

Date and Time: Saturday, May 4, 2024 2:35:00PM EEST

Job Number: 223508271

Documents (100)

1. Human Rights: Guinea Conakry, Iran and Sri Lanka

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE **Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

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News Publication Type: Newspapers, Newswires & Press

Releases; Timeline: Mar 31, 2009 to Nov 30, 2009

2. HUMAN RIGHTS: GUINEA CONAKRY, IRAN AND SRI LANKA

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE **Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers, Newswires & Press

Releases; Timeline: Mar 31, 2009 to Nov 30, 2009

3._400 Lankan asylum seekers in Australia

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE **Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

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News Publication Type: Newspapers, Newswires & Press

Releases; Timeline: Mar 31, 2009 to Nov 30, 2009

4. Sri Lanka rejects truce calls as Britain demands war crimes probe

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE **Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

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News Publication Type: Newspapers, Newswires & Press

Releases; Timeline: Mar 31, 2009 to Nov 30, 2009

5. Sri Lankan protest heads into third day in London

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers, Newswires & Press Releases; Timeline: Mar 31, 2009 to Nov 30, 2009

6. India wants to close case

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE **Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

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News Publication Type: Newspapers, Newswires & Press Releases; Timeline: Mar 31, 2009 to Nov 30, 2009

7. India wants to close case

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE **Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers, Newswires & Press

Releases; Timeline: Mar 31, 2009 to Nov 30, 2009

8. DAILY PRESS BRIEFING BY OFFICE OF SPOKESPERSON FOR THE SECRETARY-GENERAL OF MAY

<u>15</u>

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE **Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

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News Publication Type: Newspapers, Newswires & Press

Releases; Timeline: Mar 31, 2009 to Nov 30, 2009

9. This time the fight will be more long-drawn and bitter...

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE **Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

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News Publication Type: Newspapers, Newswires & Press

Releases; Timeline: Mar 31, 2009 to Nov 30, 2009

10. Ban Ki-Moon to visit Lanka on Friday

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE **Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers, Newswires & Press

Releases; Timeline: Mar 31, 2009 to Nov 30, 2009

11. THE TAMIL TUMULT SRI LANKA PROTEST CROWD IN COP CLASH

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE **Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers, Newswires & Press

Releases; Timeline: Mar 31, 2009 to Nov 30, 2009

12. THE TAMIL TUMULT SRI LANKA PROTEST CROWD IN COP CLASH

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE **Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers, Newswires & Press

Releases; Timeline: Mar 31, 2009 to Nov 30, 2009

13. Pindi-Peshawar incidents-linkage?

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE **Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

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News Publication Type: Newspapers, Newswires & Press

Releases; Timeline: Mar 31, 2009 to Nov 30, 2009

14. Outcome of Sri Lanka 's Long War May Hang on Fate of Insurgent Leader

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE **Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

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News Publication Type: Newspapers, Newswires & Press

Releases; Timeline: Mar 31, 2009 to Nov 30, 2009

15. Letters

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE **Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

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News Publication Type: Newspapers, Newswires & Press Releases; Timeline: Mar 31, 2009 to Nov 30, 2009

16. <u>Standoff on the Gardiner Police arrive in riot gear after Tamil protesters block all lanes of traffic in outcry</u> over Sri Lanka

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE **Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers, Newswires & Press

Releases; Timeline: Mar 31, 2009 to Nov 30, 2009

17. 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 Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers, Newswires & Press

Releases; Timeline: Mar 31, 2009 to Nov 30, 2009

18. ANALYSIS: A complex setting for a difficult war -Abbas Rashid

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE **Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers, Newswires & Press

Releases; Timeline: Mar 31, 2009 to Nov 30, 2009

19. World

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE **Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

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News Publication Type: Newspapers, Newswires & Press

Releases; Timeline: Mar 31, 2009 to Nov 30, 2009

20. 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 Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers, Newswires & Press

Releases; Timeline: Mar 31, 2009 to Nov 30, 2009



21. Lankan protesters scuffle with UK police

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE **Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

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News Publication Type: Newspapers, Newswires & Press

Releases; Timeline: Mar 31, 2009 to Nov 30, 2009

22. Aid worker `supported terrorism'

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE **Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

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News Publication Type: Newspapers, Newswires & Press

Releases; Timeline: Mar 31, 2009 to Nov 30, 2009

23. Secretary-General to head to Sri Lanka later this week

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE **Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

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News Publication Type: Newspapers, Newswires & Press

Releases; Timeline: Mar 31, 2009 to Nov 30, 2009

24. Tigers resisting despite calls to surrender: S.Lanka military

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE **Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers, Newswires & Press

Releases; Timeline: Mar 31, 2009 to Nov 30, 2009

25. Injured Tamils overwhelming hospital, says doctor in Sri Lanka

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE **Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

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News Publication Type: Newspapers, Newswires & Press

Releases; Timeline: Mar 31, 2009 to Nov 30, 2009

26. Banning smoking in workplaces good for your heart



Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE **Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

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News Publication Type: Newspapers, Newswires & Press

Releases; Timeline: Mar 31, 2009 to Nov 30, 2009

27. Sri Lanka rejects truce calls as UN rushes back top negotiator

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE **Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers, Newswires & Press

Releases; Timeline: Mar 31, 2009 to Nov 30, 2009

28. Eleven killed by bomb in CTO

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE **Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

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Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers, Newswires & Press

Releases; Timeline: Mar 31, 2009 to Nov 30, 2009

29. Tiger chief built ruthless insurgency, but errors did him in

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE **Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

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News Publication Type: Newspapers, Newswires & Press

Releases; Timeline: Mar 31, 2009 to Nov 30, 2009

30. When seeking the rainbows

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE **Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

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News Publication Type: Newspapers, Newswires & Press

Releases; Timeline: Mar 31, 2009 to Nov 30, 2009

31. <u>Families trapped in Sri Lanka camps fear for missing children Up to a fifth of refugee Tamil children have</u> been lost or abducted, reports Andrew Buncombe from Colombo

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE **Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

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News Publication Type: Newspapers, Newswires & Press

Releases; Timeline: Mar 31, 2009 to Nov 30, 2009

32. SECRETARY-GENERAL TO HEAD TO SRI LANKA LATER THIS WEEK

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE **Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers, Newswires & Press

Releases; Timeline: Mar 31, 2009 to Nov 30, 2009

33. Sri Lanka rejects truce calls as UN sends chief of staff

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE **Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

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News Publication Type: Newspapers, Newswires & Press

Releases; Timeline: Mar 31, 2009 to Nov 30, 2009

34. <u>Sri Lanka</u>: A tough war and a tougher recovery Economy is picking up but the Tamils remain uncertain about future

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE **Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

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News Publication Type: Newspapers, Newswires & Press

Releases; Timeline: Mar 31, 2009 to Nov 30, 2009

35. 'We are people asking for help' 172 DAYS AND COUNTING: Peaceful Toronto protesters keep Tamil flags flying at U.S. consulate

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE **Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers, Newswires & Press

Releases; Timeline: Mar 31, 2009 to Nov 30, 2009

36. De-clawed; Sri Lanka says Tamil Tiger leader is dead; 25-year insurgency finished

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE **Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

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News Publication Type: Newspapers, Newswires & Press

Releases; Timeline: Mar 31, 2009 to Nov 30, 2009

37. SO MR MILIBAND THINKS TERRORISM IS 'JUSTIFIABLE'. THAT MAKES HIM EVEN MORE OF A GRADE-A CHUMP THAN I ALREADY THOUGHT

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE **Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers, Newswires & Press

Releases; Timeline: Mar 31, 2009 to Nov 30, 2009

38. Sri Lanka says war over, rebel leader killed

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE **Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers, Newswires & Press

Releases; Timeline: Mar 31, 2009 to Nov 30, 2009

39. The world was wrong to oppose a military solution in Sri Lanka

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE **Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

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News Publication Type: Newspapers, Newswires & Press

Releases; Timeline: Mar 31, 2009 to Nov 30, 2009

40. chatroom

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE **Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

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News Publication Type: Newspapers, Newswires & Press

Releases; Timeline: Mar 31, 2009 to Nov 30, 2009

41. 5 Minute Herald; Breaking news at CalgaryHerald.com

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

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News Publication Type: Newspapers, Newswires & Press

Releases; Timeline: Mar 31, 2009 to Nov 30, 2009

42. Let's get a grip and let the refugee process unfold

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE **Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

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News Publication Type: Newspapers, Newswires & Press

Releases; Timeline: Mar 31, 2009 to Nov 30, 2009

43. Sri Lanka says war over, rebel leader killed

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE **Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers, Newswires & Press

Releases; Timeline: Mar 31, 2009 to Nov 30, 2009

44. Budget to focus on rebuilding N&E - Bogollagama

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE **Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

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News Publication Type: Newspapers, Newswires & Press

Releases; Timeline: Mar 31, 2009 to Nov 30, 2009

45. 69 Tamil civilians seek protection with security forces

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE **Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers, Newswires & Press

Releases; Timeline: Mar 31, 2009 to Nov 30, 2009

46. Social stigma, main hindrance to proper treatment

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE **Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

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News Publication Type: Newspapers, Newswires & Press

Releases; Timeline: Mar 31, 2009 to Nov 30, 2009

47. DAILY PRESS BRIEFING BY OFFICES OF SPOKESPERSON FOR SECRETARY-GENERAL

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE **Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

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News Publication Type: Newspapers, Newswires & Press

Releases; Timeline: Mar 31, 2009 to Nov 30, 2009

48. Equal treatment for every person Liberation is not just for the soldiers

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

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News Publication Type: Newspapers, Newswires & Press

Releases; Timeline: Mar 31, 2009 to Nov 30, 2009

49. Pakistan faces newer problems from within

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

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News Publication Type: Newspapers, Newswires & Press

Releases; Timeline: Mar 31, 2009 to Nov 30, 2009

50. BEST OF THE TIMES

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

Publication Type: Newspapers, Newswires & Press News

Releases; Timeline: Mar 31, 2009 to Nov 30, 2009

51. BEST OF THE TIMES

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers, Newswires & Press

Releases; Timeline: Mar 31, 2009 to Nov 30, 2009

52. STATE DEPARTMENT CONDUCTS DAILY PRESS BRIEFING, MAY 11

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE **Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

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News Publication Type: Newspapers, Newswires & Press

Releases; Timeline: Mar 31, 2009 to Nov 30, 2009

53. DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN DAILY PRESS BRIEFING WASHINGTON, DC MAY 11, 2009

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE **Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

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News Publication Type: Newspapers, Newswires & Press

Releases; Timeline: Mar 31, 2009 to Nov 30, 2009

54. 2nd Ld Sri Lankan troops capture rebels' last stronghold, kill more than 400 rebels

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE **Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

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News Publication Type: Newspapers, Newswires & Press

Releases; Timeline: Mar 31, 2009 to Nov 30, 2009

55. GOOD MORNING, CAMPERS! AND WELCOME TO HI-DE-HI BRITAIN

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE **Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

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News Publication Type: Newspapers, Newswires & Press

Releases; Timeline: Mar 31, 2009 to Nov 30, 2009

56. Malicious Intent

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE **Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

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News Publication Type: Newspapers, Newswires & Press

Releases; Timeline: Mar 31, 2009 to Nov 30, 2009

57. Sri Lankan rebels' woman political wing leader arrested



Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE **Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

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News Publication Type: Newspapers, Newswires & Press

Releases; Timeline: Mar 31, 2009 to Nov 30, 2009

58. Sri Lankan doctors say they exaggerated war deaths

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE **Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

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News Publication Type: Newspapers, Newswires & Press

Releases; Timeline: Mar 31, 2009 to Nov 30, 2009

59. 2nd Ld Sri Lankan troops capture rebels' last stronghold, kill more than 400 rebels

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE **Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

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News Publication Type: Newspapers, Newswires & Press

Releases; Timeline: Mar 31, 2009 to Nov 30, 2009

60. Sri Lankan rebels' woman political wing leader arrested

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE **Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers, Newswires & Press

Releases; Timeline: Mar 31, 2009 to Nov 30, 2009

61. Sri Lankan doctors say they exaggerated war deaths

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE **Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers, Newswires & Press

Releases; Timeline: Mar 31, 2009 to Nov 30, 2009

62. Sri Lankan doctors say they exaggerated war deaths

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

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News Publication Type: Newspapers, Newswires & Press Releases; Timeline: Mar 31, 2009 to Nov 30, 2009

63. Deport migrants without hearings

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE **Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

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Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers, Newswires & Press

Releases; Timeline: Mar 31, 2009 to Nov 30, 2009

64. Red Cross warns of civilian deaths in Sri Lanka

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE **Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

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News Publication Type: Newspapers, Newswires & Press

Releases; Timeline: Mar 31, 2009 to Nov 30, 2009

65. Arrests lead to discovery of bomb kits in Sri Lanka

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE **Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

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News Publication Type: Newspapers, Newswires & Press

Releases; Timeline: Mar 31, 2009 to Nov 30, 2009

66. Winning the war, a triumph of all people

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE **Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

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News Publication Type: Newspapers, Newswires & Press

Releases; Timeline: Mar 31, 2009 to Nov 30, 2009

67. Troops secure Valayarmadam

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE **Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

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News Publication Type: Newspapers, Newswires & Press

Releases; Timeline: Mar 31, 2009 to Nov 30, 2009

68. Kouchner, Miliband arrive tomorrow

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE **Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

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Publication Type: Newspapers, Newswires & Press News

Releases; Timeline: Mar 31, 2009 to Nov 30, 2009

69. Nice to have athletes from North and East

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE Search Type: Terms and Connectors

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Content Type Narrowed by

Publication Type: Newspapers, Newswires & Press News

Releases; Timeline: Mar 31, 2009 to Nov 30, 2009

70. Battling for a better frame of mind

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE **Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers, Newswires & Press

Releases; Timeline: Mar 31, 2009 to Nov 30, 2009

71. DAILY PRESS BRIEFING BY OFFICE OF SPOKESPERSON FOR THE SECRETARY-GENERAL OF MAY

11

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE Search Type: Terms and Connectors

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Publication Type: Newspapers, Newswires & Press News

Releases; Timeline: Mar 31, 2009 to Nov 30, 2009

72. Reports of Pottu Amman, Thamlini arrests incorrect

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

Publication Type: Newspapers, Newswires & Press

Releases; Timeline: Mar 31, 2009 to Nov 30, 2009

73. Countering terrorism: When the battle within becomes the battle without

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE **Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers, Newswires & Press

Releases; Timeline: Mar 31, 2009 to Nov 30, 2009

74. Tamils in stand-off with cops

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE **Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

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News Publication Type: Newspapers, Newswires & Press

Releases; Timeline: Mar 31, 2009 to Nov 30, 2009

75. Sri Lanka: Humanitarian disaster in making

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE **Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers, Newswires & Press

Releases; Timeline: Mar 31, 2009 to Nov 30, 2009

76. Police the guardians of law - IGP

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE **Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

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News Publication Type: Newspapers, Newswires & Press

Releases; Timeline: Mar 31, 2009 to Nov 30, 2009

77. Over 6,200 troops lost in last phase of Sri Lanka war: gov't

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE **Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

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News Publication Type: Newspapers, Newswires & Press

Releases; Timeline: Mar 31, 2009 to Nov 30, 2009



78. PM's Indon plan all at sea -- Boatpeople threaten suicide as Oceanic Viking standoff intensifies

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE **Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers, Newswires & Press

Releases; Timeline: Mar 31, 2009 to Nov 30, 2009

79. PM's Indon plan all at sea -- Boatpeople threaten suicide as Oceanic Viking standoff intensifies

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News Publication Type: Newspapers, Newswires & Press

Releases; Timeline: Mar 31, 2009 to Nov 30, 2009

80. Save the Maoists

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE **Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

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News Publication Type: Newspapers, Newswires & Press

Releases; Timeline: Mar 31, 2009 to Nov 30, 2009

81. Police locate live grenades

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE **Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

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Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers, Newswires & Press

Releases; Timeline: Mar 31, 2009 to Nov 30, 2009

82. After the war, winning the peace

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE **Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

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News Publication Type: Newspapers, Newswires & Press

Releases; Timeline: Mar 31, 2009 to Nov 30, 2009

83. No Headline In Original

Client/Matter: -None-



Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE **Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

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News Publication Type: Newspapers, Newswires & Press Releases; Timeline: Mar 31, 2009 to Nov 30, 2009

84. Reaching out for a better tomorrow

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE Search Type: Terms and Connectors

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Content Type Narrowed by

Publication Type: Newspapers, Newswires & Press News

Releases; Timeline: Mar 31, 2009 to Nov 30, 2009

85. Reaching out for a better tomorrow

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers, Newswires & Press

Releases; Timeline: Mar 31, 2009 to Nov 30, 2009

86. 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 Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers, Newswires & Press

Releases; Timeline: Mar 31, 2009 to Nov 30, 2009

87. In spite of my most diligent efforts, there would unquestionably be some raping - Gen. George S Patton

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers, Newswires & Press

Releases; Timeline: Mar 31, 2009 to Nov 30, 2009

88. 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 Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers, Newswires & Press

Releases; Timeline: Mar 31, 2009 to Nov 30, 2009

89. Female Tiger leader nabbed

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE **Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers, Newswires & Press

Releases; Timeline: Mar 31, 2009 to Nov 30, 2009

90. Sri Lanka says 100 Tigers killed

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE **Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers, Newswires & Press

Releases; Timeline: Mar 31, 2009 to Nov 30, 2009

91. Confronting false dichotomies

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE **Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers, Newswires & Press

Releases; Timeline: Mar 31, 2009 to Nov 30, 2009

92. Tamil protesters continue to block London's Parliament Square over Lanka offensive

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE **Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers, Newswires & Press

Releases; Timeline: Mar 31, 2009 to Nov 30, 2009

93. Tamil protesters continue to block London's Parliament Square over Lanka offensive

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE **Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers, Newswires & Press Releases; Timeline: Mar 31, 2009 to Nov 30, 2009

94. View Points

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE **Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers, Newswires & Press

Releases; Timeline: Mar 31, 2009 to Nov 30, 2009

95. President joins street crowds celebrating the victory

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE **Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers, Newswires & Press

Releases; Timeline: Mar 31, 2009 to Nov 30, 2009

96. Countrywide rejoicing

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE **Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers, Newswires & Press

Releases; Timeline: Mar 31, 2009 to Nov 30, 2009

97. Sri Lanka 's South unites to help North

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE **Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers, Newswires & Press

Releases; Timeline: Mar 31, 2009 to Nov 30, 2009

98. World - Sri Lanka hospital hit again

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE **Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers, Newswires & Press

Releases; Timeline: Mar 31, 2009 to Nov 30, 2009

99._chatroom

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE **Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers, Newswires & Press

Releases; Timeline: Mar 31, 2009 to Nov 30, 2009

100. Villagers return home

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE **Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers, Newswires & Press

Releases; Timeline: Mar 31, 2009 to Nov 30, 2009



Human Rights: Guinea Conakry, Iran and Sri Lanka

Targeted News Service

October 22, 2009 Thursday 2:00 AM EST

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Length: 648 words

Byline: Targeted News Service **Dateline:** BRUSSELS, Belgium

Body

The European Union's European Parliament issued the following news release:

Parliament adopted three urgent resolutions on the need for the EU to impose sanctions further to the violent repression of a demonstration in Guinea Conakry, the abolition of the death penalty in Iran, and access for humanitarian organisations to the 250,000 civilians displaced by the civil war and held in camps in Sri Lanka.

Guinea

Further to the military junta's violent repression of a demonstration for democracy, MEPs call in a resolution for the EU to impose sanctions (including an arms embargo) against this West African country. In particular, MEPs condemn acts of sexual violence against <u>women</u> and girls.

Parliament calls on the Council to take "appropriate measures", under Article 96 of the Cotonou Agreement, which provides for measures, including suspension of the agreement, in the event of human rights violations or failure to respect democratic principles.

Member States are urged to suspend deliveries of arms and munitions to the army and police.

The resolution, which welcomes the setting up of an independent international committee of inquiry under UN auspices calls for measures to guarantee the safety of witnesses and victims' family members who will be heard by this committee.

Iran

MEPs call for the release of prisoners arrested in the demonstrations that followed the June 2009 elections, the abolition of the death penalty and respect for press freedom, in a resolution on the human rights situation in this Islamic republic.

The resolution condemns the massive and excessive use of force, arbitrary arrests and possible torture to repress protest movements since Iran's controversial presidential election. MEPs ask that the International Committee of the Red Cross be permitted to see all prisoners, without exception.

MEPs reiterate their call for the death penalty to be abolished. (6). They condemn death sentences and executions in Iran, and in particular those passed or enforced on juvenile delinquents or minors. MEPs protest against the

Human Rights: Guinea Conakry, Iran and Sri Lanka

execution in Iran, on 11 October, of minor Behnood Shojaee, who was hanged in breach of recognised international legal guarantees in this area.

The resolution deplores the systematic restriction of freedom of information by blocking internet sites, which are prevented from reporting on unauthorised demonstrations, and the creation of new restrictions, which require journalists to obtain an authorisation before reporting on any event. MEPs call for the immediate release of Fariba Pajooh, a young Iranian-Canadian journalist and celebrated blogger, who was arrested at home in Teheran on 24 August 2009.

Sri Lanka

MEPs deplore the fact that over 250,000 Tamil civilians are still held in camps, contrary to undertakings given by the Colombo government. The resolution asks that their return be organised and that humanitarian organisations be given free access to the camps in order to provide the necessary humanitarian assistance.

Tamil leaders must commit themselves to a political settlement and renounce terrorism and violence once and for all. The government must respect human rights in the conduct of trials of *LTTE* members, says the resolution.

The Sri Lankan government must cease its repression of the media in the name of its anti-terrorist legislation, which must be overhauled, and press freedom must be recognised, stress MEPs.

The Sri Lankan government must also put more effort into clearing minefields, which are serious obstacle to reconstruction and economic recovery in this south-east Asian country. Members call on the government to take measures to comply with the Ottawa Treaty (Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on their Destruction).

Contact: Thomas Dudrap, 322/284-4524

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HUMAN RIGHTS: GUINEA CONAKRY, IRAN AND SRI LANKA

States News Service
October 22, 2009 Thursday

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Length: 628 words

Byline: States News Service

Dateline: BRUSSELS, Belgium

Body

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HUMAN RIGHTS: GUINEA CONAKRY, IRAN AND SRI LANKA

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400 Lankan asylum seekers in Australia

Daily Mirror (Sri Lanka)
October 15, 2009 Thursday

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Length: 599 words

Dateline: Sri Lanka

Body

Sri Lanka, Oct. 15 -- More than 400 Sri Lankan asylum seekers who had reached Australia in the past 12 months are being held at the Christmas Island detention Centre, while some 260 others who were intercepted en route to Australia continued their standoff with Indonesian authorities, Australia said yesterday.

Australian Immigration and Citizenship Department spokesman Sandi Logan told Daily Mirror online there were no former <u>LTTE</u> militants or any members of other terrorist groups among the refugees - whom Australia terms as 'irregular maritime arrivals.'

"There have been more than 400 Sri Lankan irregular maritime arrivals over the past 12 months. Some have returned to Sri Lanka voluntarily," he said.

Mr. Logan said all asylum seekers were interviewed to check whether they fell within Australia's obligations towards refugees and if they don't they are then repatriated either voluntarily or forcibly.

"Most of the asylum seekers are sent back voluntarily under protection. But there are those who refuse to go back and those people are forced to return," he said.

When asked to comment on a specific case where it was reported that one Sri Lankan who was sent back was reportedly arrested on charges of being involved in people smuggling, Mr. Logan said his department had heard about it through the Australian High Commission in Sri Lanka and added that he was now in the hands of the Sri Lankan legal system as there were serious charges against him.

Mr. Logan said the key message Australia wanted to give was that it would continue to operate its border protection policy and dismissed the suggestion that this was a weak area.

"We have a multi layered border protection service in place and we have deployed extra resources," he said when asked about the system that was in place to prevent illegal asylum seekers from reaching Australia.

Meanwhile Australian media quoted the Indonesian navy as saying that 260 Sri Lankans on board a boat in West Java were no longer able to blow themselves up as they had earlier threatened.

A man named Alex who was one of those on board had earlier said they had threatened to blow themselves up if they were forced ashore, but Indonesian navy Colonel Irawan said the group was no longer threatening to commit suicide.

He said the group had no explosives aboard after their gas stoves and diesel fuel were confiscated.

400 Lankan asylum seekers in Australia

The navy said it was negotiating with the Sri Lankans, as human rights were the first priority and that talks would progress one day at a time.

The boat was intercepted by the Indonesian navy on Sunday after a tip-off from Australian authorities and a call from Australian Prime Minister Kevin Rudd to Indonesia's President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono.

Indonesian navy spokesman First Admiral Iskander Sitompul, told ABC that many of the 260 men, <u>women</u> and children aboard the boat moored at a West Java port feel traumatized about going ashore as they had been "disturbed and tortured" during their journey from Sri Lanka, which began in late July.

He said the asylum seekers had lived in the jungle in Malaysia for several months before a people-smuggling syndicate took their passports and promised to deliver them to Australia.

Harry Purwanto -the head of the Immigration Division of the Law and Human Rights office - told ABC he was in Sumatra surveying a new immigration detention centre built with Australian aid, as a possible location for the asylum seekers. Published by HT Syndication with permission from Daily Mirror Sri Lanka. For more information on news feed please contact Sarabjit Jagirdar at https://dication@hindustantimes.com

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Sri Lanka rejects truce calls as Britain demands war crimes probe

Agence France Presse -- English
May 14, 2009 Thursday 3:08 PM GMT

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Length: 667 words

Byline: Mel Gunasekera

Dateline: COLOMBO, May 14 2009

Body

Sri Lanka rejected international calls to halt its final offensive against Tamil rebels on Thursday, hours after the United Nations Security Council called for civilian lives to be spared.

Instead, troops pressed ahead with their major push aimed at completely defeating the remaining Tiger fighters, the military said as the former colonial power, Britain, raised the prospect of a war crimes investigation.

The military insists that it does not target civilians and that the current offensive is also aimed at freeing tens of thousands of civilians still held by Tiger rebels as a human shield.

"More than 2,000 people crossed over to government-controlled areas today (Thursday)" and a further 2,000 people were lined up waiting to flee, military spokesman Udaya Nanayakkara said.

He said the Tigers gunned down at least four people who tried to make a dash to safety from the shrinking rebelheld territory along the northeastern coast of the island. Another 14 were wounded, he added.

Britain said the humanitarian situation in Sri Lanka was "truly shocking."

"We would support an early investigation into all incidents that may have resulted in civilian casualties ... to determine whether war crimes have been committed," junior foreign minister Bill Rammell said.

"The UN's estimate, if it is accurate, of over 6,500 civilian deaths since January is truly shocking and appalling," he added, in a parliamentary debate on the military standoff on the island nation.

Amnesty International called Wednesday for a probe into "the mounting evidence of serious violations of international law," and the UN's human rights chief Navi Pillay has already said both sides may be guilty of war crimes.

Sri Lanka remained defiant despite the calls to halt the onslaught against the Tamil separatists who are said to be on the verge of defeat after 37 years of fighting.

Sri Lanka rejects truce calls as Britain demands war crimes probe

"We are not going to succumb to international pressure to stop the offensive," said Media Minister Lakshman Yapa Abeywardena, who argued that Sri Lanka was being unfairly targeted.

"In Pakistan and Afghanistan there are similar conflicts but no one is asking them to have a peace agreement or a ceasefire," Abeywardena told reporters.

"There is no international pressure there," he added. "Why only target us?"

His comments followed a statement issued late Wednesday by the UN Security Council urging both Colombo and the Tigers to "ensure the safety of civilians" and "respect their obligations under international humanitarian law."

Sri Lankan authorities estimate that up to 20,000 civilians are being held in the small northeastern pocket of coastal jungle where government troops have cornered the rump of the once-powerful Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (*LTTE*).

The United Nations has said as many as 50,000 may be trapped -- huddled under plastic sheeting, in shallow bunkers and with little food, water or medical facilities.

Video footage released by pro-rebel websites showed wounded <u>women</u> carrying small children who themselves were in bandages and screaming in pain. School yards had been turned into emergency treatment centres.

US President Barack Obama Wednesday called on the Sri Lankan government to allow UN humanitarian teams access to the combat zone to ease the unfolding "catastrophe" there.

"That is not possible," Sri Lankan minister Abeywardena said.

"As a responsible government, we can't guarantee their safety. Even the ICRC (International Committee of the Red Cross) is finding it difficult to deliver food supplies there."

The UN and Obama also appealed to Sri Lanka to stop using heavy weapons to avoid civilian casualties, as troops pushed to dismantle the last remaining rebel stronghold.

Around 100 people have been reported killed in the shelling of a makeshift hospital inside the conflict zone in recent days.

A rebel statement said thousands of civilians have died this week in artillery attacks, but the government insisted the Tigers were targeting civilians in a bid to encourage international intervention.

bur-aj/mtp

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Sri Lankan protest heads into third day in London

Agence France Presse -- English
April 8, 2009 Wednesday 1:39 AM GMT

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Length: 602 words

Byline: Katherine Haddon

Dateline: LONDON, April 8 2009

Body

A protest outside Britain's parliament by Tamils urging London to intervene in Sri Lanka's conflict stretched into a third day Wednesday, with hundreds refusing to move despite police warnings.

Seven people were arrested on Tuesday after repeated scuffles with police, who warned they could be forced to make a "huge number of arrests" if protesters refused to leave the site they have occupied since Monday afternoon.

But 300-400 protesters remained at the site in the early hours of Wednesday, police said, from a peak of about 3,000.

The overwhelmingly peaceful protestors are calling for an immediate ceasefire in Sri Lanka and want former colonial ruler Britain to intervene with Colombo to protect the Tamil people, who they say are being targeted.

Many said they would not disperse until they receive a firm commitment of action from the British government. "We will stay here as long as the killing goes on," protester Guhan Gukendharan told AFP.

Police have warned that they could be forced to make "a huge number of arrests" unless the demonstration is dispersed.

It is illegal under a law which prohibits demonstrations close to parliament without prior police permission.

Scuffles flared Tuesday as police confiscated flags which they said represented the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (*LTTE*), whom Sri Lankan forces are fighting and who are a banned organisation in Britain.

Protestors insisted the red flags they were flying were Tamil national flags, not connected to the Tigers, and accused the police of brutality.

London Ambulance Service said it had treated 10 people at the scene for minor injuries, of which five were taken to hospital.

"The police have been terrible today," said Yalini Thayaparan, 34, who was at the protest Tuesday with her 15-year-old daughter and other family members. "It's really, really hard, they push all the ladies, they hit lots of boys."

Sri Lankan protest heads into third day in London

The noisy demonstration -- filled with drums and chanting -- began Monday afternoon. Police deployed early Tuesday to clear away the protestors blocking Westminster Bridge and surrounding streets.

Passions were running high with many protestors saying they had family members who were killed or wounded in recent violence in Sri Lanka, although the demonstrators insisted their action would remain peaceful.

"It's because of the bombing and killing in Sri Lanka. They have started to use chemical bombs in Sri Lanka," said Nathan Kumar, chairman of the British Tamil Forum.

Four lifeboats were scrambled after two protestors jumped into the nearby River Thames. They were taken to hospital.

Police chief Jerry Savill said his officers were showing restraint. "We've been remarkably tolerant really," he told the BBC, explaining that police had to be careful because **women** and children were also among the demonstrators.

The demonstration was staged as Tamil Tiger rebels face a final assault by government forces in Sri Lanka, who have killed at least 525 rebels in several days of fierce fighting in the northeast of the island.

Sri Lankans also held protests in Norway, where dozens of Tamils blocked the entrance to the premier's office in Oslo, calling on the nation to act in its role as mediator in the conflict.

British Foreign Secretary David Miliband has said he was "deeply" worried by reports of civilians being trapped by fighting in Sri Lanka, adding: "The need for a humanitarian ceasefire is now even more urgent."

The United Nations and other foreign aid organisations say as many as 150,000 civilians may still be trapped in the war zone, although the Sri Lankan government insists the figure is less than half that.

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Load-Date: April 8, 2009

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India wants to close case

The Weekender (South Africa)

May 19, 2009 Tuesday

Business Day Edition

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Section: UNREST, CONFLICTS & WAR

Length: 142 words **Byline:** Foreign Staff

Body

India wants to close case

New Delhi

INDIA would ask Sri Lanka for scientific confirmation of the death of the <u>Tamil Tigers</u> leader so it could close a case connected to the murder of former prime minister Rajiv Gandhi, police said yesterday.

<u>Tamil Tigers</u> leader Velupillai Prabhakaran, his intelligence chief Pottu Amman and rebel <u>women</u>'s wing leader Akila were wanted in India for planning the 1991 assassination of Gandhi in the southern Indian state of Tamil Nadu.

Akila's name was dropped after she was killed by the Sri Lankan army in 1995. Defence officials yesterday said Prabhakaran and Ammam were killed while trying to escape advancing government troops.

"The agency will contact the Sri Lankan authorities, through the Indian foreign ministry, for authentication of Prabhakaran's death," India's Central Bureau of Investigations said. Sapa-AFP

Load-Date: May 22, 2009



India wants to close case

Business Day (South Africa)

May 19, 2009

Business Day Edition

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Section: UNREST, CONFLICTS & WAR

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Load-Date: May 22, 2009

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<u>DAILY PRESS BRIEFING BY OFFICE OF SPOKESPERSON FOR THE</u> SECRETARY-GENERAL OF MAY 15

US State News

May 19, 2009 Tuesday 9:43 AM EST

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Length: 3407 words

Body

UNITED NATIONS, May 15 -- The United Nations Office of the Secretary General issued the text of the following statement:

The following is a near-verbatim transcript of today's noon briefing by Michele Montas, Spokesperson for the Secretary-General. Good afternoon, all. ** Cote d'Ivoire Statement We first have a statement attributable to the Spokesperson for the Secretary-General on Cote d'Ivoire. The Secretary-General welcomes the announcement by the Government of Cote d'Ivoire of 29 November 2009 as the date for holding the long-awaited presidential election. The Secretary-General notes that this date was set based on advice received from the Independent Electoral Commission.

He urges all Ivorian parties to respect this date and to work together to complete the remaining tasks related to the electoral process. The Secretary-General assures the Ivorian parties that the United Nations will continue to provide the necessary support to help them organize and conduct free, fair and credible elections, including through the certification mandate of his Special Representative for Cote d'Ivoire. And we have of course that statement upstairs in French. **Security Council The Security Council just started consultations on Somalia. It is discussing a draft presidential statement, which it expects to adopt today, as they will hold a formal meeting after consultations. ** Somalia Also on Somalia, the UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR) is deeply concerned about the week-long clashes in the Somali capital of Mogadishu. It says that this latest fighting -- some of the heaviest seen this year between forces loyal to the Transitional Federal Government and opposition groups -- has so far claimed the lives of more than 135 people and left 315 injured. The Agency also says that the rate of displacement is rapidly increasing as the conflict escalates. An estimated 30,000 people have already fled the capital. UNHCR reports that hospitals in central Mogadishu are overwhelmed by the large number of casualties. Meanwhile, some people have been trapped in their homes for days, unable to flee because of the raging street battles. According to UNHCR, those who are able to escape speak of indiscriminate nightly bombings of residential areas and the targeting of civilians. Among these newly displaced are families that had recently returned home following a period of relative peace in Mogadishu. There is more in the UNHCR briefing note upstairs. **Security Council -- Formal Meeting I have just received a note to let you know that the Security Council formal meeting starts in 10 minutes to adopt the presidential statement on Somalia. ** Sri Lanka We have a statement on Sri Lanka of the Special Adviser of the Secretary-General on the Prevention of Genocide, Mr. Francis Deng. Both sides in the current fighting in Sri Lanka have been repeatedly urged by the Secretary-General to respect international human rights and humanitarian law obligations, particularly to prevent unlawful killings and accord protection to civilians and detainees. Women and girls are particularly vulnerable to excesses of conflict and the Government has a legal obligation to give them special protection. The two sides should be reminded that individuals can be held personally responsible for war crimes and other international crimes committed in the course of conflict and which attract international jurisdiction. The Government should allow the United Nations and other international humanitarian and aid organizations full

and unfettered access to all civilians and detainees in places of detention and processing centres, including all sites for the internally displaced. It is not too late for the Government and the LTTE (Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam) to put an end to an increasingly brutal conflict and pursue a reconciliatory and peaceful path with the ethnic Tamil population. This polarizing conflict is identity-related, with ethnicity and religion as deeply divisive factors. It will not end with winners and losers, and it cannot be ended solely through a military victory that may not be sustainable in the long run unless legitimate grievances are addressed. The LTTE must immediately cease holding human shields and let civilians leave the conflict area. The Government is urged to work with the international community to initiate a political process to create a national framework in which all Sri Lankans can co-exist as equal citizens. That's a statement from the Special Adviser of the Secretary-General on the Prevention of Genocide, Francis Deng. **Sri Lanka Update On Sri Lanka, the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) today reiterated that the loss of civilian life and the situation of civilians trapped in the conflict zone are unacceptable. OCHA also spoke out today against the use of heavy weapons and of civilians as human shields. According to OCHA, at least 50,000 people remain trapped in the conflict zone. Yet the 2009 Humanitarian Appeal for Sri Lanka remains only 39 per cent funded. Meanwhile, the World Food Programme (WFP) has started providing cooked meals at a Government screening point to feed thousands of desperate people fleeing the conflict zone. The agency says that, for many, this will be the first hot meal they have had in days or perhaps much longer. WFP is now feeding almost 200,000 internally displaced persons in northern Sri Lanka. For its part, UNICEF is supporting international efforts to provide water for drinking and cooking to displaced Sri Lankans. And the World Health Organization is providing medicines and equipment to bolster surgery capacities to health facilities for the displaced. In related news, the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights said today that it believes some sort of independent commission of inquiry is essential given the conduct of this war and the number civilians who have been killed. You have that information also upstairs. ** Myanmar On Myanmar, we told you yesterday that the Secretary-General was gravely concerned about the news that Daw Aung San Suu Kyi has been moved to the Insein Prison to face criminal charges. Today, High Commissioner for Human Rights Navi Pillay issued her own statement, deploring Aung San Suu Kyi's ongoing persecution, and calling for her immediate and unconditional release. Pillay said that the continued detention, and now this latest trial, breach international standards of due process and fair trial. Pillay added that the Myanmar authorities might claim that Aung San Suu Kyi has breached the conditions of her detention. But they have actually broken both their own laws and their international human rights obligations. Aung San Suu Kyi should not be detained in the first place, the High Commissioner said. We have her full statement upstairs. ** Pakistan On Pakistan, as the number of people uprooted this month by the current conflict in north-west Pakistan nears 1 million, the High Commissioner for Refugees says that the speed and size of the displacement makes it "absolutely essential" that the international community mount an immediate and massive humanitarian response. Antonio Guterres is on the second day of a three-day mission to Pakistan to show solidarity with the Pakistani people and to assess his agency's humanitarian response. He noted that the almost 1 million displaced people so far registered this month by authorities and UNHCR are in addition to another 550,000 uprooted people who fled fighting since last August. When asked by reporters if the huge numbers of displaced people could destabilize Pakistan, Guterres replied that while UNHCR focuses on the humanitarian aspects of the current crisis, "obviously this is a region where the geo-political context cannot be ignored". UNHCR, which has had a major presence in Pakistan after decades of helping Afghan refugees, started distributing aid from stocks in the country as soon as the dimensions of the current crisis became clear. Meanwhile, the acting Humanitarian Coordinator and UNICEF Representative in Pakistan, Martin Mogwanja said a major funding appeal would be launched next week to the international community. Mr. Mogwanja also said the situation in the conflict areas was not known. He said due to the security considerations, all the NGOs (non-governmental organizations) and humanitarian workers had left the conflict zone. With regard to safe corridors, the humanitarian community was considering this, but it was very difficult to make the necessary contacts and obtain the necessary guarantees of safety and security. There is more information in the Geneva briefing notes available in my office. **Families Today, 15 May, marks the International Day of Families. The commemoration this year focuses on the important role of mothers for families and communities around the world. In a message, the Secretary-General underlines the critical role of mothers in the family. He adds that they are a powerful force for social cohesion and integration and are also caregivers and breadwinners for their families. Yet, he says, women continue to face major -- and even life-threatening -- challenges in motherhood. Stressing the timeless importance of mothers and their invaluable contribution to raising the next generation, the Secretary-General says that we can secure a better future for all by rewarding their efforts and enhancing their living conditions. We have his full message upstairs. **Vesak Day Celebrations The commemoration of the Buddhist Day

of Vesak will be held today from 4.30 p.m. to 7 p.m. in the ECOSOC Chamber. The Secretary-General is scheduled to attend the opening ceremony. In his opening remarks, he is expected to talk about how the Buddha's spirit of compassion and his timeless teachings can help us navigate the many global problems that we face today. The Secretary-General will reiterate that global problems such as the financial crisis, climate change, pandemics, terrorism and other international threats prove that the fates of all people are linked. **World Information Day And then looking ahead, Sunday will mark World Telecommunication and Information Society Day. The theme this year is "Protecting Children in Cyberspace". In a message to mark this occasion, the Secretary-General says that the virtual world has exciting possibilities for nurturing children and helping them grow into creative, productive adults. But, he adds, we must mind the pitfalls that could scar them for life. He urges policymakers and industry leaders to find the means to make the rapidly evolving virtual world safe for everyone. **United Nations Spouses Bazaar And then, as you probably noticed today in the South Lobby of the UN Headquarters, the "United Nations Spouses for Women in Conflict Areas" is hosting a fundraising bazaar to benefit women and children in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Afghanistan and other conflict areas. Over 60 Permanent Missions are participating. Mrs. Ban Soon-taek, spouse of the Secretary-General, is the Patron of the event. And the Secretary-General actually went downstairs a little earlier today and visited the bazaar and spoke to the women who are organizing that fundraising. **The Week Ahead at the United Nations And we have upstairs The Week Ahead, and just to flag that, on Sunday, the Secretary-General will be in Manama, Bahrain, to launch the 2009 Global Assessment Report on Disaster Risk Reduction. On Tuesday, he will be in Geneva, Switzerland. There, after addressing the Conference on Disarmament, he will participate in the World Health Assembly and meet with representatives of vaccine companies. The Secretary-General will also hold a joint press conference with WHO (World Health Organization) Director-General, Dr. Margaret Chang. On Wednesday, at 11 a.m. in Room-S226, Alain Le Roy, Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations, and Susana Malcorra, Under-Secretary-General for Field Support, will brief you on the latest developments and challenges in peacekeeping. And on Thursday, the Secretary-General will be in Washington, D.C., where he will speak at the commencement at Johns Hopkins University's Paul H. Nitze School of Advanced International Studies (SAIS). The guests at the noon briefing will be Angela Kane on Thursday, Under-Secretary-General for Management, and Jun Yamazaki, Assistant Secretary-General and Controller. And this is all I have for you today. Yes, Masood. **Questions and Answers Question: Michele, I just want to find out, I mean, according to some reports, lots of Pakistanis are directly contributing to the United Nations fund because they trust the United Nations more in alleviating the plight of the refugees. That's one question. Do you have any idea as to who will keep accounting of such money contributed to the United Nations? Do you accept such money? And the other one is that this flash appeal has not been issued as yet? Spokesperson: No, not as yet. Question: And it will be issued on Monday or Tuesday? Spokesperson: I don't know. I don't have an exact time for it. Question: And do we have any idea how much it will be? Spokesperson: I don't know. But we can try to find information that you asked for about the funds given by individual Pakistanis to that fund. We'll try to find out for you. [The Spokesperson later added that the United Nations humanitarian appeal would be launched next week, but that the amount had not yet been determined.] Question: Through the United Nations, UNHCR, UN officials... I mean, all I want to find out, how is the accounting kept for that, if at all, it is a donation being made directly to the United Nations; people at this point in time, for some reason, trust the United Nations more than they trust their own Government. That's the reason I am asking you. So do you know about that? Spokesperson: Well, I don't know when. I am going to ask the question for you. The answer is not with me. I have to ask the people who actually handle that fund to tell me. Question: I want to ask on Sri Lanka a couple of things. One is what's the status of the delivery of this WFP food that on Wednesday it was said that it was trying to get in? Has this ship been able to land with the food? And also if there is...? Spokesperson: You mean into the conflict area? Question: Correct. Spokesperson: No. As far as I know, it hasn't been able to. What WFP has been doing is delivering food to the [displaced]. Question: Okay. And also, I mean, the Government there has said that, this is it, 48 hours, they're going to either "free all the people in the conflict zone, or get the remaining Tamil Tigers". I guess, what exactly is Vijay Nambiar's mandate while he is there, given that he is there in the time frame that the Government has set to complete its military action? Spokesperson: What he is doing is essentially pushing forward the Secretary-General's agenda, what the Secretary-General had asked; and you know what he had asked. He had asked that... [interrupted] Question: Is he asking the Government not to do this final offensive or not? Spokesperson: He had asked for restraint, and he had asked for negotiations. Question: Okay. And the last thing; I heard yesterday that it's the Secretary-General's...you know, not position. Is it a fact that while he was a South Korean diplomat that he came to know President Rajapaksa and... How much, how would you describe the relationship between Ban Ki-moon and President

Rajapaksa? Spokesperson: I think that relationship is based on what the Secretary-General wants for the civilian population of Sri Lanka. Question: But did he come to know him when he was a South Korean diplomat, from the tsunami? Spokesperson: I don't know. I can try to find out for you... [inaudible] before this. Question: The figures that you gave us earlier on Pakistan, IDPs are, one, more than, what -- 1.6 million... Spokesperson: Almost a million. Oh, yes, with the ones that were there before, yes, you're right. Question: So, what I'm saying, are there any latest figures available as to how many people are... because they're running... and... Spokesperson: We don't have exact figures; this is an approximation which I gave you. So you can have that, of course, that note. Question: The Pakistani Army has given... lifted the curfew for people to flee. And, I mean, obviously, there again, they become IDPs, will you be having new figures...? Spokesperson: Well, we don't know. I mean, the situation on the ground is evolving. As you know very well, Masood, I cannot predict when we'll have new numbers and what those numbers will be. We'll have to wait until we have more information from the ground. And to the extent that we can evaluate what is happening, the UN is not everywhere in Pakistan, and we can evaluate, of course the IDP population, but it is a situation that is evolving daily, hourly. So it's very difficult for me to give you a very specific time when we will get more information. Yes, Tarek. Question: Thank you. Is there an official request made yet for the Israeli Government by Mr. Ban Ki-moon to pay compensation for the damage and the deaths, lives, which happened during military operations in Gaza? Spokesperson: As I said earlier, it is a matter that is under discussion right now. So there are no specific dates at this point. Question: It's under discussion with the Israeli side, you mean, or? Spokesperson: Yes, indeed. Yes. Question: Going back to Sri Lanka, over the past few days 525,000 tons of food has been turned away because of the fighting. This is obviously an immense amount of food. Is there any estimate on how long the displaced people can last without continuous food shipments? Spokesperson: We have been saying for guite a few days now that they have been without food. We cannot predict... We don't have the information on that pocket where the conflict is taking place right now. So we cannot give you more information than what we have already given you. Question: Michele, I wanted to ask you about the Secretary-General's schedule today. There are a lot of appointments, but about a couple of them, one, Zalmay Khalilzad, the meeting at 5.45 p.m.; what's the purpose, what's the scope of that meeting? Is that about, I mean, given that he doesn't work for the US Government, he works for Khalilzad Associates. What's the Secretary-General looking to get out of that meeting? Spokesperson: It's a personal call. Question: Oh, it's a personal call. Okay. And also, Robert Fowler, it was said that once Mr. Fowler recoups, that he might speak to the press. Will that be possible today? Spokesperson: It's up to him. No, not today. He will be meeting with the Secretary-General; it's a courtesy call this afternoon and this is the first, as you know, the first time he is meeting the Secretary-General since his release from captivity. So, he is debriefing with the Secretary-General and other senior officials in the Organization on his ordeal. As you know, he is still the Secretary-General's Special Envoy for Niger. Question: Okay. And then, this is something about [inaudible]... but it's a... You know, I had asked before about the contract with VSG that runs UNTV. Can you confirm that now the UN is actually paying their salary rather than VSG, but that neither pension nor health benefits are being paid by the UN? That the people that work in the UN and UN Television are now without pension payments and without health insurance, and what the UN's plan is to deal with this now nearly bankrupt UN contractor. Spokesperson: You can address your question directly to the people involved... Question: Who are those? I had written to Ms. Kane in the past and she said ask at the noon briefing, so that's why I am asking here. Spokesperson: Oh, she said ask at the noon briefing? Question: She did. Spokesperson: Okay. As soon as I get the answer for you, I'll find out what the new situation is at this point. Question: Does anyone know what happens to this... [inaudible] food, because this happens pretty much throughout the world. I mean, whether it's going to Africa or Asia...? Spokesperson: This food is not wasted. You can be sure that there are other needy people who actually get that food. Question: So it is diverted to ... Spokesperson: Sure, of course. Question: Thank Spokesperson: Thank you.For more information please contact: Sarabjit Jagirdar, htsyndication@hindustantimes.com

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

Load-Date: May 19, 2009



'This time the fight will be more long-drawn and bitter...'

Indian Express

September 16, 2009 Wednesday

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Length: 1553 words

Byline: Vivek Deshpande

Body

Lok Sabha elections

The so-called people's mandate for stability and neo-liberal reforms is meant to legitimise the brutal state terror and economic oppression of the people. Prepare the party, People's Liberation Guerilla Army (PLGA) and the people for the new brutal offensive being unleashed by the UPA government...

Our propaganda should be to show how the election process is undemocratic, held under semi-feudal conditions where caste, communal, regional, ethnic, gender factors along with money and muscle power play principal roles in victory...

The aim of holding elections in the first phase in our areas was to deploy central forces several weeks beforehand, to create terror among the people. Notwithstanding their huge presence, our party, PLGA and mass organisations carried out a mass propaganda undertaking several tactical counter-offensive methods against gun-totting enemy forces who were desperately trying to coerce people to vote. Our propaganda was so effective that there was hardly any campaigning by parties in most parts of Dandakaranya countryside, with polling percentage going down in many areas in Bihar and Jharkhand.

The first phase witnessed one of the biggest and most successful campaigns by Maoists. It became a virtual nightmare for reactionary rulers of India, and the media also described it as one of the bloodiest elections in recent times. PLGA attacks wiped out over 70 enemy troops...

There were some unfortunate incidents too such as the death of five polling officials along with two policemen in Rajnandgaon district of Chhattisgarh, three in West Bengal and also in Jharkhand. We lose people's sympathy through such incidents and the enemy will try to utilise them to turn the people against us. So, the serious mistakes must be thoroughly reviewed and the comrades responsible be warned, and if it is proved to be gross negligence, disciplinary action should be initiated.

Anti-Naxal operations

AS soon as he assumed office, Prime Minister Manmohan Singh declared that the foremost priorities before his new government were tackling terrorism and Left wing extremism, and bringing the ailing economy on the right track. P Chidambaram described the goals as "just carry out police action to flush out Naxalites, then follow it up with development measures."

'This time the fight will be more long-drawn and bitter...'

This is a very important point to note since the stress is on police action and military solution. The so-called development is to be done only after establishing peace of the graveyard. Chidambaram also said some of the paramilitary forces from Kashmir would be withdrawn and redeployed in our areas.

We have to understand that our revolutionary war is a cruel class war. The reactionary forces can go to any extent, committing mass murders, tortures, arrests, abductions, illegal detention, mass rape of <u>women</u>, use of private armed militias and vigilante squads, rendering lakhs homeless and carrying out a psychological war.

The <u>LTTE</u> setback is very important for us to study and take lessons from. The <u>LTTE</u>'s mistake lay in its failure to study changes in enemy, along with an over-estimation of its own forces and capabilities, international support and open assistance by imperialist powers etc - i.e. underestimating enemy and over-estimating own capabilities.

The baton of terrorism - whether branded as Islamic or Left-wing - is necessary for the rulers to unleash worst forms of state terror and state-sponsored terror. Like the atrocities by George Bush's CIA in Guantanamo, Abu Ghraib and several torture chambers in the name of containing terrorism and his "global war on terror"... Our Manmohan Singhs and Chidambarams too justify in the name of containing terrorism and Left-wing extremism, their savage, unconstitutional Salwa Judum in Chhattisgarh, Sendra in Jharkhand, various mercenary senas in Bihar and the limitless atrocities by CRPF, ITBP, BSF and other paramilitary forces along with local police units.

Thus the unfolding state and state-sponsored terror under Sonia-Manmohan-Chidambaram combine will be far more brutal, deadly and savage than under any regime hitherto witnessed. The criminals who have been re-elected at the Centre are conspiring to carry out savagery in the forests of Maad (Abujmad). Let us prepare to defeat the offensive against Maad...

The reactionary rulers have their greedy eye on the mineral wealth of the tribal areas, right from Bankura-Purulia-Midnapur to Vishakha-Srikakulam in north Andhra. That is why they have been crying hoarse that they are losing control over the natural resources of the country due to Maoist presence in the tribal areas which the Centre has named as the "Red Corridor".

The PM himself said on June 7 that Naxals are controlling the mineral wealth and other resources of the backward regions in the country. The Mittals, Tatas, Jindals, Essars and the likes are offering huge funds for the suppression of the Maoists so as to swallow the entire resources. To justify their brutal offensive the rulers are playing up fabricated lies that Naxals are against development, destroying roads, schools, industries etc and keeping the area backward.

We have to once again prepare the people of the area to resist the marauders and mercenaries sent by Sonia-Manmohan-Chidambaram. This time the fight will be more long-drawn and bitter than the one against the British imperialists.

Action plan

TO defend our guerrilla bases and to advance our armed struggle we have the following immediate tasks ahead.

Prepare the people, the party and the PLGA potentially to confront the brutal enemy onslaught, educate the people regarding the scale and intensity of the enemy offensive, its cruel nature and the need for enormous sacrifices, take initiatives to unite with other struggling organisations and forces to forge strong united fronts on every issue and at every level possible, enthuse them with the daring counter-offensives carried out by our forces in various parts of the country and prepare them to undertake similar offensives, enhance the initiative and involvement of masses in fighting and defeating the superior enemy forces. The manner in which we defeated Salwa Judum should be projected as a model.

The attacks should be organised with meticulous planning against the state's khaki and olive green-clad terrorist forces, SPOs, police informants and other counter-revolutionaries and enemies of the people. These should be carried out in close coordination with, and in support of, the armed resistance of the masses. These should be

'This time the fight will be more long-drawn and bitter...'

linked to seizure of political power and establishment of base areas. It is the combined attacks of all three PLGA wings and the people at large that can ensure the defeat of enemy offensive.

Purge the non-proletarian trends prevailing in our party and the movement by conducting rectification campaign so as to provide capable proletarian leadership to the Indian revolution. The aim of the enemy is to isolate us from the masses by engaging us in continuous military engagements, then to pin us down militarily using his superior armed forces and other infrastructure. We have to foil this tactic by taking up the basic issues of the people, mobilising them into militant mass struggles, taking up wide propaganda against state and sponsored terror and make serious attempt to build broad-based united fronts with all those forces who oppose the state's brutal offensive.

It is difficult for the Centre to send the forces required by each state to control the movement. Keeping this in mind, we have to further aggravate the situation and create more difficulties for the enemy by expanding our guerrilla war to new areas on the one hand and intensifying the mass resistance in the existing areas so as to disperse the enemy forces over a sufficiently wider area and divert a section of the enemy forces from attacking our guerrilla bases and organs of political power.

Any mistake on our part will be used by the enemy to label us anti-people and terroristic. Hence we should take extra precautions not to take up reckless actions, not to cause damage to people's property and cause inconvenience to the people by our actions and to apologise for our mistakes promptly assuring the people that such mistakes will not recur.

Comrades, today we are facing an extraordinary situation. The entire world is caught in economic crisis. Industry after industry is closing down throwing millions out of job. Poverty and homelessness, starvation and destitution have become a global phenomenon providing excellent condition for advancing the people's struggles and revolutionaries everywhere.

The reactionaries led by US have unleashed brutal fascist offensive in the economic, political, social and cultural spheres using brute force. West Asia resembles a burning volcano with Iraq, Afghanistan and Palestine engulfed in flames of national liberation. The fighters in Iraq and Afghanistan are inflicting heavy losses on imperialists.

In South Asia, the situation continues to be explosive with militant uprisings in several parts of Pakistan, Sri Lanka and Nepal. In India, the Philippines, Bangladesh, Turkey and elsewhere dastardly attacks are launched on revolutionary struggles.

Let us utilise the excellent situation, prepare the party, PLGA and mass organisations to face the brutal offensive planned by the enemy.

Load-Date: July 22, 2010



Ban Ki-Moon to visit Lanka on Friday

UNI (United News of India)

April 21, 2009 Tuesday

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Body

United, Nations,. Ma -- UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon has announced that he will visit Sri Lanka on May 22, in part to get a first-hand look at the situation on the ground after their Government declared that its military operation against the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (*LTTE*) has ended.

The May 22-23 visit would be to respond to the urgent need to heal the wounds of a war that has alienated the communities in the country for almost three decades, Mr Ban told a news conference in Geneva. A transcript of the news conference details was made available here yesterday. "The task now facing the people of Sri Lanka is immense and requires all hands," he said, stressing the need for progress in three critical areas: immediate humanitarian relief; reintegration and reconstruction; and a sustainable and equitable political solution. Progress on all three of these fronts must move forward in parallel and it must begin now, he stated. Mr Ban's Chief of Staff, Vijay Nambiar, is currently in the country and is engaged with relevant parties on how best to respond to the humanitarian situation of the large number of internally displaced persons (IDPs) and initiate a process for early recovery and long-term reconciliation, rehabilitation and reconstruction. UN agencies are stepping up their efforts to assist the hundreds of thousands of people displaced by the conflict. The UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) estimates that there are around 220,000 people who have already reached the IDP camps, and it is believed that another 40,000-60,000 people are on their way to the sites. John Holmes, undersecretary-general for humanitarian affairs, told reporters earlier that the large influx of people poses 'major humanitarian challenges' in terms of providing shelter and other basic services, such as food, clean water and medical services. "The conditions in these camps are certainly not ideal. They're not up to international standards yet but everybody is working very hard to try to make sure that they are," he stated. The head of the UN Children's Fund called for full and unimpeded humanitarian access so that women and children can receive the assistance they need, following reports that access to some IDP camps has become restricted. Ann M Veneman stressed that UNICEF is committed to working with partners to provide those in the camps with essential water and sanitation, nutrition, maternal and child health care, education and protection. Restrictions to enter the IDP sites, imposed over the weekend, are also hindering the ability of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees to deliver assistance, its spokesperson said. "Our access to the Vavuniya sites has been greatly curtailed over the past few days and this affects our ability to monitor and distribute aid to the displaced," Ron Redmond told reporters. "We hope this ends quickly." The agency has asked the Sri Lankan authorities to allocate more land for the construction of emergency shelter, water and sanitation facilities, as well as to provide public buildings in Vavuniya, Jaffna, Mannar and Kilinochchi in order to accommodate arriving IDPs. The World Food Programme, for its part, is boosting its food stocks and preparing nutritionally-rich food for women and children to meet the needs of the IDPs. The agency is already feeding 250,000 people in temporary transit camps. In a related development, the UN Human Rights Council, will hold a special session on May 25 to address the human rights situation in Sri Lanka, following a request by several of its members. "It is hoped that the holding of this special session will contribute towards the

cause of peace," said the Council's President, Martin Ihoeghian Uhomoibhi. "The Human Rights Council cannot be silent when innocent civilians are caught up in armed conflicts. The international community must strive to deliver justice to victims of human rights violations wherever they occur and ensure that those found guilty of such crimes are held accountable for their actions." Next Monday's meeting will be the 11th special session of the Genevabased Council, which has also held special sessions related to the occupied Palestinian territories, Lebanon, Darfur, Myanmar, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the global food crisis and the global economic and financial crises. UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon has announced that he will visit Sri Lanka on May 22, in part to get a first-hand look at the situation on the ground after their Government declared that its military operation against the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) has ended. 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THE TAMIL TUMULT; SRI LANKA PROTEST CROWD IN COP CLASH

The Mirror
April 8, 2009 Wednesday
3 Star Edition

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Section: NEWS; Pg. 35

Length: 131 words

Byline: BOB ROBERTS

Body

POLICE grapple yesterday with angry Tamils calling for international action to end the brutal civil war in Sri Lanka.

Flags of the banned <u>Tamil Tigers</u> terrorist group flew in the crowds as up to 5,000 protesters caused chaos around Parliament.

Some clashed with officers trying to move them, while police rescued two Tamils who threw themselves in the Thames.

Among several arrests in Central London were at least two related to the Tigers' flag.

But protester Kantha Sugadarn, 38, of Northwood, Middx, said: "I wouldn't fly a <u>Tamil Tigers</u> flag. I want violence in Sri Lanka to stop. I want a humanitarian solution." Sri Lankan leaders have snubbed ceasefire calls, saying troops are on the brink of ending the Tigers' fight for a homeland. But 150,000 civilians are trapped in the war zone..

Graphic

CRUSH Fury at Parliament yesterday SHUT Westminster Bridge...at rush hour FEARS <u>Women</u> trapped at demo FIRM A long arm of the law

Load-Date: April 8, 2009



THE TAMIL TUMULT; SRI LANKA PROTEST CROWD IN COP CLASH

The Mirror
April 8, 2009 Wednesday
1 Star Edition

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Section: NEWS; Pg. 35

Length: 120 words

Byline: BOB ROBERTS

Body

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Two Tamils had to be rescued after leaping into the Thames amid the clashes.

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But protester Kantha Sugadarn, 38, of Northwood, Middx, said: "I wouldn't fly a <u>Tamil Tigers</u> flag. I want violence in Sri Lanka to stop." The country's leaders have snubbed ceasefire calls, saying troops are on the brink of ending the Tigers' fight for a homeland. But 150,000 civilians are trapped in the war zone..

Graphic

FIRM A long arm of the law CRUSH Anger at Parliament yesterday and, inset, girl in tears FEARS <u>Women</u> trapped at demo SHUT Westminster Bridge...at rush hour

Load-Date: April 8, 2009



Pindi-Peshawar incidents-linkage?

Pakistan Observer
October 13, 2009 Tuesday

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Section: Vol. XV; No. 285

Length: 1094 words **Byline:** Fozia Niazi

Body

Analysts see similarities between Kabul and Peshawar Blasts, and link them with the Saturday attack on the GHQ main gate by TTP terrorists on October 10. Over a dozen army personnel got martyred and eight terrorists were killed while one, Dr Usman was arrested in critical condition.

Around 50 people were killed and over 100 injured in a car bomb blast in Peshawar on October 9. On October 8 a suicide bomber struck outside the Indian embassy in Kabul, killing 17 people. The Afghan Taliban claimed the responsibility, but many in New Delhi dubbed the Peshawar blast as a tit-for-tat as if the Kabul blast was conducted by ISI.

Already the UN has halted work on various projects in Pakistan after the October 5 blast in the WFP offices in Islamabad, which left two <u>women</u> and a foreigner killed and eight others injured. Indian experts linked it with Islamabad but owing to the modus operandi and tactics used in both the blasts, it seems that both the blasts are a handiwork of RAW.

Same methods and similar nature of explosives VBIED (Vehicle borne improvised explosive device) have been used in the cars, which is the specialty of Indian Intelligence agency. The inquiry of Samjota Express proved that RAW agent Lt Col Prohit was an expert of preparing such devices and vehicles.

Such attacks always coincide with Pakistan's successes either in the operations against terrorists or on the end of our sports teams. Indian agencies gear up acts of sabotage whenever there is possibility of Islamabad getting world assistance or appraisal at least. New Delhi tries to cash in on important occasions to attract the world attention for fulfilling its malicious designs.

At the time of 2008 G-8 Summit, the Indian embassy in Kabul was hit by a blast on July 7. This time the Kabul blast coincides with American aid bill, though highly controversial and humiliating for Pakistan.

The people and the armed forces are Pakistan have put their weight together in opposing this bill as it is intrusive of our security mechanism. RAW in connivance with RAAM and Mossad have planned series of blasts in Afghanistan and Pakistan with a view to use pressure tactics and build opinion for forcing Washington to refrain from providing economic and military aid to Islamabad.

When we analyze these two possibilities the first one seems quite out of place because the terrorists in the tribal areas of Pakistan are no more in a position to launch such a well-planned and organized activity.

Pindi-Peshawar incidents-linkage?

During the last few months, the security agencies of Pakistan have very successfully crushed and crumpled all their strength and force with an iron hand. The first rank leadership of these so called terrorists has gone to the other world, the remaining ones have surrendered before the security forces and some others have decided to be loyal to the state of Pakistan admitting that they had been misguided by their leaders.

In short no one among them has a capability of confronting with the armed forces of Pakistan. India has always reacted as a stubborn child whenever its feels any American inclination towards Pakistan. The recent Kerry Lugar bill could be one of the heart pinching realities for India. Although this bill is being criticized by some of the Pakistani factions of society for its objectionable clauses regarding the Pakistan army and the intelligence agencies, yet this bill is going to prove itself a strong favour and support for Pakistan in near future.

By getting an aid of 1.5 billion dollars every year Pakistan would be able to solve many of its economic problems. If the objectionable clauses are removed away, this bill would strengthen the Pak-American relations.

This all-well situation is certainly not very pleasing for India. Now India wants to create hurdles so that this bill may not reach to final. The attacks on the GHQ are nothing but an attempt to promote harassment and fear throughout the world that America is not taking a wise step by planning to help people of Pakistan through the Kerry Lugar bill. There could be another objective behind these attacks; to tell the world that Pakistan Army has not succeeded in crushing the terrorist.

India wants to nullify the claims of Pakistan that it is doing its best against the menace of terrorism. The main objective behind all this activity is to distort Pak-US relations which are getting better day by day. The terrorists attacked the GHQ buildings in a very skillful manner. The attackers were very well equipped and immaculately trained. It was simply a very tactfully designed commando action.

The attackers did not seem to be amongst the terrorists who had been trying to avoid the security agencies in the tribal areas of Pakistan for the last few months. These attacks had a great resemblance with the attacks on Sri Lankan cricket team in Lahore which were linked to the <u>Tamil Tigers</u> working in Sri Lanka under the guidance of the Raw.

The Raw agents in collaboration with the extremists working in Swat planned to teach a lesson to the government of Pakistan by attacking the Sri Lankan Team. Now the same story is being repeated.

Pakistan has already taken firm stand against American drone attack policy and condemned Indian involvement in Balochistan affairs. Last week Chief of Army Staff General Ashfaq Parvez Kayani told the media that US drone strikes will not be allowed in the province of Balochistan, where the United States is reportedly turning to fight the militant group, Quetta Shura, which allegedly provides much of the leadership of the Pakistani Taliban.

It is quite obvious that an attack on the capital of Balochistan could further aggravate the ongoing separatist conflict in the region and which will ultimately damage to war against terror.

American and their allies should also force India to shed away with their ideas of launching any attack against Pakistan. India should be asked to resolve burning issue of Kashmir for the permanent peace. India should also know that Pakistan is a nuclear power and is very well aware of the movements of IAF and can respond boldly incase of any surgical strike and misadventures against her.

She must know that Pakistan Security Forces and intelligence agencies have gone through a real test and ready to face any kind of aggression. India should accept Pakistani offer to restart the composite dialogues and Confidence Building Measures (CBM) to resolve the issues for establish the regional peace. USA should respect the sovereignty of democratic Pakistan and remove the bugs and objectionable clauses of Kerry-Lugar Bill.

Load-Date: November 16, 2011



Outcome of Sri Lanka's Long War May Hang on Fate of Insurgent Leader

The New York Times

April 1, 2009 Wednesday

Late Edition - Final

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Section: Section A; Column 0; Foreign Desk; Pg. 10; MEMO FROM COLOMBO

Length: 985 words

Byline: By SETH MYDANS

Dateline: COLOMBO, Sri Lanka

Body

Will he kill himself? This is a practical military question now as the Sri Lankan Army closes in on Velupillai Prabhakaran and the stubborn core of his Tamil separatist insurgency.

There is always the possibility that Mr. Prabhakaran, 54, is already dead or that he has fled the military offensive, and those questions, too, are critical as the army seeks a final victory and plans ahead for the aftermath of the 25-year civil war.

Mr. Prabhakaran is the founder and driving force of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam, a separatist insurgency that is known for its resourcefulness, its brutality and its suicide attacks.

His determination and refusal to compromise have kept the insurgency alive, rescuing it at various points over the years from what had seemed to be approaching defeat.

Which is why the question of Mr. Prabhakaran's fate now looms so large. The insurgency may well be vanquished with or without him. But the chances that it could regroup as a guerrilla force, and continue to fight with the same savage determination, are far greater if he remains its leader.

A pioneer in the tactic of suicide bombings, Mr. Prabhakaran created a squad called the Black Tigers -- up to 40 percent of its members <u>women</u> -- that carried out scores of attacks over the years, both targeted assassinations and mass terrorist killings.

Many of his regular fighters have taken their own lives as well rather than surrender, biting into cyanide tablets that they often carry on strings like small memento mori around their necks.

This dedication is part of a cult-like devotion to Mr. Prabhakaran -- a chubby man with a thick mustache whose charisma is not always evident to outsiders -- and nobody knows what will come of his mission once he is gone.

Without Mr. Prabhakaran, some analysts say, his rebellion may collapse. Or perhaps he might be seen as a martyr and a rallying cry for further insurgency.

Just as Mr. Prabhakaran's fate dominates questions about the end of the war, his remorselessness and ruthlessness have made him the dominant figure in Sri Lanka for the past quarter century.

Outcome of Sri Lanka 's Long War May Hang on Fate of Insurgent Leader

His insurgency has held the country hostage to terrorism. It has held back social and economic development, heightened violent ethnic divisions and pushed the government toward a more repressive posture.

There have been cease-fires and negotiations over the years; all have failed because Mr. Prabhakaran would not give up the war.

Presidents have come and gone, their policies shaded by harder or softer lines toward his insurgency.

Mr. Prabhakaran has mostly remained constant, a man who is ready "to take any method, however repulsive, as long as it furthered his struggle," according to a biography, "Inside an Elusive Mind: Prabhakaran," by M. R. Narayan Swamy.

Though they rarely claim responsibility for their missions, his suicide bombers are suspected in the deaths of two national leaders -- former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi of India in 1991 and President Ranasinghe Premadasa of Sri Lanka in 1993.

"Our methods of warfare are unacceptable to various people," S. Subramaniam, a longtime associate of Mr. Prabhakaran, is quoted as saying in Mr. Swamy's book. "But Prabhakaran as well as our movement have survived precisely because of them."

A high school dropout from a middle-class family, Mr. Prabhakaran ignited the insurgency by assassinating a governor of Jaffna in 1975, walking up to him at a Hindu temple and shooting him point-blank. Jaffna, where Mr. Prabhakaran was born, is the center of what separatists call Eelam, a region in which the rebels want to create a separate state for the mostly Hindu Tamils, who make up 12 percent of Sri Lanka's population of 21 million.

Since Sri Lanka became independent from Britain in 1948, Buddhist Sinhalese, who form a majority, have pushed Tamils into the margins, declaring Sinhala the national language and Buddhism the principal religion, and securing privileges for Sinhalese in education and government jobs.

Mr. Prabhakaran, who is fascinated by guns, meticulous in military planning and more ruthless than his rivals, built a fanatical armed movement while reaching out to a wealthy Tamil diaspora to finance his well-armed insurgency.

A master of escape and concealment, he has only rarely given interviews, emerging each year in November for an annual address.

"No sane voice is being raised," he said in his address last year, "either to abandon war or to seek a peaceful solution to the conflict."

His quiet demeanor has puzzled outsiders, who have found him neat, polished and soft-spoken to the point of shyness.

"The quietest man I have come across," said Sadanand Menon, a veteran Indian journalist, who met him in the early 1980s. "He was so soft-spoken that you could not hear him under his breath. It made you wonder, even if momentarily, if he really led the *Tamil Tigers*."

Anita Pratap, another prominent Indian journalist who met him around the same time, put it this way: "My first impression was that of utter disappointment. He looked stunningly ordinary. Dressed in a light blue shirt and gray trousers, he could have easily been mistaken for a petty Tamil businessman."

Since last August, the military has driven the Tigers out of strongholds in the north and cornered them by the northeastern shore, on a spit of land just 7.5 miles long and 1.3 miles wide.

Trapped with them are tens of thousands of Tamil civilians who had fled the fighting elsewhere.

Outcome of Sri Lanka 's Long War May Hang on Fate of Insurgent Leader

The Tigers have been accused of kidnapping the civilians en masse, shooting some who tried to leave and dragooning many others, including children, to take up arms and join them. The Sri Lankan military appears determined to end the war now, but the separatist fighters show no sign of backing down.

If Mr. Prabhakaran is killed in a final offensive -- or if he kills himself -- thousands of civilians could die with him.

http://www.nytimes.com

Graphic

PHOTOS: A suicide bombing's aftermath, above, last month at a mosque 100 miles south of the capital, Colombo. Fourteen people, including a government minister, died. Velupillai Prabhakaran, shown at his annual address in 2008, founded the insurgency.(PHOTOGRAPH BY REUTERS)

(PHOTOGRAPH BY LIBERATION TIGERS OF TAMIL EELAM, VIA ASSOCIATED PRESS)

Load-Date: April 1, 2009



<u>Letters</u>

The Jerusalem Post May 19, 2009 Tuesday

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Section: OPINION; Pg. 14

Length: 1094 words

Byline: Yoram Getzler, Zev Chamudot, Miriam L. Gavarin, Joyce Kahn, Stanley Cohen, Neville Goldrein, Carol

Haber, Zvi Freedman, Sylvia Mehlman

Highlight: Readers' Letters

Body

Job security in...

Sir, - Ron Kronish is a good and well-meaning person who has indeed long "labor(ed) in the vineyards of interreligious dialogue and peace education," along with a host of other well-meaning, hard-working true believers in the goal of reconciliation toward peace. They seem to believe that this would be achieved via honorable dialogue - through expressing mutual understanding and reciprocal respect leading to positive results.

It's like the story about the man whose job is to announce the imminent appearance of the messiah. "Does it pay well?" he is asked. "No," he answers, "but there is great job security!"

One of the reasons there is such great job security in the interreligious-peace profession here is that people prefer to ignore facts and attitudes that interfere with their preconceived beliefs about themselves and others.

I think it is important for Rabbi Kronish and the rest of us to know what an official of the Palestinian religious establishment, appointed by the "moderate" Fatah government, passionately believes (and probably teaches) about us. Jews and Israelis.

The significant question then is: How do his teachings contribute to or contradict realistic prospects of reconciliation between the two peoples? ("Diatribe or dialogue?" May 17.)

YORAM GETZLER

Moshav Aminadav

...the peace profession

Sir, - I regretfully cannot agree with Ron Kronish, who after describing the totally outrageous tirade by Sheikh Tayseer Tamimi at the Notre Dame Cultural Center after the pope's brief address, nevertheless concludes "that the dialogue must go on."

People of good will, like Kronish and his colleagues, are engaged in sincere efforts to bring about trust and understanding between differing faith communities. Still, they fail to understand some basic truths.

Letters

Diatribe and dialogue cannot coexist. They are as mutually exclusive as bestiality and morality; there is no room in the latter for tolerance of the former.

So why did Kronish and friends not walk out in protest, thus clearly demonstrating the total unacceptability of the sheikh's behavior?

And why does Kronish describe the sheikh as merely a "cantankerous cleric" rather than as a rabid fascist spewing venom and hate, to whom dialogue is complete anathema and whose sole purpose of being present at the event was to deliver his obscene message?

ZEV CHAMUDOT

Petah Tikva

Sir, - "Hundreds of leaders and activists in interreligious dialogue, conflict resolution and peace education" gathered to hear an inspiring message from Pope Benedict XVI, and Ron Kronish asks why Sheikh Tayseer Tamimi was given the Notre Dame Center podium to pour out his venom against Israel.

The same question was asked about Mahmoud Ahmadinejad's appearance at the UN Conference on Racism (Durban II).

Maybe the same answer applies in both cases. Tamimi, Ahmadinejad and their ilk make anyone else look "moderate." But don't look too closely - for example, in "Ahmadinejad's Holocaust denial slammed by rivals" (same date). "Moderate cleric Mahdi Karoubi" did not chastise Ahmadinejad for promulgating the Big Lie of No Holocaust; he only complained that in so doing, Ahmadinejad disloyally engenders support for Israel.

MIRIAM L. GAVARIN

Jerusalem

Pressing reminder

Sir, - Thanks to Jonathan Tobin for his chilling "Eyeless in Anwerp" (May 17) about the anti-Semitic, anti-Israel opera Samson et Dalila. His op-ed provided a bleak reminder of the dark days of Der Stuermer, the Nazi anti-Jewish propaganda paper published by Julius Streicher in the 1930s.

Sitting in our comfortable homes here in Israel, we can slowly feel the pressure from all corners of the globe, making us feel a little less comfortable and wondering how much worse it is going to get.

Where are the Jews of Europe, and why aren't they protesting?

JOYCE KAHN

Petah Tikva

Sir, - I firmly believe that, like doctors, opera directors should "first do no harm."

As a singer, one is particularly aware of both the medium and the message of song. Whether it be comic or tragic, the music is the foundation which tells the truth.

During his years of political torture during the Soviet era, Shostakovitch always claimed that "the truth is in the music."

To represent black as white, and vice versa, may be the way parvenu producers and directors make their names on the world stage - but as the insistent first-year composition student was told by his long-suffering professor: "Your music will be remembered when Beethoven and Mozart are forgotten, and not before."

Letters

STANLEY COHEN

Jerusalem

The usual suspect

Sir, - Re "UN Committee urges Israel to probe allegations of torturing detainees" (May 17): There is not a word, or at best, very few words, in the world media about Sri Lanka's attacks on the <u>Tamil Tigers</u>; about the deaths, demolitions and torture in Iraq and in Guantanamo Bay by the Americans; while Darfur rarely gets a mention, and Russia is still occupying part of Georgia.

In this "free world" and "open and fair-minded society," it is quite extraordinary that the UN never fails to challenge Israel, but leaves unmentioned countries which have carried out killings, torture, invasions and demolitions on a far greater scale throughout the world.

If - heaven forefend - Israel were not a Jewish country, I feel sure that not a word of complaint would be uttered; but once Jews are involved, we are always considered to be guilty or, at the very least, under deep suspicion.

NEVILLE GOLDREIN

Jerusalem

Keeping abreast

Sir, - I read "Gordon Brown's wife honors unique Jerusalem breast cancer detection clinic in London" (May 15) with great interest.

I have been going to the Hala clinic for breast examination practically since its inception and feel extremely fortunate to have such an institution at my disposal. I thought that it was necessary to mention Dr. Strano, who has made it his life's work to ensure that thousands of <u>women</u> get the proper screening and breast care that Hala offers.

CAROL HABER

Jerusalem

Poor examples

Sir, - Of the hundreds and more youngsters arriving at Ben-Gurion Airport, there must have been a better example of "Arrivals" than the two featured in your May 15 UpFront column.

Johanna Roggan has some values and sense of proportion, but her companion Ari Miller is completely out of touch with reality.

He should be given Barbara Sofer's "61 plus one reasons I love Israel" (UpFront, May 8) to understand why we live here and are prepared to fight for this country.

ZVI FREEDMAN

Kiryat Tivon

Sir, - Don't tarry too long, Ari. Possibly you will find the educational system in the PA to your liking.

SYLVIA MEHLMAN

Jerusalem

Letters

Load-Date: October 4, 2011



Standoff on the Gardiner; Police arrive in riot gear after Tamil protesters block all lanes of traffic in outcry over Sri Lanka

The Toronto Star May 11, 2009 Monday

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Section: NEWS; Pg. A01

Length: 860 words

Byline: Nicolaas van Rijn, Toronto Star

Body

Be prepared for traffic chaos if you're headed into downtown Toronto this morning.

That's because a key downtown section of the Gardiner Expressway was shut down last night by a massive Tamil protest, with police officials warning that the vital roadway could remain closed this morning.

Toronto police Chief Bill Blair, citing the difficulty of moving thousands of unwilling demonstrators - including **women** with children and babies in strollers - off the road, said his officers are limited in what they can do.

"You just can't wade into that crowd," a visibly angry Blair told a late-night news conference at 52 Division.

More than 2,000 Tamil protesters flooded onto all six lanes of the Gardiner at Spadina Ave. around 6: 30 p.m., bringing traffic to a halt as police, surprised by the sudden move, were helpless to intervene.

Blair said officers would continue negotiating throughout the night in an effort to clear the road by morning rush hour, but conceded the task might be impossible.

"We don't want to make (the situation) more dangerous by an escalation of force," he said.

As Blair spoke, the demonstrators chanted "No more genocide!"

Hundreds of Toronto police officers in riot gear - backed up by OPP officers - formed up against them but stood by silently.

Localized traffic chaos was also created by Tamil protesters along University Ave. and in front of Queen's Park, as they condemned the fighting in their homeland.

Protesters insisted they would not leave without speaking first to Prime Minister Stephen Harper or another high government official

Putting the weak and defenceless on the front lines was a deliberate move, protest organizers aid.

"Usually it is the men who are at the front, but this time we decided that we **women** had to be on the front line," said Howsiya Sethu, 19. "We asked, we begged the government. We are fed up."

Standoff on the Gardiner Police arrive in riot gear after Tamil protesters block all lanes of traffic in outcry over Sri Lanka

Protester Arthty Ragupathy, 15, said she came out after hearing overnight of her grandmother's death in a so-called safe haven for civilians in the midst of Sri Lanka's war zone following shelling by government forces.

But a Sri Lankan military spokesperson blamed the deaths of at least 378 civilians - more than 100 of them children - on *Tamil Tigers* deliberately shelling their own territory to gain international sympathy and force a ceasefire.

"My grandmother overnight was actually killed, " Ragupathy said, her eyes swelling with tears. "They're trying to get rid of the whole Tamil race."

Protest spokesperson Siva Vimal met with a Toronto police negotiator and vowed to stay on the road until they meet with a federal official.

"Why we have come to this point is that for months now the community has been protesting peacefully, and there has been a serious inaction on the Canadian government's part," said Vimal. "They have not done everything that they can to pressure the government of Sri Lanka to accept international calls for a ceasefire.

"We are not going to move until a representative from our federal government comes here ... from Prime Minister Harper's office, comes here and addresses this crowd, and tells us specifically what they are going to do to take action on implementing a halt to the war in Sri Lanka."

Toronto Mayor David Miller, while expressing sympathy for the Tamil cause, said taking over the public roadway is not the way to register a protest.

"Toronto's Tamil community is understandably concerned about what is happening to friends and family in Sri Lanka," Miller said. "They have an absolute right to make those concerns known and to protest."

But, he added, "Endangering public safety by occupying the Gardiner or other public highways is not the right way to make that statement."

OPP Commissioner Julian Fantino took a tougher stance.

"Lawful demonstration is one thing," but it's not accomplished by "compromising the rights of law-abiding and respectful people.

"This kind of thing has to have a point in time in which the bright line is crossed, if you will, and in that kind of case the rule of law will have to prevail."

Referring to the civil war in Sri Lanka, Shyanthy Thezarajh, 24, a spokesperson for the Tamil protesters, said, "There's been a massive impact on each and every individual here. And they're pretty much trying to get the media to understand what's going on in the hopes that the issue would come to the world stage and some kind of meaningful solution will be achieved for Sri Lanka right now."

Some motorists took the protest - the city's fourth major Tamil demonstration of the year - in stride, while others expressed frustration at being brought to a stop on the road. "I was on my way to visit friends and go see a movie," said Matthew Sacks. "It's unfortunate it has come to this, but I guess it's not the end of the world."

But Erin Edwards wasn't happy about the disruption.

"This is not good. I'm on my way to see my mother for Mother's Day and I guess I'm going to be late," said Edwards, who, like many stranded drivers, left the car behind and walked up to watch the protesters face off with police.

"I get the point of their problems, but I don't get this," she said.

With files from Stacey Askew, Nicole Baute, Henry Stancu and The Canadian Press

Standoff on the Gardiner Police arrive in riot gear after Tamil protesters block all lanes of traffic in outcry over Sri Lanka

Graphic

More than 2,000 Tamil protesters flooded onto all six lanes of the Gardiner at Spadina Ave. Some of the demonstrators were <u>women</u> with children and babies in strollers. gary kane photo Citing the difficulty of moving thousands of unwilling protesters, police said they're limited in what they can do.gary kane photo Citing the difficulty of moving thousands of unwilling protesters, police said they're limited in what they can do.

rick madonik toronto star One of about 2,000 Tamil protesters who completely blocked all six lanes of the Gardiner Expressway yesterday stands before police in riot gear. The Tamils condemned the violence in Sri Lanka and vowed to stay on the roadway until Stephen Harper or another federal official speaks to them.

Load-Date: May 11, 2009



Xinhua General News Service April 14, 2009 Tuesday 3:55 PM EST

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Section: WORLD NEWS

Length: 1265 words

Dateline: HONG KONG April 14

Body

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

Major news items in leading New Zealand newspapers

Major news items in leading Australian newspapers

Major news items in leading Thai newspapers

Dollar at lower 100 yen level in Tokyo

Singapore lowers GDP forecast for 2009

Major news items in leading Japanese newspapers

Nikkei opens 0.69 pct lower

Thai PM cancels visit to Cambodia: official

1st LD Writethru: Singapore lowers GDP forecast for 2009

Major news items in leading Philippine newspapers

Cambodian government agrees to contain temple vandalism with international intervention

Foreign exchange rates in Nepal

Major news items in leading Nepali newspapers

One killed, 23 injured in bus accident in eastern Nepal

Hong Kong stocks open 2.69 pct higher

Cambodian gov't accuses media cartoon of affecting ties with Thailand

Ship capsizes off southern Japan, 12 missing

Fiji interim PM assures no disruption in delivery of public goods, services

Nikkei down 1.27 pct in morning trading

President, PM extend Nepali new year greetings

Seoul shares open lower

Major news items in leading Vietnamese newspapers

Singapore central bank eases monetary policy

Indonesia hosts Asia-Pacific meeting on Rohingya issue

Major news items in leading Pakistani newspapers

Thai anti-gov't protesters place several gas cylinders around Gov't House

Urgent: Thai army to disperse protesters at Gov't House

Major news items in leading Singapore's newspapers

Phone companies reduce tariffs from Nepali New Year

1st LD: Thai army prepared to disperse protesters at Gov't House

20 injured as pole breaks and falls on crowd of people

Vietnam unveils master plan for urban development

Vietnam plans to spend about 1.7 bln USD on investment promotion this year

Australian gov't to see what further pressure can be applied to Fiji: FM

2nd LD Writethru: Thai army prepared to disperse protesters at Gov't House

Singapore non-oil domestic exports drop 17 pct in March

Urgent: HK stocks up 3.05 pct

Australian govt not to evacuate Australians from Thailand: FM

Vietnam in the fear of state budget overspending this year

No failure of surveillance, foreign minister says

1st LD Writethru: Hong Kong stocks up 3.05 pct

Vietnam seeks to lift science, technology level

Major news items in leading Bangladeshi newspapers

Nepal Police unveils strategy to fight crime

Australian airline Qantas slashes its annual profit forecast

Urgent: Red-shirted leaders ready to surrender

Gold price opens higher in Hong Kong -- April 14

Singapore lowers total trade growth forecast for 2009

1st LD Writethru: Red-shirted leaders ready to surrender

Tamil Tigers attack Sri Lanka village

(Sports) British teams reach base camp of Mt. Qomolangma to play cricket

India accuses Pakistan of indulging in delaying tactics in Mumbai attacks case

Foreign exchange rates in Philippines

Major news items in leading Indian newspapers

Dollar falls to upper 99 yen in Tokyo

3rd LD Writethru: Thai Army prepared to disperse protesters at Gov't House

HK stocks finish 2.91 pct higher at midday

Urgent: 2 die, 121 injured in the clashes in Bangkok

Stocks close mixed in Philippines

Thai Troops prepare to disperse protesters outside Government House

Vietnam better positioned than Singapore in global downturn: Singaporean minister

Vietnamese banks do fine despite crisis

Urgent: Thai protest leaders surrender to police

Vietnamese Deputy PM asks young entrepreneurs to help tackling recession

Tobacco claims 57,000 lives of people in Bangladesh every year

1st LD: Thai protest leaders surrender to police

CEOs expect better times within year: survey

Major news items in Afghan leading newspapers

High ranking agricultural official shot dead in Philippines

Cambodia to finish talks on railway upgrade contract

1st LD Writethru: Thai protest leaders surrender to police

Indonesia sets 2019-2024 to get forests repaired

Bangladesh plans to train up 1 mln skilled workers for overseas jobs

1st LD Writethru: Two die, 121 injured in clashes in Bangkok

Indonesian president named one of world's influential figure

Urgent: 14 Indian sailors taken hostage in Somalia released

2nd LD Writethru: Thai protest leaders surrender to police

Xinhua Asia-Pacific news summary at 0600 GMT, April 14

Taliban execute couple in W. Afghanistan

Australian gov't says Qantas jobs move is unwelcome news

Nepali second largest hydro-power project starts full capacity production

British defense official visits Nepal

Nikkei closes 0.92 pct lower

International co-operation vital to combat people smuggling, Australian gov't says.

Philippine media company ABS-CBN posts 9 pct growth in 2008

Pakistan stocks open amid volatility

3rd LD Writethru: Thai anti-government rallies retreat, security remains tight in Bangkok

1st LD Writethru: 14 Indian sailors held hostage in Somalia released

Over Hundred of Tamils protest outside Australian PM's home

Pile driver topples over in Tokyo, injures 6

Indonesia's parties start talks on coalition

Foreign exchange rates in Laos

Foreign exchange rates in Vietnam

Indian army marks 25th anniversary of taking world highest battlefield in Kashmir

Seoul shares close up

Tourism Fiji says business as usual despite political crisis

Vietnam stock market index ends up

28 people injured in car accident in Singapore

Urgent: HK stocks soar 4.05 pct

Foreign exchange rates in Indonesia

Thai gov't to lift emergency decree as soon as peace is restored: deputy spokesman

Women terrorists trained to infiltrate into India: army chief

1st LD: Hong Kong stocks soar 4.05 pct higher

Foreign exchange rates in New Zealand

- S. Korean gov't admits DPRK rocket followed satellite trajectory
- S. Korean economy shows signs of recovery: president

Indonesia's opposition leaders label 2009 elections as the worst

New Zealand sharemarket closes one pct higher

Website launched to support jobless youths of western Nepal

Australia says Thai turmoil could have economic consequences

Urgent: Hong Kong stocks close 4.55 pct higher

HK gov't continues to promote solar energy development

Thai gov't extends public holiday to facilitate stability- restoration

1st LD Writethru: Hong Kong stocks close 4.55 pct higher

1st LD Writethru: Nikkei closes 0.92 pct lower on worries over U.S. automaker

Urgent: 7 Indian troops killed in landslide in Kashmir

Australian gov't policies not to blame for spike in boat arrivals

Donald Tsang to meet Vietnam's PM in Hong Kong

Brunei gives married woman civil servants permanent posts

Indonesia's economy likely to grow 4.5 pct in 1Q

HK Chief Executive to attend Boao Forum annual conference

15 drown as boat capsizes in E. Pakistan

PNG PM expresses regret over Fiji's political situation

11 killed in fight at border of Indonesia, Papua New Guinea

Vietnamese import turnover of fiber down in first two months this year

S. Korea to send two Navy vessels to China for fleet review

Normalcy returning to Bangkok: Thai Foreign Ministry

Load-Date: April 15, 2009



ANALYSIS: A complex setting for a difficult war -Abbas Rashid

Daily Times (PK)
October 31, 2009 Saturday

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Length: 1040 words

Dateline: Pakistan

Body

Pakistan, Oct. 31 -- As if to make the point particularly for the benefit of US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, Peshawar was subjected hours after her arrival to one of the most callous bombing attacks in recent months, with a toll of over a hundred dead, many among them being <u>women</u> and children. Clearly, the operation in Waziristan is now eliciting a desperate response from the terrorists. And the road ahead will be difficult not just in Waziristan but also the rest of the country.

Clinton's visit to Pakistan is purportedly a hearts-and-minds initiative with a focus on people-to-people dialogue. Partly, at least, it seems to have been prompted by what may be regarded in the US as something of a paradox: anti-Americanism is on the rise in Pakistan, even as the perception that extremists pose a real threat to the country has gone up sharply. Of course, some other key messages are also being conveyed over the course of the visit. But a trust deficit on both sides remains central to the relationship between Pakistan and the US. And it may be safe to say that such a visit will go only go so far in allaying suspicions about the US role and intentions in the region, regardless of how well-founded these may or may not be.

Whatever the measure of media hype with regard to shaping these perceptions, the issue of the US footprint is an important one. What is needed is a substantive relationship in the mutual interest of both countries without a posture on the part of the US that reaffirms the impression that Pakistan is being dictated to. Plans to greatly extend the area of the US embassy in Islamabad or unhelpful language inserted in the Kerry-Lugar bill are relatively recent examples. Hopefully, the visit will be of some help in this context.

Obviously, there are substantive issues as well that serve to impair the relationship. The use of drones to target militants by the US is a case in point. There is little doubt that some key leaders of the insurgency have been killed through the use of drones, most recently Baitullah Mehsud. But, it did not take long for him to be replaced by Hakimullah.

And it is difficult to argue that this represents an improvement. Even if a militant group splits into factions as a result of losing its leader, there is no guarantee that similarly extremist variants will not take shape. The Tehreek-e Taliban Pakistan is not, for instance, similar to what the <u>Tamil Tigers</u> used to be in Sri Lanka with Prabhakran being the sole unquestioned leader for so many years.

Given the context, the discussion in US policy-making circles about extending the ambit of drone attacks to Balochistan makes no sense at all. US vice president Joe Biden is a strong advocate of the so-called 'Pakistan First' strategy, arguing that the root of the problem lies in Pakistan rather than Afghanistan. Even if this argument were assumed to be valid, it is Pakistan that will have to take care of it - a US strategy of using drones in

Balochistan will only further inflame popular sentiment making it even more difficult for the two states to collaborate even where their interests converge.

In any case, as in Waziristan, the real undermining of the terrorist strength will have to come through successful military action on the ground while ensuring that innocent people do not become targets, particularly given the use of air power and long-range artillery. Equally crucial will be the political and economic initiatives that accompany and follow the military action. It is not encouraging to see the long lines of people in Dera Ismail Khan who, having been displaced from Waziristan, have to undergo yet another ordeal merely to get registered. There was plenty of notice before the operation and the government should have been better prepared to meet the needs of the displaced families already having borne more than their fair share of hardships.

Meanwhile, Pakistan is carefully watching the developments with regard to US policy across the border. US President Barack Obama has reportedly asked senior officials for a province-wise analysis to determine which regions are being effectively run by local leaders. Whatever the problems with this approach, it gives President Obama some grounds for scaling down any force enhancement in Afghanistan favoured by the military, keeping in view the tide of domestic public opinion in the US which is turning against the war.

At the same time, the US does not seem to be considering a cut-and-run option at this point and is unlikely to turn down General Stanley McChrystal's request in its entirety. But the case for less rather than more boots on the ground has received a boost recently from an unlikely: Matthew Hoh, a well-regarded foreign service official and former Marine who became the first US official to resign in protest against the US war in Afghanistan. US troops' presence, he contends, has served to fuel the insurgency rather than quell it. And that many Afghans do not adhere to the terrorist agenda of Al Qaeda or the ideology of the Taliban but are willing to take up arms to resist the presence of US forces in their area.

Eventually, then, the US strategy could become one of rewarding the better-run regions with more development aid and holding out that promise to other provinces willing to eschew violence. In any case Afghanistan is unlikely to acquire a strong central government of any kind in the foreseeable future.

The US exit strategy, however, will also have to ensure that Afghanistan does not descend once again into civil war and for that some kind of a regional arrangement will have to be worked out. A particularly important aspect of such an arrangement would be an understanding between Pakistan and India with regard to Afghanistan. The statement on Thursday by Prime Minister Manmohan Singh with regard to India's willingness to resume peace talks with Pakistan without pre-conditions is certainly encouraging in that context. It might also clear the way for Pakistan to squarely address the issue of tackling extremist groups in southern Punjab. Published by HT Syndication with permission from Daily Times. For more information on news feed please contact Sarabjit Jagirdar at <a href="https://dx.doi.org/no.com/no.

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

Load-Date: October 31, 2009



World

The Vancouver Sun (British Columbia)

May 30, 2009 Saturday

Final Edition

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Section: CANADA & WORLD; Pg. B7

Length: 972 words

Byline: Vancouver Sun

Body

NEPAL. Austrian female climber close to setting record

A renowned Austrian mountaineer, who has climbed 12 of the world's highest mountains, is one step closer to becoming the first woman to scale all 14 peaks after conquering Lhotse in Nepal. Gerlinde Kaltenbrunner, 38, climbed Lhotse, the fourth tallest peak at 8,516 metres, last week. It was her 12th climb of a mountain above 8,000 metres. Next month, she plans to try and scale the 8,611 metre K2, the world's second highest summit, in Pakistan for the 13th climb. She must still climb Mount Everest to claim the record. Kaltenbrunner climbed Lhotse with her German husband Ralf Dujmovits, 47, the first from his country to climb all 14 peaks.

SOMALIA. Piracy crackdown nets 100 arrests

An international naval crackdown on piracy off Somalia's coast has yielded around 100 arrests and put bandits operating near the Horn of Africa on the defensive, U.S. and UN officials said on Friday. "The international maritime presence is increasingly successful," U.N. special envoy to Somalia Ahmedou Ould-Abdallah told reporters. "We have about 100 already arrested. I don't know how many disappeared. ... I think financiers behind them are also aware that they are being watched."

PAKISTAN. Government offers \$600,000 for Taliban commander

Pakistan stepped up its offensive against the Taliban on Friday, slapping a \$600,000 price on the head of a firebrand rebel and claiming to have captured another militant stronghold. The government hopes the bounty will help it get -- dead or alive -- Maulana Fazlullah, a hardline Taliban cleric and commander who masterminded a two-year uprising in the northwest Swat Valley to enforce sharia law in a brutal campaign that beheaded opponents, burned scores of schools and fought against government troops since November 2007. Islamabad says around 15,000 soldiers are fighting up to 2,000 militants in Swat, where on Friday the military declared another militant stronghold had been cleared and 28 militants killed over the last 24 hours.

SRI LANKA. Military behind 20,000 Tamil deaths, report suggests

Sri Lanka faced fresh allegations on Friday that its army had killed huge numbers of civilians during its offensive against the <u>Tamil Tigers</u>, as well as complaints it was continuing to block aid workers. Britain's Times newspaper said its investigation into the blistering war on the separatist rebels pointed to more than 20,000 Tamil civilian deaths, most of them killed by army shelling in the final weeks of the conflict. Citing aerial photographs, official

World

documents, witness accounts and expert testimony, the paper said the final stages of the conflict saw 1,000 civilians killed each day up to May 19, when the corpse of rebel leader Velupillai Prabhakaran was shown on television and the war declared won. The Sri Lankan government angrily dismissed the report.

IRAN. U.S. condemns attacks on Shiite mosque

The United States on Friday condemned recent "terrorist attacks" on the soil of its arch-foe Iran, and denied claims by some officials there that it was behind a deadly bombing of a Shiite mosque. The firm U.S. line followed a suicide strike on the mosque in Zahedan, restive capital of Sistan-Baluchestan province, bordering Afghanistan and Pakistan, which killed at least 25 people on Thursday. On Friday, gunmen attacked Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad's election campaign office in the same city.

DENMARK. Recent killings prompt tougher prison sentences

Danish lawmakers on Friday adopted tough measures to end a bloody war between biker gangs and immigrants that saw four people killed last year, approving tougher prison sentences by a large majority. The new law doubles the jail sentence for murder, violence or arms possession if committed by a gang member. For example, illegal arms possession will carry a minimum one-year prison sentence for a gang member.

NORTH KOREA. Nuclear buildup won't be tolerated by U.S., it says

U.S. Defence Secretary Robert Gates said today the United States would not accept a nuclear North Korea. "We will not stand idly by as North Korea builds the capability to wreak destruction on any target in the region or on us," Gates told a meeting of Asian defence ministers in Singapore. Gates was due to meet his counterparts from South Korea and Japan later today to discuss action on North Korea, after the isolated state's nuclear test this week.

UNITED STATES. Sea level on East Coast may rise faster than forecasted

New York, Boston and other cities on North America's northeast coast could face a rise in sea level this century that would exceed forecasts for the rest of the planet if Greenland's ice sheet keeps melting as fast as it is now, researchers said. Sea levels off the northeast coast of North America could rise by 12 to 20 inches more than other coastal areas if the Greenland glacier-melt continues to accelerate at its present pace, the researchers reported

Number of sexually active teens decreasing

The percentage of U.S. teens having sex showed a "dramatic" drop between 1992 and 2002, while there was a similarly striking rise in the use of contraception by those who were sexually active, a new analysis of data shows. However, very recent increases in teen pregnancy, after the decade-long decline, show that more work needs to be done to help improve teens' reproductive health, according to Child Trends in Washington.

Pythons becoming threat

inn Florida's Everglades

The population of Burmese pythons in Florida's Everglades may have grown to as many as 150,000 as the non-native snakes make a home and breed in the fragile wetlands. Wildlife biologists say the troublesome invaders --dumped in the Everglades by pet owners who no longer want them -- have become a pest and pose a significant threat to endangered species such as the wood stork and Key Largo woodrat.

Graphic

World

Colour Photo: Marcello Paternostro/AFP/Getty Images; A fireboat tries to extinguish a fire on a Tirrenia di Navigazione ferry after fire broke out on board, prompting the removal of some 500 passengers, near the Sicilian harbour of Palermo on Friday. There were no reported injuries among the passengers. The Vincenzo Florio, travelling from the southern city of Naples to Palermo, was about 40 km (25 miles) from the Sicilian port when the blaze started.;

Load-Date: May 30, 2009



Xinhua General News Service

April 14, 2009 Tuesday 1:15 AM EST

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Section: WORLD NEWS

Length: 1265 words

Dateline: HONG KONG April 14

Body

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

Major news items in leading New Zealand newspapers

Major news items in leading Australian newspapers

Major news items in leading Thai newspapers

Dollar at lower 100 yen level in Tokyo

Singapore lowers GDP forecast for 2009

Major news items in leading Japanese newspapers

Nikkei opens 0.69 pct lower

Thai PM cancels visit to Cambodia: official

1st LD Writethru: Singapore lowers GDP forecast for 2009

Major news items in leading Philippine newspapers

Cambodian government agrees to contain temple vandalism with international intervention

Foreign exchange rates in Nepal

Major news items in leading Nepali newspapers

One killed, 23 injured in bus accident in eastern Nepal

Hong Kong stocks open 2.69 pct higher

Cambodian gov't accuses media cartoon of affecting ties with Thailand

Ship capsizes off southern Japan, 12 missing

Fiji interim PM assures no disruption in delivery of public goods, services

Nikkei down 1.27 pct in morning trading

President, PM extend Nepali new year greetings

Seoul shares open lower

Major news items in leading Vietnamese newspapers

Singapore central bank eases monetary policy

Indonesia hosts Asia-Pacific meeting on Rohingya issue

Major news items in leading Pakistani newspapers

Thai anti-gov't protesters place several gas cylinders around Gov't House

Urgent: Thai army to disperse protesters at Gov't House

Major news items in leading Singapore's newspapers

Phone companies reduce tariffs from Nepali New Year

1st LD: Thai army prepared to disperse protesters at Gov't House

20 injured as pole breaks and falls on crowd of people

Vietnam unveils master plan for urban development

Vietnam plans to spend about 1.7 bln USD on investment promotion this year

Australian gov't to see what further pressure can be applied to Fiji: FM

2nd LD Writethru: Thai army prepared to disperse protesters at Gov't House

Singapore non-oil domestic exports drop 17 pct in March

Urgent: HK stocks up 3.05 pct

Australian govt not to evacuate Australians from Thailand: FM

Vietnam in the fear of state budget overspending this year

No failure of surveillance, foreign minister says

1st LD Writethru: Hong Kong stocks up 3.05 pct

Vietnam seeks to lift science, technology level

Major news items in leading Bangladeshi newspapers

Nepal Police unveils strategy to fight crime

Australian airline Qantas slashes its annual profit forecast

Urgent: Red-shirted leaders ready to surrender

Gold price opens higher in Hong Kong -- April 14

Singapore lowers total trade growth forecast for 2009

1st LD Writethru: Red-shirted leaders ready to surrender

Tamil Tigers attack Sri Lanka village

(Sports) British teams reach base camp of Mt. Qomolangma to play cricket

India accuses Pakistan of indulging in delaying tactics in Mumbai attacks case

Foreign exchange rates in Philippines

Major news items in leading Indian newspapers

Dollar falls to upper 99 yen in Tokyo

3rd LD Writethru: Thai Army prepared to disperse protesters at Gov't House

HK stocks finish 2.91 pct higher at midday

Urgent: 2 die, 121 injured in the clashes in Bangkok

Stocks close mixed in Philippines

Thai Troops prepare to disperse protesters outside Government House

Vietnam better positioned than Singapore in global downturn: Singaporean minister

Vietnamese banks do fine despite crisis

Urgent: Thai protest leaders surrender to police

Vietnamese Deputy PM asks young entrepreneurs to help tackling recession

Tobacco claims 57,000 lives of people in Bangladesh every year

1st LD: Thai protest leaders surrender to police

CEOs expect better times within year: survey

Major news items in Afghan leading newspapers

High ranking agricultural official shot dead in Philippines

Cambodia to finish talks on railway upgrade contract

1st LD Writethru: Thai protest leaders surrender to police

Indonesia sets 2019-2024 to get forests repaired

Bangladesh plans to train up 1 mln skilled workers for overseas jobs

1st LD Writethru: Two die, 121 injured in clashes in Bangkok

Indonesian president named one of world's influential figure

Urgent: 14 Indian sailors taken hostage in Somalia released

2nd LD Writethru: Thai protest leaders surrender to police

Xinhua Asia-Pacific news summary at 0600 GMT, April 14

Taliban execute couple in W. Afghanistan

Australian gov't says Qantas jobs move is unwelcome news

Nepali second largest hydro-power project starts full capacity production

British defense official visits Nepal

Nikkei closes 0.92 pct lower

International co-operation vital to combat people smuggling, Australian gov't says.

Philippine media company ABS-CBN posts 9 pct growth in 2008

Pakistan stocks open amid volatility

3rd LD Writethru: Thai anti-government rallies retreat, security remains tight in Bangkok

1st LD Writethru: 14 Indian sailors held hostage in Somalia released

Over Hundred of Tamils protest outside Australian PM's home

Pile driver topples over in Tokyo, injures 6

Indonesia's parties start talks on coalition

Foreign exchange rates in Laos

Foreign exchange rates in Vietnam

Indian army marks 25th anniversary of taking world highest battlefield in Kashmir

Seoul shares close up

Tourism Fiji says business as usual despite political crisis

Vietnam stock market index ends up

28 people injured in car accident in Singapore

Urgent: HK stocks soar 4.05 pct

Foreign exchange rates in Indonesia

Thai gov't to lift emergency decree as soon as peace is restored: deputy spokesman

Women terrorists trained to infiltrate into India: army chief

1st LD: Hong Kong stocks soar 4.05 pct higher

Foreign exchange rates in New Zealand

S. Korean gov't admits DPRK rocket followed satellite trajectory

S. Korean economy shows signs of recovery: president

Indonesia's opposition leaders label 2009 elections as the worst

New Zealand sharemarket closes one pct higher

News items from Asia-Pacific Desk of Xinhua

Website launched to support jobless youths of western Nepal

Australia says Thai turmoil could have economic consequences

Urgent: Hong Kong stocks close 4.55 pct higher

HK gov't continues to promote solar energy development

Thai gov't extends public holiday to facilitate stability- restoration

1st LD Writethru: Hong Kong stocks close 4.55 pct higher

1st LD Writethru: Nikkei closes 0.92 pct lower on worries over U.S. automaker

Urgent: 7 Indian troops killed in landslide in Kashmir

Australian gov't policies not to blame for spike in boat arrivals

Donald Tsang to meet Vietnam's PM in Hong Kong

Brunei gives married woman civil servants permanent posts

Indonesia's economy likely to grow 4.5 pct in 1Q

HK Chief Executive to attend Boao Forum annual conference

15 drown as boat capsizes in E. Pakistan

PNG PM expresses regret over Fiji's political situation

11 killed in fight at border of Indonesia, Papua New Guinea

Vietnamese import turnover of fiber down in first two months this year

S. Korea to send two Navy vessels to China for fleet review

Normalcy returning to Bangkok: Thai Foreign Ministry

Load-Date: April 16, 2009



Lankan protesters scuffle with UK police

Daily Mirror (Sri Lanka)

April 8, 2009 Wednesday

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Length: 677 words

Dateline: Colombo

Body

Colombo, April 8 -- British police arrested four protestors on Tuesday after repeated scuffles at an illegal demonstration by Tamils in central London, Scotland Yard said.

Officers were deployed to try to disperse the protest, over alleged rights abuses in Sri Lanka, after up to 3,000 demonstrators blocked Westminster Bridge and streets near the House of Commons overnight. The demo comes as Tamil Tiger rebels face a final assault by government forces in Sri Lanka, who have killed at least 525 rebels in four days of fierce fighting in the northeast of the island. By Tuesday afternoon -- 24 hours after the unannounced demo began -- police had rounded up some 500 protestors on Parliament Square, where sporadic scuffles broke out amid noisy chanting and drumming. "It's because of the bombing and killing in Sri Lanka.

They have started to use chemical bombs in Sri Lanka," said Nathan Kumar, chairman of the British Tamil Forum, adding that more than 10 people had been injured. Protestor Baskaran Arumugasamy said the scuffles broke out after police tried to seize their flags -- which he insisted were not those of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), but Tamil flags. "They took the flag. That's why we're angry. It's our national flag. They can't touch it," he told AFP. During one surge with police, protestors threw objects including cans and a stick. At least three people were taken away on stretchers, according to an AFP reporter on the scene. Four lifeboats were scrambled after some of the protestors reportedly threatened to throw themselves into the nearby River Thames. One person did enter the water and was taken to hospital, the spokesman said. The protest started Monday, and at one stage overnight had expanded to about 3,000 men, women and children. By Tuesday morning it had shrunk to 200-300, before growing to 500 in the afternoon. "We've got a contingency plans if the numbers start to grow again," a Scotland Yard spokesman told AFP. Police chief Jerry Savill said his officers were showing restraint. "We've been remarkably tolerant really," he told the BBC, explaining that police had to be careful because women and children were also among the demonstrators. "These people are demonstrating in breach of the law. We've had to show some restraint," he said, adding that police planned to try to disperse them again in the coming hours. Tamil protesters block Norway PM's office Dozens of Sri Lankan Tamils blocked the entrance to the Norwegian prime minister's office in Oslo on Tuesday, calling on the Scandinavian country to act in its role as mediator in the conflict. Demonstrators handed a written appeal to a Norwegian government representative demanding an immediate ceasefire in Sri Lanka, said a protester who read out the letter on Norwegian television. The document also called for an end to bombings, authorization for humanitarian organizations to work on the ground and the despatch of international observers to the conflict zone. Due to the Easter holidays, Prime Minister Jens Stoltenberg wasn't in his office Tuesday, a spokesman told AFP. "We are by far the most active country in the conflict. The problem is not what Norway is doing, it's what the protagonists are doing," Norwegian Development Aid Minister Erik Solheim, who has served as mediator in the Sri Lankan conflict, told news agency NTB. "We are criticized by all sides. The Tamils say we're not doing enough while the Sri Lankan government thinks we're doing too much," he said. Television images showed several dozen demonstrators waving flags and posters taking part in a sit-in outside the

Lankan protesters scuffle with UK police

government offices. Protesters told news channel TV2 Nyhetskanalen that Sri Lankan government troops were using chemical weapons in their offensive against a rebel holdout in the northeastern part of the country. About 200 Tamil demonstrators briefly stopped traffic in central Oslo on Monday evening before being dispersed by police using tear gas, Norwegian media reported. Published by HT Syndication with permission from Daily Mirror Sri Lanka.

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

Load-Date: April 9, 2009



Aid worker 'supported terrorism'

The Australian
September 8, 2009 Tuesday
6 - NSW Country Edition

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Section: LOCAL; Pg. 1

Length: 698 words

Byline: Amanda Hodge, South Asia correspondent

Body

A FORMER Australian diplomat-turned Sri Lankan foreign secretary, Palitha Kohona, is behind the expulsion of an Australian aid worker from the country for speaking out on child war casualties and malnutrition rates, The Australian has learned.

Dr Kohona, an Australian citizen who moves to New York this week as Sri Lanka's representative at the UN, said yesterday that UNICEF spokesman James Elder should be treated no differently from Australians deported or languishing in jails across the world for breaking the rules of a sovereign country. ``He is supporting a terrorist organisation. When you express views that are taken from the propaganda arm of a terrorist organisation I don't think there's much room left for doubt," he said yesterday.

Mr Elder, UNICEF's communications chief for Sri Lanka, has been given until September 21 to leave the country on allegations he issued statements that supported the views of the defeated separatist Tamil Tiger rebels.

The Australian understands the

Continued -- Page 6

From Page 1

expulsion letter, dated August 14, 2009, was signed by Dr Kohona -- a dual Sri Lankan/Australian citizen and former Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade official.

Mr Elder has been working for UNICEF in Sri Lanka since July last year and had a residency visa valid until next year. He is believed to be the first UN worker expelled from the country, although the government has previously deported aid workers or refused to renew their visas for making statements deemed unflattering to the government.

The Norwegian head of Forut, an Oslo-based aid group, was deported in June because she stopped staff from raising a Sri Lankan national flag in their office to celebrate the defeat of the Tigers. In July the International Committee of the Red Cross was forced to close two offices, one of which was investigating extra-judicial killings.

In a statement yesterday, the Australian government said it was aware of Mr Elder's expulsion and the Australian High Commission in Colombo would ``provide consular assistance, if necessary".

Aid worker 'supported terrorism'

"We would be concerned if international humanitarian organisations were impeded in their ability to aid the thousands of people who need their assistance," it added.

Dr Kohona said the government was in talks with UNICEF over the expulsion but was "really surprised" by the international attention given its decision.

Mr Elder had offended and embarrassed Sri Lanka and, in the process breached the UN mandate, by suggesting children locked up in the country's refugee camps were dying of malnutrition, he said. "The World Health Organisation has refuted that. It says the incidence of malnutrition in the camps is no higher than elsewhere in the country.

"As a former UN official I am all too conscious that UN officials must remain neutral as far as their host government is concerned and not do or say anything that embarrasses the government. When you blatantly abuse your mandate you can only expect the host country to take action."

The Sri Lankan government concedes child malnutrition is as high as 20 per cent in some parts of Sri Lanka, an island nation stricken by three decades of civil war between the Sinhalese-dominated military and the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (*LTTE*).

Before the government's defeat of the Tigers in May, Mr Elder spoke of the ``unimaginable hell" suffered by children caught up in the last brutal stages of the war. He also called on the government to allow aid groups unrestricted access to 280,000 mostly Tamil refugees being held in internment camps.

UNICEF South Asia communications chief Sarah Crowe said: ``James Elder has been UNICEF's voice advocating on behalf of those who do not have a voice -- children and the most vulnerable. We strongly feel that he should continue to act as an impartial advocate on behalf of Sri Lanka's most vulnerable **women** and children."

The Sri Lankan-born Dr Kohona served as first secretary in Australia's Geneva embassy from 1989 to 1992 before heading up DFAT's trade and investment unit. He moved to the UN's treaty office on secondment in 1995 and resigned from DFAT four years later to stay on with the UN until he was lured back to Sri Lanka.

Load-Date: September 7, 2009



Secretary-General to head to Sri Lanka later this week

NEWS Press (English)
May 20, 2009 Wednesday

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Section: International; International organizations

Length: 675 words

Byline: United Nations

Body

Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon announced today that he will visit Sri Lanka later this week, in part to get a first-hand look at the situation on the ground after the Government declared that its military operation against the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (*LTTE*) has ended.

The 22-23 May visit would be to respond to the urgent need to heal the wounds of a war that has alienated the communities in the country for almost three decades, Mr. Ban told a news conference in Geneva.

Progress on all three of these fronts must move forward in parallel - and it must begin now, he stated.

Mr. Ban's Chief of Staff, Vijay Nambiar, is currently in the country and is engaged with relevant parties on how best to respond to the humanitarian situation of the large number of internally displaced persons (IDPs) and initiate a process for early recovery and long-term reconciliation, rehabilitation and reconstruction.

UN agencies are stepping up their efforts to assist the hundreds of thousands of people displaced by the conflict. The UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) estimates that there are around 220,000 people who have already reached the IDP camps, and it is believed that another 40,000-60,000 people are on their way to the sites.

John Holmes, Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs, told reporters yesterday that the large influx of people poses "major humanitarian challenges" in terms of providing shelter and other basic services, such as food, clean water and medical services.

"The conditions in these camps are certainly not ideal. They're not up to international standards yet but everybody is working very hard to try to make sure that they are," he stated.

The head of the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF) today called for full and unimpeded humanitarian access so that <u>women</u> and children can receive the assistance they need, following reports that access to some IDP camps has become restricted.

Secretary-General to head to Sri Lanka later this week

Ann M. Veneman stressed that UNICEF is committed to working with partners to provide those in the camps with essential water and sanitation, nutrition, maternal and child health care, education and protection.

Restrictions to enter the IDP sites, imposed over the weekend, are also hindering the ability of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) to deliver assistance, its spokesperson said.

"Our access to the Vavuniya sites has been greatly curtailed over the past few days and this affects our ability to monitor and distribute aid to the displaced," Ron Redmond told reporters today. "We hope this ends quickly."

The agency has asked the Sri Lankan authorities to allocate more land for the construction of emergency shelter, water and sanitation facilities, as well as to provide public buildings in Vavuniya, Jaffna, Mannar and Kilinochchi in order to accommodate arriving IDPs.

The World Food Programme (WFP), for its part, is boosting its food stocks and preparing nutritionally-rich food for **women** and children to meet the needs of the IDPs. The agency is already feeding 250,000 people in temporary transit camps.

In a related development, the UN Human Rights Council will hold a special session on 25 May to address the human rights situation in Sri Lanka, following a request by several of its members.

"It is hoped that the holding of this special session will contribute towards the cause of peace," said the Council's President, Martin Ihoeghian Uhomoibhi.

"The Human Rights Council cannot be silent when innocent civilians are caught up in armed conflicts. The international community must strive to deliver justice to victims of human rights violations wherever they occur and ensure that those found guilty of such crimes are held accountable for their actions," he added.

Next Monday's meeting will be the 11th special session of the Geneva-based Council, which has also held special sessions related to the occupied Palestinian territories, Lebanon, Darfur, Myanmar, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the global food crisis and the global economic and financial crises.

Load-Date: May 20, 2009



Tigers resisting despite calls to surrender: S.Lanka military

Agence France Presse -- English
April 23, 2009 Thursday 9:49 PM GMT

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Length: 664 words

Byline: Amal Jayasinghe

Dateline: COLOMBO, April 23 2009

Body

Sri Lanka's cornered Tamil Tiger rebels put up stiff resistance despite calls for their surrender, the military said Thursday as the UN estimated 50,000 civilians were still trapped in the war zone.

The army said the guerrillas were confined to a mere 10-12 square kilometres (around four square miles) of territory on the northeast coast, where thousands of civilians are trapped between government forces and the cornered rebels.

"We still estimate that about 50,000 remain there," said UN assistant secretary general for humanitarian affairs Catherine Bragg, adding that around 95,000 had fled the zone.

As international concern mounted for the safety of the trapped civilians, UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon said he had ordered a humanitarian team to northern Sri Lanka.

"The purpose of this humanitarian team will be to first of all monitor the situation and support the humanitarian assistance and try to do whatever we can to protect the civilian population," he told reporters in Brussels.

Sri Lanka, however, rejected appeals for an immediate humanitarian mission, saying that it was not sensible to let aid agencies into the war zone.

Defence Secretary Gotabhaya Rajapakse told the BBC "it would not be sensible to let aid agencies into the conflict zone because there was already an army operation in progress to rescue civilians."

Sri Lanka's military spokesman Brigadier Udaya Nanayakkara said the Tigers were using artillery and tanks in their last remaining bit of territory, an area the government had previously designated a "no-fire zone."

"There are sporadic clashes but our priority is to get the civilians out. We can finish them off very quickly after the civilians get out of the way," he said.

"We can claim we have completely defeated the Tigers when we have captured the remaining area," he said. The defence ministry, meanwhile, said guerrilla resistance was "dwindling."

Tigers resisting despite calls to surrender: S.Lanka military

The rebels have been repeatedly accused of using civilians as human shields.

President Mahinda Rajapakse has told the rebels to give up, but has ruled out any amnesty for rebel leader Velupillai Prabhakaran, who has led a ruthless decades-long battle for a separate Tamil homeland.

The UN Security Council president also said on Wednesday that the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (*LTTE*) must now give up.

There was no immediate comment from the rebels, but a pro-rebel website accused government forces of shelling the remaining rebel-held areas and killing and wounding more civilians, a charge denied by the military.

The Sri Lankan army has made major advances in recent months, beating back the guerrillas, who at one time controlled more than a third of the island. The government insists the rebels are now all but finished.

State television has shown thousands of people waiting for food; desperate civilians trudging through waist-deep water to get to safety and a young woman giving birth on a bus carrying displaced civilians away from the war zone.

The UN's top humanitarian official in Sri Lanka said the situation was disastrous.

"I saw infants with dysentery, malnourished children and <u>women</u>, untended wounds, and people dressed in the ragged clothing they've been wearing for months," said Neil Buhne, UN's Humanitarian Coordinator in Sri Lanka.

"We need funds for all the basics like food, medicine, water, sanitation, nutrition, shelter, and clothing," Buhne said after managing to visit the northern town of Vavuniya, where over 80,000 people are stuck in makeshift camps.

Sri Lanka has blocked most aid agencies and has herded escaping Tamil civilians into closely-guarded internment camps so it can weed out suspected rebels.

Foreign Minister Rohitha Bogollagama said he welcomed international aid, but signalled access to the north for aid workers and journalists would remain subject to restrictions.

Tamils around the world have demonstrated against the military campaign. In neighbouring India on Thursday, Tamil Nadu state came to a halt in protest over the conflict in Sri Lanka.

Load-Date: April 24, 2009



Injured Tamils overwhelming hospital, says doctor in Sri Lanka

Hindustan Times
April 24, 2009 Friday

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Length: 606 words

Dateline: Colombo

Body

Colombo, April. 24 -- The unfolding human tragedy of weary civilians fleeing the <u>LTTE</u>-held area in the island's north has "overwhelmed" a 450-bed hospital in Vavuniya which now tends to 1,700 badly wounded patients, a doctor said.

Paul McMaster, a doctor who works with with the international NGO M?decins Sans Fronti?res (MSF or Doctors Without Borders) and health ministry staff at Vavuniya hospital in the Northern province said: "We've been seeing very severely wounded patients, the numbers of patients have increased rapidly over the last three or four days, so we're seeing a stream of badly wounded people being brought into us."

"Our hospital has got about 450 beds, and we've now got more than 1,700 patients in the hospital - on the floor, in the corridors, and even outside. So the hospital is very close to being overwhelmed," said McMaster in a statement released by MSF.

About three-quarters of the injured coming in now have suffered from blast injuries, and the rest are gunshot wounds and mine explosion injuries, he said.

"We are doing a lot of amputations. Many of the lower limbs are severely, severely injured and blown off... Buses that bring these people down, people are dying on those buses, and bodies are being taken off the buses sometimes as well."

Speaking about the plight of the wounded, McMaster said: "We're seeing a lot of men with severe injuries, but we're also seeing a lot of <u>women</u>, a lot of children. We're doing amputations on children...We're seeing whole families that are wounded sometimes."

He went on to say: "We're seeing children that have no parents with them. We had a little boy with a blast amputation of his leg, I think he's about five, and he's being looked after by his big brother, who's about seven, and we don't know where the parents are or whether they're even alive. But these two little children are in the middle of a very traumatic hospital setting on their own."

On the mental state of the patients, he said "they just lie silently awaiting their turn to get treatment. We're dealing with critical people who need surgery urgently, and truthfully there's little time to go further.

"But these are deeply, deeply traumatised people. We have children sitting in the middle of emergency wards seeing people brought in with major blasts limb injuries. And these are children, just sitting silently, emotionless, in the middle of all this, as we try to treat them and move them quickly up to the surgery or the ward."

Injured Tamils overwhelming hospital, says doctor in Sri Lanka

He said that patients were living under very difficult conditions. "They come in needing acute surgery, so are not able to eat, and certainly some of them have had little to eat in the previous days. They come with nothing; they have barely the clothes that they have on. Of course, they're injured. The family members, if there is one, come with nothing - no pots, no pans."

The doctor observed that the post-operative care is the area of main concern.

"It's very difficult. We have a ward that I think is supposed to have 45 beds; we've had something like 325 patients in it. It's extremely difficult to give any quality post-operative care."

"From what I hear, the numbers are likely to continue over these coming days, and could even increase. We're making what preparations we can to receive an even larger number of casualties over these coming days. And our hope and prayer would be, of course, this stops very quickly, but I've seen no sign of that as yet, and I've not heard anything from the team or our Sri Lankan colleagues to suggest that's going to stop any time soon," he said grimly. Published by HT Syndication with permission from Indo-Asian News Service.

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Load-Date: August 4, 2009



Banning smoking in workplaces good for your heart

Daily News (Sri Lanka)
October 5, 2009 Monday

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Length: 660 words **Dateline:** Sri Lanka

Body

Sri Lanka, Oct. 5 -- The World Health Organization says that smoking killed 100 million people of the world in the 20th century. If Governments and concerned organizations do nothing to reverse current smoking trends in the world, tobacco could kill 10000 million (1 billion) people in the 21 century.

Of this 1 billion 50 percent would be those living in developing countries in Asia including Sri Lanka. In our country about 20,000 people die each year of tobacco related illnesses, especially heart disease. In World Heart Day which falls on September 27, we should resolve once again to do all we can to control the menace of tobacco in the world.

Secondhand smoke

Many people have heard the slogan 'your cigarette is killing me. This statement is in fact expresses a well established truth. The smoke that a smoker releases from his lungs into the environment goes also in the lungs of non-smokers in the environment. Such smoke is called secondhand smoke. The deadly poisons that tobacco smoke contains passes from the lungs into the bloodstream of those who inhale it.

If a pregnant woman inhales this secondhand smoke some of the poisons in the smoke she inhales will reach her unborn baby through her bloodstream. There are more than 4,000 chemicals in tobacco smoke. Of these about 50 have been proved to be carcinogenic, that is to say, capable of causing cancer in various organs of the body including the lungs.

Poisons inhaled

It must also be remembered that there are other chemicals which can damage the heart and the blood vessels. So it is true to say that tobacco smoke where inhaled actively or passively is a major risk factor for heart disease.

Do you know that tobacco smoke contains Nicotine, DDT, Arsenic, Carbon Monoxide, Hydrogen cyanide, Cadmium and Formaldehyde? Nicotine is used commercially to make poison to kill cockroaches. DDT is a well known killer of mosquitoes. Arsenic is a poison which people have used to kill their enemies in slow stages by adding it to their food. Carbon monoxide is a poisonous gas found in car exhaust fumes. Hydrogen Cyanide was used in the suicide capsules of *LTTE* cadre.

There is evidence that cadmium maybe the poison that is causing serious kidney diseases of many people in the North Central Province. Formaldehyde is used to embalm dead bodies.

Banning smoking in workplaces good for your heart

Further examples are unnecessary to convince intelligent people that those who smoke in public places are not only slowly killing themselves (suicidal) but also slowly killing others (homicidal). If there are pregnant <u>women</u> in the environment then the behaviour of smokers becomes infanticidal as well.

Isn't it a crime to allow people who smoke in workplaces to continue to indulge in their criminal behaviour?

NATA Act

The National Authority of Tabacco and Alcohol Act No. 27 of 2006 became operative from December 1, 2006. According to Section 39(1), "No person shall smoke or allow any person to smoke any tobacco product within any enclosed public place. Any person who being the owner, occupier, proprietor, manager, trustee or person in charge of any enclosed public place shall ensure that no person smokes any tobacco product within any such enclosed public place".

Whether all workplaces are 'enclosed public places', is a legally debatable matter. Steps have therefore been taken to amend the Act to prohibit smoking in all public places. Predictably the merchants of death in the tobacco industry will do all they can to oppose such an amendment.

There is no doubt, however, that the overwhelming majority in the country will support such an amendment. There is no doubt, however that the overwhelming majority in the country will support such an amendment. It is line with the expressed intention of President Mahinda Rajapaksa to make Sri Lank free of tobacco smoke by 2015. Published by HT Syndication with permission from Daily News Sri Lanka. For more information on news feed please contact Sarabjit Jagirdar at <a href="https://doi.org/10.1007/nt.100

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Load-Date: October 9, 2009



Sri Lanka rejects truce calls as UN rushes back top negotiator

Agence France Presse -- English
May 14, 2009 Thursday 7:18 PM GMT

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Length: 728 words

Byline: Mel Gunasekera

Dateline: COLOMBO, May 14 2009

Body

Sri Lanka rejected international calls to halt its final offensive against Tamil rebels on Thursday, hours after the United Nations Security Council called for civilian lives to be spared.

Instead, troops pressed ahead with their major push aimed at completely defeating the remaining Tiger fighters, the military said as the former colonial power, Britain, raised the prospect of a war crimes investigation.

The military insists that it does not target civilians and that the current offensive is also aimed at freeing tens of thousands of civilians still held by Tiger rebels as a human shield.

"More than 2,000 people crossed over to government-controlled areas today (Thursday)" and a further 2,000 people were lined up waiting to flee, military spokesman Udaya Nanayakkara said.

He said the Tigers gunned down at least four people who tried to make a dash to safety from the shrinking rebelheld territory along the northeastern coast of the island. Another 14 were wounded, he added.

Britain said the humanitarian situation in Sri Lanka was "truly shocking".

"We would support an early investigation into all incidents that may have resulted in civilian casualties ... to determine whether war crimes have been committed," junior foreign minister Bill Rammell said.

"The UN's estimate, if it is accurate, of over 6,500 civilian deaths since January is truly shocking and appalling," he added, in a parliamentary debate on the military standoff on the island nation.

The UN said Thursday Secretary General Ban Ki-moon was rushing his chief of staff Vijay Nambiar back to Sri Lanka to press for protection of trapped civilians.

UN deputy spokeswoman Marie Okabe told a press briefing the secretary general was "sending his chef de cabinet to Sri Lanka this evening to underscore his message and to help resolve the humanitarian situation".

Sri Lanka rejects truce calls as UN rushes back top negotiator

Amnesty International called Wednesday for a probe into "the mounting evidence of serious violations of international law," and the UN's human rights chief Navi Pillay has already said both sides may be guilty of war crimes.

Sri Lanka remained defiant despite the calls to halt the onslaught against the Tamil separatists who are said to be on the verge of defeat after 37 years of fighting.

"We are not going to succumb to international pressure to stop the offensive," said Media Minister Lakshman Yapa Abeywardena, who argued that Sri Lanka was being unfairly targeted.

"In Pakistan and Afghanistan there are similar conflicts but no one is asking them to have a peace agreement or a ceasefire," Abeywardena told reporters.

"There is no international pressure there," he added. "Why only target us?"

His comments followed a statement issued late Wednesday by the UN Security Council urging both Colombo and the Tigers to "ensure the safety of civilians" and "respect their obligations under international humanitarian law."

Sri Lankan authorities estimate that up to 20,000 civilians are being held in the small northeastern pocket of coastal jungle where government troops have cornered the rump of the once-powerful Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (*LTTE*).

The United Nations has said as many as 50,000 may be trapped -- huddled under plastic sheeting, in shallow bunkers and with little food, water or medical facilities.

Video footage released by pro-rebel websites showed wounded <u>women</u> carrying small children who themselves were in bandages and screaming in pain. School yards had been turned into emergency treatment centres.

US President Barack Obama Wednesday called on the Sri Lankan government to allow UN humanitarian teams access to the combat zone to ease the unfolding "catastrophe" there.

"That is not possible," Sri Lankan minister Abeywardena said.

"As a responsible government, we can't guarantee their safety. Even the ICRC (International Committee of the Red Cross) is finding it difficult to deliver food supplies there."

The UN and Obama also appealed to Sri Lanka to stop using heavy weapons to avoid civilian casualties, as troops pushed to dismantle the last remaining rebel stronghold.

Around 100 people have been reported killed in the shelling of a makeshift hospital inside the conflict zone in recent days.

A rebel statement said thousands of civilians have died this week in artillery attacks, but the government insisted the Tigers were targeting civilians in a bid to encourage international intervention.

bur-aj/ft

Load-Date: May 15, 2009



Eleven killed by bomb in CTO

Daily News (Sri Lanka)
June 8, 2009 Monday

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Length: 699 words **Dateline:** Colombo

Body

Colombo, June 8 -- "These attacks only indicate that the <u>LTTE</u> is no longer interested in a peaceful settlement to the ethnic problem," said the statement which noted that Tiger leaders like Prabhakaran and Anton Balasingham are based in Tamil Nadu.

The Government also said it noted with concern that TULF leader, Appapillai Amirthalingam also based in Tamil Nadu, had told a Swedish journalist hours after the Tristar disaster that more bombs are to be expected. "As predicted by Mr. Amirthalingam, another bomb was exploded by the terrorists. This only proves that Mr. Amirthalingam is aware of terrorist plans to cause deaths of innocent civilians," the National Security Ministry said. Two persons were arrested in connection with yesterday's explosion at the CTO. One of them is a Tamil, described as an interdicted Bank employee and a resident of Jaffna and the other a Sinhala youth, a senior police officer said. Rescue workers fought their way through a mass of twisted metal, wooden beams and dislodged plaster - all that remained of the Telecommunication Department's payments section in the old style, wooden floored colonial building - to get the injured. The wooden floors were ripped out. Nine dead CTO workers were extricated and nearly a hundred injured were despatched to the General Hospital, Colombo. Additional Government Analyst A. R. L. Wijesekere who visited the scene yesterday said a heavy explosives charge had been used and here was a possibility that more than one device had been employed. "The possibility that more than one device had been used has to be investigated," he said. The analyst said that the observations he made at the scene suggested that the explosives had been placed close to the public counters. The AJMO, Dr. Sidney Premathiratne and his team of forensic experts also visited the scene. Rescue operations were necessarily slow as the floors above the basement were also being investigated. Another body, that of Assistant Postmaster S. B. Ranasinghe, was taken out nearly two hours later. Rescuers were continuing their search as this edition went to press and there was every likelihood of a number of seriously injured victims succumbing. Of the eleven, two were women, of whom one has been identified as Kusum Ukwatte, a CTO employee, Dr. Lucian Salgado, JMO said. Five of the dead men identified were, P. Reuben, Victor Perera, B. W. Abeysiri and S. B. Ranasinghe, all CTO employees. The fifth was S. G. Sarath who had visited the CTO to send a telex message, Dr. Salgado said. CTO workers who were setting down for the day's work in the basement office and in the payments section on the street-level, received the worst of the blast which was so severe that it sent shockwaves throughout the city. Several government offices in the vicinity closed for the day, as workers panicked. The Ministry of state which lies across the street, asked its employees to return home soon after the explosion. Shops and other businesses in the adjoining streets opened their doors by 11 a.m.and business continued in a tense atmosphere, with intensive security checks on clients and customers alike. Telecommunications sources began estimating the damage yesterday and said that the main equipment had been unaffected, through some telex machines had been damaged. The bomb, according to what was immediately known, was planted in the street-level office which deals with telegrams, bill payments and overseas and local calls. There would have been more than two dozen people on this floor alone, at the time explosion went off. The floor

Eleven killed by bomb in CTO

below (the basement) and the office above, both separated by wooden floors, were totally wrecked. Six iron safes in which collections were kept were intact, officials said. Military and police personnel moved in a short time after the explosion, cordoning off Lotus Road and Lower Chatham Street, Soldiers carrying automatic weapons assisted police to guard the affected building while police coaxed thousands of sightseers to keep away. A suspect briefcase found in the vicinity of the block was tackled by experts who reported it to be harmless. Published by HT Syndication with permission from Daily News Sri Lanka.

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Load-Date: June 8, 2009



Tiger chief built ruthless insurgency, but errors did him in

therecord.com

May 19, 2009 Tuesday

Final Edition

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Section: FRONT; Pg. A5

Length: 175 words

Byline: Ravi Nessman, The Associated Press

Dateline: COLOMBO, SRI LANKA

Body

Velupillai Prabhakaran transformed a small band of poorly armed rebels into one of the world's most sophisticated and ruthless insurgencies and then made a string of miscalculations that led his <u>Tamil Tigers</u> to total defeat at the hands of the Sri Lankan military.

To his followers, Prabhakaran was the steadfast heart of the battle to establish a breakaway state for Sri Lanka's ethnic Tamil minority. But his many detractors saw him as the brutal ruler of a suicide cult who sabotaged peace deals in his pursuit of power.

Though Prabhakaran was sometimes hailed as a master strategist, he alienated his strongest allies in India by sending a *female* suicide bomber to kill Gandhi in 1991.

The <u>Tamil Tigers</u> were also badly weakened when one of Prabhakaran's top commanders defected with thousands of fighters to the government side.

After a 2002 ceasefire, he rejected a deal that would have given the rebels broad autonomy over the north and east but not full independence, according to a diplomat. It was widely seen as the best deal he could ever get.

Graphic

Photo: Velupillai Prabhakaran

Load-Date: May 19, 2009



When seeking the rainbows

Daily News (Sri Lanka)
June 3, 2009 Wednesday

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Length: 1575 words

Dateline: Colombo

Body

Colombo, June 3 -- The post victory euphoria over <u>LTTE</u> terror will soon fade. As our President stated more than once, the realities of national reconciliation and rebuilding will take priority over all else. His vision of building a Sri Lankan nation where there are no minorities, but only Sri Lankans will be on the front-burner.

A long and hard road is ahead of us all. There is never a doubt that the political process must bring about a lasting solution as early as possible, to end the uncertainty of what that solution will be. We all know that it will need to be a solution that will ensure that Sri Lanka will be a unified State, where all her citizens are treated as equals. More importantly they must be offered equal opportunities and should be able to live in a secure and safe environment, with honour and dignity. All must have access to social and economic opportunities to build a better future for themselves and their children. It must be a nation where diversity is celebrated and racial and religious identities are respected. A lot has been said by the political leadership on this need. It is now time for all to agree on a common agenda, with the giving and taking being done with reason and rationality as key factors and not petty divisive 'who scores the most points' or 'winner takes it all' type of agenda. Interestingly, this is also the wish on top of the agenda of Sri Lanka's youth as demonstrated in the findings of an extensive dialogue-based survey carried out of young village community leaders by 'Sri Lanka's Promise; Village Development Trust' in the recent past. The study undertook to determine what our youth considered as happiness factors. Contrary to the belief of those who present light-hearted lumpant type representations of decadent sub-cultures on our media to attract the attention of our youth, they have demonstrated that they are above it all. According to the findings of the study, they consider preservation of basic values of upholding the rule of law, security and safety, access to opportunities, national and personal integrity, bringing back lasting peace, respectful caring for the aged, children, women and the disabled as important considerations in the formation of their happiness index. It is time that initiatives such as 'Mother Sri Lanka' take on strong positions to ensure that these key messages are communicated effectively to all Sri Lankans regardless of where they are located. The peace doves we saw as only a distant dream in the past, now must be reflected on white flags and must fly alongside Sri Lanka's national flag to symbolise the need to take on the challenge of nation rebuilding. They can symbolically be carried by our war heroes, youth and people from all walks of life. Unifiers such as the Mother Sri Lanka theme song and all others that focus on the reconciliation and building of national unity must be featured in the media and all efforts of communicators be they of the public or the private sector must be in tandem with the central theme of peace, reconciliation and rebuilding the Sri Lankan nation. The time when some were excluded or opted to stay excluded from the process need be over. It is a Motherhood truism that the long-term success of the process will depend on the buy-in and participation of all in the solution. It is time that we stopped looking at issues with coloured eye-glasses, tinted with affiliations and dogmas of our self, group or bipartisan interests and place the national interest above all. It is time we looked at ourselves in the mirror instead of looking through those tinted glasses at issues around us. Vision and direction The title of a presentation made by a Village Leadership Development Trust group on Sri Lanka's future development was Puthu venuwen ratak, rata

venuven hetak. In Tamil it reads Oru desham enadu pillai aha, nalai enadu deshathika aha with its English meaning 'A nation for my Child, a tomorrow for the Nation'. It takes our minds aptly to the aspiration of every Sri Lankan mother and father regardless of their race, caste or creed. Each wants to ensure that there is a future that will be bright and sustainable. A future they can leave behind with confidence for their children. 'Mother Sri Lanka', a programme driven by an independent Foundation on the initiation of the President's office was set up long before the defeat of *LTTE* terrorism was in the horizon. It demonstrates the vision and direction that was in the offing, not as an outcome of recent events, but as a means to meet the real need for reconciliation and rebuilding. Many ideas have now been placed on the table for consideration based on a broader agenda to meet this vision and direction. A special peace song created for the programme is now presented on most electronic media and can well form the theme song for reconciliation and rebuilding efforts. It is presented with a strong focus on the future and how bright and hopeful it can be for all Sri Lankans, when seeking a unity within the diversity that should be the future hallmark of our nation. Ensuring sustainability Looking beyond the creation of emotive appeal, there are thoughts on the type of development that must take place in the North and the East. The determinant of the ideal scale and model of development must naturally be determined by the elected representatives of the people of those provinces, within a guided policy framework of national interest. Given the socio-cultural realities, rushes of gold-digger type investments from outside, be they from rest of Sri Lanka, from neighbouring India or other lands, may lead to an overwhelming situation resulting perhaps in building further mistrust, unless carried out with direct stakeholder participation in the form of joint ventures. According to some analysts, this aspect, if mishandled may defeat the very objectives of why fast-paced development of these and other backward areas of the country is sought. Given the global challenges we face today in the climate change domain and the need for instilling more sustainable and socially and environmentally responsible lifestyles, a people-based small and medium sector dominated development is what may be envisaged. Ensuring the resettlement of the displaced, re-building devastated infrastructure and facilitation of needed resources will be the responsibility of the Government supported by the professional and business communities, donors and other well-wishers. The challenge of getting it right will fall squarely on the shoulders of strategic planners, technocrats and the political and civic leadership. Novel solutions Some have suggested to the Government that it may be prudent to appoint a panel of respected and representative Sri Lankan civic leaders to assist initiatives on the fronts of reconciliation and rebuilding of trust and in managing the resettlement of the displaced. There are ideas in place on using info-communications technology to overcome the difficulties faced by the Tamil and Muslim population in seeking administrative assistance as a result of the shortage of Tamil speaking officers and Police and other personnel. In addition to the call made by the Presidential Task Force for Redevelopment of the North to Tamil professionals, both in service and retired from the public and private sectors to assist in these areas with investment of time, effort and financial investment, there is also a call to set up 'Call Centres' operating round the clock to answer queries and service needs articulated in Tamil redirecting them via mobile phone or the Internet to persons qualified and are able to be of assistance. Host a family Immediate relief measures can be set up to support the current efforts of the Defence Forces and other organisations in looking after needs of the IDPs housed in camps. What is suggested is to link each family in camps through web-based virtual 'Host a Family' program, calling out to Sri Lankans living in Sri Lanka with the ability to help out at least for a year, the Diaspora (of all races) and non-Sri Lankans with goodwill towards Sri Lanka to "Lend a hand to our brethren to rebuild their lives". Such a program can be driven with the construction of an e-data base, transparent person to person contact facilities through Skype or similar networks, set up at the IDP camps and through direct but supervised money transfer mechanisms between the host and the supported families. Another idea is to set in place a program of Lending a helping Hand for the development of agriculture, industry and business in the areas where resettlement will take place by linking farmers, businessmen and industrialists and small business operators of the rest of the country with those in the Northern and Eastern Provinces. Such a program can be implemented as programs of exchange of visits, helping with seeking and sourcing finance, sharing of know-how and establishing 'family to family bonding'. The challenges are many. The options and opportunities before us are also many. The thrust should be to ensure that the most transparent and trustworthy programs are implemented. These naturally must be designed to meet the security concerns and needs as well with a High Tech but High Touch approach. Done well, these will go a long way in our nation's quest to seek lasting rainbows for all our brethren. Published by HT Syndication with permission from Daily News Sri Lanka.

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Load-Date: June 3, 2009



<u>Families trapped in Sri Lanka camps fear for missing children; Up to a fifth</u> <u>of refugee Tamil children have been lost or abducted, reports Andrew</u> <u>Buncombe from Colombo</u>

The Independent (London)

May 22, 2009 Friday

First Edition

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Section: WORLD; Pg. 30

Length: 692 words

Byline: Andrew Buncombe

Body

IN A world where people had lost everything, she held up the photograph as if it were the most precious thing imaginable.

It showed a young boy, no more than three years old, dressed in a blue and white outfit. It was Shanmugam Saraswathi's grandson Manimaran, and she had no idea where he was. "Please help me find him," she said, as she held up the picture.

Ms Saraswathi - a Tamil civilian who fled the war zone in Sri Lanka's north and is now being held at a refugee camp near the city of Vavuniya - is not alone. Aid agencies fear that hundreds of children have become separated from their parents in the chaos that followed the escape of up to 300,000 people from the last land controlled by the **LTTE** rebels. There are even allegations - denied by the government - that a number of children have been abducted from the camps by paramilitaries who enjoy tacit support from the authorities.

Ms Saraswathi, who had been in the camp for three weeks, said that Manimaran's mother, father and elder sister had been killed in the fighting and that the last she had heard of her grandson was that he was being cared for by a neighbour. Now she was losing hope of ever seeing him again.

With journalists prevented by the authorities from reaching the camps except on occasional, escorted visits, Ms Saraswathi's story was passed to The Independent by a trusted intermediary. "I don't know where he is," she added, standing in the playground of the school. As she spoke another half-dozen <u>women</u> gathered nearby, each with their own photograph, each with their own, similar story. It is impossible to estimate how many families have become dislocated as they wait in the refugee camps, surrounded by razor wire and from which they are unable to leave. A report by Save the Children suggested a fifth of all children were either missing or separated from one or both of their parents.

Families trapped in Sri Lanka camps fear for missing children Up to a fifth of refugee Tamil children have been lost or abducted, reports Andrew Buncombe from C....

The charity said that while the Sri Lankan government had taken some measures to reunite such families, the situation remained dire. "The influx of people into the government camps was so large and so fast that I've come across hundreds of children who have lost their parents along the way," Stein Lied, a protection officer, said recently. "The running was so panicked that I've even met a lactating mother who lost her newborn as she was escaping."

Concern about such children mounted yesterday as another NGO alleged there was persuasive evidence that teenagers were being abducted from the camps by paramilitary groups. The Coalition to Stop the Use of Child Soldiers said it had received verified reports of abductions from camps in Vavuniya. It said several paramilitary groups, including the Eelam People's Democratic Party and People's Liberation Organisation of Tamil Eelam, apparently had unhindered access to the camps. It claimed that humanitarian workers said that most of the abductions have happened at night when there is less security.

The government staunchly denied the accusations yesterday. Mahinda Samarasinghe, the Minister for Disaster Management and Human Rights, said: "That is not correct. We have the responsibility for the protection [of people] in the camps."

Mr Samarasinghe said while there had been an initial problem of children being separated from their families, the issue was now being addressed and that around 3,000 families had now been reunited. He said telephones and databases had been set up at the camps to help families. He also said attention had been addressed to the problem of the flood of refugees overwhelming emergency medical facilities. "I'm not too proud to say that we can improve, but we are working on things together with our international partners," he added.

Meanwhile, the government said it planned to return most of the nearly 300,000 civilians to their homes by the end of the year. After visiting Indian ministers met President Mahinda Rajapaksa to express their concerns about the humanitarian situation, a joint statement was released saying the government had a 180-day plan to resettle the majority. Earlier in the week a government spokesman conceded that some of the refugees could be held for up to two years.

Load-Date: May 21, 2009



SECRETARY-GENERAL TO HEAD TO SRI LANKA LATER THIS WEEK

States News Service May 19, 2009 Tuesday

Copyright 2009 States News Service

Length: 738 words

Byline: States News Service

Dateline: NEW YORK

Body

The following information was released by the United Nations:

Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon announced today that he will visit Sri Lanka later this week, in part to get a first-hand look at the situation on the ground after the Government declared that its military operation against the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (*LTTE*) has ended.

The 22-23 May visit would be to respond to the urgent need to heal the wounds of a war that has alienated the communities in the country for almost three decades, Mr. Ban told a news conference in Geneva.

"The task now facing the people of Sri Lanka is immense and requires all hands," he said, stressing the need for progress in three critical areas: immediate humanitarian relief; reintegration and reconstrThe task now facing the people of Sri Lanka is immense and requires all handsuction; and a sustainable and equitable political solution.

Progress on all three of these fronts must move forward in parallel - and it must begin now, he stated.

Mr. Ban's Chief of Staff, Vijay Nambiar, is currently in the country and is engaged with relevant parties on how best to respond to the humanitarian situation of the large number of internally displaced persons (IDPs) and initiate a process for early recovery and long-term reconciliation, rehabilitation and reconstruction.

UN agencies are stepping up their efforts to assist the hundreds of thousands of people displaced by the conflict. The UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) estimates that there are around 220,000 people who have already reached the IDP camps, and it is believed that another 40,000-60,000 people are on their way to the sites.

John Holmes, Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs, told reporters yesterday that the large influx of people poses "major humanitarian challenges" in terms of providing shelter and other basic services, such as food, clean water and medical services.

"The conditions in these camps are certainly not ideal. They're not up to international standards yet but everybody is working very hard to try to make sure that they are," he stated.

The head of the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF) today called for full and unimpeded humanitarian access so that <u>women</u> and children can receive the assistance they need, following reports that access to some IDP camps has become restricted.

SECRETARY-GENERAL TO HEAD TO SRI LANKA LATER THIS WEEK

Ann M. Veneman stressed that UNICEF is committed to working with partners to provide those in the camps with essential water and sanitation, nutrition, maternal and child health care, education and protection.

Restrictions to enter the IDP sites, imposed over the weekend, are also hindering the ability of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) to deliver assistance, its spokesperson said.

"Our access to the Vavuniya sites has been greatly curtailed over the past few days and this affects our ability to monitor and distribute aid to the displaced," Ron Redmond told reporters today. "We hope this ends quickly."

The agency has asked the Sri Lankan authorities to allocate more land for the construction of emergency shelter, water and sanitation facilities, as well as to provide public buildings in Vavuniya, Jaffna, Mannar and Kilinochchi in order to accommodate arriving IDPs.

The World Food Programme (WFP), for its part, is boosting its food stocks and preparing nutritionally-rich food for <u>women</u> and children to meet the needs of the IDPs. The agency is already feeding 250,000 people in temporary transit camps.

In a related development, the UN Human Rights Council will hold a special session on 25 May to address the human rights situation in Sri Lanka, following a request by several of its members.

"It is hoped that the holding of this special session will contribute towards the cause of peace," said the Council's President, Martin Ihoeghian Uhomoibhi.

"The Human Rights Council cannot be silent when innocent civilians are caught up in armed conflicts. The international community must strive to deliver justice to victims of human rights violations wherever they occur and ensure that those found guilty of such crimes are held accountable for their actions," he added.

Next Monday's meeting will be the 11th special session of the Geneva-based Council, which has also held special sessions related to the occupied Palestinian territories, Lebanon, Darfur, Myanmar, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the global food crisis and the global economic and financial crises.

Load-Date: May 19, 2009



Sri Lanka rejects truce calls as UN sends chief of staff

Agence France Presse -- English
May 14, 2009 Thursday 9:27 PM GMT

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Length: 738 words

Byline: Mel Gunasekera

Dateline: COLOMBO, May 14 2009

Body

Sri Lanka rejected international calls to halt its final offensive against Tamil rebels on Thursday, hours after the United Nations Security Council called for civilian lives to be spared.

Instead, troops pressed ahead with their major push aimed at completely defeating the remaining Tiger fighters, the military said as the former colonial power, Britain, raised the prospect of a war crimes investigation.

The military insists that it does not target civilians and that the current offensive is also aimed at freeing tens of thousands of civilians still held by Tiger rebels as a human shield.

"More than 2,000 people crossed over to government-controlled areas today (Thursday)" and a further 2,000 people were lined up waiting to flee, military spokesman Udaya Nanayakkara said.

He said the Tigers gunned down at least four people who tried to make a dash to safety from the shrinking rebelheld territory along the northeastern coast of the island. Another 14 were wounded, he added.

Meanwhile Britain said the humanitarian situation in Sri Lanka was "truly shocking".

"We would support an early investigation into all incidents that may have resulted in civilian casualties ... to determine whether war crimes have been committed," junior foreign minister Bill Rammell said.

"The UN's estimate, if it is accurate, of over 6,500 civilian deaths since January is truly shocking and appalling," he added, in a parliamentary debate on the military standoff on the island nation.

The UN said Thursday Secretary General Ban Ki-moon was rushing his chief of staff Vijay Nambiar back to Sri Lanka to press for protection of trapped civilians.

UN deputy spokeswoman Marie Okabe told a press briefing the secretary general was "sending his chef de cabinet to Sri Lanka this evening to underscore his message and to help resolve the humanitarian situation".

Sri Lanka rejects truce calls as UN sends chief of staff

Amnesty International called Wednesday for a probe into "the mounting evidence of serious violations of international law," and the UN's human rights chief Navi Pillay has already said both sides may be guilty of war crimes.

Sri Lanka remained defiant despite the calls to halt the onslaught against the Tamil separatists who are said to be on the verge of defeat after 37 years of fighting.

"We are not going to succumb to international pressure to stop the offensive," said Media Minister Lakshman Yapa Abeywardena, who argued that Sri Lanka was being unfairly targeted.

"In Pakistan and Afghanistan there are similar conflicts but no one is asking them to have a peace agreement or a ceasefire," Abeywardena told reporters."

Sri Lankan authorities estimate that up to 20,000 civilians are being held in the small northeastern pocket of coastal jungle where government troops have cornered the rump of the once-powerful Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (*LTTE*).

The United Nations has said as many as 50,000 may be trapped -- huddled under plastic sheeting, in shallow bunkers and with little food, water or medical facilities.

Video footage released by pro-rebel websites showed wounded <u>women</u> carrying small children who themselves were in bandages and screaming in pain. School yards had been turned into emergency treatment centres.

US President Barack Obama Wednesday called on the Sri Lankan government to allow UN humanitarian teams access to the combat zone to ease the unfolding "catastrophe" there.

"That is not possible," Sri Lankan minister Abeywardena said.

"As a responsible government, we can't guarantee their safety. Even the ICRC (International Committee of the Red Cross) is finding it difficult to deliver food supplies there."

The UN and Obama also appealed to Sri Lanka to stop using heavy weapons to avoid civilian casualties, as troops pushed to dismantle the last remaining rebel stronghold.

Around 100 people have been reported killed in the shelling of a makeshift hospital inside the conflict zone in recent days.

A rebel statement said thousands of civilians have died this week in artillery attacks, but the government insisted the Tigers were targeting civilians in a bid to encourage international intervention.

Meanwhile Clinton said Thursday it "is not an appropriate time" to consider a massive International Monetary Fund loan for Sri Lanka.

Her comments came two weeks after the IMF said talks with Sri Lanka for a bailout package of around two billion dollars were continuing despite reports the fund was under pressure to withold the planned financing.

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Load-Date: May 15, 2009



<u>Sri Lanka: A tough war and a tougher recovery; Economy is picking up but</u> the Tamils remain uncertain about future

The Straits Times (Singapore)
October 24, 2009 Saturday

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Length: 1201 words

Byline: Ravi Velloor, South Asia Bureau Chief

Body

COLOMBO: For nearly seven decades Mr K. Chathu Kuttan has held open the door at Colombo's historic Galle Face Hotel for the great and the glorious. And the memories flood in as he gazes out on the Indian Ocean from his perch at the doorway.

Of huge wedding parties in the ballroom and of important visitors coming to check out the promise and pristine beauty of this emerald island.

Singapore's Devan Nair. The tea party for 1,500 people when Jawaharlal Nehru visited Colombo, the special car for Queen Elizabeth. Emperor Hirohito, Richard Nixon, Sir Laurence Olivier, Bernard Shaw. The list of those he has welcomed runs on and on.

Ceylon, as Sri Lanka was known, was a different country then. That was before a quarter-century of ethnic blood-letting convulsed the land.

For the 89-year-old emigre from Kerala, whose late wife was a Tamil in a Sinhala majority nation, the prospects for a return to those happier days have never looked better.

In May, the Sri Lankan military crushed the separatist *Tamil Tigers*, wiping out its entire leadership.

'The local people don't really bear grudges,' he says.

Four months after the end of the war, a week-long trip to Sri Lanka revealed an economy whose exports are rising on the back of strong orders for garments. In the lobbies of the Cinnamon Grand Hotel and at the Hilton, it was evident that the visitors are back.

For Sri Lankans, the first signs of a peace dividend could be seen in the lower prices for fish and vegetables as the newly liberated Tamil north gets reconnected to the populous south.

Trans-shipments through Colombo are rising too as Sri Lanka gains business from the expanding Indian economy, with which it has a successful free trade agreement. Sovereign ratings are improving on lower credit risk and higher foreign exchange flows.

The world is sitting up and taking notice. The American Chamber of Commerce paid a visit to the island last week. Next month, the Singapore Indian Chamber of Commerce and Industry will bring a delegation.

Sri Lanka: A tough war and a tougher recovery Economy is picking up but the Tamils remain uncertain about future

Nowhere is the impact greater than in tourism. Last year, the island of coral reefs, lush forests and surf drew no more than 438,000 visitors because of the poor security situation. But tourist arrivals jumped 28 per cent in July and 34 per cent in August, and some hotels are already overbooked for the period starting February.

A recent AirAsia flight from Kuala Lumpur carried Serbians, Australians, Germans, Americans and Japanese - as well as other Asian nationalities.

'We see the next season as a take-off point and by 2011 we should be in overdrive,' said Mr Bernard Goonetilleke, chairman of Sri Lanka Tourism. 'President Mahinda Rajapakse has set us a target of 2.5 million visitors by 2016.'

On Colombo's Galle Face Green marina, families and dating couples feel no fear of staying out late into the night, even as the military continues to be alert. Passengers reaching the main international airport can now drive up to the entry gates, something they could not do previously.

But the peace Sri Lanka is enjoying came at an immense price.

Thousands of Tamil fighters and innocents died as Defence Secretary Gotabaya Rajapakse and army chief General Sarath Fonseka, both targets of assassination attempts, bashed on through Tiger defence lines. Indeed, within the armed forces, officers often joked that they did not know which was the greater danger: 'Johnny (mines) in front, or Fonny (Fonseka) at the back if you retreated.'

The Tigers were doughty fighters and their mines, cunningly laid, were lethal. In the last 18 months of the fighting, over 6,000 soldiers died and another 27,000 were wounded.

'During a three-hour burst of fighting at a 300m bund, my unit lost 27 limbs,' said Colonel Vikun Liyenage of the famed Gajaba infantry regiment as we shared a bus ride from the army base in Mannar to see a newly rebuilt bridge to Mannar Island. 'But we just didn't stop.'

With the war ended and the Tigers vanquished, the Tamils, who are mostly Hindus, remain uncertain about their future. Yet, even as they remain sullen - the recent Deepavali festival was greeted with an eerie silence across the island - Tamils are aware that many of the deaths were at the hands of Tigers themselves.

The guerillas held them as defensive shields, correctly figuring that large-scale civilian deaths would inflame world opinion. That stigma, and that of the continuing detention of more than 200,000 Tamils in barbed wire-fringed refugee camps, continue to hover over the Rajapakse government.

At Kopay Camp in Jaffna, one of the best-appointed refugee facilities, <u>women</u> separated from their husbands wailed to be reunited with their spouses. Young Tamil children cheered and waved as they clung to barbed wire that prevented them from leaving.

The European Union has threatened to cut off the special trade benefit, called GSP+, if the refugees are not released promptly, endangering the livelihoods of some 300,000 garment workers on the island. Colombo responded that it bears the responsibility to clear minefields and to ensure a decent life for the displaced people. It also has to make sure 'terrorism' on the island does not rise again. Meanwhile, it has promised to see 100,000 Tamil people home by year-end.

'Living conditions have improved but there is a deep-seated yearning among the Tamils to be allowed to go home,' said Mr V. Puththirasigamoney, a Tamil deputy minister who is in charge of one of the camps.

Interviews with the United Nations Development Programme and officials of the UN's International Organisation for Migration (IOM) confirmed that assessment. 'There are concerns about freedom of movement but the refugees are held in conditions no better or worse than camps elsewhere in South Asia,' says an IOM official.

Sri Lanka: A tough war and a tougher recovery Economy is picking up but the Tamils remain uncertain about future

To be sure, Sri Lanka can never fully be at peace until the Tamils are back in their homes and once again feel they have a stake in the political process. Many continue to seek ways to flee to countries as distant as Indonesia and Australia, paying huge sums of money to boat owners for the uncomfortable passage.

'There are misgivings at the moment that Tamils are being left out,' said Singapore's Ambassador-at-large Gopinath Pillai, who accompanied Foreign Minister George Yeo on a trip to Sri Lanka last week. 'Mainstreaming them will bring huge benefits to an island that has so much potential.'

The government has been slow to move on a political settlement.

At least, it would need to devolve some powers to the administration in Tamil areas, particularly in matters of land and police. The optimists expect President Rajapakse, now hobbled by the compulsions of coalition politics, to move swiftly once parliamentary elections are held early next year. By current estimates, his party should secure a two-thirds majority, giving him the mandate to change laws.

For all the ferocity with which he fought the rebels, Mr Rajapakse is reckoned to be sympathetic to the Tamil minority. 'After a long time I am getting the impression that the Sinhalese mean something,' said Singapore gynaecologist C. Anandakumar, an ethnic Tamil who has made five trips to Sri Lanka since the war ended. 'They paid a big price and are not prepared to see the same thing again.'

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Load-Date: October 23, 2009



'We are people asking for help'; 172 DAYS AND COUNTING: Peaceful Toronto protesters keep Tamil flags flying at U.S. consulate

The Toronto Star October 11, 2009 Sunday

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Section: NEWS; Pg. A07

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Byline: Jim Rankin, Toronto Star

Body

"My experience teaches me that truth can never be propagated by doing violence. Those who believe in the justice of their cause have need to possess boundless patience and those alone are fit to offer civil disobedience who are above committing criminal disobedience or doing violence."

Mahatma Gandhi

It is mid-afternoon, threatening rain, and a most remarkable daily demonstration is under way, some six lanes of live traffic from the U.S. consulate.

Three <u>women</u> sit beneath a tree on a concrete planter. Two men are beneath another tree, wearing placards. Eight more picket signs are staked in newly renovated, as-yet-unplanted flowerbeds outside the provincial courthouse at 361 University Ave.

The demonstrators are quiet. The signs do the talking.

"Boycott! Boycott! Sri Lanka products," reads one. "Tamils want justice," and "Save the Tamils, Mr. Obama, yes you can," read others. Another urges Prime Minister Stephen Harper to bail out civilians from "concentration camps."

What began 172 days ago as a protest by Toronto Tamils against allegations of genocide in the dying days of a decades-long battle between the Sri Lankan government and the <u>Tamil Tigers</u>, is now a plea for the world to pay more attention to the plight of some 250,000 "internally displaced persons" who the government - having since crushed the Tigers - continues to confine in camps.

The United Nations agency for refugees expressed concern for the "displaced" following an incident in late September in which security forces opened fire on an angry mob, wounding several, including a child who is reportedly now paralyzed.

On University Ave., the number of demonstrators has occasionally swelled to thousands. It did so on Day 100, when the formerly round-the-clock protest was scaled back to daylight hours, and on Day 150, when a package of signed petitions was walked across the road and delivered into the hands of a guard at the U.S. consulate.

The building is the closest symbol of a superpower for the Canadian Tamil diaspora.

But, on most days now, the "continuous" protest looks much as it does on this day.

'We are people asking for help' 172 DAYS AND COUNTING: Peaceful Toronto protesters keep Tamil flags flying at U.S. consulate

A tourist stops to photograph a Tamil Tiger flag - a symbol of what Ottawa officially regards as a terrorist group - that sits between two U.S. and two Canadian flags. Other tourists pause to read signs and take pictures.

For most, though, this spectacle - unlike the day in May when thousands of Tamils caught Toronto's attention by blocking the Gardiner Expressway - has become like wallpaper, part of a daily routine.

A man glides by with briefcase in hand, his eyes focused only on the sidewalk ahead. Television news satellite trucks often take up space nearby, but the reporters have no interest in the demonstration, only the goings-on inside the courthouse.

At this point, what would likely attract more attention is if, one morning, there suddenly were no Tamils here at all.

This is not an exercise in civil disobedience. And neither, the demonstrators insist, is the daily display particularly organized.

In the mornings, regulars drop by before work. They do the same in the evenings, sometimes bringing their children. During the day, retirees and those with odd working hours come literally to show the flag when no one else can.

It has been a peaceful protest and there have been no problems between the demonstrators and their closest neighbour, say courthouse staff.

Numbers ebb and flow. Demonstrators are kept informed by word of mouth and other means.

On this day, there is a radio tuned to GTR-FM, a local Tamil station. A sign strapped to a tree informs of any changes in hours, in both English and Tamil.

In Sri Lanka, Tamils are a minority group to the majority Sinhalese. Many Tamils have left the country over the years. In the Toronto area alone, the Tamil population numbers some 200,000.

One of the men who is here today, as he is most days, is Rajah. He is a retired engineer, in his 70s, and came to Canada in 1996.

On a break to a nearby coffee shop, where the price of a caffeine jolt includes a welcome bathroom trip, he shares details of his work and his family, and tells of what's been happening to Tamils in Sri Lanka.

"Tamils have no safety in any part of the island," he says. "I had to take my children out. If my (now grown) son talks to someone who is from the (Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam), he will be taken to a police station, taken to the prison."

He also spoke of what it's like to be part of a protest that has become as seemingly permanent as the statues and monuments that dot the median of University Ave.

"I come here three or four days a week and spend a few hours when there are less people here," he says. "Some days, there are three or four of us."

Is the protest making any difference?

"We are people who are asking help from others, basic help from the international community, to relieve the suffering. Please give food and medicine to the displaced people, allow the press to go in," says Rajah.

"We have a hard time with our message. Canada is one of the best countries in the world, but we have not got enough help from the Canadian government, even though we called Stephen Harper to help us."

'We are people asking for help' 172 DAYS AND COUNTING: Peaceful Toronto protesters keep Tamil flags flying at U.S. consulate

The next day, Rajah expresses regret at having shared personal details that, in hindsight, he felt might affect relatives. He asked that he be identified by his nickname, that his family details be left out of this story, and that no pictures of him run in the paper.

Another man asks that his picture not be taken.

It's a public protest, but some are afraid to be seen as part of it.

As the afternoon goes on and the workday expires, the number of protesters increases to about two dozen. There is a shared belief that the demonstration is helping. Perhaps, say some, this lengthy, long-distance protest may end when the camps empty, families are reunited and allowed to return home.

"That is the main thing. I think all of the Western countries are pressuring" for this to happen, says Suren Mahe, 46, who works for an investment firm and comes by during lunch and in the evenings.

In the meantime, says Mahe, "this is the only thing we can do, democratically, and non-violent. I will always like Canada for this. This kind of thing, you can't do it back home. Done. Finished. Only here and in the U.S.A. and Europe can you do this."

With rush hour beginning, so, too, do chants aimed at the consulate.

Five children lead the way.

"Please, President Obama." they cry.

"Save the Tamils," the adults reply.

At precisely 6: 45 p.m., candles, shielded by plastic cups, are lit and handed out, just as they have been every evening during the protest. For 15 minutes, there is quiet.

Traffic streams by the demonstrators lined on the edge of the sidewalk facing the consulate.

The candles flicker. The lights across the road are off.

At 7 p.m., the flames are snuffed. The signs and flags come down and are packed into a car. On Monday, bright and early, they will be brought out again, for Day 173.

Graphic

The continuing protest on University Ave. has become a plea for attention to the plight of some 250,000 "internally displaced" Tamils in Sri Lanka.

Load-Date: October 11, 2009



<u>De-clawed; Sri Lanka says Tamil Tiger leader is dead; 25-year insurgency</u> finished

Prince George Citizen (British Columbia)

May 19, 2009 Tuesday

Final Edition

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Section: WORLD; Pg. 8

Length: 1195 words

Byline: Associated Press

Dateline: COLOMBO, Sri Lanka

Body

Sri Lanka declared Monday it had crushed the Tamil Tiger rebels, killing their chief, Velupillai Prabhakaran, and ending his 25-year quest for an independent homeland for minority Tamils.

State television broke into its regular programming to announce Prabhakaran's death, and the government information department sent a text message to cellphones across the country confirming he was killed along with top deputies, Soosai and Pottu Amman.

The announcement sparked mass celebrations around the country, and people poured into the streets of Colombo dancing and singing.

Prabhakaran's death has been seen as crucial to bringing closure to this war-wracked Indian Ocean island country. If he had escaped, he could have used his large international smuggling network and the support of Tamil expatriates to spark a new round of guerrilla warfare here. His death in battle could still turn him into a martyr for other Tamil separatists.

While Velupillai Prabhakaran (Ve-LU'-pi-lay PRAH'-bah-ka-ran) was a hero to some, his group was branded a terrorist organization by several countries, including Canada and India. It has staged hundreds of suicide attacks, including the 1991 assassination of former Indian prime minister Rajiv Gandhi by a *female* bomber. The rebels also forcibly recruited child soldiers.

Sri Lanka's army chief, Lt.-Gen. Sarath Fonseka, said on television that his troops routed the last rebels from the northern war zone Monday morning.

"We can announce very responsibly that we have liberated the whole country from terrorism," he told state television. It was widely presumed Fonseka was waiting for President Mahinda Rajapaksa to publicly announce Prabhakaran's death.

Rajapaksa confirmed Prabhakaran's death in a phone call to India's External Affairs Minister Pranab Mukherjee, Indian foreign affairs spokesman Vishnu Prakash said in a statement.

Fonseka and the commanders of the other security forces formally informed Rajapaksa of the victory Monday evening in a ceremony broadcast live on television.

The military officials said troops closed in on Prabhakaran and his final cadre early Monday.

He and his top deputies then drove an armor-plated van accompanied by a bus filled with rebel fighters toward approaching Sri Lankan forces, sparking a two-hour firefight, the officials said, speaking on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to speak to the media.

Troops eventually fired a rocket at the van, ending the battle, they said. In addition to Prabhakaran, the attack also killed Soosai, the head of the rebels' naval wing, and Pottu Amman, the group's feared intelligence commander, the officials said. One of Prabhakaran's sons was also killed, the military said.

Suren Surendiran, a spokesman for the British Tamils' Forum, the largest organization for expatriate Tamils in Britain, said the community was in despair.

"The people are very sombre and very saddened. But we are ever determined and resilient to continue our struggle for Eelam," he said, invoking the name of the Tamils hoped-for independent state. "We have to win the freedom and liberation of our people."

But in Colombo, which had suffered countless rebel bombings, people set off fireworks, danced and sang in the streets.

"Myself and most of my friends gathered here have narrowly escaped bombs set off by the Tigers. Some of our friends were not lucky," said Lal Hettige, 47, a businessman celebrating in Colombo's outdoor market. "We are happy today to see the end of that ruthless terrorist organization and its heartless leader. We can live in peace after this."

Prabhakaran turned what was little more than a street gang in the late 1970s into one of the world's most feared insurgencies. He demanded unwavering loyalty and gave his followers vials of cyanide to wear around their necks and bite into in case of capture. They often used suicide bombings - a tactic pioneered by groups in Lebanon years earlier but perfected by the rebels.

The rebels demanded a separate state for minority Tamils after years of marginalization at the hands of the Sinhalese majority.

Full-fledged war broke out in 1983 after the rebels killed 13 soldiers in an ambush, sparking anti-Tamil riots that human rights groups say killed as many as 2,000 people. By the time the war ended, more than 70,000 had been killed.

At the height of his power, he controlled a shadow state in northern Sri Lankan that had its own border control, police force, tax system and law school. The rebels feted foreign diplomats at one of the many guest houses they ran in their administrative capital of Kilinochchi. He commanded a force that included an infantry, backed by artillery, a significant naval wing and a nascent air force.

Prabhakaran was renowned as a master strategist, but made a series of fatal miscalculations. The assassination of Gandhi alienated his supporters in India, his stubborn line during negotiations eventually convinced the government it could never reach a peace deal and a Tamil boycott he enforced during the 2005 election ensured the a victory for the hardline Rajapaksa.

The <u>Tamil Tigers</u> were also badly weakened when one of his top commanders defected along with thousands of fighters to the government side.

Earlier in the day, the military announced it had killed several top rebel leaders, including Prabhakaran's son Charles Anthony, also a rebel leader. The military said special forces also found the bodies of the rebels' political

De-clawed; Sri Lanka says Tamil Tiger leader is dead; 25-year insurgency finished

wing leader, Balasingham Nadesan, the head of the rebels' peace secretariat, Seevaratnam Puleedevan, and one of the top military leaders, known as Ramesh.

Government forces ousted the rebels from their strongholds in the north in recent months and brought the group to its knees. Thousands of civilians were reportedly killed in the recent fighting.

Senior diplomats had appealed for a humanitarian ceasefire in recent weeks to safeguard the tens of thousands of civilians trapped in the war zone, but the government refused, and denied persistent reports it was shelling the densely populated war zone.

Diplomats in Brussels said Monday the European Union will endorse a call for an independent war crimes investigation into the killing of civilians in Sri Lanka. The diplomats spoke on condition of anonymity because discussions were ongoing.

The rebels were also accused of using the civilians as human shields and shooting at some who fled.

British Foreign Secretary David Miliband says there have been "very grave allegations" of war crimes on both sides of the conflict adding "they should be properly investigated."

The United Nations said 7,000 civilians were killed in the fighting between Jan. 20 and May 7. Health officials in the area said more than a 1,000 others were killed since then.

UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon will visit Sri Lanka on Friday and meet with the president, the government's website reported.

The world body's refugee agency said Monday that 265,000 have fled the fighting in recent months. Spokesman Ron Redmond said thousands were arriving in camps short on food stocks, land, shelter and water. The UN was consulting with the Sri Lankan government on the refugees' humanitarian needs.

14:03ET 18-05-09

Graphic

Colour Photo: Associated Press; Pro Tamil Tiger demonstrators protest in front of the Brandenburg Gate in Germany.;

Load-Date: May 19, 2009



SO MR MILIBAND THINKS TERRORISM IS 'JUSTIFIABLE'. THAT MAKES HIM EVEN MORE OF A GRADE-A CHUMP THAN I ALREADY THOUGHT

DAILY MAIL (London)
August 17, 2009 Monday

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Byline: BY STEPHEN GLOVER

Body

MANY will remember the photograph taken of David Miliband at last autumn's Labour Party Conference. The Foreign Secretary was pictured clutching a banana, grinning like a deranged chimpanzee.

This was at a time when Mr Miliband appeared to be positioning himself to replace Gordon Brown as leader of the Labour Party and Prime Minister. Along with other gaffes he made around the same time, the banana incident seemed to establish that the Foreign Secretary was a grade-A chump who shouldn't be allowed anywhere near No 10.

Now Mr Miliband has confirmed that reputation -- only this time it is much more serious. In an interview on BBC Radio 4's Great Lives programme, he declared that there are certain circumstances in which terrorism is 'justifiable' as well as 'effective'. He spoke in favour of the use of terrorism against the apartheid regime in South Africa.

Mr Miliband made these remarks while praising Joe Slovo, a white Marxist who was one of the leaders of Umkhonto we Sizwe (Spear of the Nation), the military wing of the African National Congress, during the struggle against apartheid. The ANC was responsible for a number of terrorist acts in South Africa during the Seventies and Eighties, the worst of which involved the deaths of 19 people when a bomb was let off in the capital, Pretoria, in 1983.

This must be the first time in history that a Foreign Secretary, or indeed any senior government minister, has publicly endorsed the use of terror. For Mr Miliband to have done so is a very grave political misjudgment. It also calls into question his moral sense. How can it ever be 'justifiable' to kill innocent <u>women</u> and children in a terrorist act?

Even as he speaks, British soldiers are dying almost daily in Afghanistan, usually as a result of roadside bombs planted by the Taliban. At the weekend, the number of fatalities passed 200. By any definition, the use of these explosive devices constitutes terrorism. I imagine Mr Miliband would agree. What, then, are British soldiers who are risking their lives in Afghanistan, and their desperately worried families back at home, to make of his partial defence of terrorism?

I suppose the Taliban might argue that they are targeting British servicemen, and not <u>women</u> and children. No such caveat could be entered in the case of the 2005 London bombings when 52 innocent people were murdered. Those random attacks represented terrorism at its most pitiless. I am sure that Mr Miliband condemned them at the time, and that he would do so if -- God forbid -- bombers were to strike again in a British city.

SO MR MILIBAND THINKS TERRORISM IS 'JUSTIFIABLE'. THAT MAKES HIM EVEN MORE OF A GRADE-A CHUMP THAN I ALREADY THOUGHT

WHY give terrorists any comfort or feeling of self-justification by declaring that terror is sometimes 'justifiable'? He did not specify when it is and when it isn't, and thus left the door open for every killer. What the Foreign Secretary should have said, if he had to speak at all, is that terrorism is always wrong.

It was wrong in South Africa, despite what he says. No one doubts that the apartheid regime was unjust and sometimes cruel, though by no means on the scale of what happened in Stalinist Russia or Nazi Germany. But there were vocal opponents of the regime, such as Helen Suzman and Archbishop Desmond Tutu and many others. In short, there were effective ways of criticising and even undermining the apartheid regime apart from murdering innocent people.

Mr Miliband is not even right to suggest that terrorist acts by the ANC were 'effective'. There were relatively few of them, and normal life in South Africa was never seriously disrupted. Apartheid was ended not because of the activities of the terrorists but as a result of the collapse of the Soviet Union. The South African government felt that it could do a deal with the ANC once it had been deprived of its communist paymasters.

Terrorism cannot be justified by the ANC in South Africa, or by the IRA in Northern Ireland, or by the <u>Tamil Tigers</u> in Sri Lanka, or by extreme Zionists at the birth of Israel, or by Hamas in Israel today. If terrorists have a genuine grievance -- and they often don't, and seldom represent the majority -- that grievance should be pursued by peaceful means.

One of my heroines is Aung San Suu Kyi, the Burmese pro-democracy leader sentenced last week to a new period of house arrest, who opposes the authoritarian and sometimes murderous Burmese generals, not by inciting her many followers to violence, but through calm and reasoned and dignified resistance. The generals are rightly terrified that she will ultimately prevail.

There may, I grant, be one case in a hundred in which activities which might be thought akin to terrorism can be justified. One such example would be that of the French Resistance in the last war.

THE defence of their actions is that they were defending their country against an invading force after their own army had left the field. No other course of action was open to them -- not even passive resistance. And they generally targeted enemy servicemen rather than innocent civilians.

If he had to open his mouth at all, Mr Miliband could have invoked this example rather than the South African one. It transpires that the 18-year-old David Miliband once opened the front door of his parents' house to find Joe Slovo standing there. He had turned up unannounced to chew the cud with David's father, Ralph, a well-known Marxist academic who doubtless approved of the armed struggle. The Foreign Secretary may seem an ineffectual, rather silly sort of fellow, but one catches a glimpse of dubious affiliations and disturbing values that may not have been entirely disowned.

It is not, after all, a very wide step from defending terrorism to approving of torture. Despite mounting evidence, the British government and Mr Miliband have repeatedly denied any involvement in the torture of foreign detainees. I would have thought that the mind that can countenance terrorism as a legitimate activity is unlikely to baulk at torture. The end justifies the means.

It so happens that Mr Miliband's hero, and thoroughly nice chap, Joe Slovo was a leading light in the armed wing of the ANC at a time when (by the organisation's own subsequent admission) it regularly used torture, usually against its own members, in its terrorist camps in Angola, Uganda and Tanzania.

Even now, to be Foreign Secretary of Great Britain is a great honour and a heavy responsibility. The world may not realise that the successor of Canning, Palmerston, Curzon and Eden is constructed from a very thin and unsatisfactory clay. When the person who occupies this great office opens his mouth, many people still listen.

SO MR MILIBAND THINKS TERRORISM IS 'JUSTIFIABLE'. THAT MAKES HIM EVEN MORE OF A GRADE-A CHUMP THAN I ALREADY THOUGHT

And what do they hear? That terrorism is sometimes 'justifiable'. How mystifying this message must be to potential victims at home and abroad; and how encouraging to the terrorists making their bombs, grateful for any excuse and justification to go on with their killing.

Load-Date: August 16, 2009



Associated Press International
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Section: INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Length: 1250 words

Byline: By RAVI NESSMAN, Associated Press Writer

Dateline: COLOMBO Sri Lanka

Body

Sri Lanka declared Monday it had crushed the Tamil Tiger rebels, killing their chief, Velupillai Prabhakaran, and ending his three-decade quest for an independent homeland for minority Tamils.

State television broke into its regular programming to announce Prabhakaran's death, and the government information department sent a text message to cell phones across the country confirming he was killed along with top deputies, Soosai and Pottu Amman.

The announcement sparked mass celebrations around the country, and people poured into the streets of Colombo dancing and singing.

Prabhakaran's death has been seen as crucial to bringing closure to this war-wracked Indian Ocean island nation. If he had escaped, he could have used his large international smuggling network and the support of Tamil expatriates to spark a new round of guerrilla warfare here. His death in battle could still turn him into a martyr for other Tamil separatists.

While Velupillai Prabhakaran (Ve-LU'-pi-lay PRAH'-bah-ka-ran) was a hero to some, his group was branded a terrorist organization by the U.S. and European Union, and it was accused of waging hundreds of suicide attacks, including the 1991 assassination of former Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi by a *female* bomber. The rebels also forcibly recruited child soldiers.

Sri Lanka's army chief, Lt. Gen. Sarath Fonseka, said on television that his troops routed the last rebels from the northern war zone Monday morning.

"We can announce very responsibly that we have liberated the whole country from terrorism," he told state television.

Rajapaksa confirmed Prabhakaran's death in a phone call to India's External Affairs Minister Pranab Mukherjee, Indian foreign affairs spokesman Vishnu Prakash said in a statement.

Senior military officials said troops closed in on Prabhakaran and his final cadre early Monday.

He and his top deputies then drove an armor-plated van accompanied by a bus filled with rebel fighters toward approaching Sri Lankan forces, sparking a two-hour firefight, the officials said, speaking on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to speak to the media.

Troops eventually fired a rocket at the van, ending the battle, they said. In addition to Prabhakaran, the attack also killed Soosai, the head of the rebels' naval wing, and Pottu Amman, the group's feared intelligence commander, the officials said. One of Prabhakaran's sons was also killed, the military said.

Suren Surendiran, a spokesman for the British Tamils' Forum, the largest organization for expatriate Tamils in Britain, said the community was in despair.

"The people are very somber and very saddened. But we are ever determined and resilient to continue our struggle for Eelam," he said, invoking the name of the Tamils hoped-for independent state. "We have to win the freedom and liberation of our people."

But in Colombo, which had suffered countless rebel bombings, people set off fireworks, danced and sang in the streets.

"Myself and most of my friends gathered here have narrowly escaped bombs set off by the Tigers. Some of our friends were not lucky," said Lal Hettige, 47, a businessman celebrating in Colombo's outdoor market. "We are happy today to see the end of that ruthless terrorist organization and its heartless leader. We can live in peace after this."

The chubby, mustachioed Prabhakaran turned what was little more than a street gang in the late 1970s into one of the world's most feared insurgencies. Prabhakaran demanded unwavering loyalty and gave his followers vials of cyanide to wear around their necks and bite into in case of capture. They often used suicide bombings a tactic pioneered by groups in Lebanon years earlier but perfected by the rebels.

The rebels demanded a separate state for minority Tamils after years of marginalization at the hands of the Sinhalese majority.

Full-fledged war broke out in 1983 after the rebels killed 13 soldiers in an ambush, sparking anti-Tamil riots that human rights groups say killed as many as 2,000 people. By the time the war ended, more than 70,000 had been killed.

At the height of his power, Prabhakaran controlled a shadow state in northern Sri Lankan that had its own border control, police force, tax system and law school. The rebels feted foreign diplomats at one of the many guest houses they ran in their administrative capital of Kilinochchi. He commanded a force that included an infantry, backed by artillery, a significant naval wing and a nascent air force.

Prabhakaran was renowned as a master strategist, but made a series of fatal miscalculations. The assassination of Gandhi alienated his supporters in India, his stubborn line during negotiations eventually convinced the government it could never reach a peace deal and a Tamil boycott he enforced during the 2005 election ensured a victory for the hard-line Rajapaksa.

The <u>Tamil Tigers</u> were also badly weakened when one of his top commanders defected along with thousands of fighters to the government side.

Earlier in the day, the military announced it had killed several top rebel leaders, including Prabhakaran's son Charles Anthony. The military said special forces also found the bodies of the rebels' political wing leader, Balasingham Nadesan, the head of the rebels' peace secretariat, Seevaratnam Puleedevan, and one of the top military leaders, known as Ramesh.

Government forces ousted the rebels from their strongholds in the north in recent months and brought the group to its knees. Thousands of civilians were reportedly killed in the recent fighting.

Senior diplomats had appealed for a humanitarian cease-fire in recent weeks to safeguard the tens of thousands of civilians trapped in the war zone, but the government refused, and denied persistent reports it was shelling the densely populated war zone.

Three Sri Lankan doctors whose harrowing reports from the war zone were some of the only to reach the outside world in recent weeks were detained on accusations they gave false information to the media, a health official said Monday.

The official said the doctors were detained by the military when they fled and were later turned over to police. The official spoke on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to speak to the media. The U.N. said it believed the doctors were being held as well.

Diplomats in Brussels said Monday the European Union will endorse a call for an independent war crimes investigation into the killing of civilians in Sri Lanka. The diplomats spoke on condition of anonymity because discussions were ongoing.

The rebels were also accused of using the civilians as human shields and shooting at some who fled.

British Foreign Secretary David Miliband says there have been "very grave allegations" of war crimes on both sides of the conflict adding "they should be properly investigated."

The U.N. said 7,000 civilians were killed in the fighting between Jan. 20 and May 7. Health officials in the area said more than a 1,000 others were killed since then.

U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon will visit Sri Lanka on Friday and meet with the president, the government's Web site reported.

The world body's refugee agency said Monday that 265,000 have fled the fighting in recent months. Spokesman Ron Redmond said thousands were arriving in camps short on food stocks, land, shelter and water. The U.N. was consulting with the Sri Lankan government on the refugees' humanitarian needs.

Associated Press writers Krishan Francis and Bharatha Mallawarachi contributed to this report.

Load-Date: May 19, 2009



The world was wrong to oppose a military solution in Sri Lanka

Ottawa Citizen

June 11, 2009 Thursday

Final Edition

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Section: NEWS; Pg. A15

Length: 1220 words

Byline: Ramesh Thakur, Citizen Special

Body

With its bloody end recently, Sri Lanka's quarter century long deadly civil war leaves some troubling questions in its wake. What limitations exist on governments' right to use force to crush terrorist organizations? How can the responsibility to protect norm be extended to nonstate actors? Do westerners have divine dispensation to be the moral arbiters of the conduct of others as well as their own?

The world was gravely concerned over the fate of civilians caught in the crossfire. UN Secretary General Ban Kimoon pressed Colombo to grant unrestricted access to aid agencies. The government resisted, saying more time was needed to flush out <u>Tamil Tigers</u> hiding among the displaced people in the camps.

A fortnight earlier, Ban had received a report on Gaza incidents in January from his own inquiry board that indicted Israel for "reckless disregard" for human life, accused it of a direct and intentional strike into UN premises, and recommended an impartial inquiry to investigate incidents that were beyond its own deliberately narrow terms of reference. On May 5, Ban submitted this report to the Security Council with a terse statement that he did not intend to establish any further inquiry.

Yet presumably Ban expects to be taken seriously on his call for greater transparency, access and accountability by Sri Lanka.

The double standards and selectivity of western governments who have aggressively promoted the rhetoric of the war on terror, waged an illegal war of aggression in Iraq where civilian lives are so devalued they are not even counted, and support the war on terror in Afghanistan and Pakistan with its high toll on civilian casualties, has been breath-taking.

Sri Lanka was waging a military offensive against a guerrilla army that had fought a brutal war against the legitimate state for 26 years, killed up to 80,000 people, and brought the assassination of an Indian prime minister as well as a Sri Lankan president. The Tigers were among the most ruthless terrorist organizations and designated as such by more than 30 countries. They pioneered the use of <u>women</u> suicide bombers, invented the explosive suicide belt, killed many civilians including Tamils, recruited child soldiers and often raised funds from the Tamil diaspora through extortion. Post-conflict recovery and progress was not possible until they had been decisively defeated on the battlefield.

The world was wrong to oppose a military solution in Sri Lanka

Civilians were held against their will by the Tigers, not the army. Many who tried to flee were shot by the Tigers -- an act of depravity against their own to which even Hamas and Hezbollah, other practitioners of the art of using civilians as human shields, have not stooped.

Tellingly, there were no reports of civilians trying to flee from the Sri Lankan forces to the Tigers. A movement that began as the protector of the nation's oppressed Tamil minority had mutated into their killers. Along the road it is the Tigers who fought for a solely military solution to the three-decade conflict, spurning the few opportunities that were presented for a political settlement through dialogue and negotiations, including through Indian and Norwegian mediation; they insisted on being the sole representative of the Tamil population and cause, liquidating all rival challengers; and they lost international goodwill after 9/11 as the global tolerance for terrorism as a tactic collapsed, regardless of the justice of the cause.

Yet, even if true -- and, as always, much of this was contentious and furiously contested -- this did not obscure the humanitarian tragedy of large-scale civilian deaths and shelling of civilian targets such as schools and hospitals in the shrinking area still held by the Tigers as government troops closed in. Government claims of zero civilian casualties caused by their firepower are simply not credible. Around 7,000 civilians died this year alone.

To what extent did the global community's unanimously endorsed responsibility to protect (R2P) norm apply to the Tigers, the government and the international community for evacuating -- by land, sea and air -- the civilians caught in the crossfire?

R2P places the responsibility first and foremost on the state itself. Given the Tigers' nature and record, it was not unreasonable for the government to build the capacity and demonstrate the determination to defeat the Tigers as part of its responsibility to protect. R2P proponents cannot advocate the international use of force against government troops engaged in atrocities against civilians, but not permit governments to use military force to protect their people from atrocities perpetrated by terrorists.

Pacifists can denounce all use of force. But those who accept that the use of force is sometimes necessary cannot deny that option to governments engaged in fighting a brutal insurgency that kills civilians without compunction.

Had the Tigers been amenable to letting civilians caught in the crossfire escape, outsiders could legitimately have asked for another pause or ceasefire in order to help evacuate them. Another means for avoiding a bloodbath was for the Tigers to surrender. Absent this, it was hypocritical and wrong -- morally, politically and militarily -- of westerners to fault Sri Lanka.

Ceasefires are not neutral in their impact on the warring sides. The Tigers used previous pauses to rest, recover, regroup, recruit, rearm and return to terrorism. Another 25 years of war would have killed many more civilians.

There is also the moral hazard of validating the tactic of taking civilians hostage as human shields. Calls for a ceasefire, without materially helping the Tamil civilians, infuriated the government and reduced space for those making the calls to establish their bona fides with the government for how best to move from a civil war into a post-conflict peacebuilding environment.

Canadian MP Bob Rae discovered the truth of this when, after landing at Colombo airport Tuesday night, he was detained and then expelled from Sri Lanka. Those who choose to be referees and award penalties against one team cannot switch to playing coach of that team.

Where R2P does apply to the government is in its preventive and rebuilding components. The fact remains that the Tigers were the after-product of systematic and institutionalized discrimination by the Sinhalese majority against the Tamil minority that quickly degenerated into oppression and then killings. Calls for equal treatment when ignored escalated into demands for autonomy and finally, a homeland.

A military victory, while necessary, will not guarantee a peaceful future for a united Sri Lanka. The responsibility to reconstruct and rebuild, with international assistance, shows the way forward. The best time for the state to adopt measures of accommodation and power sharing within a federal framework is in the flush of military victory, when

The world was wrong to oppose a military solution in Sri Lanka

no one can accuse it of weakness. The Sri Lankan Tamils as well as the international community will mark the government's noble magnanimity.

Conversely, should there be vulgar triumphalism, gloating and an atavistic return to oppression and killings, Sri Lanka will suffer a reprise of the brutal civil war.

Ramesh Thakur is director of the Balsillie School of International Affairs and distinguished fellow at the Centre for International Governance Innovation in Waterloo.

Load-Date: June 11, 2009



chatroom

The Gold Coast Bulletin (Australia)

April 24, 2009 Friday

B - Main Edition

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Section: Pg. 26

Length: 1098 words

Body

I LOVE my sport. I play baseball on weekends. I never miss a game. I will this week. Baseball has rostered all games to be played on Anzac Day morning. How un-Australian is that. If our fathers, grandfathers and great-grandfathers hadn't fought for this country we wouldn't be able to enjoy weekend sport. I'm going to the service.

I AGREE with Craig about the way a lot of guys look today. I want a man who looks like a man, not one who looks like he raided my wardrobe & stole my beauty products. - Rose

DID u know that 19 per cent of men have been sexually harassed in the workplace? Why can't I work with these <u>women</u>?

- Marcus the trivia master

TO all who hate boat people. How would u like to live in Sri Lanka raising your kids only to be shot, tortured, blown up by land mines by rebels who believe that they have the right to fight for a home state? What would u do? Personally I would do whatever it took to get the heck out of there. These people are running for their lives. They are not terrorists. They are as terrified as any of u would be. Get over your fear of these people. Try leaving Aussie land out of fear by boat and see how far u get. If u saved your family from the Taliban or <u>Tamil Tigers</u> you would in my view be a hero. Love thy neighbour guys coz hate only drives us apart. - gm

I CAN drive in any lane I like as long as I stick to the speed limit. There are no fast lanes in a built-up area. - Zodiac

TO the United Nations in regards to the illegal so-called refugees, stop sending them to this great country.

I WONDER is it possible 4 a pollie 2 plz xplain 2 me y illegal immigrants get preferential treatment 4 comin here illegally yet in our so-called lucky country ppl r livin on da street without any hope? plz xplain & plz dont cite humanitarian reasons.

HEY, Peter Cameron. Do u know how many sardine cans there r out there that call themselves all-wheel-drive? Last time I checked that means 4-wheel-drive unless u ride a bike or drive a truck and I dont think u cld do either. I have had a 4x4 for years. Oh, by the way, r these handicap parking spaces getting smaller? - Two coat plasterer

LEGAL chippy, learn your road rules. It's illegal to be in the right lane unless overtaking. If I'm behind you and you dont move, expect to lose your side mirror. - Gc mech

chatroom

I'VE gained something from a long battle against the Q Govt, patience. Be easier if we all knew where the end was but patience

and a lot of persistence is definitely worth the wait. - Reg

EVEN in the prison browns, ya still look hot, Jase.

TWO Coat Plasterer, do some workmate and you might have something normal to say. - Hard working chef

ALL you people whining about not getting your \$900 yet, pull your heads in. You most likely voted for the Libs anyway. If Iil' Johnny had stayed in you wouldn't be getting a cent! Plus losing your job or taking big pay cuts because Work Choices would still be in, with its crap treatment of workers. Oh, did you forget that? - AK

WHO do you think you are, Robyn Wuth? How do you know Mel Gibson has a massive ego? Are you a family friend? As for you Ken Vernon, Harrison Ford is Indiana Jones for God's sake, so back off on his acting ability. The man is a genius! - Stu

ANYONE out there like a bet on a good thing? Here's your chance to back a colt valued at 20 million plus. Put your coin

on Manhattan Rain in the Champagne Stakes at Royal Randwick this Saturday . . . sshh. - The Knightrider

THERE r people all around the world try'n 2 inform us 2 what our problems r, like Pres of Iran, Bishop Tutu, Mel Gibson, Catholic priests etc, take note b4 it's 2 late. - Ian M

HEY Gc, isn't it illegal to block a public carriageway, or are you guys somehow exempt? - Oz

TO no name having a cry about up starting work at 6.30, get over it mate. Council says we can. We need to earn a living too, you dud. - High St worker

FOUND a small black dog Wednesday night in the area of Dugandan St, Nerang. If she is yours she has been taken to the pound.

HEY, John Cartwright, toughen up and tell Clive Palmer what u really think. - Muscles

TO the ex taxi driver, I see cops overtaking other cars on the left side which is illegal, they r passing those morons travelling slow in the right lane. The coppers don't care until they get cut off. I drive for a living and the Coast is full of inconsiderate idiots on the road. - DR

YEAH, Peter Cameron. Did you have a bowl of stupid for breakfast that morning? - Gangsta

WHAT'S with people not indicating to turn left at roundabouts or any corner 4 that matter? It's common courtesy and illegal not to, not to mention frustrating when u have to stop completely then the turkey on your right makes a left turn without indicating! - bj09

BIKIES should wear their patch 2 court, they r a bikie. They don't do crime in suits so why wear a suit 2 court? What dumb questions and statements. They r just a bunch of losers who need 2 belong 2 a gang 2 feel like they belong somewhere. They are nothing more than uneducated, low-life scumbags. - Nerang

CHUCK the legal chippy, perhaps you should resit 4 your licence. The rule is, keep left unless overtaking. - Wol

THE Broncos get Friday night games cuz theyre entertaining and they get big crowds. - Titan hater

SEND Ken Vernon and Peter Cameron on a holiday together to Double Island Point, would b fighting each other to get a word in.

chatroom

TO the gooner. AFL is also played in NZ, USA, Canada, Ireland, England, Wales, Scotland, Germany, Denmark, Sweden, South Africa and Japan plus many more countries. They had the world cup minus Oz in Melb last year. Check your facts gooner. - Hawkman

K OF Burleigh, they arrive in boats to gain refugee status and if they came here on planes we could deport them for over-staying their visa you fool. Use your head to think with and not your bleeding heart. - David O

WHO were the 2 bikies in plain clothes boarding a flight from Coolangatta to Sydney overheard by a few of us gloating how easy it was to get through the metal X-ray machine undetected and one saying to his mate in the departure lounge men's toilets `if this is so easy we can do this more often both ways'?

TO the morons who throw things at buses and trucks one day you will be responsible for the death of those on board when it crashes will you think its funny then?

TWO Coat Plasterer, you have got to be kidding. Leave the *female* cops back at the station? Let me guess, you're single and

life revolves around your lil chatroom and you get a kick out of putting other people down. - sophx

CEDRIC, be honest, you find AFL exciting cos the boys wear those tight shorts. That's why I watch. - Cecil

Load-Date: April 24, 2009



The Calgary Herald (Alberta)

May 19, 2009 Tuesday

Final Edition

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Section: NEWS; Pg. B10

Length: 1052 words

Byline: Calgary Herald

Body

Top Stories

Canada Lifts Limits On Travel To Mexico

Canada lifted restrictions on nonessential travel to Mexico on Monday, as the swine flu outbreak appears to be "levelling off" in the country where it began.

But the move was too late for some Calgarians, who were forced to cancel wedding plans or walk away from thousands of dollars because of the limits.

Page A1

Oilsands At Critical Juncture, Report Says

Output in Alberta's oilsands could soar to 6.3 million barrels a day by 2035, a fivefold increase from the current level, a new U. S. report suggests.

But continued economic woes could stagnate development within the next five years, limiting production increases.

Page A1

Economy Hinders City Contract Talks With Unions

Economic uncertainty is prolonging city talks with all of its unions, as the sides are "quibbling over pennies" according to one union representative.

Page A1

News Sections A and B

City & Region

Domino Tournament Party Ends In Violent Death

A domino tournament wrap party at the Penbrooke community hall turned deadly early Monday.

An argument between the DJ and another man erupted so quickly that many had no idea the DJ had been stabbed until they saw him bloodied and writhing on the floor.

Page B1

Camping Crackdown Results In More Tickets

Increased enforcement was the main reason behind an increase in the number of tickets and warnings handed out in provincial parks and wilderness areas over the Victoria Day holiday, officials say.

Page B1

Canada

Facilities For 2010 Games Have Alberta Flavour

The 2010 Winter Olympics may be taking place on the West Coast, but they will have a significant Alberta flavour. Four firms from the province were major players in the construction of Games facilities.

Page A3

Bear Saw Teen 'As Food'

Experts say a 15-year-old boy mauled on Sunday was the victim of a predatory bear attack.

"In this instance, we're presuming the bear saw the boy as food," said Russell Stashko, co-chair of Alberta's Bear Smart program.

Page A6

World

Sri Lanka Declares War With Tigers Over

The Sri Lankan government on Monday declared an end to its decades-old conflict with the <u>Tamil Tigers</u>, after routing the remnants of the rebel army and killing its leader, Velupillai Prabhakaran.

The army said its commandos over-ran the last sliver of Tiger territory, killing the last 300 fighters and decimating the rebel leadership.

Page A9

Smoking More Damaging To Women Than Men

<u>Women</u> may be especially susceptible to the toxic effects of cigarette smoking, U. S. researchers said Monday. They said **women** who smoke develop lung damage earlier in life than men.

Page A14

Traffic - Lane closure: The three left lanes of northbound 4th Street S. W. between 10th Avenue and 7th Avenue and will be blocked due to road work from 9 a. m. to around 3 p. m. - Lane closure: The left lane, in both directions of Memorial Drive from 9th Street N. W. to 5th Street N. W. will be closed from 9 a. m. until around 3 p. m. - Lane closure: The left lane of southbound 1st Street S. E. between 7th Avenue and 6th Avenue will be closed from 9 a. m. to 3 p. m.

Quote Of The Day

"All the spontaneity that used to exist between Canada and the U. S. is suddenly more awkward"

Victor Konrad, Western Washington University, On The Impact Of New Passport Regulations

Business -- C7

Stock Markets Surge On Recovery Hopes

U. S. stocks rallied Monday as better-than-expected results from the No. 2U.S. home improvement retailer, Lowe's Cos Inc., helped spark broad-based buying on hopes the recession is easing and consumer spending is stabilizing. Canadian markets were closed for Victoria Day.

Page C7

Practical Beauty In Concrete Designs

Mario Falconi sees concrete a little differently than most. To the co-owner with wife Kelly of Concrete Innovations, it's a pliable stone with unlimited design capabilities, be it for interior or exterior application. "The only thing that limits us is the weight -- or budget." Page C7

Will Rewritten Late In Life Fails To Pass Judge's Test

Rita Coupar was born in 1906. When she died and her new will cut out her beloved nieces and nephews in favour of her deceased second husband's kids, the court contest was on. Page C8

Editorial -- A12

No Money For Nurses?

A year ago, Alberta was searching the world for health workers, but now its medical superboard has ended the recruiting blitz. Is it a cost-control measure?

Page A12

Letter Of The Day

Let's consider how disastrous for the airline it would be if every guest were rewarded for spending extra time on the tarmac.

Cindy Kruger, Calgary Page A13

Sports -- C1

Other Pro Sports Back NHL In Coyotes Fight

The NFL, Major League Baseball and the NBA have lined up in support of the NHL's court fight to block the sale of the Phoenix Coyotes and move to southern Canada.

Page C1

Blue Jays Rarin' To Go Against Red Sox

Not to oversimplify things or hand the Boston Red Sox bulletin board material, but after the Toronto Blue Jays capped a four-game sweep of the Chicago White Sox with a 3-2 win Monday, Jays manager Cito Gaston admitted he was excited about starting a three-game series in Boston today against the second-place Red Sox.

Page C6

Entertainment-- D1

Newest American Idol Ready To Be Crowned

The flamboyant fan-favourite and front-runner Adam Lambert gets set to take on the quiet and subtle Christian singer Kris Allen in a finals showdown that has surprised judges and viewers alike.

Page D1

Eminem Suffers Relapse On His Latest CD

Calgary Herald music critic Heath McCoy finds controversial hip-hop artist Eminem doing little more than shocking for shock's sake on his latest album and his first in five years.

Page D2

Tonight's TV Picks - American Idol: Final performance at 9 p. m. on Fox and CTV.

Real Life -- D4

12 Steps To Style: A Makeup Update

Is it possible to get stuck in a rut -- or an eyelid crease -- with makeup?Quorra makeup artist Leah Brown sees it on **women**'s faces all the time: products they started out using a certain way eons ago, and never stopped. Here's how to keep it fresh.

Page D4

It's An Odd World

Getting Tough On Fast Food

Massachusetts is expected to unveil the toughest restaurant menu labelling rules in the United States on Wednesday, requiring fast-food chains to list how many calories are in the food they sell in a bid to combat obesity. The state's Public Health Council is expected to vote on Wednesday on the regulations.

Graphic

Colour Photo: Alain Jacard, Agence France-Presse, Getty Images; Photo Of The Day: A photographer at the Seche environmental plant in Le Vigeant, southern France appears to be on the bubble at the plant, which produces green fuel from seaweed;

Colour Photo: Mario and Kelly Falconi;

Colour Photo: CitoGaston;

Load-Date: May 19, 2009



Let's get a grip and let the refugee process unfold

The Vancouver Sun (British Columbia)

October 26, 2009 Monday

Final Edition

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Section: WESTCOAST NEWS; Pg. A6; Stephen Hume

Length: 1303 words

Byline: Stephen Hume, Vancouver Sun

Body

A flood of letters greeted my column advocating that people just take a deep breath and allow the process for adjudicating refugee claims to deal with the 76 migrants recently apprehended aboard a ship off Vancouver Island.

Many came from former refugees, some of whom arrived here under similar circumstances and who say they and their children and grandchildren are now grateful and productive members of Canadian society. They, too, ask for calm and compassion from fellow citizens.

Others, some writers identifying themselves up front as native-born Canadians, some as immigrants who had applied through formal channels, angrily denounced me -- "bloody Limey," said one, although I came to Canada at the age of 18 months more than 60 years ago; "grow a brain," urged another. They dismissed Canada's immigration laws as too lax, scoffed at the refugee claims process as corrupt, incompetent and too permissive and urged a policy of simply shipping migrants like those recently apprehended back to their place of origin.

Well, we do have a history of such reactions, the most egregious example being the turning away of Jews fleeing the Holocaust.

"Canada ... had possibly the worst record of all countries in the Western world in providing sanctuary to European Jewry," observed anthropologist Stanley R. Barrett in a 1987 study of Canadian racism and white supremacist movements. He cited "unrelenting efforts of Canadian government officials, some of them blatantly anti-Semitic, to keep Canada's doors closed to Jews, despite their desperate situation."

A number of letters responding to my column appeared to rely upon stereotypes and justified themselves with unverified assumptions regarding who the migrants are and what their motives might be.

Arguments for arbitrarily deporting the migrants included: Their status (they aren't Canadian citizens and don't deserve the protections of Canadian human rights codes); their assumed ethnicity (they are Tamils and since <u>Tamil</u> <u>Tigers</u> committed terrorist atrocities, ergo the migrants are likely terrorists); their assumed motives (legitimate refugees couldn't pay a smuggler to bring them here); the disruptive consequences for Canada if they are admitted (they are queue-jumpers who should have applied for immigration through proper channels as if they were citizens of Germany or Jamaica and permitting them to apply for refugee status undermines civil society); they don't assimilate (and will huddle in linguistic and cultural ghettos hating the rest of us); they will bring crime; they will take jobs when there's a high unemployment rate for native-born Canadians; they only want to use Canada as a base for

terrorist activities; they only want to use Canada so they can sneak into the United States for a better life; and so on.

This intemperate rhetoric represents a primitive xenophobia and is based on rumours and gossip. I'm sure most of my correspondents wouldn't consider themselves bigots or racists. Most are probably not, although they may be guilty of pushing the send button too quickly. Mind you, such talk does have a long and disgraceful pedigree in Canada, so perhaps it's not surprising that it still erupts periodically, almost always prompted by those who display differences in appearance, language, culture or religion.

The Irish weren't even on the social radar until they started coming to Canada by the boatload in the mid-1840s fleeing famine. Soon they were portrayed as drunken, gibbering (many didn't speak English), promiscuous, ape-like louts who were the source of disease and crime -- although their arrival drove an economic expansion in both Upper and Lower Canada, creating the infrastructure for industrialization.

Chinese immigrants, too, were routinely portrayed as debased criminals, often as opium fiends who wanted to seduce mainstream <u>women</u> into a white slave trade in which they'd be forced to have sex with depraved coloured men -- although their legitimate business enterprises thrived and prospered selling groceries, equipment and clothing in the mining camps.

Barrett's study points out that when Jews in mid-19th century Toronto were small in number, were wealthy and spoke with the refined British and American accents they brought when they emigrated from London and New York, they were so welcome in the frigid little outpost that marriage into the Christian community was common. Yet 50 years later, when Jews began coming in large numbers fleeing the pogroms of eastern Europe -- speaking Russian, Yiddish and German and bringing different cultural traditions -- they were suddenly identified as a threat, anti-Semitism was institutionalized and clubs, fraternal organizations and even public institutions were closed to them.

Jews were blamed for everything from street crime to importing liberal democracy, "an internationalist-minded Jewish invention which was imposed on France in 1789 and spread by Napoleon," according to one leading political intellectual in Quebec.

Not so long ago, McGill University was comfortable demanding higher academic standards of Jews than for non-Jewish students. Educational authorities in Alberta took back scholarships won by black or Indian students because they clearly wouldn't need a higher education. Past Canadian prime ministers gave themselves permission to compare Chinese immigrants to farm implements -- to be used and then discarded -- or to declare openly that "Canada should remain a white man's country."

And some of my past media colleagues have been comfortable referring to Toronto's Caribana Parade as "four million niggers jumping up and down;" or to assert that "Laws that rule behind Canada's bamboo curtain are made by a criminal oligarchy;" or to worry openly in an editorial: "Are we to have this great big province [B.C.] -- a land virtually flowing with milk and honey -- conserved for the best interests of the white British subject -- English, Scotch, Irish, Welsh, etc. -- or must it be given over entirely to the yellow and brown hordes...?"

Ethnic and religious minorities and nationalities including Jews, Roman Catholics, Muslims, Sikhs, Hindus, Protestants, Mennonites, Quakers, Mormons, Doukhobors, Scots, Irish, English, Germans, Russians, Ukrainians, Poles, Italians, Greeks, Chinese, Japanese, West Indians, Africans and African Americans, South Asians and South Sea Islanders have all at some point borne the brunt of such accusations.

And the accusations proved baseless. Initially ghettoized immigrants, forced there by mainstream fear and prejudice, have consistently tended to disperse over generations. Extreme religious values tend to moderate over time.

Scholarly studies show convincingly that the belief that immigrant communities are infested with crime is an urban legend. Crime is twice as prevalent in the native-born community. Immigrants, including refugees, are perceived as a burden on society but they actually drive economic growth and bring hybrid vigour. The children of immigrants may at first speak their own language at home but quickly become fluent in the languages of the mainstream and

Let's get a grip and let the refugee process unfold

challenge the conservative values of their parents. Indeed, the assimilated first and second generation children of immigrants are twice as likely to pursue a higher education than the children of native-born parents.

So please, let's all get a grip. Things are unfolding as they should. We have an impartial process for deciding which refugees are legitimate and which are not. If citizens don't like that process they know how to change it -- by electing enough MPs who agree with them. In the meantime, silly outbursts calling for arbitrary measures based on assumptions, rumours, stereotypes and prejudice present far more of a threat to civil society than anything these unfortunate migrants might offer.

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Graphic

Photo: Reuters; RCMP; The 76 people found on board a ship intercepted by the RCMP are now seeking refugee status.;

Load-Date: October 26, 2009



Associated Press Online

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Section: INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Length: 1259 words

Byline: By RAVI NESSMAN, Associated Press Writer

Dateline: COLOMBO Sri Lanka

Body

Sri Lanka declared Monday it had crushed the Tamil Tiger rebels, killing their chief, Velupillai Prabhakaran, and ending his three-decade quest for an independent homeland for minority Tamils.

State television broke into its regular programming to announce Prabhakaran's death, and the government information department sent a text message to cell phones across the country confirming he was killed along with top deputies, Soosai and Pottu Amman.

The announcement sparked mass celebrations around the country, and people poured into the streets of Colombo dancing and singing.

Prabhakaran's death has been seen as crucial to bringing closure to this war-wracked Indian Ocean island nation. If he had escaped, he could have used his large international smuggling network and the support of Tamil expatriates to spark a new round of guerrilla warfare here. His death in battle could still turn him into a martyr for other Tamil separatists.

While Velupillai Prabhakaran (Ve-LU'-pi-lay PRAH'-bah-ka-ran) was a hero to some, his group was branded a terrorist organization by the U.S. and European Union, and it was accused of waging hundreds of suicide attacks, including the 1991 assassination of former Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi by a *female* bomber. The rebels also forcibly recruited child soldiers.

Sri Lanka's army chief, Lt. Gen. Sarath Fonseka, said on television that his troops routed the last rebels from the northern war zone Monday morning.

"We can announce very responsibly that we have liberated the whole country from terrorism," he told state television.

Rajapaksa confirmed Prabhakaran's death in a phone call to India's External Affairs Minister Pranab Mukherjee, Indian foreign affairs spokesman Vishnu Prakash said in a statement.

Senior military officials said troops closed in on Prabhakaran and his final cadre early Monday.

He and his top deputies then drove an armor-plated van accompanied by a bus filled with rebel fighters toward approaching Sri Lankan forces, sparking a two-hour firefight, the officials said, speaking on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to speak to the media.

Troops eventually fired a rocket at the van, ending the battle, they said. In addition to Prabhakaran, the attack also killed Soosai, the head of the rebels' naval wing, and Pottu Amman, the group's feared intelligence commander, the officials said. One of Prabhakaran's sons was also killed, the military said.

Suren Surendiran, a spokesman for the British Tamils' Forum, the largest organization for expatriate Tamils in Britain, said the community was in despair.

"The people are very somber and very saddened. But we are ever determined and resilient to continue our struggle for Eelam," he said, invoking the name of the Tamils hoped-for independent state. "We have to win the freedom and liberation of our people."

But in Colombo, which had suffered countless rebel bombings, people set off fireworks, danced and sang in the streets.

"Myself and most of my friends gathered here have narrowly escaped bombs set off by the Tigers. Some of our friends were not lucky," said Lal Hettige, 47, a businessman celebrating in Colombo's outdoor market. "We are happy today to see the end of that ruthless terrorist organization and its heartless leader. We can live in peace after this."

The chubby, mustachioed Prabhakaran turned what was little more than a street gang in the late 1970s into one of the world's most feared insurgencies. Prabhakaran demanded unwavering loyalty and gave his followers vials of cyanide to wear around their necks and bite into in case of capture. They often used suicide bombings a tactic pioneered by groups in Lebanon years earlier but perfected by the rebels.

The rebels demanded a separate state for minority Tamils after years of marginalization at the hands of the Sinhalese majority.

Full-fledged war broke out in 1983 after the rebels killed 13 soldiers in an ambush, sparking anti-Tamil riots that human rights groups say killed as many as 2,000 people. By the time the war ended, more than 70,000 had been killed.

At the height of his power, Prabhakaran controlled a shadow state in northern Sri Lankan that had its own border control, police force, tax system and law school. The rebels feted foreign diplomats at one of the many guest houses they ran in their administrative capital of Kilinochchi. He commanded a force that included an infantry, backed by artillery, a significant naval wing and a nascent air force.

Prabhakaran was renowned as a master strategist, but made a series of fatal miscalculations. The assassination of Gandhi alienated his supporters in India, his stubborn line during negotiations eventually convinced the government it could never reach a peace deal and a Tamil boycott he enforced during the 2005 election ensured a victory for the hard-line Rajapaksa.

The <u>Tamil Tigers</u> were also badly weakened when one of his top commanders defected along with thousands of fighters to the government side.

Earlier in the day, the military announced it had killed several top rebel leaders, including Prabhakaran's son Charles Anthony. The military said special forces also found the bodies of the rebels' political wing leader, Balasingham Nadesan, the head of the rebels' peace secretariat, Seevaratnam Puleedevan, and one of the top military leaders, known as Ramesh.

Government forces ousted the rebels from their strongholds in the north in recent months and brought the group to its knees. Thousands of civilians were reportedly killed in the recent fighting.

Senior diplomats had appealed for a humanitarian cease-fire in recent weeks to safeguard the tens of thousands of civilians trapped in the war zone, but the government refused, and denied persistent reports it was shelling the densely populated war zone.

Three Sri Lankan doctors whose harrowing reports from the war zone were some of the only to reach the outside world in recent weeks were detained on accusations they gave false information to the media, a health official said Monday.

The official said the doctors were detained by the military when they fled and were later turned over to police. The official spoke on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to speak to the media. The U.N. said it believed the doctors were being held as well.

Diplomats in Brussels said Monday the European Union will endorse a call for an independent war crimes investigation into the killing of civilians in Sri Lanka. The diplomats spoke on condition of anonymity because discussions were ongoing.

The rebels were also accused of using the civilians as human shields and shooting at some who fled.

British Foreign Secretary David Miliband says there have been "very grave allegations" of war crimes on both sides of the conflict adding "they should be properly investigated."

The U.N. said 7,000 civilians were killed in the fighting between Jan. 20 and May 7. Health officials in the area said more than a 1,000 others were killed since then.

U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon will visit Sri Lanka on Friday and meet with the president, the government's Web site reported.

The world body's refugee agency said Monday that 265,000 have fled the fighting in recent months. Spokesman Ron Redmond said thousands were arriving in camps short on food stocks, land, shelter and water. The U.N. was consulting with the Sri Lankan government on the refugees' humanitarian needs.

Associated Press writers Krishan Francis and Bharatha Mallawarachi contributed to this report.

(This version CORRECTS spelling of army chief's name.)

Load-Date: May 19, 2009



Budget to focus on rebuilding N&E - Bogollagama

Sunday Observer (Sri Lanka) August 23, 2009 Sunday

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Length: 1715 words

Dateline: Colombo

Body

Colombo, Aug. 23 -- Sri Lanka is on the verge of an economic renaissance at the decisive conclusion of a three decade long conflict. The Business Community of Sri Lanka is free, free at last from terrorism to resurge and achieve its full potential, said Foreign Minister Rohitha Bogollagama, the chief guest at the Exporters Association AGM. In fact, one could go even further and declare that Sri Lanka is at a pivotal moment in its long history. Being now in a post conflict phase, it is an opportune moment for Sri Lanka's entrepreneurial spirit to take the fore and take this country's economy forward from strength to greater strength.

The Government of President Mahinda Rajapaksa is making huge investments in infrastructure and developing productive assets so that Sri Lanka's strengths will be optimized now that the war is over. In fact, the Ministry of Finance will focus next year's budget on rebuilding areas liberated from the *LTTE*.

A new era

A new era has dawned in the whole country and in the North and the East particularly, with the rapid development process, speedy resettlement of displaced persons and restoration of democracy. The devastated road network, highways, buildings and homes in the Northern Province will be redeveloped under the "Uthuru Wasanthaya" accelerated 180-day development project, and all Government Ministries, are coordinating to achieve the Government's goals in this regard.

It is also intended to increase the national gross production in the North while finding a solution to the unemployment problem as a result of the economic stagnation that resulted from the era of <u>LTTE</u> terror.

The economic opportunities being unleashed by the Government's visionary policies for the Northern Province will naturally result in rich dividends for business leaders both international and local who are excited about the huge potential inherent in investing in the reconstruction of the Northern and Eastern Provinces.

My personal interactions with Statesmen and <u>women</u> and business leaders from countries around the world have made it more than clear that Blue Chip Companies have tremendous interest in investing in the reconstruction of the North and East of Sri Lanka. This is in addition to several Board of Investment projects for which agreements have already been signed. Several high-rise apartment complexes have been planned by the private sector in addition to projects in the Leisure. Financial Services (Banking and Insurance). Property Development, Retail and Dairy sectors and major infrastructure projects. We will not merely build back-we will build back better.

The Government's 180-day resettlement program is in progress with another batch of 1,500 civilians from the Manik Farm relief village being re-settled in Omanthai, Nochchimotai, Piramanalamkulam and Pirappumadu last week. To

Budget to focus on rebuilding N&E - Bogollagama

ensure a trouble-free living for the displaced persons, reconstruction of roads, supply of electricity and water were already completed in these areas, which have been completely cleared of landmines.

Lifting of fishing restrictions in Mannar, Trincomalee and Jaffna has made the industry a thriving business. The fishermen are making good money with a bountiful harvest. The Government has also provided the civilians with agricultural equipment, seeds and other essential requirements in Musali to boost the agro industry in the Mannar District.

A joint railway-bus service from Vavuniya to Jaffna will commence shortly for the benefit of Jaffna bound civilians and vice versa. The rail-bus service will be a big boost for the people in the area and will meet the long-felt need of the Jaffna civilians.

The Government has so far opened 17 new police stations in the newly liberated areas to maintain law and order. Civil administration too is operative.

Apart from the displaced persons, the Government has shown its sincere commitment to rehabilitation ex-terrorist cadres.

Despite all these positive developments, we still find a few countries, INGOs and individuals who are trying to project a distorted picture. All I can say - and I continue to state this at the highest diplomatic levels - is that no country, organisation or individual could have a greater feeling for the displaced persons in Sri Lanka than President Mahinda Rajapaksa and the Government of Sri Lanka. For those displaced persons are our own countrymen and **women**. They are our brothers and sisters.

Optimism

Your would therefore no doubt agree with me that there is cause for irrepressible optimism on the national front in the light of the reunification of our proudly multicultural nation under one flag and the phenomenal economic potential emerging from the national reconstruction drive.

On the international scene too, there is increasing cause for cautious optimism: Data released last Friday in the US showed unemployment had fallen 0.1 percentage point to 9.4 percent in July as President Barack Obama's multibillion-dollar stimulus plan kicks in.

On Monday reports showed Japan's current account surplus growing for the first time in 16 months, in June. Auto and electronic makers were boosted by the weaker yen, which is good for exporters. These figures sent the Dow Jones Industrial Average up 1.23 percent to its highest for more than nine months. Lifted by better than expected jobs figures out of the United States and stronger Japanese data, Asian markets jumped on Monday, boosting hopes the recession-hit economies were on the mend.

Globalisation has resulted in the world witnessing a rapidly increasing international integration of markets for consumer goods, technology, and factors of production and the globalization process has offered unlimited opportunities as well as challenges for tea producing countries, in particular.

Global trade has vastly outpaced global production since 1960. Cross-border flows financial capital have exploded. Labour is also becoming more mobile. The implication of all this is that the competitive pressure on businesses today is probably stronger than ever before. The rise of China as a global power in export markets is only the most recent addition to a long line of outward-oriented economies, in particular from Asia. But international integration does not only mean increased competition. It also means that businesses have unprecedented opportunities for expansion by taking advantage of international demand for their products. And businesses can tap international markets for new technology, knowledge, and finance.

Tea industry

In this context, it is significant that global tea production is now dominated by four countries, India (1002 Mn kgs,) China (990 Mn kgs) Sri Lanka (318.7 Mn kgs) and Kenya (286.0 Mn kgs) with Indonesia closely following with a

production of 139.8 Mn kgs. These countries account for about 75-80% of the world's tea production and Sri Lanka was ranked as the 3rd leading global producer marginally ahead of Kenya in 2008. Sri Lanka's production which remained in the region of 233 Mn kg since the early 90s has been rising almost annually to reach the highest level of 318.7 million kg in 2008. Tea crop productivity in Sri Lanka is a different story altogether. Due to various reasons, productivity is among the lowest in the global scenario. The profitability of the Sri Lankan tea industry, like any other plantation industry, rests heavily on the movement of the global market and production costs. With costs of production in Sri Lanka very much higher than its competitors', and international tea prices increasingly competitive with the emergence of low-cost global producers like Kenya, India and Vietnam, domestic producers and the corporate sector in particular may find it difficult to make ends meet.

It is timely that Sri Lanka's Tea industry re-evaluates its strategic vision, re-visiting in particular the tremendous potential for value addition of a product that is linked to markedly to our national image, in this context.

I would also like to take this opportunity to stress an important dynamic occurring in the international sphere to you: Asia is returning to the centre stage it occupied for eighteen centuries before the rise of the West.

For the vast majority of recorded history, Asia, with the greatest share of the world's population has had the greatest share of the world's economy. In the first century AD Asia accounted for 76.3% of global GDP. Western Europe at this time accounted for only 10.8% of global GDP. This balance began to shift with the industrial Revolution. By 1820 Western Europe's share of global GDP had grown to 23.6%, while Asia's had shrunk to 59.2%.

A Goldman Sachs study predicted that by 2050, three of the four largest economies in the world will be in Asia, and in this order: China, the USA, India and Japan.

Having analysed emerging trends at the dawn of this 21st Century, Sri Lanka's foreign policy is being recaliberated to fully explore the potential inherent in our geo-political location.

In the recent past, Sri Lanka has stepped into several international organizations and fora: This we have done in order to enable our country to have the widest possible engagement with global decision-makers. I am pleased to bring to your attention that Sri Lanka has moved well beyond our traditional relationships in the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM), G77, the Commonwealth and the UN system to membership in all the key organizations where the new architecture for the international system is being built: fora such as the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF); the Shangri-La Dialoge, ACD: the Shanghai Cooperation Organization; Asia Middle East Dialoge (AMED), the G15 and the G11. Sri Lanka is also currently the Chair of SAARC, as you would be aware.

Sri Lanka is now preparing with a keen degree of enthusiasm to host the Asian Cooperation Dialoge (ACD) Ministerial Meeting in Colombo from 15-16 October and thereafter to take up the challenging but much anticipated responsibility of serving as Chair. The theme of this Year's ACD Ministerial Meeting will be of particular interest of you in the business community: "Spirit of Asia: global economic recovery and development prospects". Published by HT Syndication with permission from Sunday Observer (Sri Lanka). For more information on news feed please contact Surit Das at https://dication.org/hindustantimes.com

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Load-Date: August 24, 2009



69 Tamil civilians seek protection with security forces

Colombo Times

April 7, 2009 Tuesday

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Length: 178 words

Body

Colombo, April 7 -- Sixty-nine more Tamil civilians under <u>LTTE</u> hostage managed to escape and reached security forces in Ampalawanpokkani seeking safety for their lives yesterday, 6 April, defence sources said.

23 males, 20 <u>females</u>, 13 boys and 13 girls were among the group of escapees. The civilians were later directed to the welfare centers established in Kilinochchi after proving them with food, medical treatment and other necessities, defence sources said.

"The <u>LTTE</u> terrorists have directed small arms fire towards us while escaping the no fire zone. A few escapees among us were killed due to <u>LTTE</u>s indiscriminate fire", one of the escapees said speaking to our correspondent.

"We are forcibly held by the <u>LTTE</u> terrorists in the government declared no fire zone and <u>LTTE</u> leaders have sternly given orders to their cadres to cover all possible escaping routes available for the civilians. Because they (<u>LTTE</u>) using the civilians as human shield and doing all military preparations while being among the civilians in the no fire zone", the escapees further said.

Load-Date: May 5, 2009



Social stigma, main hindrance to proper treatment

Sunday Observer (Sri Lanka) November 29, 2009 Sunday

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Length: 803 words

Dateline: Sri Lanka

Body

Sri Lanka, Nov. 29 -- With plans to have more local and foreign tourists to the North and East after the defeat of the <u>LTTE</u>, the health authorities stressed the need of educating the public on sexually transmitted diseases, including HIV/AIDS.

- * Estimated number of HIV positive 4,000
- * Total number of HIV positive cases since 1985 to 2009 1161
- * Full blown AIDS cases since 1985 302
- * Deaths since 1985 202
- * Mother-to-child cases 42
- * The number of HIV positive recorded this year 110
- * Number of HIV positive males 58%
- * Number of HIV positive *females* 42 %

Though there is no significant increase in HIV/AIDS cases reported among the displaced and resettled people of the North and East, the gradual increase in the new HIV infected cases has tiggered an alarm among the authorities to focus their attention on the North and East.

The National STD/AIDS Control Program (NSACP) Director, Dr. Nimal Edirisinghe told the 'Sunday Observer' that new sexually transmitted Diseases (STD) clinics have been opened in Jaffna, Mannar and Vavuniya and open new clinics in Kilinochchi and Mullaitivu shortly.

"Yearly we are getting newly infected people. And we can not say whether the number of HIV positivist are definitely increasing or not", he said.

He said that due to an awareness on the disease, setting up of STD clinics with improved facilities and providing antiretroviral therapy for HIV infected persons, the infection rate has been controlled to some extent.

Worldwide, the life span of HIV infected persons has prolonged due to the antiretroviral therapy. "Now the HIV positive patients are living longer than earlier. At the beginning they thought their lives had just ended with the disease but now antiretroviral drugs have prolonged their lives", he said.

Social stigma, main hindrance to proper treatment

Nearly 190 HIV infected people, whose C4 count is below 200 per micro litre, receive getting antiretroviral drugs.

Dr. Edirisinghe said that the main challenges for Sri Lanka in keeping the disease at bay were by promoting alternative safety measures like using condoms in unprotected sex and warding off the social stigma.

"Still there is a taboo among the people in promoting condoms. But it is a vital tool in prevention of HIV/AIDS", he said.

He said that danger was that the other sexually transmitted diseases were on the increase and the authorities and the public could not overlook the issue easily though the country records a low HIV/AIDS prevalence rate.

The social stigma still hinders the HIV positive from stepping into STD clinics. "This will lead the 'hidden HIV positive' to infect more people.

This stigma also denies them coming for improved treatment in the STD clinics", Dr. Edirisinghe said.

The NSACP Director stressed on more awareness on STDs and HIV/ADIS among schoolchildren to prevent a future disaster. The NSACP has successfully launched a school based awareness program targeted the Ordinary Level students in 500 schools in Sabaragamuwa province under the funds given by the Global Fund.

Without teaching the schoolchildren directly about sex education, the O/L students were taught about health habits covering a range of topics including good health behaviours and STDs.

Over 3,000 teachers in the province were trained to teach the children and the teaching module were prepared.

Dr. Edirisinghe said that these resources could be utilized to commence a national awareness program on STDs for schoolchildren if the Ministry of Education offers assistance.

He said that the Minister of Education Susil Premajayanth agreed to include lessons on good behaviour in the school curriculum, which changes in every four years. "When changes are made all the O/L students will be taught on HIV/AIDS at school", he said.

Dr. Shantha Hettiaracchi of the Health Education Bureau said that the average monthly infection rate is 10 persons and still over 50 percent of the *female* HIV positive infected through their husbands.

"Though there is no significant threat of a rapid spreading of HIV/AIDS, the number of young population in the age between 25 to 35 keeps on increasing. This poses a major challenge for Sri Lanka with there are more freedom for sexual behaviour compared to few years", he said.

Dr. Hettiarachchi said that there was a change in 'mode of transmission', where the sexual contacts accounts for 96.4 percent, mother-to-child 3.1 percent and through blood 0.5 percent. With two injecting drug uses found to be infected with HIV in 2009, the category of 'injecting drug users' is now added as a mode of transmission of HIV/AIDS in Sri Lanka. During the last nine months (from January to September) 102 new cases were reported to the STD clinics. Published by HT Syndication with permission from Sunday Observer (Sri Lanka). For more information on news feed please contact Sarabjit Jagirdar at https://dication@hindustantimes.com

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Load-Date: November 30, 2009



<u>DAILY PRESS BRIEFING BY OFFICES OF SPOKESPERSON FOR</u> SECRETARY-GENERAL

US State News

April 16, 2009 Thursday 11:02 AM EST

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Length: 3933 words

Body

UNITED NATIONS, April 13 -- The United Nations Office of the Secretary General issued the text of the following statement:

And the spokesperson for the General Assembly president The following is a near-verbatim transcript of today's noon briefing by Farhan Haq, Associate Spokesperson for the Secretary-General, and Enrique Yeves, Spokesperson for the President of the General Assembly. Briefing by the Spokesperson for the Secretary-General Good afternoon, everyone. ** Sri Lanka Statement The Secretary-General welcomes the announcement made on Sunday by the Government of Sri Lanka that it will observe a two-day pause in offensive military operations. This is less than the full humanitarian pause of several days that the Secretary-General had pressed for, but is nevertheless a useful first step and an opportunity to move towards the peaceful and orderly end to the fighting now so badly needed. The Secretary-General called on the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (*LTTE*) to take concrete and immediate steps to protect civilians by respecting the pause, for its full duration.

The United Nations has been in discussions with the Government of Sri Lanka and other concerned parties in recent months and weeks to explore ways in which the suffering of innocent people in the Vanni region can be brought to an end or lessened. The Secretary-General has personally been involved through discussions with President Mahinda Rajapakse. The United Nations will, therefore, do whatever it can to support this humanitarian pause and help end the grave predicament of civilians in the conflict zone, including through the provision of more aid to those still trapped in the zone. During this period, civilians wishing to leave the conflict zone should be allowed to do so without any hindrance and should then be treated fully in accordance with international standards and principles. In particular, the LTTE must allow civilians to choose whether they stay or leave. This is a terrible conflict that must be ended as soon as possible. In the meantime, with tens of thousands of lives at risk on the beaches of northern Sri Lanka, the Secretary-General calls on the Government forces to adhere scrupulously to the commitments of the Government about non-use of heavy weapons. He also counts on key members of the international community to support this pause and to continue to do all they can to avert further death and suffering in Sri Lanka. And we issued that statement, it's upstairs and on the Web. ** Haiti The Secretary-General met earlier today with Haiti's Prime Minister Michele Duvivier Pierre-Louis. They discussed the donors' conference for Haiti to be hosted this afternoon and tomorrow by the Inter-American Development Bank in Washington, D.C. The Secretary-General stressed the fundamental importance of the conference in demonstrating the strong commitment of the international community to work with the Haitian Government to consolidate the country's fragile stability. The conference, the Secretary-General said, is the beginning of a process. It is vital, he added, that the key reforms required for Haiti to fully realize its economic potential move ahead as quickly as possible. They also discussed the upcoming senatorial elections in Haiti and the strengthening of Haiti's institutions. The Secretary-General will be heading to Washington this afternoon to attend the conference. **Secretary-General's Travels As you know, the Secretary-General's trip to Thailand was cancelled after the postponement of the ASEAN (Association of South-

East Asian Nations) Summit and its related meetings. The Secretary-General, in a statement issued on Saturday, regretted the postponement but said he understood the circumstances that led the Thai Government to take this difficult decision. He said that he strongly values the long-standing relationship between ASEAN and the United Nations and their cooperation in various fields. He hopes for an early restoration of normalcy in Thailand and for the settlement of differences through dialogue and peaceful means. On Saturday morning, the Secretary-General began an official visit to the Lao People's Democratic Republic, where he met the country's President and Deputy Prime Minister. He also spoke at the official opening of UN House, a compound in central Vientiane. "At the UN House, we will all join forces to benefit the people of this country, especially those who need it most," he said. He also took the occasion to launch the second Millennium Development Goals Progress Report detailing Laos's progress towards achieving the eight Goals. **Security Council On Saturday afternoon, the Security Council held brief consultations to discuss a draft text of a presidential statement on the Democratic People's Republic of Korea that was circulated by the United States. Afterwards, the Council President, Ambassador Claude Heller of Mexico, said that he intended to call the Council to meet this afternoon to hold consultations on the draft presidential statement, with a view to its adoption. We'll let you know once any consultations are formally scheduled. [The Associate Spokesperson later said that a formal meeting to adopt a presidential statement would be held at 3 p.m.] ** Fiji In a statement we issued on Friday, the Secretary-General expressed deep dismay at the abrogation of the Constitution of Fiii, the dismissal of the judiciary, a declaration of public emergency and a clear attempt to prolong rule by an unelected executive by setting a new time frame of five years for parliamentary elections. The latest measures are a clear rejection of the legal process and are contrary to the stated common objective of returning the country to an elected Government as soon as possible. The Secretary-General strongly deplores these steps and calls for urgent action towards their reversal and the restoration of a legitimate Government and constitutional order. ** Sudan On Sudan, the second regular meeting of the Darfur Human Rights Forum will be held tomorrow in West Darfur's state capital, El Geneina. This one-day forum will bring together officials from the Government of Sudan at the local and national level; members of the Advisory Council on Human Rights, which also represents the Government; members of the diplomatic community; the African Union; and human rights officials from the two UN peacekeeping missions, UNAMID [African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur] and UNMIS [United Nations Mission in the Sudan]. It will also include participants from the Darfur State Committees on Combating Violence against **Women** and Children. The purpose of the Forum is to promote transparent and constructive dialogue on human rights issues between the Government of Sudan and UNAMID. It will also form part of the ongoing efforts by UNAMID to support the Government in the discharge of its responsibilities in the promotion and protection of human rights. During the past 72 hours, UNAMID reports that the security situation in Darfur is relatively calm; however, carjacking incidents and banditry activities continue to occur in most parts of North and West Darfur. ** Afghanistan The UN Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA) said today that it was sickened by the senseless murder yesterday of a provincial legislator, Sitara Achikzai, in Kandahar. The Mission described Achikzai as a committed and brave woman who served her country without fear in one of Afghanistan's most volatile areas. UNAMA condemned her murder in the strongest possible terms, saying that her killers have clearly shown their disrespect for true Afghan honour and traditions. We have more in today's briefing notes from Kabul, which also mention the start yesterday of a polio immunization campaign throughout the country. **Children and Armed Conflict The Secretary-General's Special Representative for Children and Armed Conflict, Radhika Coomaraswamy, will start a visit to the Democratic Republic of the Congo tomorrow, 14 April. The objective of her visit is to ascertain first hand the situation of children and ensure their greater protection in the ongoing humanitarian crisis. Coomaraswamy will pay particular attention to the issues of children associated with armed groups, sexual violence, internally displaced and refugee children, as well as impunity for crimes against children. During her week-long visit, the Special Representative will meet representatives from the Government and from civil society, among others, in an effort to address grave violations against children as part of the regional peace process. And we have more on this upstairs. **Child Marriage We also have upstairs a statement by UNICEF Executive Director Ann M. Veneman on child marriage. UNICEF is deeply concerned by reports that Saudi Arabian tribunals have decided not to annul the marriage of an 8-year-old girl. Irrespective of circumstances or the legal framework, she says, the marriage of a child is a violation of that child's rights. The right to free and full consent to marriage is recognized in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Consent cannot be free and full when either party to a marriage is too young to make an informed decision, UNICEF says. **Press Conference Tomorrow In terms of press conferences, at 11 a.m. tomorrow, the General Assembly President, Miguel d'Escoto Brockmann, will be here to brief on the General Assembly's Financial and Economic Summit, which is scheduled to take place

from 1 to 3 June 2009. And we'll have the Spokesperson for the General Assembly President, Enrique Yeves, brief you here once I've finished. Are there any questions before we turn to Enrique? Yes, please. Questions and Answers Question: Good afternoon, Farhan. In light of the events of last week and then the events over the weekend on the coast of Somalia, does the Secretary-General have any reaction? Associate Spokesperson: We don't have any specific reaction to this beyond the fact that the Secretary-General, as you know, has repeatedly called for Member States to cooperate in order to combat piracy in the international waters off the cost of Somalia, and so he welcomes any sign that the Member States are working together to address the situation of piracy. But beyond that we have no specific comment on the weekend's events. Question: Yes, Farhan, thank you. I was wondering again if there is a specific date for the official handing of the Board of Inquiry report to the SG, and how much time shall we expect after the official handing until we get something out of that report? Associate Spokesperson: As you know, that report, we said last week, would require another roughly two weeks before it was presented to the Secretary-General. We said that in a statement in the middle of last week. And so, I would say it will be another week or so before we expect it. Once the Secretary-General has received it, he will then make a decision about further action, and that would include a decision about how it would be transmitted. Question: So you don't expect anything to happen in terms of officially handing the report this week? Associate Spokesperson: Not so far. If that changes, we'll certainly let you know. Question: Sure, Farhan. On this statement about Fiji; I wanted to know, there've been right at the transfer between the previous Secretary-General and the current one, there was a statement that if Fiji didn't return itself to democracy, the UN would stop using Fijian peacekeepers, that was essentially what had been said. Given this expression of deep dismay, what does the current Secretariat intend to do in terms of the continued service or following up on the previous statements about peacekeepers from Fiji, given the abrogation of democracy? Associate Spokesperson: In terms of that, at this stage what we're going to do is evaluate any future contributions of Fijian peacekeepers to UN peacekeeping on a case-by-case basis. And we can certainly let you know what the decisions are once we've done those evaluations. Question: [inaudible]...the thing that came up was that they're serving in Iraq and then it was said if this is deep dismay, is there any change in the UN's policy? Associate Spokesperson: There is nothing to report about the people who have been serving with distinction protecting UN staff in Iraq so far. If there is any change, like I said, I will let you know. But right now what we're doing is evaluating this precisely on a case-by-case basis. Question: And also, last week I'd asked about this contract with Petrocelli Electric that the UN has, in light of the indictment of the founder of the company. Over the weekend The New York Times reported that the FBI says that the founder is connected or has associations with the Genovese crime family. So what I'm wondering is now given... if you accept that report is true in The New York Times, what is the UN going to do about these contracts? Associate Spokesperson: Well, Michele told you what we're doing in terms of that, and what she said last week hasn't changed. Question: So the current contract is going to continue? How long does the current contract run? Associate Spokesperson: Right now, they're suspended from the list of vendors, but we do have, of course, our current facility needs. So we have an existing contract. But I believe she mentioned to you the suspension last week and... Question: For future business. I just want to know how much the current business is and whether this new report makes any changes. Associate Spokesperson: I think she mentioned to you what the details of that contract were. But I can just re-submit that over to you if you don't have those details. Question: I don't think she said either length or dollar value or any of the details. Associate Spokesperson: No, I think she mentioned what the services are. So, I'll get that over to you. Question: There were reports over the weekend on Friday of some sort of demonstrations on the borders between Algeria and Morocco, and I was wondering whether there was a demonstration by Polisario, pro-Polisario, there was a landmine and protests by Morocco. I was wondering whether if there is any reaction from the SG or from MINURSO on these acts? Associate Spokesperson: In terms of that, MINURSO is looking into what the precise details of these events are, and so they are trying to get some further information about it. I believe we're aware that Morocco has written to the Security Council about this and so it would be up to the Security Council to see how or whether it wants to react. Question: But the SG or the MINURSO office will determine whether what happened is a violation of the ceasefire agreement between the two sides? Associate Spokesperson: At this stage, first they're just trying to obtain more information and then we'll see what happens once they've done that. [The Spokesperson later said that MINURSO was able to monitor part of the so-called "1,000 Column Demonstration," organized by the Frente Polisario in protest against the Berm. Military observers from MINURSO saw approximately 600-800 civilian demonstrators inside the Buffer Zone. They reported that, at a certain point, the crowd became unruly and a number entered a known mined area, and several demonstrators threw stones towards Moroccan Army soldiers on the other side of the Berm. MINURSO's observers heard a mine explosion and saw that five of the demonstrators

were injured, and the demonstrators dispersed shortly after this incident. MINURSO staff did not hear shots fired or observe demonstrators in possession of weapons, and are unable to confirm whether shots were fired.] Question: Do you have any update on Moldova? Associate Spokesperson: Nothing further. You've seen the statement that the Secretary-General issued last week, and that's where we stand on the question of Moldova. Question: This is on Sri Lanka. There have been some reports that in the camps that have been set up outside the conflict zone from which people can't leave and can't receive visitors, that there are some UN staff in these camps - from OCHA [the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs] and some of the specialized funds programmes and agencies. Is the UN aware of any of its staff members that are either held incommunicado or are in camps that they can't leave from? And if they're aware, what's the UN doing about securing their freedom of movement and release from these camps? Associate Spokesperson: I am not aware of that one, but we'll check with OCHA and see what they have to say on that. [The Spokesperson later said that, among those tens of thousands of people who have managed to flee the No Fire Zone in northern Sri Lanka, OCHA is aware that some United Nations and nongovernmental organization staff and their dependents have managed to flee as well. As far as OHCA knows, they are still in the camps for displaced people set up in the area, and the United Nations has repeatedly asked the Government of Sri Lanka to allow them freedom of movement so that they can eventually resume their role as aid workers. While the Government has repeatedly given assurances that this request would be met, the staff still remains in the camps.] Question: Sorry, I just wanted to ask you - maybe this question has been asked - in view of this crisis, this Somalia piracy crisis, I just wanted to find out whether the Secretary-General is going to revisit this issue and ask the Security Council to form some sort of force, a UN force for Somalia and so forth, in order to avoid this incident of piracy? Was the questions asked? Associate Spokesperson: The Security Council has been dealing with this issue. And you'll remember that late last year they adopted resolution 1851 on Somalia. So I'd refer you back to the language of that resolution, which discusses the sort of international cooperation that the Security Council wants to see in terms of dealing with piracy off the coast of Somalia. Question: At that point in time, when that resolution was issued, I talked to the Pakistani ambassador. He said that he had suggested in some conversation with the Secretary-General that the Pakistani Navy is willing to patrol the area if given the opportunity. Has that issue being visited at all or not? Associate Spokesperson: I don't know whether Pakistan has approached the Council about this. Like I said, the Security Council is the one that came out with resolution 1851; so you might want to check with the Council presidency whether this has come up. Question: On North Korea; just one question, another question. Will the Secretary-General at any point in time revisit the North Korean Special Representative issue since Mr. Kofi Annan? His last Special Representative was removed and no one has been appointed since. Associate Spokesperson: What we've been trying to do is we've been in touch with the authorities in the DPRK to see whether we can open up a line of communication to deal with the issues between the United Nations and the DPRK. So we're working on that, and so far those discussions have been proceeding fairly smoothly. We don't have any appointments to announce so far, though. Question: One follow-up on Somalia. The report of the Somali... three were killed and one is going to be supposedly put on trial in the United States and he is [reported to be] 16 years old. I'm wondering whether the UN has any view on the 16-year-old, whether these issues of children and armed conflict might be involved; whether you expect the Secretary-General's Special Representative on the issue has considered at all the age of the pirates involved and whether this [inaudible]...? Associate Spokesperson: Well, first of all, you know we still haven't been formally informed about this particular incident, so there is no reaction from us in that regard. You might want to check with Ms. Coomaraswamy's Office whether they have any reaction. I am not aware of what the precise age of the person who was apprehended is. With that, I will turn over the floor to Enrique. Thanks very much. Briefing by the Spokesperson for the General Assembly President Thank you, Farhan. Good afternoon to everybody. I have today a statement attributable to the Spokesperson for the President of the General Assembly on the situation in Sri Lanka. The President of the General Assembly, Miguel d'Escoto Brockmann, welcomes the announcement of the ceasefire declared yesterday by the Government of Sri Lanka, hoping that it is a defining step that will enable the beginning of peace negotiations and an end to further violence in that country. The President has been very concerned about the tens of thousands of people who are facing a humanitarian disaster in the eastern part of Sri Lanka. He noted the lack of adequate food, water and sanitary conditions arising from military operations, as well as aerial bombings that have injured many civilians. "Negotiations between the warring factions are the only way to a peaceful resolution of the conflict and this requires an end to military action and sending urgent humanitarian aid to the civilian population," the President declared, adding: "In these situations, military solutions are not solutions." Mr. d'Escoto reminded all concerned parties of their obligation to do all they can to protect civilians and stressed that civilians should be allowed to leave the

DAILY PRESS BRIEFING BY OFFICES OF SPOKESPERSON FOR SECRETARY-GENERAL

conflict zones. The statement will be available in a few minutes online at the President of the General Assembly home page. In any case, we will have some copies available. My colleague has some copies available for you in case you need them. On another front, the Ad Hoc Working Group on the Revitalization of the General Assembly will hold its first meeting on this coming Wednesday, 15 April, at 10 a.m. As you probably know, President d'Escoto appointed last 9 April two co-chairs to facilitate the negotiations on the revitalization of the General Assembly: Ms. Maria Fernanda Espinosa, Permanent Representative from Ecuador, and Mr. Morten Wetland, Permanent Representative from Norway. And finally, a reminder. As Farhan just mentioned, the President of the General Assembly will hold a press conference here tomorrow, Tuesday, at 11 a.m. on the upcoming Summit on the Global Financial and Economic Crisis that will take place here in New York from 1 to 3 June. And this is all I have for you, unless you have any questions. **Questions and Answers Question: I just want to clear up, I guess, the President's statement on Sri Lanka. When he says aerial bombings, I just want to be clear that this is... given reports that the **Tamil Tigers** no longer have an Air Force they once had, is this a recognition that these bombings are done by the Government? Spokesperson: He is referring to the military bombings that are going on right now in Sri Lanka. Question: From the air? Spokesperson: Yes. No more questions? That was easy. Thank... Oh, that was too easy! Yes. Question: Did you have a response about whether there would be something about the Security Council reform, a presentation? You said you'd find out to see ...? Spokesperson: We have not been able to discuss it yet. But as I said, this week we will take a decision on when we can have such a briefing. Still, as you know, the last of the first rounds of negotiations will take place on Monday. So after that we will somehow make a briefing, if Ambassador Tanin can come. Otherwise, I will do it myself. Thank you very much. For more information please contact: Sarabjit Jagirdar, Email:- htsyndication@hindustantimes.com

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Equal treatment for every person Liberation is not just for the soldiers

Sunday Observer (Sri Lanka) May 25, 2009 Monday

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Dateline: Colombo

Body

Colombo, May 25 -- The true liberation is creating an environment for the entire population of one nation to live in peace and harmony - without fear for life.

Bringing back a normal life for the people who lived under such strain where existence for them and their children was the topmost question, could be the toughest challenge. One has to identify the dire situations they faced. For our own brethren who lived under the iron clutches of the <u>LTTE</u> for generations undergoing innumerable dilemmas, normalcy seemed something unreachable. At the moment the country needs to take care of nearly 200,000 displaced <u>women</u>, men and children of all ages.

The terrorists threw them into the streets, robbing their meagre earnings like scavengers and at the end isolated them when the people mostly needed the so-called liberators. Though it was reiterated over international media on silencing their guns to avoid innocent blood spill there was no doubt it was just a shriek in desperation. They made life a hell for their own people. "We have taken all the measures, with the support of the Non Governmental Organizations as well as the Government institutes to swiftly provide relief for these displaced people." Major General G.A. Chandrasiri, the Competent Authority for providing relief assistance to the displaced of the entire North said. Maj. Gen. Chandrasiri being the Chief of Staff of the Sri Lanka Army, was appointed by President Mahinda Rajapaksa as the Competent Authority for coordination, administration and implementation of all welfare and relief work for displaced Wanni civilians in April to supervise this process. With this new change, military discipline has blended well with the civil administration. At the moment 41 Non Governmental Organizations which includes five United Nation agencies, International Organization for Migration (IOM) and such INGOs. "We don't wait till the displaced people reach this place. We were preparing shelter, hygienic facilities, water etc well ahead since they need a comfortable place to stay the moment we take them in," Maj. Gen. Chandrasiri explained. Answerable Providing the basic facilities to these people should be well organized, streamlined since it is essential to assure that each and every person gets equal treatment. This responsibility is solely of the people's Government and no one else. Many may comment, criticize on a variety of grounds but it is the Government that will be answerable to the entire nation. Government officials are separately appointed to supervise every facility provided for the people. Main areas are divided into several sections - shelter, roads, drainage, electricity, cooperative and trade stalls, education, food supply, health, water sanitation, counselling and psychological health, childcare, religious and for release of elders and rejoining families. Sharply observing the structure it is obvious that food, water, medicine and shelter are not the only concerns. This is the master plan for all four model villages namely the Anandha Kumaraswamy relief village, Ramanathan relief village, Arunachalam relief village and Kadhirgamar relief village. In the process of getting prepared for the newcomers, relief workers under the directives of the competent authority office were putting up 500 shelters per day. Proper structure Dividing the Menik Farm into four zones, for efficient administration, the model villages are already put up with several modern amenities taking place in each. The Ananda Kumaraswamy village is put up in the Menik farm zone one, the Ramanathan village in the zone

Equal treatment for every person Liberation is not just for the soldiers

2, Arunachalum village in zone 3 and the Kadirgamar village as the Menik Farm model village. Zone 1,2, and 3 is situated combined with each other in an area of 1400 acres, and the Kadirgamar village with 1000 acres. The zone 4 is getting prepared for habitation in Parayankulam, just two kilometers from the Menik Farm. "Orphan children below 10 years are given the chance to be with their relatives. Even that is only if the facts are confirmed by the other parties," Maj. Gen. Chandrasiri added. According to the Competent Authority even elders above 60 years are allowed to join their relatives instead of staying in the welfare centres. These are not the only welfare centres for internally displaced people that are looked after by the Competent Authority Office. In Mannar three welfare centres are functioning while a total of 22 welfare centres are in Vavuniya. Weli Oya three IDP welfare centres are functioning and Jaffna has 11 welfare centres."The service should be given to the people and not to highlight individual organizations. All who contribute to this entire operation must have the same intention to provide the necessary facilities to these people in an organized manner," Maj. Gen. Chandrasiri stated further. Published by HT Syndication with permission from Sunday Observer (Sri Lanka).

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Pakistan faces newer problems from within

The New Nation
May 1, 2009 Friday

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Bangladesh's Independent News Source

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Body

Dhaka, May 1 -- The surge of the Taliban in the district of Buner within 100 kilometres of Islamabad has sparked global concern about the nuclear armed nation's ability to rein in the Islamists. Talibans have started patrolling the streets warning residents not to engage in 'Un-Islamic' activity and barring <u>women</u> from public places. Local police are helpless and seem to have lost control. Talibans are moving freely everywhere in the town. <u>Women</u> have stopped going to their work places and girl students have ceased attending educational institutes following the Taliban threat which seems Talibani rule like Afghanistan before the NATO soldiers took the control. "I have resigned. I will never go to my job as I don't want my parents to be sent my body."-said a woman. This situation is a matter of deep concern to us because it poses a threat to the stability and peace in this entire region. It is incumbent upon the government and the state of Pakistan to neutralize Taliban just now otherwise it will engulf the entire Pakistan. Pakistan military were bogged down in nearby two years of fighting with the Taliban in Swat once the jewel of Pakistan's tourism industry and a popular ski resort during which tens of thousands of residents fled.

Buner police official Rahsed Khan confirmed AFP that Taliban fighters were patrolling the streets unchecked but added that district government officials were in negotiations to put an end to the militant occupation. The extremists moved into the district from the Swat valley, where Pakistan President Asif Ali Zardari recently signed a deal allowing the implementation of strict Islamic law in a bid to end a two-year campaign of deadly violence. That accord has caused alarmed in Washington where US Secretary of States Hillary Clinton said the Taliban advances posed an 'existential threat' to the survival of Pakistan, a key allay in the fight against al-Qaeda. On April 23 the US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton called on Pakistan people 'to speak out forcefully against a policy that is ceding more and more territory to the Taliban, to al-Qaeda, to the allies' that are in this terrorist syndicate. US President Barack Obama is to meet with Zardari and Hamid Karzai in early May with efforts to clear Taliban and al-Qaeda fighters from Pakistan' lawless tribal areas along the Afghan border high on the agenda. The top US military Commander, Admiral Mike Mullen arrived in Islamabad for talks with Pakistan officials as concerns mounted over the government's ability to check the Talibans' advances towards the capital. Talibans are wildly dispersed in Pakistan. There is not a central location as have adopted a policy of dispersing their nuclear weapons and facilities.

Armed militants have set up checkpoints and are occupying mosques in districts posing what Washington has called a 'threat to the very existence' of nuclear-armed nation. Still the government seems to have not taken any drastic measures. Political analysts say Pakistan now needs fighting with Talibans as Sri Lankan government does with the <u>LTTE</u>. The policy of appearament of the government is not going to work because it gives time to the Taliban to consolidate.

Pakistan faces newer problems from within

Hillary Clinton continues saying that they are encouraging the Pakistan government to reach out to the Indian government and to continue some of those confidence-building measures that they were doing like opening the bus routs in Kashmir and other things that did have some positive effect. Hillary said. But if Pakistan army stay on the line of control and on the Indian border and doesn't turn their attentions to dealing with the insurgents, we have got a mess on our hands. So we do have navigated through this. Now this is part of what the highest levels of our administration is dong referring to among other things to visits by CIA Director Leon Panetta to both New Delhi and Islamabad. One of the reasons US was so concerned was nuclear weapons possessed by Pakistan.

Hossain Haqqani, the Pakistan ambassador to the United States has said that Pakistan stands between the mosque and military. Mosque actually stands for 'peace' and military for 'safety'. But in Pakistan they have assumed different shape and meaning. Pakistan government must take both short term and long term measures to control the fanatics. In the name of religion they are escalating terrorism directly and indirectly throughout the globe. This must be stopped. The Pakistan government may call a national convention and religious leaders so that religious dogma can be misinterpreted. The present situation in Pakistan really poses a mortal threat to the security and safety of this region and the globe. The sooner it is addressed, the better for all.

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BEST OF THE TIMES

The Times (London)

May 26, 2009 Tuesday

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Section: FEATURES; Pg. 2

Length: 87 words

Body

Families Daddy cool Why do so few children's books offer positive father figures? times2, pages 8, 9 times2 Remember Tiananmen Life was never the same for those who were there on June 4, 1989 Jane Macartney, times2

Opinion Pride of England Identity is a subtle, modest thing; easy to mock, hard to protect Melanie Reid, page 23

Obituary Velupillai Prabhakaran Ruthless and charismatic rebel who led <u>Tamil Tigers</u> in a bloody civil war Register, page 51

Sport Outclassed British women feel the heat at Roland Garros Sport, page 64

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BEST OF THE TIMES

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Section: EDITORIAL; Pg. 2

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STATE DEPARTMENT CONDUCTS DAILY PRESS BRIEFING, MAY 11

US Fed News

May 21, 2009 Thursday 5:56 PM EST

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Body

WASHINGTON, May 11 -- The U.S. Department of State issued the following transcript of the daily press briefing:

INDEX: DEPARTMENT Secretary Clinton Opens Briefing / Roxana Saberi Released from Prison / Returning to the United States in Coming Days / Taking Issue with Charges and Verdicts Rendered / Best Wishes to Her and Family Introduction of Ian Kelly as New State Department Spokesman / Appreciation to Robert Wood for Serving as Acting Assistant Secretary and State Department Spokesman IRAN Roxana Saberi / Welcome Release as a Humanitarian Gesture / Concerns of Human Rights in Iran / Continue to Press for Safe Return of All American Citizens Detained / Working through Swiss Colleagues NORTH KOREA Detained Journalists / Concern about Their Welfare / Consular Access SRI LANKA Tamil Tigers / Hundreds Killed in Safe Zone / Urging Tamil Tigers to Lay Down Their Arms and Leave Safe Zone / Government Should Abide by April 27 Statement UNITED NATIONS Susan Rice Representing United States Ministerial Meeting in New York Secretary Clinton Meeting with Foreign Minister Kouchner and Foreign Minister Miliband BURMA Reports that Aung San Suu Kyi Needs Medical Care / Urge Burmese to Allow for Medical Care and Meet with Personal Attorney/ Unjust Arrest / Urge for Immediate Release AFGHANISTAN Assault in Farah / Concerns over Use of White Phosphorous / U.S. Will Investigate AFGHANISTAN/PAKISTAN Meetings between Presidents Karzai and Zardari / Meetings Productive / Battling Extremists PAKISTAN Control of Nuclear Weapons in Pakistan / Full Faith and Confidence in President Zardari Operations in the Swat Valley / In Close Consultation / Stand Ready to Help with Any Humanitarian Situation MEXICO Activities of Embassy in Light of H1N1 Virus / Opening and Issuing Visas NORTH KOREA Verifiable Denuclearization of Korean Peninsula / Ambassador Bosworth's Travel / Bosworth Not Traveling to Moscow / Meeting with Japanese Officials IRAQ Soldiers Killed at Camp Liberty / Sympathies to Families SYRIA Foreign Fighters / Issue Raised in Damascus / Deep Concern of Foreign Fighters into Iraq Via Syria / Call on Syria to Take Action TRANSCRIPT: 11:56 a.m. EDT SECRETARY CLINTON: Good morning.

Still, it's morning nearly. I just spoke to the Swiss Ambassador to the United States, who confirms, as the protecting power, that Roxana Saberi has been released from prison. She is currently with her family and will be leaving Tehran to return to the United States in the coming days. Obviously, we continue to take issue with the charges against her and the verdicts rendered, but we are very heartened that she has been released, and wish her and her family all of the very best we can send their way. I wanted to come down to the briefing room today to formally introduce the new State Department Spokesman and Acting Assistant Secretary of Public Affairs Ian Kelly, and to say thank you publicly to Robert Wood. Ian is a career Foreign Service officer who most recently served on the Russia desk. So it was fitting that the very first bilateral meeting that he sat in on was my meeting and lunch with Foreign Minister Lavrov last week. Ian has spent significant time overseas serving in various public affairs positions that have prepared him well for his new role. He will be a full-fledged member of my senior team, and as such, he will speak authoritatively on my behalf and on behalf of the Department. As you have heard me say many times since becoming Secretary, our ability to connect with people around the world, communicate the foreign policy of the United States, give our own people here in the United States vital information that is relevant to their daily lives

has never been more important. And not only is lan the new face of the State Department, but as an added qualification, he is a long-suffering Cubs fan, so - (laughter.) And I want to thank for a wonderful job and provide my deepest appreciation to Robert Wood. He took over in the middle of a transition and has been drinking from a fire hose ever since. But I have really enjoyed getting to know Robert and I look forward to continuing to work with him as an important contributor within the Department to the Obama Administration's foreign policy. Both Robert and lan represent public diplomacy and public affairs at their very best. And with that, I will turn the podium over to the new occupant, Ian. MR. KELLY: Thank you very much. Well, thank you, Madame Secretary, for the confidence that you've shown in me, and I want to say that I'm very much looking forward to working with her and looking forward to representing her and my colleagues here at the State Department as the spokesman. I want to particularly thank my buddies, Robert Wood and Gordon Duguid, who I hope gave me a leg up. I guess you guys will be the judge of that. And finally, I look forward to working with you all as well. I think you have a very important job, and I look forward to, as I say, working with you. And I'll be committed to the work that you do. So having said that, let's have at it. QUESTION: Welcome. MR. KELLY: Thank you. QUESTION: The Secretary talked about Roxana Saberi. I'm wondering if you - the Administration, since the Iranian judicial system is not exactly the most independent in the world, and I think that the State Department recognizes that, do you see any sign in this move by the court today of a thaw, of this possibly being a positive response to your overtures? MR. KELLY: Well, I think that we see it as it is. We see it as a humanitarian gesture. We welcome it as such. We continue to have a lot of concerns about Iran. We have concerns about the human rights situation there. Even though, as I say, we're very pleased that Ms. Saberi has been released, we will continue to press for the safe return of all American citizens detained in Iran, including Esha Momeni. QUESTION: And there's also the case of Silva Harotonian. Are you - there's an appeal that's supposed to be heard on that - in that case. Is there any update on that? MR. KELLY: I don't have anything, unfortunately, on Ms. Harotonian. Still on the same subject? Libby. QUESTION: Yeah. I know that since January you've been working on this with the Swiss, sending messages to the Iranians, but what can you tell us about maybe the past week, the last-minute negotiations that were going on, what role the U.S. played, if any, in securing her release? MR. KELLY: Well, I mean, this was a very important issue. Obviously, it was something that we had very deep concerns over. And we, you know, right up to today, were working through our Swiss colleagues in Tehran who represent our interests. QUESTION: Can you be more specific about what you were doing, working through the - MR. KELLY: I think - beyond that, I don't think I want to get any more specific. Also on the same question? QUESTION: Yeah. QUESTION: On Saberi, with the speed with which her plea was - you know, it went through and all that, do you think that the whole case might have been, in the Iranian regime's eyes, a statement, a show of power, or something of that sort? MR. KELLY: You know, I just - I think as I - you know, as I said before, we saw this as a humanitarian issue. We were very focused on her safety and her security, and trying to get her released. But I just am not going to speculate on any kind of political motivations that the Iranian Government might have had. Also on Iran? I think, Nick, you were next. QUESTION: Well, I think what we're trying to figure out is was there any sort of - if not negotiation or pleas back and forth between you and the Iranians, do you - did you have to if not commit to anything, at least articulate to them that you will be more favorable in reviewing certain policy aspects of the United States towards Iran? There are Qods Force prisoners in Iraq that the United States has captured, so you have leverage in that respect. Was there any back and forth on any of those issues? MR. KELLY: You know, again, we saw this as a humanitarian issue. We saw this as an - we called on Iran consistently to release her. We found the charges against her to be baseless. But I'm just not going to go into any kind of political motivation or anything like that. QUESTION: Is it fair to say, though, in your messages to the Iranians that you took - you wanted - you said - the message to them was this is a humanitarian issue, let's take the politics out of that? Is that -sort of - MR. KELLY: Well, I'm not - you know, I'm not aware of what exactly we said to the Iranians, but I think it is fair to say that we did see this as a humanitarian issue. QUESTION: Can I just follow up? The five that are - the five Iranians that are in Iraq, are they still in Iraqi or U.S. custody? MR. KELLY: You know, I think you have to ask the Iraqis and the Iranians about that. I'm just not sure. Also on Iran? QUESTION: Segue? MR. KELLY: Segue, good. QUESTION: Well, while we're on the subject of *female* journalists being detained in "axis of evil" states on spurious charges, is there any update on the North - on the people - the two ladies being held by North Korea, going on for several months now? MR. KELLY: I don't think I have anything specific on it, other than to reiterate that we're very concerned about their welfare. Of course, as the Department of State as a whole, there is no higher priority for us than the safety and welfare of American citizens abroad. And - but beyond these things that you've heard from Robert already, I don't have any specific update. QUESTION: Really? There are no events revolving around this incident going on today? MR. KELLY: Well, I - you know, the - our protecting power in North Korea is

the ambassador of Sweden, but I don't have any updates on his activities. QUESTION: I'm talking about here. MR. KELLY: Talking about here in Washington? QUESTION: Yes. MR. KELLY: You know, I'm not sure. I'll have to get back to you. QUESTION: All right. QUESTION: Same subject? MR. KELLY: Same subject? Go ahead. QUESTION: Through the Swedish ambassador, I'm sure you're trying to see the two journalists, or trying to get access to them anyway. Have you been given any reason or any indication why the North Koreans are refusing to let the Swedish ambassador have access to them once again? MR. KELLY: I think that since March 30, the Swedish Embassy has not been - not had access to her. But I'm not aware of any kind of reasons that have been given to us as to why they're denying the consular access, which, of course, is contrary to the Vienna Convention. QUESTION: Different topic? MR. KELLY: Different topic, okay. QUESTION: Sri Lanka. The - there are about - we are told more than 400 people have been killed in the past couple of days in this no-fire zone, and I wondered what your comment is on that. MR. KELLY: Well, we're deeply concerned. We think that there's an unacceptably high level of civilian casualties. We've repeatedly urged the **Tamil Tigers** to lay down its arms and allow the civilians to leave the safe zone. The Government of Sri Lanka should abide by its April 27th statement that combat operations have concluded and that - and security forces should end the use of heavy weapons, which, of course, could cause civilian casualties. Yes. QUESTION: There is a meeting at the UN today or tomorrow on the Sri Lankans at the ministerial level. What does U.S. expects from that meeting? MR. KELLY: You know, I don't have anything on that, I'm afraid. QUESTION: Thank you. MR. KELLY: We'll see if we can get you information, though. QUESTION: Well, that's actually taking place at the UN. And I'm just - I'm wondering, this morning as the Secretary was addressing the high school and middle school students at the Model UN, there was a ministerial meeting going on in New York of Security Council members. I believe Foreign Minister Kouchner, Foreign Secretary Miliband, Foreign Minister Lavrov were all there. Can you explain to us why the Secretary did not go, why Susan Rice is representing the United States up there and - for a ministerial meeting? And if this is a harbinger of things to come, will - MR. KELLY: A harbinger in what sense, of things to come? QUESTION: Well, I mean, for the UN General Assembly, will the Secretary be representing the United States at the UN, or will it be Susan Rice? MR. KELLY: Well, the - Susan Rice does represent the United States at the United Nations. And we made the determination that she was the most suitable person for this meeting. As the Secretary said, I was in the meeting last week with Foreign Minister Lavrov. They talked about this. She explained her reasoning and he accepted it, but I wouldn't read into it any kind of sign. We take this meeting very seriously. QUESTION: Okay. Well, then - so these foreign minister - well, as you mentioned, Foreign Minister Lavrov met here separately last week, Foreign Minister Kouchner is coming tonight, Secretary Miliband tomorrow. Why - if Ambassador Rice is representing the United States, why is there the need for the Secretary to meet with these foreign ministers? MR. KELLY: This was at their request. I mean, they - Foreign Minister Kouchner is going to meet with her today. Foreign Minister Miliband is coming tomorrow. And I'll just repeat what I said a few minutes ago. We made the determination that Ambassador Rice was the most appropriate person for the meeting in New York. Yes. QUESTION: What was the explanation that the Secretary gave to Foreign Minister Lavrov about that decision? MR. KELLY: Well, I'm going to say something that I'll probably say a lot at this podium, in that we don't really go into the details of private diplomatic exchanges. But as I said, we just made the determination that Susan Rice was the best person. QUESTION: A follow-up on that? MR. KELLY: Yeah. QUESTION: Is that a suggestion - given that Russia stated that the purpose for this meeting was to try to move the Mideast peace process along, should this be interpreted in any way as a dis by the U.S. to Russia's efforts to move the process along? Because for so long, it has been the U.S. acting as the broker between the Israelis and the Palestinians, or at least the perception has been that. MR. KELLY: No, it shouldn't be interpreted as a dis of the Russians. Yes. QUESTION: In Burma, Aung San Suu Kyi, the opposition leader, has been prevented from seeing her doctor for some days now. Do you have any view on that or any - MR. KELLY: I do. QUESTION: - reaction concerning - MR. KELLY: If you'll bear with me for a moment. As I said, if you'll bear with me for a moment. You know, I may have to get back to you on that. QUESTION: It's under Myanmar. (Laughter.) MR. KELLY: I got it. The U.S. Government is concerned about reports that Aung San Suu Kyi needs medical care and that the Burmese authorities have detained her personal - have detained her primary personal physician, Dr. Tin Myo Win. We urge the Burmese regime to allow Aung San Suu Kyi to receive immediate medical care from a doctor. We further call on the regime to permit Aung San Suu Kyi to meet with her personal attorney immediately. As the anniversary of her detention approaches, we are reminded that the house arrest of Aung San Suu Kyi is unjust. We join with the calls of the international community and urge her immediate release, along with the release of all the more than 2,000 political prisoners the Burmese regime currently holds. QUESTION: On Burma? MR. KELLY: Yes. QUESTION: Do you have any update on the arrest of the U.S. citizen in Burma last week, which New Light of Myanmar said he was

coming out of the residence of Aung San Suu Kyi? MR. KELLY: Did we address that last week? MR. WOOD: Yeah, we have no update. MR. KELLY: No, we have no update. QUESTION: Another one - MR. KELLY: Yes. QUESTION: - you might take. A couple of Americans, who were working for the U.S. Cultural Center in Rangoon were teaching a writing class, apparently were arrested and thrown out of the country last week. Just wondering if you had anything on that. MR. KELLY: No, I don't - I don't have anything on that. We'll see if we can get you the information, though. Yes, ma'am. QUESTION: Afghanistan? MR. KELLY: Mm-hmm. QUESTION: And this is just in regards to the assault in Farah. There have been some reports that white phosphorous was used, and it didn't indicate whether it was from the U.S. or from the Taliban. And has the Karzai government expressed any concern with the U.S., if they did, using this kind of warfare in heavily populated areas of civilians? MR. KELLY: No, I'm not aware that they have expressed concern about this. You know, of course, we'll take - I mean if there's any - if there's been any - I mean, we'll obviously investigate it, but the - I think any questions regarding the use of it should be directed at the Department of Defense. QUESTION: Does this hinder your operations in Afghanistan? I know the State Department is doing something separate from the Department of Defense. So how is this going to bother your operations there if the Afghans in that area believe that the U.S. did use white phosphorous - MR. KELLY: Well, you know, I - QUESTION: - in a village? MR. KELLY: I'm not going to comment on the impact of something that I don't know the details of. So I'll just decline to comment at this time. QUESTION: Same region? MR. KELLY: Yeah. QUESTION: In light of last week's meetings with President Karzai and President Zardari, in particular with Pakistan, is there increased assurance within the State Department and within the U.S. Government that Zardari has the full support and command of the military and is fully committed to dealing with the Taliban and with sympathetic elements, particularly in the Swat Valley? MR. KELLY: Yeah, I think that's fair to say. I think the President spoke extensively on that subject. I think that the meetings last week were very productive. And we look forward to continuing to help the Government of Pakistan in their battle against the extremists and their attempt to establish democratic institutions. QUESTION: Were there any promises made by the U.S. in terms of helping to protect Pakistan's nuclear arsenal? MR. KELLY: We were assured by President Zardari that they have complete command and control of the nuclear weapons in Pakistan. QUESTION: But how do you verify that? I mean, they can say it, but how do you verify that? MR. KELLY: We have full faith and confidence in President Zardari. QUESTION: On this, but it's kind of a technical, logistical thing. You know, these meetings last week were pretty high profile and very - presumably, you regard them as pretty significant. MR. KELLY: Mm-hmm. QUESTION: So I'm wondering why on earth you would put out at 1:22 a.m. Saturday morning a statement about the trilaterals? I mean, it was only on Friday morning that I brought up the fact that you put out the new Mexico travel alert at 5:27 a.m. Do you really think putting something out at 1:22 a.m. Saturday is going to give it the oomph that you'd like to see? MR. KELLY: Well, we're a 24-hour operation, Matt. And I mean, I could have waited until you were having your coffee the next morning, but we decided to put it out when we had it. QUESTION: At 1:22 a.m.? MR. KELLY: At 1:22 a.m. QUESTION: So there was someone awake who had to sign off on - MR. KELLY: Absolutely. There's someone awake - QUESTION: Who hadn't signed off on it until 1:22? MR. KELLY: Well, you know, it was a weekend night, people stay up later. (Laughter.) QUESTION: Well, I'm serious. Something should be done to address this because it's - MR. KELLY: All right, fair enough. I said that I'm committed to you and your work, and so I'll take your concern. Yes. QUESTION: This morning the Secretary talked about how the United States wanted to see what it could do to aid the situation of people fleeing Swat, refugees uprooted by the Pakistani military offensive. I'm wondering what she and you might have in mind about what the United States is concerned about and will do. MR. KELLY: Well, whatever we do, of course, will be in close consultation with President Zardari and his government. I think at this point we're assessing what the needs are and we're assessing where our aid can fit in and be of use. But we support, of course, the operation in the Swat Valley, and we will stand ready to help with any kind of humanitarian situation that might evolve out of it. QUESTION: So how quickly do you expect this aid to move in (inaudible) the Swat Valley (inaudible)? MR. KELLY: That's really difficult for me to say. Of course, we already have a lot of ongoing programs. I don't know what's prepositioned in the area out there, and I don't know what kind of specific assistance is needed. QUESTION: Are the USAID people on the ground looking at the situation there? MR. KELLY: You know, I'm not sure. Yes, I mean, of course, they're on the ground looking at the situation, but I'm not sure if they're actually in the area. So let me see if I can find out the information and get back to you. QUESTION: Have you had a specific request from Pakistan for humanitarian aid? MR. KELLY: I'm not aware that we have a specific request at this time. But that's information we can fold maybe into the same question. Same issue? QUESTION: No, I'm just wondering when Mubarak and Netanyahu will be here. Do you have - MR. KELLY: When we have dates, we'll let you know. Charlie. QUESTION: On a different subject, on Mexico. Do you have any update on the

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activities of the Embassy, of the consulates, anything like that? Are things going to start to get back to normal, issuing visas? Maybe they have and it's - maybe that was another 1:22 memo that came out. MR. KELLY: Yeah, we do have something on that. QUESTION: (Inaudible.) MR. KELLY: Yeah. They're opening and issuing visas. QUESTION: Okay. MR. KELLY: Yes. QUESTION: Can I go back to North Korea? MR. KELLY: North Korea. QUESTION: Do you have any update on Ambassador Bosworth's trip to Seoul and Tokyo? And I also want to ask you the reason why Ambassador Bosworth cancelled his plan to visit Russia? MR. KELLY: Well, I don't think cancel is the right word. I think that he had another engagement that precluded him going on to Moscow. But I do have some -I have an update. The delegation arrived in Tokyo today and met with Japanese officials. Ambassador Bosworth is returning back here on May 12th, and the rest of the delegation will go on to Moscow and then return to Washington on May 14th. Today, Ambassador Bosworth and his delegation met with Vice Foreign Minister Yabunaka, Deputy Foreign Minister - and I'm going to wreck this name - Sasae, and Director General Saiki. Ambassador Bosworth and the Japanese officials had good discussions about the current situation in North Korea and exchanged views about the next steps and the way forward to achieve our common goal of the verifiable denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula. QUESTION: Can I ask one more question about two reporters in North Korea? MR. KELLY: Mm-hmm. QUESTION: Victor Cha suggested in The Washington Post article that Mr. Al Gore can be a special envoy to North Korea to help those two reporters release. So are you also considering sending special envoy to North Korea to solve this issue? MR. KELLY: We're - as I said before, we're very concerned about the safety and welfare of these two. And - but beyond that, I don't think - I don't want to get into the details of anything else regarding their detention. QUESTION: Does the U.S. propose to Pyongyang this time? MR. KELLY: I'm sorry? QUESTION: Bosworth propose to visit Pyongyang in - MR. KELLY: No, he has no plans to visit North Korea. QUESTION: If not, why not? MR. KELLY: It's too early to go to North Korea. QUESTION: Ian, do you have anything at all on this incident at Camp Liberty today? MR. KELLY: No, I don't, except to say that; of course, our sympathies go to the families of the soldiers. But beyond that, I don't have anything to say. I'd refer you to the Pentagon. QUESTION: Can you update us a little bit on the trip to Syria? And also, is it true that the U.S. is concerned that the - that suicide bombers are using Syria once again to get into Iraq? MR. KELLY: Yes, I do have something on Syria, if you'll just hold on a second. Sorry I have to use this a lot, but in the first few days you can expect me to do that. On the issue of the foreign fighters, Assistant Secretary - or Acting Assistant Secretary Feltman and Mr. Shapiro from the NSC did raise the issue during meetings in Damascus. We continue to have very deep concern about this issue of the flow of foreign fighters going into Iraq via Syria. And we also continue to call on Syria to take immediate and decisive action, including better screening of individuals entering Damascus airport, increased security on the Iraq-Syria border, better cooperation with the Government of Iraq, and denying foreign fighter facilitators safe haven within Syria. QUESTION: Thank you. MR. KELLY: Thank you. (The briefing was concluded 12:21 p.m.)For more information please contact: Sarabjit Jagirdar, Email:at htsyndication@hindustantimes.com

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

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TRANSCRIPT:

11:56 a.m. EDT

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I wanted to come down to the briefing room today to formally introduce the new State Department Spokesman and Acting Assistant Secretary of Public Affairs Ian Kelly, and to say thank you publicly to Robert Wood. Ian is a career Foreign Service officer who most recently served on the Russia desk. So it was fitting that the very first bilateral meeting that he sat in on was my meeting and lunch with Foreign Minister Lavrov last week.

Ian has spent significant time overseas serving in various public affairs positions that have prepared him well for his new role. He will be a full-fledged member of my senior team, and as such, he will speak authoritatively on my behalf and on behalf of the Department.

As you have heard me say many times since becoming Secretary, our ability to connect with people around the world, communicate the foreign policy of the United States, give our own people here in the United States vital information that is relevant to their daily lives has never been more important. And not only is lan the new face of the State Department, but as an added qualification, he is a long-suffering Cubs fan, so (laughter.)

And I want to thank for a wonderful job and provide my deepest appreciation to Robert Wood. He took over in the middle of a transition and has been drinking from a fire hose ever since. But I have really enjoyed getting to know Robert and I look forward to continuing to work with him as an important contributor within the Department to the Obama Administrations foreign policy. Both Robert and Ian represent public diplomacy and public affairs at their very best.

And with that, I will turn the podium over to the new occupant, Ian.

MR. KELLY: Thank you very much. Well, thank you, Madame Secretary, for the confidence that youve shown in me, and I want to say that Im very much looking forward to working with her and looking forward to representing her and my colleagues here at the State Department as the spokesman. I want to particularly thank my buddies, Robert Wood and Gordon Duguid, who I hope gave me a leg up. I guess you guys will be the judge of that. And finally, I look forward to working with you all as well. I think you have a very important job, and I look forward to, as I say, working with you. And III be committed to the work that you do.

So having said that, lets have at it.

QUESTION: Welcome.

MR. KELLY: Thank you.

QUESTION: The Secretary talked about Roxana Saberi. Im wondering if you the Administration, since the Iranian judicial system is not exactly the most independent in the world, and I think that the State Department recognizes that, do you see any sign in this move by the court today of a thaw, of this possibly being a positive response to your overtures?

MR. KELLY: Well, I think that we see it as it is. We see it as a humanitarian gesture. We welcome it as such. We continue to have a lot of concerns about Iran. We have concerns about the human rights situation there. Even though, as I say, were very pleased that Ms. Saberi has been released, we will continue to press for the safe return of all American citizens detained in Iran, including Esha Momeni.

QUESTION: And theres also the case of Silva Harotonian. Are you theres an appeal thats supposed to be heard on that in that case. Is there any update on that?

MR. KELLY: I dont have anything, unfortunately, on Ms. Harotonian.

Still on the same subject? Libby.

QUESTION: Yeah. I know that since January youve been working on this with the Swiss, sending messages to the Iranians, but what can you tell us about maybe the past week, the last-minute negotiations that were going on, what role the U.S. played, if any, in securing her release?

MR. KELLY: Well, I mean, this was a very important issue. Obviously, it was something that we had very deep concerns over. And we, you know, right up to today, were working through our Swiss colleagues in Tehran who represent our interests.

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QUESTION: On Saberi, with the speed with which her plea was you know, it went through and all that, do you think that the whole case might have been, in the Iranian regimes eyes, a statement, a show of power, or something of that sort?

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QUESTION: Is it fair to say, though, in your messages to the Iranians that you took you wanted you said the message to them was this is a humanitarian issue, lets take the politics out of that? Is that sort of --

MR. KELLY: Well, Im not you know, Im not aware of what exactly we said to the Iranians, but I think it is fair to say that we did see this as a humanitarian issue.

QUESTION: Can I just follow up? The five that are the five Iranians that are in Iraq, are they still in Iraqi or U.S. custody?

MR. KELLY: You know, I think you have to ask the Iraqis and the Iranians about that. Im just not sure.

Also on Iran?

QUESTION: Segue?

MR. KELLY: Segue, good.

QUESTION: Well, while were on the subject of <u>female</u> journalists being detained in axis of evil states on spurious charges, is there any update on the North on the people the two ladies being held by North Korea, going on for several months now?

MR. KELLY: I dont think I have anything specific on it, other than to reiterate that were very concerned about their welfare. Of course, as the Department of State as a whole, there is no higher priority for us than the safety and welfare of American citizens abroad. And but beyond these things that you've heard from Robert already, I dont have any specific update.

QUESTION: Really? There are no events revolving around this incident going on today?

MR. KELLY: Well, I you know, the our protecting power in North Korea is the ambassador of Sweden, but I dont have any updates on his activities.

QUESTION: Im talking about here.

MR. KELLY: Talking about here in Washington?

QUESTION: Yes.

MR. KELLY: You know, Im not sure. Ill have to get back to you.

QUESTION: All right.

QUESTION: Same subject?

MR. KELLY: Same subject? Go ahead.

QUESTION: Through the Swedish ambassador, Im sure youre trying to see the two journalists, or trying to get access to them anyway. Have you been given any reason or any indication why the North Koreans are refusing to let the Swedish ambassador have access to them once again?

MR. KELLY: I think that since March 30, the Swedish Embassy has not been not had access to her. But Im not aware of any kind of reasons that have been given to us as to why theyre denying the consular access, which, of course, is contrary to the Vienna Convention.

QUESTION: Different topic?

MR. KELLY: Different topic, okay.

QUESTION: Sri Lanka. The there are about we are told more than 400 people have been killed in the past couple of days in this no-fire zone, and I wondered what your comment is on that.

MR. KELLY: Well, were deeply concerned. We think that theres an unacceptably high level of civilian casualties. Weve repeatedly urged the <u>Tamil Tigers</u> to lay down its arms and allow the civilians to leave the safe zone. The Government of Sri Lanka should abide by its April 27th statement that combat operations have concluded and that and security forces should end the use of heavy weapons, which, of course, could cause civilian casualties.

Yes.

QUESTION: There is a meeting at the UN today or tomorrow on the Sri Lankans at the ministerial level. What does U.S. expects from that meeting?

MR. KELLY: You know, I dont have anything on that, Im afraid.

QUESTION: Thank you.

MR. KELLY: Well see if we can get you information, though.

QUESTION: Well, thats actually taking place at the UN. And Im just Im wondering, this morning as the Secretary was addressing the high school and middle school students at the Model UN, there was a ministerial meeting going on in New York of Security Council members. I believe Foreign Minister Kouchner, Foreign Secretary Miliband, Foreign Minister Lavrov were all there. Can you explain to us why the Secretary did not go, why Susan Rice is representing the United States up there and for a ministerial meeting? And if this is a harbinger of things to come, will --

MR. KELLY: A harbinger in what sense, of things to come?

QUESTION: Well, I mean, for the UN General Assembly, will the Secretary be representing the United States at the UN, or will it be Susan Rice?

MR. KELLY: Well, the Susan Rice does represent the United States at the United Nations. And we made the determination that she was the most suitable person for this meeting. As the Secretary said, I was in the meeting last week with Foreign Minister Lavrov. They talked about this. She explained her reasoning and he accepted it, but I wouldn't read into it any kind of sign. We take this meeting very seriously.

QUESTION: Okay. Well, then so these foreign minister well, as you mentioned, Foreign Minister Lavrov met here separately last week, Foreign Minister Kouchner is coming tonight, Secretary Miliband tomorrow. Why if Ambassador Rice is representing the United States, why is there the need for the Secretary to meet with these foreign ministers?

MR. KELLY: This was at their request. I mean, they Foreign Minister Kouchner is going to meet with her today. Foreign Minister Miliband is coming tomorrow. And III just repeat what I said a few minutes ago. We made the determination that Ambassador Rice was the most appropriate person for the meeting in New York.

Yes.

QUESTION: What was the explanation that the Secretary gave to Foreign Minister Lavrov about that decision?

MR. KELLY: Well, Im going to say something that III probably say a lot at this podium, in that we dont really go into the details of private diplomatic exchanges. But as I said, we just made the determination that Susan Rice was the best person.

QUESTION: A follow-up on that?

MR. KELLY: Yeah.

QUESTION: Is that a suggestion given that Russia stated that the purpose for this meeting was to try to move the Mideast peace process along, should this be interpreted in any way as a dis by the U.S. to Russias efforts to move the process along? Because for so long, it has been the U.S. acting as the broker between the Israelis and the Palestinians, or at least the perception has been that.

MR. KELLY: No, it shouldnt be interpreted as a dis of the Russians.

Yes.

QUESTION: In Burma, Aung San Suu Kyi, the opposition leader, has been prevented from seeing her doctor for some days now. Do you have any view on that or any --

MR. KELLY: I do.

QUESTION: -- reaction concerning --

MR. KELLY: If youll bear with me for a moment. As I said, if youll bear with me for a moment. You know, I may have to get back to you on that.

QUESTION: Its under Myanmar. (Laughter.)

MR. KELLY: I got it.

The U.S. Government is concerned about reports that Aung San Suu Kyi needs medical care and that the Burmese authorities have detained her personal have detained her primary personal physician, Dr. Tin Myo Win. We urge the Burmese regime to allow Aung San Suu Kyi to receive immediate medical care from a doctor. We further call on the regime to permit Aung San Suu Kyi to meet with her personal attorney immediately.

As the anniversary of her detention approaches, we are reminded that the house arrest of Aung San Suu Kyi is unjust. We join with the calls of the international community and urge her immediate release, along with the release of all the more than 2,000 political prisoners the Burmese regime currently holds.

QUESTION: On Burma?

MR. KELLY: Yes.

QUESTION: Do you have any update on the arrest of the U.S. citizen in Burma last week, which New Light of Myanmar said he was coming out of the residence of Aung San Suu Kyi?

MR. KELLY: Did we address that last week?

MR. WOOD: Yeah, we have no update.

MR. KELLY: No, we have no update.

QUESTION: Another one --

MR. KELLY: Yes.

QUESTION: -- you might take. A couple of Americans, who were working for the U.S. Cultural Center in Rangoon were teaching a writing class, apparently were arrested and thrown out of the country last week. Just wondering if you had anything on that.

MR. KELLY: No, I dont I dont have anything on that. Well see if we can get you the information, though.

Yes, maam.

QUESTION: Afghanistan?

MR. KELLY: Mm-hmm.

QUESTION: And this is just in regards to the assault in Farah. There have been some reports that white phosphorous was used, and it didnt indicate whether it was from the U.S. or from the Taliban. And has the Karzai government expressed any concern with the U.S., if they did, using this kind of warfare in heavily populated areas of civilians?

MR. KELLY: No, Im not aware that they have expressed concern about this. You know, of course, well take I mean if theres any if theres been any I mean, well obviously investigate it, but the I think any questions regarding the use of it should be directed at the Department of Defense.

QUESTION: Does this hinder your operations in Afghanistan? I know the State Department is doing something separate from the Department of Defense. So how is this going to bother your operations there if the Afghans in that area believe that the U.S. did use white phosphorous --

MR. KELLY: Well, you know, I --

QUESTION: -- in a village?

MR. KELLY: Im not going to comment on the impact of something that I dont know the details of. So III just decline to comment at this time.

QUESTION: Same region?

MR. KELLY: Yeah.

QUESTION: In light of last weeks meetings with President Karzai and President Zardari, in particular with Pakistan, is there increased assurance within the State Department and within the U.S. Government that Zardari has the full support and command of the military and is fully committed to dealing with the Taliban and with sympathetic elements, particularly in the Swat Valley?

MR. KELLY: Yeah, I think thats fair to say. I think the President spoke extensively on that subject. I think that the meetings last week were very productive. And we look forward to continuing to help the Government of Pakistan in their battle against the extremists and their attempt to establish democratic institutions.

QUESTION: Were there any promises made by the U.S. in terms of helping to protect Pakistans nuclear arsenal?

MR. KELLY: We were assured by President Zardari that they have complete command and control of the nuclear weapons in Pakistan.

QUESTION: But how do you verify that? I mean, they can say it, but how do you verify that?

MR. KELLY: We have full faith and confidence in President Zardari.

QUESTION: On this, but its kind of a technical, logistical thing. You know, these meetings last week were pretty high profile and very presumably, you regard them as pretty significant.

MR. KELLY: Mm-hmm.

QUESTION: So Im wondering why on earth you would put out at 1:22 a.m. Saturday morning a statement about the trilaterals? I mean, it was only on Friday morning that I brought up the fact that you put out the new Mexico travel alert at 5:27 a.m. Do you really think putting something out at 1:22 a.m. Saturday is going to give it the oomph that youd like to see?

MR. KELLY: Well, were a 24-hour operation, Matt. And I mean, I could have waited until you were having your coffee the next morning, but we decided to put it out when we had it.

QUESTION: At 1:22 a.m.?

MR. KELLY: At 1:22 a.m.

QUESTION: So there was someone awake who had to sign off on --

MR. KELLY: Absolutely. Theres someone awake --

QUESTION: Who hadnt signed off on it until 1:22?

MR. KELLY: Well, you know, it was a weekend night, people stay up later. (Laughter.)

QUESTION: Well, Im serious. Something should be done to address this because its --

MR. KELLY: All right, fair enough. I said that Im committed to you and your work, and so III take your concern.

Yes.

QUESTION: This morning the Secretary talked about how the United States wanted to see what it could do to aid the situation of people fleeing Swat, refugees uprooted by the Pakistani military offensive. Im wondering what she and you might have in mind about what the United States is concerned about and will do.

MR. KELLY: Well, whatever we do, of course, will be in close consultation with President Zardari and his government. I think at this point were assessing what the needs are and were assessing where our aid can fit in and be of use. But we support, of course, the operation in the Swat Valley, and we will stand ready to help with any kind of humanitarian situation that might evolve out of it.

QUESTION: So how quickly do you expect this aid to move in (inaudible) the Swat Valley (inaudible)?

MR. KELLY: Thats really difficult for me to say. Of course, we already have a lot of ongoing programs. I dont know whats prepositioned in the area out there, and I dont know what kind of specific assistance is needed.

QUESTION: Are the USAID people on the ground looking at the situation there?

MR. KELLY: You know, Im not sure. Yes, I mean, of course, theyre on the ground looking at the situation, but Im not sure if theyre actually in the area. So let me see if I can find out the information and get back to you.

QUESTION: Have you had a specific request from Pakistan for humanitarian aid?

MR. KELLY: Im not aware that we have a specific request at this time. But thats information we can fold maybe into the same question.

Same issue?

QUESTION: No, Im just wondering when Mubarak and Netanyahu will be here. Do you have --

MR. KELLY: When we have dates, well let you know.

Charlie.

QUESTION: On a different subject, on Mexico. Do you have any update on the activities of the Embassy, of the consulates, anything like that? Are things going to start to get back to normal, issuing visas? Maybe they have and its maybe that was another 1:22 memo that came out.

MR. KELLY: Yeah, we do have something on that.

QUESTION: (Inaudible.)

MR. KELLY: Yeah. Theyre opening and issuing visas.

QUESTION: Okay.

MR. KELLY: Yes.

QUESTION: Can I go back to North Korea?

MR. KELLY: North Korea.

QUESTION: Do you have any update on Ambassador Bosworths trip to Seoul and Tokyo? And I also want to ask you the reason why Ambassador Bosworth cancelled his plan to visit Russia?

MR. KELLY: Well, I dont think cancel is the right word. I think that he had another engagement that precluded him going on to Moscow. But I do have some I have an update.

The delegation arrived in Tokyo today and met with Japanese officials. Ambassador Bosworth is returning back here on May 12th, and the rest of the delegation will go on to Moscow and then return to Washington on May 14th.

Today, Ambassador Bosworth and his delegation met with Vice Foreign Minister Yabunaka, Deputy Foreign Minister and Im going to wreck this name Sasae, and Director General Saiki. Ambassador Bosworth and the Japanese officials had good discussions about the current situation in North Korea and exchanged views about the next steps and the way forward to achieve our common goal of the verifiable denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula.

QUESTION: Can I ask one more question about two reporters in North Korea?

MR. KELLY: Mm-hmm.

QUESTION: Victor Cha suggested in The Washington Post article that Mr. Al Gore can be a special envoy to North Korea to help those two reporters release. So are you also considering sending special envoy to North Korea to solve this issue?

MR. KELLY: Were as I said before, were very concerned about the safety and welfare of these two. And but beyond that, I dont think I dont want to get into the details of anything else regarding their detention.

QUESTION: Does the U.S. propose to Pyongyang this time?

MR. KELLY: Im sorry?

QUESTION: Bosworth propose to visit Pyongyang in --

MR. KELLY: No, he has no plans to visit North Korea.

QUESTION: If not, why not?

MR. KELLY: Its too early to go to North Korea.

QUESTION: Ian, do you have anything at all on this incident at Camp Liberty today?

MR. KELLY: No, I dont, except to say that; of course, our sympathies go to the families of the soldiers. But beyond that, I dont have anything to say. Id refer you to the Pentagon.

QUESTION: Can you update us a little bit on the trip to Syria? And also, is it true that the U.S. is concerned that the that suicide bombers are using Syria once again to get into Iraq?

MR. KELLY: Yes, I do have something on Syria, if youll just hold on a second. Sorry I have to use this a lot, but in the first few days you can expect me to do that.

On the issue of the foreign fighters, Assistant Secretary or Acting Assistant Secretary Feltman and Mr. Shapiro from the NSC did raise the issue during meetings in Damascus. We continue to have very deep concern about this issue of the flow of foreign fighters going into Iraq via Syria. And we also continue to call on Syria to take immediate and decisive action, including better screening of individuals entering Damascus airport, increased security on the Iraq-Syria border, better cooperation with the Government of Iraq, and denying foreign fighter facilitators safe haven within Syria.

QUESTION: Thank you.

MR. KELLY: Thank you.

(The briefing was concluded at 12:21 p.m.)

Load-Date: May 11, 2009



2nd Ld Sri Lankan troops capture rebels' last stronghold, kill more than 400 rebels

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Body

The military in Sri Lanka said Sunday that the government troops operating in the northern battle field have taken control of Puthukkudiyiruppu, the last stronghold of Tamil Tiger rebels, and killed more than 400 rebels in fierce fighting.

The last 1-sq-km area of Puthukkudiyiruppu formerly held by the <u>LTTE</u> (Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam) rebels was captured by the troops Sunday morning, evicting the rebels from their last stronghold in the island's north.

Military spokesman Udaya Nanayakkara said the <u>LTTE</u> have been driven out of Puthukkudiyiruppu east and they are now mixing up with civilians in the 20-sq-km no fire zone at Puttumatalan area.

"The troops have taken complete control of Puthukkudiyiruppu. The only uncleared area remaining is the no fire zone," Nanayakkara said.

The military also said some 420 dead bodies of the rebels have been found in the area.

Among the dead rebels were their senior leaders Theepan, Nagesh and the <u>LTTE</u>'s <u>women</u> wing leader Vedusha, military officials said.

Gadaafi, the personal security officer for the reclusive <u>LTTE</u> leader Velupillai Prabakaranan, was also killed in the fighting, said the officials.

Load-Date: April 7, 2009



GOOD MORNING, CAMPERS! AND WELCOME TO HI-DE-HI BRITAIN

DAILY MAIL (London) April 10, 2009 Friday

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Length: 1278 words

Body

RICHARD LITTLEJOHN

THE credit crunch and the collapse in the value of the pound mean that more of us are taking our holidays in Britain this year.

As the Easter weekend got under way, travel agents reported that the number of air passengers leaving the country was down by ten per cent.

More than five million people who would normally fly abroad have chosen to stay at home. And that's good news for holiday camps.

Almost driven to extinction by the cheap package holiday boom, both Butlin's and Pontin's have invested heavily and are enjoying a major revival.

Bookings are at a level not seen since the Sixties as the British rediscover the joys of the traditional holiday camp.

This column checked into the world-famous Maplins holiday camp, at Crimptonon-Sea, Essex, to see what modern delights are on offer...

'GOOD morning, campers. Hidehi! Today's forecast is for heavy rain and freezing temperatures. This is a global cold front, which began in America, and management takes no responsibility for the inclement conditions.

'Our commandant -- sorry, guest services manager -- reminds you that, thanks to his foresighted programme of investment, Maplins is in better shape to weather this depression than most other holiday camps.

'He utterly refutes all allegations that he failed to mend the roof when the sun was shining. Guests who are experiencing leaks and damp patches in their chalets should address their complaints to the previous management.

'Our ambitious ten-year rolling refurbishment programme is ongoing and, when complete, every chalet will be equipped with designer stone sinks and the very latest, state-of-the-art wide-screen plasma televisions, currently to be found only in our staff quarters.

The programme has proved so successful that last weekend we were proud to entertain in our Polynesian Suite a party of MPs on a fact-finding mission. Many of them were so impressed, they have opted to participate in our timeshare scheme, which will allow them to designate their chalet as their main home for the purposes of Parliamentary expenses.

GOOD MORNING, CAMPERS! AND WELCOME TO HI-DE-HI BRITAIN

'Campers are advised that the hole-in-the-wall cash machine next to the gift shop is temporarily out of funds. We apologise for any inconvenience. It should be back in service later today, just as soon as the management has printed some more money.

Would all our Eastern European visitors who have put their names down for fruit-picking and casual labouring please assemble next to the main gate to await transportation to local farms and building sites.

Those who choose not to work should make their way to the customer services booth where they will be issued with complimentary meal vouchers and free tokens to spend in the amusement arcade. Unfortunately, these concessions are not available to British citizens.

'Maplins' new Healthy Options breakfast menu is now being served in the cafeteria. Campers are invited to help themselves to the all-you- can-eat muesli and mango buffet. Fried breakfasts are no longer available and any guest caught trying to smuggle in a salt cellar will be escorted from the camp. Further information can be obtained from our friendly team of five-a-day co-ordinators.

Proof of identity will be required from everyone under the age of 65 in the Jolly Roger fun pub. This is a nosmoking facility and our bar staff have been instructed not to serve any guest with more than three units of alcohol per day. Any pregnant woman who attempts to obtain a second half of lager will be refused service for her own good and asked to leave the premises.

ALL guests are required to attend compulsory keep-fit classes. These are held every half hour in the pole- dancing club, which is situated between the Happy Endings massage parlour and the Tumble Tots creche in the model village.

'Sunday's Easter Egg hunt for the under-fives will set off from outside the 24-hour casino at noon. Entry forms can be obtained from Miss Smith, who can be found under the patio heater outside the sex shop.

'We also regret that, on the advice of health and safety and our insurers, the swimming pool has been drained and the diving boards dismantled. Fishing from the pier is no longer permitted, on the instructions of the European Union.

The dodgems have been decommissioned because they are unable to comply with modern crash safety regulations, and the cost of installing air bags, traffic humps and speed cameras was prohibitive. The helter skelter has been closed because it has no wheelchair access.

'Ditto, the Haunted House, which is being converted into a hostel for asylum seekers.

'We also apologise to older campers that, unfortunately, the bowls tournament has had to be

<u>richard.littlejohn@dailymail.co.uk</u> postponed indefinitely, owing to the illegal gipsy camp on the bowling green.

'The good news is that we are able to offer lucky heather at half price and rides on stolen lawnmowers for the kiddies.

'And the boating lake is due to reopen, once it is cleared of *Tamil Tigers*.

There will be no glamorous granny competition, not only because it is both sexist and ageist but also because these days some grannies are only 30.

'Our annual beauty pageant has also been abandoned, on the advice of our diversity directorate. It was felt that the contest objectivised vulnerable <u>women</u> and encouraged rapists. The swimsuit section discriminated against campers who wear burkas.

'The knobbly knees competition has also been ruled inappropriate. Instead, it will be replaced in the Jade Goody Theatre by Maplins' Got Talent, hosted by TV's Piers Morgan.

GOOD MORNING, CAMPERS! AND WELCOME TO HI-DE-HI BRITAIN

'Alternative entertainment is available in the lecture hall, which tonight features a call for worldwide jihad from Sheik Omar Bakri, live by satellite.

'And our popular karaoke nite goes ahead as planned. Ear-muffs will be provided to comply with anti-noise regulations. Knives must be handed in at the door.

'Maplins Radio stars Russell Brand, who will ring up the elderly gentleman in Chalet 86 and tell him he has just had sex with his wife, with hilarious consequences.

'We regret that Maplins mosque will remain closed until further notice while our Redcoats investigate claims that a number of guests were plotting to blow up the Agadoo Disco and Nite Klub. Our chief security officer, Mr Quick, has tendered his resignation after details of the operation were discovered in a carriage on the miniature railway.

'All security inquiries should now be addressed to Mr Yates. He is particularly anxious to hear from anyone who may have witnessed an alleged assault on a camper by one of our Redcoats during the antiglobalisation demonstration outside the Housey Housey bingo hall.

CAMPERS are advised to take advantage of the free condoms and morningafter pills available from reception. Due to an unforeseen outbreak of MRSA, the First-Aid station has been closed and we are therefore temporarily unable to offer quickie abortions on demand.

'Here at Maplins we take our commitment to the environment seriously and are determined to cut our carbon footprint accordingly. With climate change in mind, we are attempting to generate all our electricity on site, from the windmill on the crazy golf course. We apologise for the frequent power cuts we have been experiencing.

'If you are checking out today, please be aware that our all-inclusive rate does not include access to pornographic films on demand, which must be paid for individually. Yes, that means you in Chalet 69, Mr Timney.

'Don't forget to pay your 650-ahead departure tax to Mr Darling at the cashier's desk. And if you are leaving, please remember to take all your rubbish with you, since the waste bins in the chalets are emptied only once a fortnight. Thank you for choosing Maplins.

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Malicious Intent

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Byline: By LOUISE RICHARDSON

Louise Richardson, the principal and vice chancellor at the University of St. Andrews in Scotland, is the author of "What Terrorists Want."

Body

BLOOD AND RAGE

A Cultural History of Terrorism

By Michael Burleigh

Illustrated. 577 pp. Harper/HarperCollins Publishers. \$29.99

Michael Burleigh's ambitious cultural history of terrorism is indeed suffused with blood and rage. The blood is provided in graphic, detailed, often nauseating descriptions of the vicious brutality of terrorists ranging from the Irish Fenians to Al Qaeda. The rage, on the other hand, is in the pen of the author, and it is equally wide ranging. Burleigh rages against terrorists and all their apologists: "unserious" academics, ineffably polite interrogators, colluding human rights lawyers and those scourges of the modern age, the multiculturalists.

Behind the blood and the rage, this is a learned and erudite book. Burleigh's broad survey provides detailed descriptions of many of the most important terrorist movements and the sociopolitical contexts in which they have operated since the mid-19th century. He seamlessly synthesizes vast amounts of historical material and provides often riveting accounts of terrorist atrocities and the literary and political environments where they took place. He treats Russian nihilists, European anarchists, Fenians of both the 19th- and 20th-century variety, Algerians, Palestinians, South Africans, the Italian Red Brigades, the German Red Army Faction and the Basque ETA before coming to his real interest, Islamic terrorism. A less ambitious author might have given his readers two books, as there is little direct connection between the various parts other than the unstated point that Islamic terrorism is just the most recent manifestation of an old phenomenon. The implication is that, like its precursors, it too will pass.

Burleigh is a respected historian widely known for his work on the Third Reich, and with "Blood and Rage" he has written a deeply idiosyncratic book. He provides no explanation for why he includes some terrorist organizations and not others; important groups like the Colombian FARC, the Shining Path of Peru and the <u>Tamil Tigers</u> of Sri Lanka receive little or no mention, nor do most other Latin American or Asian groups. Burleigh's interest remains Europe.

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Neither does he have any time for defining terrorism. He concludes his book by forgoing any academic definition, substituting instead a heartbreaking account of the suffering of a victim of the July 7, 2005, attacks on the London underground -- though the description could equally apply to anyone facing an unexpected death. Definitions are in fact useful in helping us decide what to include. Burleigh gives long accounts, for example, of the sabotage and guerrilla activities of the African National Congress and the assassination campaigns of the 19th-century anarchists while suggesting that these are not really acts of terrorism. He writes about them anyway.

Burleigh asserts the motive of terrorists to be the creation of a climate of fear "in order to compensate for the legitimate political power they do not possess." He may be right (though I don't think so), but in any event he would be more persuasive if he argued the point rather than asserting it. He insists that terrorists are "morally insane," whatever that means, and that they are driven by perceived slights or abstract grievances into hysterical rage. One does not have to be an apologist for terrorism to recognize that many of these grievances -- occupation, political disenfranchisement, confinement in refugee camps -- may be quite concrete and far from slight. One has only to read the statements or listen to the audiotapes of terrorist leaders to detect more cold calculation than what Burleigh terms obsessional killing rage.

It is a great shame that Burleigh could not bring himself to provide sources for most of the remarkable material he presents. He derides academics for providing footnotes to "prove earnestness." In fact most academics provide footnotes because they don't presume that theirs is the last word on a subject and want to encourage their readers and their students to delve further. Not Burleigh.

At times his account is thoughtful and nuanced, as in his discussion of the role of torture in the French campaign in Algeria, but on other occasions he generalizes with breathtaking self-confidence. Speaking about a fifth of the world's population, he asserts that "Muslims liked to point out" and "Muslim girls toe the line at home" and "most Muslims do not seem to grasp the fact that." Sometimes he is quite funny, as when he compares Osama bin Laden to "superannuated rock stars" like Bono and Bob Geldof, though it is not always clear that he means to be.

To appreciate the virtues of this book (it is, in its way, an exceptional synthesis), one has to make a conscious and concerted effort to ignore the condescending tone, the incessant sneering, the unsupported assertions and the gross generalizations. Few escape Burleigh's ire. He describes Sartre as a "loathsome academic" at one point and an "aged useful idiot" at another. Foucault is a "silly Western intellectual." Chernyshevsky's utopian novel, "What Is to Be Done?," is "execrable," and liberal artists are idiots. He complains of "the sanctimonious ethos" of The New York Times and describes students at the London School of Economics as "Eurotrash and Americans doing 'Let's See Europe.' "There is certainly a lot of rage here, but quite what it has to do with terrorism is often hard to tell.

Clearly, Burleigh's hyperbole is designed to stamp out any shred of residual sympathy for terrorists. But at times, apparently, he's trying to be gratuitously offensive, as when he describes as "undiplomatic" the suggestion that all Jews be thrown into the sea, or says the undisciplined Black and Tans introduced "a certain indiscriminate vigor," or attributes the decline in the Protestant population of the Republic of Ireland to something approaching "ethnic cleansing."

On other occasions he seems unaware of his prejudices. This is particularly the case when it comes to his treatment of the crimes of <u>women</u>. The Russian nihilist Vera Figner became alienated from her husband "notwithstanding his having given up his career for her," while the German Gudrun Ensslin "used her fiance to sire a son." Horrors! When he wants to ridicule Osama bin Laden, Burleigh cites a description of his having weak hands and a simpering smile "like a girl's."

In several instances, Burleigh seems to lose his critical faculties altogether in order simply to be offensive. Rather than arguing the quite reasonable point that the discrimination against Catholics in Northern Ireland under the Stormont government was not egregious and was better than the treatment of blacks in the American South, he writes: "Protestant friends of mine from Dungannon say that they often dated Catholic girls, who tended to be more feminine than the butch Unionists. Unlike the U.S. Deep South, they could do this without fear of being lynched." He then goes on to miss the point about the Catholic civil rights movement in Northern Ireland. For the first time Catholics were claiming rights within Northern Ireland rather than demanding the overthrow of the state, and it was

Malicious Intent

the inflexible government's blindness to this opportunity -- and the consequent emergence of violent republicanism - that had such tragic consequences for the province.

Having worked himself up into a red-hot rage in the course of his book over Islamic terrorism and its apologists in the British liberal elite, Burleigh ends with what is actually a reasoned analysis and with quite moderate prescriptions. He calls for more financing for public diplomacy, development aid, strengthening of democratic institutions and reliance on intelligence over armed force -- prescriptions that are not that much different from those of the liberal elite he castigates. Had Burleigh written with less self-regard and with more regard for his readers, and had he written with less simplistic snideness and more of the sophisticated synthesis at which he excels, "Blood and Rage" could have been a very good book.

http://www.nytimes.com

Graphic

DRAWING: Anarchists bombed the Liceo Opera House in Barcelona in 1893.(ILLUSTRATION FROM ART MEDIA/HERITAGE IMAGES

FROM "BLOOD AND RAGE")

Load-Date: April 26, 2009



Sri Lankan rebels' woman political wing leader arrested

Xinhua General News Service May 29, 2009 Friday 1:17 AM EST

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Section: WORLD NEWS; Military

Length: 187 words

Dateline: COLOMBO May 29

Body

The political wing leader of Tamil Tiger rebels' <u>women</u> force Subramaniam Shivathai alias Thamilini had been arrested at a welfare village in Sri Lanka's northern Vavuniya district, the police said Friday.

Police spokesman Ranjith Gunasekara said Shivathai was arrested at a welfare village in Vavuniya by a special police team.

She has reached the government-controlled areas with other civilians and she has reportedly disposed her revolver and cyanide capsule, police sources said.

She was with her mother and sister when she was arrested by the police, Gunasekara added.

The government troops concluded its three-year military campaign against the rebel Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (*LTTE*) by eliminating the rebels and recapturing all of the 15,000-sq-km territory formerly held by the *LTTE*.

The rebel political wing leader was among around 270,000 civilians displaced by the battles between the government troops and the *LTTE* in the north.

More than 100,000 people died in the <u>LTTE</u>'s campaign spanning about three decades for a separate Tamil homeland in the north and east.

Load-Date: May 31, 2009



Sri Lankan doctors say they exaggerated war deaths

The Associated Press July 8, 2009 Wednesday

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Section: INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Length: 895 words

Byline: By RAVI NESSMAN, Associated Press Writer

Dateline: COLOMBO, Sri Lanka

Body

A group of Sri Lankan doctors who have been in police custody for nearly two months were brought before the media Wednesday to recant their reports of mass civilian casualties during the final days of the civil war.

The men, who looked well-fed but nervous, denied they were withdrawing their statements under pressure from the government, even as they expressed hopes they might now be released. A rights group said there were "significant grounds to question whether these statements were voluntary."

Their new testimony with drastically reduced death tolls and casualty figures during shelling of civilian areas contradicted reports from independent aid workers with the United Nations and the Red Cross who witnessed some of the violence.

The government barred journalists from the war zone and threw out most aid workers, leaving the doctors as one of the few sources of information about the toll the fighting was taking on the hundreds of thousands of civilians trapped by the final battles of the 25-year civil war here.

U.N. figures show more than 7,000 civilians were killed between January and May. Human rights groups accused the government of shelling heavily populated areas and accused the rebels of holding civilians as human shields. Satellite photos showed densely populated civilian areas had been shelled. Both sides denied the accusations.

When asked Wednesday about the doctors' latest comments, U.N. spokesman Gordon Weiss said: "We stand by our statements."

At the time, the doctors gave harrowing accounts of the damage and described how the vast number of wounded civilians overwhelmed their makeshift hospitals as they ran low on food, medicine, supplies and staff.

The interviews infuriated government officials, who denied the men existed, then insisted the doctors were being misquoted and finally said they were under pressure from the rebels to lie. The doctors fled the area during the final battles in mid-May and were immediately arrested and accused of spreading rebel propaganda.

On Wednesday, five doctors were brought before dozens of foreign and local media and said the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam rebels forced them to exaggerate the damage caused by the shelling and gave them lists of casualty figures to give to the media.

Sri Lankan doctors say they exaggerated war deaths

The rebels took medicine and food shipments sent by the government and demanded the doctors tell the media there were shortages, the men said.

"The information that I have given is false. ... The figures were exaggerated due to pressure from the *LTTE*," said Dr. V. Shanmugarajah.

"It's difficult for you to believe, but it's true," said Dr. Thurairaja Varatharajah, who was the top health official in the war zone.

However, Sam Zarifi, the Asia-pacific director for Amnesty International, said the statements from the doctors were "expected and predicted."

"Given the track record of the Sri Lankan government, there are very significant grounds to question whether these statements were voluntary, and they raise serious concerns whether the doctors were subjected to ill-treatment during weeks of detention," he said. "From the time the doctors were detained, the fear was that they would be used exactly this way."

The doctors' new testimony contradicted other evidence from the battlefront.

They estimated Wednesday that between 650 and 750 civilians were killed between January and mid-May in the final battles of the war, a number far below that reported by the United Nations.

Varatharajah said only 600 to 650 civilians were injured from January to April 15, even though the Red Cross rescued 13,769 sick and wounded patients and their relatives from his hospital during the final months of the fighting.

On Feb. 2, Varatharajah reported that three artillery barrages hit the pediatrics ward and <u>women</u>'s wing of a hospital in the war zone, killing nine patients. On Wednesday, he denied the hospital had been hit.

However, the U.N. and the Red Cross, who had staff at the hospital, confirmed the attacks, the location of the strikes and the death toll. The army denied the attack.

Photos and video from the war zone showed damaged buildings and dead bodies, but none pointed to the scale of the killing.

No government officials were at the news conference at the Defense Ministry's press center to answer questions about why the doctors were being detained, how much longer they would be held, whether they were pressured to recant and whether they would be charged with any crime.

The moderator introduced himself as a freelance journalist and two men in white shirts and ties sitting off to the side appeared to be giving him directions. When one of the doctors acknowledged he was currently imprisoned, a journalist for the state media berated him, saying he was well fed, clean shaven, wearing a tie and had a decent haircut, so he couldn't be a prisoner.

In a telephone interview, police spokesman Ranjith Gunasekera refused to comment on what crime the doctors committed.

"Let the confidential inquiry continue, and we will give you the details later," he said.

In a recent interview with the Indian newspaper The Hindu, Lalith Weeratunga, the powerful secretary to President Mahinda Rajapaksa made it clear the government had no intention of releasing the doctors anytime soon.

"If they go scot-free, it will set a very bad precedent," he said.

Associated Press writer Krishan Francis contributed to this report.

Load-Date: July 9, 2009



2nd Ld Sri Lankan troops capture rebels' last stronghold, kill more than 400 rebels

Xinhua General News Service
April 5, 2009 Sunday 10:40 PM EST

Copyright 2009 Xinhua News Agency

Section: WORLD NEWS; Military

Length: 199 words

Dateline: COLOMBO April 5

Body

The military in Sri Lanka said Sunday that the government troops operating in the northern battle field have taken control of Puthukkudiyiruppu, the last stronghold of Tamil Tiger rebels, and killed more than 400 rebels in fierce fighting.

The last 1-sq-km area of Puthukkudiyiruppu formerly held by the <u>LTTE</u> (Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam) rebels was captured by the troops Sunday morning, evicting the rebels from their last stronghold in the island's north.

Military spokesman Udaya Nanayakkara said the <u>LTTE</u> have been driven out of Puthukkudiyiruppu east and they are now mixing up with civilians in the 20-sq-km no fire zone at Puttumatalan area.

"The troops have taken complete control of Puthukkudiyiruppu. The only uncleared area remaining is the no fire zone," Nanayakkara said.

The military also said some 420 dead bodies of the rebels have been found in the area.

Among the dead rebels were their senior leaders Theepan, Nagesh and the <u>LTTE</u>'s <u>women</u> wing leader Vedusha, military officials said.

Gadaafi, the personal security officer for the reclusive <u>LTTE</u> leader Velupillai Prabakaranan, was also killed in the fighting, said the officials.

Load-Date: April 6, 2009



Sri Lankan rebels' woman political wing leader arrested

Xinhua General News Service May 29, 2009 Friday 1:10 PM EST

Copyright 2009 Xinhua News Agency

Section: WORLD NEWS; Military

Length: 187 words

Dateline: COLOMBO May 29

Body

The political wing leader of Tamil Tiger rebels' <u>women</u> force Subramaniam Shivathai alias Thamilini had been arrested at a welfare village in Sri Lanka's northern Vavuniya district, the police said Friday.

Police spokesman Ranjith Gunasekara said Shivathai was arrested at a welfare village in Vavuniya by a special police team.

She has reached the government-controlled areas with other civilians and she has reportedly disposed her revolver and cyanide capsule, police sources said.

She was with her mother and sister when she was arrested by the police, Gunasekara added.

The government troops concluded its three-year military campaign against the rebel Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (*LTTE*) by eliminating the rebels and recapturing all of the 15,000-sq-km territory formerly held by the *LTTE*.

The rebel political wing leader was among around 270,000 civilians displaced by the battles between the government troops and the *LTTE* in the north.

More than 100,000 people died in the <u>LTTE</u>'s campaign spanning about three decades for a separate Tamil homeland in the north and east.

Load-Date: May 30, 2009



Sri Lankan doctors say they exaggerated war deaths

Associated Press International

July 9, 2009 Thursday 5:25 AM GMT

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Section: INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Length: 895 words

Byline: By RAVI NESSMAN, Associated Press Writer

Dateline: COLOMBO Sri Lanka

Body

A group of Sri Lankan doctors who have been in police custody for nearly two months were brought before the media to recant their reports of mass civilian casualties during the final days of the civil war.

The men, who looked well-fed but nervous, denied they were withdrawing their statements under pressure from the government, even as they expressed hopes they might now be released. A rights group said there were "significant grounds to question whether these statements were voluntary."

Their new testimony Wednesday with drastically reduced death tolls and casualty figures during shelling of civilian areas contradicted reports from independent aid workers with the United Nations and the Red Cross who witnessed some of the violence.

The government barred journalists from the war zone and threw out most aid workers, leaving the doctors as one of the few sources of information about the toll the fighting was taking on the hundreds of thousands of civilians trapped by the final battles of the 25-year civil war here.

U.N. figures show more than 7,000 civilians were killed between January and May. Human rights groups accused the government of shelling heavily populated areas and accused the rebels of holding civilians as human shields. Satellite photos showed densely populated civilian areas had been shelled. Both sides denied the accusations.

When asked Wednesday about the doctors' latest comments, U.N. spokesman Gordon Weiss said: "We stand by our statements."

At the time, the doctors gave harrowing accounts of the damage and described how the vast number of wounded civilians overwhelmed their makeshift hospitals as they ran low on food, medicine, supplies and staff.

The interviews infuriated government officials, who denied the men existed, then insisted the doctors were being misquoted and finally said they were under pressure from the rebels to lie. The doctors fled the area during the final battles in mid-May and were immediately arrested and accused of spreading rebel propaganda.

On Wednesday, five doctors were brought before dozens of foreign and local media and said the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam rebels forced them to exaggerate the damage caused by the shelling and gave them lists of casualty figures to give to the media.

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"It's difficult for you to believe, but it's true," said Dr. Thurairaja Varatharajah, who was the top health official in the war zone.

However, Sam Zarifi, the Asia-pacific director for Amnesty International, said the statements from the doctors were "expected and predicted."

"Given the track record of the Sri Lankan government, there are very significant grounds to question whether these statements were voluntary, and they raise serious concerns whether the doctors were subjected to ill-treatment during weeks of detention," he said. "From the time the doctors were detained, the fear was that they would be used exactly this way."

The doctors' new testimony contradicted other evidence from the battlefront.

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Varatharajah said only 600 to 650 civilians were injured from January to April 15, even though the Red Cross rescued 13,769 sick and wounded patients and their relatives from his hospital during the final months of the fighting.

On Feb. 2, Varatharajah reported that three artillery barrages hit the pediatrics ward and <u>women</u>'s wing of a hospital in the war zone, killing nine patients. On Wednesday, he denied the hospital had been hit.

However, the U.N. and the Red Cross, who had staff at the hospital, confirmed the attacks, the location of the strikes and the death toll. The army denied the attack.

Photos and video from the war zone showed damaged buildings and dead bodies, but none pointed to the scale of the killing.

No government officials were at the news conference at the Defense Ministry's press center to answer questions about why the doctors were being detained, how much longer they would be held, whether they were pressured to recant and whether they would be charged with any crime.

The moderator introduced himself as a freelance journalist and two men in white shirts and ties sitting off to the side appeared to be giving him directions. When one of the doctors acknowledged he was currently imprisoned, a journalist for the state media berated him, saying he was well fed, clean shaven, wearing a tie and had a decent haircut, so he couldn't be a prisoner.

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"If they go scot-free, it will set a very bad precedent," he said.

Associated Press writer Krishan Francis contributed to this report.

Load-Date: July 10, 2009



Sri Lankan doctors say they exaggerated war deaths

Associated Press Online

July 8, 2009 Wednesday 4:32 PM GMT

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Section: INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Length: 895 words

Byline: By RAVI NESSMAN, Associated Press Writer

Dateline: COLOMBO Sri Lanka

Body

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Associated Press writer Krishan Francis contributed to this report.

Load-Date: July 9, 2009



Deport migrants without hearings

Times Colonist (Victoria, British Columbia)
October 23, 2009 Friday
Final Edition

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Section: COMMENT; Pg. A11

Length: 110 words

Byline: Mel Drage, Times Colonist

Body

It appears that the immigrant ship that landed Saturday is a smuggling operation.

Why were they allowed to land, indeed escorted in?

A news report interviewed two <u>women</u> from Sri Lanka who suggested those on the boat were probably <u>Tamil</u> <u>Tigers</u>. The <u>women</u> said the people should have applied to immigrate through proper channels, as they did.

How do refugees from a poor country amass \$45,000 to pay a captain for passage? They appear to be healthy individuals and not deprived.

Canada is known as a soft touch that allows such people to enter this country. Deport them. Let's not go through the process of hearings with all the expense involved.

Mel Drage

Qualicum Beach

Load-Date: October 23, 2009



Red Cross warns of civilian deaths in Sri Lanka

Associated Press International

April 21, 2009 Tuesday 8:29 AM GMT

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Section: INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Length: 121 words

Dateline: GENEVA

Body

The international Red Cross is warning that Sri Lanka's final offensive to crush Tamil rebels could dramatically raise the number of civilian deaths.

The International Committee of the Red Cross says it is extremely worried about tens of thousands of people, including *women*, children and the elderly, trapped with rebels in the northern war zone.

ICRC operations director Pierre Kraehenbuehl says the <u>Tamil Tigers</u> must allow civilians to leave the area. He says government troops must spare civilians in their assault.

A government deadline expired Tuesday for the rebels to surrender or face a final assault.

The rebels have fought since 1983 to create a separate state for minority Tamils. The war has killed thousands of civilians.

Load-Date: April 22, 2009



Arrests lead to discovery of bomb kits in Sri Lanka

Xinhua General News Service September 22, 2009 Tuesday 12:40 PM EST

Copyright 2009 Xinhua News Agency

Section: WORLD NEWS; Science & Technology

Length: 129 words

Dateline: COLOMBO Sept. 22

Body

The arrests of two *female* cadres of the former Tamil Tiger rebels have led to the discover of suicide bomb kits, police said Tuesday.

The police arrested two members of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (*LTTE*) rebels at Vavuniya in the north on Tuesday.

One of them committed suicide by swallowing cyanide. The arrested woman cadre's information led to the discovery of bomb kits, police said.

The <u>LTTE</u>s three-decade-old campaign for a separate Tamil homeland in the north and east was ended in May with all its territory retaken by the government troops.

About 300,000 Tamil civilians formerly living in the $\underline{\textit{LTTE}}$ controlled areas are now being housed in several welfare villages in the north waiting to be resettled to their original homes.

Load-Date: September 23, 2009



Winning the war, a triumph of all people

Daily News (Sri Lanka)

June 3, 2009 Wednesday

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Length: 2049 words

Dateline: Colombo

Body

Colombo, June 3 -- Address by Minister of Disaster Management and Human Rights Mahinda Samarasinghe at the 11th Regular Session of the United Nations Human Rights Council in Geneva on June 2, 2009.

I take pleasure in addressing this august body for the second time in successive weeks, particularly at a point when my country 'Sri Lanka' is going through a process of renewal and hope for the first time in decades. Exactly 3 months ago, during the high-level segment of the 10th Session of this Council I said: "we are able to finally see the light at the end of the long and dangerous tunnel through which we groped our way for more than two decades." Just two weeks ago, we marched out of that tunnel into the bright light of a new era for Sri Lanka and all her people. Our President led our Security Forces and our people with courage and fortitude to victory over forces of violence, destruction and separatist terrorism. President Mahinda Rajapaksa has impressed upon the people of Sri Lanka that this was no victory for one segment of the community over another.

He emphasized that the winning of the war was a triumph of all the people of Sri Lanka irrespective of ethnicity, religious belief or linguistic background. Resettlement As we look forward to a new beginning as one united people in one undivided land, we face many challenges. Resettlement of the displaced is our primary obligation. These internally displaced persons have undergone great suffering being driven before the conflict and being held as hostages by a increasingly desperate group of terrorists. When I addressed this Council in March we were confident that we would obtain mastery over the terrorists. Indeed we could have done so much sooner. However, the reason that complete military dominance took a further two-and-a-half months was that our Security Forces were under strict instructions to avoid the loss of civilian life. Our Government had taken a principled stand to eschew the use of heavy weapons and aerial bombardment in the last remaining sliver of land unlawfully held by the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam. Had we done so, the Sri Lankan nation would have been celebrating victory over terrorism months ago. Ultimately our forces won the day, albeit at the cost of heavy casualties among the ranks of ground troops due to being constrained to the use of only light weaponry. Suicide bombers Time and again the LTTE used suicide bombers and gunfire to prevent the civilian hostages from seeking safety with Sri Lankan troops. Yet the civilians, who experienced the bitter reality of being held in captivity as human shields at first hand, kept trying to escape. A vast majority of them did and are now under the care of the Government. What needs to be acknowledged is that the Government was successful, without a blood bath, in resolving the largest hostage situation the world has seen in recent times, thus liberating our people from the clutches of the LTTE. We will now work hard to give them the future they deserve. It is these people who now form the ranks of internally displaced persons who live in over 40 locations. We are acutely conscious that these are people who have gone through much and have the right to safety and security and the legitimate expectation of a return to normality. Moreover, we are aware that these are our people 'Sri Lankan - citizens' with all the hopes, dreams and aspirations towards a better tomorrow for themselves and their children. It is this better future that the Government of President Mahinda Rajapaksa is committed to assuring. Humanitarian relief We are facing several challenges. Apart from the provision of

humanitarian relief services to the IDPs in temporary accommodation facilities, de-mining, restoration of civil administration, infrastructure development, provision of a means of economic survival through livelihood development and ultimately the restoration of popular political institutions that will enable democratic decision making by the people through freely chosen representatives are some of the main tasks to be achieved. Allied with this are the rehabilitation of child combatants and the demobilization, disarming and reintegration of other excombatants throughout the country which are also high on the list of priorities along with psycho-social care and counselling. To sustain these initiatives we need to be on our guard against any attempts to revive and revitalize separatism, disunity and destabilization. The Government of Sri Lanka will continue with its efforts to weed out terrorists who have infiltrated the ranks of IDPs and the civilian population. Special Session At a juncture when we were justifiably proud of our achievements in militarily overcoming terrorism, one week after hostilities ended, we were disappointed that a Special Session of this Council was convened to discuss the human rights situation in Sri Lanka. Especially with the 11th Regular Session at hand, the Special Session was unnecessary. We were humbled by the expression of support for the Resolution co-sponsored by Sri Lanka and 17 other countries last Wednesday. International community Those member states who supported Sri Lanka's position, delivered a resounding message on behalf of the international community in recognizing the primacy of the principles embodied in Articles 1 and 2 of the United Nations Charter and in requesting the larger world community to assist Sri Lanka in its efforts to recover from decades of conflict. Those who co-sponsored and supported the Sri Lankan Resolution also demonstrated a resolve to assist countries such as Sri Lanka. Referring to the people in the Northern Province of Sri Lanka, our President in his address to the Sri Lankan Parliament on May 19, said: "It is necessary that we give to these people the freedom that are the right of people in all other parts of our country. Similarly, it is necessary that the political solutions they need should be brought to closer to them faster than any country or government in the world would bring. However, it cannot be an imported solution. We do not have the time to be experimenting with the solutions suggested by other countries. Therefore, it is necessary that we find a solution that is our very own, of our own nation. It should be a solution acceptable to all sections of the people. We expect cooperation for (that solution) from the international community and not obstruction. Should the international community doubt our capability to find such a solution, when we have successfully overcome a challenge that the world was unable to achieve? No. We can achieve this." I am here to convey, to the members of the Council and the rest of the community of nations, that this expression of confidence by President Mahinda Rajapaksa exemplifies the determination of his Government to secure all the rights and freedoms of all the people of Sri Lanka. Our efforts, if they are to be successful, must be complemented by the efforts of the friends of Sri Lanka, especially the United Nations and humanitarian agencies. UN representatives We have put in place an overarching framework to guide the process of reconstruction, resettlement and socio-economic renewal under the 'Northern Spring' program put in place by President Rajapaksa. I call upon the many friends and partners of Sri Lanka who have displayed a keen interest in our country and her people to come forward and work with us to achieve our common aims. We have already made gains in caring for those affected by the conflict. We are working towards incremental realization and maintenance of international standards in the provision of humanitarian assistance. Our ongoing engagement with UN Secretary General Ban Ki-Moon and several senior officials and representatives of the UN system has, apart from demonstrating our openness and willingness to work with our international partners, highlighted key areas of concern which we are confident of addressing together. Development A consequent to the successful conclusion of the humanitarian operations in the North and the liberation of the entire country and her people from terrorism, the Government is taking several initiatives to fast-track post-war peace building and development processes. Among these measures is an initiative by my Ministry to develop a National Framework proposal for the reintegration of excombatants into civilian life. Following a national sensitization workshop held in Colombo in late March, five working groups focusing on disarmament and demobilization, rehabilitation, reinsertion, social reintegration and economic reintegration have been established to develop the respective components of the proposed National Framework. Policymakers The working groups are made up of senior Government officials, policymakers, members of the Armed Forces, UN agencies and other relevant stakeholders. This is a key part of the Government's commitment to fostering reconciliation and development through the formulation and implementation of a comprehensive reintegration program, which is an essential element for sustainable peace. The envisioned policy intervention will facilitate the reintegration of large numbers of ex-combatants by improving their employability in civilian occupations, minimizing their risk of socio-economic marginalization and ensuring a smooth transition from their military affiliations into their larger communities. A Technical and financial assistance for this endeavour is being provided by the International Labour Organization (ILO), which is contributing its extensive international experience

Winning the war, a triumph of all people

in the development and implementation of socio-economic reintegration programs for conflict affected groups. It is anticipated that the proposal will be ready by end June, and national consultations will be held in July to endorse the draft framework. In the field of human rights promotion and protection, we are working on the development of a national action plan for the promotion and protection of human rights along the lines envisaged by the Vienna Declaration and Program of Action of 1993. The substantive content of the plan, was derived from our engagement with the Human Rights Council last May when we participated in the Universal Periodic Review Process and also our interactions with Special Procedures and Mechanisms of the UN. Voluntary pledges The recommendations accepted, the voluntary pledges made by Sri Lanka at the UPR and the several conclusions of experts, rapporteurs and special representatives as well UN Treaty Bodies have all been collated, categorized and prioritized in keeping with national imperatives. I have just recently authorized the setting up of eight expert groups on specific thematic areas which will finalize the draft national action plan. The thematic areas are torture, civil and political rights, economic social and cultural rights, labour rights, migrant workers' rights, women, children and internally displaced persons. The expert groups will draw on expertise from academia, the public sector, professional and private sectors and civil society. I must express my gratitude to the UN Country Team and to the United Nations Development Program for their strong support in complementing our initiative. Cooperation I am certain that we will be able to report impressive progress when we participate in the second cycle of the UPR process in the next three years. In conclusion, I wish to thank you for your leadership and sagacity and the members of this Council for their sustained interest in Sri Lanka. I also wish to acknowledge the encouragement and support received from the regional and cross-regional groups for their cooperation and interest in Sri Lanka. I assure you that Sri Lanka will continue to engage with members of this Council in a spirit of constructive dialogue and cooperation. Since this is the last regular session of this Council being conducted under your stewardship, let me take this opportunity to pay my sincere gratitude for the unwavering commitment and leadership you have shown during the last one year in guiding this august body in the promotion and protection of human rights all over the world. Published by HT Syndication with permission from Daily News Sri Lanka.

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Load-Date: June 3, 2009



Troops secure Valayarmadam

Daily Mirror (Sri Lanka) April 27, 2009 Monday

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Length: 157 words

Dateline: Colombo

Body

Colombo, April 27 -- Troops of the 58-division captured Valayarmadam in MulLaitivu on Saturday evening and rescued 500 civilians who were trapped in the area. Troops declared the area fully secured last morning. Valayarmadam is situated just six km short of Vellamullivaikkal, the last remaining <u>LTTE</u> hideout.

The Defence Ministry said army commandos and special forces backed by infantrymen of the 10- Sri Lanka Light Infantry, and 12-Gemunu Watch regiments entered the area and engaged in mop up operations. Meanwhile the army said that 23 <u>LTTE</u> cadres unable to survive the onslaught of the advancing troops surrendered to the troops last morning immediately after the troops captured Valayanmadam and ordered them to lay down arms. Among those who surrendered were 17 males and 06 <u>females</u>. The <u>LTTE</u> cadres were taken to a special demarcated area de-briefing, the army said. Published by HT Syndication with permission from Daily Mirror Sri Lanka.

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Load-Date: April 27, 2009



Kouchner, Miliband arrive tomorrow

Daily News (Sri Lanka) April 28, 2009 Tuesday

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Length: 161 words

Dateline: Colombo

Body

Colombo, April 28 -- French Foreign Minister Bernard Kouchner and British Foreign Secretary David Miliband will arrive in Colombo tomorrow (29) to ceremonially open the field hospital set up at Vavuniya with assistance by the French Government for the benefit of civilians who arrived in Vavuniya after fleeing the <u>LTTE</u> controlled areas of the North.

The field hospital will be declared open by the French Foreign Minister and the British Foreign Secretary at a ceremony tomorrow, Foreign Ministry officials told the Daily News yesterday (27). The French Government had provided 100 beds for the hospital and already 75 medical staff including doctors and nurses had arrived to facilitate the large number of Tamil civilians. Among them children, old people and pregnant <u>women</u>, who had fled the <u>LTTE</u> area after undergoing severe difficulties for days while others sustained injuries in <u>LTTE</u> attacks. Published by HT Syndication with permission from Daily News Sri Lanka.

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Load-Date: April 28, 2009



Nice to have athletes from North and East

Daily News (Sri Lanka)
October 8, 2009 Thursday

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Length: 912 words

Dateline: Sri Lanka

Body

Sri Lanka, Oct. 8 -- Today is the second day of the All-Island Senior Schools Athletic Championship for the Sir John Tarbat Trophy at the Sugathadasa Stadium in Colombo.

It is heartening to see nearly 2,500 schoolboys and girls taking part at the three-day Championships which concludes tomorrow. The total 1,460 boys and 950 girls from three different age groups - under 16,18 and 20 are taking part in the championship.

Thanks to our valiant Security Forces and the untiring efforts of President Mahinda Rajapaksa and Defence Secretary Gotabhaya Rajapaksa, terrorism has now been eradicated and the youngsters in the North and the East have got an opportunity to engage in their usual co-curricular as well as extra-curricular activities.

There are 320 schools from all parts of the island taking part at the Senior Schools Athletic Championship for the Sir John Tarbat Trophy. That includes some of the leading schools from the Northern and the Eastern Provinces. The **LTTE** terrorists never allowed these innocent schoolchildren to indulge in sports activities.

But what matters is to give those boys and girls all encouragement and necessary facilities to sharpen their skills. There is rich talent in the North and the East but what matters is to carefully groom them for the future.

The same applies to other provinces as well.

The Tarbat Trophy meet was once considered one of the most prestigious events in local sport. In the good old days, Senior Schools Athletic Championship for the Sir John Tarbat Trophy had been producing many talented athletes. It had been the breeding shade for outstanding young athletes.

We could regain the lost glory if we implement a sensible program to groom the most outstanding athletes of the Senior Schools Athletic Championship for the Sir John Tarbat Trophy. Schoolboys and girls who perform well must see a future. If not they will be demoralised. They will give up athletics if we don't appreciate their achievements and give them an incentive to blossom in the big league.

We must also take care of those who performed creditably at the recent National Sports Festival in Polonnaruwa.

Western Province underlined its supremacy winning the overall championship title for a record 34th time with a rich haul of 77 gold, 55 silver and 50 bronze medals. Nevertheless, sportsmen and sportswomen from the Central province gave them a close run to secure the second place.

Nice to have athletes from North and East

The emergence of J.A.N.K. Appuhamy of Uva Province as the best men's athlete is an indication that our athletics is not starved of talent. We must protect these talent and groom them carefully.

High jumper R.A.K. Priyangika Madumanthi of North Central Province came out with an impressive performance to establish a new meet record while R.P.M.S. Wijeratne of Sabaragamuwa Province set a new Sri Lanka record. Madumanthi bettered her own mark of 1.77m in *women*'s High Jump final clearing a height of 1.78m.

We must spot this raw talent early. These uncut gems are the future of Sri Lanka sport. A comprehensive program is necessary to make sure these talented rural sport stars are looked after properly. They should be given the encouragement, guidance and support.

Unfortunately, even our Olympic poolists are a forgotten lot. Nobody seems to be showing any interest to find out what they do or how hard they train with financial constrains. It is the duty of the Sports Ministry to assist them and give a lending hand for their future medal prospects.

When last year's Beijing Olympics was over, the Sports Ministry assured that a proper training program would commence from early this year. With less than three months way to the end of this calendar year, we are still waiting for the Sports Ministry's Olympic super pool to be formed.

The Asian Athletics Championship is around the corner there is hardly anything left for us to do. We do not believe in instant training because all the world champions have reached the pinnacle with sheer dedication, devotion and determination. Unless we make an investment for the future, we cannot have any medal hopes in future international events.

What we could do at this stage is to pick a tentative Asian Games pool and groom them for next year's Asian Games in China. It should not be just namesake training pool but a true residential training pool with all necessary facilities.

We understand the difficulty is doing so and finances that are needed.

Hence, we suggest a small pool to start with. Get only the best medal prospects. In sport at which we could not find medal prospects, we could still find the most post outstanding sportsman or two. The cream of local sport should be included in the Asian Games pool and allow them to train with a reasonable monthly incidental allowance, accommodation, meals and nutrition.

This is exactly how Sri Lanka found the successful formula to produce Olympic, World Championships, Asian Games, Commonwealth Games and Asian Championships medallists from 1995 to 2000.

We cannot expect the National Sports Associations to carry the heavy burden. It is the duty of the Sports Ministry to help them. Apart from the Ministry funds, the Ministry officials should go that extra mile to find sponsors.

That was exactly how the things were done in that golden era during which Sri Lanka's sporting history was rewritten. Published by HT Syndication with permission from Daily News Sri Lanka. For more information on news feed please contact Sarabjit Jagirdar at https://doi.org///doi.org/10.1007/jhtml.com/

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Load-Date: October 8, 2009



Battling for a better frame of mind

Daily News (Sri Lanka) May 16, 2009 Saturday

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Length: 857 words

Dateline: Colombo

Body

Colombo, May 16 -- Twenty year old Shali swallowed about 100 painkilling tablets thinking that suicide was her only way out. In spite of having a loving family and an affluent background, she threw her sanity aside to end her life thinking that nobody would listen or understand her. After suffering for one week, she finally confessed to a doctor when they told her she had about 48 hours to live after numerous tests.

Her family loved her very much and they were upset, wondering why she would do such a thing. It was Shali's battle to win. Luckily for her, the saline drips that were given to her at the Toxicology Unit at the Peradeniya Teaching Hospital saved her life and our only hope is that she is leading a good life despite this suicidal attempt over a love affair. However, as psychologists put it, those who attempt once, have the capacity to do it again. The question is, how long will it be until you decide to end your life? Ending your life is not the way out, says trained counsellor and Director of the Sumithrayo Colombo South branch, Surakshi Siriwardena. Believing that having a listening shoulder helps, she said, "Take a few minutes of your busy schedule to listen to those around you". Oldfashioned thinking still deem those who have mental problems as pissu cases and that social stigma should be changed. "We need better rehabilitation centres in order to get people to open up and talk," she added. Further, she emphasised that the Sumithrayo Colombo branch isn't just an NGO but a support organization. "Many people have misconceptions about NGOs thinking of the wastage of money for illegal purposes but we should enlighten people that we are here to help and we need just a little kind gestures to put a smile on the faces of those who need it," she said. Further, we don't give advice and tell you how to live your life but we listen to your problems, give an ear, give you strength and confidence befriending you so you can count on us with full confidentiality". She said that another reason for suicide is the poverty and debt faced by the rural population especially farmers. Easy access to pesticides, which are readily available in rural farming households make suicide possible. The Colombo South Sumithrayo branch has been actively engaged in promoting an essay competition titled 'Importance of developing decision making skills and coping skills' on suicide prevention and reaching out to government schools to get children to understand more on this topic. A speech contest on the topic of 'Suicide Prevention is Everyone's Responsibility' will be held under the auspices of the Education Ministry and the Social Services and Welfare Ministry. For the past twenty years, Sri Lanka has had the world's highest suicide rate at 55.46 per 100,000 population and clinched world number one a few years back. According to a 2008 World Health Organisation report on 'Suicide and Suicide Prevention in Asia' states, "Civil war resulting in large numbers of refugees is believed to contribute to the suicide rate (Berger, 1988), but has also made it impossible to collect suicide data from the northeastern region of Sri Lanka, which is known to have the highest suicide rate in the country." It is evident that this is a fact as many of the suicide cases have been misinterpreted as conflict reasons. However, it is no secret that the LTTE has manipulated and brainwashed our people to commit suicide as they are the first in the world to produce suicide bombers by taking full advantage of helpless victims caught in the conflict. Presently, there are 'micro-array studies' done by Senior Lecturer of Anatomy at the University of Sri Jayewardenepura Dr. Ranil de Silva together

Battling for a better frame of mind

with scientists from the National University of Singapore on finding the secret of unlocking the suicide bombing brain and our government will be the first to know. Sudath Samaraweera, a medical doctor with the Institute for Research and Development, a local non-profit forum of professionals and academics said, "Although the suicide rate has dropped since 1995, when it was a peak figure of 46.6 suicides per 100,000 people, the figure still remains high and any statistic over 15 suicides per 100,000 is considered excessive. The WHO also states that suicide is one of the leading causes of death across the world, especially in the 15-35 year age group which amounts to an average of one death every 40 seconds and an attempt every three seconds. It is also known that more men complete suicide as compared with women and globally, nearly 60 percent of these deaths are among young adults in their productive years of life. Suicide isn't the way out as we all need to overcome our problems by talking and listening to other people. No matter how hectic our lives are, we shouldn't lose touch with reality and help someone before it's too late. "We hope that there are kind people who would like to help other people by joining hands with us," said Surakshi. Just half a day from a week is enough to give a helping hand for someone to help save someone's life. Published by HT Syndication with permission from Daily News Sri Lanka.

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Load-Date: May 16, 2009



DAILY PRESS BRIEFING BY OFFICE OF SPOKESPERSON FOR THE SECRETARY-GENERAL OF MAY 11

US State News

May 12, 2009 Tuesday 11:03 AM EST

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Length: 3266 words

Body

UNITED NATIONS, May 11 -- The United Nations Office of the Secretary General issued the text of the following statement:

The following is a near-verbatim transcript of today's noon briefing by Michele Montas, Spokesperson for the Secretary-General, and Paul Hoeffel, Communications Adviser/Speechwriter for the President of the General Assembly. Briefing by the Spokesperson for the Secretary-General Good afternoon all. **Press Conference Today At 12.30 p.m. today, at least we hope so, Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov will be here to brief you on the Security Council open meeting on the Middle East. Of course, we have seven more speakers to go, I am not quite sure it will be 12.30 p.m., but at least this is what we have on the schedule. **Security Council Stakeout Today And at 1 p.m., Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs of the United Kingdom David Miliband, French Foreign Minister Bernard Kouchner, and Austria's Federal Minister of European and International Affairs Michael Spindelegger, will be at the Security Council stakeout to hold a press encounter on Sri Lanka.

So this is looking ahead a bit. ** Middle East The Secretary-General this morning addressed a ministerial meeting in the Security Council on the Middle East. In his remarks, he said that, after the inconclusive results of last year's negotiations, and the bloodshed in Gaza, the last three months witnessed almost no progress on the two key resolutions recently adopted by the Security Council -- 1850 (2008) and 1860 (2009). The Secretary-General also pointed to a deep crisis of confidence among ordinary people on the ground. He said Palestinians continue to see unacceptable unilateral actions in East Jerusalem and the remainder of the West Bank, including house demolitions, intensified settlement activity, settler violence, and oppressive restrictions on their movements. The time has come for Israel to fundamentally change its policies, he stressed. At the same time, he added, ordinary Israelis continue to seek reassurance that a future Palestinian state will guarantee their right to live in peace and security. In that regard, indiscriminate rocket attacks are not only deeply unacceptable, but also totally counterproductive, and must cease, he said. The Secretary-General added that the policy of the continued closure of Gaza does not weaken Israel's adversaries, but instead does untold damage to the fabric of civilian life. In that context, he called on Israel to allow glass, cement and building materials into Gaza. He also voiced support for the convening of an international conference in Moscow. We have his full remarks upstairs. Still on the Middle East, meanwhile, Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs John Holmes has written an op-ed on Gaza, which has now appeared in a number of Egyptian and European papers. Holmes says that humanity has taken a back seat to politics in Gaza, and a measly trickle of items has become the most the world can offer civilians trapped by a political stalemate not of their making. He adds that protection, food, water, health care and shelter are basic human needs, not bargaining chips, and it is high time that fact is recognized by all the parties responsible for the immense suffering in Gaza today. ** Sri Lanka [The following statement was issued after the briefing: The Secretary-General is appalled at the killing of hundreds of civilians in Sri Lanka over the weekend. Thousands of Sri Lankans have already died in the past several months due to the conflict, and more still remain in grave danger.

The Secretary-General has repeatedly called upon the parties to the conflict to stop using heavy-calibre weaponry, including mortars, in the areas with high civilian concentrations. The Secretary-General is deeply concerned by the continued use of heavy weapons in this situation. The reckless disrespect shown by the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (*LTTE*) for the safety of civilians has led to thousands of people remaining trapped in the area. The Secretary-General once again calls on both sides, in the strongest terms possible, to adhere to their obligations under international humanitarian law. The LTTE must immediately allow the remaining civilians in the conflict zone to leave. He reminds the parties that the world is watching events in Sri Lanka closely, and will not accept further violations of international law. The Secretary-General urges the Government of Sri Lanka to explore all possible options to bring the conflict to an end without further bloodshed and to make public the terms under which that can be achieved without further loss of civilian life, and for the LTTE to give sober and positive consideration of those terms.] Also on Sri Lanka, the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs says Government security forces continue operations in the conflict zone. Intense fighting has been reported over the weekend with a heavy toll on civilians, resulting in the loss of hundreds of lives and more injuries. Earlier today, a reported 900 civilians escaped from the conflict zone in Mullaitivu and most have reached Omanthai. So far, a total 196,044 persons have crossed to the Government controlled areas from the conflict zone. But the United Nations still estimates at least 50.000 -and probably more -- remain in the conflict zone. Over the weekend, the International Committee of the Red Cross evacuated 515 patients and caregivers from the conflict zone to Pulmoddai, and transported 25 metric tons of food and some medicine provided by the World Food Programme for the civilians trapped in the conflict zone. Family reunification is also a priority, and the United Nations stresses that efforts to reunite families without delay must be redoubled. In addition, every effort must be taken to avoid additional separations during transfers and decongestion efforts in Sri Lanka. ** Pakistan On Pakistan, UN High Commissioner for Refugees Antonio Guterres today appealed for international solidarity in support of hundreds of thousands of displaced Pakistani civilians and announced a UNHCR airlift to rush tons of additional humanitarian supplies to the north-west of the country. Guterres, whose agency already has a large operation in Pakistan, said the speed and scale of the latest displacement in the country's north-west required an immediate international humanitarian response in support of the Pakistani people affected by the conflict. He recalled that the total number of displaced Pakistanis registered by authorities with UNHCR help since 2 May has now reached more than 360,000 people. Guterres said much more needs to be done to assist the displaced and announced an airlift on Tuesday that will carry some 120 tons of urgently needed humanitarian supplies from UNHCR central emergency stockpiles in Dubai to Pakistan. The Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) says that, in cooperation with the authorities in Pakistan, registration points have been established, and by today, 360,675 newly displaced persons have been registered. This figure is increasing by the day. ** Afghanistan On Afghanistan, the UN Assistance Mission for Afghanistan (UNAMA) says that it is encouraging that more **women** were nominated to stand for the provincial elections this summer than in the last elections. The country's Independent Election Commission informed UNAMA that 3,324 candidates, including 342 women, have been put forward for the provincial council elections, with the number of women candidates increasing by 20 from the previous elections. The UN Mission says that the increase demonstrates the strong desire of Afghan women to help decide the future of their country. The Mission adds that it will follow the elections closely and monitor the campaign to help ensure that the fundamental political rights of the Afghan people are respected. We have more in today's Kabul briefing notes. ** Sudan On Sudan, John Holmes, Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator, has concluded his five-day visit to Sudan by urging increased cooperation in responding to urgent humanitarian needs, and a genuinely constructive future operating environment for humanitarian actors. This was Mr. Holmes' second visit in six months to Sudan and his fourth since becoming the Emergency Relief Coordinator. His visit aimed to review the humanitarian situation in the areas affected by the 4 March Government decision to close three national NGOs (non-governmental organizations) and expel 13 international NGOs, and to promote a better relationship between the Government and the humanitarian community. He welcomed the positive collaboration with the Government on the Joint Assessment in Darfur, and noted that the most urgent short-term needs in food, health and nutrition, emergency shelter, water, and sanitation were being tackled. However, he voiced his concern about the longer-term needs in all sectors. In his discussions with officials in Khartoum and North Darfur, Mr. Holmes also called attention to the increasingly unsafe operating environment in Darfur. There is a press release with more details on this upstairs. ** Darfur Still on Darfur, the African Union-United Nations Mission in Darfur (UNAMID) reports that the security situation during the past 72 hours has been relatively tense in some parts of North Darfur, with shooting reported in the State capital, El Fasher. Carjacking incidents were reported in both North and South Darfur, and a surge of banditry activities targeting UN personnel in North Darfur were also recorded. There has been an increase in burglaries targeting UNAMID staff accommodation. There were also reports of sporadic shooting in El Fasher's main market as a result of clashes involving the Sudanese military and the Central Reserve Force. Two men were later arrested by the Sudanese Government, and there were reports of fatalities during the clashes. A UNAMID investigation patrol was dispatched to the market area and its members spoke with locals about the situation. UNAMID has also reported fighting over the weekend in the North Darfur town of Umm Baru between the Justice and Equality Movement (JEM) and the Sudan Liberation Army/Minni Minawi wing (SLA/MM). The Mission transported 26 people injured in the fighting to El Fasher for medical treatment at a military hospital. ** Democratic Republic of the Congo The Secretary-General's Special Representative in the Democratic Republic of Congo, Alan Doss, has strongly condemned the criminal raid this past weekend by Rwandan rebels on the north-eastern village of Butolonga. Doss said the attack shows once again that the Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Rwandan (FDLR) rebels are "outlaws". According to our Mission in the DRC (MONUC), FDLR rebels raided Butolonga on the night of 8 May, firing guns and burning houses. One hundred thirty-one houses were burned, and two Congolese soldiers were killed. UN peacekeepers, dispatched to the scene, found the village empty, as residents had fled into a nearby bush. They are only now returning to their homes. **H1N1 On the Influenza A (H1N1) virus, the World Health Organization (WHO) confirms that the number of lab-confirmed cases has increased to 4,694 -- from 2,500 on Friday. Those cases include 53 deaths. WHO says that 30 countries are now reporting cases -- as opposed to 25 countries on Friday. But regarding WHO's influenza alert level, we are still at phase 5, the agency says. ** Iraq On Iraq, children in nearly half of the primary schools in Iraq are studying in unsafe and unhealthy environments, according to a United Nations-backed survey that was released today. The study, which was supported by the World Health Organization and conducted between 2007 and 2008, revealed that 48 per cent of the 150 schools assessed were dirty. In addition, some 63 per cent of the schools lacked chlorine testing procedures for drinking water, placing children at high risk of waterborne diseases. ** Lake Victoria And communities in and around Lake Victoria have been chosen as a test-case for calculating how much carbon can be stored in trees and soils when the land is managed in sustainable, climate-friendly ways. This initiative -- known as the Carbon Benefits Project -was launched today by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the World Agroforestry Centre, along with a range of other key partners. The project is being funded by the Global Environment Facility (GEF). **International Labour Organization Senior representatives from Governments, workers' and employers' organizations are attending a meeting at the International Labour Office (ILO) from May 11th to the 14th. They will be discussing the state of industrial relations in the petroleum industry amid a global downturn in employment in the oil and gas sector. **World Tourism Organization The World Tourism Organization (WTO) has elected a new Secretary-General. Taleb Rifai, a former Jordanian tourism minister, is expected to start his four-year mandate in January 2010. His nomination has to be confirmed by WTO's general assembly when it meets during the first week of October, in Kazakhstan. Rifai was WTO's Secretary-General ad interim since last March and, before that, the Deputy Secretary-General since 2006. **Human Rights Council Elections And I was just informed that after this briefing, Paul Hoeffel will brief on behalf of Enrique, who is travelling. He will be giving you some briefing notes about the Human Rights Council elections tomorrow in the General Assembly. So, he'll be coming and you'll hear from him in a few minutes. I'll just very briefly take some questions. Please, the most important ones first because I have to go and leave the room for Foreign Minister Lavrov. **Questions and Answers Question: On Sri Lanka, over the weekend when all these civilians have been killed, can you give us a sense of who Ban Ki-moon spoke to, what he's doing and what his plan is to try to stop what...(inaudible) called a bloodbath on the beach? Spokesperson: Well we've had the figures -- the number of dead and wounded were numbers we got on the ground inside the conflict zone. In terms of what the Secretary-General has been doing, he has been briefed on a daily basis. As you know, he spoke to the President [once] last week. He hasn't spoken to him this past weekend. However, as you know, this is one of his top priories right now -- the situation of the civilians in Sri Lanka. [The Spokesperson later added that the Secretary-General also spoke to Sri Lanka's Permanent Representative to the United Nations this morning.] Question: Is there any movement on... He's been invited to go to the country and it's been said that if he thought it could save civilians at all, he would go. Does he think that it would save civilians? And is he going to go? Spokesperson: At this point, he is still analysing the briefings he is getting. Question: And how about...There are reports in the South Korean press that he attended or presided over his son's marriage on Saturday? Is that...Can you confirm that? Deputy Spokesperson: Sure, it's a family matter. I have no comments to make. Question: Okay. But it did take place? Spokesperson: Yes, sure. Question: Michele, do you have any update on the situation of the internally displaced in Pakistan? Spokesperson: Pakistan? Before you came in, I talked about it. So you can get it from our briefing notes. In terms of other information about Pakistan, no, I don't have anything further. But I think we will be getting a statement a little later today. Question: Is the Secretary-General in touch with the Government of Pakistan? Has he spoken to somebody? Spokesperson: Not this weekend, no. But as you know, last week they spoke about the situation. And as for the situation in Sri Lanka, the Secretary-General is being briefed daily on what is happening. Question: Did you give a readout on the meeting between the Secretary-General and Sergey Lavrov, and if so, was Georgia discussed, and did Mr. Alain Le Roy attend? Who attended the meeting and what was discussed? Spokesperson: Well, I don't have that yet, but I should get that for you in a few minutes. And you can ask in my Office, they certainly will have the readout by then. Okay, thank you all so very much. And I know you're all very busy with the Middle East. I assume that Mr. Lavrov will be here very shortly. But before that, I will give the floor to Paul Hoeffel. [The Spokesperson later added that, in his meeting with Foreign Minister Lavrov, the Secretary-General and the Foreign Minister discussed the Middle East, the Secretary-General's fourteenth report on UNOMIG, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, and Kosovo.] Briefing by the Acting Spokesperson for the General Assembly President Good afternoon. The President, as you may know, is travelling this week. He is en route from Madrid to Geneva where he has meetings tomorrow. But more importantly for you all, he wants to flag the fact that tomorrow the Human Rights Council is holding elections. Eighteen new members of the Council will be elected tomorrow morning at 10.00 a.m. So, he wanted to be sure that you're aware of that. As you know, there are 47 members of the Human Rights Council and they're elected by secret ballot by the General Assembly. Membership is for three years and seats become vacant on a rotating basis. There is a very good backgrounder that the Council has prepared and that will be available very shortly. So that's all I have to say; just to flag that for you. Yes. **Questions and Answers Question: In connection with tomorrow's election, Vaclay Havel, one of the wise elders of Europe, had an op-editorial in the New York Times today attacking the undemocratic, non-progressive, questionable human rights nature of this election. Does the President have a reaction to Mr. Havel's statement? Spokesperson: No. I don't know whether he has seen that yet. Question: Could you ask him? Spokesperson: I can ask him, certainly. Yes. Question: Could you tell us what percentage of the current 47 members on the Human Rights Council are members of the Organization of Islamic Conference? And, if you know, what percentage are up for election for those 18 seats tomorrow? Spokesperson: Well, as you know, the Council seats are allocated according to regional representation. And so that would certainly reflect some of those countries. Of the 47 members, 13 are from Africa, 13 are from Asia and so that would probably cover most of that group. And I'm not sure the...(interrupted). Question: (Inaudible) Spokesperson: This backgrounder may cover that, and I can give you the names of the people to contact and you can call them and ask that specific question. Yes? Question: Do you know who the African members are who are running as candidates for the Council? Spokesperson: There is a list, and this note that's coming out very soon has the list of candidates. Okay, thank you very much. Question: Do you know if the President of the General Assembly had any comment on the matter discussed in the Council this morning, the Middle East? Some say that the statement is weaker even than the previous statements. I know it's a matter of some concern to him. Has he had any ...? Spokesperson: No, it is of enormous concern to him, but he is right now travelling, so it's very difficult to get any comments from him. But we can ask. Well, very good, thank you. For more information please contact: Sarabjit Jagirdar, Email: htsyndication@hindustantimes.com

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Load-Date: May 12, 2009



Reports of Pottu Amman, Thamlini arrests incorrect

Colombo Times

May 29, 2009 Friday

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Length: 186 words

Body

Colombo, May 29 -- News reports claiming the arrests of <u>LTTE</u> intelligence leader, 'Pottu Amman' and <u>women</u>'s political wing leader 'Thamalini' are incorrect, military spokesman, Brig. Udaya Nanayakkara has told 'Ravaya'.

'We believe that Pottu Amman was killed in battle. His body was not found and neither did he hand himself over to the Army. Reports claiming the arrest of Thamalini are false as well,' Brig. Nanayakkara has told the newspaper.

Meanwhile, 'Lankadeepa' as its lead news story in May 28 issue says that <u>LTTE</u> <u>women</u>'s political wing leader Subramaniam Sivathai alias 'Thamalini' was arrested by a special police team at a IDP camp in Vavuniya.

Rumors are also rife that Pottu Amman is being held by the military as all bodies of all <u>LTTE</u> leaders killed in the final battle were shown by the media.

However, Pottu Amman's body was not shown despite being declared as identified.

Meanwhile, 'Lakbima' in its May 29 issue says quoting a senior defence official said that 'Thamalini' was arrested in Omanthai and was handed over to the CID.

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Load-Date: May 30, 2009



Countering terrorism: When the battle within becomes the battle without

Daily News (Sri Lanka) September 7, 2009 Monday

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Length: 952 words

Dateline: Sri Lanka

Body

Sri Lanka, Sept. 7 -- Recent terror raids in Australia, for instance, calls for reflection on the possible motives behind this new form of terrorism that confronts global citizens.

A likely motivator is that a small number of people from migrant communities are unable or unwilling to cross cultural borders which prevail between the culture of their home country and that of their new country of residence. For these few, the drive to retain or even recreate an idealised version of their home culture could lead to violent consequences.

The connection between violence and terrorism is not new. In fact, there are numerous historic examples, some dating as far back to 3000BC Egypt. A classic example in the 5th Century AD was the terror attacks by the Visigoths on the Roman province that forms modern Spain. Some historians may even argue that India's First War of Independence in 1857, known more popularly as the Indian Mutiny, was a series of terror attacks instrumented by Indian sepoys against the British Raj.

Contemporary examples of terrorist organisations include the IRA guerrillas of Northern Ireland, the United Liberation Front of Assam (or ULFA) in North East India; and the recently defeated Liberation Tigers of Tamil Elam (*LTTE*) in our own country, Sri Lanka.

These terrorist movements have all used war and violence as a means of gaining advantages which are politically denied to them. Their acts of terror also exemplify malevolent retaliation against imperial oppression and foreign rule.

Today we have before us a new form of terrorism, one that is more politically and emotionally charged than the previous historic examples. These terrorists do not hesitate to use terrible acts of violence to send messages about fundamental political and religious beliefs. The recent would be attack against an Australian army base is one such example. These terror acts are not campaigns against a colonial master. Instead they are attempts by extremists to send clear messages to the rest of the world. They are instances when the battle within an individual takes monstrous proportions and emerges to terrorise the world outside.

There are several explanations for the emergence of this new form of terrorism. One main line of thought refers to the significantly high rate at which people migrate around the world, and specifically the difficulties faced by second-generation migrants. The concept of cultural border crossing can be used to explain this further.

More than ever before more people live in counties outside their birthplace. The cultural differences in the home country and the new country of residence create what migrants experience as cultural borders. Cultural borders do

not have physical margins like military-maintained state borders. They are often represented by behavioural practices and communication.

An example that comes to mind is the sacrosanctity to punctuality in some cultures and the socially graceful "timelilessness" in others. A more serious cultural border is France's non-acceptance of head-scarfs which are mandatory for <u>women</u> in some Islamic cultures. Cultural borders pose immense challenges for migrants who wish to become assimilated into a new country.

It is found that almost all first generation migrants are prepared to cross such cultural borders when they decide to leave their homelands. This does not seem to be the case for many second generation migrants, mainly for two reasons. Most second generation migrants do not have first-hand experiences of their parents' home culture. Yet they are brought up to respect the values that are endemic to that culture. For example, their eating habits, dress and the language spoken at home relate strongly to their parents' home country.

Then there is the issue of second generation migrants not developing a true sense of belonging to their new country of residence. It is common for second generation migrants to be confronted with conflicts of cultural identity. This is evidenced by non-conformist behavioural practices of many second generation migrants in an attempt to "fit-in".

In some cases, particularly when there are too many differences between their home culture and the culture of the country in which they live, second generation migrants are faced with the challenge of making a choice. Unfortunately, in some of these cases the choices they make can be skewed mistakenly by religious and political ideologies.

A few second generation migrants may choose to recreate the culture of their parents' home country, as they perceive would best exist. Such a choice easily results in a radical standpoint.

Many social scientists believe that such a desire to vent to inner turmoil is the root-cause of modern terrorism.

Unlike earlier terrorist organisations, modern terrorists are motivated by personal desires to terrorise people so that they may send messages which they believe (mistakenly) epitomise their ideal world. Perhaps the answer to tackling terrorism in countries like Australia then lies in helping migrants to transit smoothly across cultural borders.

Crossing cultural borders is not as simple as one culture learning more about another. Migrants should be made aware about the social and historic reasons behind the cultural practices in their new homeland. They need to be able to draw parallels between their own cultures and that of their new country of residence. They should be shown purpose and belonging with their new home. Most importantly, culture border crossings need to be bridges built on mutual trust. Published by HT Syndication with permission from Daily News Sri Lanka. For more information on news feed please contact Sarabjit Jagirdar at <a href="https://https

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Load-Date: September 7, 2009



Tamils in stand-off with cops

The Sun (England)
April 8, 2009 Wednesday
Edition 2

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Section: NEWS; Pg. 7 Length: 137 words Byline: PHILIP CASE

Body

HUNDREDS of cops faced a tense stand-off with 2,000 Tamil protesters in Parliament Square last night.

The illegal demonstration came after they brought major disruption to London by occupying Westminster Bridge.

Six were arrested, two for waving the flag of banned terror group the *Tamil Tigers*. Ten people were injured.

The Tamils want the Sri Lankan government to halt its offensive against the Tigers, who want a separate homeland.

At one stage yesterday 3,500 Tamils blocked the bridge. **Women** with babies were among the demonstrators. One man was hospitalised after jumping into the Thames.

The rally - set up by Brit Tamil organisations and student groups in two days using texts, emails and internet sites - took cops by surprise.

Met Police Commander Jerry Savill said: "We are trying to deal with the situation sensitively."

Graphic

Tense . . cop at protest

Load-Date: April 8, 2009



Sri Lanka: Humanitarian disaster in making

Colombo Times

April 30, 2009 Thursday

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Length: 980 words

Body

Colombo, April 30 -- Activists expressed their deep anguish and concern on unabated mass killings in Sri Lanka which is, as they underlined, "no short of a humanitarian disaster in northern Sri Lanka".

"We also protest the covert provision of economic and military aid to Sri Lanka by Indian government which has, certainly, deeply aggravated the situation in Sri Lanka" said Dr Sandeep Pandey, Ramon Magsaysay Awardee (2002) and Convener of National Alliance of People's Movements (NAPM).

The Sri Lankan government's indiscriminate military actions have exacted an appalling toll on the civilian Tamil population. Unless India does its part to negotiate an immediate ceasefire, civilian casualties will continue to escalate, tarnishing India's claim to be a morally responsible regional 'spiritual' power.

"Indeed, we have watched with growing dismay the Indian government's effective complicity with the Sri Lankan government's ongoing efforts to brutalize the Tamil minority. There is considerable evidence that, while publicly calling for a "political solution", the Indian government has covertly supplied military equipment and training to Sri Lanka through the Research and Analysis Wing (RAW) and other Indian intelligence outfits. Decades ago, sending in the Indian Peace Keeping Force (IPKF) to Sri Lanka had exacerbated the situation and questions India's claim of being a harbinger of 'peace' in the region" said Gurudayal Singh Sheetal, Leader of Prakritik Manav Kendrit Andolan, Punjab.

In July 2007, Sri Lanka's army chief, Lieutenant General Sarath Fonseka, had told journalists that India was training 800 officers annually, free of charge, describing India's support as "huge". "Furthermore, there are credible reports indicating that India's support for the Sri Lankan President Mahinda Rajapaksha government is based on base economic calculations: that Tamil areas destroyed by Sri Lanka's ferocious military offensive will offer lucrative investment opportunities for Indian companies under the guise of helping Tamils living there" said the press statement issued today by People's Union for Civil Liberties (PUCL), Uttar Pradesh state chapter.

If these reports are true, India's economic and political gain will have been purchased in blood and lives. The humanitarian situation in northern Sri Lanka is now catastrophic. According to Human Rights Watch and Sri Lankan rights groups, since January 2009 alone, at least 1,000, and perhaps as many as 2,000, Tamil civilians have been killed as a result of the Sri Lankan military's continuing artillery attacks and aerial bombing offensive. The military has openly targeted urban areas, including schools, hospitals, and buildings that house civilians.

The Sri Lankan government, believing it is on the verge of final victory over the <u>LTTE</u>, has resisted all calls for a ceasefire. President Rajapaksha has made it clear during the recent visit of UN Special Envoy Vijay Nambiar (on 17 April 2009) that he is not ready to abandon his line of "war to the finish".

Sri Lanka: Humanitarian disaster in making

The government is keeping those who have managed to flee the onslaught in detention camps that it has cynically and misleadingly termed "welfare villages". Arguing that the population of internally displaced people includes "terrorists" in its ranks, the Sri Lankan government has announced plans to hold up to some 250,000 civilians - even very young children - in the camps for a period of three years. It has requested funds from the UN and other aid agencies to build schools, banks and hospitals inside these camps. There is credible fear that, while detaining this population, the Sri Lankan government will settle majority Sinhalese in northern Sri Lanka.

The recent appeal issued by the Indian External Affairs Ministry "to the Sri Lankan Government and to all concerned to work out appropriate and credible procedures for the evacuation of internally displaced persons (IDPs) to safety, which would include the international agencies being able to oversee the movement of the IDPs" is a step in the right direction. But it is not enough.

"We demand an immediate durable and unconditional ceasefire to enable peace negotiations" said SR Darapuri, Vice President of People's Union for Civil Liberties (PUCL), Uttar Pradesh state chapter. "We demand formation of credible teams of international human rights activists, medical personnel and social workers to be present in the process of helping the civil population in the 'Vanni' to get access to food, water and medical supplies and to safeguard their human rights, sanity and dignity in the transition. Special care needs to be taken to protect, <u>women</u>, children and youth" added Darapuri.

"We demand de-mining and restoration of villages so that peoples right to return to their homes can be safeguarded and implemented. We demand a political process in which all communities will be able to participate with confidence and equal rights, irrespective of ethnicity, language, caste, creed and gender" further added SR Darapuri.

"The Tamil people's right to self-determination must be respected and implemented. Disappearances and other violence must end and freedom of the press must be guaranteed. The working classes must be able to form organisations and struggle for people's rights to Life and Livelihood. We demand that India should challenge the Sri Lankan government's proposal for compulsory confinement of these refugees in detention camps for as long as three years" said Darapuri, while reading the charter of demands activists are making on the governments of India and Sri Lanka.

There is no evidence in history where violence has been a solution to the problems of community, said Dr Ramesh Dixit, Professor of Political Science, Lucknow University. "Dialogue, not war, can lead to solutions" said Dr Dixit. Published by HT Syndication with permission from The Colombo Times.

Load-Date: May 18, 2009



Police the guardians of law - IGP

Sunday Observer (Sri Lanka) August 23, 2009 Sunday

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Length: 3027 words

Dateline: Colombo

Body

Colombo, Aug. 23 -- Many believe that the two shocking incidents, the Angulana double murders and the abduction and assault on an IT students have lowered public confidence in the Police as guardians of the law. While assuring a complete by independent and impartial inquiry into the incidents with the offenders being brought to the book, IGP Jayantha Kumara Wickramaratne says no one can tarnish the good name of the dedicated officers of his department. In an interview with the 'Sunday Observer' he said that no politician can exert pressure on his investigations into the two incidents - Angulana double murder and the abduction and torturing of the IT student. " Both President Mahinda Rajapaksa and the Defence Secretary have given me clear instructions and the Police will hold a very impartial inquiry into these incidents", he assured.

Following are the excerpts of the interview:

Q: The good image of the Police Department is fast deteriorating and it shows how the public went against the police. What do you have to say?

A: I don't agree. It is not correct to say that the good image of the police is fast deteriorating. During the last one year under my supervision, no such incidents happened to tarnish the image of the Police. Only these two incidents took place and we have taken very prompt action against them. I took the necessary precautions promptly in respect of the Angulana murder case as it was a grave crime.

The other thing that needs to be considered was the public anger against the Police. Generally, the public does not react to the police if there is no fault on the part of the Police. We have realized the gravity of the public agitation with the way they went against the police by surrounding the police station.

When this was communicated to me I gave instructions within six hours to the DIG Prassana Nanayakkara and SSP Hemantha Adikari to arrest all the offenders, produce them before Courts and transfer those Police personnel immediately. The OIC and five Policemen were remanded and a new OIC and new Policemen were posted. We have interdicted the officers who were remanded. To ensure an impartial inquiry, I instructed the Criminal Investigation Department to conduct the investigations. As a result of this decision, CID Director Ravi Widyalankara and his team apprehended two more Policemen who are responsible for this murder. They have also traced the two locations where the killings took place and they are now questioning the people of the area.

Apart from conducting the investigation, under the Criminal Procedure Act, I have appointed Director In-charge of Special Investigations, Bernard Silva, who is directly functioning under me, to ensure impartiality of the investigations.

Action will be taken against all offenders under the Penal Code. Seven policemen have already been arrested.

In regard to the IT student's case, it is alleged that he was abducted in front of the IT campus by a group of Policemen and it is also alleged that the SSP's son had joined the abductors. What we first did was as soon as we received the complaint, we recorded the statement of the injured Nipuna Ramanayake who had been admitted to the General Hospital, Colombo. In his statement to the Police he mentioned the names of some of his batch mates. Then, we recorded their statements as supportive evidence to corroborate the version given by the first complainant Nipuna Ramanayake. There was a slight delay in tracing his three batch mates as they were living out of Colombo. We sent a team of Police officers to record their statements. We immediately recorded the statement of Ravindu Gunawardena who was reported to be suffering from severe fever. While being in custody he was admitted to the hospital. We arrested 11 Policemen who are alleged to be involved in this case. We also identified others, including a Sub Inspector, who had gone to arrest the student. They were produced before the Courts and remanded. Ravindu was reported to be ill and hospitalised so we produced the B report and magistrate ordered the suspect to be remanded till August 31.

Q: The CCD Chief, SSP Gunawardena is alleged to have tried to forcibly to get a statement from the student stating his involvement with the underworld. What action has been taken against him for mis-using his powers?

A: With regard to his involvement, according to available evidence, the CCD chief has admitted the 'misdemeanours' committed by his son and wife.

The same day he had met the parents of the victim at the CCD and apologised to them. He admitted that there had been a serious lapses.

His wife and son had used his powers in this incident. It is unlawful and we have taken necessary steps to take both into custody.

Q: But he too has acted against the law when he tried to take a statement forcibly. It is understood that he is still in service. Why has no action been taken against him?

A: No one is above the law and no one can take law into their hands including the Police officers. I deny that no action has been taken against him. Apart from dealing with the suspects according to the law we have taken strong disciplinary action against all those involved in these two cases. And I want to comment on this as this was the perception that had been reported in the media. Our investigations are going on. Until the guilt is proved, all suspects have the right to defend themselves. We have commenced our own investigations. As I wanted to conduct an impartial inquiry, SSP Gunawardena and six Policemen had already been transferred from CCD within two days after the incident.

The Police always maintains its independence and impartiality in these cases and we do not want to cover up anything to protect the offenders.

Q: It was reported that the explosives laden van detained by him was just a fabricated story for a cover up and this was refuted by DIG Nimal Lewke. What action has been taken against him for mis-leading and also creating a fear-pshycosis in the public?

A: This incident is totally a different issue and it has nothing to do with the case of the IT student. DIG Nimal Lewke has provided information without knowing the exact position. What happened was, SSP Gunawardena was informed by the military intelligence about explosives in Mannar and also the details on the suspicious vehicle that was set to transport explosives to Colombo. On the information received by him he has acted very correctly and promptly. As the CCD Director he had proceeded to Mannar and detected the explosives and the vehicle with the driver. They were all taken into custody in two different places and he never brought a vehicle fitted with explosives to Colombo. Some ignorant politicians say that the vehicle was brought to Colombo without explosives. I feel sorry for their ignorance and some people make comments without any sense.

We have recovered more than 3,900 kgs of explosives from different parts of the country before the war ended and later we also recovered 2,500 kgs of explosives. This week the Police recovered three containers of explosives from Puthukudiriyappu. If I do not mention about the excellent performances by SSP Gunawardena, it is not fair by

the good work done by him to crush terrorism. Among several cases he had handled, one was the case where he brought the culprits to justice in the case relating to ransom demanding, abduction, murder of an eight-year-old child in Batticaloa. He detected several attempts at bomb explosions by the <u>LTTE</u> and nabbed several of them. He had made several detections of explosives, weapons including RPGs, mortars, missiles from Thoppigala and Batticaloa. SSP Gunawardena probed the robbery of Rs. 13 million from the Wellawatta Union Bank and brought the suspects before the law within two weeks. The inquiry in to the disappearance of a Bank manager was conducted under his direction and the investigators were able to arrest the suspect, who is an Army captain. He also handled vehicle rackets and raided 13 such vehicles.

The Police Department do not have much of capable officers like him, who are devoted and dedicated, to handle criminal investigations. Another aspect is that when there is an allegation against him, all forces that are against him will get together to make things worse for him. Criminals have various links and connections to manipulate things. They were not happy with him. He has acted not only against the criminals but also against serving army officers if ever they are suspected to have committed crimes. I know that several elements in society are also angry with Police officers. It is natural! As law enforcement officers, the Policemen have to face these challenges. It is part and parcel of the police life and we are prepared to face them. Not like other forces, the Police is dealing with the violators who are usually against us.

I have to be fair by my 73,800 people who have performed exceptionally during last year. That was the reason that the public openly praised us. I do not want to justify the two incidents but it is not fair to blame the entire Police Department and its good work after these incidents. One of the newspapers has written that the 'Police is there to kill people, but not to protect them'.

This particular news paper is having the least knowledge about the action taken by the Police Department to protect the people of this country for so many years. When there were repeated bomb explosions and killings by unidentified groups who protected the people? It was the same Policemen who protected them. We managed to restore law and order in the country. What I have to say at this juncture is that the Police is prepared to face any criticism with substance but not those without basis!

Q: Are you trying to justify or to provide a cover up to the alleged human rights violation where an innocent student was treated inhumanly by the guardians of the law by praising the good work done by him?

A: No, I am not. I will not do that to hide alleged the violation. But as the Police Chief I have to appreciate the excellent performances by this officer. Lots of people who write about this case don't know the good work done by him.

It is for their knowledge that I am making these remarks because our people have short memories. And I am not going to whitewash him or any one who has acted in this manner merely because his past record was good.

If he has committed any violation, I am prepared to deal with them. As there is nothing against him and the complaints were against his son and wife only, we have taken action first against them. The two suspects are now before the law and still the investigations are going on and if ever SSP Gunawardena's involvement is proved, I will not hesitate to take disciplinary action against him.

Q: Don't you think that the underlying reason is that most of those Policemen and **women** in the service are not fit enough to be Police officers?

A: No, I do not agree with it, because they are fit to be Police officers and not like other government servants, they were enlisted to the service after a proper investigation about their backgrounds. They also have a very good educational background. They are dedicated officers. But I agree that a handful of them, who are not qualified to be in the service, are tarnishing the image of the Policemen. At the same time because of this small lot it is not fair to judge the entire service with the same yardstick. The contribution made by the Police in this country has immensely contributed to maintain the law and order.

Q: Former DIG Kotakadeniya blamed the Police hierarchy for the mis-behaviour of the Policemen. What is you comment?

A: Yes, people can comment as they wish. I am prepared to face criticisms as well as to take action against any officer without considering his rank or status if the guilt is proved. But when there is proper supervision the chances of such behaviour is minimized.

For example, after the Akuressa bomb blast, I immediately transferred the ASP, SSP and the OIC because there were several lapses on their part. I have always taken deterrent action against those who have violated or neglected their duty. This is a common practice.

My people are very efficient and their work and dedication is similar to the work of any other Policemen in developed countries.

As I mentioned earlier they are efficient enough to arrest terrorists, hidden explosives and criminals including the underworld king pins, maintain law and order etc.

We have experts in criminal investigations and they are highly trained. Recovery of explosives, drugs and weapons can not be handled by ordinary Police officers, because it needs expertise. Therefore, we have these experts in the Department.

Several underworld criminals have been arrested. When there are over 70,000 officers in the Force, there can be 10 to 15 bad guys. Because of them one cannot put all the good officers into the same basket. They have done exceptionally well. I am really proud of my people.

Q: But there were several incidents where the Police officers maintained connections with the underworld goons and the <u>LTTE</u> as well. What action have been taken against them and how many such officers have been found guilty?

A: Yes, there were some officers who had these connections. On the other hand, this is a democratic country and any one can accuse and write against us.

We have take action against those who were found to have connections with the <u>LTTE</u> and underworld. They were subjected to disciplinary action. Out of 150 to 200 cases pending in Courts, the officers were convicted. That is why I request the public to complain to us against any Police officer and we could deal with such people.

Q: You are requesting the public to make complaints about the corrupt Policemen but are these complaints thoroughly investigated and what is the guarantee that the complainants are not subjected to harassment after lodging such complaints?

A: Yes, there is a very successful system where they can first report to the OIC of the area about such allegations against the lower rankers, then they can complain to the ASP and to make this system more efficient the government has given powers to the DIGs of each province to look into these complaints.

If they are not satisfied with the action taken at such levels they can complain to the Special Investigation Unit, which functions under my purview. When I receive such complaints I send teams of officers to the respective Provinces and conduct investigations.

They are taking prompt action. Apart from that, I have special authority to deploy police officers from Headquarters, if there are any lapses at the Provincial level. Then there is the Criminal Investigations Department, where they also can lodge their complaints.

We always maintain the secrecy of the complainants. I can give a guarantee that no harassment will take place after they make their complaints and if that happens the Police will take disciplinary action against those Police officers.

Police the guardians of law - IGP

We are receiving lots of public complaints against police officers and we have dealt with them under the law.

Q: It is said that assaulting suspects has become a norm in Police investigations and what action has been taken against those who committed inhumane acts to get information from the suspects?

A: I don't agree that this has become a norm in questioning suspects. I also don't endorse this method in investigations. In Sri Lanka, there are hardcore criminals who are not prepared to divulge information and in some grave crimes the Police investigators have to resort to some action to obtain the information. But torture is prohibited and we will deal with torturers under the Torture Act.

Q: Are these Police officers made aware about human rights at the training school?

A: Yes, the subject of human rights is being taught at training schools and there is a separate division at the Police Head Quarters where they conduct special educational programs on human rights.

Q: What action will be taken to avoid these unfortunate incidents happening in future and also to prevent the Policemen taking the law into their hands?

A: I have taken several steps with regard to this. The DIGs in the respective Provinces have been given the responsibility to maintain discipline and to take action against policemen who violate this.

All the Policemen are being educated about the present trend and their responsibility to keep the image of the department clean and also to be fair by the public when they carry out their duties. They are advised to be more people-friendly in their dealings with the public.

Q: It is said that the majority of the Policemen when served in the North are only given a crash training on paramilitary activities but they lack the knowledge of handling day-to-day investigations. Will they be given a training before they are deployed in other areas?

A: It is incorrect to say that they are not trained to handle public affairs. All these officers posted to the North were given a proper training by the Police Colleges and also in the eight Provincial Training Institutes on these matters.

They were given training on criminal investigations, human rights, man management and riot management. When they are posted to other areas they are not functioning alone but under the supervision of the senior Police officers. Therefore, they know well about handling the public.

Q: It is reported some of these Police officers have connections with politicians. Will you allow politics to hinder the investigations into grave crimes?

A: No. I will not take any orders from politicians to protect these suspects. With regard to political influence in these two cases, I can say it is absolutely nothing.

I have received very correct and clear instructions from President Mahinda Rajapaksa and the Defence Secretary to conduct the inquiries impartially and they also gave me instructions to take tough disciplinary action against the offenders. I want to reiterate that no one is above the law.Published by HT Syndication with permission from Sunday Observer (Sri Lanka).For more information on news feed please contact Surit Das at <a href="https://h

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Load-Date: August 24, 2009



Over 6,200 troops lost in last phase of Sri Lanka war: gov't

Japan Economic Newswire
May 22, 2009 Friday 9:27 AM GMT

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Section: INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Length: 194 words

Dateline: COLOMBO May 22

Body

Over 6,200 Sri Lankan soldiers died and nearly 30,000 others were wounded in the final offensive to defeat the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam that began in August 2006, Defense Secretary Gotabhaya Rajapaksa told state television Friday.

The secretary said that the security forces had made "huge sacrifices" for the victory declared earlier this week with the last of the Tiger leaders killed.

The final offensive began when the $\underline{\textit{LTTE}}$, confident of its strength, seized an irrigation sluice gate in the east, depriving thousands of peasant farmers of water.

President Mahinda Rajapaksa, elected the previous November, ordered government forces to retake the structure at Mavil Aru.

This was followed by government forces taking Kilinochchi, the declared capital in the north of the Tigers, who at the height of their power controlled almost one-third of Sri Lanka.

The *LTTE* was finally defeated in their last stronghold in northeastern Mullaitivu, a coastal area.

The defense secretary said that a total of 23,790 servicemen and <u>women</u> had been killed since 1981 in Asia's longest modern conflict.

The **LTTE** admitted in November that they had lost 22,000 members since 1982.

Load-Date: May 23, 2009



The Australian

October 28, 2009 Wednesday

N - Canberra Edition

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Section: LOCAL; Pg. 1

Length: 1499 words

Byline: Stephen Fitzpatrick, Paul Maley

Body

KEVIN Rudd's Indonesian solution was last night in chaos as Indonesian officials confirmed they were locked in a standoff with 78 asylum-seekers who were refusing to leave an Australian Customs vessel.

Indonesian government sources told The Australian the Sri Lankans had refused to give their personal details to Indonesian immigration officials as it emerged that some had threatened to kill themselves.

Officials in Tanjung Pinang were deeply unhappy with the deal struck between Canberra and Jakarta to take the refugees who have been at sea aboard the Australian Customs vessel Oceanic Viking for more than a week.

Yesterday, Indonesian officials indicated they were prepared to defy an order from President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono directing the Viking to land its human cargo at the Australian-funded Tanjung Pinang detention centre on Bintan Island.

But after earlier telling reporters Indonesia was not a ``dumping ground" for refugees, provincial governor Ismeth Abdullah softened his remarks but queried the detention centre's readiness.

A spokesman for Dr Yudhoyono said the governor's remarks had been limited to the detention centre's capabilities, not to whether the asylum-seekers would be allowed to comeashore.

The confusion underlines the difficulties Kevin Rudd will face as he increasingly looks to Jakarta to manage the influx of Australia-bound asylum-seekers.

The standoff creates a dilemma for Australian officials, with government sources confirming any forcible removals from the Viking would be the responsibility of the Australian crew, and not Indonesian police.

It is understood Indonesian police have no authority to act in such a fashion aboard an Australian ship, leaving the 30-odd crew aboard the Viking the task of evicting any intransigents.

[&]quot;We want to refuse to have them land here, because it could create new problems."

^{``}But if it's an order from Jakarta, we have to accept it. There's nothing we can do."

The developments followed another torrid day in federal parliament with Mr Rudd accusing former immigration ministers Kevin Andrews and Philip Ruddock of bypassing the UN and the International Organisation for Migration in their handling of the asylum-seeker issue.

Mr Rudd described the Liberals as ``the party of children behind razor wire" and ``the party of children overboard". The opposition continued its attack on the Rudd government's increasingly shambolic ``Indonesia solution", demanding to know when Mr Rudd was advised of the decision to detour the Viking from the port of Merak where 255 Sri Lankan asylum-seekers intercepted at Mr Rudd's request were landed.

Those on board the Viking yesterday voiced their desperation at being denied passage to Australia, saying they were prepared to die rather than be taken to Indonesia.

Meanwhile, a leading terrorism expert said a ``small number'' of <u>Tamil Tigers</u> who are in immigration detention in Indonesia had been intercepted on their way to Australia.

As Indonesian and Australian officials grappled with how to handle the 78, new figures showed 19 of the asylum-seekers to arrive on Australia's shore were return visitors, with eight having been issued temporary protection visas.

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Load-Date: October 27, 2009



The Australian
October 28, 2009 Wednesday
6 - NSW Country Edition

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Section: LOCAL; Pg. 1

Length: 1500 words

Byline: Stephen Fitzpatrick, Paul Maley

Body

KEVIN Rudd's Indonesian solution was last night in chaos as Indonesian officials confirmed they were locked in a standoff with 78 asylum-seekers who were refusing to leave an Australian Customs vessel.

Indonesian government sources told The Australian the Sri Lankans had refused to give their personal details to Indonesian immigration officials as it emerged that some had threatened to kill themselves.

Officials in Tanjung Pinang were deeply unhappy with the deal struck between Canberra and Jakarta to take the refugees who have been at sea aboard the Australian Customs vessel Oceanic Viking for more than a week.

Yesterday, Indonesian officials indicated they were prepared to defy an order from President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono directing the Viking to land its human cargo at the Australian-funded Tanjung Pinang detention centre on Bintan Island.

But after earlier telling reporters Indonesia was not a ``dumping ground" for refugees, provincial governor Ismeth Abdullah softened his remarks but queried the detention centre's readiness.

A spokesman for Dr Yudhoyono said the governor's remarks had been limited to the detention centre's capabilities, not to whether the asylum-seekers would be allowed to comeashore.

The confusion underlines the difficulties Kevin Rudd will face as he increasingly looks to Jakarta to manage the influx of Australia-bound asylum-seekers.

The standoff creates a dilemma for Australian officials, with government sources confirming any forcible removals from the Viking would be the responsibility of the Australian crew, and not Indonesian police.

It is understood Indonesian police have no authority to act in such a fashion aboard an Australian ship, leaving the 30-odd crew aboard the Viking the task of evicting any intransigents.

[&]quot;We want to refuse to have them land here, because it could create new problems."

^{``}But if it's an order from Jakarta, we have to accept it. There's nothing we can do."

The developments followed another torrid day in federal parliament with Mr Rudd accusing former immigration ministers Kevin Andrews and Philip Ruddock of bypassing the UN and the International Organisation for Migration in their handling of the asylum-seeker issue.

Mr Rudd described the Liberals as ``the party of children behind razor wire" and ``the party of children overboard". The opposition continued its attack on the Rudd government's increasingly shambolic ``Indonesia solution", demanding to know when Mr Rudd was advised of the decision to detour the Viking from the port of Merak where 255 Sri Lankan asylum-seekers intercepted at Mr Rudd's request were landed.

Those on board the Viking yesterday voiced their desperation at being denied passage to Australia, saying they were prepared to die rather than be taken to Indonesia.

Meanwhile, a leading terrorism expert said a ``small number'' of <u>Tamil Tigers</u> who are in immigration detention in Indonesia had been intercepted on their way to Australia.

As Indonesian and Australian officials grappled with how to handle the 78, new figures showed 19 of the asylum-seekers to arrive on Australia's shore were return visitors, with eight having been issued temporary protection visas.

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Load-Date: October 27, 2009



Save the Maoists

EKantipur.com

November 10, 2009 Tuesday

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Length: 1487 words

Dateline: Nepal

Body

Nepal, Nov. 10 -- It is one thing for the Maoists to want rightly to be included in the government with proportional ministerial portfolios to the number of their seats in the Constituent Assembly/ Parliament; it's quite another matter for them and their sister organisations to ransack the country on sundry pretexts, hold normal functioning hostage, terrorise people with actual or potential violence (randomly beating up and manhandling people, making a spectacle of burning motor vehicles at street corners, issuing verbal threats of all kinds from public platforms that the media carry to the public) on the unconvincing platform of restoring civilian supremacy.

For once, they must acknowledge that they screwed up the Katawal episode by trying to go solo and not following the letter and spirit of the Interim Constitution, whatever their ultimate intentions in trying to fire Katawal. This acknowledgement will restore their credibility in the eyes of the people as well as the international community who view them as a potent force of fundamental change in Nepal, but see them going off the rails. This will also make them a more complex and dynamic political force, difficult to box in or pin down one way or another. But if they persist as they have done, especially in the past six months, they will not only lose credibility among the international community but in the eyes of those Nepalis who have held them in high esteem. Only their party cadres will never be enough to put them into power in a democratic setup. And if they still harbour any notion of violent takeover of the state, they should better forget about it, for this is never going to happen given Nepal's complex geopolitics. In forgetting alone is their future safe and robust. Here's why.

Violence has never been a Maoist monopoly in Nepal. True, the Maoists used violence during the 10-year insurgency with considerable finesse and to their advantage, but their success was in no small measure due to the polarization between the royalists and the rest of the political forces in a more open multiparty setup. The UML and the Congress supporters and leaders found themselves sandwiched between the mysterious workings and intentions of the Royal Nepal Army, a history of repeated betrayals and autocratic tendencies of the royal palace and the Maoists.

Despite Sher Bahadur Deuba's Kilosera campaigns against the Maoists in the remote hills of Humla, Jumla and so on, it was nonetheless the half-heartedness of the UML and the Congress in staking out their clear positions vis-avis the palace and the Maoists that allowed the Maoists to isolate the security forces and confuse the relatively passive Congress and UML cadres in the villages and towns to spread their influence. In some deeply psychological way given Nepal's political history of the past 50 years, the Congress and the UML wanted the Maoists to succeed against the seemingly eternal monarchy. Who could imagine, save the Maoists, that not only its depredations but the monarchy itself would disappear?

Now, there is no crown to hurl innuendos, accusations and blood-curdling slogans at or gossip about its secretive doings and conspiracies. True, active supporters of the palace are still out there allegedly biding their time (as more

Save the Maoists

than one writer has pointed out in the media), but many of the passive supporters of the palace have come under the overall republican umbrella. Some have for whatever reason joined even the Maoists.

So, the field is clearly polarised now. Before, if the Maoists were the only ones armed on behalf of the "people" many of whom (especially the marginalized castes, ethnicities and www.mem) had felt oppressed by ideologies, structures and practices imposed by the Rana-Shah palace and its loyalist class and so actively or tacitly sympathized and supported the Maoists, that clear antagonism doesn't exist anymore toward a symbolic oppressor because there is no symbolically charged oppressor in the form of the palace any more. The idea of the feudal class and forces is something only the more sophisticated can understand. The Royal Nepal Army has become the Nepal Army, and despite some inkling and insinuation that there might be a few more "Katawals" left in the NA, these "Katawals" are wise enough not to come out in the open after the Katawal imbroglio. And the police and the Armed Police Force have always been visibly a civilian force. So, the political field stands polarized between the Maoists and the non-Maoists rather than a triangle of the Maoists, the Palace (read Army, police, the ruling class) and the Parliamentary forces, such as the Congress and the UML.

In such a scenario, violence no longer wears the binary colour of right and wrong, black and white, justified and unjustified - the Maoists who wielded it justifiably against the oppressive violence of the feudal forces symbolized in the monarchy, the latter made outrageously visible by ex-king Gyanendra's Mahendra doctrine. In the political equation as it exists post-Constituent Assembly election, the Maoists' actual or threat of violence will always appear outrageous, oppressive, stubborn, authoritarian, undemocratic, even fascistic. The YCL cadres and the way they have conducted themselves appear very much like the Nazi or Fascist Blackshirts or "Stormtroopers" (Sturmabteilung). So, any exercise of Maoist violence post-Constituent Assembly election has appeared not only wrong but even fascistic although the Maoists may justify it as a counterweight to the still semi-feudalist state's security forces (which was made more convincing by Ashok Rai's revelations about some Congress Party leaders insinuation to the UML party high command to dissolve the Constituent Assembly and have the constitution written by a commission as they did in 1990).

On the other hand, the Maoists should not forget that the Congress and the UML are not unfamiliar with violence as a modus operandi. Making bombs and wielding guns is not their preserve alone. The Congress was the first to use it, first against the Ranas and then against the monarchy. The UML is well known for its rite of passage through ML violence in Jhapa before they adopted non-violent politics under Madan Bhandari. And the Congress has its own Tarun Dal and the UML its Youth Force. What was before their student wing youth on college campuses has now spread through villages and towns.

Now, what happens if both the Tarun Dal and the Youth Force take up arms and begin to behave like the YCL? And then of course there are the three organized, trained and salaried forces of the police, the APF and the Nepal Army. Do the Maoists have even a remote chance now to defeat all these five forces to attempt a violent takeover of the state? If they still harbour any such dreams, they are indeed dreaming. Not just dreaming, dreaming in order to have a nightmare. This is so because the international community, too, will be always opposed to them and their violent methods. India's plate is full with Maoist and other violence, and China has bigger fish to fry, including its concern over Tibet and the Uighurs, and the U.S. and Europe with Islamic extremism and violence. If the Maoists want to remain as bad guys always in opposition, it's their choice.

On the other hand, if they desist from violent acts, use politics as a means to get into government, and exercise restraint, foresight and savvy political acumen, they are sure to win the hearts and minds of the people in the elections as their opponents, both the Congress and the UML, suffer from internal dissension, lack of any clear political programme and general exhaustion.

So, the Maoists have a clear choice. To adopt the rhetoric and disruptive violence they have been using in the name of classical revolutionary tactics of the late 19th and early 20th century world in the 21st century, squandering all the gains they have been able to make, very much like the <u>Tamil Tigers</u> of Sri Lanka, and get equated with the Talibans. Or, exercise political judgment and wisdom of the kind that seemed to be evident in the pieces by Hisila Yami in the print media, and become a popular political force committed to the cause of the oppressed through politics. The former choice doesn't need much: just a few red books by Marx, Lenin and Mao and their

Save the Maoists

memorization. The latter choice requires chewing and digesting these books and then creating a new book, a new chapter in left politics for the 21st century. Can Nepal's Maoists be creative enough? Well, so far at least, they have shown creativity and hesitant wisdom, and they have gotten this far, achieving the goals of a secular, federal and republican Nepal and the Constituent Assembly. But the real challenge lies ahead. Published by HT Syndication with permission from EKantipur.com. For more information on news feed please contact Sarabjit Jagirdar at https://dication@hindustantimes.com

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Load-Date: November 11, 2009



Police locate live grenades

Daily Mirror (Sri Lanka) May 11, 2009 Monday

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Length: 82 words

Dateline: Colombo

Body

Colombo, May 11 -- The Udappuwa police have recovered two live hand grenades buried in a block of land belonging to a person reportedly remitting funds to the <u>LTTE</u> from Malaysia. Police arrested two <u>women</u> and two men in this connection.

Police believe the owner of the land visited Malaysia frequently and is alleged to have collected cash contributions on behalf of the <u>LTTE</u>. Police are conducting further investigations. JSPublished by HT Syndication with permission from Daily Mirror Sri Lanka.

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Load-Date: May 11, 2009



After the war, winning the peace

Sydney Morning Herald (Australia)

April 25, 2009 Saturday

First Edition

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Section: NEWS AND FEATURES; News Review; Pg. 4

Length: 1433 words **Byline:** Matt Wade

Body

The endgame in Sri Lanka's military battle does not mean its problems are over, writes Matt Wade in Colombo.

His realm once covered one-third of Sri Lanka and boasted a well-equipped army, a navy and an air force. But the Tamil Tiger supremo, Velupillai Prabhakaran, now controls just eight square kilometres of sand and swamp in the north-east of the island and his guerilla army is on the brink of collapse.

Rumours have swirled in Colombo that the feared guerilla leader, who rarely appears in public, was smuggled out of Sri Lanka months ago. But the army says he remains with his dwindling band of cadres, and now moves constantly around the narrow strip of land still in rebel hands to avoid bombardment.

But the prospect of capturing the elusive Prabhakaran has been overshadowed this week by the accusation he is holding tens of thousands hostage.

The Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam, a proscribed terrorist group in more than 30 countries including Australia, is renowned for its ruthless tactics.

It invented the suicide jacket, pioneered suicide bombing tactics and pressed children into battle. It has assassinated two national leaders - the Sri Lankan president Ranasinghe Premadasa and former Indian prime minister Rajiv Gandhi.

As the Tigers have retreated over the past few months they have also been accused of corralling tens of thousands of Tamil civilians and using them as human shields.

Satellite photos released by the US this week showed the huts of more than 120,000 people living rough on the beach in rebel-held territory. They were hemmed in by defensive earth barriers constructed by the Tigers using mechanical diggers.

But on Monday the Sri Lankan Army used explosives to destroy a section of one of these fortifications and thousands of people began to pour out. The scale of the exodus caught everyone by surprise. By Thursday the Government said more than 100,000 people had crossed from rebel territory to Government-held areas, overwhelming the systems in place to deal with people displaced by the war.

After the war, winning the peace

"The Government has been saying for a long time that there were only about 70,000 people inside the no-fire zone," said the United Nations spokesman in Sri Lanka, Gordon Weiss. "That was clearly wrong."

Having realised the scale of the refugee crisis, the Government has pleaded for international assistance.

Despite the huge numbers involved, the fate of those who fled the heavy fighting between troops and Tamil Tiger cadres is shrouded in mystery.

The Government has long banned independent observers and reporters from the war zone, so the world has had to rely on official footage of the mass escape.

A few refugees were interviewed and spoke of how happy they were to have escaped terrible conditions in rebel territory.

But mostly the refugees were silent, wading through water carrying their possessions and waiting in long lines to be processed by the army.

Even MPs who represent Sri Lankan Tamils know little about those who fled.

"Nobody knows what is happening," one Tamil MP, Suresh Premachandran, told the Herald.

"Who can tell how many thousand left and how many thousand reached government areas? We are telling the Government to allow human rights organisations to be able to monitor what has been going on."

Mr Premachandran said that even though he is a parliamentarian, the army had never allowed him into camps for those who have previously fled Tiger-held areas.

The casualty toll from the mass escape is also unknown, although aid agencies estimate hundreds may have died and more than 1000 were wounded.

Meanwhile, tens of thousands of civilians remain in grave danger in the combat zone.

Dr Alan Keenan, a Colombo analyst for the International Crisis Group, said the north of Sri Lanka was currently reeling from "overlapping crises". "We are not talking about just one disaster here," he said.

The refugees who fled from the <u>Tamil Tigers</u> this week will be vetted by the army and taken to special camps, mostly near the town of Vavuniya.

Conditions in these camps, at least initially, will be bleak.

"People are exhausted, people are hungry, and people are sick," said James Elder, the spokesman for UNICEF in Sri Lanka. "Some of the camps are overflowing and new arrivals include infants who are suffering from dysentery, malnourished children and **women**, and people with untended wounds from the fighting.

"The worst thing that can now happen for people who have survived the war is for them to die from preventable [causes] in the camps."

Once the basic needs of the refugees are dealt with, these camps are likely to be problematic.

Given the Orwellian title of "welfare villages", these camps will be used to weed out those associated with the Tigers.

"These internment camps exist so that the Government can process people and determine who is a danger and who is not," Weiss said.

Eventually all the camps will have schools, banks and parks, but they will be surrounded by barbed wire and the movement of residents will be heavily restricted.

Critics have already branded them concentration camps.

For many of the refugees, it will be the first time they have not lived under the rule of the Tigers, who not long ago controlled about 15,000 square kilometres in the country's north and east and ran a parallel government.

However, the tide started to turn when the Government abandoned a much-flouted ceasefire early last year and laid the groundwork for a military build-up to deal with the Tamil rebellion.

This shift in government tactics coincided with new anti-terrorism laws in some Western countries which curtailed the Tigers' capacity to raise funds among the wealthy Tamil diaspora.

Additionally, more stringent joint patrols by the Sri Lankan and Indian navies, searching for vessels smuggling arms from South-East Asia, reduced supplies to the rebels.

After a slow start to its military campaign last year, the Sri Lankan Army started to make significant advances from September. Early this year the Tigers' administrative capital, Kilinochchi, and the strategic Elephants Pass on Sri Lanka's northern peninsula, fell to the Government.

Sri Lanka's Foreign Secretary, Palitha Kohona, said his country had taught the world an important lesson in fighting terrorism.

"For the first time the regular military force of a democratically elected government has succeeded in defeating a terrorist force," he said.

"This victory was earned not only in the battlefield but also in the hearts and minds of the people."

But the country has paid a great cost. About 75,000 people have been killed during the 25-year civil war. The UN estimates nearly 6500 civilians have been killed and 14,000 wounded in the past three months.

Military spending soaks up 20 per cent of the national budget. A recent academic study calculated that Sri Lankans would be 30 per cent richer if not for the war.

Once the army finally prevails on the battlefield, the political problems that have underpinned this brutal conflict will persist.

Kohona acknowledged that the Government faced a difficult job in "winning the peace".

He said the Government would return those in camps to their homes as soon as possible.

But Keenan is sceptical as to how quickly the military will allow people with sympathies for the Tigers to return.

"The primary goal of this government has been a military victory and it is security issues that define the policies," he said.

"I think they are going to be very reluctant to send these people back to their villages in large numbers given that so many of them, out of necessity, have connections to the [Tigers]."

Keenan said Western governments providing support for rehabilitation in the north of Sri Lanka must ensure the human rights of those in the camps are protected.

"If the donors want to be spending their money wisely and justly they need to be putting some conditions [on their donations]," he said.

The Tigers started fighting for a separate homeland for ethnic Tamils in the early 1980s, complaining they had been discriminated against by the country's Sinhalese Buddhist majority. That dream now seems more distant than ever.

After the war, winning the peace

But if the Government does not find ways to reassure Tamils in the north that their aspirations will be met, tensions are bound to simmer.

Despite facing defeat in the conventional war, the rebel group hinted this week that it would take its struggle underground.

"The methods may vary but Sri Lanka will never be able to live in peace, as it imagines a military victory will bring," it said.

Sri Lankans will be hoping that the military conflict does not turn into an underground terrorist campaign that drags on indefinitely.

Graphic

PHOTO: Liberation . . . some of the thousands of Tamil civilians fleeing rebel-held territory. Photo: Reuters

Load-Date: April 24, 2009



No Headline In Original

The Bismarck Tribune May 18, 2009 Monday

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Section: WIRE

Length: 1028 words

Byline: RAVI NESSMAN and BHARATHA MALLWARACHI Associated Press Writers

Body

COLOMBO, Sri Lanka - Clouds of black smoke drifted over the remnants of the shadow state the Tamil Tiger rebels had previously controlled across northern Sri Lanka. The once-feared insurgent group lay in tatters, its dreams of a homeland for minority Tamils dashed.

Far from the battlefield, thousands of Sri Lankans danced in the streets of Colombo, celebrating their government's stunning victory after more than 25 years of civil war that killed more than 70,000 people.

As government forces swept across the rebels' last outposts in the northeast Sunday, the Tamil Tiger rebels admitted defeat and offered to lay down their guns. The government ignored the offer and raced to clear the last pockets of rebel resistance from the battlefield.

But with rebel leader Velupillai Prabhakaran still at large, the threat of renewed guerrilla warfare remained. Several rebel fighters committed suicide when they were surrounded, but it wasn't clear whether Prabhakaran or other leaders were among them.

The <u>Tamil Tigers</u> once controlled a wide swath of the north of this Indian Ocean island nation, running a de facto state complete with courts, police and a tax system. By Sunday, they were surrounded in a patch of land less than 0.4 square miles, the military said.

On the battlefield, soldiers inspected the charred remains of rebel trucks and heavy artillery pieces, according to footage broadcast on state television. Civilians carrying backpacks and rolling suitcases were escorted from the area.

Military spokesman Brig. Udaya Nanayakkara said the civilians who had been trapped in the war zone - 63,000 in all - fled to safety during the past 72 hours. But rebel official Selvarasa Pathmanathan said the bodies of thousands of wounded and slain civilians lay strewn across the war zone.

"This battle has reached its bitter end," Pathmanathan said in a statement e-mailed to The Associated Press. "It is our people who are dying now from bombs, shells, illness and hunger. We cannot permit any more harm to befall them. We remain with one last choice - to remove the last weak excuse of the enemy for killing our people. We have decided to silence our guns."

Media Minister Anura Yapa dismissed the appeal. "We want to free this country from the terrorist *LTTE*," he said, referring to the group by its formal name, the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam.

No Headline In Original

The military spokesman denied the rebels had laid down their weapons. "Fighting is still going on in small pockets," he said.

Rights groups have accused the rebels of holding the civilians as human shields, and blamed the government for shelling the densely populated area where they sought refuge. Both sides denied the accusations.

With most journalists and aid workers barred from the war zone, it was not possible to verify the accounts of either side. Health officials in the area have said thousands of civilians were killed in shelling since the beginning of the year.

The rebels have been fighting since 1983 for a separate state for Sri Lanka's ethnic Tamil minority after years of marginalization at the hands of the Sinhalese majority.

President Mahinda Rajapaksa has said that after defeating the rebels, his government will begin talks toward power sharing and political reconciliation. But many Tamils are skeptical that the victorious government will be willing to make real concessions.

At their height, the rebels controlled 5,400 square miles, nearly one-fifth of this Indian Ocean island nation.

They had a conventional army complete with artillery batteries, a large navy and even a nascent air force, funded by an estimated \$200 million to \$300 million a year they made from smuggling, fraud and appeals to Tamil expatriates. They also carried out hundreds of suicide attacks - including the 1991 assassination of former Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi - and were listed as a terror group by the U.S., European Union and India.

A 2002 cease-fire briefly halted the fighting, but it broke down more than three years ago, and Rajapaksa vowed to destroy the rebels. With victory all but assured, Rajapaksa raced home from a trip abroad and was blessed at the airport Sunday morning by Buddhist, Catholic, Hindu and Muslim clerics. He scheduled a nationally televised news conference for Tuesday morning at Parliament.

Sri Lankans poured into the streets of the capital, Colombo, lighting firecrackers, dancing to the beat of traditional drums, waving flags and hugging soldiers.

"We all will be able to live in peace in our motherland again," said Jinadasa Liyanage, 26.

Yet the fate of Prabhakaran, the founder and unquestioned leader of the <u>Tamil Tigers</u>, and his top deputies remained unclear.

A senior military official said troops found the bodies of several rebel fighters who had committed suicide Sunday when troops surrounded them. The bodies were suspected of being Prabhakaran and his deputies, but the military was still trying to confirm their identities, the official said, speaking on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to speak to the media.

In an interview with Britain's Channel 4 news to be aired Sunday night, Pathmanathan said he had spoken with Prabhakaran personally and the rebel leader remained inside the war zone.

The portly, mustachioed Prabhakaran led the <u>Tamil Tigers</u> for more than three decades, transforming it from little more than a street gang into a feared guerrilla group. He is seen as the heart and soul of the movement.

The rebels have said that if they lost the conventional war they would return to their guerrilla roots.

The war zone was wracked by chaos Sunday, as troops sought to mop up the final pockets of resistance, Nanayakkara said. At least one suicide bomber attacked troops in the morning, the latest in a wave of rebel attacks on the advancing forces in recent days, he said. Troops killed at least 70 rebels trying to flee by boat, the military said.

No Headline In Original

Pope Benedict XVI said Sunday he was praying for peace and reconciliation in Sri Lanka and called on aid groups to do everything possible to care for the fleeing civilians.

"There are thousands of children, <u>women</u>, old people for whom the war has taken years of their lives and hope," Benedict said.

Load-Date: May 19, 2009



Reaching out for a better tomorrow

Daily News (Sri Lanka) July 25, 2009 Saturday

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Length: 2121 words

Dateline: Colombo

Body

Colombo, July 25 -- I have returned this afternoon from a visit to Vavuniya - a visit that enabled me to see, at first hand, the conditions under which the internally displaced are being housed and cared for by the Government. I must inform this House that what I saw and learned from the several parties that I talked to was the fact that conditions have improved since the critical period in the third week of May when the huge influx of people placed intense pressure on the ability and resources of the authorities to deal with the various needs of these persons. I am not, claiming that the situation in that area is ideal. Indeed as we move from a crisis phase into a care and maintenance operation and while we are focusing on creating the conditions that will permit an early return to their places of origin within the shortest space of time, the Government, assisted by its partners - both local and international - are working hard to ensure that the conditions in the relief villages and welfare centres are continuously improved and upgraded in keeping with global norms and standards. I must, at this point, emphasize that the IDP sites are a temporary measure to keep these people in safety and security until a process of sustainable return and resettlement can be ensured.

Conditions must be improved However, this does not mean that we do not provide them with the maximum level of comfort and care that we can afford. We are quite definite in our view that conditions on the so-called welfare centres and relief villages can and must be improved. As I have said on numerous occasions, these persons are not a mere statistic to be discussed as an abstract problem. These are Sri Lankan citizens with all the expectations, hopes and dreams of a better tomorrow which has been made possible by the defeat of terrorism. We must not let those aspirations wither away for want of concentrated and concerted effort on our part. The Government of President Rajapaksa is determined that, as far as possible, the shelter, water supply, sanitation, food, healthcare, education and other ancillary services must be provided in accordance with the identified needs of the people. I am particularly concerned that the so called protection needs, the right to personal safety and security and broad concerns of human rights, are adequately catered for. Keeping in mind that this a unique situation where a population of over 280,000 IDPs in Vavuniya, Jaffna, Mannar and Trincomalee Districts are being housed and cared for in the aftermath of a historic operation to rescue them from a ruthless terrorist organization, all necessary measures must be taken to ensure not only their welfare but also the welfare of the general populace of Sri Lanka in those areas and in the rest of the country. It is for this reason, that the freedom of movement of some of these IDPs has been restricted. We are not happy to do so nor are we totally inconsiderate of their rights. We are well aware that some cadres of the LTTE have infiltrated the ranks of the IDPs and, until and unless those cadres are filtered out, we have no option but to keep them within the welfare centres and relief villages. However, we have taken measures where possible to release some persons having duly considered their needs and the exigencies of their personal circumstances. Therefore over 9,000 persons- children, elderly, pregnant mothers, mothers with very young children and the disabled have been released on a gradual basis after a thorough check as to their bona fides was carried out. It is our expectation that those who can be released, will be released in the days to come.

Reunification Another 14,000 people constituting over 5,000 families have benefited from the efforts made at reunification. Persons who flooded out of the no-fire zone were sometimes separated from their families and ended up at different locations. These persons are now being reunited with their immediate family members and are able to take comfort in the company of their loved ones. The Government has no wish to add to the trauma of these persons who have managed to escape a conflict during which they were held hostage by the LTTE. The process of reunification is ongoing. In pursuance of my Ministry's role in the protection sector both from a disaster management and a human rights perspective, we have taken the lead in forming a protection working group in Colombo to discuss and take measures to alleviate the situation of the IDPs. We have invited the United Nations Resident Coordinator and Humanitarian Coordinator and the Representative of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees to join key Government stakeholders in sharing experiences and evolving solutions to the problems they face. One such outcome is the strengthening of the Community Service Centres in the Relief Villages on the basis that there is one Community Centre to service approximately 5,000 IDPs. This is a measure that we mooted and one that was fleshed out by my Ministry working in close cooperation with the Child Development and Women's Empowerment Ministry, civil society and UNHCR. We hope that a range of services can be made available to cater to the needs of the IDPs through counselling services, women's and children's desks, a desk of the Human Rights Commission of Sri Lanka, the Healthcare and Nutrition Ministry and the like. The Centres we expect will become 'one-stop shops' where several of the requirements of the IDPs will be supplied. Protection issues In this context, I have facilitated a dialogue between the Human Rights Commission of Sri Lanka and the UN System and the Vavuniya office of the Commission will be strengthened to improve their capacity to respond to protection issues. Initially for a period of six months, the Commission's regional office will be supported to undertake visits and to talk to IDPs with a view to identifying and resolving their grievances. It is my opinion that an independent national institution such as the Human Rights Commission will be the most suitable organization to play this vital role in caring for the IDP population in the Relief Villages. The IDPs, like any other group of citizens, have the right to receive information as to the Government's various services that are provided or available to them. I am pleased to inform this House that we plan to put up several information points where vital information is provided to the IDPs. Overcrowding This is a very important measure that will greatly assist the IDPs to access the range of services that are being increasingly made available to them by the Government. A lot of the incidents reported stem from the overcrowding and congestion of persons in a confined space. Inevitably, this will lead to complaints of abuse and lack of adequate protection. You will be pleased, to note that the Competent Authority for Internally Displaced Persons has taken the initiative to establish smaller satellite villages of approximately 5,000 persons each which helps ease the congestion in the larger relief villages. This has several other beneficial results. One is that camp management for a much smaller number of persons becomes much more practicable and another is that service delivery and the provision of facilities becomes much easier. Already four of these satellite villages have been established and we expect that this initiative will continue in the future. There have been several untruths published with regard to the IDPs and their situation. This is especially the case in relation to one foreign newspaper which has consistently exaggerated the situation to paint the worst possible picture of the plight of IDPs. For instance, 10 days ago this newspaper carried an article which stated that: "About 1,400 people are dying every week at the giant Manik Farm internment camp set up in Sri Lanka to detain Tamil refugees from the nation's bloody civil war". Such provocative and blatantly false language is a crass attempt to sling mud at the Government of the President. I can tell you, and through you the Members of this House, that the Healthcare and Nutrition Ministry is closely monitoring the health situation and has reported only 163 deaths in the first two weeks of this month. These figures are high but are well below danger line identified by the SPHERE guidelines for comparable humanitarian situations for the South Asian sub-region. Health issues The Disaster Preparedness and Response Unit of the Health Ministry is mapping out the causes of death and we should be able to bring down the mortality rate still further through better targeted health service provision. It is best left to the imagination to find reasons why such untruths are being bandied about by the foreign media. As my Ministry also enjoys a coordination mandate we have, from very early in the conflict, facilitated discussion between key Government focal points, international organizations and our bilateral partners with a view to overcoming the several challenges we face together in providing humanitarian assistance to those affected by the conflict. I chair the Consultative Committee on Humanitarian Assistance (the CCHA) which brings together all these parties and where we are able to jointly identify challenges and gaps and bring our collective efforts to bear on resolving any difficulties. Moreover, I have instructed the officials of the Disaster Management Centre, which comes under the purview of my Ministry, to strengthen its operational presence in Vavuniya to better coordinate the provision of humanitarian assistance by working closely with the Government,

Reaching out for a better tomorrow

international organizations, national and international Non-Governmental Organizations and the local Government institutions. We have, through this initiative, identified a potential hazard of flooding in the several zones during the upcoming rainy season and have taken steps to commence the construction of drainage systems to prevent and mitigate this risk. We will work closely with all our partners to enhance preparedness and develop mitigatory measures and responses to any foreseeable hazard. I have highlighted just a handful of measures among the many others to illustrate the Government's commitment to continuously care for IDPs and to seek to improve their living conditions. Measures Many of my ministerial colleagues have visited the IDP sites and have taken a wide range of measures to address the many issues that are bound to crop up in complex situations of this nature. We still need to work on providing better temporary shelters, more and better quality sanitation facilities, we need to focus on education and care for women and children - two very vulnerable groups - provision of psycho-social assistance, open recreational spaces and many more relief measures. Correct approach We are approaching these challenges in a structured and scientific manner. Looking ahead, we are working hard to resettle the bulk of IDPs by the end of the year. This resettlement must happen within the context of the Wadakkin Wasantham program. There are several stages which have to be gone through before we can confidently state that we have achieved all the targets that President Rajapaksa has set his Government. De-mining, ensuring of security and law and order in the North, development of physical infrastructure, restoration of damaged public and private buildings, facilitation of voluntary returns, renewal of social infrastructure and a sense of community and, finally, the resuscitation and reestablishment of democratic institutions truly representative of the people and their legitimate interests and aspirations. Our colleague, Basil Rajapaksa MP, is working tirelessly to fulfil these responsibilities in his capacity as Chair of the Presidential Task Force for Resettlement, Development and Security in the Northern Province. He is ably assisted by Minister Rishad Bathiudeen who is also working very hard. I believe every one of us, in Government and outside, needs to give them our unstinting support and cooperation to ensure the success of this truly national endeavour. It is when these are all achieved that we can confidently state that we have overcome the post-conflict challenges to add lustre to the tremendous military victory achieved over the forces of terrorism. An enduring and stable peace based on universal values of mutual respect, coexistence and brotherhood is the best tribute we can pay to the memory of the many who have made the Supreme Sacrifice for our Motherland. Published by HT Syndication with permission from Daily News Sri Lanka. For more information on news feed please contact Surit Das at htsyndication@hindustantimes.com

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Load-Date: July 25, 2009



Reaching out for a better tomorrow

Sunday Observer (Sri Lanka) July 26, 2009 Sunday

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Length: 2123 words

Dateline: Colombo

Body

Colombo, July 26 -- I have returned this afternoon from a visit to Vavuniya - a visit that enabled me to see, at first hand, the conditions under which the internally displaced are being housed and cared for by the Government.

I must inform this House that what I saw and learned from the several parties that I talked to was the fact that conditions have improved since the critical period in the third week of May when the huge influx of people placed intense pressure on the ability and resources of the authorities to deal with the various needs of these persons. I am not, claiming that the situation in that area is ideal. Indeed as we move from a crisis phase into a care and maintenance operation and while we are focusing on creating the conditions that will permit an early return to their places of origin within the shortest space of time, the Government, assisted by its partners - both local and international - are working hard to ensure that the conditions in the relief villages and welfare centres are continuously improved and upgraded in keeping with global norms and standards. I must, at this point, emphasize that the IDP sites are a temporary measure to keep these people in safety and security until a process of sustainable return and resettlement can be ensured. Conditions must be improved However, this does not mean that we do not provide them with the maximum level of comfort and care that we can afford.

We are quite definite in our view that conditions on the so-called welfare centres and relief villages can and must be improved. As I have said on numerous occasions, these persons are not a mere statistic to be discussed as an abstract problem. These are Sri Lankan citizens with all the expectations, hopes and dreams of a better tomorrow which has been made possible by the defeat of terrorism. We must not let those aspirations wither away for want of concentrated and concerted effort on our part. The Government of President Rajapaksa is determined that, as far as possible, the shelter, water supply, sanitation, food, healthcare, education and other ancillary services must be provided in accordance with the identified needs of the people. I am particularly concerned that the so called protection needs, the right to personal safety and security and broad concerns of human rights, are adequately catered for. Keeping in mind that this a unique situation where a population of over 280,000 IDPs in Vavuniya, Jaffna, Mannar and Trincomalee Districts are being housed and cared for in the aftermath of a historic operation to rescue them from a ruthless terrorist organization, all necessary measures must be taken to ensure not only their welfare but also the welfare of the general populace of Sri Lanka in those areas and in the rest of the country. It is for this reason, that the freedom of movement of some of these IDPs has been restricted. We are not happy to do so nor are we totally inconsiderate of their rights. We are well aware that some cadres of the LTTE have infiltrated the ranks of the IDPs and, until and unless those cadres are filtered out, we have no option but to keep them within the welfare centres and relief villages. However, we have taken measures where possible to release some persons having duly considered their needs and the exigencies of their personal circumstances. Therefore over 9,000 persons- children, elderly, pregnant mothers, mothers with very young children and the disabled have been released on a gradual basis after a thorough check as to their bona fides was carried out. It is our expectation that

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Reaching out for a better tomorrow

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Load-Date: July 27, 2009



News items from Asia-Pacific Desk of Xinhua

Xinhua General News Service

May 18, 2009 Monday 1:17 AM EST

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Section: WORLD NEWS

Length: 1111 words

Dateline: HONG KONG May 18

Body

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

Dollar trades around 95 yen line in Tokyo

Major news items in leading Japanese newspapers

Japan's domestic infection of new flu hit 92

Tokyo stocks open sharply lower

Major news items in leading New Zealand newspapers

Youth suicide statistics shows worrying trend in Fiji

NZ gov't takes advice on adding folic acid to bread

Major news items in leading Australian newspapers

Major news items in leading Philippine newspapers

Anti-China looting continues in Papua New Guinea

Foreign exchange rates in Nepal

Major news items in leading Nepali newspapers

Post-budget poll shows Australian PM less popular

At least 30 passengers hurt in cylinder explosion in Nepal

Cambodia to invest in rice drying machine to boost rice industry

Gold price opens higher in Hong Kong -- May 18

Seoul shares open lower

Japan's total cases of new flu reach 129

Hong Kong stocks open 1.92 pct lower

over 43,500 Australian skilled workers unemployed

Nikkei plunges 2.86 pct on stronger yen, new flu fear

Myanmar continues to take preventive measures against A/H1N1 flu

Major news items in leading Thai newspapers

Urgent: Sri Lankan troops recover body suspected to be rebel leader's son

Farmer hostage beheaded in S. Philippines

Major news items in leading Singapore's newspapers

Nepali cinema halls asked to show only domestic movies

Major news items in leading Vietnamese newspapers

Major news items in leading Sri Lankan newspapers

Vietnamese PM to visit Japan

Cambodia to take measures to ease traffic jams in capital

Major news items in leading Indian newspapers

Major news items in leading Pakistani newspapers

Foreign exchange rates in Thailand

1st Ld Writethru: Sri Lankan rebel leader's son, senior leaders killed

Moderate earthquake hits eastern Indonesia

Orientation program for self-employment starts in Nepal

Indonesia's President undertakes medical check

(Special for CAFS) President of Central Africa to visit Vietnam

President of Central Africa to visit Vietnam

2nd Ld Writethru: Sri Lankan rebel leader's son, senior leaders killed

Vietnamese export to fall 12 pct this year: report

Cholera outbreak continues spreading north of Vietnam

Europe cancels Fiji sugar grant

Roundup: Myanmar works to meet growing demand of electricity

Indonesian commerce chamber to challenge president candidates to talk on economy

Thai deputy PM denies cabinet reshuffle plan

Foreign exchange rates in Philippines

Philippine soldiers kill two leftist rebels

Indian carmaker Tata seeks assistance from British gov't

Hong Kong stocks down 1.26 pct by midday

Stocks close lower in Philippines

3rd LD Writethru: Sri Lankan rebel leader's son, senior leaders killed

Indian stocks open higher

Major news items in leading Bangladeshi newspapers

Survey finds social media popular in New Zealand

Hanoi shuts 30 dog slaughterhouses

Four killed in car accident in Singapore

Bali receives more Chinese tourists in March

Vietnamese rice export continues to reach record high

Major items in Afghan leading newspapers

(Sports)Athletes from AH1N1 flu-hit countries arrive Thailand

Indian stocks hail victory of Congress party with record- breaking soaring

Indonesian parliament asks gov't to find replacement of central bank's governor

Dollar falls to three-month low in Tokyo

Thai Speaker to ask Court to rule on executive decree to seek huge loans' borrowing

Pakistani stocks swell 10 points

Indonesian bourse to set tougher requirements for mining firms IPO

Foreign exchange rates in Bangladesh

(Sports) Indian man finishes 90th marathon in U.S.

Xinhua Asia-Pacific news summary, 0600 GMT

Vietnamese traveler isolated in Seoul for flu-like symptoms

New Zealand gov't rules out more screening of domestic flights

Urgent: Indian cabinet to resign Monday

Cambodian ruling party wins majority in local election

Air NZ freezes pay of those earning over 47,000 USD

Singapore non-oil domestic exports drop 19 pct in April

1st LD Writethru: Stocks close lower in Philippines

News items from Asia-Pacific Desk of Xinhua

1st LD Writethru: Indian government to resign, Congress to stake claim for new government

Tokyo stocks plunge 2.44 pct on surging yen, flu fear

Foreign exchange rates in New Zealand

Afghan President's brother escapes attack unhurt, guard killed

Pakistani army to stay in troubled areas till peace restored: PM

S. Korea sees record-high trade surplus in April

New Zealand sharemarket closes 0.47 percent lower

Indian stock market halted due to wild surge

Seoul shares close down

Foreign exchange rates in Laos

Foreign exchange rates in Vietnam

Indonesia's palm oil faces boycott risks from overseas buyers

Thai anti-gov't group rallies demanding Parliament to deliberate their charter draft

Urgent: Indian PM formally resigns, President asks UPA to form gov't Tuesday

Vietnam stock market index ends up

1st LD Writethru: Tokyo stocks plunge 2.44 pct on surging yen, flu fear

HK official to attend climate summit in Seoul

Mother, son admitted to hospital with A/H1N1 flu-like symptoms in south India

Urgent: Sri Lankan rebel leader killed

1st LD Writethru: Sri Lankan rebel leader killed

S. Korean scientists claim to have developed human vaccine for Influenza A

Foreign exchange rates in Cambodia

Roundup: Japan on high alert as 130 people confirmed infected with new flu

5 people killed in landslide in northeastern Bangladesh

2nd LD Writethru: Sri Lankan rebel leader killed

Temperature rise in Seoul three times faster than world average

Hong Kong stocks close 1.38 pct higher

Foreign exchange rates in Indonesia

Taiwan stocks up 1.37 pct -- May 18

Thai House approves excise tax hike on tobacco products

News items from Asia-Pacific Desk of Xinhua

Thai RSS3 rubber price

Urgent: India security forces on high alert after <u>LTTE</u> leader killed

Bangladesh orders non-governmental educational institutions to recruit 40 pct female teachers

S. Korea's central bank to re-offer 2.5 bln U.S. dollars to local lenders

UN identifies factors exposing people to natural disaster impact

S. Korea to spend 16 bln U.S. dollars on corporate restructuring

Indonesia's textile export predicted to grow 2 percent

Load-Date: May 20, 2009



In spite of my most diligent efforts, there would unquestionably be some raping - Gen. George S Patton

Daily News (Sri Lanka)
October 15, 2009 Thursday

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Length: 958 words

Dateline: Sri Lanka

Body

Sri Lanka, Oct. 15 -- The U.N. Security Council, chaired by Hillary Clinton, as the United States holds the revolving presidency, unanimously passed a resolution in a bid to stop sexual violence during conflicts and to end impunity, Hillary Clinton remarked that rape was used as a weapon in Sri Lanka during the armed conflict with the *LTTE*. As a matter of fact she has forgotten the sexual violence caused by the US Army since WW II. This article reveals some of the thought provoking factors related to sexual assault and rape in the U.S. military.

Although rape has been closely linked with the history of warfare and some view sexual violence as an inevitable concomitant of war in the present context it is a war crime. The term rape refers to forcible sexual intercourse with an unwilling partner. Rape involves varying degrees of physical and psychological trauma. Rape is extremely traumatizing. All rape victims suffer physical and psychological after effects. The persistent practice of rape in war is evocative of the misogyny of war as an extension of masculine hegemony.

US Army and sexual violence during World War II

For World War II, comprehensive statistics of prosecutions of American military personnel are available for the European theatre of operations. Those statistics indicate that rape was extensive.

US servicemen were accused of raping French <u>women</u> and when the numbers were surging it alarmed the Overall Commander Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower and he issued a directive to U.S. Army Commanders announcing his grave concern and instructing that speedy and appropriate punishments be administered.

In Vietnam, from January 1, 1965 to January 31, 1973, twenty Army Personnel and one Air Force man were convicted of rape and 14 Army Personnel were convicted of attempted rape or assault with intent to commit rape. In Vietnam (1970-73), one Navy serviceman and 13 Marine Corpsmen were convicted of rape. However, these conviction numbers in no way reflect the actual number of incidents. Among these atrocities the most horrific incident occurred in August 1967. A 13-year-old Vietnamese child was raped by American MI interrogator of the Army's 196th Infantry Brigade. The soldier was convicted only of indecent acts with a child and assault. He served seven months and 16 days for his crime.

During the Persian Gulf War 24 **female** American military personnel were subjected to rape, attempted rape, or sexual assault by American military men, according to official records. During the last Gulf war, 8 percent of **women** sent overseas were sexually assaulted or raped, according to a study by researchers for the Department of Veterans' Affairs.

In spite of my most diligent efforts, there would unquestionably be some raping - Gen. George S Patton

According to US feminine activist Lucinda Marshall there were 2,947 reports of sexual assaults in the military in 2006, an increase in reports of 24 percent over 2005. More recently, there have been the well-publicized cases of Lance Cpl. Maria Lauterbach who was murdered after accusing another Marine of rape and Jamie Leigh Jones who says that she was gang-raped while working for Halliburton/KBR in Iraq. Jones claims that after she reported her rape, the company put her in a shipping container and warned her that she would lose her job if she left Iraq for medical treatment. Beth Jameson, a Major in the US Army reserve, who was assigned to a large staging area in Kuwait. She was raped on March 20, 2003, the first night of the war, in the shower block during an alert for a feared chemical attack.

More than 200,000 <u>women</u> now serve in the US military, with at least 15,000 stationed in Iraq. The US Miles Foundation had received credible reports of rape or sexual assault (in the period August 2002 to August 2003) from 243 <u>women</u> serving in the US military in Iraq, Kuwait, Bahrain and Afghanistan.

The data suggests that nearly 1,400 <u>women</u> have been reported being assaulted and raped by their fellow soldiers, in some cases by their commanding officers. The Pentagon has released new reports in which one-third of military <u>women</u> say they've been sexually harassed.

Lynndie England, a young <u>female</u> soldier from a poor town in West Virginia, became a notorious symbol of sexual violence. She was found guilty of sexually and psychologically abusing the POWs of Abu Ghraib prison.

Pvt. Lynndie England was a United States Army reservist who served in the 372nd Military Police Company. She was one of eleven military personnel convicted in 2005 by the Army courts martial in connection with the torture and prisoner abuse at the Abu Ghraib prison in Baghdad during the occupation of Iraq.

Fourteen year old Abeer Qassim Hamza lived with her family a few miles North of the Iraqi town of Mahmoudiya. On March 12, 2006 three US soldiers went drinking and then changed out of their uniforms into dark clothes.

They burst into her house. According to the affidavit, Steven Green, a private in the US Army, took Abeer's family her mother, Fikhriya Taha; her father, Qassim Hamza; and her 5-year-old sister, Hadeel Qassim Hamza - into a bedroom and killed them. He came out, blood on his clothes, bragging about what he'd just done. Then he and another soldier took turns raping Abeer. When they were done, they shot and killed her. Then they set fire to her body.

Steven Green, former US Soldier was convicted of the rape and murder of 14-year-old Abeer al-Janabi and the killing of her mother, father and six-year-old sister in Baghdad in 2006. In his trial Steven Green said I am a Psychopath or a sexual predator or whatever. But if I had never gone to Iraq I would never have got caught up in anything like this. Published by HT Syndication with permission from Daily News Sri Lanka. For more information on news feed please contact Sarabjit Jagirdar at https://dication.org/hindustantimes.com

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Load-Date: October 15, 2009



News items from Asia-Pacific Desk of Xinhua

Xinhua General News Service May 18, 2009 Monday 12:10 PM EST

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Section: WORLD NEWS

Length: 1111 words

Dateline: HONG KONG May 18

Body

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

Dollar trades around 95 yen line in Tokyo

Major news items in leading Japanese newspapers

Japan's domestic infection of new flu hit 92

Tokyo stocks open sharply lower

Major news items in leading New Zealand newspapers

Youth suicide statistics shows worrying trend in Fiji

NZ gov't takes advice on adding folic acid to bread

Major news items in leading Australian newspapers

Major news items in leading Philippine newspapers

Anti-China looting continues in Papua New Guinea

Foreign exchange rates in Nepal

Major news items in leading Nepali newspapers

Post-budget poll shows Australian PM less popular

At least 30 passengers hurt in cylinder explosion in Nepal

Cambodia to invest in rice drying machine to boost rice industry

Gold price opens higher in Hong Kong -- May 18

Seoul shares open lower

Japan's total cases of new flu reach 129

Hong Kong stocks open 1.92 pct lower

over 43,500 Australian skilled workers unemployed

Nikkei plunges 2.86 pct on stronger yen, new flu fear

Myanmar continues to take preventive measures against A/H1N1 flu

Major news items in leading Thai newspapers

Urgent: Sri Lankan troops recover body suspected to be rebel leader's son

Farmer hostage beheaded in S. Philippines

Major news items in leading Singapore's newspapers

Nepali cinema halls asked to show only domestic movies

Major news items in leading Vietnamese newspapers

Major news items in leading Sri Lankan newspapers

Vietnamese PM to visit Japan

Cambodia to take measures to ease traffic jams in capital

Major news items in leading Indian newspapers

Major news items in leading Pakistani newspapers

Foreign exchange rates in Thailand

1st Ld Writethru: Sri Lankan rebel leader's son, senior leaders killed

Moderate earthquake hits eastern Indonesia

Orientation program for self-employment starts in Nepal

Indonesia's President undertakes medical check

(Special for CAFS) President of Central Africa to visit Vietnam

President of Central Africa to visit Vietnam

2nd Ld Writethru: Sri Lankan rebel leader's son, senior leaders killed

Vietnamese export to fall 12 pct this year: report

Cholera outbreak continues spreading north of Vietnam

Europe cancels Fiji sugar grant

Roundup: Myanmar works to meet growing demand of electricity

Indonesian commerce chamber to challenge president candidates to talk on economy

Thai deputy PM denies cabinet reshuffle plan

Foreign exchange rates in Philippines

Philippine soldiers kill two leftist rebels

Indian carmaker Tata seeks assistance from British gov't

Hong Kong stocks down 1.26 pct by midday

Stocks close lower in Philippines

3rd LD Writethru: Sri Lankan rebel leader's son, senior leaders killed

Indian stocks open higher

Major news items in leading Bangladeshi newspapers

Survey finds social media popular in New Zealand

Hanoi shuts 30 dog slaughterhouses

Four killed in car accident in Singapore

Bali receives more Chinese tourists in March

Vietnamese rice export continues to reach record high

Major items in Afghan leading newspapers

(Sports)Athletes from AH1N1 flu-hit countries arrive Thailand

Indian stocks hail victory of Congress party with record- breaking soaring

Indonesian parliament asks gov't to find replacement of central bank's governor

Dollar falls to three-month low in Tokyo

Thai Speaker to ask Court to rule on executive decree to seek huge loans' borrowing

Pakistani stocks swell 10 points

Indonesian bourse to set tougher requirements for mining firms IPO

Foreign exchange rates in Bangladesh

(Sports) Indian man finishes 90th marathon in U.S.

Xinhua Asia-Pacific news summary, 0600 GMT

Vietnamese traveler isolated in Seoul for flu-like symptoms

New Zealand gov't rules out more screening of domestic flights

Urgent: Indian cabinet to resign Monday

Cambodian ruling party wins majority in local election

Air NZ freezes pay of those earning over 47,000 USD

Singapore non-oil domestic exports drop 19 pct in April

1st LD Writethru: Stocks close lower in Philippines

News items from Asia-Pacific Desk of Xinhua

1st LD Writethru: Indian government to resign, Congress to stake claim for new government

Tokyo stocks plunge 2.44 pct on surging yen, flu fear

Foreign exchange rates in New Zealand

Afghan President's brother escapes attack unhurt, guard killed

Pakistani army to stay in troubled areas till peace restored: PM

S. Korea sees record-high trade surplus in April

New Zealand sharemarket closes 0.47 percent lower

Indian stock market halted due to wild surge

Seoul shares close down

Foreign exchange rates in Laos

Foreign exchange rates in Vietnam

Indonesia's palm oil faces boycott risks from overseas buyers

Thai anti-gov't group rallies demanding Parliament to deliberate their charter draft

Urgent: Indian PM formally resigns, President asks UPA to form gov't Tuesday

Vietnam stock market index ends up

1st LD Writethru: Tokyo stocks plunge 2.44 pct on surging yen, flu fear

HK official to attend climate summit in Seoul

Mother, son admitted to hospital with A/H1N1 flu-like symptoms in south India

Urgent: Sri Lankan rebel leader killed

1st LD Writethru: Sri Lankan rebel leader killed

S. Korean scientists claim to have developed human vaccine for Influenza A

Foreign exchange rates in Cambodia

Roundup: Japan on high alert as 130 people confirmed infected with new flu

5 people killed in landslide in northeastern Bangladesh

2nd LD Writethru: Sri Lankan rebel leader killed

Temperature rise in Seoul three times faster than world average

Hong Kong stocks close 1.38 pct higher

Foreign exchange rates in Indonesia

Taiwan stocks up 1.37 pct -- May 18

Thai House approves excise tax hike on tobacco products

News items from Asia-Pacific Desk of Xinhua

Thai RSS3 rubber price

Urgent: India security forces on high alert after <u>LTTE</u> leader killed

Bangladesh orders non-governmental educational institutions to recruit 40 pct female teachers

S. Korea's central bank to re-offer 2.5 bln U.S. dollars to local lenders

UN identifies factors exposing people to natural disaster impact

S. Korea to spend 16 bln U.S. dollars on corporate restructuring

Indonesia's textile export predicted to grow 2 percent

Load-Date: May 19, 2009



Female Tiger leader nabbed

Daily Mirror (Sri Lanka)
October 24, 2009 Saturday

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Length: 109 words

Dateline: Sri Lanka

Body

Sri Lanka, Oct. 24 -- A woman described by police as a former provincial <u>LTTE</u> leader was arrested in Kalmunai yesterday by the Special Task Force following information provided by the State Intelligence Service

The suspect who had been assigned to the <u>LTTE</u> Kanchikudiyaru base had reportedly worked under base leader 'Ram', police media spokesman Nimal Mediwaka said.

The suspect was handed over to the Akkaraipattu police for further questioning and investigations, DIG Mediwaka said. Published by HT Syndication with permission from Daily Mirror Sri Lanka. For more information on news feed please contact Sarabjit Jagirdar at <a href="https://doi.org/10.1007/jtm2.2007/jt

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Load-Date: October 24, 2009



Sri Lanka says 100 Tigers killed

UPI

April 5, 2009 Sunday 12:38 AM EST

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Length: 180 words

Dateline: COLOMBO, Sri Lanka, April 5

Body

About 100 <u>Tamil Tigers</u> were killed Saturday in a series of battles with the Sri Lankan military, the government said.

Soldiers found 35 bodies after one clash, Colombo Page reported. Another 58 members of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam were found dead after another battle and 18 were killed in a sea fight between naval vessels and Tigers in boats.

The Tigers have been engaged in a deadly civil war for a quarter century aimed at creating an independent Tamil state. Recently, the government began a major offensive, and the military says it is close to victory.

About 100,000 Tamil civilians are between the contending armies, The Observer reported. The British newspaper said it has been able to get testimony from <u>women</u> who said their husbands or sons have been taken and not seen again.

&"We are extremely concerned about the situation faced by minorities in Sri Lanka's conflict area,&" said Chris Chapman of Minority Rights International. &"Apart from the humanitarian catastrophe in the battle zone, there is also evidence of rising incidents of human rights violations.&"

Load-Date: April 6, 2009



Confronting false dichotomies

Daily News (Sri Lanka) April 7, 2009 Tuesday

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Length: 1085 words **Dateline:** Colombo

Body

Colombo, April 7 -- Excerpts of the keynote address by Sri Lankan Ambassador to Belgium, Luxembourg and the EU Ravinatha P. Aryasinha at the Eurojust Tactical meeting on "*LTTE* Front Organisations" on March 30 and 31 at the Hague.

**** Terrorist front organisation phenomenon is not a Sri Lankan problem alone. It remains a fundamental problem that all nations big and small, developed and developing, rich and poor, militarily powerful and weak, in all corners of the world have to confront, if we are to succeed in what is referred to as "the fight against terrorism". Contemporary counterterrorism efforts as an instrument for attaining peace, have been described as a global 'public good'. It is non-excludable and non-rival in consumption, and its benefits reach across borders, generations and population groups and once accomplished, the whole of humanity benefits. It is for this reason that for the purpose of this discussion, I posit the issue of the need to take action against terrorist front organisations, as a public good. The 'front organisation phenomenon' Not only are these front organisations a problem as they serve terrorists and contributes to the mayhem they create, they also effectively exploit the generosity and decency of civic-minded people in your countries. Additionally, they undermine your financial systems, particularly at a time when it already is in deep crisis. It is widely known that what sustains terrorist organizations the world over is money, and that while freezing terrorist funds have proved to be an effective means of disrupting terrorist activity, following the money has enabled investigators to uncover previously unknown links between terrorist operatives and even to thwart such activity. Fund channelling A major channel for its supply are the respective Diaspora, who may be mobilized through 'front organizations' that take many forms - religious, cultural, humanitarian, women, youth, students and sports. Front organisations by their very definition, are entities set up and controlled by another organisation, but which espouse the objectives/policies of their parent body. The advantage front organisations have is that they can act for the parent group, without the actions being attributed to the parent group. In the political sphere, such front organizations can increase the legitimacy of the causes they represent, neutralizing the stigma that might be attached to already discredited organizations which espouse the same cause. Until recent times, it is mostly charities and non-profit organisations that were regarded as playing this role. However, in more recent times, following the advances in ICT and banking technologies in a globalized world, we have witnessed companies, media outlets, religious centres and even educational institutions serving as front organisations for terrorists. It is in the above context that front organizations become a valuable vehicle through which terrorist groups could continue their activities, inspite of proscriptions and serious limitations imposed upon them, particularly in the aftermath of 9/11. Confronting terrorist front organizations While charity remains a value of paramount importance to donors and recipients alike, illicit actors have amply demonstrated that the charitable sector is vulnerable to abuse. Devising policies that protect charities from abuse, even as they promote charitable giving, remains a major challenge. There are a number of modalities that have been operationalized which provides for dealing with the problem of charities and other bodies serving as front organizations, that contribute towards the perpetuation of terrorism. These include

Confronting false dichotomies

-the UN's Security Council resolutions 1267 and 1373, the US Executive Order 13224 and sections of the UK's Terrorism Acts 2000 and 2006. While conscious of the work being done by the EU, through the UN and also within the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) of the OECD, to combat money laundering and terrorist financing. I am not aware of any commensurate specific collective measures operationalized by the EU, that sufficiently address the specific phenomenon of terrorist front organizations, with the efficacy this 'moving target' demands. Counterterrorism This seems unfortunate for an institution that has been considerably pro-active in counter-terrorism and since the entry into force of the Amsterdam Treaty in June 1999 has adopted numerous measures to develop the European criminal law-enforcement area, along with agencies such as Eurojust, Europol and SitCen. Within months after 9/11, the EU adopted Council Common Position 2001/931/CFSP on the application of specific measures to combat terrorism (which lays down the criteria for listing persons, groups or entities involved in terrorist acts and identifies the actions that constitute terrorist acts) and Council Regulation (EC) No 2580/2001 on specific restrictive measures directed against certain persons and entities with a view to combating terrorism (which provides for freezing of all funds, other financial assets and economic resources belonging to the persons, groups and entities concerned). On June 22, 2002, the EU adopted framework decision 2002/475/JHA on Combating Terrorism. On November 24, 2005, Council decision 14781/1/05 spelt out an EU strategy "for Combating Radicalization and Recruitment to Terrorism" and the EU Counter-Terrorism Strategy unveiled on November 30, 2005 lists as key priority initiatives "to pursue and investigate terrorists across our borders and globally" while continuing to "support the efforts of Member States to disrupt terrorists by encouraging the exchange of information and intelligence between them." As part of its Action Plan to combat terrorism, the EU has also taken measures to improve cooperation among the intelligence services, national authorities and emergency services of member states to adequately assess terrorist threats. More recently, on July 17, 2008 the EU proposed a revised strategy on terrorist financing, and on November 27, 2008 through 15139/08 and 8807/08 the European Council adopted a framework decision amending framework decision 2002/475/JHA, to extend the offense of 'terrorism' to include three new offenses in EU legislation: Public provocation to commit a terrorist offence (including dissemination of terrorism propaganda through internet), recruitment for terrorism, and Training for terrorism. Published by HT Syndication with permission from Daily News Sri Lanka.

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Load-Date: April 10, 2009



<u>Tamil protesters continue to block London's Parliament Square over Lanka</u> offensive

Asian News International (ANI)

April 8, 2009 Wednesday

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Length: 173 words

Byline: ANI

Body

London, Apr.8 (ANI): Protests by Tamils based in Britain are continuing for the third day in and around London's Parliament Square.

Police arrested seven people on Tuesday as a crowd protested against the Sri Lankan government's offensive against Tamil Tiger rebels and alleged human rights abuses.

Up to 5,000 people - including <u>women</u> and babies - forced the closure of nearby Westminster Bridge by staging a sit-in on Monday night, reports the Daily Express.

The bridge was reopened to traffic at around 9 a.m. on Tuesday.

The Sri Lankan government has rejected international calls for a ceasefire, claiming it is on the verge of defeating the *Tamil Tigers*, a rebel group which is fighting for an independent homeland.

The protesters say the lives of thousands of civilians are in danger and want the UK government to take action.

Leicester East MP Keith Vaz is expected to deliver a letter to Downing Street calling for the situation in Sri Lanka to be debated by the UN Security Council. (ANI)

Load-Date: May 5, 2009



<u>Tamil protesters continue to block London's Parliament Square over Lanka</u> offensive

Hindustan Times

April 8, 2009 Wednesday

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Length: 177 words

Dateline: London

Body

London, Apr. 8 -- Protests by Tamils based in Britain are continuing for the third day in and around London's Parliament Square.

Police arrested seven people on Tuesday as a crowd protested against the Sri Lankan government's offensive against Tamil Tiger rebels and alleged human rights abuses. Up to 5,000 people - including <u>women</u> and babies - forced the closure of nearby Westminster Bridge by staging a sit-in on Monday night, reports the Daily Express. The bridge was reopened to traffic at around 9 a.m. on Tuesday. The Sri Lankan government has rejected international calls for a ceasefire, claiming it is on the verge of defeating the <u>Tamil Tigers</u>, a rebel group which is fighting for an independent homeland. The protesters say the lives of thousands of civilians are in danger and want the UK government to take action. Leicester East MP Keith Vaz is expected to deliver a letter to Downing Street calling for the situation in Sri Lanka to be debated by the UN Security Council. Published by HT Syndication with permission from Asian News International.

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Load-Date: April 9, 2009



View Points

The Straits Times (Singapore)

May 15, 2009 Friday

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Length: 190 words

Body

WE SAY

Spare these people caught in the crossfire

The Sri Lankan military, with its firepower and tactical wherewithal, had better pull out something special to finish off the last of the <u>Tamil Tigers</u>, or it must consent to an evacuation of the trapped refugees. These innocents must be spared. Too many have died already. The government should begin to count the cost of the campaign: The international goodwill it may be losing when it comes time to organise a post-war reconstruction effort.

EDITORIAL

COLUMNS

Preparing for a pandemic

The HIN1 flu outbreak provides a chance for us to plug gaps in health-care practices, says Salma Khalik.

REVIEW

Changing roles of women

The battle is tough, but Indonesian women are fast gaining ground in the fight for equality, says Bruce Gale.

REVIEW

OUR READER SAYS

Whose responsibility?

Nazrah Bani Nazeer Mohamad asks which authority is liable for damage caused by a falling tree to her father's van.

FORUM

ONLINE BLOGS

www.straitstimes.com

Tracy Quek reminisces as her time in Beijing comes to a close and she finds it hard to let go.

Tessa Wong thinks touting Geylang's sex scene as a tourist attraction is wrong.

View Points

Load-Date: May 14, 2009



President joins street crowds celebrating the victory

Colombo Times

May 20, 2009 Wednesday

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Length: 169 words

Body

Colombo, May 20 -- President Mahinda Rajapaksa surprised the entire nation last night when he joined the ordinary people in the streets of Colombo and participated in the common man's celebrations on the victory over the **LTTE**.

He disregarded all security safeguards and joined the ordinary folk in the streets partaking of the traditional 'kiribath' (milk rice) and 'kavung' (oil cakes). The people were dancing around him, some <u>women</u> even going down on their knees to worship him, to show their immense gratitude for decimating the <u>LTTE</u> and sweeping the terrorist movement out of this country.

President Rajapakse had joined the jubilant crowds in their victory celebrations at Maharagama, Boralesgamuwa, Thimbirigasyaya and Boralesgamuwa junctions in the greater Colombo area last night.

There are songs being sung over National TV and Radio calling him "Our King Rajapakse", wishing him "Ayubowewa" which means "May your life span be increased".

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Load-Date: May 21, 2009



Countrywide rejoicing

Daily News (Sri Lanka) May 18, 2009 Monday

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Length: 150 words

Dateline: Colombo

Body

Colombo, May 18 -- People of all walks life carrying Lion flags took to the streets celebrating the nation's victory over <u>LTTE</u> terrorists when the media broke the news that terrorist leaders were confined to a small stretch of land after 30 years.

They waved the national flag and lit firecrackers few minutes after President Mahinda Rajapaksa's arrival to the Motherland telecast over national TV. Colombo and suburbs echoed with firecrackers while people carried slogans against the <u>LTTE</u> throughout yesterday. Leaders of all religious denominations blessed the President and the Security Forces who saved the country from the terrorists. Bells in religious places tolled in support of the Security Forces. <u>Women</u> also played the Rabana while kiribath was served to the people. They voiced their happiness over the Forces' victory. Published by HT Syndication with permission from Daily News Sri Lanka.

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Load-Date: May 18, 2009



Sri Lanka's South unites to help North

Sunday Observer (Sri Lanka) May 3, 2009 Sunday

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Length: 1102 words

Dateline: Colombo

Body

Colombo, May 3 -- We Sri Lankan citizens make up a nation most unfairly treated by the so- called "International Community" that represents only the Western countries in recent times. Any discernible person would perceive this on seeing the large crowds thronging at places where aid is collected for the war-affected people in the North. Thousands of men, <u>women</u> and children are seen handing over food, clothes, sanitary goods, toys, etc., to the best of their ability.

At present, there are over dozen such aid collecting programs sponsored by the State and non-state institutions. Aid collecting centres have been established in every major town, whereas vehicle conveys are travelling across the country receiving donations made even at the remotest village. No one had to ask them to make donations; it is the spontaneous response of the Sri Lankan citizens to the sufferings of their own brethren. One cannot see any racial barrier to their compassion, but there is a firm resolution on their faces. A resolve to stand against all odds and to help their brethren is clear on every face. Goods being loaded at the B.M.I.C.H. to be despatched to the North Never in her 2500 year old documented history, has Sri Lanka fought a war aimed at destroying another nation or to exploit wealth of the others. Never has she committed despicable crimes like helping terrorist movements in neighbouring countries, or driven millions of people to their death by starvation by maintaining economic blockades. The war she has been fighting during last quarter century is to free her own citizens from the clutches of the most barbaric terrorist outfit known to mankind. Yet, it is so unfortunate that the so-called international community has been so miserly in lending its helping hand to the people of this Third World nation to end its misery. Sri Lanka's war against terrorism has been often misinterpreted as genocide against the Tamil minority. The Western media has been using a variety of adjectives when commenting on Sri Lanka's war, to convince the world that it is not a war against terrorism, but one between two ethnic groups. Ironically, none of those adjectives can be found in their reportage on Iraq, Afghanistan or on the Gaza Strip. The terrorists who use child soldiers in combat, pioneered suicide bombing, enjoy the most abominable orgies of violence in ethnic cleansing raids are being shown to the world as a rebel group fighting for the rights of the Tamil people. Throughout our effort to combat terrorism, a section of the International Community has been pressuring all governments in Sri Lanka to negotiate with the terrorists. This controversial policy of treating a terrorist outfit and a democratically elected government as equals has robbed us of our opportunity to rid the country of terrorism more than once. Tens of thousands of lives could have been saved but for this duplicity. Unfortunately, we are being asked to undergo the same predicament once again. Dirty tricks of politicians in some countries (preaching us on ceasefires) during election time are understandable as cheap politics. They have no other option other than taking their voters for a ride on communal sentiments, as they had done no other service to their people. Feverish clamouring of the false Tamil "Diaspora" who is agitated over the possibility of losing their asylum status can also be understood. They need no Eelam but to live their luxurious lives in Western countries at the expense of continued sufferings of the Sri Lankan citizens. What is not understood is the interest of the Western powers to stop us from eradicating the

Sri Lanka 's South unites to help North

terrorists that have committed horrendous crimes against us. Some want us to give amnesty to the terrorists, some asks us to let a third party to take care of the terrorist leaders, some wail for a ceasefire, some have made it a habit of making the most absurd comments on our war time and time again. The Government has let all foreign media. foreign envoys, UN workers, etc. to meet the people who had been recently liberated from being hostages of the LTTE. They have listened to the sufferings undergone by these people from their own ears. They have met thousands of parents whose children had been forcibly conscripted by the terror outfit. They have seen thousands of others who had been maimed by the same terrorists they want to save from the approaching military defeat. If they have any knowledge about the short history of this conflict they should be able to understand that the terror outfit we have been fighting with, seriously lacks scope to engage in any meaningful negotiation process. Ironically, we hear the same story, "genocide against Tamils", and warnings for "both parties", "ceasefire", etc. This barefaced denial of reality does not deserve any other description than hypocrisy of the first degree. Anyone who visit those collection centres for aid for Northern IDPs could witness how the people in the South have joined hands to help their brethren in destitute. This response of our people is not stage-managed or something unusual. It is something they have inherited from the 2500-year-old history and rich culture; a history of getting together and helping each other when in need. What we seek is empathy, not sympathy, from all discernible people in the world over. We want them to understand the way we feel about being forced to live with the most brutal form of terrorism for nearly three decades. We want them to understand the frustration that we are in, for being so unfairly labelled as a racist nation, and as a group of barbarians who enjoy killing each other. Finally, we want them to fathom, the extent of despair we have about the behaviour of the so-called Western human rights champions. The general idea among the common people in Sri Lanka, whose voice is rarely heard in the Western media, is that the whole international opinion about Sri Lanka is based on one big lie created by those so-called independent media and other opinion makers. Has anyone experienced similar responses in other country's that are engaged in internal conflicts or global wars of terror? Do they represent a nation that is plagued with racial or religious hatred? What all peace-loving Sri Lankans we request from the Western world is to help us finish the job we have started and bring peace to our nation. If Sri Lanka loses this time, the whole world will be lost.....by the encouragement given to terror. Moreover, her fate would go into the annals of world history. Published by HT Syndication with permission from Sunday Observer (Sri Lanka).

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Load-Date: May 4, 2009



World - Sri Lanka hospital hit again

Morning Star
May 14, 2009 Thursday

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Length: 164 words

Body

Shells slammed into the only hospital in Sri Lanka's northern war zone for the second consecutive day on Wednesday, killing at least 50 people.

Medics at the makeshift facility said that they were using brief lulls between explosions to tend to patients, but they had little to offer beyond gauze and bandages.

It was the third attack this month on the hospital and comes on the heels of shelling this past weekend that killed as many as 1,000 civilians.

On Tuesday, shells struck the admissions ward, killing 49.

Trapped in the tiny coastal strip as the government presses ahead with its offensive against the separatist Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (*LTTE*), the wounded had little alternative but to converge by the hundreds to seek treatment.

<u>LTTE</u> spokesman Seevaratnam Puleedevan said that shells had also hit a home for mentally handicapped <u>women</u>, killing 38 and wounding more than 40, but health officials were not able to confirm that attack.

Shelling also killed a Red Cross worker.

Load-Date: May 14, 2009



chatroom

The Gold Coast Bulletin (Australia)

November 21, 2009 Saturday

B - Main Edition

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Section: Pg. 109

Length: 1399 words

Body

Kiwi population

What was that mp thinking when he said there was too many kiwis here then what about all the other nationalities that are here what about all the boat people that are trying 2 get into the country at least we work we keep the economy going and so what about the 1st home owners grant at least we have our own home which makes more homes for those lease fortunate im not going back to nz and why should i.

Whats with the kiwi population on the Goldy? They come here n treat us like we're the ones who dont belong! Our government is making it 2 easy 4 them! - M.E

Kiwi govt pays oz govt to reimburse centrelink payments.has done for few years now.did you not know you can go there on the dole too.who would you rather boat load of Kiwis or tamils.atleast we pay our way. - 100%Kiwi

Had 2 laugh at group of so called hard working aussies.had cheek 2 say we take all thier jobs .i offer 4 of them a permanent job labouring 4 render company.they all said no.hired 4 kiwis. - irish dan

To all u pathetic ossies moaning about kiwis - change the record! We r here to stay working & paying taxes just like anyone else. If u go to NZ-u too would b entitled to 1st home buyers grant & i'm sure u too would have ossie stickers on yr car. Get ova yourselves & they say poms r a whining nation?! - Leila

Typical labor reply to population over crowding ban kiwis from from coming to Oz!. If yr labor mates stopped letting in undesirables & illegals with their own agendas & allowed our Anzac mates in there would b plenty of room. There is a correct way to enter any country & illegally isnt one of them...kris.

I agree that kiwis are not bludgers but stop coming here taking our jobs for less money than we work for

Refugee debate

IT is disgusting to see an aged pensioner living on the street with no affordable housing offered by the government (RE :TODAY TONITE) Yet the government is allowing the so called refugees, who were holding an Aussie customs vessel to ransom, entry to Australia. They will be given welfare, medical, study allowance Housing etc etc etc. Lets go to their country and see how far we get, probably shot. I say send them back, we dont need them here. - Dave M.

chatroom

To Tex 13th Boat People. Didn't you know <u>Tamil Tigers</u> blew up and killed thousands of innocent Men. <u>women</u> and Children in their terrorist activities. These terrorists were supported by donations from the Australian Tamil population. Also the acid attack in Sydney on several people, was racist committed by ex Tamils. I to have lived and worked overseas in several so called 3rd World countries but we cannot open the flood gates to economic que jumpers.

Best of the rest

WITH regard 2 no public radiation facility its not gc fault but our govt the same govt that says takeout pvt hlth cov, what a joke. Ive done right thing, and out of pocket 1000's of \$ 1 visit @ pvt rad clinic \$900 mc pay 80% of sched fee pvt hlth cov pay nothing you do the math. I wll b tossing hlth cover , i,m sure im not the only 1 in same boat. It seems if u choose to stick a needle in ur arm u get all the free help, but get cancer ur on ur own.do i sound bitter I AM. - KHnn

To K.H free needles to substance abusers reduces the chance of shared needles, reducing the chance of infections which puts less stress on hospitals. Think about it. - Jai

DALE'S our star just like Titan Scott says Ron because he's qualified & saved the council \$100 million. So if 3000 employees who i suppose arent qualified should not get any of that 100 mill working on percentages of course as every small increase is a million or so dollars. Well you got 100 mill 2 play with so you better get all those 3000 worker's qualified otherwise i wont be able 2 swim down at my favourite beach. You boys & girls better get qualified then you can get a bigger percentage bugger the the worker's Dale's got your share he's qualified ask the Mayor. - The beach CE0

Ron Clarke says a pay rise of \$30 for 3000 staff equals near \$1 million. I make that only \$90000 He is obviously out of his depth as with most councillors. Bring in an administrater!

Why is it that Radio Announcers are just talking about rubbish these days, especially on the breakfast shows. We the listeners do not want to know what you had for dinner last night or what you watched on TV or all the other garbage you garble on about. Join Facebook or Twitter if you want to do that. Could someone please tell me if Radio stations earn more money from announcers talking rather than playing music. I certainly wouldnt like to be advertising on these stations. - TURNED OFF LISTENER.

Enough on the bottle or breast debate. New mums are under enough stress already in this day and age with work commitments, financial hardships, sleep deprivation, an incompetent govt (sorry, saw the opportune there to kill another bird with the same stone) etc, let alone the unnecessary pressure of being shunned if u are not providing the goodies via the mammaries! My heart ached everytime i saw my wife in pain because health nurses persisted that she shouldn't stop. And we were met with frowned-upon attitude when we made the transition to canned food. We all get it! Breast milk is better! But don't u DARE make us feel guilty by making an informed decision on our own child's welfare. All u health ministers and the federal govt should spend the time and taxpayers money on far more important issues. - NC

N e body thinkin of going 2 lake off reserve rd dont. The y generation have moved in. U no the smart mouths of 2days society. - Bindi

The day that we are forced not to allow bacon, pork and ham in our supermarkets is the day i become a suicide bomber. - Blake

WHEN life savers leave the beach they need to put their shorts back on, not parade around the streets in their budgie smugglers. - surfer adz

WHAT'S to be the further announcement from Peter Garrett on the Traveston travesty? It belongs to them, let's give it back? - Warren Glenn

TO amber. For the earth to heat up just minutely, would wipe us all out. 2012 is an event we cannot control With catostrophic possibilities. We cannot control the son and planets. Lets just hope the effects are not to damaging.

chatroom

TO all da idiot chix who rekn dat twilite is da best, why dontchoo jus watch bram stokerz draclea, its beta anyway. - Teabag

TO all you out there who can't stomach tampon and pad ads, its a born natural thing that all <u>women</u> go thru unlike impotency which only happens to a select few, but i'm sure you guys already knew that! - Loz

IF that's the Gold Coast's best dressed 50 **women** according to Mondays Coast Confidential, I'd hate to see the worst 50. Some of the Gold Coast formal girls leave them for dead. fed Up. - Graeme

FOR those calling bligh brainless for not running pipelines from the north for water. Desals r cheaper & produce 6 to 7 times the volume water. Fact! - frenchy

TINY if only it was that simple just to put the salt back into the sea. I lived on a Pacific island with only 12000 people and thier desalination plant destroyed a massive section of thier fringing reef. Imagination what a huge one like ours could do to our offshore reefs. - O1

Craig & Robin, I am with you too, I love IGA Ashmore, always specials, not the crowds & lines & not so many temptations, I am a budget shopper & I save at least \$20 every week on specials! Very happy!

TODD its latte drinking blokes like yourself that are making this country soft. Grab a coldy. - Knottdogg froth free since 85.

HEY moorons stop crawling if u guna drive then do it uthawise get off the road! - Bindii.

What happened in yr life no name 2 hate God so much? Oh and just one question...who created gravity?

Another glassing attack culprit set free with the usual suspended sentence yet decent folk are expected to drink out of plastic glasses which is not the solution but a 5 year jail term would be. Hopeless laws. - Ramrod

Today's pick

`The police have enough to do without drunken yobos making a contest of bad behaviour. Organisers of facebook need a kick in the pants. - Spock'

`Stop the charter fishing boats on the gold coast before its too late! They are destroying our fish stocks. - bombnail.'

`Enough of your AFL bashing peter cameron. We are over it. The games are different- so dont say NRL players are fitter and faster. They are not. And stop calling it netball. Nrl players throw their ball- AFL players do not. Think about it. - Mad mark'

More SMS texts on Page 48

Load-Date: November 22, 2009



Villagers return home

Daily News (Sri Lanka) November 18, 2009 Wednesday

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Length: 180 words

Dateline: Sri Lanka

Body

Sri Lanka, Nov. 18 -- The majority of villagers who were compelled to leave their native villages due to <u>LTTE</u> threats are now returning home.

Nearly 61 families who had been temporarily taken shelter in Kivulekada since 1999 having fled Mahanikawewa in Kebithigollewa following the *LTTE* attacks recently returned.

Indigenous Medicine Minister Tissa Karaliyadda with assistance of the Government and Non Governmental and philanthropic organizations has succeeded in providing these families with funds to renovate their houses, dry rations, furniture, kitchen utensils and other items for infants children and **women**.

Steps are being taken to provide all infrastructure facilities including the rehabilitation of road network and a bus service.

Minister Karaliyadda said priority would be given to revive educational and healthcare facilities to the villagers in Mahanikawewa and a number of other nearby villages. Published by HT Syndication with permission from Daily News Sri Lanka. For more information on news feed please contact Sarabjit Jagirdar at <a href="https://https:

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