

Date and Time: Saturday, May 4, 2024 2:18:00PM EEST

Job Number: 223508012

Documents (100)

1. [Sri Lankan govt condemns rebel violence](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

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

2. [Sri Lanka faces humanitarian crisis as 150,000 flee fighting](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

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

3. [In short](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

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

4. [Sri Lanka Villagers Flee Military Patrol](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

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

5. [More killings reported from Sri Lanka 's east](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

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

6. [*Tigers receptive to rapprochement over tsunami relief*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

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

7. [*Political party office attacked in northern Sri Lanka*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

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

8. [*Curfew in northern Sri Lanka as envoy moves to save peace*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

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

9. [*Japan moves to save Sri Lanka peace bid*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

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

10. [*Sri Lanka hits rebel camps from air*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

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

11. [Anton Balasingham](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

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

12. [Sri Lankan mine kills 64 bus passengers](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

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

13. [10 DIE, ARMY CHIEF CRITICAL AS 'PREGNANT WOMAN' BLOWS HERSELF UP IN JETS POUND
REBEL AREAS](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

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

14. [Sri Lanka fighting set for long haul: analysts](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

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

15. [Thousands flee Sri Lanka fighting](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newspapers,Newswires & Press

16. [*Tigers accuse Sri Lanka of preparing for war*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

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

17. [*FAST NEWS*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

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

18. [*Thousands flee as Sri Lanka fighting worsens*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

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

19. [*EU condemns Sri Lanka bus 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, 2003 to Dec 31, 2007

20. [*Sri Lanka appoints successor to slain foreign minister*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

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

21. [Sri Lankan Suicide Attack Video Released](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

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

22. [The four-wheeled apocalypse](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

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

23. [Video shows female suicide bomber attacking Sri Lankan govt. office](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

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

24. [Suicide bombers last moments caught on tape](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

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

25. [5,000 Sri Lankans gather to show solidarity with renegade rebel in eastern town](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

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

26. [Sri Lanka 's reclusive top Tamil Tiger leader to make annual speech amid an undeclared war](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

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

27. [1ST LEAD: Nine die in new clashes as bombing toll rises to 19](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

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

28. [Japanese envoy to meet top Sri Lankan official in peace bid](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

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

29. [Sri Lankan army objects to female rebels' attire](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

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

30. [Nearly 300 arrested in Sri Lanka 's capital](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

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

31. [1ST LEAD: Bomber kills one, herself near minister's Colombo office](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by

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

32. [Tamil refugee flow from Sri Lanka unrelenting](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by

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

33. [Death and fear stalk Sri Lankans The Tamil town of Jaffna is hunkered down in misery](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by

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

34. [Tamil civilians flee fresh violence](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by

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

35. [Thousands flee](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by

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

36. [Correction: : Sri Lankan conflict brings 148 Tamil refugees to India in 12 days](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type

Narrowed by

37. [TUESDAY - QUICK BITES - TUESDAY MAY 2](#)**Client/Matter:** -None-**Search Terms:** "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors**Narrowed by:****Content Type**
News**Narrowed by**
Publication Type: Newspapers,Newswires & Press
Releases; Timeline: Jan 01, 2003 to Dec 31, 200738. [Pugmarks all over](#)**Client/Matter:** -None-**Search Terms:** "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors**Narrowed by:****Content Type**
News**Narrowed by**
Publication Type: Newspapers,Newswires & Press
Releases; Timeline: Jan 01, 2003 to Dec 31, 200739. [Caught between devil and deep blue sea](#)**Client/Matter:** -None-**Search Terms:** "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors**Narrowed by:****Content Type**
News**Narrowed by**
Publication Type: Newspapers,Newswires & Press
Releases; Timeline: Jan 01, 2003 to Dec 31, 200740. [News items from Asia-Pacific Desk of Xinhua](#)**Client/Matter:** -None-**Search Terms:** "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors**Narrowed by:****Content Type**
News**Narrowed by**
Publication Type: Newspapers,Newswires & Press
Releases; Timeline: Jan 01, 2003 to Dec 31, 200741. [Protesters wear black to demonstrate against military in Sri Lanka](#)**Client/Matter:** -None-**Search Terms:** "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors**Narrowed by:****Content Type**
News**Narrowed by**
Publication Type: Newspapers,Newswires & Press
Releases; Timeline: Jan 01, 2003 to Dec 31, 2007

42. [Tsunami victims unleash fury as PM visits Jaffna](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

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

43. [International Briefs](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

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

44. [Comment & Debate: After the deluge, the tides of war are flooding back: The struggle between Tamils and Sinhalese is straining the fragile peace that followed Sri Lanka 's tsunami horror](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

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

45. [Catholic bishop says Sri Lankan air raid hit 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, 2003 to Dec 31, 2007

46. [Buddhist monk injured in grenade attack in north central Sri Lanka](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

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

47. [Sri Lanka 's fragile peace fraying as tension mounts between rival rebel factions](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

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

48. [DOOM & GLOOM](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

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

49. [3rd Ld Explosion kills 15, injures 23 in north central Sri Lanka](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

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

50. [U.N. aid reaches displaced in Sri Lanka](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

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

51. [5 killed in mine explosion as violence escalates in Sri Lanka](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

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

52. [AROUND THE WORLD: TAMIL TIGERS IN BOMB RAID](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

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

53. [Lanka's North-South divide acquires new dimension](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

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

54. [SRI LANKA : UN APPEALS FOR URGENT FUNDS TO FEED THOUSANDS DISPLACED BY FIGHTING](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

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

55. [Series of battles kill 17 rebels, 1 soldier in volatile northern 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, 2003 to Dec 31, 2007

56. [Sri Lanka court stops eviction of Tamils from capital](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

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

57. [Sri Lanka 's rebel office attacked](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

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

58. [Five cops suspended over Sri Lanka blast](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

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

59. [Three killed, 13 hurt in fresh violence in Sri Lanka](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

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

60. [Sri Lankan foreign minister in India to discuss peace process](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

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

61. [ROUNDUP: Nine die in new clashes as bombing toll rises to 19](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

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

62. [STATE DEPARTMENT ISSUES CONSULAR INFORMATION SHEET ON SRI LANKA](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

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

63. [*Rebels lure tsunami children*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

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

64. [*CHARLES A TARGET FOR TERROR GIRL IN SUICIDE BOMBING*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

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

65. [*Police arrest 8 for smuggling hundreds of guns from Thailand to Indonesia*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

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

66. [*Sri Lankan government and Tamil rebels agree to work for gender equality*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

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

67. [*Tsunami toll ticks to 135,000*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

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

68. [*Sri Lanka rebels complain to Scandinavian monitors over shooting*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

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

69. [STATE DEPARTMENT ISSUES CONSULAR INFORMATION SHEET ON SRI LANKA](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

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

70. [Civilians flee fearing fresh Sri Lanka offensive: rebels](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

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

71. [Doom & gloom](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

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

72. [Sri Lanka : 2 policemen fatally shot by Tamil rebel pistol squad, military says](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

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

73. [Not enough attention paid to this conflict](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

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

74. [DOOM & GLOOM](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

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

75. [Doom & gloom](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

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

76. [Round the World in Eighty Seconds](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

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

77. [Rights group slams Sri Lanka for not saving Tamil 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, 2003 to Dec 31, 2007

78. [The scholar and his Playboy spread Dr Rohan Gunaratna seems to create waves wherever he goes, often for the wrong reasons. Last month, as a witness in a trial in the United States , he was chided by the judge. PEH SHING HUEI susses out the controversial terrorism analyst](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by

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

79. [*Terror in paradise*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by

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

80. [*One in the eye for gaffe-prone Duke*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

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Content Type
News

Narrowed by

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

81. [*2nd Ld Rebel suicide bomber kills 1, injures 2 in Sri Lankan capital*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by

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

82. [*Sri Lanka villagers in shock, panic after church attack, shooting kill 5*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by

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

83. [*An Activist's Life, by Any Means Necessary*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

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

84. [12 killed in Sri Lanka clashes](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

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

85. [Sri Lanka villagers in shock, panic after church attack, shooting kills 5](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

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

86. [Hear Tigers' tale](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

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

87. [New tactics on two fronts: Female suicide bomber kills six in Iraqi city declared free of terrorists: First woman to detonate bomb since 2003 invasion: Attack on home of cleric's guard heightens tension](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

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

88. [Sri Lanka struggles with loss after loss; Rebel violence rocks tsunami-hit area](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newspapers,Newswires & Press

89. [Nearly a Year After the Tsunami, Sri Lanka Strife Flares](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

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

90. [Sri Lankan presidential elections: TWO VISIONS, ONE DIVIDED COUNTRY Today, one of the nations worst affected by the tsunami goes to the polls to elect a new president. Among the 13 candidates, there are two front-runners " each with a very different view of the future. Justin Huggler reports from Colombo](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

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

91. [Rebel "torture chambers" found in Sri Lanka : defence ministry](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

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

92. [Aid workers' bodies to be exhumed in Sri Lanka](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

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

93. [Evicted Tamils to return to Sri Lankan capital](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newspapers,Newswires & Press

94. [ROUNDUP: Sri Lankan defence secretary escapes bomb attack](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

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

95. [INTERNAL UNREST IN SOUTH ASIA: RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN NEPAL AND SRI LANKA](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

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

96. [EU, U.S. condemn violence in Sri Lanka](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

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

97. [More than 20,000 flee Mutur: Northeastern Sri Lankan town ravaged; by days of fighting between government forces and Tamil Tiger rebels](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

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

98. [Sri Lanka military: Tamil rebel attack kills 4 village guards, 1 civilian in north](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

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

99. [*Suspected Tamil rebels gun down Sri Lankan broadcaster and husband*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

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

100. [*DOOM & GLOOM*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

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

Sri Lankan govt condemns rebel violence

Xinhua General News Service

August 25, 2004 Wednesday 1:00 PM EST

Copyright 2004 Xinhua News Agency

Section: WORLD NEWS; Political

Length: 270 words

Dateline: COLOMBO

Body

Sri Lankan government on Tuesday strongly condemned the killings by Tamil Tiger rebels of their opponents that have taken place recently in the country's east and in capital Colombo.

"These killings, along with other incidents of violence, such as abductions, forcible recruitment and the recruitment of child soldiers, threaten the ceasefire agreement, and undermine the prospects for peace negotiations to commence," a government statement said.

It said that the killings are also clear violations of international human rights norms accepted by the international community.

The government said that all such killings will be fully investigated to ensure that the law of the country is applied devoid of any discrimination.

Sri Lankan has recently experienced a spate of killings in the east and in Colombo by Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (**LTTE**) rebels of their opponents including the renegade eastern faction led by commander known as Karuna, members of the Eelam People's Democratic Party (EPDP) and even government soldiers.

Karuna split from the mainstream rebel group in March and went underground one month later when he failed to resist an attack by the main group from the north.

The EPDP leader Douglas Devananda escaped an assassination attempt by an **LTTE female** suicide bomber in Colombo who killed four police personnel.

The killings have put the ceasefire between the government and the rebels in place since February 2002 at risk and also hampered the revival of the Norwegian-brokered peace talks.

The **LTTE** suspended the peace talks in April last year.

Load-Date: August 25, 2004

Sri Lanka faces humanitarian crisis as 150,000 flee fighting

The Age (Melbourne, Australia)

March 19, 2007 Monday

First Edition

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Section: NEWS; International News; Pg. 10

Length: 529 words

Byline: Connie Levett, Colombo with Agencies

Body

A FIERCE offensive by the Sri Lankan army against Tamil Tiger rebels has forced more than 150,000 civilians to leave their homes, stretching resources to the brink and threatening to create a humanitarian crisis.

The eastern coastal town of Batticaloa was already overwhelmed by 60,000 people displaced by fighting north of the town, but air and artillery strikes on Tiger territory to the south-west in the past two weeks have more than doubled that number.

Food is in short supply and the Government has appealed to the international community for immediate food assistance for at least the next four weeks. The number of displaced people registered with the Government in Batticaloa was 156,384 this week, according to Tamil Week.

The World Food Program reportedly does not have supplies in the country to meet the demand. To create space in camps, local authorities used heavy-handed tactics on Thursday, forcing up to 1000 longer-term refugees onto 30 buses to be returned to the villages they fled late last year.

When The Age visited the Kiran camp in Batticaloa last month, people were already short of food and women spoke of pawning their gold jewellery to care for their families. Local authorities threatened to cut off supplies if the people did not get on the buses, according to local non-government organisations.

The Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam and the Government signed a ceasefire agreement in February 2002, but that has not stopped savage fighting in recent months.

Government forces won back the key town of Vakarai in late January in what they called a "humanitarian intervention". At the time, the army accused the Tamil Tigers of using civilians as human shields to prevent artillery strikes by the military.

The army encouraged civilians to flee south to Batticaloa, dropping thousands of leaflets over Vakarai assuring them they would be provided for and to "come over to our side".

However, they cannot provide for the 90,000 refugees from Vanunatheevu and Karahiyanaru areas, south-west of Batticaloa, who have arrived in the past two weeks.

Sri Lanka faces humanitarian crisis as 150,000 flee fighting

They fled after the army launched air strikes and artillery attacks in response to a Tiger attack on a high-level donor convoy late last month. As several Western ambassadors stepped from army helicopters at a Batticaloa airfield, Tiger artillery fire hit the field, leaving several diplomats with shrapnel wounds.

Yesterday, the navy sank a ship off the eastern coast that was believed to be smuggling weapons for the **Tamil Tigers**, a defence official said. The ship failed to stop for an inspection.

Artillery duels raged in the northern and eastern regions yesterday, forcing more civilians to flee, the two sides said.

The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees has warned that the crisis could worsen, saying "as fighting continues, more people may be forced to flee, and we have asked the Government to step up efforts to meet the needs of the displaced".

The UNHCR also expressed concern about displaced people being forced to return to their villages against their will. On Friday, the Government said the UNHCR would be allowed to supervise future transfers, which would be voluntary. -- With AGENCIES

Graphic

PHOTO: Displaced Tamils travel on the back of a tractor to resettlement in eastern Sri Lanka. PICTURE: REUTERS

Load-Date: July 3, 2007

In short

The Irish Times

July 10, 2007 Tuesday

Copyright 2007 The Irish Times All Rights Reserved

Section: WORLD; Other World Stories; Pg. 11

Length: 554 words

Body

Today's other stories in brief

Tamil Tigers under threat in Sri Lanka

THOPPIGALA - Sri Lanka's **Tamil Tigers** will lose their last foothold in the island's restive east within days after troops captured a strategic plateau overnight, the ground commander in the area said yesterday.

The military has captured vast swathes of territory from the Tigers in the east in recent months and has killed hundreds of rebel fighters since the operation to capture the landlocked area called Thoppigala in early February, the commander said. - (Reuters)

Farc to hand over politicians bodies

BOGOTA - Colombian rebels will hand over the corpses of 11 local politicians killed in captivity last month, allowing authorities to determine if they were murdered or died in crossfire, the Red Cross said yesterday.

The government accuses the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia, or Farc, of executing the provincial lawmakers in an incident that prompted hundreds of thousands of people to take to the streets last week in protest of guerrilla kidnappings. - (Reuters)

More kidnappings in Niger Delta

ABUJA - Four more people have been abducted in the Niger Delta, authorities said yesterday, underscoring insecurity in Nigeria's oil-producing region hours after a three-year-old British girl was freed by her kidnappers.

Margaret Hill was released on Sunday night after four days in the hands of unknown ransom seekers who snatched her from the car as she was being driven to school on July 5th in Port Harcourt, the delta's main city. - (Reuters)

Greek trafficking ring broken up

ATHENS - Greek police said yesterday they had broken up a human trafficking ring that forced **women** from eastern Europe and the Balkans to work as prostitutes. Nine people were arrested in Greece and two in Ukraine, charged with sexual exploitation, they said. - (Reuters)

Juror arrested for listening to music

In short

LONDON - A woman juror could be facing jail after she was arrested in court yesterday for apparently listening to music during a murder trial.

She is said to have used a traditional hijab headscarf to hide earphones to her MP3 player while ignoring vital evidence from a retired businessman who allegedly bludgeoned his disabled wife to death. - (PA)

Rice breaks new ground in DRC

WASHINGTON - US secretary of state Condoleezza Rice will go to the Democratic Republic of Congo next week, the state department said yesterday. She will be the most senior US official to visit the central African nation in a decade.

Dr Rice will be in the capital Kinshasa for a few hours on July 18th following a one-day trip to Jerusalem and the Palestinian territories. - (Reuters)

Archbishop asked to stay in post

ROME - The leader of Catholics in England and Wales has been asked by the pope to remain as Archbishop of Westminster beyond his 75th birthday, it was disclosed yesterday.

Cardinal Cormac Murphy-O'Connor had written to Pope Benedict offering his resignation, in accordance with Canon Law, to coincide with his 75th birthday next month. - (PA)

Speaker Pelosi under pressure

WASHINGTON - Cindy Sheehan, who became an anti-war activist after her son died in Iraq, said yesterday she would run against House of Representatives speaker Nancy Pelosi if the Democratic leader failed to seek the impeachment of President Bush within the next two weeks. - (Reuters)

Load-Date: July 10, 2007

Sri Lanka Villagers Flee Military Patrol

Associated Press Online

June 18, 2006 Sunday 10:44 AM GMT

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Section: INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Length: 568 words

Byline: By KRISHAN FRANCIS, Associated Press Writer

Dateline: PESALAI Sri Lanka

Body

Ethnic Tamil villagers frightened by an approaching Sri Lankan military patrol took refuge Sunday in the same church where they say soldiers fired on them a day before. A mine blast blamed on **Tamil Tigers** rebels killed three police elsewhere in the troubled country.

Men, **women** and children ran from their homes and fled to a Roman Catholic church in the remote northwestern fishing village of Pesalai as word spread of the coming patrol.

The patrol, however, stayed on the road and did not approach the church or homes. The navy said the troops were in the village to guard against rebel infiltration.

"We all know that (the Tamil rebels) often infiltrate among civilians, especially fishermen, and we had to be there to safeguard against that," said Cmdr D.K.P. Dassanayake, a navy spokesman.

On Saturday, 200 ethnic Tamils sought refuge in the church as battles erupted when rebels attacked a navy base in the village.

Several witnesses and an international aid worker gave near-identical accounts of how Sri Lankan forces fired indiscriminately in the church and around the village, killing five people, including one person inside the church.

The military denied targeting civilians and blamed the rebels for the killings.

Surging violence has heightened fears that Sri Lanka is moving toward a return to all-out civil war. The past several days have seen the worst violence since a 2002 cease-fire between the government and the **Tamil Tigers**, who control much of the island nation's north and east.

Dassanayake said the Tigers stormed the village in 12 boats Saturday, firing grenade launchers at a police station near a navy base and the church. He said military helicopters fired on the boats, destroying eight.

The rebels' main Web site, however, said four naval boats attacked Tiger vessels, sinking three.

Tamil Tiger rebels said they had killed 12 soldiers; the navy said three sailors were killed and eight were missing. The military said up to 30 rebels were killed in the fighting, but rebels acknowledged only two wounded.

Churches are often used as refuges for those caught in Sri Lanka's violence.

Sri Lanka Villagers Flee Military Patrol

An international aid worker, who said he had visited Pesalai and interviewed survivors, backed witnesses' accounts of Sri Lanka soldiers firing in the church Saturday. The worker, who spoke on condition of anonymity because he did not want to hurt relations with the government, also said the military had burned more than two dozen wooden fishing boats.

An Associated Press reporter at the hospital counted 47 wounded villagers.

"All the people now are only in a mood to flee at the sight of uniforms," a fisherman who identified himself as Raja said Sunday. "Although there has been big fighting in the past, nothing of this kind has happened in this church."

Separately Sunday, a powerful mine exploded near a police vehicle in northern Sri Lanka, killing a sergeant and two constables, said Deputy Inspector General of Police Gamini Silva.

Silva blamed the attack on the Tigers, who are known for using remote-controlled mines.

The rebels have been fighting for more than two decades to create a homeland for the country's 3.2 million predominantly Hindu Tamils, a minority that some say has faced decades of discrimination by the largely Buddhist Sinhalese majority.

The civil war killed more than 65,000 people before the cease-fire.

Associated Press reporter Matthew Rosenberg contributed to this report.

Load-Date: June 19, 2006

More killings reported from Sri Lanka's east

Xinhua General News Service

March 8, 2005 Tuesday 3:00 AM EST

Copyright 2005 Xinhua News Agency

Section: WORLD NEWS; Political

Length: 294 words

Dateline: COLOMBO

Body

Two people were killed and one more injured due to three separate incidents of gun fire in Sri Lanka's eastern province, defense officials said Tuesday.

A 35 year old man was gunned down near the police station in the eastern province's main town of Batticaloa around 5:00 a.m. (2300 GMT) local time Tuesday and on late Monday night one man was shot dead at Eravur while another was grievously injured at Valaichchenai.

The man killed at Batticaloa was waiting in the main bus stand to travel to capital Colombo in order to go abroad having visited home to be with the family after tsunami tidal waves had killed his son, the police said.

The killings have now brought the tally of murders since Saturday to 11 in the eastern province.

Although no one has claimed responsibility for the killings they are believed to be the work of the Tamil Tiger rebels, police said.

Scores of people have been killed since the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (**LTTE**) renegade Karuna broke ranks with the rebel group in March last year.

The mainstream group since then have been gunning for Karuna loyalists while losing their own cadres in the hands of the renegade group.

The **LTTE** has blamed the government troops of conniving with the Karuna group.

Early last month the **LTTE**'s eastern political wing leader E Kousalyan was gunned down while last Monday their eastern **women's** wing leaders were badly hurt in an ambush.

Sri Lankan President Chandrika Kumaratunga in response to the spate of killings appointed a presidential probe committee last week to inquire into the killings.

The violent eastern province with murders taking place at frequent intervals have threatened the on going Norwegian backed ceasefire.

Load-Date: March 9, 2005

More killings reported from Sri Lanka 's east

End of Document

Tigers receptive to rapprochement over tsunami relief

Agence France Presse -- English

December 30, 2004 Thursday 5:31 PM GMT

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Length: 437 words

Dateline: KILINCHCHI, Sri Lanka Dec 30

Body

Tamil Tiger rebels Thursday left the door open for cooperation with their warring partner, the Sri Lankan government, on tsunami relief operations.

The rebel Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (***LTTE***) said working together to provide urgently needed relief to areas devastated by Sunday's tsunami that killed nearly 25,000 people so far could be a useful confidence builder.

"We have already put on the table (a request) seeking the cooperation to take further humanitarian delivery ... suggesting that it can be viewed in an optimistic way," ***LTTE***'s political wing leader S.P. Thamilselvan told AFP here.

He did not directly say if they would accept an initiative of President Chandrika Kumaratunga to set up an all-party panel to carry out relief work as well as medium- and long-term reconstruction.

However, he said the guerrillas were not ruling out cooperation despite the mistrust between the two sides that had hindered diplomatic efforts to revive peace talks that remain on hold since April last year.

"If the intentions are translated into action, definitely there could be a positive step towards building confidence and will definitely have positive impact on the peace process as a whole," Thamilselvan said.

Tigers who run a de facto separate state here and have their own civil administration and police said they were making their own arrangements to ensure thousands of people affected by the tragedy were looked after.

In the capital Colombo, President Chandrika Kumaratunga told reporters that the government was sending whatever relief the Tigers had requested from civil servants who work in rebel-held areas but are paid by the state.

"The government servants in ***LTTE***-controlled areas are already working closely with the ***LTTE*** and have told us the requirements in the affected areas," the president said. "We have sent them everything they have asked for."

The president said she visited relief centres in the island's east Thursday and met with at least two Tiger ***women*** cadres and inquired after relief operations.

"I shook hands with them and asked about the relief operations," Kumaratunga said.

Tigers receptive to rapprochement over tsunami relief

Asked if the chance meeting with Tiger cadres could lead to a warming of relations between the two sides which have been observing a tenuous ceasefire since February 2002, the president said she had talked to the Tigers in a spontaneous gesture.

"You don't stop to calculate what the results are, but I acted naturally and spontaneously. I asked them about the relief operations, what they cooked and things like that."

Kumaratunga said she believed that the Tigers wanted to handle the aid delivery themselves.

dp-aj/sdm

Load-Date: December 31, 2004

End of Document

Political party office attacked in northern Sri Lanka

Deutsche Presse-Agentur

February 13, 2003, Thursday 03:32 Central European Time

Copyright 2003 Deutsche Presse-Agentur

Section: Miscellaneous

Length: 295 words

Dateline: Colombo

Body

Suspected Tamil rebels sprayed a rival Tamil political party office in northern Sri Lanka with machine gun fire injuring a local politician and a policeman deployed to guard the place, police said Thursday.

A group of suspected rebels surrounded the Eelam People's Democratic Party (EPDP) office at Chavakachcheri, 350 kilometres north of the capital, on Wednesday night and opened fire at the office.

P.Gunasingham, chairman of the local council, and a police officer were injured in the attack which lasted about 20 minutes.

The EPDP is a rival group of the rebels of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (**LTTE**).

Rebels are currently involved in peace talks with the Sri Lankan government under a Norwegian-backed peace process which includes a cease-fire.

EPDP spokesman S.Thavarasa said he believed the attack was in retaliation for a dispute earlier in the day between the army and the rebels.

A clash broke out after the military prevented two **female** cadres from entering a government controlled area as they were wearing leather waist belts, part of the **LTTE** military uniform.

Two rebels, two soldiers and more than a dozen civilian were injured as the police anti-riot squads were deployed to avoid the clash from spreading.

The EPDP spokesman said rebels had accused their party for supporting the army.

Meanwhile Scandinavians monitoring the cease-fire are due to meet with Defence Secretary, Austin Fernando, and top army officials Thursday to resolve the crisis of the **LTTE** entering government controlled areas.

The government and the rebels concluded their last round of peace talks in Berlin, Germany and the next round is due in Japan next month in a bid to resolve the 20-year-old ethnic conflict. dpa ad pw

Load-Date: February 13, 2003

Political party office attacked in northern Sri Lanka

End of Document

Curfew in northern Sri Lanka as envoy moves to save peace

Agence France Presse -- English

May 7, 2006 Sunday 5:09 PM GMT

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Length: 642 words

Dateline: COLOMBO, May 7 2006

Body

Sri Lanka imposed a curfew in the restive Jaffna peninsula Sunday as a Japanese envoy began talks with government officials to try to save a faltering peace process amid escalating violence.

The security forces clamped the indefinite curfew ahead of demonstrations called by residents to protest Thursday's killing of seven men the army described as Tiger suspects. The rebels regard those killed as civilians.

The authorities also announced the main entry and exit point to rebel-held territory in Jaffna will be shut on Monday, a military official said.

The latest moves came as eight more people were reported missing in Jaffna.

The men had slept overnight at a Hindu temple after a ceremony in the peninsula before troops allegedly took them away, the rebel Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (**LTTE**) said in a statement.

They said villagers found blood and three identity cards belonging to the missing men.

The defence ministry said it had no information about the Tiger allegations but said that in the country's east, troops and Tamil Tiger rebels traded mortar and automatic rifle fire on Sunday.

"There are no casualties among troops but we don't know if there are any on the other side," the ministry spokesman said, adding that the firefight around the Vavunathivu military base lasted nearly two hours.

A soldier was wounded when suspected Tiger gunmen fired at a sentry point in the same region on Sunday morning, the spokesman said.

The latest attacks came as Japanese envoy Yasushi Akashi met Palitha Kohona, head of the government's peace secretariat which coordinates the Norwegian-backed peace initiative.

Akashi arrived in Colombo late Saturday. He is to meet President Mahinda Rajapakse on Monday, diplomats said.

The **LTTE** confirmed that the leader of their political wing, S.P. Thamilselvan, would hold discussions with the Japanese envoy on Tuesday in a rebel-held northern town.

Curfew in northern Sri Lanka as envoy moves to save peace

Kohona welcomed Akashi's planned meeting with the senior rebel.

"The government wants Mr. Akashi to go to the north and meet with the **LTTE** at a time when we are getting ready for the second round of talks with many hiccups," he said, referring to talks in Switzerland aimed at shoring up a four-year-old ceasefire amid a surge in violence.

The talks were postponed indefinitely after an initial round in February.

"Hopefully, he will be able to persuade the **LTTE** on a number of things, including the participation in the second round of talks and the cessation of violence," Kohona said.

The visit comes amid stepped-up efforts by Colombo to seek international pressure to revive talks with the rebels. Foreign Minister Mangala Samaraweera was visiting neighbouring India to brief it about developments.

Despite the truce, more than 200 people have died over the last month in tit-for-tat attacks by government forces and the rebel Tigers, who are fighting for a homeland for minority Tamils.

The Sri Lanka Monitoring Mission that oversees the truce has said the violence is out of control and the only way to curb it is for the two sides to agree to talks.

Akashi helped raise about 4.5 billion dollars in pledges to rebuild Sri Lanka during a meeting of international aid donors he organised in June 2003.

Much of the aid was linked to progress in the peace process but formal political talks have remained on hold since April 2003 after six rounds of face-to-face discussions that began in September 2002.

In the most serious attack since the truce took hold, a **female** suicide bomber wounded army chief Lieutenant General Sarath Fonseka and 30 others in an attack at army headquarters in Colombo on April 25.

Eleven people including the bomber died.

The government, saying it was acting in self-defence against an **LTTE** attack, retaliated with air strikes against suspected rebel positions.

More than 60,000 people have been killed in the island's separatist conflict since 1972.

Load-Date: May 8, 2006

Japan moves to save Sri Lanka peace bid

Agence France Presse -- English

May 7, 2006 Sunday 10:52 AM GMT

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Length: 622 words

Dateline: COLOMBO, May 7 2006

Body

A senior Japanese envoy began talks with government officials Sunday to try to save Sri Lanka's peace process as Tamil rebels said troops abducted eight men in the island's north.

The men had slept overnight at a Hindu temple after a ceremony in the Jaffna peninsula before troops allegedly took them away, the rebel Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (***LTTE***) said in a statement.

They said villagers found blood and three identity cards belonging to the missing men.

The defence ministry said it had no information about the Tiger allegations but said that in the country's east, troops and Tamil Tiger rebels traded mortar and automatic rifle fire on Sunday.

"There are no casualties among troops but we don't know if there are any on the other side," the spokesman said, adding that the firefight around the Vavunathivu military base lasted nearly two hours.

A soldier was wounded when suspected Tiger gunmen fired at a sentry point in the same region on Sunday morning, the spokesman said.

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Akashi arrived in Colombo late Saturday. He is to meet President Mahinda Rajapakse on Monday, diplomats said.

The ***LTTE*** confirmed that the leader of their political wing, S.P. Thamilselvan, would hold discussions with the Japanese envoy on Tuesday in a rebel-held northern town.

"Mr. Akashi asked for a meeting with Mr. Thamilselvan and they will meet on Tuesday at 10:30 in the morning at Kilinochchi," the head of the rebels' peace secretariat, S. Puleedevan, told AFP.

Kohona welcomed Akashi's planned meeting with the senior rebel.

"The government wants Mr. Akashi to go to the north and meet with the ***LTTE*** at a time when we are getting ready for the second round of talks with many hiccups," he said, referring to talks in Switzerland aimed at shoring up a four-year-old ceasefire amid a surge in violence.

Japan moves to save Sri Lanka peace bid

The talks were postponed indefinitely after an initial round in February.

"Hopefully, he will be able to persuade the **LTTE** on a number of things, including the participation in the second round of talks and the cessation of violence," Kohona said.

A Japanese embassy spokesman said Akashi wanted to discuss the state of the peace process with the Tiger leadership.

The visit comes amid stepped-up efforts by the government to seek international pressure to revive talks with the rebels. Foreign Minister Mangala Samaraweera was visiting neighbouring India to brief it about developments.

Despite the truce, more than 200 people have died over the last month in tit-for-tat attacks by government forces and the rebel Tigers, who are fighting for a homeland for minority Tamils.

The Sri Lanka Monitoring Mission that oversees the truce has said the violence is out of control and the only way to curb it is for the two sides to agree to talks.

Akashi helped raise about 4.5 billion dollars in pledges to rebuild Sri Lanka during a meeting of international aid donors he organised in June 2003.

Much of the aid was linked to progress in the peace process but formal political talks have remained on hold since April 2003 after six rounds of face-to-face discussions that began in September 2002.

In the most serious attack since the truce took hold, a **female** suicide bomber wounded army chief Lieutenant General Sarath Fonseka and 30 others in an attack at army headquarters in Colombo on April 25.

Eleven people including the bomber died.

The government, saying it was acting in self-defence against an **LTTE** attack, retaliated with air strikes against suspected rebel positions.

More than 60,000 people have been killed in the island's separatist conflict since 1972.

aj/it/ejl/sm

Load-Date: May 8, 2006

Sri Lanka hits rebel camps from air

UPI

April 26, 2006 Wednesday 7:23 PM EST

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Length: 204 words

Dateline: TRINCOMALEE, Sri Lanka, April 26

Body

Tens of thousands of people fled their homes Wednesday, after Sri Lanka's air force resumed airstrikes against Tamil Tiger camps.

Police reported that air attacks were carried out Wednesday in the northeastern city of Trincomalee. The military also bombed a cluster of rebel Tiger boats Tuesday, The Lanka Academic reported.

Some 40,000 people were leaving the area to seek safety in the jungle, local authorities told The BBC. At least 15 civilians had been killed since the strikes began Tuesday, a local rebel leader said.

The air assault followed Tuesday's suicide bombing of the army chief's motorcade in Colombo, leaving Lt. Gen. Sarath Fonseka badly wounded and 10 others dead.

The **Tamil Tigers** have denied any involvement in the suicide attack. They have protested the bombing and have accused the Sri Lankan government of breaking the cease-fire.

The United States condemned the attack, which was blamed on a "Black Tiger" **female** suicide bomber who had pretended to be pregnant.

A BBC reporter in Colombo said the situation in Sri Lanka is going from "crisis to crisis" as families leave their homes.

Negotiators involved in the Sri Lankan peace process called an emergency meeting for Friday in Oslo, Norway, The BBC reported.

Load-Date: April 27, 2006

Anton Balasingham - Correction Appended

The Times (London)

December 15, 2006 Friday

Correction Appended

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Section: FEATURES; Pg. 78

Length: 932 words

Body

Anton Balasingham, chief strategist of the **Tamil Tigers**, was born in 1938. He died on December 14, 2006, aged 68

Journalist who became the chief strategist and negotiator of the **Tamil Tigers** in their struggle for autonomy.

Anton Balasingham provided the intellectual framework for the violence of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam. He was the brains behind the brawn, someone the leadership could turn to for ideological guidance, philosophical justification and political explanation while the killing went on.

A forlorn-faced man, ill with a transplanted kidney, he travelled to devastated northern Sri Lanka in 2002 to act as the rebels' negotiator in peace talks brokered by Norway. The Tigers vainly asked India to host the encounter so that Balasingham could be near a hospital in case of an emergency. Everybody feared that he would die before the best chance of peace in more than two decades could be seized.

The difficulty was how to get him to Sri Lanka without his being assassinated. So, accompanied by his Australian wife, Adele, he flew in from London to the Maldives and transferred to a privately chartered De Havilland DHC-6 Twin Otter seaplane, which landed on a reservoir in a rebel-controlled area south of Kilinochechi. The Colombo Government had ordered the airspace above northeast Sri Lanka to be kept clear of all aircraft, and the seaplane maintained radio silence throughout its journey lest hostile forces picked up the signal, revealing its whereabouts and mission.

The First Secretary of the Norwegian Embassy in Colombo was aboard. Immediately after it landed a Sea Tiger craft moved in to provide security. On the shore, the plump figure of Velupillai Prabhakaran, leader of the Tigers, could be made out standing with his wife Mathivathany, and other Tigers leaders. They were awaiting "Bala Annai" and "Auntie", as young Tigers cadres called the Balasinghams. A house had been constructed for their stay.

This elaborate journey was a measure of the importance the Tigers placed in the one man they could trust with their destiny in what looked like being a breakthrough in talks with the Sri Lankan Government of Ranil Wickremesinghe.

Everybody underestimated, however, the determination of hardcore Sinhalese organisations like the JVP and hardline Buddhist clergy to scuttle any deal that gave the Tamils even a hint of autonomy. The peace deal failed, and Balasingham had made a life-threatening journey with no more to show for it than the continuation of a shaky ceasefire.

Anton Balasingham

Under his guidance the Tigers had entered several rounds of successful talks with the Government, all brokered by Norway, watched suspiciously from the sidelines by President Chandrika Kumaratunga. In the end she used her presidential powers to scupper the deal.

Her successor, President Mahinda Rajapakse, also rejected the concepts of a Tamil homeland and Tamil nationhood. The JVP, in a previous incarnation a fanatically violent organisation but by now the thirdbiggest political party in the country, had threatened "undiplomatic" consequences if the peace deal went through. All of this, Balasingham said with uncharacteristic understatement, represented an obstacle.

In taking the Tigers to the brink of peace, Balasingham had steered the rebels away from their earlier demand for a fully fledged independent state called Eelam.

What the Tamils wanted, he said, was "a homeland and self-determination". If that demand were rejected and the "oppression" continued, there would be no option but to fight for full statehood. Those words signalled the collapse of peace hopes.

Balasingham, who gained a PhD from South Bank Polytechnic in London (his dissertation was on the psychology of Marxism), had been the Tigers' theoretician since the early 1990s and clearly had the full confidence of Prabhakaran. He had a British passport and in 1999, much to the Sri Lanka Government's anger, was allowed to settle in London with his wife, Adele Wilby, an Australian citizen and former nurse he had married in 1978. She lived with him for years in Jaffna, the Tamils' heartland, and became a leader of the Tigers' women's section. Australia sought her arrest for violating a law that prohibits participation in foreign wars.

By the time he moved to London, Balasingham, known among activist Tamils simply as "Bala," was seriously ill with kidney trouble. The Tigers released a large number of Sri Lankan Army prisoners as a goodwill gesture in return for the Colombo Government ensuring his safe passage abroad. The gesture failed, and so the Tigers took Balasingham aboard one of their ships to Thailand, and from there he travelled to Singapore and on to London. No one expected to see him back in Sri Lanka.

When he did return for the 2002 peace talks the reunion with Prabhakaran was emotional. His influence over Prabhakaran was embarrassingly obvious at a packed press conference in Sri Lanka during the 2002 peace process. Balasingham knew about journalists, having been one himself for a Colombo newspaper before working as a translator at the British High Commission.

He was doubtless responsible for the image makeover of the Tigers leader.

Eschewing his customary military fatigues and sidearm Prabhakaran attended the press conference in a safari suit and had even shaved off his moustache. After almost every question he would lean towards Balasingham to be primed with the reply, and for the most part Balasingham would do the replying for him. Which led one commentator to ask: "So who is the real leader of the Tamil Tigers?"

Balasingham died of cancer. He is survived by his wife.

Correction

Professor S. R. H. Hoole has complained to the PCC that Balasingham did not gain any PhD. We have promised to note that there is some doubt about this claim in the obituary.

Correction-Date: January 10, 2007

Load-Date: December 15, 2006

Anton Balasingham

End of Document

Sri Lankan mine kills 64 bus passengers

The Irish Times

June 16, 2006 Friday

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Section: WORLD; Pg. 13

Length: 488 words

Byline: Rahul Bedi in New Delhi

Body

Sri Lanka: Suspected Sri Lankan Tamil Tiger guerrillas killed 64 bus passengers, including 15 children, in a mine ambush yesterday.

It was the worst attack since a 2002 truce between the warring sides, and prompted a wave of government air strikes on rebel positions, officials said.

The government said the rebels planted two mines next to one another, which peppered the bus with ball bearings when they detonated on an isolated road near rebel-controlled territory in Anuradhapura district, 200km (124 miles) north of the capital Colombo.

Some 78 people were also injured in the attack for which the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (***LTTE***) deny responsibility, blaming instead a paramilitary group allegedly linked to the government. Most of the victims, who were villagers travelling to work and children going to school, belonged to the majority Sinhalese community that constitutes about 74 per cent of Sri Lanka's population of more than 20 million. Army officials said the bus overturned and hurtled 25m down the road after it hit the Claymore mines which are favoured by the rebels.

Shortly after news of the attack emerged, the Sri Lankan military launched air strikes by Israeli-built Kfir fighters in the rebel-held areas of Sampur in the east and Kilinochchi in the north. The Tigers control both regions, where they run parallel administrations.

The air strikes were the first since May. The earlier attacks took place after a suspected ***LTTE female*** suicide bomber almost succeeded in assassinating the Sri Lankan army chief, who is still recovering from his injuries.

The government yesterday accused the ***LTTE*** of wanting, through such attacks on civilians, to provoke an ethnic backlash against minority Tamils to support their demands for a separate Tamil homeland. Tamils, who comprise about 12 per cent of the population, claim discrimination by the Sinhalese.

"We have to seriously consider the ceasefire agreement and possibly restructure it," government spokesman Kehilya Rambukwella said.

More than 500 people have died since early April in attacks by the ***LTTE*** and government forces, and many fear the island risks a return to civil war four years after signing a bilateral ceasefire.

Sri Lanka's stock market fell more than 3 per cent on news of the attack.

Sri Lankan mine kills 64 bus passengers

Diplomats in Colombo said neither the Tigers nor the government had exhibited flexibility. They feared that if the violence continued Sri Lanka would gradually relapse into a war that has already seen more than 64,000 deaths since it began in 1983.

The Tigers pulled out of peace talks in Geneva in April, but last week had agreed to resume negotiations with the government in Oslo over the safety of ceasefire monitors. But later they backed out, refusing to meet government officials. Peace mediator Norway last week wrote to both sides asking them to recommit to the truce. The government replied conveying its commitment but the Tigers have yet to respond.

Load-Date: June 16, 2006

End of Document

10 DIE, ARMY CHIEF CRITICAL AS 'PREGNANT WOMAN' BLOWS HERSELF UP N JETS POUND REBEL AREAS

Hindustan Times

April 26, 2006 Wednesday 3:15 AM EST

Copyright 2006 HT Media Ltd. All Rights Reserved

Length: 684 words

Byline: From P Karunakharan, DH News Service Hindustan Times

Dateline: Colombo

Body

Colombo, Apr 26 -- At least 10 people were killed and 29, including Sri Lankan Army Commander Lt Gen Sarath Fonseka, were critically wounded when a suspected **LTTE female** suicide bomber blew herself up at the heavily-guarded army headquarters here on Tuesday afternoon.

Media coordinator of President Chandrapala Liyanage said the commander was seriously wounded when the suicide bomber, pretending to be pregnant, jumped on his vehicle. He said the assassination bid was being seen as an act of war by the **LTTE**.

Military spokesman Prasad Samarasinghe said the commander's car and a few motorcycles were badly damaged in the attack. Security in Colombo has been stepped up. Heavily-armed police and defence personnel were seen manning strategic junctions across the city in addition to random vehicle checks. Lt Gen Fonseka, a decorated combat veteran, had earlier said that the truce was too soft on the rebels.

Director of accident services at the Colombo National Hospital Dr Hector Weerasinghe said the commander had sustained serious abdomen and chest injuries. He underwent three surgeries and was in the intensive care unit. President Mahinda Rajapakse, addressing the nation on Tuesday night, said the **LTTE** had unilaterally broken all efforts for peace and appealed to the people to remain calm.

"By targeting the army commander, the **LTTE** has clearly sent a message that its intention is not to settle issues through dialogue. It is only attempting to create a communal clash between the Sinhalese and Tamils. It wants to attract the attention of the international community through violence," the president said.

"I am not afraid of terrorism. My government will not be brought to its knees by such attempts. Our desire to achieve peace and our sense of responsibility should not be mistaken for weakness," he said.

The government in a statement charged that the suicide attack was yet another demonstration of the **LTTE**'s "callous disregard" for the ceasefire agreement, despite repeated assurance by the Nordic truce monitors and the SLMM. Just hours after the suicide attack, Sri Lanka's military attacked Tamil Tiger rebel targets, adds Reuters.

The government said the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam had clashed with naval patrol boats in Trincomalee harbour, but that the air and artillery strikes that followed --the first official military action against the rebels since the 2002 truce -- did not mean a return to a two-decade civil war.

10 DIE, ARMY CHIEF CRITICAL AS 'PREGNANT WOMAN' BLOWS HERSELF UP N JETS POUND REBEL AREAS

The army said attacks had stopped late in the evening.

The Tigers said they came under attack from Kfir fighter jets and army artillery in the northeastern Trincomalee district, but there was no immediate word on casualties. They denied responsibility for the Colombo attack, just as they had for other recent ambushes on the military.

"We are not pulling out from the ceasefire agreement or anything," said rebel media co-ordinator Daya Master.

India condemns

India strongly condemned the suicide attack. Defence Minister Pranab Mukherjee, while speaking to President Rajapakse on phone, conveyed India's shock over the incident, the Ministry of External Affairs spokesman said, PTI reports from New Delhi.

Mr Mukherjee reiterated India's conviction that violence was not the answer to any problem and that political dialogue was the only way to resolve outstanding issues. He expressed the country's solidarity with the government and people of Sri Lanka in this difficult hour, a gesture that was appreciated by Mr Rajapakse, who thanked India for its support and solidarity.

The US and European Union both condemned the suicide bombing. "It is an unacceptable act of terror, a clear provocation and an escalation of violence," State Department spokesman Adam Ereli said in Washington.

Both the Tiger attack and the government retaliation were acts of war, said Jehan Perera, head of the National Peace Council think-tank. "Our hope is that it will stop, but escalatory dynamics are very difficult to stop once they are put in motion," he said.

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Load-Date: April 28, 2006

Sri Lanka fighting set for long haul: analysts

Agence France Presse -- English

August 23, 2006 Wednesday 1:42 AM GMT

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Length: 641 words

Byline: Amal Jayasinghe

Dateline: COLOMBO, Aug 23 2006

Body

Sri Lanka's latest fighting could drag on despite international pressure as the government and Tiger rebels seek the military upper hand before entering peace talks, officials and analysts say.

The bloodiest battles in four and a half years since a truce came into effect has claimed heavy losses on both sides, but neither side appears bruised enough to limp to the negotiating table, the expert observers say.

"Neither side has got a bloody nose yet to encourage them to talks," said one diplomatic source close to the Norwegian-backed peace process. "Both will try to see how far they can go (militarily) before agreeing to talks."

The Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (**LTTE**) accused the army of starting the latest fighting across a de facto front line in the northern peninsula of Jaffna, but Colombo says it was the rebels who fired the first shot.

War planes have been pounding Tiger positions while the rebels used their artillery to hit the main northern military airfield, about 30 kilometres (18 miles) away from their defence line, to effectively put Jaffna under siege.

Defence ministry spokesman Prasad Samarasinghe said the Tigers lost at least 487 of their cadres while the military suffered 159 killed and 485 wounded in 11 days of fighting.

"I don't think the military has really been able to make that much of a dent on the **LTTE**'s military capability," said Nanda Godage, a defence analyst and a former Sri Lankan diplomat.

Godage said the **LTTE**'s war machinery appeared to be intact despite the heavy losses the guerrillas had suffered in recent weeks, warning there could be more attacks against security forces.

"The government will also not talk unless from a position of strength," Godage said. "The government may want a new ceasefire that will address the shortcomings in the existing one."

The Norwegian-brokered February 2002 truce remains largely on paper but both Colombo and the Tigers have also vowed to uphold it and denied they have launched any offensive operations. Both claim they are acting in self-defence.

Sri Lanka fighting set for long haul: analysts

Namal Perera, the defence columnist for the Ravaya weekly, said that despite a lull in the fighting this week, the potential for a flare-up was high.

"It looks like the LTTE has still not used their elite units," Perera said, noting that the bulk of Tamil Tiger casualties were either women cadres or very young men. "They could be kept in reserve for a bigger push."

Retired army brigadier general Vipul Boteju said the Tigers may have been beaten back in their latest attempt to recapture Jaffna where they maintained a de facto separate state from 1990 to 1995, but they could still hit back.

"Their strength is in carrying out spectacular bomb attacks," Boteju said. "That is a real possibility."

President Mahinda Rajapakse told diplomats here Monday that his government was ready to resume peace talks which the Tigers put on hold in April 2003 -- provided the Tigers halted their attacks.

"What the president says is that we have not started a war and we want to talk and have a negotiated settlement," government spokesman Keheliya Rambukwella said. "But we will not compromise national security."

The pro-rebel Tamilnet.com website said in a military analysis two weeks ago that the Tigers were prepared for full-scale war if the military kept up what it called undeclared war.

The Tamilnet article also had a clear warning to Colombo.

"The Tiger manoeuvres, including the ability to bait and divert the enemy's attention... decide the appropriate time to strike with overwhelming speed and firepower, form the foundation of the LTTE's counter-offensive strength," Tamilnet said.

Sri Lanka police found a Claymore mine in the capital Colombo on Tuesday and Rambukwella said there could be more rebel attempts to cause havoc in a country where more than 60,000 people have been killed in three decades of fighting.

Load-Date: August 23, 2006

Thousands flee Sri Lanka fighting

Agence France Presse -- English

March 25, 2007 Sunday 6:50 AM GMT

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Length: 514 words

Byline: Amal Jayasinghe

Dateline: COLOMBO, March 25 2007

Body

Thousands of Tamil civilians were on the run in north Sri Lanka on Sunday as troops and Tiger rebels traded artillery fire across a de facto border, with both sides claiming heavy casualties.

The rebel Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (**LTTE**) said about 2,000 men, women and children fled their homes in the district of Mannar where heavy fighting has raged since Thursday.

One government soldier was killed and three more wounded in Mannar district in the latest shelling, the defence ministry said Sunday. It said troops retaliated in kind and inflicted unspecified casualties on the guerrillas.

The ministry said they estimated that at least 49 Tiger rebels were killed in the latest fighting. The military placed its own losses at 10 killed and 46 seriously wounded, with another 45 listed as minor casualties.

For their part, the **LTTE** said they lost 13 of their combatants and claimed to have killed 60 government troops. Both sides are known to overestimate the losses suffered by the other.

Thousands of civilians living along the de facto border separating Tamil Tiger territory from the rest of the island fled to the safety of public buildings to avoid shelling by both sides, local officials said.

They said about 300 civilians had crossed the front lines Saturday and entered government-held areas, where they were provided with food by government troops.

The Tigers said the refugee crisis in Mannar has compounded problems for relief workers already grappling to feed nearly 300,000 internally displaced people in the island's embattled regions.

The rebels on Sunday accused the army of planting a roadside bomb that killed a local aid worker and wounded three others when it exploded near their vehicle in Mannar on Saturday.

"This is the work of the Sri Lankan army's deep penetrating unit," **LTTE** spokeswoman Navaruban Selvy said by telephone from her office in the rebel-held town of Kilinochchi, about 300 kilometres (200 miles) north of the capital.

"The victims were trying to arrange relief for the civilians recently displaced as a result of the latest fighting."

Thousands flee Sri Lanka fighting

The worker was a volunteer with the Tamils' Rehabilitation Organisation, a local charity that operates refugee centres and distributes aid in rebel territory.

Sri Lanka's military denies carrying out bomb attacks inside rebel-held territory, but military sources have acknowledged that small groups of troops are operating behind rebel lines.

The report of the blast came as the defence ministry said it had killed two suspected Tamil Tiger rebels in the northern peninsula of Jaffna, further north of Mannar, on Saturday.

In the east of the island, police recovered the body of six suspected Tiger rebels killed by troops in a confrontation over the weekend and a magisterial inquiry was held on Saturday, police said.

More than 4,000 people have been killed in a wave of fighting in Sri Lanka since December 2005. The violence comes despite a truce in place since February 2002.

The **LTTE** has been waging a 35-year campaign for an independent homeland for Sri Lanka's Tamil minority in this majority Sinhalese nation.

Load-Date: March 26, 2007

Tigers accuse Sri Lanka of preparing for war

Agence France Presse -- English

July 5, 2006 Wednesday 2:25 AM GMT

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Length: 707 words

Dateline: KILINOCHCHI, Sri Lanka, July 5 2006

Body

Tamil Tiger rebels run a de facto state in this northern town, but face increasing isolation and deadly battles with the Sri Lankan government which they contend is preparing for war.

The Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (**LTTE**) have been stung by a ban slapped on them by the 25-member European Union in May, and fought back by demanding the removal of truce monitors from Nordic nations that supported the move.

The ban, which labels the **LTTE** as a terrorist group, makes it difficult to raise funds from the Tamil diaspora in Europe.

After demanding that monitors from Denmark, Finland and Sweden quit by September 1, the **LTTE**'s political wing leader, S.P. Thamilselvan said that it was the Sri Lankan government which was escalating violence.

"The government invariably seems to be adamant in not fulfilling its obligations and letting (the ceasefire) rot, and then going to a military solution," Thamilselvan said in an interview with AFP here earlier this week.

The Tigers maintain their own police, courts and a civil administration here but civil servants continue to be paid by the Sri Lankan government for delivering services to the Tamil minority living in rebel-held territory.

Since the new Colombo government of President Mahinda Rajapakse came to power in November, the Tigers have been accused of escalating attacks which have led to the deaths of at least 830 people according to an official count.

The Sri Lankan government as well as Sri Lanka's main international backers, the US, EU and Japan have asked the Tigers to scale down the attacks and return to the negotiating table they left in April 2003.

However, Thamilselvan insists that it is the Sri Lankan government which is to blame. He argues that the international community has been misled by Colombo and added that the security situation was "worsening everyday."

The killings and other reported atrocities have occurred despite a 2002 ceasefire brokered between Colombo and the **LTTE** and put in place by peace broker Norway.

Tigers accuse Sri Lanka of preparing for war

"The government of Sri Lanka and its security forces have not demonstrated a will when it comes to the implementation of the ceasefire," Thamilselvan said, speaking through an interpreter.

Recent arms purchases, training exercises and small-scale military operations "seriously indicate the government is pushing the situation towards a war," he said.

Both the Tigers and government have warned of a return to full-scale war, and blamed the other for provoking it as civilian deaths mount in tit-for-tat killings.

The Sri Lankan military has hit back using supersonic bombers and artillery after the Tiger rebels were held responsible for suicide bomb attacks against top military officers and mine attacks against civilians.

Thamilselvan put particular blame on "paramilitary" groups he said have been let loose by the army on a terrified public while the government feigns peace moves.

"These groups are still active" despite being prohibited under the ceasefire, he said. "They are creating problems -- they come and kill at random, killing women, children, raping."

"All of that is still going on while the ceasefire agreement is in operation."

Ceasefire monitors have also cast doubt over the truce, and their role in the peace process remains uncertain

The five Nordic nations which provide staff for the 57-member Sri Lanka Monitoring Mission (SLMM) held a meeting in Oslo last week to consider their future engagement, but failed to end the deadlock.

The chief negotiator for Northern Ireland's main Roman Catholic party, Sinn Fein, travelled here Monday and was quoted by the Tigers as saying that the EU ban on the guerrillas was a "huge mistake."

Martin McGuinness, the first European politician to visit the region after the EU ban, discussed the "present state of" Sri Lanka's faltering peace bid, the LTTE said in a statement as others shunned the group.

Sri Lanka has slapped an unofficial ban on foreign dignitaries visiting the Tigers after the group was held responsible for the August 2005 assassination of foreign minister Lakshman Kadirgamar.

The EU put the Tigers on notice after the slaying and in May decided the slap a full-blown ban arguing that it might encourage the Tigers to rethink their use of violence and return the to the table.

Load-Date: July 5, 2006

FAST NEWS

The Courier Mail (Australia)

March 24, 2007 Saturday

Late City Edition

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Section: WORLD; Pg. 46

Length: 226 words

Body

Tamil Tigers die

COLOMBO: Sri Lankan troops shot dead at least 13 Tamil Tiger rebels who tried to attack military positions in the island's north. Security forces opened fire late yesterday on suspected members of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam at Omanthai on the de facto border with rebel-held territory, killing 11 of them. Another two rebels were shot dead further north at Nagarkovil in the Jaffna peninsula.

Passport arrests

LONDON: Police have charged 15 people after raids on illegal passport factories and suppliers, Scotland Yard said yesterday. More than 100 officers took part in dawn raids at 13 addresses across London on Wednesday. Those charged were two Brazilian **women**, 10 Brazilian men and three Algerian men. They were charged with possession and manufacturing of counterfeit passports and identity cards.

Kidnap drama

LAGOS: Gunmen in speedboats yesterday kidnapped a Dutch security manager of a German construction company in Nigeria's oil city of Port Harcourt. The attackers invaded the construction yard of Bilfinger Berger at dawn, engaged guards in a three-hour shootout and abducted the man.

Storms kill six

DHAKA: Tropical storms swept through southern Bangladesh, killing at least six people, injuring dozens and leaving several thousand villagers homeless. The storms struck late yesterday, levelling hundreds of houses in Bhola.

Load-Date: March 24, 2007

Thousands flee as Sri Lanka fighting worsens

Agence France Presse -- English

March 25, 2007 Sunday 1:02 PM GMT

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Length: 539 words

Byline: Amal Jayasinghe

Dateline: COLOMBO, March 25 2007

Body

Thousands of Tamil civilians were on the run in northern Sri Lanka Sunday as troops and Tiger rebels traded artillery fire across a de facto border, with both sides claiming heavy casualties.

The rebel Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (***LTTE***) said about 2,000 men, ***women*** and children fled their homes in the district of Mannar, where heavy fighting has raged since Thursday.

Unidentified gunmen shot dead five civilians -- three in the north and two in the east -- on Sunday afternoon, police said, adding the victims were villagers who had supported the ruling party government.

One government soldier was killed and three more wounded in Mannar district in the latest shelling, the defence ministry said Sunday. It said troops retaliated in kind and inflicted unspecified casualties on the guerrillas.

The ministry estimated that at least 49 Tiger rebels were killed in the latest fighting. The military placed its own losses at 10 dead and 46 seriously wounded, with another 45 listed as minor casualties.

The ***LTTE*** said it lost 13 combatants and claimed to have killed 60 government troops. Both sides are known to overestimate losses suffered by the other.

Thousands of civilians living along the de facto border separating Tamil Tiger territory from the rest of the island fled to the safety of public buildings to avoid shelling by both sides, local officials said.

They said about 300 civilians had crossed the front lines Saturday and entered government-held areas, where they were provided with food by government troops.

The Tigers said the refugee crisis in Mannar had compounded problems for relief workers already grappling to feed nearly 300,000 internally displaced people in the island's embattled regions.

The rebels on Sunday accused the army of planting a roadside bomb that killed a local aid worker and wounded three others when it exploded near their vehicle in Mannar on Saturday.

Thousands flee as Sri Lanka fighting worsens

"This is the work of the Sri Lankan army's deep penetration unit," **LTTE** spokeswoman Navaruban Selvy said by telephone from her office in the rebel-held town of Kilinochchi, about 300 kilometres (200 miles) north of the capital.

"The victims were trying to arrange relief for civilians displaced as a result of the latest fighting."

The worker was a volunteer with the Tamils' Rehabilitation Organisation, a local charity that operates refugee centres and distributes aid in rebel territory.

Sri Lanka's military denies carrying out bomb attacks inside rebel-held territory, but military sources have acknowledged that small groups of troops are operating behind rebel lines.

The report of the blast came as the defence ministry said it had killed two suspected Tamil Tiger rebels in the northern peninsula of Jaffna, to the north of Mannar, on Saturday.

In the east of the island, police recovered the bodies of six suspected Tiger rebels killed by troops in a confrontation over the weekend and a magisterial inquiry was held on Saturday, police said.

More than 4,000 people have been killed in a wave of fighting in Sri Lanka since December 2005. The violence comes despite a truce in place since February 2002.

The **LTTE** has been waging a 35-year campaign for an independent homeland for Sri Lanka's Tamil minority in this majority Sinhalese nation.

Load-Date: March 26, 2007

End of Document

EU condemns Sri Lanka bus bombing

Associated Press International

June 16, 2006 Friday 9:22 PM GMT

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Section: INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Length: 205 words

Dateline: VIENNA Austria

Body

The European Union on Friday condemned the bombing of a bus in Sri Lanka that killed 64 people, including **women** and children, calling it an "abhorrent act of violence."

In a statement released in Austria, which currently holds the 25-nation bloc's rotating presidency, the EU noted that Thursday's attack was the bloodiest since a 2002 cease-fire ended two decades of civil war in the island nation.

"This abhorrent act of violence, which marks the bloodiest attack on civilians since the signing of the cease-fire agreement in 2002, is another clear violation of that agreement," the EU said.

The Sri Lankan government has blamed the **Tamil Tigers** for the attack and has carried out air and artillery strikes near a key rebel stronghold. The rebels insist that the strikes show the Sri Lankan military is on a war footing.

In the statement, the EU called on both the government and the rebels to resume peace talks.

"The EU calls upon all parties to put an end to violence and to return to the negotiation table with a view to strengthening the immediate cease-fire and working towards a durable political solution of the conflict, so as to relieve the Sri Lankan people from the ordeal of 20 years of persistent conflict," the EU said.

Load-Date: June 17, 2006

Sri Lanka appoints successor to slain foreign minister

AP Worldstream

August 22, 2005 Monday

Copyright 2005 Associated Press

Section: INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Length: 219 words

Byline: RUWAN WEERAKOON; Associated Press Writer

Dateline: COLOMBO, Sri Lanka

Body

Sri Lanka's President Chandrika Kumaratunga on Monday appointed her younger brother as successor to the country's slain foreign minister, a Cabinet minister said.

Anura Bandaranaike will also hold the tourism portfolio in addition to being foreign minister, Power and Energy Minister Susil Premajayantha said.

He succeeds Foreign Minister Lakshman Kadirgamar, who was assassinated at his home on Aug. 12.

The government has blamed the killing on the Tamil Tiger rebels, who are seeking an independent homeland in the north for minority ethnic Tamils. The rebels have denied any role in Kadirgamar's slaying.

The 56-year-old Bandaranaike and Kumaratunga are the children of two former Sri Lankan prime ministers - Solomon Dias Bandaranaike and Sirimavo Bandaranaike -who became the world's first ***female*** prime minister in 1960.

Bandaranaike first entered Parliament in 1977 and has held the positions of the minister of higher education, Parliamentary speaker and opposition leader.

He was appointed minister of tourism and investment promotion when Kumaratunga's party returned to power in 2004.

Fighting between government troops and the ***Tamil Tigers*** erupted in 1983 has killed nearly 65,000 people before Norway brokered a cease-fire in February 2002. Subsequent peace talks have stalled over rebel demands for more autonomy.

Load-Date: August 23, 2005

Sri Lankan Suicide Attack Video Released

Associated Press Online

November 30, 2007 Friday 6:48 PM GMT

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Section: INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Length: 585 words

Byline: By RAVI NESSMAN, Associated Press Writer

Dateline: COLOMBO Sri Lanka

Body

In chilling security camera footage, a **female** suicide bomber on a mission to kill a Sri Lankan Cabinet minister is seen patiently answering questions in a bustling government office before calmly standing up and detonating the bomb hidden in her bra.

The video, released by police Friday, gave a rare look at a suicide bomber's last moments and the immediate aftermath of a devastating attack.

In the footage, the bomber, wearing a yellow sari and a white shawl, calmly walked into a small waiting room at the Colombo offices of Social Services Minister Douglas Devananda on Wednesday, the day he sets aside to hear complaints from the public.

The woman, identified by police as 24-year-old Sujatha Vagawanam, sat down in front of a desk and answered questions from Devananda's 72-year-old aide Steven Peiris. As the two spoke, Peiris was repeatedly interrupted by other officials sitting nearby or walking past.

After nearly a minute and a half, he began gesturing for her to sit down in a nearby cluster of white plastic chairs, apparently to await a security check. She then stood up facing Peiris, reached her right hand to her right shoulder to grab something and exploded.

Peiris and the bomber, both of whom were killed, flew backward. The others in the room scrambled in all directions, some falling over their chairs in their haste to escape as a cloud of smoke hung in the air.

"She thought she was getting caught, so she exploded her bomb," said Devananda, the target of the attack.

Devananda, a Tamil politician seen as a rival to the Tamil Tiger rebel group, said the guerrillas had made more than 10 attempts on his life and killed more than 70 members of his Eelam People's Democratic Party in recent years.

A former Tamil militant group, the Eelam People's Democratic Party renounced violence and joined the political mainstream in 1987. The **Tamil Tigers** oppose the group.

"This is nothing new to me," he told The Associated Press in an interview at his heavily guarded home in Colombo. "I expect that these things happen, and will happen. It will continue."

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The rebels were also blamed for a second bombing Wednesday that killed 19 people at a department store in a Colombo suburb during the busy evening rush hour.

The government said the attacks proved the rebels were suffering from a military onslaught against their stronghold in northern Sri Lanka, security officials said.

"They were desperate and unable to face the security forces in the north," military spokesman Brig. Udaya Nanayakkara said.

The military announced Friday that it had killed 14 rebels the day before in a wave of fighting near the rebels' northern stronghold.

Rebel spokesman Rasiyah Ilanthirayan, who has not answered repeated calls from The Associated Press since the latest bombings Wednesday, could not be reached for comment on the new fighting.

The **Tamil Tigers** have been fighting since 1983 to create a separate homeland for Sri Lanka's minority ethnic Tamils following decades of discrimination by governments controlled by the Sinhalese majority.

The group, branded a terror organization by the U.S. and European Union, is responsible for more than 240 suicide bombings as well as scores of other deadly attacks.

Load-Date: December 1, 2007

The four-wheeled apocalypse

The Times (London)

March 3, 2007, Saturday

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Section: FEATURES; Books; Pg. 5

Length: 975 words

Byline: Joanna Bourke

Body

* They are favoured by fanatics from Baghdad to Belfast. Joanna Bourke is scared by Buda's Wagon, Mike Davis's history of the car bomb

Mike Davis, long-time chronicler of apocalyptic terror, has done it again: he has made me frightened. In his latest book, Davis reminds us that the bomber will always get through, with his or her explosives neatly packed in the back seat of a white Peugeot. Any person with a schoolgirl's knowledge of chemistry and access to farmyard fertiliser can manufacture a car bomb. We are right to be scared.

Buda's Wagon begins with the father of the modern car bomb, the anarchist Mario Buda, nicknamed Nasone (Big Nose). In September 1920, Buda parked a horse drawn wagon near a street corner in Manhattan and serenely walked away. At noon, while the bells of Trinity Church were still tolling, the wagon exploded, killing 40 people and injuring 200 more. At least 100 soldiers swarmed into the streets, bayonets fixed, and, for the first time, trading at the Stock Exchange was suspended. Despite the furore, Buda quietly slipped out of New York, bound for Italy. His actions provided the prototype for further attacks: an anonymous city-scape; an inconspicuous vehicle; commonplace ingredients; a vengeful vocation.

It is a legacy that has alarmed every nation. In prose simmering with outrage, Davis systematically leads readers around the world, patiently escorting us from one atrocity to another. The cumulative effect is oppressive: Haifa, Jerusalem, Beirut, Saigon, Kuta, Bombay, Corsica, Johannesburg, Colombo, London, Belfast, Baghdad. The list goes on and on. Urban spaces are dangerous. The threat does not simply fester in extremist religious circles: fanatics are secular, too. Indeed, the world leaders in suicide terrorism are the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (*LTTE*, or *Tamil Tigers*) of Sri Lanka, notorious for requiring members to wear a cyanide capsule around their neck in case of capture. The Tigers recruit predominantly from the Hindu Tamil population and have strong ideological ties to Marxist-Leninism. Furthermore, Davis reminds us, in some countries car bombs are government-issued: the CIA has done its fair share.

Car bombs are global and their tactical and technological evolution is accelerating. As security hardens, terrorists turn to soft targets. Killing tourists in Kuta (in Bali) in October 2002 was logistically simple, yet that act of mass murder (202 were killed) severely damaged Indonesia's economy. Similarly, as security in the Green Zone in Baghdad improved, suicidal drivers simply turned their steering wheels towards poor Shia neighbourhoods. In Baghdad at the end of last summer there was a car-bomb explosion nearly every day -and this despite 6,000 checkpoints and more than 50,000 American and Iraqi troops standing guard.

The four-wheeled apocalypse

Should this surprise us? As a weapon of destruction, car bombs work by stealth, but are much cheaper than the B-2 bomber. If you steal the car and bootleg the electronics, £ 250 worth of fertiliser can kill dozens of people, Davis blandly points out. The average sports utility vehicle can transport a 1,000lb bomb from the suburbs of Los Angeles to its financial heart. In unequal conflicts, using a car or even a rickshaw to transport explosives into the core of enemy territory can seem a bright idea. Bombers know that their actions often make a difference, if only to scare everyone witless. Young and old men, as well as women (the first woman suicide driver was Sana' Yusuf Muhaydli, of the Syrian Social Nationalist Party, in 1985) can be recruited. In many cases, we will never know for sure what drove these bombers to take such drastic action, but most terrorists begin with speeches, detailed programmes, and tracts. Somewhere along the way, however, they lose heart. "We have lost all faith in words," Sergey Nechayev, the Russian nihilist, claimed. Regis Debray, philosopher and friend of Che Guevara, put it even better: car bombs are "manifestos written in the blood of others".

It is difficult to see what can be done to prevent such carnage. In the US, billions of dollars have been spent tightening airline security and barricading risky institutions, but Federal authorities admit that there is no effective policy to prevent the lethal combination of Ford wagon, ammonium nitrate and a monstrous conscience. There is no sign of a "technological fix" to eradicate the threat, either. Even if sophisticated bomb sensors or robotic arms that use "fast" neurons to detect explosives were to be developed in the near future, they would be able to be exploited only by the wealthy.

It is not all bad news. The use of car bombs often backfires. Shamil Basayev, the notorious Chechen guerrilla who, in 2002 and 2004, planned the mass hostage taking at the Moscow theatre and the school in Beslan, was probably blown up by his own truck bomb. Even more commonly, as the IRA discovered after Bloody Friday, innocent casualties could demolish carefully framed myths of heroism, permanently impair belief in the righteousness of the cause and result in an equally vicious response by the authorities.

The brilliance and power of Davis's story is undeniable. The book has none of the elegance or macabre humour of his previous works, however. It is hardly appropriate to bandy about witty one-liners when writing about weapons of dismemberment. Instead, the gently rebuking mood of socialist yearning that is present in Davis's other books has given way to a kind of matter-of-fact misery.

Perhaps this is inevitable. But why, I found myself asking, didn't he devote more space to the refusal of many revolutionaries to employ car bombs? Nelson Mandela was not the only resistance leader to argue against the use of this diabolical weapon. In the end, the relentless piling of bodies in this book is profoundly disquieting. Read, and despair.

Load-Date: March 6, 2007

Video shows female suicide bomber attacking Sri Lankan govt. office

The Associated Press

November 30, 2007 Friday 7:03 PM GMT

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Section: INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Length: 585 words

Byline: By RAVI NESSMAN, Associated Press Writer

Dateline: COLOMBO Sri Lanka

Body

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Load-Date: December 1, 2007

Suicide bombers last moments caught on tape

Telegraph Herald (Dubuque, IA)

December 1, 2007 Saturday

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Section: A; Pg. 8

Length: 589 words

Byline: The Associated Press

Body

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Load-Date: December 1, 2007

5,000 Sri Lankans gather to show solidarity with renegade rebel in eastern town

Associated Press International

March 19, 2004 Friday

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Section: INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Length: 217 words

Dateline: BATTICALOA, Sri Lanka

Body

More than 5,000 men, women and children staged a demonstration Friday in support of a renegade rebel commander who split from the main Tamil Tiger guerrilla army with nearly half its fighters.

The demonstrators pledged solidarity to Vinayagamoorthy Muralitharan - also known as Karuna - in front of a Hindu temple in the eastern Sri Lankan town of Batticaloa.

Protesters burnt effigies of three senior rebel leaders who left Muralitharan's breakaway faction to support the Tigers' main commander, Velupillai Prabhakaran. Some of Muralitharan's 6,000 fighters were seen among the demonstrators.

The renegade commander said earlier this month he broke away from the ***Tamil Tigers*** because the separatists may be preparing to break a two-year-old truce and launch an offensive against the government of Sri Lanka.

The Tigers, who denied the accusations, expelled Muralitharan three days after he announced his decision to defect, and branded him a traitor.

The Tigers began fighting for a separate homeland for ethnic minority Tamils in the north and east in 1983, claiming discrimination by the Sinhalese majority. Nearly 65,000 people have died in the conflict.

A Norwegian-brokered cease-fire in February 2002 halted the fighting, but the split in the rebel ranks has raised fears the island may return to war.

Load-Date: March 20, 2004

Sri Lanka's reclusive top Tamil Tiger leader to make annual speech amid an undeclared war

Associated Press International

November 27, 2006 Monday 3:42 AM GMT

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Section: INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Length: 626 words

Byline: By KRISHAN FRANCIS, Associated Press Writer

Dateline: COLOMBO Sri Lanka

Body

Tamil Tigers and bereaved families lit lamps and garlanded portraits of fallen fighters in rebel-held parts of Sri Lanka to mark the end of "Hero's Week" Monday, as the rebels' reclusive leader prepared to make his annual policy speech.

Velupillai Prabhakaran's speech comes amid an undeclared civil war that has virtually destroyed a 2002 cease-fire with the government. This year more than 3,500 people have been killed, according to Defense Ministry.

The Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam which says it is fighting to create a separate homeland for Sri Lanka's 3.2 million ethnic minority Tamils commemorates its fallen fighters and marks the birthday of its top leader every year on Nov. 27.

Prabhakaran's speech is watched by Sri Lankan and international observers to try to determine the rebels' next move.

Monday's speech comes after a year of bloody fighting, prompting speculation that Prabhakaran could declare an official end to the Norway brokered cease-fire on the tropical island of 19 million people.

Such a pessimistic outlook comes just a year after Prabhakaran offered a glimmer of hope to supporters of the peace process.

Just days after the election of hard-line President Mahinda Rajapakse, the Tamil Tiger leader used his 2005 annual speech to praise the president as a "realist, committed to pragmatic politics." He also promised to delay an "intensified struggle for self determination" despite complaining that the peace process had yielded little for Tamils.

He gave a deadline that ends Monday to see how Rajapakse addressed the Tamil's demand for self rule.

However, any hopes that peace would return to Sri Lanka soon ended with a series of mysterious abductions, assassinations and bomb blasts.

The rebels accused the government of launching a proxy war against them by supporting a breakaway faction of rebels. Bombs targeting military vehicles killed dozens of soldiers and sailors. The government blamed the rebels.

Sri Lanka 's reclusive top Tamil Tiger leader to make annual speech amid an undeclared war

Tamil Tigers denied responsibility and claimed that Tamil civilians, distraught over their hardships had started attacking government forces, intifada style.

April's attempted assassination of Sri Lanka's army commander Lt. Gen. Sarath Fonseka by a Tiger suicide bomber in the heart of the capital, Colombo, and subsequent government aerial bombing on rebel positions in the east marked the beginning of large-scale confrontation.

A year after Prabhakaran signaled that peace could be achieved, more than 3,500 fighters and civilians have died in aerial bombings, assassinations, bomb attacks and daily skirmishes, according to government figures. Government troops have also captured some territory held by the rebels.

The fighting has created some 200,000 refugees.

A pro-rebel Web site said Monday that increasing violence has left 818 rebel cadres dead this year. TamilNet said the dead included 250 **women** fighters.

The Sri Lankan Defense Ministry listed 915 security forces personell dead this year in fighting against the rebels and listed 2,018 rebels killed. The ministry also said 592 civilians were killed during the period.

There was no way to reconcile the figures.

Heavy clashes are reported daily but both the sides say they have not withdrawn from the 2002 cease-fire meant to halt a civil war that had killed 65,000 people since 1983.

Growing international pressure has forced the government and rebels to remain nominally committed to the cease-fire, despite ongoing fighting which can only be described as a full-scale war.

A clause in the truce that requires the government or rebels to notify the other party 14 days before their withdrawal is the only thing keeping the agreement valid, at least on paper.

On the Web:

Pro rebel Web site: <http://www.TamilNet.com>

Ministry of Defense: <http://www.nationalsecurity.lk>

Load-Date: November 27, 2006

1ST LEAD: Nine die in new clashes as bombing toll rises to 19

Deutsche Presse-Agentur

November 29, 2007 Thursday 11:18 AM EST

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Section: POLITICS

Length: 374 words

Dateline: Colombo

Body

DPA POLITICS SriLanka Conflicts 1ST LEAD: Nine die in new clashes as bombing toll rises to 19 Adds details of new clashes Colombo

At least two civilians and seven Tamil rebels were killed in three separate incidents on Thursday as the death toll in a parcel-bomb blast the previous day in Colombo increased to 19.

Two civilians belonging to the majority Sinhala community were shot dead by Tamil rebels in Batticaloa, 240 kilometres east of the capital around midday, a military spokesman said.

In two other incidents, seven rebels were killed in clashes with government troops in the northern Muhamalai and Kilaly areas, about 380 kilometres north of the capital.

The death toll rose to 19 from Wednesday's blast at a clothing shop in Nugegoda, 10 kilometres south-east of the capital, another victim succumbed to injuries.

Police and soldiers searched a shopping complex in the city Thursday after receiving an anonymous telephone call about a suspicious parcel, while most vehicles entering the capital city were checked and additional road blocks erected.

All schools in the western province, which includes the Colombo district, were closed down for two days and some office workers stayed away from their jobs.

President Mahinda Rajapaksa returned to the island Thursday from an overseas trip and met with senior military officials.

The government has blamed the rebels of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) for Wednesday's explosion.

Defence spokesman Keheliya Rambukwella declared the attack an indication that "LTTE terrorism has reached its last stage."

1ST LEAD: Nine die in new clashes as bombing toll rises to 19

"The LTTE is merely showcasing their last bit in the last lap," Rambukwella said.

The military and the government said the rebels are under pressure after losing control of the eastern province they partly dominated a year back, and recent airstrikes have caused considerable damage to including the death of their political leader S P Thamilselvan.

But rebel leader Velupillai Prabhakaran vowed to continue his struggle for an independent homeland in the northern and eastern parts of the island.

Rebels on Wednesday also sent a female suicide bomber to target a Tamil cabinet minister at his office in Colombo. One staffer was killed along with the attacker.

Nov 29 07 1118 GMT

Notes

Adds details of new clashes

Load-Date: November 30, 2007

End of Document

Japanese envoy to meet top Sri Lankan official in peace bid

Agence France Presse -- English

May 7, 2006 Sunday 5:32 AM GMT

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Length: 554 words

Dateline: COLOMBO, May 7 2006

Body

A Japanese envoy was to hold talks Sunday with a top Sri Lankan official in an effort to save the island's peace process, which has been severely threatened by an escalation of deadly violence.

Tokyo's special envoy Yasushi Akashi was to meet with Palitha Kohona, head of the government's peace secretariat, which coordinates the Norwegian-backed peace initiative.

Akashi, who arrived in Colombo late Saturday, is also to meet President Mahinda Rajapakse, possibly on Monday, but the timing of the meeting was still being confirmed, Kohona said.

The rebel Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (**LTTE**) confirmed that the leader of their political wing, S.P. Thamilselvan, would hold discussions with the Japanese envoy on Tuesday in a rebel-held northern town.

"Mr. Akashi asked for a meeting with Mr. Thamilselvan and they will meet on Tuesday at 10:30 in the morning at Kilinochchi," the head of the rebels' peace secretariat, S. Puleedevan, told AFP.

Kohona welcomed Akashi's planned meeting with the senior rebel.

"The government wants Mr. Akashi to go to the north and meet with the **LTTE** at a time when we are getting ready for the second round of talks with many hiccups," he said, referring to ceasefire talks in Switzerland, which have been postponed indefinitely after an initial round earlier this year.

"Hopefully, he will be able to persuade the **LTTE** on a number of things, including the participation in the second round of talks and the cessation of violence."

Despite a four-year-old truce, more than 200 people have died over the last month in tit-for-tat attacks by government forces and the rebel Tigers, who are fighting for a homeland for minority Tamils.

The Sri Lanka Monitoring Mission that oversees the truce has said the violence is out of control and the only way to curb it is for the two sides to agree to talks.

Saturday saw a rare lull in the attacks.

Japanese envoy to meet top Sri Lankan official in peace bid

The only casualty was a soldier wounded when suspected Tiger gunmen opened fire as he guarded a pro-rebel Tamil newspaper office where two employees had earlier been gunned down, the defence ministry said.

On Friday, the military reported a clash at sea off the island's northwest but said there were no casualties among navy sailors.

Akashi is a key figure who helped raise about 4.5 billion dollars in pledges to rebuild Sri Lanka during a meeting of international aid donors he organised in June 2003.

Much of the aid was linked to progress in the peace process but formal political talks have remained on hold since April 2003 after six rounds of face-to-face discussions that began in September 2002.

In the most serious attack since the truce took hold, a **female** suicide bomber wounded army chief Lieutenant General Sarath Fonseka and 30 others in an attack at army headquarters in Colombo on April 25.

Eleven people including the bomber died.

The government, saying it was acting in self-defence against an **LTTE** attack, retaliated with air strikes against suspected rebel positions.

Government officials held a two-day meeting with rebel representatives in Switzerland in February and agreed to review the ceasefire at another meeting in April but those talks did not take place.

Diplomatic efforts by peacebroker Norway have failed to bring the parties back to the table.

More than 60,000 people have been killed in the island's separatist conflict since 1972.

Load-Date: May 8, 2006

Sri Lankan army objects to female rebels' attire

Associated Press International

February 3, 2003 Monday

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Section: INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Length: 213 words

Dateline: COLOMBO, Sri Lanka

Body

Soldiers guarding a checkpoint in northern Sri Lanka refused to allow 23 **female** rebels to enter a government-held area because of their clothes, a military spokesman said Monday.

TamilNet, a Web site often used to express the rebel **Tamil Tigers**' views, said soldiers objected to the **women**'s garb.

It said **female** recruits usually wear a uniform consisting of a shirt, long trousers and a black belt. Most **women** among Sri Lanka's 3.2 million Tamils prefer wearing traditional saris.

During the Tigers' 19-year separatist struggle, **female** rebels developed a reputation for being fierce fighters. **Female** suicide bombers killed many prominent figures, including former Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi.

Defense Ministry spokesman Brig. Sanath Karunaratne confirmed Sunday's incident, saying under a Norwegian-brokered cease-fire, rebels were only allowed to travel to government-held areas in civilian dress and without arms.

"This is to avoid the impact combat dress would have on average Tamil civilians living in the areas," Karunaratne said.

TamilNet said rebels have lodged a complaint with peacekeepers about the incident.

Since the cease-fire was signed last February, the government and rebels have been holding talks to end the conflict.

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On the Net:

Tamil Web site: www.TamilNet.com

Load-Date: February 4, 2003

Nearly 300 arrested in Sri Lanka's capital

Xinhua General News Service

February 3, 2007 Saturday 7:00 AM EST

Copyright 2007 Xinhua News Agency

Section: WORLD NEWS; Political

Length: 226 words

Dateline: COLOMBO

Body

Police has arrested at least 292 people in Colombo, capital of Sri Lanka, to ensure security ahead of the nation's independence day celebrations which was scheduled for Sunday.

Most of the arrests throughout Friday night came from the central Colombo's Pettah and Dam Street areas, police said on Saturday.

These areas are noted for temporary lodging outlets for Tamils coming to the capital from the northern and eastern regions.

Premalal Ranagala, the central Colombo's Assistant Police Superintendent, said that 58 of the arrested were women and mainly residents of Jaffna.

The nation will celebrate its 59th anniversary of independence from Britain with a colorful pageant Sunday with the participation of President Mahinda Rajapakse.

The security authorities say they take no chances in providing maximum security to the pageant in view of the military's recent series of victories over Tamil Tiger rebels.

Vakarai, a major Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) base, was captured from rebel's control late last month.

Also in the Central Colombo area of Maligawatta, the police said a 2-kg claymore mine was found abandoned inside a three wheeled taxi early Saturday morning.

The LTTE rebels use claymore or road side bombs frequently to attack the government troops in the northern and eastern battle zones.

Load-Date: February 4, 2007

1ST LEAD: Bomber kills one, herself near minister's Colombo office

Deutsche Presse-Agentur

November 28, 2007 Wednesday 5:57 AM EST

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Section: POLITICS

Length: 411 words

Dateline: Colombo

Body

DPA POLITICS SriLanka Conflicts 1ST LEAD: Bomber kills one, herself near minister's Colombo office Adds identity of victim, details of bombing, arrests, previous assassination attempts, background Colombo A suicide bomber blew herself up Wednesday near a minister's office in Colombo, killing herself and another person and injuring at least three people, a police official said.

The bomber tried to enter the minister's office in Narahenpita, six kilometres south-east of the heart of Sri Lanka's capital, but detonated herself while she was being checked, police said.

Social Services Minister Douglas Devananda, who heads the Eelam People's Democratic Party (EPDP), was inside the office at the time but was not injured.

The person killed was identified as Devananda's coordinating secretary Steven Peiris.

The EPDP also has a military wing and backs the security forces in their operations against the ethnic Tamil rebels of the Liberation

Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), who frequently carry out suicide bombings.

The bomber, disabled from polio, had posed as a teacher seeking an appointment with the minister, but Devananda's staff was reluctant to allow her inside because she had no prior appointment and had started questioning her when the explosion took place.

Police investigators said they believe the explosives were hidden in her bra and designed to kill a person at close range.

At least 10 people were arrested for questioning soon after the blast from around the office.

The LTTE had made three previous attempts to kill Devananda.

In one case, he was beaten with clubs by LTTE prisoners when he

1ST LEAD: Bomber kills one, herself near minister's Colombo office

visited a high-security jail while in another incident, rebels stormed his residence in Colombo, but he escaped through the back

door. The last attempt was in 2000 when another **female** suicide bomber was dispatched, but she was detected and taken to a police station where she detonated herself, killing five policemen.

Wednesday's bombing came a day after rebel chief Velupillai Prabhakaran vowed to fight on for a separate state for Tamils as the Air Force bombed a rebel radio station in northern Sri Lanka, killing at least nine people.

Fighting has escalated in the north, where the Air Force has stepped up its aerial attacks and a series of clashes between ground troops and rebels have taken place during the past three months, claiming more than 1,000 lives. Fighting during the past two years has pushed the death toll to more than 5,500.

Nov 2807 0557 GMT

Notes

Adds identity of victim, details of bombing, arrests, previous assassination attempts, background

Load-Date: November 29, 2007

End of Document

Tamil refugee flow from Sri Lanka unrelenting

Indo-Asian News Service

August 5, 2006 Saturday 1:39 PM EST

Copyright 2006 HT Media Ltd. All Rights Reserved

Length: 593 words

Byline: Indo-Asian News Service

Dateline: New Delhi

Body

New Delhi, Aug 5 -- Sri Lankan Tamils fleeing violence in their country continue to pour into India, and some Indian officials feel that the escalation in hostilities could shoot up their numbers.

The total arrival since January is sneaking up to 6,000, and officials say around 2,000 men, women and children are now camping in Sri Lanka's northwestern district of Mannar to sail to Tamil Nadu.

"The number reaching Tamil Nadu each day is less than a hundred but they continue to come non-stop," a senior official in Chennai told IANS on telephone. "At one time over 200 people came on a single day but that is not the case now."

The over 5,800 Tamils who have come in so far are drawn from 1,838 families. The total arrival during Aug 1-3 was 157.

Most of those now hitting the Indian shores are no more from Trincomalee in the island's east, from where the first wave of Tamil refugees came Jan 12 and where Sri Lankan troops are now locked in heavy fighting with the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE).

The more recent groups are mainly from Mannar, which lies closest to the Tamil Nadu shore.

"The people who are now coming are not from Trincomalee. This could be because they are not able to reach Mannar due to the (security) situation. Or maybe they are caught up somewhere," the official said.

Tamil Nadu, separated from Sri Lanka by a narrow strip of sea, has been a sanctuary for Tamils from the island since 1983 when anti-Tamil violence fuelled the very first inflow of refugees.

There are over 100 refugee centres in Tamil Nadu, which is home to thousands of Sri Lankan Tamils, many of whom live on their own without government doles.

But in contrast to the past, the refugee inflow is today strictly regulated. Indian security agencies photograph and fingerprint them and also question them at length to determine their possible links with the LTTE.

The latest refugees have the same grouse: that they are being harassed and threatened by the Sinhalese-dominated Sri Lankan security forces and they prefer India to getting caught in the crossfire or going into LTTE areas.

Tamil refugee flow from Sri Lanka unrelenting

Because the Sri Lankan Navy has enforced a virtual night blockade of the sea to prevent refugees from making it to India, many journey at dawn, reaching Tamil Nadu during the day. The boatmen charge thousands of rupees for each passenger.

Indian authorities think the refugees - some of whom had lived in Tamil Nadu earlier but went back to Sri Lanka after the 2002 Norwegian-brokered ceasefire - will keep coming for weeks and probably months to come.

There is also a feeling that Tamils will flee in larger numbers from Trincomalee once the current spell of fighting between the military and the **LTTE** abates - if it does.

"Those displaced due to fighting in Muttur (in Trincomalee) are Muslims. They will not want to come to India. They will proceed to other areas in Sri Lanka itself," another central government official said. "But later, perhaps, more Tamils may flee Trincomalee."

The Tamil Nadu government has said it will take steps to improve the living conditions in the refugee camps. It has also increased the cash doles given away to the inmates.

"For most refugees living below the poverty line, especially **women** and children, families headed by single **women** and physically disadvantaged people, this hike is a great boon," said S.C. Chandrasekaran of the Organisation for Eelam Refugees Rehabilitation, an NGO that for years has worked among Sri Lankan refugees.

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Load-Date: August 6, 2006

Death and fear stalk Sri Lankans; The Tamil town of Jaffna is hunkered down in misery

The International Herald Tribune

June 14, 2007 Thursday

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Section: NEWS; Pg. 2

Length: 1024 words

Byline: Somini Sengupta - The New York Times Media Group

Dateline: JAFFNA, Sri Lanka

Body

Kavitha Kumar contributed reporting from Bangalore.

*

The nights are broken again by artillery fire across the black lagoon.

The road out of this peninsula has been closed since August, making the area nearly inaccessible. Today, although food and fuel manage to arrive, the town market shuts by afternoon and shopkeepers are reluctant to keep stocks, not knowing when they might have to close up and run.

By 7 p.m., barely sundown, stray dogs have the run of the streets of Jaffna. People are indoors, doors locked, well before an 8 o'clock curfew, which is the most liberal in 10 months. Sri Lankan soldiers linger at the edges of the alleys. Flashlights come on when a car passes. All is still, except for the dogs.

This is Jaffna, the picturesque prize of the quarter-century-long Sri Lankan ethnic war, girding for a new storm.

The army commander for the area, General G.A. Chandrasiri, said he expected a major battle for Jaffna before the August monsoon.

A 2002 cease-fire, which ended the bloodshed for a time, has collapsed. For a year, fighting has spread across the island between the Sri Lankan military, dominated by the ethnic Sinhalese majority, and the separatist rebels, the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam.

According to the Sri Lankan Defense Ministry, more than 4,800 people, civilians and fighters have been killed in the past 18 months, and although the number is not entirely reliable, it points to a significantly lethal epoch in this long, ugly war.

It will probably continue for a while. Gotabhaya Rajapakse, the Sri Lankan defense secretary, said the military was under instructions to eliminate the rebel leader, Vellupillai Prabhakaran, and to eradicate his organization once and for all.

Death and fear stalk Sri Lankans The Tamil town of Jaffna is hunkered down in misery

"That's our main aim, to destroy the leadership," Rajapakse said in an interview last month. The job, he went on, would take two to three years.

Peace talks are nowhere on the horizon. Pressure from abroad, including suspensions of aid from countries like Britain and the United States, have done little to temper Sri Lankan military ambitions. The **Tamil Tigers**, banned in many countries, including the United States, upped the ante this spring by conducting air raids with the aid of modified two-seater propeller planes.

The weapons of war are now dirtier than ever. Assassinations and land mine attacks in crowded civilian areas are common. The **Tamil Tigers** regularly deploy suicide bombers.

Journalists, diplomats and aid workers face hostile scrutiny for any criticism of the security forces. On a Sunday morning in April, a young reporter for a Tamil-language newspaper in Jaffna was shot and killed as he rode his bicycle to work. In May, fliers appeared at Jaffna University, containing a hit list of alleged rebel sympathizers.

At least 15,000 people are waiting to get on government ships to the relative safety of Colombo, the capital. Those who remain dare say little. "Anytime, anything can happen," offered Ravindran Ramanathan, a tailor. "People are afraid of everything."

Jaffna is no stranger to war. Its temples and churches bear the pockmarks of battles past. Its people are familiar with running and dying. No other place is so scarred because no other place carries Jaffna's special curse: It is the heart of the homeland that the **Tamil Tigers** have fought to carve out, and the trophy that soldiers and rebels have fought over all these years.

Lately, a new fear stalks Jaffna, and it is more ominous than anything its people recall from their grim past: A spate of mysterious abductions usually carried out during curfew, when soldiers and stray dogs rule the streets. No one is quite sure who is being taken, for what reason, by whom. Sometimes, corpses turn up on the street. More often, they do not turn up at all.

One night in May, well into the curfew, C. Kuharajan's son, Kanan, 18, was watching television on the floor of his parents' bedroom when four armed men pushed open the front door of their house and demanded that Kanan come with them for questioning. His captors refused to identify themselves - "none of your business," Kanan's father recalled them saying - nor explain where they were taking him or why. That was on May 4. Kanan, a high school senior, has not been heard from since.

According to his family, Kanan had been active in a high school group affiliated to the student union at Jaffna University, which security forces describe as a den of anti-government activity. But the father said his son was under strict instructions to avoid anything political.

The Sri Lankan Human Rights Commission, a government agency, says it has received 805 complaints of abductions in Jaffna from December 2005 to April 2007. The army said it was aware of 230 abductions.

Chandrasiri, the general, first blamed the abductions on pro-government Tamil paramilitary groups who, as he put it, try to "eliminate" Tamil Tiger operatives. He later acknowledged that some in the security forces could be complicit. But most of those abducted, he claimed, were not innocent civilians but known Tamil Tiger operatives.

Reports of abductions have been sharply criticized by even Sri Lankan allies like Richard Boucher, a U.S. assistant secretary of state who met with Chandrasiri on a visit here in May. In the weeks after Boucher's visit, reports of abductions fell.

Not far from the general's office, another kind of uncertainty hovers over a Roman Catholic church, now home to refugees from Allaipiddy, a fishing village west of the town. The United Nations estimates that there are roughly 300,000 people displaced across Sri Lanka. At this church, some families have fled their homes as many as four times since the war began. The last time was in August, after rebels and soldiers clashed in Allaipiddy.

Death and fear stalk Sri Lankans The Tamil town of Jaffna is hunkered down in misery

The families here somehow carry on. The men cannot fish any more because the coast is occupied by soldiers. Food aid has not come for weeks. **Women** have sold their gold bangles for rice. Or they have gone without eating, saving what little there is for their children.

An emergency assessment by the United Nations found signs of more child malnutrition in Jaffna. The government has blocked the study's release.

Load-Date: June 17, 2007

End of Document

Tamil civilians flee fresh violence

The Calgary Herald (Alberta)

March 26, 2007 Monday

Final Edition

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Section: NEWS; Pg. A13; Asia Report: News From the Region

Length: 204 words

Byline: Agence France-Presse

Dateline: COLOMBO

Body

Thousands of Tamil civilians were on the run in northern Sri Lanka Sunday as troops and Tiger rebels traded artillery fire across a de facto border, with both sides claiming heavy casualties.

The rebel Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (**LTTE**) said about 2,000 men, **women** and children fled their homes in the district of Mannar, where heavy fighting has raged since Thursday.

Unidentified gunmen shot dead five civilians -- three in the north and two in the east -- on Sunday afternoon, police said, adding the victims were villagers who had supported the ruling party government.

One government soldier was killed and three more wounded in Mannar district in the latest shelling, the defence ministry said Sunday. It said troops retaliated in kind and inflicted unspecified casualties on the guerrillas.

The ministry estimated that at least 49 Tiger rebels were killed in the latest fighting. The military placed its own losses at 10 dead and 46 seriously wounded, with another 45 listed as minor casualties.

The **LTTE** said it lost 13 combatants and claimed to have killed 60 government troops.

More than 4,000 people have been killed in fighting in Sri Lanka since December 2005, despite a truce being in place since February 2002.

Load-Date: March 26, 2007

Thousands flee

Geelong Advertiser (Australia)

March 26, 2007 Monday

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Section: NEWS; Pg. 19

Length: 225 words

Byline: SRI LANKA Colombo, Sunday

Body

THOUSANDS of Tamil civilians were on the run in north Sri Lanka today as troops and Tiger rebels traded artillery fire across a de facto border, with both sides claiming heavy casualties.

The rebel Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (**LTTE**) said about 2000 men, women and children fled their homes in the district of Mannar where heavy fighting has raged since Thursday.

One government soldier was killed and three more wounded in Mannar district in the latest shelling, the defence ministry said today.

It said troops retaliated in kind and inflicted unspecified casualties on the guerillas.

The ministry said it estimated that at least 49 Tiger rebels were killed in the latest fighting. The military placed its own losses at 10 killed and 46 seriously wounded, with another 45 listed as minor casualties.

For their part, the **LTTE** said they lost 13 of their combatants and claimed to have killed 60 government troops. Both sides are known to overestimate the losses suffered by the other.

Thousands of civilians living along the de facto border separating Tamil Tiger territory from the rest of the island fled to the safety of public buildings to avoid shelling by both sides, local officials said.

They said about 300 civilians had crossed the front lines yesterday and entered government-held areas, where they were provided with food by government troops.

Load-Date: March 26, 2007

Correction: : Sri Lankan conflict brings 148 Tamil refugees to India in 12 days

Deutsche Presse-Agentur

January 24, 2006, Tuesday 07525107:52:51 Central European Time

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Section: Politics

Length: 203 words

Body

and 2nd graf =

New Delhi (dpa) - The latest arrivals of at least 35 Sri Lankan Tamils in India has added to the influx of refugees fearing an outbreak of war between Tamil rebels and the Sri Lankan military, Indian news reports said Tuesday.

The total number of refugees who have fled northern parts of Sri Lanka to reach India's southern Tamil Nadu state has climbed to 148 in 12 days, the Asian Age reported.

In the latest group, 11 men, 11 **women** and 13 children travelled by fishing boats to reach the port town of Rameswaram late Monday. Rameswaram is located 572 kilometres south-west of the state capital, Madras.

The refugees started pouring in January 12, and most of them have been accommodated in camps in Rameswaram.

Recent attacks by the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (**LTTE**) have rendered fragile a ceasefire between them and Colombo, triggering fears that the country's civil war might resume.

The conflict caused more than 200,000 Sri Lankan Tamils to seek asylum in Tamil Nadu in the late 1980s.

The **LTTE** have been fighting for a Tamil homeland in Sri Lanka for two decades in a conflict that has claimed more than 60,000 lives. dpa sk ls

Corrects length of time refugees have been arriving in headline

Load-Date: January 24, 2006

TUESDAY - QUICK BITES - TUESDAY MAY 2

Weekend Australian

April 29, 2006 Saturday

All-round Review Edition

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Section: REVIEW; View, The; Pg. 32

Length: 232 words

Byline: Kerrie Murphy

Body

MATP

What Not to Wear

8.30pm, The LifeStyle Channel

It's not just women who need to be told what not to wear: men who embrace the Speedo probably need a hand as well. Tonight, Trinny and Susannah tackle men going through midlife crises, either clinging to the outdated clothes of their youth or just giving up altogether. This series has suffered from being extended to an hour, but discouraging stocky guys from wearing patterned, short-sleeved shirts is OK by me.

The Bill

8.30pm, ABC

Sheelagh (Bernie Nolan) finds a young girl home alone and, suspecting that her mother is exploiting her daughter by pretending she has leukemia, takes her back to the station. As this is not usual procedure, Gina, her superior, is not impressed and demands she return the child.

Hot Docs: No More Tears, Sister

10pm, SBS

Sri Lankan human rights activist Dajani Thiranagama was assassinated at the age of 35 by Tamil Tigers about 15 years ago. This documentary examines her life and paints an unhappy picture of the country's recent history.

Infamous Murders

11.10pm, Seven

This episode, alliteratively entitled Deadly Doctors, examines medical practitioners who have heard of the Hippocratic oath but have no truck with it. From Chicago's Alice Wynekoop, who killed her daughter-in-law in 1933, it moves on to more recent cases, such as British serial killer Harold Shipman, who may have killed as many as 1000 elderly women.

TUESDAY - QUICK BITES - TUESDAY MAY 2

Load-Date: April 28, 2006

End of Document

Pugmarks all over

Hindustan Times

June 28, 2006 Wednesday 1:15 PM EST

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Length: 387 words

Byline: Hindustan Times

Dateline: NEW DELHI, India

Body

NEW DELHI, India, June 28 -- No doubt, one day soon, we will have an exclusive interview with Ayman Al Zawahiri, al-Qaeda's No. 2, 'regretting' the loss of life in the twin towers on 9/11, describing it as "a monumental tragedy".

For now, we only have Anton Balasingham, chief toady of Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam chief V. Prabhakaran, playing up to the gullible Indian media, as indeed he has to that of the rest of the world. Balasingham's crocodile tears on the tragic assassination of Rajiv Gandhi were downright insulting to the people of India, and must have been particularly painful for the Gandhi family and for those of the 17 others killed in the suicide bomb attack.

Read carefully and you will find no apology, no acknowledgment of the **LTTE's** complicity, leave alone the need to punish those guilty for it. Balasingham's role as Prabhakaran's Goebbels is well-known, as well as his long experience in justifying every murderous act his boss has ordered, of which there have been many. Note that the remarks come a day after the assassination of a Sri Lankan military officer and two weeks after the terrible blast that killed 64 bus passengers in central Sri Lanka.

What the **LTTE** really seems to be regretting is the loss of the free ride it got in India till Rajiv was killed. The outfit used Tamil Nadu as a staging area for its war with first the Sri Lankan armed forces and then the Indian Peace Keeping Forces. It was only Rajiv's assassination that led to the rooting out of their clandestine network across the state. Having been recently banned by the EU, in addition to the US, the **LTTE** is using its trademark insolence to win back India's favour.

It is hoping that the DMK and the PMK, allies of the UPA, will nudge the latter to shift its stand. Whatever be their inclination, the problem for this government or any other, is that Prabhakaran, his intelligence chief Pottu Aman, and **women's** wing chief Akila are proclaimed offenders wanted for the murder of a former Indian Prime Minister. No government in New Delhi can forget that, and none has - not the successor Rao government, nor those by Deve Gowda and Inder

Gujral, nor the NDA. As for forgiveness, it can only come after genuine repentance and adequate punishment.

The Hindustan Times is provided through HT Syndication, New Delhi.

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Pugmarks all over

Load-Date: June 30, 2006

End of Document

Caught between devil and deep blue sea

New Straits Times (Malaysia)

June 14, 2007 Thursday

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Section: Pg. 24; LOCAL

Length: 1128 words

Byline: Neville De Silva

Body

SRI Lanka's 25-year-old conflict continues with the government's eviction of 375 Tamils from Colombo and their subsequent return to the city after international condemnation, reports NEVILLE DE SILVA.

Caught in a cleft stick, the Sri Lankan government has pleaded mea culpa and taken full responsibility for the badly botched job of evicting some minority Tamils out of the country's capital.

Security forces recently turfed some 375 Tamil men, women and children from their temporary abodes in Colombo, on the grounds that they could not provide plausible reasons for residing in the capital.

The logic appeared to be that any Tamil who could not explain his or her presence to the satisfaction of the police was a potential suicide bomber of the separatist Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), an accomplice gathering information, or a mole planted by the Tigers to cause mayhem at some later date.

The Tamils were bussed off to their homes in northern and eastern Sri Lanka, where the LTTE and government forces are battling as the February 2002 ceasefire, brokered by Norway, lies in shreds.

This 25-year-old conflict has already claimed at least 70,000 lives.

In a dramatic turnaround the next day, however, most of the Tamils were bussed back to Colombo, apparently on the orders of President Mahinda Rajapakse.

Then on Sunday, Prime Minister Ratnasiri Wickremanayake told the media that he was "expressing regret and apologising on behalf of the government".

He also dismissed a statement by the country's police chief, Victor Perera, that the Tamils had "volunteered" to be evicted.

But why did the government do a volte face?

International reactions had come fast and furious. Foreign governments, including the United States, one of the few powerful friends Sri Lanka has left, and the European Union quickly condemned the move as discriminatory, while human rights organisations and the media damned it as "ethnic cleansing".

That was an unfortunate exaggeration. It hardly compared with the LTTE's 1990 eviction on 48 hours' notice of 100,000 Muslim residents of the northern Jaffna peninsula, the Tamil heartland.

Caught between devil and deep blue sea

In Sri Lanka itself, almost every political party save Rajapakse's own Sri Lanka Freedom Party and two small groups - the Buddhist Jatika Hela Urumaya and the Ceylon Workers Congress, representing the Indian Tamils from the plantations - chastised the government. So did the Janata Vimukti Peramuna, the Marxist-nationalist party that helped bring Rajapakse to power.

The next day, a three-judge bench of the Supreme Court ordered the evictions stopped and the full case heard later this month.

For the Sri Lankan media, saturated with daily doses of abductions, disappearances and killings of businessmen and other civilians, the government's blunder came in time to titillate weekend readers.

To add to Rajapakse's woes, in Colombo at the time was Yasushi Akashi, Japan's special envoy to the now-stalled peace process.

At a press conference two days after the government's gaffe, Akashi said that unlike some Western countries that had cut aid to Sri Lanka, Japan would stand by Colombo. But, he said, evictions, abductions and extra-judicial killings were unacceptable. For many years now, human rights has figured as a key criterion in the granting of Japanese aid.

More trouble followed from an unexpected quarter. While international pressure was mounting, particularly from the four co-chairs of the peace process - the US, EU, Japan and Norway - Rajapakse appointed an international panel of eminent persons to observe the presidential commission of inquiry investigating 16 high-profile political assassinations and killings. Some of them involved allegations of human rights abuses.

This was viewed by some human rights watchdogs as an attempt to forestall pressure on the United Nations or other organisations to send monitors to Sri Lanka.

Chaired by respected former Indian chief justice P.N. Bhagwati, the panel issued an interim report on Sunday, available to Rajapakse before its release.

In it the international panel said that the commission's activities so far "do not satisfy international norms and standards", that it had dawdled for six months, and that its independence had been compromised as a result of interference by the Attorney-General's Department.

Caught between the harsh criticism from abroad and the uncompromising political and media reactions at home, the government caved in on the eviction issue.

The critical question now is whether the Rajapakse administration will return to its original thinking that debilitating the LTTE will force it to return to negotiations.

In February, a poll by a local think-tank found that 59 per cent of the Sinhala majority favoured a military solution. This enthusiasm for military action, and an aggressive defence establishment led by Gotabhaya Rajapakse, the president's younger brother, provide the oxygen for a populist leader.

The cost of this gung-ho attitude makes Rajapakse popular among Sinhalas, but its cost is proving prohibitive. This year's military budget is up by over 45 per cent over the previous year. Inflation is running well over 15 per cent.

Tourism, one of the mainstays of the economy, is in the doldrums as uncertainty keeps visitors away. The only international airport remains closed at night for fear of LTTE air attacks.

Investors are also wary, although Sri Lanka is still an attractive place for capital.

The government is fuelling inflation by printing money to keep afloat the world's largest cabinet of ministers, a host of presidential advisers and newly created ministries.

Caught between devil and deep blue sea

The only saving grace at the moment is the huge remittances from Sri Lankan expatriate workers, around \$2US.5 billion (RM8.7 billion) or more annually.

That the government appears to be committed to pursuing a military option was hinted at by Sri Lanka's foreign secretary, Dr Palitha Kohona, when he spoke to an academic audience in Singapore following the Shangri-La Dialogue security conference there this month.

"Public opinion in Sri Lanka demands that the government should take the strongest possible measures to eradicate terrorism with or without external support," he said.

It seems that international admonitions to the government to desist from military pursuits to stifle, if not end, **LTTE** terrorism, are not going to change the Sri Lanka government's present posture.

If that is how the EU co-chairs read the situation when they meet in Brussels next Thursday, pressure could rise on Western countries to impose sanctions against the government's perceived intransigence on the military and human rights abuses.

Such sanctions could include travel bans on selected Sri Lankan officials and military personnel as a first measure to force the government to change its ways.

Load-Date: June 13, 2007

End of Document

News items from Asia-Pacific Desk of Xinhua

Xinhua General News Service

November 4, 2007 Sunday 4:30 PM EST

Copyright 2007 Xinhua News Agency

Section: WORLD NEWS

Length: 741 words

Dateline: HONG KONG

Body

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

Profile: **Tamil Tigers**' No. 2 killed by Sri Lankan troops

Major news items in leading Philippine newspapers

Major news items in leading Australian newspapers

Pakistani PM rejects reports on martial law, emergency

Major news items in leading Japanese newspapers

U.S. warfare ship to visit Cambodia soon

One more regional airline adds direct flight to Myanmar

Foreign exchange rates in Indonesia

Cambodia inaugurates Intelligence Department at Interior Ministry

Major news items in leading Singapore's newspapers

Foreign exchange rates in Nepal

Major news items in leading Thai newspapers

Major news items in leading Nepali newspapers

Major news items in leading Pakistani newspapers

Major news items in leading Indian newspapers

Several workers injured in Landslide in Indonesia's mining

Indonesia having difficulties in identifying number of rare species

Sri Lanka's **Tamil Tigers** appoint new political leader

News items from Asia-Pacific Desk of Xinhua

Major news items in leading Afghan newspapers

Sri Lankan police officer killed in capital

Nepali gov't to seek one more year for UNMIN

Major news items in leading Nepali newspapers

Diarrhea leaves 21 dead in eastern Nepal

Work to disable DPRK nuclear facilities to start Monday: U.S. official

Repatriation of Bhutanese refugees processes must be simultaneous: Nepali PM

Foreign exchange rates in Hong Kong -- Nov. 3

Nepali PM rejects idea of announcing republic immediately

Urgent: 2 Afghans found beheaded in central Afghanistan

Two **Female** rebels killed in northern Sri Lanka

1st Ld Writethru: 2 Afghans found beheaded in central Afghanistan

2nd Ld Writethru: 2 Afghans found beheaded in central Afghanistan

German Chancellor arrives in Afghan capital for visit

Urgent: U.N. special envoy re-visits Myanmar for mediation efforts

1st Ld Writethru: U.N. special envoy re-visits Myanmar for mediation efforts

HK, Mainland financial market integration takes time: official

Germany to extend support in south Afghanistan if needed: Merkel

Urgent: Mount Kelud erupts in Indonesia

NATO soldier killed, 2 injured in Afghanistan

2nd Ld Writethru: U.N. special envoy re-visits Myanmar for mediation efforts

(Sports) Iran claims men's futsal title at Asian Indoor Games

(Sports) Results of men's futsal at Asian Indoor Games

3rd Ld writethru: U.N. special envoy re-visits Myanmar for mediation efforts

4th Ld writethru: U.N. special envoy re-visits Myanmar for mediation efforts

First planeload Bhutanese refugees to resettle in U.S. by 2008: U.S. official

Sri Lanka to take actions against accused peacekeepers abroad

Weather information for Asia Pacific cities -- Nov. 3

Mount Kelud Explodes in Indonesia, with no damage or casualty

Militants in NW Pakistan release over 100 soldiers

News items from Asia-Pacific Desk of Xinhua

End of Japan's mission in Afghanistan to affect operations: Pak Foreign Ministry

Roundup: U.N. special envoy re-visits Myanmar for mediation efforts

1st Ld Writethru: Mount Kelud Explodes in Indonesia, with no damage or casualty

Indonesian woman dies of suspected bird flu

Tropical depression expected to bring downpour in Philippines

URGENT: Media reports say Pakistan may declare state of emergency

URGENT: Pakistan's Musharraf declares state of emergency

1st Ld: Musharraf declares state of emergency in Pakistan

Gambari mission aimed at promoting dialogue and national reconciliation in Myanmar: U.N.

(Sports) OCA chief: Macao makes dreams come true

2nd Ld: Musharraf declares state of emergency in Pakistan

(Sports) Host Vietnam defeats Zimbabwe 2-0 in int'l soccer tournament

3rd Ld, Writethru: Musharraf declares state of emergency in Pakistan

4th Ld, Writethru: Musharraf declares state of emergency in Pakistan

Taliban kills 6 civilians, police officer in W. Afghanistan

Rubber tapper shot dead and ice-cream vendor wounded in Thailand's restive deep south

Musharraf proclaims state of emergency in Pakistan

New Chief Justice of Pakistan appointed

Former Pak PM Benazir Bhutto returns to country

URGENT: Pakistani President addresses nation

1st Ld: Musharraf says decision taken in national interest

2nd Ld: Musharraf says decision taken in national interest

3rd Ld, Writethru: Musharraf says not to allow Pakistan to commit suicide

Load-Date: November 4, 2007

Protesters wear black to demonstrate against military in Sri Lanka

Deutsche Presse-Agentur

February 19, 2003, Wednesday 09:50 Central European Time

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Section: Miscellaneous

Length: 228 words

Dateline: Colombo

Body

Tens of thousands of civilians and school children from northern and eastern Sri Lanka wore black badges or black ribbons Wednesday as part of a major protest organised by pro-rebel groups in the region against the military.

Pro-rebel groups called on civilians and school children to wear black badges or ribbons and put black flags on vehicles and business establishments to protest what they called cases of harassment by the military.

The protest campaign came less than a week after the military clashed with Tamil rebels in northern Sri Lanka over a dispute of female rebel cadres wearing black waist belts which is part of their military uniform and entering government controlled areas.

The military considers the wearing of black waist belts and entering government controlled areas as a violation of a cease-fire agreement between the government and rebels of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE).

Wednesday's protest was aimed at increasing pressure on the Sri Lankan military.

The LTTE has already called on security forces to withdraw from high security zones around strategic military camps to enable civilians to return to their original homes.

Rebels estimate that about 100,000 civilians have been prevented from returning to their homes due to security forces occupying areas around military camps. dpa ad blg

Load-Date: February 19, 2003

Tsunami victims unleash fury as PM visits Jaffna

Agence France Presse -- English

December 30, 2004 Thursday 11:25 AM GMT

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Length: 235 words

Dateline: COLOMBO Dec 30

Body

Tsunami victims armed with broomsticks turned hostile as Sri Lanka's prime minister visited the former Tamil Tiger stronghold of Jaffna Thursday to supervise a relief operation, military officials said.

Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapakse was at a relief centre in the northern peninsula when the crowd began denouncing the government's Marxist coalition partner, the JVP or People's Liberation Front.

Pro-rebel activists believed JVP politicians were accompanying the premier and Trade Minister Jeyaraj Fernandopulle, the officials said.

While JVP politicians were in Jaffna at the time, they were not with Rajapakse.

"There were no casualties among the politicians," one official said. "Even some women turned up armed with broomsticks to hit the politicians. We believe they were instigated by the Tigers."

The Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) was driven out of the peninsula in December 1995, but was allowed back to carry out political activities after a truce.

The LTTE is staunchly opposed to the government's Marxist partner, the JVP.

Rajapakse's visit Thursday was the second to the region by a prime minister since his predecessor Ranil Wickremesinghe went there in 2002 after entering into a truce with the rebels.

The guerrillas have accused the Colombo government of ignoring the rebel-held regions of the north which were also devastated in Sunday's tsunami strike that has officially killed 22,800 people.

Load-Date: December 31, 2004

International Briefs

Telegraph Herald (Dubuque, IA)

May 12, 2006 Friday

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Section: FRONT; Pg. a9

Length: 669 words

Byline: ASSOCIATED PRESS

Body

Program to resume food aid to N. Korea

BEIJING - The World Food Program will resume food aid to hunger-stricken North Korea after a six-month suspension, but the operation will be much smaller than before, the U.N. agency said Thursday.

The new program will feed 1.9 million of the "most needy" people in the North, Tony Banbury, the agency's Asia regional director, said at a news conference in Beijing. That is down from the 6.5 million people the agency was feeding in past years.

Those cut off from food distribution - about 4 million mainly elderly people - would be fed through state grain subsidies, North Korean authorities told the WFP.

However, the state distribution system is known to be unreliable and understocked, so without additional food from family members or other sources, those cut off could "face a very difficult situation," Banbury said.

Puerto Rico solves major budget crisis

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico - More than 100,000 Puerto Ricans will head back to their government jobs and public schools will reopen next week after politicians announced an end to a budget crisis that partially shut down the government of the U.S. island territory.

The agreement announced late Wednesday called for an emergency loan - backed by the island's first sales tax - to cover a \$740 million budget deficit. The accord, reached by a special commission, did not specify the amount of the new levy and left other key issues up to legislative approval.

Rossello issued a statement later supporting the commission's recommendation, but saying he believed the sales tax should be as low as possible, around 4 percent, and that he opposes the use of loans to solve the island's structural budget imbalance.

Libyan court denies bail to nurses, doctor

TRIPOLI, Libya - A new trial for five Bulgarian nurses and a Palestinian doctor accused of infecting more than 400 Libyan children with HIV began Thursday with a judge refusing bail.

Bulgaria pressed for a quick resolution of the case.

International Briefs

The U.S. and European Union have hinged future relations with Libyan leader Moammar Gadhafi - who has been trying to repair his rogue image - on the verdict.

The nurses and doctor have been in jail since 1999 on charges that they spread the virus that causes AIDS to children at a hospital in Benghazi during a botched experiment to find a cure for the disease. Western nations blame the infections on poor hygiene at Libyan hospitals and accuse Tripoli of concocting the charges as a cover-up.

Amnesty International has said the women reported being tortured with electric shocks and beaten until they confessed. Two nurses said they had been raped.

Battle kills 50 rebels; 17 sailors missing

COLOMBO, Sri Lanka - At least 50 rebels were killed and 17 Sri Lankan sailors missing after a sea battle Thursday instigated by the Tamil Tigers left the country on the brink of civil war.

Tamil Tigers sank a navy patrol boat off the northern coast as it escorted a troop transport carrying 710 soldiers. In retaliation, the navy downed five rebel vessels and the air force launched air strikes on guerrilla-held territory.

The escalation in violence could mark a return to civil war, as a 2002 cease-fire that stopped almost two decades of fighting appears increasingly unlikely to last.

The patrol boat was part of a convoy escorting a troop carrier that was attacked by the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam rebels, navy spokesman Cmdr. D.K.P. Dassanayake said.

3 oil workers kidnapped

LAGOS, Nigeria - Gunmen kidnapped three foreign oil workers from a bus in southern Nigeria Thursday, a day after a U.S. oil worker was killed in the same city, a hub of this country's oil industry.

Police Commissioner Samuel Adetuyi confirmed that two foreign nationals were seized as they rode to work in Port Harcourt. He gave no further details.

But Italian energy company Eni SPA told Italian news agencies that three people were kidnapped - two of them foreigners who work for its Saipem affiliate in Nigeria - along with a contract worker for another oil company.

Load-Date: May 12, 2006

Comment & Debate: After the deluge, the tides of war are flooding back: The struggle between Tamils and Sinhalese is straining the fragile peace that followed Sri Lanka's tsunami horror

The Guardian - Final Edition

December 30, 2005 Friday

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Section: GUARDIAN COMMENT AND DEBATE PAGES ; Pg. 27

Length: 1007 words

Byline: Jonathan Steele, Colombo

Body

A new tsunami is gathering force in Sri Lanka. A country which lost over 35,000 people in last year's catastrophe is facing a disaster which could dwarf that death toll. Yet the looming threat has hardly been noticed by the outside world.

Among decision-makers in Sri Lanka's Sinhalese and Tamil communities a wave of war preparations is rising up. Assassinations of politicians and civic leaders happen with increasing frequency. Every day brings new violations of a four-year-old ceasefire. Attacks on government troops have been mounting with lethal intensity. Forty-four have died in three separate incidents this month.

Although the peace negotiations which followed the ceasefire stalled in April 2003, by and large the truce held until a few weeks ago. Now the situation has worsened dramatically. In three visits to the island since the talks collapsed I have never found such gloom among those who watch the country's politics. The majority view is that all-out war is only weeks or, at most, months away.

In Indonesia's tsunami-stricken province of Aceh, last year's calamity pushed pro-independence rebels and the government into peace. In Sri Lanka it also raised hopes that both sides would settle their differences. The areas controlled by the autonomy-seeking Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (**LTTE**) were some of the worst-hit and the Tamil community in general, though smaller than the Sinhalese, suffered an equal number of deaths.

Donor governments saw a chance to use the disaster to revive the peace process. They urged the Tigers and the Sri Lankan government to create a joint mechanism for distributing reconstruction aid. The idea was that by collaborating on practical issues, both sides would achieve a level of mutual trust which could feed back into the political stalemate and re-energise peace talks.

In May they signed an agreement on tsunami funding. But Sinhalese nationalists took it to the supreme court as unconstitutional giving the Tigers excessive recognition. When the judges came down in the complainants' favour, the mechanism died. In November, Sri Lankans elected a more hardline president who campaigned on a promise to revise the ceasefire agreement.

Comment & Debate: After the deluge, the tides of war are flooding back: The struggle between Tamils and Sinhalese is straining the fragile peace that followed S....

The gathering war will hit Sri Lankans all the more cruelly since tsunami relief has been largely a success. In the first hours food, tents and shelter in schools and temples reached the homeless with great speed. Temporary accommodation was set up while new houses were built.

Competing foreign NGO's have created some problems. Fishing boats, which look nice on donor websites, were handed out without enough nets or engines. Sewing machines were given to rural women without understanding that if there is only one middleman to buy their products he can lower his price, leaving a village as poor as before.

But local activists are pressing for reforms, using the UN motto, "Build Back Better". They want poverty-reduction programmes to help whole communities, not just tsunami-affected families. People displaced by the 19 years of war which ended in 2002 must not be overlooked.

The villages of Telwatta and Peraliya on Sri Lanka's west coast have produced the worst and the best. A year ago, following vague reports that a train had been washed away somewhere south of Colombo, I stumbled on the worst episode in the tsunami. Soldiers were already in action carrying hundreds of bodies out of the flooded carriages. An estimated 1,700 people drowned.

The train carcass later became a meagre source of income for local people. They charged visitors to peer at it. Last week the government moved it to Hikkaduwa station where for the price of a 2p platform ticket you could see the rusting carriages, adorned with white ribbons fluttering in memory of the dead. A museum and memorial are planned.

At Peraliya the upper floor of a house has become a "community tsunami early warning centre". Needing only modest funding to run it, villagers log on every half-hour to international websites that track Asian earthquakes. Linked to volunteers manning newly-installed loudspeakers in population centres up and down the coast, they can warn people of threats and counter the false alarms that often still spread. The new system was in place faster than anything the government did.

Sri Lanka's big need now is to heed the early warning of war. LTTE leaders recently gave an ultimatum that unless the new president offers Tamils self-governing autonomy the ceasefire will end in 2006. An LTTE campaign to capture the Jaffna peninsula in the hope of negotiating from a position of new strength would follow.

Though government-held, Jaffna is inhabited exclusively by Tamils, after the LTTE's expulsion of the Muslims a few years ago and the gradual emigration of Sinhalese. The LTTE showed its muscle there by enforcing an election boycott in November, as well as a walk-out by government employees, students, and shopkeepers this week. A creeping intifada is underway. A full-scale uprising, perhaps linked to a military assault, could drive the army out, observers say. But the government would not give up. Hardline officers have been promoted to top positions, and it might try to bomb Jaffna back under its control, according to analysts.

What can be done? Tsunami victims who live near the frontline are already fleeing their new homes for fear of war. LTTE and government leaders must take a deep breath and realise the dangers they are about to unleash. Foreign governments ought to step in immediately at the highest level.

Along with Norway, the main facilitator, the co-chairs of Sri Lanka's stagnant peace process are the EU, Japan, and the US. The Sri Lankan president also wants to bring India into the picture. The primary responsibility for reaching peace rests with Sri Lankan leaders, but foreign governments should enforce an arms embargo, threaten a cut-off in aid, and get the two sides talking again. How in good conscience can one reconstruct one half of a small island when the other half is about to self-destruct?

j.steele@guardian.co.uk

Load-Date: December 30, 2005

Comment & Debate: After the deluge, the tides of war are flooding back: The struggle between Tamils and Sinhalese is straining the fragile peace that followed S....

End of Document

Catholic bishop says Sri Lankan air raid hit civilians

Deutsche Presse-Agentur

January 3, 2007 Wednesday 9:55 AM EST

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Section: POLITICS

Length: 436 words

Dateline: Colombo

Body

DPA POLITICS Sri Lanka Conflicts Catholic bishop says Sri Lankan air raid hit civilians Colombo
The death toll in an air force raid in north-western Sri Lanka increased to 15 Wednesday as a Catholic bishop in the area dismissed government claims that the victims were Tamil rebels.

The toll from Tuesday's attack on Iluppaikadavai village, in Mannar, 320 kilometres north of the capital, was raised when two of the wounded succumbed to their injuries.

Catholic Bishop Reverend Rayappu Joseph visited the scene of the attack and refuted government claims that the strike was on a Tamil Tiger military base.

In a letter written to President Mahinda Rajapaksa, Bishop Joseph said the village was in an area where displaced persons from northern Sri Lanka had resettled and most of the killed and injured were either women or children.

But government's defence spokesman, Minister Keheliya Rambukwella, insisted that the air force had carried out the attack on an identified rebel target which had been monitored for nearly six months.

"Sometimes there are instances where the terrorists (rebels of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam - LTTE) get the civilians into areas which come under attack," Rambukwella told a local radio station.

Bishop Joseph said that the local priest in the area had identified some of the victims as civilians living in huts.

The bishop said in his letter to the president: "After listening to the people and to the priests and religious working in the area and from my personal inspection, I wish to convey to you that there were no LTTE bunkers nor could we see any sign of their camps nor any

Catholic bishop says Sri Lankan air raid hit civilians

individual residence of possible LTTE cadre in or in the vicinity of this area. This attack is clearly on a civilian target..."

Meanwhile, United Nations Assistant Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs Margareta Wahlstroem, in a statement issued Tuesday, expressed concern about the incident.

"It is imperative that both sides to the conflict take all measures to fulfill their obligations under international law to protect civilians in this conflict; we have too often seen them fall short in this duty," the statement said.

Fighting in Sri Lanka has escalated during the past year, claiming over 3,000 lives, while the government and Tamil rebels have drifted away from reaching a political settlement to end the country's ethnic conflict.

In a separate development, air force officials on Wednesday said they bombed what they described as a heavy weapons site in Verugal, 280 kilometres north-east of the capital. No details of the damage caused by the raid were immediately available.

Jan 0307 0955 GMT

Load-Date: January 4, 2007

End of Document

Buddhist monk injured in grenade attack in north central Sri Lanka

Deutsche Presse-Agentur

July 8, 2004, Thursday 16502116:50:21 Central European Time

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Section: Politics

Length: 226 words

Dateline: Colombo

Body

A Buddhist monk who gave accommodation to members of a breakaway group of rebels was seriously injured in a grenade attack in north central Sri Lanka Thursday night, police said. The monk was inside the temple in Hingurakgoda, 220 kilometres northeast of Colombo when attacked.

The monk was being taken to the capital for further treatment, police said. The monk was head incumbent of a temple which gave accommodation to 14 members belonging to a breakaway group of the rebels of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (**LTTE**). Police on Monday detected a cache of weapons hidden inside the temple after the chief monk provided accommodation for the 14 men, but could not prove to courts any link between suspects and weapons. The 14 suspects were released on bail. They were members of the breakaway group led by regional military wing leader V. Muralitharan, alias Karuna. On Wednesday a **female** suicide bomber had been sent to assassinate a cabinet minister who has links with Karuna, but after the bomber was detected she blew herself up inside a Colombo police station, killing herself and four police officers, and injuring 12 others. Rebels have warned that any persons maintaining links with Karuna will be "punished". The **LTTE** has been maintaining a ceasefire under a Norwegian backed peace process since February 2002. dpa ad sc

Load-Date: July 8, 2004

Sri Lanka's fragile peace fraying as tension mounts between rival rebel factions

Associated Press International

March 19, 2004 Friday

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Section: INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Length: 647 words

Byline: SHIMALI SENANAYAKE; Associated Press Writer

Dateline: BATTICALOA, Sri Lanka

Body

A mere 150 meters (500 feet) could be all that separates peace from war in violence-weary Sri Lanka, where a dramatic split among the Tamil Tiger rebels has emerged as the newest threat to a fragile 2-year-old truce.

Only a narrow river that cuts through dense forest lies between camps set up by two rival and heavily armed rebel factions, which both claim to control the island nation's volatile east.

For 19 years the mainly Hindu **Tamil Tigers** were a devastatingly unified force that fought a civil war against Sri Lanka's largely Buddhist central government. The civil war cost at least 65,000 lives before a cease-fire was struck in 2002.

But two years later, the uneasy peace is fraying dangerously at both ends.

In the capital, Colombo, President Chandrika Kumaratunga has dissolved Parliament to fight a bitter snap election campaign against rival Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe. The two are fiercely at odds over how to negotiate with the rebels.

And now, in the jungles, there are real fears that rebels could start battling each other in fighting that could spill over and draw Sri Lankan government forces into the fray.

On March 3, the Tigers' powerful commander for eastern Sri Lanka, Vinayagamoorthy Muralitharan - nicknamed "Karuna Amman" or "Kind Uncle" - broke away, taking more than 6,000 troops, or more than a third of the entire rebel force, with him.

Rebel fighters loyal to the Tigers' old guard later moved into the area, creating a standoff that has raised new fears.

"The direction the crisis is heading is confrontation, which could spill over and lead to a full-blown war in the country," said political analyst Jehan Perera, an expert on the Tigers.

Kingsley Swampillai, an influential Roman Catholic bishop in the east, was grim about the Tigers' breakup.

"At the moment there is not only potential, but probability, of a war," he said.

Sri Lanka 's fragile peace fraying as tension mounts between rival rebel factions

The Associated Press recently visited Muralitharan's camp, about a two-hour drive from the town of Batticaloa, on a road that winds through rice paddies and scrubland.

Men with bandoleers full of bullets slung over their shoulders stood guard. Some fighters trained for combat, while others played soccer.

Nearly half the rebels at the camp were women. Their weapons ranged from AK-47 rifles to long-range artillery.

In an interview, Muralitharan said he left the Tigers because he feared their top leader, Velupillai Prabhakaran, was plotting to restart the war with the divided government.

Muralitharan, 37, was calm and confident as he spoke of his defiance of Tiger leader Prabhakaran, viewed by many a ruthless commander.

"I will no longer take orders from Mr. Prabhakaran," Muralitharan said.

He said he didn't see his actions as a betrayal of the Tigers' struggle, but as a measure to protect eastern Sri Lanka's people - and the peace process.

He insisted he'll maintain the cease-fire until a new truce is signed with the government.

On Friday, more than 5,000 people staged a demonstration in Batticaloa in support of the renegade rebel commander.

Protesters burned effigies of three senior rebel leaders who left Muralitharan's breakaway faction to support Prabhakaran.

In the past, the Tigers have eliminated members who abandoned their ranks.

But there's been no attempt on Muralitharan's life. That could be a testament to his abilities as a commander who has consistently won some of the Tigers' most decisive battles. It also underscores the loyalty of his followers.

Neelavani, the chief of his female forces at Muralitharan's camp, hid her eyes under a military cap as she declared that she and her fighters would "sacrifice our lives" for him.

"Karuna's future depends on how long he can maintain order and the discipline of his cadres as an organized force under his command," said Anton Balasingham, the chief negotiator for the Tamil Tigers, who have expelled Muralitharan from the group and branded him a traitor.

Load-Date: March 20, 2004

DOOM & GLOOM

Sydney MX (Australia)

November 29, 2007 Thursday

SYD Edition

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Section: WORLD; Pg. 10

Length: 255 words

Body

* TAMIL TIGER ATTACKS KILL 18

* SRI Lanka's **Tamil Tigers** killed 18 people in two bomb attacks in the capital Colombo, just after the group's leader Velupillai Prabhakaran said he saw no hope of a peace deal to end the civil war.

A **female** suicide bomber killed an aide to social welfare minister Douglas Devananda in an attack on his office early in the day. Devananda once fought alongside the Tigers.

Hours later a parcel bomb exploded at the entrance of a shopping centre in the Colombo suburb of Nugegoda, killing 17 people and injuring 33.

* SAUDIS SWOOP ON 208 MILITANTS

* SAUDI forces have arrested 208 suspected militants and uncovered a plot to attack a logistical oil facility.

"One of the (terror) cells was plotting to attack an auxiliary oil facility in the Eastern Province a logistical facility, not an oil refinery," interior ministry spokesman General Mansur al-Turki said.

He said the suspects had been arrested in the past few months in various parts of Saudi Arabia.

* WORRY AS KOSOVO TALKS COLLAPSE

* LAST-GASP talks on the disputed Serbian province of Kosovo collapsed and threats by its Albanian leaders to declare independence fuelled fears of violence.

"Regrettably, there has been no agreement with Serbia. Independence is the beginning and the end," Kosovo President Fatmir Sejdiu said at the end of tense three-day negotiations in the Austrian spa resort of Baden.

"We cannot say the exact time and date (when independence will be declared, but) it will happen very quickly," said the Kosovo Albanian leader.

Load-Date: November 29, 2007

DOOM & GLOOM

End of Document

3rd Ld Explosion kills 15, injures 23 in north central Sri Lanka

Xinhua General News Service

December 6, 2007 Thursday 1:18 AM EST

Copyright 2007 Xinhua News Agency

Section: WORLD NEWS; Science & Technology

Length: 229 words

Dateline: COLOMBO

Body

At least 15 people were killed and 23 injured as a civilian bus was caught in a Claymore mine explosion in Sri Lanka's north central district of Anuradhapura Wednesday evening, said the military.

Defense officials said Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (**LTTE**) rebels detonated a roadside bomb around 8:15 p.m. (1445 GMT) at Abhimanpurathe, about 250 km northeast of the capital Colombo.

The bus was full of passengers when the explosion happened, officials said, adding that exact deaths and casualty figures are yet to be known.

Among the killed are 12 men and three **women**.

Last year, in June, more than 60 passengers were killed in a similar Claymore explosion in the area.

The attack came only a week after the capital Colombo was hit by twin explosions with 22 being killed and nearly 40 injured.

The government arrested more than 2,500 in and near Colombo after last week's explosions to beef up the security of the capital, although most of them had been released.

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

More than 5,000 people have been killed in the new wave of violence since the end of 2005, making the Norwegian brokered ceasefire agreement exist only on paper.

Load-Date: December 7, 2007

U.N. aid reaches displaced in Sri Lanka

UPI

November 30, 2006 Thursday 7:02 PM EST

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Length: 267 words

Dateline: VAHARAI, Sri Lanka, Nov. 30

Body

A U.N. aid convoy has reached the rebel-controlled city of Vaharai, Sri Lanka, delivering food and shelter to those displaced by separatist violence.

The convoy, which was the first since October, arrived Wednesday, providing families with about 1,000 tents, food, water, fuel, hygiene kits and medicine, U.N. humanitarian spokeswoman Orla Clinton said Thursday.

But 33 other trucks containing food items were unable to enter the area, so 40 percent of the intended aid was not delivered, she said. Relief teams are hoping the first convoy will help to facilitate access.

"The United Nations in Sri Lanka reiterates its concern for all displaced persons in the Vaharai area and in particular for the health and nutritional status of children and pregnant women," Clinton said. "We urge parties to ensure freedom of movement and to facilitate unimpeded and secure access for international humanitarian actors to this vulnerable population."

The conflict between the Sri Lankan government and the rebel Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam has displaced thousands and made access to assistance difficult.

"More than 31,000 people are registered as displaced within the LTTE-controlled Vaharai and many are women, children and the elderly," said Yoko Akasaka, head of the U.N. refugee agency's field office in Batticaloa town. "Their condition is clearly critical. Our main concern at this time is future access and the safety of the population."

The convoy, which was organized by the United Nations and the Red Cross, among other organizations, was granted access to the region by both the government and the LTTE.

Load-Date: December 1, 2006

5 killed in mine explosion as violence escalates in Sri Lanka

Deutsche Presse-Agentur

May 1, 2006 Monday 7:55 AM EST

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Length: 225 words

Dateline: Colombo

Body

A mine explosion killed at least four civilians and a naval soldier in the port city of Trincomalee in eastern Sri Lanka on Monday.

The military says the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Ealam (**LTTE**) are responsible for the attack.

An army spokesman said four civilians and three naval soldiers were injured in the blast near a Hindu temple.

In the capital Colombo all Labour Day gatherings were cancelled for security reasons.

The recent attack has further strained the already fragile truce between the **LTTE** and the government. Talks between the two scheduled for the end of April in Geneva have been postponed indefinitely.

According to Scandinavian monitors of the ceasefire, more than 300 people, at least half of them civilians, have been killed since the beginning of the year as a result of mines or attacks.

Last Tuesday, a **female** suicide bomber killed 11 people inside Sri Lankan army headquarters and injured the army commander.

The armed forces responded with two days of air strikes against Tamil-held areas in the north. The Tamil Tiger rebels said the air attacks killed at least 12 civilians in the Sampoor area, 260 kilometres north-east of Colombo.

The stalled peace talks aimed to end the 22-year-old ethnic conflict that has claimed more than 70,000 lives in the majority Sinhalese nation.

Load-Date: May 2, 2006

AROUND THE WORLD: TAMIL TIGERS IN BOMB RAID

The Mirror

April 26, 2006 Wednesday

Eire Edition

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Section: NEWS; Pg. 2

Length: 37 words

Body

THE Sri Lankan military yesterday began bomb ingregions in the country held by rebel group the **Tamil Tigers**.

The move comes after a **female** Tamil Tiger suicide bomber killed eight people and injured 27 others earlier this week.

Load-Date: April 26, 2006

Lanka's North-South divide acquires new dimension

Hindustan Times

May 9, 2005 Monday 11:20 AM EST

Copyright 2005 HT Media Ltd. All Rights Reserved

Length: 1747 words

Byline: Hindustan Times

Dateline: NEW DELHI, India

Body

NEW DELHI, India, May 9 -- The North-South divide in Sri Lanka has had many dimensions. The latest difference between the two is in the way post-tsunami rehabilitation work is being done in the two areas.

Sri Lanka's North may have taken the brunt of the 20-year war ethnic war, and is a manifestly devastated land, in contrast to the South. But post-tsunami, the North is surging ahead in at least one way. It's handling of the disaster relief and rehabilitation work is by all accounts exemplary, and an object lesson to the South.

In contrast to the confusion and inertia manifest in the government- controlled areas of the East and the South, there is direction, coordination, and purposeful action in areas controlled by the rebel **LTTE** in the North.

In fact, a comparison of the systems in the southern and eastern districts with those existing in areas under the control of the **LTTE** in the North will show where things have gone wrong.

Visits to the tsunami-hit areas in the North, East and South by this correspondent and interviews with International NGOs (INGOS) working in those areas, show that while in the South and East, there is little coordination between the various groups and agencies, in Mullaitivu district, which is under the de facto control of the **LTTE**, there is a high degree of coordination, a high sense of direction, better supervision and an effective system of reward and punishment.

The difference shows in the work on the ground in terms of relief delivery, social services at the relief camps, the construction of temporary housing, and the quality of the housing.

Lack of political will

The critical difference between the government-controlled areas and the **LTTE**-controlled areas is that in the latter, there is a strong political will to carry out reconstruction, and in the latter, there is little or no political commitment or will to do the task.

"There are areas and areas in tsunami-hit South and East Sri Lanka, where the government is simply not in evidence," said a foreign aid worker.

There are apex structures in Colombo, the national capital, which have formulated perfectly reasonable policies, but there is little evidence of these policies being implemented on the ground.

Lanka's North-South divide acquires new dimension

Take for example the ban on re-construction within 100 metres from the shore (or the high water mark). De facto, some people are allowed to build here. There is confusion as regards government's policy here.

The hotels and resorts have been exempted in the larger interest of promoting tourism, a big foreign exchange earner for Sri Lanka. Even the poor who have managed to secure some money privately, have been able to rebuild here. But a poor man, who has no access to private funds, is not able to re-build his house because the banks do not give him a loan, pointing to the 100 metres rule.

A fisherman in Sainthamaruthu in the East told this correspondent that the local bank had asked him to produce a collateral outside the 100 metres zone, a collateral he did not have.

"I am a fishermen and the only property I had was on the shore. Where does one go for a collateral now?" he asked.

Adam Bawa Salim, a trader who had a shop on the beach in Sainthamaruthu had another kind of problem. "The bank does not give me a loan to rebuild my shop because I am registered elsewhere, the place where I actually live."

According to restaurant owner MYM Jauffer, the banks ask for collateral worth SLRs 6 million for a loan of SLRs 1 million, which according to him is too much. And the special bank set up to disburse loans to tsunami victims is located, inconveniently, in Colombo, hundreds of kilometres away!

In an other fishing village, north of Sainthamaruthu, IG Rashid, complained that only the rich were getting government aid.

Added K Allaiddin: "Bicycles are being given not to the poor, but to those who have tractors!"

Aamina Najima, who lost three children in the tsunami, got no tent. She was forced to use the money given by the government for the funeral expenses to buy a tent for SLRs 5,000.

While the tents are hot, the more solid temporary shelters, which have been put up, are no better. At a camp in Karaithivu put up by an International NGO, the 25 resident families complained that it was impossible to be inside the tin-roofed houses during the day. And the area outside was barren without tree cover.

"Two or three families share a one-roomed house. There are five toilets, but no water," said Yogeswari. "This place gets water-logged during rains and there are snakes too," she said.

Neither government officials nor NGOs bothered to visit the camp to find out if things were all right, said Subramaniam, a middle aged fisherman.

Not suited to local communities

However, to give them their due, the NGOs, both local and international, are the only ones, which are working in the East. It is they who have put up the tents and temporary structures, though these structures are not based on the peoples' needs.

In Thiraimadu, in Batticalao district, one international NGO has built "row type" or "line" houses. According to a North Indian TV journalist who visited these houses, they are patently unsuited to the people because they are not used to living in close proximity.

"In north India people are used to living in close proximity, with only a wall separating one house from another. But in villages here (Tamil villages especially) people live in houses located at a distance from each other. Not being used to living in close proximity, there is scope for tension and quarrels. And quarrels do take place. At places, people even hate each other," she said.

Lanka's North-South divide acquires new dimension

"Women talk of drunken men walking into others' houses in search of sex after dark. The lack of electricity adds to the problem," the journalist said.

"The government and the NGOs may be unwittingly creating crime-ridden ghettos and slums by building these row houses," she feared.

A large Dutch NGO, wanted to give the affected fishermen in Batticaloa, 4,500 canoes. And they had asked the Sri Lankan Fisheries Department to give a list of possible beneficiaries.

"But till date, no list has come. The boats are lying idle," a source in Batticalao said.

Even the LTTE's Tamil Rehabilitation Organisation (TRO) is not able to do much work in the Tamil-speaking East. The LTTE says that the Sri Lankan paramilitary Special Task Force (STF) is preventing it from entering Tamil camps. The STF is wary of the TRO because it may use the entry to indoctrinate the refugees, extort relief money or recruit children for the LTTE's army.

This correspondent has seen Tamil camps in Amaparai district with STF detachments in them. At one camp, the STF team leader said that while the TRO could bring drinking water for the camp, it could not be allowed to talk to the inmates. But the Tamil camps in Batticaloa district do not have STF detachments and the TRO is free to work in them.

Land for constructing temporary houses is still a problem in the South and East, partly because of non-availability (the southern and eastern coastlines are the most thickly populated parts of Sri Lanka) and partly because of governmental inertia. But a few individuals, like politicians and Buddhist monks, have bought land and given them for house constructions.

The basic problem in South and East Sri Lanka is lack of governmental leadership, the state machinery's inertia and coordination. The right kind work is not being done in the right place, and what is done does not meet the felt needs of the people, the target group.

North better

Conditions are far better in Mullaitivu district in the north. Here, the entire relief and rehabilitation effort is under the supervision of the LTTE's Planning and Development Secretariat (PDS). The PDS coordinates and gives directions to all the agencies working in the area, whether they are Sri Lankan NGOs, international NGOs, UN Agencies or the government of Sri Lanka's district administration.

This ensures that there is no duplication of effort and that the right kind of aid goes to the right places.

"The PDS keeps an up-to-date data bank and regularly gets statistics on the work done. It is able to make precise statements like - in this place work is 20 days behind time!" an aid worker said.

And there is a strict system of monitoring and control. If an agency is not up to the mark, it is asked to quit and the work is given to another agency. Every camp has a PDS representative in residence all the time. He keeps a watch and takes immediate remedial action.

The district administration, which is lax in the South and East, comes under the discipline of the LTTE in Mullaitivu district. The PDS dictates and the district officers carry out the orders. This may be one reason why, land for construction of new colonies, which is such a problem in the South and East, is not so much of a problem in Mullaitivu district.

The houses constructed under the supervision of the PDS are also better, more in tune with the social structure of the area and the local climatic conditions.

Unlike the houses in the South and East, the houses in the North have thatched roofs. There is a veranda and the rooms have adequate ventilation. There are two rooms in each house to give the women some privacy.

Lanka's North-South divide acquires new dimension

There are no row houses. Houses are located at some distance from each other in accordance with the local pattern of settlement. The NGOs and INGOs cannot build as they please. They have to go by the design given by the PDS.

Wastage of water is prevented with the help of a special tap, which opens only when pressed.

And social services are better too. All the payments due from the government (SLRs.375 per person per week) are made on time, which is not the case in many camps in the South and East.

Every camp has psychological counsellors. "They come every day and talk to people, listen to their woes and advice them. The counsellors organise games for the children and keep them engaged. The very fact that someone is ready to listen to them puts life back into the distraught lot," said a foreign visitor who had been to a camp recently.

Mobile schools are another noteworthy phenomenon in the North. Always mindful of the importance of education, the **LTTE** has made provision for schools to come to the doorstep of the refugee camps.

(PK Balachandran is Special Correspondent for Hindustan Times in Sri Lanka)

Write to him

The Hindustan Times is provided through HT Syndication, New Delhi.

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Load-Date: May 11, 2005

SRI LANKA: UN APPEALS FOR URGENT FUNDS TO FEED THOUSANDS DISPLACED BY FIGHTING

States News Service

March 20, 2007 Tuesday

Copyright 2007 States News Service

Length: 450 words

Byline: States News Service

Dateline: New York

Body

The following information was released by the United Nations:

The United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) is appealing for vital funds to boost its operations in eastern Sri Lanka to ensure basic supplies for over 155,000 internally displaced persons (IDPs) in need of immediate aid after being uprooted by intensified fighting between the Government and Tamil separatists.

"Unless we receive new funding very soon, we will run out of food supplies by the end of April," WFP Regional Director for Asia Tony Banbury said in Bangkok, Thailand, today, terming the need for additional contributions "critical and urgent."

"After all the suffering endured by the victims of the fighting in Sri Lanka, they should not be hurt further by a lack of international support and concern," he added.

The Common Humanitarian Action Plan for Sri Lanka has only received 33 per cent of its required funding for food aid and he called the latest influx a major humanitarian challenge. "We will do everything we can to ensure that all these victims of the conflict - many of them women and children - get the assistance they so desperately need," he said.

For the last several months, WFP has supplied food aid to some 60,000 people living in camps in Batticaloa District through the Sri Lankan Ministry of Nation Building and Development. Recent intensified shelling west of Batticaloa in the over two-decades-long conflict between the Government and the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) has forced an estimated 95,000 more people to flee in the past week.

"WFP urges the Government and the LTTE to guarantee unimpeded access by WFP and other humanitarian organizations to the displaced people," Mr. Banbury said. "We will continue to work with our government implementing partner, operating in frontline areas, but in order to meet the new needs we will also bring forward our own transportation capacity and work with other partners, including NGOs [non-governmental organizations], to reach all displaced persons."

In some districts, WFP has already been forced to put on hold its Mother and Child Nutrition and school feeding programmes in order to re-direct its limited resources towards the newly displaced. It has also suspended most food-for-work rehabilitation projects in districts ravaged by the 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami.

SRI LANKA : UN APPEALS FOR URGENT FUNDS TO FEED THOUSANDS DISPLACED BY FIGHTING

After renewed fighting between the Government and the **LTTE** in August, WFP significantly expanded operations to provide emergency food to the most vulnerable displaced and conflict-affected people in Sri Lanka. In addition to providing food in Batticaloa, WFP has distributed 13,400 tons of food, sufficient to feed 300,000 people for three months, in Jaffna and several other districts.

Load-Date: March 21, 2007

End of Document

**Series of battles kill 17 rebels, 1 soldier in volatile northern Sri Lanka:
military**

Associated Press International

November 10, 2007 Saturday 6:00 AM GMT

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Section: INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Length: 267 words

Byline: By BHARATHA MALLAWARACHI, Associated Press Writer

Dateline: COLOMBO Sri Lanka

Body

A series of battles between soldiers and Tamil rebels in war-torn northern Sri Lanka left 17 guerrillas and one soldier dead, the military said Saturday.

Army troops attacked two rebel bunkers along the front line separating government-controlled areas from the rebels' mini-state in northern Vavuniya district Friday morning, killing six guerrillas, said military spokesman Brig. Udaya Nanayakkara.

Nanayakkara said military operations were launched because **Tamil Tigers** "were directing fire toward soldiers in the area."

Later in the day, in the neighboring Mannar district, five rebels died in artillery strikes, he said.

Also Friday, three **female** insurgents were killed in a clash with soldiers in a village in Vavuniya, and one soldier also died. Two other separate gunbattles left three rebels dead in the district.

It was not possible to independently verify the military's claim because the area is restricted. Rebel spokesman Rasiyah Ilanthirayan could not be reached for comment.

The rebels have been fighting for more than two decades for an independent state for the island's ethnic minority Tamils in the north and east because of long-standing discrimination by the majority Sinhalese-controlled governments.

A Norwegian-brokered cease-fire in 2002 brought relative calm to the country, but a new wave of violence that began in December 2005 has killed more than 5,000 people and displaced hundreds of thousands. More than 70,000 people have been killed since the insurgency began.

Despite the cease-fire's collapse, neither side has officially withdrawn from the pact, fearing international isolation.

Load-Date: November 11, 2007

Series of battles kill 17 rebels, 1 soldier in volatile northern Sri Lanka : military

End of Document

Sri Lanka court stops eviction of Tamils from capital

Xinhua General News Service

June 8, 2007 Friday 4:00 AM EST

Copyright 2007 Xinhua News Agency

Section: WORLD NEWS; Political

Length: 266 words

Dateline: COLOMBO

Body

Sri Lanka's Supreme Court on Friday restrained the island's defense authorities from going ahead with their program to evict the members of minority Tamil community from the capital Colombo.

A fundamental rights petition was filed by the independent think tank, Center for Policy Alternatives seeking an order against the government's action to send Tamil civilians back to their north and east locations.

A three-member Supreme Court bench granted leave to proceed with the petition.

The defense ministry said 376 people including 85 women were sent in seven buses to the war-torn regions on Thursday.

Defense Secretary Gothabaya Rajapakse, the three-military commanders and the local police chiefs were cited as respondents in the plaint.

The armed police swooped on temporary lodgings in Colombo where the northeastern Tamils take refuge.

The defense authorities charged that most of explosions carried out by the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) are plotted in these temporary lodgings.

At least two bombs have exploded in the city since the end of May both targeting military personnel.

Opposition parties and rights groups have slammed the move as discriminatory of the minority Tamil community.

Claiming discrimination at the hands of the majority ethnic Sinhalese-dominated government, the LTTE has been fighting for an independent homeland for Sri Lanka's 12.5 percent Tamil minority since 1970s.

Nearly 5000 people have been killed in the upsurge of clashes since the end of 2005 despite the Norwegian-back truce in place.

Load-Date: June 9, 2007

Sri Lanka's rebel office attacked

Xinhua General News Service

May 22, 2005 Sunday 1:15 AM EST

Copyright 2005 Xinhua News Agency

Section: WORLD NEWS; Political

Length: 249 words

Dateline: COLOMBO

Body

Sri Lanka's eastern port city of Trincomalee continued to be in tension while a Tamil Tiger political office had come under attack in the neighboring Batticaloa district killing a woman, police said Sunday.

A political office belonging to the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (**LTTE**) in the Kaluwanchikudy police area in Batticaloa district was attacked by an alleged gang of the rival Karuna faction on Saturday.

Although no **LTTE** members had been present in the office at the time, the 65 year old **female** owner of the building Sinnathamby Annama succumbed to the injuries in the bomb attack, police said.

In the Trincomalee city where communal trouble had been brewing since last week, Neville Wijesinghe, police deputy inspector general said additional strength of 1500 security personnel were deployed there on Saturday night.

Another grenade exploded in the city around 9:30 p.m. local time on Saturday without causing any casualties while a lorry traveling from Colombo transporting cement to the district had come under attack.

The decision to deploy additional security was taken following a visit by military chiefs to the city on Saturday, Wijesinghe said.

A protest was called Monday by local Tamils against the erection of a Buddhist statue by the Three Wheel Taxi Drivers' Association representing the Sinhalese Buddhists in the city.

The protestors, Hindu Tamils, want the statue removed from the city center in the multi-ethnic city.

Load-Date: May 23, 2005

Five cops suspended over Sri Lanka blast

Indo-Asian News Service

April 4, 2007 Wednesday 3:05 PM EST

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Length: 231 words

Byline: Indo-Asian News Service

Dateline: Colombo

Body

Colombo, April 4 -- At least five policemen have been suspended over a bus bomb blast in Sri Lanka that killed 16 people, officials said Wednesday.

The five included a sergeant, three constables and a woman officer. They were suspended on charges of not taking proper checks that led to the explosion in a bus in the eastern district of Ampara Monday.

At least 26 people were injured. The government blamed the **Tamil Tigers** for the attack.

Asoka Udayanthi, the suspended **female** police officer, said she and her colleagues had carried out "the orders from the top, so I can't understand why we should be suspended".

The authorities say the police team had not carried out proper checks before the bus left the Ampara bus stand heading for the central province town of Badulla.

The state administrative officials in Ampara said that the government had approved the compensation of 100,000 Sri Lankan rupees (\$920) each in respect of the dead married adults.

Half that amount has been sanctioned for the unmarried dead.

Officials said the identification process of the dead had been completed and almost everyone was a resident of the eastern province.

Over 4,000 people have been killed in Sri Lanka since the end of 2005 when the new cycle of violence began in the over three-decade-old ethnic conflict.

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Load-Date: April 4, 2007

Three killed, 13 hurt in fresh violence in Sri Lanka

Agence France Presse -- English

July 18, 2006 Tuesday 12:41 PM GMT

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Length: 234 words

Dateline: COLOMBO, July 18 2006

Body

A civilian has been killed and 13 people wounded in separate bomb explosions while two civilians were shot dead in Sri Lanka's troubled northeast regions, military officials said Tuesday.

The rebel Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (**LTTE**) exploded a mine while soldiers were on routine patrol in the Jaffna peninsula, a military officer in the area said.

The blast killed a civilian and wounded two soldiers and five civilians, he said.

Six **women** street cleaners were wounded in an explosion in the northeastern district of Trincomalee, another military official said.

"A bomb went off while labourers were cleaning a street," he said. "It is possible that the Tigers may have planted the bomb inside a garbage heap and it went off while labourers were clearing the area."

In another incident two civilians were shot dead by suspected Tamil Tiger gunmen on Monday night, the defence ministry said in a statement.

The violence came after three similar mine blasts in the north and east on Monday that killed two people and wounded 11, the military said.

Despite a February 2002 truce, clashes have escalated between the two sides with more than 850 people killed in a fresh wave of violence since December.

Sri Lanka's peace broker Norway has been trying to arrange direct talks between the **LTTE** and government to halt the violence.

More than 60,000 people have been killed in the Tamil separatist conflict since 1972.

Load-Date: July 19, 2006

Three killed, 13 hurt in fresh violence in Sri Lanka

End of Document

Sri Lankan foreign minister in India to discuss peace process

Agence France Presse -- English

May 7, 2006 Sunday 8:36 AM GMT

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Length: 260 words

Dateline: NEW DELHI, May 7 2006

Body

Sri Lanka's Foreign Minister Mangala Samaraweera has arrived in India to discuss his country's peace process which is under strain after a surge in violence, officials said Sunday.

During his two-day stay, the minister is scheduled to meet Prime Minister Manmohan Singh and foreign secretary Shyam Saran.

Ahead of the visit, Indian officials said Samaraweera's visit will give New Delhi an opportunity to assess the situation in the violence-hit island nation.

"The present visit is timely and, of course, particularly important as it comes at a time when the peace process is delicately poised in Sri Lanka," foreign ministry spokesman Navtej Sarna said last week.

"We will make use of this opportunity to make a first-hand assessment of the situation from the visiting dignitary."

More than 200 people have died in an escalation in clashes between government forces and rebel **Tamil Tigers** in the past one month despite a four-year-old ceasefire.

The Tigers have been fighting for an independent homeland for minority Tamils for the past three decades and over 60,000 people have died.

India has in the past offered support for the peace process but has refrained from getting involved in the conflict since its disastrous military intervention during the 1980s.

New Delhi dispatched a peacekeeping force to Tamil-held regions but ended up battling the rebels, and finally withdrew its forces after more than 1,200 Indian troops had died.

Subsequently a Tamil **female** suicide bomber killed former prime minister Rajiv Gandhi, who had ordered the deployment to Sri Lanka.

Load-Date: May 8, 2006

Sri Lankan foreign minister in India to discuss peace process

End of Document

ROUNDUP: Nine die in new clashes as bombing toll rises to 19

Deutsche Presse-Agentur

November 29, 2007 Thursday 1:33 PM EST

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Section: POLITICS

Length: 482 words

Dateline: Colombo

Body

DPA POLITICS SriLanka Conflicts ROUNDUP: Nine die in new clashes as bombing toll rises to 19 epa photo no 0401184997 available, adds EU condemns attacks Colombo
At least two civilians and seven Tamil rebels were killed in three separate incidents Thursday as the death toll in a parcel-bomb blast in Colombo the previous day increased to 19.

Two civilians belonging to the majority Sinhala community were shot dead by Tamil rebels in Batticaloa, 240 kilometres east of the capital around midday, a military spokesman said.

In two other incidents, seven rebels were killed in clashes with government troops in the northern Muhamalai and Kilaly areas, about 380 kilometres north of the capital.

The death toll rose to 19 from Wednesday's blast at a clothing shop in Nugegoda, 10 kilometres south-east of the capital, when another victim succumbed to their injuries.

The European Union said in a statement it condemned terrorist attacks in Colombo and deplored the deliberate targeting of civilians.

"These callous attacks can have no political justification and serve only to add to the suffering and grief of ordinary Sri Lankans," the statement issued by the British High Commission in Colombo said.

The High Commission holds the role of local presidency of the EU on behalf of Portugal, which does not have an embassy in Colombo.

The statement also expressed concern about the welfare of civilians caught up in the conflict in the rebel-controlled northern Wanni area.

Police and soldiers searched a shopping complex in the city Thursday after receiving an anonymous telephone call about a suspicious parcel, while most vehicles entering the capital city were checked and additional road blocks erected.

ROUNDUP: Nine die in new clashes as bombing toll rises to 19

All schools in the western province, which includes the Colombo district, were closed down for two days and some office workers stayed away from their jobs.

President Mahinda Rajapaksa returned to the island Thursday from an overseas trip and met with senior military officials.

The government has blamed the rebels of the Liberation Tigers of

Tamil Eelam (LTTE) for Wednesday's explosion.

Defence spokesman Keheliya Rambukwella declared the attack an

indication that "LTTE terrorism has reached its last stage."

"The LTTE is merely showcasing their last bit in the last lap," Rambukwella said.

The military and the government said the rebels were under pressure after losing control of the eastern province they partly dominated a year back, and recent airstrikes had caused considerable damage, including the death of their political leader S P Thamilselvan.

But rebel leader Velupillai Prabhakaran vowed to continue his struggle for an independent homeland in the northern and eastern parts of the island.

Rebels on Wednesday also sent a female suicide bomber to target a Tamil cabinet minister at his office in Colombo. One member of staff was killed along with the attacker.

Nov 29 07 1333 GMT

Notes

epa photo no 0401184997 available, adds EU condemns attacks

Load-Date: November 30, 2007

End of Document

STATE DEPARTMENT ISSUES CONSULAR INFORMATION SHEET ON SRI LANKA

US Fed News

September 8, 2006 Friday 9:24 PM EST

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Length: 2874 words

Byline: US Fed News

Dateline: WASHINGTON

Body

The U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Consular Affairs issued the following Consular Information Sheet:

COUNTRY DESCRIPTION: Sri Lanka is a presidential parliamentary democracy with a developing economy. Civil war and terrorism have seriously disrupted the country since 1983. On February 22, 2002, the Government of Sri Lanka (GOSL) and the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (**LTTE**) signed an indefinite cease-fire agreement. Over the past four years, incidents of violence have increased. From January - August 2006, hundreds of people have been killed and the cease-fire is at risk. Moreover, the cease-fire Monitoring Mission is being potentially weakened by the **LTTE**'s demand that EU member states not be represented on it. Despite the armed insurgency, Sri Lanka's beaches, hill country, and archeological sites continued to attract thousands of visitors each year from around the world. The capital city of Colombo, the Cultural Triangle (Kandy, Anuradhapura, and Polonnaruwa), and many Southern beach towns all have good tourist facilities.

The Asian Tsunami on December 26, 2004 caused severe damage and loss of life to several coastal areas of eastern, southern, and southwestern Sri Lanka. Many affected resorts have completely recovered. Travelers planning to visit Sri Lanka should consult with travel agencies or the Sri Lankan Tourist Board, however, to ensure their itineraries take this event into account, and plan accordingly. Read the Department of State Background Notes on Sri Lanka for additional information.

ENTRY/EXIT REQUIREMENTS: A passport and onward/return ticket and proof of sufficient funds are required. A no-cost visitor visa, valid for 30 days, will be granted to tourists at the time of entry into Sri Lanka. Business travelers are required to have a visa prior to arrival. Visitors staying more than 30 days for any purpose must pay residency visa fees. Travelers need yellow fever and cholera immunizations if they are arriving from an infected area. All travelers departing Sri Lanka (except diplomats and certain exempted travelers) must pay an airport tax, in cash. Sri Lankan law requires all persons, including foreigners, who are guests in private households, to register in person at the nearest local police station.

Individuals who stay in private households without registering may be temporarily detained for questioning. This requirement does not apply to individuals staying in hotels or guesthouses.

Specific inquiries should be addressed to the Embassy of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka, 2148 Wyoming Avenue, NW, Washington, D.C. 20008, telephone (202) 483-4025 through 26, fax numbers (202) 232-7181, e-mail address: consular@slembassyusa.org, home page: <http://www.slembassy.org>, the Sri Lankan

STATE DEPARTMENT ISSUES CONSULAR INFORMATION SHEET ON SRI LANKA

Consulate General in Los Angeles at 3250 Wilshire Blvd., Suite 1405, Los Angeles, CA 90010, telephone (213) 387-0210, or the U.N. Mission in New York City, telephone (212) 986-7040. There are several honorary Sri Lankan consuls general and consuls in the United States. They can be located at the Sri Lankan Embassy web site. See our Foreign Entry Requirements brochure for more information on Sri Lanka and other countries. Visit the Embassy of Sri Lanka web site at <http://www.slembassyusa.org> for the most current visa information.

Find more information about Entry and Exit Requirements pertaining to dual nationality and the prevention of international child abduction. Please refer to our Customs Information to learn more about customs regulations.

SAFETY AND SECURITY: Due to the outbreak of hostilities in July 2006, the Department of State has issued a Travel Warning for Sri Lanka that strongly advises American citizens not to travel to the north and east of Sri Lanka. Since 1997, the State Department has included the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (**LTTE**) on its list of foreign terrorist organizations. Terrorist activities such as suicide bombings and targeted assassinations in the capital city of Colombo and other areas of the country remain a serious threat. The **LTTE** have targeted many Tamil moderates, Sri Lankan military and government officials, and most recently the High Commissioner of Pakistan to Sri Lanka. As the conflict continues, the U.S. Embassy expects that targeted assassinations and bombings in the Colombo area will continue. We strongly advise against all travel to the north and east of Sri Lanka.

Throughout their history, the **LTTE** have engaged in numerous terrorist acts, including suicide bombings at political rallies, government buildings, and major economic targets. In 2001, the **LTTE** attacked the Colombo International Airport and destroyed both commercial and military aircraft. Several military personnel were killed, military and airport employees were injured, and civilians were caught in the crossfire. In 2003, the **LTTE** attacked several foreign commercial ships in the waters off the north and east coasts of Sri Lanka. On July 7, 2004, a suicide bomber detonated in a police station in Colombo, killing herself, 4 policemen, and critically injuring 11 people. On June 17, 2006, **LTTE** frogmen were apprehended north of Colombo; they may have been trying to attack ships in the port of Colombo. The **LTTE** have also engaged in political assassinations, including the August 12, 2005 assassination of Foreign Minister Lakshman Kadirgamar at his residence in Colombo.

Although U.S. citizens have not been specifically targeted, **LTTE** operations have been planned and executed with the knowledge that Americans and other foreigners might be killed or injured. American citizens traveling or residing in Sri Lanka may be inadvertently caught up in random acts of violence. Travel in restricted areas is dangerous. In April 2001, grenade fragments seriously injured an American citizen when she was caught in a skirmish between government and insurgent forces in the eastern part of the country. In May 2006, seven people were killed when a jeep carrying Sri Lankan tourists hit a landmine in Wilpattu National Park in the northwest of the country. The park had reopened in 2003, after being closed for 17 years due to the ongoing conflict. While most national parks are quite safe, tourists should be aware that the **LTTE** has the capability to operate in many national parks located in the north and east of Sri Lanka. Travelers should also be aware that the **LTTE** have employed vehicle-mounted bombs. In the past they have detonated bombs near major hotels, a tourist site in Kandy, and have targeted buses and trains.

We advise all Americans to stay away from military bases and vehicles in Sri Lanka. On June 6, 2006 a claymore mine exploded 50 meters from the Welisara Sri Lanka Navy (SLN) camp in Ragama, on Colombo-Negombo Road. On April 25, 2006, a **female** suicide bomber attacked the vehicle of the Commander of the Sri Lankan Army at army headquarters in Colombo, killing several members of his staff and injuring many more bystanders.

American citizens should also be alert to outbreaks of communal violence, such as that which occurred in April 2003 when two hand grenades were detonated in tourist hotels in Arugambay, killing or injuring three tourists. In October 2002, riots between Muslim and Sinhala factions in the Greater Colombo area precipitated short-term curfews. In May 2001 a disturbance between Buddhist and Muslim communities near Kandy reportedly resulted in one death during a police shootout and extensive property damage.

Americans are advised to avoid entirely political rallies and other mass gatherings, public transportation, and to limit their exposure to government buildings if possible. Non-Sri Lankan citizens of Tamil heritage have occasionally been detained during security operations. U.S. citizens of any ethnic heritage are encouraged to keep their

STATE DEPARTMENT ISSUES CONSULAR INFORMATION SHEET ON SRI LANKA

passports with them at all times. In the event of a terrorist attack, Americans should monitor local radio and television, seek cover away from windows, and return to their homes or hotels when it is safe to do so. The Government has periodically imposed curfews in Colombo; Americans should strictly observe curfew regulations and monitor local radio and television.

American citizens are advised not to travel north of a line from Puttalam on the west coast through Anuradhapura in the central north and Nilaveli (just north of Trincomalee) in the east. Areas north of this line contain many land mines, making travel off paved roads very dangerous. Americans are also advised against travel to the city of Jaffna in the North. In addition, the Government of Sri Lanka does not exercise effective control of the civil administration in many sections of the north, where the LTTE operate openly. On April 18, 2006, the U.S. Embassy in Sri Lanka urged all American citizens to avoid travel to any location in the Jaffna Peninsula or the Trincomalee area and urged Americans in these parts to give serious consideration to departing. Furthermore, Americans are advised that travel in the east in the area south of the Anuradhapura-Nilaveli line (including Trincomalee, Batticaloa and areas south to Arugam Bay) poses significant safety risks. Official travel by U.S. Government personnel to these areas in the North and East is restricted, and their unofficial travel is prohibited. Americans should consider their personal security foremost before considering traveling or working in eastern Sri Lanka.

In addition, roads in these areas are often substandard, and police, medical and other emergency help is severely limited or not available. Communications within the eastern areas are also limited, with no cell phone accessibility and very limited landline telephone access. Because of these factors, the U.S. Embassy may not be able to provide consular services in a timely manner to American citizens who travel to the north and east.

For the latest security information, Americans traveling abroad should regularly monitor the Department's Internet web site where the current Travel Warnings and Public Announcements, including the Worldwide Caution Public Announcement, can be found.

Up-to-date information on safety and security can also be obtained by calling 1-888-407-4747 toll free in the U.S., or for callers outside the U.S. and Canada, a regular toll-line at 1-202-501-4444. These numbers are available from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Eastern Time, Monday through Friday (except U.S. federal holidays).

The Department of State urges American citizens to take responsibility for their own personal security while traveling overseas. For general information about appropriate measures travelers can take to protect themselves in an overseas environment, see the Department of State's pamphlet A Safe Trip Abroad.

INFORMATION FOR VICTIMS OF CRIME: The loss or theft abroad of a U.S. passport should be reported immediately to the local police and the nearest U.S. Embassy or Consulate. If you are the victim of a crime while overseas, in addition to reporting to local police, please contact the nearest U.S. Embassy or Consulate for assistance. The Embassy/Consulate staff can, for example, assist you to find appropriate medical care, contact family members or friends, and explain how funds could be transferred. Although the investigation and prosecution of the crime is solely the responsibility of local authorities, consular officers can help you to understand the local criminal justice process and to find an attorney if needed.

See our information on Victims of Crime:
http://www.travel.state.gov/travel/tips/emergencies/emergencies_1748.html.

MEDICAL FACILITIES AND HEALTH INFORMATION: Medical facilities outside Colombo are limited. The U.S. Embassy maintains a list of private physicians who may be consulted. Medical supplies are uneven; travelers should carry any special medications with them. There are six large hospitals in the Colombo area, including three with emergency trauma service-Asiri Hospital, Apollo Hospital, and the government-run General Hospital. Serious medical problems may require evacuation to the United States or to the nearest country where adequate medical facilities or treatment is available, usually Thailand or Singapore. Neither Thailand nor Singapore requires American citizens to have an entry visa.

Information on vaccinations and other health precautions, such as safe food and water precautions and insect bite protection, may be obtained from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's hotline for international travelers

STATE DEPARTMENT ISSUES CONSULAR INFORMATION SHEET ON SRI LANKA

at 1-877-FYI-TRIP (1-877-394-8747); fax 1-888-CDC-FAXX (1-888-232-3299), or via the CDC's Internet site at <http://www.cdc.gov/travel>. For information about outbreaks of infectious diseases abroad consult the World Health Organization's (WHO) website at <http://www.who.int/en>. Further health information for travelers is available at <http://www.who.int/ith>.

MEDICAL INSURANCE: The Department of State strongly urges Americans to consult with their medical insurance company prior to traveling abroad to confirm whether their policy applies overseas and whether it will cover emergency expenses such as a medical evacuation. Please see our information on medical insurance overseas: http://www.travel.state.gov/travel/cis_pa_tw/cis/cis_1470.html.

TRAFFIC SAFETY AND ROAD CONDITIONS: While in a foreign country, U.S. citizens may encounter road conditions that differ significantly from those in the United States. The information below concerning Sri Lanka is provided for general reference only, and may not be totally accurate in a particular location or circumstance.

Vehicular traffic moves on the left (British style). Traffic in Colombo is very congested. Narrow, two-lane highways, dangerously-driven buses, overloaded trucks and the variety of conveyances on the road, ranging from ox carts, elephants and bicycles to new four-wheel-drive jeeps, make driving a challenge and dangerous. Many visitors hire cars and drivers for long trips through the country. Individuals choosing to hire three-wheeled vehicles should negotiate prices beforehand to avoid confrontations. Please refer to our Road Safety page for more information: http://www.travel.state.gov/travel/tips/safety/safety_1179.html. Visit the website of Sri Lanka's national tourist office and national authority responsible for road safety at <http://www.lanka.net>.

AVIATION SAFETY OVERSIGHT: As there is no direct commercial air service between the United States and Sri Lanka, the U.S. Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) has not assessed Sri Lanka's Civil Aviation Authority for compliance with ICAO international aviation safety standards. For more information, travelers may visit the FAA's Internet web site at http://www.faa.gov/safety/programs_initiatives/oversight/iasa/.

SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES: Sri Lanka recognizes dual nationality in some cases. For further information, please contact the Sri Lankan Embassy in Washington, D.C., the Consulate General in Los Angeles, or the U.N. Mission in New York City.

Please see our information on customs regulations: http://www.travel.state.gov/travel/cis_pa_tw/cis/cis_1468.html.

CRIMINAL PENALTIES: While in a foreign country, a U.S. citizen is subject to that country's laws and regulations, which sometimes differ significantly from those in the United States and may not afford the protections available to the individual under U.S. law. Penalties for breaking the law can be more severe than in the United States for similar offenses. Persons violating Sri Lanka's laws, even unknowingly, may be expelled, arrested, or imprisoned. Penalties for possession, use, or trafficking in illegal drugs in Sri Lanka are severe, and convicted offenders can expect long jail sentences and heavy fines. Engaging in sexual conduct with children or using or disseminating child pornography in a foreign country is a crime, prosecutable in the United States. Please see our information on Criminal Penalties: http://travel.state.gov/travel/cis_pa_tw/cis/cis_1467.html.

CHILDREN'S ISSUES: For information on international adoption of children and international parental child abduction, see the Office of Children's Issues website.

REGISTRATION / EMBASSY LOCATION: Americans living or traveling in Sri Lanka are encouraged to register with the U.S. Embassy through the State Department's travel registration website and to obtain updated information on travel and security within Sri Lanka. Americans without Internet access may register directly with the U.S. Embassy in Colombo. By registering, American citizens make it easier for the Embassy to contact them in case of emergency. The U.S. Embassy is located at 210 Galle Road, Colombo 3, Sri Lanka. The Embassy's telephone number during normal business hours Monday through Friday is (94) (11) 249 8500. The after-hours and emergency telephone number is (94) (11) 249 8888. The Consular Section fax number is (94)-(11)-249 8590. The Embassy's Internet address is <http://usembassy.state.gov/srilanka>. The Consular Section has a specific email

STATE DEPARTMENT ISSUES CONSULAR INFORMATION SHEET ON SRI LANKA

address dedicated to American Citizens Services at ColomboACS@state.gov. The general email address for the consular section is consularcolombo@state.gov. The Embassy in Colombo also covers the Republic of Maldives.

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

Load-Date: September 14, 2006

End of Document

Rebels lure tsunami children

Western Morning News (Plymouth)

January 14, 2005

default

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Section: News; Other; Others; Pg. 27

Length: 258 words

Body

Sri Lanka's Tamil Tiger rebels have recruited tsunami-affected children into their ranks, UNICEF officials said yesterday. They said there were three verified cases of child recruitment, all girls.

Two of the three - an 11-year-old and a 12-year-old - were released following an appeal for their freedom from the UN body said Geoffrey Keel, UNICEF spokesman in Colombo. "They have been reunited with their parents," he said. UNICEF was working to secure the release of the other child, a 15-year-old, he added.

It was unclear whether the girls were recruited to fight in rebel ranks or to work in the guerrilla camps.

All three children were from eastern Batticaloa and Ampara, among the areas worst hit by the December 26 tsunami.

Children accounted for a staggering 40 per cent - 12,000 - of Sri Lanka's tsunami death toll of nearly 31,000. Another 800,000 people have been left homeless.

Ted Chaiban, UNICEF chief in Sri Lanka, said preliminary data indicated that nearly 1,000 children had been orphaned by the tsunami in Sri Lanka and another 3,200 lost one parent.

The rebels are known to recruit children to bolster their ranks in their fight for a separate Tamil homeland.

Peace talks stalled two years ago amid demands by the rebels for wide autonomy in the Tamil-dominated north and east. More than 3,700 *female Tamil Tigers* - known as freedom birds - died in the separatist rebellion that began in 1983.

The rebels have repeatedly denied recruiting children, saying any minor who joins them does so because of poverty or the loss of parents.

Load-Date: January 15, 2005

CHARLES A TARGET FOR TERROR GIRL IN SUICIDE BOMBING

The Sun

December 6, 2004

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Section: ONE LOVES YOU CHELSY, ONEDOES; PICTURE EXCLUSIVE

Length: 243 words

Byline: Charles Rae

Body

A **FEMALE** suicide bomber targeted Prince Charles during an overseas tour, it was revealed yesterday.

The assassination plot was foiled after a British spy fed false timings to her terrorist group.

When the bomber, called Indra, found she had missed the Prince, she blew herself up.

The drama happened in Sri Lanka in 1998. The woman, from the **Tamil Tigers**, targeted Charles at Colombo airport.

The plot is revealed in new book Terror Tracker, by Neil Doyle.

He tells how Glen Jenvey discovered it while working undercover as a press officer in the Tigers' London office before the royal visit.

The group, fighting for an independent homeland, invented the concept of suicide bombing -a tactic since copied by Islamic terror groups.

Mark

Mr Jenvey, 38, was spying for the Sri Lankan government. He learned the terrorists would attack Charles' motorcade during his three-day visit to mark the country's 50 years of independence.

Mr Jenvey found the timings of attacks by the Tigers were dictated by the issuing of press releases from London.

So he started feeding false information about the Prince's timetable.

He said: "The suicide bomber blew herself up at a military checkpoint some hours after Charles had left. Two soldiers were slightly injured."

The Tigers -now banned in the UK -assassinated Indian premier Rajiv Gandhi in a suicide bombing in 1991.

Around 50,000 people have died during the 20-year struggle between the Tigers and the Sri Lankan government.

Load-Date: December 7, 2004

CHARLES A TARGET FOR TERROR GIRL IN SUICIDE BOMBING

End of Document

Police arrest 8 for smuggling hundreds of guns from Thailand to Indonesia

Associated Press International

February 14, 2004 Saturday

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Section: INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Length: 246 words

Dateline: BANDA ACEH, Indonesia

Body

Police said Saturday they have arrested eight Indonesians suspected of smuggling hundreds of firearms from southern Thailand to rebels in war-torn Aceh province.

Six men and two **women** were arrested in Northern Sumatra and in West Java provinces in January and February, said local police district chief Lt. Col. Arman Depari.

Depari said the suspects were alleged members of a gun syndicate that has been operating since 1987.

"They admitted to having smuggled hundreds of AK-47's, M-16 machine-guns and mostly from Hat Yai in southern Thailand to northern Sumatra and Aceh by using a fishing boat," he said. "They sold the weapons to rebels in Aceh."

The Free Aceh Movement rebels could not be contacted Saturday, but have previously said most of their weapons are either stolen from Indonesian troops or sold to them by cash-strapped soldiers.

There are around 5,000 rebels in Aceh, mostly equipped with assault weapons and machine guns.

Thailand is part of a major smuggling route for arms from Cambodia, which is awash with weapons after decades of civil war. Besides Indonesian separatists, past buyers have included Sri Lanka's **Tamil Tigers** and guerrilla groups in Myanmar.

Southern Thailand lies across the narrow Malacca Straits from Aceh, an Indonesian energy-rich province on the northern tip of Sumatra island.

The Aceh rebels began fighting for independence in 1976. At least 12,000 people have died in the conflict, and repeated efforts to forge a peace deal have collapsed.

Load-Date: February 15, 2004

Sri Lankan government and Tamil rebels agree to work for gender equality

Associated Press International

April 6, 2003 Sunday

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Section: INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Length: 251 words

Dateline: COLOMBO, Sri Lanka

Body

The Sri Lankan government and Tamil Tiger rebels have agreed to work toward achieving gender equality on the island as part of an ongoing peace process, a Web site reported Sunday.

"The delegates decided to work toward achieving equal representation of women in politics, eliminate gender biases in education, and to take up issues related to violence and sexual harassment of women," TamilNet Web site reported.

The Web site is often used to express the rebels' opinion. During peace talks in January, the two sides appointed a joint committee to ensure the active participation of women in the Norway-brokered peace process to end the 19-year ethnic conflict.

The committee agreed at its second meeting held on Saturday to examine the educational structure in Sri Lanka to change gender biases and to take up with defense authorities sexual harassment at police and military check points, TamilNet reported.

Women's groups estimate that more than 30,000 women were widowed by the war, forcing them to become the breadwinners for their families - a role traditionally taken by men in Sri Lankan society.

Also women have been prominent in the Tamil Tigers' fight against government forces, and more than 3,700 rebel women combatants have died.

Liberation Tigers of Tamileelam rebels began their insurrection in 1983 to create a separate state for minority Tamils. The fighting has killed 65,000 people from both sides.

Six rounds of peace talks have been held since the cease-fire was signed in February last year.

Load-Date: April 7, 2003

Tsunami toll ticks to 135,000

UPI

December 31, 2004 Friday 1:43 PM EST

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Length: 1423 words

Byline: HARBAKSH SINGH NANDA

Dateline: NEW DELHI, Dec. 31

Body

The death toll from the killer tsunamis shot up Friday to 135,000 killed and rendering as many as 5 million homeless as entire new villages are found devastated five days after the catastrophe struck.

Meanwhile, in Sri Lanka, separatist Tamil Tiger rebels say that at least 14,000 people were killed in the rebel-held coastal districts in the north and east of the island.

The toll in the small island nation has now jumped to 41,000, pushing the overall toll to 135,000 in the worst quake in 40 years.

Thousands more are missing and presumed dead, including hundreds of Western tourists who were enjoying Christmas holidays in the luxury beach resorts in Thailand and Sri Lanka.

In India, the search continues for nearly 10,000 people reported missing in remote Car Nicobar islands. Officials fear all missing are presumed dead.

The giant waves, known as tsunami, or harbor waves in Japanese, were caused by an undersea 9.0 strength earthquake that rocked the tip of Indonesia's Sumatra island. The 10-meter high waves then traveled at furious speed of up to 500-miles an hour and wobbled several smaller islands and altered the coastal map of several countries.

Damage was reported in as far as Somalia and Kenya in East Africa.

While Indonesia reported 80,000 deaths, Sri Lanka lost 41,000 lives and at least 11,000 were killed in India. Nearly 4,000 people were killed in Thailand, including hundreds of foreign tourists in Phuket beach resort city. Several hundred people, including scores of Swedish and German tourists, are reported missing.

New Year festivities have been cancelled at most places in the tsunami affected south Asian countries even as rescue workers and volunteers continue to find rotting corpses five days after the disaster that lashed coastal towns across 12 nations.

Tsunami toll ticks to 135,000

Locals and international volunteers continue to dig the debris of ravaged buildings to retrieve decomposed bodies across the coastal cities of Indonesia, Sri Lanka, India and Thailand. Mass burials are immediately held for the rotting bodies that can spread an epidemic.

Five days after the killer waves struck havoc in coastal cities in Indian Ocean, bodies of the victims were being washed ashore even as desperate families search for their loved ones.

Officials from affected nations say that the exact number of casualties would never be known.

Memorial services are being held across the nations lashed by the killer waves and religious leaders are counseling the survivors and those who lost their families in the watery fury on a Black Sunday.

Most of the dead ones in Indonesia were Muslims and they were remembered in Friday's prayers at ravaged mosques.

The BBC reported that one cleric broke down in tears as he tried to deliver his sermon in Indonesia's worst hit Aceh province.

"We're weeping now, but we can't afford to grieve for long," he said. "We have to start rebuilding our lives."

But most of the survivors do not know where to pick up the thread to rebuild their lives. They escaped the wrath of giant waves but their homes were swallowed by the gushing waters.

The survivors' thoughts wander as they lie in hospital beds, badly bruised, some with broken legs, some with serious head injuries, unable to speak. Stories of suffering writ large on the faces of survivors.

Respha, a woman from Car Nicobar, lost both her sons and husband. Barely able to speak, she mumbles, "I don't know why I was spared."

Most were driven to instant poverty. "We don't know where to go. We don't even have any clothes to wear, save some donated by individuals and voluntary organizations," a young woman Caroline said.

Even as survivors battle with trauma and loss of life and property, world leaders stepping up aid efforts to help nearly five million rendered homeless across the affected regions.

United Nations chief Kofi Annan and U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell are to discuss aid efforts as rescuers struggle to bring vital supplies to remote areas that have little or no drinking water or food supplies.

"This is an unprecedented global catastrophe that requires an unprecedented global response," Annan said Thursday.

"It has registered deeply in the consciousness and conscience of the world as we seek to grasp the speed, the force and the magnitude with which it happened. The impact will be felt for a long time to come."

More than \$900 million international aid has been pledged by several countries and financial institutions. Britain boosted its pledge from \$30 million to \$95 million, and the World Bank added \$250 million to the \$250 million pledged by the international community.

Indonesia planned to hold a donor summit on Jan. 6.

Airports of Indonesia and Sri Lanka are clogged with tons of relief supplies but volunteers complain that a lack of coordination between the government agencies is hampering the speedy distribution of aid material to the affected regions. Lack of transport is a major reason since most roads have been washed away.

In Sri Lanka, some 1.2 million displaced people have become restive because of the slow pace of relief distribution in the north, east and south of this island nation.

Tsunami toll ticks to 135,000

Aid is slowly trickling in to the devastated areas as measles, dehydration and other communicable diseases have begun spreading in the refugee camps with doctors saying that they have found children suffering from measles.

Desperate survivors in Indonesia also fought over aid and relief material and several incidents of looting were reported in Banda Aceh.

The United States continue to feel the heat for offering what is called a little money to help the tsunami disaster victims. Washington had initially offered \$15 million but later hiked the aid to \$35 million.

Jan Egeland, the emergency relief coordinator for the United Nations, had said that Western nations have been "stingy" in offering relief money.

President George W. Bush had said Wednesday that criticisms of rich nations not giving enough for disaster relief were misguided.

"I assure those leaders that this is just only the beginning of our help," he said. "I felt like the person who made that statement was very misguided and ill-informed," Bush said.

"In the year 2004, our government provided \$2.4 billion in food and cash and humanitarian relief. That's 40 percent of all the relief aid given in the world last year."

However, the New York Times nailed Washington's efforts in an editorial that supported Egeland's views.

The Times said on Thursday that that the \$15m initially offered by Washington was less than the figure the ruling Republican Party would spend on President George W. Bush's inauguration in January.

"We beg to differ," said the New York Times. "Mr. Egeland was right on target."

"We hope Secretary of State Colin Powell was privately embarrassed when, two days into a catastrophic disaster that hit 12 of the world's poorer countries and will cost billions of dollars to meliorate, he held a press conference to say that America, the world's richest nation, would contribute \$15m," The Times said, adding, that \$35m remains "a miserly drop in the bucket."

The tsunami disaster may bring the Sri Lankan authorities and rebels together on one platform to rebuild the devastated coastal areas.

Addressing a public rally in the capital Colombo, President Chandrika Kumaratunga called upon the people to unite to deal with the disaster of mammoth proportions.

"The natural disaster has not spared anyone. All communities have suffered and its time we all forget our differences and work together to rebuild the nation," she said.

"We too are mourning," said Jagadesan, a resident of the northern Jaffna peninsula, which was once the citadel of the **Tamil Tigers**. "We are Sri Lankans and this country is mourning so we too mourn."

The separatist Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam, who have been criticizing the government for not sending adequate supplies to the areas administered by them in the north and east, have also decided to work with the government. A delegation of government officials met **LTTE** leaders and came to an agreement that the two sides will join hands in providing relief to the people.

While visiting the eastern districts President Kumaratunga shook hands with two **LTTE women** cadres she found working in a community kitchen.

"The disaster is bringing the two sides together," said Ananda Samarasinge, a driver in the capital Colombo. "We all hope and pray that this country remains united and the ethnic problem is resolved."

(United Press International's Colombo correspondent Ravi R. Prasad contributed to this report)

Tsunami toll ticks to 135,000

Load-Date: January 1, 2005

End of Document

Sri Lanka rebels complain to Scandinavian monitors over shooting

Deutsche Presse-Agentur

March 1, 2005, Tuesday 11083611:08:36 Central European Time

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Section: Politics

Length: 288 words

Dateline: Colombo

Body

Tamil rebels have complained to Scandinavian ceasefire monitors over the shooting of an important ***female*** rebel leader in the eastern part of the country as violence flared in the area, military officials said Tuesday. The regional rebel leader, identified as Kuwani, was travelling in a three-wheel vehicle with two colleagues when she was shot and wounded by unidentified persons on Monday evening in the Akkaraipattu area, 320 kilometres east of the capital.

She is receiving treatment in a government hospital in region. Rebel sources claimed that one person reportedly involved in the shooting has been arrested and handed over to police commandos. A pro-rebel website said that the incident could not have happened without the knowledge of the government armed forces and blamed paramilitary guards working along with the army. The shooting came three weeks after the rebel political wing leader for the same two districts, E. Kaushalyan was gunned down by a suspected rival group member. The killing of Kaushalyan, who was considered a strong political figure of the rebels of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (***LTTE***), was a major setback to the rebel movement. Meanwhile, a civilian living in a refugee camp was also shot dead in the eastern Batticaloa district on Monday. The motive of the killing was not known immediately. The incidents came as Norwegian special envoy Erik Solheim completed a near week-long visit in Sri Lanka where he tried to put the peace talks between the government and the ***LTTE*** back on track, but failed to make any serious breakthrough in resuming the talks. Talks between the two sides aimed at resolving a two-decade-old ethnic conflict has been stalled since April 2003. dpa ad jh

Load-Date: March 3, 2005

STATE DEPARTMENT ISSUES CONSULAR INFORMATION SHEET ON SRI LANKA

US Fed News

June 30, 2006 Friday 8:29 PM EST

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Length: 3012 words

Byline: US Fed News

Dateline: WASHINGTON

Body

The U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Consular Affairs issued the following Consular Information Sheet:

COUNTRY DESCRIPTION: Sri Lanka is a presidential parliamentary democracy with a developing economy. Civil war and terrorism have seriously disrupted the country since 1983. On February 22, 2002, the Government of Sri Lanka (GOSL) and the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (***LTTE***) signed an indefinite cease-fire agreement. Over the past four years, incidents of violence have increased tensions but the cease-fire has largely held to date. Despite the armed insurgency, Sri Lanka's beaches, hill country, and archeological sites attract thousands of visitors each year from around the world. The capital city of Colombo, the Cultural Triangle (Kandy, Anuradhapura, and Polonnaruwa), and many Southern beach towns all have good tourist facilities.

The Asian Tsunami on December 26, 2004 caused severe damage and loss of life to several coastal areas of eastern, southern, and southwestern Sri Lanka. Many affected resorts have completely recovered. Travelers planning to visit Sri Lanka should consult with travel agencies or the Sri Lankan Tourist Board, however, to ensure their itineraries take this event into account, and plan accordingly. Read the Department of State Background Notes on Sri Lanka for additional information.

ENTRY/EXIT REQUIREMENTS: A passport and onward/return ticket and proof of sufficient funds are required. A no-cost visitor visa, valid for 30 days, will be granted to tourists at the time of entry into Sri Lanka. Business travelers are required to have a visa prior to arrival. Visitors staying more than 30 days for any purpose must pay residency visa fees. Travelers need yellow fever and cholera immunizations if they are arriving from an infected area. All travelers departing Sri Lanka (except diplomats and certain exempted travelers) must pay an airport tax, in cash. Sri Lankan law requires all persons, including foreigners, who are guests in private households, to register in person at the nearest local police station.

Individuals who stay in private households without registering may be temporarily detained for questioning. This requirement does not apply to individuals staying in hotels or guesthouses.

Specific inquiries should be addressed to the Embassy of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka, 2148 Wyoming Avenue, NW, Washington, D.C. 20008, telephone (202) 483-4025 through 26, fax numbers (202) 232-7181, e-mail address: consular@slembassyusa.org, home page: <http://www.slembassy.org>, the Sri Lankan Consulate General in Los Angeles at 3250 Wilshire Blvd., Suite 1405, Los Angeles, CA 90010, telephone (213) 387-0210, or the U.N. Mission in New York City, telephone (212) 986-7040. There are several honorary Sri Lankan

STATE DEPARTMENT ISSUES CONSULAR INFORMATION SHEET ON SRI LANKA

consuls general and consuls in the United States. They can be located at the Sri Lankan Embassy web site. See our Foreign Entry Requirements brochure for more information on Sri Lanka and other countries. Visit the Embassy of Sri Lanka web site at <http://www.slembassyusa.org> for the most current visa information.

Find more information about Entry and Exit Requirements pertaining to dual nationality and the prevention of international child abduction. Please refer to our Customs Information to learn more about customs regulations.

SAFETY AND SECURITY: Since 1997, the State Department has included the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (**LTTE**) on its list of foreign terrorist organizations. Terrorist activities in the capital city of Colombo and other areas of the country remain a serious threat. The **LTTE** and the Sri Lankan government have not engaged in large-scale combat since the signing of the ceasefire; however, smaller-scale violence occurs periodically, and the **LTTE** have assassinated Sri Lankans that oppose their aims. The most serious cease fire violation since the agreement was signed in 2002 occurred on June 15, 2006, when a claymore mine, likely the work of the **LTTE**, destroyed a passenger bus in north central Sri Lanka, killing over 60 civilians.

Throughout their history, the **LTTE** have engaged in numerous terrorist acts, including suicide bombings at political rallies, government buildings, and major economic targets. In 2001, the **LTTE** attacked the Colombo International Airport and destroyed both commercial and military aircraft. Several military personnel were killed, military and airport employees were injured, and civilians were caught in the crossfire. In 2003, the **LTTE** attacked several foreign commercial ships in the waters off the north and east coasts of Sri Lanka. On July 7, 2004, a suicide bomber detonated in a police station in Colombo, killing herself, 4 policemen, and critically injuring 11 people. On June 17, 2006, **LTTE** frogmen were apprehended north of Colombo; they may have been trying to attack ships in the port of Colombo. The **LTTE** have also engaged in political assassinations, including the August 12, 2005 assassination of Foreign Minister Lakshman Kadirgamar at his residence in Colombo.

Although U.S. citizens have not been specifically targeted, **LTTE** operations have been planned and executed with the knowledge that Americans and other foreigners might be killed or injured. American citizens traveling or residing in Sri Lanka may be inadvertently caught up in random acts of violence. Travel in restricted areas is dangerous. In April 2001, grenade fragments seriously injured an American citizen when she was caught in a skirmish between government and insurgent forces in the eastern part of the country. In May 2006, seven people were killed when a jeep carrying Sri Lankan tourists hit a landmine in Wilpattu National Park in the northwest of the country. The park had reopened in 2003, after being closed for 17 years due to the ongoing conflict. While most national parks are quite safe, tourists should be aware that the **LTTE** has the capability to operate in many national parks located in the north and east of Sri Lanka. Travelers should also be aware that the **LTTE** have employed vehicle-mounted bombs. In the past they have detonated bombs near major hotels, a tourist site in Kandy, and have targeted buses and trains.

We advise all Americans to stay away from military bases and vehicles in Sri Lanka. On June 6, 2006 a claymore mine exploded 50 meters from the Welisara Sri Lanka Navy (SLN) camp in Ragama, on Colombo-Negombo Road. On April 25, 2006, a **female** suicide bomber attacked the vehicle of the Commander of the Sri Lankan Army at army headquarters in Colombo, killing several members of his staff and injuring many more bystanders.

American citizens should also be alert to outbreaks of communal violence, such as that which occurred in April 2003 when two hand grenades were detonated in tourist hotels in Arugambay, killing or injuring three tourists. In October 2002, riots between Muslim and Sinhala factions in the Greater Colombo area precipitated short-term curfews. In May 2001 a disturbance between Buddhist and Muslim communities near Kandy reportedly resulted in one death during a police shootout and extensive property damage.

Americans are advised to avoid entirely political rallies and other mass gatherings, public transportation, and to limit their exposure to government buildings if possible. Non-Sri Lankan citizens of Tamil heritage have occasionally been detained during security operations. U.S. citizens of any ethnic heritage are encouraged to keep their passports with them at all times. In the event of a terrorist attack, Americans should monitor local radio and television, seek cover away from windows, and return to their homes or hotels when it is safe to do so. The

STATE DEPARTMENT ISSUES CONSULAR INFORMATION SHEET ON SRI LANKA

Government has periodically imposed curfews in Colombo; Americans should strictly observe curfew regulations and monitor local radio and television.

American citizens are advised not to travel north of a line from Puttalam on the west coast through Anuradhapura in the central north and Nilaveli (just north of Trincomalee) in the east. Areas north of this line contain many land mines, making travel off paved roads very dangerous. Americans are also advised against travel to the city of Jaffna in the North. In addition, the Government of Sri Lanka does not exercise effective control of the civil administration in many sections of the north, where the LTTE operate openly. On April 18, 2006, the U.S. Embassy in Sri Lanka urged all American citizens to avoid travel to any location in the Jaffna Peninsula or the Trincomalee area and urged Americans in these parts to give serious consideration to departing. Furthermore, Americans are advised to consider their personal security foremost before traveling or working in the area of Batticaloa in the East. Official travel by U.S. Government personnel to this area is restricted, and their unofficial travel is prohibited. Travel in the east in the area south of the Anuradhapura-Nilaveli line (including Trincomalee, Batticaloa and points south) poses significant safety risks.

In addition, roads in these areas are often substandard, and police, medical and other emergency help is severely limited or not available. Communications within the eastern areas are also limited, with no cell phone accessibility and very limited landline telephone access. Because of these factors, the U.S. Embassy may not be able to provide consular services in a timely manner to American citizens who travel to the north and east.

For the latest security information, Americans traveling abroad should regularly monitor the Department's Internet web site at where the current Travel Warnings and Public Announcements, including the Worldwide Caution Public Announcement, can be found.

Up-to-date information on safety and security can also be obtained by calling 1-888-407-4747 toll free in the U.S., or for callers outside the U.S. and Canada, a regular toll-line at 1-202-501-4444. These numbers are available from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Eastern Time, Monday through Friday (except U.S. federal holidays).

The Department of State urges American citizens to take responsibility for their own personal security while traveling overseas. For general information about appropriate measures travelers can take to protect themselves in an overseas environment, see the Department of State's pamphlet A Safe Trip Abroad: http://www.travel.state.gov/travel/tips/safety/safety_1747.html.

CRIME: Sri Lanka has a rising crime rate, and criminal incidents may well rise in many of the areas affected by the tsunami. Violent crime is increasing and there have been reports of police inaction in certain cases. In recent years, the Embassy has received reports of violent criminal incidents, including attempted sexual assault, in the towns of Negombo, Hikkaduwa and Dambulla. American citizens should exercise caution, especially at night. Children should not be left unattended, even on hotel/resort premises. In Colombo, women in particular should avoid traveling at night in the small, three-wheeled motorized taxis, or "three-wheelers," due to a risk of assault.

Petty street crime such as purse snatching and pick-pocketing does occur, especially on crowded local public transportation, at bus or train stations, and in public markets. Travelers should keep money or jewelry, when not in immediate use, in hotel safe deposit boxes. Cases of credit card fraud have been reported and travelers are encouraged to either pay with cash or to watch when a merchant "swipes" the card during a transaction to ensure it is not swiped more than once.

INFORMATION FOR VICTIMS OF CRIME: The loss or theft abroad of a U.S. passport should be reported immediately to the local police and the nearest U.S. Embassy or Consulate. If you are the victim of a crime while overseas, in addition to reporting to local police, please contact the nearest U.S. Embassy or Consulate for assistance. The Embassy/Consulate staff can, for example, assist you to find appropriate medical care, contact family members or friends, and explain how funds could be transferred. Although the investigation and prosecution of the crime is solely the responsibility of local authorities, consular officers can help you to understand the local criminal justice process and to find an attorney if needed.

STATE DEPARTMENT ISSUES CONSULAR INFORMATION SHEET ON SRI LANKA

See our information on Victims of Crime:
http://www.travel.state.gov/travel/tips/emergencies/emergencies_1748.html.

MEDICAL FACILITIES AND HEALTH INFORMATION: Medical facilities outside Colombo are limited. The U.S. Embassy maintains a list of private physicians who may be consulted. Medical supplies are uneven; travelers should carry any special medications with them. There are six large hospitals in the Colombo area, including three with emergency trauma service-Asiri Hospital, Apollo Hospital, and the government-run General Hospital. Serious medical problems may require evacuation to the United States or to the nearest country where adequate medical facilities or treatment is available, usually Thailand or Singapore. Neither Thailand nor Singapore requires American citizens to have an entry visa.

Information on vaccinations and other health precautions, such as safe food and water precautions and insect bite protection, may be obtained from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's hotline for international travelers at 1-877-FYI-TRIP (1-877-394-8747); fax 1-888-CDC-FAXX (1-888-232-3299), or via the CDC's Internet site at <http://www.cdc.gov/travel>. For information about outbreaks of infectious diseases abroad consult the World Health Organization's (WHO) website at <http://www.who.int/en>. Further health information for travelers is available at <http://www.who.int/ith>.

MEDICAL INSURANCE: The Department of State strongly urges Americans to consult with their medical insurance company prior to traveling abroad to confirm whether their policy applies overseas and whether it will cover emergency expenses such as a medical evacuation. Please see our information on medical insurance overseas: http://www.travel.state.gov/travel/cis_pa_tw/cis/cis_1470.html.

TRAFFIC SAFETY AND ROAD CONDITIONS: While in a foreign country, U.S. citizens may encounter road conditions that differ significantly from those in the United States. The information below concerning Sri Lanka is provided for general reference only, and may not be totally accurate in a particular location or circumstance.

Vehicular traffic moves on the left (British style). Traffic in Colombo is very congested. Narrow, two-lane highways, dangerously-driven buses, overloaded trucks and the variety of conveyances on the road, ranging from ox carts, elephants and bicycles to new four-wheel-drive jeeps, make driving a challenge and dangerous. Many visitors hire cars and drivers for long trips through the country. Individuals choosing to hire three-wheeled vehicles should negotiate prices beforehand to avoid confrontations. Please refer to our Road Safety page for more information: http://www.travel.state.gov/travel/tips/safety/safety_1179.html. Visit the website of Sri Lanka's national tourist office and national authority responsible for road safety at <http://www.lanka.net>.

AVIATION SAFETY OVERSIGHT: As there is no direct commercial air service between the United States and Sri Lanka, the U.S. Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) has not assessed Sri Lanka's Civil Aviation Authority for compliance with ICAO international aviation safety standards. For more information, travelers may visit the FAA's Internet web site at http://www.faa.gov/safety/programs_initiatives/oversight/iasa/.

SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES: Sri Lanka recognizes dual nationality in some cases. For further information, please contact the Sri Lankan Embassy in Washington, D.C., the Consulate General in Los Angeles, or the U.N. Mission in New York City.

Please see our information on customs regulations: http://www.travel.state.gov/travel/cis_pa_tw/cis/cis_1468.html.

CRIMINAL PENALTIES: While in a foreign country, a U.S. citizen is subject to that country's laws and regulations, which sometimes differ significantly from those in the United States and may not afford the protections available to the individual under U.S. law. Penalties for breaking the law can be more severe than in the United States for similar offenses. Persons violating Sri Lanka's laws, even unknowingly, may be expelled, arrested, or imprisoned. Penalties for possession, use, or trafficking in illegal drugs in Sri Lanka are severe, and convicted offenders can expect long jail sentences and heavy fines. Engaging in sexual conduct with children or using or disseminating child pornography in a foreign country is a crime, prosecutable in the United States. Please see our information on Criminal Penalties: http://travel.state.gov/travel/cis_pa_tw/cis/cis_1467.html.

STATE DEPARTMENT ISSUES CONSULAR INFORMATION SHEET ON SRI LANKA

CHILDREN'S ISSUES: For information on international adoption of children and international parental child abduction, see the Office of Children's Issues website.

REGISTRATION / EMBASSY LOCATION: Americans living or traveling in Sri Lanka are encouraged to register with the U.S. Embassy through the State Department's travel registration website and to obtain updated information on travel and security within Sri Lanka. Americans without Internet access may register directly with the U.S. Embassy in Colombo. By registering, American citizens make it easier for the Embassy to contact them in case of emergency. The U.S. Embassy is located at 210 Galle Road, Colombo 3, Sri Lanka. The Embassy's telephone number during normal business hours Monday through Friday is (94) (11) 249 8500. The after-hours and emergency telephone number is (94) (11) 249 8888. The Consular Section fax number is (94)-(11)-249 8590. The Embassy's Internet address is <http://usembassy.state.gov/srilanka>. The Consular Section has a specific email address dedicated to American Citizens Services at ColomboACS@state.gov. The general email address for the consular section is consularcolombo@state.gov. The Embassy in Colombo also covers the Republic of Maldives.

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

Load-Date: July 5, 2006

Civilians flee fearing fresh Sri Lanka offensive: rebels

Agence France Presse -- English

February 22, 2007 Thursday 8:25 AM GMT

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Length: 284 words

Dateline: COLOMBO, Feb 22 2007

Body

Hundreds of villagers in northern Sri Lanka have fled their homes fearing a fresh military offensive against rebel-held territory, the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam said Thursday.

The rebel **LTTE** said hundreds of men, **women** and children from half a dozen villages along the de facto border line between the two sides were on the move and seeking refuge deeper inside rebel territory.

"About a thousand people have already become refugees," **LTTE** spokeswoman N. Selvy said by telephone from the rebels' political headquarters in Kilinochchi, 330 kilometres (206 miles) north of the capital, Colombo.

"People are afraid after recent Claymore (mine) attacks carried out by the Sri Lankan military," she said, adding the Tamil residents feared security forces could launch a fresh attack along rebel defence lines.

On Wednesday, 25 Tamil civilians carrying white flags entered a government-held area in the northern district of Vavuniya and were provided with shelter and meals by the troops in the forward defence lines, a military official said.

An exodus of civilians from the island's troubled regions is usually a first sign of stepped up fighting between troops and Tamil Tiger guerrillas who are campaigning for independence.

Government forces last month dismantled a de facto local government run by the guerrillas at Vakarai and indicated they were planning to move towards rebel strongholds elsewhere in the island's north.

More than 60,000 people have been killed in the island's 35-year-old Tamil separatist campaign.

A truce arranged and put in place from February 23, 2002 marks its fifth anniversary this week amid worsening violence and dim prospects of reviving negotiations stalled since October 2006.

Load-Date: February 23, 2007

Doom & gloom

MX (Australia)

April 13, 2007 Friday

Melbourne Edition

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Section: NEWS; Pg. 8

Length: 280 words

Body

AFGHANISTAN DEATH TOLL MOUNTS

TWO NATO soldiers were killed today in separate explosions in Afghanistan as US-led warplanes and soldiers killed 24 Taliban hiding in caves in the south, officials said.

It followed the deaths of two Canadian troops yesterday and takes the number of foreign soldiers killed in the country to 11 in less than a week.

A third soldier was wounded in the two roadside blasts, which occurred 30 minutes apart on a road in eastern Afghanistan.

VILLAGERS GUNNED DOWN

SUSPECTED Tamil Tiger rebels today shot dead seven villagers of the majority Sinhalese community in northern Sri Lanka on the eve of the traditional New Year, police said.

Gunmen from the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam raided the village of Avarantalawa in the district of Vavuniya where fighting raged between troops and **Tamil Tigers**.

Six **women** and a man were shot dead by the gunmen who escaped before police reached the area.

FOUR MISSING AS BOAT CAPSIZES

A NORWEGIAN oil rig support vessel carrying 14 people capsized off northern Scotland today, and four crew members are missing, the coastguard said.

Two helicopters and three offshore vessels rescued eight crew members from the Bourbon Dolphin, which capsized off the Shetland Islands, said Mark Clark, a HM Coastguard spokesman. Two others were plucked from the North Sea by helicopter.

JET CRASH CLAIMS COMBAT PILOT

A GERMAN Tornado combat jet crashed into a cliff in the Swiss Alps today, killing a pilot, police said.

Both crew members ejected before impact, but the pilot was found dead on a glacier near the crash site. The other was rescued nearby.

Doom & gloom

The plane crashed near the village of Lauterbrunnen in central Switzerland and exploded.

Load-Date: April 13, 2007

End of Document

Sri Lanka: 2 policemen fatally shot by Tamil rebel pistol squad, military says

Associated Press International

October 15, 2007 Monday 2:06 PM GMT

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Section: INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Length: 273 words

Byline: By KRISHAN FRANCIS, Associated Press Writer

Dateline: COLOMBO Sri Lanka

Body

Suspected Tamil Tiger rebels shot dead two policemen and wounded two more in separate incidents in northern Sri Lanka on Monday, the military said.

At least two rebels, believed to be women, fired at police guarding a post in northern Mannar district, an official at the Defense Ministry information center said.

Two policemen were wounded and later died in hospital, the official said on condition of anonymity citing policy. Another two policemen, patrolling on bicycles, were shot and wounded in neighboring Vavuniya district, he said.

The shootings follow the deaths of at least 21 people in weekend clashes across the island's restive northern region, a flashpoint in the country's ethnic, separatist war.

Three separatist rebels were killed Sunday as they twice attempted to breach the military defense line in northern Jaffna peninsula, according to military spokesman Brig. Udaya Nanayakkara.

On Saturday, 11 Tamil Tigers and a soldier were killed in three separate ground clashes while three guerrillas and three soldiers died in a sea battle.

Fighting has intensified in Sri Lanka's north where the rebels run a virtual state in some areas.

The government has vowed to eliminate the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam, one of the deadliest guerrilla armies in the world.

The rebels are fighting the government for an independent state for the island's ethnic minority Tamils in the north and east.

In July the government announced that it had driven out the guerrillas from the Eastern Province, claiming total government control over the region for the first time in 13 years.

More than 70,000 people have been killed in violence since 1983.

Load-Date: October 16, 2007

Sri Lanka : 2 policemen fatally shot by Tamil rebel pistol squad, military says

End of Document

Not enough attention paid to this conflict

New Straits Times (Malaysia)

February 14, 2007 Wednesday

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Section: Pg. 27; LOCAL

Length: 267 words

Byline: S.S. Rajalingam

Body

I WISH to express my opinion on the recent conference on "War crimes - Criminalise war", which was chaired by former prime minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad last week.

Malaysians support the sentiments of Dr Mahathir. He has said that President George W. Bush and Prime Minister Tony Blair shall be remembered as war criminals.

However, one should also note that war is not just in the Muslim world. Victims of war are not only in countries such as Palestine, Iraq, Afghanistan and Bosnia.

What about the situation in Sri Lanka? Innocent children, women and the elderly of the Tamil community are killed in the thousands.

A ceasefire agreement was signed between the government and the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) almost five years ago but till now, the Sri Lankan government has not fulfilled its promises.

The Kuala Lumpur conference should have discussed the Sri Lanka issue as well. Some words of comfort should have been said for the Tamils.

The Malaysian Peace Foundation, headed by Dr Mahathir, should take the initiative against the aggression on the Tamils in Sri Lanka. It can play a meaningful role even where non-Muslims are involved.

The war in Sri Lanka is not just an internal problem. The international community has failed to put pressure on Sri Lanka to enter into peace talks with the LTTE. The United Nations, too, is silent and has yet to take "serious measures" to end this war.

The Perdana Global Peace Forum should discuss the war in Sri Lanka, condemn the aggression on the Tamils by the Sri Lankan army and air force, and forward peace proposals.

S.S. RAJALINGAM

Petaling Jaya

Load-Date: February 13, 2007

Not enough attention paid to this conflict

End of Document

DOOM & GLOOM

Sydney MX (Australia)

April 13, 2007 Friday

SYD Edition

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Section: WORLD; Pg. 8

Length: 280 words

Body

MATP

AFGHANISTAN DEATH TOLL MOUNTS

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DOOM & GLOOM

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The plane crashed near the village of Lauterbrunnen in central Switzerland and exploded.

Load-Date: April 13, 2007

End of Document

Doom & gloom

MX Brisbane (Queensland, Australia)

April 13, 2007 Friday

BRIS Edition

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Section: MX; Pg. 10

Length: 281 words

Body

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Doom & gloom

The plane crashed near the village of Lauterbrunnen in central Switzerland and exploded.

Load-Date: September 27, 2007

End of Document

Round the World in Eighty Seconds

The Daily Telegraph (Australia)

April 5, 2007 Thursday

State Edition

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Section: WORLD; Pg. 32

Length: 268 words

Body

MATP

MANILA: The Catholic Church in the Philippines is urging the nation's millions of Catholics to wash on Good Friday, abandoning a long-held superstition that it can bring bad luck.

LOS ANGELES: DNA evidence links former pizza delivery man Chester Turner to the murders of 10 women and an unborn baby, jurors were told as his trial started yesterday.

MOGADISHU: Ethiopian and Somali troops faced off with Somali rebels yesterday as clan elders claimed to have reached a truce with Ethiopian commanders after heavy fighting left nearly 400 civilians dead.

WELLINGTON: NZ parents have complained against the treatment of students at Shirley Boys' High School in Christchurch who have to wear orange overalls while on detention.

NEW YORK: A man has escaped a drink driving charge after judges in New Jersey ruled a four-tonne ice rink-grooming machine was not a motor vehicle because they cannot be used on highways and cannot carry passengers.

MOGADISHU: Pirates hijacked a merchant ship in Somali waters yesterday, demanding a ransom for the vessel and its 14 crew, the second such seizure in five weeks.

BEIJING: A restaurant owner in southern China paid \$92,000 for a giant golden fish, a traditional symbol of wealth and good luck, which was caught on Sunday off the southern coast.

COLOMBO: Sri Lankan troops killed 23 Tamil Tigers, the day after the Government blamed the rebels for a bus bombing that killed 16 people.

CHICAGO: Two young brothers Tristan White, 4, and Avery Stately, 2, whose bodies were found in a block of ice in a lake in Minnesota accidentally drowned, an autopsy report released yesterday said.

Load-Date: April 4, 2007

Rights group slams Sri Lanka for not saving Tamil civilians

Agence France Presse -- English

April 25, 2006 Tuesday 5:34 AM GMT

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Length: 289 words

Dateline: COLOMBO, April 25 2006

Body

Sri Lankan security forces stood by as Sinhalese mobs murdered Tamils after a suspected Tamil Tiger bomb attack earlier this month at a busy market, a human rights watchdog charged Tuesday.

The New York-based Human Rights Watch (HRW) said the Colombo government failed to respond to attacks by Sinhalese men armed with clubs and long knives following bomb blasts blamed on Tamil Tiger rebels in the restive northeast.

The HRW statement on the Trincomalee market bombing nearly two weeks ago came as the Colombo government accused the **Tamil Tigers** of trying to provoke inter-communal riots by targeting Sinhalese villagers.

"Police and armed forces stood by while the burning and killing occurred, waiting from 45 to 90 minutes before taking action," the HRW said, referring to rioting after the bomb that initially killed five people.

Attacks from April 12 to 16 left at least 20 civilians dead, including seven **women**, among them Tamils, Muslims and Sinhalese, the watchdog said, adding that 75 people needed hospital attention for injuries.

Some 100 homes were destroyed and 3,000 people left homeless.

"Given continuing ceasefire violations and rising ethnic tensions, communal violence could spiral out of control unless there is a swift and strong government response," HRW Asia Director Brad Adams said in a statement.

"President Mahinda Rajapakse's response to the violence has been grossly inadequate."

Human Rights Watch called on the government to ensure a prompt, independent and impartial commission of inquiry into the violence and the response by security forces, with powers to recommend prosecution and compensation.

Violence has escalated in Sri Lanka despite a February 2002 truce between government forces and Tamil Tiger rebels.

Load-Date: April 26, 2006

Rights group slams Sri Lanka for not saving Tamil civilians

End of Document

The scholar and his Playboy spread; Dr Rohan Gunaratna seems to create waves wherever he goes, often for the wrong reasons. Last month, as a witness in a trial in the United States, he was chided by the judge. PEH SHING HUEI susses out the controversial terrorism analyst

The Straits Times (Singapore)

August 3, 2007 Friday

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Section: INSIGHT

Length: 693 words

Body

STOCKY, bespectacled and with curves in all the wrong places, terrorism expert Rohan Gunaratna is anything but Playboy magazine's centrefold material.

Yet, five years after first appearing in the girlie publication, he still feels it is necessary to explain his association with the world-famous brand.

'I did not pose naked for Playboy,' he tells Insight with a straight face.

Thank goodness, I thought, as I kept an equally straight face.

While the magazine is known largely for its pictures of nude women, the Sri Lankan scholar was in the adult monthly to talk and write about his pet topic - terrorism.

But just as most readers buy Playboy for its pictures and not its cerebral content, Dr Gunaratna, who swims every day for at least 30 minutes, has often found the more splashy stuff, rather than the substance of his work, attracting more buzz.

Despite setting up and heading the International Centre for Political Violence and Terrorism Research at Singapore's Nanyang Technological University and publishing an international best-selling book on the Al-Qaeda, he is sometimes better known for his other exploits.

For example, there was that time, two years ago, when he was detained and expelled from Indonesia. Then, last month, he was chastised by the court during a high-profile trial in the United States.

The judge chided him for speaking to the media during the trial, as it might influence the jurors. He apologised.

At the same trial, to which he was invited by the US Justice Department as an expert witness against Jose Padilla - a Muslim American being indicted for attempts to commit mass murder - the defence lawyers tried to discredit him by referring to, yes, his Playboy spread.

The lawyers also accused him of exaggerating his consultancy work with Western governments.

But these episodes do not rattle the 46-year-old, who has a robust rebuttal for every charge.

The scholar and his Playboy spread Dr Rohan Gunaratna seems to create waves wherever he goes, often for the wrong reasons. Last month, as a witness in a trial i....

Indonesian detention? It was a misunderstanding, he says.

Padded up his consultancy work? 'I don't reveal even 10 per cent of the work I have done,' he fires back.

He is also quick to move in and attack. Against accusations that he is really an expert of the rebel **Tamil Tigers** group in Sri Lanka who cunningly rebranded himself an Al-Qaeda scholar after 9/11, he will have you know that he has been studying Islamic terrorists in Pakistan since 1993.

To back up his credentials, the doctorate holder from Scotland's University of St Andrews cites an article he co-wrote in Jane's Intelligence Review in July 2001 - two months before the Sept11 attacks - in which he outlined the resourcefulness and resilience of the Al-Qaeda.

He adds that in his book Inside Al-Qaeda, published in June 2002, he predicted that the US invasion of Iraq would be unsuccessful.

'If, in order to oust Saddam Hussein, the US unilaterally invades Iraq...the winner will be Al-Qaeda,' he wrote.

He also reveals that before the Bali bombing of 2002, he had briefed the Singapore Government that Indonesia was the weakest link in Asean, as it would be most vulnerable to terrorist attacks.

Although he is quick with his comebacks, the softspoken Buddhist also says he takes criticisms in his stride.

To avoid any reprisals against his Sinhalese family because of his research and writings on the separatist **Tamil Tigers**, he relocated his parents from their hometown of Colombo in Sri Lanka to Australia five years ago.

His wife and two sons are here with him.

'I have taken a very tough position against terrorism and extremism, and when you take such a stand, it is natural for you to be subjected to criticism,' he says.

'When I first came to South-east Asia in 2002, and I said that there were robust terrorist networks operating in Indonesia, I was criticised so much. When I said that the terrorist groups were operating in Malaysia, the Malaysians were furious.'

But while with time and research he can attempt to convince the leaders and scholars of the world, he is reconciled to facing a much harder time with his mother.

He recounts with a grin: 'She said, 'For generations, our families have had nothing to do with a magazine like that and I just can't understand how you ended up in Playboy'.'

shpeh@sph.com.sg

Load-Date: August 2, 2007

Terror in paradise

Ottawa Citizen

August 14, 2006 Monday

Final Edition

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Section: NEWS; Pg. A10

Length: 280 words

Byline: The Ottawa Citizen

Body

As war rages in South Lebanon and civil strife destroys Iraq, another sectarian conflict, once thought nearly resolved, has flared up almost unnoticed.

Sri Lanka is again witnessing violent confrontation between government forces and the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam, who, claiming to speak for a minority Hindu community, say they are fighting for their own state in the north of this tear drop island off the bottom tip of India.

The escalation is clear. The Tigers tried to dry-gulch a good chunk of the northern part of the island as they dammed a reservoir. Government forces are believed responsible for the summary execution of 17 legitimate aid workers, 16 of them Tamil, one Muslim, and four of them women -- this despite the fact that a few months ago the two sides were observing a negotiated ceasefire, brokered by Norwegian diplomats, that seemed to hold much promise.

Because news coverage is scanty -- cameras are focused on the Middle East instead -- little is really known about what is going on on the ground in Sri Lanka. We do know, though, that the ***Tamil Tigers*** are a terror group. They have the ignominious distinction of having pioneered suicide bombing. They have no qualms about attacking civilians or of extorting funds out of people in the Tamil diaspora to continue their armed struggle.

The Sri Lankan government must, of course, punish soldiers who deliberately commit atrocities when fighting the Tigers, but Sri Lanka will not find true and lasting peace as long as the Tigers, much like Hezbollah in Lebanon, are able to hold their country hostage. Terror can never be rewarded. The Tigers need to find other ways to express their political grievances.

Load-Date: August 14, 2006

One in the eye for gaffe-prone Duke

Western Daily Press

October 26, 2004

default

Copyright 2004 Bristol United Press

Section: News; Ents; Celebrities; Pg. 22

Length: 244 words

Body

Some might say the gaffe-prone Duke of Edinburgh has been cruising for a bruising for a long time. And yesterday it emerged the Queen's hubby had become a bath-time victim of his own slip-up.

Prince Philip, 83, who is famous for putting his foot in his mouth, managed to stick his thumb in his eye when he fell in the bath.

He was left sporting a black eye after the accident at the luxury Oreanda Hotel in Yalta, Ukraine, where he is staying during events marking the 150th anniversary of the Charge of the Light Brigade.

A royal aide revealed yesterday: "He slipped in the bath and caught the side of his eye with his thumb.

"When people get older they do tend to bruise a little more easily - he said it did not hurt." The old sailor's trademark gaffes have made many headlines in the past. Two years ago, the Duke caused offence when he asked a Tamil priest about any links to the militant fighters the **Tamil Tigers** during a visit to a Hindu temple with the Queen.

The same year, he raised eyebrows by asking an Aboriginal during a visit to Australia whether they still threw spears at each other.

His gaffes know no race, sex or creed. In 1966, he announced that British **women** can't cook.

At the height of the 1981 recession, he famously said: "Everybody was saying we must have more leisure. Now, they are complaining they are unemployed." And referring to an old-fashioned fuse box in an Edinburgh factory, he said: "It looks like it was put in by an Indian."

Load-Date: October 27, 2004

2nd Ld Rebel suicide bomber kills 1, injures 2 in Sri Lankan capital

Xinhua General News Service

November 28, 2007 Wednesday 1:16 AM EST

Copyright 2007 Xinhua News Agency

Section: WORLD NEWS; Political

Length: 286 words

Dateline: COLOMBO

Body

One person was killed and two others were injured when a **female** Tamil Tiger suicide bomber exploded herself Wednesday morning inside the office of a famous Tamil leader in Sri Lankan capital Colombo, said the military.

Military Spokesman Brigadier V. Nanayakkara said the attack happened around 8:05 a.m. (0235 GMT) at the office of Douglas Devananda, the minister of Social Services and Welfare, adding that Devananda was unhurt in the incident.

Nanayakkara said that of the three people injured in the incident, Coordinating Secretary to the Ministry Stephen Peiris has succumbed to his injuries and two security personnel were still under treatment in hospital.

The spokesman said the 24-year-old suicide attacker, blown into pieces in the explosion, was from the northern Vavuniya district.

He said the **female** Tiger detonated the bomb after entering the office of the minister, who was receiving visitors on the public day.

Originally a Tamil militant, Devananda gave up violence and is currently the leader of the pro-government Eelam People's Democratic Party.

Due to his strong opposition to the rebel Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (**LTTE**), the rebel organization has unsuccessfully tried to assassinate him over 10 times and he remains high up on its list of targets for assassination.

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

More than 5,000 people have been killed in the new wave of violence since the end of 2005, making the Norwegian-brokered ceasefire agreement exist only on paper.

Load-Date: November 30, 2007

Sri Lanka villagers in shock, panic after church attack, shooting kill 5

Associated Press International

June 18, 2006 Sunday 12:02 PM GMT

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Section: INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Length: 717 words

Byline: By KRISHAN FRANCIS, Associated Press Writer

Dateline: PESALAI Sri Lanka

Body

Tamil villagers, terrified by an approaching Sri Lankan government patrol, sought shelter Sunday in the same church where they say soldiers fired on them a day before, and elsewhere at least three police died in a blast blamed on Tamil Tiger rebels.

When word spread Sunday morning that a military patrol was coming, people in the tiny, remote northwestern fishing village of Pesalai panicked. Men, women and children ran from their homes to Our Lady of Victory Roman Catholic Church.

The patrol, however, stayed on the road and did not approach the church or homes. The navy said the troops were in the village to guard against rebel infiltration.

"We all know that (the Tamil rebels) often infiltrate among civilians, especially fishermen, and we had to be there to safeguard against that," said Cmdr D.K.P. Dassanayake, a navy spokesman.

Churches are often used as refuges in parts of Sri Lanka where clashes are frequent between government forces and Tamil Tiger rebels seeking to create an independent homeland for ethnic Tamils.

Survivors and witnesses of Saturday's attack say Sri Lankan forces stormed the church, then began indiscriminately shooting inside, where hundreds of Tamils were taking shelter. Five villagers died in the attack.

The government denied killing civilians, and blamed the Tigers for the attack. But many witnesses and an international aid worker said Sri Lankan forces were responsible for the deaths Saturday, as the island nation appeared to stumble even closer toward all-out war.

"All the people now are only in a mood to flee at the sight of uniforms," said a fishermen who identified himself as Raja, the only person in the village willing to give his name. The others preferred to remain anonymous, fearing military reprisals.

"Although there has been big fighting in the past, nothing of this kind has happened in this church," Raja said.

At the village shoreline, nearly 40 fishing boats were burned and reduced to ashes in attacks fishermen blamed on rampaging navy sailors. One boat contained the burned remains of a dead man.

Sri Lanka villagers in shock, panic after church attack, shooting kill 5

The past few days have seen the worst violence since an often-violated cease-fire was signed in 2002 by the government and the Tigers, who already control much of Sri Lanka's north and east.

Separately Sunday, a powerful mine blast left at least three policemen dead in northern Sri Lanka, police said.

A sergeant and two constables died when a mine exploded near their vehicle in Vavuniya district, said Deputy Inspector General of Police Gamini Silva.

Silva blamed the attack on the Tigers, who are known for using remote-controlled mines.

The rebels, formally called the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam, have been fighting for more than two decades to create a homeland for the country's 3.2 million predominantly Hindu Tamils, a minority that some say has faced decades of discrimination by the largely Buddhist Sinhalese majority.

The civil war killed more than 65,000 people before the cease-fire, and as talks to build on the truce faltered, sporadic shootings and bombings in and around Tiger strongholds have escalated into near-daily violence.

Raja said he believed the **Tamil Tigers** provoked the slaying in Pesalai by attacking a navy base hours earlier just one attack in a series of tit-for-tat strikes.

The **Tamil Tigers** "should think more before launching such attacks, because such attacks get us in trouble," he said.

Dassanayake, the navy spokesman, said the militants stormed the village in 12 boats, first firing grenade launchers at the police station, which is near the navy base and church.

The attack on the navy base triggered a naval and helicopter battle that in turn prompted the villagers to seek refuge in the church.

The two sides gave wildly different outcomes of that attack, with the army saying three sailors were dead and eight missing, but up to 30 Tigers killed. The Tigers said only two of their forces suffered minor injuries, but 12 Sri Lankan sailors died.

The rebel attack in Pesalai came after Sri Lanka's military unleashed retaliatory strikes on rebel positions for a bus bombing last week that killed 64 people.

The government blamed the Tigers for the bombing, the worst act of violence since the cease-fire. The rebels denied involvement.

Associated Press reporter Matthew Rosenberg contributed to this report.

Load-Date: June 19, 2006

An Activist's Life, by Any Means Necessary

The New York Times

June 27, 2006 Tuesday

Late Edition - Final

Copyright 2006 The New York Times Company

Section: Section E; Column 4; The Arts/Cultural Desk; Pg. 3; TELEVISION REVIEW

Length: 772 words

Byline: By VIRGINIA HEFFERNAN

Body

What is a nonfiction film?

"No More Tears Sister," about the civil conflict in Sri Lanka, looks like a Satyajit Ray movie: beautiful and sedatingly slow, defined by rustling jungle scenes split open by acts of deft and sudden aggression.

But "No More Tears Sister," appearing tonight on PBS, is nominally a documentary. Its cineaste elements are a product of full-dress re-creations, many of which carry datelines -- "Jaffna, Sri Lanka, 1989" -- as if they were news images. And although present-day interviews and explanatory voice-over (by the novelist Michael Ondaatje) give historical context, these flagrantly fictional images push the already elastic limits of documentary almost to the breaking point.

We're not talking about the editorializing that happens anytime a camera operator chooses one angle over another. "No More Tears Sister" takes far more liberties. In fact, it is as much a biopic, with actors and stage sets and a haunting score, as it is a news piece.

This genre-bending serves the material -- the life and death of Rajani Thiranagama, a Tamil activist -- in contradictory ways. On the one hand, the scenery, score and costumes emphasize the romance of Ms. Thiranagama, a beautiful young revolutionary who was murdered in 1989.

It also gives a much-needed sense of the enchantment of Sri Lanka, a country so politically blighted that it's hard for those not under its spell to keep from dismissing it. The film, in short, gives a sense of what Ms. Thiranagama believed was worth fighting for: the natural beauty and copious resources of the island and the manifest resilience, even jubilation, of the people.

But as a film about a country where two decades of violence between the Sinhalese-dominated government and rebels of the minority Tamil population pressing for self-rule have cost 60,000 lives, and where the modern practice of suicide bombing was perfected, "No More Tears Sister" is a bit too beautiful. Moreover, while it tells of Ms. Thiranagama's disillusionment with revolutionary politics and armed conflict, this film is heavy on illusion.

Born in 1954, Ms. Thiranagama was an idealistic medical student when she encountered the intoxicating names of Marx, Engels, Mao and Che. "You are my Che Guevara," she told Dayapala Thiranagama, a student leader from the Buddhist Sinhalese majority. (Ms. Thiranagama was a Christian, though most Tamils are Hindu.) Despite the bitter conflict between their ethnic groups, they married.

An Activist's Life, by Any Means Necessary

As conditions worsened for the Tamils, Ms. Thiranagama became convinced that only the armed struggle of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam could liberate her people. Ms. Thiranagama and her sister, Nirmala, joined it, and grew increasingly militant.

In 1982 Nirmala was arrested as a terrorist. Ms. Thiranagama traveled to Britain soon after to campaign for her sister's release, and while there she agitated on behalf of other causes, especially for the rights of women and minorities. She also began to distance herself from the violent Tamil Tigers; eventually she broke with them.

But then she returned to Sri Lanka, and her family. There, just after grading a set of medical exams, in September 1989, she was killed. The assassin is believed to have been a member of the Tamil Tigers.

Ms. Thiranagama's husband and sister are interviewed here, and both try to piece together what went wrong, especially her sister, who suggested the story to the Canadian filmmaker Helene Klodawsky and whose passion, brilliance and conscience suggest the vivacity of the murdered woman. It's a sophisticated tragedy with global implications, the story of yet another 20th-century revolutionary whose utopian fantasies had to detour through violence and didn't make it back.

Will future generations understand how revolutionary dreams and then madness seized the imaginations of bright young people in the 20th century, almost as a matter of course?

To make the past clear to those generations, we also need to make it recognizable. A lovely, poignant documentary like this one, with lush cinematography and the heightened language of revolution, makes the last century seem -- complete with the serpent -- Edenic. Another version of events, less idealistically rendered, might elucidate the ways that Ms. Thiranagama's life and death, like the lives and deaths of so many revolutionaries, were not fantasy, but history.

P.O.V.

No More Tears Sister

On most PBS stations tonight (check local listings).

Sally Bochner, executive producer; Pierre Lapointe, producer; written and directed by Helene Klodawsky. Produced by the National Film Board of Canada.

<http://www.nytimes.com>

Graphic

Photo: A re-creation of a scene from Rajani Thiranagama's childhood. (Photo by P.O.V.)

Load-Date: June 27, 2006

12 killed in Sri Lanka clashes

Agence France Presse -- English

April 30, 2007 Monday 6:20 AM GMT

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Length: 299 words

Dateline: COLOMBO, April 30 2007

Body

Sri Lankan troops have killed 12 people in clashes after a Tamil Tiger air strike on the capital, government officials said Monday.

Six people, including five rebels, died when troops stormed a Hindu temple on a small island off the northern Jaffna peninsula on Sunday.

"In the confrontation, five LTTE (Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam) cadres who were inside the (temple) were killed," the defence ministry said in a statement, adding the custodian of the Amman temple "was also killed in the crossfire."

In a separate incident on Sunday, government troops killed six Tiger rebels, three of them women, in the northeastern Weli Oya region.

There was no immediate word from the LTTE about the incidents.

The clashes came after two Tamil Tiger light aircraft bombed fuel depots around Sri Lanka's capital early Sunday, briefly plunging Colombo into darkness and sending cricket fans watching the World Cup final running for cover.

A fuel storage tank owned jointly by the government and the Indian Oil Company was destroyed while two buildings of Shell Gas Lanka, the local unit of the Anglo-Dutch giant, also suffered fire damage, officials said.

Sri Lanka had deployed supersonic jets to hit back at the rebels, air force spokesman Ajantha Silva said.

"We have identified the locations where those (Tiger) aircraft landed and have bombed them successfully," Silva said.

The Tigers carried out their first ever air strike last month and followed it with a second last week on the Palaly military complex in the north of the country.

Police and security forces had Saturday sealed off Colombo, searching every vehicle entering and leaving the city amid fears of a rebel attack.

12 killed in Sri Lanka clashes

The Tigers are believed to be operating five Czech-built Zlin-143 aircraft smuggled onto the island in pieces and re-assembled.

Load-Date: May 1, 2007

End of Document

Sri Lanka villagers in shock, panic after church attack, shooting kills 5

Associated Press International

June 18, 2006 Sunday 12:55 PM GMT

Copyright 2006 Associated Press All Rights Reserved

Section: INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Length: 742 words

Byline: By KRISHAN FRANCIS, Associated Press Writer

Dateline: PESALAI Sri Lanka

Body

Tamil villagers, terrified by an approaching Sri Lankan government patrol, sought shelter Sunday in the same church where they say soldiers fired on them a day before, and elsewhere at least three police died in a blast blamed on Tamil Tiger rebels.

The government denied killing civilians, blaming the Tigers for the attack. But many witnesses and an international aid worker said Sri Lankan forces were responsible, as the island nation appeared to edge even closer toward all-out civil war.

When word spread Sunday morning that a military patrol was coming, people in the tiny, remote northwestern fishing village of Pesalai panicked. Men, women and children ran from their homes to Our Lady of Victory Roman Catholic Church.

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Survivors and witnesses of Saturday's attack say Sri Lankan forces stormed the church where hundreds of Tamils were sheltering, indiscriminately shooting inside, and then fired wildly through the village. Five villagers were killed.

"All the people now are only in a mood to flee at the sight of uniforms," said a fisherman who identified himself as Raja the only person in the village willing to give a name. Others remained anonymous, fearing military reprisals.

At the village shoreline, nearly 40 fishing boats were burned and reduced to ashes in attacks fishermen blamed on rampaging navy sailors. One boat contained a dead man's burned remains.

The government on Sunday again denied involvement in the church attack on the church.

Sri Lanka villagers in shock, panic after church attack, shooting kills 5

A statement issued by the defense ministry called the report "yet another attempt by pro (Tiger) media to discredit the government and tarnish the image of the Security Forces."

The past few days have seen the worst violence since an often-violated cease-fire was signed in 2002 by the government and the Tigers, who already control much of Sri Lanka's north and east.

Separately Sunday, a powerful mine blast left at least three policemen dead in northern Sri Lanka, police said.

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Associated Press reporter Matthew Rosenberg contributed to this report.

Load-Date: June 19, 2006

Hear Tigers' tale

Pine Rivers Press (Australia)
February 11, 2004 Wednesday

Copyright 2004 Nationwide News Pty Limited

Length: 290 words

Body

CASHMERE author Phil Smith will give a special preview of his second novel.

The thriller Tiger Stripe is due out in April, but Smith will give a reading at Kallangur's Bookacino on February 15 at 11.30am.

Sometime ABC personality Smith will talk about how his experiences in the RAAF and as a journalist have influenced his writing.

Tiger Stripe combines big business intrigue, *Tamil Tigers*, Australian Special Air Services and a journalist on the trail of a big story.

Mr Smith said the response to his stories with Australian heroes had been very gratifying. His first novel, Shooting Script is in its second printing. Bookacino is at 1409 Anzac Ave.

Phone 3491 9143.

* The Designing *Women* of 2004 is the exhibition at the Red Hill Gallery.

The *women* in question are young Indigenous painter Sue 'Macca' McPherson, former Vienna Ballet soloist turned professional artist Emma Middleton and New York Art Expo exhibitor Rebecca Pierce.

The Designing *Women* of 2004 runs until February 22 at the Red Hill Gallery, 61 Musgrave Rd.

* LOVE is in the air with the Queensland Orchestra and Brisbane City Council's free Valentine's Day concert at the Riverstage, near QUT Gardens Point Campus, the city.

Fireworks in the night sky will add to the atmosphere. Queensland Orchestra chief conductor and artistic director Michael Christie said the ensemble was happy to reach a wide audience.

Husband and wife vocalists, soprano Leisa Barry-Smith and baritone Jason Barry-Smith, will complement the orchestra with nostalgic show tunes that explore affairs of the heart.

The orchestra will render sentimental favourites such Tchaikovsky's Romeo and Juliet Fantasy Overture, Strauss' Blue Danube Waltz, and Ravel's Bolero.

The concert starts at 7.30pm on February 14.

Load-Date: February 22, 2004

Hear Tigers' tale

End of Document

**New tactics on two fronts: Female suicide bomber kills six in Iraqi city
declared free of terrorists: First woman to detonate bomb since 2003
invasion: Attack on home of cleric's guard heightens tension**

The Guardian (London) - Final Edition

September 29, 2005

Copyright 2005 Guardian Newspapers Limited

Section: Guardian International Pages, Pg. 13

Length: 690 words

Byline: Michael Howard, Baghdad and Ewen MacAskill

Body

The violence in Iraq took a new and dangerous turn yesterday when insurgents deployed a woman suicide bomber, killing at least six people and wounding at least 35.

Although **female** suicide bombers have been used by the **Tamil Tigers**, Palestinians and Chechens, they are rare in Iraq and none has struck since the start of the insurgency. Iraqi police said a woman detonated an explosive device packed with metal balls among a group of men lining up to enlist in the Iraqi army at Tal Afar, in the north-west. Al-Qaida in Iraq claimed responsibility in an internet statement.

The regional police chief, General Ahmed Muhammad Khalaf, said this was a new tactic by the militants, who may have sent a woman because she could pass through checkpoints more easily. He said **women** and children would now be subjected to the same checks as men.

Women have seldom been searched at Tal Afar's checkpoints because of religious and social traditions in the country. The use of **female** bombers will make it more difficult for the police and soldiers manning checkpoints, particularly because there is a shortage of **women** officers to conduct body searches.

The Ministry of Defence said yesterday the attack would not necessarily mean a change in operations other than "being more aware that **females** as well as men can be suicide bombers". A spokesman added that it was difficult to guard against suicide bombers, whether male or **female**.

The last time **women** were involved in a suicide bombing in Iraq was during the invasion in April 2003, when two **women** in a car killed three US soldiers. Six months later, a woman with an explosives belt was captured trying to enter the Green Zone, the heavily protected headquarters of the US in Baghdad.

The al-Qaida statement said yesterday's bombing was carried out by "a blessed sister from the al-Baraa bin Malek mar tyrdom brigade". The group is named after one of the companions of the Prophet Muhammad and has been cited in past attacks by men. "May God accept our sister among the martyrs," said the statement, which gave no clues to the bomber's identity. She was reportedly wearing the traditional disdasha worn by Arab males, rather than **women's** clothes.

New tactics on two fronts: Female suicide bomber kills six in Iraqi city declared free of terrorists: First woman to detonate bomb since 2003 invasion: Attack o....

The first woman suicide bomber was a Syrian who killed Israeli soldiers in 1986. The **Tamil Tigers** used **women** extensively, including in the assassination of Rajiv Gandhi in 1991. The first Palestinian woman suicide bomber struck in 2002.

The Israelis, with their large conscript army which includes many **women**, are better placed to conduct searches of **women** than the predominantly male forces in Iraq.

Iraqi politicians and security analysts appeared less concerned with the gender of the bomber yesterday than with the fact that the blast occurred in a city that only two weeks ago was declared "free of terrorists" after a large, joint American and Iraqi offensive.

Tal Afar, a city of about 200,000 people, had been regarded as a transit point for foreign jihadis crossing to Iraq from Syria, as well as a base for a well-organised domestic insurgent operation involving Sunni Arabs and Turkomen.

A joint US-Iraqi sweep of the city this month was proclaimed a victory by Iraqi officials, who said that nearly 200 suspected militants had been killed and 315 arrested. But the offensive was a poorly kept secret, and many of the insurgents simply shrank away before a "ring of steel" could be thrown around the city.

As with other security sweeps in towns in western Iraq - the heartlands of the insurgency - as soon as the troops left, the militants moved back in. "Due to the security vacuum after the withdrawal of (Iraqi) police commandos from Tal Afar, the terrorists came back again," Abbas al-Bayati, a member of the national assembly who comes from Tal Afar said.

Meanwhile, in the southern city of Najaf, a bomb exploded yesterday at the house of a bodyguard of the popular Shia cleric Moqtada al-Sadr, killing at least six people, an aide to Mr Sadr said. The blast shattered the relative calm enjoyed in Najaf and threatened to antagonise the cleric's militiamen, who have largely refrained from violence since they fought US troops last November.

Load-Date: September 29, 2005

**Sri Lanka struggles with loss after loss;
Rebel violence rocks tsunami-hit area**

The International Herald Tribune

November 3, 2005 Thursday

Copyright 2005 International Herald Tribune

Section: NEWS; Pg. 1

Length: 1124 words

Byline: Somini Sengupta

Dateline: BATTICALOA, Sri Lanka:

Body

Nearly a year after the tsunami devastated Sri Lanka, a fresh wave of political violence is sweeping across the eastern part of the island. Armed factions vie for supremacy, assassinations and abductions occur in broad daylight, and parents squirrel away their children for fear they will be conscripted into battle.

Loss piles upon unbearable loss. There is no sanctuary even at a relief camp here for families displaced by the tsunami. Since February, three women at the camp have been widowed.

The New York Times

Dayaniti Nirmaladevi's husband was gunned down as he fetched noodles one night. Radhi Rani's husband was shot after a fishing trip.

Koneswari Kiripeswaran lost her parents and her only child, age 4, to the tsunami, only to have her husband shot and killed at a bus stop on his way back to work in Qatar.

All three women said their men had been active in political organizations opposed to the notorious ethnic separatist group, the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam, but had given up politics. It is impossible to verify their claims.

Assassinations are a near daily affair here. Rarely, if ever, is anyone arrested. The situation is a stark reminder of the fraying of the cease-fire agreement in 2002 between the Tamil Tigers and the government, which have been fighting for more than 20 years over control of the north and east, where most of the Tamil minority lives.

The majority Sinhalese control the government.

The Norwegian officials who monitor cease-fire violations can do little about the bloodshed: political killings do not fall under their ambit, although they do keep a running count.

From February to the end of October, the monitors documented 190 killings, an average of more than five a week. By comparison, they counted 60 last year.

This eastern coast is by far the most treacherous swath of Sri Lanka. Except for a sliver of government-controlled coast and highway, the Tamil Tigers control much of the hinterland. Matters were made worse when a rival faction

Sri Lanka struggles with loss after loss; Rebel violence rocks tsunami-hit area

broke from the Tigers in March last year. It now fights the Tigers, and it is widely believed to be operating here with the army's blessing or at least its blind eye.

The violence is terrifying for its opacity. Witnesses rarely come forward. The police say they cannot properly investigate. The targets are generally tied to one faction or another and increasingly include police and military informants. There is a gunshot here, an ambush there. No one claims responsibility. Fear and suspicion fuel a disquieting silence.

"Really, we do not know who is killing whom," said the Rev. S. Jeyanesan, the pastor at St. John's Church in Batticaloa. "People live in fear. People say they only open their mouths to eat. People don't speak."

The political aftershocks of the tsunami last December were different in Indonesia, where the government and rebels in the devastated Aceh region signed a tentative accord. Here in Sri Lanka the tsunami seems only to have sharpened the divide between the warring parties.

So low have relations sunk that in September, when fresh peace talks were proposed, the parties could not even agree on a venue. Now, with a presidential election scheduled for November, the future of peace negotiations is up for grabs.

The ***Tamil Tigers***' influence in the east has apparently been crimped by the breakaway faction, led by a former Tiger commander known as Karuna. Abroad, the Tigers took a considerable hit in September when the European Union imposed travel restrictions against their delegations. Washington already includes the Tigers on its list of terrorist groups.

Here in Batticaloa, the violence is not limited to enemies of the Tigers. One night in late September, Khandasami Alagamma's husband was eating dinner in the front yard of a pro-Tiger charity where he worked as a night watchman when five grenades were lobbed at the building. He was killed instantly.

A visit to Batticaloa turned up a chilling inventory of violence. On Oct. 1, a mason hired to repair a Hindu temple was shot to death as he slept on its terrace; the police say they do not know why. The day before, the vendor of a pro-Tiger newspaper was shot and killed on a busy street. The Wednesday before, grenades were thrown at the pro-Tiger charity, and on the Saturday before that, a tailor was killed inside his shop. He is believed to have been an informer, but for which side is unclear.

With barely a half-dozen monitors assigned to these killing fields, the Norwegian-led Sri Lankan Monitoring Mission is in no position to conduct criminal investigations, let alone enforce security. Human rights advocates here are increasingly pressing for some mechanism to protect civilians.

In the hierarchy of fear, one of the most frightening aspects of life here is the recruitment of children into battle. They are recruited at schools, village markets and even at Hindu festivals, which draw thousands. Unicef recorded a spike in the practice in July, though the Tigers have long denied recruiting children.

How do parents protect them? In Tiger country across a lagoon from Batticaloa, one family keeps two of its teenage boys hidden at home, forbidden even to step out of the yard. To keep them entertained, they have gone into debt to lease a television set.

In the same family, a 17-year-old girl has been married off; the Tigers do not take married ***women***. The eldest son has been dispatched to work in the Middle East. Another boy, who served with the Tigers for two years, is in a church-run orphanage to avoid being taken again. "I can't bring him home," his mother said flatly. "He wouldn't stand a chance."

None of the mothers agreed to give their names, or those of their children, for fear of fatal retaliation.

Grown men are not immune to abduction either. Muthulingam Ratnakumar, 38, a courier, has not been heard from since vanishing into Tiger custody one day in March. He had gone, as he often did, to deliver a package to the countryside. He was detained and accused of spying for the Karuna group, a charge his family denies.

Sri Lanka struggles with loss after loss; Rebel violence rocks tsunami-hit area

It has fallen on his father, S. Muthulingam, to seek his release.

Relentlessly, the father has gone to the police, only to be told to talk to the Tigers directly. He has gone to the Monitoring Mission, to be offered the same advice. He has written to at least nine foreign embassies; only the Netherlands has bothered to respond, he said, suggesting that he turn to the Red Cross.

To anyone willing to listen, Muthulingam tells his son's story. He brings with him a file, stuffed with his desperate appeals.

He has visited the nearest Tamil Tiger office with regular devotion. He has not yet been allowed to see his son, or bring him a change of clothes. "I think maybe they can kill my son," he said.

His eyes suddenly turned red.

Load-Date: November 7, 2005

Nearly a Year After the Tsunami, Sri Lanka Strife Flares

The New York Times

November 2, 2005 Wednesday

Late Edition - Final

Copyright 2005 The New York Times Company

Section: Section A; Column 1; Foreign Desk; Pg. 3

Length: 1133 words

Byline: By SOMINI SENGUPTA

Dateline: BATTICALOA, Sri Lanka

Body

Nearly a year since the tsunami devastated the nation, a fresh wave of political violence is sweeping across eastern Sri Lanka. Armed factions vie for supremacy, assassinations and abductions go on in broad daylight and parents squirrel away their children for fear they will be conscripted into battle.

Loss piles upon unbearable loss. There is no sanctuary even at a relief camp here for families displaced by the tsunami. Since February three women at the camp have been widowed.

Dayaniti Nirmaladevi's husband was gunned down as he fetched noodles one night. Radhi Rani's husband was shot after a fishing trip. Koneswari Kiripeswaran lost her parents and her only child, age 4, to the tsunami, only to have her husband shot dead at a bus stop on his way back to work in Qatar.

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The Norwegian officials who monitor cease-fire violations can do little about the bloodshed: political killings do not fall under their ambit, although they do keep a running count.

From February to the end of October, the monitors documented 190 killings in all, an average of more than five a week. By comparison, they counted 60 last year.

This eastern coast is by far the most treacherous swath of Sri Lanka. Except for a sliver of government-controlled coast and highway, the Tamil Tigers control much of the hinterland. Matters were made worse when a rival faction broke from the Tigers in March of last year and now fights against it; it is widely believed to be operating here with the army's blessing -- or at least its blind eye.

Nearly a Year After the Tsunami, Sri Lanka Strife Flares

The violence is terrifying for its opacity. Witnesses rarely come forward. The police say they cannot properly investigate. The targets are generally tied to one faction or another and increasingly include police and military informants. There is a gunshot here, an ambush there. No one claims responsibility. Fear and suspicion fuel a disquieting silence.

"Really, we do not know who is killing whom," said the Rev. S. Jeyanesan, the pastor at St. John's Church here. "People live in fear. People say they only open their mouths to eat. People don't speak."

The political aftershocks of the tsunami last December were different in Indonesia, where the government and rebels in the devastated Aceh region signed a tentative accord. Here in Sri Lanka the tsunami seems only to have sharpened the divide between the warring parties.

So low have relations sunk that in September, when fresh peace talks were proposed, the parties could not even agree on a venue. Now, with a presidential election scheduled for November, the future of peace negotiations is up for grabs.

The ***Tamil Tigers***' influence in the east has apparently been crimped by the breakaway faction, led by a former Tiger commander known as Karuna. Abroad, the Tigers took a considerable hit in September when the European Union imposed travel restrictions against their delegations. Washington already includes the Tigers on its list of terrorist groups.

Here in Batticaloa the violence is not limited to enemies of the Tigers. One night in late September, Khandasami Alagamma's husband was eating dinner in the front yard of a pro-Tiger charity where he worked as a night watchman when five grenades were lobbed at the building. He was killed instantly.

A visit to Batticaloa turned up a chilling inventory of violence.

On Oct. 1 a mason hired to repair a Hindu temple was shot to death as he slept on its terrace; the police say they do not know why. The day before, the vendor of a pro-Tiger newspaper was shot dead on a busy street. On the Wednesday before came the grenade attack on the pro-Tiger charity, and on the Saturday before that, a tailor was killed inside his shop just after sundown. He is believed to have been an informer, but for which side is unclear.

With barely a half-dozen monitors assigned to these killing fields, the Norwegian-led Sri Lankan Monitoring Mission is in no position to conduct criminal investigations, let alone enforce security. Human rights advocates here are increasingly pressing for an independent mechanism to protect civilians.

In the hierarchy of fear, one of the most frightening aspects of life here is the recruitment of children into battle. They are recruited at schools, village markets and even at Hindu festivals, which draw thousands. Unicef recorded a spike in the practice in July, though the Tigers have long denied recruiting children.

How do parents protect them? In Tiger country across a lagoon from Batticaloa, one family keeps two of its teenage boys hidden at home, forbidden even to step out of the yard. To keep them entertained, they have gone into debt to lease a television.

In the same family, a 17-year-old girl has been married off; the Tigers do not take married ***women***. The eldest son has been dispatched to work in the Middle East. Another boy, who served with the Tigers for two years, is in a church-run orphanage to avoid being taken again. "I can't bring him home," his mother said flatly. "He wouldn't stand a chance."

None of the mothers agreed to give their names, or those of their children, for fear of fatal retaliation.

Grown men are not immune to abduction either. Muthulingam Ratnakumar, 38, a courier, has not been heard from since vanishing into Tiger custody one day in March. He had gone, as he often did, to deliver a package to the countryside. He was detained and accused of spying for the Karuna group, a charge his family denies.

Nearly a Year After the Tsunami, Sri Lanka Strife Flares

It has fallen on his father, S. Muthulingam, to seek his release. Relentlessly, the father has gone to the police, only to be told to talk to the Tigers directly. He has gone to the Monitoring Mission, to be offered the same advice. He has written to at least nine foreign embassies; only the Netherlands has bothered to respond, he said, suggesting that he turn to the Red Cross.

To anyone willing to listen, Mr. Muthulingam tells his son's story. He brings with him a file, stuffed with his desperate appeals.

He has visited the nearest Tamil Tiger office with regular devotion. He has not yet been allowed to see his son, or bring him a change of clothes. "I think maybe they can kill my son," he said. His eyes suddenly turned red.

<http://www.nytimes.com>

Graphic

Photos: S. Muthulingam with a picture of his son Ratnakumar, believed to have been abducted while making a delivery for a courier company.

Two members of the antiterrorism Special Task Force of the Sri Lankan police on patrol in Batticaloa. (Photographs by James Pomerantz/World Picture News, for The New York Times)Map of Sri Lanka highlighting Batticaloa: A camp in Batticaloa for tsunami victims is plagued by violence.

Load-Date: November 2, 2005

End of Document

**Sri Lankan presidential elections: TWO VISIONS, ONE DIVIDED COUNTRY;
Today, one of the nations worst affected by the tsunami goes to the polls to
elect a new president. Among the 13 candidates, there are two front-runners
" each with a very different view of the future. Justin Huggler reports from
Colombo**

The Independent (London)

November 17, 2005 Thursday

First Edition

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Section: FOREIGN NEWS; Pg. 26,27

Length: 1918 words

Byline: Justin Huggler

Body

On the white, colonial verandah of the Galle Face Hotel, foreign tourists dine as the Indian Ocean breakers roll in beneath them and ceiling fans circle slowly overhead. A speedboat skims across the lagoon as locals sell orange coconuts by the roadside. Every day, flights arrive packed with tourists escaping winter.

But, away from palm-fringed beaches and nightclubs, and largely unnoticed by visitors, Sri Lanka faces a crucial decision. Today, the country votes in an election which may end up making the difference between peace and war. Because, as tourists relax on the beaches, the ceasefire with the Tamil Tiger rebels " that has brought some peace for the past three and half years " has been crumbling. Analysts warn that a return to violence is becoming more likely with every passing day.

Against that backdrop, Sri Lankans will be voting for a new President today. The choice is between the architect of the peace process, and a hardliner who wants to tear it up and take a much tougher approach with the Tigers. Yesterday, the last day before the polls, analysts said the race was too close to call.

To understand how high passions run over this election, you only have to look at the posters. One shows an army helmet with a bullet hole through it. The slogan reads: 'Are you going to trust the country to someone who betrayed the army intelligence unit? You are the jury.'

One of the main candidates had to cancel his final rally for security fears. He was advised to do so by police, even though he was scheduled to be standing behind bullet-proof glass. The other went ahead with his " but wearing a bullet-proof jacket.

And all this in a country that has barely recovered from last year's Boxing Day tsunami, in which at least 30,000 Sri Lankans died and half a million were made homeless.

The dangers of a return to civil war cannot be underestimated. At least 64,000 people died in the fighting. It was here, not in Baghdad or Jerusalem, that suicide bombing was honed as a militant tactic " and it had nothing to do

Sri Lankan presidential elections: TWO VISIONS, ONE DIVIDED COUNTRY Today, one of the nations worst affected by the tsunami goes to the polls to elect a new pre....

with Islam. The Tamil Tigers were the world's most effective suicide bombers long before anyone had heard of Abu Musab al-Zarqawi in Iraq.

The Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam have been fighting for an independent ethnic Tamil homeland in the north of Sri Lanka for the past two decades. They are fighting against the rule of the Sinhalese majority, who predominate in the south, which the Tigers say has been repressive towards Tamils.

Many fear that today's vote will, in effect, be a referendum on the peace process that finally brought an end to most of the violence in 2002.

Although 13 candidates are standing, only two have a chance of winning " and they are at loggerheads over the peace process.

On the face of it, Ranil Wickramasinghe's credentials are impressive. Less than a year after he became Prime Minister in 2001, he managed to negotiate the ceasefire with the Tigers. But many in Sri Lanka accuse him of being too willing to cave in to the Tigers' demands. By 2004, he was so at odds with the current President, Chandrika Kumaratunga, that she engineered the collapse of his government.

The man he is up against for the presidency is the man who replaced him as Prime Minister: Mahinda Rajapaksa, a lawyer married to a former Ms Sri Lanka who describes himself on his own website as a 'rebel with a cause'.

Mr Rajapaksa has announced that he is opposed to any form of autonomy for Tamil areas " the Tigers' central demand. He says he wants to renegotiate the ceasefire on new, tougher terms and has hinted that he is not happy with the involvement of Norwegians as neutral brokers in the peace talks and wants them out.

But Mr Rajapaksa was not always such a hardliner. At one point he was a supporter of a negotiated peace, and some have accused him of putting on the guise of a hardliner to win votes.

South of Colombo, where the palm groves end at the edge of the beach, lie the ruins of the village of Akurala, devastated in the tsunami. It was here that at least 1,500 people died when the train they were travelling on was suddenly trapped in the waters of the tsunami, in what is believed to be the world's worst train disaster. The survivors of the village are still living in wooden huts that were intended only as temporary shelters. A sign by the road reads in English: 'Stop! Survive us' (sic). And here you can see how this election has divided Sri Lankans.

'Rajapaksa's no good,' says one woman. 'If he wins we'll die in these wooden huts. The government got millions of dollars of aid from the foreign countries for the tsunami and they put it all in the bank. They didn't give it to us.'

She lost four children in the tsunami as well as her mother and brother. The family lost the tuk-tuk (a three-wheeled motorised taxi) they had saved for years to buy and which was their only source of income. Now she and her husband are both jobless. The hut she lives in with her husband and three surviving children leaks.

'You should come here when it rains,' she says. She blames Mr Rajapaksa as Prime Minister for the conditions they are living under. 'It is only the tourists who give us any money,' says the woman. 'They stop when they are passing and give us some money to help. If the tourists ran for President, they would be elected. But why should we vote for Rajapaksa? He's done nothing for us.'

Not everyone agrees. Her brother-in-law, a fisherman, cuts in angrily. 'I will vote for Ramakapsa,' he says.

He is not happy with the aid the tsunami survivors have received from the government but he says: 'Voting for Ranil [Wickramasinghe] is the same as voting for Prabhakaran' " the leader of the Tamil Tigers.

Kaluachchi Chaminda, a fellow fisherman, agrees. Mr Chaminda does not even have a temporary hut. His wife and all his children died in the tsunami. Now he is alone, and homeless. He roams around, sleeping on the floor of friends' huts or in the local Buddhist temple.

Sri Lankan presidential elections: TWO VISIONS, ONE DIVIDED COUNTRY Today, one of the nations worst affected by the tsunami goes to the polls to elect a new pre....

'I am angry with Rajapaksa because they did nothing for us,' he says. 'But the problem with Ranil is that we fear if he comes to power he will give in to the Tamil Tigers. I fear, if he wins, the country will be divided. That is more important than dealing with the tsunami.'

Mr Ramapaksa has retained his popularity among tsunami survivors despite a scandal in which it emerged that some aid sent from abroad had been transferred directly to a private account set up to provide relief in his home town of Hambantota instead of being distributed through the treasury.

But not all the tsunami survivors are engaged by the elections. In the Korala Wella suburb of Colombo, where the wooden temporary shelters are huddled close together along sandy streets by the seashore like a scene out of Dickens, and the trains still call at the ruined station, Shriyayami Fernando says she will not vote. Her only child survived the tsunami, only to be hit by a minister's car and killed earlier this year. She received 25,000 rupees (pounds 145) in compensation. 'I'm fed up with elections,' she says. 'I shan't go to the polling station to vote. None of them have come to see us.'

Other survivors in the area say they will vote, but are not enthusiastic. 'It's been 11 months. Still we have received no help from the government, nothing,' said Ennet Pieris. 'Why vote for either of them. We haven't got anything from either of them.'

Many spoke of their concern over the rising cost of living. Despite the success of the tourism industry, the Sri Lankan economy is still in a dire condition, crippled by the vast military expenses accrued from years of fighting. Economic concerns will play a major role in today's vote.

So divided are Sri Lankans over the election that many are predicting the election may come down to an unlikely kingmaker: the Tamil Tigers. Many analysts say the result may depend on whether the Tigers allow Sri Lankans living in the areas they control to vote. There are no polling stations in Tiger territory, but in past elections the Tigers have allowed residents to cross into government-held territory and vote there.

Among Tamils, support is very high for Mr Wickramasinghe, seen as almost the only Sinhalese politician to take their demands seriously. One Tamil in Colombo, Sashi Kumar Nadarajah, said he had spent hours sending SMS text messages to everyone he knew telling them to vote for Mr Wickramasinghe. He did so at his own expense.

'If anyone can do anything, he can do it,' he says. 'Look at what happened when he was Prime Minister. He came in and he changed everything. There are no more checkpoints in Colombo. In the old days I was put in jail on suspicion just because I am a Tamil.'

If the Tamils in Tiger-controlled areas are allowed to vote, many believe that could be enough to elect Mr Wickramasinghe. On the face of it, it is in the Tigers' interest to allow their people to vote. But they have been sending conflicting signals.

The reason may have something to do with a startling, apparent admission made by a member of Mr Wickramasinghe's party to a Tamil newspaper a week or so ago. For a long time the Tigers have accused Mr Wickramasinghe's previous government of engineering the split of a faction in the east from the Tigers, led by the renegade Colonel Karuna. The authorities and Mr Wickramasinghe have denied it. But in the newspaper interview, a senior member of his party suddenly boasted of having caused a split in the Tigers.

Today's election also marks the end of a dynasty. When the outgoing President Kumaratunga steps down, it will not only be the end of her 11 years in office. Her family has been at the centre of Sri Lankan politics since the 1950s, when her father SWRD Bandaranaike was Prime Minister.

After he was assassinated in 1959 " when Ms Kumaratunga was only 14 years old " her mother, Sirimavo Bandaranaike, became the world's first female prime minister.

Sri Lankan presidential elections: TWO VISIONS, ONE DIVIDED COUNTRY Today, one of the nations worst affected by the tsunami goes to the polls to elect a new pre....

Until today, Ms Kumaratunga has dominated politics here. They say that if the law allowed her to run again, she would win easily. In fact, she did not want to let go of office and tried to stay on for another year, but the Supreme Court ruled that she had had her two terms and had to go.

In recent years she has often appeared to change her position drastically, but somehow she has managed to steer something of a middle course between Mr Wickramasinghe's conciliatory approach to the **Tamil Tigers** and the hardliners.

Some observers fear that, without her there to balance the two, Sri Lankan politics will become completely polarised on the issue.

Meanwhile, down amid the wooden shanties of the tsunami survivors at Korala Wella, Ms Pieris shrugs. 'We will vote for them and they will live in luxury,' she says. 'We will suffer.'

THE HAWK

Mahinda

Rajapaksa

PRIME MINISTER, UNITED PEOPLE'S FREEDOM ALLIANCE

Left-leaning, with strong ties to Buddhist clergy and Sinhalese nationalists. Launched presidential campaign by rejecting demands for Tamil autonomy. Has also vowed to review the 2002 ceasefire and indicated that Norway will no longer play a role as peace-broker. He opposes privatisation, favouring subsidy schemes and protecting rural livelihoods.

THE DOVE

Ranil

Wickramasinghe

OPPOSITION LEADER, UNITED NATIONAL PARTY

Right-of-centre former prime minister from a leading political family with strong media connections. Pledged to uphold current ceasefire agreement, which he helped draw up in 2001. Credited with pushing the country through an impressive economic transformation during his last premiership, he is generally backed by the business community.

Load-Date: November 17, 2005

Rebel "torture chambers" found in Sri Lanka: defence ministry

Agence France Presse -- English

January 16, 2007 Tuesday 9:11 AM GMT

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Length: 307 words

Dateline: COLOMBO, Jan 16 2007

Body

Commandos in Sri Lanka have found "torture chambers" used by the Tamil Tiger rebels to punish informants and deserters, the country's defence ministry said Tuesday.

Special Task Force (STF) commandos found the chambers at a rebel camp in the eastern district of Ampara during a nine-day offensive, which ended at the weekend after capturing 12 rebel bases, the ministry said.

"At the Madurakavi camp, torture chambers and lockups were established to torture escapees and informants, including women cadres," the ministry said.

It did not make any claims about what types of torture were employed.

There was no immediate reaction from the rebel Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) group to the military's claims.

A Human Rights Watch report released this month accused the rebels and the government of routine extra-judicial killings and abductions in the island's bitter ethnic war, which has claimed more than 60,000 lives since 1972.

The two sides have escalated the conflict in recent months, despite a ceasefire agreed in 2002 but now seen as moribund. More than 3,800 people have been killed in the fighting since December 2005.

The military, which is waging an offensive in Sri Lanka's rebel-held north and east, said the commandos also found evidence of illegal logging, ivory poaching and cannabis growing by the rebels.

"The STF had come across a large plantation of cannabis grown by the LTTE deep inside the forest reserve," the ministry's statement said. "STF troops also detected carcasses of elephants dumped in swamps."

The STF released pictures of the bases they captured together with a haul of arms, ammunition, bombs and motorcycles said to have been used by Tamil Tiger guerrillas.

The STF said one trooper was wounded in its recent offensive and claimed that a large number of rebels were killed or wounded during the fighting.

Rebel "torture chambers" found in Sri Lanka : defence ministry

Load-Date: January 17, 2007

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Aid workers' bodies to be exhumed in Sri Lanka

Agence France Presse -- English

October 14, 2006 Saturday 11:15 AM GMT

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Length: 514 words

Byline: Seth Meixner

Dateline: COLOMBO, Oct 14 2006

Body

The bodies of 15 aid workers massacred in Sri Lanka will be exhumed next week in a fresh bid to determine who killed them, their French employer said Saturday as sporadic fighting continued in the troubled north of the island.

The aid victims were among 17 mostly Tamil workers with the Paris-based Action Against Hunger (ACF) who were gunned down August 4 at their offices in eastern Sri Lanka's Muttur town.

The bodies of two of the dead have already been exhumed and sent to Colombo. The remaining bodies are expected to be retrieved Wednesday, ACF said in a statement.

"The exhumation will occur on the 18th October and will make possible a new post mortem ... the bodies should be transferred to Colombo the same day," the charity said.

Australian experts are expected in Colombo next week to be present at the autopsies, principally as observers and advisers, ACF added.

The killings came during a period of heavy fighting between the government and the rebel Liberation Tigers of Tamil Elam (LTTE).

The 13 men and four women, aged 23 to 54, worked mostly as engineers on water sanitation and farm projects for the charity.

Nordic truce monitors have blamed the killings, the worst attack against aid workers since the bombing of the UN headquarters in Baghdad in August 2003, on government forces.

The government has denied any role in the massacre, which forced ACF to drastically scale down its operations in Sri Lanka amid an upsurge in violence that continues to plague the region.

Sporadic artillery firing erupted in parts of the northeast Friday and Saturday, capping a week that saw some of the worst fighting since the 2002 ceasefire.

Aid workers' bodies to be exhumed in Sri Lanka

The pro-rebel TamilNet website also said Sri Lankan army jets had carpet-bombed a village in Tamil Tiger-controlled territory.

The attack on Muttayankattu village in Mullaitivu district killed 10 cows and devastated a large swath of farmland, TamilNet said, adding the jets carried out six runs, dropping 48 bombs over a two-hour period Friday morning.

It was one of the biggest raids to hit the region, TamilNet said, and followed a flare-up in violence in which the government suffered record losses with 130 troops killed in clashes earlier in the week.

A military official confirmed the bomb attack but said the planes were attacking "identified LTTE targets".

The fighting has cast doubt over peace talks scheduled for later this month.

But despite the continued violence, diplomats said Norway, the top peace broker in Sri Lanka, was planning to dispatch special envoy Jon Hanssen-Bauer Tuesday to work out details for the peace talks set for October 28 and 29.

Norway has been working to restore the 2002 ceasefire and end spiralling violence which has claimed more than 2,200 lives since December, according to an official tally.

More than 60,000 people have been killed in the three-decades-old conflict for a Tamil homeland on the Sinhalese-majority island.

Japan, Sri Lanka's main financial backer, was also sending special peace envoy Yasushi Akashi to the island on Sunday to meet with the government and the secretive leadership of the LTTE.

Load-Date: October 15, 2006

Evicted Tamils to return to Sri Lankan capital

Xinhua General News Service

June 8, 2007 Friday 11:00 AM EST

Copyright 2007 Xinhua News Agency

Section: WORLD NEWS; Political

Length: 318 words

Dateline: COLOMBO

Body

Sri Lankan police said Friday that some 186 minority Tamil civilians who had been sent out of the capital Colombo in a security operation are to be taken back.

The decision came in the wake of a Supreme Court ruling here Friday, restraining the defense authorities from going ahead with their program to evict the members of minority Tamil community from the capital Colombo.

A police source in the northern town of Vavuniya said that some five buses were to leave Vavuniya heading for Colombo late Friday night.

The armed police in a predawn raid Thursday on the temporary lodgings in Colombo where the northeastern Tamils take refuge forced the occupants to go back to Northern and Eastern provinces.

The defense ministry said some 376 people including 85 women were sent in seven buses to the war-torn regions.

Thousands of Tamils from the north and east were reportedly staying in Colombo to find jobs, apply for overseas travel documents, among other reasons.

The defense authorities charged that most explosions carried out by Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) rebels in Colombo were plotted in these temporary lodgings.

At least two blast targeting military personnel occurred in the city since the end of May, killing nine people and injuring over 40.

Opposition parties and rights groups slammed the move to send Tamils back as discriminatory of the minority Tamil community.

The Center for Policy Alternatives (CPA), an independent think tank, sought the court order against the government action.

Claiming discrimination at the hands of the majority ethnic Sinhalese-dominated government, the LTTE has been fighting for an independent homeland for Sri Lanka's 12.5 percent Tamil minority since the 1970s.

Nearly 5,000 people have been killed in the upsurge of clashes since the end of 2005 despite the Norwegian-back truce in place.

Evicted Tamils to return to Sri Lankan capital

Load-Date: June 9, 2007

End of Document

ROUNDUP: Sri Lankan defence secretary escapes bomb attack

Deutsche Presse-Agentur

December 1, 2006 Friday 8:14 AM EST

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Section: POLITICS

Length: 590 words

Dateline: Colombo

Body

DPAPOLITICSSriLankaConflicts ROUNDUP: Sri Lankan defence secretary escapes bomb attack Updating with defence secretary's survival, detailsColombo

Sri Lanka's Defence Secretary Gotabaya Rajapaksa escaped an assassination attempt triggered by a suspected Tamil rebel suicide bomber Friday in Colombo, but only the bomber was killed while 17 others were injured in the blast, police said.

Police said that the male suicide bomber had fitted the explosives in a three-wheeler taxi and was riding parallel to the convoy of the defence secretary. Army outriders had attempted to prevent the bomber's vehicle moving when the explosion was triggered.

The suicide bomber's headless body was thrown onto to the rear of vehicle.

Police confirmed that the target was Rajapaksa, who is also President Mahinda Rajapaksa's brother.

At least 10 civilian vehicles were also caught in the blast with at least one of them completely burnt out in the fire that erupted after the blast.

The defence secretary's bulletproof BMW had come to a halt about 3 metres away from where the suicide bomber triggered the explosion. The vehicle was hit by shrapnel but none penetrated the auto.

The explosion occurred at Dharmapala road, about 1 kilometre away from the president's office cum residence. The president's other official residence and the Presidential Secretariat is located about 3 kilometres away from the scene of the blast.

Seven members of the defence secretary's backup security team were injured in the blast.

"I am safe, but my security was caught in the blast, I am not sure what happened to them," Gotabaya told a radio station.

The defence secretary has taken a hardline towards the rebels of

ROUNDUP: Sri Lankan defence secretary escapes bomb attack

the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE). He is a former military officer who retired from service and thereafter was appointed to the defence secretary's post when his brother won the presidential election in November last year.

Military officials said they believed that the suicide bomb attack

was triggered by the LTTE which is the only group known to carry out such attacks.

On April 25 a female suicide bomber who infiltrated the army headquarters exploded herself close to the army commander Lt. General Sarath Fonseka, injuring him seriously. After a lapse of two months the commander returned for duties.

Providing security for government politicians and senior military officials in Colombo has caused major traffic blocks in recent months with roads completely closed down at times.

President Rajapaksa, reacting immediately after the blast, said that Tamil rebels had carried out "such cowardly and brutal attacks earlier, too."

The President's office in a statement said President Rajapaksa "remains unshaken in his resolve to achieve peace in Sri Lanka and is undeterred in his efforts to combat all forms of terrorism and violence."

Violence has escalated since Rajapaksa was elected to office in November last year. Tamil rebels carried a series of attacks against the security forces since then and the security forces have been carrying out retaliatory attacks. More than 3,200 civilians, security personnel and rebels have been killed during this period.

Norwegian peace brokers have been continuing with their efforts to bring the rebels and the government back to the negotiating table

without success while the head of the LTTE Velupillai Prabhakaran has said that the cease-fire agreement with the government is now "defunct."

However, the rebels have declared that they were still committed to the peace process and the cease-fire.

Dec 01060814 GMT

Notes

Updating with defence secretary's survival, details

Load-Date: December 2, 2006

End of Document

INTERNAL UNREST IN SOUTH ASIA: RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN NEPAL AND SRI LANKA

States News Service

March 16, 2006 Thursday

Copyright 2006 States News Service

Length: 3432 words

Byline: States News Service

Dateline: WASHINGTON

Body

The following information was released by the U.S. Embassy in New Delhi:

Mr. Chairman and members of the Committee, thank you for inviting me here today to discuss recent developments in Nepal and Sri Lanka. These two South Asian nations are both struggling today to confront domestic insurgencies that have placed their institutions and their people at great risk.

Let me first turn to Nepal.

The United States' primary objectives in Nepal are the restoration of multi-party democracy and the prevention of a Maoist takeover. We believe that reconciliation between the King and the political parties, and a return to democracy is the only path toward an effective counter-insurgency strategy and the restoration of security, government services, exercise of political rights, and respect for human rights. At the same time, we are concerned that Maoists, who have refused to renounce violence, have gained a greater degree of legitimacy from their engagement with the political parties.

A Maoist takeover would almost certainly lead to instability in a region of great importance to the United States. Nepal nestles between China and India, the two fastest growing economies in the world. Our ability to advance our relationships with these two emerging powers will go far to determining the success of U.S. foreign policy in the coming decades.

I have just returned from Nepal where I reiterated the President's message on Nepal - his call in New Delhi for the King to reach out to the parties, and for the Maoists to forswear violence.

It is clear the political crisis is now reaching an acute phase. Since assuming "temporary" authoritarian power on February 1, 2005, King Gyanendra and his government have become increasingly divorced from the political parties and population, while the Maoist insurgency makes steady advances in the countryside and continues its campaign of violence and intimidation. Fourteen months of palace rule have only made the security situation in Nepal more precarious, emboldened the Maoist insurgents, and widened the division between the country's legitimate political forces - the major political parties and the King.

The King has not initiated a dialogue with the parties and he is losing domestic support. The seven major political parties have been equally reluctant to engage with the King and have entered into a "12 Point Understanding" with the Maoists. But we believe that the Maoists must forswear violence before they can be considered a legitimate

INTERNAL UNREST IN SOUTH ASIA: RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN NEPAL AND SRI LANKA

political force. Moreover, the agreement is flawed in that it does not commit the Maoists to abandon their campaign of violence.

The February 8 municipal elections, called by King Gyanendra, only showcased his increasing isolation. While the political parties boycotted the elections and organized mass demonstrations, the Maoists stepped up attacks to successfully disrupt voting. Only 20 percent of eligible voters participated in the elections. Nationwide, only 15 percent of seats in the 36 municipalities conducting elections were contested, 54 percent had no candidates, and 31 percent of candidates were elected unopposed. In our view, this election was little more than a hollow attempt by the King to legitimize his power.

The Maoists meanwhile continue their drive to topple the monarchy. Since ending their four month unilateral ceasefire in January, they have launched a new wave of attacks and have made clear in public statements they intend to increase pressure through April. The Maoists' understanding with the political parties has further consolidated their power and strengthened their position against the King.

Since the King's seizure of power in February 2005, we have placed a hold on lethal assistance to Nepal, as have India and the European Union. The FY 06 Foreign Operations Appropriations Act stipulates that Foreign Military Financing (FMF) will only be made available to Nepal if the Secretary of State certifies that the government of Nepal has restored civil liberties, is protecting human rights, and has demonstrated, through dialogue with Nepal's political parties, a commitment to a clear timetable to restore multi-party democratic government consistent with the 1990 Nepalese constitution.

Regrettably, democracy has not been restored, nor have human rights conditions significantly improved, since February 2005. In their struggle against the Maoists, Nepalese security forces have committed serious human rights abuses, including unaccounted-for detentions, disappearance of detainees, torture, and arbitrary and unwarranted use of lethal force. Prior to the February 2006 municipal elections, opposition leaders were put under house arrest and the government detained hundreds of political activists. We have repeatedly urged the King to release all political detainees.

Maoist insurgents systematically employ violence and terror, and commit human rights abuses including killings, torture, bombings, extortion, kidnapping, and recruitment of child soldiers. During the February elections, Maoist insurgents threatened candidates and their families, bombed the residences of a number of candidates and elected officials, and assassinated two candidates for office.

The international community is fully engaged on Nepal and the deteriorating conditions there. We have worked with India, the UK, the EU and others to keep pressure on the King. President Bush discussed Nepal with Indian Prime Minister Singh during the President's recent visit to New Delhi. They agreed the King should reach out to the political parties to restore democratic institutions and that the Maoists should abandon violence. Japan and China have also become more engaged on Nepal policy and have called for the King to reconcile with the parties.

Additionally, at last year's session of the UN Commission on Human Rights, our support was critical to the successful negotiation of a technical assistance resolution which called on the government to restore multiparty democracy and respect human rights and the rule of law. The resolution requested the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights to establish an office to assist Nepalese authorities in developing policies and programs for the promotion, protection, and monitoring of human rights. As a result, the United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) was established in Kathmandu in May 2005. We are providing funding for the OHCHR, which has reported progress in some areas, such as improved access to detention centers and enhancements in the legal status of women.

The plight of refugees in Nepal is another critical human rights issue. Bhutanese Government policies in the early 1990s caused tens of thousands of ethnic Nepalese to leave Bhutan. As a result, over 100,000 ethnic Nepalese refugees from Bhutan have been living in seven camps in southeastern Nepal. Despite fifteen years and fifteen rounds of formal negotiations between Bhutan and Nepal, no refugees have been permitted to return to Bhutan.

INTERNAL UNREST IN SOUTH ASIA: RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN NEPAL AND SRI LANKA

As the situation facing the refugees in the camps grows more tenuous, there is a clear and immediate need to provide durable solutions. The international community was encouraged by Bhutan's fall 2005 agreement to allow the voluntary return of 640 individuals in Khudunabari Camp. This could be an important first step to break the current impasse. But no refugees have yet returned to Bhutan. We urge speedy implementation of this commitment.

Ultimately, repatriation to Bhutan will not be the durable solution for every individual. We hope that Nepal will allow UNHCR to begin registering the refugees in the camps, a step that is necessary to lay the foundations for the future provision of other durable solutions, including third country resettlement.

We are also focused on ensuring the protection of Tibetans transiting Nepal to India. In November, the Government of Nepal suspended issuance of exit permits to Tibetans for their onward travel to India. The situation left hundreds of Tibetans stranded in Nepal, and exacerbated severe overcrowding at a shelter for Tibetans in Kathmandu. Funding from the U.S. Government is supporting an expansion of the center to ease overcrowding. We have repeatedly pressed the Government of Nepal to end the exit permit suspension, but the situation is unresolved. We have also pressed the Government to permit registration of the Tibetan Welfare Society, an organization poised to provide assistance to vulnerable Tibetans in Nepal.

I turn now to Sri Lanka.

Sri Lanka's long-standing ethnic conflict and fragile peace process continue to cause enormous concern for the United States and the international community. The senseless assassination of Foreign Minister Kadirgamar in August 2005, coupled with an intense presidential campaign, heightened tensions in Sri Lanka throughout the fall of 2005. Following President Mahinda Rajapaksa's election on November 17, 2005, escalating violence took the lives of Tamil civilians and almost one hundred Sri Lankan security personnel, putting the four-year ceasefire agreement between the Government of Sri Lanka and the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) at risk. As the attacks continued, President Rajapaksa came under pressure to respond. To its credit, the government showed significant restraint in the face of these provocations and maintained the ceasefire.

Given the deteriorating situation on the ground, the United States, the European Union, Norway and Japan - the Co-Chairs of the Sri Lanka Donor Group - met several times in 2005 and early 2006 to discuss possible solutions. The Co-Chairs sent strong messages to both the Sri Lankan Government and the LTTE to end the violence and uphold the fragile ceasefire agreement. Norway's vital role as facilitator of the peace process merits special mention. We and other members of the international community greatly appreciate and fully support the ongoing Norwegian efforts to move Sri Lanka's peace process forward.

Both Under Secretary for Political Affairs R. Nicholas Burns and Norwegian Peace Envoy and Minister for Development Erik Solheim traveled to Sri Lanka in January. U/S Burns met President Rajapaksa and other senior government officials to urge an end to the violence, a return to negotiations, and the preservation of the ceasefire agreement. Solheim also met with government officials as well as with the LTTE leadership, including its elusive commander Prabhakaran.

As a result of our respective efforts, Sri Lankan Government and LTTE negotiators met in Geneva on February 22 and 23, 2006, marking the first time in over three years the two sides had returned to the negotiating table. The negotiators achieved two significant outcomes that should give the peace process in Sri Lanka a new momentum. First, they agreed to refrain from violence and uphold the ceasefire agreement. The government specifically addressed the problem of armed groups, a serious Tamil grievance, and committed to ensuring that "no armed group or person other than government security forces will carry arms or conduct armed operations." The LTTE pledged to take "all necessary measures to ensure that there will be no acts of violence against the security forces and police." Given the difficulty involved in even convening this meeting and seeing it through to a conclusion, we consider it a significant achievement that both sides agreed to meet again in Geneva April 19 - 21.

We welcome the outcome of the Geneva talks and hope that additional progress will be made in April. We are fully aware, however, of the challenges both parties face in order to fulfill their Geneva commitments. The Sri Lanka Monitoring Mission, now led by Sweden, will monitor ceasefire violations in the coming weeks and report on implementation of the ceasefire at the next round of talks in April. We hope both sides will fully implement their

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commitments to build a level of confidence between them that will yield even more successful results in the next round of talks. We will continue to work with Norway and the other Co-Chairs to keep the pressure on both parties as we head into the April discussions.

While the situation in Sri Lanka remains tenuous, we are hopeful that all parties to the conflict will make serious efforts to bring lasting and stable peace throughout the island. The Government of Sri Lanka is currently focused on the peace process and the next round of ceasefire implementation talks with the LTTE in April. Local government elections are currently scheduled to be held March 30 across the country, including in the north and east.

As for Sri Lanka's economic outlook, the country's economy was not as severely affected by the tsunami as initially feared. Growth for 2005 is estimated to be around 5.5 percent, up slightly from 5.4 percent in 2004. As the recovery process continues, however, and large inflows of assistance begin to decrease, the economy will face several key challenges. The primary challenges stem from deteriorating infrastructure, high energy prices, and outdated labor laws. A high and growing oil import bill, continued high inflation, the pace of tsunami reconstruction, uncertainty surrounding the peace process and its effect on the investment climate and subsidy costs also pose significant challenges.

President Rajapaksa has pledged 8 percent annual economic growth. Such a growth rate will require significantly higher investment, and foreign investment is a critical source. Foreign investors have been reluctant to sink funds in Sri Lanka for many of the reasons I just mentioned. Further, the Government of Sri Lanka has not made sufficient efforts to streamline the investment processes. As Ambassador Lunstead has repeatedly stressed, Sri Lanka needs to make it easier to invest there than anywhere else, in order to attract funds and draw on increasing financial interests in the region, driven by India's continued high levels of growth. While President Rajapaksa claims to want a strong private sector to drive growth, his Government's policies continue to favor more government intervention in the economy. Our Embassy's Commercial Section, along with the Commerce Department and other USG agencies, are working with the Sri Lankan authorities to encourage greater market access, intellectual property rights protection, and more transparent government tendering procedures.

Sri Lanka has been selected as a country eligible to receive Millennium Challenge Account assistance for fiscal year 2006. Sri Lanka submitted its compact proposal focusing largely on rural development to the Millennium Challenge Corporation in August 2005 and due diligence is underway, along with negotiation of compact terms. Our agreed timeline with the Government of Sri Lanka is focused on getting to a signed compact during the third quarter of 2006.

Regarding human rights and humanitarian issues, despite the ongoing conflict, Sri Lanka is a fully functioning, stable democracy with strong democratic institutions and traditions, including freedom of the press. The November 2005 presidential election was deemed by international monitors to be free and fair, although an LTTE boycott of the elections prevented voters in LTTE-controlled areas from going to the polls. The U.S. Embassy in Colombo closely observed the elections, deploying eight teams to visit different locations around the country, including regions under LTTE control. USAID supported the two largest domestic monitoring organizations, which deployed more than 20,000 domestic monitors.

Reported human rights violations in Sri Lanka are largely related to the ongoing domestic conflict: government security forces, LTTE cadres, and other armed groups have all been accused of abuses. Sri Lankan police and security forces have been accused of torture and links to paramilitary groups participating in armed attacks. In one recent high-profile case, employees of the Tamil Relief Organization (TRO) were reportedly abducted by armed groups and some were later released. Immediately upon hearing the news of the abductions, Ambassador Lunstead contacted high-level Sri Lankan government officials to express our concerns. Our Embassy released a press statement, reinforcing our concerns and urging restraint. The Sri Lankan government is investigating the incident and our Embassy continues to follow developments on the case.

The LTTE has engaged in politically motivated killings, disappearances, torture, arbitrary arrest and detention, denial of fair public trial, arbitrary interference with privacy, and denial of freedom of speech, press, assembly and

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association. We are particularly concerned about ongoing LTTE recruitment of child soldiers, in spite of its pledge to end such activity.

Religious freedom is a critical issue for Sri Lanka's Buddhist, Hindu, Christian, and Muslim populations. The freedom to practice one's religion is protected under law. There have been occasional reports of harassment of Christians. Anti-conversion legislation introduced by a Buddhist extremist party under the previous government did not pass and is not expected to be re-introduced. A delegation from the U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom visited Sri Lanka in late February.

Since mid-December 2005, the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) has monitored the flight of nearly 500 Sri Lankan refugees to Tamil Nadu, India, and the internal displacement of 6,000 families from the Jaffna Peninsula and the eastern district of Trincomalee. UNHCR will not resume repatriation activities from India until the situation in Sri Lanka shows improvement. UNHCR was encouraged by the sharp drop in the number of newly arriving refugees following the announcement of the Geneva peace talks. Camp conditions as of February 2006 were stable, and a major influx of refugees is not expected.

Tsunami relief and reconstruction efforts continue to be among the USG's highest priorities. The U.S. Government provided assistance totaling \$134.6 million in Sri Lanka. Immediately following the disaster, USAID funded emergency services, such as temporary shelter, food, water, relief supplies, water purification, health surveillance, psycho-social services and protection for children, and cash-for-work programs that infused money into local economies. Since June, USG efforts have focused on reconstruction, including large scale infrastructure projects, workforce development, and sewage management. Innovative means to engage youth in reconstruction efforts and using these projects to bridge ethnic differences are, moreover, contributing to peace building efforts. Recently, 75 young adults from different ethnic groups worked together to produce films examining the linkages between underdevelopment, violence, conflict and tsunami reconstruction in the South. Additional funding has been directed to livelihoods activities, small-scale infrastructure, good governance, information dissemination, and urban planning. A USG-funded anti-corruption program was launched in 2005 to enhance oversight of tsunami rehabilitation programs. After completing a strategic assessment, this program will provide technical assistance and training to the Auditor General's Department's tsunami auditing teams and to the Commission to Investigate Allegations of Bribery and Corruption's legal and investigative staff.

Assistance has been unevenly distributed in LTTE-controlled areas in the north and east. An agreement between former President Kumaratunga's government and the LTTE to coordinate relief in Tamil areas through the Post-Tsunami Operational Management Structure (P-TOMS) mechanism was never implemented, because parts of the arrangement were found to be unconstitutional by the Supreme Court. President Rajapaksa has created a new agency to oversee tsunami reconstruction and has announced a new program that seeks to replace the defunct P-TOMS.

Mr. Chairman, we are deeply committed to achieving peace and stability in Nepal and Sri Lanka. The President's remarks on Nepal following his meeting with Indian Prime Minister Singh highlight the level of importance to us of these issues. We will continue to work on the ground in South Asia with our friends and allies, through international fora such as the Co-Chairs group in Sri Lanka, and through the extensive outreach programs of our Embassies in Kathmandu and Colombo to help the Nepalese and Sri Lankan people overcome the considerable obstacles before them on their path to peace and prosperity.

Thank you again for the opportunity to appear before you. I would be pleased to answer your questions.

Load-Date: March 18, 2006

EU, U.S. condemn violence in Sri Lanka

Xinhua General News Service

November 30, 2007 Friday 1:18 AM EST

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Section: WORLD NEWS; Political

Length: 337 words

Dateline: COLOMBO

Body

The European Union and the government of United States have condemned the incidents of violence in Sri Lanka and stressed the need to safeguard the lives of civilians.

"The European Union condemns yesterday's terrorist attacks in Colombo and deplores the deliberate targeting of civilians," a EU press release issued here Thursday said.

"These callous attacks can have no political justification and serve only to add to the suffering and grief of ordinary Sri Lankans," the release added.

In a similar statement the U.S. embassy in Colombo said "the government of the United States strongly condemns the deadly attacks on civilians that occurred in a shopping mall and a government office on Nov. 28 in Colombo and on a bus carrying school children on Nov. 27 near Kilinochchi (in the rebel held north)."

The United States also said in the statement that "only a political solution, not a military one, offers a way out of the current cycle of escalating violence."

Twenty-one people have died in two separate bomb blasts in Colombo on Wednesday blamed on the Tamil Tiger rebels.

The first attack on Tamil politician and Social Welfare Minister Douglas Devananda was carried out by a handicapped **female** suicide cadre of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (**LTTE**), killing two people including the suicide bomber and injuring two others.

The second bomb blast took place in the busy Colombo suburb of Nugegoda, killing 19 civilians and injuring about 40 others.

Sri Lankan President Mahinda Rajapakse in a statement urged the international community to take note of acts of terror by the rebels.

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

More than 5,000 people have been killed in the new wave of violence since the end of 2005, making the Norwegian brokered ceasefire agreement exist only on paper.

EU, U.S. condemn violence in Sri Lanka

Load-Date: December 1, 2007

End of Document

More than 20,000 flee Mutur: Northeastern Sri Lankan town ravaged; by days of fighting between government forces and Tamil Tiger rebels

The Gazette (Montreal)

August 5, 2006 Saturday

Final Edition

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Section: NEWS; Pg. A17

Length: 285 words

Byline: PETER APPS, Reuters

Dateline: PALATHOPPUR, Sri Lanka,

Body

Artillery fire thunders in the background as thousands of Sri Lankan Muslims fleeing an eastern war-torn town arrive at this village by bus, tractors, motorcycles and on foot.

The Red Cross estimates some 20,000-30,000 people fled south from Mutur yesterday, leaving behind a town devastated by days of fighting between government forces and the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam rebels.

"We had to leave," said 25-year-old water board employee M.A. Jevahir, trying to keep an eye on his family amongst the thousands taking shelter under trees and in abandoned buildings.

"We couldn't stay any longer. But this place does not feel safe either," he said.

Women cried and wailed, while some men stoically clutched the Koran. People, some obviously dehydrated after long walking, rushed to a truck bringing water.

Most simply wanted to move away from the violence.

Northeast Sri Lanka is home to a volatile mix of Sinhalese, Muslims and Tamils. Some residents of mostly Muslim Mutur said Tamil residents had been told by the **LTTE** to leave weeks ago.

Help in the village is hampered by ongoing fighting and ethnic tension. The windows on a Red Cross vehicle were smashed by a mob of majority Sinhalese, hard-liners among whom accuse international aid workers of only helping Tamils.

Fighting is continuing both around Mutur and the **LTTE**-held water sluice gate that sparked the confrontation last month when irrigation was turned off to some 50,000 farmers in government territory. Fields in the area are dry and crops stunted.

Some of the displaced said shells fell near them as they walked out of the ruined town. Some aid workers said there were reports of up to 20 dead. Some in the crowd were wounded by explosions in Mutur.

More than 20,000 flee Mutur: Northeastern Sri Lankan town ravaged; by days of fighting between government forces and Tamil Tiger rebels

Graphic

Colour Photo: ANURUDDHA LOKUHAPUARACHCHI, REUTERS; A truck carries Muslim civilian evacuees from the town of Mutur yesterday.

Load-Date: August 5, 2006

End of Document

Sri Lanka military: Tamil rebel attack kills 4 village guards, 1 civilian in north

Associated Press International

August 20, 2007 Monday 5:08 PM GMT

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Section: INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Length: 301 words

Byline: By BHARATHA MALLAWARACHI, Associated Press Writer

Dateline: COLOMBO Sri Lanka

Body

Suspected Tamil Tiger rebels opened fire on a police checkpoint in northern Sri Lanka on Monday, killing four village guards and a civilian, the military said.

It also said unidentified gunmen fatally shot an ethnic Tamil aid worker elsewhere in the region.

Insurgents in a jeep opened fire on the roadblock in Vavuniya district, a frontier between government-controlled and rebel-held areas, killing four village guards, said an officer at the Defense Ministry's media center.

Three of the four guards were **females**, said the officer, who spoke on condition of anonymity due to policy.

The driver of a public bus passing the roadblock at the time of the attack was also killed, while one policeman was wounded, the officer said.

Village guards are recruited from ethnic Sinhalese villages bordering rebel areas in northern Sri Lanka, to protect their homes against attack.

Separately, unidentified gunmen shot dead a Tamil staff member of the Danish Demining Group in the northern Jaffna peninsula, the officer said.

On Sunday, two separate clashes between rebels and security forces in Vavuniya left nine rebels and a soldier dead, military spokesman Brig. Prasad Samarasinghe said earlier.

The death tolls could not be independently confirmed, and the rebels' military spokesman, Rasiah Ilanthirayan, did not answer telephone calls seeking comment.

The **Tamil Tigers** have been fighting since 1983 for an independent state in northern and eastern Sri Lanka for minority Tamils, who have faced discrimination under years of majority Sinhalese-dominated governments.

The war has killed about 70,000 people.

A 2002 cease-fire that had halted most of the fighting has collapsed over the past 21 months into renewed violence, in which more than 5,000 people have died and hundreds of thousands of others have been displaced.

Sri Lanka military: Tamil rebel attack kills 4 village guards, 1 civilian in north

Load-Date: August 21, 2007

End of Document

Suspected Tamil rebels gun down Sri Lankan broadcaster and husband

Deutsche Presse-Agentur

August 12, 2005, Friday 11230811:23:08 Central European Time

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Section: Politics

Length: 307 words

Dateline: Colombo

Body

Suspected Tamil rebels on Friday gunned down a **female** broadcaster who was involved in the production of anti-rebel radio programmes for the state media along with her husband, police said.

The broadcaster, Relangai Selvarajha, and her husband were shot dead inside a travel firm they operated in Bambalapitiya, 6 kilometres south of Colombo, on Friday afternoon.

Journalist Relangi Selvarajah was Tamil and a full-time journalist at the state-run Sri Lanka Broadcasting Cooperation (SLBC) a few years ago. She was working as a part-time TV presenter at the Sri Lanka Rupavahini Cooperation (SLRC) at the time of her killing.

But she was known produce a popular radio programme that is critical of the rebels of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (**LTTE**) and the couple was closely associated with an anti-rebel group known as the People's Liberation Organisation of Tamil Eelam (PLOTE), police said.

The main media rights group in Sri Lanka, the Free Media Movement (FMM), strongly condemned the attack, saying that the killings bore the trademark of the ongoing killing spree of rival Tamil armed groups.

"Although FMM does not point the finger at any group for this killing, it notes that both of them are said to have close connections with anti-**LTTE** former militant group PLOTE", the FMM said in a statement.

"FMM as on previous occasion earnestly requests armed Tamil groups and movements to engage in peaceful means to sort out their differences and not to make journalists a target of their battles," the statement said.

The group called on the government to initiate a speedy inquiry into the killings.

The murders were seen as revenge for the slaying of a prominent journalist working for the pro-rebel Tamilnet website, Dharamaratnam Sivaram, on April 29. A PLOTE member is in custody on suspicion of committing the murder. dpa ad jh

Load-Date: August 19, 2005

DOOM & GLOOM

Sydney MX (Australia)

November 28, 2007 Wednesday

SYD Edition

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Section: WORLD; Pg. 14

Length: 303 words

Body

US SOLDIERS KILL **WOMEN**, CHILD

SEVEN Iraqis, including three **women** and a child, were killed by US fire, as a suicide bomber disguised as a shepherd killed seven in an attack on police in the city of Baquba.

Three **women** and a man were killed when their minibus came under US fire in Baghdad's northeastern Al-Shaab neighbourhood, while US troops also opened fire on a car that tried to speed through a roadblock during an operation against al-Qaida, killing a child and two men.

FIREWORKS EXPLOSION CLAIMS 13

AN EXPLOSION in an illegal fireworks workshop in central China killed 13 people just days after police launched a safety crackdown against fireworks manufacturers.

The blast in rural Hunan province tore apart a house where villagers were assembling the firecrackers that many Chinese people let off at weddings and other celebrations.

MAN DIES AT WEST BANK RALLY

PALESTINIAN police killed one man in the West Bank as they broke up rallies against a US peace meeting, while Hamas supporters in Gaza rallied against the conference.

US President George Bush said Israelis and Palestinians had agreed to launch immediate, bilateral talks aimed at reaching a comprehensive peace deal by late 2008.

MINE BLAST LEAVES 13 DEAD

THIRTEEN civilians were killed by a Sri Lankan military mine in rebel-held Kilinochchi, the **Tamil Tigers** said, hours before the rebel leadership was due to issue its annual policy statement.

The blast, denied by the military, is the latest claimed action in intensified fighting between government forces and rebels.

TYPHOON DEATH TOLL RISES TO 17

DOOM & GLOOM

THE death toll from Typhoon Mitag rose to 17 in the Philippines, as search operations continued for a missing air force jet and a fishing vessel with 27 people on board.

The typhoon killed 17 people and left four others missing, the civil defence office said.

Load-Date: November 28, 2007

End of Document