

**Date and Time:** Saturday, May 4, 2024 2:09:00PM EEST

**Job Number:** 223507876

## Documents (100)

1. [\*fighting kills 23 in s.lanka as emergency to be extended\*](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

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

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

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

2. [\*TAMIL DEMANDS FALL ON DEAF EARS\*](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

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

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

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

3. [\*UPI Focus; Voting ends in Sri Lanka ; three dead\*](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

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

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

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

4. [\*After the Gandhis: Dignity and death with the Freedom Birds; William Dalrymple on the merciless Tamil Tiger girls for whom suicide is just another guerrilla tactic\*](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

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

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

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

5. [\*Explosion deals fatal blow to peace process\*](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

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

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

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

6. [UPI Focus: Sri Lankan bombing probe continues](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

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

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

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

7. [Tamil Guerrillas in Sri Lanka : Deadly and Armed to the Teeth](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

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

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

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

8. [1st LEAD: Four may hang for Rajiv Gandhi assassination](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

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

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

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

9. [Tamil rebels using pressure to halt imminent military offensive](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

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

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

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

10. [AP Photos COL101-114](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

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

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**

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

11. [Sri Lankan bomber kills 13; Suicide attack near PM's office](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

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

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**

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

12. [13 Killed in Sri Lanka Blast](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

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

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**

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

13. [Bomb blast kills scores in Sri Lanka](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

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

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**

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

14. [High Tech infrastructures vulnerable to New Terrorism - Part 2 of 3](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

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

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**

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

15. [Court orders trial of 26 for Gandhi slaying Indian court orders trial of 26 for Gandhi slaying](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

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

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**

**Narrowed by**

News

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

16. [\*Christian-Buddhist conflict in Sri Lanka\*](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

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

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

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

17. [\*26 found guilty in Rajiv Gandhi assassination case\*](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

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

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

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

18. [\*Car bomb kills 45 in Sri Lanka\*](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

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

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

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

19. [\*Over 300 rebels killed in counter-attack by troops in Sri Lanka\*](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

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

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

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

20. [\*Sri Lanka sets curfew after suicide bombing\*](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

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

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

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

21. [Sri Lanka Sets Curfew After Bombing](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

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

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

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

22. [24 rebels reported killed in artillery attack in northern Lanka](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

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

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

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

23. [Residents say soldiers beat them](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

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

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

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

24. [SRI LANKA : INDIAN GOVT CRITICAL OF AMNESTY INTL'S FINDINGS](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

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

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

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

25. [Fighters take battle to Web](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

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

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

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

26. [Indian Army hold on Sri Lankan rebel base is tenuous at best](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

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

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

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

27. [Security forces clash with student protesters](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

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

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

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

28. [Fear rules over Sri Lankan city: Trincomalee 's men disappear as the army sweeps in](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

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

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

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

29. [116 Tamils die as attacks foiled](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

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

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

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

30. [Army Says 116 Moslems Killed In Tamil Assault](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

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

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

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

31. [Indian reinforces troops for final assault on Tamil lair](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

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

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**

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

32. [Sri Lankan rebels keep Indians at bay](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

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

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**

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

33. [AP Photo COL101](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

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

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**

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

34. [40 Tamils die as Muslims hit back](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

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

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**

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

35. [Sri Lanka lifts quota restrictions on textile export for Europe](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

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

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**

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

36. [AP Photos Planned](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

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

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**

**Narrowed by**

News

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

37. [Sri Lankans Hear Details of Decade of Slaughter](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

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

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

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

38. [death toll rises to 9 in colombo bomb explosion](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

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

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

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

39. [Cyclists are OK](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

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

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

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

40. [Top Tiger woman is killed](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

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

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

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

41. [Ethnic war escalates as Tamils kill 43 civilians](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

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

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

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



42. [26 SENTENCED TO DEATH OVER GANDHI'S ASSASSINATION](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

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

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

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

43. [43 dead in Tamil terror raids](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

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

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

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

44. [SRI LANKA : WAITING FOR LOVED ONES WHO HAVE DISAPPEARED](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

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

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

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

45. [The trail of death left by the rebels](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

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

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

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

46. [Official is killed by suicide bomber Clash after bishop's death](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

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

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

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

47. [Tamils burned out of old Tiger town; Terry McCarthy visits Trincomalee after the latest in the round of reprisals between the Tamil fighters and the Sri Lankan army left a trail of devastation](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

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

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

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

48. [SRI LANKA SCENE OF SLAUGHTER TAMIL REBELS KILL MOSLEMS IN STREET](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

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

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

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

49. [Tamil Women Guerrillas Moving Into the Open](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

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

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

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

50. [Sri Lankan officials defuse car bomb at Buddhist temple](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

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

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

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

51. [SRI LANKA : CIVILIANS CAUGHT IN JAFFNA CROSSFIRE](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

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

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

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

52. [Terror's deadly calling cards](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

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

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**

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

53. [\*Tamil leader indicted in bank bombing\*](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

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

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**

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

54. [\*Five killed in ambush on civilian bus in eastern Lanka\*](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

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

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**

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

55. [\*Sri Lanka launches attack on rebels\*](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

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

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**

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

56. [\*IN BRIEF\*](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

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

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**

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

57. [\*IN BRIEF\*](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

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

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

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

58. [Tamil Tigers lose top fighter](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

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

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

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

59. [Lankan army rescue after siege debacle](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

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

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

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

60. [Amnesty International questions Sri Lankan air force attack](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

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

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

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

61. [Mobs in Sri Lanka Attack Tamils](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

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

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

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

62. [servant signals presidential security men away before explosion: top investigator](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

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

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

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

63. [\*UN Special Representative for Children and Armed Conflict condemns attacks and use of child soldiers\*](#)  
**Client/Matter:** -None-  
**Search Terms:** "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE  
**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors  
**Narrowed by:**  

<b>Content Type</b> News	<b>Narrowed by</b> Publication Type: Newspapers,Newswires & Press Releases; Timeline: Jan 01, 1984 to Dec 31, 2002
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64. [\*West to maintain ban on Tamil Tigers\*](#)  
**Client/Matter:** -None-  
**Search Terms:** "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE  
**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors  
**Narrowed by:**  

<b>Content Type</b> News	<b>Narrowed by</b> Publication Type: Newspapers,Newswires & Press Releases; Timeline: Jan 01, 1984 to Dec 31, 2002
-----------------------------	--
65. [\*Lethal jolt for Colombo's Keystone Kops ANALYSIS SRI LANKA CAMPAIGN OF BLOOD\*](#)  
**Client/Matter:** -None-  
**Search Terms:** "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE  
**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors  
**Narrowed by:**  

<b>Content Type</b> News	<b>Narrowed by</b> Publication Type: Newspapers,Newswires & Press Releases; Timeline: Jan 01, 1984 to Dec 31, 2002
-----------------------------	--
66. [\*Key rebel leader, nine others killed in Sri Lanka 's north\*](#)  
**Client/Matter:** -None-  
**Search Terms:** "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE  
**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors  
**Narrowed by:**  

<b>Content Type</b> News	<b>Narrowed by</b> Publication Type: Newspapers,Newswires & Press Releases; Timeline: Jan 01, 1984 to Dec 31, 2002
-----------------------------	--
67. [\*ROUNDUP: Colombo is rocked by explosion, killing of politician\*](#)  
**Client/Matter:** -None-  
**Search Terms:** "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE  
**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors  
**Narrowed by:**  

<b>Content Type</b> News	<b>Narrowed by</b> Publication Type: Newspapers,Newswires & Press Releases; Timeline: Jan 01, 1984 to Dec 31, 2002
-----------------------------	--
68. [\*roundup: rebels' massacre mars peace efforts in sri lanka by lian quohui\*](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

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

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

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

69. [Rebels seek respite for civilians in Sri Lanka crossfire](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

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

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

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

70. [Tigers' terrorism continues](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

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

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

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

71. [SRI LANKA : MUSLIM VILLAGERS MASSACRED BY TAMIL REBELS](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

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

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

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

72. [Respite sought for civilians in Sri Lanka crossfire](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

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

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

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

73. [Soldiers rout Tamil Tigers](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

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

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

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

74. [Mobs in Sri Lanka attack Tamils after bombing](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

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

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

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

75. [Assassination investigation leads to NZ](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

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

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

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

76. [SRI LANKA : GOODWILL GESTURES FAIL TO REACH WAR-TORN AREA](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

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

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

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

77. [Over 100,000 after fresh offensive against rebels in Sri Lanka](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

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

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

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

78. [servant signals presidential security men away before explosion: top investigator](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

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

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**

News

**Narrowed by**Publication Type: Newspapers,Newswires & Press  
Releases; Timeline: Jan 01, 1984 to Dec 31, 200279. [Hundreds of Moslems made refugees in eastern Lanka](#)**Client/Matter:** -None-**Search Terms:** "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors**Narrowed by:****Content Type**

News

**Narrowed by**Publication Type: Newspapers,Newswires & Press  
Releases; Timeline: Jan 01, 1984 to Dec 31, 200280. [Fierce fighting in northern Lanka, 450 rebels, 75 soldiers dead](#)**Client/Matter:** -None-**Search Terms:** "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors**Narrowed by:****Content Type**

News

**Narrowed by**Publication Type: Newspapers,Newswires & Press  
Releases; Timeline: Jan 01, 1984 to Dec 31, 200281. [SRI LANKA : ON EVE OF TALKS, CRICKET HELPS SOOTHE WOUNDS OF WAR](#)**Client/Matter:** -None-**Search Terms:** "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors**Narrowed by:****Content Type**

News

**Narrowed by**Publication Type: Newspapers,Newswires & Press  
Releases; Timeline: Jan 01, 1984 to Dec 31, 200282. [TAMILS BLAMED FOR VILLAGE MASSACRE SRI LANKA](#)**Client/Matter:** -None-**Search Terms:** "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors**Narrowed by:****Content Type**

News

**Narrowed by**Publication Type: Newspapers,Newswires & Press  
Releases; Timeline: Jan 01, 1984 to Dec 31, 200283. [Sri Lanka Landmine Blasts Ambulance Convoy, Kills 21](#)**Client/Matter:** -None-**Search Terms:** "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors**Narrowed by:****Content Type**

News

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



84. [3 soldiers, 12 rebels killed in north sri lanka](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

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

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

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

85. [More than 100 killed in Sri Lanka fighting](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

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

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

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

86. [Sri Lankan navy kills 4 rebels, 7 soldiers die in mine blast](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

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

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

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

87. [INDIA GETS TOUGH](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

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

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

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

88. [Suicide jacket found in eastern town of Sri Lanka](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

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

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

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

89. [Hanging stalls hunt for Rajiv's assassin](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

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

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

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

90. [\*COPS DETAIN 2,250 FOREIGN WOMEN INVOLVED IN VICE\*](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

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

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

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

91. [\*Jaffna Unsettled and Uneasy BY SUGEE P. SEMADHIRA Associated Press Writer\*](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

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

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

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

92. [\*AP Photos NY107,108 BY SUGEE P. SENADHIRA Associated Press Writer\*](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

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

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

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

93. [\*'The shot hit me. Blood poured from my eye - I felt a profound sadness that I was going to die'\*](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

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

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

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

94. [\*Jaffna unsettled and uneasy after control taken from Tamil Tiger rebels\*](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

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

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

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

95. [\*Eight women cadres among 14 rebels killed in northern Lanka\*](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

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

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

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

96. [\*Jaffna Unsettled and Uneasy BY SUGEE P. SENADHIRA Associated Press Writer\*](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

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

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

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

97. [\*Four civilians killed in attack in northeastern Sri Lanka\*](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

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

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

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

98. [\*Five soldiers killed as Lankan army advances on rebel stronghold\*](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

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

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

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

99. [\*UK Government % Mike O'Brien welcomes significant progress at Sri Lankan peace talks talks talks\*](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

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

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

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

100. [BORING BUT IMPORTANT](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

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

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

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

**fighting kills 23 in s.lanka as emergency to be extended**

Copyright 1999 Xinhua News AgencyXinhua News Agency

AUGUST 5, 1999, THURSDAY

**Length:** 246 words

**Dateline:** colombo, august 5; ITEM NO: 0805247

## **Body**

---

sri lanka's defense ministry said thursday that 23 people were killed in fresh clashes between government troops and tamil rebels, as the state of national emergency is set to be extended by another month. a special task force truck was blasted on wednesday by a **female** suicide bomber of tamil rebels near the northern town of vavuniya, the ministry said in a statement. the statement said 14 people were killed in the explosion, including 12 military personnel, one civilian and the suicide bomber. another 25 people were injured. on wednesday in northeastern trincomalee district, rebels of liberation tigers of tamil eelam (**ltte**) exploded a claymore mine, killing one civilian and injuring six others, said the ministry. the army killed eight rebels in separate clashes in the north of the country, it said. sri lanka's deputy defense minister anuruddha ratwatte asked parliament thursday to vote to extend the state of national emergency by another month following the recent attacks on civilian and military targets by **ltte** rebels. the extension of emergency regulations is set to be passed, since the government has the required number of votes in parliament. the **ltte** rebels, fighting since 1983 for a tamil homeland in sri lanka's north and east, have been blamed by the government for carrying out a suicide bomb attack which killed leading tamil lawmaker neelan thiruchelvam in colombo last week.

**Load-Date:** August 6, 1999

## **TAMIL DEMANDS FALL ON DEAF EARS**

Herald Sun

September 4, 1995 Monday

Copyright 1995 Nationwide News Pty Limited

**Length:** 222 words

### **Body**

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COLOMBO - Sri Lanka's hostage crisis deepened today, with Tamil Tiger rebels demanding direct talks with Colombo to free 144 ferry passengers and crew, and killing 20 people during an attack on an army patrol. Gunmen of the separatist Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam fired automatic weapons at an army patrol in the eastern town of Sinhapura, killing 18 soldiers and two civilian bystanders, the military said.

The two civilians were caught in crossfire, a military spokesman said, adding that it was not immediately clear if the rebels suffered casualties. The attack came as the **LTTE** continued to hold the government-chartered Iris Moana and issued a renewed demand that Colombo should initiate negotiations for the release of the 136 passengers and the eight-man crew, officials said. The government has yet to react to the **LTTE** demand, but President Chandrika Kumaratunga has repeatedly said that she will not open talks with the rebels, who broke off a truce on April 19 to resume fighting. Meanwhile, three **women** among the hostages gave birth over the weekend, Tamil sources said. Fifteen other children under 15 are also among the captives. The Red Cross here said passengers were in good health. The **LTTE** pulled out of a three-month-long truce on April 19 by sinking two navy ships anchored at Trincomalee.- APPEND OF STORY

### **Graphic**

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-KEYS- -LIB- -SECT- NEWS

**Load-Date:** October 1, 2003

**UPI Focus;**  
**Voting ends in Sri Lanka; three dead**

United Press International  
December 21, 1999, Tuesday

Copyright 1999 U.P.I.

**Section:** INTERNATIONAL NEWS

**Length:** 527 words

**Byline:** By RAVI R. PRASAD

**Dateline:** COLOMBO, Sri Lanka, Dec. 21

## **Body**

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Nearly 75 percent of the 11.8 million voters in Sri Lanka exercised Tuesday their democratic franchise to elect a president amid widespread violence that claimed three lives.

Polling ended at 4 p.m. local time, and counting is expected to begin within the next couple of hours.

President Chandrika Kumaratunga, who was injured Saturday in an assassination attempt by a suspected Tamil Tiger suicide bomber, cast her ballot at her official residence. She was not allowed to leave the house because of security concerns.

The opposition United National Party's candidate Ranil Wickremesinghe arrived at the polling booth close to his residence early Tuesday and cast his ballot amidst tight security. He alleged that the ruling People's Alliance and supporters of his rival President Kumaratunga had resorted to intimidation and violence to prevent voters from casting their ballot.

Polling was brisk during the early hours and then picked up again in the afternoon. A large turnout of women, observers said, was an indication that the bomb attack on President Kumaratunga had won her the sympathy of voters.

Independent poll observers said they had received more than 150 complaints of poll violence, and most of these were against the ruling party.

Three people were killed in separate incidents when police opened fire to disperse violent mobs. Two of those killed were reportedly ruling party workers, while the third belonged to the opposition.

The Center for Monitoring Election Violence claimed that at least one of its observers was assaulted while its cameramen and vehicles were attacked at several places. Most complaints of violence have come from the northwestern province and the central province, where the police firing took place, said Paikiasothy Saravanamuttu, co-founder of the CMEV.

Reports from the Tamil-dominated northern Jaffna peninsula, where the separatist Tamil Tigers are fighting pitched battles with government troops, said about 35 percent of voters cast their ballot. The low turnout came as the rebels urged over the clandestine radio Voice of Tigers that people boycott the vote.

## UPI Focus; Voting ends in Sri Lanka ; three dead

In Mullaitivu and Kilinochchi districts and parts of Mannar and Vavuniya districts in the Wanni region held by the **Tamil Tigers**, there was no polling. In the Tamil dominated eastern districts of Trincomalee and Batticaloa, the turnout was over 65 percent.

Poll observers had complained Sunday that in the two districts, officials had shifted hundreds of polling booths without informing the voters.

The results are expected to be announced Wednesday, but the trends should be known Tuesday by midnight, officials said.

Elaborate security arrangements have been made to prevent post- election violence. Thousands of policemen and armed forces personnel have been deployed in the capital and elsewhere as a precautionary measure. Streets in the capital were deserted as most residents preferred to stay home and wait for the results.

Police have appealed to party workers not to indulge in revelry. President Kumaratunga, who is seeking a second term in office, and her main rival Wickremesinghe have appealed to the people to maintain calm and peace after the voting.

**Load-Date:** December 22, 1999

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End of Document



**After the Gandhis: Dignity and death with the Freedom Birds; William Dalrymple on the merciless Tamil Tiger girls for whom suicide is just another guerrilla tactic**

The Independent (London)

May 26, 1991, Sunday

Copyright 1991 Independent Print Ltd

**Section:** INSIDE STORY PAGE; Page 23

**Length:** 1310 words

**Byline:** By WILLIAM DALRYMPLE

## **Body**

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THE car passed quickly through deserted streets. On either side, the buildings were shattered and bombed out; smart imperial facades gave on to gaping, fire blackened interiors. At the end of the road the barracks stood within a shroud of high tension wire.

A Freedom Bird - one of the **Tamil Tigers**' elite force of **women** guerrillas - stood on guard in a small tower to one side of the gate. She was no more than 17, dressed in tight fitting fatigues, striped like a tiger's pelt, but coloured only muted brown and khaki. Her hair was clipped and round her chest were strapped webbings holding mortar bombs and rocket propelled grenades.

With a flick of her carbine, she indicated that I should get out of the car. The metal gate swung open and I walked in. Behind me the gate banged shut. Inside, another Freedom Bird was waiting. She trained her carbine on me, and without a word led me forward into the compound.

"What are you wearing around your neck?" I asked, pointing to the two white phials hanging from a leather thong. "Cyanide" she replied.

"You . . . always wear phials of cyanide around your neck?" I asked. "Yes" replied the girl.

"Any particular reason?"

"A man can be tortured," said the girl in a wooden voice. "But a woman has more to lose - her virtue. Anyway," she paused "being captured alive is a blow to the pride of a Freedom Fighter. Suicide is an act of human dignity."

When Rajiv Gandhi was assassinated by a suicide bomber on Tuesday, opinion was divided as to who was responsible: some said it was Sikh militants, like those who murdered his mother Indira Gandhi. Others linked it to some extreme Hindu religious group, like the RSS. Still others blamed the **Tamil Tigers**. The forensic evidence was ambiguous: the girl to whom the plastic explosive was strapped was dark skinned and so likely to be a Tamil - but also tall and wearing north Indian clothes, and so possibly a Sikh.

But the killing bore all the hallmarks of a Tiger operation. There are very few Sikhs in Tamil Nadu, and it would be difficult for a Sikh cell to operate there undetected. There are no **women** in Sikh or RSS fighting units, and neither group has a tradition of suicide attacks. Tamil Nadu is, however, populated almost exclusively by Tamils; and

After the Gandhis: Dignity and death with the Freedom Birds; William Dalrymple on the merciless Tamil Tiger girls for whom suicide is just another guerrilla tactic....

women and suicide squads form a central part of the fighting style of the leading Tamil guerrillas, the LTTE or Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam.

The Tigers have used a comparable human bomb once before. Last August, Tiger units were besieging the Fort in Jaffna, then held by Sri Lankan government troops. Having failed to breach the defences, they sent a suicide bomber. He was a boy of only 15. Plastic explosives were strapped to his waist, and he was sent to climb the walls so as to blow them at their weakest point. He was spotted and shot. When the explosives went off, the blast could be heard 12 miles away.

The Tigers are one of the most highly disciplined and effective guerrilla units in the world. The organisation is centralised and autocratic, and its senior leader, Velupillai Prabhakaran, commands near religious obedience from his cadres. Smoking and drinking are banned, fornication is punishable by death. There is no internal power struggle and no question as to the cadres' loyalty: in more than a decade, no Tiger has ever been taken alive.

They are also ruthless. They have been responsible for appalling atrocities against civilians, and their political rivals have been exterminated with a terrible savagery: most recently in a massacre at the Madras headquarters of the rival Tamil group, the EPRLF, last summer. Eight months later, Ranjan Wijeratne, the Sri Lankan defence minister who masterminded the Sri Lankan government's wars against the Tigers, was, like Rajiv Gandhi, the victim of a bomb blast.

Ironically, it was Rajiv's mother Indira Gandhi, who instructed her secret service, the Indian Research and Intelligence Wing to train and arm the Tigers in the early Seventies. Fifteen years later, her son sent Indian troops into Sri Lanka to protect the island's Tamil minority. Within a month the Indians had crossed swords with the Tigers and were at war with the very Hindus they had come to protect.

In the two years of guerrilla warfare that followed, the Tigers inflicted such casualties that the Indians, though outnumbering the Tigers 70-1, had to withdraw. Their retreat was just as extraordinary as the Russian retreat from Kabul: India, with 1,300,000 men under arms was humiliatingly defeated by a small but fanatical guerrilla group. Now, it seems that the Tigers - or a rogue faction - may have settled their scores with the man who originally sent the Indian troops in the Tigers' lair and killed so many of their cadres.

The Freedom Birds played an important part in expelling India from Sri Lanka. At their Jaffna barracks I was led to a guardroom and introduced to a group of cadres. Many were no more than 14 or 15 years old but they knew who their enemy was: the Indians. In the final days of the 1988 siege of Jaffna, they told me, it was the Freedom Birds who had held the main road, the most important of all the sectors.

"We were dug in at the Kopa junction - 300 of us" said a soft spoken 18- year-old, Comrade Dilani. "The Indian army came forward - an endless convoy of tanks and personnel carriers. Lieutenant Maladi, our leader, stood in the middle of the road and challenged them. Without daring to raise the mancovers of their tanks the Indians shot her dead."

"What did you do?" I asked.

"We detonated the four landmines we had prepared, and fired our rocket launchers. In three minutes we had destroyed six new Soviet T-72 tanks and a string of personnel carriers."

"When we fight we are ruthless," Dilani continued. "We have no pity."

It was an extraordinary feeling. I was in a room full of teenaged girls, all relaxed with their friends, each boasting about how many Indians they had killed as nonchalantly as if they were talking about the number of O levels they had passed, or boys they had kissed. Normal teenage concerns simply did not interest them.

"But didn't killing all those people horrify you?" I asked. "Why should we worry," answered Comrade Dilani. "The Indians are our enemy. They killed our families. So we killed them."

After the Gandhis: Dignity and death with the Freedom Birds; William Dalrymple on the merciless Tamil Tiger girls for whom suicide is just another guerrilla tactic....

"But you are what - 18? You can't just go around massacring people and remain completely unaffected."

"They are not people", she replied, "they are our enemy".

This interview took place in Jaffna in March 1990, during the brief truce in the Sri Lankan civil war. Two months later, Jaffna was besieged again, this time by the Sri Lankan army.

Then, in November last year, I read that the Freedom Birds had retired to Tamil Nadu, where, according to the Indian Press, they were keeping themselves busy organising armed robberies, smuggling heroin and murdering rival Tamil leaders. They were thus in the right place to assassinate their sworn enemy, Rajiv Gandhi. Moreover, reports suggest that the site of the attack, Sriperumpudur, was close to a major Tiger camp. The pieces of a jigsaw fit very convincingly.

There is one final piece of evidence that the Freedom Birds might have been behind the attack. There is something very theatrical about the way the attack was carried out: an explosive belt detonating as the assassin bent forwards to touch Gandhi's feet. This is pure Tiger: the group learnt many of their tactics from videos, and Prabhakaran insists all his cadres watch a military video nasty once a week. In one of the Tigers' jungle camps that I visited, I saw one of these tape collections: complete sets of Rambo, Clint and James Bond; most of the recent Vietnam films; a back list of Alistair MacLean classics, and three versions of the Magnificent Seven. It may yet turn out that Rajiv Gandhi's assassination was based on Taxi Driver or some similar Hollywood offering.

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End of Document

## *Explosion deals fatal blow to peace process*

South China Morning Post (Hong Kong)

August 8, 1995

Copyright 1995 South China Morning Post Ltd.

**Section:** Analysis; Pg. 11

**Length:** 506 words

**Byline:** From GASTON DE ROSAYRO in Colombo

### **Body**

---

PRESIDENT Chandrika Kumaratunga's efforts to settle one of the world's bloodiest civil wars has again been answered by a murderous bomb blast.

Tamil Tiger rebels refused to accept Mrs Kamaratunga's latest plan, which appears to ensure a meaningful devolution of power that would be acceptable to the Tamil community, which is in the minority.

The Tiger rebels face total alienation from the Tamil community. They are endangering their movement by their consistent violence, and appear threatened with international isolation as well.

But Colombo, displaying a patient attitude, is still persisting in seeking a durable peace despite the rebel violence which follows every such initiative.

It is now clear that Tiger terrorism has reduced even the smallest chance of anyone seeking a political solution to the problem, because the rebels are worried that such a process would leave them marginalised.

Cynics say that the chances for a political resolution to the problem with the blessings of the rebels never existed in the first place.

In a world full of long-running civil wars and secessionist guerilla campaigns, Sri Lanka's Tamil separatist rebellion has been remarkably effective.

The Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (**LTTE**) also possesses an equally remarkable record for sacrificing its own youthful cadres, raised with a death wish and obsessed with martyrdom.

For the past five years or so, most of the **LTTE** fighting machine has been made up of cadres drawn largely from young **women** and school children.

One of the bloodiest civil wars in recent history has been waged by boys and girls as young as 14, whom Tiger leader Velupillai Prabhakaran has made cannon fodder for government troops.

Supporters of the **LTTE** praise Prabhakaran for having abolished the Tamils' rigid caste system and for having raised the status of **women** in a secular, chauvinist society.

If status can be measured in terms of numbers of suicide bombers, they are right, because a disproportionate number of them seem to be **women**.

## Explosion deals fatal blow to peace process

Besides, the rebels have no qualms about slaughtering unarmed civilian villagers, including women, children and Buddhist clergy, in their goal for a separate homeland.

In some of these attacks the Tigers, have not used firearms in their decimation of non-combatants, preferring to savagely hack their victims with knives and axes.

Prabhakaran has a notorious history for perpetrating such barbaric attacks on defenceless civilians, Tamils included.

The civilian massacres, such as yesterday's blast triggered by a LTTE suicide bomber, are a clear indication that the LTTE is reverting to its previous practice of targeting Sinhalese leaders and civilians in a war that continues to take a frightening toll on human life.

The rebels are now going back to methods they had successfully employed in the previous stages of this war.

And then they beat the human rights drum until it hits a hackneyed crescendo, alleging human rights violations by the Colombo Government.

**Load-Date:** August 8, 1995

**UPI Focus;**  
**Sri Lankan bombing probe continues**

United Press International  
December 19, 1999, Sunday

Copyright 1999 U.P.I.

**Section:** INTERNATIONAL NEWS

**Length:** 538 words

**Byline:** By RAVI R. PRASAD

**Dateline:** COLOMBO, Sri Lanka, Dec. 19

## **Body**

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The Sri Lankan government on Sunday ordered a high-level investigation into the suicide bombing on Saturday that left President Chandrika Kumaratunga with head injuries.

Doctors operated Sunday on Kumaratunga to remove shrapnel that was embedded around her eyes by the bombing, which occurred as she left an election rally.

Government spokesman Mangala Samaraweera denied reports that the president had lost her vision.

"She spoke to me over the phone this morning," he said. "I can tell you she is even more bossier than before."

Police recovered the head and lower body of the suicide bomber, a ***female*** who was believed to be a member of the rebel Tamil Tiger group.

The head was shown on the national television channel Rupavahini. Officials appealed to the public to provide information about the bomber.

Colombo National Hospital doctors, who had called off their strike and returned to work only a few hours before the explosion, said the death toll had risen to 21.

More than 40 people were injured in the attack on Kumaratunga, who was leaving the Town Hall grounds after addressing her final rally before Tuesday's presidential elections. Among the injured were four members of the president's Cabinet.

Samaraweera said the president told him to announce that elections would be held on Tuesday as scheduled.

The assassination attempt on Kumaratunga occurred almost simultaneously with attack on an opposition rally in the Ja Ela area. A former chief of army staff, Maj. Gen. Lucky Alagama, and 14 others were killed and more than 50 people, including some opposition lawmakers, were injured by blasts.

Police said the explosions were hand grenades lobbed at the meeting by unidentified attackers. The government is investigating the incident.

## UPI Focus; Sri Lankan bombing probe continues

Meanwhile, officials lifted the curfew imposed Saturday on Colombo and the adjoining Gampaha district after the attack.

People returned to the streets and huddled in groups discussing Saturday's incident as the police stopped chasing them into their houses. However, the army, which was called up Saturday to prevent any widespread unrest, continued to patrol the streets of Colombo.

Hundreds of policemen and soldiers conducted house-to-house searches in some parts of the city on Sunday to flush out suspected **Tamil Tigers** reportedly hiding in the capital. Several suspects have been apprehended and taken to police stations for questioning, a police official said.

The rebel group is fighting for a homeland in the island nation's northern Jaffna peninsula. The Tigers have been suspected in previous deadly attacks on Sri Lankan politicians.

Western leaders, including U.S. President Bill Clinton and French President Jacques Chirac, condemned the attack.

Last week security in Colombo had been tightened after intelligence warned of potential attacks. Several new checkpoints were set up and mobile police and military teams randomly checked vehicles to look for a suspected Tamil Tiger suicide bomber.

Police said they had identified the suspect as Somanathan Sinnathamey, 34, a resident from eastern Sri Lanka. Police claimed he had been a deputy leader of the intelligence wing of the **Tamil Tigers** and was responsible for the assassination of a former member of Parliament in 1990.

**Load-Date:** December 20, 1999

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End of Document

## **Tamil Guerrillas in Sri Lanka: Deadly and Armed to the Teeth**

The New York Times

March 7, 1998, Saturday, Late Edition - Final

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**Distribution:** Foreign Desk

**Section:** Section A; ; Section A; Page 1; Column 1; Foreign Desk ; Column 1; ; Series

**Length:** 1870 words

**Byline:** By RAYMOND BONNER

By RAYMOND BONNER

**Series:** A WORLD OF ARMS: The Colombo Connection

### **Body**

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These are some of the weapons in the arsenal of the **Tamil Tigers**, the guerrilla army waging a bloody war for an independent state on the tiny island nation of Sri Lanka: surface-to-air missiles from Cambodia, assault rifles from Afghanistan, mortar shells from the former Yugoslavia and Zimbabwe, 60 tons of explosives from Ukraine.

The Tigers are considered some of the more advanced and ruthless terrorists in the world. Their suicide bombers, wearing specially sewn body vests, are among the deadliest. The cadre, including young boys and women, are so disciplined that if they are captured, they have pledged to kill themselves by taking cyanide capsules that they wear around their necks.

The Tigers describe themselves as a liberation army, and for 15 years they have been fighting the majority Sinhalese in Sri Lanka. The State Department officially labels the Tigers terrorists, and their ability to carry out suicide bombings like the one on Thursday that killed 36 people in Colombo, the capital, reflects their remarkable success at acquiring explosives and weapons.

A recent visit to Sri Lanka provided graphic insight into the Tigers' military procurement, and more broadly into the world's light arms trade: It showed how easy it is to find weapons, pay for them with money moved through major banks and move them across borders. It also underlined how ill prepared governments are to deal with the traffic.

Unlike the trade in heavy weapons like tanks, artillery and combat aircraft, the movement of small arms is neither monitored nor reported by most governments. Nor are there treaties governing their proliferation and use, as there are for chemical, biological and nuclear weapons.

Nor in most countries is it a crime to buy weapons to fight a battle in a foreign land. And yet today's regional wars -- from the Balkans to Central Africa -- are waged primarily with small arms: assault rifles, mortars, grenade launchers and shoulder-fired missiles.

"The Tigers are on the cutting edge of arms trafficking," said Rohan Gunaratna, a leading authority on the Tigers who is currently at the Center for the Study of International Terrorism at St. Andrews University in Edinburgh. Mr. Gunaratna, who has good access to Sri Lanka's intelligence services, said the **Tamil Tigers** have bought arms



## Tamil Guerrillas in Sri Lanka : Deadly and Armed to the Teeth

from dealers in Hong Kong, Singapore, Lebanon and Cyprus; from corrupt military officers in Thailand and Burma, and directly from governments, including those of Ukraine, Bulgaria and North Korea.

These are the same venues where other insurgencies and terrorist groups shop. Favorite arms bazaars are the states of the former Soviet bloc, like Ukraine, Bulgaria, Slovakia and Kazakhstan, countries that are long on weapons and poorly paid officials, and short on cash and law enforcement. War zones gone quiet, like the former Yugoslavia, Cambodia, Afghanistan and Mozambique, are other places where arms traders look for wares.

Most of these countries do not have the intelligence expertise, training or resources to monitor the illicit trafficking, nor does Sri Lanka. "We are dependent on others," said Kalynanda Godage, a retired Sri Lankan ambassador.

But the United States does not monitor the **Tamil Tigers** either, because they are not considered a threat to the United States or to American citizens in Sri Lanka. A senior official from another major Western country described as "negligible" the intelligence resources his country devotes to the Tigers, even though they raise large sums of money in the country.

The head of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam is Vellupillai Prabhakaran, 43 years old, a fisherman's son who has become one of the most effective guerrilla leaders of his time. The chief arms trader is Kumaran Padmanathan, a 43-year-old university graduate.

"That's the man they should start the manhunt for," said Mr. Godage. "He's the man who has made it possible for Prabhakaran to pursue this war."

### Plenty of Money Around the World

With several forged passports and aliases, Mr. Padmanathan travels widely but his main bases have been Singapore, Yangon and Bangkok, and more recently Johannesburg, according to Sri Lankan intelligence officials and diplomats from countries where he has surfaced.

"He can pass off as any middle-class Tamil," said a Tamil militant who knows Mr. Padmanathan from university days. A picture taken a couple of years ago shows Mr. Padmanathan, who is about 5 feet 7 inches tall, with black curly hair, a thick mustache and glasses.

Mr. Padmanathan has recently had bank accounts in London, Singapore and Frankfurt, according to Sri Lanka and Western intelligence officials. Accounts belonging to other Tiger cadres have been found in Denmark, Sweden, Canada and Australia, they said.

And the accounts are bulging. By some estimates the Tigers collect \$1 million a month, mostly from the Tamil diaspora in Canada, Britain, Switzerland and Australia. (Having been designated a terrorist organization, the **Tamil Tigers** are not allowed to raise money openly in the United States.) The Tigers also operate gasoline stations, restaurants and small shops around the world.

The Sri Lankan Government has also repeatedly charged that Tigers' ships have hauled opium from Myanmar, but Western diplomats said there is no concrete evidence of this. More credible, Western officials say, are allegations that the Tigers have links with organized criminal groups in Russia, Lithuania and Bulgaria.

Flush with funds, the Tigers have picked up weapons anywhere and everywhere. Assault rifles, grenade launchers, antitank weapons and Russian-made surface-to-air missiles have, for example, been purchased in Cambodia. One batch of missiles was bought from corrupt Cambodian generals, another from the outlawed Khmer Rouge, Sri Lankan officials said.

In the early 1990's, according to a former member of the **Tamil Tigers**, the group acquired at least two American-made Stinger missiles, one of the most deadly and accurate shoulder-fired missiles. They came from a shipment of Stingers that Washington gave the Afghan mujaheddin rebels during their war against the Soviet Union in the 1980's.

## Tamil Guerrillas in Sri Lanka : Deadly and Armed to the Teeth

The Central Intelligence Agency has tried unsuccessfully to buy back Stingers to keep them out of the hands of the Tigers and other terrorist groups. But Sri Lankan intelligence officials believe that a few years ago, the Tigers bought more Stingers from the American-supplied stock.

### The Wayward Path Of 70,000 Shells

One of the Tigers' most recent deals reflects the mysterious nature of the arms trade. It began when the Sri Lankan Government agreed to buy 70,000 mortar shells from Zimbabwe Defense Industries. To fill the order, the company turned to an Israeli arms company, L.B.G. Military Supplies. But the 81-millimeter mortars never reached Sri Lanka, or at least not the Government.

The ship carrying them disappeared last summer, apparently hijacked by the Tigers -- or so it was first believed. Indeed, not long after the ship was reported missing, the United States Embassy in Colombo received a fax claiming the Tigers had seized it on the high seas.

But the fax did not have the tell-tale signs of the Tamil Tigers communiques, which whirl over telephone lines from their offices around the world. The Americans concluded it had not come from the Tigers, but they do not know who did send it.

The mystery of the missing mortars has been played out in installments in The Sunday Times of Sri Lanka, in articles written by Iqbal Athas, a journalist who writes often about the war against the Tigers in a manner that angers the Government. He has been verbally and physically attacked by both Government officials and thugs.

Mr. Athas's articles have provided the American and other embassies with information about the saga, but he has been unable to get to the bottom of it.

The full truth will be known only if the head of L.B.G. Military Supplies, Ben Tsouk, is ever brought to trial, said the chief executive for Zimbabwe Defense Industries, Colonel T. J. Dube. "He is the only one who knows anything about everything," Mr. Dube said in an interview.

Mr. Tsouk did not respond to several telephone calls to his office in Israel seeking comment. He has told Mr. Athas that he had no connection with the sale of the mortar shells.

It was Mr. Tsouk, however, who loaded the mortars on the ship. "I have checked personally part of the containers," Mr. Tsouk said in a fax to Zimbabwe Defense Industries.

But they were not loaded in the Mozambique port of Beira, as has been widely reported in Sri Lanka and Zimbabwe. They were loaded in Rijeka, Croatia, Mr. Tsouk said in his fax. The Tigers did not have to hijack the ship; they were loaded on to a ship the Tigers own, the Limassol, according to Mr. Athas, an assertion confirmed by Colonel Dube.

The most deadly Tiger transaction involved the purchase of explosives from the Ukraine.

First, a Sri Lanka Tamil in Britain set up the Euro-Ukraine Consultancy Agency, with offices in Kiev and London. This company then negotiated with a state-owned Ukraine company, the Rubezone Chemical Factory. The Tigers' front company bought 10 tons of hexogen, a plastic explosive like Semtex; 50 tons of trinitrotoluol, or TNT, and a large quantity of electric timing caps and detonator cord. The deal included 345 tons of cement and a single-seat sports plane, which was disassembled before shipping.

### Citibank Accounts Pay for TNT

Payments for the explosives were made from a Citibank account in Singapore held by Mr. Padmanathan, the Tamil arms trader, and a Dresdner Bank account in Frankfurt, held in the name of another Tiger, according to the Sri Lankan investigation. Payments for the detonators and timing caps were from a Citibank account in Athens, which

## Tamil Guerrillas in Sri Lanka : Deadly and Armed to the Teeth

passed the money through a Citibank account in New York, according to the investigation. There is no indication that the banks acted illegally in handling these payments.

The Ukraine Council of Ministers and the Ministry of Internal Affairs approved the sale. But they did not look beyond the documents provided. If they had, they would have discovered that the end-user certificate, ostensibly signed by the Bangladesh Minister of Defense, was a forgery.

A spokesman for Ukraine's President, Leonid Kuchma, said the Government had conducted no background checks "because the product was not for military use."

The explosives were shipped to the Tigers aboard the Swene, another Tamil Tiger ship, this one flying the Honduran flag.

Using some of the Ukraine explosives, a Tiger suicide team committed what the State Department described as the deadliest terrorist act of 1996: A truck packed with a thousand pounds of explosives was detonated in front of the central bank in Colombo, blowing out buildings for several blocks and killing 90 people.

A few months later, the Tigers detonated bombs on a packed commuter train. Last October, another truck bomb in the heart of the capital ripped through a hotel and was powerful enough to blow out the windows at the top of the 39-story World Trade Center there.

And on Thursday, another 36 people died in Colombo, apparently the Tamils' latest victims.

### A World of Arms

Later articles will report on other aspects of the spread of arms around the world.

## Graphic

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Map of Sri Lanka showing location of Colombo: Colombo officials cannot prevent Tamils from buying arms abroad. (pg. A5)

**Load-Date:** March 7, 1998

## 1st LEAD: Four may hang for Rajiv Gandhi assassination

Deutsche Presse-Agentur

May 11, 1999, Tuesday, BC Cycle 07:26 Central European Time

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**Section:** International News

**Length:** 357 words

**Dateline:** New Delhi

### **Body**

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The Indian Supreme Court Tuesday upheld death sentences imposed by a lower court on four persons, including a woman, in the Rajiv Gandhi assassination case but acquitted 19 others and lowered punishments for three more.

Those sentenced to death for participating in the conspiracy to kill Gandhi on May 21, 1991 while on an election tour of the southern state of Tamil Nadu were Nalini, her husband Murugan, alias Srivaran, T. Suthenthiraraja, alias Santhan, and Perarivalan.

The court reduced the sentence of Sivaruban, Kanagasabhapathy and Bhaskaran to life imprisonment.

The remaining 19 accused, including Nalini's mother and brother, were acquitted by the court on their appeal against the judgement by a special court sentencing all the 26 to death.

All of them were said to be either sympathizers or activists of the Sri Lankan separatist Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE).

Now the only option open to those sentenced to death is a clemency from President K.R. Narayanan who can commute their sentences to life imprisonment.

In India life sentences hardly ever go beyond a dozen years and many prisoners are released even before that for good conduct.

Rajiv Gandhi was killed along with 15 others by Dhanu, a Sri Lankan Tamil woman suicide bomber, in Sriperumbudur town.

The accused included both Sri Lankan and Indian Tamils. Nalini, the sole surviving accused present at the site of the assassination, is an Indian.

In all, 41 persons, including LTTE supremo Velupillai Prabhakaran, his deputy and intelligence chief Pottu Amman and women's wing chief Akila, were arraigned as accused in the charge sheet filed by the special investigation team (SIT) probing the assassination.

But only 26 were brought before the court of special judge V. Navaneetham in the southern city of Madras because others had either died or could not be brought for trial from LTTE strongholds in northern and eastern Sri Lanka.

1st LEAD: Four may hang for Rajiv Gandhi assassination

The LTTEs opposition to Gandhi reportedly stemmed from his sending Indian peace-keeping forces to Sri Lanka to end the secessionist conflict there in favour of the Colombo government. dpa mvb jh

Eds: updating, adding details, background

**Load-Date:** May 11, 1999

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## *Tamil rebels using pressure to halt imminent military offensive*

Deutsche Presse-Agentur

September 11, 1995, Monday, BC Cycle 18:57 Central European Time

Copyright 1995 Deutsche Presse-Agentur

**Section:** International News

**Length:** 372 words

**Byline:** By Anthony David

**Dateline:** Colombo

### **Body**

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A bomb attack on a Lankan diplomatic mission in neighbouring India Monday by a group linked with Tamil separatists and a series of attempts to weaken the Lankan navy in recent weeks are widely believed to be efforts by rebels to halt an imminent offensive against them.

A suicide bomb attack was averted Sunday as the Lankan navy detected four suicide bombers trying to make entry to a main harbour used by the navy. All four including two women were killed.

The Lankan Foreign Ministry said two bombs were hurled at the Sri Lankan Deputy High Commissioner's office in Madras on Monday, but no injuries were caused. A signboard and a perimeter wall of the mission and a house opposite were damaged.

The ministry did not say who was responsible for the attack, but reports from Madras said a group known as the Tamil Liberation Party, which is known to have close links with the separatists of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), had claimed responsibility.

In a note left at the site the group had called for a halt to military offensives in the LTTE stronghold in the north and also accused the Indian navy for helping Lankan security forces.

The LTTE, which is fighting in the north and eastern parts of Sri Lanka for an independent homeland for minority Tamils, is widely known to have sympathisers in the South Indian state of Tamil Nadu.

The Sri Lankan security forces, in preparation for a major offensive against rebels in the north, have withdrawn a large number of troops from the eastern province.

Military officials in Colombo said rebels have mainly targeted the Lankan navy in the past two months and blasted one ship, two other naval craft and hijacked a passenger vessel in an effort to weaken the navy which carries the bulk of supplies to the north. Access by road to the Jaffna peninsula has been cut by the rebels

Rebel leader Velupillai Prabhakaran last week made a public appeal to inhabitants of the north to donate funds for the LTTE for urgent purchases of military equipment to fight the "enemy", the Lankan army.

Meanwhile six soldiers were killed Monday when the tractor in which they were travelling hit a pressure mine in the north-eastern Welioya area. dpa vc ct

Tamil rebels using pressure to halt imminent military offensive

**Load-Date:** September 11, 1995

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## AP Photos COL101-114

Associated Press International

July 24, 2001; Tuesday

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**Section:** International news

**Length:** 1242 words

**Byline:** DILIP GANGULY

**Dateline:** COLOMBO, Sri Lanka

### **Body**

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Separatist rebels used mortars, explosives and automatic weapons to attack Sri Lanka's only international airport and main air base Tuesday, destroying a dozen military and passenger aircraft on the anniversary of riots that marked the start of the civil war.

After six hours of explosions and automatic gunfire, the last three of the 13 Tamil Tigers guerrillas blew themselves up, ending one of the most audacious and damaging assaults by the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam in 18 years of warfare.

The death toll was 20, including seven military men. All 13 guerrillas some of them teen-agers in rubber flip-flops and explosives-filled suicide vests lay dead on the tarmac, slippery from oil leaking from the tails and wing tips of blasted airplanes.

"They were wearing the typical suicide jackets and blew themselves up," said military spokesman Brig. Sanath Karunaratne, speaking of the three disintegrated bodies of the Tamil Tigers fighters.

Sri Lanka-Air Base Attacked, 13th Ld-Writethru

In addition to the dead, eight air force men and four soldiers, a Russian crewman on a passenger plane, and a Sri Lankan journalist, were wounded, said Karunaratne.

He said eight military aircraft two Israeli-made Kfir bombers, one MiG-27, three trainer aircraft and two helicopters were damaged or destroyed.

The cost to Sri Lanka was hundreds of millions of dollars in wrecked aircraft and airport damage, with almost half the fleet of the national airline knocked out, and a heavy blow to the country's main revenue source, tourism.

"Suddenly it all went off - explosions, a couple of planes got blown up, no one really knew what was going on," said Australian tourist Dave Bursil, 32. The software engineer from Melbourne had come to Sri Lanka attracted by the beaches and cheap hotels dlrs 35 to 100 for a room and meals with free beer thrown in.

"Security in the airport didn't have a clue really and we had to basically make our own way out of the airport," said Bursil. He took cover in a drainage pit.



"The airport was ablaze, you could see a huge blaze in the background where planes were on fire," he said. "At last it died down and we were able to make a break for it."

Civil Aviation Minister Jeyaraj Fernandopulle said the airport \_ filled with the smell of burned fuel and rubber, a terminal lounge burned and windows holed with bullets would reopen Wednesday. But five of the national airline's 12 planes were unusable, suffering damage he estimated at dlr\$ 350 million.

The six surviving Sri Lankan Airlines aircraft were diverted to India and the United Arab Emirates. Hundreds of vacationers from Europe and Australia, business people from the Middle East and transit passengers were stranded on this Indian Ocean island, known for beautiful beaches, serene tea estates and a bloody, intractable ethnic war.

The military said its air force carried out two bombing raids on rebel camps in the north and east Tuesday, ignoring the guerrillas' July 2 warning that continuing air strikes would bring an escalation in the war.

Karunaratne said two Israel-built Kfir jets and two MiG-27s took part in Tuesday's bombing in the north and east. "I am confirming that our pilots took the targets successfully," he said. "We destroyed a rebel base in Nagar Kovil."

The attack on the airport came on the anniversary of July 23-24 riots in 1983, in which mobs of the Sinhalese majority killed 2,000-3,000 minority Tamils after rebels had killed 13 soldiers the day before.

The attack and subsequent riots, are seen as the start of the 18-year war between government forces and the **Tamil Tigers**, fighting for a separate Tamil state in the north and eastern portions of the island where most of the minority population live. More than 64,000 people have died in the war in this island nation of 18.6 million people off the southern coast of India.

The Tigers are known to have special suicide squads including one of young **women** who wear explosives-filled vests that they detonate, killing themselves and anyone around them. Many of the young fighters are recruited or kidnapped, as human rights groups allege from villages in the northern Jaffna Peninsula or the east.

On Tuesday, the rebels who didn't blow themselves up lay with large pools of blood spreading over their long-sleeved gray shirts and pants. One's face was burned in the explosion of an airplane he had destroyed.

They carried mortars, machine-guns, and improvised grenades, plus little packets of plastic explosives and lots of chewing gum to stick detonator cord onto the planes.

The rebels mounted five attacks in Colombo last year, killing 71 people.

The worst attack by the rebels was on Jan. 31, 1996, when they exploded bombs in near the World Trade Center in the central business district of the capital, killing 88 and wounding 1,400. Eight buildings, including the one that contained the central bank, were damaged.

On Tuesday, the primary targets in the airport attack were the new Kfir bombers the government bought from Israel last year. The government raised taxes and went deeper into debt to buy the new equipment.

The airport assault the first conventional military attack by the rebels in the capital, as opposed to suicide bombings is sure to hit Sri Lanka's tourism industry hard.

Tour operators and hotels began Tuesday to accept a stream of cancellations, Dow Jones Newswires reported.

"This is a very tragic situation. It has come at a very bad time," said Terrence Fernando, general manager at Jetwing Travels.

In the first quarter of this year, tourist arrivals rose by 7.2 percent to 171,958 from the same period last year, mainly helped by new promotions of the Sri Lanka Tourist Board.

However, industry officials now doubt if the trend will continue.

A rebel attack on the airport where tourists arrive and depart is hard to overcome.

"I was in transit when I heard the shooting and a huge explosion," said Noor Crookshanks, an Australian businessmen. "There were people running everywhere and ducking for cover under counters. There were several children as well, some wailing, and anxious parents were trying to rush them to safety in a flurry."

After being pushed outside the terminal, Crookshanks said he walked 1/2 kilometers (half mile) and boarded a public bus to Colombo, 30 kilometers (18 miles) to the south. He said hundreds of passengers walked toward the city.

Airport officials said as many passengers as possible were taken in buses to hotels near the airport.

Passengers' relatives, blocked on the airport access road 2.5 kilometers (1.5 miles) from the airport, could see flames and hear the explosions and the sound of T-56 automatic weapons that the military uses.

The Bandaranaike International Airport is Sri Lanka's only regular international transportation link. Passenger ferries to and from India were halted years ago, and passenger ships are allowed only rarely, because of concerns about rebel attacks. Cargo ships are allowed.

The rebels declared a unilateral cease-fire at the start of this year, calling on the government to reciprocate as a step toward peace talks. The government rejected the offer, saying the cease-fire was a rebel ploy to regroup.

A Norwegian attempt to bring the two sides to talks the last were held five years ago has stalled. The **Tamil Tigers** are outlawed as a terrorist group in the United States, Britain, India and Sri Lanka.

(dg,ss,ddj/lak)

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On the Web:

Rebel site: [www.eelamweb.com](http://www.eelamweb.com)

Sri Lankan army: [www.slarmy.org](http://www.slarmy.org)

**Load-Date:** July 24, 2001

## **Sri Lankan bomber kills 13; Suicide attack near PM's office**

Hamilton Spectator (Ontario, Canada)

January 6, 2000 Thursday Final Edition

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**Section:** CANADA;WORLD; Pg. C03; News

**Length:** 402 words

**Byline:** Reuters

**Dateline:** COLOMBO;SRI LANKA

### **Body**

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A suicide bomber killed at least 13 people and wounded 27 near the Sri Lankan prime minister's office in the capital Colombo yesterday in the second brazen attack on the country's political elite in three weeks.

Prime Minister Sirimavo Bandaranaike was not in her office at the time of the explosion, officials said.

Police suspect the blast was carried out by the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (**LTTE**), rebels fighting for a separate homeland for minority Tamils in Sri Lanka's north and east.

The Spectator

Officials at the National Hospital in Colombo said 15 of those wounded in yesterday's attack, three of them seriously hurt, were still in hospital.

Hospital officials said five people died en route to hospital and two others died after their arrival.

"Two **women** constables and two policemen of the prime minister's office, a passerby and the suicide bomber were killed in the explosion," Jagath Jayawardena, deputy inspector general of police, told reporters at the scene.

In a separate incident, a prominent Tamil politician and lawyer, Kumar Ponnambalam, was shot dead in a Colombo suburb by a lone gunman who escaped, police and witnesses said.

They said Ponnambalam, leader of the All Ceylon Tamil Congress, was killed while driving his car in the Tamil-dominated Wellawatte area.

Ponnambalam openly espoused the cause of a separate homeland for minority Tamils that the **LTTE** have been fighting for since 1983.

Officials said President Chandrika Kumaratunga -- Bandaranaike's daughter -- had called a meeting of top security officials to discuss the situation in the capital.

Officials said the suicide bomber, whom they suspected was a woman, was walking past the prime minister's office when security guards stopped her for questioning. The bomber then triggered the explosion. There was no damage to the prime minister's office.

Police and soldiers cordoned off the road as investigators descended on the blast site, also close to a girls' school.

## Sri Lankan bomber kills 13; Suicide attack near PM's office

The school was closed for winter holidays.

No one has claimed responsibility for the blast, but police blamed the LTTE.

On Dec. 18, a suspected LTTE rebel suicide bomber blew herself up at a campaign rally for President Kumaratunga.

At least 26 people were killed and more than 100 wounded, including Kumaratunga.

She has said doctors have told her she would lose the sight in her right eye due to the explosion.

Days later she won a second six-year term as president.

**Load-Date:** October 17, 2002

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## **13 Killed in Sri Lanka Blast**

Associated Press Online

January 5, 2000; Wednesday 13:23 Eastern Time

Copyright 2000 Associated Press All Rights Reserved

**Section:** International news

**Length:** 1253 words

**Byline:** DILSHIKA JAYAMAHA

**Dateline:** COLOMBO, Sri Lanka

### **Body**

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A suspected Tamil rebel detonated explosives strapped to her body while police tried to search her near the prime minister's office today, killing herself and 12 others. Hours later, gunmen assassinated a pro-Tamil politician.

Prime Minister Sirimavo Bandaranaike, who is in poor health and mostly works from home, had been scheduled to go to her office for a day of meetings with visitors, an aide said.

Because of increased security, police spotted the bomber outside the walled, British-built office complex. "Our people found her movement suspicious, and they tried to check her when she exploded herself," said Deputy Inspector General of Police Jagath Jayawardene.

It was the second suicide bombing in the capital in 18 days.

President Chandrika Kumaratunga, Bandaranaike's daughter, suffered a serious eye injury on Dec. 18 when a suicide bomber, also believed to be a Tamil Tiger rebel, blew herself up at an election rally, killing 23 and wounding more than 100.

Mangled bodies and pools of blood covered the street today as panicked police and soldiers covered the corpses with sheets and shooed away passers-by.

At least four policemen were among the six people immediately killed. Of the 29 people hospitalized, seven died.

Nimal Sirisena, a security guard at the nearby Russian Embassy, said he saw police trying to search the bomber. "She was resisting it, and moments later, I heard a big bang," Sirisena said, wiping away drops of blood that had splattered him.

Hours after the suicide attack, gunmen stopped a pro-rebel politician, Kumar Ponnambalam, in a Tamil neighborhood as he was driving a black Mercedes and fatally shot him in the head. Ponnambalam, 60, had run for president in 1982 and often defended Tamils in human rights cases against the government.

Police official S.L. Munidasa said officers were searching for a man who had been with Ponnambalam, and disappeared after the shooting, along with the victim's mobile phone and wristwatch. He would not say what the motive for the killing might be.

## 13 Killed in Sri Lanka Blast

The Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam have been fighting for a separate homeland for the minority Tamil people since 1983, in a war that has killed 61,000 people.

The armed forces had succeeded in recent years in pushing the rebels out of major strongholds in northern Jaffna peninsula and into the jungles. The number of bombings in the capital and elsewhere in the Indian Ocean island had diminished.

But during the past few months, the guerrillas, who receive funding, arms, and boats from outside Sri Lanka, have made a strong counterpush. In November, they overran a string of army-held towns, and claimed to have killed hundreds of soldiers.

The recent suicide bombings in the capital, aimed at the nations' top two political leaders, are reminiscent of the assassination of former Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi in 1991. A Tamil Tiger **female** rebel strapped explosives to herself and set them off during a campaign stop in southern India. The rebel group had targeted Gandhi because he had sent Indian forces to Sri Lanka.

The rebels say the only way Sri Lanka's 3.2 million Tamils can prosper is to be separated from the 14 million Sinhalese concentrated in the central and southern part of the country.

Campaigning on promises to end the war, Kumaratunga won the presidency in 1994 and again last Dec. 21. While the army pressed the guerrillas on the ground, she proposed giving more autonomy to all the nation's regions, including the Tamil area, as a way of settling the conflict.

But her People's Alliance Party has only a one-seat majority in the 225-member Parliament, not enough to pass such a constitutional change. She also faces opposition from Sinhalese nationalists who say she is going too far and Tamils who want her to go further.

The suicide bomber who blew herself up outside the prime minister's office Wednesday was a member of the deadliest wing of Tamil Tiger separatists, senior police officials said, as well as the latest prominent **female** assassin in south Asia.

The woman killed herself and 12 others as police became suspicious and questioned her outside the office of Prime Minister Sirimavo Bandaranaike. It wasn't clear if the bomber's exact target was the 82-year-old prime minister, who normally works from home but was due in Wednesday.

Two hours later, in a nearby Tamil neighborhood, gunmen on motorcycles shot pro-rebel Tamil politician Kumar Ponnambalam in the head as he was driving. Neither police nor party officials would comment for the record on a possible motive for the killing of the 60-year-old.

The explosion, which left body parts and pools of blood outside the white walled compound, came three weeks after another woman blew herself up at an election rally, leaving President Chandrika Kumaratunga the prime minister's daughter with a serious eye injury.

Police identified the woman only as a member of the Black Tigers, a group they characterized as the deadliest weapon in the armory of **Tamil Tigers**, a rebel group that has waged a 17-year civil war for independence in the Sri Lankan north.

Handbills and the Tigers' Web site describe the Black Tigers as a "major wing" of their fighting formations and the **women** commandos as "Birds of Freedom."

**Women** have been responsible for some of the region's most prominent assassinations including that of Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi in 1991 and Sri Lankan President Ranasinghe Premadasa in 1993. The **Tamil Tigers** have denied being involved in those killings.

## 13 Killed in Sri Lanka Blast

Male and female suicide fighters begin training at an early age, sometimes as young as 10 years old, and learn various types of combat, anti-terrorist officers say. The young girls are told glorious stories from Hindu epics of how women fought the nation's enemies.

About half the Tamil Tigers are women. Senior police officials say they idolize the charismatic rebel group leader, Velupillai Prabhakaran. Because of the subservient role of women in Tamil society, they are more ready to follow orders without question, although the Tamil Tigers says they liberate women from the rules of Sri Lanka's traditional society, which is dominated by the majority Sinhalese, who are Buddhist.

Anti-terrorist officers say women are also chosen for suicide missions because they won't face the stringent body searches men do at check points. While there are some female Sri Lankan security officers, there are not enough to post at all vulnerable places. As a result, women are asked more frequently for an identity card, while men are physically frisked.

In Wednesday's bombing, a guard outside the prime minister's office thought the woman seemed suspicious and called her over for an identity check. She produced an identification card saying she was Sinhalese. But when she couldn't speak the language properly police called for a Tamil translator, the Defense Ministry said in a statement. At that point, she blew herself up.

Six people died on the spot. Of the 29 hospitalized with shrapnel injuries, seven died later.

Meanwhile, analysts predicted that Wednesday's attack would goad the president into revving up the war against separatists in the north. Both Kumaratunga's father and husband were assassinated.

"This may not be totally bad, because then those in power will have to make clear decisions to end the crisis," said C.A. Chandraprema, a political analyst.

Jehan Perera of the National Peace Council agreed that the two recent suicide bombings would affect Kumaratunga. They "are going to have a very serious impact on her mind."

**Load-Date:** January 5, 2000

## **Bomb blast kills scores in Sri Lanka**

United Press International

October 24, 1994, Monday, BC cycle

Copyright 1994 U.P.I.

**Section:** International

**Length:** 563 words

**Byline:** BY IQBAL ATHAS

**Dateline:** COLOMBO, Oct. 24

### **Body**

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A bomb blast blamed on Tamil separatists ripped through an election rally Monday, killing the main opposition presidential candidate and scores of other politicians, officials and bystanders, security officials said. Security sources said a suicide bomber set off the massive explosion in front of the platform where Gamini Dissanayake, presidential candidate of the opposition United National Party in the Nov. 9 election, was speaking. They said initial reports indicated the bomber, a **female**, acted for the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam, a separatist guerrilla group seeking autonomy for Tamil-dominated areas of north and east Sri Lanka. No group immediately claimed responsibility for the blast, which a Defense Ministry official said killed at least 52 people, including several former Cabinet ministers. The National Intelligence Bureau recently said it had uncovered a plot by the **Tamil Tigers** to assassinate Dissanayake with explosive material but the candidate vowed to continue his campaign. The government declared a nationwide state of emergency and an indefinite curfew following the blast, which occurred shortly after midnight at a campaign rally in a Colombo suburb. Heavily armed troops moved onto the streets of the capital to quell any possible violence. The government said the scheduled Nov. 9 presidential election could not be called off and a substitute candidate would have to be named by the United National Party to participate in the elections. In Washington, the Clinton administration offered its condolences to victims of the attack, condemned it as an "appaling act of violence" and called on Sri Lankans not to seek revenge.

"The Sri Lankan people's desire to resolve their country's difficult ethnic problems and a long-standing commitment to democracy make this new act of senseless violence especially regrettable," State Department spokeswoman Christine Shelly said. The blast came as the recently installed government of Prime Minister Chandrika Bandaranaike Kumaratunga was engaged in exploratory peace talks with the **Tamil Tigers**. An estimated 30,000 Sri Lankans have died in the separatist rebellion since 1972. The battle against the Tigers has dominated the political and security agenda in the island nation. "My government and I deeply regret and condemn this barbaric act," Kumaratunga said in a statement. "It is most regrettable that at a time when our government was committed to wiping out all forms of political violence from our country...that the same violence would strike once again." The bomb blast occurred 15 minutes after midnight Monday during a campaign rally in a Colombo suburb. Witnesses said Dissanayake was acknowledging applause from a large crowd of supporters when a massive explosion ripped apart the platform on which he was standing. Among the dead were several former Cabinet ministers who Dissanayake considered close associates. Reported among the casualties were former Food and Cooperative Minister Weerasinghe Mallimaratchi, ex-Labour Minister G.M. Premachandra, UNP General Secretary Gamini Wijesekera, and City Council representative Chrstie Perera. Elections Commissioner Chandarana de Silva said the November election could not be postponed and told the opposition party to nominate a new candidate, who was widely expected to be former Prime Minister Ranil Wichremasinghe.



Bomb blast kills scores in Sri Lanka

**Load-Date:** October 25, 1994

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End of Document

## *High Tech infrastructures vulnerable to New Terrorism - Part 2 of 3*

United Press International  
October 28, 2000, Saturday

Copyright 2000 U.P.I.

**Section:** GENERAL NEWS

**Length:** 925 words

**Byline:** By MARTIN WALKER

**Dateline:** WASHINGTON, Oct 28

### **Body**

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The suicide bombers who moored alongside the USS Cole to explode a gigantic hole in the destroyer's side were the worst nightmare of the West's counter-terrorism experts. Logic suggests that there are few ways to defend any target against a terrorist prepared to die in order to fulfill the mission.

"We have nothing except the weapon of martyrdom. It is easy and costs us only our lives", declared Ramadan Shalah, secretary-general of the Palestinian Islamic Jihad. "Human bombs cannot be defeated, not even by nuclear bombs". But counter-terrorist agencies are rejecting this counsel of despair. Israeli officials, who faced suicide bombers during the Hamas offensive of 1994-96, argue persuasively that the threat can be countered by stressing the fact that no suicide bomber acts alone.

The suicide bomber needs a parent organization to spy out the target, to assemble the explosives and get them and him into the target zone. The organization itself, its training camps and its communications networks, its fund-raising and recruitment systems, are all obvious and important targets.

"The actual weakness of suicide bombers is that they are nothing more than the instruments of terrorist leaders who expect their organizations to gain tangible benefits from this shocking tactic. The key to countering suicide bombers, therefore, is to make terrorist organizations aware that this decision will incur painful costs", says Ehud Sprinzak, dean of Israel's Lauder School of Government, Policy and Diplomacy.

"Political and economic sanctions against the terrorists' community, combined with effective coercive diplomacy against their foreign patrons, may help reduce or end suicide terrorism", Sprinzak continues, in a widely-cited article in the October issue of 'Foreign Policy' that stresses the need to focus on the back-up organization rather than the individual bomber.

"Governments do not have to invent entirely new tactics when waging a war against suicide terrorists. Instead, they must adapt and intensify existing counter-terrorism strategies to exploit the vulnerabilities of suicide bombers".

Israeli experts have been at the forefront of researching and investigating the phenomenon since the early 1980s, when their own forces in Lebanon became targets for suicide bombers. At the same time, 241 American troops and 58 French paratroopers from the multinational peacekeeping force in were also killed in Beirut by suicide bombers driving trucks laden with explosives into their respective compounds.

## High Tech infrastructures vulnerable to New Terrorism - Part 2 of 3

Ariel Merari, a psychologist at Tel Aviv University, put together a psychological profile of the suicide bomber, based on researching a total of 50 such volunteers in the Hezbollah, Amal and PIJ groups. Although most were young male high school graduates who usually had lost close family members in the struggle, Merari found that there was no simple key, and no easily definable characteristic to the suicide bomber.

It is not even necessarily an Islamic phenomenon, despite the promise of an afterlife in paradise for those who die fighting for the faith. The terrorist group with by far the bloodiest record of suicide bombings is the **Tamil Tigers**, whose community usually practices Buddhism. Of 286 recorded suicide bombers around the world since 1983, the elite 'Black Tigers' contributed 171 of them, well over half. Among their targets were Indian premier Rajiv Gandhi in 1991 and Sri Lanka President Ranasinghe Premadasa in 1993.

Nor is suicide bombing necessarily a male phenomenon. The Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK) mounted fifteen suicide bombing operations between 1995-99 and eleven of them were carried out by **women**. They were less likely to be searched, especially when their explosives were disguised as the bulge of a pregnancy. The **Tamil Tigers** also deployed **women**.

Israeli researchers have also identified marked differences in the ways that suicide bombers are recruited and trained. The **Tamil Tigers** draw their suicide bombers from their elite commando units, the Black Tigers, who are also used on dangerous but not necessarily lethal military missions.

In the Middle East, Hamas and the PIJ do not seek volunteer 'shahids' (martyrs), according to Boaz Ganor, director of Israel's International Policy Institute for Counter-Terrorism. Instead, they count on religious teachers to identify potential suicide bombers from among their pupils. If deemed suitable, the 'shahids' are put through an intense military training and ideological preparation, including the promise of generous funds and accolades for their families.

The final recommendation from the Israeli counter-terrorism experts is that common sense counter-measures, like X-ray machines at airports and surveillance and cement blocks outside potential targets to deter truck bombers, are essential. Moreover, by being seen to be taking steps against the threat, governments can help their own people withstand the real objective of the suicide bombers, to instill a morale-sapping psychology of terror among the target population.

The final piece of advice from the Israeli experts is that suicide bombers are few enough to be a precious resource, whose masters will not usually waste them on hardened targets. This may need some revision, after the attack on the USS Cole, which was an armored target under orders to mount security watches while in what was clearly a potentially difficult neighborhood. The bottom line of the Israeli advice is that suicide bombers are always going to win some battles, but there is no need to assume that they can win a war.

**Load-Date:** October 29, 2000

## *Court orders trial of 26 for Gandhi slaying Indian court orders trial of 26 for Gandhi slaying*

United Press International

November 24, 1993, Wednesday, BC cycle

Copyright 1993 U.P.I.

**Section:** International

**Length:** 508 words

**Dateline:** MADRAS, India

### **Body**

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An Indian court on Wednesday rejected pleas of innocence by 26 defendants and ordered them to stand trial for masterminding the assassination of former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi.

Gandhi was slain in May 1991 by a suicide bomber in the southern Indian state of Tamil Nadu. Judge S.M. Siddickk said there was prima facie evidence to link the 26 defendants, all of them Tamils from India and Sri Lanka, with the killing.

The prosecution has blamed Sri Lanka's **Tamil Tigers** for the assassination, which came less than seven years after Gandhi's mother, Prime Minister Indira Gandhi, was shot to death by her Sikh bodyguards at her official residence.

According to Chief Prosecutor P. Rajamanickam, the guerilla group, officially known as the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam, plotted the killing in a "devilishly unique" way. He said the group recruited a young **female** suicide bomber to avenge the 1987 Indian military intervention in Sri Lanka to crush the Tamil separatist movement.

The bomber strapped plastic explosives to her waist and detonated them as she tried to garland Gandhi at a public meeting southwest of Madras. The Tigers have denied involvement in the killing.

The judge's ruling came six months after he opened hearings on the defendants' petitions arguing there was no case for their formal trial and seeking the dismissal of the charges.

"There are sufficient grounds to proceed against the accused," Siddickk ruled. The judgment was heard in rapt attention by 22 of the defendants.

Defense attorney S. Doraisamy immediately announced that he would appeal to the Madras High Court or India's Supreme Court to overturn Siddickk's order. This was expected to further delay the defendants' trial.

The prosecution said the defendants were second-tier figures in the murder conspiracy. A total of 25 Tamils wanted by police, including the alleged leaders of the conspiracy, committed suicide to escape arrest.

The blast, just days before the final round of balloting in national elections, killed Rajiv Gandhi and 17 others, including the bomber.

Gandhi's Congress party, aided by a sympathy wave triggered by the slaying, narrowly won the elections.

## Court orders trial of 26 for Gandhi slaying Indian court orders trial of 26 for Gandhi slaying

The two-year Indian military operation, carried out on behalf of the Sri Lankan government, failed to subdue the separatist rebellion.

At least 1,200 Indian soldiers perished in the operation, which many analysts called "India's Vietnam."

The Tigers, who control much of Sri Lanka's northern Jaffna peninsula and parts of the Eastern Province, have been waging a bloody guerrilla campaign for the past decade seeking an independent homeland for the island's 2.5 million minority Tamils.

Sri Lanka's armed secessionist movement began after hundreds of minority members were slain in the 1983 anti-Tamil riots in Colombo and elsewhere on the island.

The Tamils claim widespread discrimination by the Sinhalese majority, which dominates the Sri Lankan government and military.

India, which has 55 million Tamil citizens, originally aided the **Tamil Tigers** but later turned against them.

**Load-Date:** November 25, 1993

## *Christian-Buddhist conflict in Sri Lanka*

United Press International

August 2, 2001, Thursday

Copyright 2001 U.P.I.

**Section:** GENERAL NEWS

**Length:** 897 words

**Byline:** By UWE SIEMON-NETTO, UPI Religion Correspondent

**Dateline:** WASHINGTON, Aug. 2

### **Body**

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War-torn Sri Lanka is now sliding into a religious conflict, Christian and Buddhist sources told United Press International Thursday.

"The persecution of Christians is on the increase there," said Terry Madison, president of Open Doors, an organization giving "support for the suffering church worldwide," according to its mission statement.

"The churches are losing members in the West, so now they are trying to make up the numbers by buying people in my country to accept their religion," asserted the Ven. Dhamma Siri, a monk at the Buddhist Vihara (temple) in Washington.

He continued, "They are doing the same thing as in their Holy Wars all over again."

The monk said the evangelicals were continuing the work of Sri Lanka's former colonial masters. The Portuguese first brought Christianity to the island in the 16th century at a significant scale. (Legend also has it that the apostle Thomas visited Sri Lanka India and founded a congregation in the 1st century).

As a result, Catholicism still is the predominant denomination in Sri Lanka, where between 8 and 10 percent of the population is of that faith. Only 0.5 percent is evangelical. There are also some Anglican and Presbyterian families, descendants of the British and Dutch colonizers.

According to the Religion Today news service, Sri Lanka's Buddhist clergy have called for laws that would ban the Christian conversions that are spreading in rural villages. "They vowed collective actions against this practice," the report read.

Madison told UPI in an interview that these actions are already occurring. "Over 30 churches have been burned to the ground, and pastors and their families, all locals, have been threatened with rape and murder. There are no foreign missionaries in Sri Lanka."

"The monks say about 23,000 Buddhists are being converted to Christianity, and proselytizers have targeted 5,000 out of 25,400 villages in the country for their activities," the Religion Today report stated.

Ven. Dhamma Siri said that missionaries had instructed rural converts to desecrate Buddhist statues, toppling them and stepping on them, for example.

## Christian-Buddhist conflict in Sri Lanka

"Such incidents may have occurred," conceded Madison. "Christians in the field don't always do things that Christians are supposed to do. Desecrating other religions' statues is not the way to present the Gospel."

Madison complained that Sri Lankan authorities were not very helpful in shielding local Christians against attacks from Buddhists.

Reached by telephone, a ranking official in Colombo sighed when asked about the brewing conflict between the two faiths. "Don't we have enough problems with the Tamils already?" he asked.

Sri Lanka, a nation of 18.5 million, is being ravaged by a vicious war between the **Tamil Tigers** -- guerillas using suicide bombers, mainly young **women** -- and government forces.

About 5 million Tamils, chiefly Hindus, live primarily in the northern and eastern parts of the island nation. The Tigers, or **LTTE**, fight for the autonomy or even independence of these regions.

There is one oddity about the specific branch of Theravada (or "lesser vehicle") Buddhism that is the religion of most Sinhalese. Generally, Theravada -- which also is practiced in Burma, Thailand, Laos, Cambodia and the southernmost part of Vietnam -- is considered to be a peaceful, tolerant, almost placid faith.

This is not necessarily the case in Sri Lanka, where Buddhist monks have been known for spectacular acts of violence, such as assassinating S.W.R.D. Bandaranaike, Sri Lanka's first prime minister, in 1959.

The reason for this crime -- and subsequent riots -- was that Bandaranaike had reneged on an election-campaign promise to declare Sinhalese the only official language of the country.

These events and the current threats against evangelical Christians are linked, the Colombo official explained. "The link is that some Sinhalese consider themselves Buddha's chosen people and their island the Buddhists' promised land."

It was from Sri Lanka, called Ceylon in colonial days, that Theravada Buddhism spread to Southeast Asia, the official continued. "Many see this country as the one to which the (Gautama) Buddha (563-480 B.C.) had entrusted the pure doctrine."

In a revealing letter to the editor of the Daily News of Colombo, a Sinhalese by the name of S. Perera wrote in 1998:

"Rome is sacred to the Catholics, so is Jerusalem to the Jews, and so is Mecca to the Muslims. The tiny island where the Sinhalese lived for over 25 centuries is the hallowed land of Buddhists."

While Buddhists -- and especially Theravada Buddhists -- must refrain from violence, "they also have the duty to defend the Dharma," Ven. Dhamma Siri said. The Dharma is the Buddha's teaching.

This "duty" is posited against Jesus' great commission to teach and baptize all peoples, a commandment to which Christians owe obedience, as Terry Madison explained. "The Sri Lankan pastors are not spreading some ideology. Conversion is empowerment by God."

Thus, the religious conflict in Sri Lanka is bound to escalate, observers say -- and not just between Christians and Buddhists and Buddhists and Hindus but also between the Hindu Tamils and Christians.

On June 15, "44 Christian families numbering around 77 persons in a village called Panichankemy were made homeless," the Religious Media Agency of Australia reported, adding, "This was due to an attack launched by Hindu extremists."

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End of Document



## 26 found guilty in Rajiv Gandhi assassination case

Deutsche Presse-Agentur

January 28, 1998, Wednesday, BC Cycle 10:13 Central European Time

Copyright 1998 Deutsche Presse-Agentur

**Section:** International News

**Length:** 244 words

**Dateline:** New Delhi

### **Body**

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Twenty six people, including 16 Sri Lankan nationals, were convicted Wednesday by a court in the southern city of Madras in connection with the assassination of former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi in 1991.

Delivering the verdict at a high security jail in the city, Judge, V. Navaneetham held the Sri Lankan separatist Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (**LTTE**) responsible for the killing.

V. Karthikeyan, head of the Special Investigation Team (SIT) in the case, who informed journalists waiting outside the jail of the judgement, did not say whether the accused were found guilty of murder or only of being part of the conspiracy.

The sentences of the accused were due to be announced later Wednesday.

**LTTE** chief Velupillai Prabhakaran, his intelligence chief Pottum Amman and **LTTE women's** wing head Akila were declared proclaimed offenders in the case but were not tried because Indian law has no provision for trial in absentia.

The prosecution alleged Prabhakaran hatched the plot to kill Gandhi in revenge after he sent Indian troops to the Tamil-dominated north and east of Sri Lanka after India's 1987 agreement with the island.

The agreement planned a settlement of Sri Lanka's ethnic troubles but did not make provision for a separate Tamil area. Gandhi was assassinated by a woman suicide bomber on May 21, 1991 in Sriperumbudur in the southern state of Tamil Nadu while campaigning for the Congress Party in general elections. dpa mvb bo

**Load-Date:** January 28, 1998

## **Car bomb kills 45 in Sri Lanka**

United Press International  
April 13, 1989, Thursday, BC cycle

Copyright 1989 U.P.I.

**Section:** International

**Length:** 679 words

**Byline:** By IQBAL ATHAS

**Dateline:** COLOMBO, Sri Lanka

### **Body**

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A car bomb set by Tamil extremists exploded Thursday in the heart of a bustling market in northeastern Sri Lanka, killing at least 45 people and wounding 57 others, and enraged Buddhists killed five Tamils in retaliation, officials said.

Officials blamed the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (***LTTE***) for the second-worst attack since full-scale rebellion erupted more than five years ago by guerrillas fighting to create an independent nation for Sri Lanka's Hindu minority in the island nation's Tamil-dominated northeastern region.

A senior military official said the powerful device exploded at 10 a.m. and appeared to have been timed to inflict maximum casualties in the central marketplace crowded with thousands of Sinhalese buying presents for celebrations Thursday of the Buddhist New Year.

"The bomb had been planted inside an old Morris Minor car and parked near the clock tower in the heart of the town," the official said of the incident in port city of Trincomalee, 190 miles northeast of Colombo.

The blast killed at least 45 people and wounded 57 others, many seriously, the official reported. He said 35 corpses had been identified, but the others were "badly mutilated."

"The scene resembled a slaughterhouse," the official said. "Limbs, legs and pieces of flesh were strewn all over the place, and blood was splattered around like paint."

The death toll was the second-highest from a single attack since the Tamil rebellion began. About 230 people were killed April 24, 1987, when a bomb planted in a truck exploded at a Colombo bus station.

The military official said the car bomb attack sparked retaliatory slayings by enraged Sinhalese, looking for Tamils in the market near a 17th century Dutch-built fort.

The Buddhists killed five Hindus, four of them ***women***, he said, adding that the blast and the communal violence prompted authorities to declare an indefinite curfew across the city, parts of which were sealed off for search operations by Sri Lankan and Indian troops.

Deputy Defense Minister Ranjan Wijeratne traveled with senior military personnel to Trincomalee to assess the situation and report back to President Ranasinghe Premadasa.

## Car bomb kills 45 in Sri Lanka

The attack appeared aimed at marking the LTTE's rejection of a unilateral weeklong cease-fire declared Wednesday by the Sinhalese government in Colombo.

The LTTE said Tuesday that cease-fires and combat would be unnecessary if their goal of the creation of the nation of "Tamil Eelam" was met, and charged the government's offer was a "ruse to make us surrender arms."

The group is the lone Tamil guerrilla organization to still reject an Indian-brokered peace plan, intended to end the Tamil rebellion by granting the northeast some self-rule from Colombo.

More than 60,000 Indian troops are deployed across the area to enforce the July 19, 1987, accord and disarm the LTTE. India said Tuesday it planned to withdraw "substantial and significant" numbers of its personnel because the situation had improved and they were no longer needed.

An official from the Indian High Commission said New Delhi's forces would not stop combat operations, largely because of the failure of three earlier cease-fire offers to the defiant rebels by the world's fourth-largest military.

"(The cease-fire) is a matter between the Sri Lankan government and the opposition," the official said. "We are not involved."

The official also reported that in latest combat, LTTE guerrillas Wednesday detonated a land mine beneath an Indian patrol near the northern city of Vavuniya and followed the blast with an intense firefight, in which 13 soldiers and four rebels died.

The LTTE, led by Vellupillai Prabhakaran, has been reduced to about 1,000 fighters because of clashes. The fighters have mostly retreated to hideouts in dense jungle along the tropical island's remote northeastern coastline.

The cease-fire offer also has been spurned by Sinhalese radicals, who have become powerful in southern and central areas. They say the peace plan divides the nation and undermines its sovereignty because of the deployment of Indian forces.

## **Over 300 rebels killed in counter-attack by troops in Sri Lanka**

Deutsche Presse-Agentur

July 30, 1995, Sunday, BC Cycle 10:24 Central European Time

Copyright 1995 Deutsche Presse-Agentur

**Section:** International News

**Length:** 566 words

**Dateline:** Colombo

### **Body**

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An estimated 300 rebels were killed by security forces in an abortive attack by fighters of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (**LTTE**) on four military detachments in the northeastern part of the country in one of the biggest setbacks in the 12-year struggle of the Tamil separatist, a military spokesman said Sunday.

Over 3,000 rebels launched a major attack on four military bases in the northeastern coastal district of Mullaitivu Friday dawn, but troops backed by air and naval support fought back to defend the camps and drove away rebels in a well coordinated counter attack between the armed services, a military spokesman said

Most of the **LTTE** cadres were teenagers and a large number of women fighters took part in the attack, the spokesman said.

The spokesman said that more than 200 rebel bodies had been recovered so far and the military was in the process of handing over the bodies to the International Committee of Red Cross (ICRC), a Defence Ministry spokesman said.

The handing over the bodies has stated taking place in the in the northern Vavuniya town, 253 kilometers from the capital Colombo. So far more than 100 bodies have been handed over.

Arrangements have been made to transport the other bodies from the Mullaitivu area by Saturday noon while a separate search is on to recover other bodies which may be scattered around the area, a military spokesman said.

However some of the rebels were killed in air strikes beyond the military controlled areas and several more in sea when the rebels were fleeing the area following the attack.

The Sri Lankan military has described the counter attack as one of the most successful against the rebels in the 12 year old bloody conflict with the **LTTE** which has so far claimed over 33,000 lives.

The military claims that only two soldiers have been killed in the attack and a large stock of weapons of the seized in the counter attack.

For the first time the military has been able to recover most of the bodies of those killed in an attack. The military has distributed Video clippings and photographs of the bodies recovered.

## Over 300 rebels killed in counter-attack by troops in Sri Lanka

The pre-dawn abortive attack by the rebels came just two weeks after government troops conducted a major offensive and advanced towards the rebel stronghold of the northern main city of Jaffna. Troops advanced nearly 200 kilometers and stopped short six kilo meters of the town and returned to the bases.

Analysts describe the operation more of a display by the military of their capability of advancing into rebel held territory while the Friday's counter attack by the security would also prove that the military could also replace a conventional type of attack.

The offensive by troops in the north earlier this month came before the government leaked out its political package to end the tamil minority ethnic crisis.

The package which offers extensive devolution to the north and east where the LTTE is fighting for an independent homeland for minority Tamils is expected to be made public by President Chandrika Kumaratunga next week.

The military offensive has been seen also as an attempt to put pressure on the LTTE to return to the negotiating table.

Rebels unilaterally ended a three and a half month truce and ended peace talks with Lankan government to resume their fighting on April 19. Since then over 1,000 persons have been killed. dpa ad

**Load-Date:** July 30, 1995

## *Sri Lanka sets curfew after suicide bombing*

The Associated Press

June 11, 2000, Sunday, BC cycle

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**Section:** International News

**Length:** 542 words

**Byline:** By LAURINDA KEYS, Associated Press Writer

**Dateline:** COLOMBO, Sri Lanka

### **Body**

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The government set a curfew Sunday in neighborhoods near the site of a suicide-bomb assassination to prevent revenge attacks on minority Tamils suspected in the attack.

Troops killed 11 **Tamil Tigers** in the northern Jaffna Peninsula, where the rebels have been fighting to establish a homeland for minority Tamils, the government said.

Indian Foreign Minister Jaswant Singh, who arrived Sunday for discussions on the military and political situation, met with Sri Lanka's foreign minister, Lakshman Kadirgamar, and then informally with President Chandrika Kumaratunga. They allowed photographs, but no questions from the media.

The government was still mourning the death of Industrial Development Minister Clement V. Gooneratne, who was assassinated Wednesday in a suicide bombing that also killed his wife and 21 others in his parliamentary district. His state funeral was held Saturday, and funerals for city lawmakers killed with him were held Sunday.

Police imposed the curfew from 7 p.m. to dawn in Ratmalana and two neighboring suburbs - Moratuwa and Mt. Lavinia. But there was no indication if Wednesday's mob attacks, which followed the suicide bombing, would be repeated.

No one claimed responsibility for Wednesday's bombing, but the government blamed the **Tamil Tigers**, since the attack was similar to others the group has carried out against politicians.

India has said that it would provide humanitarian aid to the 40,000 Sri Lankan troops fighting the Liberation Tiger of Tamil Eelam. It said it was also prepared to evacuate the soldiers, but Colombo has not yet requested the help. The island of Sri Lanka is located off India's southeast coast.

Singh's visit was meant to mend fences, after the chief elected official of India's Tamil Nadu state suggested last week that Sri Lanka could be divided like Czechoslovakia, the state-run Daily News said.

India said it supports a united Sri Lanka, but the rebels have supporters among Indians in Tamil Nadu who share the same language, culture and religion.

## Sri Lanka sets curfew after suicide bombing

Rebel advances three weeks ago to the edges of the major city, Jaffna, have been halted, and the Sri Lankan army, freshly provisioned with weapons from abroad, has begun making sorties toward rebel lines. The government reported 25 soldiers killed and 50 wounded Friday in an assault on three bunkers.

The Information Ministry said Sunday that another three rebel bunkers had been attacked Saturday, with nine rebel casualties. Troops ambushed rebels in the Wanni section of the peninsula, killing two rebels. No further information was given.

Each side accuses the other of preventing civilians in the fighting zone from moving to safety. The rebel Web site - [www.eelam.com](http://www.eelam.com) - repeated a cease-fire offer to allow civilians in the Thenmarachchi area to move.

The government said Sunday that the rebels had used a unilateral cease-fire on May 27 to move civilians into the Wanni area under their control. The government said most of the civilians were women and school children, who are now being trained to fight for the rebels.

The government did not give a source for its claim, and the statements cannot be verified because neither side allows journalists into the war zone.

The war, which began in 1983, has cost more than 62,000 Sri Lankan lives.

## Graphic

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AP Photo COL104

**Load-Date:** June 12, 2000

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## **Sri Lanka Sets Curfew After Bombing**

Associated Press Online

June 11, 2000; Sunday

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**Section:** International news

**Length:** 542 words

**Byline:** LAURINDA KEYS

**Dateline:** COLOMBO, Sri Lanka

### **Body**

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Indian Foreign Minister Jaswant Singh, who arrived Sunday for discussions on the military and political situation, met with Sri Lanka's foreign minister, Lakshman Kadirgamar, and then informally with President Chandrika Kumaratunga. They allowed photographs, but no questions from the media.

The government was still mourning the death of Industrial Development Minister Clement V. Gooneratne, who was assassinated Wednesday in a suicide bombing that also killed his wife and 21 others in his parliamentary district. His state funeral was held Saturday, and funerals for city lawmakers killed with him were held Sunday.

Police imposed the curfew from 7 p.m. to dawn in Ratmalana and two neighboring suburbs Moratuwa and Mt. Lavinia. But there was no indication if Wednesday's mob attacks, which followed the suicide bombing, would be repeated.

No one claimed responsibility for Wednesday's bombing, but the government blamed the **Tamil Tigers**, since the attack was similar to others the group has carried out against politicians.

India has said that it would provide humanitarian aid to the 40,000 Sri Lankan troops fighting the Liberation Tiger of Tamil Eelam. It said it was also prepared to evacuate the soldiers, but Colombo has not yet requested the help. The island of Sri Lanka is located off India's southeast coast.

Singh's visit was meant to mend fences, after the chief elected official of India's Tamil Nadu state suggested last week that Sri Lanka could be divided like Czechoslovakia, the state-run Daily News said.

India said it supports a united Sri Lanka, but the rebels have supporters among Indians in Tamil Nadu who share the same language, culture and religion.



## Sri Lanka Sets Curfew After Bombing

Rebel advances three weeks ago to the edges of the major city, Jaffna, have been halted, and the Sri Lankan army, freshly provisioned with weapons from abroad, has begun making sorties toward rebel lines. The government reported 25 soldiers killed and 50 wounded Friday in an assault on three bunkers.

The Information Ministry said Sunday that another three rebel bunkers had been attacked Saturday, with nine rebel casualties. Troops ambushed rebels in the Wannu section of the peninsula, killing two rebels. No further information was given.

Each side accuses the other of preventing civilians in the fighting zone from moving to safety. The rebel Web site \_ [www.eelam.com](http://www.eelam.com) repeated a cease-fire offer to allow civilians in the Thenmarachchi area to move.

The government said Sunday that the rebels had used a unilateral cease-fire on May 27 to move civilians into the Wannu area under their control. The government said most of the civilians were women and school children, who are now being trained to fight for the rebels.

The government did not give a source for its claim, and the statements cannot be verified because neither side allows journalists into the war zone.

The war, which began in 1983, has cost more than 62,000 Sri Lankan lives.

**Load-Date:** June 11, 2000

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End of Document

## **24 rebels reported killed in artillery attack in northern Lanka**

Deutsche Presse-Agentur

October 31, 1999, Sunday, BC Cycle 07:59 Central European Time

Copyright 1999 Deutsche Presse-Agentur

**Section:** International News

**Length:** 290 words

**Dateline:** Colombo

### **Body**

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The Sri Lankan military killed at least 24 Tamil rebels including 10 **female** cadres in an artillery attack in the northern part of the country as more fighting was reported elsewhere, the defence ministry said Sunday.

The military claimed they had engaged suspected rebel targets in the attack Saturday in the Elephant Pass and Paranthan areas, more than 350 kilometres north of the capital Colombo.

A defence ministry statement said they had intercepted Tamil rebel communication and obtained details of casualties of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (**LTTE**).

The attack came as troops backed by Kafir ground attack aircraft and MI 24 helicopters continued to strafe rebel positions in the northern Wanni area on Saturday.

The defence ministry said some of the rebel positions ahead of the forward defences had been engaged at Periyamadu, about 300 kilometres northeast of the capital.

The attack took place in an area less than 20 kilometre from where heavy fighting between rebels and troops had been reported since Thursday.

At least 42 rebels and five soldiers were killed in the fighting and 26 bodies belonging to the **LTTE** were handed over to their representatives through the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) on Saturday.

Heavy fighting between government troops and Tamil rebels has been reported from northern Sri Lanka over the month of October. Over 200 rebels and more than 50 soldiers and policemen have been reported killed during the month.

Rebels claiming to be fighting for an independent homeland for minority Tamils in the north and eastern parts of the country have put up some strong resistance to troops who have made several attempts to advance into areas held by the **LTTE**. dpa ad vc

**Load-Date:** October 31, 1999

## *Residents say soldiers beat them*

United Press International

June 14, 1988, Tuesday, BC cycle

Copyright 1988 U.P.I.

**Section:** International

**Length:** 482 words

**Byline:** By ADAM KELLIHER

**Dateline:** CHEMPIYANPATTU, Sri Lanka

### **Body**

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Indian soldiers herded Tamil villagers into the grounds of a Catholic church on northern Jaffna peninsula and for six hours beat 75 men with iron rods, boots, sticks and coconut husks, residents said Tuesday. Ten people were hospitalized.

"They thrashed us mercilessly and forced us to eat sand," said one of the victims of the Sunday incident in the isolated fishing settlement of about 500 families on Sri Lanka's northern tip. "All the young men are broken."

Residents said women and children, most of them crying, repeatedly pleaded with the Indians to stop, but the soldiers turned on them and beat them away.

India's Deputy High Commissioner in Colombo, Nirupan Sen, said he would investigate.

An Indian soldier stationed near the village confirmed that the incident took place, saying New Delhi's forces acted against the villagers for not informing them about a landmine discovered on Saturday that was apparently laid by the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) rebel group.

But residents of Chempiyanpattu said it was more than one year since they had last seen fighters of the defiant rebel group, which is refusing to disarm and accept a peace accord signed last July to satisfy rebel demands for an independent Tamil nation.

The accord grants the north and east limited self-rule through the creation of an elected provincial council that would be given some of the administrative powers now held by the mostly ethnic Sinhalese central government.

"We do not support the LTTE and only want a peaceful solution in Sri Lanka," said an elderly woman. "We have helped the boys (the LTTE) enough. We gave them all our money and gold, and we still do not have our freedom."

None of the villagers, who are mostly Catholic Tamils, wished to be identified, saying they feared retribution by Indian soldiers. They were visibly scared, showing tension whenever a vehicle approached, fearing it might be an Indian army truck.

They said about 120 soldiers led by an unidentified Gurkha major from a nearby camp at Mathurankernui village at 8 a.m. flushed all the residents from their houses and gathered them before the ornate, blue church, founded by Portuguese missionaries in the 17th century.

### Residents say soldiers beat them

Some 200 men were separated and paraded before a masked man, who was apparently a former **LTTE** member now assisting the Indians, villagers said.

None of the men were identified as **LTTE** supporters, but the soldiers separated about 75 males aged under 50 and made them lie face down in the sandy courtyard, they said.

Ten were selected and taken inside the church where they were beaten with iron rods, sticks and thick fronds from palm trees. Outside, the villagers said, troops walked upon the rows of prostrate men and hit them with similar weapons.

"They used their boots to force sand in our mouths," said a fisherman, whose hand was in bandages and his back and chest were covered with welts.

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End of Document

## **SRI LANKA: INDIAN GOVT CRITICAL OF AMNESTY INTL'S FINDINGS**

IPS-Inter Press Service

May 23, 1989, Tuesday

Copyright 1989 IPS-Inter Press Service/Global Information Network

**Length:** 449 words

**Dateline:** NEW DELHI, May 23

### **Body**

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The Indian Foreign Office today reacted sharply to a recent Amnesty International report alleging large-scale violations of human rights by Indian soldiers in Sri Lanka.

A spokesperson said the report, released by the London-based human rights organization last week, was "one sided and biased."

The document was based largely on testimony against the Indian Peace-Keeping Force (IPKF) which has been stationed in northeastern Sri Lanka since a 1987 agreement between the two countries.

The charges made by the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (**LTTE**) -- the principal separatist group fighting the Indian troops -- accused the IPKF of military excesses and raping Tamil **women**.

The Foreign Office spokesperson said it was unfortunate that the report would serve as "grist to the **LTTE**'s propaganda mills . . . with the sole objective of drawing attention away from their own misdeeds."

The Indian troops went into action against the Tigers in October 1987, after the group refused to accept the Indo-Sri Lanka peace accord. At least 900 Indian soldiers have been killed in action against the guerrillas.

The Foreign Office here commented today that while the Amnesty report went into considerable detail about the alleged misdeeds of the IPKF, it made only one reference to the **LTTE**'s own misdeeds.

The spokesperson said the human rights organization had taken at face value "several wild allegations without any vigorous scrutiny."

Amnesty had also failed to mention important human rights developments in Sri Lanka which impinge directly on the political situation there, he said.

"Every specific complaint received from any source about the behavior of Indian troops is invariably investigated," the spokesperson said.

He added: "Wherever and whenever charges have been proved, the guilty have been punished in exemplary fashion," but could not give details of the number of Indian soldiers who have so far been court-martialled in Sri Lanka.

Other diplomatic sources here expressed surprise today that Amnesty had "fallen into the **LTTE**'s campaign stratagems."

## SRI LANKA : INDIAN GOVT CRITICAL OF AMNESTY INTL'S FINDINGS

They pointed out that the report made no mention of the successful completion of provincial, presidential and parliamentary elections in Sri Lanka since last November, which they described as a "clear mandate for peace."

The role of the IPKF has been praised by some observers, who have noted that the force is doing a creditable job in difficult circumstances, sources say.

The Indian Foreign Office also objected to Amnesty's own limitations, which prevent it from investigating the activities of non-governmental groups like the Tigers.

"This narrowness of approach seriously undermines the credibility of the report," the spokesperson declared.

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End of Document

## *Fighters take battle to Web*

The Times (London)

September 30, 1998, Wednesday

Copyright 1998 Times Newspapers Limited

**Section:** Features

**Length:** 586 words

**Byline:** ToKelly

### **Body**

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Islamic fundamentalists and armed groups all over the world have found an ideal medium

IT'S not just nations that are joining the race to get wired. Even the Islamic fundamentalist Taleban who are currently fighting for control of war-ravaged Afghanistan have extended their battle to the Web.

Television, music and dancing are all banned in Taleban-controlled areas. But for this organisation and many others desperate to find a means of broadcasting their views, the power of the Web is irresistible.

The professionally produced pages are a sharp contrast to the more ruthless face of an organisation which controls areas where women are forbidden from walking in the street and thieves have their hands cut off.

The Taleban's attempts to take Afghanistan back to the medieval roots of Islam usually condemn any trappings of 20th-century modernity as the work of Satan. But the Web provides a unique method of getting their arguments heard.

The Taleban have turned to the Internet to confront an increasingly hostile world, in much the same way that human rights campaigners in a number of repressive countries have used it to break down the barriers of censorship and communicate with supporters who would otherwise be cut off from them.

Free from Government control and offering a host of ways of disguising the source of its information, it has become an ideal medium for clandestine communication.

Western newspapers have been giving the Taleban an increasingly bad press. They were recently targeted by the US for sheltering Osama bin Laden, the man allegedly behind the US Embassy bombings.

Human rights groups have also condemned the Taleban for its policy towards women, who are banned from life outside the home.

Written in English, the Taleban site is clearly intended for international consumption. It includes the Taleban newspaper, chat rooms and appeals for financial assistance.

However, the vast bulk is taken up with theological tracts attacking the West and defending Taleban policies. This remarkable site claims to be the only example of truly Islamic journalism in the world.

But while the Web's geographic ambiguity can be useful, it is difficult to tell if a site is genuine or not.

## Fighters take battle to Web

Two Taleban sites already exist. One is spelt "Taliban", the other "Taleban". The space for counter propaganda is obviously there.

Armed groups all over the world have set up Web pages. Sri Lanka's **Tamil Tigers**, the Zapatistas in Mexico and the Islamic Front for Salvation in Algeria are all there.

The vast majority, however, are centred around the Arab-Israeli conflict, with Hezbollah having a particularly glossy page, while another campaigns for the release of prisoners such as Sheikh Obeid, the Lebanese Muslim cleric who has been in Israeli jails for almost a decade since being snatched from his village and whose freedom was once suggested as part of a deal for freeing Western hostages in Lebanon.

The flow is not all one way - Israeli "anti-terror sites" are numerous, giving alternative profiles of most of the groups.

Battle has shifted, partly at least, to the hi-tech world of the Web. However, this has brought some of the more traditional methods of war with it. A site related to ETA, the Basque terrorist group, was recently bombed out of existence by over-zealous e-mailing.

For further information: [www.taliban.com](http://www.taliban.com) (Official)

[www.taleban.com](http://www.taleban.com) (Unofficial)

[www.eelamweb.com](http://www.eelamweb.com) (**Tamil Tigers**)

[www.ezln.org](http://www.ezln.org) (Zapatistas)

[www.fisalgeria.org](http://www.fisalgeria.org) (Islamic Front for Salvation)

[www.ict.org.il](http://www.ict.org.il) ( anti-terror)

**Load-Date:** October 1, 1998



## *Indian Army hold on Sri Lankan rebel base is tenuous at best*

Christian Science Monitor (Boston, MA)

October 28, 1987, Wednesday

Copyright 1987 The Christian Science Publishing Society

**Section:** International; Pg. 9

**Length:** 805 words

**Byline:** Sheila Tefft, Special to The Christian Science Monitor

**Dateline:** Jaffna, Sri Lanka

**Highlight:** As general boasts, gunfire sounds nearby

### **Body**

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The battle for Jaffna is over, sort of.

After two months of fierce fighting, India says it has the upper hand in this north Sri Lankan base of Tamil separatists. Officials claim that last Saturday they broke the stronghold from which the militants, called the **Tamil Tigers**, have run their guerrilla war against the Sri Lankan government for four years.

But, with the shooting continuing, India's hold here seems tenuous at best.

"The end of Jaffna does not mean the end of the Tigers," said a local political leader with close ties to the militants. "The Indians are capturing a shadow."

During a visit by Western journalists to Jaffna earlier this week, firing of heavy artillery and machine-gun fire could be heard less than a few miles away. A cloud of billowy smoke rose above a distant neighborhood where Indian officials say that militants are setting off ammunition dumps. In front of the Jaffna railroad station painted with slogans against Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi, soldiers stand guard in battle stance.

Brig. Gen. Manjit Singh boasted about Indian Army victories from the ramparts of the old Dutch fort in the center of town.

"No firing and not even sniping are heard," said General Singh as a burst of gunfire broke the afternoon quiet over the lagoon and sand dunes nearby.

The fight pitted the world's fourth largest Army, trained in conventional war tactics, against a disciplined guerrilla band, which at one time was armed and trained by the Indian government.

More than 800 Indians have died or been injured in the fighting. Indian officials say that more than 500 **Tamil Tigers**, about one-fifth of the total force, have been killed. The Tigers say their losses are only 60. Indian troops arrived in Sri Lanka in August to disarm the militants and enforce a peace accord signed by India and Sri Lanka.

Indian troops hold major landmarks here, but officials admit the Tamil rebels are nipping at their heels. In a bid to escape and retrench, Tamil militant forces snipe at Indian soldiers, set off booby-trapped land mines, or spray machine-gun fire from rooftops.

## Indian Army hold on Sri Lankan rebel base is tenuous at best

Military officers say that the Tiger's leader, Velupillai Prabhakaran, and other top leaders have abandoned their garb for local sarongs and sandals, and have slipped out of the city. A Tiger flag still flies from the local water tower.

India is locked in a propaganda battle with the militants, a conflict as tough as the military fight waged since India cracked down on the Tamil extremists who refused to comply with the peace accord. The Indian government, until recently, would not allow journalists into the area. They admit civilian casualties are high, but will not disclose numbers.

In recent days, the Tamils have unleashed a barrage of accusations. The militants charged Indian troops have indiscriminately bombed civilian areas, killed hospital patients, and raped young Tamil **women**. Indian military officials say troops have taken care not to harm civilians and say the militants are using Jaffna residents as shields in battle.

In St. Mary Our Lady of Refuge Catholic church, more than 1,500 people have sought safety from the fighting. In general they accuse Indian troops of heavy bombing, looting, and assaulting many of the more than 100,000 refugees here.

"The situation is very bad. Many refugees are dying," said the Rev. Jeeva Paul. "I don't think the Indian government can solve our problems. They have been shelling worse than the Sri Lankan government has done in the past."

However, not all the sentiment among the refugees is anti-Indian. R. Vijaykumar, who sleeps with his family in a church pew, says he does not favor the Tigers. Many refugees regard them as local heroes.

"The Tigers have missed the boat. They have thrown away the chance given by the Indian government," he said. "We hate the Tigers."

Just up the road, pockmarked by mortar fire and lined with burned-out buildings, Cooramasami Thangaradnam, lies in a hospital bed with her right leg amputated. She says she was caught in shelling by Indian forces after militants massacred 30 Indian paratroopers.

"I saw Indian troops moving up the road, and out of fear, I ran into my house," the woman recalled. "That was when the shells hit me."

Beset with heavy combat losses, Indian military officials bristle at the charges of atrocities. "When I hear things like that," a senior official said, "I get so mad I could just shoot people."

Indian officials say they hope the public bitterness will die away with the fighting. They admit Indian troops will have to skirmish with the militants for some time in outlying areas, but hope life in Jaffna will soon return to normal.

"Once people feel that the Indian troops will remain and will look after them," said Maj. Gen. A. S. Kalkat, chief of the Indian forces, "then this opposition will go away."

## Graphic

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Picture, Indian soldiers search for **Tamil Tigers** in downtown Jaffna this week, AP

## **Security forces clash with student protesters**

United Press International  
October 7, 1988, Friday, BC cycle

Copyright 1988 U.P.I.

**Section:** International

**Length:** 565 words

**Byline:** By ELMO PERERA

**Dateline:** COLOMBO, Sri Lanka

### **Body**

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Police and soldiers fired tear gas and charged at demonstrators with batons Friday in the southern town of Matara to disperse thousands of student protesters in unrest that has injured at least 70 people, sources said.

Students staged two demonstrations in Matara, 80 miles south of the capital of Colombo. At the first protest near the all-male Rahula College and the Sujatha College for women, 63 people were injured during the police charge. In the second protest outside Ruhuna University, seven bus passengers were injured by stone-throwing demonstrators.

The Rahula and Sujatha schools are hotbeds of opposition to a July 1987 accord giving limited autonomy to two northeast provinces dominated by the Indian Ocean island's ethnic minority Tamils.

The pact, signed by Sri Lanka and India, was aimed at ending the civil war waged by Tamils demanding an independent state. India deployed thousands of troops to enforce the accord on the island, which lies just off India's southeast tip.

The students, members of the majority Sinhalese Buddhist population, have orchestrated two weeks of protests against the plan, saying it cedes too much political power to the mostly Hindu Tamils.

The security sources said the first protest was sparked by a police assault on a student who refused to remove an anti-government poster from a wall.

About 8,000 undergraduates poured into the streets and began shouting slogans condemning the police, the sources said.

Police and soldiers were deployed and staged a baton charge into the crowd when it refused to disperse, prompting a stampede by fleeing protesters, the sources said.

At least 63 people were injured, most of them in the stampede, the sources said. One female student was transferred to Colombo General Hospital in serious condition.

In the other Matara protest, hundreds of undergraduates, including some 200 student Buddhist monks, rallied for a third day outside Ruhuna University, calling for the resignation of President Junius Jayewardene for signing the July 1987 accord.

## Security forces clash with student protesters

The students hurled rocks at passing vehicles and seven bus passengers were injured, the sources said. Police and troops dispersed the crowd with tear gas and baton charges, they said.

Schools in Matara were ordered closed next week following the clashes.

Meanwhile, a Tamil rebel group backing the Indo-Sri Lankan peace plan filed nominations for Northeastern Province council polls in defiance of death threats by another Tamil group which rejected the accord -- the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam, or LTTE.

Amid intense security by Indian troops and Sri Lankan police, the Eelam Peoples Revolutionary Liberation Organization, or EPRLF, filed 31 nominations for provincial offices in the Tamil-dominated region of the island.

Government offices, shops and schools in other parts of the province were closed in a LTTE-sponsored protest strike.

The EPRLF nominations were the first filed for seats on the 71-member council, scheduled to be elected Nov. 16 in the final phase of the peace accord.

The LTTE is the only one of five Tamil rebel groups that refused to abandon its fight for independence from the Sinhalese-controlled government. India has lost more than 500 soldiers fighting the LTTE, which has suffered unknown casualties.

Thursday, the moderate Tamil United Liberation Front announced it would not participate in the elections because of LTTE threats.

## *Fear rules over Sri Lankan city: Trincomalee's men disappear as the army sweeps in*

The Guardian (London)

March 28, 1991

Copyright 1991 Guardian Newspapers Limited

**Length:** 523 words

**Byline:** By CHRISTOPHER MORRIS

### **Body**

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THE Tamil refugee glanced nervously over his shoulder, making sure no one else was listening. 'They come at night, wearing black T-shirts. They take two or three people away who are usually never seen again.' According to local rumour, the smoke which rises regularly from the grounds of a local hotel is caused by burning bodies.

Under a thin veneer of normality, Trincomalee is a city which functions on fear. It was one of the first areas to be retaken by the Sri Lankan army from Tamil Tiger rebels, when fighting broke out again last June. Thousands of people have fled, and thousands more remain as refugees.

The city's army commander, Brigadier Siri Peiris, says he hears reports of disappearances, but denies army involvement. 'Our job is to isolate the Tamil Tigers from the ordinary people,' he says. Thousands of Tamils are regularly rounded up and brought before informers for identification.

As a result, most of the young Tamil men have vanished. 'The young men have either fled to India, joined the Tamil Tigers or been killed,' according to relief workers. Refugee camps are dominated by women, children and old men.

At Clappenburg refugee camp, thousands of people are crammed into huge aircraft hangars, where each family has a few square feet of concrete floor. The government supplies food, but conditions are poor.

Camps which were set up as temporary solutions are threatening to become permanent problems as the war drags on. In the city itself, civil administration has returned, but road blocks and check points are common.

Many buildings and shops have been burnt out and destroyed. Last year, when the army advanced, it was the turn of the Tamils to suffer; when the Tigers moved into town, it was the Sinhalese.

Trincomalee is unusual because large Sinhalese and Tamil populations live side by side. The Sinhalese, who dominate the government and the armed forces, are the majority island-wide, but a minority in the north and east, where the Tigers want to establish a separate Tamil-speaking state.

The city has always been an ethnic flashpoint, and many Tamils say a concerted campaign of Sinhalese colonisation has intensified in the last few months, to alter the ethnic balance and undermine the Tamils' claim to their homeland.

In better times, the city could easily boom once again. When Sri Lanka was called Ceylon, and was part of the British empire, Trincomalee was the Royal Navy's pride and joy. Situated on one of the finest harbours in Asia, it

Fear rules over Sri Lankan city: Trincomalee 's men disappear as the army sweeps in

would be a natural centre for the export-based industries which the Sri Lankan government wants to develop to turn round the country's shaky economy.

But Colombo has grown tired of waiting for the war to go away, and development is now being planned around ports in the Sinhalese south. Nevertheless, if peace does eventually emerge, Trincomalee could be the engine which would drive a regional economic recovery.

For the moment, though, the city's economic infrastructure has been devastated the port is little used, while fields in the surrounding area remain uncultivated. Refugees sit in their camps with no work, and little hope of a brighter future.

**Load-Date:** June 9, 2000

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End of Document

## 116 Tamils die as attacks foiled

The Advertiser

July 29, 1995 Saturday

Copyright 1995 Nationwide News Pty Limited

**Length:** 437 words

### **Body**

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Heavy fighting raged in north-eastern Sri Lanka yesterday as security forces repulsed a Tamil Tiger guerilla attack on five camps.

The military said 116 rebels and two soldiers were killed.

The navy and air force were called in to support ground troops which beat off the simultaneous attacks by the separatist Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam, said military spokesman Sarath Munasinghe.  
afp

He said government troops successfully repelled a pre-dawn attack by hundreds of rebels, including **female** cadres, against five military facilities at Weli Oya, Kokkuthuduvai, Kokilai, Janapakura and Jayasinghepura.

Two soldiers were killed and another 22 wounded, 13 of them seriously, in the fierce three-hour fighting. Mr Munasinghe said the Tigers suffered heavily in the army counter-offensive.

The Tigers fired a heat-seeking surface-to-air missile at an air force helicopter transporting troops to the battlefield but the low-flying pilot dodged it, Mr Munasinghe said.

It was the first time the rebels were known to have fired a heat seeking missile outside the Tamil-held northern Jaffna peninsula where they have downed three aircraft since April.

Mr Munasinghe said the military was well prepared for the Tiger offensive. Two suicide **women** cadres of the **LTTE** were shot dead by soldiers as they tried to break into the Weli Oya camp.

Rebel boats destroyed "As they were hit, they exploded in a ball of fire. Obviously they were strapped with explosives," Mr Munasinghe said.

Earlier this month, the **LTTE** used 17 suicide cadres known as Black Tigers to blast a navy ship.

"They have learnt a bitter lesson. We have reports that 47 terrorists bodies are outside the Weli Oya brigade headquarters alone," Mr Munasinghe said, adding the air force and the navy destroyed several rebel boats.

Military sources said at least 69 bodies of Tamil Tiger men were found at the Kokkuthuduvai army camp located along the coast. Military figures showed at least 116 rebels had been killed.

As the fighting died down, hundreds of army soldiers began a clearing operation looking for **LTTE** bodies, explosives and anti-personnel mines outside the five camps which came under attack.

## 116 Tamils die as attacks foiled

This Tamil Tiger attack came more than a week after the security forces conducted a major ground offensive against the rebels inside the northern Jaffna peninsula where they maintain a de facto State.

The **LTTE** is leading a violent campaign to establish an independent homeland for Sri Lanka's two million Tamil minority concentrated in northern and eastern regions.

More than 50,000 people have died in bitter fighting in the Tamil Tiger's drawn-out guerilla campaign since 1972.

**Load-Date:** October 1, 2003

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## **Army Says 116 Moslems Killed In Tamil Assault**

The Associated Press

August 12, 1990, Sunday, BC cycle

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**Section:** International News

**Length:** 591 words

**Byline:** By PATRICK CRUEZ, Associated Press Writer

**Dateline:** COLOMBO, Sri Lanka

### **Body**

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Tamil guerrillas killed at least 116 people in an assault on five Moslem villages in Sri Lanka's escalating ethnic war, military officials said Sunday.

A Tamil politician said the attacks were in retaliation for the killing of 33 Tamil civilians by Moslems using government-supplied weapons. The Tamil guerrillas claimed the killings were carried out by pro-government Tamil groups in an attempt to provoke sectarian clashes between Tamils and Moslems.

About 50 gunmen threw hand grenades into houses and raked the Moslem villages with machine-gun fire late Saturday, the officials said on condition of anonymity. They said 116 bodies were counted and about 40 people were critically wounded.

The attacks were on five villages west of Eravur, 125 miles east of Colombo, the officials said.

Mohammed Saly, of the Moslem Refugee Relief Organization, said the assailants "first hacked to death Moslem priests in a mosque to prevent them from using the loudspeakers to warn of the attack."

They then attacked people in the five villages and shooting lasted three hours, Saly said.

Villagers fled into the jungle to escape, he said. Army troops reached the region on Sunday morning from their camp at Chenkaladi about three miles away. It was not immediately clear why it took troops so long to reach the region.

The largest of the villages attacked was called Saddam Hussein, after the Iraqi leader who sent building assistance several years ago, Saly said.

The Tamil politician, Mahalingam Sivajilingam, said the killings Saturday were related to fatal attacks on Tamils earlier in the day.

"Armed Moslems raided a Tamil refugee camp on Saturday and abducted and killed 25 Tamil civilians, including seven women," said Sivajilingam. Another eight Tamil patients were killed in a hospital, he said.

"This led to the Tamil Tigers attacking the villages ... and killing innocent Moslems," he said. "The two communities are on an annihilation spree. Nobody knows how many more will die before it all ends," said Savajilingam, a leader of the Tamil Eelam Liberation Organization, a former guerrilla group which gave up arms for politics.

## Army Says 116 Moslems Killed In Tamil Assault

Lawrence Thilakar, a Tiger leader, said in a telephone call to the Colombo office of The Associated Press that the attacks on Moslems were carried out by pro-government Tamil groups to cause sectarian clashes.

"Why should we attack Moslems?" he asked.

"We need the fullest cooperation of the Moslem people, who are also suppressed at the hands of the government. This dangerous game being played by the government will not last long. Very soon, the truth will come out."

Thilakar spoke from London, where the Tigers maintain a propaganda office.

On Aug. 3 Tamil rebels raided another eastern village and gunned down 140 Moslems inside two Mosques, the military said. The **Tamil Tigers** later denied responsibility, but the incident set off vengeance killings on both sides.

Tamil insurgents seeking independence from the Sinhalese-dominated government in Colombo broke a 13-month cease-fire on June 11. Though Moslems are not directly involved in the conflict, Tamils suspect them of acting as informers for the military.

Before Saturday's incidents, 193 Moslems and about 60 Tamil civilians had died in the latest round of fighting, according to the military. Nearly 60 Sinhalese civilians have also died in attacks attributed to the Tigers.

Since the fighting resumed, government troops have consolidated their hold on east coast villages, forcing the Tigers into the jungle. The Tigers remain in control of the northern Jaffna Peninsula.

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End of Document

## *Indian reinforces troops for final assault on Tamil lair*

United Press International  
October 18, 1987, Sunday, AM cycle

Copyright 1987 U.P.I.

**Section:** International

**Length:** 621 words

**Byline:** By ADAM KELLIHER

**Dateline:** COLOMBO, Sri Lanka

### **Body**

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India poured in reinforcements Sunday for an assault on Tamil rebels holed up for what an official predicted would be a "last-ditch, most ferocious stand" in Jaffna's narrow, high-walled alleys.

A senior Sri Lankan official said Indian troops have nearly penetrated two defense perimeters in efforts to link up with a besieged garrison battling its way out of a Dutch-built fort. The official said reports that most houses were booby-trapped were exaggerated.

The official said that when the Indians punch into Jaffna, the battle would become more of a mopping-up operation against the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam, the strongest Tamil group fighting for an independent nation of "Tamil Eelam" in the north and east.

The Tamils have said they want independence because the Sinhalese-controlled central government discriminates against the Hindu minority.

"It is going to be a last-ditch, most ferocious stand by the LTTE," the official warned. "But if the Indians can kill the top commanders, who are hiding in certain bunkers, then perhaps the rank and file will lay down their arms."

About 2,500 LTTE rebels rejected India's call for them to accept an unconditional cease-fire and agree to adhere fully to terms of an Indian-guaranteed peace pact aimed at ending the 4-year-old ethnic war.

The rebels, who broke a 10-week-old cease-fire Oct. 6 after 15 fighters committed suicide while in Sri Lankan custody, vowed to fight to a final showdown in the shell-shattered town on Sri Lanka's northern tip. Thousands of people have fled their homes on Jaffna peninsula and are desperately short of food, medicine and water.

The Indians have banned journalists from entering the peninsula to verify conflicting versions of the operations by some 8,000 troops of a 16,000-strong Indian force deployed across the Tamil-dominated north and east to enforce the peace accord.

Indian officials in Colombo and New Delhi reported that troops were slowly advancing under heavy fire from the west and east through the narrow alleys of Jaffna town. The town was defended by rebels in well-fortified bunkers and houses.

## Indian reinforces troops for final assault on Tamil lair

"Both the eastern and western prongs... are now poised to link up with the besieged Jaffna fort," said a Foreign Ministry official in New Delhi. "Once they link up ... the LTTE will have no option but to surrender, along with their caches of arms and ammunition."

Lakshmi Puri, spokeswoman at the Indian High Commission in Colombo, said the nine days of combat has left 102 Indian troops dead, 332 wounded and 19 missing. Puri said 527 LTTE members have died and 254 were detained.

The Indians have refused to give civilian casualty figures but the LTTE said more than 150 people have been killed and 500 wounded in Jaffna town alone.

In New Delhi, a source at Indian Airlines said five 737 passenger aircraft had been commandeered to airlift more troops to Sri Lanka.

Puri said 1,500 to 2,000 more troops have been sent to Jaffna since Friday, bringing the total Indian force on the peninsula to about 8,000.

In another development, five Tamil women in eastern Sri Lanka said in affidavits they were raped by Indian troops who stormed through their village Thursday in a rage over the deaths of 20 soldiers from a rebel landmine.

Police and residents contacted by telephone reported about 1,000 troops beat civilians with pipes and killed two people when they torched some 60 houses, leaving about 600 villagers homeless.

"There was a backlash by the forces," said a leading member of the Tamil community. "They overran the village and messed up all the women. But because of eastern traditions, many women did not want to admit it because their chances of marriage would be affected."

Puri said she would investigate reports.

## *Sri Lankan rebels keep Indians at bay*

United Press International  
October 13, 1987, Tuesday, PM cycle

Copyright 1987 U.P.I.

**Section:** International

**Length:** 616 words

**Byline:** By ADAM KELLIHER

**Dateline:** COLOMBO, Sri Lanka

### **Body**

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Indian troops called for reinforcement today as Tamil militants repulsed an armored assault on the rebel stronghold of Jaffna, where savage house-to-house combat was being waged, a Sri Lankan military official said.

The official said four days of operations to rout some 3,000 fighters of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam, or LTTE, in their stronghold on Sri Lanka's northern tip had left more than 500 people dead, including soldiers and civilians. He said Indian commanders had asked New Delhi to send reinforcements.

Indian High Commission spokeswoman Lakshmi Puri put the dead at 27 Indians and about 200 rebels, with 141 Indian soldiers wounded.

The Sri Lankan military official said the Indians, part of a 15,000-strong force deployed to enforce a July 29 Indo-Sri Lankan peace accord that was shattered last week, blasted rebel positions in residential areas with fire from 120mm mortars and 105mm cannons before advancing in four armored columns.

But the guerrillas struck back with mines, rocket-propelled grenades and home-made mortars and attempts to punch through militant lines at Urumparai, Chunnakam, Mallakam and south Jaffna with Soviet-built armored personnel carriers and battle tanks were thwarted, he said.

"They are meeting with stiff resistance and have been repulsed in the four areas," the official said. "Fighting has been very bitter, very intense, with some hand-to-hand combat reported in the house-by-house operations."

He said some 40,000 of the town's 200,000 residents had flocked to three Indian-declared sanctuaries as all other areas of the town were free-fire zones in where Indians have warned they will shoot any curfew-violators on sight.

The Indian spokeswoman confirmed Indian troops had met resistance at the four places and said the Indians were still on the outskirts of Jaffna, about 2 miles from the urban center.

Both Indian and Sri Lankan officials claimed Tamil militants were using women and children as "human shields" in the fighting.

"The LTTE have been using women and children as human shields," an Indian official said, basing his information on reports from the Sri Lankan military. "When they retreat or attack, they keep the civilians in front of them."

## Sri Lankan rebels keep Indians at bay

A senior Sri Lankan government official also said members of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam had dumped the mutilated bodies of 29 Indian troops at Naga Vihara, a Buddhist Temple in central Jaffna.

"Some had been captured and then butchered," the official said. "The **LTTE** have declared an all-out war and they are fighting very fiercely. The closer the Indians go, the stiffer the opposition will become."

Sri Lankan forces last May reached the outskirts of Jaffna, but did not enter the fishing port following pressure from New Delhi. Throughout the 4-year war, India has provided sanctuary to the rebels in its southern Tamil Nadu state, home to 55 million Indian Tamils.

"Jaffna town was almost built for guerrilla warfare," said one former U.S. anti-insurgency expert. The town's winding alleyways restrict an invader's field of fire and are perfect for staging ambushes and laying boobytraps, making it difficult to occupy without great loss of life, he said.

The Indian operations were mounted after the **LTTE** rejected a 10-week-old cease-fire last week in response to the deaths of 15 rebels in a mass suicide. The **LTTE** launched attacks against the Buddhist Sinhalese majority in which 193 civilians and soldiers died.

The mainly Hindu Tamils are seeking establishment of the Tamil nation of "Eelam" in the north and east to counter years of alleged discrimination by Sri Lanka's Sinhalese-controlled central government. About 6,000 people have died in the fighting.

### AP Photo COL101

Associated Press International

March 28, 2001; Wednesday

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**Section:** International news

**Length:** 307 words

**Dateline:** COLOMBO, Sri Lanka

## **Body**

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Relatives of 11 seamen held captive for several years by Tamil Tiger rebels demonstrated in the capital Wednesday, pleading with the separatists to release the men in time for a festival in April.

"Tiger uncle, please release my father," read a placard held up by a little girl. "Son, come home before the new year," read another. Many of the women among the 200 demonstrators wept.

Sinhalese and Tamils, the leading ethnic groups in this country of 18.6 million people, celebrate the new year in April, based on astrological calculations and movement of planets.

The protest was organized by the Parents for Peace, an association that represents relatives of captive crew members from the ships MV Missen, Iris Moana and Princess Kash, taken by the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam rebels in three attacks between 1994 and 1997.

The voluntary organization is headed by Janaka Tenuwara, the captain of the MV Missen, who was released by the LTTE in 1998 along with two crewmen from the Iris Moana.

However, 11 remain in the custody of the rebels, who have fought since 1983 for a separate Tamil homeland in the northeast.

"I was released after one year and three months but my crew members and those of the other ships are still with the LTTE," Tenuwara told The Associated Press. "Now we request the LTTE to release these men before the new year."

Tamil rebels have targeted merchant ships in the past, saying they do not recognize Sri Lanka's sovereignty in northern and eastern waters. They also attack ships that they believe may be carrying weapons and other items for the government between the northern Jaffna Peninsula and the south.

Buddhists, mostly Sinhalese, comprise 69.3 percent of Sri Lanka's population while Hindus, mainly Tamils, make up 15.4 percent of the population.

More than 63,000 people have been killed in the war.

(nw/lak)

AP Photo COL101

**Load-Date:** March 28, 2001

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End of Document



## 40 Tamils die as Muslims hit back

Herald

August 8, 1990 Wednesday

Copyright 1990 Nationwide News Pty Limited

**Length:** 218 words

### **Body**

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COLOMBO A mob avenging the massacre of fellow Muslims raided a Tamil village and killed 40 men, women and children, a Tamil politician claimed today.

Military officials said government troops killed 42 Tamil Tiger rebels blamed for killing 193 Muslims since Friday in eastern Sri Lanka.

Yesterday, Muslims attacked Thirraikerni village in Ampara district and shot and stabbed residents, according to member of Parliament, Kandiah Premachandran, quoting survivors. The village is 210 kilometres east of Colombo, the capital.

There was no independent confirmation of Premachandran's allegation. Police and military officials said they did not know of the reported event. Premachandran said those who fled the village said the "Muslims raped a number of women before killing them" but he did not know details of the attack.

Tamil Tigers began fighting government troops on June 11, ending a 13-month ceasefire, in their bid for an independent nation in the north and east.

Military officials said the government killed 42 Tamil Tiger rebels during search operations in Ampara district. Most of the clashes occurred yesterday. And an indefinite curfew was imposed today in the eastern port city of Trincomalee after reports of tension between Muslims and Tamils.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

END OF STORY

**Load-Date:** September 24, 2003

## *Sri Lanka lifts quota restrictions on textile export for Europe*

Associated Press International

December 12, 2000; Tuesday

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**Section:** Financial pages

**Length:** 517 words

**Dateline:** COLOMBO, Sri Lanka

### **Body**

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The government on Tuesday ended an annual quota system for textile exports to the European Union to give a boost to domestic apparel industry.

Minister of Industrial Development Gamini Lakshman Peiris told reporters that lifting of the quota system will boost export sales by 16 billion rupees (dlsr 200 million) annually.

"The suspension of quota at this juncture places Sri Lanka in an advantageous positions as buyers can take a long-term view in placing orders without the hindrance of quantity restrictions," he said.

Textiles and garments are Sri Lanka's biggest export earners, and the European Union buys nearly 35 percent of the nation's garments. The quota system was introduced to maintain quality.

Sri Lanka's garments and textile exports increased 23 percent to dlsr 2.408 billion in the January-October period, compared with dlsr 1.954 billion in the same period last year, according to latest statistics.

The government on Tuesday accepted an offer from the Tamil Tiger rebels to begin peace talks, but said any negotiation should be held without preconditions.

Last month, rebel leader Velupillai Prabhakaran of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (**LTTE**), offered to hold peace talks with the government, but insisted on a de-escalation in deadly fighting that has raged for 18 years.

Foreign Minister Lakshman Kadirgamar said on Tuesday that the government would not accept any preconditions for talks. "In the government's view, a de-escalation of war could be considered only as the talks progress toward a definite stage in resolving the conflict."

"The **LTTE** are not babies conducting a war by accident, but are capable of coming for talks while continuing fighting," he said.

He said the government would now wait for a response from the rebels.

Kadirgamar ruled out any confidence-building measures preceding the resumption of dialogue between the government and the **LTTE**. "Enough time has been wasted, let's end the rhetoric and get on with it," the foreign minister said.

## Sri Lanka lifts quota restrictions on textile export for Europe

Some Sri Lankan newspapers have reported in the past that Norway, which is attempting to bring the two sides to the negotiating table after a gap of five years, has suggested the sides make good will gestures before talks.

Rebels from Sri Lanka's 3.2 million minority Tamils are fighting for a homeland in the north and east. They accuse the majority Sinhalese of widespread discrimination in education and jobs. The government denies the charge. More than 63,000 people have died during the 17-year war.

American military experts have begun human rights training for government troops and police, said U.S. Embassy spokesman Stephen Holgate. The weeklong training session will focus on the rule of law, military justice, conflict resolution and women's rights.

According to a new report by Human Rights Watch, both the Sri Lankan government and Tamil Tiger rebels have carried out abuses during the conflict.

"Civilians in the northeast of the country were caught in the middle between the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) and government forces," the report, posted on the group's website, said Tuesday.

**Load-Date:** December 12, 2000

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End of Document

## AP Photos Planned

Associated Press International

November 12, 1999; Friday 04:54 Eastern Time

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**Section:** International news

**Length:** 713 words

**Byline:** ASIF ANSAR

**Dateline:** VAVUNIYA, Sri Lanka

### **Body**

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Tamil Tiger rebels and government troops traded shell fire overnight at this deserted northern town, but the rebels failed to wage a threatened large-scale attack, military officers and witnesses said Friday.

There was no immediate report of casualties from the guerrilla shelling and government counter fire that lasted about 30 minutes Thursday night.

About 100,000 of the town's 125,000 residents fled to safety Thursday to escape an attack rebels had threatened in radio broadcasts and leaflets. Thousands sought refuge in public buildings on the outskirts of the town, 210 kilometers (130 miles) north of the capital, Colombo.

In Rasendrakulam, about five kilometers (three miles) west of Vavuniya, civilians set up a temporary camp at a school. Peter Balasingham, 38, a goldsmith, said there was inadequate food and shelter.

"We don't have anything to eat, children don't have milk to drink," he said. "Someone should do something for us."

The guerrillas from the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (**LTTE**) are fighting for an independent homeland for the minority Tamils. On Wednesday, they warned all civilians to move out of the area in 24 hours, prompting a mass exodus.

Tamils comprise about 90 percent of the population of Vavuniya, a rice trading center and military headquarters.

Many of those camping out made tents of whatever materials they could find, cloth, plastic sheets and sarees the long cloth South Asian **women** wear.

On Thursday night the rebels had tried to regroup on the outskirts of Vavuniya, prompting the military to shell the suspected positions.

"After we fired, the **LTTE** did fire some shells toward the town, but it was nothing major," said a military official, speaking on condition of anonymity.

He said artillery battles were reported around Welioya, 30 kilometers (20 miles) east of Vavuniya, but had no details.

## AP Photos Planned

The rebels' Voice of Tigers clandestine radio made no comment Friday on the shelling, saying only that most residents of Vavuniya had heeded the warning to leave town. The LTTE is outlawed in Sri Lanka.

Soldiers, backed by armored personnel carriers and tanks, patrolled the town or took positions behind sandbag bunkers overnight, anticipating the rebel attack.

The rebels had a string of victories last week, capturing 10 army camps in the north, where most of Sri Lanka's 16-year civil war has been fought. The guerrillas said they lost 115 fighters and killed 1,000 government soldiers in the attacks on the garrisons.

The army said 101 soldiers were killed and 743 wounded. But returning troops have said hundreds of soldiers were killed.

The LTTE says the Tamil minority face discrimination at the hands of the Sinhalese majority in this small island nation off India's southern coast. The government denies the charge. More than

8,000 people have died in the fighting.

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On Thursday, picks up 9th graf pvs.

**Load-Date:** November 12, 1999

## *Sri Lankans Hear Details of Decade of Slaughter*

The New York Times

May 21, 1995, Sunday, Late Edition - Final

Copyright 1995 The New York Times Company

**Distribution:** Foreign Desk

**Section:** Section 1; ; Section 1; Page 10; Column 1; Foreign Desk ; Column 1;

**Length:** 1288 words

**Byline:** By JOHN F. BURNS

By JOHN F. BURNS

**Dateline:** COLOMBO, Sri Lanka

### **Body**

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For weeks, at hearings in town halls and school auditoriums across this island, bereaved families have been telling their grim stories: of groups of men, sometimes women and teen-age children, being rounded up by armed men at intervals in the last decade and driven away, never to be seen again.

Some accounts have told of trucks' stopping in remote clearings, of blindfolded captives descending, of bursts of automatic fire, of the last groans of the dying. In a score of cases, grieving relatives have described mass graves, usually deep in the forests and jungles.

Since ethnic and political tensions exploded in the 1980's, life for many Sri Lankans has been a grim parody of the tropical paradise described by early Western travelers to what was then Ceylon. For more than a decade, this country of 18 million people fell prey to a culture of violence that made Government death squads, mass graves and killings of ethnic Tamils and Sinhalese part of everyday life.

Last fall a new Government took office promising to end the nightmare. Under President Chandrika Bandaranaike Kumaratunga, widowed in a political killing in 1988, the new administration pledged to return the country to the rule of law and investigate all past abuses, whether committed by the previous Government or by militant groups that used terror against it.

"We will dig up every grave," Mrs. Kumaratunga said.

The promise of an accounting for past abuses was coupled with a pledge by the new Government to seek a negotiated end to Sri Lanka's long-running war with Tamil Tiger separatists, which spawned many of the brutalities. But events in recent weeks have raised doubts about the Government's ability to deliver effectively on the promises, and worse still from the standpoint of many Sri Lankans, raised the possibility that the brutalities could recur.

The heaviest blow came with the Tamil Tigers' recent decision to abrogate the standstill in the war that took hold shortly after Mrs. Kumaratunga took office in August. With a speed that has shaken the Government, the rebels have struck hard at army and police installations all along the country's north and east coasts, killing nearly more

## Sri Lankans Hear Details of Decade of Slaughter

than 350 Government fighters in barely a month. Mrs. Kumaratunga has said she is ready if necessary to return to "all-out war."

But even if peace talks with the Tigers resume, the evidence of abuses pouring forth from witnesses all across the country has been on such a scale that few in Sri Lanka believe that Mrs. Kumaratunga can deliver on her pledge to have a full reckoning.

In hearings that began in January, each of three judicial inquiries investigating abuses in different regions of the country has been told of more than 10,000 cases of disappearances. Many cases involve more than one person, sometimes as many as 20 or 30.

The numbers suggest that Amnesty International and other human rights groups may have been close in suggesting that tens of thousands of people -- as many as 80,000, by some Sri Lankan estimates -- have been killed in two separate conflicts. One of these has been the continuing separatist insurgency in the north and east by the Tamil Tiger rebels; the other conflict, now ended, was an uprising in the central and southern districts in the late 1980's by a far-left group, the People's Liberation Front.

In appointing the inquiries, the new Government hoped, among other things, to ease the bitterness that the war with the Tamil Tigers has sown in relations between the ethnic Sinhalese majority, 75 percent of the island's population, and the ethnic Tamils, about 15 percent.

Although many Tamils disappeared, the largest number of victims were ethnic Sinhalese, victims of either of Tamil Tiger abductions or of the conflict between the Government forces and the People's Liberation Front.

Because many of those accused in the disappearances are army and police officers who now hold key positions in the war against the Tamil Tigers, Sri Lankans have been caught in a debate over how far the investigating should go.

In the election campaign last fall that ousted the United National Party Government, in power during the worst abuses, Mrs. Kumaratunga said every killing should be investigated, and those responsible punished. "The culprits have to be found if possible, and punished," she said.

But others seem less sure. Among them is Justice Minister G. L. Peiris, a constitutional lawyer who used his position as vice chancellor of the University of Colombo to speak out forcefully against the abuses when many others remained silent. Since appointing the inquiry commissions, Mr. Peiris has been cautious.

"The Government owes a duty to the parents and kith and kin to help them ascertain the fate of their loved ones," he has said. "But it is not possible for us to embark on a futile and impossible task of apportioning blame."

Amnesty International, which compiled extensive accounts of the abuses when they were occurring, has urged the Government not to follow the examples of Argentina and Chile, where inquiries into large-scale disappearances were followed by amnesties for many of those responsible.

Also, Amnesty has urged the exhumations of the scores of mass graves around the country. Only in this way, Amnesty has said, can Sri Lanka "insure that grave human rights violations such as those that have marked the recent past are never allowed to happen again."

But the only grave exhumed so far, a series of deep pits beneath a television relay tower at Suriyakanda in the south-central mountains, where 30 high school students are thought to have been among 200 victims of army death squads, has not been an encouraging precedent.

Begun in the last months of the previous Government, the exhumation was suspended after only a handful of skeletons were recovered, amid signs that the pits were interfered with by bulldozers when the site was under police guard.

## Sri Lankans Hear Details of Decade of Slaughter

Increasingly, many who pressed hard for a full accounting are coming to believe that the most that can be accomplished is to compile a full record of the abuses, and then to issue an amnesty.

The inquiry commissions have only small staffs, and many of their investigations have stalled after army and police officers, confronted with detailed allegations, have denied any knowledge of abuses, asserted that there are no relevant documents in their files or said the men responsible have died, usually fighting the **Tamil Tigers**.

In one widely publicized case, judges at an inquiry into the killing of Vijaya Kumaratunga, Mrs. Kumaratunga's husband, a movie actor-turned-politician who was shot outside his Colombo home in 1988, warned a policeman who was detailed to investigate the killing at the time that he would be arrested for perjury if he continued to obfuscate. "We will not tolerate your lying," one judge said.

Krishnapillai Palakidnar, the retired judge investigating the disappearances in the north and east, said the justice sought by the families of those who disappeared would ultimately come from reconciliation among Sri Lankans, rather than from prosecutions.

Mr. Palakidnar, a Tamil, said that everything he had heard at the inquiry had convinced him that the real villains were politicians like the former President, Ranasinghe Premadasa, assassinated in a Tiger suicide bombing in 1993, who stirred ethnic hatred to win votes.

"On a personal note, I would say that none of the people who plugged the communal line have survived -- they were either murdered, or defeated in elections or done for in other ways," Mr. Palakidnar said.

"So my conclusion is that this blessed island has some kind of divine protection, such that murderers and adventurers do not in the long run prosper, and are not allowed to advance their malign causes."

## Graphic

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Photo: Government promises to end a decade of ethnic violence in Sri Lanka have been undermined recently by new rebel attacks on the country's north and east coasts. The bodies of 15 police officers and a civilian were laid out after a rebel attack Wednesday on a village 125 miles north of Colombo, the capital. (Associated Press)

Map of Sri Lanka shows the location of Colombo.

**Load-Date:** May 21, 1995



## **death toll rises to 9 in colombo bomb explosion**

Copyright 1998 Xinhua News AgencyXinhua News Agency

FEBRUARY 6, 1998, FRIDAY

**Length:** 344 words

**Dateline:** colombo, february 6; ITEM NO: 0206257

### **Body**

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at least nine people, including a suicide bomber, have been killed in a bomb explosion in the center of colombo friday afternoon, military spokesman ink dewage said friday evening. among the dead were two women soldiers, three airmen, the woman suicide bomber, her driver and the other two men aboard the van of the bomber, dewage said in a news release. he said two other airmen and five civilians who were in the vicinity of the explosion were injured and they were promptly evacuated to the general hospital in colombo for treatment. the spokesman confirmed that the incident took place when security forces in the downtown area stopped the van for routine check at around 5 p.m. the explosion took place near an air force camp which is only a few blocks away from galadari hotel and hilton hotel, which sustained serious damage when a massive truck-bomb went off last october. dewage said the woman suicide bomber was believed to be a member of the liberation tigers of tamil eelam (ltte), which has been fighting for more than a decade for a separate tamil state in the east and north of the country. soon after the incident, police sealed off the scene and began investigations. the blast took place only two days after the country celebrated the 50th independence day on wednesday, on which president chandrika kumaratunga vowed to do everything to end terrorism and war in her country. the explosion is believed to be an act of the ltte to mar the golden jubilee day celebrations in the country. britain's prince charles, who was here to attend the celebrations, left the country only a few hours before the explosion. on january 25, members of the ltte detonated a massive truck bomb near the holiest buddhist shrine of the sri lankan people, the tooth relic temple in kandy, killing at least 17 people and damaging the temple. the celebrations had been originally scheduled to be held in the central mountain city, some 115 kilometers east of colombo.

**Load-Date:** February 7, 1998

## Cyclists are OK

Northern Times

December 7, 2001, Friday

Copyright 2001 Nationwide News Pty Limited

**Length:** 632 words

### **Body**

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AS a cyclist for 30 years, I agree that defiance of standard rules is annoying and dangerous (November 30). I disagree that cyclists are demanding more and more rights on our roads, as Robyn Kirk asserts.

Let me quote the Queensland Transport Department: "Cyclists are legitimate road users sharing the same rights as larger vehicles and deserving the same respect and courtesy."

It is sad that the education of all road users is at a cost. Road rules covering all aspects are obtainable at the counter of Transport Department outlets. This small outlay, \$8.95, beats the ignorance of motorists who care to read it that they have obligations to cyclists and vice-versa.

It falls on the teachers of our society to introduce a system which educates first before a licence is issued or a bicycle given without instruction.

Vehicle drivers appear dangerous to cyclists, as many are unaware that they are the rule breakers as well.

G Wynn, Caboolture.

Solution needed

IMAGINE if all the abandoned families in Australia took Dan McSweeney's advice (Times November 23) and gave up welfare to return full-time to the workforce.

About 15 per cent of families in Australia are headed by one parent, 89 per cent of these parents are female and 52 per cent are unemployed (ABS 1999).

With no mother or father around, how do they receive guidance or emotional support? What would happen to these neglected children?

The social consequences of thousands of neglected children would create enormous emotional and financial damage, far outweighing the cost of interim welfare needed by sole parents of young children.

It is so easy to preach and moralise on other people's choices, behaviours and mistakes. Far more beneficial if Dan could offer some compassionate and practical advice that allows children to be raised in a nurturing environment by the remaining parent who has committed to the rearing of their children, even if the other parent is working full-time and contributing nothing.

## Cyclists are OK

I challenge every reader who is "sick of" welfare handouts to provide one practical and positive solution that increases families' financial independence without sacrificing a child's need for a home, a family, and parental presence.

R Robertson, Deception Bay.

## Role for Interpol

NO doubt Osama bin Laden will be brought to justice. Unfortunately, there are many other terrorists, many of whom will be willing to follow in his footsteps.

Moreover, most countries have terrorists within their society. One need only think of Ireland (IRA), Spain (ETA), Sri Lanka (**Tamil Tigers**) and others, to realise that terrorism runs deep within many societies.

And, who has not heard of the Ku Klux Klan?

So . . . when the USA and NATO have finished with bin Laden, is this not an ideal time to expand the role of Interpol, to spearhead the fight against the criminals and gangsters who make up these terrorist organisations?

For that's what terrorists are: common criminals and murderers.

Osama bin Laden is, by all accounts, a mass murderer and should be treated as such, regardless of his motivations and political inclinations.

By expanding Interpol -- or by creating a new international organisation -- all terrorists could be hunted down and brought to account more easily than at present.

What is the alternative now looming? A very messy, loose co-operative of super-powers and no-powers, each with its own agenda, all trying to eliminate terrorism -- or so they think.

The real problem is this: there is no clearly acceptable definition for what constitutes a "terrorist organisation". Ask any member of the IRA, or Hezbollah, or ETA, or Hamas or **Tamil Tigers**, or Mujaheddin or . . .

Could it be that one country's freedom fighters is another country's terrorists? That's a frightening situation.

Roger Burke, Caboolture.

**Load-Date:** December 6, 2001

## **Top Tiger woman is killed**

The Times

November 14, 1995; Tuesday

Copyright 1995 Times Newspapers Limited

**Section:** Overseas news

**Length:** 203 words

**Byline:** From Christopher Thomas in Herat Halmillewa northern Sri Lanka

### **Body**

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THE **Tamil Tigers**, under siege for almost a month in their collapsing stronghold in the shattered northern town of Jaffna, have been rocked by the death of their top woman leader, known as Akhila. She was a key suspect in the assassination in 1991 of Rajiv Gandhi, the former Indian Prime Minister.

She joined the rebels in 1987 and epitomised the derring-do of **female** Tigers, who fight as equals alongside men. They live a spartan regime, abide by codes of chastity and frequently join the suicide squads known as Black Tigers. She is the most senior member the Tigers have admitted losing since the security forces launched Operation Riviresa (Operation Sunshine) on October 17.

The Tigers said she died two weeks ago during a Sri Lankan army offensive. The delay in the announcement demonstrates the disintegration of the rebels' communications system. The Indian Government had sought Akhila's extradition to stand trial for murder.

The siege of Jaffna town continued yesterday but the Tigers were clearly putting up stiff resistance. The army has been largely withdrawn from other parts of the country for the offensive. The authorities are arming Sinhalese villagers in northern areas of the country against the Tigers.

**Load-Date:** February 25, 1996

## *Ethnic war escalates as Tamils kill 43 civilians*

THE WEEKEND AUSTRALIAN

May 27, 1995 Saturday 0 Edition

Copyright 1995 Nationwide News Pty Limited

**Length:** 588 words

**Byline:** MINOLI DE SOYA

### **Body**

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SRI Lankan Tamil Tiger rebels escalated the island's bloody ethnic war yesterday, opening fire on villagers in a random killing spree that left 43 dead in the first major attack on civilians in three years. A military spokesman said the separatists also assassinated a prominent Buddhist monk, who was a long-time critic of the rebel cause, during the simultaneous attack on a military camp and nearby village at Kallarawa, 25km from the port of Trincomalee in north-eastern Sri Lanka. "About 200 to 300 terrorists came into the village where about 70 families live. The villagers were helpless against such numbers," he said. The Sinhalese village was usually guarded by a small military detachment which had gone into the nearby jungle in a night search for rebels, he said. The 10 soldiers have failed to return from the night sortie. Military spokesman Mr Sarath Munasinghe confirmed the assault but said authorities were still awaiting complete details of the incident. Ambulances were sent from Trincomalee to bring the casualties back to the main hospital in the region, he added. Security forces were placed on maximum alert in the capital, Colombo, with security strengthened in and outside parliament and vehicles entering the capital subjected to thorough searches by soldiers manning checkpoints and roadblocks, officials said. Kithalagama Siri Seelalankara, commonly known as the "Dibulagala Priest", named after his temple, was shot dead with his driver, after being dragged from his vehicle by the rebels, the military spokesman said.

AFP, Reuters The monk, who sometimes carried a handgun, had shunned his usual armed police escort when he went to inspect nearby paddy fields, he said. Earlier unconfirmed reports said the priest, famous for his iron-grey beard and closely cropped grey hair, was on his way to Kallarawa to comfort families of the dead. He took a hardline stand against the mainly Hindu Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (**LTTE**), fighting for a homeland in the north and east of majority Buddhist Sinhalese Sri Lanka. The main opposition United National Party (UNP) expressed shock at the latest attacks and appealed for calm. The monk's killing came just a month after UNP legislator Mr Jayalath Jayewardene urged the government of President Chandrika Kumaratunga to restore the military guard that was assigned to the priest by the former UNP regime. The Government replaced army soldiers, who had been assigned to protect the priest, with ordinary policemen shortly after coming to power last year. Mr Jayewardene warned in April that a rebel attack on Buddhist monks could unleash a majority Sinhalese backlash against minority Tamils, similar to the 1983 ethnic riots. **LTTE** guerrillas killed 13 Sinhalese soldiers in 1983 in the north, triggering ethnic riots in Colombo that left some 400 people, mostly Tamils, dead. Most Sinhalese are followers of Buddhism, while a majority of Tamils are Hindus. Tamil parties have charged in the past that successive governments have given Buddhism pride of place in the constitution. The **LTTE** last month broke a ceasefire with the Government and have stepped up hostilities in the east in a bid to create their eelam or separate State. This week they ambushed and killed 27 soldiers and opened fire on a packed bus, killing three **women** civilians and two soldiers. Yesterday's attack in Kallarawa was the first major **LTTE** assault against civilians since 1992, when 166 Muslims were shot or hacked to death at Palliyagodalla, about 30km north of the Dibulagala Priest's temple.

## Ethnic war escalates as Tamils kill 43 civilians

**Load-Date:** October 1, 2003

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End of Document

## **26 SENTENCED TO DEATH OVER GANDHI'S ASSASSINATION**

Canberra Times (Australia)  
January 30, 1998, Friday Edition

Copyright 1998 The Federal Capital Press of Australia Pty Limited

**Section:** Part A; Page 8

**Length:** 619 words

**Byline:** PETER POPHAM

### **Body**

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MADRAS, Thursday: Twenty-six supporters of the ***Tamil Tigers*** were sentenced to death in India yesterday for their part in the murder of India's former prime minister Rajiv Gandhi.

India's longest political assassination trial ended with the judge handing down death sentences to 26 Tamil militants implicated in Mr Gandhi's murder.

Mr Gandhi was killed on May 21, 1991, at a political rally in Tamil Nadu state when a ***female*** Tiger volunteer garlanded him with a sandalwood necklace, prostrated to touch his feet, then set off 0.5kg of explosives hidden in a specially designed body suit under her clothes.

It was the first use of this kamikaze variation by the Tigers, who have been fighting Sri Lanka's Sinhala-dominated government for an independent homeland for more than 20 years.

The Tigers targeted Mr Gandhi because it was under his premiership that the Indian Peace Keeping Force was dispatched to Sri Lanka to help the government forces suppress the Tigers' insurgency. The Indian force was later withdrawn, but in 1991 the Tigers' command feared that if the Congress under Mr Gandhi were to win the election, the force might be ordered back to the island nation. Whether or not the fear was well-founded, the force has never been deployed in Sri Lanka since. For the Tigers, Mr Gandhi's assassination was a great strategic victory.

The killing involved nine months of painstaking planning. The night before, Dhanu carried out a dry run, garlanding another top Congress politician to test the level of security. After the blast, which killed Mr Gandhi and 17 other people including Dhanu, 12 terrorists committed suicide by swallowing cyanide to avoid arrest.

The downfall of the others involved came about because one of the terrorists killed in the blast had, on Tigers' supremo, Velupillai Prabhakaran's orders, been taking photographs of the action. Camera and film survived, enabling investigators to identify those in the vicinity.

Of the 29 people charged with involvement in the murder, three, including Prabhakaran, were tried in absentia. Only two of the accused were convicted of murder, but under India's tough anti-terrorist laws, the lesser convictions of the others are also punishable by death. Capital punishment is rare in India, but people convicted of political assassinations have been hanged in the past. Tuesday's verdict is believed to be the first time the ***Tamil Tigers***, or Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam, have been condemned in a court, despite the many acts of terrorism they have committed, including the murder of Sri Lankan president R. Premadasa. It follows the proscription of the

## 26 SENTENCED TO DEATH OVER GANDHI'S ASSASSINATION

organisation by the Sri Lankan Government earlier in the week, and its blacklisting by the United States Government last year.

Mr Gandhi's assassination continues to reverberate loudly in India. The long-awaited interim report of the Jain Commission into the murder, published in November, blamed a regional Tamil party, the DMK, one of the partners in the last coalition government, for failing to do enough to protect Mr Gandhi. When Congress demanded (supposedly under Sonia Gandhi's instigation) that the DMK be sacked, prime minister I. K. Gujral refused, Congress withdrew support and the government collapsed hence the impending general election.

Sonia Gandhi, who has become the dominant figure in the election although she is not standing for office, has avoided apportioning blame for her husband's death during her mass rallies. But she launched her campaign only metres from where he was killed.

JAFFNA: Voting in the crucial local elections in Sri Lanka's Tamil heartland was delayed today after Tamil Tiger rebels engaged the military in a three-hour gun battle.

- The Independent, AP

**Load-Date:** January 30, 1998

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End of Document



## **43 dead in Tamil terror raids**

Sydney Morning Herald (Australia)

May 27, 1995 Saturday

Late Edition

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**Section:** NEWS AND FEATURES; Pg. 15

**Length:** 534 words

**Byline:** MINOLI de SOYSA Source: Reuter

### **Body**

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COLOMBO, Friday: Sri Lankan Tamil Tiger separatists, stepping up attacks in the east, opened fire at random in a Sinhalese village today, killing 42 people.

It was the first major attack on civilians in three years, a military spokesman said.

About 65 kilometres away rebels also shot dead a leading Buddhist priest who was a long-time critic of the rebel cause, the spokesman said.

Five civilians were also injured in the attack on the village of Kallarawa, near the port of Trincomalee. Reinforcements had been sent to the area. "About 200 to 300 terrorists came into the village where about 70 families live. The villagers were helpless against such numbers," he said.

The village was usually guarded by a small military detachment which had gone into the nearby jungle in a night search for rebels, he said. The 10 soldiers failed to return from the night sortie.

Kithalagama Siri Seelalankara, known as the Dibulagala Priest after his temple, was shot dead with his driver, the spokesman said.

The priest, who sometimes carried a handgun, had shunned his usual armed police escort when he went to inspect nearby paddy fields, he said.

Earlier unconfirmed reports said the priest, famous for his iron-grey beard and closely cropped hair, was on his way to Kallarawa to comfort families of the dead.

He took a hard-line stand against the mainly Hindu Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (***LTTE***) fighting for a homeland in the north and east of majority Buddhist Sri Lanka.

Buddhist organisations this week spoke out against government proposals to devolve power to the Tamils.

Tamil parties have charged in the past that successive governments have given Buddhism pride of place in the Constitution.

## 43 dead in Tamil terror raids

The President, Mrs Chandrika Bandaranaike Kumaratunga, who swept to power in November largely on her pledge to end the war, has said the proposals were being discussed with all parties, excluding the LTTE, which last month broke a cease-fire with the

Government. Since then the LTTE, which already controls the north, has stepped up hostilities in the east.

On Tuesday, separatists ambushed and killed 27 soldiers. On Wednesday, they opened fire on a packed bus, killing three women civilians and two soldiers.

Today's attack in Kallarawa was the first major LTTE assault against civilians since 1992 when 166 Muslims were shot or hacked to death at Palliyagodalla, about 30 kilometres north of the Dibulagala Priest's temple.

Yesterday, Sri Lankan security forces declared a night curfew in parts of the northern Tamil rebel stronghold of Jaffna in what could be a prelude to an army offensive there, government officials and residents said.

"Six villages in the Thondamannar area have been placed under a dusk-to-dawn curfew until further notice," a senior government administrator in the area said. He added that he did not know why the curfew had been declared.

Last week, troops captured 10 square kilometres of Thondamannar, east of the Palaly air base in the Jaffna peninsula, in an effort to keep rebel anti-aircraft missiles out of range of approaching aircraft.

The military recently stepped up attacks on the Tigers, raiding jungle hideouts in the east and bombing rebel build-ups close to army outposts in the north.

**Load-Date:** July 23, 2007

## **SRI LANKA: WAITING FOR LOVED ONES WHO HAVE DISAPPEARED**

IPS-Inter Press Service

March 17, 1992, Tuesday

Copyright 1992 IPS-Inter Press Service/Global Information Network

**Length:** 593 words

**Byline:** by Rita Sebastian

**Dateline:** TRINCOMALEE, Mar. 17

### **Body**

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In Sri Lanka, hundreds of mothers, wives and sisters live in hope that their loved ones abducted by security forces will one day return home.

In this port town, the island's eastern gateway which has been wrecked by civil war, Jessie Ammal Sarma, is waiting for news of her son who was picked up by the army in June 1990.

The army denies Sarma's 21-year-old son Devarajah is in their custody. But the mother believes otherwise. She says her husband saw their son in an army truck last December.

Devrajah and his father were detained when the military cracked down on activists and supporters of the **Tamil Tigers** after the rebels broke off peace negotiations with the government and attacked police posts in eastern Sri Lanka in June 1990.

Tears streaming down her cheeks, Sarma recalls that her husband returned the same day, but not her son.

Sarma has appealed to the Sri Lankan Bar Association, the Human Rights Commission in Geneva and several other organizations to help find her son.

"We have only 20 persons in custody at the seven islands hotel turned army camp in Trincomalee, and 70 in prisons in the district," says Brigadier Siri Peiris.

The officer who is in charge of Trincomalee's military command adds that the prisoners have been "declared" and their families are allowed to visit them.

Peiris confirmed that some of the detainees are working for the army. He said they are paid for their services. "The money will facilitate their rehabilitation when they are released," he added.

This is what has given sarma hope. Devarajah is an electrician. The mother thinks he is detained and working for the military.

According to a human rights activist in Trincomalee, since June 1990, 38 people have been killed and 71 missing from this town and 51 missing from adjoining Muthur.

Recently, Trincomalee-based non-governmental organizations (NGOs) were told by an official that those missing must have joined the rebels.

## SRI LANKA : WAITING FOR LOVED ONES WHO HAVE DISAPPEARED

"When we appeal to the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) they tell us to ask the military. When we ask the military they tell us the men have gone underground," says an NGO.

According to a senior citizen here, security forces "tend to shrug off the disappearances here as of minor consequence" as more than 30,000 people disappeared or were killed by vigilante groups in the south during the insurgency led by the supposedly left-wing People's Liberation Front (JVP) between 1987 to 1989.

"I have seen people burnt on tyres, killed like dogs that when I hear somebody has died it no longer moves me. That's what has happened to most of us, we have got used to the killings," he adds.

In 1990, Sri Lankan women who have lost their husbands, sons and brothers got together to set up a "mother's front," patterned on a similar organization in Argentina.

The government in Colombo is now more sensitive to human rights violations since international human rights groups and media threatened to pressure Sri Lanka's donors to link development assistance with the country's human rights record.

Eastern Sri Lanka has been relatively peaceful since the army forced the Tamil Tigers to retreat to their hideouts in the northern jungles last year.

The war against well-armed rebels who are fighting for a separate state called "Eelam" for Sri Lanka's Tamil minority is now confined to the island's north.

A priest who runs a technical training institute in Trincomalee says there have been no disappearances in the last year. "Conditions have returned to normal, but there is the danger that a stray incident could spark off violence," he says.

**Load-Date:** March 19, 1992

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End of Document

## *The trail of death left by the rebels*

The Times (London)

April 11, 2002, Thursday

Copyright 2002 Times Newspapers Limited

**Section:** Overseas news

**Length:** 232 words

### **Body**

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64,000 people have died in 18 years of civil war in Sri Lanka as the Tigers fought with government forces.

Several political leaders have allegedly been assassinated by the Tigers, including Rajiv Gandhi, the Prime Minister of India, killed by a female suicide bomber in 1991, and Ranasinghe Premadasa, the President of Sri Lanka, who died in 1993.

Gamini Dissanayake, a presidential candidate, was killed in 1994.

Chandrika Bandaranaike Kumaratunga, the President of Sri Lanka, narrowly escaped assassination at the hands of the Tigers in 1999.

Led by Velupillai Prabhakaran, the group pioneered the use of the suicide bomb. In the past decade in Sri Lanka, suicide bombers have killed 1,500 people.

4,000 of the Tigers' 14,000-strong cadre are women, who are commonly used as suicide bombers because they are more inconspicuous.

The group also use artillery, surface-to-air missiles and rocket launchers.

The Tigers are notorious for recruiting and kidnapping children to fight for the cause.

Tamil Tigers who are captured are expected to commit suicide by biting into a cyanide capsule that every fighter wears round the neck.

Fundraising is routinely conducted among the expatriate Tamil community living in Australia, Canada and Switzerland.

A significant Tamil community lives in London, a legacy of Ceylon's history as a British colony. It is illegal to raise funds for the group in the UK.

**Load-Date:** April 11, 2002

**Official is killed by suicide bomber**  
**Clash after bishop's death**

Leicester Mercury

May 15, 1998

Asia

Reach PLC

**Section:** Places: Villages, Pg.4

**Length:** 529 words

**Byline:** By Reuters Staff

## **Body**

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COLOMBO: TAMIL Tiger rebels killed a top military official and 15 others in two separate attacks in northern Sri Lanka yesterday, a day after the group's leader said it was capable of fighting a conventional war.

Military officials said Brigadier Larry Wijeyaratne and two others were killed when a ***female*** Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (***LTTE***) suicide bomber jumped on his vehicle just as it left his former brigade headquarters at Point Pedro on northern Jaffna peninsula.

Academy

He was rushed to hospital where he died, they said.

Wijeyaratne was said to be popular among the civilian population of Jaffna, but had been recently posted to the military defence academy in Colombo.

Thursday was his last day in Jaffna. The suicide attack came hours after the rebels detonated a mine under a military bus, killing 12 soldiers and a policeman in a separate attack in the northern Vavuniya district.

There was no immediate comment from the ***LTTE*** on either incident.

Military officials said at least 37 soldiers were also wounded in the attack at Cheddikulam, 210 km (131 miles) north-east of Colombo, when the bus carrying service personnel on leave was travelling from north-western Mannar town to central Anuradhapura.

Defence ministry officials in Colombo said they had no information on the blast, which occurred two days after seven people were killed in another mine attack near the northern Vavuniya.

Police blamed that attack on Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (***LTTE***) rebels, who have been fighting for a separate homeland for minority Tamils in Sri Lanka's north and east since 1983.

Highway

## Official is killed by suicide bomber Clash after bishop's death

Meanwhile, **LTTE** leader Velupillai Prabhakaran said the rebels had re -organised and restructured their military machine to engage in conventional warfare rather than use the earlier guerrilla tactics against the Sri Lankan army.

A government offensive to gain control of a key northern highway has made painfully slow progress since it was launched in May last year.

Some 20,000 soldiers supported by aircraft, helicopter gunships, battle tanks and artillery, have taken two-thirds of the 72-km (45-mile) highway that cuts across the Wanni region to link Vavuniya with Kilinochchi, further north.

LAHORE: Pakistani police clashed today with Christians calling for the repeal of a blasphemy law that led to the suicide of a Roman Catholic bishop last week.

Witnesses said police used tear gas and sticks to control one section of a huge demonstration in the Punjabi capital against a law under which blasphemers can be executed.

Thousands of Christians beating their chests and chanting anti-government slogans marched to the seat of the provincial assembly to demand repeal of the legislation.

The demonstration was called for after the suicide on May 6 of the Bishop of nearby Faisalabad, John Joseph, who shot himself dead on the steps of a court which had sentenced a Christian, Ayoub Massih, to death for blasphemy.

Police and security forces in gun-mounted jeeps patrolled the city and the atmosphere was extremely tense, residents said.

Leaders of the Christian community called for peaceful protest but one section of the demonstration clashed with police wielding sticks, witnesses said.

**Load-Date:** May 18, 1998

**Tamils burned out of old Tiger town; Terry McCarthy visits Trincomalee after the latest in the round of reprisals between the Tamil fighters and the Sri Lankan army left a trail of devastation**

The Independent (London)

June 18, 1990, Monday

Copyright 1990 Independent Print Ltd

**Section:** FOREIGN NEWS PAGE; Page 10

**Length:** 563 words

**Byline:** By TERRY MCCARTHY

## **Body**

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SOMETHING BAD had happened in Trincomalee. The outskirts were deserted. Rows of houses were burned down, their roofs fallen in, charred coconut shells in the debris inside. A petrol station had been ransacked and a car in the forecourt burned, its tyres still smouldering. Two Sri Lankan soldiers clutching rifles stepped out of a doorway, looked at us suspiciously and waved us on.

For the last 10 miles into the town, the few locals we had seen on the road said there had been fighting. The army was there now and no other vehicle had passed for three days. Trincomalee, a coastal town 150 miles north-east of Colombo, had been a Tiger town.

Under the terms of the ceasefire between the **Tamil Tigers** and the Sri Lankan army, which the Tigers broke a week ago, the army has been confined to barracks while the Tigers walked around the town with their weapons, cutting up flags and stopping cars at road-blocks.

A man along the roadside said the Tamils in the town had all gone. The Sinhalese had burned all their houses. Across the causeway in the town centre, there were still no civilians to be seen. The beach was empty, and the small wooden fishing boats were pulled up from the water.

In the main street, all the Sinhalese shops were boarded up. The Tamil shops were in ruins, looted and burnt, some still smoking. The air was heavy with ashes.

Two Tamil **women** peered out of a Chinese restaurant. Their fine two-storey house was now a charred shell. There was broken crockery on the floor, part of the roof had collapsed and the blackened walls were still giving off heat from the fire. "Sinhalese thugs" did it, said the mistress of the house.

Her husband pointed to a small room with a heap of ashes on the floor: "My library of 30 years. All my books and 30 years of records and documents."

Villalaragah Thiagalingam, 54, worked for Sarvodaya, a private development organisation. When the mob attacked his house on Friday, he had hidden with his family in a tin shed at the back.

He said: "They were carrying knives and swords and shouting loudly. We were very scared. They could have thrown us into the flames."



Tamils burned out of old Tiger town; Terry McCarthy visits Trincomalee after the latest in the round of reprisals between the Tamil fighters and the Sri Lankan ....

As we finished talking, a shot rang out. A policeman jumped into the street and levelled his rifle in our direction. He lowered his gun but tension was mounting.

It was another Sri Lankan story of endless reprisals. It emerged that on Tuesday, the **Tamil Tigers** had abducted 69 Sinhalese policemen from Kinniya, just outside Trincomalee. The army later said they found 32 of the policemen, shot dead in the jungle.

The Sinhalese in Trincomalee went on the rampage and many Tamils had fled the town by Thursday as their houses were burnt down behind them.

The army had not been able to stop the looting. It seems there was little killing of civilians although the hospital had two Tamil corpses, one shot and the other burnt. But the army was still fighting many Tigers to the north and south of Trincomalee and the artillery and mortars could be heard in the town. An army officer advised us to leave and escorted us to the town's perimeter.

Two miles outside the town, the Tigers stopped us. Three guerrillas appeared from nowhere, as amazed as the army had been to see two white men in an orange car with white towels flying from the windows. Journalists? Where were we going? Colombo.

"Have a safe journey," they said with a smile and disappeared into the trees.

## **SRI LANKA SCENE OF SLAUGHTER TAMIL REBELS KILL MOSLEMS IN STREET**

St. Louis Post-Dispatch (Missouri)

August 13, 1990, MONDAY, FIVE STAR Edition

Copyright 1990 St. Louis Post-Dispatch, Inc.

**Section:** NEWS; Pg. 1A

**Length:** 537 words

### **Body**

---

ERAVUR, Sri Lanka (AP) - Tamil gunmen rampaged through five fishing villages, butchering Moslems in the street with machine-gun fire and machetes, military officials said Sunday. They said at least 119 people were slain. The killings were the latest in a round of intensifying ethnic violence that pits Tamil separatists against the Sinhalese-dominated government and Sinhalese and Moslem civilians. Although Moslems claim neutrality in the war, the government says Tamils suspect them of siding with the army. A Tamil politician said Saturday night's attacks were in retaliation for the killing of 33 Tamil villagers by Moslems earlier Saturday. But a spokesman for the **Tamil Tigers** guerrilla group denied responsibility for the killings. At least 450 villagers have been killed on the island nation's east coast in a wave of reprisal violence in the past nine days. The victims include 305 Moslems, 85 Tamils and 60 Sinhalese, according to military officials and politicians. In Eravur, one of the villages hit in Saturday night's attack, puddles of blood were on the sidewalk. **Women** implored visitors to help keep them safe, and young men surrounded army officers demanding weapons. "They have killed everybody," one weeping woman told a delegation of Moslem politicians and soldiers. "There is no one to look after us. Please don't leave." Led by Moslem religious leaders, villagers gathered up corpses in trucks for a mass burial. Residents and military officials on Sunday said at least 119 people were killed in the five villages and an additional 40 were injured.

Brigadier Upali Seneviratne, the top army officer in the province, said at least 40 Tamil gunmen had attacked the villages. "They broke into three groups and shot at everybody in sight," he said. The dead included 29 **women** and 31 children, one of them a 9-day-old girl, he said. Residents said the attackers broke down doors and dragged villagers into the streets. After a 90-minute raid on Eravur, the gunmen moved to adjacent villages, military officials said. One of the villages is called Saddam Hussein, named after the Iraqi leader who sent construction aid several years ago. The villages are clustered north of Batticaloa on the east coast, about 125 miles east of Colombo. On Aug. 3, gunmen raided another eastern village and massacred 140 Moslems in two mosques. The incident set off a chain of killings. "The two communities are on an annihilation spree. Nobody knows how many more will die before it all ends," said Mahalingam Savajilingam, a leader of the Tamil Eelam Liberation Organization, a former guerrilla group that gave up arms for politics. He said Saturday night's killings were carried out by the Tigers after the 33 Tamils at a refugee camp, including eight patients in a hospital, were killed by Moslems using government-supplied weapons. The **Tamil Tigers**, the militia fighting for an independent Tamil homeland in the north and east, deny the charges and say the killings are being carried out by government agents to discredit their organization. Tamil separatists, seeking an independent nation, resumed a 7-year-old war with the Sinhalese-dominated government on June 11 after a 13-month cease-fire.

### **Graphic**

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## SRI LANKA SCENE OF SLAUGHTER TAMIL REBELS KILL MOSLEMS IN STREET

Photo Map; LOGO ... 'CRISIS IN THE PERSIAN GULF' --- (With sketches of the Iraq and Kuwait flags) MAP ... AP map, 'SRI LANKA VIOLENCE', showing SRI LANKA and the site where rebels killed at least 119 Moslems. Located on the map are the cities of Eravur, Chenkaladi and Colombo, part of INDIA, Gulf of Mannar and the Indian Ocean. A second map of INDIA showing SRI LANKA's location also ran.

**Load-Date:** October 18, 1993

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## **Tamil Women Guerrillas Moving Into the Open**

The Associated Press

March 22, 1990, Thursday, PM cycle

Copyright 1990 Associated Press All Rights Reserved

**Section:** International News

**Length:** 611 words

**Byline:** By PATRICK CRUEZ, Associated Press Writer

**Dateline:** TINNELVELI, Sri Lanka

### **Body**

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**Women** guerrillas of the **Tamil Tigers**, cyanide capsules around their necks and assault rifles ready, have moved out of the jungles and into the towns since Indian peacekeeping troops went home.

The emergence of the Tiger **women**, who were talked about often but seldom seen, is jolting society in the Jaffna Peninsula of northern Sri Lanka, where the Tamil minority predominates.

Violence has been a way of life here since the revolt by Tamil separatists began in 1983, but warfare was considered men's work.

"Our social fabric and lifestyle have been completely destroyed," said Velupillai Kanapathipillai, a Tamil schoolteacher. "It will never be the same after seeing these young girls carrying guns."

Kanapathipillai was echoing traditional beliefs that Tamil **women** should be demure.

Lt. Imelda, a 26-year-old commander of the **Female** Tigers of Tamil Eelam, has little time for that. She and the other **women** in her outfit can handle T-81 Chinese assault rifles and machine pistols, rocket launchers and anti-aircraft guns, she said.

Stanley Dominic, district leader of the male Tigers, spoke with pride of the **women**.

"They do everything we do," he told an interviewer in Jaffna. "They man checkpoints 24 hours. They drive heavy trucks captured from the Indian army. They take part in active combat, and they are willing to bite their cyanide capsules to avoid being captured."

The Tigers say more than 300 of their men have used cyanide to commit suicide rather than submit to capture and interrogation. Imelda said she did not know how many **women** Tigers had used their capsules.

About 25 Tiger **women** in camouflage gear guarded her two-story headquarters during a recent visit. The **women** are segregated from the male Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam, the largest guerrilla force, which has fought both the Sri Lankan army and Indian peacekeeping troops.

No men were in sight at the headquarters, and a male visitor was eyed with suspicion.

## Tamil Women Guerrillas Moving Into the Open

Imelda, who uses a code name like many male Tigers, said 26 women guerrillas died in face-to-face combat with male Indian soldiers in two years.

She denied periodic speculation that the female Tigers were created to fight Indian paramilitary policewomen who served in Sri Lanka along with the all-male Indian army.

"No Indian woman soldier can fight me," Imelda said, eyes blazing. "They are powder puffs. I challenge them."

Neither male nor female Tigers will give the total strength of the guerrillas, who seek a separate homeland in northeastern Sri Lanka to be called Tamil Eelam. The militants claim discrimination by Sri Lanka's ethnic Sinhalese majority.

Sinhalese, 75 percent of the 16 million people, control the government and army of this island off the tip of India. Tamils make up 18 percent of the population.

More than 11,000 people have been killed in the 7-year-old ethnic war.

In 1989, the Tamil Tigers began negotiations with the Sri Lankan government on a peaceful solution. As Indian troops withdrew, the Tigers took over positions and whole towns once patrolled by the peacekeepers, with no serious opposition from the Sri Lankan military.

Male guerrillas patrol Jaffna town, but many residents speak with awe of the female Tigers, who occasionally are seen in the town and nearby villages.

Imelda said the women Tigers, like their male counterparts, have a strict code of conduct.

"We are not permitted to have boyfriends, wear makeup or jewelry, not even powder our faces," she said.

One of her fighters, 20-year-old Valarmathy, said: "Women have been in the forefront of the liberation struggle all over the world. We are no exception."

Like Imelda, Valarmathy would not say when she joined the Tigers or what she did before.

## *Sri Lankan officials defuse car bomb at Buddhist temple*

Deutsche Presse-Agentur

February 12, 1996, Monday, BC Cycle 16:44 Central European Time

Copyright 1996 Deutsche Presse-Agentur

**Section:** International News

**Length:** 385 words

**Dateline:** Colombo

### **Body**

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Police in Sri Lanka, acting on a tip-off from residents, defused a lorry laden with 140 kilos of explosives near a major Buddhist temple in suburban Colombo Monday, a military spokesman said.

A Tamil woman was arrested in connection with the incident.

The lorry had been parked in the garden of the temple, six kilometres north of the main city of Colombo. The vehicle, parked for more than four weeks, had aroused the suspicion of the residents in the area, prompting them to call the police.

Police said a search of the lorry led to the detection of 140 kilograms of explosives to the arrest of a female suspect.

Rebels of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) rammed an explosives-laden truck into the Central Bank building on January 31, killing at least 86 persons, injuring over 1,200 and devastating 12 major buildings.

Police banned the entry of lorries and containers into the city during daytime hours as a security precaution.

Meanwhile, four Police officers were killed in the north eastern part of Sri Lanka in a fierce confrontation with the LTTE, a military spokesman said Monday.

In other developments, at least 27 civilians including eight children may have been killed in a retaliatory attack by government troops in northeastern Lanka, a moderate Tamil political party spokesman claimed Monday.

A spokesman for the Eelam People's Revolutionary Liberation Front (EPRLF), Suresh Prmachandran, said the civilians were killed when troops indiscriminately fired mortars at the village of Killiveddi, in the northeastern Trincomalee district on Sunday night where two soldier were killed by rebels earlier in the day.

The two soldiers were killed when rebels of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) attacked a security force patrol in Killiveddi, a village 23 kilometres south of Trincomalee on Sri Lanka's east coast.

A military statement about the incident in which the two soldiers were killed said that troops retaliated when the rebels attacked them. The statement admitted that a 12-year-old child was killed in the incident but specifically mentioned that the child was killed "due to terrorist (rebel) fire".

## Sri Lankan officials defuse car bomb at Buddhist temple

Rebels claim to be fighting in the north and eastern parts of the country for an independent homeland for minority Tamils. dpa ad

**Load-Date:** February 12, 1996

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End of Document

## **SRI LANKA: CIVILIANS CAUGHT IN JAFFNA CROSSFIRE**

IPS-Inter Press Service

April 15, 1987, Wednesday

Copyright 1987 IPS-Inter Press Service/Global Information Network

**Length:** 973 words

**Byline:** by Rita Sebastian

**Dateline:** JAFFNA, Sri Lanka, April 15

### **Body**

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Lena Paranjothy was on nurse duty in the hospital early one morning when she heard the whistle of an approaching mortar shell followed by the shattering crash of an explosion.

Eight patients were killed in their beds and 21 others seriously injured when the shell destroyed two crowded wards in the Jaffna hospital.

Two weeks after the incident, 38-year-old Lena is still battling for her life -- the left side of her body paralyzed by a shell fragment in her brain.

Twisted metal beds, heaps of rubble and splintered glass are all that remain of the hospital wards, and most of the patients who survived have fled.

The hospital in this battle-scarred Sri Lankan town 185 miles north of the capital, Colombo, lies in the direct line of fire between government security forces, holed up in an 18-century Dutch fort, and Tamil guerrilla bunkers in the town.

The dominant guerrilla group, called the **Tamil Tigers**, controls most of the Jaffna Peninsula, where government security forces are largely confined to about 20 heavily fortified military bases.

The conflict here has lasted four years, and is characterized by regular mortar barrages, skirmishes on the perimeter of camps and army convoys being ambushed on the main roads.

The guerrillas belong to the island's Tamil minority, and are fighting for a separate state they call "Eelam" in northeastern Sri Lanka.

Indian-mediated efforts to get the guerrillas and the government to talk peace have become stuck over rebel demands that Sri Lanka's northern and eastern provinces be merged into a single Tamil state, which the government has rejected.

"We want a recognition of the north and east as traditional Tamil homelands. Only then will we be open to discussion," says S. Kanagaratnam, deputy northern commander of the **Tamil Tigers**.

Kanagaratnam, better known as "Raheem," answers with an emphatic "no" when questioned about whether the Tigers would take on a political role in the event of a settlement.



## SRI LANKA : CIVILIANS CAUGHT IN JAFFNA CROSSFIRE

"We are only fighting a war of liberation. Once our job is done we will leave the field open for a new generation of young people to form a new political party and involve themselves in the political process," he says.

The 20-year-old Raheem has taken over from the chief of the Tigers' northern command, S. Krishnakumar (also known as "Kittu") who was wounded in a grenade attack by a rival militant group in Jaffna earlier this month.

Slinging a Berata sub-machine gun, Raheem took this reporter to the group's own television studio in Jaffna.

Air force raids and major battles are filmed on video and broadcast on "Tiger TV" every Saturday evening. There is also a documentary of a corps of 200 women guerrillas undergoing combat training.

The Tigers say on an average one member of every family has joined up either as a full-time guerrilla or as members of the group's auxiliary corps.

"They train for about three months and go back to their jobs," says Raheem.

Along Jaffna's once-bustling main street, a whole row of houses lie abandoned. Gaping holes on the walls are boarded up with planks and broken windows are patched up with cardboard.

As in all conflicts, the people who suffer most are the civilians who get caught in the crossfire. For the residents of the peninsula the sound of mortar fire and automatic weapons have become a fact of life.

"It is time the two sides sat down and talked instead of letting the situation deteriorate further," says Betram Lawrence, attending mass at the Church of our Lady of Refuge here.

Betram and his wife, Anna, say they want to live in peace and they are worried about their 15-year-old son's future.

"It is frightening, the constant shelling. We hardly sleep at night wondering whether we are going to be the next victims," says Anna.

Two other men in their early 30's who identify themselves as Sivam and Mohan, have a textile store in Jaffna.

"Our shop has been hit twice now, we will not be lucky a third time," says Mohan. Whenever they hear a mortar exchange starting, the two run for cover in the comparative safety of a nearby school building.

The single story schoolhouse provides shelter for about 30 neighborhood families who seek refuge there most nights.

At a traffic intersection in the center of town, a young member of the Tamil Tigers updates a guerrilla "blackboard newspaper" with the latest news from the eastern front.

"Four soldiers killed in fighting in Batticaloa . . .," it reads today.

"It's always war news," says an elderly Tamil man who lives down the street.

Most Jaffna crossroads also have complaint boxes, where residents can drop petitions on everything ranging from land disputes to marital squabbles. In the absence of regular courts, the cases are handled by about 116 family courts throughout the peninsula where village elders sit as judges.

The main worry for most residents today is the fuel embargo imposed on the peninsula since January. Most private vehicles are now off the roads, replaced by bicycles.

Petrol and diesel, if available, costs ten times more than in Colombo, and farmers can no longer afford diesel for their irrigation pumps.

Ironically, the fuel shortage has actually lowered some food prices because of the surplus of food which would otherwise have been exported to other parts of the island, residents say.

## SRI LANKA : CIVILIANS CAUGHT IN JAFFNA CROSSFIRE

Caught up in the politics of separatism, the more conservative and tradition-bound northern Tamils of Sri Lanka find themselves in a dilemma.

Even if they do not support the Tigers' call for a separate state, they are thankful to the guerrillas for keeping the army in its camps, making it possible for them to move about freely.

The Tigers themselves have been ruthless in their elimination of several rival militant groups, and after the grenade attack on "Kittu," sources in Jaffna said the Tigers killed about 25 members of a rival militant organization they blamed for the incident.

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## *Terror's deadly calling cards*

Hamilton Spectator (Ontario, Canada)

August 2, 2002 Friday Final Edition

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**Section:** CANADA & WORLD; Pg. B04; News

**Length:** 1787 words

**Byline:** Benedict Carey

### **Body**

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The list includes architects and drifters, engineers and poets, teenagers and middle-aged men, a 30-year-old woman, an 18-year-old girl, and, every week it seems, someone else, someone different.

"You hear people say that these are all desperate people, or poor people whose families need the money," said Rohan Gunaratna, a terrorism specialist at the University of St. Andrews in Scotland. "This is nonsense."

Long before the recent rash of suicide bombings in Israel, psychiatrists, terrorism specialists and others were searching for clues to what prompts people to strap on explosives and annihilate themselves in a crowded street or cafe.

Experts examined psychological profiles. They interviewed Sri Lankan separatists and imprisoned Palestinian militants. They studied the mass suicide at Jonestown, Guyana, in 1978 and the Japanese kamikaze missions of World War II.

Los Angeles Times

Their emerging understanding contradicts the notion that suicide bombers are deranged fanatics. The evidence is just the opposite: They tend to be free of obvious mental illness. Many are competent, successful, even loving and loved.

What, then, triggers their awful acts?

Most have fallen under the influence of an extreme group, whether it be al-Qaeda, Hamas or the *Tamil Tigers* of Sri Lanka, experts say. Like a cult, the group demands absolute obedience and promises immortality to the most devoted.

Conditions of chronic conflict and bloodshed endow suicide with a sinister logic. When death seems pervasive and unavoidable, whether in Sri Lanka or a refugee camp in the Gaza Strip, members of the group come to value its survival above their own. They become willing, even eager, to sacrifice their lives for a greater cause -- a psychological response found not just in terrorist cells, experts note, but among soldiers in wartime.

In the end, the suicide terrorist sees his mission as acceptable, logical, even noble.

"It can be perceived as a very idealistic act," said psychiatrist Robert Jay Lifton, a visiting professor at Harvard Medical School and an author who has studied cults and suicide. "They believe there's a higher purpose, that in some way they are bringing about a purification, a perfection."

## Terror's deadly calling cards

"They are destroying the world to save it."

A common trait of nonpolitical suicides -- people who take their own lives without harming others -- is a feeling of isolation or disconnectedness from the world.

Suicide terrorists, though, are anything but isolated. Often, they have connected with others deeply, and it is this affiliation that helps prepare them to take their own lives, said Clark McCauley, a psychologist at the University of Pennsylvania who studies terrorism.

"It's the group that's abnormal and extreme," McCauley said. "The bombers themselves are psychologically as normal as you and I."

Americans confronted the horror of suicide attacks on April 18, 1983, when a Shiite Muslim truck bomber attacked the U.S. Embassy in Beirut, killing 63 people. Six months later, another truck bomber killed 241 marines on a peacekeeping mission in Lebanon.

Since then, more than 300 men, women and children have blown themselves to pieces in suicide attacks around the world. Those carried out by Palestinians in Israel have received the most publicity, but two-thirds of the attacks occurred in Sri Lanka, where Hindu separatists have been waging a guerrilla war for 20 years.

The best evidence that these terrorists are mentally competent is the planning and patience required for many of their missions. The Sri Lankan woman known as Dhanu who killed former Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi in 1991 prepared for months, performing several practice runs, according to Gunaratna, the terrorism expert.

Dhanu, a member of the Tamil Tigers separatist group, got so close to Gandhi that she was able to reach out and touch him before pulling a cord beneath her dress and ending both their lives, witnesses said.

Another Tamil bomber, Babu, worked for many months to infiltrate the household of Sri Lankan President Ranasinghe Premadasa before killing him in a 1993 suicide attack.

Wafa Idris, a Palestinian woman who blew herself up in Jerusalem in January, killing an 81-year-old man, was a volunteer paramedic who had founded a women's relief group to assist victims of the conflict with Israel. She was not known as an Islamic extremist.

The 19 hijackers who carried out the Sept. 11 attacks on the United States stayed in touch and under cover for many months before executing their well-co-ordinated plan. Some attended flight schools and spent hours practicing on flight simulators.

Their leader, Mohammed Atta, grew up in a middle-class Egyptian family and appeared to have a promising career ahead of him as an architect and urban planner. Ziad Jarrah, another of the suicide pilots, was educated, well-off and said by his Lebanese family to be planning to get married.

These did not appear to be mentally unbalanced people, researchers say. Indeed, crazed loners are not likely to be selected for suicide missions.

"The crucial quality that recruiters look for is mental stability," said Jerrold Post, a psychiatrist at George Washington University who recently completed a study of 35 Palestinian militants in Israeli jails, several of whom had recruited suicide attackers.

In addition to levelheadedness, terrorist organizations look for a willingness to conform and obey. Those qualities are not hard to find, research shows.

Regardless of education or background, most people have a tendency to follow instructions, especially when given by an authority figure who promotes a larger cause.

## Terror's deadly calling cards

This is the principle on which many terrorist groups operate. They begin by asking members to take small risks and gradually up the ante, said McCauley.

The Baader-Meinhof gang in Germany, the Marxist Red Brigades in Italy and the Symbionese Liberation Army of California included middle-class, well-educated people who graduated from protest to murder under the sway of impassioned leaders.

Such groups demand total commitment and fealty.

Commanders in Hamas -- the Islamic resistance movement in Gaza and the West Bank -- "are commanders in every way," an imprisoned terrorist told researchers working with Post, the George Washington University psychiatrist.

"A commander's orders are absolutely binding and must not be questioned in substance."

In the case of the **Tamil Tigers**, Post said, "there's almost a chemical connection that seems to develop between the personality of the leader" -- the reclusive Velupillai Prabhakaran -- "and those of the followers. It's as if the followers merge with each other and with what the leader says."

Prabhakaran's acolytes are said to wear cyanide containers around their necks in case of capture.

Groups that sponsor suicide attacks invoke both the future world and the ancient one to recruit and inspire. After Sept. 11, investigators found letters in Arabic believed to have been written by Atta, the presumed ringleader. The letters emphasize the importance of "obeying 100 per cent"; instruct the attackers to be courageous, "as our predecessors (were) when they came to the battle"; and promise that "paradise has been decorated for you with the best of its decorations and ornaments."

"It's hard to accept for outsiders, but from the bombers' point of view, they don't actually die in a suicide attack -- they become immortal," said Gunaratna, whose recent book, *Inside Al Qaeda*, details the ideological indoctrination that occurred at Osama bin Laden's training camps.

"It's not the end, but the beginning. You are surviving in a way; you are being granted an eternal life."

In their willingness to sacrifice all for their group, suicide bombers have something in common with traditional soldiers, say researchers who have studied heroism in combat.

Perhaps the most vivid example of suicide attacks committed for comrades and country was those by Japan's kamikaze squads in World War II. In their oral history, *Japan at War*, Haruko Taya Cook and her husband, Theodore Cook, interviewed several former members of Japan's "special attack corps," who survived because their missions were cancelled or foiled.

One of them, Yokota Yutaka, recalled the words his Naval Academy commander used to recruit suicide attackers: "If there be any among you who burn with a passion to die gloriously for the sake of their country, let them step forward."

Yutaka said that all but 120 of the 2,000 young men in his academy volunteered.

On April 20, 1945, Yutaka climbed aboard a motorized suicide torpedo, said goodbye to his comrades in arms and awaited the order to launch. It never came.

"I was ordered to come back in," he said. "That was the moment I really wanted to die."

Post, the George Washington University researcher, found a yearning to die for one's cause among the Palestinian militants he studied. One of them is serving 26 life terms for his role in several suicide bombings.

In a prison interview, the man recalled learning from a confederate that another suicide attack was in the works:

## Terror's deadly calling cards

"I asked him what it was all about, and he told me that he had been on the wanted list for a long time and did not want to get caught without realizing his dream of being a suicide bomber. I remember that besides the tremendous respect I had for him and the fact that I was jealous of him, I also felt slighted that he had not asked me (to join him)."

In Sri Lanka's contested territory, the 19-year civil war has left very few people untouched by violence. The tragedy and nearness of death are such that even children become fatalistic, according to Margaret Trawick, an anthropologist at Massey University in New Zealand who lived in Sri Lanka during the late 1990s.

Based on conversations with a dozen girls and young women who belonged to the Tamil Tigers, Trawick concluded that joining the group is itself a kind of suicide gesture.

"They have no ideology but for the words 'I want to fight.' Most expect to die in battle, and many will die in just that way. They think their lives are unimportant, and they think the same of their deaths.

"They seek no fame, they ask no voice. They do wish to be remembered."

If there's a common thread connecting all suicides, perhaps it is the desire to have done something memorable, whether for an audience of one or two or for the entire world.

Once a member of Hamas or the Tamil Tigers has begun to consider a suicide attack, the same kind of hermetic logic applies, experts say.

Only by destruction can the world be renewed; only by killing can the group live; only by leaving the world can you leave a mark on it.

"I think in this sense," said Lifton, the Harvard psychiatrist, "all suicide has to do with making a lasting statement one could not make in life."

## Graphic

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Photo: Torstar File Photo; In their willingness to sacrifice their lives for a larger cause, suicide bombers have something in common with traditional soldiers, say researchers. Some, as in this poster, are hailed as heroes for their courageous sacrifice.

**Load-Date:** August 2, 2002

## **Tamil leader indicted in bank bombing**

United Press International  
October 14, 1996, Monday, BC cycle

Copyright 1996 U.P.I.

**Section:** International

**Length:** 201 words

**Dateline:** COLOMBO, Oct. 14

### **Body**

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The Colombo High Court on Monday charged separatist Tamil guerrilla leader Velupillai Prabhakaran with planning the bomb attack that destroyed Sri Lanka's Central Bank building earlier this year. Nearly 130 men, women and children died and 500 more were wounded when a van packed with plastic explosives, dynamite and lead ball bearings rammed into the front entrance of the bank in Colombo's central business district on Jan. 31.

Although the bomb was widely believed to have been planted by guerrillas from the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam, or LTTE, officials from Sri Lanka's Criminal Investigation Department said they have accumulated sufficient evidence to formally indict the Tamil leader. Prabhakaran was earlier charged in an Indian court with masterminding the assassination of former Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi during a 1993 political meeting in southern city of Madras. The LTTE has been fighting for 13 years to establish a separate state for Sri Lanka's 3 million ethnic Tamils, who account for 17 percent of the country's population. Prabhakaran is the founder of the Tamil guerrilla movement and is believed to be hiding in the dense jungle in the northern part of Sri Lanka.

**Load-Date:** October 15, 1996

## **Five killed in ambush on civilian bus in eastern Lanka**

Deutsche Presse-Agentur

May 24, 1995, Wednesday, BC Cycle 15:20 Central European Time

Copyright 1995 Deutsche Presse-Agentur

**Section:** International News

**Length:** 389 words

**Dateline:** Colombo

### **Body**

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Five persons including three **women** were killed in an ambush by suspected Tamil rebels in eastern Sri Lanka Wednesday as thousands of civilians fearing fighting between Tamil rebels and government troops begun fleeing their homes in the north, officials said.

Suspected rebels of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (**LTTE**) ambushed the bus escorted by police commandos at Palankuddah, eight kilometres south of the eastern coastal town of Batticaloa, shortly after midday.

Two of those killed in the attack were commandos of the elite Special Task Force (STF). Twelve civilians and three STF men were wounded and rushed to hospital.

The attack was the first direct hit on a civilian target since the rebels broke a three-and-a-half-month truce with government troops and renewed fighting on April 19.

Military officials said they believed the rebels had wanted to target the commandos in the bus. Earlier in the month 19 police commandos were killed in the same district in a rebel ambush.

In a separate incident two members of a former Tamil militant group were shot dead by suspected rebels of the **LTTE** in the Batticaloa district late Tuesday. The two men belonged to the Tamil Eelam Liberation Organisation, a rival group.

Rebels claiming to be fighting for an independent homeland for minority Tamils in the north and east have stepped up attacks in the eastern province, where they consolidated their forces during the truce and peace talks.

In the north, thousands of civilians fled their homes in fear of an army onslaught on rebel-held positions, government officials said.

More than 5,000 civilians had fled their homes in the coastal villages of Point Pedro and Vadamaarachi, strongholds of the **LTTE**. The two villages have already come under heavy shelling from security forces.

Last week troops carried out a separate operation in the adjoining Thondaman area and captured three square kilometres of rebel territory.

Civilians fleeing their homes have taken shelter in temples and churches in interior areas.



## Five killed in ambush on civilian bus in eastern Lanka

The government has issued strict orders to its ground troops to minimise civilian casualties. But the military has reported that rebels are using civilians as a shield by setting up gunner positions amidst densely populated villages. Rebels have denied the claims. dpa ad kr vc

**Load-Date:** May 24, 1995

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End of Document

## **Sri Lanka launches attack on rebels**

United Press International  
July 9, 1995, Sunday, BC cycle

Copyright 1995 U.P.I.

**Section:** International

**Length:** 248 words

**Dateline:** COLOMBO, Sri Lanka, July 9

### **Body**

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More than 7,500 Sri Lankan security forces backed by heavy artillery and battle tanks evicted Tamil separatist guerrillas from fortifications in their stronghold in northern Jaffna peninsula Sunday, officials said. Official military spokesman Brigadier Sarath Munasinghe told a crowded Sunday night news conference in Colombo that two soldiers died on the first day of "Operation Leap forward."

Two officers and 27 soldiers were wounded, he said. Government troops left their northern base in Palaly at dawn Sunday in the first major military offensive of President Chandrika Bandaranaike Kumaratunga's administration after 100 days of peace talks with **Tamil Tigers** failed. Munasinghe said two columns moved west, toward the naval base on the island of Karainagar and toward the village of Chankanai. The air force bombed targets in two areas, including guerrilla leader Velupillai Prabhakaran's birthplace. A rebel sea base and **women**'s camp were destroyed in the attack, officials said. When asked about the scope of the offensive, Munasinghe said, "This is the biggest operation in the recent past." He added that the civilian populace had been warned about the offensive via radio broadcasts and leaflet distribution announcing imposition of a curfew. "We asked them to go into religious places for shelter as the forces are coming to liberate them," he added. Munasinghe was vague about the length of the offensive, saying, "The operation will take as long as it has to."

**Load-Date:** July 10, 1995

## IN BRIEF

Herald Sun

November 14, 1995 Tuesday

Copyright 1995 Nationwide News Pty Limited

**Length:** 244 words

### **Body**

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Avalanche toll KATHMANDU - Bad weather and poor visibility yesterday stalled rescue operations for trekkers lost in one of Nepal's worst avalanche disasters around Mount Everest, officials said. A teenage boy survived a 24-hour ordeal and was pulled from deep snow with only frostbite.

The death toll from weekend avalanches is 42. Leader killed COLOMBO - Sri Lankan troops closing on the Tamil rebel stronghold of Jaffna killed a woman guerrilla wanted for the assassination of former Indian premier Rajiv Gandhi, the **Tamil Tigers** said yesterday. The Tigers' **women's** wing leader, known by her nom de guerre Akila, was one of the victims of the latest fighting, the rebel group said. Painting profit LONDON - Two oil paintings by Australian artist Margaret Rose Preston are expected to fetch about \$21,500 each when they are auctioned at Phillips in London on November 21. The two still-life flower paintings were bought in 1923 at an exhibition of Australian art in London by a private collector for 15 guineas (\$33) each. Uni takes over LOS ANGELES - Biosphere 2, the controversial glass-enclosed greenhouse built to test humanity's ability to live in space, is getting new management - Columbia University - officials said late yesterday. The prestigious New York City university and Biosphere 2 plan today to unveil a five-year agreement under which Columbia will manage and direct Biosphere 2's scientific, educational and visitor centres. END OF STORY

### **Graphic**

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-KEYS- -LIB- -SECT- NEWS

**Load-Date:** October 1, 2003

## IN BRIEF

Herald Sun

November 14, 1995 Tuesday

Copyright 1995 Nationwide News Pty Limited

**Length:** 236 words

### **Body**

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Avalanche toll KATHMANDU - Bad weather and poor visibility has stalled rescue operations for trekkers lost in one of Nepal's worst avalanche disasters around Mount Everest, officials said. A teenage boy survived a 24-hour ordeal and was pulled from deep snow with only frostbite.

The death toll from weekend avalanches is 42. Leader killed COLOMBO - Sri Lankan troops closing on the Tamil rebel stronghold of Jaffna killed a **female** guerrilla wanted for the assassination of former Indian premier Rajiv Gandhi, the **Tamil Tigers** said yesterday. The Tigers' **women's** wing leader, known by her nom de guerre Akila, was one of the victims of the latest fighting, the rebel group said. Painting profit LONDON - Two oil paintings by Australian artist Margaret Rose Preston are expected to fetch about \$21,500 each when they are auctioned at Phillips in London on November 21. The two still life flower paintings were bought in 1923 at an exhibition of Australian art in London by a private collector for 15 guineas (\$33) each. Mad cow fear LONDON - Nearly a quarter of Britons have either stopped eating beef, the national dish, or are eating less because they fear "mad cow disease" a survey has found. Fears about the cattle disease called bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE) have also hit Britain's beef exports. BSE was identified in cows in the 1980s and linked to the animal offal in their feeds. END OF STORY

### **Graphic**

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-KEYS- -LIB- -SECT- NEWS

**Load-Date:** October 1, 2003

## *Tamil Tigers lose top fighter*

Hobart Mercury

November 16, 1995 Thursday

Copyright 1995 Nationwide News Pty Limited

**Length:** 124 words

### **Body**

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Colombo THE battle-hardened military commander of the Sri Lankan rebel *Tamil Tigers' female* wing has been killed during the fierce government offensive against the insurgent stronghold of Jaffna.

The woman guerilla, known by her assumed name of Akila, was alleged by India to have been one of the three Tiger masterminds behind the 1991 assassination of former prime minister Rajiv Gandhi.

India had applied for her extradition to stand trial over Gandhi's murder by a woman suicide bomber at an election rally near Madras.

The Tigers' office in London said Akila "attained martyrdom" as government troops approached the outskirts of the rebel capital, Jaffna city, after overrunning the last major guerilla base. The Daily Telegraph

**Load-Date:** October 1, 2003

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End of Document

## *Lankan army rescue after siege debacle*

Herald Sun

November 15, 1993 Monday

Copyright 1993 Nationwide News Pty Limited

**Length:** 227 words

### **Body**

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COLOMBO - Sri Lankan troops today began flying out hundreds of wounded soldiers who survived the military's worst debacle at the hands of separatist Tamil Tiger guerrillas.

The rescue was launched soon after elite army commandos lifted a siege at the Pooneryn complex, where 500 soldiers were killed or are missing.

"The rescue operation is in progress. We are now bringing out the wounded and pumping in more men and ammunition to strengthen our (Pooneryn) defences. The situation is fully under control," a military spokesman said.

He said defence sources estimated army and navy losses at about 500 dead or missing and another 350 wounded.

The strength of the complex was 1800 men.

The military said the Tigers also suffered heavily, and that it killed at least 394 rebels.

The Tigers said in a statement from their London office yesterday that they, too, were pouring more combatants into Pooneryn to prevent the army evacuating the dead and wounded.

The statement said more than 400 Sri Lankan soldiers and 100 Tigers had been killed. Among the rebel casualties were 66 women cadres known as Freedom Birds.

Opposition leader Sirima Bandaranaike has described the Pooneryn debacle as the "darkest hour for the nation", and renewed her demand to place the country on a war footing to defeat the Tamil Tigers militarily.

AFP

END OF STORY

**Load-Date:** November 28, 2003

## *Amnesty International questions Sri Lankan air force attack*

Associated Press International

September 17, 1999; Friday 02:47 Eastern Time

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**Section:** International news

**Length:** 422 words

**Dateline:** COLOMBO, Sri Lanka

### **Body**

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Amnesty International on Friday called the Sri Lankan bombings of Tamil civilians this week "an unlawful attack," saying the reported presence of legitimate military targets did not absolve the government of humanitarian responsibilities.

The air force bombings over Puthukkudiyiruppu, about 270 kilometers (167 miles) north of the capital Colombo, on Wednesday killed 21 people and injured 41 others.

A statement from the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam, a separatist group fighting for a homeland for the country's 3.3 million Tamil minority, said women, children and elderly people were blown to bits in the air raid that targeted a bustling market place in a refugee camp.

"Amnesty International believes that the reported high number of civilian casualties and the significant distance between the intended objective of the air strike and the actual place where the civilians were killed, raise serious doubts about the quality of the intelligence used before the bombing raid," the London-based human rights group said in a statement made available in Colombo.

Puthukkudiyiruppu, in rebel-controlled territory, is close to Mullaitivu, the last known major LTTE-held town and is barely 4.5 kilometers (2.7 miles) west of Nandikadal, which is also a rebel base.

The military has said it is unsure whether civilians were killed or injured, but said they were not deliberately targeted.

Brig. Sunil Tennekoon, a spokesman, said the two bombing raids in an area identified as a legitimate military target followed normal procedures, including prior checks with intelligence sources regarding any civilian presence nearby.

Amnesty International said the bombing indicate the air force may not be doing all it can to protect civilians on such occasions. The group has written to President Chandrika Kumaratunga, expressing concern "as to whether this may have been an unlawful attack."

Throughout the 16-year conflict in northern and eastern Sri Lanka, there have been intermittent reports of civilian deaths during bombing raids.

## Amnesty International questions Sri Lankan air force attack

These include the July 1995 killing of at least 65 civilians hiding in a church in the northern Jaffna district. The air force commander said the target was a jeep driven by **LTTE** cadres seen near the area, and many of the deaths were caused by secondary explosions of underground **LTTE** ammunition dumps.

In June, four civilians were killed in shelling by the army while they sought refuge in a church at Vidattaltivu, in Mannar district. The army was firing back at rebels hiding in the church

compound.

**Load-Date:** September 17, 1999

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End of Document



## *Mobs in Sri Lanka Attack Tamils*

Associated Press Online

June 8, 2000; Thursday

Copyright 2000 Associated Press All Rights Reserved

**Section:** International news

**Length:** 1964 words

**Byline:** DILSHIKA JAYAMAHA

**Dateline:** COLOMBO, Sri Lanka

### **Body**

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Police today detained 15 suspects in a suicide bombing that killed 23 people, including a popular Cabinet minister, and Sri Lanka's president urged against retaliatory attacks on the Tamil minority.

Mobs on Wednesday threw stones at Tamil-owned shops in Ratmalana, an industrial suburb of the capital, Colombo, where the explosion occurred. There were no reports of injuries, but authorities imposed a nighttime curfew.

No one has claimed responsibility for Wednesday's bombing. The government blamed the explosion, which also injured 60 people, on Tamil Tiger rebels who have been fighting since 1983 to establish a separate homeland for the country's 3.2 million Tamils.

Industrial Development Minister Clement V. Gooneratne was assassinated during a fund-raiser for families of soldiers slain in the war against Tamil rebels. Gooneratne's wife, Shyama, died of her injuries today, Dr. W.G. Gunawardena, the director of Kalubowila Hospital said.

The government had declared Wednesday its first War Heroes Day to boost the morale of the 40,000 troops fighting the rebels in northern Jaffna peninsula.

Police detained 15 men early today as suspects. The men were taken from nearby apartments and houses and were being interrogated, according to a local police official who spoke on condition of anonymity.

President Chandrika Kumaratunga appealed for calm, saying the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam were trying to "inflame communal passions by provoking the people."

"I appeal to all Sri Lankans to consider this earnestly and act with patience to maintain peace at this hour," Kumaratunga said.

Kumaratunga was blinded in the right eye when a woman suicide bomber tried to assassinate her in December. Gooneratne was the first member of her government assassinated.

About half of those wounded were still being treated today, Dr. W.G. Gunawardena said.

## Mobs in Sri Lanka Attack Tamils

The police official said the bomber was a man, although in the past women have cut their hair and posed as men in suicide bombings. Public officials are barred from providing information to the press under a strict code of conduct imposed in February.

The rebels have a suicide unit, the Black Tigers, known for targeting government officials and politicians.

Suicide bombers have assassinated several high-ranking politicians, including President Ranasinghe Premadasa in 1993 and former Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi in 1991. The Tamil Tigers denied they killed Gandhi and have never commented on Premadasa's death.

The Sri Lankan parliament extended the nationwide state of emergency today for another month, giving police and soldiers wide powers to detain people, seize property and shut down newspapers.

Meanwhile, a mine explosion set off by suspected rebels killed three members of a civilian security patrol and wounded four today outside the northern town of Vavuniya, police said.

The remote-controlled mine exploded while a group of civilian guards were on a routine patrol outside Vavuniya, 130 miles north of the capital, police said. It is the last government-held area before Jaffna Peninsula, where the rebels are fighting to create a homeland.

Fighting between government troops and the rebels has intensified in recent months on Jaffna Peninsula, where the rebels reached the edge of Jaffna city. But an infusion of foreign-bought weapons has helped the soldiers halt the rebel advance.

In Washington, White House spokesman Joe Lockhart condemned the bombing as a "reprehensible act" but urged a continuation of efforts to resolve the bitter conflict.

"Such terrorism should not and cannot detract from efforts to reach a negotiated solution to the current conflict in Sri Lanka," he said. "The United States stands firmly in support of a solution that offers justice and human rights for all the citizens of a unified, peaceful, and prosperous Sri Lanka."

The United States and India have supported efforts by Norway to mediate between the rebels and the Sri Lankan government, but Kumaratunga said this week that the Tamil Tigers could not be trusted in negotiations. The Norwegian effort, begun just before the Tiger offensive in April, has languished.

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Four men in a cafe near the bomb site were detained by police for interrogation on Wednesday after the bombing.

## Mobs in Sri Lanka Attack Tamils

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Police detained 19 men Thursday in a suicide bombing that killed 23 people, and Sri Lanka extended nationwide emergency rule for a month and placed more soldiers at checkpoints in its jittery capital.

The bomber with explosives strapped to his body chose Sri Lanka's first War Heroes Day to strike, killing himself, Industrial Development Minister Clement V. Gooneratne, his wife and 20 others in Ratmalana, an industrial suburb on Wednesday.

## Mobs in Sri Lanka Attack Tamils

No one has claimed responsibility, but the government blamed the bombing on separatist rebels fighting for a homeland for the Tamil minority. Mobs on Wednesday threw stones at Tamil-owned shops in Ratmalana.

Parliament members extended nationwide emergency rule for another month, then adjourned 45 minutes early to rush home in their cars before heavy evening traffic posed more security risks in the capital, Colombo.

Emergency rule gives police and soldiers wide powers to detain people, seize property and shut down newspapers.

More reinforcements, wearing green capes against the monsoon rains, appeared at bunkers and checkpoints Thursday to increase security in Colombo.

Police detained 19 men as suspected accomplices.

Four of the men were seized in a cafe near the bomb site and 15 were taken at dawn from apartments and houses in the same area, police said.

President Chandrika Kumaratunga, who lost an eye during a December assassination attempt, appealed for calm and asked people not to retaliate.

She said the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam, the rebels' formal name, were trying to "inflame communal passions by provoking the people."

"I appeal to all Sri Lankans to consider this earnestly and act with patience to maintain peace at this hour," Kumaratunga said.

Half of the 60 injured people admitted for treatment in the bombing remained hospitalized, Dr. W.G. Gunawardena said.

The death toll rose to 23 Thursday when Gooneratne's wife, Shyama, died from injuries suffered in the bombing.

Police said the bomber was a man, although in the past women have cut their hair and posed as men in suicide bombings. Public officials are barred from providing information to the press under a strict code of conduct imposed in February.

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The Tamil Tigers denied they killed Gandhi and have never commented on Premadasa's death.

War Heroes Day, on which the bomber chose to act, was declared to raise war funds and boost the morale of 40,000 troops holding off a rebel assault on the northern city of Jaffna.

The government Information Department said Thursday that eight rebels had been killed and five wounded Wednesday when the army shelled a rebel vehicle after a mortar exchange, and attacked a guerrilla bunker in the Jaffna Peninsula battle zone.

On Thursday, a police officer in Vavuniya, the last government stronghold before Jaffna, said a remote-controlled Claymore mine exploded on the town's outskirts, killing three members of a civilian security patrol and wounding four.

The rebels have been fighting since 1983 to establish a homeland in the north and east of the island nation for the country's 3.2 million Tamils, accusing the Sinhalese majority of discrimination in education and jobs.

## Mobs in Sri Lanka Attack Tamils

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***servant signals presidential security men away before explosion: top investigator***

The Xinhua General Overseas News ServiceXinhua General News Service

JUNE 3, 1993, THURSDAY

**Length:** 218 words

**Dateline:** colombo, june 3; ITEM NO: 0603207

## **Body**

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the suicide bomber of late president ranansighe premadasa had developed close friendship with the late sri lankan leader's valet named mohideen, who signaled security men away when they were trying to block him, a top investigator said here today. mohideen signaled three security men to move away when they tried to block the suicide bomber identified as kulaweeraingham veerakumar, so the bomber walked freely towards premadasa and exploded the bomb strapped in his waist about eight feet way, killing premadasa and 22 others on may 1, said amarasena rajapakase, deputy inspector general of the criminal investigations department (cid) of police who is heading the investigations into the assassination. the servant had also shouted "let him come, he is one of our own men" to the security guards before the explosion occurred, earlier local press reports quoted eye-witnesses as saying. rajapakase said investigations showed the bomber came to colombo from northern jaffna peninsular, the heartland of the rebel liberation tigers of tamil eelam (*ltte*), some time ago, but he refused to come to the conclusion at the moment that the *ltte* has a hand in the assassination. the bomber had befriended mohideen, making use of his weakness for wine and *women*, inviting him to regular parties at a flat.

**Load-Date:** March 3, 1993

UN  
*Special Representative for Children and Armed Conflict condemns attacks  
and use of child soldiers*

M2 PRESSWIRE

November 10, 1998

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**Length:** 1601 words

## **Body**

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Olara A. Otunnu, Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict, today condemned the increasing number and brutality of attacks upon civilians, especially children and women, and the ongoing recruitment and use of child soldiers.

Mr. Otunnu, speaking at a press conference, vigorously and repeatedly called on all parties to armed conflicts to observe international humanitarian and human rights standards and to cease their abhorrent attacks against civilians. He appealed to all parties, both governments and rebels, to end the use of child soldiers and make demobilization an essential element of any peace negotiations.

He cited the horrific massacre in north-western Afghanistan and attacks last week on civilians in northern Sierra Leone and northern Kenya. He also pointed out the continuing enlistment and deployment of children as fighters in Colombia, Sri Lanka and the Democratic Republic of the Congo. In Sierra Leone and Sri Lanka, both of which he visited earlier this year, parties had broken their commitments to him to begin to end recruitment and deployment of youngsters.

The Special Representative cited major international instruments and local values that protect the rights of civilians - especially children and women. He appealed to the international community to translate these words from documents into deeds on the ground.

### Targeting Civilians

- Afghanistan: massacre in Mazar-i-Sharif - Taliban troops massacred at least 2,000 people in August in reprisal attacks against the Hazara ethnic group after they seized the north-east city. Described as a "killing frenzy" by survivors, it was the single worst civilian massacre in the 20-year civil war. Survivors also reported the rape and abduction of girls and women.

- Sierra Leone: bombing atrocity - Rebels of the Revolutionary United Front (RUF) herded some 48 civilians, including children and women, into a room and blew up the building to punish non-sympathizers. The killing last week in the northern town of Alikalia marked a new gruesome strategy - instead of maiming and mutilating by hacking off limbs, they rounded up non-cooperative civilians and carried out mass executions.

- Kenya: slaughter in El Das - Borana raiders attacked ethnic Degodia settlements in late October, brutally slaying some 142 civilians, including pregnant women and children, according to officials and witnesses. Dozens of others were injured and more than 70 people were abducted. Over the past eight months, similar attacks have been carried out in the north-east area with grenade launchers, automatic rifles and knives.

## UN Special Representative for Children and Armed Conflict condemns attacks and use of child soldiers

## Persistent Use of Child Soldiers

- Colombia: all parties recruiting and using children under 18 - Up to 30 per cent of some guerrilla units are composed of children, with numbers rising as high as 85 per cent, according to independent sources. The national security forces, including the army and national police, include 15,000 children. Army, guerrilla and paramilitary forces deploy children as "little bees" and "little bells" who scout and send alarms.

The Special Representative appealed to all parties to make a commitment to stop the recruitment and use of children and to begin the process of demobilization as integral aspects of the ongoing peace process.

- Sri Lanka: **Tamil Tigers** break promise to stop recruiting - The Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam are still recruiting and deploying children, according to recent reports. This violates their commitment made to the Special Representative during his visit last May. A number of child soldiers are among the **Tamil Tigers** cadres surrendered recently in the northern town of Mankulam.

These developments are all the more disturbing, the Special Representative said, because the **Tamil Tigers** had given him an undertaking that they would not use children under 18 and would not recruit those under 17. He addressed a particular appeal to the **Tamil Tigers** leadership to take concrete measures to stop the recruitment and use of child soldiers in fulfilment of the commitments they made to him in May.

- Democratic Republic of the Congo: recruitment ongoing - Both sides in the conflict are continuing to recruit and use children; already, thousands of children, known as "kadogos", had been recruited during the fighting in 1996 and, many of them continue to fight for both the Government and the rebels.

The Special Representative appealed to all parties in the conflict to immediately stop the recruitment and use of children. He also described as very disturbing recent reports that children are being recruited in neighbouring countries for combat in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

- Sierra Leone: still massive recruitment and use of children by rebel forces - The RUF continues to recruit and use youngsters as combatants on a major scale. There is also evidence that the government-allied Civil Defence Forces have been engaged in some recruitment, despite the undertaking they made to the Special Representative in June to stop the recruitment and initiation of children under 18 and to begin demobilizing young combatants.

He appealed to the RUF to stop recruiting and using children as soldiers, and to the Civil Defence Forces to honour its commitments made to him last June. He also expressed grave concern about reports that children were being recruited in Liberia for fighting in Sierra Leone.

## Violations of International Humanitarian and Human Rights Instruments

The Special Representative said these cases of atrocities and use of children violated the letter and spirit of a number of key international and human rights instruments, as follows:

- The Convention on the Rights of the Child, which prohibits recruitment and use of children under 15 in hostilities, and calls for protection of children against abuse, torture and armed conflict (articles 38 and 39).

- The Geneva Convention, of 12 August 1949, relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, which calls for the protection from hostilities of civilians (part IV, section I, chapter II) and civilian sites (part II, articles 14 and 24), and includes measures specifically relating to **women** and children (part IV, section III, chapter II).

- The Statute of the International Criminal Court, which designates as war crimes the acts of intentionally directing attacks against civilian population; of conscripting or enlisting children under the age of 15 into armed forces; or of using them to participate in hostilities. It also designates rape as both a crime against humanity and as a war crime.

- In addition, the United Nations Security Council, in a ground-breaking presidential statement issued in June, condemned the targeting of children, including their humiliation, brutalization, sexual abuse, abduction and forced



## UN Special Representative for Children and Armed Conflict condemns attacks and use of child soldiers

displacement and recruitment as soldiers. The Council also called on all parties concerned "to put an end to such activities".

The Special Representative stressed that these acts of atrocities violated local value systems existing within most of the societies concerned. He quoted a local elder in El Das where Kenyan villagers were massacred, who lamented: "In our tradition, men fight fellow men. But, now, they ambush women and children."

## Call to Action

Words must be translated into actions, the Special Representative said. "Nothing is more important today than translating existing standards into practice on the ground."

The Special Representative called for actions from key actors within the international community, as follows:

Firstly, for all governments to incorporate as a major theme the protection of children in their domestic and international policies and programmes;

Secondly, for the non-governmental organization (NGO) community, in tandem with the very important project to raise the age limit for recruitment and participation to 18, to mount a major international campaign for the application of existing standards and to protect children who are presently exposed to abominations in present theatres of conflict. He directed his appeal, in particular, to two recently established NGO coalitions: the Coalition to Stop the Use of Child Soldiers and the Leadership Council on Children in Conflict;

Thirdly, for governments and NGOs to use their own influence and channels of communications to pressure parties to support and reinforce the initiatives and commitments undertaken by parties in conflict; and

Finally, in commemoration of the fiftieth anniversary of the signing of the International Declaration of Human Rights, for the entire international community to "agree to focus on and make the issue of the protection of children - all our children - a common cause".

## Scale of Problem

From 1987-1997:

- 2 million children have been killed;
- 6 million children have been maimed, injured or permanently disabled;
- 1 million children have been orphaned or separated from their parents.

At present:

- More than 300,000 children under the age of 18 are fighting in conflicts worldwide;
- Children account for one half of the worldwide total of 24 million refugees and internally displaced peoples;
- 90 per cent of the casualties in today's conflicts are civilians, including a large and increasing number of children and women. By contrast, that number was only 5 per cent in the First World War, rising to 48 per cent in the Second World War.

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**Load-Date:** November 10, 1998

UN Special Representative for Children and Armed Conflict condemns attacks and use of child soldiers

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## **West to maintain ban on Tamil Tigers**

Financial Times (London, England)

September 6, 2002 Friday

London Edition 1

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**Section:** ASIA-PACIFIC ; Pg. 9

**Length:** 344 words

**Byline:** By AMAL JAYASINGHE and EDWARD LUCE

**Dateline:** COLOMBO and NEW DELHI

### **Body**

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Western governments yesterday said they would maintain terrorist bans on Sri Lanka's **Tamil Tigers** even though the separatist group starts long-awaited peace talks with the Colombo government in less than two weeks.

Yesterday Sri Lanka lifted its ban on the Tigers - a condition the separatists set for attending peace talks. But the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam, which has been fighting for a separate Tamil state in the north and east of the island since 1983, is expected to face increased pressure on its overseas funding activities, notably in the US, UK, India, Canada and France.

The **LTTE**, led by the reclusive Velupillai Prabakaran, is widely considered to have pioneered suicide terrorism. Its Tiger suicide squad, which includes **women** and children, has claimed the lives of many senior Sri Lankan politicians and of Rajiv Gandhi, former prime minister of India. Its insurgency has been fed by financing from Tamil communities around the world.

Britain said yesterday the **LTTE** would have to demonstrate a complete and convincing renunciation of terrorism before it would lift its ban.

Since September 11, Sri Lanka has received noticeably stronger international support for its stance in the 19-year-old war which has claimed more than 60,000 lives. Sri Lanka only banned the **LTTE** in 1998, following a Tiger attack on the sacred Buddhist Temple of the Tooth. The country has been mostly peaceful since a ceasefire was signed in February.

The talks, which start on 16 September, are expected to focus on secondary confidence-building issues such as economic rehabilitation for parts of the island affected by the war. The question of autonomy - or independence - for a separate Tiger Eelam state is unlikely to surface in the initial stages of the Norwegian-brokered process.

The international community has also warned the **LTTE** not to oppress the rights of the Muslim Tamil minority within the areas it controls. Tamils, who are mostly Hindu, make up about 15 per cent of Sri Lanka's 22m population which is dominated by mostly Buddhist Sinhalese.

**Load-Date:** September 5, 2002

West to maintain ban on Tamil Tigers

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## **Lethal jolt for Colombo's Keystone Kops; ANALYSIS SRI LANKA CAMPAIGN OF BLOOD**

Sydney Morning Herald (Australia)

December 20, 1999 Monday

Late Edition

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**Section:** NEWS AND FEATURES; International News; Pg. 10

**Length:** 605 words

**Byline:** CHRISTOPHER KREMMER

### **Body**

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As President Chandrika Kumaratunga lay in a private hospital recovering from surgery on an eye injury caused by shrapnel, analysts were predicting a sympathy wave that could secure her a second six-year term.

The failure of the notorious Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (**LTTE**), and their feared "Black Tigers" suicide squads may have ensured her political survival.

The opposition leader, Mr Ranil Wickremesinghe, had promised to resume dialogue with the **LTTE**, but, if Mrs Kumaratunga wins, the prospects for dialogue with her would-be assassins are bleak.

The Sri Lankan Army has been losing ground in recent battles in the north against the Tigers' latest offensive, codenamed "Unceasing Waves", and the **LTTE** have threatened to retake their former stronghold in the Jaffna peninsula. Five hundred troops have died in fighting for strategic Elephant Pass in the past week alone, and the death toll in the 16-year civil war has topped 60,000.

Despite evidence on the ground that the Tigers would like to see a change of government, **LTTE** spokesmen have insisted the election cannot solve the problem. The bombings are a lethal reminder of their resolve to hold out for direct, unconditional talks mediated by a third party, such as the Commonwealth.

Yet in Sri Lanka's murky political netherworld, nothing is certain. As one of the few organisations in the world capable of organising such kamikaze attacks, the Tigers have been known for a price to carry out hits on behalf of third parties.

If Sri Lanka's security services, responsible for grotesque security lapses, survive unscathed, then Colombo will surely earn the title of the world's most complacent government.

Hours after the attack, senior police were wheeling out extraordinary excuses for their inability to prevent two suicide bombers from gaining access to two separate rallies. Darkness, rain and modesty were among them.

"Because it was night, and it was raining, someone would have crept in, because in the night it's very difficult for the security persons to see people," said police Inspector-General Lakda Kodituwakku, puffing himself up to talk to foreign journalists.

## Lethal jolt for Colombo's Keystone Kops ANALYSIS SRI LANKA CAMPAIGN OF BLOOD

In a polite, mainly Buddhist society, invasive body searches are frowned upon. A quick frisk, and the sari-clad **female** suicide bombers were on their way to killing themselves and at least 29 other people.

"Body searches are being done [but] the kind of jackets that they wear ... especially if it's a woman ... it's very difficult to get at," said the inspector-general, picking his way gingerly through the Town Hall park-turned-open air slaughterhouse.

But no walk-through metal detectors which would have revealed the ball-bearings packed inside the explosive vests were installed at either venue. "It's very strange that they managed to come in," said one of the country's top security officials, who would not be named. "I'm at a loss to understand it."

The official said recent suicide bombers, like the one who killed the Tamil moderate politician Dr Neelan Tiruchelvam this year, used about 1.5 kilograms of TNT, ignited by a "pull switch".

Security officials said investigations were under way, but the Keystone Kops parallels were hard to avoid, as members of the Presidential Security Division found themselves barred from entering the site where the President had almost been assassinated.

The question is, how many people have to die before Sri Lanka's fratricidal minority Tamils and majority Sinhalese find a way to bury their differences instead of their soldiers and civilians and before the international community steps in to force

them to end one of the world's dirtiest little wars.

## Graphic

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Illus: Downed President ... bodyguards crowd around the stricken Mrs Kumaratunga after the suicide bomber struck. Photograph by AP

**Load-Date:** August 8, 2007

## **Key rebel leader, nine others killed in Sri Lanka's north**

Associated Press International

September 27, 2001 Thursday

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**Section:** INTERNATIONAL NEWS

**Length:** 235 words

**Byline:** SHIMALI SENANAYAKE; Associated Press Writer

**Dateline:** COLOMBO, Sri Lanka

### **Body**

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Tamil Tiger rebels said Thursday that a key guerrilla commander was killed in a mine explosion triggered by government troops, but the Defense Ministry denied it.

Col. Shankar, who used only one name, was killed Wednesday by a commando unit of the Sri Lankan Army in Oddusudan, 250 kilometers (155 miles) north of the capital Colombo in an area of thick jungles held by the rebels, according to a statement released by the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam.

The release said Shankar was a close confidant of Tamil Tiger leader Velupillai Prabhakaran and added that Shankar was also party to negotiations between the rebels and Norwegian mediators in November last year, which raised hopes for peace.

Separately, the government said seven rebels, including two women, and five soldiers were killed in fighting Wednesday in the northern Jaffna Peninsula and near Vavuniya, 20 kilometers (130 miles) north of Colombo.

The **Tamil Tigers** has been fighting since 1983 for a separate homeland for the Tamil minority.

They have stepped up their attacks in the east since peace talks halted in July after the government lost its majority in parliament and gained support from a party opposed to negotiations.

The military has escalated strikes in the north, where most of the fighting takes place in the 18-year conflict that has killed 64,000 people.

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On the Net:

Rebel site: [www.eelamweb.com](http://www.eelamweb.com)

Sri Lankan army site: [www.slarmy.org](http://www.slarmy.org)

**Load-Date:** September 27, 2001

Key rebel leader, nine others killed in Sri Lanka 's north

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## **ROUNDUP: Colombo is rocked by explosion, killing of politician**

Deutsche Presse-Agentur

January 5, 2000, Wednesday BC Cycle 12:32 Central European Time

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**Section:** International News

**Length:** 627 words

**Dateline:** Colombo

### **Body**

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The death toll stood at 16 in the Sri Lanka capital Colombo Wednesday following an explosion set off by a Tamil rebel suicide bomber and the assassination of a prominent Tamil politician, officials said.

Security in the Sri Lankan capital has been stepped up after the two incidents.

Less than two hours after a woman suicide bomber blew herself up opposite the Prime Minister's office at Flower Road, two kilometers south of the main business city, a Tamil politician was gunned down.

The explosion has so far claimed the lives of 15 persons including the suicide bomber while 29 others have been injured.

Police said they believe the woman bomber was waiting on the side of the road for a target and several ministers were due to take the route to the weekly cabinet meeting at the President's house - one kilometer away from the site of the explosion.

In the second incident Tamil politician Kumar Ponnambalam 60, was shot dead by a lone gunman at Wellawatta, six kilometers south of the capital Wednesday morning as he was driving to attend a seminar.

Ponnambalam who heads the All Ceylon Tamil Congress (ACTC) was believed to be a sympathiser of the Tamil rebels of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (**LTTE**).

Sources in his political party said they could not rule out the possibility of him being killed by another rival Tamil group.

He was critical of other Tamil groups who oppose the **LTTE**.

Ponnambalam contested the presidential election in 1982 and the parliamentary polls in 1989, but was unsuccessful in both attempts.

The woman bomber blew herself up as she was being checked opposite the entrance of the Prime Minister's office at 9.05 am. (0305 GMT) Wednesday.

The woman, who police said was apparently waiting for her target beside the road, acted in a suspicious manner and had been called to the entrance of the Prime Minister's office for a security check when she triggered the explosion.

## ROUNDUP: Colombo is rocked by explosion, killing of politician

Police said among those who use the road where the Deputy Defence Minister, Anuruddha Ratwatte, and the armed forces commanders who are believed prime targets of the rebels of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (**LTTE**).

"The suspected woman suicide bomber was on the opposite side of the road standing in front of the Saudi Arabian embassy. A Prime Minister security division officer became suspicious of the woman's movements and called her to the main entrance," an employee at the Prime Minister's office, Jagath Prasanna, said.

"The woman in her early twenties, dressed in slacks and a shirt, claimed she could not speak Sinhalese. Our security officer called for a lady Tamil translator and questioned her. She claimed she was waiting for a job agent close to the Saudi embassy and was planning to travel as a house maid," the eyewitness said.

The bomber triggered the explosive just after the security person called two **women** police constables to check her, he said.

Two **women** police constables, the translator, the police officer of the security division were among the 15 killed along with the suicide bomber.

The explosion came three weeks after another woman rebel suicide bomber made an abortive attempt on President Chandrika Kumaratunga's life.

Twenty four persons were killed in the blast along with the suicide bomber on December 18 - three days ahead of the presidential election in which Kumaratunga returned to office for a second term.

The police have warned that at least 12 suicide bombers of the **LTTE** are believed to have infiltrated the capital to carry out attacks mainly targetting ministers and politicians.

Rebels fighting for an independent homeland for minority Tamils in the north and eastern parts of Sri Lanka have stepped up their armed struggle in the recent months. dpa ad ba

**Load-Date:** January 5, 2000

## *roundup: rebels' massacre mars peace efforts in sri lanka by lian guohui*

Copyright 1999 Xinhua News AgencyXinhua News Agency

SEPTEMBER 20, 1999, MONDAY

**Length:** 609 words

**Dateline:** colombo, september 20; ITEM NO: 0920073

### **Body**

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as scores of sinhalese civilians killed by tamil rebels were buried in eastern sri lanka on sunday, the sinhalese nationalist sentiments are prevailing in the war-torn island country, analysts said. they said the sentiments are destined to stall the ongoing peace efforts by influential businessmen and peace organizations. in the early hours of last saturday, tamil rebels of liberation tigers of tamil eelam (*Ltte*) stormed three hamlets in amparai district, 350 kilometers by road east of colombo, hacking to death 54 villagers, including 17 *women* and 10 children. a mass funeral was held on sunday evening at government expense for 43 of the victims at which more than 10,000 persons were present and religious rites were performed by 200 buddhist monks. local people harangued visiting government officials over what they called a lapse in security by government troops. the sinhalese hard-liners again raised their cry for military solution to the 16-year-old civil war fought between the sinhalese majority government and tamil rebels who demands a separate homeland for minority tamils in the north and east of the country. "there is no solution to this (ethnic) problem until and unless the tigers are completely wiped out which could be done only through war and not through any other means," said the national movement against terrorism in a statement. saturday's slaughter, the worst ever attack on civilians in four years, is considered a tit-for-tat revenge to an air strike by the sri lanka air force last wednesday on a crowded marketplace in northeastern mulaitivu district where 22 tamil civilians were killed and 41 others were injured. the international committee of the red cross has expressed deep concern at the alarming increase in the number of civilian casualties. it condemned the *Ltte* attack and called on both the *Ltte* and the government to comply with international humanitarian law. president chandrika kumaratunga condemned the attack as inhuman and brutal and assured the government would do everything possible for the surviving families. deputy minister of defense general anuruddha ratwatte has ordered the security units to set up new army camps in the affected area and to strengthen the security arrangements. less than a month ago, the sarvodaya movement or all people's prosperous movement organized a massive peace march and rally in colombo. it even proposed a march of 1 million people from the south to the war-torn north this month to press for an end to the prolonged ethnic conflict.

under a businessmen's initiative, the ruling people's alliance (pa) and the main opposition united national party (unp) have to work towards a mutually acceptable peace proposal by the end of september. then an influential business leader, lalith kottelawala, is expected to meet the *Ltte* leader in the first week of october to broker peace for the war-ravaged nation. however, the businessmen's initiative suffered double blow this month. one is the sudden death of a.c. hameed, leader of the unp group to the bipartisan talks who died of a heart attack on september 3, the other is the saturday's massacre. the future of the country's long-running ethnic war becomes more uncertain given the public sentiments and the forthcoming national elections which is expected to be held early next year, said analysts. however, just as mr. hameed said a few days before his demise, the businessmen's initiative would not collapse as the search for peace was bound to go on.

**Load-Date:** September 21, 1999

roundup: rebels' massacre mars peace efforts in sri lanka by lian guohui

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End of Document

## **Rebels seek respite for civilians in Sri Lanka crossfire**

United Press International

April 5, 2000, Wednesday

Copyright 2000 U.P.I.

**Section:** GENERAL NEWS

**Length:** 247 words

**Byline:** By RAVI R. PRASAD

**Dateline:** COLOMBO, Sri Lanka, April 5

### **Body**

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Tamil groups in Sri Lanka have appealed to the international community to urge Sri Lankan government to permit civilians to leave the battle zone in the country's northern Jaffna peninsula.

The Tamil political parties appealed to the government to order its troops to spare civilians while fighting the separatist Tamil Tiger guerrillas, who have attacked government positions in the north.

A former militant group, which laid down arms and joined the political mainstream a decade ago, Tamil Eelam Liberation Organization, alleged in a statement Wednesday that the government troops were not allowing civilians to leave the area. The statement said that more than 5,000 men, women and children were trapped in the Pallai and Kilali areas.

Tamil leaders claimed that unless the international community brought pressure on the government to order its troops to hold fire, the civilians would continue to face death and destruction.

The government, on its part, has announced a grant of 2000 rupees -- about US \$25 -- to each family made homeless because of fighting along the coast of the northern Jaffna peninsula.

Aid agencies said that a few hundred civilians managed to escape from the area and had sought shelter in Jaffna town. More than 1,000 civilians sought refuge in a church in Kilali.

The district administration of Jaffna had said that more than 12,500 civilians were caught in renewed fighting between the separatist Tamil Tigers and the government troops that began last week.

**Load-Date:** April 6, 2000

## *Tigers' terrorism continues*

The Record (Kitchener-Waterloo, Ontario)

June 20, 2000 Tuesday Final Edition

Copyright 2000 Metroland Media Group Ltd

**Section:** OPINION; Pg. A08; Letter

**Length:** 235 words

**Byline:** Ary Gunasekera

### **Body**

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Thank you for the June 12 editorial denouncing fund-raising for terrorism. A fair amount of the funds for Liberation Tigers of Tamil Elam terrorism in Sri Lanka are raised in Canada.

One of the facts not known to the international community is the ethnic cleansing carried out by *Tamil Tigers* by chasing out every Sinhalese and Muslim from the northern province and most parts of the eastern province, which includes Jaffna.

They have not stopped it. By surprise night attacks in border villages, they kill hundreds of innocent men, *women* and even children to cleanse those areas of other communities. Muslims were killed inside a mosque in the eastern province.

Tamils are talking about discrimination. Not a single Sinhalese or Muslim is allowed to live in the areas they claim. But Tamils can live in the area and everywhere else in Sri Lanka. They do business and live normal life all over Sri Lanka.

While the governments of Canada and the United States denounce Tamil organizations that raise money for terrorism, our finance minister with another minister participated in a fund-raising lunch. He should have consulted the intelligence service before attending the fund-raising event.

While some organizations are raising funds to support terrorism in Sri Lanka, it is also true that a vast majority of Tamils are law-abiding people who immigrated to Canada to live in peace, without fear.

Ary Gunasekera

Kitchener

**Load-Date:** October 10, 2002

## **SRI LANKA: MUSLIM VILLAGERS MASSACRED BY TAMIL REBELS**

IPS-Inter Press Service

April 29, 1992, Wednesday

Copyright 1992 IPS-Inter Press Service/Global Information Network

**Length:** 413 words

**Dateline:** COLOMBO, Apr. 29

### **Body**

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Tamil rebels are suspected to have stormed a Muslim village in Sri Lanka's northeast and massacred 51 people early today, military officials said here.

According to officials, a group of Tamil militants crept into Alanchipotha, and hacked to death the sleeping villagers. The victims include women and children.

Hours before the massacre, the rebels belonging to the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) group had raided a nearby police post and taken away arms and ammunition.

Sri Lankan Trade and Shipping Minister A.R.M. Munsoor and two other government ministers have been sent to the village to help with funeral arrangements. Seventeen injured survivors have been taken to a nearby hospital.

Meanwhile, the military has launched a massive search operation to track down the killers.

Tamil Tiger militants have struck at a Muslim village in Sri Lanka's troubled northeast after more than a year. In 1990, over 250 villagers were murdered in two Muslim hamlets.

Survivors identified the killers as LTTE, a charge the rebels have denied alleging that the massacres were in fact deliberate acts by government forces to drive a wedge between the two minority Sri Lankan communities.

The majority of Sri Lanka's 17 million people are Sinhalese, Tamils constitute 16 percent and Muslims 7.5 percent.

The massacres in 1990 followed in the wake of a breakdown of a 13-month peace dialogue between the rebels and the government in Colombo. The Tigers had walked out of the negotiations and turned their guns on police posts in the north and east.

The attack on Muslim villages was believed to have been in revenge for their collaborating with government troops who were tracking the Tigers after the present round of fighting began.

Over the last few weeks, relations between the two communities particularly in the eastern province has been under considerable strain. Muslim politicians here say the Tigers fear the Muslims will side with Colombo in any future power sharing arrangement that will be worked out.

The militants claim Sri Lanka's northeast where they are in a majority, should be a separate Tamil homeland. Colombo and the LTTE are locked in a war which neither side can win. Hundreds of thousands of people have fled their homes in the war zone.

## SRI LANKA : MUSLIM VILLAGERS MASSACRED BY TAMIL REBELS

In 1990, unable to provide protection to Muslim villages, the government allowed the creation of an armed Muslim para-military force. Since both the Tamils and Muslims, have traded charges of extra-judicial killings and abductions.

**Load-Date:** May 1, 1992

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End of Document



## *Respite sought for civilians in Sri Lanka crossfire*

United Press International

April 5, 2000, Wednesday

Copyright 2000 U.P.I.

**Section:** GENERAL NEWS

**Length:** 247 words

**Byline:** By RAVI R. PRASAD

**Dateline:** COLOMBO, Sri Lanka, April 5

### **Body**

---

Tamil groups in Sri Lanka have appealed to the international community to urge Sri Lankan government to permit civilians to leave the battle zone in the country's northern Jaffna peninsula.

The Tamil political parties appealed to the government to order its troops to spare civilians while fighting the separatist Tamil Tiger guerrillas, who have attacked government positions in the north.

A former militant group, which laid down arms and joined the political mainstream a decade ago, Tamil Eelam Liberation Organization, alleged in a statement Wednesday that the government troops were not allowing civilians to leave the area. The statement said that more than 5,000 men, women and children were trapped in the Pallai and Kilali areas.

Tamil leaders claimed that unless the international community brought pressure on the government to order its troops to hold fire, the civilians would continue to face death and destruction.

The government, on its part, has announced a grant of 2000 rupees -- about US \$25 -- to each family made homeless because of fighting along the coast of the northern Jaffna peninsula.

Aid agencies said that a few hundred civilians managed to escape from the area and had sought shelter in Jaffna town. More than 1,000 civilians sought refuge in a church in Kilali.

The district administration of Jaffna had said that more than 12,500 civilians were caught in renewed fighting between the separatist Tamil Tigers and the government troops that began last week.

**Load-Date:** April 6, 2000

## **Soldiers rout Tamil Tigers**

Herald Sun

August 23, 1991 Friday

Copyright 1991 Nationwide News Pty Limited

**Length:** 198 words

### **Body**

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COLOMBO - The **Tamil Tigers** have been thrown into disarray by an Indian crackdown on their bases in southern India.

After the assassination of Rajiv Gandhi and heavy fighting with the Sri Lankan army, more than 1200 Tigers have been killed.

The Tigers are fighting for an independent homeland in Sri Lanka.

The three-month crackdown on underground networks across the southern Indian state of Tamil Nadu followed evidence of the organisation's involvement in Mr Gandhi's assassination.

For the first time, the Indian Government ordered a naval blockade of the Tamil Nadu coastline facing Sri Lanka, preventing Tamil separatists fleeing the attacks of government troops.

Indian security forces searching for "One-eyed Jack", alleged mastermind behind the Gandhi killing, raided the rebels' arms dumps and communications networks.

The raids followed the uncovering of evidence that the assassination was carried out in revenge for the killing of thousands of Tamils by Indian troops in Sri Lanka in 1987.

The chase ended on Tuesday with One-eyed Jack shooting himself and a **female** accomplice and five other Tigers committing suicide.

DAILY TELEGRAPH

END OF STORY

### **Graphic**

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One-eyed Jack . . . committed suicide. Rajiv Gandhi . . . victim of the Tigers.

**Load-Date:** September 25, 2003

## Soldiers rout Tamil Tigers

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End of Document

## **Mobs in Sri Lanka attack Tamils after bombing**

The Associated Press

June 8, 2000, Thursday, PM cycle

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**Section:** International News

**Length:** 704 words

**Byline:** By DILSHIKA JAYAMAHA, Associated Press Writer

**Dateline:** COLOMBO, Sri Lanka

### **Body**

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Police today detained 19 suspects in a suicide bombing that killed 23 people, including a popular Cabinet minister, and Sri Lanka's president urged against retaliatory attacks on the Tamil minority.

Mobs on Wednesday threw stones at Tamil-owned shops in Ratmalana, an industrial suburb of the capital, Colombo, where the explosion occurred. There were no reports of injuries, but authorities imposed a nighttime curfew.

No one has claimed responsibility for Wednesday's bombing. The government blamed the explosion, which also injured 60 people, on Tamil Tiger rebels who have been fighting since 1983 to establish a separate homeland for the country's 3.2 million Tamils.

Industrial Development Minister Clement V. Gooneratne was assassinated during a fund-raiser for families of soldiers slain in the war against Tamil rebels. Gooneratne's wife, Shyama, died of her injuries today, Dr. W.G. Gunawardena, the director of Kalubowila Hospital said.

The government had declared Wednesday its first War Heroes Day to boost the morale of the 40,000 troops fighting the rebels in northern Jaffna peninsula.

Four men in a cafe near the bomb site were detained by police for interrogation on Wednesday after the bombing.

Police detained 15 men early today as suspects. The men were taken from nearby apartments and houses and were being interrogated, according to a local police official who spoke on condition of anonymity.

President Chandrika Kumaratunga appealed for calm, saying the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam were trying to "inflame communal passions by provoking the people."

"I appeal to all Sri Lankans to consider this earnestly and act with patience to maintain peace at this hour," Kumaratunga said.

Kumaratunga was blinded in the right eye when a woman suicide bomber tried to assassinate her in December. Gooneratne was the first member of her government assassinated.

About half of those wounded were still being treated today, Dr. W.G. Gunawardena said.

## Mobs in Sri Lanka attack Tamils after bombing

The police official said the bomber was a man, although in the past women have cut their hair and posed as men in suicide bombings. Public officials are barred from providing information to the press under a strict code of conduct imposed in February.

The rebels have a suicide unit, the Black Tigers, known for targeting government officials and politicians.

Suicide bombers have assassinated several high-ranking politicians, including President Ranasinghe Premadasa in 1993 and former Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi in 1991. The Tamil Tigers denied they killed Gandhi and have never commented on Premadasa's death.

The Sri Lankan parliament extended the nationwide state of emergency today for another month, giving police and soldiers wide powers to detain people, seize property and shut down newspapers.

Meanwhile, a mine explosion set off by suspected rebels killed three members of a civilian security patrol and wounded four today outside the northern town of Vavuniya, police said.

The remote-controlled mine exploded while a group of civilian guards were on a routine patrol outside Vavuniya, 130 miles north of the capital, police said. It is the last government-held area before Jaffna Peninsula, where the rebels are fighting to create a homeland.

Fighting between government troops and the rebels has intensified in recent months on Jaffna Peninsula, where the rebels reached the edge of Jaffna city. But an infusion of foreign-bought weapons has helped the soldiers halt the rebel advance.

In Washington, White House spokesman Joe Lockhart condemned the bombing as a "reprehensible act" but urged a continuation of efforts to resolve the bitter conflict.

"Such terrorism should not and cannot detract from efforts to reach a negotiated solution to the current conflict in Sri Lanka," he said. "The United States stands firmly in support of a solution that offers justice and human rights for all the citizens of a unified, peaceful, and prosperous Sri Lanka."

The United States and India have supported efforts by Norway to mediate between the rebels and the Sri Lankan government, but Kumaratunga said this week that the Tamil Tigers could not be trusted in negotiations. The Norwegian effort, begun just before the Tiger offensive in April, has languished.

## Graphic

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AP Photo NY107

**Load-Date:** June 9, 2000

## **Assassination investigation leads to NZ**

The Sunday Star-Times (Auckland)

July 1, 2001

Copyright 2001 Fairfax New Zealand

**Section:** NEWS; INTERNATIONAL;

**Length:** 244 words

**Byline:** BATES Cameron GANDHI Rajiv

### **Body**

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INVESTIGATORS probing the assassination of former Indian prime minister Rajiv Gandhi have travelled to New Zealand as part of their enquiries.

Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade officials confirmed visas had been issued to two Indian Central Bureau of Investigation officers.

New Zealand police crime manager Detective Superintendent Bill Bishop said the investigators had been questioning people in "several locations" about Gandhi's murder in a suicide bombing in the state of Tamil Nadu in 1991.

Bishop said police assisted the Indian investigators but would not comment further, saying details needed to be released by Indian authorities. "It is someone else's inquiry and is obviously very sensitive."

Gandhi was killed by a **female** suicide bomber at an election rally. More than 40 people were charged in a case blamed on Sri Lanka's separatist Liberation Tigers of Tamil (**LTTE**). A report by Justice Milap Chand Jain, made public in 1997, held Tamil Nadu chief minister M. Karunanidhi and his DMK party responsible for abetting the murderers.

The **LTTE** has denied any involvement in the bombing.

An Indian Interpol investigator contacted by the Sunday Star-Times said the investigation was continuing and "it would be slightly premature to spill details" at this stage.

A spokesman at the Indian Embassy in Wellington would not comment. "This is a matter which is under investigation and therefore . . . the high commission would not be able to make any comments."

**Load-Date:** July 2, 2001

## **SRI LANKA: GOODWILL GESTURES FAIL TO REACH WAR-TORN AREA**

IPS-Inter Press Service

January 30, 2002, Tuesday

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**Length:** 1010 words

**Byline:** By Feizal Samath

**Dateline:** COLOMBO, Jan. 30

### **Body**

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Residents of the war-torn Jaffna peninsula say that a two-week-old goodwill gesture, including the lifting of an economic embargo, made by Sri Lanka's new government to those living in conflict-affected areas has yet to materialize.

Thus far, medicine needed by the predominantly Tamil civilians has not been coming into the northern peninsula, once the heart of the rebels' campaign for a separate homeland.

"The government says more than 90 percent of the peninsula is under the control of government forces. Then why is permission needed to bring goods into an area that is run by the government?" asks a frustrated Dr. Sivarajah, head of the department of community medicine at the Jaffna University.

A steady supply of medicine was among the items that the newly elected United National Front (UNF) government approved to be sent to the rebel-controlled areas in the northern Wanni region, adjoining Jaffna, after the embargo on those areas was lifted earlier this month.

Other items on the approved list included food and general goods.

The relaxation is part of measures aimed at laying the groundwork for peace talks, due to start in May between the UNF government and the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (**LTTE**).

A ceasefire has been in force between the two sides since Dec. 24 last year. The 19-year conflict has cost more than 60,000 lives since 1983.

But while all other areas with some rebel activity have been free of the embargo since mid-January, Jaffna, struggling for years without sufficient medicines due to restricted supply and a ban, has not figured in this equation.

Restrictions on medicines still apply to the peninsula, home to 500,000 mostly Tamil residents.

Even such basic medical needs as bandages are on the banned list, due to fears by the former government that wounded Tamil rebels would be able to use them. When residents then turned to using sanitary pads as bandages, the past government banned this item too.

At a seminar held here last week, Sivarajah and other top medical specialists from the war-ravaged region confirmed that badly-needed drugs were still not available.

## SRI LANKA : GOODWILL GESTURES FAIL TO REACH WAR-TORN AREA

Unlike other parts of Sri Lanka, they said, hospitals were unable to send vehicles across to another hospital outside the region to borrow supplies, because the Jaffna region is isolated.

Since the mid-1990s, road links between Jaffna and the rest of the south have been closed due to fighting between government and rebel forces, and only sea and air routes were available for such a journey.

Those two routes had restrictions, too, with civilian flights run only by the air force and passenger ferries to Jaffna available only twice a week.

Often, said the northern medical experts, if Jaffna hospitals were short of life-saving medicines, they were compelled to borrow supplies from the army hospital in the region or forced to witness the patient suffer further and even die.

"In 2000, three patients died due to unbearable pain as there was a shortage of painkillers," recalls Dr. M. Ambalavanar, a general surgeon at Jaffna's main Teaching Hospital. "Last year, during a week, I had to send patients (suffering from fractures) home with cardboard splinters as there was no plaster of Paris available."

According to Keethish Loganathan, a Tamil affairs specialist and analyst at the Colombo-based Center for Policy Alternatives, there is no government explanation to justify the embargo's continued enforcement in Jaffna.

"Military spokesmen at the seminar were also unable to give a proper explanation," he says.

Since 1987, Sri Lankan governments have enforced an economic embargo, starting off with a few items that they feared would reach the **Tamil Tigers** and later expanding it to drugs even including aspirin.

"I can't understand why the government bans a box of aspirin when the government has not been able to stop the Tigers acquiring surface-to-air missiles, rocket launchers, tanks and other war material," says Dayala Deva, a pharmacologist and former director of the International Federation of the Red Cross.

Even getting approved drugs into the peninsula is a laborious and time-consuming procedure, adds Deva, who conducted a survey September last year on the prohibition and restriction of medicines to Jaffna.

Often, once permission is obtained to transport a certain amount of drugs, these are not available in the government medical stores in Colombo, he explains.

"Drugs and medicines are given to state hospitals after each hospital lists out its needs. Often the supply doesn't match the need," explains Deva. "In Jaffna's case even the little supply we get can diminish as there have been times when stocks set aside for Jaffna have been given to other hospitals due to procedural delays in Jaffna getting permission."

He said that 20 percent of the medical items sent to Jaffna have a short expiry date. Packages are sent by ship and examined and reexamined by security authorities so much so that when they reach their destination, nearly 15 percent of the items are pilfered or damaged.

Besides that, environmental conditions like high temperatures and exposure to sunlight reduce the effectiveness of the drugs.

Deva's study showed that last year, 21 medical items including x-ray developers, eye drops, a variety of bandage, surgical blades, skin cream and hydrogen peroxide were banned.

Forty-two items were restricted to between 25 percent and 50 percent of needs. These included x-ray film, anti-venom serum injections, oxygen cylinders, oral penicillin tablets, vitamin A and D capsules, folic acid tablets, surgical spirits, sanitary pads and dextrose among others.



## SRI LANKA : GOODWILL GESTURES FAIL TO REACH WAR-TORN AREA

Family planning drugs have not been spared either. Sivarajah says there is a shortage of contraceptives and some of the loops prescribed by him for women have an old expiry date. "I was forced to use them but now we have stopped."

Deva and other doctors at the seminar urged government authorities to lift restrictions on all types of drugs and medicines, and to do away with the need for military clearance for these items, particularly in view of coming peace talks.

**Load-Date:** February 3, 2002

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End of Document

## Over 100,000 after fresh offensive against rebels in Sri Lanka

Deutsche Presse-Agentur

October 5, 1995, Thursday, BC Cycle 14:50 Central European Time

Copyright 1995 Deutsche Presse-Agentur

**Section:** International News

**Length:** 231 words

**Dateline:** Colombo

### **Body**

---

More than 100,000 civilians have been displaced after government troops launched a fresh offensive against Tamil separatists in northern Sri Lanka, civilian sources said Thursday.

More than 300 suspected Tamil rebels and 53 soldiers have been confirmed killed in the region over recent days.

A military spokesman in Colombo Thursday claimed that the offensive against rebels of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (**LTTE**) was continuing in the northern Jaffna peninsula.

He said troops were holding on to some 25 square kilometers which they captured in the offensive launched last Sunday.

A spokesman for a Tamil political party quoted civilians arriving from the north saying that over 100,000 persons had fled their homes owing to intense shelling and air attacks taking place in the North.

The spokesman for the Eelam People's Democratic Party (EPDP) said that civilians had taken shelter in schools and temples in the Kilinochchi district, south of the military offensive.

Military spokesman Brigadier Sarath Munasinghe said troops had recovered up to 152 rebel bodies, including those of **women** cadres, but the rebel death toll has been put at over 300.

The offensive against the rebels is the biggest in two months in the northern Jaffna peninsula-the strong hold of the **LTTE** who are fighting in the North and East for an independent Tamil homeland. dpa da sc

**Load-Date:** October 5, 1995

***servant signals presidential security men away before explosion: top investigator***

The Xinhua General Overseas News ServiceXinhua General News Service

JUNE 3, 1993, THURSDAY

**Length:** 218 words

**Dateline:** colombo, june 3; ITEM NO: 0603207

## **Body**

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the suicide bomber of late president ranansighe premadasa had developed close friendship with the late sri lankan leader's valet named mohideen, who signaled security men away when they were trying to block him, a top investigator said here today. mohideen signaled three security men to move away when they tried to block the suicide bomber identified as kulaweeraingham veerakumar, so the bomber walked freely towards premadasa and exploded the bomb strapped in his waist about eight feet way, killing premadasa and 22 others on may 1, said amarasena rajapakase, deputy inspector general of the criminal investigations department (cid) of police who is heading the investigations into the assassination. the servant had also shouted "let him come, he is one of our own men" to the security guards before the explosion occurred, earlier local press reports quoted eye-witnesses as saying. rajapakase said investigations showed the bomber came to colombo from northern jaffna peninsular, the heartland of the rebel liberation tigers of tamil eelam (*ltte*), some time ago, but he refused to come to the conclusion at the moment that the *ltte* has a hand in the assassination. the bomber had befriended mohideen, making use of his weakness for wine and *women*, inviting him to regular parties at a flat.

**Load-Date:** June 14, 1993

## *Hundreds of Moslems made refugees in eastern Lanka*

Deutsche Presse-Agentur

September 1, 1995, Friday, BC Cycle 14:59 Central European Time

Copyright 1995 Deutsche Presse-Agentur

**Section:** International News

**Length:** 226 words

**Dateline:** Colombo

### **Body**

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Hundreds of Moslems began to flee their homes Friday in eastern Sri Lanka, after separatist Tamil rebels threatened to kill them if they failed to move out, military officials said.

They said close to 300 Moslem families fled their homes at Iqbalpura close to the main eastern port town of Trincomalee and were given shelter at schools and other government buildings.

Tamil rebels from the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (**LTTE**) had threatened to massacre them if they failed to leave the area by nightfall, the officials said.

The rebels had also raided the village and removed several vehicles, including motorcycles, tractors and other farming material, according to the officials. The rebels had accused the Moslems of cooperating with the state security agencies.

In earlier attacks, rebels have killed hundreds of Moslems including **women** and children in a bid to flush them out from the north and east. The rebels claim that the Moslems and other communities including the majority Sinhalese are settlers in the traditional Tamil homeland.

The **LTTE** has waged war against the government with the aim of carving out an independent homeland for the minority Tamils living in the North and East of the country. An estimated 33,000 people mainly civilians have died and thousands displaced in the ongoing 12-year-old conflict. dpa da ct

**Load-Date:** September 1, 1995

## **Fierce fighting in northern Lanka, 450 rebels, 75 soldiers dead**

Deutsche Presse-Agentur

September 27, 1996, Friday, BC Cycle 09:34 Central European Time

Copyright 1996 Deutsche Presse-Agentur

**Section:** International News

**Length:** 433 words

**Dateline:** Colombo

### **Body**

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Government forces in Sri Lanka faced a major blow when more than 75 soldiers were killed in a fresh attack on Thursday, military officials said Friday.

But the military also claimed that 450 Tamil rebels had been killed in a counter-attack. Officials claimed to have confirmed reports about the deaths of 450 rebels and said the number injured had exceeded 300.

Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (**LTTE**) rebels launched two separate attacks on government troops advancing around the northern Paranthan area, 260 kilometres north of Colombo, Thursday.

Rebels used more than 1,000 of their cadres including several suicide bombers to carry out the counterattacks on advancing troops, a military official said.

Unconfirmed reports said the death toll of government soldiers in Thursday's fighting may even exceed 100.

"The 'terrorists' (rebels) were sending wave after wave charging towards the army and some of the suicide bombers exploded in close proximity of the army causing heavy casualties," a senior military officer said.

The military confirmed that 75 army personnel including five officers were killed and 156 more military personnel including 10 officers were injured in the battle.

Sri Lankan government forces had launched a fresh offensive against rebels of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (**LTTE**) in the Paranthan area in northern Sri Lanka Sunday. Facing stiff resistance, the government forces lost up to 71 soldiers by Wednesday.

The military claimed that over 150 rebels also had been killed during the same period.

Government troops suffered their biggest loss in the 13-year-old war against the rebels in July when the rebels overran a major military base in the northeastern part of the country at Mullaitivu, where over 1,200 soldiers were killed.

The rebels claim to be fighting in the north and eastern parts of the country for an independent homeland for minority Tamils.

Thursday's loss also has been described as a setback as the attack had come in an operation planned in detail by the Lankan military in a bid to advance towards rebel strongholds in the area.

## Fierce fighting in northern Lanka, 450 rebels, 75 soldiers dead

Government troops are being backed by air and artillery cover, but rebels have been firing mortars on to the military causing casualties.

According to ground troops, so far 138 bodies of rebels killed on Thursday have been recovered and many of the cadres killed had been women fighters of the LTTE.

Reports on Friday said fighting is continuing around the Paranthan area and troops are holding on to the area preventing rebels breaching the defence lines. dpa da cro

**Load-Date:** October 4, 1996

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## **SRI LANKA: ON EVE OF TALKS, CRICKET HELPS SOOTHE WOUNDS OF WAR**

IPS-Inter Press Service

September 15, 2002, Monday

Copyright 2002 IPS-Inter Press Service/Global Information Network

**Length:** 1010 words

**Byline:** By Feizal Samath

**Dateline:** COLOMBO, Sep. 15

### **Body**

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If there is one issue that has bonded communities in war-ravaged Sri Lanka, it is cricket -- and as peace talks between the government and Tamil Tiger rebels start Monday, one of whose biggest international tournaments is underway here.

The country's greatest hero is a cricketer -- one from the minority Tamil community.

When Muttiah Muralidaran, Sri Lanka's and one of the world's greatest spinners, was accused of chucking some years ago in a test match in Australia, his captain Arjuna Ranatunga, from the Sinhalese majority community, vociferously argued with the umpire over the decision and was on the verge of being thrown out for indiscipline.

But Sri Lankans here and across the world stood by their man - - irrespective of whether he was Sinhalese or Tamil. They went beyond the bitter differences the two communities have had since widespread ethnic riots against the Tamils broke out in 1983, and fueled the **Tamil Tigers'** war for a separate Tamil homeland.

"Cricket has been a great healer to the ethnic conflict," muses a young Tamil accountant and a cricket fan working in Colombo. "It has cut across ethnic boundaries and discrimination."

Cricket has also been a great beneficiary from the peace process thus far. None of the 11 teams playing in the International Cricket Council (ICC) tournament raised concerns about traveling to Colombo -- a must-ask question in the past. "There was no problem about security concerns unlike before," says Hemaka Amarasuriya, chairman of the interim committee of Sri Lanka's Cricket Board.

Tourism has also received a tremendous boost from the exposure off cricket. Some 5,000 spectators are arriving from all corners of the world to watch their heroes, India's Sachin Tendulkar, Australia's Shane Warne, Pakistan's Shoaib Akhtar or West Indies' Brian Lara, in action.

Colombo's hotels have been fully booked for the first time in years.

Apart from the cricket carnival and peace talks in Thailand, to the delegation that Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe is leading to New York for pro-business meetings there, this is one of those rare occasions when Sri Lanka has grabbed world attention for the right reasons instead of bombs, killings and mayhem.

## SRI LANKA : ON EVE OF TALKS, CRICKET HELPS SOOTHE WOUNDS OF WAR

However, the cricket fever also means that when peace talks between the government and the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (**LTTE**) open in Thailand on Monday -- the fourth negotiations in seven years and the fourth time since 1983 -- cricket could play spoilsport.

As Anton Balasingham, the chief rebel negotiator, shakes hands with Prof. G.L. Peiris, leader of the government team, Monday, this cricket-crazy nation of 19.5 million people would be glued to television sets watching their heroes play Holland in an international game in Colombo.

"Sri Lankans are concerned about the peace talks, but in a toss-up between watching live coverage of the peace talks or the cricket, most people will opt for the cricket. That's our culture," says Dr. C. Thurairaja, an expert in sports medicine and a retired army major general.

Both the match and the peace talks start around the same time, about 1:30 p.m. local time.

The ICC tournament is the world's biggest tournament after the World Cup, with 12 teams including Sri Lanka, India, Pakistan, Britain, Australia, the West Indies, South Africa and New Zealand taking part in the ICC Champions trophy.

Talk to youngsters on the street and their thoughts are on Monday's cricket match. "Peace talks? Ah no, no. I am watching the match," says Sunil Thushara, an office worker in Colombo from the majority Sinhala community.

The residents of northern Jaffna peninsula, seat of the Tamil rebel demand for autonomous powers, would also be 'forced' to watch cricket -- even if some of them also want to know what is happening in Thailand.

Of the nine television channels in Sri Lanka, only state-run Rupavahini television is planning to show the talks' opening session. This channel, however, cannot be accessed in Jaffna.

Its sister station, Eye, can be seen there, but will be showing exclusive coverage of the 12-nation cricket tournament.

But there is little doubt that given a choice, most young Tamil rebels would also prefer to watch the cricket in their jungle hideouts on satellite television.

"I think most people prefer to watch the cricket," says S Sripathy, a young Tamil advertising executive by telephone from Jaffna on Saturday. "There is a lot of interest in sports among the younger generation particularly now that there is peace and some tranquility."

Though Jaffna is one of the worst cities to be battered by the 19-year-old ethnic conflict, youngsters have made sure that their studies -- and sports -- have not been affected.

Watching or listening to the radio when Sri Lanka's popular cricket team is in action is also a favorite pastime by many in Jaffna, which has a predominantly Tamil population.

The Tamil Tiger guerrillas may have been fighting the Sinhalese-dominated government to win more rights for Tamils, but when it comes to cricket, they are on common turf with the rest of Sri Lanka.

During the nail-biting World Cup final in Pakistan between Sri Lanka and Australia in 1996, the Tigers are rumored to have negotiated an unofficial truce with government troops -- in order to watch the cricket matches from the northern jungles.

When Sri Lanka won that final, it was champagne for the mainly Sinhalese southerners while the Tigers in the north are said to have celebrated with homemade wine.

The young Tamil accountant adds that the spinner Muralidaran has proven that "by being the most popular person in Sri Lanka despite being a Tamil, cricket could be our saviour and bring the nation together".



## SRI LANKA : ON EVE OF TALKS, CRICKET HELPS SOOTHE WOUNDS OF WAR

Two weeks ago, young **female** Tiger cadres rushed forward to shake hands with the celebrated young leg spinner when he made a memorable trip to Jaffna.

Thousands turned up at the city stadium to watch Muralidaran play in a friendly match and were not a least bit concerned when an unknown Jaffna player thrashed him for a six and a couple of fours. He was mobbed and hugged wherever he went in Jaffna.

**Load-Date:** September 17, 2002

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End of Document

## **TAMILS BLAMED FOR VILLAGE MASSACRE; SRI LANKA**

Sydney Morning Herald (Australia)

October 11, 1988 Tuesday

Late Edition

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

**Length:** 621 words

**Byline:** Source: Agence France-Presse, Reuter, The Independent

### **Body**

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COLOMBO, Monday: Suspected Tamil separatists butchered 45 Sinhalese villagers in their sleep in north-central Sri Lanka early today in the worst attack against civilians in 18 months, military officials said.

The massacre in Ullukulama village, about 3.2 kilometres from a Sri Lankan Army post, came as Sinhalese militants forced a one-day general strike protesting against autonomy elections in the north and east.

The attackers cut the throats of the Sinhalese villagers and shot them while they were asleep, killing 44 people instantly, a military official in the area told Agence France-Presse by telephone. He said a wounded man died in hospital.

The victims included 14 men, 13 women, nine girls and nine boys.

"A search for the killers is now on. Our men are also looking for wounded survivors in the nearby jungles. We think the toll could go up," the official added.

A military official said the killings appeared to be the work of the most powerful rebel group, the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), which has carried out similar attacks in the area.

Four weeks ago, LTTE men butchered 11 Sinhalese farmers in eastern Ampara district.

Today's attack coincided with the first anniversary of an Indian Army offensive against the group, the honoring of Sri Lankan troops involved in an anti-LTTE drive in April 1987, and the closing of nominations for next month's autonomy elections. Today is also Army Day.

The LTTE is boycotting the regional elections in line with the July 1987 Indo-Sri Lanka peace accord, which sought to end a bloody Tamil separatist campaign. The group has vowed revenge on "traitors" who contest the polls.

In other developments, police clamped a 24-hour curfew in southern Matara town today to break up a protest by the Sinhalese militant Janatha Vimukti Peramuna (JVP, People's Liberation Front), the official said.

Security forces were ordered to force shops and businesses to open and take over private buses not running in response to the JVP-called strike, he said.

## TAMILS BLAMED FOR VILLAGE MASSACRE SRI LANKA

Residents said most shops in and around the capital and the provinces were closed and fewer buses were on the roads. Thousands of office workers were unable to get to work.

In leaflets, the JVP said it was staging the strike to protest against the merging of the Tamil-dominated northern province with the multi-ethnic eastern region in line with July's Indo-Sri Lankan peace accord.

In the mainly Sinhalese south of the country, the Government closed all schools today after a Sinhalese Marxist group, the People's Liberation Front(PLF), called for a protest against the peace pact.

A Government statement said some schools, "which are unable to prevent the breakdown of discipline among their pupils", would remain closed indefinitely

The Front, composed mainly of Sinhalese youths, has criticised the peace pact as a sell-out to India and opposed the merger of the north with the east, which is inhabited by Sinhalese, Tamils and Muslims in equal numbers.

Elections have been held in seven of the eight provinces, but the Tigers have pledged to enforce a boycott of next month's proposed election in the new North-East Province.

Prime Minister Ranasinghe Premadasa, the ruling United National Party's presidential candidate for for elections due in December, intends to renegotiate the India-Sri Lanka pact and send back the 52,000-strong Indian Peace-Keeping Force (IPKF) now

on the island if he is elected.

He also said he was opposed to the merger of the northern and eastern provinces.

The Prime Minister's main election rival, former Prime Minister Sirima Bandaranaike, also says she will renegotiate the pact and send back the Indian troops if she wins power. Mrs Bandaranaike also pledged to seek direct talks with the Tigers.

**Load-Date:** July 20, 2007

## **Sri Lanka Landmine Blasts Ambulance Convoy, Kills 21**

The Associated Press

December 24, 1990, Monday, AM cycle

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**Section:** International News

**Length:** 237 words

**Byline:** By PATRICK CRUEZ, Associated Press Writer

**Dateline:** COLOMBO, Sri Lanka

### **Body**

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A landmine exploded under an army ambulance convoy Monday, killing 18 soldiers and three civilians in northern Sri Lanka, where the army is fighting Tamil secessionists, the military and police said.

Officials said the mine detonated in a marshy jungle near Horowapatana village, where sick and wounded soldiers were being taken for treatment.

Village police said the blast blew up an army bus carrying 10 soldiers, two Sinhalese women and a male civilian, killing all of them. Eight soldiers in a jeep behind the bus were killed and six others badly hurt, police said.

A police officer, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the civilians had hitched a ride in the army vehicle.

Horowopatana lies 130 miles northeast of Colombo in the Polonnaruwa district, a predominantly Sinhalese region. It borders the multi-ethnic Trincomalee district, where the Tamil separatist war has been especially intense.

Forty-two soldiers have been killed since Wednesday, when the army renewed offensive operations against the Tamil Tigers, who are fighting for independence for the Tamil minority in the northern and eastern parts of the island state.

The military says 131 rebels have been killed and 22 captured in the offensive.

More than 14,000 people have died in the Tamil war since 1983. Tamils, who make up 18 per cent of Sri Lanka's 16 million population, say they are discriminated against by the Sinhalese, who comprise 75 per cent.

### **3 soldiers, 12 rebels killed in north sri lanka**

The Xinhua General Overseas News ServiceXinhua General News Service

JULY 30, 1993, FRIDAY

**Length:** 223 words

**Dateline:** colombo, july 30; ITEM NO: 0730074

## **Body**

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an unofficial curfew was clamped down on thallady village in northern mannar district last night after fresh fighting broke out killing three soldiers and twelve tamil rebels, reports reaching here said today. fighting flared up when tamil rebels attacked a group of government soldiers who arrived a place near thallady railway bridge to ambush rebels in the vicinity. fighting was raging into early hours today, defense sources here said describing it to be "fierce". meanwhile sources also said that tamil rebels were due to hand over seven sinhalese including two women whom they abducted earlier to the representative of the international committee of the red cross (icrc) thursday but they were not able to confirm whether the planned transfer had actually taken place. the liberation tigers of tamil eelam (ltte) fighting to set up a separate state for minority tamils in the north-east renewed attacks against north-east based government forces since last weekend to coincide with the 10th anniversary of 1983 july riots in southern areas which killed hundreds of tamils in a sinhala backlash to avenge the killing of soldiers by tamil rebels in the north. the present stage of north-east fighting known as "eelam war 2" re-erupted in mid 1991 following the collapse of peace talks between the government and the ltte.

**Load-Date:** July 31, 1993

## **More than 100 killed in Sri Lanka fighting**

United Press International  
September 18, 2000, Monday

Copyright 2000 U.P.I.

**Section:** GENERAL NEWS

**Length:** 475 words

**Byline:** By RAVI R. PRASAD

**Dateline:** COLOMBO, Sri Lanka, Sept 18

### **Body**

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More than a hundred combatants were killed in Sri Lanka's northern Jaffna peninsula as separatist Tamil Tiger guerrillas mounted a major counter-offensive to recapture a strategic town.

A statement issued by the government's Special Media Information Center said the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam Sunday night launched a counter-attack on government troops at Chavakachcheri town. Troops successfully repulsed the attack, and the guerrillas were unable to capture even a single government position in the town.

The guerrillas showered mortars at government troops building new defense positions inside Chavakachcheri town, which they captured Sunday morning during a three-hour-long operation.

The ministry said that troops had recovered bodies of 10 male and 8 **female** rebel cadres from the battlefield. These bodies would be handed over the International Committee of the Red Cross for being transferred to the **LTTE**.

The statement claimed quoting ground troops that bodies of 75 rebel cadres were spotted scattered around Chavakachcheri town after guns fell silent Monday morning.

The government statement said that the security forces lost 18 soldiers in the latest round of fighting. Some 20 soldiers were wounded, while many more had sustained minor injuries. They returned to the frontline after treatment.

The **LTTE** claimed in a report on its website TamilNet that nearly a 100 government soldiers had been killed in the fighting for control over Chavakachcheri town. It said that scores of soldiers were wounded in the fighting.

Refuting government's claim that its troops had captured the key town on the Colombo-Jaffna road, rebels said that government troops were pushed back. The armed forces had withdrawn to Sankathanai, from where the government troops had launched the assault Sunday.

The armed forces are essaying to recapture the territory lost to the Tigers ahead of the October 10 parliament elections. The opposition United National Party has criticized the government for pressing the armed forces to launch the military offensive.

## More than 100 killed in Sri Lanka fighting

President Chandrika Kumaratunga's brother and leader of the UNP, Anura Bandaranaike, has said that the ruling People's Alliance was using the armed forces for political gains.

Analysts say that a military victory over the rebels in the north could boost the prospects of the ruling alliance in the forthcoming elections.

Meanwhile, in the eastern Ampara district, two police officers and a civilian were killed Monday when a vehicle bomb exploded in the heart of Kalmunai town. Seven police officers were injured in the blast. The police officers had stopped the van for inspection when it exploded.

The often-bloody 17-year guerrilla war launched by the **LTTE** in order to win a separate homeland for the minority Tamil community in the north and east of the island nation has claimed more than 70,000 lives.

**Load-Date:** September 19, 2000

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End of Document

## ***Sri Lankan navy kills 4 rebels, 7 soldiers die in mine blast***

Deutsche Presse-Agentur

September 11, 1995, Monday, BC Cycle 12:29 Central European Time

Copyright 1995 Deutsche Presse-Agentur

**Section:** International News

**Length:** 248 words

**Dateline:** Colombo

### **Body**

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The Sri Lankan navy killed four Tamil rebels believed to have been planning a suicide bomb attack on naval ships at a northern harbour, a military spokesman said Monday.

Meanwhile seven soldiers were killed and five wounded in a pressure mine explosion in the northeast.

The rebels, including two women, were detected outside the main Kankesanthurai harbour Sunday. The port is the main base of the Lankan navy patrolling the northeastern coastal areas.

The military spokesman said the rebels, members of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), had underwater equipment and powerful bombs.

Two month ago rebels sank a naval vessel at the same harbour, and two weeks ago sank two ships off the northeastern coast of Mullaitivu.

Military officials said the rebels' main objective seemed to be to weaken naval power before any major government offensive against them in the north.

The soldiers were killed when a tractor they were travelling on was caught by the blast of a pressure mine between Kokkuthuduvai and Jayasinghepura in the northeastern Welioya area.

Military officials said LTTE rebels planted the mine on a road which is frequently used by security forces.

In other developments, reports said rebels launched mortar attacks on three police posts in the eastern Batticaloa district Sunday but no casualties were reported.

Rebels are fighting for an independent homeland for minority Tamils in the north and eastern parts of the country.  
dpa bw

**Load-Date:** September 11, 1995



## **INDIA GETS TOUGH**

TELEGRAPH

October 8, 1987 Thursday

Copyright 1987 Nationwide News Pty Limited

**Length:** 237 words

**Byline:** OCONNOR S

### **Body**

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INDIA GETS TOUGH Force order to restore peace in Sri Lanka NEW DELHI (AAP): India ordered its troops today to use force to restore peace in north and east Sri Lanka where Tamil militants have killed nearly 160 people in 24 hours.

A government statement expressed "'deep shock and revulsion at the wanton and brutal killings of innocent men, women and children by the LTTE (Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam)".  
QNP

It said Indian peacekeeping troops sent to Sri Lanka to enforce a July 29 peace accord had been reinforced and "'instructed to take all necessary measures to deal with the situation that has arisen".

The Indian government would use "'all the force at our command" to restore peace, the statement said.

A government spokesman who read out the statement declined to say whether the estimated 11,000 Indian troops in Sri Lanka had yet begun operations to enforce order.

The statement said the LTTE appeared "'determined to prevent the implementation of the Indo-Sri Lankan agreement" and India would not tolerate this.

"'The government of India will not hesitate to use the strongest of measures to deal with all those who seek to undermine the implementation of the Indo-Sri Lankan agreement," it declared.

The accord signed by Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi and Sri Lankan President Junius Jayewardene brought a ceasefire last July after four years fighting between Tamil separatists and the Sri Lankan armed forces.

**Load-Date:** September 19, 2003

## ***Suicide jacket found in eastern town of Sri Lanka***

Associated Press International

December 13, 2001 Thursday

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**Section:** INTERNATIONAL NEWS

**Length:** 262 words

**Dateline:** BATTICALOA, Sri Lanka

### **Body**

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A jacket packed with explosives - the kind that Tamil Tiger rebels have used in suicide assassinations in Sri Lanka - was found on Thursday in a post office close to an army detachment in eastern Sri Lanka, police and witnesses said.

The jacket laden with explosives was found by employees of a government post office in the eastern town of Batticaloa, 220 kilometers (135 miles) east of the capital, Colombo.

The 233rd brigade headquarters is located about 500 meters from the post office in a high security zone which may have been the possible target, a local policeman said, on condition of anonymity.

The employees of the post office had seen a suspicious parcel under a table and informed the army's bomb disposal squad, which defused the explosives.

He said two soldiers sustained minor injuries during the diffusion.

The government has accused the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam rebels of carrying out hundreds of suicide bombings to kill politicians and soldiers. Many involved men or women detonating explosives strapped to their bodies.

More than 64,000 people have been killed in Sri Lanka's 18-year conflict with the rebels, who are fighting for a homeland for the country's Tamil minority in the north and east.

In November, a suspected Tamil rebel suicide bomber blew himself up in Batticaloa, killing himself and three other people, police said.

Eleven security men and 14 Tiger rebels were killed Tuesday in the rebels first major attack since parliamentary elections last week.

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On the Net:

Sri Lankan army: [www.slarmy.org](http://www.slarmy.org)

**Tamil Tigers** rebels: [www.eelamweb.com](http://www.eelamweb.com)

## Suicide jacket found in eastern town of Sri Lanka

**Load-Date:** December 13, 2001

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End of Document

## *Hanging stalls hunt for Rajiv's assassin*

The Sunday Times (London)

July 21, 1991, Sunday

Copyright 1991 Times Newspapers Limited

**Section:** Overseas news

**Length:** 645 words

**Byline:** by Tony Allen-Mills

### **Body**

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THE investigation into the murder of Rajiv Gandhi, the former Indian prime minister, took a bizarre twist yesterday when a key suspect was found hanging from a tree after escaping from police custody.

The suspect, identified as NShanmugam, was said to have been co-operating with police, leading them to arms caches belonging to the Sri Lankan ***Tamil Tigers*** guerrilla group after being arrested on Wednesday. But he allegedly got away from his captors in his home village in the southern state of Tamil Nadu when a policeman escorted him outside to wash his hands.

Police, who denied any wrong-doing, said his body was found later, but they did not know whether he had been murdered or had committed suicide. Shanmugam was the fourteenth Tamil arrested in connection with the murder. But the man police refer to as the architect of the assassination has so far run rings around them. He is a Tamil with a glass eye, known in the Indian press as "One-eyed Jack".

The search for him has been complicated by his use of at least nine aliases. His real name is thought to be Sivasaran, one of the guerrillas' senior intelligence operatives. The closest police have come to him was when they found a spare glass eye in a raid earlier this month. Its owner, however, was nowhere in sight.

Despite a series of promising breakthroughs in the two-month inquiry, the special investigation team established by the Indian government has been unable to turn a mass of circumstantial evidence into a clinching case against the ***Tamil Tigers***.

The arrest of sympathisers believed to have been involved in the plot has yielded significant clues. Police have disclosed that a video found at a Madras photographic studio believed to have been used by the Tigers showed that the prime suspects had carried out a series of dummy runs at other political meetings before their attack at Sriperumbudur on May 21. The video is understood to have shown both the ***female*** suicide assassin and One-Eyed Jack perfecting their technique for getting close to politicians at public meetings. By the time they approached Gandhi at Sriperumbudur, their method had been perfected. The woman, since identified as Chitraleka, a 25-year-old Sri Lankan Tamil, approached Gandhi with a jasmine garland, bent to kiss his feet, and detonated her bomb.

But it was another photographic clue that yielded the most important lead overlooked at first by police. Amid the debris of the bomb blast was a camera loaded with film. A young freelance photographer later identified as Haribabu had been taking pictures as Gandhi arrived. When police developed the film they found a frame showing the assassin waiting calmly to present her garland. A few feet away stood a short, dark man in a white kurta pyjama (long shirt). He was carrying a notebook, and police assumed he was a reporter.

## Hanging stalls hunt for Rajiv's assassin

It was only later, when routine checks revealed that he could not have been a journalist, that police believed he might have been an accomplice. A Tiger sympathiser arrested by the Indian coastguard eventually identified him as Sivasaran. He had lost his eye when a bomb he was building exploded.

Police posted his photograph at all shops in Madras selling glass eyes, but to no avail. Thousands of Tamils with squints were stopped and examined by police and there were several arrests of Tamils known to have had contact with the assassins. The trail led to Nepal, where a Sri Lankan Tamil living in Kathmandu was accused of preparing an escape route to Europe. The man was arrested and extradited to India.

But One-Eyed Jack has disappeared. Detectives like to believe that their roadblock and coastal patrols are foolproof, and that he is still in India. The alternative is unpalatable. If One-Eyed Jack has got away, it may never be possible to turn hypothesis into proof, and there will always be an element of doubt over the murderers' identity.

## Graphic

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Assassination of Rajiv Gandhi

**Load-Date:** July 24, 1991

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End of Document

## **COPS DETAIN 2,250 FOREIGN WOMEN INVOLVED IN VICE**

Malaysia General News

May 6, 1998, Wednesday

Copyright 1998 Pertubuhan Berita Nasional Malaysia

**Length:** 239 words

**Dateline:** KUALA LUMPUR, May 6, 1998

### **Body**

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Police have detained 2,250 girls and women of various nationalities for involvement in immoral activities last year, Deputy Home Minister Datuk Ong Ka Ting said today.

Action had also been taken against 73 pimps nationwide last year, he said in reply to Tan Kok Wai (DAP-Cheras) in the Dewan Rakyat, here.

Parliament-Vice/BM

Ong said 4,221 girls and women were reported missing in the country last year with 398 within the 10-13 years age group, 1,886 (14-17 years), 763 (18-21 years) and 1,174 (over 21 years old).

He said 1,693 of them had been found and returned to their respective families.

To a supplementary question from Tan, Ong said that so far there was no evidence that students of local universities were involved in vice to fund their studies.

The government was drafting laws to ensure that tour and employment agencies did not abuse the social visit passes and work permits issued to foreigners, he said.

In another development, Ong said there was no information or evidence that the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), a Sri Lankan separatist group, had made Malaysia their base to spread their wings in the region.

However, there were several individuals who sympathised with the LTTE by collecting contributions for them, he said to a question from Daeng Sanusi Mariok (PAS-Rantau Panjang).

Their activities were generally under control and not detrimental to the nation's security, he said.

**Load-Date:** June 25, 1999

**Jaffna Unsettled and Uneasy BY SUGEE P. SEMADHIRA**  
**Associated Press Writer**

Associated Press Online

March 10, 1999; Wednesday 01:45 Eastern Time

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**Section:** International news

**Length:** 696 words

**Dateline:** JAFFNA, Sri Lanka

## **Body**

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Finding a husband is almost as difficult in the city of Jaffna as finding a job. After years of warfare, both are in short supply.

In the three years since the military wrested control of this wholly Tamil city from the Tamil rebels who controlled it, the government says it is gradually restoring normal life.

But Jaffna is still plagued by the side effects of war: divided families, high prices, sudden bursts of violence and assassination, and the unsettled feeling of being constantly watched and under guard.

Some 1,000 checkpoints have been erected across this town of half a million residents, manned by some of the 45,000 troops stationed in the Jaffna Peninsula. Nine of every 10 soldiers are Sinhalese, the ethnic group that dominates Sri Lanka. Few soldiers speak the Tamil language, although the number is growing.

Tamil militants have been fighting for an independent homeland since 1983, claiming the Sinhalese majority has historically discriminated against them.

More than 57,000 people have been killed in the civil war. Suspected Tamil snipers shot and killed an army captain and two soldiers today near the northern town of Vavuniya, military officials said on condition of anonymity.

And in the capital, Colombo, three bombs exploded late Tuesday, killing one person and injuring 12 others, police said. They blamed Tamil rebels for the attack, the first in the capital that resulted in a fatality in more than a year.

Jaffna, a port city ruled by the Dutch, Portuguese and British in turn, is the cultural center of the Tamil people who occupy northern Sri Lanka and southern India. Most of its graceful colonial buildings, its elegant Christian churches and Hindu temples have been destroyed or scarred in the last 16 years.

The Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam, or **LTTE**, who ruled Jaffna unchallenged for five years, still command respect and loyalty among some people. But Jaffna citizens acknowledge life has improved, though at a painfully slow pace, since the Tigers were expelled in December 1995.

"Business is much better after the military takeover," said T. Thillainathan, owner of Munneswaram Hotel in the heart of the city. "Now we can get supplies easily, although prices are higher than those of (the capital) Colombo."

When the Tigers ran Jaffna, shortages were common and business was dead, largely because the government choked off supplies through an army and naval blockade. "Only LTTE run shops functioned profitably," Thillainathan said.

Today, unemployment is still high.

"We cannot find jobs because there are no industrial or economic activities," said Sathkunanathan Arulini, 19, who recently finished her studies and is job hunting. "All men, and some women too, are in agriculture, the only employment available in the peninsula."

Tamil women face another problem: competition for the few unmarried men in the area. "There are very few eligible bachelors now because many youths have fled. Some migrated to the West, some are in Colombo and other southern areas, and some youths are with the LTTE," said Durga Dharmarathnam, 20.

Efforts to restore civilian rule were sabotaged by the rebels, who assassinated the mayor in May 1998 and then killed her successor four months later. Candidates for the city council were warned against running, and the courts suspended work after the judges received death threats. The city is now ruled by the military.

Jaffna's military commander, Gen. Lohan Gunawardane, said the rebels' aim is to keep the city unsettled.

"They will disrupt elections, kill elected representatives, destroy electric transmitters and telephone exchanges and generally disrupt day-to-day life. The aim is economic and political destabilization," he said.

About 150 to 200 armed rebels are still hiding in the peninsula in safe houses, backed by sympathizers, the general said.

The rebels still control a broad swathe of northern Sri Lanka on the south side of the Jaffna Lagoon that separates the peninsula from the mainland.

But Gunawardane was confident that rebels could not take back the peninsula again. "The LTTE can attack a small camp or a check point, but they will never be able to launch a massive offensive."

**Load-Date:** March 10, 1999



**AP Photos NY107,108 BY SUGEE P. SENADHIRA**  
**Associated Press Writer**

Associated Press International

March 10, 1999; Wednesday 03:43 Eastern Time

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**Section:** International news

**Length:** 697 words

**Dateline:** JAFFNA, Sri Lanka

## **Body**

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AP Photos NY107,108 BY SUGEE P. SENADHIRA Associated Press Writer

When the Tigers ran Jaffna, shortages were common and business was dead, largely because the government choked off supplies through an army and naval blockade. "Only LTTE run shops functioned profitably," Thillainathan said.

Today, unemployment is still high.

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Tamil women face another problem: competition for the few unmarried men in the area. "There are very few eligible bachelors now because many youths have fled. Some migrated to the West, some are in Colombo and other southern areas, and some youths are with the LTTE," said Durga Dharmarathnam, 20.

Efforts to restore civilian rule were sabotaged by the rebels, who assassinated the mayor in May 1998 and then killed her successor four months later. Candidates for the city council were warned against running, and the courts suspended work after the judges received death threats. The city is now ruled by the military.

Jaffna's military commander, Gen. Lohan Gunawardane, said the rebels' aim is to keep the city unsettled.

"They will disrupt elections, kill elected representatives, destroy electric transmitters and telephone exchanges and generally disrupt day-to-day life. The aim is economic and political destabilization," he said.

About 150 to 200 armed rebels are still hiding in the peninsula in safe houses, backed by sympathizers, the general said.

The rebels still control a broad swathe of northern Sri Lanka on the south side of the Jaffna Lagoon that separates the peninsula from the mainland.

But Gunawardane was confident that rebels could not take back the peninsula again. "The LTTE can attack a small camp or a check point, but they will never be able to launch a massive offensive."

**Load-Date:** March 10, 1999

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End of Document

**'The shot hit me. Blood poured from my eye - I felt a profound sadness that I was going to die'**

Sunday Times (London)

April 22, 2001, Sunday

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**Section:** Features

**Length:** 3071 words

**Byline:** Marie Colvin

## **Body**

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Last Monday, award-winning reporter Marie Colvin was attacked as she returned from a rare interview with Tamil Tiger leaders in Sri Lanka. From her hospital bed in New York she writes about her escape.

It was the most difficult decision of my life. I was lying in an open field with a clump of tall weeds on a slight rise for cover. The moon had not yet risen and the night was pitch black. Every five minutes or so a flare, fired from the nearby Sri Lankan army base, seemed to expose every blade of grass. Advancing soldiers intermittently raked the field with automatic weapons fire. They had to be as scared as I was.

I just wanted to lie still and wait for it all to go away. I thought I would not mind lying here for hours. I noticed little things. One of my trouser legs had come up to my knee and that meant my white calf might draw attention in the dark.

There were three options. I could crawl away. But if one soldier had night vision goggles -didn't even the poorest armies these days? -I would be the only moving object on the field and would be shot.

If I was not spotted, I would still be alone in the jungle with no shoes. If I lay here until the soldiers stumbled on me, they would shoot first. If I shouted and identified myself as a journalist they might shoot anyway. There was no fourth option.

It was 10pm, on the forward defence line of the Sri Lankan army at Parayanlankulam, about 3A miles from the Madhu road junction. I thought of how I came to be here. There didn't seem to be any one moment when it all went wrong.

A week earlier I had secretly entered the Vanni, a 2,000-mile area of northern Sri Lanka that has been the refuge of the rebel **Tamil Tigers** since the government captured the Jaffna peninsula in 1995. The Sri Lankan government bans journalists from travelling there.

The ban meant journalists could not talk to the leadership of the Liberation Tigers for Tamil Eelam (**LTTE**), even though the government was involved in negotiations with them through a Norwegian envoy to begin peace talks. The only news of the problems with those negotiations came from the government.

More important, the ban prevented any reporting on the plight of the 500,000 Tamil civilians, 340,000 of them refugees, bottled up in the Vanni suffering under an economic embargo that the government denied existed.

'The shot hit me. Blood poured from my eye - I felt a profound sadness that I was going to die'

I had travelled through villages in the Vanni and found an unreported humanitarian crisis -people starving, international aid agencies banned from distributing food, no mains electricity, no telephone service, few medicines, no fuel for cars, water pumps or lighting.

I had filed the story and had been trying to leave the Vanni to return to the government-controlled south for three days. This involved walking 30 miles a night through jungle and the knee-deep water and mud of marsh and rice paddies -only to end up sleeping on the same straw mat, on the same dirt floor, in the same mud hut. Even the bugs were starting to look familiar.

Each night I tried to leave, guided by local Tamils. But each time they decided it would be too risky to cross army lines. On Sunday night we came within 50 yards of the border between the two sides. The leader studied the army post we were supposed to slip past. Suddenly, he made a somersaulting motion with his hands and started walking back.

There was no argument; we used hand signals and observed silence until several miles from the army line.

"My mistake," he said. "Military alert. Too dangerous." I watched my guides' tireless brown feet, clad only in black rubber flip-flops, pad unceasingly ahead of me until we reached the base house near the Catholic church at Madhu, home to 10,000 refugees living in tents and huts. At dawn I collapsed into sleep.

MONDAY night was meant to be third time lucky. As the sun slipped below the horizon, I sat with my guides under a banyan tree, looking out over a silvery lake, waiting for dark in a rare moment of peace and beauty.

We were a motley group. The civilians with me were dressed in a collection of shorts and sarongs. An emaciated old man carried a string shopping bag with two bottles of Pepsi, our only drink. A teenager kept trying the little English that he had learnt in St Patrick's college in Jaffna before the army overran the town and killed his father.

"Tonight, you will be in my father's house sipping milky tea," the leader of the group said. He was the only one who was armed; he carried an old rifle to protect us from wild boar or elephants. "We are going a way that is safe and secure."

The plan was to reach his family's house in the government-controlled area that night. The Tamils would return before dawn and I would get the morning bus to Vavuniya. I had a last cigarette as the sun went down; there would be no smoking, talking or even coughing as we walked the next seven miles to sanctuary.

We trekked single file along narrow jungle trails, sometimes pushing our way through thickets of thorn trees; we waded waist-deep round the edges of a lake, eyeing the lights of an army base on its far edge. They are dotted along the Mannar-Vavuniya road that marks the border we would have to cross. At about 8pm, we crept through dark scrub about half a mile from the road, then waited crouching in a marsh -letting the mosquitoes bite because slapping could alert a soldier -while the group's leader scouted ahead.

I took off my shoes to walk more quietly. At a signal from the leader we followed him to the road. Half-crouched, we negotiated our way through barbed wire on both sides of the road and seemed safely across.

We were running through the last dark field for the line of jungle ahead when the silence was broken by the thunder of automatic weapons fire about 100 yards to the right.

I dived down and began crawling, belly on the ground, for some cover. For a few minutes, someone was crawling on top of me -protection or panic, I don't know. Then I was alone, behind weeds.

A tree was 10 yards away, but it seemed too far. The shooting went on and on. Flashes and light came from an army post nobody had seen.

The shooting stopped and dark and quiet descended. There had not been a sound from my side. I could not tell where anyone was. The only sound was the occasional bellow of a cow which had been hit.

'The shot hit me. Blood poured from my eye - I felt a profound sadness that I was going to die'

I had a few mad moments of thinking it was over, I had survived. But I knew this was not true. We had been spotted. The army would think this was a Tamil Tiger patrol and would come after us. They would be scared and trigger-happy.

The reputation of the two forces is that the army has superior manpower and weapons, the rebels superior manoeuvrability and commitment. The advantage was to the army this night. I was lying in a field with a decision to make: run for it, lie still or shout.

I lay there for half an hour under the penetrating glare of the flares. I turned my face to the earth when one came drifting down directly above me, worried that my white skin would reveal my hiding place.

Bursts of gunfire began across the road about half a mile away. The search and destroy patrols had come out. I heard soldiers on the road, talking and laughing. One fired a burst from an automatic weapon that scythed down the weeds in front of me and left me covered in green shoots.

If I didn't yell now, they would stumble on me and shoot. I began to shout.

"Journalist! Journalist! American! USA!"

A soldier sighted on the sound and fired. This army was not taking prisoners.

The shot hit me with an impact that stunned me with pain, noise and a sense of defeat. I thought I had been shot in the eye. Blood was pouring from my eye and mouth onto the dirt. I felt a profound sadness that I was going to die.

Then I thought it was taking an awful long time to die if I was really shot in the head (it was actually shrapnel), so I started yelling again. "English! Anyone speak English!"

There were more shots, but they seemed half-hearted, and lots of hysterical shouting from the soldiers. This was bad. They were as scared as I was. I did not really care because it seemed that I would die anyway, so I just kept shouting.

Searching for a word that non-English speakers might recognise, I fixed on doctor and shouted over and over that I needed one. Finally a voice screamed in English: "Stand up, stand up." He fired a few more shots for emphasis.

I stood up slowly, hands in the air, saying, "Don't shoot, American," and whatever else I could think of just so that they would keep hearing a foreign voice.

"Take off your jacket," came the voice. I dropped my blue jacket and stood straight up, hands in the air. Blood poured down my face so I could not see much. Someone yelled, "Walk to the road." I stumbled forward.

Every time I fell, feeling faint, they would shout hysterically, afraid that I was pulling some trick, and I would struggle up again. I made it up the incline to the road and was shoved to the ground, flat on my back and kicked by shouting soldiers. A bright light shone in my face. I could not see any of my captors.

I am not sure how long I lay there on my back. I was searched for weapons, then told to walk at gunpoint, prodded by the weapons. The soldiers live in fear of women suicide bombers carrying explosives underneath their clothing.

The LTTE has a ruthless reputation as a result of the activities of the Black Tigers, an elite unit for suicide missions, who have bombed government buildings, assassinated a president and killed Rajiv Gandhi, the Indian leader.

I thought the soldiers were taking me somewhere to shoot me. I remember thinking that they were all scared and that I should act scared and vulnerable. I reached the limit. I could not walk any more and fell, telling them to get a doctor. They relented and put my arms round the shoulders of two men. But they pummelled me again when my hand fell and a soldier shouted that I was going for his grenade.

'The shot hit me. Blood poured from my eye - I felt a profound sadness that I was going to die'

The nightmare seemed endless. We reached some lighted space outdoors and I was thrown on the ground on my back. A bright light again was in my face and questions shouted in Sinhalese and broken English. Someone ripped open my shirt and pulled it off. They shouted for my weapons. I kept saying, "Journalist, I need a doctor."

An officer, or someone in authority, came on the scene and the questions changed into an interrogation: "Where did you get your training? How many people were with you? Where is your vehicle? Ah, you say you are American but you have no vehicle?"

Things were calming down and my sense of the ridiculous returned. If I had a vehicle, why would I be lying in a field on a dark night?

"Admit that you came to kill us," he said. "At least admit that your side fired grenades first. This is true, is it not?"

I said, "No sir, there was no fire until your soldiers shot at us."

THEN began an endless series of journeys. I was put in the back of a truck and driven, bouncing over potholes, hyperventilating because I could not seem to breathe. I thought it was shock; later, I found that my lungs had been bruised by the shock of the grenade and were filling with fluid.

Someone kind was in the truck. He kept telling me in English: "We are taking you for medical treatment, you are going to be okay." I fixed on his voice, and he held my head up so that I could breathe.

At the first hospital I was taken to, the military hospital in Vavuniya, shrapnel was taken out of my head, shoulders and chest. I realised I could not see out of my left eye and I think the doctors panicked the soldiers into some sanity.

I was put in the back of another truck and driven for an hour to Army Victory hospital in Anuradhapura, where an x-ray revealed shrapnel in my eye. A truck took me to a third hospital, the Anuradhapura general hospital. I was never out of army custody.

The doctors seemed scared for me and I asked one to call the American embassy. But an army surgeon kept insisting that they should operate immediately.

"You are going to lose your eye anyway. I can operate now," he said. I fended him off, but he would appear again, sharpening his imaginary knives, asking to operate.

Telephone calls were being made. It seemed that my request to be taken to Colombo was going to more senior people. At one point I heard a conversation in English. A soldier was saying, "No, she cannot come to the phone. What is your message?"

I heard him trying to pronounce the name of Steve Holgate, the personable public affairs officer of the American embassy. I shouted: "Give me the phone." I had a huge sense of relief that someone knew where I was.

At dawn, someone in the Sri Lankan army hierarchy relented. I was put aboard a military helicopter and flown to Colombo. At the eye hospital, I was shoved on a stretcher against a wall in the crowded emergency room surrounded by hostile soldiers.

Miraculously, Holgate showed up moments later, clipboard in hand, and simply told the soldiers he was taking me into the custody of the American embassy. It was like the moment in a classic Wild West movie when the quiet guy faces down the armed and dangerous gang. I was safe.

WHY do I cover wars? I have been asked this often in the past week. It is a difficult question to answer. I did not set out to be a war correspondent. It has always seemed to me that what I write about is humanity in extremis, pushed to the unendurable, and that it is important to tell people what really happens in wars -declared and undeclared.

'The shot hit me. Blood poured from my eye - I felt a profound sadness that I was going to die'

War has changed remarkably little over the centuries. Do not believe the nice clean videos where Gameboy jets hit Nintendo tanks framed in a satisfying and sanitary "X". War is not clean. War is about those who are killed, limbs severed, dirt and rock and flesh torn alike by hot metal. It is terror. It is mothers, fathers, sons and daughters bereft and inconsolable. It is about traumatised children.

My job is to bear witness. I have never been interested in knowing what make of plane had just bombed a village or whether the artillery that fired at it was 120mm or 155mm.

War is also about propaganda. Both sides try to obscure the truth. Foreign journalists arriving in Sri Lanka are told in a government handout that parents in the rebel area keep their children home from school because the Tamil Tigers are recruiting them for service. But the parents told me they keep their children at home because they are hungry and faint in the classroom and do not have money for school supplies.

The Sri Lankan government reacted with anger to my presence in the Tamil-held area of the Vanni. It made no apologies for what had happened to me. I had no permission to go there, the government said, therefore I must have had a "secret agenda".

I had no secret agenda. I had a journalist's agenda. I went to the rebel-held areas because talking to the Tamil Tigers and writing about a previously unreported humanitarian crisis are important issues.

I am not going to hang up my flak jacket as a result of this incident. I have been flown to New York, where doctors are going to operate on my injured eye in about a week's time. They have told me it is unlikely I will regain much use of it as a piece of shrapnel went straight through the middle. All I can hope for is a bit of peripheral vision.

Friends have been telephoning to point out how many famous people are blind in one eye. They seem to do fine with only one eye, so I'm not worried. But what I want most, as soon as I get out of hospital, is a vodka martini and a cigarette.

Editorial, page 16

## MARIE COLVIN: COURAGE UNDER FIRE

Marie Colvin, 45, has earned a reputation as one of the most courageous foreign correspondents of her generation. She has been compared to the pioneering war reporter, fellow American Martha Gellhorn. Colvin joined The Sunday Times in 1986 as the Middle East correspondent. In that role she covered Beirut, the intifada in Israel, the Iran/Iraq war, the Yemen (she smuggled herself in from Djibouti by boat) and the Gulf war. Colvin has received awards for her reports from the world's most dangerous trouble spots. Most recently she won the British press awards foreign reporter of the year for her work in Chechnya and Zimbabwe.

'Marie has been in the front line for many years, operating with unfailing bravery. Her escape from Chechnya was a superb adventure, grippingly told. It was one of the great adventure stories of all time, they should make it into a film,' said the judges. Warren Beatty agreed. He said that a film of Colvin's life would be a great role for his wife Annette Bening.

## RECENT HIGHLIGHTS

East Timor, September 1999

Colvin is credited with helping to save the lives of 1,500 refugees stranded in a United Nations compound in Dili, besieged by the Indonesian army.

The army wanted to remove the UN as witnesses to their terrorising of the Timorese who had voted for independence. UN staff were preparing to flee but the Indonesian government refused to let the refugees go. By staying long after other correspondents had fled, Colvin and two Dutch women journalists shamed the 80 UN staff into staying. Colvin reported from the siege and eventually international pressure forced the government to allow the evacuation of all refugees.

'The shot hit me. Blood poured from my eye - I felt a profound sadness that I was going to die'

Chechnya, December 1999

After being pinned down by fire from Russian aircraft and troops while reporting the plight of Chechen rebels and civilians, Colvin found her last line of retreat cut off by Russian paratroopers. Four days before Christmas she escaped by the only route left open - a treacherously icy path over a 12,000ft mountain range. This perilous four-day walk ended in a helicopter rescue from Georgia

#### GRATITUDE FROM TAMILS WORLDWIDE

Sri Lanka, April 2001

Colvin was the first foreign reporter in six years to enter Sri Lanka's dangerous northern Vanni region where the **Tamil Tigers** are waging a civil war against government forces. She went to interview the leaders and was ambushed while trying to walk out of the area last Monday. After reports of Colvin's ordeal last week The Sunday Times received many letters from Tamils all over the world offering their support.

This one was typical

'We Tamils are so proud about your brave foreign correspondent Marie Colvin...We (are) all aware of the risk she undertook and we appreciate her visit to (the) Vanni area of north Sri Lanka for bringing the news to the outside world. We are deeply concerned about her health and wish her to get well soon. Thank you.'

Signed Elan Ramalingham, Carleton University, Ottawa, Canada.

## Graphic

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Focus; Marie Colvin

**Load-Date:** April 23, 2001



## *Jaffna unsettled and uneasy after control taken from Tamil Tiger rebels*

The Associated Press

March 10, 1999, Wednesday, PM cycle

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**Section:** International News

**Length:** 694 words

**Byline:** AP Photos, BY SUGEE P. SENADHIRA, Associated Press Writer

**Dateline:** JAFFNA, Sri Lanka

### **Body**

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Finding a husband is almost as difficult in the city of Jaffna as finding a job. After years of warfare, both are in short supply.

In the three years since the military wrested control of this wholly Tamil city from the Tamil rebels who controlled it, the government says it is gradually restoring normal life.

But Jaffna is still plagued by the side effects of war: divided families, high prices, sudden bursts of violence and assassination, and the unsettled feeling of being constantly watched and under guard.

Some 1,000 checkpoints have been erected across this town of half a million residents, manned by some of the 45,000 troops stationed in the Jaffna Peninsula. Nine of every 10 soldiers are Sinhalese, the ethnic group that dominates Sri Lanka. Few soldiers speak the Tamil language, although the number is growing.

Tamil militants have been fighting for an independent homeland since 1983, claiming the Sinhalese majority has historically discriminated against them.

More than 57,000 people have been killed in the civil war. Suspected Tamil snipers shot and killed an army captain and two soldiers today near the northern town of Vavuniya, military officials said on condition of anonymity.

And in the capital, Colombo, three bombs exploded late Tuesday, killing one person and injuring 12 others, police said. They blamed Tamil rebels for the attack, the first in the capital that resulted in a fatality in more than a year.

Jaffna, a port city ruled by the Dutch, Portuguese and British in turn, is the cultural center of the Tamil people who occupy northern Sri Lanka and southern India. Most of its graceful colonial buildings, its elegant Christian churches and Hindu temples have been destroyed or scarred in the last 16 years.

The Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam, or **LTTE**, who ruled Jaffna unchallenged for five years, still command respect and loyalty among some people. But Jaffna citizens acknowledge life has improved, though at a painfully slow pace, since the Tigers were expelled in December 1995.

"Business is much better after the military takeover," said T. Thillainathan, owner of Munneswaram Hotel in the heart of the city. "Now we can get supplies easily, although prices are higher than those of (the capital) Colombo."

## Jaffna unsettled and uneasy after control taken from Tamil Tiger rebels

When the Tigers ran Jaffna, shortages were common and business was dead, largely because the government choked off supplies through an army and naval blockade. "Only LTTE run shops functioned profitably," Thillainathan said.

Today, unemployment is still high.

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Tamil women face another problem: competition for the few unmarried men in the area. "There are very few eligible bachelors now because many youths have fled. Some migrated to the West, some are in Colombo and other southern areas, and some youths are with the LTTE," said Durga Dharmarathnam, 20.

Efforts to restore civilian rule were sabotaged by the rebels, who assassinated the mayor in May 1998 and then killed her successor four months later. Candidates for the city council were warned against running, and the courts suspended work after the judges received death threats. The city is now ruled by the military.

Jaffna's military commander, Gen. Lohan Gunawardane, said the rebels' aim is to keep the city unsettled.

"They will disrupt elections, kill elected representatives, destroy electric transmitters and telephone exchanges and generally disrupt day-to-day life. The aim is economic and political destabilization," he said.

About 150 to 200 armed rebels are still hiding in the peninsula in safe houses, backed by sympathizers, the general said.

The rebels still control a broad swathe of northern Sri Lanka on the south side of the Jaffna Lagoon that separates the peninsula from the mainland.

But Gunawardane was confident that rebels could not take back the peninsula again. "The LTTE can attack a small camp or a check point, but they will never be able to launch a massive offensive."

**Load-Date:** March 10, 1999

## ***Eight women cadres among 14 rebels killed in northern Lanka***

Deutsche Presse-Agentur

April 3, 1996, Wednesday, BC Cycle 07:47 Central European Time

Copyright 1996 Deutsche Presse-Agentur

**Section:** International News

**Length:** 258 words

**Dateline:** Colombo

### **Body**

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Eight women fighters were among 16 suspected Tamil rebels killed in two confrontations with government troops in northern Sri Lanka where troops are trying to expel rebels who have infiltrated a military-controlled area, a military spokesman said Wednesday.

Troops on Tuesday evening confronted a group of rebels in the Manipai area of the northern Jaffna peninsula and after a fierce fire fight killed 14 rebels including eight women.

Troops also recovered arms including a rocket launcher, grenade launcher, four automatic weapons and 400 rounds of ammunition.

Earlier in the day troops killed two rebels in the Pandatharippu area of the Jaffna peninsula and recovered two rocket-propelled grenades and an automatic rifle.

Both incidents were reported from areas which had been under military control but were infiltrated by rebels of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) in recent weeks.

In a separate incident two soldiers were killed when rebels attacked a group of soldiers in the Halambawewa area of the north-eastern Welioya region Tuesday.

Meanwhile in the capital Colombo Wednesday recovered four kilos of explosives, 20 rounds of ammunition used for automatic rifles, a time bomb switch and five cyanide capsules used by rebel suspects to prevent arrest by security forces.

Police said the explosives and ammunition may have been intended for an attack in the capital where a massive bomb explosion was triggered by the LTTE on January 31 killing at least 86 people and injuring over 1,200 others.  
dpa ad vc

**Load-Date:** April 3, 1996

**Jaffna Unsettled and Uneasy BY SUGEE P. SENADHIRA**  
**Associated Press Writer**

Associated Press Online

March 10, 1999; Wednesday 03:09 Eastern Time

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**Section:** International news

**Length:** 696 words

**Dateline:** JAFFNA, Sri Lanka

## **Body**

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**Load-Date:** March 10, 1999

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## *Four civilians killed in attack in northeastern Sri Lanka*

Deutsche Presse-Agentur

December 7, 2000, Thursday, BC Cycle 07:00 Central European Time

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**Section:** International News

**Length:** 254 words

**Dateline:** Colombo

### **Body**

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Four civilians were killed and two others were injured when armed gunmen stormed a house and opened fire in northeastern Sri Lanka on Thursday, police said.

The attack was carried out on the Kurulubedda village of the Welikanda area, 280 kilometres northeast of the capital.

The four persons killed and those injured were of the same family and belonged to the majority Sinhala community.

Police blamed the Tamil rebels of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (**LTTE**) for the attack.

There was no independent confirmation about the persons responsible for the attack.

Police claimed that a group of 20 suspected rebels surrounded the house and opened fire and hurled grenades before fleeing the area when local home guards opened fire in return.

A three-year-old child and two **women** were among those killed.

The incident came a day after three civilians and a police officer were killed when a passenger bus was caught in a landmine explosion in the eastern Batticaloa district.

Police blamed the **LTTE** for the attack.

The incidents have come after the Tamil rebel Chief Velupillai Prabhakaran made a public statement that his group was willing to open unconditional talks with the Sri Lankan government to end the Tamil minority ethnic conflict.

The Sri Lankan government has made no direct response to the rebel offer, but has given indications that the offer was under consideration.

Over 65,000 persons have been killed during the past 17 years of the ethnic conflict. dpa ad jh

**Load-Date:** December 7, 2000

## **Five soldiers killed as Lankan army advances on rebel stronghold**

Deutsche Presse-Agentur

July 13, 1995, Thursday, BC Cycle 10:11 Central European Time

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**Section:** International News

**Length:** 242 words

**Dateline:** Colombo

### **Body**

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Sri Lankan troops have advanced to within six kilometres of the rebel stronghold at Jaffna in the north of the island, a military spokesman said Thursday.

The advance on the fifth consecutive day of a massive offensive came after a surprise rebel attack late Wednesday in which five soldiers were killed and 20 injured, Brigadier Sarath Munasinghe said.

An estimated 10,000 men backed up by artillery, sea and air cover are involved in the current offensive, the biggest against the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (**LTTE**) in eight years.

At least 23 soldiers have been killed and 125 others, including several officers, injured since the start of "Operation Leap Forward". At least 160 civilians have been killed and scores of others injured and around 50,000 residents have been displaced.

The military said the main objective of the offensive was to liberate people in the peninsula from the **LTTE** guerrillas so that the government could pave the way toward implementing a political settlement. A truce was broken by the rebels last April.

Many of the civilian casualties took place during an aerial attack last Sunday on the church of St. Peter and Paul at Navali when more than 65 **women** and children were killed and more than 150 injured. The army said it was not clear which side was responsible for the attack.

Catholic bishops in Sri Lanka Thursday called on the government to ensure "that such tragedies do not recur." dpa mb

**Load-Date:** July 13, 1995

## **UK Government \$% Mike O'Brien welcomes significant progress at Sri Lankan peace talks talks talks**

\$%M2 PRESSWIRE presswire presswire

December 6, 2002 2002 2002

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**Length:** 282 words

### **Body**

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The third round of peace talks between the government of Sri Lanka and the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (**LTTE**) has successfully concluded in Oslo. The talks are being facilitated by the Norwegian government. government. government.

Commenting on the talks Foreign Office Minister Mike O'Brien said: "I warmly welcome the significant progress made during the latest round of peace talks between the Government of Sri Lanka and the **LTTE**. The two sides agreed to explore a solution founded on the principle of internal self- determination for the Tamil people, based on a federal structure within a united Sri Lanka. It is important that the two sides have undertaken to address human rights, including the priorities and needs of **women** in the peace process, and the situation of children affected by armed conflict.

"I continue to applaud the commitment and will of the two parties to work together. There is still a lot of work to do. But I am encouraged that the progress being made will lead towards a solution that meets the aspirations of all communities of Sri Lanka."

#### Notes for Editors

1. On 25 November International Development Secretary Clare Short announced an additional GBP 8 million for the Sri Lankan peace process in 2003. This was in addition to the GBP 2.6 million already committed this year to quick impact projects and GBP 6.8 million for longstanding programmes to assist internally displaced people.

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**Load-Date:** December 6, 2002



## **BORING BUT IMPORTANT**

MX (Melbourne, Australia)  
September 12, 2002, Thursday

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**Section:** NEWS; Pg. 13

**Length:** 276 words

### **Body**

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#### EXTREME POLLIE BACK IN FAVOUR

AUSTRIA'S Freedom Party today nominated far-right politician Joerg Haider to again be its leader following a party feud that led to the resignation of key leaders and the collapse of the governing coalition.

Haider's nomination comes less than two years after he resigned from the post. The success of the Freedom Party in 1999 elections caused anxiety abroad due to xenophobic and anti-European comments made by officials and Haider's support of Adolf Hitler's employment policy.

#### NORTH KOREAN DEFECTORS ARRIVE

A GROUP of 21 North Koreans arrived in South Korea today after several months holed up in the South's consulate in Beijing in the latest successful defection from their impoverished homeland.

They entered Seoul's main airport in Incheon after an overnight flight. There were 11 women, seven men, two infants and a small boy in the group.

#### REBELS RELEASE 85 CHILD SOLDIERS

IN AN unprecedented move, Tamil Tiger rebels have released 85 child soldiers and sent them back to their parents ahead of scheduled talks with the Sri Lankan Government.

UNICEF called the move a "positive step". The Government and the Tamil Tigers are to start landmark peace talks in Thailand on Monday.

#### SHUNNED DEPUTIES MAY DELAY POLL

TURKISH political parties officially submitted their lists of candidates for the November general election today amid widespread concern that MPs not chosen to stand or unhappy with their rankings on the lists would try to delay the poll.

Several politicians have said that disgruntled deputies from a number of parties are colluding in a bid to recall parliament and force the cancellation of the November 3 election.

**Load-Date:** September 12, 2002

## BORING BUT IMPORTANT

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