

Date and Time: Saturday, May 4, 2024 2:24:00PM EEST

Job Number: 223508089

Documents (100)

1. [LTTE denies link to Lahore 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

2. [Demo in Paris against LTTE terrorism tomorrow](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil 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. [7 soldiers, 43 Tamil Tigers killed in Sri Lanka](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

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

4. [Let's be clear --Tamil Tigers are the terrorists 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

5. [Tamil Tigers kill 12 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

6. [*Tamil Tigers kill 24 with bus bomb*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by

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

7. [*Tamil Tigers kill 28 with bus bomb*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by

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

8. [*Not Behind Lahore Attack: 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

9. [*LTTE planes bomb military positions in Sri Lanka 's northeast*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil 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. [*The man behind the Tamil Tigers' retreat*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type

News

Narrowed byPublication Type: Newspapers,Newswires & Press
Releases; Timeline: Jan 01, 2008 to Mar 30, 200911. [*'Ruthless' LTTE inspired Al Qaeda in Iraq, says FBI*](#)**Client/Matter:** -None-**Search Terms:** "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors**Narrowed by:****Content Type**

News

Narrowed byPublication Type: Newspapers,Newswires & Press
Releases; Timeline: Jan 01, 2008 to Mar 30, 200912. [*NSW: Tamil Tigers protest in Sydney*](#)**Client/Matter:** -None-**Search Terms:** "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors**Narrowed by:****Content Type**

News

Narrowed byPublication Type: Newspapers,Newswires & Press
Releases; Timeline: Jan 01, 2008 to Mar 30, 200913. [*Tamil Tigers bomb bus as ceasefire ends*](#)**Client/Matter:** -None-**Search Terms:** "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors**Narrowed by:****Content Type**

News

Narrowed byPublication Type: Newspapers,Newswires & Press
Releases; Timeline: Jan 01, 2008 to Mar 30, 200914. [*LTTE's intelligence headquarters bombed: Sri Lanka*](#)**Client/Matter:** -None-**Search Terms:** "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors**Narrowed by:****Content Type**

News

Narrowed byPublication Type: Newspapers,Newswires & Press
Releases; Timeline: Jan 01, 2008 to Mar 30, 200915. [*Rajapaksa wants to liberate Tamils from LTTE*](#)**Client/Matter:** -None-**Search Terms:** "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors**Narrowed by:****Content Type**

News

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

16. [LTTE blast in Colombo wounds 44](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil 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. [At least 20 killed in Sri Lanka bus bombing; Defence ministry claims victims mainly children; blames Tamil Tigers](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

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

18. [LTTE suicide bomber kills 28 in Sri Lanka \(Intro Roundup\)](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

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

19. [LTTE suicide bomber kills 23 in Sri Lanka \(Roundup\)](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

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

20. [LTTE female suicide bomber kills 23, wounds 64 \(Fourth Lead\)](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil 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. [India under attack in pro-LTTE media](#)

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. [17 killed, 45 wounded in LTTE suicide explosion in Sri Lanka \(Third Lead\)](#)

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. [Pro-LTTE bands play in concert](#)

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. [Defeat for the Tamil Tigers may not end the killing in Sri Lanka](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

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

25. [International: Civil war: Hospital hit as Sri Lanka conflict nears climax: Agencies say nine died in shelling of children's ward: President claims Tamil Tigers are close to defeat](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

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

26. [17 die in suicide bombing in Sri Lanka : military](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

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

27. [18 wounded in Sri Lanka train bombing](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

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

28. [President invites chief minister Karunanidhi to visit North](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

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

29. [Column: Need for new global conventions](#)

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

30. [18 wounded in Sri Lanka train bombing, say officials](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

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

31. [Suicide bomber strikes as 15,000 flee Tamil Tigers](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

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

32. [23 die in suicide bombing in Sri Lanka : 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

33. [Take care of Tamils, India tells 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. ['End of terrorism is near,' Sri Lankan army chief 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

35. [Tamil Tigers rebuff claims they killed fleeing 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

36. [Tigers bomb Sri Lanka commuter buses, 23 dead, say officials](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

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

37. [Tigers bomb Sri Lanka commuter bus, 21 killed: officials](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

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

38. [Sri Lanka says advancing on Tamil Tiger military HQ](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil 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. [Scores of civilians killed in Sri Lanka suicide explosion \(Second Lead\)](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil 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. [Sri Lankan troops take last Tiger bastion, rebels flee to jungle](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil 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. [Sri Lanka rebels claim intelligence chief 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

42. [SRI LANKAN JETS BOMB SUSPECTED FEMALE SUICIDE TIGER BASE](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil 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. ['Endgame' For 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

44. [Fighting intensified 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

45. [2nd LD Over 20 killed in suicide bomb attack 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

46. [Sri Lankan director in Indian Tamil trouble](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil 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. [Civilians flee Sri Lanka war zone despite suicide strike: govt](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil 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. [TAKE CARE OF TAMILS, INDIA TELLS 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

49. [Comment: Response: Civil strife in Sri Lanka began long before the Tamil Tigers existed: The guerrilla movement was formed only after Tamils had suffered 20 years of abuse, says Jeyan Anketell](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil 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. [All divisions heading to Mullaitivu](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil 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. [TROOPS REPULSE LTTE FRESH OFFENSIVE](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

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

52. [World - Sri Lankan army 'responsible for deadly shelling of Tamil hospital'](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil 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

53. [LTTE AIR RAID FAILS](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil 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

54. [Sri Lanka bus blast toll mounts - 26 dead, 64 wounded](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil 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

55. [4th LD 28 killed, 64 injured in suicide bomb attack 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

56. [EU condemns LTTE terrorism](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

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

57. [More civilians escape 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,Newsires & Press
Releases; Timeline: Jan 01, 2008 to Mar 30, 2009

58. [Sri Lanka troops capture Tamil Tiger air strip: military](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by

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

59. [In Sri Lanka , Tamil women suffer the worst of war](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by

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

60. [Suicide attack kills 28 at Sri Lanka refugee camp: military](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by

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

61. [LTTE SUFFER DAMAGES IN KILINOCHCHI AIR STRIKES](#)

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

62. [Forces capture LTTE child soldier](#)

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. [LTTE's true face](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil 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. [30 Tamil Tigers killed in northern Sri Lanka](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

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

65. [NGOs as saviours of LTTE terrorism](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

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

66. [India 's ban on LTTE under review](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

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

67. [LTTE goes for another Vakarai - type operation](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil 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. [Sri Lanka says advancing on Tamil Tiger bases](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

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

69. [Sri Lankan rebels gun down civilians: military](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

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

70. [28 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,Newsires & Press
Releases; Timeline: Jan 01, 2008 to Mar 30, 2009

71. [LTTE USING DESPERATE MEASURES AS ARMY ADVANCES](#)

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

72. [LTTE clutching at straws](#)

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

73. [LTTE OPERATED A LARGE TORTURE CAMP IN PTK](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil 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. [17 dead as suicide blast rocks Sri Lanka refugee camp: 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

75. [Rights body seeks UN intervention to end 'loss of life' 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

76. [World - Sri Lanka suicide attacker kills 28](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

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

77. [21 killed in Sri Lanka mine attack on bus](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil 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. [Army advances in Mannar killing large number of LTTE cadres](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil 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. [*I will not stop till terrorism is defeated: Rajapaksa*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil 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. [*World - Tamil Tigers admit killing 53 Sri Lankan soldiers*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by

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

81. [*More civilians flee as fighting escalates in Sri Lanka : army*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil 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. [*Tigers will never achieve Eelam dream - Surrendered LTTE cadre*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil 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. [*Sri Lanka rebels attack bus carrying war refugees: military*](#)

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. [21 killed in Sri Lanka mine attack on bus: 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

85. [Sri Lanka govt denies shelling that killed 16 patients](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil 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. [Lankan troops foil LTTE infiltration bid in Mullaitivu](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil 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. [LTTE to create mayhem in the North: NFF](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil 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. [Trapped Tigers kill their own](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil 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. [*India to help remake northern Sri Lanka*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

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

90. [*LTTE uses children for fund raising propaganda*](#)

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

91. [*Release human shields: UNP tells 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,Newsires & Press
Releases; Timeline: Jan 01, 2008 to Mar 30, 2009

92. [*For LTTE it's do or die, now or never*](#)

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

93. [*UN Accuses Sri Lanka 's Tamil Tiger Rebels Of Targeting 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

94. [*Ready for talks if LTTE down weapons first - President*](#)

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. [*Election demolished the myth of 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,Newsires & Press
Releases; Timeline: Jan 01, 2008 to Mar 30, 2009

96. [*Sri Lanka launches air raid after LTTE's suicide attack*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

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

97. [*Tigers' deep sea mines pose new threat to Sri Lanka*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

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

98. [*LTTE firing kills 19 civilians, wounds 75 in Lanka*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

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

99. [*Overseas employment for LTTE surrendees*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil 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. [LTTE fires at fleeing civilians, injuring 4 Army](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil 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

LTTE denies link to Lahore attack

Colombo Times

March 5, 2009 Thursday

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Length: 216 words

Body

Colombo, March 5 -- **LTTE** has denied any link to the attacks on Sri Lankan cricketers in Lahore, saying the **Tamil Tigers** have no connections with those terrorists.

"We don't have any connections with those people (Lahore attackers)," **LTTE**'s spokesman Thileepan told the Radio division of Australia's Special Broadcasting Service on Wednesday night.

Answering a specific question that there are some suggestions that the **Tamil Tigers** could have been connected to those attacks, Thileepan replied: "No, that's not true."

Asked whether the **Tamil Tigers** condemned the attack, he said: "Actually, we haven't made any comments on it."

He also stated that the **LTTE** would not agree to the Red Cross call for a mass evacuation of civilians from the conflict zone and it would not surrender, despite a looming humanitarian disaster.

Thileepan claimed that more than 350,000 people were living with the **LTTE** and right now about four villages were under their control - Mattalam, Pokkarnai, Mulliyavaikal and Puthmattalam.

He admitted that the Tamil people were facing acute shortage of food and water and 11 people, including children and two **women**, have died because of starvation of food.

Thileepan claimed that their supreme leader Vellupillai Prabhakaran was still with them along with his wife and children.

Load-Date: May 5, 2009

Demo in Paris against LTTE terrorism tomorrow

Daily News (Sri Lanka)

November 22, 2008 Saturday 1:10 PM EST

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Length: 442 words

Byline: Daily News Sri Lanka

Dateline: Colombo

Body

Colombo, Nov. 22 -- Hundreds of Sri Lankans are expected to gather at Trocadero, under the shade of the most popular tourist attraction of the world, the Eiffel Tower tomorrow to protest, the Tigers. The demonstration, organised jointly by all the Sri Lankan associations and societies in France is scheduled to begin at 3.00 p.m. tomorrow.

The organisers have appealed to 'all patriotic Sri Lankans in France to participate at the demonstration jointly organised by the United Sri Lankans (USL) to Protest Against:

Continuous recruitment of children as armed combatants by the **LTTE**

Keeping the Tamil population as hostages to use them as a human shield

Extortion, intimidation and harassment of innocent Tamil civilians living in France by the cadres of **LTTE** and members of its various front organizations and mafia gangs and

Ruthless and most barbaric killings of innocent civilians including **women** and children by the **LTTE** terrorists.

"We, the peace-loving and law-abiding French citizens of Sri Lankan origin, wish to bring to make the French people aware of the true nature of the most ruthless and barbaric terrorist movement called the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (**LTTE**) - better known as **Tamil Tigers**," a spokesman said.

The organisers urged the French to condemn:

The killings of thousands of Tamil and Sinhala civilians, including **women** and children by the **Tamil Tigers**

The brutal assassination of former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi of India, President R. Premadasa, Foreign Minister Lakshman Kadirgamar and scores of ministers, Tamil and Sinhala politicians, academics and social workers by the **LTTE**

Unabashed recruitment of Tamil children as armed combatants by the **Tamil Tigers** Intimidation, harassment and extortion of money from innocent Tamil civilians living in France by the **Tamil Tigers** Collection of monthly payments under duress from all the shops, groceries and other commercial establishments owned or managed by Sri Lankan origin people by the **Tamil Tigers** and Keeping the Tamil population in Kilinochchi in North Sri Lanka as hostages to use as a human shield against the rapidly advancing government forces.

Demo in Paris against LTTE terrorism tomorrow

"We, the democratic and peace-loving Sri Lankans, call upon the French Government and the European Union to proscribe all the front organizations of the **LTTE**," Spokesman said. "We urge you to investigate into the nefarious activities of **LTTE** terrorists and take legal action against them, enabling the law abiding French citizens of Sri Lankan origin - both Tamil and Sinhala - to live and enjoy the democratic individual freedoms in this liberal nation."

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

Load-Date: November 23, 2008

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7 soldiers, 43 Tamil Tigers killed in Sri Lanka

IRNA

January 27, 2008 Sunday 8:19 AM EST

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ARABIA 2000

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Length: 227 words

Body

New Delhi, Jan 27, IRNA

Sri Lanka-**LTTE**-Clashes

In stepped-up fighting, Sri Lankan security forces gunned down at least 43 **Tamil Tigers** and lost seven soldiers in the island's restive north, where the Air Force jets raided an Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (**LTTE**) transport base in the rebel-dominated Kilinochchi area on Friday.

The aerial raid targeted the **LTTE** base located at two kms southwest of the depot junction in Selvanagar in Kilinochchi, DD news said here quoting Sri Lankan Defence Ministry.

The raid was launched based on information received through intelligence sources and air surveillance conducted for a long period, Air Force spokesperson Wing Commander Andy Wijesooriya said.

The pilots confirmed that the target was accurately hit, he said.

In ground clashes, at least nine Tigers were killed in south of Adampan in northwestern Mannar after troops destroyed seven **LTTE** bunkers on Thursday, the Defence Ministry said.

In another incident, troops gunned down five rebels in Muhamale in Jaffna peninsula on Thursday, the army said.

One army officer and a soldier were killed in Muhamalai on Thursday due to an explosion of an improvised explosive device, the Media Center for National Security (MCNS) said.

It said that two rebels were killed in Navathkulam in northern Vavuniya on Thursday while two **women** Tigers were gunned down in Kallikulam.

2160**1412

7 soldiers, 43 Tamil Tigers killed in Sri Lanka

Load-Date: January 28, 2008

End of Document

Let's be clear --Tamil Tigers are the terrorists in Sri Lanka

National Post (f/k/a The Financial Post) (Canada)

April 24, 2008 Thursday

National Edition

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Section: EDITORIAL; Pg. A14; Counterpoint

Length: 499 words

Byline: Bandula Jayasekara, National Post

Body

I read with both amusement and sadness the column by Manjula Selvarajah in yesterday's National Post ("Sri Lanka Has Failed to Protect All Of Its Citizens"). Ms. Selvarajah is a misguided Sri Lankan living in Canada.

One cannot compare the democratically elected government of Sri Lanka to a ruthless terrorist organization such as the **Tamil Tigers (LTTE)**, which has killed thousands of innocent Sri Lankan Tamils, Sinhalese, Muslims, Malays and Burghers. The Tigers are also responsible for murdering democratically elected Sri Lankan Tamil leaders such as foreign minister Lakshman Kadirgamar, deputy secretary general of the peace secretariat Ketheesh Loganathan, Jaffna mayor Sarojini Yogeswaran and minister Jeyaraj Fernandopulle.

More than 60 % of Sri Lankan Tamils today live peacefully among the Sri Lankan Sinhalese. Democratic Tamil United Liberation Front leader V. Anandasangaree cannot even go to his constituency office since the Tigers threatened his life. Another Sri Lankan Tamil minister, Douglas Devananda, has escaped nearly 13 assassination attempts by the **LTTE**. It is not the Sri Lankan government that poses a threat to Sri Lankan Tamils, but terrorists who claim to speak for them and then resort to brutal violence when Sri Lankan Tamils dare to say otherwise.

I totally and categorically deny Ms. Selvarajah's allegation that the government of Sri Lanka is responsible for widespread abductions and disappearances in the country. Sri Lankan President Mahinda Rajapaksa is a campaigner for human rights. It is the **LTTE** which is trying to do such things in the face of defeat and to discredit not only the government of Sri Lanka but the people of Sri Lanka as well.

Sri Lanka will always stand by its people and will protect its citizens against all odds. The world must realize that Sri Lanka is fighting the most ruthless separatist group, one that pioneered suicide bombings and has used pregnant **women** to carry out such terrorist acts.

In her column, Ms. Selvarajah does not mention the killing of Tamils by the **LTTE** and more recently the killing of Jeyaraj Fernandopulle, a Tamil Catholic priest. She does not explain why the **LTTE** is occupying the 400-year-old sacred Madhu shrine, sacred for all Catholics in Sri Lanka.

I would ask Ms. Selvarajah and the Canadian Tamil Congress to join together with all Sri Lankans and pressure the **LTTE** to end its terrorist war and to help the government of Sri Lanka liberate thousands of innocent Tamils from the clutches of the **LTTE**. Misleading the people in Canada and the rest of the world about the nature of the **Tamil Tigers** and their ruthless quest for power while sitting comfortably in Canada helps no one. Ms. Selvarajah would serve Canada and Tamils living here better by being honest and working to ensure Tamil Canadians are not

Let's be clear --Tamil Tigers are the terrorists in Sri Lanka

harassed and threatened by Tiger supporters trying to extort money out of them to finance terrorism by the **LTTE** in Sri Lanka.

-Bandula Jayasekara is the consul general for Sri Lanka in Toronto.

Load-Date: April 24, 2008

End of Document

Tamil Tigers kill 12 in Sri Lanka

Guardian.com

February 4, 2008

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theguardian

Length: 213 words

Highlight: Twelve people killed and 17 wounded in bomb attack by the *Tamil Tigers* on a civilian bus in north-east Sri Lanka

Body

Twelve people were killed and 17 wounded in a bomb attack by the *Tamil Tigers* on a civilian bus in north-east Sri Lanka today.

The attack, which overshadowed celebrations of 60 years of independence, took place in the Welioya region at about 3.40pm (10.10am GMT), a military spokesman, Brigadier Udaya Nanayakkara, said.

"The *LTTE* [the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] activated a roadside bomb targeting innocent civilians," he said.

"It was a Tamil Tiger claymore mine targeting a civilian bus," a military spokesman told Reuters.

It is the latest in a series of attacks since the 2002 ceasefire was formally abandoned last month.

On Saturday, an attack on a bus in the central town of Dambulla killed 18 people. Yesterday, a *female* suicide bomber killed 11 people and injured 92 in a railway station in the capital, Colombo.

Today's attack came on a day of defiant independence parades and speeches in Colombo.

Earlier, in a nationally televised address, President Mahinda Rajapaksa said the spate of violent attacks would soon be over.

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

Sri Lanka's civil war has killed an estimated 70,000 since it began in 1983.

Load-Date: February 4, 2008

Tamil Tigers kill 24 with bus bomb

Guardian.com

January 16, 2008

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theguardian

Length: 590 words

Highlight: Roadside blast and separate attack on army vehicle come as formal ceasefire with Sri Lankan government runs out

Body

More than 24 civilians were killed and dozens wounded when a roadside bomb blew up a crowded bus in southern Sri Lanka, as a six-year ceasefire between the government and Tamil Tiger rebels ran out.

The defence ministry said the bus, on a run regularly used by schoolchildren, was destroyed by a Claymore-style mine packed with explosives, nails and ball bearings - the signature bomb of the Tamil Tiger rebels. The wreckage was then raked with bullets.

A second bomb hit an army personnel carrier 12 miles south of the first attack, wounding three soldiers, the military said.

Local hospitals told news agencies that no children had been killed by the bus bomb. Witnesses described the scene as a bloodbath.

"I was on my way to take my one and a half month old baby to the doctor. I heard a loud noise and I thought it was a bomb, so I went under the seat of the bus with my baby and we heard firing for about five minutes," housewife TM Lalani, 27, told Reuters from Buttala hospital.

"Everybody was screaming and I saw people on the ground in a bloodbath," she said. "My leg got injured from pieces of glass. Luckily my baby has not got any injuries."

The bomb signals a new phase of fighting between security forces and the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam - separatists who are designated as a terrorist group by Britain, India and the US.

Although war has raged in the north and east for months, the Sri Lankan government's decision to end a formal truce has been criticised by international observers who say it will increase fighting and kill off peace prospects.

In the two weeks since the government said the truce was over, the military estimates more than 300 people have been killed in violence in the north, where the rebels are deeply entrenched. Independent verification is impossible in what has become a bitter battleground.

The Sri Lankan government has said the Tigers have simply used the ceasefire to rearm. Diplomats in Colombo have warned that neither side will back down in the coming weeks.

Tamil Tigers kill 24 with bus bomb

"Despite major donors and other countries asking for restraint, I don't see this government backing down. Neither will the LTTE," said an official from a western embassy. "Instead civilians are being targeted in the south, which is the Sinhalese heartland. This is the Tigers' way of pressurising the government and pinning down troops away from the LTTE bases in the north."

Last week the American FBI highlighted the threat of the LTTE, which it said had inspired al-Qaida to adopt ever more ruthless tactics.

The FBI said the Tigers had perfected the use of suicide bombers, invented the suicide belt and pioneered the use of women in suicide attacks, as well as carrying out a campaign of assassinations. Some 4,000 people in the past two years alone had been murdered by the LTTE, said the FBI, and the rebels had also assassinated two world leaders - the only terrorist organisation to have done so.

"Needless to say, the Tamil Tigers are among the most dangerous and deadly extremists in the world," the FBI said on its website.

The Tigers are demanding an independent state in the island's north and east, claiming that the island's 3 million Tamils, who are mainly Hindu, have suffered from racist pogroms under the majority Buddhist Sinhalese population. This is denied by the government in Colombo.

The resulting civil war has taken the lives of 70,000 Sri Lankans on both sides of the conflict since 1983. The latest bombings came a few hours before the end of the 2002 ceasefire agreement, which in practice has been long dead.

Load-Date: January 16, 2008

End of Document

Tamil Tigers kill 28 with bus bomb

Guardian.com

January 16, 2008

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theguardian

Length: 654 words

Highlight: Roadside blast and separate attack on army vehicle come as formal ceasefire with Sri Lankan government runs out

Body

More than 28 civilians were killed and dozens wounded when a roadside bomb blew up a crowded bus in southern Sri Lanka, as a six-year ceasefire between the government and Tamil Tiger rebels ran out.

After the blast, gunmen shot passengers as they tried to flee, according to witnesses. "Everyone that got out through the doors, they shot and killed," Sampath, a 25-year-old passenger, told Associated Press. "I jumped from the window and just escaped."

The attack, on a bus regularly used by schoolchildren, occurred in the remote town of Buttala about 150 miles south-east of Colombo.

The defence ministry said the bus was destroyed by a Claymore-style mine packed with explosives, nails and ball bearings - the signature bomb of the Tamil Tiger rebels.

"There are no other groups operating in the area," a military spokesman, Udaya Nanayakkara, said.

A second bomb hit an army personnel carrier 12 miles south of the first attack, wounding three soldiers, the military said.

Local hospitals told news agencies that no children had been killed by the bus bomb. Witnesses described the scene as a bloodbath.

"I was on my way to take my one and a half month old baby to the doctor. I heard a loud noise and I thought it was a bomb, so I went under the seat of the bus with my baby and we heard firing for about five minutes," housewife TM Lalani, 27, told Reuters from Buttala hospital.

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The bomb signals a new phase of fighting between security forces and the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam - separatists who are designated as a terrorist group by Britain, India and the US.

Tamil Tigers kill 28 with bus bomb

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"Despite major donors and other countries asking for restraint, I don't see this government backing down. Neither will the LTTE," said an official from a western embassy. "Instead civilians are being targeted in the south, which is the Sinhalese heartland. This is the Tigers' way of pressurising the government and pinning down troops away from the LTTE bases in the north."

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The resulting civil war has taken the lives of 70,000 Sri Lankans on both sides of the conflict since 1983. The latest bombings came a few hours before the end of the 2002 ceasefire agreement, which in practice has been long dead.

Load-Date: January 16, 2008

Not Behind Lahore Attack: LTTE

RTT News (United States)

March 5, 2009 Thursday

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Length: 278 words

Body

(RTTNews) - The Tamil separatist organization, the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (**LTTE**) has denied any link to Tuesday's attacks on Sri Lankan cricketers in Lahore, the capital of Pakistan's Punjab province, media reports say.

"We don't have any connections with those people (Lahore attackers)," an **LTTE** spokesman, who identified himself as Thileepan, said Wednesday night. He said reports suggesting that the **Tamil Tigers** could have been connected with those attacks were not true. However, he did not condemn the attack, except saying: "Actually, we haven't made any comments on it."

Sri Lankan Foreign Minister Rohitha Bogollagama, in Pakistan to oversee the evacuation of the members of the cricket team, said earlier Wednesday that the role of the **LTTE** in the attack on the island-nation's cricket players in Lahore could not be ruled out.

The Tamil rebel spokesman also stated that the **LTTE** would not heed to a call by the Red Cross for mass evacuation of civilians from the conflict zone. He added the rebels would not surrender their arms as demanded by Colombo, despite the grave humanitarian crisis facing the trapped Tamil Sri Lankans.

He admitted that the Tamils in the war zone were facing acute shortages of food and water; also, 11 persons, including children and two **women**, had died of starvation.

Thileepan claimed that more than 350,000 persons were "living with the **LTTE** zone of operations," and that the organization had four villages under its control--Mattalam, Pokkarnai, Mulliyavaikal and Puthmattalam.

For comments and feedback: contact editorial@rttnews.com

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Load-Date: April 16, 2010

LTTE planes bomb military positions in Sri Lanka's northeast

Indo-Asian News Service

April 27, 2008 Sunday 1:09 PM EST

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Length: 566 words

Byline: Report from Indo-Asian News Service brought to you by HT Syndication.

Dateline: Colombo

Body

Colombo, April 27 -- Two light aircraft of the **Tamil Tigers** carried out a surprise air raid early Sunday on Sri Lankan military positions in the northeast but the military said no damage was caused to men and material.

Military spokesman Brigadier Udayan Nanayakkara said the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (**LTTE**) aircraft dropped three bombs at 1.43 a.m. at the forward defence line (FDL) at Weli-Oya, 280 km northeast of Colombo.

"No injuries or damage were caused due to the **LTTE** air raid," Nanayakkara told IANS. "The **LTTE** planes have returned safely to their hideouts in the Wanni after dropping three bombs."

The **LTTE** raid came within 24 hours of the Sri Lankan Air Force claim that its supersonic jets bombed "identified **LTTE** artillery gun positions located north of Weli-Oya Saturday evening" following fierce ground battles.

Commenting on the ground battle casualties, Nanayakkara said that at least 22 **LTTE** cadres and seven government soldiers were killed and one soldier was missing after the "troops successfully thwarted a two-pronged **LTTE** offensive to breach the military defences at Weli-Oya Saturday".

The defence ministry said in a statement Sunday that the Sri Lankan Air Force's "air defence network radars detected two light aircraft of the **LTTE** which were airborne and heading towards Weli-Oya during the wee hours (Sunday).

"In accordance with standard operating procedures, SLAF interceptor aircraft were made airborne in the direction of the intruding enemy craft. However, enroute to the area it was observed that the **LTTE** aircraft were fleeing and heading back," it said.

There was no immediate word from the **LTTE**.

The **LTTE** is known to possess an unspecified number of Czech-built Zlin Z-143 lightwing aircraft. These had carried out four air raids against Sri Lankan military and economic targets until October last year.

The **LTTE**s air capabilities first came to limelight March 25 last year when their planes carried out a pre-dawn attack on the Katunayake air force base, adjoining the country's only international airport near Colombo.

The **LTTE**s air strike Sunday was the fifth.

LTTE planes bomb military positions in Sri Lanka 's northeast

In October, the government said it had acquired anti-aircraft systems and guns and vowed to destroy the LTTEs air capabilities.

Sri Lankan troops are now locked in heavy fighting with the LTTE in the country's north, where at least 150 combatants were killed and over 500 wounded in bloody battles Wednesday.

The troops said they had captured the first line of defence of the rebels after Wednesday's fierce fighting in Jaffna peninsula, a claim refuted by the LTTE.

Sri Lanka announced Friday that its troops had captured the Catholic Madhu church in Mannar in northwest from the Tamil Tigers, claiming that the LTTE cadres retreated from the shrine due to military pressure.

On Friday evening, a powerful bomb ripped through a packed passenger bus at Piliyantala on the outskirts of Colombo, killing 26 civilians including a child, a Buddhist priest and women and injuring 60 others.

President Mahinda Rajapaksa said Friday's bus bomb blast was yet another "indiscriminate attack against civilians by the LTTE in the face of heavy setbacks on the battlefield"

He also called on the public "to be more vigilant and to help troops to foil the destructive plans of the terrorists".

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Load-Date: April 27, 2008

The man behind the Tamil Tigers' retreat

The International Herald Tribune

November 22, 2008 Saturday

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Section: NEWS; Pg. 2

Length: 1165 words

Byline: Somini Sengupta - The New York Times Media Group

Dateline: VELLANKULAM, Sri Lanka

Body

A former computer systems administrator from suburban Southern California is today leading the charge in Asia's longest running civil war, and these are among his new treasures: This fishing village of empty, pummeled houses; a secret cove nearby that ethnic separatist guerrillas are said to have used to smuggle fuel; and a "martyrs" cemetery a few kilometers down the road, containing two generations of slain rebels.

For the first time in a decade, the Sri Lankan military has wrested this strategic swath in the country's northwest from the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam, the rebel group that has fought for more than 25 years to carve out a separate Tamil homeland. At the helm of that military advance is Gotabaya Rajapaksa, a naturalized U.S. citizen who is today Sri Lanka's feared and influential secretary of defense.

Rajapaksa has repeatedly rejected the rebel's offers of a cease-fire. He has dismissed calls from his nation's allies, including the United States, to negotiate a political solution to the ethnic conflict. The defense budget has soared during his three-year tenure, even as the nation's economy has sputtered. The military has recruited heavily, and over the past year it has bombed rebel strongholds, sent in commandos to execute high-profile rebel leaders, and pressed steadily into the **Tamil Tigers** territory, prompting an estimated 250,000 ethnic Tamil civilians to flee deeper into rebel land under apparently perilous conditions.

Today, the rebels hold less than half of the land they administered under the last cease-fire agreement, signed in 2002. The army says it is on the outskirts of Kilinochchi, the guerillas' de facto capital, which a recent visitor described as "a ghost town."

A week ago, the army announced the capture of a strategic crossing, about 32 kilometers, or 20 miles, north of here, called Pooneryn, which connects the island to Jaffna Peninsula to the north and robs the guerrillas, better known here as the **LTTE**, of a crucial corridor to smuggle arms and equipment. On Thursday, after three days of heavy fighting, the army announced the fall of another rebel line, at northern Muhumallai.

Neither of these claims can be verified, because Rajapaksa does not allow journalists, aid workers or other independent monitors into the conflict area. But a rare, guided tour along the formerly rebel-held A-32 road, snaking up the western coast to this shell of a former fishing village, makes it clear that the army has reclaimed vast stretches of territory. How long they can hold onto it, and at what cost, remains unclear.

The bigger mystery is what comes next. Local and foreign observers of this long and dirty ethnic war say the prospects of a long-term political solution have rarely seemed so distant. The government, despite intense pressure

The man behind the Tamil Tigers' retreat

from its allies, including India, has yet to present a serious proposal on how this polarized multiethnic country of 21 million people will be governed. At the nub of this war is the question of political rights of its minority communities.

Asked if his mission is accomplished, Rajapaksa offered a look of immense satisfaction. Yes, he said during an interview in mid-November, his government had not only improved the morale of its own troops and weakened the rebels' military capacity. More important, he said, it had turned public opinion in favor of war. "Earlier, the thinking was, the LTTE is so strong that militarily, we can't defeat them," he argued. "We have proved we can."

Rajapaksa, 59, a retired Sri Lankan army officer, emigrated to the United States in 1994 and worked as a Unix systems administrator at Loyola Law School in Los Angeles before returning home in 2005, after his brother, Mahinda, was elected president.

A series of rebel actions sparked the latest resurgence in the war. The military seized rebel-held territory in the east, scrapped the 2002 cease-fire accord and made its push for the north. It profited immensely from help from a breakaway Tamil Tiger rebel faction, known as the Karuna group. In exchange, leaders of that former guerrilla faction now occupy important posts in government; its members are also accused of operating a lucrative extortion ring in government-held towns.

Today, Rajapaksa says he sees no need for a cease-fire: The rebels, he insists, will only use it to rearm and retrain. As for political negotiations, he says they can begin only once the Tamil Tigers are finished. "We were tolerating them for so long," he spat, apparently as much at the guerrillas as the Sri Lankan politicians who had sat at the negotiating table with them. "To have a meaningful political solution, you have to eliminate terrorism."

Rajapaksa's ambition to eliminate the Tamil Tigers has been no cakewalk for the military. In October, a suicide bombing killed more than two dozen people in Anuradhapura, an ancient Buddhist pilgrimage site in the heart of the island. The same month, crudely made Tamil Tiger fighter planes bombed an army base on the west coast. No longer does the military promise a deadline for ending the war; it has missed all previous deadlines.

His military still faces formidable challenges: to hold on to the territory that it has captured so far and at the same time, push farther into the northeastern corner still held by the guerillas. Perhaps its biggest obstacle is the civilians still living there, alongside the LTTE. Artillery fire and aerial attacks would inevitably yield large civilian casualties, something the government has repeatedly said it wants to avoid.

According to aid workers who have visited the area, the displaced are sleeping in lean-tos in the paddy fields, or if they are lucky, crowding into temples and community halls. School buildings, if they are not housing homeless families, are today accommodating students from three or four other schools.

Some of them have had to flee as many as seven times in the past year alone, as the military has advanced deeper into rebel-held land.

Rajapaksa's office has permitted the United Nations to ferry dry food rations to the displaced, but despite pleas from Sri Lankan and foreign aid agencies, not tents or tarpaulins, not even after rain and snakebites have set in.

The plight of the displaced is virtually unknown. Phone lines are dead in the LTTE-controlled areas. Neither journalists nor aid workers are allowed to cross the front line.

Sometimes, a small slice of life slips out. In the ground-floor women's ward of the main hospital in the government-held town of Vavuniya the other day sat a 65-year-old woman, with a mane of gray hair, wide stunned eyes and a tube through her side. She had been hiding in a bunker in a rebel-held village, holding her baby grandson tightly to her chest, she said, when the bunker was shelled. A piece of shrapnel punctured her left side, perforating the left lung. Her grandson lay in the pediatric ward next door, unscratched. His mother, the old woman said, had been killed in an earlier bout of fighting.

The man behind the Tamil Tigers' retreat

End of Document

'Ruthless' LTTE inspired Al Qaeda in Iraq, says FBI

Indo-Asian News Service

January 12, 2008 Saturday 12:52 PM EST

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Length: 363 words

Byline: Report from Indo-Asian News Service brought to you by HT Syndication.

Dateline: Colombo

Body

Colombo, Jan. 12 -- The "ruthless tactics" of the Sri Lankan **Tamil Tigers** have inspired terrorist networks worldwide, including the Al Qaeda in Iraq, says the US Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI).

In an appeal to the American public to report on Tiger operatives who might be lurking under cover, the FBI said that the **LTTE** had perfected the use of suicide bombers; invented the suicide belt; pioneered the use of **women** in suicide attacks; murdered some 4,000 people in the past two years alone; and assassinated two world leaders - the only terrorist organization to do so.

"Needless to say, the **Tamil Tigers** are among the most dangerous and deadly extremists in the world," the US investigating agency said in its website Thursday.

"For more than three decades, the group has launched a campaign of violence and bloodshed in Sri Lanka. Its ultimate goal is to seize control of the country with the Sinhalese ethnic majority, and create an independent Tamil state."

"Along the way, it has launched suicide attacks, assassinated politicians (including a government minister this week and even the Sri Lankan president), taken hostages and committed all kinds of crimes to finance its operations. The resultant civil war has taken the lives of nearly 70,000 Sri Lankans on both sides of the conflict since 1983," the FBI said.

"We are determined to stop them, using the full range of our investigative and intelligence capabilities," it vowed.

It said that an "important blow" was dealt to the **LTTE**'s activities in the US in April 2007, when the Joint Terrorism Task Force in New York arrested the alleged Director of the Tigers. The FBI had also arrested eleven Tiger-related suspects in the New York City region.

And in Baltimore, a pair of Indonesian men were sentenced for exporting surface to air missiles, state of the art firearms, machine guns and night vision goggles to the **LTTE**.

The FBI had also discovered that the **LTTE** used the December 2004 tsunami to collect funds for itself in the guise of donations for the relief and rehabilitation of the victims of the Boxing Day disaster.

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'Ruthless' LTTE inspired Al Qaeda in Iraq, says FBI

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Load-Date: January 12, 2008

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NSW: Tamil Tigers protest in Sydney

AAP Newsfeed

March 28, 2009 Saturday 3:13 PM AEST

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Section: DOMESTIC NEWS

Length: 389 words

Byline: Vincent Morello

Dateline: SYDNEY March 28

Body

Thousands of Tamil Tiger supporters marched down Sydney streets to protest the civil war that has ravaged Sri Lanka for decades.

Sydney's CBD suffered traffic congestion and delays as approximately 2,000 men, women and children gathered at Martin Place on Saturday and marched to Town Hall, where a rally was held.

Coffins, children stained with fake blood and a man dressed as a tiger and armed with a sword were just some of the portrayals represented in the march.

They carried signs displaying the slogans: "Free Tamil", "Tamils are not Sri Lankans" and "The charge is genocide, the struggle is for freedom".

The Tamil Youth Organisation (TYO) of Australia organised the march and the rally, which gathered in the forecourt between Town Hall and St Andrew's Anglican Cathedral.

TYO representative Jay Nathan spoke to the crowd, describing the difference between life in Australia and life in the island nation of Sri Lanka.

"I see my fellow Tamils living in Sri Lanka and I am overcome with sorrow to see that they are denied the luxuries that I enjoy here in Australia," Ms Nathan said.

"They live their lives in fear of persecution, abduction and death because of who they are."

She said oppression against Tamil civilians had lasted more than 60 years with the government controlling the media and prohibiting access by overseas aid organisations to the conflict zones.

She repeated the call for the Tamil-controlled provinces to be allowed to secede from Sri Lanka and become an independent state.

Adrian Francis, also a TYO representative, said the United Nations estimated that nearly 2,700 Tamil civilians had been killed and more than 7,200 injured from late-January to early-March in 2009.

"To me it is beyond evidence that the sole agenda of the government of Sri Lanka is to wipe out the Tamil population," Mr Francis told the crowd.

"These are our brothers, these are our sisters, mothers, fathers, everything - all lost, lost lives, lost dreams.

"We ask the Australian government to listen to our plea, to understand that these our brothers and sisters we are losing in this conflict."

The Tamil Tigers, known officially as the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), are listed as a terrorist organisation by more than 30 countries.

Police said no arrests were made during the protest.

NSW: Tamil Tigers protest in Sydney

Load-Date: March 29, 2009

End of Document

Tamil Tigers bomb bus as ceasefire ends

Agence France Presse -- English

January 16, 2008 Wednesday 10:16 PM GMT

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Length: 787 words

Byline: Mel Gunasekera

Dateline: COLOMBO, Jan 17 2008

Body

At least 24 civilians were killed and scores wounded Wednesday in a suspected Tamil Tiger bomb attack on a crowded bus in southern Sri Lanka coinciding with the end of the island's ceasefire.

The defence ministry said the bus packed with schoolchildren was hit by a powerful Claymore-type mine -- a bomb packed with explosives and ball-bearings. It also said the bus was shot at after the blast.

With the island sliding back into all-out war, Nordic truce monitors packed their bags and made a renewed appeal for the government and the Tigers to return to talks -- arguing that neither can win the decades-old war.

But Sri Lankan President Mahinda Rajapakse said the bus bombing was precisely the kind of "act of savagery" that justified his decision to abandon a Norwegian-brokered 2002 truce.

The ceasefire officially ends at midnight Wednesday.

According to the defence ministry, **Tamil Tigers** "exploded a Claymore mine targeting the bus and subsequently opened fire at the survivors."

More than 60 people were wounded in the incident, which took place at Welikada, 230 kilometres (150 miles) southeast of the capital Colombo.

Eight were reported to be in critical condition, with many **women** and children among the casualties. The government appealed for blood donors and ordered schools in the province to close for three days.

The military said an army vehicle in the area was hit in a second bomb attack, and a villager also shot dead -- blaming the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (**LTTE**), who are known to occasionally strike in the far south of the island.

It also repeated its view that the rebels, who want to carve out a separate homeland for Tamils in the north and east of the ethnic Sinhalese-majority tropical island, were "a ruthless terrorist outfit."

Tamil Tigers bomb bus as ceasefire ends

The government withdrew from the ceasefire two weeks ago, arguing that there was no point in attempting to negotiate with "terrorists" and that the Tigers had merely used the ceasefire to smuggle in more weapons.

The Norwegian-led Sri Lanka Monitoring Mission (SLMM), set up to keep an eye on the tattered truce, meanwhile closed down its operations.

"We are absolutely convinced that this complex conflict cannot be solved by military means," SLMM chief Lars Jon Solvberg told reporters hours before the 31-member Norwegian and Icelandic team were to leave the island.

"We have been hated over the past six years... But that's the nature of our job. We tried to be neutral in every single incident," said Solvberg, a retired Norwegian army general.

He said his team was "disappointed" by the island's return to war, and that he hoped there would be a return to talks "sooner rather than later."

A statement from the United States embassy condemned Wednesday's bombing, but also pointedly called for both parties to hammer out a political solution.

UN chief Ban Ki-moon also strongly condemned the "indiscriminate attacks" through his spokeswoman, urging both sides "to undertake genuine efforts to achieve a peaceful negotiated solution."

Sri Lankan defence officials, however, are convinced they have the upper hand in the 36-year-old conflict, and have said peace will only be possible when they kill the LTTE's leaders and capture their northern mini-state.

Sri Lankan officials meanwhile slammed the top United Nations human rights official, accusing her of bias and incompetence following recent comments on the end of the ceasefire.

Louise Arbour, the UN high commissioner for human rights, had urged all parties in the island's conflict to abide by their obligations under humanitarian law.

Any violation of humanitarian law "could entail individual criminal responsibility under international criminal law, including by those in positions of command," she had warned.

Sri Lanka's diplomatic mission in Geneva said her statement was "gratuitous" and guilty of "obvious bias," noting that Tamil Tiger rebels (LTTE) had already broken the ceasefire in December 2005.

The bus attack came amid an escalation in fighting in the north, with Colombo claiming it has killed 405 rebels since the start of the month against 20 soldiers killed. More fighting was reported Wednesday in the northeast.

The island's military began the New Year with a vow to crush the Tigers by June, and set a target to kill 3,000 guerrillas in the first six months of the year.

But casualty claims are almost impossible to verify, as Sri Lankan authorities routinely prevent journalists and diplomats from travelling to frontlines or the northern jungles controlled by the LTTE.

Both sides have accused each other of killing civilians, including children. Two months ago a Sri Lankan army commando unit operating behind rebel lines was accused of killing 11 schoolchildren in a Claymore attack on a bus.

Load-Date: January 17, 2008

LTTE's intelligence headquarters bombed: Sri Lanka

Indo-Asian News Service

September 10, 2008 Wednesday 1:20 PM EST

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Length: 376 words

Byline: Report from Indo-Asian News Service brought to you by HT Syndication.

Dateline: Colombo

Body

Colombo, Sept. 10 -- Sri Lanka Wednesday said its air force fighter jets had bombed a suspected stronghold of the **Tamil Tigers** in the north, a day after the rebels denied the government's claim of shooting down one of their aircraft.

The defence ministry issued a statement here saying that the fighter jets "made precision air sorties at the main intelligence command and control centre of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (**LTTE**), located one kilometre west of Kilinochchi around 6.45 a.m. Wednesday".

Kilinochchi, located about 370 km north of here, is considered the administrative hub of the rebels.

"The target was acquired on reliable ground information received by intelligence sources. A high profile **LTTE** gathering was taking place at the site during the time of the attack. This is also a site frequented by the outfit's intelligence wing leader Pottu Amman," the statement said.

There was no immediate reaction from the **LTTE** in this regard, but the defence ministry said that "the **LTTE** communication circuits have totally gone down and silence remained since the attack".

The stepped up air raids have come a day after the rebels denied Sri Lanka's claim that air force jets had shot down a **LTTE** light-wing aircraft that was fleeing after carrying out a bombing mission in support of the rebels' land attack on a Sri Lankan military base in Vavuniya.

At least 10 suicide cadres, including five **female** rebels; 10 soldiers; a policeman and a civilian were killed and 31 others injured during the three-hour long clashes Tuesday. The Indian High Commission here said that two Indian radar technicians were also injured in this attack.

The defence ministry said that air force jets intercepted "two **LTTE** light aircraft fleeing after the failed mission at Vavuniya and shot down one of the aircraft" in the skies over Muallaitivu in the early hours of Tuesday.

Muallaitivu, a dense jungle area that is considered the base for **LTTE** chief Velupillai Prabhakaran, is located about 350 km northeast of here.

The **LTTE**, in an email statement to media Tuesday evening, denied the military's claims.

"The aircraft of the Air Tigers that participated in the sortie safely returned home," it said.

LTTE's intelligence headquarters bombed: Sri Lanka

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Load-Date: September 10, 2008

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Rajapaksa wants to liberate Tamils from LTTE

Indo-Asian News Service

January 8, 2008 Tuesday 10:58 AM EST

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Length: 333 words

Byline: Report from Indo-Asian News Service brought to you by HT Syndication.

Dateline: Colombo

Body

Colombo, Jan. 8 -- Sri Lankan President Mahinda Rajapaksa has appealed to the people of the country to help him liberate the Tamil-speaking people of north Sri Lanka from the clutches of the **Tamil Tigers**.

"Kindly grant me the opportunity to liberate the innocent and miserable masses of the north who are in grave and imminent danger at the hands of the **LTTE** (Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam)," the state-owned Daily News quoted the president as saying at Hungama in southern Sri Lanka on Monday.

"They (the Tamil-speaking people of the north) are deprived of their basic fundamental rights, facilities and the freedom of speech which the people elsewhere in the country cherish and enjoy," he said.

"Regardless of their wishes and discretion, men, **women** and children are compelled to take up arms and indulge in terrorism.

"When we give children books to further their education, the **LTTE** gives them arms and ammunition and deploys them for war and terrorism," Rajapaksa added.

The president said that it was the foremost duty of his government and indeed the people of Sri Lanka to "prevent the fragmentation of the motherland".

"Our country, your motherland should be the foremost priority and not your job and standing. Otherwise your ancestors and the generations to come will not only rebuke and curse you but also rebuke and curse your graveyards," he said.

Earlier, speaking at another function, the president said it was time the Tamil people living in areas occupied by the **LTTE** in the north, like Mullaitivu district, got proper titles to their lands.

The Sri Lankan government and armed forces have vowed to take the north from the **LTTE** as they did in the case of the east over 2006 and 2007.

A large part of the north, known as the Wanni, is still in the hands of the **LTTE**. The area held by the **LTTE** covers the districts of Mullaitivu and Kilinochchi entirely, and Mannar and Vavuniya partially.

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Rajapaksa wants to liberate Tamils from LTTE

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Load-Date: January 8, 2008

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LTTE blast in Colombo wounds 44

Indo-Asian News Service

August 30, 2008 Saturday 1:39 PM EST

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Length: 363 words

Byline: Report from Indo-Asian News Service brought to you by HT Syndication.

Dateline: Colombo

Body

Colombo, Aug. 30 -- At least 44 people, including four women and two children, were wounded in a terror blast carried out by the rebel Tamil Tigers in a busy commercial area of the Sri Lankan capital Saturday, police said.

Police and defence sources said a parcel bomb left near a wristwatch retail outlet in Colombo's Olcott Mawatha area in Pettah exploded around 12.15 p.m. The site was a few hundred metres from Colombo's main bus stand and the Fort railway station.

The bomb explosion came a day after heavy clashes in war-torn northern Sri Lanka killed at least 19 Tamil Tiger rebels and three soldiers.

"Military sources said there was every indication that the explosion was caused by LTTE terrorists, as part of its campaign of terror to win its separatist demands," President Mahinda Rajapaksa's office said here in a statement a couple of hours after the blast.

Hector Weerasinghe, director of the Colombo National Hospital, said there were four women and two children among the 44 wounded who had been shifted to the hospital from the blast site.

"Only a couple of them have suffered major injuries while the others have already been treated and released to the respective wards after small surgeries," Weerasinghe told IANS.

The president's office said several such plots by the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) "to carry out bomb attacks targeting government installations, public transport and civilians have been foiled" in the recent past after police were tipped off by arrested LTTE cadres.

"The defence authorities called on the public to remain vigilant in the face of the LTTE's attempts to disrupt public life and cause death and destruction, as it faces severe setbacks in military operations in the north," the statement said.

Police and military personnel have cordoned off the area and are conducting a search.

There was no immediate reaction from the rebels in this regard.

Meanwhile, the Media Centre for National Security (MCNS) Saturday said at least 19 Tamil Tiger rebels and three soldiers were killed while 35 were wounded due to heavy clashes across northern Sri Lanka Friday.

LTTE blast in Colombo wounds 44

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Load-Date: August 30, 2008

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At least 20 killed in Sri Lanka bus bombing; Defence ministry claims victims mainly children; blames Tamil Tigers

Ottawa Citizen

January 16, 2008 Wednesday

Final Edition

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Section: NEWS; Pg. A8

Length: 238 words

Byline: Agence France-Presse

Dateline: COLOMBO

Body

COLOMBO - At least 20 people were killed and dozens of others injured in a suspected Tamil Tiger bomb attack today on a crowded bus in southwest Sri Lanka, officials said, claiming many of the victims were schoolchildren.

"At least 20 people have been killed and several are injured. It was a state-run bus with at least 60 civilians on it, including schoolchildren," Sri Lankan military spokesman Udaya Nanaya-kkara said.

The defence ministry said the bus, travelling from Buttala to Okkampitiya, was hit by a fragmentation bomb apparently hidden on the bus.

It blamed the attack on the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (**LTTE**).

"**LTTE** terrorists have carried out a cowardly bomb blast targeting innocent schoolchildren at Okkampitiya, Monaragala," the ministry said, describing the rebels as "a ruthless terrorist outfit notorious for crimes against **women** and children."

The attack came as a 2002 Norwegian-brokered truce, which was in practice dead anyway, is set to end today.

The government abandoned the ceasefire two weeks ago, saying there was no point attempting to negotiate with "terrorists."

Sri Lankan government defence officials are convinced they have the upper hand in the long-running conflict, and have said peace is only possible when they kill the **LTTE**'s leaders and capture the north.

Tamil Tiger rebels have been fighting since 1972 to carve out a separate state. The conflict has left tens of thousands of people dead.

Load-Date: January 16, 2008

At least 20 killed in Sri Lanka bus bombing; Defence ministry claims victims mainly children; blames Tamil Tigers

End of Document

LTTE suicide bomber kills 28 in Sri Lanka (Intro Roundup)

Hindustan Times

February 9, 2009 Monday

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Length: 444 words

Dateline: Colombo

Body

Colombo, Feb. 9 -- At least 28 people were killed when a suspected Tamil Tiger suicide bomber Monday exploded herself among civilians fleeing Sri Lanka's war zone, the authorities said.

The Media Centre for National Security (MCNS) said the woman bomber detonated herself amid frightened civilians entering the areas held by the army in the northern district of Mullaitivu. Military officials said the bomber belonged to the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (**LTTE**), whose guerrillas are now holed up in an area measuring less than 200 sq km. The MCNS statement said the suicide bomber "blew herself at an IDP (Internally Displaced People) rescue centre" north of Vishwamadhu around 11.30 a.m. It said 20 soldiers and eight civilians were killed in the devastating blast. At least 19 soldiers and 40 civilians were also injured. Most of the civilian dead were **women** and children. Military spokesman Udaya Nanayakkara said **women** soldiers were screening **female** civilians when the suicide bomber exploded herself. The horrific bombing drew condemnation from both the United Nations and the US. "The UN reiterates that civilians must be distinguished from combatants and protected from the fighting," it said in a statement. "It calls again on the **LTTE** to separate its forces from civilians under its control." A statement from the US embassy described the bombing as an "apparent effort by the **LTTE** to discourage Tamils from leaving the conflict area". It urged the **LTTE** to allow all civilians freedom of movement. A former military nerve centre of the **LTTE**, Mullaitivu town, located some 350 km northeast of Colombo, was captured by the military last month after months of fierce fighting. Vishwamadhu and the adjoining Suthanthirapuram areas are on the east of the A-35 road that links Paranthan and Mullaitivu towns. Nanayakkara said the wounded civilians were rushed to army medical centres before being transferred to hospitals in Vavuniya and Anuradhapura towns. The air force brought at least 35 injured people to Anuradhapura. Fifteen of the injured were children. "This is yet another desperate attempt by the **LTTE** to prevent thousands of displaced civilians from fleeing the areas controlled by them and enter the government-held areas," Nanayakkara said. The suicide attack came at a time when pro-**LTTE** websites allege that scores of civilians were killed in the rapidly shrinking **LTTE** areas due to shelling and aerial attacks. The military says the **Tamil Tigers** are holding thousands of civilians as human shield in a desperate bid to prevent a final assault on their jungle hideouts. Published by HT Syndication with permission from Indo-Asian News Service.

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

Load-Date: April 1, 2009

LTTE suicide bomber kills 23 in Sri Lanka (Roundup)

Indo-Asian News Service

February 9, 2009 Monday

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Length: 470 words

Dateline: Colombo

Body

Colombo, Feb. 9 -- At least 23 people were killed when a suspected Tamil Tiger suicide bomber Monday exploded herself among civilians fleeing Sri Lanka's war zone, the authorities said.

The Media Centre for National Security (MCNS) said the woman bomber detonated herself amid frightened civilians entering the areas held by the army in the northern district of Mullaitivu.

Military officials said the bomber belonged to the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (**LTTE**), whose guerrillas are now holed up in an area measuring less than 200 sq km by the Sri Lankan military.

The MCNS statement said the suicide bomber "blew herself at an IDP (Internally Displaced People) rescue centre" north of Vishwamadhu around 11.30 a.m.

It said 15 soldiers and eight civilians were killed in the devastating blast. At least 24 soldiers and 40 civilians were also injured.

Most of the civilian dead were **women** and children. Three of the soldiers who died were **women**.

Military spokesman Udaya Nanayakkara said **women** soldiers were screening **female** civilians when the suicide bomber exploded herself.

The horrific bombing drew condemnation from both the United Nations and the US.

"The UN reiterates that civilians must be distinguished from combatants and protected from the fighting," it said in a statement. "It calls again on the **LTTE** to separate its forces from civilians under its control."

A statement from the US embassy described the bombing as an "apparent effort by the **LTTE** to discourage Tamils from leaving the conflict area". It urged the **LTTE** to allow all civilians freedom of movement.

A former military nerve centre of the **LTTE**, Mullaitivu town, located some 350 km northeast of Colombo, was captured by the military last month after months of fierce fighting.

Vishwamadhu and the adjoining Suthanthirapuram areas are on the east of the A-35 road that links Paranthan and Mullaitivu towns.

Nanayakkara said the wounded civilians were rushed to army medical centres before being transferred to hospitals in Vavuniya and Anuradhapura towns.

LTTE suicide bomber kills 23 in Sri Lanka (Roundup)

The air force brought at least 35 injured people to Anuradhapura. Fifteen of the injured were children.

"This is yet another desperate attempt by the **LTTE** to prevent thousands of displaced civilians from fleeing the areas controlled by them and enter the government-held areas," Nanayakkara said.

The suicide attack came at a time when pro-**LTTE** websites allege that scores of civilians were killed in the rapidly shrinking **LTTE** areas due to shelling and aerial attacks.

The military says the **Tamil Tigers** are holding thousands of civilians as human shield in a desperate bid to prevent a final assault on their jungle hideouts. 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

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Load-Date: September 10, 2009

End of Document

LTTE female suicide bomber kills 23, wounds 64 (Fourth Lead)

Hindustan Times

February 9, 2009 Monday

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Length: 406 words

Dateline: Colombo

Body

Colombo, Feb. 9 -- At least 23 people, including eight war-displaced civilians, were killed and 64 wounded when a suspected Tamil Tiger suicide bomber mingling with the civilians fleeing the rebel-held war zone blew herself up Monday in the northeastern Mullaitivu district, defence authorities here said.

The Media Centre for National Security (MCNS) said the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (**LTTE**) woman suicide bomber mingling with hundreds of civilians entering army-held areas in the northern war-zone "blew herself at an IDP (Internally Displaced People) rescue centre, north of Vishwamadhu in Mullaitivu around 11.30 a.m". "Reports state that 15 army personnel and eight civilians were killed in the explosion. At least 24 army personnel and 40 civilians are reported to be injured," the MCNS said. "Among the civilians killed in the suicide attack are mostly **women** and children. Three of the army personnel who were killed were **women** soldiers," it said. Military spokesman Brig. Udaya Nanayakkara said that a group of **women** soldiers was screening "the influx of **female** civilians when the **LTTE female** suicide cadre exploded herself at Vishwamadhu Suthanthirapuram area" in Mullaitivu. Former **LTTE** military nerve centre, Mullaitivu town lying some 350 km north-east of here was taken by the military last month after months of fierce clashes. Vishwamadhu and the adjoining Suthanthirapuram areas are on the east of the A-35 Paranthan-Mullaitivu road. Nanayakkara said the wounded civilians were rushed to the medical centres of the army in the area before being transferred to the Vavuniya and Anuradhapura hospitals. The military said the Sri Lanka Air Force has brought down at least 35 injured people to Anuradhapura and at least fifteen children were among the injured. "This is yet another desperate attempt by the **LTTE** to prevent thousands of displaced civilians from fleeing the areas controlled by them and enter the government-held areas," he said. The suicide explosion has come at a time when the pro-**LTTE** websites have alleged that scores of civilians were killed in the fast shrinking **LTTE**-held areas due to shelling and aerial attacks during the past few days. Denying these allegations, the military said the **Tamil Tigers** were now holed up in less than 200 sq km in Mullaitivu district and were holding thousands of civilians as human shield. Published by HT Syndication with permission from Indo-Asian News Service.

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Load-Date: April 1, 2009

India under attack in pro-LTTE media

Indo-Asian News Service

September 16, 2008 Tuesday 2:04 PM EST

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Length: 600 words

Byline: Report from Indo-Asian News Service brought to you by HT Syndication.

Dateline: New Delhi

Body

New Delhi, Sept. 16 -- India has come under attack from a media sympathetic to the **Tamil Tigers** since a dramatic guerrilla air raid on a Sri Lankan military base left two Indian engineers wounded.

The revelation about the presence of the Indian radar experts at the base at Vavuniya, 254 km north of Colombo, shocked many even in India, which has repeatedly advocated a negotiated settlement to the quarter-century-old ethnic conflict.

Sections of the Sri Lankan Tamil media known to be sympathetic to the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (**LTTE**) are livid.

Tamil newspaper Sudar Oli, which is believed to reflect the thinking in the **LTTE**, said in a stinging editorial that the presence of the Indians in a military base had "exposed" New Delhi.

"It has been proved once again that India makes its moves to suit its geographical, political and economic interests," it said Sunday.

"Now it has come to light that India had supplied not only weapons but also troops (to Sri Lanka) to fight the war while preaching a political solution," the daily said.

The **LTTE** carried out a stunning pre-dawn suicide attack on the military base Sep 9 and claimed to have destroyed its radar installations, the communication and engineering facilities as well as anti-aircraft weapons and ammunition depot.

It said all its 10 Black Tigers, or suicide commandos including five **females**, were killed in the meticulously planned raid. It claimed to have killed 20 military personnel.

The wounded Indians, who Indian sources said were radar operators, were quickly flown to Colombo. New Delhi has admitted to providing radars to Sri Lanka to detect low-flying light wing **LTTE** aircraft.

Another Sri Lankan Tamil newspaper, Uthayan, has also lashed out at India, accusing it of duplicity.

In an earlier editorial, it echoed criticism by pro-**LTTE** politicians in Tamil Nadu that Prime Minister Manmohan Singh's call for negotiations to end the Sri Lankan conflict was not borne out by "this brazen and material manpower support" to Colombo.

India under attack in pro-LTTE media

The LTTE has not commented on the presence of the Indians in Sri Lankan military bases. But it has in recent times been very critical of New Delhi's support to Colombo.

India says it is opposed to any break-up of Sri Lanka but that Colombo must work towards a credible power-sharing deal with the Tamil minority.

India's National Security Advisor M.K. Narayanan recently stated that Colombo may be able to win the battle against the LTTE, but it cannot win the war because it does not have the Tamils on its side.

The pro-LTTE media and Indian Tamil politicians sympathetic to the Tigers, however, blame Narayanan for India's de facto military support to Sri Lanka while publicly declaring that it will not provide offensive weapons.

India's relations with the LTTE have undergone dramatic changes since 1983 when anti-Tamil riots in Colombo led to New Delhi's overt and covert intervention in the island nation.

From a country that provided sanctuary to the LTTE in the 1980s, India became the first to outlaw the Tigers after the outfit was blamed for the 1991 suicide killing of former prime minister Rajiv Gandhi.

Even as the LTTE's anger against India has grown, the Tigers have become increasingly furious over what they feel are Western double standards vis-?-vis Sri Lanka.

In the LTTE's view, Western backing for a "negotiated solution" in Sri Lanka aims to disguise its support for Colombo's military agenda. Pro-LTTE Tamils say the only answer to such an attitude is to double up efforts to form an independent Tamil state.

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Load-Date: September 16, 2008

17 killed, 45 wounded in LTTE suicide explosion in Sri Lanka (Third Lead)

Hindustan Times

February 9, 2009 Monday

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Length: 401 words

Dateline: Colombo

Body

Colombo, Feb. 9 -- At least 17 people were killed and 45 wounded Monday when an **LTTE** suicide bomber mingling with the civilians fleeing the rebel-held war zone blew herself up in the northeastern Mullaitivu district, defence authorities here said.

"According to initial reports received, at least 17 people were killed and 45 others were reported injured when an **LTTE** woman suicide bomber blew herself at an IDP (Internally Displaced People) rescue centre, north of Vishwamadhu in Mullaitivu this morning (Wednesday) around 11.30 a.m. A few military personnel are also said to be among the casualties reported," the defence ministry said. "Exact casualty figures are yet to be estimated as tension prevails in the area. Security forces immediately cordoned off the area, while medical units were rushed to the site," it said. Military spokesman Brigadier Udaya Nanayakkara said that a group of **women** soldiers were screening "the influx of **female** civilians when an **LTTE** (Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam) **female** suicide cadre exploded herself at Vishwamadhu Suthanthirapuram area" in Mullaitivu Monday morning. Mullaitivu town, which is a former **LTTE** military nerve centre, lies some 350 km north-east of here. It was taken by the military last month after months of fierce clashes. Vishwamadhu and the adjoining Suthanthirapuram areas are on the east of the A-35 Paranthan-Mullaitivu road. "According to initial reports, a large number of civilians were feared killed and scores wounded in the blast. There were **women** soldiers among the victims," Brig Nanayakkara told IANS. He said that the wounded civilians have been rushed to the medical centres of the army in the area before being transferred to the Vavuniya and Anuradhapura hospitals. "This is yet another desperate attempt by the **LTTE** to prevent thousands of displaced civilians from fleeing the areas controlled by them and enter the government-held areas," he said. The suicide explosion has come at a time when the pro-**LTTE** websites have alleged that scores of civilians were killed in the fast shrinking **LTTE**-held areas due to shelling and aerial attacks during the past few days. Denying these allegations, the military said that the **Tamil Tigers** were now holed up in less than 200 square km in Mullaitivu district and were holding thousands of civilians as human shield. Published by HT Syndication with permission from Indo-Asian News Service.

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Load-Date: April 1, 2009

Pro-LTTE bands play in concert

Colombo Times

March 24, 2009 Tuesday

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Length: 1510 words

Body

Colombo, March 24 -- Navanethem Pillay, the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, had more than her day in the local limelight as one who, despite her legal background and being an international civil servant of the world body, does not take the trouble to double check information. What is worse is that being a diplomat she did not consult with the government she was accusing of serious wrongdoing about the credibility of the information she had.

This is by no means the mark of a good diplomat, nor what is expected from one who holds such an important position in the UN Administration. It is therefore not surprising that Navi Pillay, as she is more familiarly referred to, has been told by more experienced people in the UN that she should not attempt to dramatize situations as happened about Sri Lanka last week, and that consultation remains an important aspect of diplomacy.

But one must not be misled into the belief that Navi Pillay and the likes of her will be silenced for long. Those who peddle unsubstantiated statements about the situation in Sri Lanka's north, especially with regard to the IDPs who have come over to government held areas despite many hardships and threats, and the Tamil civilians who continue to be forcibly held by the LTTE, are mushrooming around in the well orchestrated propaganda barrage by the militarily struggling LTTE. Regrettably, these include international news agencies which appear to have associated press relations with LTTE propagandists, who are ready to spread the "Gospel according to the Tamil Net" far and wide in, clear and deliberate attempts to discredit the Sri Lanka government and provide whatever relief possible to the terror driven LTTE.

Navi Pillay's unverified and unsubstantiated charges against Sri Lanka include the following paragraph: "Despite the Government's designation of safe - or "no fire" - zones for civilians, repeated shelling has continued inside these zones, according to information made available to the OHCHR. Other areas holding civilians have also been shelled. OHCHR said a range of credible sources have indicated that more than 2,800 civilians may have been killed and more than 7,000 injured since January 20, many of them inside the no-fire zones. The casualties are believed to include hundreds of children killed and more than a thousand injured."

Apart from being the core paragraph of an important statement by a UN High Commissioner, the very vagueness of the sources and the deliberate evasion of direct responsibility for what has been said, this entire paragraph, and through this the entire statement, would not have passed muster with a good newspaper editor, even if written by the most senior reporter available. She refers to a "range of credible sources" about "civilians who may have been killed and injured". The casualties are also "believed to include" hundreds of children killed and more than a thousand injured. The OHCHR is certain of nothing but it gets about telling the whole world as the truth exactly what it does not know and seeks to give credibility to such statements with the imprimatur of the UN to support it.

Pro-LTTE bands play in concert

Referring to "safe - or 'no fire' - zones for civilians" the statement brings into question the very presence of the safe zones, and creates the necessary doubt that "no fire zone" is only a fabrication of the Government. This is despite many persons who are not associated with the Sri Lanka Government visiting these zones, including the UN High Commissioner for Humanitarian Affairs Sir John Holmes, and several UN and other foreign relief personnel working in the safe zones.

What Navi Pillay and others who are obviously within the charmed circle of LTTE propagandists, or devout believers in such propaganda appear to be praying for, is the realization of a macabre desire to see a horrific blood-bath in Sri Lanka , which is somehow evading their most morbid expectations.

The real sources for the OHCHR statement are not difficult to find. In an Op-Ed piece by Lakhdar Brahimi, titled "A slaughter waiting to happen" in the International Herald Tribune of March 19, states that: "According to U.N. figures, 2,300 civilians have already died and at least 6,500 have been injured since January. Some 500 children have been killed and over 1,400 injured." It is a convenient juggling of the numbers that will show the link. The IHT piece has 2,300 civilians killed and 6,500 injured - just a difference of 500 either way, not to be seen repeating the perceptible LTTE devotee Navi Pillay. The writer remains in tow with the OHCHR statement that hundreds of children have been killed and more than a thousand injured. For the record, the writer, Lakhdar Brahmi, is well connected to the International Crisis Group (ICG) which has suddenly emerged as a strong supporter of international pressure on the Sri Lanka Government to have a ceasefire, which the LTTE is canvassing for through all its known and hidden agents worldwide.

The same article opens by stating: "The already severe humanitarian crisis in Sri Lanka is on the brink of catastrophe. It will take the quick arrival of humanitarian relief and high-level international political muscle to bring the nightmarish situation to an end and prevent a slaughter." So it is international muscle power that is sought, and one can be certain that such muscle power will not be used against the LTTE, who according to all these do-gooders and lovers of peace are the liberators of the Tamils it continues to hold through force arms. The muscle power sought is definitely against the Sri Lankan government that is fighting its own, and an important part of South Asia 's war against terror. None of these organizations seek such "international political muscle" against the use of drones to carry out bombing raids and missile attacks over Pakistani territory to curb the Taliban, as they claim to do, or against the increasing number of civilians, including women and children killed in Afghanistan almost daily. Canadian doubles

At last Thursday's Media Briefing the Minister for Disaster Management and Human Rights Mahinda Samarasinghe mentioned the freedom that LTTE supporters or members had in Toronto , Brussels and Geneva when they carried out demonstrations against Sri Lanka on March 16. In the well orchestrated demos every participant was seen carrying LTTE flags, especially in two cities, Toronto and Brussels , of countries where the LTTE is proscribed as a terrorist organization. Sri Lanka will no doubt raise this matter with the government's concerned.

Whether this is an aspect of the freedom of expression or not, or whether the glorifying of a terrorist organization is in keeping with the proscription imposed on the LTTE, it is relevant to quote what the Canadian "National Post" had to say about this undisguised support for terror.

The National Post of March 18 said: "As members of this editorial board watched tens of thousands of Tamil Canadians throng downtown Toronto on Monday, we couldn't help but be struck by a curious double-standard that afflicts Canadian ethno politics. To wit: Why are Canadian Tamils permitted to express support for terrorism in a manner that would be considered outrageous if the demonstrators were Arab or Muslim?"

"The rally that took place in Toronto on Monday was not just, as organizers claimed, an expression of support for Tamil civilians in war-torn Sri Lanka . Many of the participants carried flags of the Tamil Tigers, a terrorist group that practices suicide bombings and abducts children to use as soldiers. (In 2006, Canada 's federal government officially designated the Tamil Tigers a terrorist group, a move that criminalized the group's fundraising efforts in this country.) Some of the banners displayed on Monday (March 16) also depicted Tiger leader Velupillai Prabhakaran, a wanted mass murderer who personally authorizes the acts of terrorism the group has committed over the last three decades.

Pro-LTTE bands play in concert

The article referred to, Mr. Michael Ignatieff recently denouncing "Israel Apartheid Week" when he saw it was being used as a cover for poisonous attacks against the Jewish state and Jason Kenney, the Minister of Citizenship, Immigration and Multiculturalism, lashing out against the Canadian Arab Federation for its leader's unhinged attacks against the Israel "This zero-tolerance attitude toward terror-apologism is praiseworthy -- but we would like to see it applied across the board. The Sinhalese Sri Lankan victims of Tamil Tiger terrorism are no less deserving of support than the Jewish residents of Ashkelon or Sderot." The National Post said.

The reason for this double standard is obvious: There are more than 200,000 Canadians of Sri Lankan Tamil descent in Canada , enough to comprise a swing vote in suburban Toronto-area ridings.

The message must be: Terrorism is a criminal affront to Canadian values, wherever it is practiced. Just because Canadians don't pay as much attention to Sri Lanka as they do to Israel doesn't change that fact" the National Post concluded.

Load-Date: May 5, 2009

End of Document

Defeat for the Tamil Tigers may not end the killing in Sri Lanka

The Daily Telegraph (London)

January 7, 2009 Wednesday

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The Daily Telegraph

Section: FEATURES; WORLD STAGE; Pg. 18

Length: 827 words

Byline: Dean Nelson Sri Lanka

Body

If the Sri Lankan president Mahinda Rajapaksa is to be believed, the ***Tamil Tigers***, the terrorists who inspired a new generation of suicide bombers, are about to be defeated, bringing his country's 25-year civil war to an end.

In the week since his army captured Kilinochchi, the Tigers' administrative capital in the north of Sri Lanka, Rajapaksa has made a series of triumphalist claims, including the boast that this key victory was won without a single civilian casualty.

There is no doubting the military significance of the loss of the Tigers' capital. Since the government abandoned a ceasefire last January, it has pushed the Tigers back towards their last strongholds on the far north of the island.

The civilian courts, police forces and the other trappings of statehood enjoyed by the rebels have been abandoned in the face of the government's relentless advance. And as the Tigers have run for cover in the jungle, their "Sea Tigers" naval force and squadron of "Air Tigers" have had less room for manoeuvre.

Rajapaksa anticipates a final victory and is salivating at the prospect. This week, he compared his "zero civilian casualty" policy with the bloodshed in Gaza and claimed his main priority was feeding civilians trapped behind Tiger lines, even if it meant feeding Tamil fighters, too. "We are feeding the ***LTTE*** [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam]. We won't keep them hungry," he said.

The Tamil cause and the military campaign for autonomy took off in 1983 when youths from the majority Sinhalese Buddhists in the south of the country savaged their Tamil countrymen in a series of pogroms. An estimated 3,000 Tamils were beaten and hacked to death in retaliation for a Tamil Tiger ambush which killed 13 Sri Lankan soldiers. Remembered as the "Black July" killings, they had the effect of radicalising young Tamil students, who then joined the Tigers and other militant groups in large numbers.

The Tigers became one of the world's most brutal and successful terrorist groups. They refined suicide bombing to a new martial art, and assassinated political leaders and attacked military bases. Sri Lankan President Ranasinghe Premadasa was killed by a suicide bomber on a bicycle at a May Day rally in 1993. Three and a half years before that, former Indian prime minister Rajiv Gandhi was killed by a ***female*** Tiger, who detonated a suicide vest at an election rally in revenge for his role in sending an Indian peacekeeping force into the country.

Defeat for the Tamil Tigers may not end the killing in Sri Lanka

The group's creation of Sea Tigers, using small speedboats to attack Sri Lankan Navy vessels, is believed to have inspired the al-Qaeda attack on the American destroyer Cole off the coast of Aden in 2000. The **LTTE** is also regarded as one of the world's most successful illegal fund-raising organisations.

Now, with Sri Lankan troops in control of the Tamil capital, the stage is set for the Tigers' last stand as a conventional military force. They must defend the only part of the island they still control: the Elephant Pass and the jungle coast of the Mullaithivu district.

Rajapaksa may be mistaken if he thinks the war will end quickly, or that crushing Tamil resistance will bring peace to his ravaged country. Diplomats fear the government's "final solution", focusing on crushing the Tigers militarily, may prove to be the recruiting sergeant dreamed of by rebel leaders and herald a newer, bloodier, insurgency.

As Rajapaksa's army has pressed north, Tamil civilians have abandoned their homes and followed the retreating Tiger commanders. According to diplomats, they have effectively been taken hostage, and used as human shields in an attempt to force the army to back off or face a propaganda defeat.

Thousands are believed to have abandoned their homes and some have been forced to move as many as 13 times. Those who stayed put have been forced into government "welfare camps", where they are prevented from working or returning to their lives while they are screened.

As the Tigers prepare for their last stand, diplomats predict a long and bloody battle - **LTTE** officials knew they would not be able to defend their capital and shifted their heavy artillery, planes and speedboats to safe areas. They now have nothing to lose and nowhere to run.

Sadly, there is no plan to transform a military victory into a political peace. An all party committee has failed to produce proposals to address the grievances which sparked the Tamil rebellion, and diplomats fear Rajapaksa's victory will simply change the nature of the conflict into a more dangerous and unpredictable one in which more civilians and tourists could be caught in the crossfire.

The great tragedy for Sri Lanka is that few now care. More than 70,000 people have been killed in 25 years of conflict on the island, but the war between Tamil and Sinhalese, Buddhist and Hindu, on a small tropical island is a long way from the dusty frontlines of the global war on terror and the clash between civilisations closer to home.

Load-Date: January 7, 2009

**International: Civil war: Hospital hit as Sri Lanka conflict nears climax:
Agencies say nine died in shelling of children's ward: President claims Tamil
Tigers are close to defeat**

The Guardian - Final Edition

February 3, 2009 Tuesday

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theguardian

Section: GUARDIAN INTERNATIONAL PAGES; Pg. 16

Length: 796 words

Byline: Randeep Ramesh, South Asia correspondent

Body

Sri Lanka's president said yesterday that the army was on the brink of crushing the Tamil Tiger movement - hours after five artillery shells struck the children's ward of a hospital in rebel-held territory leaving at least nine people dead and 20 injured, according to aid agencies.

Caught in a shrinking war zone are more than 250,000 civilians as the two sides edge towards the final battle after 25 years of civil war. The military claims the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (**LTTE**) is down to its last 600 fighters.

"The strongholds of terror once believed to be invincible . . . have fallen in rapid succession, bringing the final elimination of terror from our motherland," President Mahinda Rajapaksa said in a message to mark the country's 61st independence day, which will be celebrated tomorrow.

The destruction at the hospital, witnessed by aid workers, highlights how bloody the fighting has become. The first shell hit the hospital in Puthukkudiyiruppu, known as PTK, on Sunday, killing two people and injuring five, the Red Cross said. The United Nations said the attacks continued and its 15 staff and 81 family members had taken refuge in bunkers.

The dead included a four-year-old girl, a relative of a UN staff worker.

Gordon Weiss, a spokesman for the UN in Colombo, said the hospital was one of the last functioning health institutions in rebel-held territory, with beds for 500 patients. He could not say why anybody would target it.

"Our office is next to the hospital in PTK," Weiss said. "The hospital is the main refuge for people in the area. It is overflowing with kids and **women**. We are very concerned as both sides are using artillery. The last communication that we had from our staff member on the ground was that they were still counting the dead."

The Red Cross called on both sides to stop shelling, saying in a statement that "wounded and sick people, medical personnel and medical facilities are all protected by international humanitarian law. Under no circumstance may they be directly attacked."

International: Civil war: Hospital hit as Sri Lanka conflict nears climax: Agencies say nine died in shelling of children's ward: President claims Tamil Tigers

The country's defence secretary, Gotabaya Rajapaksa, told Sky News the hospital should not be there, but denied the army had targeted it. "No hospital should operate in the area," he said. "That is why (we asked) all the patients to move."

The death toll has been largely undocumented. The Sri Lankan government has barred journalists from operating in the area, offering only "guided tours" of the nearly 6,000 square miles prised from rebel control by the army.

Last night the Associated Press said it had been given images from the war zone by independent observers who wished to remain anonymous for fear of government retaliation. One from the town of Udakattu, in a government "safe zone", showed a family apparently killed in their sleep by artillery in January. The mother and father lay dead on mats on the floor, still cradling their two children between them. Other pictures were of wounded children.

Dr Thurairajah Varatharajah, the top government health official in the area, estimated that more than 300 civilians had been killed in recent fighting.

The army has denied killing civilians in its attempt to "eradicate" the rebels. The defence secretary blamed the **Tamil Tigers**. "The **LTTE** is trapped," said Rajapaksa. "They are firing shells everywhere . . . these have fallen on civilians."

"We were accused of shelling homes and the proof was that the roof was missing. But it was the **LTTE** who had taken the roofs off the houses. There were no blast marks on the walls."

Last month a former US deputy attorney general, Bruce Fein, a long-time supporter of Tamil causes, said there was enough evidence to prosecute both the defence secretary and Sri Lanka's army chief under the United States's Genocide Accountability Act. Sri Lanka's defence secretary is a US citizen and the army chief holds an American green card.

Robert Evans, a Labour MEP who chairs the European parliament delegation for relations with south Asia, blamed the Sri Lankan military for attacking its "own people". He said: "Now we have news that hospitals and ambulances have been hit by shelling, the situation has parallels with the attacks in Gaza."

The Tamil people who lived in the Vanni - the vast forested area that used to be under **LTTE** control - have been scattered to either India, camps in central and eastern Sri Lanka or left within the shrinking Tamil Tiger-controlled zone, thought to be barely 100 square miles.

The rebels have fought since 1983 for a separate homeland after decades of marginalisation by governments controlled by the Sinhalese majority. More than 70,000 people have been killed in the civil war.

Leader comment, page 28

250

The number in thousands of civilians estimated to be left in the rebel-held area. The government says the number is smaller

Load-Date: February 3, 2009

17 die in suicide bombing in Sri Lanka: military

Japan Economic Newswire

February 9, 2009 Monday 9:19 AM GMT

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Section: INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Length: 230 words

Dateline: COLOMBO Feb. 9

Body

At least 17 people were killed and 45 others injured when a suspected rebel suicide bomber blew herself Monday at a center set up to protect civilians fleeing fighting between government soldiers and Tamil Tiger rebels in northeastern Sri Lanka, the defense ministry said.

The incident occurred in the Mullaittivu district at around 11:30 a.m. after the bomber, believed to be sent by the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam, arrived among the civilians who were being screened by security forces, the ministry said in a statement.

The casualties included military personnel, women and children, it said.

"Observers of LTTE activity have expressed concerns over the likelihood of the LTTE increasing such attacks targeting civilians," the ministry said, noting that the rebels last week used a 13-year-old child suicide bomber against advancing government troops.

The Tamil Tigers, for their part, claim that dozens of civilians are being killed daily in indiscriminate artillery shelling by the Sri Lanka Army of densely populated areas held by the rebels.

A string of military victories since July 2007 has drastically shrunk territory under LTTE control and left the rebels boxed into an area of less than 200 square kilometers in Mullaittivu.

The Tamil Tigers have been fighting for a separate homeland for ethnic Tamils on the island dominated by Sinhalese for more than three decades.

Load-Date: February 10, 2009

18 wounded in Sri Lanka train bombing

Agence France Presse -- English

June 4, 2008 Wednesday 1:16 PM GMT

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Length: 550 words

Byline: Mel Gunasekera

Dateline: COLOMBO, June 4 2008

Body

Eighteen people were wounded near the Sri Lankan capital Wednesday when suspected Tamil Tiger rebels set off a bomb alongside a packed commuter train, officials said.

The bomb exploded between Colombo's Wellawatte and Dehiwela areas when the train was rolling past, police spokesman Ranjith Gunasekera said.

The blast came nine days after a similar attack against a commuter train -- also blamed on the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (**LTTE**) -- killed nine people and wounded 84 others.

"It is believed that the bomb had been triggered to target the Colombo-bound and highly crowded passenger train. Eighteen civilians, 15 males and three **females**... have already been admitted to hospital," the island's defence ministry said in a statement.

"It was definitely an attack by the **LTTE**. There is no doubt about it," the military's spokesman, Brigadier Udaya Nanayakkara, told AFP.

According to the train's driver, around 1,500 people were on board when the bomb exploded.

The rebels, who are fighting for an independent Tamil state, were not immediately available for comment.

Police commandos at the scene told AFP that the bomb, which weighed around five kilograms (11 pounds), had been laid on a stretch of track parallel to where the train was passing.

Eyewitnesses said the force of the blast had split a section of track in half. Two railway compartments were also slightly damaged.

Colombo has blamed the **Tamil Tigers** for a string of bomb attacks in May that left at least 32 people dead and more than 100 injured.

But on Saturday, **LTTE** political chief B. Nadesan told the pro-rebel Tamilnet.com website that the rebels were not targeting civilians.

18 wounded in Sri Lanka train bombing

"The **LTTE** categorically denies responsibility for the attacks on civilians in Sri Lanka. We never mean ill-will against the Sinhalese people," he was quoted as saying.

But Wednesday's blast comes two days after the **LTTE** accused Sri Lankan army commandos of setting off a fragmentation mine inside rebel territory in the north, killing six civilians including two children.

Such complaints of government responsibility for civilian deaths in the north are invariably followed by bombings in the south.

Fighting has escalated in Sri Lanka since the start of the year, when the government pulled out of a Norwegian-brokered truce with the **Tamil Tigers**.

Since then, both sides have traded allegations that each others' forces are targeting civilians.

In fighting elsewhere, the **LTTE** said they "neutralised" an army post in the northern region of Muhamalai on Wednesday.

"Heavy explosions continued for two hours inside the army installation," the Tamilnet.com website reported, adding that security forces "suffered heavy casualties in the artillery barrage."

The report did not give details of rebel casualties.

There was no immediate comment from the defence ministry.

The ministry Wednesday reported killing 17 Tiger rebels during Tuesday's fighting across the northern regions of Weli Oya, Mannar and Vavuniya. It placed troop casualties at eight injured.

According to the defence ministry, 4,033 **Tamil Tigers** and 334 government troops have been killed since January. The figures cannot be verified, as journalists are barred from frontline areas.

Sri Lanka's war with the Tamil rebels, who staged their first attacks in 1972, has left tens of thousands of people dead.

Load-Date: June 5, 2008

President invites chief minister Karunanidhi to visit North

Daily Mirror (Sri Lanka)

January 27, 2009 Tuesday

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Length: 572 words

Dateline: Colombo

Body

Colombo, Jan. 27 -- In a smart diplomatic initiative, President Mahinda Rajapaksa invited 'veteran' Indian leader Karunanidhi and his arch rival Jayalalithaa Jayaram of AIADMK, to visit Jaffna and the Wanni and personally appeal to **LTTE** to release Tamil civilians held as human shields at gun point.

"We are ready to provide safe passage for civilians to go to government controlled areas, but it is now up to the **Tamil Tigers** to 'release' these civilians", the President told the Asian Tribune, in an exclusive interview, as troops triumphantly marched into Mullaitivu and cornered the Tigers into a small stretch of some 300 sq km, two years after the ceasefire broke down and Eelam War IV started.

"I have already invited Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M.Karunanidhi to make an official visit to Sri Lanka and meet the Tamil people of Jaffna, as well as those in the East and in the Upcountry, to see for himself how the Tamils in Sri Lanka are living with honour and dignity", Rajapaksa said, hailing the DMK chief as a veteran Indian leader.

Two days ago, to be precise on the eve of PM Singh's coronary by-pass, Karunanidhi made his 'final' appeal for a ceasefire in Eelam War IV to Prime Minister Manmohan Singh. Without making any reference to this 'appeal', the President observed: 'if Karunanidhi is interested in a ceasefire he can persuade the **Tamil Tigers** to lay down their arms and announce it publicly'. He added: 'A veteran political leader for whom I have the greatest respect and regard, he (Karunanidhi) could even bring along with him a delegation consisting of Tamil Nadu politicians on his visit to Sri Lanka'.

"I have extended a separate invitation to Tamil Nadu's opposition leader J.Jayalalithaa to visit Sri Lanka and see for herself the prevailing situation in the country", said Rajapaksa.

The President speaking further said, 'As a respected voice of the Tamils in the world, Karunanidhi should come forward to appeal to the leaders of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam to free the Tamils from their clutches'. He put the number of Tamils held back by the Liberation Tigers as anywhere between 150 and 200 thousand. The area presently under the **Tamil Tigers** is no more than 350 to 400 sq kms, down from 5,000 sq kms held by them when Eelam War IV started in 2006.

"The **LTTE** is holding them as human shields for its own safety and security. They are all being kept back in the Wanni at gun point. Even **women**, old people and children are not being allowed to leave the area despite appeals by United Nations and the international community", the Sri Lanka President said when asked about efforts made so far to secure release of civilians. "It is really unfortunate", Rajapaksa said, "Tigers are even breaching Tank bunds to flood the area and stop civilians leaving their areas into the liberated areas".

President invites chief minister Karunanidhi to visit North

The President also told Asian Tribune that the Tamil Nadu Chief Minister should meet leaders of the LTTE in the Wanni and talk them into letting innocent Tamil civilians go.

'He can also persuade the Tamil Tigers to lay down their arms and announce it publicly so that the arms can be handed over in a mutually acceptable way, as proposed by Karunanidhi and the Sri Lankan Government.

Calling the TNA parliamentarians LTTE proxies, President Rajapaksa made a fervent plea to Tamil Nadu not to be misled and misdirected by the TNA politicians.

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Load-Date: May 6, 2009

Column: Need for new global conventions

University Wire

February 17, 2009 Tuesday

Copyright 2009 Harvard Crimson via U-Wire

Length: 858 words

Byline: By Thrishantha Nanayakkara, Harvard Crimson; **SOURCE:** Harvard

Dateline: CAMBRIDGE, Mass.

Body

On Feb. 9, an LTTE suicide bomber killed herself inside a crowded transit camp maintained by the government for displaced Tamil civilians in northern Sri Lanka. She killed and injured scores of Tamil men, women and children awaiting transport to safer areas. A day later, the LTTE shot and killed 19 civilians as they attempted to cross over to government held areas. The incident was not widely reported in international media, perhaps due to its low political appeal. However, it is absolutely imperative that we resolve-as a global community-that no rebel group or government be allowed to commit such crimes against humanity again.

As a Sri Lankan who has spent most of his life in a brutal conflict between the government and the LTTE-also known as the Tamil Tigers-I have seen many instances in which crime against helpless civilians could have been avoided had the global community devised better mechanisms and conventions to those affected by conflict.

Just as gravity pulls together the local chaotic movements of water droplets to orchestrate the outer geometric identity of a waterfall, conventions pull together human turmoil to orchestrate the notion of humanity. The Tamil Tigers can perpetrate the above crime and face mere condemnation from a few countries, because almost no convention to protect war-affected communities exerts enough pressure on rebel groups who abuse civilians. Nearly all mechanisms are devised to limit the scope of military action that a government can take to face a rebellion, which has been proven insufficient to protect internally displaced persons. Moreover, this pressure imbalance is often abused by parties with vested interests to interfere in the internal politics of war-affected countries like Sri Lanka, further compounding the vicious cycle for those affected.

Modern conflicts with sophisticated international involvements-combined with the bitter experiences faced by countries like Sri Lanka during the colonial past-often lead such governments to take extreme precautions to ensure no covert foreign force creeps into their internal politics again. This was evident in Sri Lanka when the government ordered all non-governmental organizations except the International Committee of Red Cross to leave rebel-held areas in September 2008. This action was taken after Sri Lankan authorities learned that several NGOs had wittingly or unwittingly given material aid to the Tamil Tigers.

For example, the government's unmanned aerial vehicles identified heavy equipments belonging to an NGO called "Norwegian People's Aid" being used by the LTTE to build a complex network of massive earth bunds around its major strongholds, such as Killinochchi and Mulattivu. Some bunds were longer than 30 miles and rose above 10 feet. When questioned, the NPA replied that LTTE robbed the machinery from them. The government's position was further consolidated when the program officer of another NGO, called "ZOA," stated that he would remain with the LTTE to fight against the government, thus disobeying the demand to move out of the rebel-held area.

Column: Need for new global conventions

The civilians of the country were victimized most out of this political drama. Therefore, there is great need to introduce innovative global conventions to exert adequate pressure on NGOs operating in war-affected countries- especially with a colonial history- to absolutely honor the sovereignty of the country. The pressure from the donors alone has proven to be insufficient in the Sri Lankan case.

Furthermore, in the absence of independent information sources to assess the situation of IDPs trapped between the warring parties, the global community should empower international organizations like the United Nations to use modern technology such as satellite imagery and reconnaissance aircrafts to verify claims made by various parties. For instance, the Sri Lankan government claimed that the **Tamil Tigers** had moved more than six heavy artillery guns into the governmentally declared safe zone to invite return fire to civilian neighborhoods.

The **LTTE**, on the other hand, claimed that the government forces had shelled a hospital in Puthukkudiyiruppu. This hit the headlines of many international media. The only way the government could prove it was false was to take images using a Beechcraft. Had there been powerful global conventions to allow the UN to use modern technology to verify such politically sensitive claims, room for political gains over the lives of innocent civilians could have been blocked. By leaving allowances to political bigotry, we are putting the lives of thousands of civilians at risk.

Due to the fact that communities and their aspirations continue to change, conflicts are an indispensable reality in our societies. My definition of peace is an atmosphere in which harmonious change can occur. Therefore, I am stressing the need to introduce innovative global conventions to exert balanced pressure on all stakeholders in a conflict zone. This would keep disturbances within the frame of humanity, just as gravity orchestrates droplets colliding without repeatable pattern into a waterfall.

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Load-Date: February 18, 2009

18 wounded in Sri Lanka train bombing, say officials

Agence France Presse -- English

June 4, 2008 Wednesday 7:08 AM GMT

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Length: 418 words

Byline: Mel Gunasekera

Dateline: COLOMBO, June 4 2008

Body

At least 18 people were wounded near the Sri Lankan capital Wednesday when suspected Tamil Tiger rebels set off a bomb alongside a packed commuter train, officials said.

The bomb exploded between Colombo's Wellawatte and Dehiwela areas when the train was rolling past, police spokesman Ranjith Gunasekera said.

The blast came nine days after a similar attack against a commuter train -- also blamed on the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (**LTTE**) -- killed nine people and wounded 84 people.

"It is believed that the bomb had been triggered to target the Colombo-bound and highly crowded passenger train. Eighteen civilians, 15 males and three **females**... have already been admitted to hospital," the island's defence ministry said in a statement.

"It was definitely an attack by the **LTTE**. There is no doubt about it," the military's spokesman, Brigadier Udaya Nanayakkara, also told AFP.

According to the train's driver, around 1,500 people were on board when the bomb exploded.

The rebels, who are fighting for an independent Tamil state, were not immediately available for comment.

Police commandos at the scene told AFP that the bomb, which weighed around five kilogrammes (11 pounds), had been laid on a stretch of track parallel to where the train was passing.

Eye witnesses said the force of the blast had split a track in half. Two railway compartments were also slightly damaged.

Colombo has blamed the **Tamil Tigers** for a string of bomb attacks in May that have left at least 32 people dead and more than 100 injured.

But on Saturday, **LTTE** political chief B. Nadesan told the pro-rebel Tamilnet.com website that the rebels were not targeting civilians.

18 wounded in Sri Lanka train bombing, say officials

"The **LTTE** categorically denies responsibility for the attacks on civilians in Sri Lanka. We never mean ill-will against the Sinhalese people," he was quoted as saying.

But Wednesday's blast comes two days after the **LTTE** accused Sri Lankan army commandos of setting off a fragmentation mine inside rebel territory in the north, killing six civilians including two children.

Such complaints of government responsibility for civilian deaths in the north are invariably followed by bombings in the south.

Fighting has escalated in Sri Lanka since the start of the year, when the government pulled out of a Norwegian-brokered truce with the **Tamil Tigers**.

Since then, both sides have traded allegations that each others' forces are targeting civilians.

Sri Lanka's war with the Tamil rebels, who staged their first attacks in 1972, has left tens of thousands of people dead.

Load-Date: June 5, 2008

End of Document

Suicide bomber strikes as 15,000 flee Tamil Tigers

The New Zealand Herald
February 10, 2009 Tuesday

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Section: NEWS; World

Length: 244 words

Body

The Sri Lankan military says a ***female*** suicide bomber blew up explosives she was carrying among a group of soldiers searching civilians fleeing Sri Lanka's northern war zone.

Military spokesman Brig. Udaya Nanayakkara said the bombing injured about 60 people and killed several others. The woman blew herself up while she was being searched.

More than 15,000 civilians have fled the war zone over the past three days, an official said, as government forces appeared poised to crush the separatist ***Tamil Tigers***.

Meanwhile, attacks in the north killed at least 21 rebels during the weekend.

The military's relentless offensive has almost routed the rebels, virtually ending their 25-year war for a separate Tamil nation in the Sinhalese-majority country.

But the United Nations and aid agencies have expressed concern for the estimated 250,000 civilians trapped in the shrinking sliver of land still controlled by the Tigers. International organisations have urged both sides to let the noncombatants out of the conflict zone.

"So far on Sunday, 4600 civilians have come to the government areas," said military spokesman Brigadier Udaya Nanayakkara.

He said 5600 fled the war zone on Saturday and another 5000 crossed over on Friday.

The Government accuses the rebels of holding civilians as human shields, a charge the rebels deny.

The Red Cross said some 400 patients were also stranded in a makeshift hospital in the north. It urged both sides to allow them to be evacuated.

- AP

Load-Date: February 9, 2009

23 die in suicide bombing in Sri Lanka: military

Japan Economic Newswire

February 9, 2009 Monday 11:33 AM GMT

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Section: INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Length: 273 words

Dateline: COLOMBO Feb. 9

Body

At least 23 people were killed and 64 others injured when a suspected rebel suicide bomber blew herself Monday at a center set up to protect civilians fleeing fighting between government soldiers and Tamil Tiger rebels in northeastern Sri Lanka, the defense ministry said.

The incident occurred in the Mullaittivu district at around 11:30 a.m. after the bomber, believed to be sent by the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam, arrived among the civilians who were being screened by security forces, the ministry said in a statement.

The statement did not give a breakdown of the fatalities except to say that eight civilians and three woman soldiers were among them.

The Daily Mirror newspaper, however, reported on its website that 20 soldiers and eight civilians were killed when the bomber detonated herself as a female soldier tried to frisk her.

The defense ministry noted there have been concerns expressed recently over the likelihood of the LTTE increasing suicide attacks and attacks targeting civilians, noting that the rebels last week used a 13-year-old child suicide bomber against advancing government troops.

The Tamil Tigers, for their part, claim that dozens of civilians are being killed daily in indiscriminate artillery shelling by the Sri Lanka Army of densely populated areas held by the rebels.

A string of military victories since July 2007 has drastically shrunk territory under LTTE control and left the rebels boxed into an area of less than 200 square kilometers in Mullaittivu.

The Tamil Tigers have been fighting for a separate homeland for ethnic Tamils on the island dominated by Sinhalese for more than three decades.

Load-Date: February 10, 2009

Take care of Tamils, India tells Lanka

Daily Mirror (Sri Lanka)

February 11, 2009 Wednesday

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Length: 218 words

Dateline: Colombo

Body

Colombo, Feb. 11 -- India yesterday urged the Sri Lankan government to take care of the thousands of Tamil civilians caught up in the war between the military and the **Tamil Tigers**.

Addressing thousands of Congress activists in New Delhi, External Affairs Minister Pranab Mukherjee said India had no sympathy for the **LTTE**, which he described as a terrorist organization. "Almost 200,000 civilian Tamil people are caught up in the crossfire between the **LTTE** and the Sri Lankan troops," he said. "I appeal to the Sri Lankan government to provide them shelter, food and security." Mukherjee's reference is to the mass of Tamil men, **women** and children concentrated in Sri Lanka's Mullaitivu district where troops have cornered the **LTTE** guerrillas in less than 200 sq km area. The Congress leader appealed to politicians in Tamil Nadu, which has witnessed mass protests in support of a ceasefire in Sri Lanka, to "make a distinction between the **LTTE** and the Tamil civilian population". The minister also asked the Sri Lankan government to implement the provisions of the 1987 accord with India related to devolution of powers to the provinces. "We don't support the **LTTE**, we have no sympathy with the **LTTE**, it is a terrorist organisation," he said. Published by HT Syndication with permission from Daily Mirror Sri Lanka.

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Load-Date: April 1, 2009

'End of terrorism is near,' Sri Lankan army chief says

Edmonton Journal (Alberta)

January 26, 2009 Monday

Final Edition

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Section: NEWS; Pg. A8

Length: 426 words

Byline: Amal Jayasinghe, Agence France-Presse

Dateline: COLOMBO

Body

Sri Lankan government troops today are pushing into the last pockets of jungle still held by Tamil Tigers after the capture of the rebels' last urban stronghold and military headquarters.

Soldiers on Sunday overran Mullaittivu, a northeastern coastal lagoon town that was the Tigers' main base for more than a decade, the island's army chief announced in a televised address to the nation.

The Tigers' latest setback follows the loss three weeks ago of their political capital of Kilinochchi, where they had the trappings of a separate state with their own police, courts and a bank.

Army chief Lt.-Gen. Sarath Fonseka said the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam now controlled just a "small strip" of land in the northeast and were completely cornered.

"We have cleared 95 per cent of the work (to defeat the Tigers)," Fonseka said, adding the island's government -- which abandoned a Norwegian-brokered truce a year ago -- was now on the verge of winning one of Asia's longest-running civil wars after a massive ground, sea and air campaign against the rebels.

"The end of terrorism is near and we will definitely win," he said.

There has been no comment from the rebels, and there is no way of confirming any of the claims as independent journalists are barred from travelling to the conflict zone.

Aid agencies and human-rights workers are also barred from areas where the Sri Lanka military is active.

The big question now is whether LTTE supremo Velupillai Prabhakaran -- who has been leading a separatist war against Sri Lanka's ethnic Sinhalese majority since 1972 -- is even still on the island.

What is also unclear is whether the LTTE command structure is still intact, and whether the rebels' can survive the loss of their mini-state and return to fighting a guerrilla war from hidden jungle bases.

The Sri Lankan government has said it had killed thousands of LTTE fighters over the past year, but casualty figures are also impossible to confirm.

'End of terrorism is near,' Sri Lankan army chief says

Army chief Fonseka said last week that Prabhakaran, 54, may already have escaped by sea. Authorities in nearby India as well as Malaysia have said they were on the look out for the rebel leader.

The rebel chief is seen as having no safe havens overseas.

The **Tamil Tigers** were trained and armed by New Delhi in the early 1980s, but Prabhakaran is now wanted by India in connection with the 1991 murder of former Indian prime minister Rajiv Gandhi.

The **LTTE** is also listed by the European Union and United States as a terrorist organization -- infamous for its use of male and **female** suicide bombers and child soldiers.

Load-Date: January 26, 2009

End of Document

Tamil Tigers rebuff claims they killed fleeing civilians

Ottawa Citizen

February 12, 2009 Thursday

Final Edition

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Section: NEWS; Pg. A7

Length: 320 words

Byline: C. Bryson Hull, Reuters

Dateline: COLOMBO

Body

Sri Lanka's ***Tamil Tigers*** yesterday denied gunning down civilians streaming out of the country's war zone, and the Red Cross said 16 patients had been killed in shelling.

Tens of thousands of civilians are trapped in a 175-square-kilometre area held by the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam, surrounded by a military intent on crushing the separatist rebels and finishing a civil war that started in 1983.

Another 2,260 streamed out of the tiny war zone on Tuesday and more were leaving yesterday, keeping up the rapid pace of exodus that started last week, the military said.

On Tuesday, the military accused the Tigers of killing 19 civilians and wounding 69 more trying to flee. Sri Lanka's government, aid agencies and rights groups say the Tigers have forced Tamils to stay in the war zone, which the rebels deny.

The pro-rebel website www.TamilNet.com said yesterday that the rebels blamed Sri Lankan troops for the shooting. The website quoted C. Ilamparithy, whom it identified as the Tigers' political chief for the area in question, Puthukudiyiruppu.

It is impossible to verify either side's claims because the war zone is off-limits to unaccompanied journalists and both sides have engaged in a relentless propaganda duel for years.

Aid agencies say 250,000 civilians are caught in the fighting, although the government puts the number at half of that. The United Nations said on Tuesday it was preparing for an exodus of 150,000 people.

More than 50,000 soldiers are converging on the tiny wedge of jungle in northeastern Sri Lanka, which is all the Tigers still hold. Analysts say they have no more than 2,000 hardcore guerrillas remaining and face conventional defeat.

At least 30,000 people have fled this year, nearly all in the past week, according to the military. That is despite a suicide blast the military blamed on a ***female*** Tigers fighter that killed 29 soldiers and civilians at a refugee encampment on Monday.

Tamil Tigers rebuff claims they killed fleeing civilians

Load-Date: February 12, 2009

End of Document

Tigers bomb Sri Lanka commuter buses, 23 dead, say officials

Agence France Presse -- English

June 6, 2008 Friday 12:18 PM GMT

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Length: 499 words

Byline: Mel Gunasekera

Dateline: COLOMBO, June 6 2008

Body

At least 23 people were killed and 67 wounded in Sri Lanka Friday in two Tamil Tiger bomb attacks on public buses packed with civilians, officials said.

A crowded state-run bus travelling just south of Colombo was peppered with red-hot shrapnel from a powerful fragmentation mine placed on the roadside.

"Twenty-one people have been killed, eight of them are women," police spokesman Ranjith Gunasekera told AFP. At least 47 people were injured and admitted to the nearby hospitals.

Hours later, the rebels set off a bomb inside a bus in the central district of Kandy, killing two people and wounding 20. Police said they were holding a suspect in connection with the attack.

Military spokesman Brigadier Udaya Nanayakkara blamed the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) for both "cowardly attacks."

Survivors of the morning explosion said the bus was knocked sideways by the force of the explosion.

"I was standing in the middle of the bus when there was a loud noise and the whole bus toppled to the side," said 21-year-old office worker Shanika Priyadharshani while being bandaged up in hospital.

"I blacked out for a while. There was black smoke, people were dead around me. I shouted for help and someone pulled me out," she told AFP.

The defence ministry immediately sealed off the area, although no arrests have been reported. Police did, however, discover and diffuse another Claymore-type mine near the scene of the blast.

Sri Lanka's President Mahinda Rajapakse accused the Tamil Tigers of trying to provoke the island's ethnic Sinhalese majority.

"This brutality... shows the efforts of the LTTE to provoke a backlash against the Tamil people from which it hopes to gain," he said.

Tigers bomb Sri Lanka commuter buses, 23 dead, say officials

The **LTTE** have carried out a string of attacks in and around Colombo in recent weeks.

On Wednesday, 18 people were hurt when suspected Tiger rebels set off a bomb alongside a packed commuter train, and on May 26 another attack on a commuter train killed nine people and wounded 84 others.

Each of the attacks came after the **LTTE** complained that government commandos, who operate in small groups known as "deep penetration units", have killed civilians in roadside bombings inside Sri Lanka's rebel-held north.

Hostilities have escalated sharply since the start of the year when the government pulled out of a truce with the Tigers, who are fighting to carve out a separate Tamil state within the Sinhalese-majority island.

Since then, both sides have traded allegations that each others' forces are deliberately targeting civilians.

Fighting in northern Sri Lanka on Thursday claimed 16 **LTTE** members and two soldiers, the defence ministry said Friday.

Casualty figures in the north are impossible to verify as journalists are barred from visiting front line areas or crossing into rebel-held territory.

The Sri Lankan government says that it now has the upper hand in the long-running conflict, with the defence ministry reporting that 4,081 **Tamil Tigers** and 339 government soldiers have been killed so far this year.

Load-Date: June 7, 2008

End of Document

Tigers bomb Sri Lanka commuter bus, 21 killed: officials

Agence France Presse -- English

June 6, 2008 Friday 4:41 AM GMT

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Length: 443 words

Byline: Mel Gunasekera

Dateline: COLOMBO, June 6 2008

Body

At least 21 commuters were killed and 47 others wounded Friday in a suspected Tamil Tiger mine attack on a crowded bus south of the Sri Lankan capital, officials said.

The state-run bus was peppered with shrapnel, an AFP photographer at the scene said, suggesting a powerful fragmentation mine placed on the roadside had been detonated as the bus was passing.

"Twenty-one people have been killed, eight of them are women," police spokesman Ranjith Gunasekera told AFP, adding that around 47 others were hurt.

The military's spokesman, Brigadier Udaya Nanayakkara, blamed the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE).

Survivors said the bus was knocked over by the force of the explosion.

"I was standing in the middle of the bus when there was a loud noise and the whole bus toppled to the side," said 21-year-old office worker Shanika Priyadharshani, while being bandaged up in hospital.

"I blacked out for a while. There was black smoke, people were dead around me. Some were shouting for help. I shouted for help and someone pulled me out and put me into a passing by vehicle and brought me to hospital," she told AFP.

The bomb was the latest in a string of attacks against commuters in and around Colombo.

On Wednesday, 18 people were hurt when suspected Tiger rebels set off a bomb alongside a packed commuter train.

And on May 26, another attack on a commuter train -- also blamed on the LTTE -- killed nine people and wounded 84 others.

Each attack came after the LTTE complained that government commandos, who operate in small groups known as 'deep penetration units', have killed civilians in roadside bombings inside Sri Lanka's rebel-held north.

Tigers bomb Sri Lanka commuter bus, 21 killed: officials

Hostilities have escalated sharply since the start of the year when the government pulled out of a truce with the **Tamil Tigers**, who are fighting to carve out a separate Tamil state within the Sinhalese-majority island.

Since then, both sides have traded allegations that each others' forces are deliberately targeting civilians.

The **LTTE** said two civilians were killed late Thursday in a roadside mine in the north by an army deep penetration unit, and that six civilians died in a similar attack on Monday night.

Last month, the rebels accused government commandos of killing 19 people in mine attacks.

Sri Lanka's military refuses to comment on its covert operations in the north.

Casualty figures in the north are impossible to verify as journalists are barred from visiting front line areas or crossing into rebel-held territory.

The Sri Lankan government says that it now has the upper hand in the long-running conflict, with the defence ministry reporting that 4,081 **Tamil Tigers** have been killed so far this year.

Load-Date: June 7, 2008

End of Document

Sri Lanka says advancing on Tamil Tiger military HQ

Agence France Presse -- English

November 26, 2008 Wednesday 6:41 AM GMT

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Length: 333 words

Dateline: COLOMBO, Nov 26 2008

Body

The Sri Lankan government said Wednesday its troops were advancing on the **Tamil Tigers**' main military base, as security forces also laid siege to the rebels' political headquarters.

The increase in pressure on the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (**LTTE**) came as guerilla leader Velupillai Prabhakaran marked his 54th birthday and prepared to deliver his annual policy address.

The defence ministry said in a statement that its soldiers were closing in on the north-eastern coastal town of Mullaittivu, where the **LTTE** are believed to have concentrated their forces following recent government gains elsewhere in the north.

"Troops of the 59th division advancing towards the **LTTE**'s most strategic commanding base in (the) northeastern coastal belt, Mullaittivu...are further consolidating and extending their defences," the ministry said.

It said the strategic village of Olumadu, along a main road to Mullaittivu, also fell into government hands after intense fighting.

Sporadic clashes also continued around the northern town of Kilinochchi, the **LTTE**'s political headquarters. Government officials say troops are poised to capture the town.

The past 18 months have been disastrous for the **LTTE**, who want to carve out an ethnic homeland in the north and east of the Sinhalese-majority island.

The rebels were ejected from the east in July 2007 and lost their political chief in a government air raid, while much of their fleet of ships used to smuggle black market weapons into the country has been reported sunk.

The government, which pulled out of a moribund Norwegian-backed ceasefire agreement in January, is now fighting to wrest control of the entire north from the rebels.

President Mahinda Rajapakse has said he will accept nothing less from the **LTTE** than their surrender.

Sri Lanka says advancing on Tamil Tiger military HQ

Prabhakaran's speech, to be delivered on Thursday, is an annual event marking "Heroes' week", when the **LTTE** commemorates the estimated 22,000 Tamils -- many of them **women** and children -- who have died during the 36-year-long war.

Load-Date: November 27, 2008

End of Document

Scores of civilians killed in Sri Lanka suicide explosion (Second Lead)

Hindustan Times

February 9, 2009 Monday

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Length: 267 words

Dateline: Colombo

Body

Colombo, Feb. 9 -- Scores of civilians were killed and several more wounded Monday when an **LTTE** suicide bomber mingling with the civilians fleeing the rebel-held war zone blew herself up Monday in the northeastern Mullaitivu district, a military official said here.

Military spokesman Brigadier Udaya Nanayakkara said that a group of **women** soldiers were screening the influx of **female** civilians when a **LTTE** (Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam) **female** suicide cadre exploded herself at Vishwamadhu Susanthirapuram area in Mullaitivu Monday morning. According to initial reports, a large number of civilians were feared killed and scores wounded in the blast. There were **women** soldiers among the victims, but we do not have the exact casualty details immediately, Nanayakkara told IANS. He said that the wounded civilians have been rushed to the medical centres of the army in the area before being transferred to the Vavuniya and Anuradhapura hospitals. This is yet another desperate attempt by the **LTTE** to prevent thousands of displaced civilians from fleeing the areas controlled by them and enter the government-held areas, he said. The suicide explosion has come at a time when the pro-**LTTE** websites have alleged that scores of civilians were killed in the fast shrinking **LTTE**-held areas due to shelling during the past few days. Denying these allegations, the military said that the **Tamil Tigers** were now holed up in less than 200 square km in Mullaitivu district and were holding thousands of civilians as human shields. Published by HT Syndication with permission from Indo-Asian News Service.

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

Load-Date: April 1, 2009

Sri Lankan troops take last Tiger bastion, rebels flee to jungle

Agence France Presse -- English

January 26, 2009 Monday 1:24 AM GMT

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Length: 543 words

Byline: Amal Jayasinghe

Dateline: COLOMBO, Jan 26 2009

Body

Sri Lankan government troops were Monday pushing into the last pockets of jungle still held by **Tamil Tigers** after the capture of the rebels' last urban stronghold and military headquarters.

Soldiers on Sunday overran Mullaittivu, a northeastern coastal lagoon town that was the Tigers' main base for more than a decade, the island's army chief announced in a televised address to the nation.

The Tigers' latest setback follows the loss three weeks ago of their political capital of Kilinochchi, where they had the trappings of a separate state with their own police, courts and a bank.

Army chief Lieutenant General Sarath Fonseka said the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (**LTTE**) now controlled just a "small strip" of land in the northeast and were completely cornered.

"We have cleared 95 percent of the work (to defeat the Tigers)," Fonseka said, adding the island's government -- which abandoned a Norwegian-brokered truce a year ago -- was now on the verge of winning one of Asia's longest-running civil wars after a massive ground, sea and air campaign against the rebels.

"The end of terrorism is near and we will definitely win," he said.

There has been no comment from the rebels, and there is no way of confirming any of the claims as independent journalists are barred from travelling to the conflict zone.

Aid agencies and human rights workers are also barred from areas where the Sri Lanka military is active.

The big question now is whether **LTTE** supremo Velupillai Prabhakaran -- who has been leading a separatist war against Sri Lanka's ethnic Sinhalese majority since 1972 -- is even still on the island.

What is also unclear is whether the **LTTE** command structure is still intact, and whether the rebels' can survive the loss of their mini-state and return to fighting a guerrilla war from hidden jungle bases.

The Sri Lankan government has said it had killed thousands of **LTTE** fighters over the past year, but casualty figures are also impossible to confirm.

Sri Lankan troops take last Tiger bastion, rebels flee to jungle

Army chief Fonseka said last week that Prabhakaran, 54, may already have escaped by sea. Authorities in nearby India as well as Malaysia have said they were on the look out for the rebel leader.

The rebel chief is seen as having no safe havens overseas.

The **Tamil Tigers** were trained and armed by New Delhi in the early 1980s, but Prabhakaran is now wanted by India in connection with the 1991 murder of former Indian prime minister Rajiv Gandhi.

The **LTTE** is also listed by the European Union and United States as a terrorist organisation -- infamous for its use of male and **female** suicide bombers and child soldiers.

The other big question surrounds the fate of an estimated 150,000-250,000 ethnic Tamil civilians who are still trapped in the battle zone.

The rebels have accused government troops of firing indiscriminately at civilians, while the government says locals are being held hostage and used as "human shields."

Tens of thousands of people have been killed since the conflict began.

But Sri Lankan President Mahinda Rajapakse said in a New Year's address that 2009 would be the year of "heroic victory" over the Tigers and an end to the war.

The president has promised a political solution to the island's long-running ethnic strife, but only once the rebels are totally defeated.

aj-sas/dwa

Load-Date: January 26, 2009

Sri Lanka rebels claim intelligence chief killed

Xinhua General News Service

January 6, 2008 Sunday 1:15 AM EST

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Section: WORLD NEWS; Military

Length: 291 words

Dateline: COLOMBO

Body

The Tamil Tiger rebels claimed Sunday that their head of intelligence was killed by the Sri Lankan Army's deep penetration units (DPU) in the rebel controlled area in the northern district of Mannar on Saturday.

The pro-Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (**LTTE**) website Tamilnet said that Shanmuganathan Ravishankar alias Colonel Charles and three others were killed due to a claymore mine explosion triggered by the Army on the van they had been travelling at Pallamadu area in the Mannar district.

However, the military spokesman Brigadier Udaya Nanayakkara denied such an operation by the Army. "We do not operate deep penetration units. They must have been killed in our operation in Adampan (Mannar) yesterday (Saturday). We destroyed six **LTTE** bunkers there and found six bodies including two **females** of **LTTE**", Nanayakkara told Xinhua.

Restrictions on the operation of deep penetration units by the Army figured as one condition in the February 2002 ceasefire agreement between the **Tamil Tigers** and the government.

Under the DPU operations the Army units deployed themselves in the **LTTE** controlled areas under cover and carried out assassinations. The Army has repeatedly denied such operations.

The ceasefire agreement is now set to come defunct on January 16 in 10 days time. The government has already given the 14 day notice required to abrogate it.

During the near six years of its existence, both sides were accused of its violations, most of which was blamed on the **LTTE**, including the assassination attempts on the Army Commander Lt Gen Sarath Fonseka and the Sri Lankan President's brother Gotabhaya Rajapakse who is the top civil servant overlooking the military campaign against the rebels.

Load-Date: January 8, 2008

SRI LANKAN JETS BOMB SUSPECTED FEMALE SUICIDE TIGER BASE

Indo-Asian News Service

October 30, 2008 Thursday 6:01 PM EST

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Length: 301 words

Byline: C. Uday Bhaskar Report from Indo-Asian News Service brought to you by HT Syndication.

Dateline: Colombo

Body

Colombo, Oct. 30 -- (IANS) The Sri Lankan Air Force Thursday bombed a suspected training base of **female** suicide cadres of the **Tamil Tigers** amid fierce ground battles in the country's north.

The jets made "precision raids" at a Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam training facility at Vallipuram, six kilometres northwest of Puthukkudiyiruppu in Mullaitivu, around 10 a.m., the defence ministry said.

The rebel heartland of Mullaitivu is located some 350 km northeast of Colombo.

Quoting air force sources, it said the air strikes followed "reliable information received on intense terrorist activity at the location.

"The target was a most frequented site of the **LTTE**'s intelligence wing chief Pottu Amman," the defence ministry said, adding that armoured vehicles mounted with anti-aircraft guns were observed rushing to the target site following the attack.

"According to intelligence reports, the terrorists were conducting a discreet 'dry practice session' involving a large number of **female** terrorists," it said.

There was no immediate reaction from the **LTTE**.

Earlier, on Sep 27, the air force claimed to have conducted a similar strike on a suspected **LTTE female** suicide training base at Rathnapuram in Kilinochchi, 250 km north of here.

The latest bombings came a day after **LTTE** aircraft carried two bombing raids Tuesday night, targeting a military camp in the north-western Mannar district and a power plant in Colombo.

Meanwhile, military spokesman Brigadier Udaya Nanayakkara told IANS that troops had captured "the heavily-fortified **LTTE** forward defence lines" at Nachchikuda in the west of Kilinochchi district by Wednesday evening.

Nachchikuda is known to be **LTTE**'s last naval point in the northwestern coastal belt of the island.

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SRI LANKAN JETS BOMB SUSPECTED FEMALE SUICIDE TIGER BASE

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Load-Date: October 30, 2008

End of Document

'Endgame' For LTTE

Daily News (Sri Lanka)

March 6, 2009 Friday

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Length: 2108 words

Dateline: Colombo

Body

Colombo, March 6 -- Army Commander Lt. General Sarath Fonseka during his visit to Vanni Security Forces headquarters to assess the ground situation in the Vanni liberation operation on Wednesday has told the field commanders that all possible safety measures should be taken with utmost precision when conducting offensive operations in the remaining area under LTTE control.

According to the Army Commander the LTTE has been left with only 45 square kilometers including the safety zone declared for civilians trapped inside Tiger controlled areas. The number of civilians trapped inside this narrow land stretch is around 76,000 according to estimates by Government officials. Prerequisite Therefore, it has become a prerequisite on the part of the Security Forces, as said by the Army Commander Lt. General Sarath Fonseka, to take maximum safety measures to ensure their safety inside this narrow stretch of land. Amid this background, the final battle against the LTTE is going to be tricky for the Security Forces as they are responsible for each and every civilian life entrapped there irrespective of the fact that they are fighting against the most ruthless terror outfit in the world. The Sri Lankan Security Forces, unlike other nations which carried out indiscriminate bombing against their enemy, from the beginning have displayed its capability to react to such sensitive situations maintaining a minimum civilian casualty rate and trying their best to maintain a zero casualty rate. On the other hand, Sri Lankan Security Forces cannot act irresponsibly as they are engaged in a humanitarian operation to liberate the innocent Tamil civilian population who are also a part of the Sri Lankan nation, from the clutches of a terror outfit. Final battle Therefore, the final battle which is now on in Puthukuduyiruppu in the true spirit has turned into a humanitarian operation and each and every step in this battle has become crucial because of the following factors. The first factor is that the LTTE has been confined to 45 square kilometers with its depleting strength estimated to less than 600 well trained cadres. From that 45 Square Kilometres a narrow stretch of 12 Km on the North of Mullaitivu has been demarcated as a safety zone for civilians estimated to be around 76,000. The crucial factor is that these civilians are still living under the control of the LTTE and all the Tiger leaders including Velupillai Prabhakaran, Intelligence Wing Leader Pottu Amman, Sea Tiger leader Soosai and other military leaders like Bhanu and Swarnam are still living in this limited area. According to military intelligence the LTTE is still having fare stocks of arms and ammunition to fight with the Security Forces for months despite the Security Forces capturing many of their arms and ammunition stocks in the newly captured areas. The LTTE is having such a massive stock of arms for their ground level cadres to use 12.7 mm heavy machine gun as their personnel weapon. This has been witnessed in the Puthukudiyiruppu battlefield within the past few weeks due to the stiff resistance from the Tiger cadres operating in the front lines. The most precarious and alarming situation is that the LTTE still has the possibility to make use of the trapped civilians to fill its depleting strength and put them forcibly into the front lines at least to direct fire at the advancing troops. It is an easy task for the LTTE as they have given basic weapon training for each and every civilian aged between 12 and 55. Pathetic situation Under these circumstances these civilians will have to face a pathetic situation as Security Forces can easily direct fire at them as long as these civilians are holding guns

'Endgame' For LTTE

against the advancing troops. So the LTTE will very soon expose its true nature and the international community will realise as to why the LTTE kept those civilians under their arrest for such a long period when things unfold within the next few days. The Security Forces who have surrounded the remaining Tiger territory from the South West and North are expecting a worst kind of terror reaction once they make inroads into the centre of Iranapalai where LTTE is having its nerve centre with all its top rung leaders operating from there. According to ground realities once each battle formation engaged in the final battle in Puthukudiyiruppu advance another four Kilometers that will be the end of the Tiger outfit and will be end of all battles against the LTTE. To achieve this the 58 Division under the Command of Brigadier Shavendra Silva, 55 Division under the command of Brigadier Prasanna Silva, Task Force VIII under the command of Colonel G.V. Ravipriya and the 53 Division under the Command of Major General Kamal Gunaratne are making determined efforts as they see the end of the tunnel as of now. Currently the 55 Division is located in the North of Puthumattalan and advancing towards the 'Safe Zone' along the beach front from the North to South direction, and the 58 Division is operating in the North of A-35 road and advancing into the centre of Iranapalai from the North to South and West to East direction and area covering the crucial part of the Tiger territory at present. The Task Force VIII under the command of Colonel G.V. Ravipriya and the 53 Division under the command of Major General Kamal Gunaratna are making inroads into the centre of Puthukudiyiruppu from South to North direction. All these battle formations are marching amidst stiff resistance from the LTTE. The LTTE is making maximum use of fire power against the advancing troops locating their long range artillery guns inside the Safe Zone declared by the Government. Artillery support Therefore, the troops giving artillery support has no option but to wait and see when hundreds of our troops sustaining injuries in the battlefield with no option available to them to neutralize Tiger artillery guns. It was amidst this situation 58 Division troops commanded by Brigadier Shavendra Silva managed to capture the Puthukudiyiruppu junction on Tuesday around 6.45 a.m. The Task Force VIII troops led by Colonel G.V. Ravipriya and commanded by 53 Division GOC Major General Kamal Gunaratne also moved into the Puthukudiyiruppu junction after 58 Div troops moved there on Tuesday morning. Scores of Tiger cadres were killed during the fierce battles that raged surrounding the Puthukudiyiruppu junction as 58 Division changed its West to East march and directed troops towards this key junction on Sunday morning. It was after 48 hours fighting the Infantrymen of the 9 Gemunu Watch under the command of Lt. Colonel Lal Chandrasiri and 12 Gajabha Regiment under the command of Major Saliya Amunugama played the key role in capturing Puthukudiyiruppu junction under the command of 582 Brigade Commander Lt. Colonel Sanjay Wanigasinghe. The 1Gajaba Regiment and 4 Vijayaba Infantry Regiment attached to the Task Force VIII also joined hands with the 58 Division troops in securing the entire Puthukudiyiruppu junction having entered the Puthukudiyiruppu junction from the South of A-35 road. Main concern The main concern of the 58 Division is now focused on the Iranapalai located in the North East of Puthukudiyiruppu city centre where the LTTE has located their main operations rooms of their top level leaders. As 58 Division troops are marching towards Iranapalai area amidst securing the remaining parts of the Puthukudiyiruppu town, the 55 Division under the command of Brigadier Prasanna Silva is also advancing towards the edge of the No Fire Zone in Puthumattalan. Counter attacks Baffled by these moves by the 55 Division with the commencement of its southward advance from Chalai from last Friday, the LTTE is making continuous attempts to stop the 55 Division reaching Puthumattalan area. Last Friday and Saturday the LTTE launched six counter attacks as the 55 Division troops captured Tiger defence line in Puthumattalan North defence line. There have been 15 counter attacks by the LTTE to recapture the defence line. According to ground troops LTTE Sea Tiger Leader Soosai and top rung leader Lawrence led the battles and sent flotilla of boats to launch these counter attacks in support of their ground cadres. The ground troops of the 55 Division fighting in this narrow stretch of land had to counter these Sea Tiger attacks themselves using their heavy weapons against the flotilla of boats. The second attempt to recapture this defence line was made on Sunday night by launching yet another attack using more than ten to 15 Tiger boats including suicide boats targeting the narrow stretch of lagoon that separates Chalai area and Puthumattalan North. The 55 Division effectively foiled this attack also effectively destroying at least four Tiger boats in the early hours of Monday. Repeated attacks The LTTE repeatedly attacked the troops advancing towards North of Puthumattalan as they are aware once the 55 Division troops reach the edge of Puthumattalan they are going to lose the entire sea front and also the remaining civilian population in that area. The LTTE wanted to keep this narrow stretch of the sea front open for them to flee the country at any moment. So they would continuously make such desperate attempts to thwart the efforts of the Security Forces advancing towards the Puthumattalan North, as they can operate their boats close to the ground in this narrow stretch of the sea belt. In order to strengthen the defences of the ground troops the 55 Division has also launched small boats to patrol the sea closer to Chalai area. Apart from the main thrusts made by the LTTE against

'Endgame' For LTTE

the advancing troops the LTTE is also making efforts to induct their cadres from the rear of the Security Forces defences. The 55 Division troops experienced such a situation on Monday as they witnessed that a group of four Tiger cadres had infiltrated into the Chalai area from the coast. The 55 Division troops detected this Tiger movement once they found one soldier found dead on the beach closer to a bunker on Monday morning. The troops found two female cadres running towards the jungle patch when they the soldier moving into the bunker was shot dead by somebody. However, troops managed to shoot at one female cadre running towards the jungle and she blew herself when a soldier tried to reach towards wounded female cadre. When the soldier who reached closer to the suicide cadre the other female cadre ordered her to blow off her suicide kit. The soldier reached closer to that female cadre was also killed in that blast. The troops recovered four packs in the vicinity of the blast and found that the four packs were containing essential items enough for weeks long operations after infiltrating into the jungle patches. The jungle patch in Chundikulam area gave a real cover for these Tiger cadres to operate without being caught by the Security Forces. The armor piercing bullets, Rocket Propelled Guns and claymore mines weighing 12 and 15 Kg gave a clear signal that they have reached there to launch attacks targeting the movements on the A-9 road which was reopened for military convoys last Monday. Following this incident, troops of the 55 Division launched a massive cordon and search operation in search of the Tiger cadres that may have infiltrated into Chundikulam sanctuary area. A Commando squadron was also brought to the area to intensify the cordon and search operation. It was after a 72 hour operation the Command troops detected the balance three Tiger cadres who were hiding inside the thorny bushes in the Chundikulam sanctuary area. Tiger cadres Three Commando troops were also died when detecting those Tiger cadres. This incident very clearly indicates that the LTTE is not willing to give up their efforts of thwarting the Security Forces advance into their territory. It was with that background Army Commander Lt. General Sarath Fonseka told the field commanders to be vigilant on Tigers attempts to infiltrate into the Security Forces controlled areas from the rear of their defences. This has been witnessed in the Mullaitivu area on February 1, 2009 and their subsequent attempts to infiltrate Security Forces defences in the South of Puthukudiyiruppu using explosive laden vehicles. Like the attempt they made in Puthukudiyiruppu which has been considered the biggest counter attack launched by the LTTE in the two and half year long conflict, the Security Forces are expecting the worst kind of reaction by the LTTE once they are going to face their final destruction at the hands of the Security Forces. Published by HT Syndication with permission from Daily News Sri Lanka.

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Load-Date: April 1, 2009

Fighting intensified in northern Sri Lanka

Xinhua General News Service

January 4, 2008 Friday 1:16 AM EST

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Section: WORLD NEWS; Political

Length: 323 words

Dateline: COLOMBO

Body

At least nine people were killed and 24 injured in northern Sri Lanka on Thursday as clashes between government troops and Tamil Tiger rebels continued, the military said.

Officials from the Media Center for National Security said six Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (**LTTE**) members were killed and over 12 were injured as the troops destroyed six **LTTE** bunkers in Pallaikuli of the Mannar district around 7:30 a.m. local time (0200 GMT).

One soldier was killed while six others sustained injuries in the confrontation.

Also in Mannar, **LTTE** mortar fire targeted a house in Manakkulam area around 11:25 a.m. (0555 GMT), injuring two **female** civilians.

Meanwhile, a pressure mine targeting an army truck exploded in Padaviya of the Mullaitivu district around 9:30 a.m. (0400 GMT), killing two soldiers and injuring four others.

Sri Lanka's Northern Province is now the major battlefield between government troops and the **LTTE** after the military said in mid-July that the entire Eastern Province had been free of rebels.

In a related development, the Sri Lankan government said Thursday that it has notified the Norwegian government about its decision to terminate the ceasefire agreement with **Tamil Tigers**, which means the nearly six-year truce will formally expire on Jan. 16.

Sri Lanka's Ministry of Foreign Affairs said in a statement that this notification was in terms of the agreement signed in February 2002 and will take effect 14 days from the date of this notice i.e. Jan. 16, 2008.

"The government of Sri Lanka today formally notified the Royal Norwegian Government of its decision to terminate the agreement ... concluded on Feb. 22, 2002," said the ministry in a statement.

Claiming discrimination at the hands of the Sinhala majority, the **LTTE** has been fighting the government since the mid-1980s to establish a separate homeland for the minority Tamils in the north and east.

Load-Date: January 5, 2008

Fighting intensified in northern Sri Lanka

End of Document

2nd LD Over 20 killed in suicide bomb attack in northern Sri Lanka

Xinhua General News Service

February 9, 2009 Monday 10:26 PM EST

Copyright 2009 Xinhua News Agency

Section: WORLD NEWS; Science & Technology

Length: 321 words

Dateline: COLOMBO Feb. 9

Body

At least 28 people were killed and 45 others reported injured when a **female** suicide bomber from the **Tamil Tigers** blew herself at an refugee rescue center in northern Sri Lanka Monday morning, the military said.

The blast happened on Monday at around 11.30 a.m. local time (0600 GMT) at the North of Visuamadu in Mullaittivu. A few military personnel are also said to be among the casualties reported, officials from the Ministry of Defense said.

Military spokesman Udaya Nanayakkara said he is still checking the exact number of casualties of the explosion.

Security forces immediately cordoned off the area, while medical units were rushed to the site.

The military said the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (**LTTE**) carried out the attack targeting the civilians in reprisal, for defying **LTTE**'s orders to take-up arms.

The government accuses the **LTTE** of using the civilians as human shields in the present military clashes.

The **female** suicide bomber had arrived mixing up with the civilians who were seeking protection with security force. The bomber had blown herself before being screened, the reports further said.

The civilians have begun to leave the war zone as the military gained territory from rebel control.

The government has urged the rebels to allow free movement for some 120,000 civilians. The international aid agencies say some 230,000 civilians were trapped in the battle zone when the conflict escalated.

The Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (**LTTE**) has lost most of its strongholds as a result of the government's military offensive started in July 2006.

Claiming discrimination at the hands of Sinhalese dominated governments, the **LTTE** has been fighting for more than two decades to carve out a Tamil homeland in the north and east for the minority Tamils.

More than 70,000 people have been killed so far in Asia's longest civil war.

Load-Date: February 10, 2009

2nd LD Over 20 killed in suicide bomb attack in northern Sri Lanka

End of Document

Sri Lankan director in Indian Tamil trouble

Agence France Presse -- English

March 30, 2008 Sunday 1:27 AM GMT

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Length: 594 words

Byline: Bhagwan Singh

Dateline: CHENNAI, India, March 30 2008

Body

A Sri Lankan film-maker has ended up in hospital after making a damning film on the *Tamil Tigers* and trying to have it processed in a studio in a Tamil-majority region of neighbouring India.

Thushara Peiris was set upon by a furious mob outside Gemini Studios in Chennai, capital of southern Tamil Nadu state, on Monday, witnesses said.

He was rescued by film studio staff and police, and flown back to Colombo -- but has lost the original film rolls which are still with the studio.

"They punched me on the eye, on the nose and hit me on my head. I fell on the ground," Peiris, 39, told AFP from his bed in a hospital in Sri Lanka late last week.

"I was ultimately rescued and returned to Colombo the same evening. I want the studio to return my film and the negative without damage," he said.

Sri Lanka's foreign minister Rohitha Bogollagama, meanwhile, promised to use diplomatic channels to secure the release of the film footage, a state-run Sri Lankan newspaper reported on Saturday.

Sri Lanka's Tamil Tiger rebels still command some support in Tamil-majority parts of India, even though they are held responsible for the 1991 murder of former Indian premier Rajiv Gandhi and branded a terrorist outfit by New Delhi.

Peiris' movie is entitled "Prabhakaran," the same name of the Tamil Tiger leader who has been battling Sri Lanka's Sinhalese majority since 1972.

The movie portrays the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (*LTTE*) as a ruthless terror outfit that forces school children to join their ranks -- something that has been well documented by rights groups.

But the film takes the allegations of ruthlessness a step further, with the main character forced into suicide missions despite being pregnant.

Sri Lankan director in Indian Tamil trouble

The ethnic Sinhalese director, however, insisted he was being objective -- even though he admits his inspiration for some of the characters come from accounts given by the Sri Lankan military.

"Those protesters misunderstood my film. They thought it was against the Tamils, but I was only making a statement against terrorism and pointing out that innocent and poor people end up as victims," Peiris said.

The row is the latest display of pro-LTTE sentiment along India's palm-fringed and far southeastern coastline, where fishing communities have close ethnic and caste links to the LTTE's leadership.

Last November, Tamil Nadu's chief minister M. Karunanidhi was labelled an Indian traitor by his political rivals after writing a poem mourning the death of the LTTE's political chief in a Sri Lankan government air strike.

The state has also seen several pro-Tamil Tiger rallies in recent months.

An Indian Tamil group behind the protests, the Viduthalai Chiruthaigal Katchi (VCK), has accused the director of "hurting Tamil sentiments."

"When the right to expression affects communal harmony, we cannot allow it. This film is bound to create law-and-order problems in the state as it clearly hurts the entire Tamil race," VCK leader Thol Thirumavalavan told AFP.

"The film portrays the freedom struggle of Tamils in a poor light as if the freedom movement is forcing school children to become soldiers and compelling young women to become human bombs," he said, demanding the film be banned in India.

The controversy comes as fighting escalates inside Sri Lanka where government forces are on the offensive after pulling out of a ceasefire with the LTTE in January.

The Tamil Tigers, who are blockaded in the north of Sri Lanka, are believed to get most of their fuel and other essential supplies smuggled across the short stretch of sea from Tamil Nadu.

str-mg/sas/pmc/th

Load-Date: March 30, 2008

Civilians flee Sri Lanka war zone despite suicide strike: govt

Agence France Presse -- English

February 10, 2009 Tuesday 7:34 AM GMT

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Length: 506 words

Byline: Amal Jayasinghe

Dateline: COLOMBO, Feb 10 2009

Body

Thousands of Tamil civilians streamed out of Sri Lanka's war zone on Tuesday despite a suicide bombing that killed 30 people at a centre for those escaping the fighting, a military official said.

More than 6,500 Tamils crossed the frontlines in the northern Mullaittivu region on Monday, Brigadier Udaya Nanayakkara said, as the military pushed on with its offensive to end the ***Tamil Tigers***' separatist campaign.

The government accused the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (***LTTE***) -- as they are formally known -- of carrying out the suicide attack to halt the flow of civilians out of the jungle territory that the rebels still control.

Monday's bombing was condemned by the United Nations and the United States, which backed Colombo's stance, saying that it was an "apparent effort by the ***LTTE*** to discourage Tamils from leaving the conflict area."

International governments and the Sri Lankan authorities have accused the Tigers of holding the civilians as "human shields."

"What we are seeing is that more people are coming over to our side," Nanayakkara said. "The Tigers have also been firing mortars at the routes taken by the civilians, but still they want to escape from the fighting."

Nanayakkara said 10 civilians were among the 30 people killed in Monday's attack when a ***female*** suicide bomber attacked a makeshift shelter where security forces receive internally displaced people.

The ***Tamil Tigers*** issued no response, and no independent verification from the conflict zone was available as journalists, aid groups and international observers are banned from reporting from the area.

Colombo says the number of civilians trapped by the conflict is now less than 100,000, though UN agencies recently placed it as high as 250,000.

"Up to this morning we have 28,250 people registering with us from the start of this year," Nanayakkara said, adding that the volume of fleeing civilians had picked up sharply in the past week.

Civilians flee Sri Lanka war zone despite suicide strike: govt

The defence ministry said government forces on Tuesday kept up attacks against the remaining Tiger rebels, who suffered "heavy damages" and lost 17 fighters.

Amnesty International condemned the suicide bombing and said it should not lead to government retaliation.

"The use of such attacks by one party to an armed conflict does not excuse unlawful attacks in response," Amnesty's Sri Lanka specialist Yolanda Foster said in a statement.

Amnesty said the government's restrictions made it impossible to know what was happening on the ground.

"In a war with no witnesses, it is the civilians who pay the price for both parties' disregard for international humanitarian law," it said.

In a dispute over censorship, the BBC announced on Monday that it was suspending its FM programming to Sri Lanka's national broadcaster.

The BBC said there had been "deliberate interference" with their programmes.

The government has accused individuals from international aid agencies, diplomats and news organisations of being supportive of the **Tamil Tigers**, whose territory has shrunk to less than 100 square kilometres (38 square miles).

Load-Date: February 11, 2009

End of Document

TAKE CARE OF TAMILS, INDIA TELLS SRI LANKA

Indo-Asian News Service

February 8, 2009 Sunday 2:02 PM EST

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Length: 335 words

Byline: Vishnu Makhijani Report from Indo-Asian News Service brought to you by HT Syndication.

Dateline: New Delhi

Body

New Delhi, Feb. 08 -- (IANS) India Sunday urged the Sri Lankan government to take care of the thousands of Tamil civilians caught up in the war between the military and the Tamil Tigers.

Addressing thousands of Congress activists here, External Affairs Minister Pranab Mukherjee said India had no sympathy for the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), which he described as a terrorist organisation.

"Almost 200,000 civilian Tamil population is caught up in the crossfire between the LTTE and the Sri Lankan troops," he said. "I appeal to the Sri Lankan government to provide them shelter, food and security."

Mukherjee's reference is to the mass of Tamil men, women and children concentrated in Sri Lanka's Mullaitivu district where troops have cornered the LTTE guerrillas in less than 200 sq km area.

The Congress leader appealed to politicians in Tamil Nadu, which has witnessed mass protests in support of a ceasefire in Sri Lanka, to "make a distinction between the LTTE and the Tamil civilian population".

The minister also asked Colombo to implement the provisions of the 1987 accord with India related to devolution of powers to the provinces.

"We don't support the LTTE, we have no sympathy with the LTTE, it is a terrorist organisation," he said.

Referring to Pakistan, he said that "terrorism ... has no respect for religion and national boundaries. Every religion speaks of love, compassion and brotherhood, Islam more so".

Without referring to Islamabad by name, he asked "our neighbouring country" to ensure that its territory is not used for terrorist activities."

He said terrorism "would be confronted, and confronted with courage". He added that "all options are open" in the fight against terrorism and that the "perpetrators of terrorist activities should be brought to justice".

India has blamed Pakistani terrorists for the attacks in Mumbai last month that left some 170 people dead, including several foreigners.

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TAKE CARE OF TAMILS, INDIA TELLS SRI LANKA

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Load-Date: February 8, 2009

End of Document

Comment: Response: Civil strife in Sri Lanka began long before the Tamil Tigers existed: The guerrilla movement was formed only after Tamils had suffered 20 years of abuse, says Jeyan Anketell

The Guardian - Final Edition

February 13, 2009 Friday

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theguardian

Section: GUARDIAN LEADER PAGES; Pg. 41

Length: 598 words

Byline: Jeyan Anketell

Body

Your report on the assassination of the independent Sinhalese newspaper editor Lasantha Wickrematunga was accompanied by a timetable headed "Thirty years of civil war" (If you write you'll be killed, 17 January). This sidebar began with the item "1976 - The Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (**LTTE**) is formed", as if this was the starting date of civil strife in Sri Lanka.

In fact the cultural, educational, political and economic discrimination against the 18% minority Tamil population began in 1956: this included the systematic physical abuse (including murder) of Tamil civilians beginning in 1956, while I (a Tamil) was still resident in Sri Lanka. In 1956 supporters of Sinhalese political parties forming the coalition government attacked peaceful demonstrators calling for use of the Tamil language to be allowed in civil and other proceedings. The situation was aggravated by the then prime minister, and a number of Tamils living in the south of the country were attacked, beaten up and even killed, and houses were burned down.

I can remember my English mother's anxiety regarding my Tamil father's insistence on driving the seven miles to work during these four or five days. The violence was all committed by Sinhalese thugs in the Sinhalese south - but the government sent the army into the Tamil north, in order to "keep the peace" (where peace already existed).

Similar Sinhalese-on-Tamil violence erupted again on an even uglier scale in 1958 and subsequently, every four years or so. One example, in 1958, just a few hundred yards from my home, was of a Tamil man who was set upon, doused with paraffin, set on fire and burned to death for no other reason than being a Tamil in a Sinhalese area. There was no Tamil-on-Sinhalese brutality during this time, although some Sinhalese houses in the north were burned down as a result of frustration and anger over violence towards Tamils in the south.

Meanwhile the largely (if not wholly) Sinhalese army remained in the north and behaved like most armies of occupation: abusing and raping **women**, beating up protesting young men and anti-government newspaper editors, and destroying their printing presses, etc. It was in this context of 20 years of increasing abuse of the Tamil population by the Sinhalese government that the **Tamil Tigers** guerrillas were formed. It seems amazing that it took so long for an armed resistance group to be set up.

Comment: Response: Civil strife in Sri Lanka began long before the Tamil Tigers existed: The guerrilla movement was formed only after Tamils had suffered 20 yea....

Wickrematunga was an independent Sinhalese newspaper editor. In Sri Lanka other independent - mostly Tamil but also Sinhalese - journalists and editors have over a period of over 50 years been beaten up, imprisoned and even killed. A Tamil journalist, JS Tissainayagam (one of my own distant relatives) was arrested some months ago and still remains in prison, unconvicted of any crime, after complaining to the police about the destruction of a friend's printing presses.

I imagine others are in a similar situation. The international community needs to act purposefully now if genocide is not to continue.

Jeyan Anketell was a Tamil resident of Sri Lanka from 1941 to 1958 and now resides in the UK

jeyan.anketell@ntlworld.com

The Response column offers those who have been written about in the Guardian an opportunity to reply. If you wish to respond, at greater length than in a letter, to an article in which you have featured either directly or indirectly,

please email response@guardian.co.uk

or write to Response, The Guardian,

Kings Place, 90 York Way, London N1 9GU. We cannot guarantee to publish all responses, and we reserve the right to edit pieces for both length and content

Load-Date: February 13, 2009

All divisions heading to Mullaitivu

Daily Mirror (Sri Lanka)

January 16, 2009 Friday 2:15 PM EST

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Length: 1558 words

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

Dateline: Colombo

Body

Colombo, Jan. 16 -- The Liberation Tigers Tamil Eelam (**LTTE**) fast losing the areas they once occupied are withdrawing further interior towards Mullaitivu area. This is the last stronghold of the **LTTE** and the Sri Lanka Army has been able to restrict the Tigers to a 30 X 20 kilometre land stretch in the north eastern area of the country.

Commencing with capturing of Mavil Aru, after years of fierce battles the troops have now been able to gain control of almost all **LTTE**-held areas except Mullaitivu and its suburbs. On Wednesday the army scored yet another decisive victory over the **LTTE** when they captured the well-known **LTTE** runway in Iranamadu, which is considered the largest air strip belonging to the **Tamil Tigers**. The army also succeeded in capturing the last **LTTE** area - Chundikulam- in the Jaffna Peninsula.

The capture of the Iranamadu main **LTTE** runway is a major achievement of the Army, since the **LTTE**'s light air craft used this runway to conduct several air raids against the country's economic targets and also military targets on several occasions.

The Sri Lanka Air Force jets in earlier instances bombed and heavily damaged the runway on several occasions, but the **LTTE** always managed to repair it after almost every bombing.

Soldiers of the 632 Brigade led by Lt. Col Subhasana Welikala captured the area by Wednesday afternoon. 18 Vijayaba Regiment and 20 Sri Lanka Light Infantry Regiment took part in this operation. Clearing operations are yet underway as the **LTTE** had heavily mined the area before they fled.

Protected by several fences, the area had been banned for civilians and was called as a high security zone.

The **LTTE** had constructed a 1.2 kilometre runway in Iranamadu, capable of even landing a C-130 Hercules transport plane with 15 tons of logistics. Iranamadu is located in the Kilinochchi district west of the A-9 Jaffna-Kandy highway and on the old Jaffna-Kandy road.

In November, 2003 an Sri Lanka Air Force Unmanned Aerial Vehicle for the first time acquired video footage of a considerable clearing in the jungle east of Iranamadu. Later in February, 2004 Air force reconnaissance observed construction work on a runway at this cleared site recommence. Again in September in the same year, the new runway had been paved and threshold and centreline markings added. It is 1.2 kilometers long.

The runway is situated in the thick jungle with a massive bunker line and a trench line around the complex fortified with mine fields and booby traps. A hangar has been found in the complex and it is said that the fleeing **LTTE** cadres have damaged the complex.

All divisions heading to Mullaitivu

Earlier, the military captured the second runway in the Iranamadu area, located some seven kilometres south of the main runway.

On Saturday Troops of Army 59 Division led by Brigadier Nandana Udawatte captured the fourth air strip of the LTTE from Puthukuirippu, located in thick Mullaitivu jungle, about 5km west of Nanthikandal lagoon.

Infantrymen of 9 Sri Lanka Sinha Regiment (SLSR) led by Lieutenant Colonel Janaka Ariyaratne were the first to enter the airstrip. The airstrip is built with a tarmac about a kilometre long and 20m wide. The area was heavily guarded by the LTTE with a barbed wire fence built at a distance of 300m ,around the air strip. The two armour plated hangars and several other huts were also found.

From the runway, there was a track to tow the air craft to the hangars, that was protected by containers filled with sand and concrete. The hangars were covered with camouflage cloth, so that no-one could identify it from the skies. Protected with four barb wire lines, the area had been prohibited for civilians and had named the road leading to the runway as 'Air port road'.

Jaffna Peninsula completely secured

The army on Wednesday completed the capture of the entire Jaffna peninsula when they over ran Chundikulam, north of Chalai sea Tiger base.

The 55 Division led by Brigadier Prasanna Silva marching towards Mullaitivu marked the complete elimination of Tigers writ over the peninsula.

The strip centred Chundikulam, a tiny township between Vettaleikerni and Chalai has been used by LTTE for their sea Tiger operations. Following this capture troops were able to locate a fleet of 125 boats belonging to the Sea Tigers from Chundikulam area which points to the fact that the entire coastal area between Chundikulam and Muhamalai on the eastern coast has been extensively utilized by Sea Tigers for their clandestine operations including the smuggling of arms and ammunition, transport of Sea Tigers and various other terrorist operations.

The 55 Division troops also found the LTTE had left behind two large lorries, five tractors, one earth moving back hoe vehicle, four hundred anti personnel mines, forty anti tank mines ,booby traps and one 100 KV power generator. A senior LTTE Sea Tiger leader identified as "Lieutenant Colonel Thiru" was killed along with several others in this attack.

The fall of Chundikulam meant that Tiger terrorists have been forced to operate only in the seas surrounding Mullaitivu.

With the military closing in on the LTTE last stronghold in Mullaitivu, the operating areas of the LTTE is getting smaller. However some tens of thousands of civilians are being held by the Tamil Tigers in order to use them as human shields. But several thousands of people have managed to escape from the control of the Tigers due to intensified fighting during the last few weeks and reached cleared areas seeking government protection. The latest and biggest ever recorded exodus of civilians within a matter of twelve hours took place early Wednesday as 790 trapped civilians, reached cleared areas under 58 and 55 Divisions in Kilinochchi and Jaffna districts.

One group of these civilians including eighteen males, fifteen females and fourteen children has reached Thimilamadam area on a boat. Another 275 more civilians in three groups have reached different locations of the same 58 Division troops. This group consisted of one hundred and four males, one hundred and five females and sixty six children.

Meanwhile four hundred and seventy four civilians including one hundred and forty two males, one hundred and forty four females and one hundred and eighty eight children reached Kevil in the Jaffna peninsula.

It is now clear that the LTTE's fighting capacity is in tatters. And the LTTE would do whatever harm in order to survive . The government should somehow take out the trapped civilians from the Wanni as with the reduction of the LTTE activities in the area, the troops would be unable to use their fire power to attack the remaining LTTE

All divisions heading to Mullaitivu

cadres due to the civilian presence. If the civilians get injured or harmed it would be major damage for the military as the LTTE would use the incidents for their advantage.

If such an incident takes place, neighbouring India, with pressure from Tamil Nadu politicians who demanded that the Sri Lanka government stop the military operation, would use the opportunity to intervene. But before that situation arises the Sri Lanka government should ask the Indian government to demand the LTTE to release those trapped civilians especially if India is so much concerned about the safety of the Sri Lankan Tamils trapped in Wanni.

At the same time the Sri Lanka government should ask the international community to put pressure on the LTTE to release civilians. The government also should take action to provide all facilities to those who are coming from the Wanni and launch a psycho- social operation in order to get more civilians out of the grip of the LTTE.

It is learnt that with the arrival of a large number of civilians some Internally Displaced People from Wanni are not properly treated due to logistical difficulties. In order to solve this problem a proper mechanism to treat people should be adopted with the participation of all concerned ministries. In the meantime, the LTTE is attempting to keep the remaining 20 kilometres long sea belt under them in order to have an escape route when the troops reach Mullaitivu. It is learnt that the LTTE Leader V. Prabhakaran is planning to escape through this sea belt possibly to India or a African country.

However, the Sri Lanka Navy said that it has been put on alert to avert any attempt at escape by Prabhakaran using the sea.

They said that fast attack craft, speed boats, radars and other equipment are keeping watch throughout 24 hours and the naval craft have been placed in four rings within 25 nautical miles from the Mullaitivu coast. The naval blockade has been imposed around the Mullaitivu coast, the only remaining hideout of the Tamil Tigers.

All divisions heading to Mullaitivu

Meanwhile, 58 Division operating on the A-35 road (Paranthan - Mullaitivu) on the West- East axis has reached the outskirts of Dharmapuram approximately 13Km from Paranthan. Dharmapuram is one of the main LTTE strong holds before Mullaitivu. Compared to other Divisions, the 58 Division was facing lesser resistance from the rebels.

The 57 Division is now operating in Ramanadanpuram, north of Iranamadu and East of Kilinochchi area are advancing their defences amidst heavy resistance from the rebels, while Task Force II marching towards Pudukuduirippu is now operating in Muttiyankandukulam area. Task Force III is now operating in Iranamadu area.

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Load-Date: January 16, 2009

TROOPS REPULSE LTTE FRESH OFFENSIVE

Daily Mirror (Sri Lanka)

March 27, 2009 Friday

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Length: 511 words

Dateline: Colombo

Body

Colombo, March 27 -- Scores of terrorists were reported killed and many injured when troops of the 58 Division pushed back LTTE offensive elements moving towards the military forward defences North of Iranapalai, at the Mullaitivu battlefront on Wednesday, the Defence Ministry said yesterday.

According to the Defence Ministry infantrymen of the 7th Sinha Regiment (SR), 8th Gajaba Regiment (GR) and 20th Gajaba Regiment (GR) engaged intense small arms fire at identified LTTE pockets, are forcing the LTTE to flee in total disarray leaving behind dead cadres. Over a dozen LTTE bodies were observed lying left at the battlefront following heavy fighting that ensued in the area. Sporadic fighting is continuing at the time of reporting while troops lay pursuit on LTTE concentrations ahead of the military defences. According to intercepted LTTE communication, four senior terrorists were reported killed including Kadal, Vardhan Anna, Sooriyan and Eelavan during the confrontations, the Defence Ministry said. Meanwhile the Navy said it had rescued 165 Tamil civilians who had been fleeing from the LTTE in Mulaithivu on the 24th and 25th March. Among the rescued, there were 49 adult males, 59 adult females and 57 children seeking Government safety. The rescued were badly shaken by the ordeal at sea where the unfriendly seas had heightened their fears. Feeling relieved in safer hands, they thanked the Naval personnel profusely for their timely rescue and saving their lives from the merciless gunfire let loose by the ruthless LTTE cadres who have gone berserk due to the desertions by the emboldened Tamil civilians. The exodus of the innocent Tamil civilians escaping from LTTE clutches is now on the rise. This is largely due to the confidence they have placed in the Government Security Forces whose humanitarian operations have helped Tamil civilians to extricate themselves from the terrorists' clutches. A grateful Tamil person who was amongst the rescued, unfolding the details of his and fellow civilians' bitter experiences in the clutches of the terrorists, in obvious anger, gave a pathetic account of the atrocities committed by the terror outfit. He claimed that innocent Tamil civilians who attempt to flee are indiscriminately assaulted, tortured and killed by the LTTE irrespective of their age or status and the food sent by the Government in ship-loads is plundered by the LTTE for their shameless consumption leaving the civilians little to eat. Angry Tamil civilians have now begun to rise against the LTTE and they have even attacked the LTTE cadres destroying their offices and chasing them away. He further claims that when the civilians are isolated, they become vulnerable to LTTE crimes. Many find themselves forcibly taken away by the LTTE and dumped in battlefronts to be used as human shields. At the places where the civilians stay together, they are able to overpower the LTTE and are able to get rid of the terrorists and save their lives, he stated further. Published by HT Syndication with permission from Daily Mirror Sri Lanka.

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TROOPS REPULSE LTTE FRESH OFFENSIVE

Load-Date: March 28, 2009

End of Document

World - Sri Lankan army 'responsible for deadly shelling of Tamil hospital'

Irish News

February 3, 2009 Tuesday

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Section: Pg. 22

Length: 372 words

Body

Three artillery barrages were launched against a hospital in Sri Lanka's chaotic war zone, slamming into its paediatrics ward and its women's wing and 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 aid agency, which has offices in the hospital, said the attacks killed nine people and wounded 20 others, The UN confirmed the hospital was hit several times on Sunday by artillery shells throughout the day.

"It seems to have struck the paediatric ward, a 30-bed ward filled to overflowing," UN spokesman Gordon Weiss said yesterday.

A telephone text message from a UN worker said described the carnage this way, Mr Weiss said: "Women and kids' wards shelled. God, no words. Still counting the dead bodies."

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

The military has repeatedly denied killing civilians in its offensive to destroy the Tamil nationalist LTTE.

Independent reports from the war zone are not available because journalists are barred from the area.

Over the weekend, defence secretary Gotabaya Rajapaksa threatened to expel foreign diplomats, aid agencies and journalists who appeared to be sympathetic to the Tigers by broadcasting images of civilian casualties.

The shelling came amid intensifying fighting between Sri Lankan forces and the LTTE, with an estimated 250,000 civilians trapped in a fast-shrinking zone still controlled by the Tamil Tigers near the island's north-eastern coast.

The UN and other agencies have urged the Tamil Tigers to allow civilians to leave the combat zone and urged the government to spare known civilian sites. The rebels have denied holding civilians hostage and called for a cease-fire.

World - Sri Lankan army 'responsible for deadly shelling of Tamil hospital'

Load-Date: February 3, 2009

End of Document

LTTE AIR RAID FAILS

Daily News (Sri Lanka)

February 21, 2009 Saturday

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

Length: 246 words

Dateline: Colombo

Body

Colombo, Feb. 21 -- Two **LTTE** light aircraft were shot down by Security Forces yesterday night in Colombo and Katunayake following an **LTTE** attempt to bomb the Colombo city and create mayhem.

Air Force spokesman Wing Commander Janaka Nanayakkara said following the detection of two **LTTE** aircraft by the radar, the air defence system was activated. There was a blackout in the Colombo City and suburbs for about an hour after 9.20pm. The Tiger aircraft which dropped a bomb on the Inland Revenue Department was immediately shot down by the Air Force and its remnants were found in the premises. The building was severely damaged. Fifty persons who sustained injuries were admitted to the Colombo National Hospital. Two succumbed to their injuries later. Among the injured were six **women** and a 12-year-old child. Military spokesman Brigadier Udaya Nanayakkara said another **LTTE** light aircraft was shot down at Katunayake. He said the bodies of the Tiger pilot and the wreckage of the **LTTE** aircraft shot down at Katunayake were recovered. According to Negombo Hospital sources six injured were admitted to Hospital. Among them were four **women**. Eye witnesses said there was a blackout in the whole area and they heard a barrage of firing in the air. Residents later said they have seen two light aircraft flying at a low altitude. The Inland Revenue Department was damaged. Buildings in the neighbourhood were affected. Published by HT Syndication with permission from Daily News Sri Lanka.

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Load-Date: April 1, 2009

Sri Lanka bus blast toll mounts - 26 dead, 64 wounded

Indo-Asian News Service

April 26, 2008 Saturday 12:28 PM EST

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Length: 354 words

Byline: Report from Indo-Asian News Service brought to you by HT Syndication.

Dateline: Colombo

Body

Colombo, April 26 -- Two seriously wounded passengers of a bus bombing Friday evening on the outskirts of the Sri Lanka capital succumbed to their injuries in hospital Saturday, taking the toll to 26, military sources said. The bombing left 64 people injured.

The toll Friday evening was 24 dead and 40 wounded.

Military spokesman Brigadier Udaya Nanayakkara said the blast took place in a packed Ceylon Transport Board (CTB) bus just after it left the Piliyantala bus stand for the nearby town of Kahapola.

According to the military spokesman, the death included a Buddhist priest, a child and seven women. The powerful blast blew off the roof of the ill-fated bus.

The injured are being treated in hospitals at Kalubowila, Piliyantala and Colombo, the sources said.

Although no one has claimed responsibility, the military has blamed the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE).

"The LTTE, unable to face the military pressure in the northern battlefront, has carried out this cowardly bomb attack targeting innocent civilians who were returning home," he said.

The latest blast occurred when government troops are locked in heavy fighting with the LTTE in the country's north, where at least 150 combatants were killed and over 500 wounded in a bloody battle Wednesday.

Sri Lanka announced Friday that its troops had captured the Catholic Madhu church in the northwestern district of Mannar from the Tamil Tigers, claiming that the LTTE cadres had beaten a retreat from the shrine area unable to withstand the army advance.

Meanwhile, the defence ministry in a separate report said Saturday that "at least 18 LTTE were killed and similar numbers wounded" during sporadic clashes with the advancing government troops and the LTTE cadres in the Mannar, Vavuniya and Welioya on Friday.

"Troops made further strides into the non-liberated Wanni area after securing the sacred Madhu shrine from LTTE, in two fronts from Palampiddy and Thatchchanamarathamadu," the ministry said, adding that only one soldier was injured during these clashes.

Published by HT Syndication with permission from Indo-Asian News Service.

Sri Lanka bus blast toll mounts - 26 dead, 64 wounded

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Load-Date: April 26, 2008

End of Document

4th LD 28 killed, 64 injured in suicide bomb attack in northern Sri Lanka

Xinhua General News Service

February 9, 2009 Monday 11:10 AM EST

Copyright 2009 Xinhua News Agency

Section: WORLD NEWS; Political

Length: 403 words

Dateline: COLOMBO Feb. 9

Body

At least 28 people were killed and 64 others injured when a **female** suicide bomber from the **Tamil Tigers** blew herself at a refugee rescue center in northern Sri Lanka Monday morning, the military said.

Military spokesman Udaya Nanayakkara said 20 soldiers and eight civilians were killed when the suicide bomber launched the attack around 11:30 a.m. local time (0600 GMT) at the North of Visuamadu in Mullaittivu.

"Twenty-four soldiers and 40 civilians were also injured in the explosion, most of them in critical condition," said Nanayakkara.

The spokesman said most of the soldiers were unarmed at the time as they were making security check on civilians entering government controlled area from the territory controlled by the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (**LTTE**).

Security forces immediately cordoned off the area, while medical units were rushed to the site.

Nanayakkara said the injured have been rushed to the Anuradhapura hospital for treatment and the death figure might increase further.

The Ministry of Defense said in a statement that the **LTTE** carried out the attack targeting the civilians in reprisal, for defying **LTTE**'s orders to take-up arms.

The **female** suicide bomber had arrived mixing up with the civilians who were seeking protection with security force, said the statement, adding that the bomber had blown herself before being screened.

The civilians have begun to leave the war zone as the military gained territory from rebel control, officials said.

The government accuses the **LTTE** of using the civilians as human shields in the present military clashes, but the **LTTE** says the civilians are retreating with them due to their fear for government troops.

The government has urged the rebels to allow free movement for some 120,000 civilians. The international aid agencies say some 230,000 civilians are still trapped in the battle zone.

The **LTTE** has been confined to an area less than 200 square km in the Mullaittivu district after losing most of its strongholds in the government's military offensive started in July 2006.

4th LD 28 killed, 64 injured in suicide bomb attack in northern Sri Lanka

Claiming discrimination at the hands of Sinhalese dominated governments, the **LTTE** has been fighting for more than two decades to carve out a Tamil homeland in the north and east for the minority Tamils.

More than 70,000 people have been killed so far in Asia's longest civil war.

Load-Date: February 10, 2009

End of Document

EU condemns LTTE terrorism

Daily Mirror (Sri Lanka)

June 12, 2008 Thursday 3:51 PM EST

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Length: 615 words

Byline: Daily News Sri Lanka

Dateline: Colombo

Body

Colombo, June 12 -- The European Commission (EC) has reiterated its unconditional support for Sri Lanka's sovereignty and its firm opposition to secession. It has also strongly condemned **LTTE** terrorism in the island.

This European Union (EU) policy on Sri Lanka was articulated by the leader of the EC delegation Joao Aguiar Machado, Deputy Director General for Relations with Asia and Latin America at the European Commission in Brussels, at the 17th session of the Sri Lanka - EC Joint Commission which concluded in Colombo yesterday.

Foreign Secretary Dr. Palitha Kohona who led the Sri Lankan delegation, while welcoming the EC side, underscored the importance that Sri Lanka attaches to its relations with the EU, not least due to the fact that the EU is Sri Lanka's largest economic partner, accounting for 37.5 % of exports.

He emphasized that any perception that the EU is critical of Sri Lanka and supportive of the **LTTE** is absolutely incorrect. Machado stressed that the EU has always been a good friend of Sri Lanka and has unreservedly condemned **LTTE** terrorism, particularly the recent spate of bomb attacks targeting innocent civilians using public transport.

He mentioned the EU - wide ban on the **LTTE** and disclosed that the EC has encouraged member states to pursue vigorous action against **LTTE** activities in their territories.

The Foreign Secretary briefed the EC delegation on current political and economic developments in Sri Lanka, inter alia the restoration of democracy and civil administration in the Eastern Province following the successful conclusion of Provincial Council elections, the APRC process and human rights issues.

In response to a query from the EC delegation regarding the current status of the Peace Process, he stated that Sri Lanka has kept the door open for the **LTTE** to return to the negotiating table, after it makes a firm commitment to peace. Norway remains the facilitator and Sri Lanka appreciates the continued engagement of the EU as one of the Co-Chairs.

While elaborating on the benefits that Sri Lanka has gained from the GSP + scheme, which has provided preferential access for Sri Lanka's exports to the EU market, the Foreign Secretary highlighted the fact that the principal beneficiaries of this facility are 350,000 **women** who are employed mainly in garment factories in the rural hinterland.

Many of these **women** are the sole bread winners of their families, accounting for almost 1 million people. Machado welcomed the recent political developments in the Eastern Province, and expressed EU support for the "relative

EU condemns LTTE terrorism

pacification of the Eastern Province", while noting that the EU was still concerned about the continued presence of armed groups.

Dr. Kohona responded by stating that it is the government policy that only the Sri Lankan government security forces and the police had the legitimate right to bear arms. He reiterated that all armed groups, including the LTTE must be disarmed.

However, he noted that in the past, particularly in the aftermath of the signing of the Ceasefire Agreement (CFA), which required the disarmament of groups other than the LTTE, members of these groups had been systematically and brutally eliminated by the LTTE.

The Foreign Secretary briefed the EC delegation on the forthcoming SAARC Summit to be held in Colombo and expressed the hope that the EU, which is one of the 7 Observers, will be represented at the highest level.

He noted that SAARC has moved away from the traditional mode of merely issuing declarations of intent to positive measures of implementation, which would be of direct benefit to the peoples of the region.

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

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Load-Date: September 16, 2008

More civilians escape Sri Lanka fighting: military

Agence France Presse -- English

March 19, 2009 Thursday 9:07 AM GMT

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Length: 223 words

Dateline: COLOMBO, March 18 2009

Body

Civilians are continuing to flee Sri Lanka's war zone as security forces step up an offensive against **Tamil Tigers**, with another 31 rebels killed, the defence ministry said Thursday.

About 1,000 men, **women** and children left the area still under the control of the rebels on Wednesday to seek shelter with government forces, the ministry said.

It said 650 people had escaped by boat while the others walked through the jungle to reach troops in the coastal district of Mullaittivu where the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (**LTTE**) guerrillas have been cornered.

"These civilians have revealed the continuation of forcible child recruitment by the **LTTE** for battle purposes and brutal killings of individuals and families who defy their orders," the ministry said.

Sri Lanka's government says nearly 40,000 people have left the conflict zone and sought shelter in military-held areas.

The country's military accuses the Tigers of using the civilians as cover, but the UN has said both sides could be guilty of war crimes and crimes against humanity.

The defence ministry said government troops killed another 31 Tiger rebels in separate clashes in Mullaittivu district on Wednesday.

Independent verification of the casualty figures is impossible as most journalists, aid workers and international observers are prevented from entering the conflict zone.

Load-Date: March 20, 2009

Sri Lanka troops capture Tamil Tiger air strip: military

Agence France Presse -- English

January 15, 2009 Thursday 11:39 AM GMT

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Length: 315 words

Dateline: COLOMBO, Jan 15 2009

Body

Sri Lankan troops have captured another air strip used by Tamil Tiger guerrillas as ground battles escalated across the troubled region, the defence ministry said Thursday.

The makeshift jungle runway is the fifth of its type to be overrun by government soldiers, who are rapidly advancing on areas in the north once controlled by the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), the ministry said.

It said the air strip at Iranamadu, south of the Tamil Tigers' former political capital of Kilinochchi, was protected by bunkers and trenches. However none of the light planes used by the LTTE were recovered.

The Tigers are believed to have five Czech-built Zlin-143 aircraft, smuggled onto the island in pieces and re-assembled. The guerrillas last launched an air attack early in September, when they bombed a military base.

Military spokesman Brigadier Udaya Nanayakkara said troops on Thursday captured another village from the Tiger rebels.

"Security forces took control of Dharmapuram village and it is an area where the military had not set foot before," Nanayakkara said.

The air force said it had also carried out three bombing raids in the Mullaitivu region Thursday in support of advancing ground troops. The Tigers are said to have used, among other weapons, a 130mm heavy artillery gun.

The defence ministry said troops had recovered the body of a female LTTE fighter. The ministry did not give details of casualties, but said both sides suffered "damages" during fighting in Mullaitivu district on Wednesday.

The rebels are now almost totally confined to the jungle and lagoon district around Mullaitivu, their main military base on the northeast coast.

Sri Lanka's government pulled out of a Norwegian-brokered truce with the rebels a year ago, and stepped up its bid to dismantle the LTTE's northern mini-state once and for all.

The government now says it is on the verge of total victory.

Sri Lanka troops capture Tamil Tiger air strip: military

Load-Date: January 16, 2009

End of Document

In Sri Lanka, Tamil women suffer the worst of war

Hindustan Times

February 12, 2009 Thursday

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Length: 592 words

Dateline: New Delhi

Body

New Delhi, Feb. 12 -- In one of the biggest hospitals in Sri Lanka's north, many women patients wonder why they survived the fighting between the Tamil Tigers and the military that killed so many of their friends.

A woman in her late 40s frequently breaks down as she lies on a bed in a hospital in Mannar, clutching her son of two-and-a-half years who has lost a leg. Her two other children are missing, residents in the region say. She was among the large number of Tamils escaping from Kilinochchi, the former political hub of the Tamil Tigers, last month when a shell probably fired by the army exploded, ripping apart her son's leg below the knee. Losing no time, she handed over her other two children, a six-month-old son and a daughter of seven years, to a friend as she tried to find help to save her bleeding and wailing son. She managed to reach the hospital in Mannar, where she remains warded. She has no idea where the other children are - and whether she will see them ever again. She also has no news of her husband, who left their home long ago after the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) ordered him to serve their civilian militia. Another patient at the hospital is a girl of 16 years who is left with only her upper torso. A resident of Mullaitivu district, both her legs came off in an aerial bombing seemingly targeted at the LTTE. There is also a 22-year-old woman, seven months pregnant. Half her body got burnt when her house in Kilinochchi caught fire in aerial bombing. Her breasts are charred. Remarkably, all these women are officially under detention at the hospital although some cannot even stir on their own. Since they came from areas the LTTE ruled for years, the doctors have been forbidden from discharging them. Human suffering shows no signs of abating in Sri Lanka's bleeding war. Most of the pain is being borne by Tamil civilians, many of whom are destitute after repeatedly fleeing their homes. As the Sri Lankan military remains poised to seize the last stretch of land held by the LTTE in Mullaitivu, civilians are fleeing from there in hundreds, desperate to get away from it all. Medical personnel say that many of the patients in Mannar are traumatised after seeing scores of bodies along the road as they fled the fighting. Many bodies were torn apart. Many of the injured, reports say, simply bled to death because no help was available. One woman told the doctor: "It is worse than the tsunami. At that time many came to help us. Now there is nobody." Hospitals in the northern districts of Mannar and Vavuniya every day receive dozens of wounded civilians. The really critical cases are sent to Anuradhapura, at the edge of the war zone. Most victims are children, women and elderly men. While the Vavuniya hospital has all kinds of patients, the ones at Mannar are mostly amputees - those without hands and legs. Once out of the conflict zone, and left with nothing but the clothes they are in, the injured are dependent on the military and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) for survival. There appears to be no precise count of how many have been wounded in aerial bombings and shelling. Tamils from outside have no access to army-seized Kilinochchi where hundreds, perhaps thousands, of Tamils from Mullaitivu have taken refuge. Civilians who have not been injured are taken to detention centres in Mannar, Vavuniya and Jaffna to find out if they are indeed non-combatants or LTTE fighters in disguise. Published by HT Syndication with permission from Indo-Asian News Service.

In Sri Lanka , Tamil women suffer the worst of war

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Load-Date: April 1, 2009

End of Document

Suicide attack kills 28 at Sri Lanka refugee camp: military

Agence France Presse -- English

February 9, 2009 Monday 1:59 PM GMT

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Length: 600 words

Byline: Mel Gunasekera

Dateline: COLOMBO, Feb 9 2009

Body

A **female** Tamil Tiger suicide bomber killed 28 people on Monday at a camp for civilians who have fled Sri Lanka's ethnic war, the military said, as the rebels faced imminent defeat.

The bomber detonated her explosives as she was being searched by **women** soldiers outside the camp near Visuamadu, a northern area the military recently captured from the rebels, military spokesman Brigadier Udaya Nanayakkara said.

"Twenty soldiers, including three **women** soldiers were killed," he said. "Another eight civilians were killed and 40 civilians were wounded." Dozens of injured troops were also rushed to hospital.

Nanayakkara blamed the attack on Tamil Tiger rebels, whose decades-long armed campaign for an independent homeland has recently suffered huge territorial losses during a major army offensive.

"This attack is aimed at slowing down the army's advance," Nanayakkara told reporters here. He added that the Tigers were trying to discourage civilians from crossing over to government-held areas.

The United Nations and the US government condemned the attack.

"Those killed had already been forced from their homes by fighting, and had endured terrible hardships," the UN said in a statement. "The UN reiterates that civilians must be distinguished from combatants, and protected from the fighting.

"It calls once again on the **LTTE** (Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam) to separate its forces from civilians under its control."

The US said it saw the bombing as an "apparent effort by the **LTTE** to discourage Tamils from leaving the conflict area."

"The United States calls on the **LTTE** to allow all civilians freedom of movement."

Suicide attack kills 28 at Sri Lanka refugee camp: military

The US statement also urged the government of Sri Lanka to ensure that all internally displaced people who leave the conflict area are registered and transferred in a "transparent manner to temporary camps in accordance with international standards."

The comment was a reference to allegations from rights groups that those who enter government-controlled areas are held in prison-like conditions, a charge denied by the government.

The **Tamil Tigers** have launched scores of suicide missions in the past. In October last year a bomber killed 27 people inside an office of an opposition party.

The latest attack came as Tamil civilians poured out of the small jungle enclave still under control of the **LTTE**, with 22,000 escaping in the last five days, according to the government.

"We expect many more to come in the next few days, despite the suicide attack," said Human Rights Minister Mahinda Samarasinghe.

Colombo says as many as 100,000 people are still being held by the Tigers as "human shields."

The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) has been trying to bring hundreds of wounded people out of the area.

"We are talking to both parties to the conflict to secure a safe passage by sea to evacuate about 400 patients," ICRC spokeswoman Sophie Romanens said on Monday.

The wounded, their families and about 20 Red Cross workers moved deep inside rebel-controlled Puttumatalan last week to avoid getting caught in the crossfire.

President Mahinda Rajapakse at the weekend warned the remaining rebels to surrender or face death as his troops closed in.

With government forces pressing forward, the military said the area under rebel control had shrunk to less than 100 square kilometres (38 square miles).

In the latest military assault, Sri Lankan war planes bombed a suspected jungle hideout where Tiger rebels had a fleet of boats.

Sri Lanka's military says it is in the final stages of a two-year-long offensive to defeat the **Tamil Tigers**, who have been fighting since 1972.

mg-aj/hg

Load-Date: February 10, 2009

LTTE SUFFER DAMAGES IN KILINOGCHI AIR STRIKES

UNI (United News of India)

December 13, 2008 Saturday 6:17 PM EST

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Length: 251 words

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

Dateline: Colombo

Body

Colombo, Dec 13 (UNI) Sri Lankan military today said the Tamil Tiger guerillas "have suffered heavy damages in the string of air strikes" by war planes of the Sri Lankan Air Force jet squadron. Sri Lanka's Defence Ministry said the Air Force fighter jets were bombing "the Kilinochchi **LTTE** defence lines" to assist the troops inching towards the **LTTE**'s administrative capital of Kilinochchi amidst heavy resistance.

"Nine air strikes were launched at the **LTTE** strongholds in the Kilinochchi and Paranthan area since 0630 hrs to 1500 hrs," the Defence Ministry has quoted Air Force spokesman Wing Commander Janaka Nanayakkara, as saying. Citing operational sources he has said, "A senior **female LTTE** leader was killed in the air strikes." Sri Lankan troops have captured many strategic areas from the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (**LTTE**) last month, including Pooneryn and Mankulam and were determined to capture Kilinochchi, which has been under the control of the **LTTE** over the past one decade. The government troops were slowly, but steadily moving towards Kilinochchi despite heavy rains and resistance. The **LTTE** has been offering fierce resistance and said to have laid thousands of anti-personal and anti-tank mines around their defence lines, aiming to slow down the military advancements. The military, meanwhile, said four **LTTE** cadres died yesterday in the northern operation area. There was, however, no immediate word from the **LTTE**.

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Load-Date: December 29, 2008

Forces capture LTTE child soldier

Daily Mirror (Sri Lanka)

June 10, 2008 Tuesday 4:03 PM EST

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Length: 343 words

Byline: Daily News Sri Lanka

Dateline: Colombo

Body

Colombo, June 10 -- Exposing yet another instance of exploitation of children by the LTTE, troops operating on the Mannar front captured a female child soldier as she was forcibly deployed by the LTTE to guard their Forward Defences in Alankulam which came under heavy attack from the Army last morning.

Military Spokesman Brigadier Udaya Nanayakkara told the Daily News that the female child soldier aged 17 years was captured as troops launched a massive assault on the LTTE defences in Alankulam in the North of Giant Tank in the Mannar front.

The female child soldier had revealed that the LTTE had abducted her in 2006 in Kilinochchi as she was returning from a Kovil.

She had been given one and half months weapons training by the LTTE and deployed to defend the Forward Defence Lines along with other Tiger cadres.

According to her shocking revelation to the troops the LTTE cadres used to drop them on the Forward Defences after transporting them blindfolded and providing them with three meals lunch, dinner and breakfast for the following day.

"She will be handed over to the Police tomorrow (Tuesday)", the Brigadier added. Brigadier Nanayakkara said the troops operating in the Mannar front stormed the Tiger Forward Defence Line in the North of Giant Tank bund from five different positions in the early hours of yesterday.

"The troops recovered the bodies of three Tiger cadres after their massive assault on the Tiger defences," the Brigadier added.

Meanwhile, troops in Weli Oya also continued their mission surrounding the famously One Four (14) base in the South of Mullaitivu.

"The troops attached to the 59 Division on Sunday evening launched a massive assault on five Tiger points in the 14 base in Mullaitivu", the Brigadier added. Seventeen Tiger cadres were confirmed during this battle as another 35 sustained injuries, the military said yesterday.

Fresh fighting broke out yesterday too in Janakapura and Weli Oya where troops were able to cause heavy damages to the LTTE.

Forces capture LTTE child soldier

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Load-Date: September 16, 2008

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LTTE's true face

Daily News (Sri Lanka)

November 14, 2008 Friday 2:27 PM EST

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Length: 748 words

Byline: Daily News Sri Lanka

Dateline: Colombo

Body

Colombo, Nov. 14 -- The shocking disclosure of an **LTTE female** conscript doubling as a Government English teacher as revealed in the media shows the extent to which the three decades old conflict had brutalised the sensibilities of even intelligent normal human beings.

Of course she had joined the outfit not out of choice but to save her male siblings who would otherwise have been forcibly drafted into the outfit as per the edict that civilians sacrifice at least one member of the family to the **LTTE**.

English teacher cum Tiger cadre Nilaveli who is 28 years old had coached students from grade 6 to 10 class. At the time of capture she was still drawing her Government salary. She together with three other **female** cadres were captured by the Security Forces in the on going battles in the Wannai. According to her confession more than 100 of her colleagues most them her batchmates are still with the outfit.

She also gave details of her harrowing ordeal with the **LTTE** and that of other **female** cadres. She also said all Government officials in the uncleared areas such as clerks and minor employees are forced to serve on the frontlines on pain of death. If the tale of Nilaveli is to be believed there a sizable segment among the **LTTE** fighting cadres who are not volunteers but those forcibly conscripted and turned into killing machines.

We would like to ask those R2P advocates, where is the protection to these innocents who have been drafted into the **LTTE** at gunpoint and sent to the frontlines like lambs to the slaughter. It was only yesterday that this column described on the eagerness shown by the youth in the newly liberated East to join in the Government's vocational training programmes.

It is gratifying to see these youth who had been cut off from all mainstream activity all these years grab the opportunities now afforded them to start life anew. These youth who all those years had missed out on a lot no doubt.

They would do their utmost to catch up with lost time with their legendary drive and enterprise. Similarly there is little doubt that there is an Army of youth currently under siege by the **LTTE** who may be praying for a miracle to break out of their enforced prisons and enjoy the fruits of normal life.

It is incumbent on the Government to afford them this opportunity by ridding them of the shackles that had bound them to a life of misery all these years. In fact, the President in his Budget proposals detailed measures to rehabilitate ex-**LTTE** cadres.

LTTE's true face

Like we commented yesterday these youth may well represent a sample of their enterprising forefathers in the North who contributed in no small measure towards the economic and social advancement of the country as outstanding professionals. Nilaveli's case no doubt may well represent the tip of the iceberg.

There are bound to be countless other youth with great talent and potential who are forced into battle against their will in a futile exercise of chasing after a mirage. It is hoped all those foreign lecturers on human rights would take note of Nilaveli's tale before pointing the finger at the Government for alleged human rights violations.

For, what worse violation of human rights can there be for a youth just flowering out, to be hauled up and forced into combat against his or her will with death staring in the face.

Is this not the ultimate violation of human rights - the right to one's life. Isn't the right to life the most basic and fundamental of human rights ? The Government should seize on this latest episode to show the world the true face of the LTTE.

These Tamil Nadu film artistes who are shedding copious tears for the protection of the lives of Tamil civilians should ask themselves whom are they to be protected from ? It is indeed sad to note the North which once produced eminent professionals and geniuses in many fields is today an intellectual wasteland.

Like in the East many Tamil youth there are yearning to break free from their shackles and enjoy their youth in fulfilment. As mentioned earlier it is therefore incumbent on the Government to provide this opportunity to this section of our citizens who are waiting to be delivered from their hell hole. It is appropriate that the Government has described its current offensive as a humanitarian mission.

There may be hundreds of Nilavelis in the LTTE gulags crying out to be free. It will be the wish of all that their wait will not be a long one.

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

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Load-Date: November 14, 2008

30 Tamil Tigers killed in northern Sri Lanka

Cape Times (South Africa)

July 29, 2008 Tuesday

e1 Edition

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Section: NEWS; Pg. 2

Length: 225 words

Body

Sri Lankan troops killed 30 Tamil Tiger rebels in renewed fighting in the north of the island, officials said yesterday, as security was tightened in the capital ahead of a regional summit.

A suspected US missile strike in Pakistan's tribal belt killed six people yesterday, including three Arab militants, as the country's premier readied to meet President George Bush.

Investigators found fragments that appear to bolster the theory that an oxygen tank exploded on a Qantas jet, forcing it to make an emergency landing with a car-sized hole in its fuselage.

Thai-Cambodian talks over temple row go ahead

Thailand's new foreign minister held talks with his Cambodian counterpart to defuse a row over a 900-year-old temple that has raised fears of a military clash between the southeast Asian neighbours.

A Spanish woman suspected of being a liaison between the leadership of Colombia's FARC rebel group and its members based in Europe has been freed on conditional bail.

Four transvestites arrested in a raid on a beauty pageant have appealed against a one-week jail sentence imposed by a Malaysian Islamic court for dressing as women.

Greece is locking hundreds of migrants in an overcrowded centre on the Mediterranean island of Lesbos without proper sanitation and medical care in what French charity Médecins sans Frontières branded a "humanitarian crisis".

Load-Date: July 28, 2008

NGOs as saviours of LTTE terrorism

Daily Mirror (Sri Lanka)

June 17, 2008 Tuesday 4:09 PM EST

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Length: 1141 words

Byline: Daily News Sri Lanka

Dateline: Colombo

Body

Colombo, June 17 -- For last 30 years, the Sri Lankan nation has been held to ransom by the LTTE, a heavily armed racist group of terrorists. There isn't a single instance where the LTTE or their psychopath leader stated officially that the LTTE is willing to negotiate anything less than the demand to carve a separate State out of Sri Lankan territory a release by the World Alliance for Peace in Sri Lanka (WAPS) said.

It said "The LTTE's claims to the Northern and the Eastern provinces are based on fabrications and myths and have been rejected by the people of Sri Lanka and the neighbouring countries.

The LTTE retains the services of more than 2000 child soldiers and their armed cadres are compelled to wear cyanide capsules. They have a squad of suicide bombers and other killers who explode claymore mines and bombs in civilian centres.

They indiscriminately kill unarmed civilians and engage in ethnic cleansing of specific ethnic groups such as the Sinhalese or Muslims to drive them out of the region claimed for their separate State, while mercilessly pursuing Tamils who have a different point of view to their Fascist agenda.

The LTTE receives almost all their funds and arms mainly from overseas sympathisers. Their foreign operations are based primarily in Western countries.

They are involved in public fund raising, fund collections through intimidations, credit card scams, robbing of passports, fraud, duping charities and misappropriating tsunami relief funds, drug and people smuggling activities.

The LTTE and their fronts in the West violate many local, regional as well international laws including UN conventions.

Yet, the prominent foreign funded NGOs operating in Sri Lanka such as Centre for Policy Alternatives, International Alert, National Peace Council, International Centre for Ethnic Studies, Foundation For Co-Existence, Women and Media Centre, National Anti War Front,

A Voice in Colombo, are in the habit of issuing statements and media releases directly and indirectly encouraging and justifying the LTTE agenda. These organisations with overlapping directorates refuse to accept that the LTTE is intransigent and is in fact a terrorist group that has been holding the whole country to ransom for last 30 years.

NGOs as saviours of LTTE terrorism

While issuing statements to protect the LTTE from being marginalised or defeated, these organisations whose very accountability of foreign donor funds are not transparent - have the audacity to equate the elected Sri Lanka government with an internationally banned terrorist organisation.

We give below some of the statements made by these NGOs, which should receive the serious attention of the Sri Lankans who are against terrorism and who have sacrificed life and limb and many other public and private assets that are needed for their very sustenance.

1) Jehan Perera of the National Peace Council referring to the recent LTTE bombings of Civilian Transport in an interview to New York Times stated, the attacks were probably a "tit-for-tat kind of retaliation" by the rebels. "The Government must also be careful with its own operations."

2) The Centre for Policy Alternatives in their communique dated 9th June 2008 has stated. "We call on all armed actors, especially the Government, the LTTE and the TMVP to ensure that attacks on civilians will be brought to a halt."

3) In the recent scandal involving the key members of the ICES, it was revealed that this organisation adopted a confrontational stand against the Government of Sri Lanka in order to obtain large scale funding from a US Foundation and the International Crisis Group with the aim of seeking international intervention in Sri Lanka's internal conflict.

4) Pakiyasothy Saravanamuttu of CPA stated at a Forum on Sri Lanka held in George Washington University in USA, in May 2008 that the Sri Lankan Armed Forces take "Tamils daily by hundreds to the Jaffna beaches and kill them".

5) Nimalka Fernando, Shrilal Lakthilleke of CAFFE in their misleading statements renouncing that Eastern Province poll was totally unfair and alleging that the Elections Commissioner was 'conniving with Pillaiyan Group'.

6) Misleading statements by Pakiyasothy Saravanamuttu and Jayadeva Uyangoda of CPA in ABC Rear Vision about the Citizenship Law adopted by the Independent Sri Lanka.

7) Misleading statements by many of the FNGO representatives to foreign news agencies regarding ACF volunteers killed in Muttur and removal of suspected LTTE activists in Colombo.

7) Mano Ganesan of Civil Monitoring Commission advising Tamils of the North and the East capital Colombo and the South of Sri Lanka are unsafe and insecure.

Most of these NGOs continue to get Government funds from the UK, Canada, Norway, Sweden, Switzerland, Netherlands, Australia and a number of Western donor agencies.

They make use of funds allocated by the Western countries for 'peace building processes' and many of the FNGO bosses have super salaries and emoluments. BBC, ABC, Reuters, AFP, AP, Bloomberg,

The Economist and foreign NGOs such as HRW, AI, Caritas always interview or quote Jehan P. Pakkiyasothy S. Uyangoda and the members of this tribe introduced to the readers as 'independent political analysts' Invariably, their views or presentations give a pro LTTE, pro-separatist spin and are highly critical of the elected Sri Lankan Governments.

While Uyangoda and Jehan support traditional homelands theory and separatism, Saravanamuttu questions the need for sovereignty for Sri Lanka.

Kumar Rupasinghe was emphatic in advocating that Sri Lankan defence Forces have no right to wrest control of Jaffna peninsula has supported the LTTE propaganda drives.

Ironically, the key people of Sri Lankan FNGOs are recognised and quoted often by the West even though they are from a very narrow band of Colombo middle class.

NGOs as saviours of LTTE terrorism

Their concepts, projects and programmes have been rejected by the Sri Lankan intelligentsia and completely ignored by the masses of the country.

It is outrageous that such minuscule set are funded by national Governments of some of the Western countries and prestigious donor organisations.

We believe these NGOs, which are mainly funded by foreign sources are a threat to Sri Lanka's sovereignty, and her national security.

We request the Sri Lankan people, patriotic organisations and the Sri Lankan Government to investigate into the improper conduct of these NGOs in relation to the authorised codes of conduct, registration regulations and country's criminal code, monitor their on-going activities stringently requiring them to conform to audit and accountability requirements as imposed on governmental and private companies and enforce transparency of all their dealings with regular reporting to a government institution under the purview of the President and/or the Defence Ministry."

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

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Load-Date: September 16, 2008

India's ban on LTTE under review

Daily Mirror (Sri Lanka)

September 19, 2008 Friday 4:01 PM EST

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Length: 261 words

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

Dateline: Colombo

Body

Colombo, Sept. 19 -- A special tribunal in India has asked the Central government to justify its call for a renewal of the ban on the LTTE, the Economic Times of India reported.

The tribunal, headed by Justice Vikramjit Sen, wanted the fresh evidence by yesterday if the ban was to be extended by another two years.

The ban was first imposed in 1992 under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act of 1967, a year after the LTTE was accused of assassinating former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi, and since then the ban continued to be extended every two years.

LTTE counsel had argued that the group could not be banned because it did not come within the territorial jurisdiction of the Indian government.

The LTTE had also said it did not seek to disrupt the sovereignty and integrity of India.

Rajiv Gandhi was killed by a female suicide bomber in May 1991, while electioneering in the southern state of Tamil Nadu. Suicide bombing has long been the LTTE's trademark.

While the LTTE leadership had not taken responsibility for the assassination, it was widely considered to be in retaliation for Gandhi's "betrayal" of the Tamils by sending Indian troops to Sri Lanka as peace-keepers under the 1987 Indo-Lankan Accord.

In an interview to an Indian TV in 2006, LTTE theoretician Anton Balasingham, the then chief negotiator for the LTTE made the first public acknowledgement that his organization was responsible for the assassination of the former Indian prime minister and expressed regret over the incident.

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Load-Date: September 19, 2008

India 's ban on LTTE under review

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LTTE goes for another Vakarai - type operation

Sunday Observer (Sri Lanka)

August 10, 2008 Sunday 2:29 PM EST

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Length: 1964 words

Byline: Report from the Sri Lanka Sunday Observer brought to you by HT Syndication.

Dateline: Colombo

Body

Colombo, Aug. 10 -- Sri Lanka as a nation in South Asia passed yet another proud moment by last Monday having successfully hosted the 15th SAARC Summit and uniting the entire South Asia to make a collective effort to fight terrorism regionally and internationally.

Although many disgruntled elements tried to find fault with the SAARC Summit, as a nation fighting the most ruthless terror outfit in the world we can be proud of hosting the event without a single complaint from SAARC nations.

Sri Lanka made this event a successful one, while fighting a war in the North in the true spirit of liberating the people in the North from the clutches of terrorism the way people in the East were liberated last year.

The Tamil community might have witnessed the way Eastern Provincial Council Chief Minister Sivanesanathan, a combatant turned politician participating at the concluding session of the 15th SAARC Summit along with the Chief Ministers from other Provinces.

He is no longer an entity of a terror outfit but a part and parcel of the democratic framework of the country and has the right to stand with the other political leaders of the country representing his own community rather than being engaged in terror acts to achieve so-called Eelam hiding in the jungles in Wanni like the **LTTE** cadres now engaged in the final battle in Kilinochchi.

Therefore, Sivanesanathan gave a strong message to the international community through the SAARC summit though some leaders did not want to accept the reality due to pressure from political groups.

It is high time for Tamil civilians entrapped in the Wanni to realise the bitter truth surrounding Kilinochchi with troops inching towards the heart of their undeclared kingdom after two years of fighting in the North and East.

They should be briefed about the real situation faced by the **LTTE** in the Wanni as the innocent Tamil civilians entrapped in the Wanni are living in complete darkness as they have been 'blindfolded' by the **LTTE** showering them with a false picture about an illusory victory for them.

Reports emanating from uncleared areas very clearly indicate that the **LTTE** is keeping civilians living in Kilinochchi distant from the real situation faced by them without taking a single body of the Tiger cadres killed in the battlefield to their administrative centre.

LTTE goes for another Vakara - type operation

That is to give them the feeling that they still have chances to beat the Security Forces advancing into their strongholds. The only way left for the civilians living in Kilinochchi about the real situation is through the sounds of the shelling now reaching closer to them with the troops advancing towards them in the Kilinochchi district.

But the **LTTE** has now realised the fact they no longer can mislead the innocent Tamil civilians under their iron grip as two years of Security Forces efforts have become fruitful as they have been able to complete almost two thirds of the war within two years.

The nation should recall the way our gallant troops foiled the attempts by the **LTTE** in August 2006 to achieve their Eelam dream by launching simultaneously attacks on Army detachments in Kattaparichchan, Mahindapura, Selvanagar on August 02 surrounding the Trincomalee harbour.

The valiant troops at the Kattaparichchan Army camp foiled the attempts by the **LTTE** cadres who came in waves to overrun the Army detachment in the wee hours on August 2. Major Senaka Wijesuriya the second in command of the 7th battalion of the Sri Lanka Light Infantry commanded the troops there in Kattaparichchan along with Captain Vijith Alexander for five days to turn Tiger cadres back killing dozens of them.

The **LTTE** attack on the Army detachments came amidst troops engaged in the humanitarian mission to liberate the Mavilaru sluice gates after commencing the battle on July 26, 2006.

It was on the wee hours of August 2, 2006 Army Commander Lt. General Sarath Fonseka who arrived in the country from Singapore after completely recovering from the wounds of the suicide attack gave instructions to Major Senaka Wijesuriya now the Commanding Officer of the 11 Sri Lanka Light Infantry Battalion engaged in fighting in the Mannar front to retaliate the Tiger offensive.

That was the first occasion Army Commander was involved in military matters after recovering from the wounds of the suicide attack by a **female LTTE** cadres inside the Army headquarters. If not for the untiring efforts by the Security Forces to foil the **LTTE** offensive today the story about the North East would have been completely different.

The attempts by the **LTTE** on isolated Army detachments South of Trincomalee and their subsequent offensive operation to overrun the Muhamalai and Kilali FDLs in Jaffna on August 11, 2006 which were effectively foiled by the troops overrunning the Tiger FDL were essentially turning points.

They turned things in favour of the Security Forces and put the **LTTE** into one of its weakest positions in its two and half decades long existence. Those who tried to overrun the Jaffna peninsula in a 72- hour operation are now committing their full strength to defend their territory in the Kilinochchi.

Fierce fighting erupted during the past one week with **LTTE** deploying the cream of its fighting cadres to the front under the leadership of Theepan, the overall commander for the Jaffna front. According to sources the **LTTE** has decided to remove all **female** cadres from the battlefield and deploy its hardcore cadres equipped with body armour, helmets.

Their main focus is to defend the Kilinochchi district posing stiff resistance to the troops operating in the South of Thunukkai and Mallavi. The recent battles that erupted south of Thunukkai and Mallavi were fought by the cadres shifted by Theepan from the Muhamalai front.

The effort of Theepan is to stop the forward march of the 58 Division on the Mannar Pooneryn A-32 road passing Vellankulam and entering Kilinochchi district after completely liberating the entire Mannar district.

The **LTTE** is trying their best to get the control of the Thunukkai Vellankulam road which had been cut off by the Security Forces from the West of Vellankulam. The **LTTE** is making this effort as they have realised the consequences of the fall of the areas on the North Western Coast up to Pooneryn as it would completely deprive them of their supplies from the South Indian coast across Gulf of Mannar.

LTTE goes for another Vakara - type operation

It was last Saturday the Security Forces took control of the Vellankulam town the northern most township in Mannar district. Vellankulam was basically an administrative base of the LTTE where many of their Mahaveer families lived.

By the time the Security Forces captured the area the LTTE was constructing many buildings including schools for the members of the Mahaveer families. They also had massive cashew nut plantations in Vellankulam and the members who had not given their members to the LTTE had to work in these cashew nut cultivations four days a week.

The Security Forces also had found the way the LTTE had controlled the distribution of dry rations and other food items given to the people living there with the documents found in the Vellankulam AG office. With the capture of Vellankulam LTTE is losing the supply route Vellankulam Mankulam road.

The troops attached to the 58 Division are now operating just 30 Kilometres South of Pooneryn and only important townships along the A-32 road before Pooneryn is Mulangavil and Nachchikuda. After these two townships the other areas are located in jungle patches. In Mulangavil the LTTE has its biggest cemetery.

By yesterday noon the troops operating in the North of Vellankulam captured a solid LTTE military base in the general area North of Vellaimunthal. According to ground troops the captured LTTE base was the first LTTE camp on a par with the Army camps.

Troops operating East of A-32 has also advanced further northwards taking the Kilinochchi town under the artillery range of the Security Forces. According to ground troops they are only 24 kilometres away from Kilinochchi town.

A number of counter LTTE attacks were foiled by the troops attached to the 58 Division within the past few days killing more than 30 Tiger cadres and inflicting casualties on a larger number of cadres.

If troops are able to advance upto Pooneryn the Security Forces have the advantage of releasing entire Army Division now on vigilance to prevent any sea borne landing or any offensive operation towards Muhamalai and deploy them to hold the ground in Pooneryn.

With such a move the FDLs in the Muhamalai and Kilaly become invalid as the troops can easily cut off the Jaffna peninsula after advancing troops from Pooneryn to Paranthan take the entire Elephant Pass area automatically under Security Forces control.

Therefore, the Tiger leaders are desperately making attempts to launch a major assault on the flank connecting the 58 Division now operating in the North of Vellankulam and 57 Division operating in the in the South of Thunukkai and Mallavi.

The 571 Brigade under the command of Colonel G.V. Ravipriya covering the flank of the 58 Division came under frequent attacks of the LTTE during the past few days.

One of the fiercest fights on the Wanni battlefield erupted on the Vavuniya front last week with the LTTE deploying their hardcore cadres to fight the Security Forces in the Kalvilan village in the South of Thunukkai.

The 572 Brigade under the command of Lt. Colonel. Senerath Bandara fought fierce battles last week to foil these attempts of the LTTE to stop the advance of the troops into Thunukkai.

Meanwhile, the troops attached to the 573 Brigade under the command of Lt. Colonel Prathap Thillekeratne have also made a considerable advance towards Mallavi from the North of Vavunikulam tank reaching close to Mallavi - Mankulam road.

The biggest barricade before the troops in capturing Thunukkai and Mallavi is the biggest open terrain surrounding Thunukkai and Mallavi towns stretching more than 70 square kilometres. The LTTE is making their best effort to prevent the troops entering the jungle area in the West of Mallavi as it provides good cover for them to move upto Kokkavil on the A-9 road.

LTTE goes for another Vakarai - type operation

Therefore, the battles in Thunukkai and Mallavi have turned out to be do or die battles for the LTTE as it decides even the fall of Kilinochchi the administrative hub of the LTTE.

The information indicates that the LTTE had taken the civilian population living from Omanthai to Mankulam to Kilinochchi as they are now in constant fear of troops suddenly infiltrating Kilinochchi and capturing it.

Intelligence reports also indicate that the LTTE is mobilising the civilian population into Kilinochchi to prepare for the final battle with their leaders taking the cover of the civilians after shifting their leaders into Kilinochchi.

The fighting in Kilinochchi will also turn out to be yet another Vakarai type of operation where the LTTE created a human shield surrounding their bases to protect them from the artillery threat from the Security Forces.

Therefore it has become an immediate requirement for the Government to win the hearts and minds of the people entrapped in Wanni and encourage them to be free from the clutches of the LTTE and reach the Government held areas in Wanni as soon as possible.

And all arrangements are now in place to receive them in Vavuniya providing them with food and shelter.

For this there should be a hearts and minds campaign to educate the public who are now in darkness about the real situation faced by the LTTE due to the Security Forces advance into the Wanni heartland.

If the Security Forces are able to overcome this hurdle the day they completely liberate the country from the clutches of the LTTE is not far away.

Published by HT Syndication with permission from the Sri Lanka Sunday Observer.

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Load-Date: October 1, 2008

Sri Lanka says advancing on Tamil Tiger bases

Agence France Presse -- English

November 26, 2008 Wednesday 8:19 AM GMT

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Length: 508 words

Byline: Amal Jayasinghe

Dateline: COLOMBO, Nov 26 2008

Body

Sri Lanka said on Wednesday its troops are poised to capture the *Tamil Tigers*' political headquarters and are advancing on the rebels' main military base.

The battlefield advances against the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (*LTTE*) came as guerilla leader Velupillai Prabhakaran marked his 54th birthday and prepared to deliver his annual policy address.

The defence ministry said in a statement its soldiers were closing in on the north-eastern coastal town of Mullaittivu, where the *LTTE* are believed to have concentrated their forces following recent government gains elsewhere in the north.

"Troops of the 59th division advancing towards the *LTTE*'s most strategic commanding base in (the) northeastern coastal belt, Mullaittivu...are further consolidating and extending their defences," the ministry said.

It said the strategic village of Olumadu, along a main road to Mullaittivu, also fell into government hands after intense fighting.

Sporadic clashes continued around the northern town of Kilinochchi, the *LTTE*'s political headquarters. Government officials said troops were on the attack from three directions and were poised to take control of the area.

"There is fierce fighting going on but the fall of Kilinochchi is imminent," the government's defence spokesman Keheliya Rambukwella told reporters here.

"Security forces will soon consolidate in Kilinochchi."

Authorities in Sri Lanka have restricted access to the embattled areas for journalists as well as most aid workers, meaning that claims by either side in the decades-old conflict are normally impossible to verify independently.

Sri Lanka has also reported its troops have been closing in on Kilinochchi for several months, including two months ago when it said government soldiers had actually entered the outskirts of the town.

For their part, the *LTTE* say they are putting up a strong defence.

Sri Lanka says advancing on Tamil Tiger bases

The Tigers used Kilinochchi as their main political centre and received visiting local and foreign dignitaries at the six-kilometre (four-mile) long town where they also maintained a court, police and a bank.

The past 18 months have been disastrous for the LTTE, who want to carve out an ethnic homeland in the north and east of the Sinhalese-majority island.

The rebels were ejected from the east in July 2007 and lost their political chief in a government air raid, while much of their fleet of ships used to smuggle black market weapons into the country has been reported sunk.

The government, which pulled out of a moribund Norwegian-backed ceasefire agreement in January, is fighting to wrest control of the entire north from the rebels.

President Mahinda Rajapakse has said he will accept nothing less from the LTTE than their surrender.

Prabhakaran's speech, to be delivered on Thursday, is an annual event marking "Heroes' week", when the LTTE commemorates the estimated 22,000 Tamils -- many of them women and children -- who have died during the 36-year war.

Last year, Sri Lankan war planes flattened the LTTE's Voice of Tigers radio station as it broadcast Prabhakaran's annual speech.

Load-Date: November 27, 2008

Sri Lankan rebels gun down civilians: military

Agence France Presse -- English

February 10, 2009 Tuesday 9:16 AM GMT

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Length: 598 words

Byline: Amal Jayasinghe

Dateline: COLOMBO, Feb 10 2009

Body

Sri Lanka's Tamil Tiger guerrillas on Tuesday shot dead 17 civilians and wounded nearly 70 others fleeing territory still under rebel control, military spokesman Udaya Nanayakkara said.

Survivors of the attack who arrived at a military post told how Tiger fighters had fired on a group of 1,000 people trying to cross the frontlines to safety, he said.

"The civilians came to an army position carrying the 17 dead and 69 others who had gunshot injuries," Nanayakkara said.

According to the government, increasing numbers of non-combatants are attempting to escape from the rebels, who face imminent defeat in their decades-long armed struggle for an independent Tamil homeland.

Among those wounded in the attack were 27 women and 11 children, the military spokesman said.

It came a day after a Tamil Tiger suicide bomber killed 30 people at a centre for fleeing civilians, in another apparent attempt to stop them from leaving.

But thousands of Tamils are crossing the frontlines in the north of the island each day, the government has said, as it pushes on with a massive offensive to crush the Tamil Tigers after 30 years of unrest.

Sri Lanka accuses the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) -- as they are formally known -- of using the civilians as "human shields."

Monday's suicide bombing was condemned by the United Nations and the United States, which backed Colombo's stance, saying that the attack was an "apparent effort by the LTTE to discourage Tamils from leaving the conflict area."

"What we are seeing is that more people are coming over to our side," Nanayakkara said. "The Tigers have also been firing mortars at the routes taken by the civilians, but still they want to escape from the fighting."

Sri Lankan rebels gun down civilians: military

Nanayakkara said 10 civilians were among the 30 people killed in Monday's attack when a **female** suicide bomber attacked a makeshift shelter where security forces receive internally displaced people.

The **Tamil Tigers** have issued no response to the latest violence, and no independent verification from the conflict zone was available as journalists, aid groups and international observers are banned from reporting from the area.

Colombo says the number of civilians trapped by the conflict is now less than 100,000, though UN agencies recently placed it as high as 250,000.

"Up to this morning we have 28,250 people registering with us from the start of this year," Nanayakkara said, adding that the volume of fleeing civilians had picked up sharply in the past week.

The defence ministry said government forces on Tuesday kept up attacks against the remaining Tiger rebels, who suffered "heavy damages" and lost 27 fighters.

Amnesty International condemned Monday's suicide bombing and said it should not lead to government retaliation.

"The use of such attacks by one party to an armed conflict does not excuse unlawful attacks in response," Amnesty's Sri Lanka specialist Yolanda Foster said in a statement.

Amnesty said the government's restrictions made it impossible to know what was happening on the ground.

"In a war with no witnesses, it is the civilians who pay the price for both parties' disregard for international humanitarian law," it said.

In a dispute over censorship, the BBC announced on Monday that it would stop providing radio news to Sri Lanka's national broadcaster.

The BBC said there had been "deliberate interference" with the programmes.

The government has accused individuals from international aid agencies, diplomats and news organisations of being supportive of the **Tamil Tigers**, whose territory has shrunk to less than 100 square kilometres (38 square miles).

Load-Date: February 11, 2009

28 civilians escape from LTTE grip

Daily Mirror (Sri Lanka)

November 6, 2008 Thursday 2:38 PM EST

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Length: 202 words

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

Dateline: Colombo

Body

Colombo, Nov. 6 -- A group of 28 civilians including six children who had escaped the **LTTE** held areas, sought protection with security forces in Jaffna on Tuesday morning, the defence ministry said.

The naval patrol craft which detected two boats in northern seas immediately rushed to their assistance and accompanied them ashore under naval protection.

They said 22 adults including 13 males and 9 **females** and 6 children were among the escapees and they were residents of Mullian, Kaddaikadu, Paranthan, Kilinochchi and Chempianpattu areas.

Quoting the escapees, the defence ministry said the civilians living in non-liberated areas in the North have to undergo severe hardships as a result of **LTTE** activities, including extortion and conscription of youngsters.

"Though the majority of civilians are willing to flee from the **LTTE** grip, many have to end up their journey in **LTTE** prisons. After being imprisoned, these civilians are being forcibly used to construct bunkers in the Forward Defence lines," the ministry said.

The escapees were provided with food as well as necessary medical treatments and later handed over to the Kankesanthurai Police.

Published by HT Syndication with permission from Daily Mirror.

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Load-Date: November 7, 2008

LTTE USING DESPERATE MEASURES AS ARMY ADVANCES

Malaysia General News

January 25, 2009 Sunday

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Length: 338 words

Dateline: KILINCHCHI Jan 25

Body

As Sri Lankan troops advance towards the military base of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (**LTTE**) in the thick jungles of Mullaitivu, the **LTTE** is reportedly resorting to desperate measures to stave off the attack.

The **LTTE** is said to be using more young **women** fighters and resorting to chemical weapons in its battle with the advancing government troops.

"We found that they use a lot of **women** cadres to fight against us. They are desperate and are using chemicals like chlorine gas against us," said Brigadier Shavindra de Silva, who is leading the Sri Lankan army's 58th division which is fighting in the remote Poonayarne areas in the eastern region of the country.

At least 300 **LTTE women** cadres have been killed in the fierce fighting after the army stepped up its military assault against the rebels in the northern region since last month to end the decades-old bloody civil war that has ravaged the island.

Government troops are inching towards Mullaitivu, the rebel's last bastion, where an estimated 2,000 fighters are cornered in an area of less than 300 sq km.

Military officials believe the ruthless organisation's leader, V. Prabhakaran, is holed up in his bunkers in Mullaitivu, and using thousands of civilians as a human shield.

Early this month, the army liberated key areas like the famous Elephant Pass, which is the 1.5km A9 highway linking Jaffna and Kilinochchi - both of which had been under **LTTE** control for several years.

"It is matter of weeks before we reach them. The army is moving at a one-kilometre range a day. We have liberated innocent civilians and recovered many dead bodies but the **LTTE** is not returning these dead bodies to their families," Shavindra told a group of foreign and local journalists who toured the captured areas Saturday.

Most liberated areas are in poor condition and deserted, including the **LTTE**'s once-powerful headquarters in Kilinochchi.

The fleeing rebels have even removed zinc roofs from houses, and the Kilinochchi Hospital has been emptied of medical equipment and beds.

Load-Date: January 27, 2009

LTTE USING DESPERATE MEASURES AS ARMY ADVANCES

End of Document

LTTE clutching at straws

Daily News (Sri Lanka)

February 10, 2009 Tuesday

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Length: 855 words

Dateline: Colombo

Body

Colombo, Feb. 10 -- The **LTTE** is certainly in its death throes and as a last throw of the dice it is deploying suicide bombers, the most crudest weapon in its armoury, now that it has lost almost all its military hardware, Sea Tiger assets and air power to the Security Forces.

Not only that, the Government had rubbed salt to the Tiger's wounds by displaying all the captured military hardware of the outfit at the Deyata Kirula exhibition. Surely a most rankling experience for the **LTTE** who made proud boasts earlier of the capture of troops' weapons caches and armouries. Naturally Prabhakaran's desperation may have exceeded all bounds. Hence Monday's suicide attack at a check point in the vicinity of a IDP registration centre in Visuamadu could well be an act of defiance and an attempt to demonstrate to the world that the outfit was still alive and kicking. That it thought nothing of blowing up innocent men women and children among the exodus was of little consequences to the outfit. This was no time to think about such niceties of being the 'sole representative and protector of the Tamil people'. By this dastardly act it is clear that the **LTTE** wanted to achieve the twin objective of issuing a warning to those fleeing its domain while also making a desperate bid to show it still has some fight left in it after the mortal blow delivered to its invincibility by the Security Forces. However the defiance shown by the civilians risking life and limb shows that the iron grip of Prabhakaran is at last beginning to unclench. Some 20,000 civilians have already crossed over to the cleared areas defying all odds and the edicts of the Tiger leader. He now has no option but to get his cadres to infiltrate the mass exodus in order to cause the maximum damage. For the Tiger leader who was all sound and fury will not want to go down with a whimper. So we can expect more such suicide bombing attempts in the coming days as the outfit will want to go down with a bang. It is in this context that new measures and approaches will be required for the registration of civilians fleeing the Tiger den. Human rights Minister Mahinda Samarasinghe has already mentioned about such a course of action though he did not spell out the details for obvious reasons. True, the **LTTE** will seek to inflict the maximum damage in its final death gasp and it behoves on our security establishment to be fully alert to this possibility. It would not be beyond its capability to carry out spectacular attacks in Colombo and also major cities with the view to dilute the victories of the Security Forces. Now that its capability as a conventional fighting force is all but neutralised its guerrilla avatar is bound to raise its ugly head once again bringing back memories of gruesome carnage in the city two decades ago. It is in this light that President Mahinda Rajapaksa's assurance that he would not allow any vestige of terrorism to raise its head once again is most encouraging and a cause for allaying the fears of the general public. No doubt the President and the security top brass would already have drawn up a foolproof plan in this regard. It is the duty of all citizens to co-operate in ensuring its success. Sacrifice and hardship may have to be endured for the sake of national security. No citizen, we are certain, would want a revisit of those harrowing times. Monday's barbaric attack also shows that the **LTTE** has chosen to ignore the appeals by US and India to allow safe passage of civilians to enter Government controlled areas. It is hoped that Tamil Nadu politicians at least now will identify the true villain who is causing all the misery to Tamil civilians. We are still to hear condemnation of

LTTE clutching at straws

Monday's attack by Human right bodies such as AI who have been weeping buckets for the plight of Tamil civilians. Also deafening is the silence of local NGO activists who go to town on any alleged atrocity on Tamil civilians by the Security Forces. How come this horrendous attack targeting innocent civilians, who had fled from the **LTTE** and come to register at the transitional camp, fail to register with these do-gooders. Even some of the statements condemning the attack from certain foreign Governments is lukewarm to say the least - a far cry from the lengthy harangues reserved for the Government. It is at least gratifying to note that they had identified the perpetrator as the **LTTE** this time around. The Security Forces should be commended for carrying out an onerous task amidst the ever present danger. They are now called upon to contend with a hidden enemy who may come in the guise of a refugee to wreak havoc as happened on Monday. The moving pictures in the media of members of the Security Forces providing succour to the men, **women** and children who had fled the grip of the **LTTE** is clear demonstration of their commitment to the Humanitarian mission assigned to them by the President, even oblivious to the lurking danger. A far cry from the civilian carnage that was seen on world's television during the Gaza operation. 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

Load-Date: May 5, 2009

LTTE OPERATED A LARGE TORTURE CAMP IN PTK

Daily Mirror (Sri Lanka)

March 17, 2009 Tuesday

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Length: 378 words

Dateline: Colombo

Body

Colombo, March 17 -- The **LTTE** is reportedly running a large torture camp in Puthukkudiyiruppu (PTK), escaped civilians had reportedly told the military.

The Defence Ministry said the **LTTE** was running a large torture camp in the general area of Iranapali north of Puthukkudiyiruppu. However the ministry is yet to reveal more information regarding the torture camp. Escaped civilians also revealed that the **LTTE** has put up at least 10 combat training camps in Wellamullivaikkal, where hundreds of children, **women** and even elderly were forced to undergo a 3-day armed training session.

Following the combat training, people were thrown into the battlefield to guard **LTTE** trenches and bunker positions, the civilians had further said. Meanwhile, a total of 1,011 civilians including 458 children have fled from the **LTTE** and sought protection with the 58 Division troops operating in Ampalavanpokkanai South in Puthukkudiyiruppu on Sunday. The Defence Ministry said that 265 men, 288 **women**, 240 boys and 218 girls were rescued and taken to safety amidst **LTTE** artillery shelling from the declared no fire zone. Four civilians were killed in the **LTTE** shell attacks and many injured, the ministry said quoting ground sources. The injured civilians were sent for treatment to the Vavuniya hospital. Meanwhile, the ministry said the **LTTE** was yet to reveal the status of the 15 UN aid workers and family members held hostage since the declaration of the new no fire zone in Mullaitivu,. On Saturday a UN aid worker who sustained injuries due to **LTTE** attacks was rescued by security forces in Puthukkudiyiruppu. Vavuniya Government Agent P.S.M. Charles said that so far about 33,896 persons belonging to 11,185 families had arrived at Vavuniya. Meanwhile, Minister and EPDP leader Douglas Devananda who visited welfare villages in Vavuniya on Sunday said he had identified certain problems confronting the refugees and these needed to be resolved. "If they can wait till food is cooked, they have to be patient till it cools down enough to be eaten. When people are given kanji, they ask for rice and curry. When they get rice and curry, they ask for biriyani. These are some of the problems they face," he said. Published by HT Syndication with permission from Daily Mirror Sri Lanka.

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Load-Date: March 19, 2009

17 dead as suicide blast rocks Sri Lanka refugee camp: military

Agence France Presse -- English

February 9, 2009 Monday 8:39 AM GMT

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Length: 459 words

Byline: Mel Gunasekera

Dateline: COLOMBO, Feb 9 2009

Body

A suspected Tamil Tiger suicide bomber Monday struck a camp for refugees fleeing Sri Lanka's civil war, killing 17 people and wounding 45, the military said as the rebels appeared close to defeat.

The **female** bomber blew herself up as she was being searched by soldiers outside the camp, military spokesman Brigadier Udaya Nanayakkara said.

He said the attack was launched by the Tigers, whose decades-long armed campaign for an independent Tamil homeland has recently suffered huge territorial losses during a major offensive by government troops.

The blast came as thousands of Tamil civilians have poured out of the small jungle area still under the control of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (**LTTE**).

"At least 17 people were killed and 45 others reported injured when an **LTTE** woman suicide bomber blew herself up at rescue centre for internally displaced persons in Sugandirapuram, north of Visuamadu," the defence ministry said.

Nanayakkara said the Tigers had carried out the attack to prevent civilians crossing into areas held by security forces.

Some 12,000 people have escaped the conflict zone in the past five days, military officials said, adding that nearly another 100,000 people were still reportedly being held by the Tigers as "human shields."

The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) has been trying to bring hundreds of wounded people out of the area.

"We are talking to both parties to the conflict (the government and the **Tamil Tigers**) to secure a safe passage by sea to evacuate about 400 patients," ICRC spokeswoman Sophie Romanens said on Monday.

The wounded, their families and about 20 Red Cross workers moved deep inside rebel-controlled Puttumatalan last week to avoid getting caught in the cross fire.

17 dead as suicide blast rocks Sri Lanka refugee camp: military

President Mahinda Rajapakse at the weekend warned remaining rebels to surrender or face death as government forces closed in.

"I want to tell the Tigers: 'Lay down arms and surrender to security forces,'" the president told a rally of cheering supporters.

"They must let the civilians go and then unconditionally give themselves up.

"I must warn them we will not halt our operations against terrorism until we reach our final objective."

With government forces pressing forward, the military said the area under rebel control had shrunk to less than 100 square kilometres (38 square miles).

In the latest military assault, Sri Lankan war planes bombed a suspected jungle hideout where Tiger rebels had a fleet of boats.

Sri Lanka's military says it is in the final stages of a two-year-long offensive to defeat the **Tamil Tigers** who have been fighting since 1972.

US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton has led international calls for a "temporary no-fire period" to allow more civilians to evacuate the combat zone.

mg-aj/bgs/th

Load-Date: February 10, 2009

End of Document

Rights body seeks UN intervention to end 'loss of life' in Lanka

UNI (United News of India)

March 15, 2009 Sunday

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Length: 847 words

Dateline: New, York

Body

New, York,. Ap -- Human Rights Watch has urged the Sri Lankan government to stop firing heavy artillery into the "no-fire zone" in the northern Vanni area where some 100,000 civilians are trapped by Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), causing many casualties.

The New York-based rights body called upon the UN Security Council to take urgent measures, including sending a special envoy to Sri Lanka, to bring an end to violations of international humanitarian law by government forces and LTTE. "Sri Lanka's so-called 'no-fire zone' is now one of the most dangerous places in the world," said Brad Adams, Asia director at Human Rights Watch. "The Security Council has quibbled over protocol when it should be acting to bring an end to this ghastly loss of life," he said. A 35-year-old man told Human Rights Watch that he was waiting in the food distribution line with his wife and two-year-old child when the shelling started. The man said, "There had been no distribution of milk powder for three months, and so when they announced that there would be distribution today (April 8), hundreds of people lined in queue. It was early in the morning. I heard the first shell, and hit the ground. Then several more landed nearby, after three or four minutes. I survived by miracle, but my 45-year-old uncle died on the spot-he lost his legs." He added, "I tried to get him to the hospital by bike - there are no cars, and no ambulances, and there were so many people - women, and children - injured in that attack. Now I am staying in the hospital with my wife and child, because we have nowhere else to go and the hospital may be the safest place. But there is also no place to stay here - there are so many injured people, and the new injured are being brought here all the time as we speak." Another attack followed several hours later. Human Rights Watch called on the Sri Lankan government and the LTTE to urgently facilitate the safe evacuation of civilians from the conflict area. Approximately 100,000 civilians are believed to be trapped in the roughly 20-square-kilometer area under LTTE control. The Sri Lankan government continues to prevent the news media and other independent observers from traveling to the war-affected Vanni region to report on the situation. The rights official sought responsible behavior on both sides. "War crimes by the Tamil Tigers don't give Sri Lankan commanders free rein to ignore civilian casualties," said Mr Adams adding accountability is a two-way street. Human Rights Watch has urged the Sri Lankan government to stop firing heavy artillery into the "no-fire zone" in the northern Vanni area where some 100,000 civilians are trapped by Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), causing many casualties. The New York-based rights body called upon the UN Security Council to take urgent measures, including sending a special envoy to Sri Lanka, to bring an end to violations of international humanitarian law by government forces and LTTE. "Sri Lanka's so-called 'no-fire zone' is now one of the most dangerous places in the world," said Brad Adams, Asia director at Human Rights Watch. "The Security Council has quibbled over protocol when it should be acting to bring an end to this ghastly loss of life," he said. A 35-year-old man told Human Rights Watch that he was waiting in the food distribution line with his wife and two-year-old child when the shelling started. The man said, "There had been no distribution of milk powder for three months, and so when they announced that there would be distribution today (April 8), hundreds of people lined in queue. It was early in the morning. I heard the first shell, and

Rights body seeks UN intervention to end 'loss of life' in Lanka

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

Load-Date: April 15, 2009

World - Sri Lanka suicide attacker kills 28

Morning Star

February 10, 2009 Tuesday

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Length: 344 words

Byline: Our Foreign Desk

Body

A **female** suicide bomber blew herself up yesterday killing 20 soldiers and eight civilians as troops frisked people fleeing Sri Lanka's northern war zone.

The attack sparked fears that the the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (**LTTE**), boxed into a small strip of land on the north-eastern coast, will increasingly turn to guerilla warfare.

The Red Cross estimates that 250,000 civilians are also trapped in the area.

More than 800 civilians had crossed the front lines yesterday morning and were being searched by soldiers when the bomber attacked.

Military spokesman Brigadier Udaya Nanayakkara said that the accused bomber was being frisked when she set off the explosives.

The blast also wounded 24 troops and 40 civilians, according to Brig Nanayakkara.

Military officials say that the flow of civilians out of the war zone has increased in recent days, with a total of 4,700 fleeing on Sunday, bringing the total number of non-combatants to escape the war zone to 20,000 this year.

Brig Nanayakkara claimed that the **LTTE** is "now desperate because they don't have any control over the civilians.

"They wanted to stop these people coming in."

Independent confirmation of the attack was not available because journalists are barred from the war zone.

With most communication to the north severed, the **LTTE** could not be reached for comment.

The **Tamil Tigers** have been accused of more than 200 suicide attacks in 25 years of civil war and are listed as a terror group by the United States and the European Union.

The group began fighting in 1983 for a separate state for Sri Lanka's ethnic Tamil minority after decades of marginalisation at the hands of governments controlled by the Sinhalese majority.

More than 70,000 people have been killed in the fighting.

World - Sri Lanka suicide attacker kills 28

Nobel peace laureate and president of East Timor Jose Ramos-Horta has called on both sides to agree to an immediate ceasefire to allow aid groups and independent journalists full access to the conflict zone and to begin talks for a political resolution to the conflict.

Mr Ramos-Horta also offered himself as a mediator.

Load-Date: February 10, 2009

End of Document

21 killed in Sri Lanka mine attack on bus

Suna News Agency

June 6, 2008 Friday 3:02 PM EST

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ARABIA 2000

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Length: 334 words

Body

COLOMBO, June 6, 2008 (AFP) - At least 21 commuters were killed and 47 others wounded Friday in a suspected Tamil Tiger mine attack on a crowded bus south of the Sri Lankan capital, officials said.

The state-run bus was peppered with shrapnel, an AFP photographer at the scene said, suggesting a powerful fragmentation mine placed on the roadside had been detonated as the bus was passing.

"Twenty-one people have been killed, eight of them are women," police spokesman Ranjith Gunasekera told AFP, adding that around 47 others were hurt.

The military's spokesman, Brigadier Udaya Nanayakkara, blamed the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), who are fighting to carve out a separate Tamil state within the Sinhalese-majority island.

The incident is the latest in a string of attacks against commuters in and around Colombo.

On Wednesday, 18 people were hurt when suspected Tiger rebels set off a bomb alongside a packed commuter train.

And on May 26, another attack on a commuter train -- also blamed on the LTTE -- killed nine people and wounded 84 others.

Each attack has followed LTTE complaints of mine attacks against civilians inside the rebel-held north by government commandos known as 'deep penetration units.'

Victims of Friday's bombing said the bus was knocked over by the force of the explosion.

"I was standing in the middle of the bus when there was a loud noise and the whole bus toppled to the side," said 21-year-old office worker Shanika Priyadharshani, while being bandaged up in hospital.

21 killed in Sri Lanka mine attack on bus

"I blacked out for a while. There was black smoke, people were dead around me. Some were shouting for help. I shouted for help and someone pulled me out and put me into a passing by vehicle and brought me to hospital," she told AFP.

Hostilities have escalated sharply in Sri Lanka since the start of the year, when the government pulled out of a Norwegian-brokered truce with the **Tamil Tigers**.

Since then, both sides have traded allegations that each others' forces are deliberately targeting civilians.

MD

Load-Date: June 7, 2008

End of Document

Army advances in Mannar killing large number of LTTE cadres

Daily Mirror (Sri Lanka)

June 10, 2008 Tuesday 4:29 PM EST

Copyright 2008 Wijeya Newspaper Ltd. All Rights Reserved

Length: 221 words

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

Dateline: Colombo

Body

Colombo, June 10 -- Army yesterday further advanced its forward defenceline in north of Alankulam in Mannar, by killing a large number of **LTTE** cadres and capturing a 17-year-old girl alive following a heavy battle, the military said.

Military Spokesman, Udaya Nanayakkara said the troops launched a surprise attack on the **LTTE** and captured their five locations in the forward defencelines.

"Ground troops confirmed that nine **LTTE** cadres and two soldiers were killed and the military recovered three bodies of **LTTE female** cadres and captured another alive," the spokesman said.

He also said the captured **female LTTE** cadre told the military that she was forcibly taken away by the **LTTE** when she went to the Kovil in Kilinochchi from Jaffna in 2006.

"She had been only given one-and-a-half-month armed training and deployed in forward defencelines along with several such underaged children," the spokesman said.

Action has been taken to hand over the captured **female** cadre to the Police for further investigations.

Meanwhile, Air Force launched two air-strikes on **LTTE** bunkers in Mannar and Sea Tiger base in Mullaitivu.

The military said, MI-24 helicopters targeting **LTTE** bunker lines north of Alankulam in the morning in Mannar, had caused heavy damage to the **LTTE**.

Published by HT Syndication with permission from Daily Mirror.

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Load-Date: August 11, 2008

I will not stop till terrorism is defeated: Rajapaksa

Indo-Asian News Service

May 27, 2008 Tuesday 1:06 PM EST

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Length: 392 words

Byline: Report from Indo-Asian News Service brought to you by HT Syndication.

Dateline: Colombo

Body

Colombo, May 27 -- Angered by a train blast that killed nine people and wounded over 80 in Colombo, Sri Lankan President Mahinda Rajapaksa declared Tuesday that the military campaign against the **Tamil Tigers** "will not be stopped" until they are defeated militarily.

"My government and I are committed to defeating terrorism. No one should have expectations that there will be a let up in the battle against terrorism because of the frenzied attacks by the **LTTE** (Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam)," Rajapaksa told Sri Lankan media heads at a meeting.

"I will not stop till terrorism is defeated," he said, charging the **LTTE** with "trying to whip communal strife and take the country back to the situation as in 1983.

"The Government will not let this happen. It was clear that in the face of defeat, the **LTTE** was increasing its attacks targeting innocent civilians. This is the reality that can be seen from these savage attacks," a statement from the president's office quoted him as saying at the meeting.

He insisted that his government's battle against terrorism "was not directed against the Tamil people" and called on the media "to act with responsibility in the national interest in dealing with the government's war against terrorism".

Meanwhile, the defence ministry said that one of the six seriously wounded **women** succumbed to her injuries at the Colombo National Hospital Tuesday morning, increasing the death toll from the Monday attack to nine.

The deafening blast occurred Tuesday evening at the edge of Colombo as a train packed with people returning after work to their homes in the country's Sinhalese-majority south neared the Dehiwela railway station at around 4.45 p.m.

Although the president and the military blamed the **LTTE** for the attack, there was no immediate reaction from the rebels.

Tens of thousands travel to and from Colombo every day by trains.

The explosion occurred despite calls by the police for enhanced vigilance by the public and crew of private and government transport sectors.

I will not stop till terrorism is defeated: Rajapaksa

The military said that two possible bomb attacks on public transport were averted Saturday when the police, acting on information provided by people, found and defused two powerful bombs inside two buses at Ganemulla in Gampaha district and Moratuwa in Colombo district.

Published by HT Syndication with permission from Indo-Asian News Service.

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

Load-Date: May 27, 2008

End of Document

World - Tamil Tigers admit killing 53 Sri Lankan soldiers

Morning Star

January 6, 2009 Tuesday

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Length: 271 words

Body

Tamil Tiger fighters claimed to have killed 53 Sri Lankan soldiers on Sunday as Colombo pushed ahead with an offensive aimed at capturing the rebels' last strongholds.

A rebel-affiliated website reported that the insurgents had stalled a military advance on the road to its north-eastern stronghold of Mullaitivu, killing 53 soldiers and wounding 80 others, two days after the military seized the rebels' administrative capital of Kilinochchi.

The report is impossible to verify due to a government media blackout which has been in force for a year-and-a-half.

The army is using Paranthan Junction, a strategic crossroads that the military captured on Thursday, as a staging area to send troops into the fight for two of the biggest prizes remaining in the battle, the rebel-held areas of Elephant Pass to the north and Mullaitivu to the east.

The TamilNet website reported that the government troops had started their thrust east of Paranthan, but were forced to abandon it after suffering heavy casualties.

Military spokesman Brigadier Udaya Nanayakkara acknowledged that there had been sporadic clashes in the region, but he denied significant casualties.

On Sunday, the Communist Party of India called on Sri Lanka to stop the military offensive against "the innocent Tamil population" and begin political discussions to resolve the decades-long conflict.

CPI national secretary and MP D Raja said that Colombo's intensified military action was resulting in "untold misery to women and children.

"It is time to stop the war and come forward for political negotiations as only discussions can resolve the issue," Mr Raja declared.

Load-Date: January 6, 2009

More civilians flee as fighting escalates in Sri Lanka: army

Agence France Presse -- English

January 17, 2009 Saturday 10:12 AM GMT

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Length: 369 words

Byline: Mel Gunasakera

Dateline: COLOMBO, Jan 17 2009

Body

Some 170 people have fled rebel-controlled areas in northern Sri Lanka as fresh fighting erupted across several fronts, the military said Saturday.

It said the 170 men, women and children had sought shelter in government-controlled areas in the north on Friday.

The International Committee of the Red Cross on Friday warned of a "massive displacement" of civilians, many of whom had already been forced to move numerous times.

"Tens of thousands of displaced civilians are concentrated in an area so small that there are serious concerns for their physical safety and living conditions, in particular in terms of hygiene," ICRC said.

Troops backed by helicopter gunships targeted rebels positions in the northern area of Dharmapuram on Friday, inflicting heavy casualties on the Tamil Tigers, the army said. It said a few soldiers were injured.

There was no immediate comment from the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), but the pro-rebel Tamilnet.com website said 51 soldiers were killed in Friday's fighting in Dharmapuram.

"Fifty-one soldiers were killed and 150 troops sustained injuries in the confrontation that lasted for 14 hours from the early hours of Friday," Tamilnet said. It gave no rebel casualties.

The LTTE accused the military of firing artillery shells towards people fleeing rebel-held areas on Friday, killing five civilians and injuring seven, Tamilnet said.

It said LTTE fighters seized weapons after fighting ended.

Meanwhile, ground troops on Saturday captured the northeastern area of Ramanadapuram after several days of fighting, the defence ministry said.

The ministry said airforce fighter jets bombed defence lines in the rebel-controlled Mullaittivu district on Saturday in support of ground troops.

More civilians flee as fighting escalates in Sri Lanka : army

A massive assault by Sri Lankan troops has left the Tigers cornered in their military stronghold in the northeastern coastal district of Mullaittivu.

Sri Lanka has poured a record 1.7 billion dollars into this year's war effort as troops push to eject the Tigers from their last stronghold in the jungle and lagoon district around Mullaittivu.

Tens of thousands of people have been killed since the Tamils launched their struggle for a separate homeland in 1972 in the Sinhalese-majority island.

Load-Date: January 18, 2009

End of Document

Tigers will never achieve Eelam dream - Surrendered LTTE cadre

Daily Mirror (Sri Lanka)

August 15, 2008 Friday 2:46 PM EST

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Length: 213 words

Byline: Daily News Sri Lanka

Dateline: Colombo

Body

Colombo, Aug. 15 -- An LTTE cadre who surrendered to the Forces, said senior LTTEers operating from the rear of their defences send new recruits to the front as cannon fodder.

"Tigers are not capable of resisting attacks by the troops. LTTE members are tired of fighting well-trained Government troops. They are now withdrawing. Their Eelam dream is confined only to a dream. They will never achieve it." he said.

"I was living with my parents, brother and three sisters. I was abducted by the LTTE in 2006 at the age of 19 when I was going to the Madhu Shrine with my family. The LTTE provide me training for two months and then sent me to the Welioya front. A large number of females are deployed in the LTTE defence lines.

"They have been forced to cut their hair short to avoid being identified. Those LTTE girls long to go to Security Forces-held areas with their parents and lead a peaceful life under the troops." he said.

"The best thing the LTTE can do for the Tamil population now is to lay down arms and select the peace path. The Army looks after me well.

"The LTTE will never succeed in this war. I request all our misguided members to surrender to any Security Forces camp, leaving the LTTE," he said.

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

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Load-Date: August 15, 2008

Sri Lanka rebels attack bus carrying war refugees: military

Agence France Presse -- English

February 14, 2009 Saturday 4:12 AM GMT

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Length: 262 words

Dateline: COLOMBO, Feb 14 2009

Body

Suspected Tamil Tiger rebels lobbed a grenade and opened fire at a bus transporting civilians out of Sri Lanka's war zone on Saturday, killing one woman and wounding 13, the defence ministry said.

The rebel Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (**LTTE**) attacked the bus at Puliyanikulam in the island's north while it headed to the government-held town of Vavuniya, the ministry said.

It said four **women** and two girls were among those shot by the gunmen in the pre-dawn attack.

The government accuses the **LTTE** of using some 100,000 Tamil civilians as a human shield after military forces cornered the guerrillas in a narrow strip of jungle in the island's north-east.

However, official figures showed 37,420 people had crossed the front lines this year, with nearly 35,000 making the hazardous journey this month alone to seek shelter with security forces.

The Red Cross says hundreds of non-combatants have already been killed.

The government, which says it is on the brink of crushing the rebels, has resisted international calls to halt its offensive against the Tigers, who have fought since 1972 for the creation of an independent Tamil homeland.

On Thursday, Sri Lanka set up a new safe zone for non-combatants along a 12-kilometre (7.5-mile) stretch of coastline, effectively scrapping a smaller designated no-fire area.

Sri Lanka has resisted calls for a "no-fire period," amid claims from relief agencies that a "humanitarian catastrophe" was unfolding in the island's war zone.

Foreign governments as well as rights groups have asked **Tamil Tigers** to allow civilians free movement.

Load-Date: February 14, 2009

21 killed in Sri Lanka mine attack on bus: military

Agence France Presse -- English

June 6, 2008 Friday 3:49 AM GMT

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Length: 329 words

Dateline: COLOMBO, June 6 2008

Body

At least 21 commuters were killed and 47 others wounded Friday in a suspected Tamil Tiger mine attack on a crowded bus south of the Sri Lankan capital, officials said.

The state-run bus was peppered with shrapnel, an AFP photographer at the scene said, suggesting a powerful fragmentation mine placed on the roadside had been detonated as the bus was passing.

"Twenty-one people have been killed, eight of them are women," police spokesman Ranjith Gunasekera told AFP, adding that around 47 others were hurt.

The military's spokesman, Brigadier Udaya Nanayakkara, blamed the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), who are fighting to carve out a separate Tamil state within the Sinhalese-majority island.

The incident is the latest in a string of attacks against commuters in and around Colombo.

On Wednesday, 18 people were hurt when suspected Tiger rebels set off a bomb alongside a packed commuter train.

And on May 26, another attack on a commuter train -- also blamed on the LTTE -- killed nine people and wounded 84 others.

Each attack has followed LTTE complaints of mine attacks against civilians inside the rebel-held north by government commandos known as 'deep penetration units.'

Victims of Friday's bombing said the bus was knocked over by the force of the explosion.

"I was standing in the middle of the bus when there was a loud noise and the whole bus toppled to the side," said 21-year-old office worker Shanika Priyadharshani, while being bandaged up in hospital.

"I blacked out for a while. There was black smoke, people were dead around me. Some were shouting for help. I shouted for help and someone pulled me out and put me into a passing by vehicle and brought me to hospital," she told AFP.

21 killed in Sri Lanka mine attack on bus: military

Hostilities have escalated sharply in Sri Lanka since the start of the year, when the government pulled out of a Norwegian-brokered truce with the **Tamil Tigers**.

Since then, both sides have traded allegations that each others' forces are deliberately targeting civilians.

Load-Date: June 6, 2008

End of Document

Sri Lanka govt denies shelling that killed 16 patients

Agence France Presse -- English

February 11, 2009 Wednesday 7:57 AM GMT

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Length: 528 words

Byline: Amal Jayasinghe

Dateline: COLOMBO, Feb 11 2009

Body

Sri Lanka's military Wednesday denied it had shelled a makeshift hospital killing 16 patients, as concern grew for civilians trapped in fighting between government soldiers and Tamil rebels.

"We did not fire at this location on Monday and it is quite possible that the LTTE attacked them," said military spokesman Brigadier Udaya Nanayakkara, referring to the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam, or Tamil Tigers.

The guerrillas, cornered in the north of the country in an area of less than 100 square kilometres (38 square miles) and seemingly close to defeat, were also stopping civilians fleeing rebel-held areas, the spokesman said.

His comments came after the International Committee of the Red Cross said the hospital was shelled. The organisation did not say who was responsible for the attack, but urged government forces and the rebels to spare non-combatants. "We are shocked that patients are not afforded the protection they are entitled to," said Paul Castella, head of the ICRC delegation in Colombo.

"Once more, we call on both parties to meet their obligation under international humanitarian law to spare at all times the wounded and sick people, medical personnel and medical facilities."

News of the shelling on the temporary hospital in Putumattalan came as civilians poured across the frontlines out of territory held by the Tigers, who have battled since 1972 for an independent Tamil homeland.

Sri Lanka's army has strangled the rebels into a small area of jungle after a string of battlefield victories, and the government has said final victory may come within days.

The military has accused the LTTE of gunning down 19 civilians and wounding another 75 who tried to escape from the dwindling territory still under rebel control on Tuesday.

The Tigers have issued no statements about the latest violence, and no independent verification was available as journalists, rights groups and international observers are unable to report freely from the area.

The authorities have also accused the only two independent groups still working in the conflict area, the ICRC and the UN, of causing panic by putting out exaggerated reports of civilian casualties -- a charge denied by both.

Sri Lanka govt denies shelling that killed 16 patients

Last week, a mob stoned the ICRC offices in Colombo while on Tuesday demonstrators denounced US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, who had asked for a "no-fire period" to allow civilians to move to safety.

Colombo has also pointed the finger at aid workers, diplomats and journalists saying they are being supportive of the **Tamil Tigers**.

On Monday, a **female** Tiger suicide bomber killed 30 people at a centre for displaced civilians, in what Sri Lankan authorities and the United States said was another attempt to stop people from leaving rebel territory.

The government says 32,000 non-combatants have already fled the war zone this month, with thousands more following every day.

Government forces on Wednesday kept up attacks against the rebels and took more territory, the defence ministry said.

Foreign Secretary Palitha Kohona said the Colombo government hoped displaced locals would be able to return to their homes within about a year after the region was swept for mines.

Load-Date: February 12, 2009

Lankan troops foil LTTE infiltration bid in Mullaitivu

UNI (United News of India)

March 2, 2009 Monday

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Length: 595 words

Dateline: Colombo

Body

Colombo, Mar. 2 -- Infantrymen attached to the Sri Lankan Army's elite 55 Division have beaten off a sea-borne attempt by the Tamil Tiger rebels to infiltrate into military defences in the north-eastern Mullaitivu district, the military said today.

It said the troops deployed along the coastal line have observed a large number of Tiger cadres onboard at least 10 Sea Tiger boats moving from the direction of the 'Safe Zone' in the southeast of Chalai and were on alert to face the **LTTE** attempt. "As the **LTTE** flotilla drew closer to the shore in the dark, a barrage of artillery, mortar, rocket propeller gun (RPG) and small arms fire was mounted on it, forcing the Tiger boats to turn away with extensive damages," the military said in a report. In a separate incident also in the Mullaitivu district, the military said one **female LTTE** cadre committed suicide detonating a suicide jacket when the troops mounted attack on a small group of **LTTE** cadres at Palamaththan area. Meanwhile, the military said it marked one more milestone today when it ceremoniously "re-opened the A-9 Jaffna-Kandy highway Main Supply Route (MSR) for military traffic after a lapse of twenty-four years." "Two convoys of the Sri Lanka Army troopers preceding home on leave and back from leave meet each other on the way to exchange warm and memorable greetings since their overland tour assumed historic importance," the military said. "Overland supplies to the troops of the tri-services in the Jaffna peninsula along this world-famous A-9 Road remained cut off for the last 24 years as a result of the **LTTE** terrorism. Forty lorries carrying troops bound for Anuradhapura and Jaffna met each other on the way this afternoon after conclusion of religious ceremonies," it said. Infantrymen attached to the Sri Lankan Army's elite 55 Division have beaten off a sea-borne attempt by the Tamil Tiger rebels to infiltrate into military defences in the north-eastern Mullaitivu district, the military said today. It said the troops deployed along the coastal line have observed a large number of Tiger cadres onboard at least 10 Sea Tiger boats moving from the direction of the 'Safe Zone' in the southeast of Chalai and were on alert to face the **LTTE** attempt. "As the **LTTE** flotilla drew closer to the shore in the dark, a barrage of artillery, mortar, rocket propeller gun (RPG) and small arms fire was mounted on it, forcing the Tiger boats to turn away with extensive damages," the military said in a report. In a separate incident also in the Mullaitivu district, the military said one **female LTTE** cadre committed suicide detonating a suicide jacket when the troops mounted attack on a small group of **LTTE** cadres at Palamaththan area. Meanwhile, the military said it marked one more milestone today when it ceremoniously "re-opened the A-9 Jaffna-Kandy highway Main Supply Route (MSR) for military traffic after a lapse of twenty-four years." "Two convoys of the Sri Lanka Army troopers preceding home on leave and back from leave meet each other on the way to exchange warm and memorable greetings since their overland tour assumed historic importance," the military said. "Overland supplies to the troops of the tri-services in the Jaffna peninsula along this world-famous A-9 Road remained cut off for the last 24 years as a result of the **LTTE** terrorism. Forty lorries carrying troops bound for Anuradhapura and Jaffna met each other on the way this afternoon after conclusion of religious ceremonies," it said. Published by HT Syndication with permission from United News of India.

Lankan troops foil LTTE infiltration bid in Mullaitivu

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Load-Date: March 31, 2009

End of Document

LTTE to create mayhem in the North: NFF

Daily Mirror (Sri Lanka)

February 13, 2009 Friday

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Length: 308 words

Dateline: Colombo

Body

Colombo, Feb. 13 -- The National Freedom Front (NFF) charged yesterday that the **LTTE** was to create mayhem in the North by forcing over 200 Tamil **women** to jump into a big fire in protest against the military onslaught of terrorists in Wanni.

NFF Leader Wimal Weerawansa told a news conference 'sathi pooja' type act was to show the world that the civilians were with the **LTTE** which was far from the truth. "It is perfectly clear that the Tamils in the North have distanced themselves from the **LTTE**," he said. Mr. Weerawansa said they were surprised that it was in this context that the international humanitarian organisations including the UN were forcing the government to go for a temporary ceasefire for the sake of the civilians. He requested the government and the defence chiefs not to go for a ceasefire under any circumstances. The NFF Leader said the TNA which staged protests on behalf of the civilians in the North and the East in Parliament was keeping mum about the situation today. He described the TNA as the political wing of the **LTTE** and called for the immediate proscription of the party. He also charged the UNP and other so-called socialist parties were keeping mum today when the civilians in Wanni were going through harassment at the hands of the **LTTE**. Referring to the provincial council election on Saturday, he said it was an election which could be used to pay tribute to the security forces in appreciation of their achievements. Meanwhile, an organisation named 'Sri Lankans against Terrorists' which also included members of the NFF is to stage a protest against the **LTTE** and pro-Tiger propaganda in Front of the British Prime Minister's residence at No. 10 Downing Street, London on Saturday. NFF members are expected to participate in this protest. 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

Load-Date: April 1, 2009

Trapped Tigers kill their own

Geelong Advertiser (Australia)

February 11, 2009 Wednesday

1 - Main Edition

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Section: WORLD; Pg. 32

Length: 275 words

Byline: SRI LANKA Colombo, Tuesday

Body

THOUSANDS of Tamil civilians streamed out of Sri Lanka's war zone today despite a suicide bomber killing 30 people at a centre for those escaping the fighting.

The guerrillas also shot dead 17 civilians and wounded 69 others fleeing the shrinking territory still under rebel control.

Survivors of the attack, who arrived at a military position in Iddayarkattu, told how Tiger fighters fired on them as they tried to cross the frontlines.

The group of about 1000 civilians were carrying 17 bodies, and said the Tigers opened fire to stop them seeking shelter with security forces.

More than 6500 Tamils crossed the frontlines on Monday, Brigadier Udaya Nanayakkara said, as the military pushed on with its offensive to end the Tamil Tigers' separatist campaign.

The Government accused the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) -- as it is formally known -- of carrying out the suicide attack to halt the flow of civilians out of the jungle territory that the rebels still control.

Monday's bombing was condemned by the United Nations and the United States, which backed Colombo's stance, saying that it was an "apparent effort by the LTTE to discourage Tamils from leaving the conflict area".

International governments and the Sri Lankan authorities have accused the Tigers of holding the civilians as "human shields".

"What we are seeing is that more people are coming over to our side," Brig. Nanayakkara said.

"The Tigers have also been firing mortars at the routes taken by the civilians, but still they want to escape from the fighting."

Brig. Nanayakkara said 10 civilians were among the 30 people killed in the attack by a female suicide bomber.

Load-Date: February 11, 2009

Trapped Tigers kill their own

End of Document

India to help remake northern Sri Lanka

Hindustan Times

February 9, 2009 Monday

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Length: 549 words

Dateline: New Delhi

Body

New Delhi, Feb. 9 -- As it steps up pressure on Sri Lanka to halt killings of civilians in its war zone, India is preparing a major reconstruction package for the island nation's troubled north.

After initially keeping mum even at the cost of alienating a traditionally friendly ethnic group, New Delhi has given up its policy of not speaking out publicly against Colombo by repeatedly calling for an end to Tamil civilian suffering that has caused global outrage. External Affairs Minister Pranab Mukherjee has in recent days urged Sri Lanka to ensure that Tamil civilians trapped in the northern war zone were not targeted in the fighting between the **Tamil Tigers** and the military. "Please make a distinction between the **LTTE** (Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam) and Tamil civilians," Mukherjee said Saturday, betraying a degree of impatience vis-?-vis Colombo. He was speaking at a meeting of thousands of Congress activists and leaders that included party president Sonia Gandhi. Also, Mukherjee and other government and Congress leaders repeatedly describe the **LTTE** as terrorist to politically puncture street protests in Tamil Nadu in support of the group. The term also pleases Colombo. At the same time, in the calculation that the **LTTE** will never be able to bounce back militarily to its original self, India is putting together a major package for Sri Lanka's Tamil-majority north in a bid to boost economic activity in a region that has seen virtually no development for decades. To begin with, India proposes to clean up Kankesanthurai port in Jaffna peninsula. The rehabilitation of the Palali air base in Jaffna is to be speeded up. There will be much more, worth millions of rupees. The Indian government began going public over Sri Lanka after realising that the military appeared to have crossed the red line vis-?-vis the civilian population in Mullaitivu district where large numbers of men, **women** and children are holed up in a small area still held by the **LTTE**. Rights groups, diplomats and fleeing Tamils have alleged that scores of civilians have been killed and seriously wounded as troops pound suspected **LTTE** positions in Mullaitivu. Even designated "safe zones" have not been spared, fuelling disgust. A hospital has also been hit. This has not gone down well in New Delhi, which is otherwise sympathetic to Colombo. Privately too, India has conveyed in unmistakable terms that Sri Lanka's priority must be to protect the Tamil civilians. In India's view, while civilian casualties will take place in any war, it cannot be accepted beyond a point. The civilian plight has generated so much heat that India thinks that even the promised devolution of power in Sri Lanka can fall in place later. Other countries are also pressing India to act. Dutch Foreign Minister Per Stig Moller telephoned Mukherjee Saturday. Erik Solheim, Norway's former Special Envoy to Sri Lanka, met Indian leaders two days earlier. India, however, has refused to lend its voice to calls for a ceasefire in Sri Lanka despite pressing Colombo last month to declare a limited truce to help Tamil civilians to leave the **LTTE** area. India seems to believe Colombo's version that the **LTTE** will simply regroup if a truce takes effect. Published by HT Syndication with permission from Indo-Asian News Service.

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

India to help remake northern Sri Lanka

Load-Date: April 1, 2009

End of Document

LTTE uses children for fund raising propaganda

Daily Mirror (Sri Lanka)

September 13, 2008 Saturday 4:44 PM EST

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Length: 1010 words

Byline: Daily News Sri Lanka

Dateline: Colombo

Body

Colombo, Sept. 13 -- The vast majority of Tamil diaspora members and Swiss nationals who attended a cultural festival in Thurgau in Switzerland were shocked to see schoolchildren as young as eight years enacting a drama dressed as child combatants using replicas of most lethal weapons.

The event, organised by the Tamilischer Kulter Verein Thurgau, an organisation purportedly for promotion of Tamil culture and art was held in Thoreau for fund-raising for 'displaced persons in the North'.

However, the entire event turned out to be a down and out fundraiser of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (**LTTE**). Senior **LTTE** activists controlling the chain of Tamil schools under Thamilchollai administration in Europe have given explicit orders to all the teachers that the policy of "Eelam (Tamil separate state) first" should be incorporated into the school syllabus.

This event is believed to have been organised under the order of Thamilchollai administration.

What shocked the Tamil diaspora members, especially the women and the middle-aged and the elderly was that young school children were dressed in combat uniforms carrying replicas of most dangerous weapons from rocket launchers, missiles and machine guns with capacity to kill hundreds within seconds.

While a handful of young parents watched the dances of their children with pride in their hearts, the vast majority of Tamils in the audience were shocked and dismayed about this display and openly expressed apprehensions about the longterm psychological impact on young minds when such violent behaviour is glorified.

"Nobody should have a right to play games with such gullible children," said a Swiss national who went to see the event with his Tamil friends. "This is a blatant violation of child rights and all international conventions against recruitment of child soldiers.

Swiss authorities should take action against the organisers of the event as the use of children for glorification of violence and subjecting children to such practices could lead them to grow up as social misfits who believe in violence," he pointed out.

A leading member of the Swiss Tamil diaspora expressed dismay at the "sick minds of the people who stoop to such levels to raise funds for a militant movement".

He added that only diehard militants and ignorant parents would approve such practices of brain-washing young gullible young minds.

LTTE uses children for fund raising propaganda

He pointed out that the Child Soldiers Global Report 2008* *details how a near global consensus that children should not be used as soldiers and strenuous international efforts have failed to protect tens of thousands of children from war.

"It is very dangerous to play with child's mind. Early years of child's life is very important as that will have a lasting impact on his adult life," Dr Carlton Moulin, a psychologist said. What the children see in tender years will touch the rest of their lives for good or for ill. Some children may live their lives in situations of peace and security.

For countless others war continues to be all too real. Over this aspect of the adult world they have little say and no control, he pointed out. He added that these children of Tamil diaspora will be influenced by the violent acts they are asked to perform although they have no experience at all about the theatre of war.

"They live in peaceful and prosperous Switzerland and as they are citizens of this country, the harm will be to the Swiss society," he lamented.

The last Global Report was published by the Coalition to Stop the Use of Child Soldiers (Coalition) in November 2004. Since then the movement to end the use of child soldiers has seen continued progress towards a universal consensus against their use in hostilities, witnessed by the fact that over three-quarters of states have now signed, ratified or acceded to the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict.

A small number of militant groups like the LTTE persist not only in recruiting children but also in exposing them to the physical and psychological dangers of combat. Despite repeated denials by the LTTE spokesperson, there is evidence that the LTTE continues to recruit large numbers of children into its armed forces - often forcibly through intimidation, coercion and violence - and to use them in a range of combat and non-combat roles.

Sri Lankan soldiers found several bodies of young children in LTTE camouflage uniforms after a fierce battle in the north two months ago and the bodies were returned through the representatives of the ICRC. At LTTE training centres in Kilinochchi, there are unconfirmed reports that untrained children as young as 15 were given weapons and sent to the battlefield.

Under the intensive campaign for long-term recruitment drive, use of weapons and killing instincts are often inculcated in the educational and recreational settings where children's physical and intellectual formation takes place.

In the schools in the uncleared areas, it is compulsory for all schools to include drills and other military training for young secondary-school students. For senior students from age 14 onwards, the LTTE has introduced military training.

The Optional Protocol permits the admission of under-18s into schools operated by or under the control of the military, but requires them to operate in accordance with Articles 28 and 29 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

However, in some military schools run by the LTTE proxy institutions, children wear military uniforms, live in military-style barracks and are subject to military discipline. Some offer a standard school curriculum, while others provide a narrow education involving hard physical drill and weapons handling.

Sri Lanka is aware of the dangers faced by the LTTE child combatants and the Defence Secretary has given strict instructions to protect the LTTE child combatants who surrender and hand them over to the nearest civil authorities for rehabilitation and care.

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

LTTE uses children for fund raising propaganda

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Load-Date: September 13, 2008

End of Document

Release human shields: UNP tells LTTE

Daily Mirror (Sri Lanka)

January 31, 2009 Saturday

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Length: 259 words

Dateline: Colombo

Body

Colombo, Jan. 31 -- The main opposition UNP yesterday asked the **LTTE** to stop using civilians as human shields and to respect the rights of civilians in conflict zones.

UNP parliamentarian Jayalath Jayawardene told a news conference the **LTTE** too should be held responsible for the human rights crisis in the Wanni. "Both the government and the **LTTE** must respect human rights," he said adding that in the Wanni there was a serious shortage of essential relief items and that it was the government's responsibility to provide them without delay. Dr. Jayawardene said there was a shortage of life-saving drugs, doctors and paramedical personnel and it was imperative that the required personnel and the drugs be sent to the Wanni. He said the assistance of United Nations agencies and other aid agencies should be sought for relief work in the war zone. Dr. Jayawardene said there were more than 2,000 pregnant **women** who needed urgent assistance. "What will become of these people if they are continuously neglected and ignored?" he asked. He said the civil administration in Kilinochchi and Mullaitivu had broken down as the Divisional Secretaries of these areas were asked to function from Vavuniya. Dr. Jayawardene charged that the government had turned down a request by members of the 'Parliamentarians for Human rights' -- an opposition lobby group in the House -- to visit the area. He said the government was only sending out a wrong message to the world by this kind of attitude. Published by HT Syndication with permission from Daily Mirror Sri Lanka.

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Load-Date: May 5, 2009

For LTTE it's do or die, now or never

Daily News (Sri Lanka)

March 27, 2009 Friday

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Length: 2181 words

Dateline: Colombo

Body

Colombo, March 27 -- The battlefield records indicate that the LTTE had never fought such fierce battles even in Kilinochchi which was considered to be the heart of their illusionary Tamil homeland which fell to the hands of the Security Forces in the first week of January this year.

It was same in Pooneryn, Mullaitivu and Paranthan too. But the situation has compelled the LTTE to fight such a fierce battle in Puthukudiyiruppu as they have created a theatre for their final battle in this crucial township and it had become a do or die battle for them. As the deadly fighting outside the No Fire Zone declared by the Security Forces is almost reaching its last stages as of yesterday the Security Forces were poised to enter the most decisive phase of bringing the two and half decades long conflict to its end within the next few days. Fierce fighting continued in Puthukudiyiruppu North and Iranapalai East as the LTTE continued its desperate attempts to push back the Security Forces from the outskirts of the No Fire Zone on Wednesday but troops fought back fearlessly foiling all their successive attempts. Battlefield records The battle during the past few weeks was described as the toughest the troops have ever fought during the two and half decade long conflict to capture a township under the control of the LTTE. LTTE has created an explosive belt in the remaining part of the Puthukudiyiruppu town to make it difficult for the Security Forces to capture the last few square kilometres of the build up area in Puthukudiyiruppu. The battlefield records indicate that the LTTE had never fought such fierce battles even in Kilinochchi which was considered to be the heart of their illusionary Tamil homeland which fell to the hands of the Security Forces in the first week of January this year (January 02,2009). It was same in Pooneryn, Mullaitivu and Paranthan too. But the situation has compelled the LTTE to fight such a fierce battle in Puthukudiyiruppu as they have created a theatre for their final battle in this crucial township and it had become a do or die battle for the LTTE. The area the LTTE can operate outside the No Fire Zone have been reduced just to three square kilo metres as of yesterday and it too was tipped to be captured by the 58 Division troops under the command of Brigadier Shavendra Silva and 53 Division under the command of Major General Kamal Gunaratne. Therefore, the top Tiger leaders are now entrapped inside a three to four square kilometre build up area in the East of Puthukudiyiruppu - Puthumattalan road and North of the Puthukudiyiruppu - Mullaitivu road. Troops of the 58 Division and 53 Division are advancing further into this territory to capture the entire build up area in Puthukudiyiruppu. Therefore, it is inevitable for the remaining Tiger cadres including the top rung Tiger leader to take refuge in the No Fire Zone after crossing the lagoon stretch. Therefore, the LTTE is trying their best to defend at least the remaining three square kilometre stretch in Puthukudiyirupu build up area at least to delay the troops advance into the edges of the No Fire Zone. Both 58 Division and the 53 Division are operating some three kilometres away from the lagoon stretch that separates the mainland from the narrow stretch of land demarcated as the No Fire Zone, through the lagoon stretch. Amid this situation the Tiger cadres once again launched yet another attempt to breach the Security Forces defences in Iranapalai in the North of Puthukudiyiruppu. It was around 2 am on Wednesday that 150 to 200 cadres launched a massive counter attack on the 58 Division defences manned by 7 Sinha Regiment troops and the 8

For LTTE it's do or die, now or never

Gajaba Regiment troops. Unlike their first two attempts to breach the 58 Division defence in Ampalavanpokkanai area from March 4 to March 8, the LTTE used medium calibre weapons to launch this attack. Counter attack At the initial attack the Tiger cadres managed to capture a 400 metre stretch of the defence line manned by the 7 Sinha Regiment. But troops managed to strengthen their second defence line and push back the Tiger cadres who attempted to infiltrate into the military controlled areas. After hours along battle 58 Division troops with the support of the commando troops and the Special Forces troops successfully repulsed the Tiger counter attack and reestablished their defences by Wednesday evening. However, the attempt of the LTTE was aimed at pushing back the troops towards the West of Puthukudiyiruppu - Puthumattalan road. The concern of the LTTE is to secure this road that links with the No Fire Zone through a causeway across the lagoon, to prevent civilians fleeing from the No Fire Zone using this route. During this fierce battle scores of Tiger cadres were killed, facing yet another blow at the hands of the 58 Division troops. The 53 Division under the command of Major General Kamal Gunaratne also faced a similar type of counter attack by the LTTE at the same period but managed to foil the LTTE attempt to breach the 53 Division defences in Puthukudiyiruppu East. Amidst this situation the 53 Division and the Task Force VIII troops under the command of Colonel G.V. Ravipriya managed to advance further Eastward from the Puthukudiyiruppu junction and they are now in the process of reaching the edge of Puthukudiyiruppu build up area. Therefore, the LTTE is losing all their links to the North, West and the South. Thus they are deprived of all their ground links. Huge pressure Such massive counter attacks should be expected by the troops at any time, as the LTTE is facing huge pressure at this point of time and they want to minimize this pressure after breaking the Security Forces defences and attempting to expand their territory. The pressure is very much high as all top level leaders, including second in command of the LTTE, Pottu Amman, Sea Tiger leader Soosai, former Jaffna military leader Theepan and his Deputy Lawrence, LTTE Women Wing leader Vithusha and other top level leaders like Lakshman are operating in this small strip of land. Naturally the battle in this stretch turns into a tough one as all top level Tiger leaders who groomed the LTTE into such a powerful terrorist outfit are commanding the battle from a single place first to survive themselves from the advancing troops and to foil all attempts by the troops to reach the outskirts of the No Fire Zone. When analyzing the battleground information it is quite apparent that the LTTE is still maintaining a considerable strength of their hardcore cadres, especially from the Sea Tiger Wing to launch their final assault on the Security Forces and also to provide personnel security for these top level leaders. Besides the LTTE also has a massive stock of arms and ammunition to be used against the troops advancing into this small terrain. Therefore, they can inflict heavy casualties among the Security Forces using their hardcore cadres and the massive fire power left with them. Casualty rate Therefore, a high casualty rate among the Security Forces is inevitable in the final leg of the battle which is now being unfolding in the Puthukudiyiruppu East, as the Security Forces capabilities to make use of their fire power against the LTTE has been restricted due to the presence of civilians despite LTTE making use of its all available strength against the Security Forces without any restriction disregarding the safety of the civilians LTTE has been able to maintain this reserve strength after deploying forcibly recruited cadres into the front line to delay the troops advance into their final territory. The civilians fleeing from the Tiger grip confirm the fact that the LTTE is engaged in a vigorous campaign to recruit civilians into the outfit and provide them weapon training and deploy them in the front lines even at this moment. The Security Forces also confirm that many of the civilian casualties arriving in Government controlled areas through ICRC escorted ship on weekly basis are, such civilians who had fought in the battlefield and sustained injuries. Apart from this a large number of hardcore Tiger cadres were also wounded in action are also leaving the Tiger controlled areas mingling with these wounded and sick civilians arriving in the Government controlled areas through the ICRC chartered ship. Once interrogated by the troops ten such hardcore Tiger cadres surrendered to the Security Forces after arriving in Pulmudai area during this week. Therefore, the Security Forces have observed a tendency of many Tiger cadres deserting the outfit mingling with the civilians. The influx of civilians into the military controlled areas has once again increased during this week with more than 3,000 civilians arriving in 58 Division area yesterday alone after crossing the lagoon stretch in Ampalavanpokkanai area. It is apparent that the LTTE no longer can retain the civilian population with them as they are fast losing their strength as 10 to 30 Tiger cadres are being killed on daily basis in the Puthukudiyiruppu East battlefield. It is under these circumstances the LTTE is trying their best to prevent the troops advancing into the No Fire Zone along Paranthan - Mullaitivu A-35 road as such a move will definitely separate the No Fire Zone into two areas making enough room for the civilians to flee the area with the assistance of the ground troops. But it is quite obvious that LTTE would once again come out with its ruthlessness to restrict civilian movements as there is no existence for the LTTE without the presence of the civilians in the No Fire Zone. No Fire As indicated by the civilians to the Security Forces the Tiger leader Velupillai Prabhakaran and his elder son Charles Anthony are still

For LTTE it's do or die, now or never

living inside the No Fire Zone mingling with the civilians as there no other place left for him to live at present. Not only Prabhakaran, it is quite evident that other top level Tiger leaders will also flee into the No Fire Zone within the next few days once they lose control of the areas in the mainland. The Security Forces are expecting a worst kind of reprisal attack by the LTTE garnering its full strength against the advancing troops in the form of a suicide attack. Apart from this situation it is also obvious that the LTTE is strengthening their positions inside the No Fire Zone. According to Sri Lanka Air Force the pilots of two aircraft who were flying over the No Fire Zone had observed that LTTE had fired two missiles targeting the two aircraft within a space of ten minutes on Wednesday around 11 a.m. But the anti missile system had protected the two aircraft enabling the pilots to take the two aircraft safely. According to Air Force this is the third occasion the LTTE had launched missile attacks on the Air Force within the past two and half years. At one occasion the LTTE had fired a missile towards an Air Force aircraft in Vakarai during the Vakarai operation area and another in Iranamadu area. Suspicious missiles There is big suspicion whether these missiles were activated through an air defence system inside the No Fire Zone once Air Force aircraft flew over the sky of the No Fire Zone. That may be from a location where Tiger Leader Velupillai Prabhakaran is living inside this No Fire Zone as there have been instances where LTTE Air Defence systems got activated when Air Force aircraft passed areas where they have installed air defence systems and anti aircraft guns. In most of these occasions these missiles have been launched from LTTE leaders' hideouts. But there is a growing suspicion whether the LTTE had acquired those missiles recently and smuggled them into the Vanni through their arms smuggling network through the small stretch of coast open for them in the North of Mullaitivu. There have been strong indications that the LTTE is making use of even this narrow sea front to send their wounded cadres and also to smuggle weapons into the Vanni. Therefore, it is evident that the LTTE is still keeping its defence systems intact even when they have reached the final leg of the battle. It is quite evident that LTTE is trying to hang onto the No Fire Zone till the last minute as they are expecting an international intervention even at the last moment. International community As the international community was aware of the correct situation in Sri Lanka an international intervention is unlikely at this stage of the conflict where Security Forces have reached maximum success against the most ruthless terror outfit in the world. Any intervention on to the matter should be made on the basis of pressurizing the LTTE to allow the civilians to flee towards the safer zones but not in the form pressurizing the Security Forces to halt military operations against the LTTE. That will definitely put all the efforts made by the Security Forces to wipe out the most ruthless terror outfit from the Sri Lankan soil, in jeopardy and also the concerted international effort to eradicate terrorism through the war on terror campaign. Published by HT Syndication with permission from Daily News Sri Lanka.

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UN Accuses Sri Lanka's Tamil Tiger Rebels Of Targeting Civilians

RTT News (United States)

February 16, 2009 Monday

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Length: 383 words

Body

(RTTNews) - The United Nations on Monday accused Sri Lanka's Tamil Tiger rebels of forcefully preventing civilians from leaving the conflict zone in the north of the island, where the military is fighting the rebel forces.

"The **LTTE** continues to actively prevent people leaving, and reports indicate that a growing number of people trying to leave have been shot and sometimes killed," the UN said in a statement released Monday.

The UN also urged the rebels and the government forces to refrain from fighting in areas with large number of civilians, adding that "tens of thousands of civilians," including children, still remain in the Vanni region.

The agency said that it had received concerning reports that there was fighting inside the government-designated "safe zone" for the civilians feeling the conflict zone, adding that tens and thousands of people are still trapped in the "safe zones" along the north coast.

In the statement, the UN also accused the rebels of forcibly recruiting people into their ranks, including children as young as 14, adding that one UN staff member was reported to be forcibly recruited into the **LTTE** ranks.

"Fifteen United Nations staff and 75 of their dependents, 40 of whom are children, and 35 of whom are **women**, remain in the same area, having also been prevented from leaving by the **LTTE**," the UN statement added.

Fighting between the Tamil Tiger rebels and the government forces intensified recently after the Sri Lankan government backed out of a 2002 Norwegian-brokered ceasefire in January 2008 and launched an all out offensive against the rebels, aiming to crush them by the year end.

Last month, the Sri Lankan forces had captured Jaffna peninsula, Elephant Pass and the rebel de facto capital of Kilinochchi from the **Tamil Tigers**, and are currently advancing into the remaining rebel-held regions in the northern part of the island nation.

It is estimated that more than 70,000 people, mostly civilians, have been killed in the country's civil war that began after the Tamil Tiger rebels launched an armed rebellion in 1983, demanding an independent state for the Tamil minority in the island's northern and eastern regions.

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Load-Date: April 16, 2010

UN Accuses Sri Lanka 's Tamil Tiger Rebels Of Targeting Civilians

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Ready for talks if LTTE down weapons first - President

Sunday Observer (Sri Lanka)

July 13, 2008 Sunday 12:41 PM EST

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Byline: Report from the Sri Lanka Sunday Observer brought to you by HT Syndication.

Dateline: Colombo

Body

Colombo, July 13 -- He was not aware as yet of Indian diplomats arriving in Colombo for the SAARC Summit bringing their own security, however he saw nothing wrong in leaders of countries having their own security when they travel abroad, said President Mahinda Rajapaksa addressing the Indian media yesterday. (July 12).

He was answering questions regarding security for Indian delegates to the SAARC Summit in Colombo, at a press conference at Thirupathy in Andhra Pradesh, prior to his departure for Sri Lanka.

“(EURO) I have my own security here. It is natural. Any leader who comes to another country will not just walk in there. They will bring their own security. We consider it our duty to look after their security while in Sri Lanka, but they also bring their own security. Every leader does that?” (EURO), the President said.

Answering a question about a statement by the **LTTE** (TM)s Political Wing leader, Nadesan, that the Government was not willing to reopen negotiations, President Rajapaksa said the government was ready even today.

“(EURO) I am ready today. Let them keep their weapons down, because whenever they are weak they are ready for talks.” (EURO)

Asked about possible deadline for talks with the **LTTE**, President Rajapaksa said there was no deadline as it was up to the **LTTE**. “(EURO) From my side, we are ready. Only, they must give up arms, and give up terrorism. You know the problems you have in your own country with terrorists and terrorist organisations.” (EURO)

“(EURO) See what happened in Kabul. Terrorism strikes in Kabul, New York, London and Colombo. It is all the same. You cannot achieve anything through terrorism,” (EURO) he said. Asked whether he was interested in mediation, he said it should be possible to settle this matter by direct discussions: “(EURO) We are all Sri Lankans, we are all brothers, whether we are from the North, East or South. Surely we can settle this by talking to each other.” (EURO).

President Rajapaksa explained in detail how the **LTTE** had been carrying out attacks on civilians, **women** and children, for more than 20 years, even when a Ceasefire Agreement was in place. He said that within two weeks of his election in November 2005, the **LTTE** had resumed violence that had gone on for months killing over 200 civilians and unarmed soldiers.

The government had sought negotiations in Geneva and Oslo, which were rejected by the **LTTE**. The current operation to defeat terrorism had begun only after the **LTTE** closed the Mavil Aru anicut in mid-2006 cutting off

Ready for talks if LTTE down weapons first - President

water for drinking and agriculture to more than 15,000 families. The **LTTE** had rejected the pleas of the government to open the anicut and give water to the people.

He said the **LTTE** had now been defeated in the East, where an election was held, and a former **LTTE** cadre, who had joined as child soldier when 15 years old, was now the elected Chief Minister.

On relationships with India, the President said there were very good relations between India and Sri Lanka. "(EURO) India has always helped Sri Lanka, and now they are helping to train our people, our soldiers"(EURO). The countries of the Indian sub-continent region were regularly exchanging intelligence and information of terrorism, he said.

Referring to allegations of the Sri Lankan Navy harassing Indian fishermen of Rameshwaram, President Rajapaksa said this was not so. He explained that fishing boats in large numbers came into this area from India, and the **LTTE** captured some of these boats and use them to transport weapons and explosives. The Sri Lanka Navy had to act against these move of the **LTTE**.

?(EURO) You must remember that the **LTTE** killed one of the greatest leaders of India (Rajiv Gandhi) who tried to help the **LTTE** to come to negotiations. You must always remember that?(EURO). He said that subject to correction, he had heard it said that he (Rajiv Gandhi) had offered to give his own bullet proof vest to the **LTTE** leader, when the latter had said he feared to return to Sri Lanka.

Asked about reports that Sri Lanka was seeking to avoid the new cricket fixture with England next year, President Rajapaksa said Sri Lanka cricketers will play in India first.

When told of a warning by the ICC that the interest of the nation should take precedence over that of players, the President said it was important to remember what had happened in the past. "(EURO) When other countries refused to play cricket in Colombo, who was it that came to play with us? It was India, Pakistan and Bangladesh. Can that be ignored,?(EURO) he asked.

The President said he did not wish to get involved in cricket politics, and it was the Cricket Board which was an independent body that would decide on the matter. "(EURO) el can guide them. But there is a Minister of Sports, too.?(EURO) He added that the players must also be given due importance.

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Election demolished the myth of LTTE

Daily Mirror (Sri Lanka)

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Length: 684 words

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

Dateline: Colombo

Body

Colombo, Sept. 17 - The **LTTE** utilized the duration of the Ceasefire Agreement to collect armaments including light aircraft and conscript more armed cadres into its ranks, Minister of Export Development and International Trade Prof. G.L. Peiris said in England recently.

Minister G.L. Peiris met with Gareth Thomas, British Under Secretary of State for Trade Policy at his office in Victoria Street in London. While informing him about the present political and economic situation in the country, Prof. Peiris pointed out that the recent electoral victories secured by the Government in the North Central and Sabaragamuwa Provinces indicate the political stability of the regime. It also reflected the public acceptance of government policy.

While stating that the Tamil people of the East has turned the claim by the **LTTE** to be the only representative of the Tamils into a myth by electing a non-**LTTE** Tamil as their Chief Minister. Prof. Peiris said the main reason for the failure of the earlier peace attempt was the inability of the **LTTE** to understand the sentiments of the people and the **LTTE's** lack of credibility in the public domain. He also referred to the unprecedented loss suffered by the JVP at the elections.

Prof. Peiris also said the rationale for the present war-effort of the Government was to militarily weaken the **LTTE** and get them to negotiate for a political solution and said that the government had taken all steps to provide food, shelter and other humanitarian assistance to the common people of the North who have been displaced and were under-going severe hardships due to the war-efforts.

Prof. Peiris informed Thomas that the Government was prepared to take action within the existing administrative and legal framework against those who were supposed to have violated fundamental human rights as alleged by the **LTTE** and other groups.

Referring to Sri Lanka as a country that had been always battling terrorism, Prof. Peiris explained to Thomas why the GSP+ facility should be extended with regard to Sri Lanka.

In reply to Prof. Peiris, Thomas promised the Minister that he and others would do the maximum to help Sri Lanka obtain an extension of the GSP+ facility.

Thereafter Prof. Peiris met with Geoffrey Van Orden, Conservative member of the European Parliament Brussels and again discussed the extension of the GSP+ - facility. He informed Van Orden that the continued employment of a large number of rural **women** in Sri Lanka hinges on the extension of this facility.

Election demolished the myth of LTTE

During his London visit, Prof. Peiris also attended a luncheon meeting hosted by the Commonwealth Business Council as well as another held at Asia House.

Addressing the business community, Prof. Peiris invited them to utilize the investment opportunities available in Sri Lanka and specially in the Eastern Province. In addition, Prof. Peiris met, with Dr. Lorand Bartels, Lecturer on International Trade Law at the Cambridge University with whom he discussed the GSP+ facility and about the World Trade Organization.

Among the businessmen the Minister had discussions with Sir Gulam Noon, Chairman of the Noon Group of Companies, Neal Lindsey, Director, NEXT Group, Michael Ward, Managing Director of the renowned Harrods, Co Perkins, Chairman, Fee Group, Paul Grigg, Buyer, Tea Department at Tesco and Tony Sarin, President of the South Asian Business Association that enjoys close rapport with Gordon Brown, the British Prime Minister.

The latter discussed with the Minister, Sri Lanka's Free Trade Agreements with India and Pakistan and expressed his intention to invite Prof. Peiris for the annual dinner of the organization to be held next month in London and which is usually attended by about 500 Indian and Pakistani businessmen. Mr. Sarin informed Prof. Peiris that this event will provide an opportunity to promote Sri Lanka as a gateway to the South Asian Market.

During his visit to London, the BBC Sinhala Service Website expressed regrets over some mis-reporting with regard to matters discussed at an interview with Prof. Peiris.

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Load-Date: September 17, 2008

Sri Lanka launches air raid after LTTE's suicide attack

Indo-Asian News Service

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Dateline: Colombo

Body

Colombo, June 16 -- Sri Lankan Air Force supersonic fighter jets raided a suspected **LTTE** base in Wanni barely a couple of hours after a powerful suicide blast killed 12 police personnel in the tightly guarded northern town of Vavuniya Monday, military officials said.

"Our fighter jets bombed an **LTTE** logistic warehouse complex located about two kilometres southeast of Puthukkudiyiruppu at 10.00 a.m. Monday. The pilots have confirmed that the target was accurately hit," air force spokesman Wing Commander Janaka Nanayakkara told IANS.

This is the second air raid in two consecutive days targeting suspected Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (**LTTE**) bases in the rebel heartland of Mullaitivu.

According to Wing Commander Nanayakkara, the MI-24 gunship helicopters have also carried out air raids targeting the **LTTE**'s forward defence lines at Nagarkovil in the Jaffna peninsula "in support of the ground troops around 12.30 p.m. Monday".

"The extents of damage caused to the **LTTE** during these two air raids was not known immediately," he said.

Earlier in the day, a suspected **LTTE** suicide bomber riding an explosive-laden motorbike blew himself up, targeting police personnel leaving the office of a senior superintendent of police for routine deployment around 7.10 a.m. Monday in Vavuniya town, 254 km north of Colombo.

"Twelve police officers, including three **women** police constables, were killed and 23 others were injured in the explosion. Seventeen policemen, two **women** constables, three schoolchildren and another civilian were among the injured," the Media Centre for National Security of the defence ministry said in a statement.

Television channels showed visuals of the blast site where the motorbike used in the suicide attack was shattered to pieces. Ambulances evacuated the wounded police personnel and civilians to the Vavuniya hospital.

The latest suicide attack has taken place at a time when government troops have opened many fronts in Vavuniya and in the northwestern Mannar district in their bid to advance into the rebel-held Wanni area amid fierce resistance from the **LTTE**.

The defence ministry said that at least 30 **LTTE** cadres and four soldiers were killed and over 45 wounded on both sides during separate gun battles elsewhere in Mannar, Vavuniya, Jaffna and Weli Oya areas Sunday.

Sri Lanka launches air raid after LTTE's suicide attack

On Sunday, the air force claimed to have bombed "a key combat-logistic facility" of the LTTE in the rebel-held Mullaitivu district, completely destroying the unit that was used to convert, maintain and service LTTE combat vehicles.

Without commenting about the government's claim on the bombing, the rebels said in a statement that two civilians were killed and 11 wounded in the air raid.

Military officials rejected the LTTE claim and said "the target was acquired after constant air surveillances and continuously gathered information".

There was no immediate reaction from the rebels regarding the fresh air raid.

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Tigers' deep sea mines pose new threat to Sri Lanka

Indo-Asian News Service

March 23, 2008 Sunday 1:21 PM EST

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Length: 479 words

Byline: Report from Indo-Asian News Service brought to you by HT Syndication.

Dateline: Colombo

Body

Colombo, March 23 -- The **Tamil Tigers**' deep sea underwater capability demonstrated off the eastern Sri Lankan coast Saturday might have added a new dimension to the military conflict, The Sunday Times said.

The navy could be facing a new challenge in the coming months if the Tamil guerrillas continue to attack Sri Lankan vessels with sea mines or human torpedoes, the weekly paper said.

A sea mine sunk a Sri Lankan naval Fast Attack Craft (FAC) off Nayaruvu on the Mullaitivu coast at about 2.25 a.m. Saturday. And although six men were rescued in the vicinity, the fate of 10 others was not known, it added.

Survivors said that they saw no Tiger vessel in the vicinity either with the naked eye or electronically and that there was no confrontation or firing. Hence the suspicion about a sea mine being the cause of the deadly explosion.

The Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (**LTTE**), however, gave a different version of the incident. The **LTTE** said there was a confrontation between the Sri Lankan Navy and a suicide squad of the Sea Tigers in which 14 navy men were killed and one FAC was sunk.

The **LTTE** further said that three Tigers, including a 'Lt. Colonel' and two **women** cadres, all members of the Black Tiger suicide squad, were killed. The names of the dead were announced.

The Sunday Times, quoting unnamed defence officials, said the Sri Lankan gun boat might have been destroyed by a human torpedo.

The other speculation is that **LTTE** suicide divers might have fixed a mine on the hull of the ill-fated vessel.

It was possible that an **LTTE** boat had dropped off the suicide squad and the latter, armed with the right underwater equipment, could have been lying low for hours waiting for an opportunity to strike, a military expert told IANS.

Assuming a sea mine sunk the FAC, The Sunday Times said: "The extensive use of such mines can impede naval movement in the high seas. This is not only confined to patrolling the seas. More importantly, the navy provides the bulk of the security cover for movement of food and military supplies to some 40,000 troops and policemen deployed in the government-controlled Jaffna peninsula. They are transported from Trincomalee to Kankesanthurai.

"In addition, the vast majority of troops and police personnel are also escorted at sea by the navy."

Tigers' deep sea mines pose new threat to Sri Lanka

The exact location of the incident had not been given by any of the parties but the paper said that it was clearly in the deep sea, which is worrying. The **LTTE** might have learnt to carry on such covert operations in the deep sea, generally considered safe for shipping.

The Sri Lankan navy too had recently laid mines to deter **LTTE** ships. The chief of the Chennai-based Indian Coast Guard had warned Indian fishermen that if they strayed into Sri Lankan waters, they could be hit by sea mines.

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LTTE firing kills 19 civilians, wounds 75 in Lanka

UNI (United News of India)

February 10, 2009 Tuesday

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Length: 437 words

Dateline: Colombo

Body

Colombo, Feb. 10 -- At least 19 people were killed and 75 more wounded in the cowardly **LTTE** attack at the civilians seeking refuge with the soldiers in Udayarkattukualam this morning, Sri Lanka's Defence Ministry said today.

"Among the dead are two children, five **women**, and 12 males. Another 28 children, 30 **women** and 17 men have suffered injuries," it said. "Sri Lanka Army Task Force 2 soldiers operating west of Puthukkuduyiruppu, in Mullaitivu district have rescued about 1046 Tamil civilians escaping the **LTTE** human shield in Wanni today," the defence ministry said. It said the Army has taken measures to airlift the critically wounded people to Anuruadhapura and Vavuniya hospitals while the others have been given first aid at field dressing station at the rescue point itself. The military said, "The attack at the civilians today was the third in this month carried out by the **LTTE** "to prevent civilians getting out of the human shield in Wanni." Meanwhile, Lankan President Mahinda Rajapaksa has vehemently condemned the **LTTE** for carrying out such dastardly attacks on innocent civilians and vowed that his government would not succumb to the evil designs of the rebels, and go ahead with steps to accommodate thousands of Tamil refugees who are fleeing the war zone. At least 19 people were killed and 75 more wounded in the cowardly **LTTE** attack at the civilians seeking refuge with the soldiers in Udayarkattukualam this morning, Sri Lanka's Defence Ministry said today. "Among the dead are two children, five **women**, and 12 males. Another 28 children, 30 **women** and 17 men have suffered injuries," it said. "Sri Lanka Army Task Force 2 soldiers operating west of Puthukkuduyiruppu, in Mullaitivu district have rescued about 1046 Tamil civilians escaping the **LTTE** human shield in Wanni today," the defence ministry said. It said the Army has taken measures to airlift the critically wounded people to Anuruadhapura and Vavuniya hospitals while the others have been given first aid at field dressing station at the rescue point itself. The military said, "The attack at the civilians today was the third in this month carried out by the **LTTE** "to prevent civilians getting out of the human shield in Wanni." Meanwhile, Lankan President Mahinda Rajapaksa has vehemently condemned the **LTTE** for carrying out such dastardly attacks on innocent civilians and vowed that his government would not succumb to the evil designs of the rebels, and go ahead with steps to accommodate thousands of Tamil refugees who are fleeing the war zone. Published by HT Syndication with permission from United News of India.

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Overseas employment for LTTE surrendees

Sunday Observer (Sri Lanka)

February 1, 2009 Sunday

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Length: 264 words

Dateline: Colombo

Body

Colombo, Feb. 1 -- The members of the **LTTE** who surrender to Government rehabilitation camps will shortly find overseas employment opportunities under a special program, conducted by the Sri Lanka Bureau of Foreign Employment on the direction of Foreign Employment and Promotion Minister Keheliya Rambukwella. Under the rehabilitation program 15 LTTEers who surrendered to the Northern and Eastern District rehabilitation camps last year will be the first batch to find overseas jobs shortly.

Those who surrendered were first rehabilitated at the camps, located in Jaffna, Batticaloa and Trincomalee districts and later received vocational training under the guidance of the SLBFE. SLBFE, Chairman Kingsley Ranawaka told the Sunday Observer that vocational training programs for LTTEers who surrender to rehabilitation camps have been expanded to recruit more such persons for foreign jobs in future. He said they have to be rehabilitated first and later given vocational training. It has been reported that over 100 **LTTE** cadres had surrendeed to rehabilitation centres. The training programs such as sewing for **females** and motor mechanism, carpentry, plumbing and electrical wiring for males are conducted by the Sri Lanka Bureau of Foreign Employment (SLBFE). The SLBFE Chairman also said its next objective was to introduce new skilled training programs and expand the number of centres in the Northern and Eastern districts to enable more LTTEers who surrender to rehabilitate camps to find employment abroad. Published by HT Syndication with permission from Sunday Observer (Sri Lanka).

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Load-Date: May 5, 2009

LTTE fires at fleeing civilians, injuring 4 Army

Daily Mirror (Sri Lanka)

February 28, 2009 Saturday

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Length: 249 words

Dateline: Colombo

Body

Colombo, Feb. 28 -- The Army said at least four civilians were injured when the **LTTE** fired at them on Thursday in Puthukuduyirippu. It said two children and two **women** were injured in the shooting and they had reached the Army's 58 division in Mullaitivu. "The injured civilians also said many more civilians had to turn back and creep in to **LTTE** held-areas once again fearing for their lives," the army said.

This is the third firing instance reported by the **LTTE** towards civilians who are vacating their area. Army troops attended to the injured immediately and referred them for further medical treatment to the nearest hospital. Meanwhile, fifteen children who were seriously injured due to **LTTE** fire while escaping in Mullaitivu areas few days ago are recovering after they were admitted to Lady Ridgeway Children's Hospital, Borella, following initiatives taken by the Army. The army yesterday said that ten of them are boys and five are girls. They are being treated for gunshot injuries and burns, according to the hospital director who claimed some of them have been transferred from Anuradhapura and Trincomalee hospitals. "With proper medical and nursing care, accompanied by warmth and affection of the southerners, those children are fast recovering before they are handed over to their legitimate parents, most of who are either in Relief Villages or elsewhere in the south under safe conditions," the army said. Published by HT Syndication with permission from Daily Mirror Sri Lanka.

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