchik in the killing machine of the most ruthless terrorist group in the world (US State Department) is like offering ladders to jumping, mischievous monkeys, to use a native idiom.

Getting back Ms.Louis Arbour her duty should have been to initiate action to prosecute Velupillai Prabhakaran, a man guilty of crimes against humanity and war crimes, many times over.

But what action has she taken against such war criminals? All this points to the fact that the UN is no longer the house occupied by pious protectors of human rights, as they claim it to be.

It is increasingly turning out to be a high-class brothel for male and female prostitutes who are obsessed with grabbing the next step in the bureaucratic ladder by selling their body and soul to the highest bidders stalking the global corridors of power.

By prostituting and debasing their values, these exploiters of the noble ideals in this institution have reduced the UN Charter to another roll of toilet paper.

Genuine defenders of human rights have every right to celebrate her retirement.

They also must pray and hope that her successor will not be like her, or a Kofi Annan, or Kurt Waldheim, the former SS officer who shed crocodile tears for human rights after he got the job of Secretary-General of the UN! That is the UN for you!

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**Load-Date:** October 1, 2008

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## **Security concerns make Sri Lanka suspend SMS services**

Indo-Asian News Service

February 4, 2008 Monday 12:46 PM EST

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**Length:** 323 words

**Byline:** Report from Indo-Asian News Service brought to you by HT Syndication.

**Dateline:** Colombo

### **Body**

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Colombo, Feb. 4 -- Security concerns made Sri Lankan mobile operators suspend their SMS services during the country's 60th Independence Day celebrations Monday.

"We regret to inform subscribers that SMS services of all mobile operators will not be available from 6 a.m. to 12 noon on Feb 4," said a message on all mobile phones here.

Sri Lankan military spokesman Brig. Udaya Nanayakkara said that he was not aware of the reasons for the suspension, but added that the mobile operators could have done it for security reasons.

Terrorists could use the SMS facility to communicate with each other without being noticed.

Meanwhile, the Reuters news agency bureau in Colombo received a phone call warning that there would be bomb blasts in several places in the capital city during the Independence Day celebrations. The caller said that he belonged to the Ellalan Force.

According to Nanayakkara, the Ellalan Force is a Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (**LTTE**) front organisation that carries out assassinations.

The celebrations this year are being held under the tightest security ever. Over 5,000 service and police personnel have been deployed. Several roads leading to the Galle Face Green, the venue of the main function, were closed. Troops fanned out to every nook and corner of Colombo and its suburbs, checking vehicles and examining the identity cards of pedestrians.

As bombs rocked Colombo, north and northwest Sri Lanka, killing scores of innocent men, **women** and children just ahead of Independence Day, President Mahinda Rajapaksa vowed to fight terrorism to the finish.

In his Independence Day message, he said that there was cause for satisfaction that the entire eastern province had been cleared of terrorism, and that moves to eradicate terrorism from the northern Tamil-speaking districts were underway "with good expectation of success".

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## Security concerns make Sri Lanka suspend SMS services

**Load-Date:** February 4, 2008

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## **Battle continues: 19 IDPs rescued by the Navy**

Daily Mirror (Sri Lanka)

October 28, 2008 Tuesday 3:02 PM EST

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**Length:** 317 words

**Byline:** Report from Daily Mirror brought to you by HT Syndication.

**Dateline:** Colombo

### **Body**

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Colombo, Oct. 28 -- The Wanni operation was continuing with the advancing troops engaged in heavy confrontations with the Tigers North of Akkarayankulam Tank in the outskirts of Kilinochchi whilst the Navy rescued 19 IDPs yesterday morning at sea.

The Navy rescued 19 Internally Displaced Persons belonging to six families who were on a locally made fishing boat stranded in the rough seas South of Mandativu islet yesterday morning.

According to Defense Ministry the group of civilians comprising eight males and 11 **females** including three children had left their homes and had come to surrender to the government forces.

They were spotted by a Navy Inshore Petrol Craft and were brought to Mandativu islet. The civilians were treated with food and medicine.

Meanwhile the troops of Army's 57 Division operating in the western half of the Kilinochchi battle front continued their forward offensive operations in the recently cleared areas in the North of Akkarayankulam Tank.

Soldiers of the 571 Brigade was engaged in clashes North West of Akkarayankulam Tank and captured an enemy bunker whilst the troops of 572 Brigade were attacking **LTTE** cadres North East of the tank. Intercepted communication had revealed heavy damages to the rebels, the Defense Ministry reported.

The 574 Brigade was operating in the Kokavil area captured two rebel bunkers on Sunday.

Meanwhile 20 Anti-Personal Mines were recovered and three Improvised Explosives Devices were defused by the Army in Andankulam area in Mulathivu on Sunday. Troops recovered the items following heavy clashes with the terrorists in that area.

Troops in Batticaloa on a tip off recovered the following items in Verugal area.

One IED, a claymore mine, eight APM, 428 meters long copper wire, a solar panel, a 12v battery, two CDMA antennas, a booster and a mobile phone with a charger.

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Battle continues: 19 IDPs rescued by the Navy

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**Load-Date:** October 29, 2008

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## *Xinhua world news summary at 1530 GMT, Feb. 3*

Xinhua General News Service

February 3, 2008 Sunday 1:16 AM EST

Copyright 2008 Xinhua News Agency

**Section:** WORLD NEWS

**Length:** 383 words

### **Body**

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NAIROBI -- An earthquake measuring 5.0 on Richter scale rocked western Rwanda Sunday morning, killing 23 people and injuring 250 others, according to reports reaching here from Rwanda's capital of Kigali.

Radio Rwanda said the epicenter is in Rusizi district near the border between Rwanda and the Democratic Republic of Congo, and the quake broke out at 9:35 a.m. local time (0735 GMT), according to a Chinese diplomat based in Kigali. (Rwanda-Earthquake)

- - - -

COLOMBO -- At least eight people were killed and 95 were injured when a Tamil Tiger suicide bomber blew herself at a major railway station in Sri Lanka capital Colombo Sunday afternoon, said the military.

Military spokesman Udaya Nanayakkara said a female suicide bomber from the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) exploded herself at No. 3 platform of the Fort Railway Station around 2:05 p.m. (0835 GMT), killing eight civilians and injuring 95 others. (Sri Lanka-explosion)

- - - -

PARIS -- Hundred of civilians have been injured by stray bullets as fighting between the Chadian government forces and rebels intensifies in the capital of N'Djamena, Doctors without Borders (MSF) said here Sunday.

A team of MSF working in the capital's hospital received 48 injured people on Saturday who included "only one combatant" while the rest were civilians, said Isabelle Defourny, official in charge of MSF program in Chad. (Chad-Fighting-Injuries)

- - - -

BELGRADE -- Serbia's presidential run-off kicked off Sunday, which is seen by analysts as a referendum on the Balkan country's future.

Starting from 7:00 a.m. local time (0600 GMT) until 8:00 p.m. (1900 GMT), some 6.72 million eligible voters began casting their ballots to choose between pro-Western incumbent President Boris Tadic and his pro-Russian rival Tomislav Nikolic. (Serbia-Presidential Election)

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Xinhua world news summary at 1530 GMT, Feb. 3

CAIRO -- Egyptian security forces closed the last breach of the border fence along the Egypt-Gaza border on Sunday morning, stopping the flow of Palestinians into the Egyptian side, a security source told Xinhua.

About 300 Egyptian military troops were deployed near Rafah crossing along the Egypt-Gaza border, the security source said on condition of anonymity. (Egypt-Gaza-Border)

**Load-Date:** February 5, 2008

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## *Female suicide bombers growing threat in Iraq*

Edmonton Journal (Alberta)

November 16, 2008 Sunday

Final Edition

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**Section:** NEWS; Pg. D9

**Length:** 638 words

**Byline:** Aqeel Hussein and Damien McElroy, Sunday Telegraph

**Dateline:** BAQUBA AND LONDON

### **Body**

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An Iraqi terrorist known as the "mother of the female suicide bombers" has taunted captors that her network of volunteers is too big to be destroyed by her arrest.

Itisam Adwan, who is accused of grooming young women for bomb attacks, has told police in Baquba that they will not be able to stop her many followers.

A suicide bomber who killed five Iraqi guards at a checkpoint last week was just 13 years old, according to police. She was the youngest such attacker so far in a spate of female suicide bombings in the city, the capital of Diyala province. Although female suicide bombers have been a feature of other wars, such as Chechnya's Black Widows or the Tamil Tigers' Death Maidens, the phenomenon was rare in Iraq until early this year.

The bombing on Monday brought the number of such attacks by women to 27 in Diyala alone. More than 30 women have died in suicide attacks so far in 2008, compared with only eight in 2007.

Six days after the attack, police said they had not yet identified the girl involved. However, they did disclose details about Adwan, whom they arrested in late September, and the role of women in fomenting such attacks.

The terrorist, who goes by the name Umm Fatima -- the mother of Fatima, is said to be unrepentant.

Capt Ahmed Jasim, a spokesman for the Baquba police, said the 38-year-old had described how a group of women, mainly widows of terrorist "martyrs," are grooming younger relatives and acquaintances for death.

"She said she is just one of many mothers who do the same job," he said. "And there are many girls who are willing to die. The mothers tell them that they will go to heaven, where they will sit by rivers of honey and have lunch with the Prophet Muhammad and live in comfort.

"The girls are the wives of al-Qaida members, so their husbands tell them that their martyrdom would be glorious, and the husbands, too, will automatically get to heaven."

Pushed into terrorism

## Female suicide bombers growing threat in Iraq

Rania Ibrahim, a 15-year-old who was captured at a checkpoint wearing a suicide vest in Diyala in August, is one of those pushed into terrorism in this way.

She was a frustrated, poorly educated teenager who had been sold into marriage with a terrorist operative.

Umm Fatima, her husband's aunt, then persuaded her to attack a police station.

"I left school at 11 and my mother spent the rest of the time trying to find a buyer to marry me," she said.

"I wanted to be a doctor, but my husband said he wanted me to go to paradise, where he would soon join me."

But Rania attracted the suspicions of police at the checkpoint. She was called forward and the police cut the belt from her body. Umm Fatima held the remote electronic trigger for the device, according to police, but was unable to explode the bomb.

The Jamestown Institute, a terrorism research foundation, reported that al-Qaida has realized how successful women can be at staging suicide attacks in Iraq. For the first time, the group has nominated a woman as an emir, or prince.

Websites have named a woman known as Umm Salameh, the widow of an al-Qaida leader killed in an air strike in northern Iraq last year, as the emir of al-Nitayn -- "the battalion of the two belts."

"When Muslim land is occupied by non-believers, jihad is mandatory for all Muslims, male and female," said Hani al-Sibai, a London-based Islamist Sunni scholar.

"Women are allowed to conduct jihad without the approval of parents or spouse."

Farhana Ali, an analyst with Rand Corp, told an American radio station: "It's creating an enormous security problem." Brig. Gen Abdul Karim Khalaf said systematic killings and lack of government control in Baquba allowed the insurgents to use religion to control women:

"Women bombers are a problem for us. Men can't search women."

To cope with the threat, the Baquba police force has recruited 200 women to search females at checkpoints.

**Load-Date:** November 16, 2008

## AFP 1100 GMT News Advisory

Agence France Presse -- English

November 26, 2008 Wednesday 11:14 AM GMT

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**Length:** 699 words

**Dateline:** PARIS, Nov 26 2008

### **Body**

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Duty Editor: Chris Otton

Tel: + 33 1 40 41 46 36

-- TOP STORIES --

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+ Iraq MPs vote over US military deal

+ Thai army chief calls for elections

+ EU sets out recession-beating plans

+ Mayor assassinated in North Ossetia

Iraq-US-military,3rdlead

BAGHDAD

Iraqi lawmakers are expected to endorse a landmark military pact that will require all US troops to withdraw by 2011, ending the invasion that toppled Saddam Hussein and plunged the country into chaos.

700 words 1200 GMT by Salam Faraj. Picture

Thailand-politics-protest,4thlead-WRAP

BANGKOK

Thailand's army chief steps in to end a damaging stand-off at Bangkok's main airport, urging the prime minister to call new elections and telling rampaging anti-government protests to disperse.

700 words 1130 GMT by Anusak Kanglong. Graphic + Picture + Video

We will also move: Thailand-politics-protest-parties,BACKGROUND

Finance-economy-world,lead-WRAP

## BRUSSELS

The EU is to call on members to spend their way out of recession as China cuts its interest rates and the United States injects another 800 billion dollars into the economy.

750 words 1200 GMT. Picture. Video

Russia-Caucasus-unrest,4thlead

## VLADIKAVKAZ, Russia

The mayor of the capital of Russia's North Ossetia province is shot dead outside his home, according to officials in the region which neighbours the Georgian separatist enclave of South Ossetia.

600 words 1200 GMT by Dina Teziyeva

-- EUROPE --

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Finance-economy-Germany

## BERLIN

German Chancellor Angela Merkel defends her softly-softly approach to grappling with the economic crisis as neighbours clamour for Europe's biggest economy to lead the way out of a crippling recession.

550 words 1200 GMT. Picture.

Russia-politics-president,3rdlead

## MOSCOW

Russia's upper house of parliament votes to extend presidential terms, in the latest step for a bill that has prompted speculation about Vladimir Putin's return to the presidency.

500 words 1230 GMT by Alexander Osipovich

Britain-child-abuse-trial

## LONDON

Britain launches a probe into how a man who raped his two daughters and fathered nine children went undetected, days after another scandal over a baby who died after being horrifically abused.

600 words 1300 GMT by Guy Jackson

France-politics-opposition,lead

## PARIS

The French Socialists' first ***female*** leader begins her new job faced with the formidable task of proving she is not the captain of a sinking ship but a woman capable of rallying her feuding troops.

600 words 1200 GMT by Rory Mulholland. Picture

-- AFRICA --

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Zimbabwe-politics,lead-WRAP

JOHANNESBURG

Zimbabwe's political rivals meet for talks aimed at salvaging a power-sharing deal here as health officials struggle to contain a cholera epidemic which has claimed hundreds of lives.

600 words 1330 GMT by Aderogba Obisesan

Somalia-piracy-shipping,2ndlead-WRAP

MOGADISHU

Somali pirates demanding 25 million dollars for a Saudi supertanker call for "honest" talks to free the vessel as a maritime watchdog says a vessel destroyed by the Indian navy was not a pirate mothership but a Thai fishing boat.

650 words 1230 GMT

-- ASIA --

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SriLanka-unrest,2ndlead

COLOMBO

The Sri Lankan government says its troops are advancing on the Tamil Tigers' military headquarters and have the rebels' political capital under siege on the eve of an annual address by guerrilla leader Velupillai Prabhakaran.

550 words 1130 GMT. Pictures

Finance-economy-China-bank-rate,3rdlead

BEIJING

China's central bank announces a steep cut in its interest rates -- by four times the usual margin -- in a signal that it will pull all the stops to boost weakening economic growth.

500 words 1130 GMT by Fran Wang

-- MIDDLE EAST --

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Mideast-conflict-Gaza

JERUSALEM

UN trucks carrying food for the aid-dependent population of Gaza wait for Israeli permission to enter, as a senior UN official complains of the "hand-to-mouth situation" facing the territory's 1.5 million people.

450 words 1300 GMT

-- AMERICAS --

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US-politics-Obama-economy,lead

CHICAGO

President-elect Barack Obama will press his aggressive plans to deal with his nation's woes when he holds his third press conference in as many days focused on the stricken US economy.

800 words 1130 GMT, by Mira Oberman. Picture

afp

**Load-Date:** November 27, 2008

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End of Document

## *Red Cross evacuates wounded from Sri Lanka war*

Associated Press Online

February 10, 2009 Tuesday 4:26 PM GMT

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**Section:** INTERNATIONAL NEWS

**Length:** 722 words

**Byline:** By RAVI NESSMAN, Associated Press Writer

**Dateline:** COLOMBO Sri Lanka

### **Body**

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The Red Cross loaded some 240 sick and wounded onto a boat to evacuate them from Sri Lanka's northeast war zone Tuesday as the military accused rebel fighters of killing 19 civilians fleeing the area.

The United Nations, meanwhile, said it was outraged by the "unnecessary" deaths of hundreds of people inside rebel territory and urged both sides to avoid fighting in civilian areas.

The government accuses the Tamil Tiger rebels of holding civilians in the war zone hostage to use as human shields against the military's offensive. The rebels deny the accusation.

International human rights groups say more than 200,000 civilians are believed trapped in the patch of territory still under rebel control.

Military spokesman Brig. Udaya Nanayakkara said the insurgents fired early Tuesday on a group of more than 1,000 trying to escape the war zone in Udayarkattu, inside what remains of rebel-held territory. The attack killed 19 and wounded another 75, the military said.

Confirmation of the reported shooting was not possible because independent journalists and nearly all aid workers are barred from the war zone. The rebels could not be reached for comment because communications to the north have largely been severed.

Meanwhile, local fishermen helped Red Cross workers ferry about 240 patients to a specially chartered boat anchored offshore from the village of Putumattalan in the war zone, said Sarasi Wijesinghe, a spokeswoman for the International Committee of the Red Cross.

The patients' injuries were making the operation difficult, she said.

"Most of them can't sit upright. They have to be lying down. A lot of care has to be exercised," she said.

The aid group chartered the ferry, which was flying the Red Cross flag, from the government-controlled town of Jaffna in the north, and was in contact with both sides to ensure no fighting interfered with the evacuation, Wijesinghe said.

The boat was headed south to a port in Trincomalee, she said.



## Red Cross evacuates wounded from Sri Lanka war

The patients had fled the last functioning hospital in the war zone in Puthukkudiyiruppu last week after it came under repeated artillery barrages that killed several patients.

The intense fighting between the government and the Tamil Tiger rebels made fleeing south across the front lines too risky, so the group instead headed deeper into rebel-held territory.

The Red Cross and government doctors set up a makeshift medical facility in an abandoned community center and a school, Wijesinghe said. However, the area was shelled Monday, she said.

In addition, the overcrowded center does not have a reliable supply of drinking water, and "the lack of sanitation and hygiene is a problem," she said. "Some patients are lying on the ground, the floor."

In recent days, the military has reported an increasing flow of civilians out of the war zone.

More than 1,000 civilians fled Tuesday, and 6,599 reportedly crossed Monday, even as a **female** bomber killed 19 soldiers and 10 civilians at an army checkpoint. The government earlier said the blast had killed 20 soldiers and eight civilians.

Amnesty International condemned the attack as a clear violation of international law.

"Blurring the distinction between civilians and combatants means that thousands of ordinary people, desperate to flee the conflict area, are at greater risk of reprisals and getting caught in crossfire," said Yolanda Foster, the London-based group's Sri Lankan researcher.

Rights groups have also accused the government of killing and wounding civilians by firing artillery into the increasingly cramped war zone in a small pocket of the northeast.

The Tamil Tiger rebels have been fighting since 1983 for an independent state for minority Tamils. Government troops have forced the rebels into a broad retreat in recent months and officials say they are on the verge of crushing the insurgency and ending a war that has killed more than 70,000 people.

In Geneva, the U.N. refugee agency said it was "outraged by the unnecessary loss of hundreds of lives and the continued suffering of innocent civilians" inside rebel territory. It urged the government and **Tamil Tigers** to avoid fighting inside a government-designated "safe zone" where many civilians were reportedly killed.

"Without respect for international humanitarian law by both parties, the bloodshed will continue," the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees said.

**Load-Date:** February 11, 2009

## *Sri Lanka: 16 patients killed in hospital shelling*

The Associated Press

February 10, 2009 Tuesday

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**Section:** INTERNATIONAL NEWS

**Length:** 678 words

**Byline:** By RAVI NESSMAN, Associated Press Writer

**Dateline:** COLOMBO, Sri Lanka

### **Body**

---

At least 16 patients being treated at a makeshift hospital in the northern Sri Lankan war zone were killed by shelling, the Red Cross said Tuesday, as the military accused rebel fighters of killing 19 other civilians fleeing the area.

The United Nations, meanwhile, said it was outraged by the "unnecessary" deaths of hundreds of people inside rebel territory and urged both sides to avoid fighting in civilian areas.

The government accuses the Tamil Tiger rebels of holding civilians hostage in the war zone to use as human shields against the military's offensive. The rebels deny the accusation.

International human rights groups say more than 200,000 civilians are believed trapped in the patch of territory still under rebel control.

Reports of civilian deaths have increased in recent weeks, and the Red Cross, the last major aid agency allowed to operate in rebel-held territory, said at least 16 patients were killed Monday in shelling near a community center in the town of Putumattalan, where medical workers had evacuated many sick and wounded civilians.

"We are shocked that patients are not afforded the protection they are entitled to," said Paul Castella, head of the Sri Lankan delegation of the International Committee of the Red Cross. Castella did not say who was behind the shelling.

On Tuesday, local fishermen helped Red Cross workers ferry about 240 of the patients to a specially chartered boat anchored off Putumattalan to evacuate them from the war zone, said Sarasi Wijesinghe, a Red Cross spokeswoman.

The patients' injuries were making the operation difficult, she said.

"Most of them can't sit upright. They have to be lying down. A lot of care has to be exercised," she said.

She said 140 other patients remained at the makeshift hospital, but the aid group hoped to evacuate them Wednesday.

The patients had fled the last functioning hospital in the war zone in Puthukkudiyiruppu last week after it came under repeated artillery barrages that killed several patients.

## Sri Lanka : 16 patients killed in hospital shelling

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"Without respect for international humanitarian law by both parties, the bloodshed will continue," the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees said.

**Load-Date:** February 11, 2009

## **ASSEMBLY ADJOURNED SINE DIE AFTER 40-DAY SESSION**

UNI (United News of India)

May 14, 2008 Wednesday 6:20 PM EST

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**Length:** 325 words

**Byline:** Report from UNI brought to you by HT Syndication.

**Dateline:** Chennai

### **Body**

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Chennai, May 14 (UNI) The Tamil Nadu Assembly was today adjourned sine die after a 40-day long budget session. The session began with the Governor's address on January 23. Following a brief session, the House was adjourned after adopting a motion thanking the Governor. The Assembly met again on March 19 when Finance Minister K Anbazhagan presented the Budget for the year 2008-09. During the session which lasted more than a month, the House sanctioned demands for 51 departments, besides passing as many as 42 Bills, including elevating Vellore and Tuticorin as Corporations, granting university status to Tamil Nadu Teacher's Education University, which was formed by merging the Lady Wellington College of Education (**Women's**) and the Institute of Advanced Studies in Education, and amending the Goondas Act to detain those fomenting communal clashes.

The House also adopted resolutions, including the one urging the Centre to intervene in the Sri Lankan Tamils issue and resolve the Hogenakkal Drinking water project issue with Karnataka. The House after hailing the Supreme court order upholding 27 per cent quota for OBCs in Centrally-run educational institutions, adopted a resolution thanking Chief Minister M Karunanidhi for taking efforts in this regard. Leader of the Opposition J Jayalalithaa, who had been abstaining from attending the proceedings, turned up for a day and led the AIADMK members in the walk out after Speaker R Avudaiyappan refused permission to suspend the question hour to discuss the Hogenakkal issue. Several sensitive issues like phone tapping, Hogenakkal water dispute, Caste wall erected in Madurai, the arrest of Maoists naxals and smuggling of arms and explosives to the banned **LTTE**, figured in the session. However, unlike the previous year, the main opposition AIADMK stayed back when demand for grants for all the departments were passed in the House.

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**Load-Date:** May 14, 2008

## *The 0530 GMT News Advisory*

Agence France Presse -- English

August 20, 2008 Wednesday 5:39 AM GMT

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**Length:** 722 words

**Dateline:** HONG KONG, Aug 20 2008

### **Body**

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Duty Editor: Kevin McElderry

News Desk: +852 2829 6211

-- WORLD HEADLINES --

BEIJING: Jamaica's Bolt aiming for sprint double

KABUL: French president sees troops in Afghanistan

BANGKOK: Glitter told he's not wanted in Thailand

TBILISI: Pressure on Russia to pull troops back

-- BEIJING OLYMPICS --

Oly-2008,WRAP

BEIJING

Jamaican Usain Bolt, fuelled by high-octane chicken nuggets and yam, hopes to be the first man in 24 years to win the Olympic sprint double in the 200m centrepiece of the Games.

650 words 0700 GMT by Chris Foley. Picture. Graphic. Video

Oly-2008-China-rights-protest,lead

BEIJING

Two elderly Chinese women who applied to demonstrate at official Olympic protest zones have been ordered to serve one year each of reeducation through labour, a human rights group says.

550 words 0630 GMT by Charles Whelan

## The 0530 GMT News Advisory

Oly-2008-China-language-English,FEATURE

## BEIJING

For seven years, David Tool has patrolled Beijing's streets hunting for embarrassing signboards, inspecting menus and teaching residents English to help the capital prepare for the Olympics.

750 words moved by D'Arcy Doran. Picture

Oly-2008-Internet-blogs-offbeat

## BEIJING

Swathes of cyberspace are filled with Olympic athletes reliving their Beijing experiences in Internet blogs, and amid the banality the occasional hint of bitterness and insight creeps through.

600 words moved by Guy Newey

We have also moved: Oly-2008-China-entertainment

For full coverage plans please see our separate Oly-2008-advisory

-- ASIA --

Afghanistan-unrest-France,3rdlead-WRAP

## KABUL

French President Nicolas Sarkozy flies to Kabul and meets survivors of an ambush that killed 10 French troops, in what was the deadliest attack yet on international forces in Afghanistan since the fall of the Taliban.

600 words 0600 GMT by Philippe Alfroy. Pictures

We have also moved: Afghanistan-unrest-France,SCENE

Entertainment-Vietnam-Britain-paedophilia-Thailand,lead-WRAP

## BANGKOK

Thailand declares British former glam rocker Gary Glitter "persona non grata" and threatens to deport him right back to Vietnam, where he has just finished prison time for child sex offences.

650 words 0600 GMT by Anusak Konglang. Pictures

Philippines-Muslim-unrest,lead

## MANILA

A Muslim rebel commander behind deadly raids in the southern Philippines declares "all-out war" against the government, saying his fighters are willing to die in battle.

550 words 0600 GMT

SriLanka-unrest,lead

## COLOMBO

Sri Lanka scents victory from a major military onslaught against Tamil Tigers, officials say, in a high-risk strategy to dismantle a de facto state run by the rebels.

## The 0530 GMT News Advisory

550 words 0700 GMT by Amal Jayasinghe

Philippines-weather-typhoon,lead

MANILA

Typhoon Nuri slams into the northern Philippines, triggering heavy rains, amid warnings of possible storm surges, officials say.

500 words 0630 GMT

Pacific-forum-diplomacy,2ndlead

NIUE

Pacific leaders open a summit on the tiny island nation of Niue to draft their response to broken promises by Fiji's military regime to hold elections by March next year.

600 words 0730 GMT by David Brooks

-- GEORGIA-RUSSIA CONFLICT --

Georgia-Russia-conflict,lead-WRAP

TBILISI

International pressure builds on Russia to withdraw its troops from Georgia as the conflict over South Ossetia pushes relations between NATO and Moscow to their lowest ebb in years.

800 words 0600 GMT. Graphic. Picture. Video.

Georgia-Russia-conflict-aid

BOBNEVI, Georgia

After passing the Russian checkpoints, two trucks laden with food aid trundle up an isolated gorge lined with orchards and vines and arrive in a village to a rapturous welcome from locals.

750 words moved by Adam Plowright. Picture

We have also moved: Georgia-Russia-conflict-aid-flight

Georgia-Russia-conflict-diplomacy-UN,6thlead

Georgia-Russia-conflict-US-military-options

-- AMERICAS --

US-vote,newseries

RALEIGH, North Carolina

The US presidential election stakes intensify with Barack Obama expected to announce his running mate Saturday, just days before being crowned the party's standard-bearer against Republican John McCain.

700 words 0700 GMT by Jitendra Joshi. Picture

We have also moved: US-vote,POLL

-- EUROPE --

Lifestyle-Entertainment-Germany-IT-games,ADVANCER

BERLIN

Europe's biggest games convention marks 30 years since "Space Invaders" by paying homage to the alien 'shoot-em-up', while 500 exhibitors demonstrate how far the industry has come since then.

550 words moved by Aurelia End

afp

**Load-Date:** August 21, 2008

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End of Document



### **Civilians flee from LTTE area**

Daily Mirror (Sri Lanka)

August 20, 2008 Wednesday 2:47 PM EST

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**Length:** 83 words

**Byline:** Report from Daily Mirror brought to you by HT Syndication.

**Dateline:** Colombo

### **Body**

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Colombo, Aug. 20 -- Six more civilians, despite restrictions imposed by Tiger leaders in un-cleared areas, braved to reach Navy detachment in Pallimunai in Mannar early Monday (18) morning with a few of their belongings.

The civilians on two boats had left Pooneryn area consisted of four males and two women, including a 55 year old woman. Naval troops after preliminary investigations directed them to the Mannar police station.

Published by HT Syndication with permission from Daily Mirror.

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For any query with respect to this article or any other content requirement, please contact Editor at [htsyndication@hindustantimes.com](mailto:htsyndication@hindustantimes.com)

**Load-Date:** August 20, 2008

## **Sri Lanka: 16 patients killed in hospital shelling**

Associated Press Online

February 10, 2009 Tuesday 6:29 PM GMT

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**Section:** INTERNATIONAL NEWS

**Length:** 678 words

**Byline:** By RAVI NESSMAN, Associated Press Writer

**Dateline:** COLOMBO Sri Lanka

### **Body**

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At least 16 patients being treated at a makeshift hospital in the northern Sri Lankan war zone were killed by shelling, the Red Cross said Tuesday, as the military accused rebel fighters of killing 19 other civilians fleeing the area.

The United Nations, meanwhile, said it was outraged by the "unnecessary" deaths of hundreds of people inside rebel territory and urged both sides to avoid fighting in civilian areas.

The government accuses the Tamil Tiger rebels of holding civilians hostage in the war zone to use as human shields against the military's offensive. The rebels deny the accusation.

International human rights groups say more than 200,000 civilians are believed trapped in the patch of territory still under rebel control.

Reports of civilian deaths have increased in recent weeks, and the Red Cross, the last major aid agency allowed to operate in rebel-held territory, said at least 16 patients were killed Monday in shelling near a community center in the town of Putumattalan, where medical workers had evacuated many sick and wounded civilians.

"We are shocked that patients are not afforded the protection they are entitled to," said Paul Castella, head of the Sri Lankan delegation of the International Committee of the Red Cross. Castella did not say who was behind the shelling.

On Tuesday, local fishermen helped Red Cross workers ferry about 240 of the patients to a specially chartered boat anchored off Putumattalan to evacuate them from the war zone, said Sarasi Wijesinghe, a Red Cross spokeswoman.

The patients' injuries were making the operation difficult, she said.

"Most of them can't sit upright. They have to be lying down. A lot of care has to be exercised," she said.

She said 140 other patients remained at the makeshift hospital, but the aid group hoped to evacuate them Wednesday.

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Confirmation of the reported shooting was not possible because independent journalists are barred from the war zone. The rebels could not be reached for comment because communications to the north have largely been severed.

More than 1,000 civilians fled Tuesday, and 6,599 reportedly crossed Monday, even as a **female** bomber killed 19 soldiers and 10 civilians at an army checkpoint. The government earlier said the blast had killed 20 soldiers and eight civilians.

Amnesty International condemned the attack as a clear violation of international law.

"Blurring the distinction between civilians and combatants means that thousands of ordinary people, desperate to flee the conflict area, are at greater risk of reprisals and getting caught in crossfire," said Yolanda Foster, the London-based group's Sri Lankan researcher.

Rights groups have also accused the government of killing and wounding civilians by firing artillery into the increasingly cramped war zone in a small pocket of the northeast.

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Associated Press International

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