

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

**Job Number:** 223508013

## Documents (100)

1. [\*Suicide Bomb Targets Sri Lanka Official\*](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

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

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**

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

2. [\*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, 2003 to Dec 31, 2007

3. [\*Doom & gloom\*](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

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

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**

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

4. [\*FAST NEWS\*](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

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

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**

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

5. [\*The sensible Mr. Day\*](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

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

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

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

6. [Asia-Pacific SRI LANKA Assassination attempt triggers air strikes Nation teeters on the brink of civil war](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

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

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

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

7. [SRI LANKA : PEACE DIVIDEND HARD TO COME BY IN WAR-TORN REGION By Feizal Samath](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

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

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

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

8. [A love the Torah dares not name: Chris Knight](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

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

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

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

9. [More Tamils flee to India](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

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

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

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

10. [Report: Reclusive Tamil leader gets his sixth karate black belt](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

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

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

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News

**Narrowed by**Publication Type: Newspapers,Newswires & Press  
Releases; Timeline: Jan 01, 2003 to Dec 31, 200711. [Examine causes of terror](#)**Client/Matter:** -None-**Search Terms:** "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors**Narrowed by:****Content Type**

News

**Narrowed by**Publication Type: Newspapers,Newswires & Press  
Releases; Timeline: Jan 01, 2003 to Dec 31, 200712. [Suspected Tamil rebels gun down broadcaster in Colombo](#)**Client/Matter:** -None-**Search Terms:** "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors**Narrowed by:****Content Type**

News

**Narrowed by**Publication Type: Newspapers,Newswires & Press  
Releases; Timeline: Jan 01, 2003 to Dec 31, 200713. [2ND ROUNDUP: At least six killed as blast rocks outskirts of Colombo](#)**Client/Matter:** -None-**Search Terms:** "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors**Narrowed by:****Content Type**

News

**Narrowed by**Publication Type: Newspapers,Newswires & Press  
Releases; Timeline: Jan 01, 2003 to Dec 31, 200714. [Tamil Tigers deny involvement in 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, 2003 to Dec 31, 200715. [Hundreds turn out ahead of funeral for slain Sri Lankan army general](#)**Client/Matter:** -None-**Search Terms:** "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors**Narrowed by:****Content Type**

News

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

16. [\*Rights record of most South Asian nations poor: US\*](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

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

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

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

17. [\*Bus bomb kills 16 in Sri Lanka on Buddhist holiday\*](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

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

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

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

18. [\*STATE DEPARTMENT ISSUES CONSULAR INFORMATION SHEET ON SRI LANKA\*](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

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

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

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

19. [\*Over 15,000 Muslims flee after heavy Sri Lanka shelling\*](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

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

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

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

20. [\*Sonia talks tough at Congress meet\*](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

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

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

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

21. [\*Drama that aspires to bring peace\*](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

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

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

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

22. [Refugees live under trees as 15,000 Muslims flee Sri Lanka shelling](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

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

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

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

23. [Lanka court comes to Tamils rescue](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

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

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

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

24. [2ND ROUNDUP: Sri Lankan defence secretary escapes bomb attack](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

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

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

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

25. [Lanka plans vote on federalism](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

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

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

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

26. [UN seeks more cash for Sri Lankan refugees](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

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

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

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

27. [45 killed in clashes near Sri Lankan port](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

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

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

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

28. [India keeps close watch on Sri Lanka , coastline on high alert](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

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

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

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

29. [European cease-fire monitors accuse Tamil Tiger rebels of violating Sri Lanka truce](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

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

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

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

30. [Sri Lanka army says 23 rebels 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, 2003 to Dec 31, 2007

31. [Canada has become overrun with Tigers: Federal Liberals tried to woo Sri Lankans by refusing to declare the group as terrorist](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

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

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**

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

32. [Guardian Weekly: International Development: Hope rises in Sri Lanka 's east: Despite corruption and conflict, fine schools replace those destroyed by the tsunami](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

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

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**

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

33. [Sri Lankan Tamil rebels gun down rival activist](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

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

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**

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

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

**Client/Matter:** -None-

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

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**

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

35. [News items from Asia-Pacific Desk of Xinhua](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

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

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**

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

36. [SRI LANKA : SUICIDE BOMBER KILLS FIVE IN COLOMBO](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

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

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

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

37. [INDIA : SONIA GHANDI MARKS HUSBAND'S DEATH ANNIVERSARY](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

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

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

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

38. [Tamil rebels deny responsibility for suicide bombing in Sri Lankan capital](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

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

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

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

39. [Court orders Sri Lankan released after years in border jail](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

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

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

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

40. [Protest against rebel leadership continues in eastern Sri Lanka](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

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

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

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

41. [Foot soldiers of nihilism](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

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

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

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



42. [\*Female Tamil Tigers shoot soldiers\*](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

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

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

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

43. [\*Sri Lanka troops consolidate defense lines\*](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

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

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

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

44. [\*TSUNAMI IMPACT: TAMILS BUILDING COOL SHELTERS TO REPLACE HOT TENTS\*](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

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

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

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

45. [\*Misery and death stalk Sri Lankans Jaffna , picturesque prize of civil war, awaits a new battle\*](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

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

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

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**Content Type**  
News

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

46. [\*Sri Lanka 's Scars Trace Lines of War Without End\*](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

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

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

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

47. [\*Sri Lanka in fear of return to civil war\*](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

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

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

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

48. [RIGHTS: TORTURE STILL A KEY PART OF SRI LANKA POLICE CULTURE](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

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

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

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

49. [Villains of the peace](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

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

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

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

50. [Ethnic cleansing claim after police move Tamils at gunpoint: Hundreds rounded up in night raids in Colombo  
Action said to be aimed at clearing city of 'terrorists'](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

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

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

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

51. [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, 2003 to Dec 31, 2007

52. [Tamil rebels deny Sri Lanka massacre charge](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

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

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

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

53. [S.F. INSTITUTE RESEARCHER: RAPE NOT ALWAYS BYPRODUCT 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, 2003 to Dec 31, 2007

54. [Bandaranaike wants to see women in peacekeeping role](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

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

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

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

55. [Reporters on the Job](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

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

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

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

56. [TV Today](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

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

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

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

57. [Weird world of sport](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

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

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**

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

58. [Suicide bombing in Sri Lanka renews fear of war: Attacker posed as pregnant woman to hide bombs](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

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

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**

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

59. [Wronged women of the](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

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

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**

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

60. [News Items from Asia-Pacific Desk of Xinhua](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

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

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**

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

61. [Police find explosives, weapons in house near Sri Lankan capital; 17 arrested](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

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

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**

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

62. [Sri Lankan capital hit by three explosions, police say to create panic](#)

**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, 2003 to Dec 31, 2007

63. [Tamil relief group says two workers allegedly kidnapped returned home; eight missing](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

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

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

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

64. [News items from Asia-Pacific Desk of Xinhua](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

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

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

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

65. [WATCH ROUND THE CLOCK YOUR GUIDE TO TODAY'S MUST-SEE TV](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

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

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

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

66. [Suspected Tamil rebels detonate mine in Colombo suburb, 1 wounded](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

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

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

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

67. [Human rights abuses flourishing during tsunami reconstruction efforts, say researchers](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

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

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

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

68. [Norway ambassador to meet with Sri Lanka rebels as tensions escalate](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

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

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

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

69. [They're young and focused](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

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

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

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

70. [Report: Renegade Tamil Tiger leader killed man linked to 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, Newswires & Press  
Releases; Timeline: Jan 01, 2003 to Dec 31, 2007

71. [Sri Lanka offers probe into aid killings](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

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

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

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

72. [Thousands gather in northern Sri Lanka to commemorate Tamil Tiger suicide cadres](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

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

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

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

73. [Sri Lanka 's president says bomb attack will not derail peace process](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

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

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

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

74. [1ST LEAD: Top military Sri Lankan officer, 3 others killed by bomb](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

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

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

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

75. [Sport talk](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

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

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

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

76. [Sri Lanka frees detained French TV crew](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

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

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

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

77. [Sri Lanka detains French TV crew](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

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

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

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

78. [Fleeing Tamil refugees describe being held by separatists as Sri Lanka shelled camps](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

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

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**

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

79. [Inside today](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

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

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**

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

80. [Captured reservoir raises Sri Lankan tension](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

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

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**

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

81. [Suicide bomber attacks Sri Lanka 's top military commander, 2 dead, general hurt](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

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

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**

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

82. [Background on Sri Lanka Conflict](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

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

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**

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

83. [Sri Lankan capital hit by four explosions, police say to create panic](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

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

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**

**Narrowed by**



84. [\*Sri Lankan car bomb kills bodyguard and child\*](#)**Client/Matter:** -None-**Search Terms:** "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors**Narrowed by:****Content Type**  
News**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers,Newswires & Press  
Releases; Timeline: Jan 01, 2003 to Dec 31, 200785. [\*World Digest\*](#)**Client/Matter:** -None-**Search Terms:** "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors**Narrowed by:****Content Type**  
News**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers,Newswires & Press  
Releases; Timeline: Jan 01, 2003 to Dec 31, 200786. [\*Sri Lankan rebels' suicide squad known for its deadly proficiency\*](#)**Client/Matter:** -None-**Search Terms:** "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors**Narrowed by:****Content Type**  
News**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers,Newswires & Press  
Releases; Timeline: Jan 01, 2003 to Dec 31, 200787. [\*Tamil Relief agency says five employees missing in northeast\*](#)**Client/Matter:** -None-**Search Terms:** "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors**Narrowed by:****Content Type**  
News**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers,Newswires & Press  
Releases; Timeline: Jan 01, 2003 to Dec 31, 200788. [\*56 victims of Sri Lankan bus bomb attack buried in mass graves\*](#)**Client/Matter:** -None-**Search Terms:** "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors**Narrowed by:****Content Type**  
News**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers,Newswires & Press  
Releases; Timeline: Jan 01, 2003 to Dec 31, 2007

89. [Suicide bombings kill 18; Sri Lanka attack follows threat from Tamil leader](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

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

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

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

90. [Sri Lanka 's Tamil Tiger rebels commemorate suicide bombers](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

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

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

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

91. [Relief efforts running smoothly in areas controlled 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, 2003 to Dec 31, 2007

92. [Thousands of Tamils demand Sri Lankan troops withdraw from Jaffna Peninsula](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

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

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

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

93. [Hundreds gather for funeral of slain Sri Lankan general](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

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

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

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

94. [LANKAN PEACE HOPES REST ON WICKREMESINGHE, KUMARATUNGA](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

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

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

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

95. [SAFE HAVEN](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

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

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

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

96. [Sri Lanka Supreme Court halts evictions of Tamils from Colombo](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

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

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

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

97. [Aid agency probes Sri Lanka massacre as monitor slams shelling](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

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

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

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

98. [Sri Lanka government uses special powers to persecute journalists, rights group says](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

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

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

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

99. [Cricket: England confirm Sri Lanka Tests on despite blasts](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

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

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**

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

100. [Tamil Tiger rebels kill dissident, another dead in northern fighting](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

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

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**

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

## **Suicide Bomb Targets Sri Lanka Official**

Associated Press Online

November 28, 2007 Wednesday 4:01 AM GMT

Copyright 2007 Associated Press All Rights Reserved

**Section:** INTERNATIONAL NEWS

**Length:** 320 words

**Dateline:** COLOMBO Sri Lanka

### **Body**

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A **female** suicide bomber disguised as an office worker blew herself up in the heart of Colombo on Wednesday, killing one person in an apparent attempt to assassinate a government minister, the military said.

The attack took place outside the office of Douglas Devananda, the minister of social services and the leader of the Eelam People's Democratic Party, an ethnic Tamil party seen as a rival to the **Tamil Tigers** rebel group, the military said.

Devananda, the repeated target of assassination attempts, was not injured in the attack, the military said. The blast killed one of his staff members and critically injured another, said Dr. Hector Weerasinghe, the medical director of Colombo National Hospital. A third person was lightly injured, he said.

The Tamil Tiger bomber, a handicapped woman, mingled with other office workers during the morning rush hour before detonating her explosives at 8:05 a.m., the military said in a statement.

The rebel group, listed as a terror organization by the United States and the European Union, has carried out more than 240 suicide bombings.

The attack came a day after 11 schoolchildren and two others were killed when Sri Lanka's military activated a roadside bomb near a car traveling inside the Tamil Tiger rebel stronghold, the rebels said.

Military spokesman Brig. Udaya Nanayakkara denied targeting the students.

The children were on their way to a cemetery to participate in the annual Hero's Day memorials for dead rebel fighters when they were hit by the blast about 15 miles west of the Tigers' de facto capital of Kilinochchi, rebel spokeswoman Selvy Navaruban said in a statement.

The driver and an adult traveling with the students also were killed, the statement said.

The rebels have fought the government since 1983 to create an independent homeland for ethnic minority Tamils after a history of discrimination. More than 70,000 people have been killed in the conflict.

**Load-Date:** November 28, 2007

## Suicide Bomb Targets Sri Lanka Official

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End of Document

## IN BRIEF

Geelong Advertiser (Australia)

August 13, 2007 Monday

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**Section:** WORLD; Pg. 14

**Length:** 323 words

### **Body**

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#### Volcano spews lava

JAKARTA, Indonesia, Sunday -- More than 500 people have been evacuated from the slopes of Mount Karangetang which has been spewing lava and hot clouds on the northern Indonesian island of Siau. The conditions have forced authorities to raise the area's alert status by one rung, with a total of 151 families or 564 people being evacuated from three villages on the slopes of the 1784-metre Karangetang volcano.

#### Earthquake shakes Spain

MADRID, Spain, Sunday -- An earthquake with a magnitude of 5.1 shook central Spain today and was felt from Madrid to the southern and eastern coasts, the National Geographic Centre said. The quake struck near Ciudad Real, about 160 km south of Madrid, at 9.47am (5.47pm AEST). No damage was immediately reported.

#### Two die in bomb blast

BAGHDAD, Iraq, Sunday -- A powerful roadside bomb killed the governor and police chief of a southern province that has been torn by fierce fighting between Shi'ite factions. The country's Prime Minister urged residents to show restraint and not launch reprisals.

#### Tigers claim five

COLOMBO, Sri Lanka, Sunday -- Sri Lanka's Tamil Tigers killed four soldiers with a roadside bomb attached to a bicycle in the island's far northern Jaffna peninsula today, the military said. A 65-year-old man was killed in a separate rebel attack on a northern village, it said. "They attached an improvised explosive device to a bicycle and the explosion killed one soldier. Three others who were seriously injured died in hospital," a spokesman said.

#### Aid group awarded

DAKAR, Senegal, Sunday -- A small African aid group credited with starting a grass roots campaign to abolish female circumcision in West Africa has been awarded the world's largest humanitarian prize. The Senegal-based Tostan has been chosen for the \$US1.5 million (\$1.8 million) Hilton Prize, whose past winners include the hospice movement, Doctors Without Borders and the International Rescue Committee.

**Load-Date:** August 17, 2007

IN BRIEF

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End of Document



## *Doom & gloom*

MX (Australia)

November 28, 2007 Wednesday

Melbourne Edition

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**Section:** NEWS; Pg. 18

**Length:** 303 words

### **Body**

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#### US SOLDIERS KILL WOMEN, CHILD

SEVEN Iraqis, including three women and a child, were killed by US fire, as a suicide bomber disguised as a shepherd killed seven in an attack on police in the city of Baquba.

Three women and a man were killed when their minibus came under US fire in Baghdad's northeastern Al-Shaab neighbourhood, while US troops also opened fire on a car that tried to speed through a roadblock during an operation against al-Qaida, killing a child and two men.

#### FIREWORKS EXPLOSION CLAIMS 13

AN EXPLOSION in an illegal fireworks workshop in central China killed 13 people just days after police launched a safety crackdown against fireworks manufacturers.

The blast in rural Hunan province tore apart a house where villagers were assembling the firecrackers that many Chinese people let off at weddings and other celebrations.

#### MAN DIES AT WEST BANK RALLY

PALESTINIAN police killed one man in the West Bank as they broke up rallies against a US peace meeting, while Hamas supporters in Gaza rallied against the conference.

US President George Bush said Israelis and Palestinians had agreed to launch immediate, bilateral talks aimed at reaching a comprehensive peace deal by late 2008.

#### MINE BLAST LEAVES 13 DEAD

THIRTEEN civilians were killed by a Sri Lankan military mine in rebel-held Kilinochchi, the Tamil Tigers said, hours before the rebel leadership was due to issue its annual policy statement.

The blast, denied by the military, is the latest claimed action in intensified fighting between government forces and rebels.

#### TYPHOON DEATH TOLL RISES TO 17

## Doom & gloom

THE death toll from Typhoon Mitag rose to 17 in the Philippines, as search operations continued for a missing air force jet and a fishing vessel with 27 people on board.

The typhoon killed 17 people and left four others missing, the civil defence office said.

**Load-Date:** November 28, 2007

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End of Document

## **FAST NEWS**

The Courier Mail (Australia)

May 9, 2007 Wednesday

First with the news Edition

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**Section:** NEWS; Pg. 11

**Length:** 316 words

### **Body**

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#### Knifepoint robbery

POLICE are looking for a man and a woman who attempted to rob a convenience store in Rockhampton at knifepoint yesterday about 1.30pm. When the man was unable to open the register, he and his **female** companion fled empty-handed.

#### Palm rioter jailed

A YOUNG man will serve 16 months in jail after pleading guilty to rioting on Palm Island in 2004. Terrence Alfred Kidner, 21, of Palm Island, off Townsville, was accused of being part of a large group of residents who turned on the north Queensland island's police after the watch-house death of Mulrunji a week earlier.

#### Kings recruit guilty

AMERICAN basketball recruit Bryant Matthews, 25, faces a jail sentence after being found guilty of sexually assaulting a woman. Judge Margaret Ainslie-Wallace remanded the Sydney Kings player in custody until July 27, when he is expected to be sentenced. The offence carries a maximum of 14 years' jail.

#### Kidnap denied

A FILM producer working with two Australian journalists in North Africa says reports the pair were held against their will by separatist rebels are incorrect. The Moroccan state news agency named the Australians as Daniel Fallshow and Violeta Ayala. The Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade said the journalists had been detained but had been released. But the film's producer Tom Zubrycki claims the pair were never detained against their will.

#### Terror charges laid

TWO Melbourne men accused of supporting a Sri Lanka-based terrorist organisation have been denied bail. Aruran Vinayagamoorthy, 32, of Mt Waverley, and Sivarajah Yathavan, 36, of Vermont South, were charged last week with terrorism offences for supporting separatist group the **Tamil Tigers**.

#### Case adjourned

A DRINK-driving case against Sydney's 2UE radio personality Steve Price has been adjourned until later this month. Price, 52, was charged with drink-driving on April 14. The case was adjourned until May 22.

FAST NEWS

**Load-Date:** May 8, 2007

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End of Document

## ***The sensible Mr. Day - Correction Appended***

Ottawa Citizen

April 27, 2006 Thursday

Final Edition

### **Correction Appended**

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**Section:** NEWS; Pg. A16

**Length:** 268 words

**Byline:** The Ottawa Citizen

### **Body**

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Stockwell Day is proving to be a most sensible public-security minister.

First he banned the terrorist **Tamil Tigers**. The wisdom of that was confirmed this week with news of a suicide bombing in Sri Lanka apparently carried out by a **female** Tiger.

Now he is reviewing the process by which Canadians get their passports, including the length of time a passport is valid.

Currently, Canadian passports expire every five years, but added pressure has been put on that period because the United States will not accept a passport that is six months or less from expiry.

Since any Canadian who wishes to travel south of the border, by air or sea in 2007 and by land in 2008, will have to pack a passport, it is time to rethink our travel papers.

There are many reasons to commend a longer time frame. First of all, the Americans have a 10-year passport. So do the British, Australians and citizens of other western countries.

Canadians pay more for their documents because of the shortened renewal period. The U.S. even offers a \$30 discount when a passport is renewed. This is an inducement to get Americans to take out passports -- only 20 per cent of them actually have the document. About 40 per cent of Canadians carry the little blue booklets. More might get them if a discount were offered.

Any change that will help citizens avoid the hours-long torture of a passport office line-up is worth taking.

There are valid security concerns. Appearances do change somewhat over time. Perhaps a requirement to upgrade the picture every five years and retain the document itself for a 10-year period would be a useful compromise.

### **Correction**

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## The sensible Mr. Day

An editorial yesterday wrongly stated that Canadian passports within six months of expiry might not be accepted by U.S. border officials.

**Correction-Date:** April 28, 2006

**Load-Date:** April 27, 2006

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End of Document

**Asia-Pacific SRI LANKA Assassination attempt triggers air strikes; Nation teeters on the brink of civil war**

The Advertiser (Australia)

April 28, 2006 Friday

State Edition

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**Section:** FOREIGN; Pg. 26

**Length:** 318 words

**Byline:** DILIP GANGULY, COLOMBO

## **Body**

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THOUSANDS of civilians have fled their homes in northeastern Sri Lanka to escape government air strikes on Tamil rebel areas, as the troubled nation braced for the possibility of civil war.

The attempted assassination of Sri Lanka's top army commander, Lieutenant General Sarath Fonseka, prompted two days of air attacks near the northeastern port of Trincomalee that killed at least 12 people. It was the Government's biggest military operation since its 2002 ceasefire with Tamil Tiger rebels - a truce that now looks very fragile.

Military spokesman Brigadier Prasad Samarasinghe said the only highway linking the south with the north - blocked by government troops on Wednesday due to security concerns - reopened yesterday.

The blockade of the A-9 highway stopped deliveries of petrol to the north, leading to shortages in the Jaffna Peninsula, the traditional home of Sri Lanka's 3.2 million ethnic minority Tamils. The air strikes came after a **female** suicide bomber targeted Lt-Gen Fonseka in an attack on his car in Colombo on Tuesday. Lt-Gen Fonseka was wounded in the attack. The following day, there were further attacks on navy craft.

Yesterday, two navy sailors were killed and two army commandos injured in separate mine attacks in the country's north.

Despite violations on both sides, the European team monitoring the ceasefire said that the accord still stands.

"Certainly, we still have a valid ceasefire. No one has abrogated it," said Ulf Henricsson, the Swedish head of the team. However, he said that "what is going on is a serious violation of the agreement".

The Tamil Tiger rebels said 40,000 people, almost all Tamils, had fled their homes in the northeast.

Aid agencies said that was probably an exaggeration, but evidence suggested that thousands had been displaced.

The **Tamil Tigers** have fought a two-decade civil war in an attempt to create a Tamil homeland in northeastern Sri Lanka.

Asia-Pacific SRI LANKA Assassination attempt triggers air strikes Nation teeters on the brink of civil war

**Load-Date:** April 27, 2006

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End of Document



## **SRI LANKA: PEACE DIVIDEND HARD TO COME BY IN WAR-TORN REGION**

### **By Feizal Samath**

IPS-Inter Press Service

February 2, 2004, Monday

Copyright 2004 IPS-Inter Press Service/Global Information Network

**Length:** 1096 words

**Dateline:** JAFFNA, Sri Lanka, Feb. 2

### **Body**

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Visitors driving through Sri Lanka's war-battered northern region are struck by lush vegetable fields ready for harvest, rows of coconut trees whose tops have been sliced off by constant bombing -- and miles of unused land.

At a technical centre and farmhouse run by Tamil Tiger rebels, a large solar panel provides power for at least 20 computers and a few fans while boxes of fresh, juicy mangoes picked from trees in the compound are ready for market, but its activity appears far from representative of the realities elsewhere in the area.

"There is still no development or industry. Most people have to depend on some kind of agriculture for a living," laments S Paramanathan, president of the Consortium of Humanitarian Agencies (CHA) in Jaffna, considered the capital of the northern part of Sri Lanka where most minority Tamils live.

Two years into a ceasefire and peace negotiations between the government and the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (**LTTE**), as the rebels are formally called, have not yet brought the promised peace dividend to the region.

Now, the threat of renewed war or at least the uncertainty of the peace process, triggered by the suspension of peace talks since April and a dispute between President Chandrika Kumaratunga and Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe, has added more hopelessness and fear among many.

"People are afraid whether we will go to the former situation of war, which nobody wants again," says Thomas Savundaranayagam, the Catholic bishop of Jaffna. "One of the most reassuring things however is that the **LTTE** has said they will not be the first to break the ceasefire."

The rebels suspended peace talks in April, complaining of the lack of an interim administration in the north-east to speed up development. The crisis was exacerbated by Kumaratunga's takeover of three ministries, including defence, in November while Wickremesinghe was away on an overseas trip.

The prime minister has refused to resume peace talks unless he is handed back the defence portfolio.

The two head rival political parties but are running the government together in an uneasy arrangement. For its part, the **LTTE** has said it is prepared to negotiate with any party or government that has the support of the south, dominated by the majority Sinhalese.

The Jaffna bishop, whose church holds influence in the north, said the clash between Kumaratunga and Wickremesinghe has raised doubts about the sincerity of southern politicians in solving the ethnic conflict.

## SRI LANKA : PEACE DIVIDEND HARD TO COME BY IN WAR-TORN REGION By Feizal Samath

The war which has resulted in the deaths of close to 64,000 people since 1983 and the loss of billions of rupees worth of property and infrastructure.

Savundaranayagam believes the negotiations could have been smoother if the ruling party had invited Kumaratunga's party to be part of the negotiating team, instead of keeping her out and prompting her to keep sniping at the peace process.

"... They (Wickremesinghe's United National Party) should have included her in the signing process and if this happened none of these problems would have arisen. It (her endorsement) would have given the memorandum of understanding (on the peace talks and ceasefire) more clout. These are lost opportunities," the bishop said.

A new pact this month between Kumaratunga's Sri Lanka Freedom Party and the Marxist People's Liberation Front (JVP), a former revolutionary group that favours crushing the LTTE before any peace talks, has also raised fears about whether the peace talks will be abandoned.

The two-party alliance, formed this month, wants to oust Wickremesinghe's ruling United National Party.

The political crisis has stalled whatever little development work was underway in the war-ravaged areas, the only positive sight being workers continuing repairs to wide stretches of the rugged A9 highway that links the north and south of the country.

"The opening of the A9 is a very positive sign in the peace process and has resulted in many people from the north and the south visiting each other, and essential goods reaching the north," said Savundaranayagam.

The lack of development is also largely due to the slow resettlement of those displaced by the ethnic conflict, as well as the lack of livelihoods.

There are still some 100,000 displaced people living either in refugee camps or the homes of relatives or friends. CHA's Paramanathan says there are 80,000 unemployed among Jaffna's 500,000 population, and another 110,000 underemployed.

Tamils' return to their homes is hindered by two reasons. First, many of those displaced had lived in so-called high security zones (HSZs) occupied by government forces that do not want to give up the areas. Second, those areas are heavily mined.

Walikamam, one of most productive areas in Jaffna district that residents call 'golden soil', comes under a high-security zone. Only a few hectares have been released by the army for resettlement in an area that covers one-third of the Jaffna peninsula.

"We have repeatedly advocated a gradual phasing out of the army from HSZs but that hasn't taken place. People are losing confidence in the southern leadership," added I Bernard, a well-known Catholic priest who works on peace and rights issues.

S P Thamilselvan, political head of the LTTE, warns that the situation is critical because of the delay in restarting peace talks. "We want to brief the international community about the crisis and tell them that the people's patience has reached its maximum level of tolerance," he told IPS at a school ground in the rebel-held town of Killinochchi.

In Killinochchi and immediate suburbs, not a single armed rebel cadre can be seen other than many unarmed male and female members of the rebel police force in smart blue uniforms.

This contrasts with the town of Jaffna, where rows of barbed wire and dozens of bunkers with armed soldiers in addition to a constant flow of soldiers in trucks gives every indication of a town in conflict -- or preparing for one.

"Everywhere you see barbed wire. It gives an impression that this is an occupied place," said Bishop Savundaranayagam.

SRI LANKA : PEACE DIVIDEND HARD TO COME BY IN WAR-TORN REGION By Feizal Samath

At the Jaffna General Hospital, Daya Somasunderam, one of Sri Lanka's most respected psychiatrists, says that despite a two-year lull in the violence many are still seeking treatment for trauma and mental illness.

Expatriates too are seeking treatment from the shock of seeing their homes devastated by 18 years of fighting.

Many of Somasunderam's trainers or counsellors became involved in the healing process after undergoing some trauma themselves. "It is easier to understand another's pain when you have gone through it yourself," he mused.

**Load-Date:** February 3, 2004

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End of Document

## *A love the Torah dares not name: Chris Knight*

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

April 26, 2005 Tuesday

Toronto Edition

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**Section:** ARTS & LIFE; Pg. AL3

**Length:** 292 words

**Byline:** National Post

### **Body**

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Here are a few of today's offerings at the Hot Docs documentary film festival. Tickets and more information at [www.hotdocs.ca](http://www.hotdocs.ca) or 416-530-8105.

#### KEEP NOT SILENT

"Heart and soul" indicates firm belief, but what if the heart and the soul are at odds? Keep Not Silent is Ilil Alexander's look at orthodox Jewish lesbians (ortho-dykes) who strive to remain true to their religion and their feelings. The Torah forbids lesbian marriage but makes no mention of lesbian sex: Does this mean such acts are OK, or is this a forbidden love whose name the Torah dare not speak? Several women grapple with such questions, one by marrying her lover, another whose husband knows she is seeing a woman on the side. All their tales are tinged with sadness as they try to divine God's will while remaining true to themselves.

Rating three

Chris Knight

- Keep Not Silent screens today at 9:15 p.m. at the Bloor Cinema and Thursday at 9:30 p.m. at Innis Town Hall.

- - -

#### NO MORE TEARS SISTER

Rajani Thiranagama's middle-class upbringing in Sri Lanka -- well-versed in classic literature, destined for med school -- was shaken when violence flared between the government and her ethnic group, the Tamils. Filmmaker Helene Klodowsky looks at Thiranagama's love for a Singhalese activist, her flirtation with the Tamil Tigers and her ultimately peaceful fight as a founder of University Teachers for Human Rights, which documented abuses against women by all sides in the conflict. Thiranagama was murdered in 1989, but the film presents her outspoken sisters, her former lover and her daughter, all in awe of her dogged determination and activism.

Rating two1/2

C.K.

A love the Torah dares not name: Chris Knight

- No More Tears Sister screens today at 9:45 p.m. at the Isabel Bader Theatre and Thursday at 7:30 p.m. at Innis Town Hall.

**Load-Date:** April 26, 2005

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End of Document

## **More Tamils flee to India**

Indo-Asian News Service

January 15, 2006 Sunday 11:26 AM EST

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**Length:** 280 words

**Byline:** Indo-Asian News Service

**Dateline:** Chennai

### **Body**

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Chennai, Jan 15 -- Ten more Sri Lankan Tamils Sunday sought refuge in Tamil Nadu, taking the total number of those fleeing the strife-torn island to 48 in four days.

The trickle of refugees from northern Sri Lanka began after the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (**LTTE**) began killing soldiers and sailors.

The Tamils who arrived in the Tamil Nadu coastal district of Rameswaram by boats Sunday included five men, three **women** and two children.

They told the police that they had paid Rs.6,000 (\$135) each to a boat operator to ferry them to India.

On Thursday, 24 Sri Lankan Tamils, including nine children, had arrived at the Rameswaram coast, about 650 km south of here.

Nine refugees were rescued the next day from a sand dune, off the Adam's Bridge coast, where they had been abandoned by boatmen who ferried them from Sri Lanka illegally.

A refugee, Suman Jayakumar, told the Indian authorities that four people, including his brother, had been knifed by Sri Lankan troops at Pesalai in the island's north.

"We are looking into their charges seriously," said Rameswaram Deputy Superintendent of Police V. Subramanian.

Authorities at the Mandapam refugee camp, near the temple town of Rameswaram, were making arrangements and readying more accommodation, expecting the refugee arrivals to continue.

The camp currently provides shelter to 702 refugees. It has 2,269 houses but many of them are dilapidated and in disuse.

The **LTTE** has stepped up attacks against Sri Lankan soldiers and sailors in the country's north and east. About 70 military personnel have died since the start of December.

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## More Tamils flee to India

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**Load-Date:** January 17, 2006

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End of Document

## **Report: Reclusive Tamil leader gets his sixth karate black belt**

Associated Press International

November 12, 2003 Wednesday

Copyright 2003 Associated Press All Rights Reserved

**Section:** INTERNATIONAL NEWS

**Length:** 319 words

**Dateline:** COLOMBO, Sri Lanka

### **Body**

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The reclusive leader of the separatist ***Tamil Tigers***, who is credited with perfecting human bombs, has won his sixth black belt in karate, according to a pro-rebel newspaper.

The Tamil Guardian carried a picture of Velupillai Prabhakaran wearing his black belt along with a gold medal. It did not say how and where he won the honors.

South Asia's most wanted man last made a public appearance in April, 2002, after the signing of a cease-fire agreement between the government and Tiger rebels. Prior to that, he hadn't surfaced publicly since 1990.

Prabhakaran founded and leads the Liberation Tigers of Tamileelam, a separatist group embroiled in a 19-year civil war to establish a homeland in the northeast for the country's 3.2 million Tamils.

The Tamil Guardian said Prabhakaran appeared at a ceremony to honor Tamil karate grand master Shiham Bonnie Roberts, who is said to have eight black belts.

Prabhakaran, 48, has a posse of trusted cadres known as the "Black Tigers", or suicide bombers. They assassinated former Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi in 1991 and Sri Lankan President Ranasinghe Premadasa in 1993. He has been convicted in India for ordering the assassination of Gandhi, who had sent Indian troops over the border to crush the rebels.

Born in 1954 to a low-level bureaucrat, Prabhakaran was the youngest of four children. In elementary school he detonated a crude time-bomb and was subsequently suspended. He never returned.

In 1973, he fled to India to elude investigations into the activities of Tamil radicals. Returning to Sri Lanka in 1974, Prabhakaran carried out his first assassination - the mayor of Jaffna, the city that Tamils consider their cultural center. Two years later, he created the Liberation Tigers of Tamileelam.

During the 19-year civil war, some 176 male and 64 ***female*** Black Tigers blew themselves up, targeting and killing political and military leaders as well as civilians.

**Load-Date:** November 13, 2003



## Examine causes of terror

The Toronto Star

October 11, 2004 Monday

Copyright 2004 Toronto Star Newspapers, Ltd.

**Section:** LETTER; Pg. A15

**Length:** 290 words

### **Body**

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#### Terrorism and Muslims

Before we can assign labels, there has to be a clear definition of terrorism. To date there is none and it may be deliberately so. It leaves us free to brand only those who act against us as terrorists. Not all terrorists are Muslims. IRA members are not Muslims, nor is the ETA, the Red Brigade, Shining Path guerrillas, Tamil Tigers, our own FLQ, to name a few.

Not so long ago, Israel's erstwhile prime ministers Menachim Begin and Yitzhak Shamir, Ireland's first prime minister Eamon De Valera, Kenya's Jomo Kenyatta and Nelson Mandela were branded as terrorists. The same individuals later became heroes with all their past crimes forgotten or, worse still, eulogized. Depending upon the perspective, one man's terrorist can be another man's hero.

Terrorism in any shape or form when committed against innocent people by individuals or states can never be condoned. Nor can we have dual standards in this. The killing of innocent civilians on 9/11 or in Beslan was just as bad as the killing of hundreds of thousands of equally innocent men, women and children in Bosnia, Chechnya, Afghanistan and Iraq. It is manifestly unjust to condemn one and forget the other.

In the end, indiscriminate killing and heavy-handedness will not solve the problem of terrorism. We have to dispassionately examine its causes.

Blaming it on religion only obscures the view and keeps us from getting at the real issues. An estimated 3.5 million Muslims have been killed worldwide since the Soviets invaded Afghanistan and more than 8 million of them have been forced out of their homes to spend their lives miserably in squalid refugee camps.

We need to start here if we want answers to the current wave of terrorism.

K. Hussan Zia, Mississauga

**Load-Date:** October 11, 2004

## **Suspected Tamil rebels gun down broadcaster in Colombo**

Deutsche Presse-Agentur

August 12, 2005, Friday 12011212:01:12 Central European Time

Copyright 2005 Deutsche Presse-Agentur

**Section:** Politics

**Length:** 302 words

**Dateline:** Colombo

### **Body**

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A **female** broadcaster who was involved in the production of anti-rebel radio programmes for the state media and her husband were gunned down by suspected Tamil rebels in the Sri Lankan capital Friday, police said.

Relangai Selvarajha and her husband were shot dead Friday afternoon at a travel firm they operated in Bambalapitiya, on the outskirts of Colombo.

At the time of her death, Selvarajah was working as a part-time presenter at state-run television station Sri Lanka Rupavahini Corporation (SLRC), but she also previously worked for the Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation (SLBC).

She was known as a producer of a popular radio programme which criticized the rebel Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (**LTTE**), and she and her husband were closely associated with rival Tamil group, the People's Liberation Organisation of Tamil Eelam (PLOTE), police said.

The main media rights organization in Sri Lanka, the Free Media Movement (FMM), strongly condemned the killings, which, it said, bore the trademark of an ongoing killing spree between rival Tamil groups.

"Although FMM does not point the finger at any group for this killing, it notes that both of them (the victims) are said to have close connections with the anti-**LTTE** group PLOTE", the FMM said in a statement.

The FMM also condemned the killings as an attack on freedom of the press.

"FMM requests armed Tamil groups to engage in peaceful means to sort out their differences and not make journalists a target of their battles," the statement added.

FMM called on the government to conduct a speedy inquiry into the killings.

The murders are seen as revenge for the slaying on April 29 of prominent journalist Dharamaratnam Sivaram, who worked for the pro- rebel Tamilnet website.

A PLOTE member is being held in connection with Sivaram's murder. dpa ad cb ds

**Load-Date:** August 19, 2005

## Suspected Tamil rebels gun down broadcaster in Colombo

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## **2ND ROUNDUP: At least six killed as blast rocks outskirts of Colombo**

Deutsche Presse-Agentur  
May 28, 2007 Monday 3:16 PM EST

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**Section:** POLITICS

**Length:** 323 words

**Dateline:** Colombo

### **Body**

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DPA POLITICS SriLanka Conflicts 2ND ROUNDUP: At least six killed as blast rocks outskirts of Colombo  
Adds reaction from government Colombo

At least six civilians were killed and more than  
30 injured in a powerful claymore bomb explosion on the outskirts of  
Sri Lanka's capital, a military spokesman said Monday.

The mine set on a building had been triggered as a truck carrying  
members of the elite Special Task Force (STF) was passing by at  
Ratmalana, 10 kilometres south of Colombo, he said.

Four males and two females were killed, while most of the injured  
were people returning home after work. The spokesman blamed rebels

of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) for the blast.  
Initially police believed that the mine had been set on a  
motorcycle similar to last Thursday's blast in Colombo when an army  
bus was targeted. At least one person was killed and 10 injured in  
that attack.

Witnesses said that although the STF bus was the target of  
Monday's attack, the vehicle had not caught the full impact of the  
blast and instead at least five civilian vehicles and bystanders were  
struck.

The Colombo attacks came as government troops step up offensive

operations against the LTTE rebels in northern and eastern parts of  
the country.

Media Minister Anura Priyadarshana Yapa blamed the rebels for  
targeting civilians in the wake of recent successes of the military  
in which they had been able to recapture the eastern province from  
the rebels.

Military officials said that the location where the blast took  
place is also on the main road used by military officers who are  
transported by air from the northern Jaffna peninsula and thereafter  
driven by road pass to the location.

Security in the capital has been stepped in recent months in the  
expectation that the rebels would carry out strikes in the city to  
distract the attention of the security forces who have been  
concentrating on securing the eastern province as well as the north.

May 2807 1516 GMT

2ND ROUNDUP: At least six killed as blast rocks outskirts of Colombo

## Notes

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Adds reaction from government

**Load-Date:** May 28, 2007

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**Tamil Tigers deny involvement in bombing**

The New Zealand Herald

July 9, 2004 Friday

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**Section:** NEWS; World

**Length:** 55 words

**Body**

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The Tamil Tiger rebels yesterday denied any involvement in a suicide bombing in the Sri Lankan capital, Colombo, that killed the **female** bomber and four police officers.

The woman blew herself up while being frisked at a police station in what appeared to be a failed attempt to assassinate a local politician opposed to the Tamil rebels.

**Load-Date:** July 8, 2004

## **Hundreds turn out ahead of funeral for slain Sri Lankan army general**

Agence France Presse -- English

June 28, 2006 Wednesday 8:05 AM GMT

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**Length:** 359 words

**Dateline:** KELANIYA, Sri Lanka, June 28 2006

### **Body**

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Hundreds of people crowded outside the home of a slain Sri Lankan army general Wednesday, waiting to view the officer's body ahead of his funeral later in the day.

Major General Parami Kulatunga, the army's number-three, was assassinated Monday by a suspected Tamil Tiger suicide bomber who also killed himself and three others when he rammed the 54-year-old general's car with his motorcycle.

Under the gaze of armed soldiers posted every few meters, the mourners filed through a sweltering sitting room where Kulatunga's casket lay, draped in white silk and garlanded with strings of fragrant jasmine flowers.

Schoolboys in tight groups passed through the house in a quiet Colombo suburb, while young soldiers at the order of senior officers gave smart salutes.

Men turned out in crisp white shirts and clutching mobile phones shepherded elderly women past the general's body, peering at his face through a glass plate which covered the top half of the casket.

Some pressed their hands together in prayer as a young security guard hustled along those who lingered too long. Several women, wearing white saris, sobbed quietly in chairs lined up against the wall.

Kulatunga, the most senior army officer to be killed yet by Tamil Tiger rebels, was to be cremated in the evening after a military funeral, according to Buddhist rites.

His assassination, for which no one has formally claimed responsibility, was widely condemned and is the latest blow to a faltering ceasefire between the government and the rebel Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE).

Government defence spokesman Keheliya Rambukwella called the killing "undoubtedly an LTTE terrorist act".

"No other organization in Sri Lanka is capable of deploying suicide bombers," Rambukwella said earlier, warning the rebels wanted to cripple international efforts to monitor the ceasefire.

Kulatunga's assassination, which shattered a week-long lull in violence, came amid a surge of killings that has seen more than 815 deaths since December.

## Hundreds turn out ahead of funeral for slain Sri Lankan army general

"We salute our batchmate... May you attain Nibbana (Nirvana)," read one of the dozens of white banners lining the fences along the lane leading to Kulatunga's home.

**Load-Date:** June 29, 2006

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## **Rights record of most South Asian nations poor: US**

Indo-Asian News Service

March 1, 2005 Tuesday 11:01 AM EST

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**Length:** 987 words

**Byline:** Indo-Asian News Service

**Dateline:** Washington

### **Body**

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Washington, March 1 -- The human rights record of South Asian governments remained poor in 2004 as the countries continued to experience numerous serious abuses, according to a US State Department report.

Whether it was India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Bhutan or the Maldives, the police and security forces used arbitrary and unlawful force to arrest, detain and torture, the report said.

Releasing the report, "2004 Country Reports on Human Rights Practices", Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice said the US would stand with countries across the world to fight oppression and protect the fundamental rights of human dignity and freedom.

The report chronicles the status of human rights in 196 countries. "The conscientious compiling of these reports equips us to more effectively stand against oppression and for human dignity and liberty", Rice said.

The report reveals a pattern of abuse in all South Asian societies, including in the treatment of women and children, and spares neither officials nor insurgents in its account.

About India, the report said despite being a democracy that generally respected human rights, the country had "numerous, serious rights abuses".

"Members of the security forces committed numerous serious human rights abuses," said the report, which castigated the police for extra-judicial killings, staging "encounter" killings and custodial deaths.

"Government officials often used special anti-terrorism legislation to justify the excessive use of force while combating active insurgencies in Jammu and Kashmir and several northeastern states," said the report.

It blamed "separatist guerrillas in Kashmir and the northeast" for "serious abuses", including killing of security personnel, officials and civilians.

The report said Pakistan presented a "troubling picture" as local police used excessive force and committed or failed to prevent extra-judicial killings. Sectarian killings too continued.

Police abused and raped citizens, prison conditions were extremely poor, and police arbitrarily arrested and detained citizens. Some political leaders remained imprisoned or in exile, the report said.

## Rights record of most South Asian nations poor: US

It said governmental and societal discrimination against religious minorities remained a problem, besides domestic violence against women and rape and abuse of children.

The report said Pakistan's human rights organisations documented 1,458 cases of honour killings during the year while many more possibly went unreported.

In Bangladesh, it said, the government's poor human rights record worsened and it continued to commit numerous abuses. Security forces committed a number of extra-judicial killings.

The police, the paramilitary Bangladesh Rifles (BDR), the auxiliary organisation Ansar and the military used unwarranted lethal force.

Police in Bangladesh often used excessive, and sometimes lethal, force in dealing with opposition demonstrators, and police and Rapid Action Battalion (RAB) personnel routinely employed physical and psychological torture during arrests and interrogations.

Prison conditions were extremely poor and a contributing factor in some deaths in custody.

Police corruption remained a problem. Nearly all abuses went unpunished and the climate of impunity, reinforced by 2003 legislation shielding security forces from legal challenges of their actions, remained a serious obstacle to ending abuse and killings.

In Sri Lanka, the report said the government generally respected the human rights of citizens. There were no reports of security forces committing politically motivated killings and no reports of disappearances.

However, there were extensive reports of torture and 13 custodial deaths as a result of police torture.

The government continued investigations into past abuses by armed forces personnel and opened probes into past abuses by police personnel. Violence and discrimination against women, and child prostitution occurred.

Violence against religious minorities increased, and institutionalised ethnic discrimination against Tamils remained a problem.

It said Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) guerrillas continued to commit serious human rights abuses. "The LTTE was responsible for politically motivated killings, arbitrary arrests, torture, harassment, abduction, disappearances, extortion, and detention.

"The LTTE continued to use and recruit child soldiers. Through a campaign of intimidation, the LTTE continued to undermine the work of elected local government bodies in Jaffna and the east," it said.

About Nepal, the report said Kathmandu's human rights record remained poor, and it continued to commit numerous serious abuses. The security forces used arbitrary and unlawful lethal force and abused detainees, sometimes using torture as punishment or to extract confessions.

On the other hand, Maoist rebels continued their campaign of torture, killing, bombing, forcibly conscripting children, extorting, forcing closures of schools and businesses, and committing other serious and gross human rights abuses.

Maoist impunity remained a significant problem, it said, noting that during the year, an estimated 2,380 people were killed in insurgency-related violence, including 156 members of the national police, 240 members of the Royal Nepalese Army, 53 members of the Armed Police Force, 1,457 Maoists, and 474 civilians, including 12 government officials.

In the Maldives too, the government's human rights record remained poor. The president's power to appoint some members of parliament and the absence of political parties constrained citizens' ability to change their government.

## Rights record of most South Asian nations poor: US

Though the president issued orders designed to protect the rights of detainees, such as ensuring the right to counsel and videotaping interrogations, there were reports of the abuse of prisoners.

The Indo Asian News Service is provided through HT Syndication, New Delhi.

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**Load-Date:** March 2, 2005

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## **Bus bomb kills 16 in Sri Lanka on Buddhist holiday**

Agence France Presse -- English

April 2, 2007 Monday 1:50 PM GMT

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**Length:** 602 words

**Byline:** Amal Jayasinghe

**Dateline:** COLOMBO, April 2 2007

### **Body**

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Sixteen people, including three children, were killed and 25 wounded when a powerful parcel bomb ripped through a crowded bus in eastern Sri Lanka Monday, officials said.

The defence ministry immediately accused Tamil Tiger rebels of setting off the blast, which coincided with a key Buddhist holiday, while the guerrillas denied they were responsible for the attack against civilians.

Passengers were getting off the bus to be checked by troops manning a road block when the blast occurred just outside the town of Ampara, 350 kilometres (220 miles) east of Colombo, a local police officer said.

"The bomb went off just at the Kondawattuwan check point," the police officer said. "We now believe that the blast was aboard the bus. It was most likely a parcel bomb."

Norwegian truce monitors, who blamed the Tigers for a landmine attack that killed 64 bus passengers in June last year, sent their officers to the area for an investigation, a spokesman said.

The government also rushed a senior minister, Fariel Ashraff, to coordinate the relief operations, a spokesman for her Muslim National Unity Alliance said.

The head of the main hospital there, Lankathilaka Jayasinghe, said three people were already dead when they were brought in on a day when many people were taking advantage of the week-long holiday.

"Three people were dead on admission and 13 others died in hospital," Jayasinghe said, adding that 25 more people were being treated for injuries. Three children and 11 women, including a woman soldier, were among the dead.

There were no foreigners among the dead or the wounded. The government does not encourage tourists to travel to the troubled northern and eastern regions.

Two off-duty constables travelling home for the traditional New Year next week, were also among those killed, police said.

## Bus bomb kills 16 in Sri Lanka on Buddhist holiday

The Tigers denied involvement in the attack, the second against civilian transport since the rebels were accused of setting off bombs inside buses and killing 17 and wounding 117 on two consecutive days in January.

"We have nothing to do with this blast," spokeswoman for the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (**LTTE**) Navaruban Selvy said by telephone from the rebel head office in Kilinochchi, in the island's north.

Her remarks came after the defence ministry said the attack was the work of Tiger rebels.

"The security forces suspect that the bomb would have been placed inside the bus by the **LTTE** to deliberately target civilians," the defence ministry said in a statement.

The blast came as President Mahinda Rajapakse visited neighbouring India to attend a two-day South Asian summit opening in New Delhi Tuesday. Officials said he wanted to discuss the threat of terrorism at the summit.

The latest bloodshed also came as security forces tightened their grip on areas held by the **LTTE**. Sri Lankan jets and helicopter gunships carried out night-time bombing raids against Tiger rebel positions over the weekend.

However, defence officials had said that the guerrillas still had the ability to stage hit-and-run attacks.

In other violence, six civilians were shot dead in Batticaloa, just north of Ampara, on Sunday night. The military and the Tigers blamed each other for the massacre.

Another four civilians were gunned down on Sunday night in the north of the island. The Tiger rebels accused a breakaway faction allied with government forces of carrying out the attacks.

The Tamil rebels have waged a 35-year campaign for independence that has claimed more than 60,000 lives.

More than 4,000 people have been killed in the latest upsurge of fighting that began in December 2005 despite a truce arranged in 2002.

**Load-Date:** April 2, 2007

## **STATE DEPARTMENT ISSUES CONSULAR INFORMATION SHEET ON SRI LANKA**

US Fed News

April 11, 2006 Tuesday 7:30 PM EST

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**Length:** 2887 words

**Byline:** US Fed News

**Dateline:** WASHINGTON

### **Body**

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The U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Consular Affairs issued the following Consular Information Sheet:

**COUNTRY DESCRIPTION:** Sri Lanka is a presidential parliamentary democracy with a developing economy. Civil war and terrorism have seriously disrupted the country since 1983. On February 22, 2002, The Government of Sri Lanka (GOSL) and the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (***LTTE***) signed an indefinite cease-fire agreement. Over the past four years, several incidents of violence have increased tensions but the cease-fire has largely held to date. Despite the armed insurgency, Sri Lanka's beaches, hill country, and archeological sites attract tens of thousands of visitors each year from around the world. The capital city of Colombo, the Cultural Triangle (Kandy, Anuradhapura, and Polonnaruwa), and many Southern beach towns all have good tourist facilities.

The Asian Tsunami on December 26, 2004 caused severe damage and loss of life to several coastal areas of eastern, southern and southwestern Sri Lanka. Many affected resorts have completely recovered. Travelers planning to visit Sri Lanka should consult with travel agencies or the Sri Lankan Tourist Board to ensure their itineraries take this recent event into account and plan accordingly. Read the Department of State Background Notes on Sri Lanka at <http://www.state.gov/r/pa/ei/bgn/5249.htm> for additional information.

**ENTRY/EXIT REQUIREMENTS:** A passport and onward/return ticket and proof of sufficient funds are required. A no-cost visitor visa, valid for 30 days, will be granted to tourists at the time of entry into Sri Lanka. Business travelers are required to have a visa prior to arrival. Visitors staying more than 30 days for any purpose must pay residency visa fees. Travelers need yellow fever and cholera immunizations if they are arriving from an infected area. All travelers departing Sri Lanka (except diplomats and certain exempted travelers) must pay an airport tax, in cash. Sri Lankan law requires all persons, including foreigners, who are guests in private households to register in person at the nearest local police station.

Individuals who stay in private households without registering may be temporarily detained for questioning. This requirement does not apply to individuals staying in hotels or guesthouses.

Specific inquiries should be addressed to the Embassy of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka, 2148 Wyoming Avenue, NW, Washington, D.C. 20008, telephone (202) 483-4025 through 26, fax numbers (202) 232-7181, e-mail address: [consular@slembassyusa.org](mailto:consular@slembassyusa.org), home page: <http://www.slembassy.org>, the Sri Lankan Consulate General in Los Angeles at 3250 Wilshire Blvd., Suite 1405, Los Angeles, CA 90010, telephone (213) 387-0210, or the U.N. Mission in New York City, telephone (212) 986-7040. There are several honorary Sri Lankan

## STATE DEPARTMENT ISSUES CONSULAR INFORMATION SHEET ON SRI LANKA

consuls general and consuls in the United States. They can be located at the Sri Lankan Embassy web site. See our Foreign Entry Requirements brochure at [http://www.travel.state.gov/travel/tips/brochures/brochures\\_1229.html](http://www.travel.state.gov/travel/tips/brochures/brochures_1229.html) for more information on Sri Lanka and other countries. Visit the Embassy of Sri Lanka web site at <http://www.slembassyusa.org> for the most current visa information.

Find more information about Entry and Exit Requirements ([http://travel.state.gov/travel/cis\\_pa\\_tw/cis/cis\\_1469.html](http://travel.state.gov/travel/cis_pa_tw/cis/cis_1469.html)) pertaining to dual nationality and the prevention of international child abduction. Please refer to our Customs Information ([http://travel.state.gov/travel/cis\\_pa\\_tw/cis/cis\\_1468.html](http://travel.state.gov/travel/cis_pa_tw/cis/cis_1468.html)) to learn more about customs regulations.

**SAFETY AND SECURITY:** Since 1997, the State Department has included the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (**LTTE**) on its list of foreign terrorist organizations. Terrorist activities in the capital city of Colombo and other areas of the country remain a serious threat. The **LTTE** and the Sri Lankan government have not engaged in large-scale combat since the signing of the ceasefire; however, smaller-scale violence occurs periodically, and the **LTTE** have assassinated Sri Lankans that oppose their aims. In December 2005 and January 2006 there was an upsurge in violence and mine attacks against Sri Lankan security forces. On August 12, 2005, Foreign Minister Lakshman Kadirgamar was assassinated at his residence in Colombo. On July 7, 2004, a suicide bomber detonated in a police station in Colombo, killing herself, 4 policemen and critically injuring 11 people. Since the cease-fire, no suicide bombings or truck bombs have been directed at civilian targets. In 2001, the **LTTE** attacked the Colombo International Airport and destroyed both commercial and military aircraft. Several military personnel were killed, military and airport employees were injured, and civilians were caught in the crossfire. In 2003, the **LTTE** also attacked several foreign commercial ships in the waters off the north and east coasts of Sri Lanka.

Throughout their history, the **LTTE** have attempted and carried out numerous political assassinations. They have also carried out many suicide bombings at political rallies, government buildings and major economic targets. In addition to using individual suicide bombers, the **LTTE** have employed vehicle-mounted bombs. In the past they have detonated bombs near major hotels, a tourist site in Kandy, and have targeted buses and trains. Except for one incident in 2004, there have been no suicide bombings since the ceasefire went into effect in 2003.

Although U.S. citizens have not been specifically targeted, **LTTE** operations have been planned and executed with the knowledge that Americans and other foreigners might be killed or injured. American citizens traveling or residing in Sri Lanka may be inadvertently caught up in random acts of violence. Travel in restricted areas is dangerous. In April 2001, grenade fragments seriously injured an American citizen when she was caught in a skirmish between government and insurgent forces in the eastern part of the country.

American citizens should be alert to outbreaks of communal violence, such as that which occurred in April 2003 when two hand grenades were detonated in tourist hotels in Arugambay, killing or injuring three tourists. In October 2002, riots between Muslim and Sinhala factions in the Greater Colombo area precipitated short-term curfews. In May 2001 a disturbance between Buddhist and Muslim communities near Kandy reportedly resulted in one death during a police shootout and extensive property damage.

Americans are advised to avoid political rallies and other mass gatherings, limit exposure to government and military installations and avoid public transportation if possible. Non-Sri Lankan citizens of Tamil heritage have occasionally been detained during security operations. U.S. citizens of any ethnic heritage are encouraged to keep their passports with them at all times. In the event of a terrorist attack, Americans should monitor local radio and television, seek cover away from windows and return to their homes or hotels when it is safe to do so. The Government has periodically imposed curfews in Colombo; Americans should strictly observe curfew regulations and monitor local radio and television.

American citizens are advised not to travel north of a line from Puttalam on the west coast through Anuradhapura in the central north and Nilaveli (just north of Trincomalee) in the east. Areas north of this line contain many land mines, making travel off paved roads very dangerous. In addition, the Government of Sri Lanka does not exercise effective control of the civil administration in many sections of the north, where the **LTTE** operate openly. Official

## STATE DEPARTMENT ISSUES CONSULAR INFORMATION SHEET ON SRI LANKA

travel by U.S. Government personnel to this area is restricted, and their unofficial travel is prohibited. Travel in the east in the area south of the Anuradhapura-Nilaveli line (including Trincomalee, Batticaloa and points south) poses significant safety risks. Official travel by U.S. Government personnel to Batticaloa is restricted, and their unofficial travel is prohibited due to factional fighting within the LTTE. Roads are often substandard, and police, medical and other emergency help is severely limited or not available. Communications within the eastern areas are also limited, with no cell phone accessibility and very limited landline telephone access. Because of these factors, the U.S. Embassy may not be able to provide consular services in a timely manner to American citizens who travel to the north and east.

For the latest security information, Americans traveling abroad should regularly monitor the Department's Internet web site at <http://travel.state.gov> where the current Worldwide Caution Public Announcement, Travel Warnings and other Public Announcements can be found.

Up-to-date information on safety and security can also be obtained by calling 1-888-407-4747 toll free in the U.S., or for callers outside the U.S. and Canada, a regular toll-line at 1-202-501-4444. These numbers are available from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Eastern Time, Monday through Friday (except U.S. federal holidays).

The Department of State urges American citizens to take responsibility for their own personal security while traveling overseas. For general information about appropriate measures travelers can take to protect themselves in an overseas environment, see the Department of State's pamphlet A Safe Trip Abroad: [http://www.travel.state.gov/travel/tips/safety/safety\\_1747.html](http://www.travel.state.gov/travel/tips/safety/safety_1747.html).

CRIME: Sri Lanka has a rising crime rate, and criminal incidents may well rise in many of the areas affected by the tsunami. Violent crime is increasing, and there have been reports of police inaction in certain cases. In February 2002, a British couple was kidnapped and robbed near the Polonnaruwa ruins. In recent years, the Embassy has received reports of violent criminal incidents, including attempted sexual assault, in the towns of Negombo, Hikkaduwa and Dambulla. American citizens should exercise caution, especially at night. Children should not be left unattended, even on hotel/resort premises. In Colombo, women in particular should avoid traveling at night in the small, three-wheeled motorized taxis, or "three-wheelers," due to a risk of assault.

Petty street crime such as purse snatching and pick-pocketing does occur, especially on crowded local public transportation, at bus or train stations, and in public markets. Travelers should keep money or jewelry, when not in immediate use, in hotel safe deposit boxes. Cases of credit card fraud have been reported and travelers are encouraged to either pay with cash or to watch when a merchant "swipes" the card during a transaction to ensure it is not swiped more than once.

INFORMATION FOR VICTIMS OF CRIME: The loss or theft abroad of a U.S. passport should be reported immediately to the local police and the nearest U.S. Embassy or Consulate. If you are the victim of a crime while overseas, in addition to reporting to local police, please contact the nearest U.S. Embassy or Consulate for assistance. The Embassy/Consulate staff can, for example, assist you to find appropriate medical care, contact family members or friends and explain how funds could be transferred. Although the investigation and prosecution of the crime is solely the responsibility of local authorities, consular officers can help you to understand the local criminal justice process and to find an attorney if needed.

See our information on Victims of Crime: [http://www.travel.state.gov/travel/tips/emergencies/emergencies\\_1748.html](http://www.travel.state.gov/travel/tips/emergencies/emergencies_1748.html).

MEDICAL FACILITIES AND HEALTH INFORMATION: Medical facilities outside Colombo are limited. The U.S. Embassy maintains a list of private physicians who may be consulted. Medical supplies are uneven; travelers should carry any special medications with them. There are six large hospitals in the Colombo area, including three with emergency trauma service-Asiri Hospital, Apollo Hospital, and the government General Hospital. Serious medical problems may require evacuation to the United States or to the nearest country where adequate medical facilities or treatment is available, usually Thailand or Singapore. Neither Thailand nor Singapore requires American citizens to have an entry visa.



## STATE DEPARTMENT ISSUES CONSULAR INFORMATION SHEET ON SRI LANKA

Information on vaccinations and other health precautions, such as safe food and water precautions and insect bite protection, may be obtained from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's hotline for international travelers at 1-877-FYI-TRIP (1-877-394-8747); fax 1-888-CDC-FAXX (1-888-232-3299), or via the CDC's Internet site at <http://www.cdc.gov/travel>. For information about outbreaks of infectious diseases abroad consult the World Health Organization's (WHO) website at <http://www.who.int/en>. Further health information for travelers is available at <http://www.who.int/ith>.

**MEDICAL INSURANCE:** The Department of State strongly urges Americans to consult with their medical insurance company prior to traveling abroad to confirm whether their policy applies overseas and whether it will cover emergency expenses such as a medical evacuation. Please see our information on medical insurance overseas: [http://www.travel.state.gov/travel/cis\\_pa\\_tw/cis/cis\\_1470.html](http://www.travel.state.gov/travel/cis_pa_tw/cis/cis_1470.html).

**TRAFFIC SAFETY AND ROAD CONDITIONS:** While in a foreign country, U.S. citizens may encounter road conditions that differ significantly from those in the United States. The information below concerning Sri Lanka is provided for general reference only, and may not be totally accurate in a particular location or circumstance.

Vehicular traffic moves on the left (British style). Traffic in Colombo is very congested. Narrow, two-lane highways, dangerously-driven buses, overloaded trucks and the variety of conveyances on the road, ranging from ox carts, elephants and bicycles to new four-wheel drive jeeps, make driving a challenge and dangerous. Many visitors hire cars and drivers for long trips through the country. Individuals choosing to hire three-wheeled vehicles should negotiate prices beforehand to avoid confrontations. Please refer to our Road Safety page at [http://www.travel.state.gov/travel/tips/safety/safety\\_1179.html](http://www.travel.state.gov/travel/tips/safety/safety_1179.html) for more information. Visit the website of Sri Lanka's national tourist office and national authority responsible for road safety at <http://www.lanka.net>.

**AVIATION SAFETY OVERSIGHT:** As there is no direct commercial air service between the United States and Sri Lanka, the U.S. Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) has not assessed Sri Lanka's Civil Aviation Authority for compliance with ICAO international aviation safety standards. For more information, travelers may visit the FAA's Internet web site at [http://www.faa.gov/safety/programs\\_initiatives/oversight/iasa](http://www.faa.gov/safety/programs_initiatives/oversight/iasa).

**SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES:** Sri Lanka recognizes dual nationality in some cases. For further information, please contact the Sri Lankan Embassy in Washington, D.C., the Consulate General in Los Angeles, or the U.N. Mission in New York City.

Please refer to our Customs Information to learn more about customs regulations: [http://travel.state.gov/travel/cis\\_pa\\_tw/cis/cis\\_1468.html](http://travel.state.gov/travel/cis_pa_tw/cis/cis_1468.html).

**CRIMINAL PENALTIES:** While in a foreign country, a U.S. citizen is subject to that country's laws and regulations, which sometimes differ significantly from those in the United States and may not afford the protections available to the individual under U.S. law. Penalties for breaking the law can be more severe than in the United States for similar offenses. Persons violating Sri Lanka's laws, even unknowingly, may be expelled, arrested or imprisoned. Penalties for possession, use, or trafficking in illegal drugs in Sri Lanka are severe, and convicted offenders can expect long jail sentences and heavy fines. Engaging in illicit sexual conduct with children or using or disseminating child pornography in a foreign country is a crime, prosecutable in the United States. Please see our information on Criminal Penalties: [http://travel.state.gov/travel/cis\\_pa\\_tw/cis/cis\\_1467.html](http://travel.state.gov/travel/cis_pa_tw/cis/cis_1467.html).

**CHILDREN'S ISSUES:** For information on international adoption of children and international parental child abduction, see the Office of Children's Issues website: [http://www.travel.state.gov/family/family\\_1732.html](http://www.travel.state.gov/family/family_1732.html).

**REGISTRATION / EMBASSY LOCATION:** Americans living or traveling in Sri Lanka are encouraged to register with the nearest U.S. Embassy or Consulate through the State Department's travel registration website and to obtain updated information on travel and security within Sri Lanka. Americans without Internet access may register directly with the nearest U.S. Embassy or Consulate. By registering, American citizens make it easier for the Embassy or Consulate to contact them in case of emergency. The U.S. Embassy is located at 210 Galle Road, Colombo 3, Sri Lanka. The Embassy's telephone number during normal business hours Monday through Friday is

## STATE DEPARTMENT ISSUES CONSULAR INFORMATION SHEET ON SRI LANKA

(94) (11) 244 8007. The after-hours and emergency telephone number is (94) (11) 244-8601. The Consular Section fax number is (94)-(11)-243-6943. The Embassy's Internet address is <http://usembassy.state.gov/srilanka>. The Consular Section has a specific email dedicated to American citizen services at [ColomboACS@state.gov](mailto:ColomboACS@state.gov). The general email address for the consular section is [consularcolombo@state.gov](mailto:consularcolombo@state.gov). The Embassy in Colombo also covers the Republic of Maldives.

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**Load-Date:** April 14, 2006

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## **Over 15,000 Muslims flee after heavy Sri Lanka shelling**

Agence France Presse -- English

August 5, 2006 Saturday 4:44 AM GMT

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**Length:** 608 words

**Byline:** Lakruwan Wanniarachchi

**Dateline:** KANTALAI, Sri Lanka, Aug 5 2006

### **Body**

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Relief workers Saturday battled to feed and accommodate at least 15,000 Muslim men, women and children fleeing Sri Lanka's bloodiest battle in four years as schools were turned into refugee camps.

The chief minister of the adjoining North Central Province visited this farming community at the edge of the restive Trincomalee district to coordinate the huge relief operation, officials said.

Four schools in Kantalai accommodated thousands of people fleeing the mainly-Muslim coastal town of Muttur, about 45 kilometres (28 miles) away.

"We have a list of 14,380 people already on the move," local administrative officer H. K. Karunawathi said. "There are many more who have not been registered yet. They belong to Sinhalese, Muslim and Tamil families."

However, the majority are Muslims from Muttur where there have been heavy artillery battles between security forces and Tamil Tiger rebels since Wednesday, she said.

Chief Minister Bertie Prema Dasanayake said arranging cooked food for the refugees was a major challenge and the authorities had brought in extra supplies.

"We have arranged for cooked meals to be given from this morning," Dasanayake told reporters as he visited refugee centres and the local hospital here where some of the wounded and sick were taken.

Muslims in Muttur started leaving in droves after 27 civilians were killed in shelling on Thursday and Friday as troops and the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) battled it out in the fishing area.

Some walked while others grabbed whatever transport they could to reach here.

Local military officials said that two ambulances transporting the wounded had come under attack on Friday just outside Muttur, but they could not reach the area because of mines planted by retreating Tiger rebels.

Muslims complained that the Tigers were also holding back some 100 Muslim men.

### Over 15,000 Muslims flee after heavy Sri Lanka shelling

"More than 100 innocent youths were detained by the LTTE while they were fleeing to safer places," Sri Lanka Muslim Congress leader Rauf Hakeem said. "We urge LTTE to release them immediately."

Hakeem also accused security forces of carrying out the artillery and mortar bomb attacks that have killed the 27 Muslims civilians in Muttur since Thursday.

International concern had mounted for civilians caught up in the fighting which showed signs of subsiding Saturday, military and local administration official in Trincomalee said.

International relief agencies called for an immediate halt to the fighting so that much needed supplies could be distributed in Muttur and neighbouring villages.

"We in the humanitarian community ... are gravely concerned about the alarming violence in areas of Trincomalee district," the relief agencies said in a statement Friday.

"Muttur has suffered severely as a result of shelling and lack of access has hampered our ability to provide assistance to civilians in dire need of urgent help."

Muslims are the second-largest minority in Sri Lanka, accounting for about 7.5 percent of the 19.5 million population. Tamils are about 12.5 percent and about 70 percent are Sinhalese.

In Trincomalee district the three communities live in almost equal numbers.

The fighting, which began 11 days ago, is the worst since Oslo arranged and put in place a truce in February 2002, and has so far claimed at least 174 lives by official count.

The government said its military action was aimed at opening the Maavilaru water canal which was blocked at a point inside rebel-held territory in Trincomalee district, depriving 15,000 families of water.

The Tigers have said their action was aimed at mounting pressure on the government to provide a better drinking water system in areas held by them.

**Load-Date:** August 6, 2006

## *Sonia talks tough at Congress meet*

Hindustan Times

November 17, 2007 Saturday 2:54 PM EST

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**Length:** 615 words

**Byline:** Vinod Sharma and Saroj Nagi Hindustan Times

**Dateline:** NEW DELHI, India

### **Body**

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NEW DELHI, India, Nov. 17 -- THE DAY-LONG meeting of the All India Congress Committee (AICC) at the Talkatora Stadium on Saturday saw the delegates placing Rahul Gandhi in the centre-stage even as party chief Sonia Gandhi delivered a strong message to the leadership on the sidelines that they better be grateful to the party for the positions they occupy.

Sonia played the perfect doubles partner with Prime Minister Manmohan Singh on the India-US nuclear deal and the government's performance in the social sector. If she praised Singh for delivering on the party manifesto and the UPA's CMP, Singh credited Sonia - and Rahul - for their passionate support of the National Rural Employment Guarantee Programme. Later, they patiently heard delegates on loopholes such as bureaucratic control and low daily wages under NREG.

Veteran leader Arjun Singh seemed to be voicing some skepticism when shortly after Rahul talked about building a meritocratic organisation he said no line of discrimination should be drawn in the party if the commitment of the worker is the same. He also referred to Rahul's campaign in UP where the party got a drubbing, adding that it should be the Congress's collective responsibility to see that this did not happen elsewhere.

Senior leaders including Sonia criticised the "stubbornly uncooperative" BJP, their main rival in the Gujarat and Himachal polls. "No words are strong enough to condemn their attacks on our PM and our party," said Sonia. But like the PM, she made no direct reference to Nandigram in her speech. The issue was dealt with in the omnibus political, economic and international resolution that termed the situation as "grave", condemning the culture of violence and the cult of armed cadres.

"All this is the natural outcome of a system where the interests of party cadres are placed above the interests of the people and the law and order machinery is not allowed to function professionally," it said.

The resolution also addressed another contentious issue involving the DMK, a key UPA ally whose chief M. Karunanidhi recently condoled the death of a frontline leader of the LTTE. It said: "The LTTE, categorised internationally as a terrorist outfit, deliberately assassinated our beloved leader (Rajiv Gandhi) in a brutal manner. The sentiments of all Congressmen and women especially are bound to get hurt if the LTTE is eulogised in any manner."

The top leadership letting the resolution speak, it was left to state level functionaries to vent their spleen against the Marxists. Equating Nandigram with Godhra, West Bengal's Manas Bhunia urged Sonia to send an AICC

## Sonia talks tough at Congress meet

delegation to the area. Shahnawaz from Kerala was apprehensive that the CPM would repeat Nandigram in Kerala: "But we in the Congress will not let that happen. Our party is the only hope for the minorities."

Amid such Left-bashing, there was a leitmotif in the speeches of Sonia, Singh and Pranab Mukherjee. Pitching for the nuclear deal, they told party cadres to sell it as an energy security effort that would also fetch India the technologies denied to it for over three decades. As much linked to the deal were repeated references to the Centre's promise of implementing the Sachar report. Discerning observers found hard to miss the effort to counter the UNPA's campaign to equate the deal with President George Bush's anti-Muslim image.

In her concluding remarks, Sonia told the 2000-odd delegates that she and Rahul possessed no magic wand; that equal responsibility devolved on them: "Mere aur Rahul ke paas koi jadoo ki chari nahi hai. Jo kuch hona hai, aap ke sahyog se hona hai."

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**Load-Date:** November 17, 2007

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## *Drama that aspires to bring peace*

The Sunday Times (London)

July 30, 2006

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**Section:** FEATURES; Ecosse; Pg. 4

**Length:** 1186 words

**Byline:** Mark Fisher

### **Body**

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Finding Marina has brought together children from families on either side of the conflict that divides Sri Lanka, discovers Mark Fisher

A herd of elephants lumbers towards the tourists at the Pinnawela Elephant Orphanage in Sri Lanka's hill country. Here, on the road from Colombo to the royal city of Kandy, there are dozens of the creatures: gentle, dusty and formidable in the Asian heat. The calves wrestle one another, the cows chew strips of wood and their mahouts (keepers) drive them forward with pointed sticks.

One of the beasts stands out. Sad-faced and wrinkled like the rest, she has an awkward gait and wobbles her way across the hillside. Her name is Sama and in 1995 she stepped on a land mine and was lucky to lose only one leg.

Twenty-one-year-old Duva looks on. "She has a soul like me," she says. "I'm sad to think an animal has been wounded because of a land mine. How sad should I feel that the same thing is happening to so many human beings?"

For Duva, a child of Tamil parents from Trincomalee on the island's east coast, knowing people who have lost limbs to land mines is part of growing up. But rather than be drawn into the cycle of violence that has blighted the sub-tropical island since the 1970s, Duva is trying to make a difference.

She's part of the cast of Finding Marina, an outdoor spectacular to be performed in Edinburgh's Royal Botanic Garden by young victims of the civil war between the Sri Lankan government and the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam, better known as the *Tamil Tigers*.

"Seeing the injured elephant makes me think that if I lost a leg I wouldn't be able to dance -and dancing is my life," she says. "My three uncles and my cousin have all been killed, so I have lost most of my family members in this violence.

My father is thinking of sending my brother to India for safety, because he is scared.

"I'm not angry either with the *Tamil Tigers* or the Sri Lankan army. If anyone gets killed, it's somebody's life, so I'm sad. The only thing I want to say is that we should have peace not war."

Finding Marina, a tale of division, war and reconciliation, is a sequel to Children of the Sea, which was performed last year in Edinburgh by a cast of young people orphaned by the Boxing Day tsunami of 2004. Directed by Toby

## Drama that aspires to bring peace

Gough, it was a story of redemption and survival that earned the company a Fringe First and a Jack Tinker Spirit of the Fringe award.

The process helped turn a group of traumatised teenagers, too frightened even to look at the sea, into a confident troupe of performers.

Supported by Plan, the children's charity, the show returned to Sri Lanka, where it was seen by 150,000 people at more than 75 performances in communities still reeling from the Boxing Day disaster. Two months ago, Kylie Minogue, a company patron, took time out from her treatment for breast cancer to lend her support, posing for photos on an elephant.

But as the horror of the tsunami receded, it became apparent the political problems remained. There's no better illustration than the experience of 18-year-old Nethmi, who was invited to a civic reception on her return from Edinburgh. She travelled to the event with her mother in a taxi.

"As we approached a checkpoint, we saw some people throw something in front of our taxi," she says. "I must have done some good in my life, because the explosive device didn't detonate. The soldiers told us to run to the back of the vehicle and hit the floor.

"I ran, but then I started screaming to my mother that the awards were in the taxi and I wanted to go back and get them. My mother pinned me down while the army got rid of the bomb."

Nethmi laughs at the ridiculousness of the scene, but her merriment belies a life of sadness. She was 18 months old when her father was killed and she has known only the terror of living under siege, un-able to go to school before the army cleared the roads.

Finding Marina was inspired by the lives of people such as Nethmi and reports of children the world over who are dragged into conflict, used as soldiers and recruited for suicide missions.

"You hear stories that are deeply distressing," says Gough. "Bombs every day, an inability to get to school, checkpoint problems. One of our cast fled the city to escape the retaliations after a suicide bomb. There are stories of children who have been soldiers and forced to go through initiation rituals. It's distressing to see the impact on those young minds."

In Sri Lanka the conflict rumbles on between the minority Tamils, based mainly in the north and east, and the majority Sinhalese, who control the government. Any tourist passing through the four military checkpoints between the airport and the centre of Colombo will experience the tension.

The pressure on the children to join the cycle of aggression is enormous. Everyone is quick to insist the **Tamil Tigers** do not recruit children against their will (although reports by Human Rights Watch suggest otherwise), but in such grim circumstances you can see why some sign up for protection or revenge.

"When children see these violent things they want to join," says Saro, an 18-year-old Tamil girl. "I chose the correct path, but when I was 13 my best friend joined. I haven't seen my friend since."

Because of the war, Saro's family has been displaced, her parents living in Trincomalee, a brother in Colombo and two more in a safe house in Jaffna.

"The family is scattered around because we're scared to stay together," she says.

"The last time we were together was for a birthday last year. I had five brothers, but two were killed 12 years ago in the civil war. They were twins and they were coming back from school when they were shot by soldiers. They were only 12.

Soldiers don't see people's ages, they just shoot."



## Drama that aspires to bring peace

nd their welcoming faces, all the children involved in the project have suffered terrible trauma. A bomb blast near her home when she was 13 years old forced Duva to flee with her family to a refugee camp, where she lived for three months without food or running water.

"Girls, boys, men, women were all together crowded into the corridors," she says.

"Sometimes the girls got raped -I don't like to say who was responsible."

Based loosely on Romeo and Juliet, Finding Marina brings together Tamil and Sinhalese performers, much to the consternation of those for whom "peace" is a dirty word. Twice Gough has received death threats from people unwilling to accept the idea of reconciliation.

"There are factions in Sri Lanka that do not approve of racial co- existence," he says. "Peace is one of the most controversial things to dream of.

It's what everyone in our cast aspires to."

"The first time I came to rehearsals I was afraid," says Priya. " Now I realise the Sinhalese are good people like my own."

It's in this collaboration that Nethmi sees a ray of hope.

"Our theatre troupe should be the formula for the government," she says. "What we should do in our little unit is marry each other, then there'd be no way we could have a war."

Finding Marina, Royal Botanic Garden, Edinburgh, Aug 3-28; supported by [www.plan-uk.org](http://www.plan-uk.org). Names have been changed to protect the performers

**Load-Date:** August 5, 2006

## *Refugees live under trees as 15,000 Muslims flee Sri Lanka shelling*

Agence France Presse -- English

August 5, 2006 Saturday 8:52 AM GMT

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**Length:** 590 words

**Byline:** Lakruwan Wanniarachchi

**Dateline:** KANTALAI, Sri Lanka, Aug 5 2006

### **Body**

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Families huddled under trees and slept in bullock carts Saturday as accommodation ran out for over 15,000 Muslim men, women and children fleeing Sri Lanka's bloodiest battle in four years.

The first ones to get out of the coastal Muslim town of Muttur were holed up in four schools here where hundreds of Sinhalese were already living as refugees after Tiger rebels cut off their water supplies last month.

"We have no place to go -- that's why we're sleeping here," a Muslim man said as he sheltered under his bullock cart that brought his family as well as neighbours along a 45-kilometre (28 mile) road to this farming town.

More troops and police were seen in the town providing security to the refugees, some of whom used plastic sheets to set up makeshift shelters as the official death toll in 11 days of fighting rose to 326.

Four schools in Kantalai sheltered thousands of people fleeing Muttur.

"We have a list of 14,380 people already on the move," administrative officer H. K. Karunawathi said. "There are many more who have not been registered yet. They belong to Sinhalese, Muslim and Tamil families."

However, the majority are Muslims from Muttur where there have been heavy artillery battles between security forces and Tamil Tiger rebels since Wednesday, she said.

Chief Minister Bertie Prema Dasanayake said arranging cooked food for the refugees was a major challenge and authorities brought in extra supplies.

"We have arranged for cooked meals to be given from this morning," Dasanayake told reporters as he visited refugee centres and the hospital here where some of the wounded and sick were taken.

Muslims in Muttur started leaving in droves after 27 civilians were killed in shelling on Thursday and Friday as troops and the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) battled it out in the fishing area.

Military officials said two ambulances transporting wounded came under attack Friday just outside Muttur. The Muslims complained the Tigers were also holding over 100 Muslim men.

## Refugees live under trees as 15,000 Muslims flee Sri Lanka shelling

"More than 100 innocent youths were detained by the LTTE while they were fleeing to safer places," Sri Lanka Muslim Congress leader Rauf Hakeem said. "We urge LTTE to release them immediately."

Hakeem also accused security forces of staging artillery and mortar bomb attacks that have killed 27 Muslims civilians in Muttur since Thursday.

The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) said they still had no security guarantees from both sides for relief workers to get into Muttur.

"We hear there are still people left in Muttur and surrounding areas, but we don't have a clear picture because we have not been able to get in there," ICRC spokesman Sukumar Rockwood said.

He said ICRC's offices were hit by shelling which prompted them to leave Muttur on Thursday.

International concern has mounted for civilians caught up in the fighting which showed signs of subsiding Saturday, military and local administration officials in Trincomalee said.

Muslims are the second-largest minority in Sri Lanka, accounting for 7.5 percent of the 19.5 million population. Tamils make up 12.5 percent and about 70 percent are Sinhalese.

The fighting is the worst since an Oslo-brokered truce took effect in February 2002.

The government said its military assault was aimed at opening the Maavilaru water canal which was blocked inside rebel-held territory in Trincomalee district, depriving 15,000 families of water.

The Tigers said their action was aimed at mounting pressure on the government to provide a better drinking water system in areas held by them.

**Load-Date:** August 6, 2006

## **Lanka court comes to Tamils rescue**

Hindustan Times

June 8, 2007 Friday 11:36 AM EST

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**Length:** 374 words

**Byline:** Hindustan Times

**Dateline:** NEW DELHI, India

### **Body**

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NEW DELHI, India, June 8 -- A three-man bench of the Sri Lankan Supreme Court on Friday stayed the expulsion of Tamils belonging to the northern and eastern provinces from Colombo, and the bar on their entry into the capital city.

Admitting a Fundamental Rights petition filed by the Centre for Policy Alternatives (CPA) and Paikiasothy Saravanamuttu, the court passed an interim order directing the government not to take any steps to evacuate Tamils from Colombo, to prevent Tamils from entering or staying in any part of Colombo until the final determination on the petition. Further hearing on the petition was posted to June 22.

Following the stay and the adverse remarks made both in parliament and outside, President Mahinda Rajapaksa ordered the police to bring back the expelled Tamils to Colombo. More than 180 persons who had been taken to Vavuniya in the north were being brought back, reports said.

About 400 Tamil men, women and children were hounded out of scores of lodges or budget hotels in Colombo and its suburbs in the early hours of Thursday, put in buses, and driven away to towns in the Tamil-speaking north and east. The police said that Tamils, who were not permanent residents of Colombo, could not come to or stay in Colombo "without any valid reason".

The police justified the action saying that visitors from the north and east had among them LTTE operatives who could be planning terrorist activities in the capital city. The measures followed two claymore mine blasts in the capital and its surroundings recently.

Wanton ethnic discrimination

The petitioners had said that there was ethnic discrimination in the police action as people of a particular community from a particular area were earmarked for discrimination and evacuation, violating the Constitutional right to move about freely and stay or settle in, whether temporarily or permanently, in any part of the country.

Meanwhile, the US embassy issued a statement and said the move by the police violated the Constitution. In its reaction, the LTTE said that what happened in Colombo was "ethnic genocide". The old and the very sick were also among those evicted, it pointed out.

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

## Lanka court comes to Tamils rescue

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**Load-Date:** June 9, 2007

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## **2ND ROUNDUP: Sri Lankan defence secretary escapes bomb attack**

Deutsche Presse-Agentur

December 1, 2006 Friday 10:57 AM EST

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**Section:** POLITICS

**Length:** 681 words

**Dateline:** Colombo

### **Body**

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DPAPOLITICSSriLankaConflicts 2ND ROUNDUP: Sri Lankan defence secretary escapes bomb attack Adds details of bombing, casualties, backgroundColombo  
Sri Lanka's Defence Secretary Gotabaya Rajapaksa escaped an assassination attempt Friday triggered by a suspected Tamil rebel suicide bomber in Colombo.

The blast killed a soldier in the defence secretary's security team along with the suspected suicide bomber and wounded 16 others, police said.

Police said the male suicide bomber packed the explosives inside a three-wheeler taxi and was riding parallel to a convoy of vehicles carrying the defence secretary. Army outriders had attempted to prevent the bomber's vehicle from approaching when the explosion was triggered.

The suicide bomber's headless body was thrown onto to the rear of one of the vehicles. He is yet to be identified.

Police confirmed that the target was Rajapaksa, who is also President Mahinda Rajapaksa's brother.

At least 10 civilian vehicles were also caught in the blast with at least one of them completely burnt out in the fire that erupted after the blast.

The defence secretary's bullet-proof BMW had come to a halt about 3 metres away from where the suicide bomber triggered the explosion. The vehicle was hit by shrapnel but none of it penetrated the auto.

The explosion occurred along Dharmapala road, about 1 kilometre from the president's office cum residence. The president's other official residence and the Presidential Secretariat is located about 3 kilometres away from the scene of the blast.

Seven members of the defence secretary's backup security team were injured in the blast and one of them succumbed to his injuries.

"I am safe, but my security was caught in the blast. I am not sure

## 2ND ROUNDUP: Sri Lankan defence secretary escapes bomb attack

what happened to them," Gotabaya told a radio station.

He immediately rushed to meet President Rajapaksa and they hugged each other, the president's photographer Sudath Silva said. The defence secretary showed his blood splattered shirt to visitors at the President's House, but the blood was that of a security officer injured in the blast.

The defence secretary has taken a hard line towards the rebels of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE). He is a former Colonel who retired from service and thereafter was appointed to the defence secretary's post when his brother won the presidential election in November last year. Military officials said they believe the suicide bomb attack was triggered by the LTTE, which is the only group known to carry out such attacks.

On April 25 a female suicide bomber who infiltrated the army headquarters exploded herself close to army commander Lieutenant General Sarath Fonseka, injuring him seriously. After a lapse of two months the commander returned for duties.

Providing security for government politicians and senior military officials in Colombo has caused major traffic blocks in recent months with roads completely closed down at times.

President Rajapaksa, reacting immediately after the blast, said that Tamil rebels had carried out "such cowardly and brutal attacks earlier, too."

The president's office in a statement said President Rajapaksa "remains unshaken in his resolve to achieve peace in Sri Lanka and is undeterred in his efforts to combat all forms of terrorism and violence."

Many schools and offices closed earlier than scheduled after the blast, while public transport slackened.

Violence has escalated since Rajapaksa was elected to office in November last year. Tamil rebels have carried out a series of attacks against the security forces since then and the security forces have been carrying out retaliatory attacks.

More than 3,200 civilians, security personnel and rebels have been killed during this period.

Norwegian peace brokers have been continuing with their efforts to bring the rebels and the government back to the negotiating table, but without success.

The head of the LTTE, Velupillai Prabhakaran, has said the cease-fire agreement with the government is now "defunct."

However, the rebels have declared that they were still committed to the peace process and the cease-fire.

Dec 01061057 GMT

## Notes

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Adds details of bombing, casualties, background

**Load-Date:** December 2, 2006

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End of Document



## **Lanka plans vote on federalism**

Hindustan Times

March 10, 2005 Thursday 8:16 AM EST

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**Length:** 348 words

**Byline:** Hindustan Times

**Dateline:** NEW DELHI, India

### **Body**

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NEW DELHI, India, March 10 -- THE SRI Lankan President, Chandrika Kumaratunga, has indicated that she is planning to hold a referendum on devolution of power to solve the ethnic conflict in the country.

She told **women** cadres of her Sri Lanka Freedom Party (SLFP) in Colombo on Tuesday that 80 per cent of the people of Sri Lanka were in favour of solving the Sinhala-Tamil conflict through the devolution of power, by changing the present centralized and unitary constitution to a federal one.

"Eighty per cent of the people will agree if a referendum is held," the state owned Daily News quoted her as saying in her speech to mark International Womens' Day.

"I will do it (devolve power), whatever the opposition towards this, if the people want to solve this problem through the devolution of power. I need the strength of the people for it," Kumaratunga said, indicating a plan to hold a referendum on the issue. "Only 51 per cent of votes is needed to get to win a referendum. To do a revolution in society, we cannot get 100 per cent support," she said.

Calling for a "great deal of devolution of power" she said: "I may be killed for taking this decision. But we should do that for the sake of the country."

Referring to the **LTTE**'s fight for a separate Tamil Eelam in the North East of the country, the president said that those who had asked for devolution of power had turned to separatism because "we could not respond to their demands in a justifiable manner."

Ruling out war, the president said that neither the government nor the **LTTE** could win a war. Taking many swipes at her coalition partner, the Sinhala nationalist Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna (JVP), Kumaratunga said that 15 to 20 per cent of the people could not stop a solution of the ethnic problem through the devolution of power.

She pointed out that the "two major" political parties in Sri Lanka, the SLFP and the main opposition party (United National Party), had come to the conclusion that devolution was the answer to the ethnic conflict.

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## Lanka plans vote on federalism

**Load-Date:** March 11, 2005

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End of Document

## **UN seeks more cash for Sri Lankan refugees**

Agence France Presse -- English

May 18, 2007 Friday 1:12 PM GMT

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**Length:** 355 words

**Dateline:** COLOMBO, May 18 2007

### **Body**

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The UN food agency launched an urgent appeal on Friday for more money for thousands of people displaced by fighting between Sri Lankan troops and Tamil Tiger rebels in the island's embattled regions.

Relief workers also raised concerns for the safety of civilians in the eastern district of Batticaloa, where the government on Monday began resettling 140,000 men, women and children.

The World Food Programme (WFP) feeds around 1.15 million Sri Lankans, of whom 400,000 have been internally displaced.

"We need over a million dollars each week to feed these people and we are running out of resources," the agency's regional director Tony Banbury told reporters in Colombo.

International donors have pledged around 50 million dollars of assistance to the WFP.

But the agency made a fresh appeal on Friday to raise another 10.7 million dollars to buy 18,677 tonnes of food for the next six months.

"There is a critical and urgent need for additional contributions to cover costs of feeding the greatly expanded number of persons displaced by the fighting," Banbury said at the end of his four-day visit to the island.

He said Colombo had asked for food assistance for three months to help people move back to their homes in Batticaloa.

The UN agency also called on the government to ensure that people affected by fighting on the island are being returned to their homes voluntarily.

The WFP "is in principle prepared to provide assistance, but on condition people are returned voluntarily," Banbury told reporters.

Aid agencies said earlier this week that more than 100,000 Tamil refugees face unsafe conditions under Colombo's plan to return them to areas scarred by recent fighting between troops and Tiger rebels.

## UN seeks more cash for Sri Lankan refugees

"The humanitarian community fears that the lack of proper planning might put returnees in a situation where safety and dignity are not ensured," a committee of aid agencies including UN bodies, said in a statement.

People have fled towns and villages over the past year as the **Tamil Tigers** and security forces, backed by supersonic jets, have traded artillery and mortar fire, leaving a large number of casualties on both sides.

**Load-Date:** May 19, 2007

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End of Document

## **45 killed in clashes near Sri Lankan port**

The Toronto Star

August 3, 2006 Thursday

Copyright 2006 Toronto Star Newspapers, Ltd.

**Section:** NEWS; Pg. A08

**Length:** 359 words

**Byline:** Krishan Francis, Associated Press

**Dateline:** COLOMBO

### **Body**

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Sri Lankan government troops and Tamil Tiger rebels engaged in heavy fighting around a key northeastern port yesterday with the defence ministry claiming its forces killed 40 insurgents and wounded 70 others. Five government soldiers were reported killed.

The ministry's casualty claim could not be independently confirmed, but if true would raise the death toll in recent days to 128 on both sides as rising violence has many fearful the island nation is plunging back into full-scale war. There was no immediate comment from the rebels, who have accused the government of starting the latest round of fighting.

A two-decade civil war killed about 65,000 people before a 2002 ceasefire that left wide swaths of the north and east under rebel control. Escalating violence since December has shredded the truce and killed more than 850 people, half of them civilians.

The government said its troops repulsed rebel attacks around Trincomalee and disputed reports rebels overran four army camps near the city.

Trincomalee's port is an important lifeline for thousands of soldiers based in the northeast, where the Tamil Tigers want to carve out a separate homeland for the country's 3.2 million Tamils to escape discrimination by the Sinhalese majority.

The defence ministry said government troops inflicted "heavy casualties, killing over 40 Tiger cadres and wounding 70 other terrorists." The statement said the insurgents retreated, leaving bodies behind.

The army's director of operations, Brig. Athula Jayawardena, denied rebels overran army camps. "They attacked three of our camps. Fighting is still going on. But we are 100 per cent stable," he said.

A pro-rebel website, TamilNet, said fighting began about 2 a.m. yesterday with a rebel artillery barrage on army and police posts. Rebel fighters "have overrun four key locations in Trincomalee district after fierce artillery shelling," TamilNet said.

It also said an 8-year-old boy was killed and three women were hurt when artillery fire hit a Catholic church in Muttur, near Trincomalee. The report did not say which side fired into the church, where more than 600 people had taken shelter during the battle.

45 killed in clashes near Sri Lankan port

**Load-Date:** August 3, 2006

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End of Document

## *India keeps close watch on Sri Lanka, coastline on high alert*

Deutsche Presse-Agentur

April 27, 2006 Thursday 12:31 PM EST

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**Section:** POLITICS

**Length:** 409 words

**Dateline:** New Delhi

### **Body**

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Indian officials in New Delhi discussed the developing situation in neighbouring Sri Lanka Thursday while the 1000-kilometre coastline along the island neighbour was placed on high alert.

Prime Minister Manmohan Singh, who returned Thursday from a five-day trip to Germany and Uzbekistan, was briefed on the situation,

sources in his office said.

In its initial response to Tuesday's suicide attack inside Sri Lanka's army headquarters in Colombo, India had expressed "shock" and voiced its support for the people and government of the island nation.

Eleven people were killed and the Sri Lankan army chief Sanath

Foneska seriously injured in the attack by a female suicide bomber.

"We condemn it (the attack) in the strongest possible terms,"

India's Defence Minister Pranab Mukherjee told Sri Lankan President Mahinda Rajapakse by telephone late Tuesday.

Mukherjee also reiterated India's position that violence was unacceptable as a political tool and that only negotiations could lead to a resolution of the ethnic conflict in Sri Lanka.

Meanwhile, the prime minister has been discussing with his advisors diplomatic options to prevent an escalation of violence and a breakdown of the four-year ceasefire agreement between the Sri Lankan government and the rebel Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam

(LTTE).

The LTTE has said it was not responsible for Tuesday's suicide bombing in Colombo.

The Sri Lankan government responded to the suicide attack with air strikes on rebel-controlled areas. Reports from Sri Lanka said thousands had fled the north-eastern areas targeted in the air strikes, raising India's fears of a refugee influx.

India, through informal channels, has reportedly advised Rajapakse to exercise restraint in order to control any possible escalation of violence.

Indian officials are also in touch with Norwegian negotiators mediating in the Sri Lankan peace process.

Meanwhile, the Indian coast guard has been asked to step up

## India keeps close watch on Sri Lanka , coastline on high alert

patrols along the narrow sea channel dividing India's southern Tamil Nadu state and Sri Lanka's northern region, IANS news agency reported from the southern city of Madras.

Navy helicopters are also keeping a watch for any possible movement of refugees.

Fishermen in the coastal areas have been asked to report any refugee movement, a coast guard official said. Police in Tamil Nadu are also reported to be checking all vehicles on the state's southern highways.

**Load-Date:** April 28, 2006

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End of Document



## *European cease-fire monitors accuse Tamil Tiger rebels of violating Sri Lanka truce*

AP Worldstream

September 13, 2005 Tuesday

Copyright 2005 Associated Press

**Section:** INTERNATIONAL NEWS

**Length:** 345 words

**Dateline:** COLOMBO, Sri Lanka

### **Body**

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European cease-fire monitors on Tuesday accused Tamil Tiger rebels of violating Sri Lanka's fragile truce by detaining three policemen and refusing them access to the men.

"This is a very serious matter," said Helen Olafsdottir, a spokeswoman for the team monitoring the cease-fire agreement between government forces and the guerrillas.

Two ***female*** and three male police officers, two Catholic priests and a civilian were detained by the Tigers on Friday, after they ventured into rebel-controlled territory in Mannar. All but the three police officers have been released.

Mannar - about 220 kilometers (135 miles) north of Colombo - is a government-held town but the rebels have pockets of control.

The group of eight - attached to Sri Lanka's child protection authority - said they were tracking a pedophile allegedly hiding out in rebel territory when they were detained by the rebels.

"The policemen should have never been detained. These people were unarmed and chasing an internationally wanted criminal," Olafsdottir said. "It's a violation of the cease-fire and adds to the deadlock the two parties are already in."

She said the monitors had demanded the immediate release of the detainees. The rebels refused and have also denied access to the men, pending their trial before a rebel court on Sept. 27. They will be tried for entering rebel-held territory without permission.

The Tigers run their own administration in areas under their control in the Tamil-majority north and east.

Olafsdottir said monitors will continue to push for the men's release.

Sri Lanka's three-year truce has been under increasing strain in recent months amid escalating violence in the island's northeast and a deadlock in peace talks.

The ***Tamil Tigers*** began fighting in 1983 for a separate homeland for minority ethnic Tamils in the country's north and east, claiming discrimination by the majority Sinhalese. The conflict killed nearly 65,000 people before the February 2002 Norwegian-brokered cease-fire.

European cease-fire monitors accuse Tamil Tiger rebels of violating Sri Lanka truce

Subsequent peace talks have been stalled since 2003 over rebel demands for wide autonomy.

**Load-Date:** September 14, 2005

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End of Document

## **Sri Lanka army says 23 rebels killed**

UPI

April 3, 2007 Tuesday 9:17 AM EST

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**Length:** 132 words

**Dateline:** COLOMBO, Sri Lanka, April 3

### **Body**

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The Sri Lankan army said Tuesday it had killed 23 **Tamil Tigers** and captured four rebel bases in fighting in eastern parts of the country.

The latest fighting flared in the district of Batticaloa but violence has been escalating in much of the Indian Ocean island state as the rebels continue their effort to establish a separate homeland for the Tamil-speaking minority.

"There are 23 confirmed **LTTE (Tamil Tigers)** dead," military spokesman Brig. Prasad Samarasinghe told the BBC. "We have captured four bases without confrontation."

Hours earlier, a bomb attack in a civilian bus in the district of Ampara further south killed 16 people, mostly **women** and children, the BBC said. Although the army blamed them for the attack, the Tigers have denied responsibility for the attack, the report said.

**Load-Date:** April 3, 2007

**Canada has become overrun with Tigers: Federal Liberals tried to woo Sri Lankans by refusing to declare the group as terrorist**

The Gazette (Montreal)

August 30, 2006 Wednesday

Final Edition

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**Section:** EDITORIAL / OP-ED; Pg. A19

**Length:** 836 words

**Byline:** MARTIN COLLACOTT, Ottawa Citizen

## **Body**

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Following the arrest of a number of Canadians of Sri Lankan Tamil origin on charges of trying to procure arms for the ***Tamil Tigers***, it should come as no surprise that the FBI has identified Canada as a major source of illegal fundraising for the terrorist group.

The Tigers have been able to achieve this for two reasons. First, the federal Liberal government, in an effort to bolster support in the Tamil community, refused to classify the Tigers as a terrorist group despite several recommendations from CSIS to do so.

This gave the Tigers the freedom to intimidate and extort money from the same Tamil community whose support the Liberals sought.

The government's inaction was particularly difficult to justify given that the Tigers are one of the most vicious terrorist movements in the world. In Sri Lanka they used children as young as 11 as soldiers and suicide bombers. In Canada they have been involved in a wide range of criminal activities including murder, arson, home invasions, drug trafficking, and bank and credit-card fraud.

While the Conservatives acted quickly after taking office to designate them as terrorists, the fact that recently arrested Tiger representatives from Canada allegedly were able to offer \$1 million for a shipment of arms indicates that they still have a substantial war chest at their disposal.

The second reason that the Tigers have been able to establish a major presence in Canada is the ease with which they have brought in large numbers of supporters through our dysfunctional refugee determination system.

While the system has been exploited in recent years by many thousands of individuals who would not have been regarded as legitimate refugees in other countries, the Tigers have been particularly adept at using it to build up a terror support network.

Other countries consider relatively few Sri Lankan Tamil claimants to be genuine refugees. In contrast, Canada has been exceptionally generous. In 2003, for example, our approval rate for such claimants was 76.3 per cent, while other nations on average accepted only 15.8 per cent.

Canada has become overrun with Tigers: Federal Liberals tried to woo Sri Lankans by refusing to declare the group as terrorist

As a consequence, in that year we took in one and a half times as many as the rest of the world combined. From 1989 to 2004 we approved claims from more than 37,000 Sri Lankans, far more than from nationals of any other country.

A further indication of the fact that a high percentage of those we accepted were not genuine refugees was that large numbers went back to visit Sri Lanka while their applications were still pending. Although their claims for asylum were based on the argument that they fled persecution in that country - in many cases out of fear for their lives - in one year alone more than 8,600 applied to the Sri Lankan High Commission in Ottawa for travel documents so they could make visits to their homeland.

While the Tigers ran human smuggling operations to raise funds for their terrorist cause by bringing people illegally into Canada, such activities were also aimed at strengthening the ranks of their supporters in this country. The Immigration and Refugee Board helped out by giving expedited processing and almost automatic approval to people considered to be at risk, including "young Tamil males aged 10 to 40 or 45 years from the north and east" of Sri Lanka (i.e., from the areas controlled by the **Tamil Tigers**) and "young unmarried Tamil **females** aged 13 to 30 years old" from the same areas.

As pointed out by former Canadian ambassador and IRB member William Bauer, these two profiles happen to be identical with those of Tamil Tiger guerrillas. (Unmarried **females** are favoured by the Tigers for suicide-bombing missions - one was Indian prime minister Rajiv Gandhi's killer.) By 2000, the Toronto police Tamil Task Force estimated that Canada's largest city was home to as many as 8,000 members of Tamil terrorist factions, most notably the Tigers.

As a result of the combined effects of governments that ignored terrorist connections in favour of gaining political support, and a refugee system that laid out a welcome mat for dubious claimants, Canada is now saddled with tens of thousands of terrorist supporters - particularly if we include all the relatives that successful refugee claimants are subsequently able to sponsor. Besides the damage we have done to ourselves, we have by our actions almost certainly contributed to extending the civil war and terrorist violence in Sri Lanka through funds channelled from Canada.

Although the Conservative government appears determined to crack down on Tamil Tiger activities including fundraising, it will take a major effort to fix the refugee determination system that has made it possible for Tamil terrorists to establish themselves in Canada.

All this is not going to make any easier the task of convincing the United States that we are not a haven for terrorists and that our common border should remain as open as possible to the movement of goods and people.

Martin Collacott lives in Vancouver and is a former Canadian high commissioner to Sri Lanka.

**Load-Date:** August 30, 2006

**Guardian Weekly: International Development: Hope rises in Sri Lanka's east:  
Despite corruption and conflict, fine schools replace those destroyed by the  
tsunami**

Guardian Weekly

June 1, 2007 Friday

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## ***The*GuardianWeekly**

**Section:** Pg. 43

**Length:** 803 words

**Byline:** Sandra Laville

### **Body**

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The derelict shell of Al Hussain school overlooks the sea. On Boxing Day 2004, pupils at their desks were washed away as the tsunami swept Sri Lanka; 58 were killed. Many are buried a few steps away under mounds of sand in a graveyard on the beach. Each grave is marked with a small wooden stake, flying a piece of white cotton, Islam's colour for sorrow.

No one in the town of Sainthamarathu needs a memorial to remember that day; more than 3,500 men, **women** and children were killed here. When aid agencies rushed to Sri Lanka, few chose to tackle the worst-affected eastern Ampara region, where more than 10,000 of the mixed Tamil and Muslim population died.

It is a 10-hour drive from the capital, Colombo, to Ampara, a battleground between the **Tamil Tigers** to the north and the Sri Lankan army to the south. The breakdown of the peace agreement and a resurgence of the fighting meant the security of aid agency staff, supply routes and workers could not be guaranteed. Yet some agencies did come, and there are signs of regeneration. In a country that prides itself on offering free education for all, a new Al Hussain school opened last month with a three-hour ceremony.

The four-storey building, with large classrooms, bright corridors, computer room, science lab and library, stands 400m back from the sea for those children too terrified to contemplate classes near the water. Many are still coping with the trauma of losing family members and seeing friends die. "They have terrible dreams, wet their beds and are unable to concentrate in class," a teacher said. "We take them to the seashore for lessons sometimes, we sit them on the beach and tell them stories, and we keep saying the tsunami will not come again."

The principal, Ahamed Lebbe Mohamed Abdul Nateer, said: " These children are the future for Sri Lanka and now we have a school that will help them find jobs, make the best of themselves and achieve thin gs."

Al Hussain is number 58 of 62 schools with 31,000 pupils in the east of Sri Lanka that have been rebuilt by the aid agency Goal Ireland in 24 months. All were destroyed by the water or severely damaged after housing some of the million displaced people. Each was designed by a Sri Lankan architect and equipped with computers, thanks to the \$10m budget.

Guardian Weekly: International Development: Hope rises in Sri Lanka 's east: Despite corruption and conflict, fine schools replace those destroyed by the tsunam....

No one could have predicted the problems that lay ahead when Goal staff signed up with the ministry for education to take on the project. Contractors who signed fixed-payment contracts demanded higher and higher fees before walking off site; workers downed tools during a sand strike; inflation soared by 20%; suppliers refused to drive to the unstable east; and corruption led to cement being diluted, so that Goal staff had to demolish work and start again. Finally the agency withdrew 12 of the 62 schools from contractors, recruited its own labour force from the locals and completed the buildings itself.

Over the past two months problems have increased. The government jammed all mobile phones to stop the **Tamil Tigers** communicating, causing huge problems for contractors. Military roadblocks have sprung up everywhere and attacks by both sides continue, displacing 300,000 people, many of whom shelter in the schools.

Mark Ford, a former Royal Navy chief petty officer who is coordinator of the Goal schools project in Ampara, watched the ribbons being cut at Al Hussain and said: "You do feel a huge sense of achievement."

At one school John Wain, country director for Goal, winces when he sees cattle calmly chewing their way through the sports field. But against a backdrop of allegations that the billions pledged after the tsunami have been embezzled, pocketed by corrupt officials or have not materialised into aid, the achievement of this school-building programme cannot be overestimated.

"When we came here it was just utter chaos . . ." Mr Wain said. "Just here, half a million people took refuge in the schools still standing. So after the initial relief phase, which took four to five months, the schools were in a very bad state, those still standing.

"The initial pressure was on to get the work done quickly. All the money had been pledged and donors wanted to see it spent. But you have to consult with the ministry, design the schools, carry out surveys, get architects, engineers and surveyors on board, produce tender documents, advertise for interest and tender out the schools. We had to make the packages attractive to make sure contractors would be drawn to the east, where many of them didn't want to travel. It was only after doing all that that we could start the building work."

But it has, Mr Wain insists, been worth it. "To see the kids in their classrooms is the icing on the cake. They have sports and other modern facilities like any child in the West would have. We can leave with a smile on our faces."

**Load-Date:** June 6, 2007

## **Sri Lankan Tamil rebels gun down rival activist**

Xinhua General News Service

August 16, 2004 Monday 3:00 AM EST

Copyright 2004 Xinhua News Agency

**Section:** WORLD NEWS; Political

**Length:** 165 words

**Dateline:** COLOMBO

### **Body**

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Sri Lankan Tamil Tiger rebels were accused of gunning down a rival political party activist in the capital Colombo early Monday.

Police said Kandasamyaiyar Balanadaraja alias Sinnabala was shot dead by suspected pistol gang members of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (**LTTE**) in the southern Colombo area of Pamankada at around 8:30 a.m. (local time) Monday while he was on his way to work.

He had acted as the Tamil media spokesman for the Eelam People's Democratic Party (EPDP) and was an ex-member of the **LTTE**.

The killing followed Friday's gunning down of another EPDP member by the **Tamil Tigers** in the eastern town of Valaichchenai.

EPDP leader Douglas Devananda, who is also a government minister, early July survived an assassination attempt by a **female** suicide squad member of the **LTTE**.

The government, which failed in attempts to revive the stalled peace talks with the **LTTE**, has urged the Tamil Tiger rebels to stop all killings of their opponents.

**Load-Date:** August 17, 2004



## **STATE DEPARTMENT ISSUES CONSULAR INFORMATION SHEET ON SRI LANKA**

US Fed News

May 8, 2006 Monday 9:11 PM EST

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**Length:** 2886 words

**Byline:** US Fed News

**Dateline:** WASHINGTON

### **Body**

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The U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Consular Affairs issued the following Consular Information Sheet:

**COUNTRY DESCRIPTION:** Sri Lanka is a presidential parliamentary democracy with a developing economy. Civil war and terrorism have seriously disrupted the country since 1983. On February 22, 2002, the Government of Sri Lanka (GOSL) and the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (***LTTE***) signed an indefinite cease-fire agreement. Over the past four years, several incidents of violence have increased tensions but the cease-fire has largely held to date. Despite the armed insurgency, Sri Lanka's beaches, hill country, and archeological sites attract thousands of visitors each year from around the world. The capital city of Colombo, the Cultural Triangle (Kandy, Anuradhapura, and Polonnaruwa), and many Southern beach towns all have good tourist facilities.

The Asian Tsunami on December 26, 2004 caused severe damage and loss of life to several coastal areas of eastern, southern and southwestern Sri Lanka. Many affected resorts have completely recovered. Travelers planning to visit Sri Lanka should consult with travel agencies or the Sri Lankan Tourist Board to ensure their itineraries take this recent event into account and plan accordingly. Read the Department of State Background Notes on Sri Lanka for additional information.

**ENTRY/EXIT REQUIREMENTS:** A passport and onward/return ticket and proof of sufficient funds are required. A no-cost visitor visa, valid for 30 days, will be granted to tourists at the time of entry into Sri Lanka. Business travelers are required to have a visa prior to arrival. Visitors staying more than 30 days for any purpose must pay residency visa fees. Travelers need yellow fever and cholera immunizations if they are arriving from an infected area. All travelers departing Sri Lanka (except diplomats and certain exempted travelers) must pay an airport tax, in cash. Sri Lankan law requires all persons, including foreigners, who are guests in private households to register in person at the nearest local police station.

Individuals who stay in private households without registering may be temporarily detained for questioning. This requirement does not apply to individuals staying in hotels or guesthouses.

Specific inquiries should be addressed to the Embassy of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka, 2148 Wyoming Avenue, NW, Washington, D.C. 20008, telephone (202) 483-4025 through 26, fax numbers (202) 232-7181, e-mail address: [consular@slembassyusa.org](mailto:consular@slembassyusa.org), home page: <http://www.slembassy.org>, the Sri Lankan Consulate General in Los Angeles at 3250 Wilshire Blvd., Suite 1405, Los Angeles, CA 90010, telephone (213) 387-0210, or the U.N. Mission in New York City, telephone (212) 986-7040. There are several honorary Sri Lankan

## STATE DEPARTMENT ISSUES CONSULAR INFORMATION SHEET ON SRI LANKA

consuls general and consuls in the United States. They can be located at the Sri Lankan Embassy web site. See our Foreign Entry Requirements brochure for more information on Sri Lanka and other countries. Visit the Embassy of Sri Lanka web site at <http://www.slembassyusa.org> for the most current visa information.

Find more information about Entry and Exit Requirements pertaining to dual nationality and the prevention of international child abduction. Please refer to our Customs Information to learn more about customs regulations.

**SAFETY AND SECURITY:** Since 1997, the State Department has included the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (**LTTE**) on its list of foreign terrorist organizations. Terrorist activities in the capital city of Colombo and other areas of the country remain a serious threat. The **LTTE** and the Sri Lankan government have not engaged in large-scale combat since the signing of the ceasefire; however, smaller-scale violence occurs periodically, and the **LTTE** have assassinated Sri Lankans that oppose their aims. On April 25, 2006, a **female** suicide bomber attacked the vehicle of the commander of the Sri Lankan army at army headquarters in Colombo. Several military personnel were killed and a number of people were injured in the blast. This attack was the most deadly attack in Colombo since the ceasefire was signed in February 2002. On August 12, 2005, Foreign Minister Lakshman Kadirgamar was assassinated at his residence in Colombo. On July 7, 2004, a suicide bomber detonated in a police station in Colombo, killing herself, 4 policemen and critically injuring 11 people. In 2001, the **LTTE** attacked the Colombo International Airport and destroyed both commercial and military aircraft. Several military personnel were killed, military and airport employees were injured, and civilians were caught in the crossfire. In 2003, the **LTTE** also attacked several foreign commercial ships in the waters off the north and east coasts of Sri Lanka.

Throughout their history, the **LTTE** have attempted and carried out numerous political assassinations. They have also carried out many suicide bombings at political rallies, government buildings and major economic targets. In addition to using individual suicide bombers, the **LTTE** have employed vehicle-mounted bombs. In the past they have detonated bombs near major hotels, a tourist site in Kandy, and have targeted buses and trains. With the exception of one incident in 2004, there have been no suicide bombings since the ceasefire went into effect in 2003.

Although U.S. citizens have not been specifically targeted, **LTTE** operations have been planned and executed with the knowledge that Americans and other foreigners might be killed or injured. American citizens traveling or residing in Sri Lanka may be inadvertently caught up in random acts of violence. Travel in restricted areas is dangerous. In April 2001, grenade fragments seriously injured an American citizen when she was caught in a skirmish between government and insurgent forces in the eastern part of the country.

American citizens should be alert to outbreaks of communal violence, such as that which occurred in April 2003 when two hand grenades were detonated in tourist hotels in Arugambay, killing or injuring three tourists. In October 2002, riots between Muslim and Sinhala factions in the Greater Colombo area precipitated short-term curfews. In May 2001 a disturbance between Buddhist and Muslim communities near Kandy reportedly resulted in one death during a police shootout and extensive property damage.

Americans are advised to avoid political rallies and other mass gatherings, limit exposure to government and military installations and avoid public transportation if possible. Non-Sri Lankan citizens of Tamil heritage have occasionally been detained during security operations. U.S. citizens of any ethnic heritage are encouraged to keep their passports with them at all times. In the event of a terrorist attack, Americans should monitor local radio and television, seek cover away from windows and return to their homes or hotels when it is safe to do so. The Government has periodically imposed curfews in Colombo; Americans should strictly observe curfew regulations and monitor local radio and television.

American citizens are advised not to travel north of a line from Puttalam on the west coast through Anuradhapura in the central north and Nilaveli (just north of Trincomalee) in the east. Areas north of this line contain many land mines, making travel off paved roads very dangerous. Americans are also recommended against travel to the city of Jaffna in the North. In addition, the Government of Sri Lanka does not exercise effective control of the civil administration in many sections of the north, where the **LTTE** operate openly. On April 18, 2006, the U.S. Embassy in Sri Lanka urged all American citizens to avoid travel to any location in the Jaffna Peninsula or the Trincomalee

## STATE DEPARTMENT ISSUES CONSULAR INFORMATION SHEET ON SRI LANKA

area and urged Americans in these parts to give serious consideration to departing. Furthermore, Americans are advised to consider their personal security foremost before traveling or working in the area of Batticaloa in the East. Official travel by U.S. Government personnel to this area is restricted, and their unofficial travel is prohibited. Travel in the east in the area south of the Anuradhapura-Nilaveli line (including Trincomalee, Batticaloa and points south) poses significant safety risks.

In addition, roads in these areas are often substandard, and police, medical and other emergency help is severely limited or not available. Communications within the eastern areas are also limited, with no cell phone accessibility and very limited landline telephone access. Because of these factors, the U.S. Embassy may not be able to provide consular services in a timely manner to American citizens who travel to the north and east.

For the latest security information, Americans traveling abroad should regularly monitor the Department's Internet web site at where the current Travel Warnings and Public Announcements, including the Worldwide Caution Public Announcement, can be found.

Up-to-date information on safety and security can also be obtained by calling 1-888-407-4747 toll free in the U.S., or for callers outside the U.S. and Canada, a regular toll-line at 1-202-501-4444. These numbers are available from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Eastern Time, Monday through Friday (except U.S. federal holidays).

The Department of State urges American citizens to take responsibility for their own personal security while traveling overseas. For general information about appropriate measures travelers can take to protect themselves in an overseas environment, see the Department of State's pamphlet A Safe Trip Abroad.

**CRIME:** Sri Lanka has a rising crime rate, and criminal incidents may well rise in many of the areas affected by the tsunami. Violent crime is increasing, and there have been reports of police inaction in certain cases. In February 2002, a British couple was kidnapped and robbed near the Polonnaruwa ruins. In recent years, the Embassy has received reports of violent criminal incidents, including attempted sexual assault, in the towns of Negombo, Hikkaduwa and Dambulla. American citizens should exercise caution, especially at night. Children should not be left unattended, even on hotel/resort premises. In Colombo, women in particular should avoid traveling at night in the small, three-wheeled motorized taxis, or "three-wheelers," due to a risk of assault.

Petty street crime such as purse snatching and pick-pocketing does occur, especially on crowded local public transportation, at bus or train stations, and in public markets. Travelers should keep money or jewelry, when not in immediate use, in hotel safe deposit boxes. Cases of credit card fraud have been reported and travelers are encouraged to either pay with cash or to watch when a merchant "swipes" the card during a transaction to ensure it is not swiped more than once.

**INFORMATION FOR VICTIMS OF CRIME:** The loss or theft abroad of a U.S. passport should be reported immediately to the local police and the nearest U.S. Embassy or Consulate. If you are the victim of a crime while overseas, in addition to reporting to local police, please contact the nearest U.S. Embassy or Consulate for assistance. The Embassy/Consulate staff can, for example, assist you to find appropriate medical care, contact family members or friends and explain how funds could be transferred. Although the investigation and prosecution of the crime is solely the responsibility of local authorities, consular officers can help you to understand the local criminal justice process and to find an attorney if needed.

See our information on Victims of Crime:  
[http://www.travel.state.gov/travel/tips/emergencies/emergencies\\_1748.html](http://www.travel.state.gov/travel/tips/emergencies/emergencies_1748.html).

**MEDICAL FACILITIES AND HEALTH INFORMATION:** Medical facilities outside Colombo are limited. The U.S. Embassy maintains a list of private physicians who may be consulted. Medical supplies are uneven; travelers should carry any special medications with them. There are six large hospitals in the Colombo area, including three with emergency trauma service-Asiri Hospital, Apollo Hospital, and the government General Hospital. Serious medical problems may require evacuation to the United States or to the nearest country where adequate medical facilities or treatment is available, usually Thailand or Singapore. Neither Thailand nor Singapore requires American citizens to have an entry visa.

## STATE DEPARTMENT ISSUES CONSULAR INFORMATION SHEET ON SRI LANKA

Information on vaccinations and other health precautions, such as safe food and water precautions and insect bite protection, may be obtained from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's hotline for international travelers at 1-877-FYI-TRIP (1-877-394-8747); fax 1-888-CDC-FAXX (1-888-232-3299), or via the CDC's Internet site at <http://www.cdc.gov/travel>. For information about outbreaks of infectious diseases abroad consult the World Health Organization's (WHO) website at <http://www.who.int/en>. Further health information for travelers is available at <http://www.who.int/ith>.

**MEDICAL INSURANCE:** The Department of State strongly urges Americans to consult with their medical insurance company prior to traveling abroad to confirm whether their policy applies overseas and whether it will cover emergency expenses such as a medical evacuation. Please see our information on medical insurance overseas: [http://www.travel.state.gov/travel/cis\\_pa\\_tw/cis/cis\\_1470.html](http://www.travel.state.gov/travel/cis_pa_tw/cis/cis_1470.html).

**TRAFFIC SAFETY AND ROAD CONDITIONS:** While in a foreign country, U.S. citizens may encounter road conditions that differ significantly from those in the United States. The information below concerning Sri Lanka is provided for general reference only, and may not be totally accurate in a particular location or circumstance.

Vehicular traffic moves on the left (British style). Traffic in Colombo is very congested. Narrow, two-lane highways, dangerously-driven buses, overloaded trucks and the variety of conveyances on the road, ranging from ox carts, elephants and bicycles to new four-wheel drive jeeps, make driving a challenge and dangerous. Many visitors hire cars and drivers for long trips through the country. Individuals choosing to hire three-wheeled vehicles should negotiate prices beforehand to avoid confrontations. Please refer to our Road Safety page for more information: [http://www.travel.state.gov/travel/tips/safety/safety\\_1179.html](http://www.travel.state.gov/travel/tips/safety/safety_1179.html). Visit the website of Sri Lanka's national tourist office and national authority responsible for road safety at <http://www.lanka.net>.

**AVIATION SAFETY OVERSIGHT:** As there is no direct commercial air service between the United States and Sri Lanka, the U.S. Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) has not assessed Sri Lanka's Civil Aviation Authority for compliance with ICAO international aviation safety standards. For more information, travelers may visit the FAA's Internet web site at [http://www.faa.gov/safety/programs\\_initiatives/oversight/iasa/](http://www.faa.gov/safety/programs_initiatives/oversight/iasa/).

**SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES:** Sri Lanka recognizes dual nationality in some cases. For further information, please contact the Sri Lankan Embassy in Washington, D.C., the Consulate General in Los Angeles, or the U.N. Mission in New York City.

Please see our information on customs regulations: [http://www.travel.state.gov/travel/cis\\_pa\\_tw/cis/cis\\_1468.html](http://www.travel.state.gov/travel/cis_pa_tw/cis/cis_1468.html).

**CRIMINAL PENALTIES:** While in a foreign country, a U.S. citizen is subject to that country's laws and regulations, which sometimes differ significantly from those in the United States and may not afford the protections available to the individual under U.S. law. Penalties for breaking the law can be more severe than in the United States for similar offenses. Persons violating Sri Lanka's laws, even unknowingly, may be expelled, arrested or imprisoned. Penalties for possession, use, or trafficking in illegal drugs in Sri Lanka are severe, and convicted offenders can expect long jail sentences and heavy fines. Engaging in sexual conduct with children or using or disseminating child pornography in a foreign country is a crime, prosecutable in the United States. Please see our information on Criminal Penalties: [http://travel.state.gov/travel/cis\\_pa\\_tw/cis/cis\\_1467.html](http://travel.state.gov/travel/cis_pa_tw/cis/cis_1467.html).

**CHILDREN'S ISSUES:** For information on international adoption of children and international parental child abduction, see the Office of Children's Issues website.

**REGISTRATION / EMBASSY LOCATION:** Americans living or traveling in Sri Lanka are encouraged to register with the U.S. Embassy through the State Department's travel registration website and to obtain updated information on travel and security within Sri Lanka. Americans without Internet access may register directly with the U.S. Embassy in Colombo. By registering, American citizens make it easier for the Embassy to contact them in case of emergency. The U.S. Embassy is located at 210 Galle Road, Colombo 3, Sri Lanka. The Embassy's telephone number during normal business hours Monday through Friday is (94) (11) 244 8007. The after-hours and emergency telephone number is (94) (11) 244-8601. The Consular Section fax number is (94)-(11)-243-6943. The

## STATE DEPARTMENT ISSUES CONSULAR INFORMATION SHEET ON SRI LANKA

Embassy's Internet address is <http://usembassy.state.gov/srilanka>. The Consular Section has a specific email dedicated to American citizen services at [ColomboACS@state.gov](mailto:ColomboACS@state.gov). The general email address for the consular section is [consularcolombo@state.gov](mailto:consularcolombo@state.gov). The Embassy in Colombo also covers the Republic of Maldives.

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

**Load-Date:** May 11, 2006

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End of Document

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

Xinhua General News Service

December 16, 2004 Thursday 12:30 PM EST

Copyright 2004 Xinhua News Agency

**Section:** WORLD NEWS

**Length:** 392 words

**Dateline:** HONG KONG

**Body**

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

Hong Kong shares close higher -- Dec. 15

Over 1,100 HK people approved to open up stores in Guangdong

Feature: "Song of Seven Sons" accompanies my growth

by Zhan Jiefeng

Air China debuts on HK stock market

Singapore's retail sales index rises in October

Australian stock market closes higher

US army confirms death of eight Afghan detainees

Xinhua summary of Asia-Pacific stocks news at 1100 GMT, Dec. 15

Village headman shot dead in southern Thailand

Pakistan for broadening SAARC terms of reference

Thai armed forces beef up border security

Pakistan stocks breach key 5,800-point level

Wastewater recycling plan under study in HK

US, Malaysia to jointly fight piracy: US diplomat

Polling woes had no effect on electoral integrity: official

EU ready to support Nepal's peace process

Hang Seng China Enterprises Index higher -- Dec. 15

News items from Asia-Pacific Desk of Xinhua

Gold price lower in Hong Kong -- Dec. 15

Weather information for Asia-Pacific cities -- Dec. 15

Tokyo high court rejects damages suit by Chinese women

Australia warns against possible terror attack in Indonesia

Pakistan, India to define maritime boundary

Jordan's King, Singapore PM hold talk

Indonesian police allege poisoning attempt against vice president

Cook Islands parliament elects new prime minister

Japan, Bulgaria agree on helping to rebuild Iraq

11 anti-gov't guerrillas killed in Nepal

HK strengthens anti-mosquito efforts

Philippine gov't urged to step up anti-human trafficking efforts

Indonesia needs more fund for power infrastructure

Indonesia needs more fund for power projects: officials

HK attends international stroke-prevention treatment studies

Pakistan, India describe nuclear talks 'constructive'

HK releases fourth report on constitutional development

Civil defense volunteer killed in southern Thailand

Asia-Pacific agricultural engineering, machinery conference opens in Vietnam

HK major banks to maintain prime rate level US interest rates hike

Norway envoy meets with Tamil Tigers

Pakistan wants peaceful resolution of all disputes with India: Musharraf

News items from Asia-Pacific Desk of Xinhua (Part 2)

SAARC members adopt plan of action to enhance cooperation

**Load-Date:** December 16, 2004

## **SRI LANKA: SUICIDE BOMBER KILLS FIVE IN COLOMBO**

ANSA English Media Service

July 7, 2004

© copyright 2004 ANSA

**Section:** NEWSWIRE

**Length:** 335 words

**Dateline:** NEW DELHI

### **Body**

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(ANSA) - NEW DELHI, July 7 - Five people were killed and thirteen were injured Wednesday in Sri Lanka after a Tamil Tiger

**female** suicide bomber blew herself up in front of a police station in the centre of Colombo near governmental buildings and the U.S. embassy.

According to the initial reconstruction the suicide bomber who wore a belt loaded with explosives, was stopped by police for a check as she was trying to reach the centre of the capital where most of the ministries are situated. She managed to activate the detonator just before the police could intervene. The explosion was devastating and destroyed a vast area in the centre of Colombo. There were no foreign citizens among the victims.

Investigators said that the woman could have had two possible targets, the Ministry of Hindu Affairs, which is responsible for the Tamil minority, or the office of the Tamil Affairs Minister Douglas Devananda a member of the minority Tamil community which is predominantly Hindu but opposes the Tigers whose three-decade armed campaign for a separate Tamil homeland has claimed more than 60,000 lives.

The Tamil guerrillas have not yet claimed responsibility for the attack, but the Sri Lankan authorities believe that the group was behind the suicide bombing.

The truce signed about 18 months ago, with the mediation of Norway, had become more fragile recently. Two days ago, on the occasion of the 17th anniversary of the first suicide attack by

the **Tamil Tigers**, the guerrillas threatened to carry out new



## SRI LANKA : SUICIDE BOMBER KILLS FIVE IN COLOMBO

attacks, and accused the government of disregarding their rights.

The Black tigers are a group of women and men pioneers in the art of suicide attacks, they have carried out 240 suicide attacks since 1987. They wear poison capsules on necklaces, ready to die in case they are captured. Their identities are kept secret. Before each suicide mission, the chosen guerrilla has a last dinner with the mysterious and uncatchable head of the group, Velupillai Prabakharan. (ANSA).  
(MD/krc)

**Load-Date:** July 7, 2004

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End of Document

## **INDIA: SONIA GHANDI MARKS HUSBAND'S DEATH ANNIVERSARY**

ANSA English Media Service

May 21, 2004

© copyright 2004 ANSA

**Section:** NEWSWIRE

**Length:** 332 words

**Dateline:** NEW DELHI

### **Body**

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(ANSA) - NEW DELHI, May 21 - Italian-born Sonia Gandhi, who refused to become Indian prime minister on Tuesday, marked on Friday the 13th anniversary of the death of her husband Rajiv Gandhi, assassinated during an election tour by a supporter of

Sri Lanka's **Tamil Tigers** on May 21 1991.

The death of India's then premier, killed by a **female** suicide bomber, deeply grieved and shocked his family, India and the whole international community.

The country marks the anniversary of Rajiv Gandhi's death as a day dedicated to the fight against terrorism.

Early on Friday Sonia, her daughter Priyanka and her son Rahul, brought flowers to Rajiv Gandhi's monument in the centre of New Delhi.

Rajiv's mother, prime minister Indira Gandhi, the dominant figure in Indian politics for over two decades, was assassinated by Sikh separatists on October 31, 1984. The assassins were two members of her own bodyguard who riddled her body with gunfire as she walked from her home to her office.

It is therefore, no coincidence that Sonia wanted 71-year-old political veteran and economic reformer Manmohan Singh, a Sikh, to assume the premiership in her place, finally reconciling the Gandhi family with the tiny Sikh community.

Singh is the first member of this religious minority to become premier of the world's largest democracy, home to over one billion people.

## INDIA : SONIA GHANDI MARKS HUSBAND'S DEATH ANNIVERSARY

Over the past week, Sonia Ghandi's picture has dominated the front pages of almost all Indian newspapers, following the election victory of her Congress Party and then her surprising refusal to lead the nation.

The press labelled Sonia's decision honest, courageous, noble and "very Indian." Today, papers focused on the nation's fight against terrorism, which had claimed the life of Ghandi's husband Rajiv.

Rajiv Ghandi's domestic policy was based on tolerance, non-violence and mass education, papers wrote. It is exactly because of this that he fell victim to the first suicide bomber in history. (ANSA). (BZ/krc)

**Load-Date:** May 24, 2004

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## **Tamil rebels deny responsibility for suicide bombing in Sri Lankan capital**

Associated Press International

July 8, 2004 Thursday

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**Section:** INTERNATIONAL NEWS

**Length:** 331 words

**Byline:** SHIMALI SENANAYAKE; Associated Press Writer

**Dateline:** COLOMBO, Sri Lanka

### **Body**

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The Tamil Tiger rebels on Thursday denied any involvement in a suicide bombing in the Sri Lankan capital a day earlier that killed the female bomber and four police officers.

The Tiger movement "condemns this attempted assassination," rebel political chief S.P. Thamilselvan told The Associated Press in the group's first formal comment on the incident.

"We deny any involvement in the bombing," he said by telephone from the northern rebel stronghold of Kilinochchi.

The woman blew herself up Wednesday while being frisked at a police station, killing herself and four officers and wounding 10 other people, in what appeared to be a failed attempt to assassinate a local politician who is opposed to the rebels.

"It may have been conducted by some anti-peace elements," Thamilselvan said, without elaborating.

The bombing was the first such attack in the Sri Lankan capital since the rebels signed a cease-fire agreement two years ago. The cease-fire has held firm despite a breakdown in peace talks in April 2003.

However, tension has mounted between the military and the Tigers since a March split in the rebel movement. The mainstream rebels accuse the military of helping a renegade leader.

The Sri Lankan government condemned Wednesday's bombing but did not blame the Tamil Tigers.

A spokeswoman for European truce monitors, Disa Finnboga, said the bombing was "a very serious incident" but that "It's too early to say if it will affect the cease-fire until further investigations are conducted."

The Tigers have been blamed for many such attacks since 1987, when they began using suicide bombings as part of their violent campaign for a separate homeland.

Numerous politicians were killed in dozens of suicide attacks over the years, including Sri Lankan President Ranasinghe Premadasa in 1993 and former Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi in 1991.

The Tigers began fighting for a separate Tamil homeland in the north and northeast in 1983, accusing the majority Sinhalese of discrimination.

Tamil rebels deny responsibility for suicide bombing in Sri Lankan capital

**Load-Date:** July 9, 2004

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## **Court orders Sri Lankan released after years in border jail**

The Associated Press State & Local Wire

March 20, 2006 Monday 8:07 AM GMT

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**Section:** STATE AND REGIONAL

**Length:** 857 words

**Byline:** By PETER PRENGAMAN, Associated Press Writer

**Dateline:** SAN DIEGO

### **Body**

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After more than four years in jail, Ahilan Nadarajah will soon gain the freedom he sought when he fled Sri Lankan government forces that he said pistol-whipped him, forced his head into a plastic bag with gasoline and left him hanging upside down for hours.

Since arriving in the United States in October 2001, Nadarajah has been detained on the same accusations that almost got him killed in Sri Lanka. He was suspected of being a member of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam, a separatist group listed as a terrorist organization by the U.S. State Department.

Nadarajah has repeatedly denied the claims and been exonerated by immigration judges who twice granted him asylum. Still, the government refused to release him, and he appealed to the San Francisco-based 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals.

On Friday, that court ordered Nadarajah's release, saying the government was violating federal law by holding him even though he wasn't criminally charged and couldn't be deported in the foreseeable future.

Nadarajah was expected to be set free in the next several days, his lawyers said.

"I lost my time and my life, and I almost lost my mind, too," Nadarajah said Friday in a phone interview from the Otay Mesa detention center, located at the U.S.-Mexico border south of San Diego. "It's not fair. They put me in jail without reason."

U.S. Justice Department spokeswoman Cynthia Magnuson said the decision was being reviewed but declined further comment. It wasn't immediately clear whether the government would appeal the court's decision.

In Friday's ruling, the court relied on a 2001 Supreme Court decision that immigrants must be freed if their deportation is "no longer reasonably foreseeable," a period interpreted by many legal experts to be about six months.

In a tersely worded 37-page decision, Judge Sidney R. Thomas said Nadarajah's detention is "unreasonable, unjustified and in violation of federal law." The decision went on to call the government's reading of a past decision, which it claimed allowed for prolonged detention, as "patently absurd."

## Court orders Sri Lankan released after years in border jail

Nadarajah's attorney described the case as one of the Bush administration's repeated violations of immigration law in the name of national security.

"He should have been out a long time ago," said Ahilan Arulanantham, a lawyer with the American Civil Liberties Union. "The government got it completely wrong about whether he was a terrorist, and overreached for detention powers Congress never granted."

Nadarajah, who turns 26 on Wednesday, started having problems in the mid-1990s.

An ethnic Tamil, he worked as a farmer with his family in the Jaffna peninsula in northern Sri Lanka, an island of 20 million off the southern coast of India.

In 1995, the Sri Lankan army bombed the area, forcing the family, including Nadarajah's two brothers and sister, to relocate about 37 miles away. Nadarajah's older brother died during the attack.

When they returned 18 months later, the family's house was being occupied by the army, and Nadarajah was accused of being a member of the **Tamil Tigers**.

Before a 2002 cease-fire, that group had fought for an independent state for Tamils, an ethnic minority in Sri Lanka.

Nadarajah was then beaten and jailed, only getting out when his mother bribed an army commander, the court's ruling said. Over the next couple years, Nadarajah was repeatedly jailed and tortured.

Getting a passport and exit visa from a smuggler, Nadarajah traveled through Thailand, South Africa, Brazil and Mexico before getting picked up on the California border on Oct. 27, 2001.

"That's why I came to the United States, to save my life," Nadarajah said. "If I go back to my country, I'll get tortured again and maybe they will kill me."

When Nadarajah applied for asylum, the government opposed his application on the grounds he was affiliated with the group. Despite the opposition, an immigration judge found Nadarajah's testimony credible and granted him asylum in April 2003.

The government appealed to the Board of Immigration Appeals, which agreed to reopen removal proceedings.

In June and August of 2004, a "special agent" presented the government's case, based on State Department information and interviews with Sri Lankan experts.

The testimony included an informant's claim that Nadarajah and a **female** detainee and **Tamil Tigers** member had made a phone call from the detention facility in May 2003, allegedly ordering that someone in Canada be killed.

Asked how they could have made a call together at a gender-separated facility, the agent answered: "I could only say that's what I wrote. I mean I, I don't know," the ruling said.

Nadarajah's asylum was granted a second time, and his lawyers filed for parole. That was denied by the San Diego Immigration and Customs Enforcement office, and later by the Southern District Court of California.

Nadarajah is eager to be free. He wants to improve his English which he learned in jail after arriving without speaking a word go to college and get some "good food."

"I'm tired of this place," said Nadarajah. "I want to be outside, you know? But this was worth it because it saved my life."

On the Net:

<http://www.ca9.uscourts.gov/>

Court orders Sri Lankan released after years in border jail

**Load-Date:** March 22, 2006

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## **Protest against rebel leadership continues in eastern Sri Lanka**

Deutsche Presse-Agentur

March 9, 2004, Tuesday 12013812:01:38 Central European Time

Copyright 2004 Deutsche Presse-Agentur

**Section:** Politics

**Length:** 379 words

**Dateline:** Colombo

### **Body**

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Factions loyal to a deposed regional rebel military leader continued to hold protest campaigns and strikes in parts of eastern Sri Lanka against their leadership Tuesday as efforts by a Catholic bishop to resolve the crisis failed. Supporters of 'Colonel' Karuna turned up in large numbers for protest campaigns in parts of Batticaloa district, 240 kilometres east of the capital on Tuesday as schools, government offices and shops remained closed. Tension had been running high in the eastern part of Sri Lanka after Karuna was sacked from the rebel movement on Saturday and replaced by a loyalist of the rebel leader, Velupillai Prabhakaran. Karuna has refused to give up his rank and on Monday turned up at a celebration to mark the International **Women's** day held in a rebel controlled area in the east. The deposed military wing leader is reported to have strong support from his supporters in the east. The newly appointed commander for the eastern region, Special Commander Ramesh, has not been able to travel from the rebel headquarters in the north to assume duties. Catholic Bishop for Batticaloa, Rev. Kingsly Swamipillai on Monday visited the rebel political wing leader, S.P. Thamilselvan to resolve the crisis within the movement as it could have a serious impact on civilian life in the eastern region. However, the rebels only explained the reasons for the expulsion of Karuna. Among them were claims that he had mismanaged funds of the rebel movement, the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (**LTTE**).

The rebel leadership want Karuna to apologise to them, but a spokesman for Karuna said that he did not want to apologise. Civilians living in the area fear that fighting between the two factions could break out. Currently the rebels are maintaining a truce with the government under an agreement signed with the backing of the Norwegian government. Norway's special envoy, Erik Solheim arrived in Colombo on Monday and is to meet with government representatives on Tuesday where he will be discussing the latest developments in the east. The infighting within the **LTTE** has been described as a setback to the peace process in Sri Lanka aimed at resolving the 20-year-old ethnic conflict which has claimed over 69,000 lives. dpa ad pmc

**Load-Date:** March 9, 2004

## *Foot soldiers of nihilism*

The Weekend Australian

June 26, 2004 Saturday NSW Country Edition

Copyright 2004 Nationwide News Pty Limited

**Section:** REVIEW; Books; Pg. B10

**Length:** 852 words

**Byline:** Peter Coleman

### **Body**

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An attempt to explain the explosion in suicide bombings misses a few points, argues Peter Coleman

My Life as a Weapon: A Modern History of Suicide Bombing

By Christoph Reuter, Princeton University Press, 200pp, \$44.95

WHAT makes young people turn themselves into human bombs? Here at last is a careful investigation of this atrocious epidemic. The author is a German journalist and Orientalist who has spent years in Arab and Muslim countries and speaks many of the key languages. He wants to help put an end to this era of unspeakable crimes.

Poverty and ignorance will not explain these suicides, he says. Some, like the September 11 bombers, are rich and well-educated. Nor is religious fanaticism, especially Islam, always a key. The Tamils are Hindu and the **Tamil Tigers** are secularist. Terrorism alone is not an explanation. The IRA does not practise suicide; neither does the Algerian GIA, which likes slitting throats but not their own. Even sex -- and the 70 black-eyed virgins with heaving breasts who will greet the martyrs in Paradise -- does not quite explain those suicidalists who fear and shun all contact with **women**.

MATP

Reuter has his own theory. It is not as comprehensive as he thinks but it helps. The suicide bombers are motivated, he believes, by their sense of powerlessness. After years of humiliation at the hands of the US, Israel, Turkey or the West in general, they have found a weapon that annihilates the logic of power. No credible threat can be made against someone who has no desire to survive. These martyrs demonstrate that the apparently powerful may also be made powerless.

Add an apocalyptic ideology and heroic myth of sacrificial defeat (as in the great battle of Karbala 1300 years ago) and you have an unstoppable force. As the early Christians found, armies crumble before the faith of the martyrs.

By becoming a human bomb, the young man becomes a hero. He does God's will and enters Paradise. The welfare department of the terrorist network takes care of the funeral, gives his family a few hundred dollars and will look after the children. (Hamas has an annual budget of \$100 million.)

But there is an element that Reuter neglects. Suicide killers are as old as history, but their victims were carefully targeted. The new terrorists kill innocent bystanders, often deliberately and with indifference (as in Bali). Only a sense of evil, however unfashionable that may be, can begin to explain murder on that scale. In his fear of being judgmental, Reuter sometimes tries too hard to understand.

## Foot soldiers of nihilism

He begins his analysis with the Iranian suicide battalions of the Iran-Iraq War in the 1980s. Early in 1984, Iraqi machine-gunners heard what sounded like swarms of locusts approaching from behind the hills. The sound swelled as tens of thousands of mouths roared "Karbala!". It was a human wave attack. But the attackers were children. The Iraqis shot them like rows of empty bottles -- until in the end some of the Iraqis went mad or fled. No one can go on shooting children in their thousands and stay sane.

The suicide weapon soon spread across the world to the Hezbollah in Lebanon, the Tamil Tigers in Sri Lanka, Hamas in Israel, to Turkey, Kashmir, Chechnya -- and al-Qa'ida from Indonesia to the US.

Human bombs are cheap. The only costs are nails, an explosive, a battery, a switch, some chemicals and a strong belt with pockets. The most expensive part is the taxi ride to the target site. Training has also been simplified. Years ago the candidate had to spend two days in a grave next to a corpse to show he was the right stuff. Then he had to learn all about bombs. Today the queue of volunteers is so long that almost all a bomber has to do is wash put on clean clothes and ask God to forgive his sins. When he has strapped on his explosives and put the Koran in his left breast pocket, he is ready -- to kill and to die.

What is to be done? Reuter counsels patience. The West cannot destroy this epidemic by force of arms. The disease must run its course. Take Iran. Twenty years ago it was the homeland of the Islamic Revolution and the inspiration for all suicide bombers. But not today. When al-Qa'ida struck New York, there was popular if silent Schadenfreude in many parts of the Middle East -- but none in Iran, where there were spontaneously organised mass funeral processions.

Iranians have turned against the idea of suicide and indiscriminate killing to fight the Great Satan and have become the most secular, modern society in the region. They want a little peace, prosperity and democracy.

But, says Reuter, this transformation came from within. The same will happen everywhere, provided the West does not rely on military shock and awe as the Americans did in Baghdad and the Israelis do in Gaza. This advice is all very well. People will get tired of listening to the mad mullahs. The trouble is that meanwhile Osama bin Laden will have stockpiled his weapons of mass destruction.

Understanding and patience are essential, but they are not enough. We dare not drop our guard in their name. We also need strength. There is no peace without the sword.

**Load-Date:** June 25, 2004

## *Female Tamil Tigers shoot soldiers*

UPI

February 24, 2005 Thursday 9:58 AM EST

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**Length:** 166 words

**Dateline:** KILLALI, Sri Lanka, Feb. 24

### **Body**

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The Sri Lankan soldier killed on the third anniversary of a cease-fire with Tamil Tiger rebels was gunned down by a woman, the Tamilnet Web site said Thursday.

The pro-rebel site monitored by the BBC said Wednesday's incident was caused by two soldiers encroaching into a 500-yard no-go zone separating the rebels from government forces.

One of the men was killed, while the second escaped with injuries. The rebels turned the soldier's body over to the army in the no-go zone late Wednesday under the supervision of the Scandinavian-led Sri Lankan Monitoring Mission.

"We have two versions of the event," peace mission spokeswoman Helen Olafsdottir said.

She said the government had lodged a complaint saying the soldiers were in their designated area and were unarmed, while the rebels claimed they "shot a soldier who was approaching them and that he had gone beyond the line with a hand grenade."

More than 60,000 people have died since the rebels began their fight for a homeland for minority Tamils.

**Load-Date:** February 25, 2005

## *Sri Lanka troops consolidate defense lines*

Xinhua General News Service

August 20, 2006 Sunday 3:00 AM EST

Copyright 2006 Xinhua News Agency

**Section:** WORLD NEWS; Political

**Length:** 431 words

**Dateline:** COLOMBO

### **Body**

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Sri Lankan troops who are engaged in a military battle with the Tiger rebels had consolidated their forward defense lines in the northern Jaffna peninsula, defense officials said Sunday.

Battles continued throughout Saturday at Muhamalai forward defense lines in the northern Jaffna peninsula as the military confrontation entered its second week.

Maj Upali Rajapakse of the National Security Media Center said that some 88 rebel cadres had been killed in fighting on Saturday with minimal casualties on the government troops.

"The LTTE (Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam) fired shells and mortars and the security forces replied with multi barrel rocket launcher fire," Rajapakse said, adding that 39 of the rebel deaths were of their women members.

He added that the Sri Lanka air force had destroyed two rebel artillery gun positions at K point in Pooneryn, Jaffna peninsula.

The troops had also fired mortars and shells at the LTTE positions in the eastern province's Vavunathivu area from around 7 p.m. local time Saturday night (1330 GMT).

The rebels too maintain that they had inflicted heavy losses to the military.

The battles since late July have caused massive displacement of civilians, and the UNHCR estimates the figure to be 135,000.

Keheliya Rambukwella, the Minister of Policy Planning and the government's defense spokesman said the government was aware of the scarcity of essential food items in the Jaffna peninsula.

"A ship is being loaded with 3,000 metric tons of food," Rambukwella said Saturday. His colleague, Minister of Disaster Management and Human Rights Mahinda Samarasinghe, said that the ship was expected to leave the Colombo port bound for the northern port of Kankasanturai on Monday and that the government was expecting to send the vessel under the flag of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC).

Rambukwella added that entry and exit points from the north on the A9 highway to Jaffna which were shut last week would be opened for a limited period on a daily basis to provide relief to the civilians.

### Sri Lanka troops consolidate defense lines

The present clashes have left the Norwegian backed peace process in tatters, with calls by the international community on both sides to return to the negotiating table falling on deaf ears.

The process of direct negotiations after six rounds of face to face talks between Sept. 2002 and March 2003 came to be stalled when the Tigers announced a temporary pull out.

Since then the two sides accusing each other of insincerity have opted to stay away from the process.

**Load-Date:** August 21, 2006

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End of Document

## **TSUNAMI IMPACT: TAMILS BUILDING COOL SHELTERS TO REPLACE HOT TENTS**

IPS-Inter Press Service

February 16, 2005, Wednesday

Copyright 2005 IPS-Inter Press Service/Global Information Network

**Length:** 950 words

**Byline:** By Marwaan Macan-Markar

**Dateline:** VATHTHIRAYAN, Sri Lanka, February 16 2005

### **Body**

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For the past week, Thurai Chandrakumar has led a gang of 11 men in a construction spree aimed at building shelters with local conditions in mind.

Here, the day gets progressively hotter and by mid-morning temperatures in this village are almost furnace-like.

The 25 shelters that have mushroomed in this village along the northern coast of Sri Lanka have ample ventilation near the roof to let the wind circulate and allow heat to escape.

Each structure is held up by aluminum poles, has a roof of thatched coconut palms and a wall made of cement blocks and tin sheets.

"These are better for the people and will be more comfortable than those," said Chandrakumar, stopping suddenly in the middle of his sentence, as he was lining up cement blocks near an opening that was to serve as the entrance to a shelter.

By "those" he meant the tents spread out in an open area nearby. They had been distributed by a U.N. agency to shelter the hundreds of people in this village who lost their homes to the devastating tsunami that struck in late December.

Vaththirayan, east of Sri Lanka's northern city of Jaffna, has acquired an image typical of the small fishing villages that were flattened by the tsunami along Sri Lanka's northern and eastern coastline. Row after row of white tents have come up in an area covered with sea sand and surrounded by shrubs, patches of weeds and the odd palm tree.

Close to 38,000 people are estimated to have died when the tsunami hit this Indian Ocean island on Dec. 26 and nearly 800,000 people lost their homes. Sri Lanka was the second worst affected of the 12 countries struck by the tsunami, which killed over 220,000 people.

Sivakumar Saritha has good reason to agree with Chandrakumar. For the 22-year-old mother has found the conditions in the tent unbearable. "It gets very hot and there is no air inside," said Saritha, whose home was crushed by the tsunami. "I cannot be in the tent during the day."

## TSUNAMI IMPACT: TAMILS BUILDING COOL SHELTERS TO REPLACE HOT TENTS

Saritha's view is shared by others forced to live in tents in her village, which is in an area controlled by the Tamil Tiger rebels, and in other tsunami affected communities along Sri Lanka's northern and eastern coastline.

Yet for now, a reprieve from tents that have become hot houses due to the harsh tropical climate is not available to all. The fortunate few who may be offered alternate emergency accommodation - like the ones Chandrakumar and his men are building - need to live in the areas under the grip of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE).

Since it is in these LTTE-held stretches, which include a large chunk of northern Sri Lanka and slices in the east and south-east of the South Asian island, that a concerted effort is taking shape to offer a more comfortable local housing alternative to the tents.

The idea grew out of a mix of circumstances. It included complaints from the tsunami- affected Tamils and a search for an indigenous alternative to the tents by a group of Tamil expatriates who had flown in to help the premier non-governmental body operating in rebel- held territory, the Tamils Rehabilitation Organization (TRO).

"The Western nations that supplied tsunami relief had this crash-program mentality in introducing the tents," one of the expatriates, a balding 60-year-old chartered engineer from London, told IPS on condition of anonymity. "It was a quick fix that did not meet the local people's needs."

He is part of a team that designed these "livable" temporary structures using local material. "The people will be more accustomed to these 18 feet by 12 feet (5.5 meters by 3.6 meters) structures," added the engineer. "They can take the material with them when time comes to building their homes again."

Across much of rural Sri Lanka, in fact, poor farming families live in huts that have thatched roofs and walls made of wattle and brick.

And at the TRO's headquarters in Kilinochi, the major town in the rebel-held north, plans are underway to build over 10,000 thatched-roof shelters. The shelters in Vaththirayan are the first of 300 being built in the initial phase.

"This is part of our commitment to help the people recover from the tsunami," Lawrence Christy, director of the TRO's planning division, said in an interview. "It will be a step towards returning them to normalcy."

Yet Christy, a former member of the Tamil rebels, admits that the TRO will not be able to meet all the demands for indigenous housing alternatives that it receives - namely finding homes for all the "450,000 people displaced by the tsunami in the north and east."

That, however, has not dampened Christy's determination, since the even marginal success at offering a more comfortable living alternative to the tsunami-affected people is loaded with political implications.

At stake is the need for the TRO - and by extension the LTTE-run parts of northern and eastern Sri Lanka - to demonstrate an air of efficiency in responding to the humanitarian crisis caused by the tsunami.

It is up against the LTTE's foe, the Sri Lankan government and by extension the Sri Lankan bureaucracy. In early February, a senior government official admitted that the bureaucracy had failed the tsunami victims, since "70 percent of the displaced people are still waiting for aid."

And the village where Chandrakumar and his team of masons have been toiling, under a fierce sun, is on the battlefield in the fight over who best can deliver relief to civilians affected by the December tsunami.

For women like Saritha, though, the shelters being constructed in the Vaththirayan have a different meaning: they offer hope that the days of heat and uncertainty are drawing to an end. "The tents reminded us of the tsunami every day. That we had lost our home," she said.



## TSUNAMI IMPACT: TAMILS BUILDING COOL SHELTERS TO REPLACE HOT TENTS

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**Misery and death stalk Sri Lankans; Jaffna, picturesque prize of civil war, awaits a new battle**

The International Herald Tribune

June 14, 2007 Thursday

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**Section:** NEWS; Pg. 1

**Length:** 1377 words

**Byline:** Somini Sengupta - The New York Times Media Group

**Dateline:** JAFFNA, Sri Lanka

## **Body**

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Kavitha Kumar contributed reporting from Bangalore.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

It is likely to continue for a while. Gotabhaya Rajapakse, the influential Sri Lankan defense secretary, says the military is under instructions to eliminate the rebel leader, Vellupillai Prabhakaran, and eradicate his organization once and for all.

Misery and death stalk Sri Lankans Jaffna , picturesque prize of civil war, awaits a new battle

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

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

The weapons of war are dirtier than ever today.

Targeted killings and land mine attacks in crowded civilian areas are common. The **Tamil Tigers** regularly deploy suicide bombers.

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

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

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

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

One night in May, well into the curfew, C. Kuharajan's son, Kanan, 18, was watching television on the floor of his parents' bedroom when four armed men pushed open the front door of their house and demanded that Kanan come with them for questioning.

His captors refused to identify themselves - "none of your business," Kanan's father recalled them saying - nor explain where they were taking him or why. The gunmen, all in civilian clothes and with pistols, promised to return him soon.

That was on May 4. Kanan, a high school senior, has not been heard from since.

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

After a month of waiting and searching, Kuharajan wondered why those who abducted his son did not come to the house and interrogate him, or at least arrested him and taken him to jail. "That's the terrible thing," he said, "snatching children from parents' hands."

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

Occasionally, someone survives to tell of the horror. In January, Arunagirinathan Niruparaj, a university student, was plucked from his village, taken to what he later identified as a series of military camps and interrogated about his rebel links.

Misery and death stalk Sri Lankans Jaffna , picturesque prize of civil war, awaits a new battle

He said his captors hung him upside down from the ceiling and beat his feet. They covered his head with a plastic bag soaked in gasoline. They rammed a stick into his anus.

After seven days, they left him on the side of a railway track. By then, his kidney had failed, one of his ears was damaged, and he could not keep down any food. In April, Niruparaj, 26, fled to Madras, in southern India. He maintains he has no links to the rebels. No one has been arrested for his kidnapping.

Chandrasiri first blamed the abductions on pro-government Tamil paramilitary groups who, as he put it, try to "eliminate" Tamil Tiger operatives. He later acknowledged that some in the security forces could also be complicit. "I'm not saying all our people are clean," he said. "Our duty is to catch them and punish them."

Most of those abducted, he added, are not innocent civilians, but known Tamil Tiger operatives.

As for Kuharajan's son, Chandrasiri said he had personally resolved to find him. "I don't want internationally anybody to think everyday we are killing people," he said.

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

Not far from the general's office, another kind of uncertainty hovers over a Catholic church, now home to refugees from Allaipiddy, a fishing village just west of the town. The United Nations estimates that there are roughly 300,000 people displaced across Sri Lanka.

At this church, some families have fled their homes as many as four times since the war began. The last time was in August, after rebels and soldiers clashed in Allaipiddy, driving its residents into a local church. When it, too, was shelled, the Reverend Jim Brown knelt before the troops and, waving a white flag, led the villagers here.

Brown, who had rebuked the Sri Lankan Navy for attacking the village, disappeared days later. He has not been heard from since.

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

So little had one mother, Sathyaseelan Thilaka, been eating that she could no longer produce enough breast milk for her youngest child, a boy of 4 months born in this camp.

Sathyaseelan, 39, said she raised four children through this war. Never before had she been without milk. This morning, she sent the older children to school without breakfast. She had eaten nothing herself, and it was almost sundown.

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

**Load-Date:** June 17, 2007

## *Sri Lanka's Scars Trace Lines of War Without End*

The New York Times

June 15, 2007 Friday

Late Edition - Final

Copyright 2007 The New York Times Company

**Section:** Section A; Column 3; Foreign Desk; Pg. 1

**Length:** 1375 words

**Byline:** By SOMINI SENGUPTA; Kavitha Kumar contributed reporting from Bangalore, India.

**Dateline:** JAFFNA, Sri Lanka

### **Body**

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The nights here are once again broken by artillery fire across the black lagoon. The road out of this peninsula has been closed since last August, making the area nearly inaccessible. Though food and fuel manage to arrive, shopkeepers are reluctant to keep stocks, not knowing when they may have to close up and run.

By 7 p.m., barely sundown, stray dogs have the run of Jaffna's streets. The city's people are indoors well before an 8 o'clock curfew. Soldiers linger at the edges of the alleys.

"Anytime, anything can happen," said Ravindran Ramanathan, a tailor. "People are afraid of everything." At least 15,000 are waiting to get on government ships to the relative safety of Colombo, the capital.

This is Jaffna, the picturesque prize of Sri Lanka's ethnic civil war, girding for a new storm. The army commander for the area, Maj. Gen. G. A. Chandrasiri, said he expected a major battle for Jaffna before the August monsoon.

No other place in Sri Lanka is so scarred because no place carries Jaffna's special curse: it is the heart of the homeland that the **Tamil Tigers** have fought to carve out, and the trophy that soldiers and rebels have fought over for nearly 25 years.

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

According to the Defense Ministry, more than 4,800 people, civilians and fighters, have been killed since December 2005. Though the number is not entirely reliable, it points to a significantly lethal period even by the standards of this long, ugly war.

It is likely to continue. Peace talks are nowhere on the horizon. Gotabhaya Rajapakse, Sri Lanka's influential defense secretary, says the military is under instructions to eliminate the rebel leader, Velupillai Prabhakaran, and eradicate his organization once and for all.

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

## Sri Lanka 's Scars Trace Lines of War Without End

Pressure from abroad has done little to temper either side's ambitions. The **Tamil Tigers**, banned in many countries, including the United States, upped the ante this spring by carrying out air raids with modified two-seater propeller planes. Britain and the United States, which extended a hand after the devastating tsunami of December 2004, have suspended aid.

Jaffna is no stranger to war. Its temples and churches bear the pockmarks of battles past. Its people are familiar with running and dying.

But today the weapons of war are dirtier than ever. Targeted killings and land-mine attacks in crowded civilian areas are common. The **Tamil Tigers** regularly deploy suicide bombers. Journalists, diplomats and aid workers face hostile scrutiny for any criticism of the security forces. On a Sunday morning in April, a young reporter for a Tamil-language newspaper in Jaffna was shot and killed as he rode his bicycle to work. In May, fliers appeared at Jaffna University, containing a hit list of people accused of being rebel sympathizers.

That is not all. A new fear also stalks Jaffna, more ominous than any its people recall from the past: mysterious abductions usually carried out during the curfew hours. No one is quite sure who is being taken, for what reason, by whom. Sometimes, bodies turn up on the street. More often, they do not turn up at all.

One night in early May, well into the curfew, C. Kuharajan's son, Kanan, 18, was watching television on the floor of his parents' bedroom, when four armed men pushed open the front door of their house and demanded that Kanan come with them for questioning.

His captors refused to identify themselves -- " 'None of your business,' " Kanan's father recalled them saying. Nor would they explain where they were taking his son or why. The gunmen, all in civilian clothes and with pistols, promised to return him soon.

That was on May 4. Kanan, a high school senior, has not been heard from since.

According to his family, Kanan had been active in a high school group affiliated with the student union at Jaffna University, which security forces describe as a den of antigovernment activity. But Mr. Kuharajan said his son was under strict instructions to avoid anything political. He said he planned to send Kanan abroad to study next fall.

After a month of waiting and searching, Mr. Kuharajan wondered why those who abducted his son did not question him at the house, or at least arrest him and take him to jail. "That's the terrible thing," he said, "snatching children from parents' hands."

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

Occasionally, someone survives to tell of the horror. In January, a university student named Arunagirinathan Niruparaj was plucked from his village, taken to what he later identified as a series of military camps and interrogated about links to the rebels.

He said his captors hung him upside down from the ceiling and beat his feet. They covered his head with a plastic bag soaked in gasoline. They rammed a stick into his anus.

After seven days, they left him on the side of a railway track. By then, he was experiencing kidney failure, one of his ears was damaged and he could not keep down any food. In April, Mr. Niruparaj, 26, fled to Chennai, in southern India. He maintains that he has no links to the rebels. No one has been arrested for his kidnapping.

The reports of abductions have prompted sharp criticism even from Sri Lanka's allies, including Richard A. Boucher, the assistant secretary of state for South and Central Asian affairs, who met with General Chandrasiri during a visit here in May. In the weeks after Mr. Boucher's visit, reports of abductions plummeted.

General Chandrasiri, in an interview, first said the abductions were the work of pro-government Tamil paramilitary groups who, as he put it, try to "eliminate" Tamil Tiger operatives. He later acknowledged that some people in the

## Sri Lanka 's Scars Trace Lines of War Without End

security forces could also be involved. "I'm not saying all our people are clean," he said. "Our duty is to catch them and punish them."

Most of those abducted, he added, are not innocent civilians, but known Tamil Tiger operatives. As for Mr. Kuharajan's son, the general said he had personally resolved to find him. "I don't want, internationally, anybody to think every day we are killing people," he said.

Not far from the general's office, another kind of uncertainty hovers over a Roman Catholic church, now home to a small number of the roughly 300,000 people who have been displaced by the conflict.

At this church, some families have fled their homes as many as four times since the war began. The last time was in August, after rebels and soldiers clashed in their village, Allaipiddy, driving its residents into a local church. When it, too, was shelled, a priest, the Rev. Thiruchchelvan Nihal Jim Brown, knelt before the troops and then, waving a white flag, led the villagers here.

Days later, Father Brown, who had rebuked the Sri Lankan Navy for attacking the village, disappeared. He has not been heard from since.

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

One mother, Sathyaseelan Thilaka, had been eating so little that she could no longer produce enough breast milk for her youngest child, a 4-month-old boy born in the camp for displaced persons at the church.

Mrs. Sathyaseelan, 39, said she had reared four children through this war. Never before had she been without milk. This morning, she sent the older children to school without breakfast. She had eaten nothing herself, and it was almost sundown.

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

<http://www.nytimes.com>

## Graphic

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Photos: Sathyaseelan Thilaka, right, driven from her home in Jaffna, has had so little to eat that she cannot produce breast milk for her infant son.

A Sri Lankan soldier blocked traffic last month on the main road in Jaffna to allow a military convoy to pass through the city at high speed. (Photographs by J. Adam Huggins for The New York Times)(pg. A14) Map of Sri Lanka highlighting Jaffna: Soldiers and rebels have fought over Jaffna for nearly 25 years. (pg. A14)

**Load-Date:** June 15, 2007

## *Sri Lanka in fear of return to civil war*

The Daily Telegraph (LONDON)

April 27, 2006 Thursday

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**Section:** NEWS; International; Pg. 20

**Length:** 416 words

**Byline:** Rahul Bedi in New Delhi

### **Body**

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THOUSANDS of people have fled into the jungle in north-eastern Sri Lanka after government air attacks on Tamil Tiger targets. The fighting raised fears that the country is descending into civil war after four years of peace.

At least 15,000 people, almost all from the Tamil minority, had escaped from the danger zones, a rebel official said. The United Nations High Commission for Refugees called for an end to hostilities, fearing the true number displaced could be much higher.

Brig Prasad Samarasinghe, a military spokesman, said fighter jets attacked coastal, rebel-controlled Trincomalee district after the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (**LTTE**) again fired on naval patrol boats.

The rebels said that at least 12 civilians had died in the strikes, a claim that could not be independently verified.

The government, fearing a resumption of hostilities, closed the only main road linking Sri Lanka's south to Tiger-held areas. Border crossings to rebel areas have been closed while aid workers involved in rebuilding efforts after the 2004 tsunami said they were withdrawing from the north and east.

The Tigers have been fighting for an independent homeland for almost 25 years. Nearly 70,000 people died in the civil war that erupted in 1983.

In retaliation for the air strikes, the rebels launched a mortar attack, killing two civilians and wounding eight, the military said.

"There will be co-ordinated retaliation by the armed forces if the **LTTE** continues to attack," a government spokesman, Keheliya Rambukwella, said in Colombo.

The air strikes followed a suicide bombing of the motorcade of the Sri Lankan army chief, Lt Gen Sarath Fonseka, at his headquarters in Colombo in which 10 people died. The general was seriously injured.

A "Black Tiger" **female** suicide bomber, pretending to be pregnant, was said to have been responsible.

The rebels said the air raids violated the Norwegian-brokered ceasefire between the government and the rebels and asked truce monitors if Colombo had declared full-scale war. Last week, the Tigers pulled out of planned peace talks in Switzerland, accusing the government of attacking Tamil civilians and reneging on an agreement to facilitate internal rebel meetings.



## Sri Lanka in fear of return to civil war

President Mahinda Rajapakse has pledged to stand up to "terrorism" and declared that his government was ready to face any challenge.

"My government and I will not be brought to our knees by whatever challenge we face," he said.

But the government said it remained committed to peace negotiations.

**Load-Date:** April 27, 2006

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End of Document

## **RIGHTS: TORTURE STILL A KEY PART OF SRI LANKA POLICE CULTURE**

IPS-Inter Press Service

November 2, 2004, Tuesday

Copyright 2004 IPS-Inter Press Service/Global Information Network

**Length:** 1234 words

**Byline:** By Aaron Goodman

**Dateline:** COLOMBO, Nov. 2, 2004

### **Body**

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When Anthony Michael Fernando, a 50 year-old trade union secretary in Sri Lanka, was sentenced to a year in prison for contempt of court, he thought his life could not get any worse.

But four days after being sent to jail in February 2003 on charges later criticised by the U.N. Special Representative on the Independence of the Judiciary and Lawyers as an injustice done by the courts, he suffered a massive asthma attack.

While being treated in hospital, he had another attack, fell and injured his spine. And as he was being escorted back to prison, he says he was beaten and tortured by police. "Two police officers were carrying me in a stretcher to the prison van," recalls Fernando at a church in Sri Lanka's capital that works to defend torture victims.

"The police officers ordered me to stand up and walk. I told them I was having a spinal problem, and they threw me into the van like dirt. And while the van was moving, one of the officers in civilian clothes beat and kicked me on my spine and all over my body," he tells IPS.

For the next 104 days, Fernando was hospitalised. After serving 10 months of his jail term, he was finally freed. But when he got home, he started receiving death threats by telephone demanding that he withdraw the complaints he had filed against the police officers who allegedly tortured him. Shortly thereafter, the threats took on much more serious proportions.

"On February 2 (this year) I was coming out of a friend's house and there was a vehicle parked opposite his gate," explains Fernando. "Someone opened the sliding door and jumped out and sprayed some kind of gas onto my face. It didn't work because I started coughing. He tried to put a handkerchief and cover my mouth, but because that failed, I dodged and ran to the closest tailor shop."

For most of the last 30 years, Sri Lanka has been gripped by internal conflict and civil war. Over 60,000 people have died in fighting between government forces and the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (**LTTE**). The Tigers have been fighting for a separate homeland for minority Tamils in the north and east of the largely Buddhist country since 1983.

A 32-month-old ceasefire currently hangs in the balance. Fighting between rival factions of the **Tamil Tigers**, and alleged support from the state for breakaway Tiger leader Venayagamoorthy Muralitharan, best known by his alias, Colonel Karuna Amman, threatens to draw the country back into war.

## RIGHTS: TORTURE STILL A KEY PART OF SRI LANKA POLICE CULTURE

Meanwhile, a number of prominent civil society organisations and human rights groups, both in Sri Lanka and internationally, continue to make ending police torture their foremost priority.

In 2001, the Asian Human Rights Commission (AHRC) based in Hong Kong began documenting police torture in Sri Lanka. In doing so, they and other groups that focused on the issue broke a longstanding taboo about the subject.

Yet in spite of near-daily reports by the country's media about police torture, and international pressure placed on the government to try to stop the abuses, torture remains a widespread form of police investigation in Sri Lanka.

Last year, the AHRC documented 31 cases of torture committed by police involving 46 victims at 29 police stations. Meanwhile, the group claims the numbers are much higher.

"There are many reasons for it, but torture is widespread," says Ali Saleem, a representative of the AHRC in Sri Lanka.

"It is just part of normal day-to-day business for police. We have been trying to make sure that it stops, but it seems to be beyond state control to stop it," he says in an interview.

Saleem points to the militarisation of the police over the last 30 years as it moved from a crime detection and law enforcement agency to an insurgency suppression body. He attributes that role change as the root cause of such high rates of torture in police stations.

Yet in spite of its lobbying efforts, Saleem argues the state has not taken the steps that are required in order to end torture. "There is a legal framework to try to stop torture, but it's not being implemented," says Saleem.

"The government isn't doing anything. Secondly, institutions fail to respond to victims of human rights violations. There are no witness protection arrangements. If you submit a human rights complaint against police, you are re-victimised, harassed, and sometimes attempts are made to kill you," he adds.

Rohan Edrisinha is director of the legal unit at the Centre for Policy Alternatives in Colombo. For the last five years, he and a number of other organisations have led a campaign to try to pressure the government to repeal the country's Prevention of Terrorism Act (PTA). According to Edrisinha, the PTA and other emergency measures, implemented by the state beginning in 1979, need to be abolished in order to stop torture.

"Repealing the PTA is important in order to eradicate torture, and also to eradicate impunity which has developed in Sri Lanka as a result of Sri Lanka's ethnic conflict," says Edrisinha. "The PTA, Emergency Regulations, and other pieces of legislation have given sweeping powers to the armed forces which sometimes result in human rights violations of a very serious nature."

In spite of a million signatures collected by the campaign to try to repeal the PTA, as well as widespread protests against the act since its inception, the country's own minister of justice and judicial reforms, John Seneviratne, dismisses the existence of any legitimate lobbying efforts related to this issue.

"I should say that as a responsible minister of this country, that there has not been a campaign to repeal the PTA," states the minister. "There may have been some sporadic requests to repeal this PTA, but these requests are engineered by these NGOs who are engaged in really the provoking the minds of the people in their favour."

Although Sri Lanka signed the Convention Against Torture in 1994 that prescribes a mandatory seven-year sentence, only two people have been successfully convicted under the act. Among 59 other cases, only 10 have been filed in the courts. The rest remain with the attorney general's department. This leaves most torture victims, including Anthony Fernando, to file fundamental rights cases before the Supreme Court. In these cases, compensation is sometimes awarded, but jail terms for perpetrators are never applied.

The country's own Human Rights Commission chaired by the well-respected former U.N. special representative on violence against women, Radhika Coomaraswamy, recently implemented a zero-tolerance policy on torture. The

## RIGHTS: TORTURE STILL A KEY PART OF SRI LANKA POLICE CULTURE

commission established a special torture unit to investigate torture cases, began visiting police stations around the country as a preventive measure, and is coordinating training sessions for police on human rights and alternative methods of investigation.

"Due to rapid recruitment into the police force, the police force has not been thoroughly trained in how to do investigations properly, so that as a practice they engage in torture as a first means of getting information," argues Coomaraswamy.

"Frequently, the police pick up an informant and beat him up to get the information they are looking for, especially if he's lower class and doesn't have access to the relief that people of upper classes have," she tells IPS. "This is a structural problem, in that this is about everyday policing and the need is to change the way police do investigations and deal with the community."

**Load-Date:** December 10, 2004

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## *Villains of the peace*

South China Morning Post

July 1, 2006 Saturday

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**Section:** FEATURES; behind the news; Pg. 14

**Length:** 1407 words

**Byline:** Escalating attacks by the ***Tamil Tigers*** and the Sri Lankan government's swift reprisals are increasingly exposing the official ceasefire as a sham, writes Greg Torode

### **Body**

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It is becoming known as the last tango in Colombo - the dance of nuance masking the ugly fact that Sri Lanka is once again at war.

The two main actors, the Sri Lankan government and its ethnic separatist enemy, the ***Tamil Tigers***, wheel about the diplomatic stage, both publicly insisting they are abiding by the ceasefire deal and an on-going effort to forge a permanent peace.

But in the hot shadows, the blood flows once more. The ceasefire deal, signed with international witnesses in February 2002, halted two decades of civil conflict that had killed an estimated 65,000 Sri Lankans. Now it apparently counts for little.

Sri Lanka has about 3.6 million mostly Hindu Tamils among a population of 20 million predominately Buddhist Sinhalese. The Tigers are seeking an autonomous homeland in the country's north and east, where Tamils dominate.

"Of course it is war," says a senior Scandinavian diplomat involved in the peace efforts. "No one is saying it publicly but that is exactly what it is. In theory it has never stopped ... there was only a ceasefire. Now it is clear we don't even have that. From where I'm standing, I can only see things getting worse for the time being."

The past week, just like the past four months, provides a bleak picture.

On Monday, Sri Lanka's third-highest military official was killed with three others when a suicide bomber on a motorcycle blew up his car in the Colombo suburbs as he was being driven to his office.

On Tuesday, 10 Tigers and five navy sailors were killed in a sea battle off Kalpitiya on the northwest coast. The navy said its gunboats were surrounded by 20 fishing boats carrying Tamil Tiger guerillas.

Colombo, in the traditionally safer southwest, now bristles with armed soldiers, helicopters and gunboats after the government reimposed a pre-ceasefire security lockdown.

The incidents are part of violence that has raged for much of the year. More than 700 people have died since April, when a suicide bomber breached security to in a bid to blow up the commander of the army at his headquarters. The Tiger bomber, a young woman who breached security by feigning pregnancy, died, along with eight others. Twenty-seven people were injured, including the commander.

## Villains of the peace

The attack was quickly avenged with a series of air strikes by the Sri Lankan air force on targets across the rebel-held north.

Then came the attack on a bus on an isolated stretch of road in Anuradhapura two weeks ago. About 60 civilians died, many of them instantly. In an unusual move, the Tigers repeatedly denied any involvement in a blizzard of statements and press releases.

Dozens of smaller incidents, from civilians getting caught in crossfire to extra-judicial killings in the far north and east, receive less attention. In one case, naval forces lobbed grenades into a Catholic church in the coastal city of Mannar as 200 villagers sheltered inside. A young woman died and 40 others were injured, prompting the bishop to write to the Vatican urging its intervention.

Amnesty International this week warned of widening panic in the countryside, citing United Nations figures showing 39,883 people in the north and east had been displaced since April.

"Many of those displaced - including those living in organised camps - continue to be extremely vulnerable to violence and harassment by the **Tamil Tigers**, other armed groups and even members of the security forces," Amnesty said.

If it is not war, then it certainly is not peace. Across the capital people are asking themselves the daily question: "At what point do we start calling it war?" Some insiders on both sides, diplomats and analysts are keen to see a more frank use of the W-word, hoping it may spark a fresh drive for talks. Some warn of other agendas at work.

Too liberal use of the phrase "civil war" could jeopardise the steady economic growth that has followed the Norwegian-brokered ceasefire, scaring off foreign investors and the tourists that represent a key sector. President Mahinda Rajapaksa has repeatedly said the violence must not be allowed to put economic growth at risk. Then there is the \$4US.5 billion pledged by international donors on the condition of peace.

That peace is being monitored by a 57-strong team of investigators from five Nordic countries - Norway, Denmark, Sweden, Finland and Iceland. It is a mission supposedly allowed free movement across all government and Tiger areas, including sea patrols.

The Tigers are now demanding the withdrawal of all but Norway and Iceland following an EU move last month to class the group as a terrorist organisation. That will effectively cripple the effort, as most of the staff are from EU members. Already the mission has stopped its coastal patrols after threats from the Tigers.

The mission's most recent report, issued earlier this month, is blunt, warning of "serious violations" of the ceasefire on all fronts. It urged the government to better maintain law and order, including criminal and paramilitary activity. The Tigers were ordered to stop abducting and recruiting children to boost their fighting strength.

For some diplomatic observers, the collapse of the mission would mark the end of the ceasefire. Others cling to the fact that the document allows either side to give 14 days' notice of their intention to walk away from the deal.

Given the extreme nature of the Tigers' code of war, and a Sri Lankan military containing hardline cliques ever-determined to respond, few are expecting any Queensbury-style niceties to be observed.

Both sides have been using the ceasefire to prepare for a resumption of war, a range of diplomatic and academic sources have said.

Sri Lanka's military maintains close ties with Pakistan and China and continues to upgrade its weapons stockpiles. The Tigers remain active in weapons' black markets across South and Southeast Asia, funded by a diaspora across Europe and Canada as well as taxation within the areas its controls. A classic guerilla operation, they keep their military needs relatively simple.

Colombo-based military analysts noted the Tigers still favoured AK-47 automatic rifles and claymore mines. They have some artillery and have started using two small planes from a carefully concealed runway.

## Villains of the peace

Instead of hard material, a fearsome internal discipline backed by a formidable intelligence network remain their key weapons. A force estimated at 7,000 fighters is vastly outnumbered by the government's 66,000-strong army. Operating with a strict regime headed by the long-time leader Velupillai Prabhakaran, the Tigers carry vials of cyanide in case of capture and can only marry with permission. They operate a suicide squad of an estimated 200 so-called Black Tigers - a technique the group pioneered in the 1980s.

The recent suicide strikes in Colombo displayed an ability to strike deep inside the government's security net. Foreign Minister Lakshman Kadirgamar was lounging by his pool inside his Colombo compound when he was assassinated last August. Suspected Tiger snipers had secreted themselves inside his neighbours' garden.

As the violence intensifies, speculation is mounting over the group's next move. Some seasoned analysts said they believed the Tigers were getting desperate as international pressure mounted on their organisation. Others said they believed an even wider campaign in Colombo was likely, possibly to force a crackdown against the city's significant Tamil population. This would give the Tigers an excuse to formally end the ceasefire and wage all-out war.

Adding to the complications are the much smaller forces under the breakaway Tiger commander known as Karuna. Based around the eastern port of Batticaloa, Karuna's forces are proving increasingly active since he split in late 2004, their actions apparently sheltered by Sri Lankan military connections. The Tigers' repeated demands for the so-called Karunas to be disarmed are falling on deaf ears.

Sitting above it all is Mr Rajapaksa, who was elected in November last year. Backed by nationalistic and socialist forces, Mr Rajapaksa has a questionable grip on military officials who want to resume war.

Paikiasothy Saravanamuttu, an analyst with Colombo's respected Centre for Policy Alternatives, said it would take "the boldest political move" to halt the spiral into war. "We are talking about a complete paradigm shift," Mr Saravanamuttu said. "There is no sign that that is about to happen."

## Graphic

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Credit: AP; Tamil women walk by as policemen stand guard on a road in Vavuniya, 210km north of Colombo. The government has increased security checks and roadblocks since violence erupted in April.

**Load-Date:** July 3, 2006

**Ethnic cleansing claim after police move Tamils at gunpoint: Hundreds rounded up in night raids in Colombo Action said to be aimed at clearing city of 'terrorists'**

The Guardian - Final Edition

June 8, 2007 Friday

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**Section:** GUARDIAN INTERNATIONAL PAGES; Pg. 28

**Length:** 324 words

**Byline:** Randeep Ramesh

## **Body**

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Armed Sri Lankan police yesterday packed hundreds of ethnic minority Tamils into buses and drove them from the country's capital to war-torn northern and eastern districts - an effort, they said, to clear the city of "terrorists".

In a series of night raids, police stormed Tamil areas of Colombo and forced hotel guests to leave at gunpoint. In all, 291 men and 85 **women** were taken in seven buses to districts that are on the frontline of fierce fighting between Tamil separatists and the Sri Lankan army. Human rights groups described the police action as tantamount to ethnic cleansing.

The move caused uproar in parliament, which was adjourned after the government first denied the raids had taken place. Mano Ganesan, a Tamil MP who represents Colombo, told the Guardian: "People have been taken forcibly from their beds and dumped in buses. It may unwittingly strengthen the hand of the **Tamil Tigers** who want to split Sri Lanka because the police are saying 'go back to the north and east, that is your home'."

Human rights groups said the police action would "horrify the local Tamil population". Jehan Pereira, of Sri Lanka's National Peace Council, warned: "There is a sense that any Tamil can be targeted . . . This could escalate out of control." Sri Lankan television showed rows of civilians aboard a bus with armed guards acting as escorts. One man told a local radio station: "The police came and took us and put everyone on the bus . . . We don't know where we are being taken."

The move was also designed to root out insurgents in Colombo. Tiger guerrillas, who have been fighting for a separate homeland since 1983, were blamed for two bomb attacks that killed nine people and wounded 44 in the area last month.

Almost 40% of Colombo's 600,000 inhabitants are Tamil, a population swollen by those fleeing fighting. Tamils from the north and east are now required to obtain permits from the police to travel to the rest of the country.

**Load-Date:** June 8, 2007



### *In brief*

Geelong Advertiser (Australia)

May 8, 2007 Tuesday

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**Section:** NEWS; Pg. 7

**Length:** 387 words

## **Body**

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### Alleged terror duo 'flight risk'

TWO Melbourne men charged with terrorism offences relating to Sri Lankan group the **Tamil Tigers** pose an unacceptable flight risk and should be denied bail, a Melbourne court heard yesterday. Australian Federal Police agent Alexander Nicholson told the court Aruran Vinayagamoorthy, 32, of Mt Waverley, and Sivarajah Yatahavan, 36, of Vermont South, posed an unacceptable risk of fleeing the country if allowed bail. The two men are charged with three charges each of being a member of a terrorist organisation, providing support or resources to a terrorist organisation and making funds available to a terrorist organisation. The bail application before chief magistrate Ian Gray continues in Melbourne Magistrates' Court.

### Brit to face drug charges

A 50-year-old Briton has been charged with trying to smuggle 300 grams of cocaine into Australia. A man was stopped by Customs officers when he arrived at Melbourne International Airport on a flight from Thailand last Wednesday and they became suspicious that he was concealing drugs inside his body. He was taken to hospital by Australian Federal Police and later allegedly passed 38 pellets weighing about 300 grams in total containing cocaine.

### Downer frowns on Aussie tour

FOREIGN Minister Alexander Downer will meet with Cricket Australia this week to convince them to withdraw Australia's world champion cricket team from a tour of Zimbabwe in September. He said a tour of the troubled African nation by the Australian cricket team would be a propaganda victory for the Zimbabwean dictator, President Robert Mugabe.

### Crash pair's lucky escape

A NORLANE couple suffered minor injuries after the car they were in flipped and plunged five metres down an embankment in Barrabool yesterday. Sergeant Garry Miller of Winchelsea Police yesterday expressed his surprise at the couple's lack of injuries after the car they were in plunged down an embankment in Barrabool Rd about 3pm yesterday. He said a 43-year-old male passenger was taken to Geelong Hospital with spinal injuries while a 41-year-old **female** driver suffered minor injuries in the crash. "The injuries should have been far worse than what they were," Sgt Miller said.

Anyone with information about the crash is asked to contact Sgt Miller at the Winchelsea Police Station on 5267 2025.

In brief

**Load-Date:** May 8, 2007

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## **Tamil rebels deny Sri Lanka massacre charge**

Agence France Presse -- English

August 5, 2006 Saturday 6:44 PM GMT

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**Length:** 425 words

**Dateline:** COLOMBO, Aug 5 2006

### **Body**

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Sri Lanka's Tamil Tiger rebels denied Saturday a government allegation that they massacred over 100 Muslims who were trying to escape the fighting in the island's northeast.

The Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (**LTTE**) said it had been falsely implicated in killing civilians who were fleeing the embattled town of Muttur on Friday, and in turn accused the military of slaughtering 15 Tamils.

"There is no massacre as alleged by the Sri Lankan government," Tiger spokesman S. Puleedevan told AFP, referring to a defence ministry statement that accused them of the massacre.

He said information from the area suggested that security forces had killed at least 15 Tamil civilians, including three **women**, who were working for non-governmental organisations in Muttur.

The **LTTE** had given notice to the civilians in the town to get out of the way before they carried out an attack against security forces, Puleedevan said.

He also denied allegations by Muslim legislators that the Tigers were holding Muslims prisoner.

"We have not killed any civilians and we have also not detained any people," he said.

The statement from the defence ministry had accused the Tamil Tiger rebels of blocking Muslim civilians fleeing fighting in Muttur and of killing them at Pachchanoor, just south of Muttur, on Friday.

"While displaced families were fleeing Muttur seeking safety, the Tigers blocked them at Pachchanoor area and killed over 100, including **women**, youth and children during the night of Friday," it said.

The defence ministry said the Tigers had targeted the civilians because they had been providing food to the security forces.

"These civilians had supported the security forces in providing fish, vegetables and other homegrown products before the conflict began," the ministry said.

"The Tigers believed the youth in and around Muttur were feeding the security forces with information of Tiger movements and deployments," it added.

### Tamil rebels deny Sri Lanka massacre charge

Puleedevan also fended off accusations from Rauf Hakeem, the leader of the Sri Lanka Muslim Congress, that the Tigers had taken some 100 Muslims prisoner.

Hakeem had earlier accused security forces of shelling Muttur and killing 27 Muslim civilians.

Puleedevan denied the Tigers had taken any prisoners but said the rebels may have subjected the fleeing residents to questioning as there were reports that "paramilitary groups" had infiltrated the Muslim fishing town.

The Tigers split in March 2004 and members of the breakaway faction are now regarded by the main rebel grouping as "paramilitaries" operating with government forces.

**Load-Date:** August 6, 2006

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End of Document

## **S.F. INSTITUTE RESEARCHER: RAPE NOT ALWAYS BYPRODUCT OF WAR**

The Santa Fe New Mexican (New Mexico)

July 24, 2007 Tuesday

Copyright 2007 The New Mexican

**Section:** LOCAL NEWS; Pg. C-1

**Length:** 354 words

**Byline:** NATALIE STOREY

### **Body**

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Lecturer aims to defeat notion that sexual violence is inevitable during conflict

Rape: Talk is free

In her research, Elisabeth Jean Wood delved into stories of thousands of Muslim women who were abducted and taken to "rape camps" that Serbs had set up in Bosnia.

She found the subject hard to cover, but also too important to ignore.

"I remind myself that the emotional trauma suffered by victims of sexual violence is millions of times greater than the discomfort I suffer," she said. "And that keeps me going. "

Wood, who is a political science professor at Yale University and a researcher at the Santa Fe Institute, says rape is not an unavoidable consequence of war. She will give a free lecture on her research at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday at the James A. Little Theater at the New Mexico School for the Deaf, 1060 Cerrillos Road.

"If we can show that there are armed groups who don't engage in sexual violence, then that breaks this claim that sexual violence always accompanies war, that sexual violence is not part of the collateral damage of war," said Wood, who spends the summer months at the institute.

Wood said her talk will be based on preliminary research, which used data from human-rights and women's-rights groups. She hopes to have a book out on the subject in about a year.

She has studied rape in wars in El Salvador, Rwanda and Bosnia. She also looked at Sri Lanka, where Wood said the rebel Tamil Tigers have not engaged in sexual violence. In Sri Lanka and elsewhere, armed groups have prohibited their troops from engaging in sexual violence with strict policies and discipline.

Wood also plans to study sexual violence in the U.S. military. "I hope that we learn the importance of a consistent, repeated, ever-clear message from the very top of the chain of command of our armed forces that abuse of human rights is never permissible," she said.

Contact Natalie Storey at 986-3026 or [nstorey@sfnewmexican.com](mailto:nstorey@sfnewmexican.com)

IF YOU GO

S.F. INSTITUTE RESEARCHER: RAPE NOT ALWAYS BYPRODUCT OF WAR

Who: Elisabeth Jean Wood

What: Lecture on the relationship between rape and war

Where: James A. Little Theater, New Mexico School for the Deaf, 1060 Cerrillos Road

When: 7:30 p.m. Wednesday

Cost: Free

**Load-Date:** July 26, 2007

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End of Document

## **Bandaranaike wants to see women in peacekeeping role**

Indo-Asian News Service

June 27, 2007 Wednesday 3:26 PM EST

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**Length:** 373 words

**Byline:** Indo-Asian News Service

**Dateline:** Brussels

### **Body**

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Brussels, June 27 -- Former Sri Lankan president Chandrika Bandaranaike Kumaratunga called for women to play an active role in crisis management and peacekeeping around the globe.

Speaking before the European Parliament's Committee on Women's Rights and Gender Equality in Brussels Tuesday evening, Bandaranaike proposed to the European Union to consider sending women when the European bloc undertakes peace missions, according to Inepnext news agency.

"Women have a completely different perspective on conflict resolution. Women by the very nature of historic role have special aptitude for alleviating conflict," she argued.

"Today one of the most important subjects is conflict and conflict resolution. Women have not had a role in conflict resolution, not even in the West," she asserted.

Speaking on the situation of women in Asia, Bandaranaike pointed to the strange situation where on one side they suffer a great deal of oppression and at the same time the region has produced so many women leaders.

Bandaranaike explained this contradictory situation by referring to the mother-image of women in Hindu and Buddhist societies.

"Once a woman is elevated to occupy the mother-image she is respected tremendously," said Bandaranaike who served as President from 1994 till 2005.

Answering a question posed by a member of the European Parliament on the issue of terrorism in her country, she said Sri Lanka has the biggest number of women suicide bombers in the world, 95 percent of whom are aged between 20-25.

She argued that the phenomenon of terrorism has some reasons behind it referring to the discrimination faced by the Tamil minority in her country.

She said there was a "pogrom" against Tamils by a "foolish government" in July 1983 following which many Tamils escaped to India "found funds, found arms, trained themselves and then turned to violence."

However, she noted, the reaction of the separatist Tamil Tigers is "far in excess of the discrimination they faced."

### Bandaranaike wants to see women in peacekeeping role

"They have become too terroristic, they will not give up their demand for a separatist state but they can be marginalized and politically destroyed," added Bandaranaike.

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**Load-Date:** June 27, 2007

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## Reporters on the Job

Christian Science Monitor  
September 12, 2006, Tuesday

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**Section:** WORLD; Pg. 6

**Length:** 376 words

### **Body**

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\* Whatever sells: In Sri Lanka, correspondent Anuj Chopra talked to refugees heading home from relief camps after the recent fighting between Tamil Tiger forces and the Sri Lankan government.

In Muttur, a town hit by mortar shelling, Anuj ran into a Tamil man, S. Thangaratnam, who'd fled from Sampur, a former Tiger-held town. "I met him in front of a house devastated by shelling. He was lugging a shell left by the Tamil Tigers at a camp. Before fleeing, he'd taken it with him. He had been carrying it for many days. Thangaratnam is unemployed, and says he intends to sell the shell for its iron value."

Fighting in Sri Lanka has robbed many people of a stable source of income, says Anuj. "This man found this rather strange way to make ends meet."

\* A hospitable Afghan governor: Staff writer Ilene Prusher was saddened to hear of the assassination Sunday of Abdel Hakim Taniwal, an Afghan provincial governor. "I have pleasant memories of interviewing him four years ago, when he had taken a bold move: leaving the comforts of a life in Australia to return to his native Afghanistan," Ilene says. "President Hamid Karzai had encouraged him to come back. Taniwal had once been a lecturer in sociology and anthropology at Kabul University, and Karzai hoped he would help build a more forward-looking country."

From the start, Ilene says, Taniwal seemed to land in a sticky position in a province known for its heavy tribal control (see "A Show of Force in Afghanistan" May 3, 2002).

"Taniwal was grandfatherly, intellectual, and kind, and received me with the honors you would afford to an important visitor," Ilene recalls. "This struck me as particularly generous given that he had just come back, and seemed unsure of his footing. Some local officials did not like the idea of receiving women at political meetings, but he was happy to receive a reporter from the Monitor."

Though people gave him a hearty reception on his first day at work, there was some pessimism, Ilene says. " 'He doesn't have his own militia here,' " one observer told me, 'so he'll never survive.' "

Amelia Newcomb

Deputy World editor

Let us hear from you.

Mail to: One Norway Street, Boston, MA 02115 via e-mail: world(at)csmonitor.com

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Reporters on the Job

**Load-Date:** September 11, 2006

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## TV Today

The Philadelphia Inquirer

June 27, 2006 Tuesday

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### **The Philadelphia Inquirer**

Found on Philly.com

**Section:** FEATURES MAGAZINE; Pg. E05

**Length:** 354 words

## **Body**

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**Live With Regis and Kelly**(9-10 a.m., 6ABC) - Actress Meryl Streep (*The Devil Wears Prada*); actor Brandon Routh (*Superman Returns*).

**Martha**(noon-1 p.m., NBC10) - Martha invites more than 150 women who share her name into her audience; Martha's favorite places in Manhattan.

**The Ellen DeGeneres Show**(3-4 p.m., NBC10) - Actor Colin Firth; actress Jenna Elfman.

**House** (8-9 p.m., Fox29) - A gay man with AIDS collapses during a confrontation with House (Hugh Laurie), who soon discovers the man's father is also ill with some unusual symptoms. As House and the team search for a possible connection between the two men's respective ailments, Cameron (Jennifer Morrison) has a health scare of her own. Sela Ward guest-stars.

**BET Awards '06** (8-11 p.m., BET) - Jamie Foxx plays well with others, and that has garnered him three of the five BET Award nominations he got this year. His collaboration with Kanye West on the song "Gold Digger" is up for video of the year and best collaboration. In the latter category, his "Unpredictable," featuring Ludacris, is also nominated. Damon Wayans hosts the ceremony, which includes special honors for Chaka Khan and Harry Belafonte.

**P.O.V.** (10-11 p.m., PBS12) - The new documentary *No More Tears Sister* tells the story of Sri Lankan human-rights activist Rajani Thiranagama. A member of the country's Tamil minority, she supported the guerrilla group Tamil Tigers as her people's best hope to improve their lot. But when she realized they practiced their own form of oppression, she broke with them - a move that cost her her life. Her own daughter plays Thiranagama in the film's reenactments.

**Late Show With David Letterman** (11:35 p.m.-12:35 a.m., CBS3) - Actress Anne Hathaway; comic Jim Gaffigan; Dashboard Confessional performs.

**The Tonight Show With Jay Leno**(11:35 p.m.-12:35 a.m., NBC10) - TV personality Connie Chung; Guster performs.

TV Today

**Jimmy Kimmel Live** (12:06-1:06 a.m., 6ABC) - Musician Tommy Lee; comic Greg Fitzsimmons; 98-year-old high school student Josephine Belasco; The Fixx perform.

**The Late Late Show With Craig Ferguson** (12:37-1:37 a.m., CBS3) - Actor Henry Winkler; actress Judy Greer.

**Load-Date:** June 27, 2006

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End of Document

## Weird world of sport

MX (Australia)

May 2, 2007 Wednesday

Melbourne Edition

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**Section:** SPORT; Pg. 17

**Length:** 354 words

### **Body**

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#### SCHOLES ON EDGE

Paul Scholes is just one yellow card away from missing a Champions League final for the second time.

And the Manchester United star's fate against AC Milan will be in the hands of a referee he allegedly called a "poof".

Belgian whistler Frank de Bleeckere was in charge of United's Champions League group match at Benfica seven months ago when he booked Scholes.

The United midfielder was accused by lip readers and a gay rights campaigner of mouthing "f..king poof" in response.

De Bleeckere did not hear the remark and took no action.

Scholes, 32, was already on one yellow card when he picked up two cautions and a red against Roma in this season's quarter-final first leg.

So one yellow card was carried over to the tie with Milan.

Former England man Scholes sat out United's epic win over Bayern Munich in the 1999 final through suspension.

Boss Alex Ferguson said: "Paul more than anyone deserves a European final after missing out in 1999 and we're all hoping that's the case.

"If he keeps his calm during the game then he'll be all right I'm sure of that."

#### LANKANS GROUNDED

Sri Lanka's World Cup cricketers have been left stranded in London after their connecting flight back to Colombo was cancelled.

The delay follows an air attack on Colombo last Sunday by the Tamil Tigers.

The players were to fly home with the Emirates airline, which suspended flights to Colombo after the attack.

## Weird world of sport

Sri Lankan officials said the 15-man squad and management team would head back home late today on another airline.

## TREASURED CHEST

Tennis legend John McEnroe cannot be serious.

The former Superbrat wants tennis stars to play bare-chested and British ace Andy Murray would be happy to take up the challenge.

McEnroe, 48, said: "I'm not keen on the sleeveless vests worn by some players, but I'd like to see tennis players with no shirts whatsoever.

"Obviously that would be a problem for the women.

"But for men, they do it in wrestling and boxing and it would make tennis more interesting."

Murray, 19, joked: "I'd be up for it. It would show up the guys who are not in shape.

"But I'd have to start working on my suntan."

**Load-Date:** May 2, 2007

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End of Document

***Suicide bombing in Sri Lanka renews fear of war: Attacker posed as pregnant woman to hide bombs***

Ottawa Citizen

April 26, 2006 Wednesday

Final Edition

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**Section:** NEWS; Pg. A18

**Length:** 352 words

**Byline:** Peter Foster, The Daily Telegraph

**Dateline:** DELHI

## **Body**

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DELHI - Sri Lanka's four-year peace process was teetering on the brink of collapse yesterday after the head of the army was badly injured by a **female** suicide bomber who was pretending to be pregnant.

The attack on Lt.-Gen. Sarath Fonseka was the first suicide bombing in Colombo, the capital, in almost two years and marked a serious escalation in the violence that has killed almost 100 in the past three weeks.

The Sinhalese majority government blamed the attack on the separatist Tamil Tiger organization, which last week pulled out of peace talks in Geneva. The government later launched air and naval strikes against Tiger rebels in retaliation for the bombing. A senior official said the strikes were to deter the Tigers from "further provocative actions."

The bomber struck at Colombo's main military hospital, where civilians are allowed to visit their convalescing relatives at lunchtime.

"The initial suspicion is that she posed as a pregnant woman and entered the compound," a police official said. "She jumped in front of the commander's convoy as it moved past the hospital."

The huge explosion, which left Lt.-Gen. Fonseka with severe abdominal and chest injuries, killed at least eight people and injured 27 more, a military spokesman added.

Lt.-Gen. Fonseka was transferred to the main civilian hospital in Colombo.

The country is awaiting further reaction from the government following what was seen as a series of acts of provocation by the Tigers. This week, the Norwegian envoy to Sri Lanka, Jon Hanssen-Bauer, has been in Sri Lanka trying to persuade the **Tamil Tigers** to return to peace talks in an attempt to rescue the truce of February 2002, which ended 20 years of civil war in which 65,000 people died.

The talks had been complicated by a serious split in the Tamil Tiger movement that led to a former commander from eastern Sri Lanka, known as "Karuna," setting up a breakaway movement 18 months ago.

Suicide bombing in Sri Lanka renews fear of war: Attacker posed as pregnant woman to hide bombs

The main northern Tiger leadership yesterday accused the government of giving secret paramilitary support to the Karuna faction while publicly proclaiming that it was committed to the peace process.

**Load-Date:** April 26, 2006

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End of Document



## Wronged women of the

Canberra Times (Australia)

March 8, 2006 Wednesday

Final Edition

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**Section:** A; Pg. 4

**Length:** 368 words

**Byline:** The Canberra Times

### **Body**

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**WOMEN** have been soldiers throughout history, from the time of the ancient Greeks to the American civil war.

World War II highlighted their role in reserve or support units and their work in munitions factories.

But Letitia Anderson, of the Australian Red Cross, says women's engagement in war as combatants or in logistical support roles is increasing. "During the recent conflict in Iraq, 14 per cent of US forces were women."

In Nicaragua, 30 per cent of the Sandinista army were women ... and the Australian Defence Force employs one of the highest numbers of women in any armed force - 15.5 per cent."

This proportion of women in the armed forces has become the norm, but the public is still shocked when news reports tell of suicide bombings carried out by women.

Anderson says the use of women as suicide bombers underscores the devastating extent to which they have been prepared or coerced into taking part in conflict.

"Women may be used [for suicide bombings] as they attract less suspicion due to assumptions about female behaviour."

They can conceal a suicide device beneath their clothing and appear pregnant. Officials are less likely to body search a woman in conservative cultures."

It has been said of the 'black widows' - a name given to female suicide bombers in Chechnya - that their grief makes them easy prey for recruiters.

"In some communities, women who have suffered sexual violence feel, or are made to feel, that the only way to cleanse themselves of the taint is through an act of martyrdom," Anderson says.

In running a series of gender training workshops, she sometimes cites the letter left by a young Sri Lankan woman who went to join the Tamil Tigers.

"Brother," the woman wrote, "this letter may upset and anger you, but my decision to join the Tigers was correct. Staying alone at home, waiting to be sexually abused by soldiers, is no life."

## Wronged women of the

Anderson says fear of sexual violence is a motivator for many women who take up arms.

"Indeed, it is often the wives, daughters and sisters of pro-independence activists who are targeted for violations and humiliation.

Faced with this risk, women may seek sanctuary in an armed group. Whether or not they find it is, of course, a different question."

**Load-Date:** March 7, 2006

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End of Document

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

Xinhua General News Service

August 6, 2006 Sunday 1:00 PM EST

Copyright 2006 Xinhua News Agency

**Section:** WORLD NEWS

**Length:** 441 words

**Dateline:** HONG KONG

**Body**

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

Foreign exchange rates in Nepal

Major news items in leading Japanese newspapers

Major news items in leading Australian newspapers

Myanmar to lease land to foreigners for developing industrial zones

Major news items in leading Philippine newspapers

Major news items in leading Thai newspapers

Major news items in leading Indian newspapers

Major news items in leading Pakistani newspapers

Roundup: Thai political vacuum makes investors hesitant

HK airport begins to restore order

FBI seeks Pakistan's assistance in information check

Indonesia to import bird flu vaccine for poultry

Major news items in leading Afghan newspapers

Business sentiment up in Indonesia on lower rates hope

Foreign exchange rates in Hong Kong -- Aug. 5

Myanmar exposes 748 human trafficking cases in past four years

Foreign exchange rates in Indonesia

Gold price lower in Hong Kong -- Aug. 5

Urgent: Thai man dies of bird flu

Thailand needs cooperation from Myanmar: Thai Caretaker PM

Singapore opens cyber wellness center for young people

Pakistani gas pipelines damaged in explosion

Flood kills 4 in S. Afghanistan

Earthquake hits northwest India

Philippines resumes evacuation of overseas workers from Lebanon

Nepali Royal Palace owns 1,700 hectares of land

Refugee influx floods Sri Lanka's eastern town of Kantalai

Heavy rain kills at least 40 people in east India

Some 200 Indonesian jihad bombers ready to leave for Middle East: report

Nepal endorses Code of Conduct for Nepali orthodox tea

Clash leaves two dead in S. Afghanistan

1st Ld-Writethru: Thailand confirms second bird-flu death this year

Sri Lanka gov't accuses **Tamil Tigers** of massacring civilians

Malaysia says no to dialogue with Israel on Middle East issue

Urgent: Pakistan expels Indian diplomat

1st Ld-Writethru: Pakistan declares Indian diplomat "persona non grata": TV

One ISAF soldier dead, 3 wounded in vehicle accident in S. Afghanistan

Malaysia considers opening KL-Singapore route to budget airlines

Pakistani **women**, children rally to condemn Israel

2nd-Ld Writethru: Pakistan expels Indian diplomat: official

India expels Pakistani diplomat

Urgent: Bridge collapses in Pakistan, dozens killed

Weather information for Asia-Pacific cities -- Aug. 5

1st-Ld Writethru: Bridges collapse in NW Pakistan, dozens feared dead

India, Pakistan expel senior diplomats

Hong Kong airport returns to normal

New cocktail created to celebrate Singapore's 41st birthday

**Load-Date:** August 6, 2006

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End of Document

**Police find explosives, weapons in house near Sri Lankan capital; 17 arrested**

Associated Press International

August 26, 2006 Saturday 6:55 AM GMT

Copyright 2006 Associated Press All Rights Reserved

**Section:** INTERNATIONAL NEWS

**Length:** 355 words

**Byline:** By BHARATHA MALLAWARACHI, Associated Press Writer

**Dateline:** COLOMBO Sri Lanka

## **Body**

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Police on Saturday found a major weapons cache hidden in a house on the outskirts of the Sri Lankan capital, and arrested 17 people who an official said were planning a major attack.

The cache included hand grenades, roadside bombs, assault rifles, ammunition and detonators, said a police officer, speaking on condition of anonymity because he is not authorized to speak to the press.

The police's elite special task force, acting on a tip, raided a house early Saturday in Pamunugama, a coastal town on the outskirts of Colombo and close to the country's only international airport, he said.

The officer said 17 suspects, including two **women**, were arrested and investigations are under way to ascertain whether they have any links with separatist Tamil Tiger rebels. One suspect had fled, he said.

The suspects are all from Kokkadicholai, a village in the Tamil Tiger-held northeast, an investigating officer told The Associated Press. The officer declined to give his name as he is not authorized to speak to the media.

He said most of the suspects have been living on the outskirts of Colombo for nearly 15 years and were making plans for a major attack. He declined to give further information.

Roadside bombs that fire hundreds of steel balls propelled by plastic explosives are a favored weapon of the Tamil rebels.

Last week, police discovered and defused a powerful bomb planted in a box of vegetables on a bicycle in a busy shopping district in Colombo.

On Aug. 14, an auto rickshaw exploded as a car carrying Pakistan's high commissioner, Basir Ali Mohmand, passed along a crowded road, killing seven people. The government has blamed **Tamil Tigers** for the attack.

The Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam have fought the government since 1983 for a separate homeland for the country's 3.2 million ethnic minority Tamils in the north and east, where they control wide swaths of territory.

A cease-fire brokered by Norway in 2002 temporarily halted the bloodshed, in which as many as 65,000 people were killed.

Police find explosives, weapons in house near Sri Lankan capital; 17 arrested

But the past few months have seen renewed fighting in the north and east, where the rebels want to establish a separate state.

**Load-Date:** August 27, 2006

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End of Document

## **Sri Lankan capital hit by three explosions, police say to create panic**

Associated Press International

January 24, 2006 Tuesday 4:15 PM GMT

Copyright 2006 Associated Press All Rights Reserved

**Section:** INTERNATIONAL NEWS

**Length:** 372 words

**Byline:** By DILIP GANGULY, Associated Press Writer

**Dateline:** COLOMBO Sri Lanka

### **Body**

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The Sri Lankan capital was hit by three explosions Tuesday night, causing widespread panic but no known casualties, police and residents said.

An explosive device or grenades kept in a garbage bin exploded near a hospital for women. The other explosions took place at railroad stations in Nugegoda and Mount Lavinia districts on the capital's outskirts.

"Some people are trying to create panic," Inspector General of Police, Chandra Fernando, told The Associated Press.

"We don't know who are they, but they surely have an agenda to create panic here," Fernando said.

The separatist Tamil Tiger rebels had carried out several attacks in Colombo before the 2002 cease-fire was signed that halted the two-decade old civil war. The pre-truce attacks were carried out either to target opponents or to dramatize the rebels' homeland campaign.

Fernando declined to blame the Tigers, but the blasts coincided with renewed Norwegian efforts to negotiate an end to escalating violence mostly blamed on the Tigers that has threatened the truce.

Sri Lanka's president on Tuesday asked Norway's peace envoy to set up new talks with the rebels in hopes of staving off a return to civil war.

President Mahinda Rajapakse and Norwegian envoy Eric Solheim held a "lengthy and cordial" one-on-one meeting Tuesday, said presidential spokesman Lucian Rajakarunanayake. Other officials close to the president said Rajapakse told Solheim to pursue fresh talks with rebels quickly.

In a round of high-stakes shuttle diplomacy, Solheim will take the president's message to rebel-held territory on Wednesday, when the envoy is scheduled to meet with Vellupillai Prabhakaran, the Tamil Tigers' reclusive leader.

The first explosion was reported in a garbage bin near a hospital for women, Colombo's Deputy Inspector General of Police, P. Jayasundara, said earlier.

"Someone had concealed or abandoned the explosives in the garbage dump to avoid detection," Jayasundara said.



## Sri Lankan capital hit by three explosions, police say to create panic

Police in Colombo had been conducting searches to detect Tamil Tiger rebel infiltrators, who are campaigning for a homeland for Sri Lanka's 3.2 million ethnic Tamils.

The blasts at the railroad stations forced the suspension of rail services from and to the capital, stranding thousands of commuters.

**Load-Date:** January 25, 2006

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End of Document

**Tamil relief group says two workers allegedly kidnapped returned home;  
eight missing**

Associated Press International

February 1, 2006 Wednesday 5:51 PM GMT

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**Section:** INTERNATIONAL NEWS

**Length:** 386 words

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

**Dateline:** COLOMBO Sri Lanka

## **Body**

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Two aid workers reportedly abducted while traveling to a tsunami reconstruction project in Sri Lanka returned to their families Wednesday, but eight others remained missing, a Tamil relief agency said.

Tamil Rehabilitation Organization official Arjunan Ethiveerasingam said the two women Punniyamoorthy Nadeswari and Siththiravel Sivamathi were reluctant to face the media or explain what happened to them because they were "fearful and their lives were threatened," by the alleged kidnappers.

He did not say whether they were released or escaped.

Three others with them on Monday and five more aid workers who were reportedly kidnapped by unidentified men on Tuesday remain missing, TRO said in a statement.

The group said it was willing to cooperate in any police investigation and urged the government to ensure the safety of the women.

However, an investigation ordered by the country's top police officer, Inspector General Chandra Fernando, into the alleged disappearances on Monday indicated the claim was untrue, police spokesman Rienzie Perera said.

"We have not come across any evidence which will suggest that the kidnapping allegation is true," Perera said. "These are only allegations."

He said police would also investigate the claim that five other TRO workers had disappeared on Tuesday.

After the group reported the kidnapping of five of its workers on Monday, the Tamil Tigers threatened to pull out of upcoming peace talks unless the government does more to protect Tamils.

The TRO said the second group three women and two men went missing while traveling from the rebels' de facto capital of Kilinochchi to the eastern city of Batticaloa. They were involved in projects to rebuild the area after the December 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami, it said.

Tamil relief group says two workers allegedly kidnapped returned home; eight missing

The Tiger rebels started fighting in 1983 to create a separate Tamil homeland in Sri Lanka's northeast, claiming discrimination by the majority Sinhalese. About 65,000 people died in the conflict before a Norwegian-brokered cease-fire was signed in 2002.

Norway also helped coordinate six subsequent rounds of peace talks, which broke down over rebel demands for extensive autonomy in the northeast, where most of Sri Lanka's 3.2 million minority Tamils live. The two sides recently agreed to a Norwegian proposal to resume the talks in Switzerland in mid-February.

**Load-Date:** February 2, 2006

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End of Document

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

Xinhua General News Service

December 5, 2005 Monday 12:30 PM EST

Copyright 2005 Xinhua News Agency

**Section:** WORLD NEWS

**Length:** 426 words

**Dateline:** HONG KONG

**Body**

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

Major news items in leading Japanese newspapers

Earthquake hits Kyushu of Japan

Myanmar, Thailand to cooperate in farming

Foreign exchange rates in Nepal

Major news items in Thailand's leading newspapers

Major news items in leading Philippine newspapers

Major news items in leading Pakistani newspapers

Peace process must start during extended ceasefire: Nepali party

Major news items in leading Indian newspapers

Indonesia's house speaker supports plan to reshuffle cabinet

Singapore to cooperate with Malaysia in promoting tourism

WB loan to Nepal becomes uncertain: bank official

Nepali gov't, guerrillas urged to sign landmine treaty

61 staffers in health departments fired in Nepal

Key figure in Arroyo electoral fraud controversy turns himself to police

56 die in accidents in central Nepal in five months

Dhaka to seek international help to combat suicide bombers

Major news items in leading Afghan newspapers

News items from Asia-Pacific Desk of Xinhua

Dhaka's bid to change Asian Highway route fails

Elected parliament member killed in E. Afghanistan

Roundup: **Female** Community Health Volunteers: saviors of Nepali **women** and children

by Wang Haijing

Some HK citizens go on march to make different demands

Indian Prime Minister leaves for Moscow for defense, energy talks

6 soldiers killed in Sri Lanka's north

**Tamil Tigers** kill state official in Sri Lanka's east

MC6 chairman: MC6 -- key phase for completing Doha Round negotiations

Weather information for Asia-Pacific cities -- Dec. 4

India to send investigation team to Iraq on Volcker report

HK holds Basic Law speech contest

Southern Indian city flooded by heavy rains

Thailand releases prisoners on occasion of King's birthday

2 killed, 2 injured in suicide bombing in Afghanistan

Thailand, Myanmar ink contract-farming pact

Thousands of citizens march in Hong Kong

5 US soldiers injured in helicopter emergency landings in S. Afghanistan

Kathmandu declaration asks for removing WTO from agriculture

Policeman killed, 15 wounded in India-controlled Kashmir

Thailand's King calls for mindfulness and caution in action

Arroyo appoints new Philippine navy commander

Workers wish to voice their opinions at ASEAN summit

CE: demands of citizens for democracy not in contradictory with Fifth Report

1 killed, 14 injured in road mishap in eastern Nepal

First regional economic conference in Kabul calls for cooperation

**Load-Date:** December 5, 2005

## **WATCH ROUND THE CLOCK; YOUR GUIDE TO TODAY'S MUST-SEE TV**

The Independent (London)

April 21, 2006 Friday

First Edition

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# The INDEPENDENT

**Section:** FEATURES; Pg. 52

**Length:** 377 words

**Byline:** BY PETER CONCHIE

## **Body**

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BEFORE 6PM

World Snooker

12.30PM BBC2

An intriguing contrast of styles and eras features last year's unlikely champion, Shaun Murphy, taking on Steve Davis, the 48-year-old six-times winner.

Millions Like Us

12.40PM CHANNEL 4

Frank Launder and Sidney Giliat's incisive propaganda piece examines the social divisions in wartime society. Eric Portman (right) stars.

Loose **Women**

1.30PM ITV1

Pete Burns, so pleasant, accommodating and wel-adjusted on the otherwise rancorous Celebrity Big Brother, pops in for a girly natter.

FROM 6 TO 8PM

Coronation Street

7.30PM ITV1

## WATCH ROUND THE CLOCK YOUR GUIDE TO TODAY'S MUST-SEE TV

Gail (right) has been getting greetings cards from Richard Hilman, her former husband, last seen in a bodybag by the Manchester Ship Canal after trying to drown her in the Ford Galaxy. Tonight, she's at the end of her tether, and fretting in her dressing gown.

Unreported World

7.35PM CHANNEL 4

A report on the simmering conflict between the *Tamil Tigers* and the Sri Lankan government.

FROM 8 TO 10PM

The Girl Who Would Be Queen

8.30PM ITV1

Mary Nightingale presents supposed highlights from the Windsor family home video collection - the Queen as a toddler (right), for example - on her 80th birthday.

Timewatch

9PM BBC2

The story behind the discovery in York of 30 Roman skeletons of men who had been beheaded before burial.

Have I Got News for You

9PM BBC1

Trevor McDonald is the guest host as series 31 (good grief, that many) of the topical news quiz commences.

The Smith & Jones Sketchbook

9.30PM BBC1

A repackaged six-part series, as Mel Smith (above left) and Griff Rhys Jones (above) introduce their best sketches.

10PM TO 12 MDNT

Grumpy Old Men

10PM BBC2

Geoffrey Palmer's deliciously weary narration once again weaves together despairing rants on modern life. Rory McGrath and Will Self are among the celebrity gits.

Friday Night with Jonathan Ross

10.35PM BBC1

Radio 2's highest paid presenter supplements his earnings with this regular piece of Friday night moonlighting. Tom Jones and Graham Norton are guests.

The Faculty

11.40PM CHANNEL 4

An entertaining scifi thriller that sets pupil against teacher in a US high school. Josh Hartnett (left) stars.

WATCH ROUND THE CLOCK YOUR GUIDE TO TODAY'S MUST-SEE TV

LATE

The Passion: Films, Faith and Fury

1.40AM CHANNEL 4

A repeat showing for Dr Robert Beckford's comprehensive history of the relationship between Hollywood and the church.

**Load-Date:** April 21, 2006

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End of Document



## **Suspected Tamil rebels detonate mine in Colombo suburb, 1 wounded**

Associated Press International

June 6, 2006 Tuesday 1:08 AM GMT

Copyright 2006 Associated Press All Rights Reserved

**Section:** INTERNATIONAL NEWS

**Length:** 373 words

**Byline:** By DILIP GANGULY, Associated Press Writer

**Dateline:** COLOMBO Sri Lanka

### **Body**

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Suspected Tamil Tiger rebels triggered an anti-personnel mine on the outskirts of Sri Lanka's capital early Tuesday, wounding a bus driver but missing a navy convoy that was their apparent target, the military said.

The incident occurred as government and rebel officials prepared meet in the Norwegian capital Thursday and Friday to review the country's 2002 cease-fire, which appears increasingly tenuous due to violence that has killed at least 375 people since the beginning of April.

The attack on a highway connecting Colombo with the country's only international airport damaged a state-run bus and wounded its driver, navy spokesman D.K.P Dassanayake said. The bus had just come out of its depot and had no passengers.

"Their main target was our buses that take navy personnel to duty, but apparently they triggered the mine prematurely," Dassanayake said.

Tuesday's attack was the first near Colombo since an abortive attempt by a **female** rebel bomber to kill the country's top military general at a military base on April 25.

Lt. Gen. Sarath Fonseka escaped the attack with abdominal and chest injuries, but at least 12 other people died in the blast, which sparked government retaliation against the Tamil rebels, shaking a four-year-old cease-fire and pushing Sri Lanka closer to a resumption of full-scale civil war.

The Oslo talks are aimed at reviewing the Norway-brokered cease-fire and ensure safety of European monitors who oversee the agreement. The monitors suspended sea patrols last month after the rebels attacked a government navy convoy that had a truce monitor on board.

Seventeen Sri Lankan sailors were killed in the assault off the northern Jaffna peninsula, but the main ship ferrying 710 Sri Lankan sailors escaped.

The rebels later warned the monitors not to board navy vessels, saying they couldn't guarantee their security.

Sixty members from Norway, Sweden, Denmark, Finland and Iceland have monitored Sri Lanka's cease-fire since 2002.

Suspected Tamil rebels detonate mine in Colombo suburb, 1 wounded

The **Tamil Tigers**, or Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam, began fighting the government in 1983 to create a separate state for ethnic minority Tamils, accusing the majority Sinhalese of discrimination.

More than 65,000 people were killed in the conflict before the cease-fire was signed.

**Load-Date:** June 6, 2006

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End of Document

## **Human rights abuses flourishing during tsunami reconstruction efforts, say researchers**

AP Worldstream

June 8, 2005 Wednesday

Copyright 2005 Associated Press

**Section:** INTERNATIONAL NEWS

**Length:** 398 words

**Dateline:** BANGKOK, Thailand

### **Body**

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Relief and reconstruction efforts in some areas devastated by last December's Indian Ocean tsunami have worsened human rights problems, with women, children and migrants suffering from violence and exploitation, according to a report.

"The way in which relief and reconstruction are being conducted appears to be exacerbating vulnerability rather than reducing it," Laurel Fletcher, who directs the globalization project of the human rights center of the University of California at Berkeley, said Wednesday.

U.S. and local researchers in Indonesia, Sri Lanka, Maldives and Thailand and India interviewed tsunami survivors and aid workers under the center's guidance.

In all the surveyed countries "cramped living conditions in temporary housing have surfaced such problems as sexual violence, alcohol abuse and physical violence," the research team said in a press release.

In Maldives, inadequate security at camps for the displaced make women and children fearful of attacks by drug abusers; in Thailand, migrant workers from Myanmar who have lost their travel documents fear arrest and deportation; in Sri Lanka, children are at risk of abduction to become child soldiers with the Tamil Tigers guerrillas.

A preliminary version of the group's report was discussed this past weekend by about 40 representatives of governments and non-governmental groups meeting in Bangkok under the sponsorship of Fletcher's center and Hawaii's East-West Center.

The researchers found that "abuses are being caused by a lack of protection for individuals who lost their homes and are living in displacement camps and ... aid distribution is often lacking or discriminatory because of corruption, favoritism and poor management."

"Decisions about relief, relocation and reconstruction aid are largely taking place without consultation with the affected communities," they added.

"In Sri Lanka, one area designated for permanent housing is literally a swamp," Fletcher said.

## Human rights abuses flourishing during tsunami reconstruction efforts, say researchers

To improve the situation, the researchers recommended establishing a special temporary human rights monitoring and protection project in the region; conducting a survey of tsunami-affected areas to assess aid distribution; and setting up mechanisms to ensure the involvement of communities in reconstruction.

The Dec. 26 disaster killed more than 176,000 people in 11 countries, and left about 50,000 missing and hundreds of thousands homeless.

**Load-Date:** June 9, 2005

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End of Document

## **Norway ambassador to meet with Sri Lanka rebels as tensions escalate**

Associated Press International

March 4, 2005 Friday

Copyright 2005 Associated Press All Rights Reserved

**Section:** INTERNATIONAL NEWS

**Length:** 399 words

**Dateline:** COLOMBO, Sri Lanka

### **Body**

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Norway's Ambassador to Sri Lanka was set to hold talks Saturday with a top Tamil Tiger leader, as the guerrillas warned that a recent spate of violence could hurt long-term prospects for the fragile truce that halted this country's two-decade civil war.

Ambassador Hans Brattskar was to meet the Tigers' political chief, S.P. Thamilselvan, in the northern rebel-held city of Kilinochchi. In the talks, the guerrillas were expected to formally protest an attack that critically injured a senior Tiger **female** leader and two of her comrades, officials involved in the peace process said Friday on condition of anonymity.

The attack Monday by unidentified gunmen came three weeks after unidentified gunmen killed a senior rebel leader in eastern Sri Lanka.

The rebels warned a day later that the violence could have "far-reaching consequences" for the entire peace process.

European cease-fire monitors also warn that the violence threatens the truce.

The Tigers began fighting in 1983 to carve out a separate state for Sri Lanka's ethnic minority Tamils, accusing the majority Sinhalese of discrimination. Nearly 65,000 people died in the conflict before Norway brokered a truce in February 2002.

On Friday a Norwegian Embassy spokesman, Tom Knappskog, confirmed the meeting between the ambassador Thamilselvan. He declined to give details.

Factional violence erupted within the **Tamil Tigers**' ranks in the past year, and the rebels' leadership accused the Sri Lankan army of supporting the breakaway guerrillas - a charge the army denies.

Scores of people - including rebels, soldiers and civilians - have been killed since several thousand rebels broke away from the main Tamil Tiger group a year ago.

The mainstream Tigers have mostly crushed the rebellion, but some renegades are believed to have gone underground and to be continuing attacks on the Tigers.

Officials said Brattskar also hopes to discuss completing a government-rebel deal to ensure that foreign aid reaches guerrilla-held areas ravaged by the Dec. 26 tsunami.

## Norway ambassador to meet with Sri Lanka rebels as tensions escalate

The Tigers have repeatedly demanded access to some of the foreign aid that has poured into Sri Lanka, one of the countries hit hardest by the giant waves. But most international donors are reluctant to give funds directly to the rebel group, listed as a terrorist organization in five countries.

The Tsunami killed at least 31,000 people here, and left about a million more homeless.

**Load-Date:** March 5, 2005

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End of Document

## *They're young and focused*

The Dominion Post (Wellington, New Zealand)

July 3, 2004, Saturday

Copyright 2004 Fairfax New Zealand

**Section:** NEWS; NATIONAL;

**Length:** 370 words

**Byline:** FITZSIMONS Tom

### **Body**

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THE WORLD is getting smaller but more complicated for young people, two Wellington delegates to a global youth parliament say.

Michelle Ngakai and Paul Zoubkov are heading to Sydney for Oxfam's International Youth Parliament starting on Monday.

About 300 delegates from 163 countries are to discuss issues such as HIV, education and global youth culture.

The two 23-year-old Wellingtonians earned their places from a pool of more than 2000 applicants. They had to come up with an action plan for positive change in their local community.

Ms Ngakai, who works with YWCA, visualised a website specifically for young New Zealand women, providing advocacy, aid and a forum for women's issues.

Mr Zoubkov saw a problem with popular perceptions of young people. He resolved to get them more involved in national and international issues, as well as presenting them better through the media.

He said the coming parliament would explore issues that affected young people around the world.

"We live in a shrinking world and we're all inter-connected. Issues like the environment and HIV and disparities in the development of nations are of global concern."

The parliament would produce "fantastic synergies", he predicted.

"It's been awesome to find e-mails every day from around the world -- from people trying to help end the violence of the Tamil Tigers, to others fighting Aids in Zambia and so on."

Ms Ngakai is also attending a five-day indigenous peoples forum at the end of the parliament.

She was looking forward to meeting "passionate and committed young people from around the world".

After all the globetrotting and socialising with important people, the only catch is that they have to stay involved for two years. Mr Zoubkov saw that as positive.

"It's not like it just ends after the eight days. You're expected to carry out your action plan and stay involved with all the other people. It's about personal development as much as global issues."

They're young and focused

Annabel Alexander and Andrew Fraser, both from Auckland, are also attending the International Youth Parliament.

It runs till July 12.

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CAPTION:

On their way: Michelle Ngakai and Paul Zoubkov are going to the International Youth Parliament in Sydney. Picture:  
ROSS GIBLIN

**Load-Date:** July 5, 2004

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End of Document



**Report: Renegade Tamil Tiger leader killed man linked to Gandhi assassination**

Associated Press International

April 15, 2004 Thursday

Copyright 2004 Associated Press All Rights Reserved

**Section:** INTERNATIONAL NEWS

**Length:** 381 words

**Byline:** DILIP GANGULY; Associated Press Writer

**Dateline:** COLOMBO, Sri Lanka

## **Body**

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A renegade Tamil Tiger commander fled his jungle base after executing a man he accused of being part of the 1991 suicide bomb assassination of former Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi, a Tamil Web site claimed Thursday.

The TamilNet Web alleged that Vinayagamoorthy Muralitharan shot and killed Neelan Sinnathamby on Monday just hours before as rival Tiger forces advanced on his camp in the island's east.

Muralitharan - also known as Karuna - last month broke away from the main Tamil Tiger force, which this week retaliated, attacking and routing his fighters.

Muralitharan's men captured Sinnathamby in early March, accusing him of helping to organize Gandhi's killing.

On Thursday TamilNet said members of the main Tiger force found Sinnathamby's body on Tuesday "with hands tied and blindfolded."

Gandhi had been India's prime minister from 1984 to 1989. He deployed Indian forces to neighboring Sri Lanka in 1987 in an unsuccessful attempt to end a civil war between Sri Lanka's government and the **Tamil Tigers**.

He had been campaigning for re-election when a **female** Tamil Tiger blew herself up and killed him and others at a political rally in southern India on May 21, 1991.

Indian officials have accused the current leader of the main Tiger group Vellupillai Prabhakaran - Muralitharan's rival - of masterminding Gandhi's killing.

Prabhakaran continues to operate in his northern Sri Lankan stronghold and has never been tried by India. However, an Indian court has named him a "proclaimed offender," indicating that there was enough evidence to establish his guilt.

Sinnathamby was not among 26 people convicted in India in the assassination. Nor was he on India's list of suspects.

It is not clear why Muralitharan believed Sinnathamby had been part of the plot to kill Gandhi. Nor is it clear what Muralitharan had to gain by capturing and allegedly murdering him.

Report: Renegade Tamil Tiger leader killed man linked to Gandhi assassination

Rajiv Gandhi took over as India's leader after his mother Prime Minister Indira Gandhi - the daughter of India's first premier Jawaharal Nehru - was shot to death by her security guards in 1984.

Rajiv Gandhi's widow, Italian-born Sonia, now heads his opposition Congress party and has been campaigning ahead of Indian elections that start this month. Their son Rahul Gandhi, 34, is standing for a seat in the Indian Parliament.

**Load-Date:** April 16, 2004

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End of Document

## *Sri Lanka offers probe into aid killings*

Agence France Presse -- English

August 7, 2006 Monday 11:46 AM GMT

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**Length:** 428 words

**Dateline:** COLOMBO, Aug 7 2006

### **Body**

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Sri Lanka will order a "clean and independent" investigation into the reported killing of 15 workers of a French charity during fighting in the northeast, the human rights minister told AFP Monday.

The government will grant "very high priority" to probe charges that 11 men and four women, all locals employed by the French group Action Against Hunger, were gunned down in the town of Muttur, Mahinda Samarasinghe said.

"We can't come to conclusions right now but if the story is correct, it will be a very high priority investigation," the minister said. "I can assure a clean and an independent investigation."

Paris-based Action Against Hunger (ACF) said the 15 employees, all Sri Lankans, had been shot over the weekend in Muttur, where they helped survivors of the December 2004 tsunami as well as those affected by the violence in the country.

The minister said he was working with the International Committee of the Red Cross to get access to Muttur, where heavy fighting between government forces and Tamil Tiger rebels has killed dozens of civilians.

"I am in contact with the defence authorities to see that the ICRC is able to have access to the area," Samarasinghe said. "I am relying on the ICRC to go in and find out what exactly happened."

He said he was also seeking ICRC help to evacuate the wounded and clear the corpses in areas over which the security forces have no control.

However, the ICRC said it still had no access to the Muttur area, where shelling was reported Monday. The Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) said that 15 civilians had been killed.

"We still have not been able to have access to Muttur," ICRC spokesman Sukumar Rockwood told AFP. "We have asked guarantees of safety for our staff from both sides and we are still awaiting a response."

He said a priority for the ICRC would be to evacuate the wounded and remove unclaimed bodies.

Rockwood said their estimates showed that about 50,000 people from Muttur and neighbouring areas have fled to the safety of a bigger town and were being provided food and other essentials by the Red Cross and other charities.

## Sri Lanka offers probe into aid killings

Civilians who fled the Muslim majority fishing town of Muttur have spoken of being attacked.

The government has accused the **LTTE** of killing over 100 Muslim civilians while the rebels have blamed the government for the killing of aid workers.

Fighting resumed in the area Monday despite efforts by peace broker Norway to resolve a water blockade which is at the root of clashes that began July 26. Around 60,000 people in all have been killed in some three decades of fighting.

**Load-Date:** August 8, 2006

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End of Document

## *Thousands gather in northern Sri Lanka to commemorate Tamil Tiger suicide cadres*

Associated Press International

July 5, 2003 Saturday

Copyright 2003 Associated Press All Rights Reserved

**Section:** INTERNATIONAL NEWS

**Length:** 374 words

**Byline:** JOE ARYARATNAM; Associated Press Writer

### **Body**

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JAFFNA, Sri Lanka (AP)- Thousands of people gathered in the northern Tamil heartland of Jaffna on Saturday to commemorate Tamil Tiger suicide bombers who lost their lives in a 19-year civil war with the Sri Lankan government.

The main ceremony started in Nelliady, the town where the first suicide bomber, known only as Captain Miller, drove into an army camp with a truckload of explosives 16 years ago, killing 40 soldiers.

Since then, 176 men and 64 women have followed his footsteps and blown themselves up, killing political and military leaders including Sri Lankan President Ranasinghe Premadasa and former Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi.

The town was decorated with red and yellow flags, the Tamil Tigers' official colors, and posters put up across the peninsula carried the praises bestowed by the reclusive rebel leader Velupillai Prabhakaran upon his most trusted cadres, known as "Black Tigers."

"Black Tigers are the protective armor of our kind who clear our path to freedom," read a poster.

"Black Tigers are fiery people who destroy the enemy's military power through their will power," read another.

At the start of the ceremony, the rebels garlanded Captain Miller's statue. Later in the day, photos of the 240 suicide cadres were to be taken on board a mobile boat in a procession featuring musical bands from schools in the area.

The celebrations come at a crucial time in Sri Lanka's peace process.

The rebels suspended peace talks in April, accusing the government of not doing enough to help thousands of Tamil refugees displaced in the conflict.

"Celebrations such as these convey the message that the people are united and they want the government to solve their ... problems soon." S. Ilamparithi, the Tiger leader for Jaffna, said.

Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam rebels started their armed insurrection in 1983 to create a separate state for minority Tamils, accusing the majority Sinhalese of widespread discrimination in education and jobs.

Thousands gather in northern Sri Lanka to commemorate Tamil Tiger suicide cadres

About 65,000 people were killed in the fighting before the two sides signed a Norway-brokered cease-fire with the government last year, paving the way for six rounds of peace talks.

During the talks, Tigers agreed to accept autonomy for Tamil-majority areas instead of total independence.

**Load-Date:** July 6, 2003

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End of Document

## **Sri Lanka's president says bomb attack will not derail peace process**

Deutsche Presse-Agentur

July 8, 2004, Thursday 10084310:08:43 Central European Time

Copyright 2004 Deutsche Presse-Agentur

**Section:** Politics

**Length:** 448 words

**Dateline:** Colombo

### **Body**

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President Chandrika Kumaratunga is confident that she could push forward a Norwegian backed peace process with Tamil rebels despite Wednesday's suicide bomb attack in the capital which killed five people and injured 12, newspapers said Thursday. President Kumaratunga appearing on a late night television programme said she believed that the peace talks with the rebels could go ahead and that the explosion at a Colombo police station would not disturb the process. "The peace process falls into a much broader category to be derailed by a mere incident of this nature," she said referring to the bombing incident. A **female** suicide bomber, believed to be sent by the rebels to assassinate a member of Kumaratunga's government who has sympathized with a rival group, blew herself up inside a police station in Kollupitiya after being taken in for questioning. She was about to be body searched. Five people, the bomber and four police officers, were killed in the incident, the first since the government and the rebels entered into a cease-fire agreement in February 2002. Rebels of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (**LTTE**) Thursday denied any involvement in the suicide attack, but police and army investigators of the bombing strongly believe that the rebels were responsible for the attack. Rebel spokesman S.P.Thamilselva told a pro-rebel website that they had absolutely no connection in the suicide bombing in Colombo. "This is an act to destabilize the peace process. We suspect this has been carried out by elements that want to disrupt the peace process," Thamilselvan was quoted as saying.

President Kumaratunga said that Norwegian peace facilitators had taken up the bombing issue with the rebels, but the government is conducting its own investigations into the matter. Rebels have never claimed responsibility for a bomb attack during their 20-year-old armed conflict in Sri Lanka. The **LTTE** is believed to have targetted cabinet Minister Douglas Devananda, also leader of the Eelam People's Democratic Party (EPDP), in retaliation for helping the leader of a breakaway group of the rebels. The leader of the breakaway group, V.Muralitharan alias Karuna, is being assisted by Devananda to form his own political party. Sri Lanka's Deputy Defence Minister Ratnasiri Wickremanayake downplayed the bombing incident saying that Devananda was a target of the rebels for many years and the bombing would not disrupt the peace process. Security has been beefed up in the capital following the bombing at the Kollupitiya police station situated in the close vicinity of the prime minister's office and the U.S. and British diplomatic missions. dpa ad pw

**Load-Date:** July 8, 2004

## 1ST LEAD: Top military Sri Lankan officer, 3 others killed by bomb

Deutsche Presse-Agentur

June 26, 2006 Monday 6:25 AM EST

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**Section:** POLITICS

**Length:** 439 words

**Dateline:** Colombo

### Body

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A senior military officer, two soldiers and a civilian were killed in a suicide bomb attack close to Sri Lanka's capital on Monday morning, a military spokesman said.

Major General Parami Kulatunga, deputy chief of staff of the Sri Lanka army, was killed when a suspected Tamil rebel rammed his motorcycle into the army officer's vehicle at Pannipitya, 20 kilometres south of the capital, as he was being driven to work, military spokesman Brigadier Prasad Samarasinghe said. The bomb also killed two of his military escorts and a bystander. Six civilians and two soldiers were injured in the blast. The army officer is the third most senior officer in the Sri Lanka and has been involved in a series of military operations against

Tamil rebels of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) in the north and eastern parts of the country, before taking up the position in the army headquarters.

On April 25 rebels carried out a suicide bomb attack inside the army headquarters and seriously injured the army commander, Lt. Gen. Sarath Fonseka. He has been flown to Singapore for further treatment.

In the absence of the commander Maj. Gen. Kulatunga was playing a key role in carrying out the operations of the 120,000-strong army and was viewed as a potential commander.

Eyewitnesses said the vehicle was engulfed in flames and was completely destroyed after the blast.

A female passer-by driving to work took the officer to hospital, but he was pronounced dead on admission.

"I thought the vehicle was caught in an accident and was in flames. When I checked out it was a bomb blast and I volunteered to take an officer who was fallen by the road side to hospital. I did not know that he was a senior officer," said Uthpala Ranasinghe.

Eyewitnesses said that they believed that the officer was killed instantly.

The death of the officer was a serious setback to the military which has been preparing for more attacks from the rebels in the north and eastern parts of the country.

The escalation of violence since December 2005 has left more than 800 - civilians, soldiers and rebels dead during this period while an



## 1ST LEAD: Top military Sri Lankan officer, 3 others killed by bomb

estimated 100,000 have been displaced due to fresh attacks.

The Norwegian-backed peace talks are also at a standstill while a cease-fire in the north and east is under a serious threat of collapsing after the rebels insisted that representatives from EU countries should not remain as monitors.

The EU banned the LTTE last month as a terrorist organization.

Representatives from Sweden, Denmark and Finland are currently on the monitoring team.

## Notes

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Adds details, casualty figures increased

**Load-Date:** June 27, 2006

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End of Document

## **Sport talk**

MX Brisbane (Queensland, Australia)

May 2, 2007 Wednesday

BRIS Edition

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**Section:** MX; Pg. 12

**Length:** 376 words

### **Body**

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He's a Spaniard who has come from Spain."

- EVERTON'S PHIL NEVILLE GIVES A GEOGRAPHY LESSON ON TEAMMATE MIKEL ARTETA.

Weird world of sport

SCHOLES ON EDGE

Paul Scholes is just one yellow card away from missing a Champions League final for the second time.

And the Manchester United star's fate against AC Milan will be in the hands of a referee he allegedly called a "poof".

Belgian whistler Frank de Bleckere was in charge of United's Champions League group match at Benfica seven months ago when he booked Scholes.

The United midfielder was accused by lip readers and a gay rights campaigner of mouthing "f..king poof" in response.

De Bleckere did not hear the remark and took no action.

Scholes, 32, was already on one yellow card when he picked up two cautions and a red against Roma in this season's quarter-final first leg.

So one yellow card was carried over to the tie with Milan.

Former England man Scholes sat out United's epic win over Bayern Munich in the 1999 final through suspension.

Boss Alex Ferguson said: "Paul more than anyone deserves a European final after missing out in 1999 and we're all hoping that's the case.

"If he keeps his calm during the game then he'll be all right I'm sure of that."

LANKANS GROUNDED

## Sport talk

Sri Lanka's World Cup cricketers have been left stranded in London after their connecting flight back to Colombo was cancelled.

The delay follows an air attack on Colombo last Sunday by the **Tamil Tigers**.

The players were to fly home with the Emirates airline, which suspended flights to Colombo after the attack.

Sri Lankan officials said the 15-man squad and management team would head back home late today on another airline.

## TREASURED CHEST

Tennis legend John McEnroe cannot be serious.

The former Superbrat wants tennis stars to play bare-chested and British ace Andy Murray would be happy to take up the challenge.

McEnroe, 48, said: "I'm not keen on the sleeveless vests worn by some players, but I'd like to see tennis players with no shirts whatsoever.

"Obviously that would be a problem for the **women**.

"But for men, they do it in wrestling and boxing and it would make tennis more interesting."

Murray, 19, joked: "I'd be up for it. It would show up the guys who are not in shape.

"But I'd have to start working on my suntan."

**Load-Date:** September 27, 2007

## *Sri Lanka frees detained French TV crew*

Agence France Presse -- English

December 26, 2007 Wednesday 11:36 AM GMT

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**Length:** 405 words

**Dateline:** COLOMBO, Dec 26 2007

### **Body**

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A Sri Lankan judge on Wednesday freed two foreign television reporters held for two days by police while making a documentary about people detained under emergency laws, officials said.

The two-member crew of France 24 were detained overnight at Ratgama, 105 kilometres (65 miles) south of the capital, after they were taken into custody by the military on Christmas Eve.

"They were taken before a judge in Colombo after being questioned by the Terrorist Investigations Department," a court official said. "The judge ordered them to be freed without any charges."

In Paris the government confirmed the news. Foreign Minister Bernard Kouchner "sends thanks to all those who contributed to the release, notably to the Sri Lankan authorities," a statement said.

The pair had been taken Tuesday before another judge in the island's south who ordered that they be handed over to the TID for further investigation.

Sri Lanka's independent Free Media Movement (FMM) had called for their immediate release and accused the authorities of overreacting and suppressing the right to information.

A **female** journalist and TV cameraman from France 24 were filming a Tamil family visiting their detained relatives on Christmas Eve, the FMM said.

The military had accused them of filming a military check point near the Boosa detention centre in the south of the island.

"The FMM does not consider videoing a road block as a national security issue and expresses its serious concern of detaining a TV crew and a whole family on a minor incident," the media rights group said.

The Boosa detention centre was reopened recently by the military in the wake of mass arrests of minority Tamils as part of a crackdown against separatist Tamil Tiger guerrillas.

Boosa was known as a notorious torture centre when Marxist rebels were detained there in the late 1980s.

## Sri Lanka frees detained French TV crew

International media rights activists have described Sri Lanka as one of the most dangerous places in the world for journalists to work in due to a worsening climate of violence and censorship.

Since August 2005, 11 journalists have been killed in Sri Lanka. Ten of them were slain in government-controlled areas, the International Federation of Journalists has said, and no one has been formally charged.

Sri Lanka is pressing for a military victory over the **Tamil Tigers**, and a series of tit-for-tat clashes have left tens of thousands dead on both sides since the conflict flared up in 1972.

aj-hs/mb

**Load-Date:** December 27, 2007

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End of Document

## *Sri Lanka detains French TV crew*

Agence France Presse -- English

December 25, 2007 Tuesday 3:49 PM GMT

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**Length:** 417 words

**Dateline:** COLOMBO, Dec 25 2007

### **Body**

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Sri Lanka detained two foreign television journalists and 11 locals from a Tamil family they were filming in the island's south, police said Tuesday.

The two-member crew of France 24 were detained overnight at Ratgama, 105 kilometres (65 miles) south of the capital, after they were taken into custody by the military on Monday evening, a police official in the area said.

He said the duo were taken Tuesday before a judge who ordered that they be handed over to the police Terrorist Investigation Department (TID) for further investigations.

Sri Lanka's independent Free Media Movement (FMM) said they wanted the crew released immediately and accused the authorities of overreacting and suppressing the right to information.

A **female** journalist and TV cameraman from France 24 were filming a Tamil family visiting their detained relatives on Christmas Eve, the FMM said.

Police said they detained the two foreign nationals as well as 11 Tamils and their driver after the cameraman was accused of filming a military checkpoint outside the Boosa detention centre.

"This is another instance of the authorities overreacting on the people's right to know, ignoring that the media has a right to report in a creative way on matters concerning arrests and detention.

"The FMM does not consider videoing a road block as a national security issue and expresses its serious concern of detaining a TV crew and a whole family on a minor incident," the media rights group said.

The group noted that the government can detain suspects for 48 hours without being charged in line with tough emergency laws.

There was no immediate comment from France 24.

The Boosa detention centre was reopened recently by the military in the wake of mass arrests of minority Tamils as part of a crackdown against separatist Tamil Tiger guerrillas.

Boosa was known as a notorious torture centre when Marxists rebels were detained there in the late 1980s.

## Sri Lanka detains French TV crew

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Sri Lanka is pressing for a military victory over the **Tamil Tigers**, and a series of tit-for-tat clashes have left tens of thousands dead on both sides since the conflict flared up in 1972.

**Load-Date:** December 26, 2007

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End of Document

## **Fleeing Tamil refugees describe being held by separatists as Sri Lanka shelled camps**

Associated Press International

December 19, 2006 Tuesday 12:18 AM GMT

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**Section:** INTERNATIONAL NEWS

**Length:** 383 words

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

**Dateline:** RIDITENNE Sri Lanka

### **Body**

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Tamil civilians who crossed a jungle to escape heavy fighting described being held by force by Tamil separatists as the Sri Lankan government shelled rebel-controlled villages.

"Artillery shells fell into the school we were living in. If they (the army) are going to attack even refugee camps, where are we going to be safe?" said Nagakanni, a mother of two. She only gave her first name, fearing reprisals for her comments.

She is one of more than 300 ethnic Tamil men, women and children who braved heavy rain and trekked 56 kilometers (35 miles) for nearly two days without food through land-mine strewn jungles and across a river to arrive Monday in Riditenne, a government-held village in eastern Batticaloa district.

The refugees say that they took this desperate action because the rebels did not let them leave, even after more than 50 people were killed by government shelling into Vaharai and several neighboring rebel-held villages in Batticaloa.

The United Nations last week said some 35,000 people were trapped in the fighting and asked the separatist Tamil Tigers to allow people to move to safer areas.

The U.N. also asked the government to open the main road so civilians could leave. Fleeing refugees said Monday they trudged through the jungle because the main road was closed.

Over the last few weeks, the government claimed that the rebels were holding the civilians captive as human shields, while the rebels say the government sealed the only road out of the area.

The majority of the civilians lived in camps in rebel-controlled villages, having fled from the neighboring Trincomalee district during a clash in August.

"The Tigers did not let us go. They shot in the air to scare us or threatened that we will be locked up," said a man who identified himself as Kandasamy, a father of six. He did not give his full name fearing reprisals.



Fleeing Tamil refugees describe being held by separatists as Sri Lanka shelled camps

The Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam have been fighting the government since 1983, demanding a self-ruled homeland for Sri Lanka's 3.1 million minority Tamils, citing decades of discrimination by the majority Sinhalese-dominated state.

A Norwegian-brokered cease-fire officially still holds but more than 3,500 fighters and civilians have been killed in renewed fighting this year.

More than 65,000 people died in the conflict before the cease-fire.

**Load-Date:** December 19, 2006

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End of Document

**Inside today**

The Gazette (Montreal)  
November 3, 2007 Saturday  
Final Edition

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**Section:** NEWS; Pg. A2

**Length:** 399 words

**Byline:** The Gazette

## **Body**

---

Tamil Tiger political chief killed in military air strike

A surgical air strike by the Sri Lankan military struck a major blow against the **Tamil Tigers** yesterday, killing the rebels' political chief and top peace negotiator, S.P. Thamilselvan. Details, Page A26

**Female** MDs give better care

**Female** doctors in Quebec work fewer hours and see fewer patients than their male counterparts, but make up for that by providing better care, a study by the Université de Montréal says. Details, Page A8

Albertan left on U.S. death row

Prime Minister Stephen Harper yesterday defended his decision to leave an Alberta man to face execution in Montana, saying repatriating the killer might "send the wrong signal" to Canadians. Details, Page A12

Business

Web key to real estate success

Real estate agents eager to snare the next big home-buying demographic group

had better become Web-savvy, researcher Jean-François Renaud tells an industry conference. Details, Page C5

Merrill Lynch crisis deepens

Merrill Lynch & Co. shares take sharpest plunge in six years after Deutsche Bank said the world's biggest brokerage firm might write down an additional \$10 billion for losses on subprime assets.

Details, Page C10

Sports

Ribeiro doing well in Dallas

Former Habs centre Mike Ribeiro - whose name became synonymous, in Montreal

## Inside today

at least, with the term underachiever - has played well in Dallas. Ribeiro has the most points on his team. Details, Page D2

Rochette fifth in early going

If Joannie Rochette is to repeat as the Skate Canada ladies' champion, history must repeat itself. Rochette, the 21-year-old native of Île Dupas, is fifth after the short program. Details, Page D4

Culture

T.O. takes to Molière

Thanks to the Théâtre français de Toronto, Molière is one of the hottest tickets in town. And with surtitles translating the actors' words, anglophones sometimes make up half the audience. Details, Page E8

Fox strikes an advantage

Fox has a built-in advantage in case of a prolonged strike by screenwriters. With only 15 hours of primetime to program, and the January return of American Idol, Fox looks strike-proof. Details, Page E11

- Today's Columnists

"When the Canadiens and the Leafs hook up, it's playoff hockey."

Todd, SPORTS, d1

James Mennie on blame for Bianka's death:

We should examine our own driving habits. montreal, a6

Jay Bryan on the economy's sweet spot:

Canada's job growth could be getting shaky. business, c1

**Load-Date:** November 3, 2007

## ***Captured reservoir raises Sri Lankan tension***

Financial Times (London, England)

August 8, 2006 Tuesday

Asia Edition 1

Copyright 2006 The Financial Times Limited

**Section:** ASIA-PACIFIC; Pg. 4

**Length:** 431 words

**Byline:** By KHOZEM MERCHANT

**Dateline:** MUMBAI

### **Body**

---

Sri Lanka's ground offensive to regain control of an important reservoir, a move Tamil separatists describe as an act of war, underscores the rising pressure on President Mahindra Rajapakse from his hardline electoral partners, analysts say.

Buddhist and Sinhalese nationalists, who provided crucial support in Mr Rajapakse's election victory last year, have increasingly set the agenda for the damaged peace process - and the severity of the current offensive demonstrates their ascendancy.

The president's partners argue the ***Tamil Tigers*** of Eelam's closure of sluice gates at a reservoir in eastern Mavilaru on July 20 is a humanitarian crisis as it deprived 50,000 people living downstream of water for homes and irrigation.

They demanded a tough response and Colombo's sustained offensive over the past fortnight continues the progressively bolder tone of military attacks by President Rajapakse.

Another reason for the unusually tough pounding of rebels may be because they view the territory as a strategic vantage point for rebel attacks on surrounding government positions.

"What started as a water issue seems to have become a territorial one," says Paikiasothy Saravanamuttu, who heads the Centre for Policy Alternatives in Colombo.

Government officials yesterday said the situation in Mavilaru was stabilising. Observers said the situation remained "tense, vulnerable and sensitive".

At the weekend, the rebels had offered to reopen the sluice gates and end their longest ground offensive since December 2001 but government forces responded with artillery and mortar attacks.

"It seems some people want war rather than water," Major-General Ulf Henricsson, head of the Sri Lankan Monitoring Mission, said.

Some 150 people have died in the past two weeks, adding to the 800 killed this year, as the country's December 2002 ceasefire lies battered by both sides.

## Captured reservoir raises Sri Lankan tension

The latest deaths were confirmed as 15 Sri Lankan aid workers, gunned down in the eastern town of Muttur at the weekend. The 11 men and four women worked for Action Contre La Faim (Action Against Hunger), a French NGO on relief projects linked to the 2004 tsunami. Each side blames the other for the killings.

The NGO said yesterday it had suspended operations in the country and would investigate the killings. The government yesterday said it had ordered an independent investigation into the deaths.

Separately, suspected rebels killed Sri Lanka's chief of anti-terrorism commando training yesterday, police said. Upul Seneviratne was killed by a suspected rebel bomb near the Buddhist holy city of Kandy in central Sri Lanka.

**Load-Date:** August 7, 2006

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End of Document

## **Suicide bomber attacks Sri Lanka's top military commander, 2 dead, general hurt**

Associated Press International

April 25, 2006 Tuesday 10:18 AM GMT

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**Section:** INTERNATIONAL NEWS

**Length:** 404 words

**Byline:** By BHARATHA MALLAWARACHI, Associated Press Writer

**Dateline:** COLOMBO Sri Lanka

### **Body**

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A **female** suicide bomber, believed to be a Tamil Tiger rebel and pretending to be pregnant to conceal explosives, exploded a bomb in front of a car that was taking Sri Lanka's top military general inside the army headquarters in Colombo on Tuesday, the military said.

The bomber died on the spot and Lt. Gen. Sarath Fonseka suffered serious abdominal injuries, said military officials who spoke on condition of anonymity because of military regulations. The general's escort and driver also died, the officials said. Fonseka was undergoing surgery.

"He is not out of danger, we are operating on him now," said Dr. Hector Weerasinghe of Colombo's National Hospital. At least 10 surgeons were attending him.

Ten other people, including some civilians caught in the blast, were also hospitalized.

The attack was certain to put further pressure on the country's four-year-old cease-fire, which has been threatened by rising violence that has resulted in the deaths of at least 83 people this month, including 43 soldiers or police.

The woman was able to enter the area by presenting fake identification and saying she had an appointment for a pregnancy examination at the army hospital located inside the complex, the officials said.

"I saw a fireball as I came out of my saloon," said S.A. Weerasinghe, who works in the military saloon, which is also inside the sprawling complex.

Top Sri Lankan military officials work in the headquarters, which is protected by fences and troops guarding all entry points.

Fonseka, a battle-hardened soldier with 35 years in the infantry, was appointed to the top post after President Mahinda Rajapakse took office in November.

There was no claim of responsibility. The Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam rarely take credit for such attacks.

In earlier violence, suspected rebels in a hijacked bus opened fire on soldiers when their vehicle was blocked late Monday at a checkpoint in northern Sri Lanka, drawing return fire that killed the driver, the military said.

Suicide bomber attacks Sri Lanka 's top military commander, 2 dead, general hurt

The passengers on the bus believed to be three or four Tamil Tiger rebels escaped following the brief gunbattle in Jaffna, said Brig. Prasad Samarasinghe.

Last week, the rebels backed out of peace talks scheduled to start Monday in Geneva, citing attacks on ethnic Tamil civilians and other disputes with the government.

The **Tamil Tigers** are demanding a separate Tamil homeland and accuse the Sinhalese-dominated government of discrimination.

**Load-Date:** April 26, 2006

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End of Document

## **Background on Sri Lanka Conflict**

Associated Press Online

June 15, 2006 Thursday 6:04 PM GMT

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**Section:** INTERNATIONAL NEWS

**Length:** 416 words

**Byline:** By The Associated Press

### **Body**

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Major developments in Sri Lanka's conflict.

1975: Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam forms. The group demands a separate state for minority Tamils in the island's north and east.

1983: Civil war begins, sparked by anti-Tamil riots in Colombo many believe were organized by Sinhalese-dominated government.

1991: **Female** Tamil Tiger suicide bomber assassinates India's former prime minister, Rajiv Gandhi, at an election campaign rally in southern India, apparently in revenge for sending Indian peacekeeping troops who ended up fighting the rebels.

1993: Tamil Tiger suicide bomber kills President Ranasinghe Premadasa at a May Day parade after his government's failed peace efforts.

1999: Tamil Tiger suicide bomber tries to kill President Chandrika Kumaratunga at an election meeting. Kumaratunga survives but loses an eye.

February 2002: The Sri Lankan government signs a cease-fire agreement with **Tamil Tigers** ending 19 years of civil war, which left more than 65,000 dead.

Dec. 26, 2004: The Indian Ocean tsunami kills more than 35,000 Sri Lankans and leaves tens of thousands homeless.

June 2005: Relations between the government and Tiger rebels deteriorate over issue of sharing international tsunami aid.

August 2005: Foreign Minister Lakshman Kadirgamar, an ethnic Tamil who opposed a separate state for the minority, is assassinated by snipers in a killing blamed on the Tigers.

December 2005: Tiger rebels launch first major attack since truce, killing at least 12 Sri Lankan navy sailors. A series of attacks follows.

Feb. 22, 2006: Government and rebel officials meet in Switzerland for peace talks and agree to de-escalate violence.



## Background on Sri Lanka Conflict

April 19, 2006: A second round of peace talks is postponed as the two sides argue over transport and security.

April 25, 2006: A suicide bombing blamed on rebels targets the government's top military commander, killing eight. Lt. Gen. Sarath Fonseka is hurt along with 26 others. The army responds by attacking rebel bases.

May 11, 2006: Rebel suicide boats ram and sink a navy patrol craft, killing at least 17 sailors. Five Tiger ships are destroyed in the battle, killing 50 rebels. The government responds with airstrikes on Tiger positions.

June 8, 2006: Talks in Norway aimed at restoring peace collapse after the Tigers refuse face-to-face meetings with Sri Lankan government representatives.

June 15, 2006: A land mine blast under a bus kills 62 and wounds 78. The government blames the rebels and launches airstrikes. The Tigers deny involvement.

**Load-Date:** June 16, 2006

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End of Document

## ***Sri Lankan capital hit by four explosions, police say to create panic***

Associated Press International

January 24, 2006 Tuesday 4:42 PM GMT

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**Section:** INTERNATIONAL NEWS

**Length:** 415 words

**Byline:** By DILIP GANGULY, Associated Press Writer

**Dateline:** COLOMBO Sri Lanka

### **Body**

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The Sri Lankan capital was hit by four explosions Tuesday night, causing widespread panic but no known casualties, police and residents said.

An explosive device or grenades kept in a garbage bin exploded near a hospital for women. Two other explosions took place at railroad stations in Nugegoda and Mount Lavinia districts on the capital's outskirts. A fourth explosion was reported in Kiribhatgoda, also on the outskirts of Colombo.

"Some people are trying to create panic," Inspector General of Police, Chandra Fernando, told The Associated Press.

"We don't know who are they, but they surely have an agenda to create panic here," Fernando said.

The separatist Tamil Tiger rebels had carried out several attacks in Colombo before the 2002 cease-fire was signed that halted the two-decade old civil war. The pre-truce attacks were carried out either to target opponents or to dramatize the rebels' homeland campaign.

Fernando declined to blame the Tigers, but the blasts coincided with renewed Norwegian efforts to negotiate an end to escalating violence mostly blamed on the Tigers that has threatened the truce.

Sri Lanka's president on Tuesday asked Norway's peace envoy to set up new talks with the rebels in hopes of staving off a return to civil war.

President Mahinda Rajapakse and Norwegian envoy Eric Solheim held a "lengthy and cordial" one-on-one meeting Tuesday, said presidential spokesman Lucian Rajakarunanayake. Other officials close to the president said Rajapakse told Solheim to pursue fresh talks with rebels quickly.

In a round of high-stakes shuttle diplomacy, Solheim will take the president's message to rebel-held territory on Wednesday, when the envoy is scheduled to meet with Vellupillai Prabhakaran, the Tamil Tigers' reclusive leader.

The first explosion was reported in a garbage bin near a hospital for women, Colombo's Deputy Inspector General of Police, P. Jayasundara, said earlier.

"Someone had concealed or abandoned the explosives in the garbage dump to avoid detection," Jayasundara said.

## Sri Lankan capital hit by four explosions, police say to create panic

Police in Colombo had been conducting searches to detect Tamil Tiger rebel infiltrators, who are campaigning for a homeland for Sri Lanka's 3.2 million ethnic Tamils.

The blasts at the railroad stations forced the suspension of rail services from and to the capital, stranding thousands of commuters.

The blast at Kiribhatgoda, a popular shopping center, was caused by a grenade that was thrown away from the market area, Jayasundara said. The market was immediately shut down.

**Load-Date:** January 25, 2006

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End of Document

## *Sri Lankan car bomb kills bodyguard and child*

The Irish Times

August 9, 2006 Wednesday

Copyright 2006 The Irish Times All Rights Reserved

**Section:** WORLD; Pg. 10

**Length:** 412 words

**Byline:** Rahul Bedi in New Delhi

### **Body**

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SRI LANKA: A car bomb exploded in Sri Lanka's capital Colombo yesterday killing two people, including a three-year-old girl. The bombing occurred as the government undertook to investigate the execution-style killings of 17 aid workers caught in the midst of fighting with Tamil Tigers rebels in the east of the island.

Police said that a magnetic bomb attached to the rear of a mini-van carrying a Tamil politician opposed to the Tamil Tiger insurgents' fight for an independent homeland exploded in a residential quarter of the capital.

S. Sivathasan, a senior member of the Eelam People's Democratic Party, which is allied to President Mahinda Rajapakse's administration, escaped with injuries, but his bodyguard and a girl walking nearby were killed. The Tigers have been blamed for the blast.

Meanwhile, relatives of the 17 murdered aid workers attached to the Paris-based Action Contre La Faim (ACF) - Action Against Hunger - non-governmental organisation buried them in their villages in the northeastern Trincomalee district. Their bullet-ridden bodies were found in the seaside town of Muttur, where Tiger rebels and government forces had fought pitched battles over control of a water reservoir in which more than 425 people were killed.

The bodies of two of the 17 NGO workers were found late on Monday night in a car. They were apparently killed while trying to flee the fighting.

The Tigers and the army blame each other for the killings, which have triggered international condemnation, prompting the Sri Lankan government to order an investigation.

Most of the victims, who were aged between 23 and 54 and included four women, were engineers specialising in water sanitation and agronomy. They were engaged in relief work following the 2004 tsunami.

"This was a mass murder targeting clearly identified humanitarian workers. ACF is determined not to settle for vague answers from the parties to the conflict . . . and will demand exemplary punishment," the NGO said.

Shortly after the bomb attack in Colombo the Tigers reopened the sluice gate they had laid siege to in Muttur, allowing water to flow into parched government territory. The blocking of the water supply led to the fighting on July 26th, the first time rebels and government forces had engaged in a ground battle since the 2002 ceasefire.

"We hope this is the beginning of the end of the violence," said Thorfinnur Omarsson, spokesman for the Sri Lanka Monitoring Mission which oversees the island's truce.

## Sri Lankan car bomb kills bodyguard and child

**Load-Date:** August 9, 2006

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End of Document

## *World Digest*

The Toronto Star

October 18, 2006 Wednesday

Copyright 2006 Toronto Star Newspapers, Ltd.

**Section:** NEWS; Pg. A11

**Length:** 392 words

### **Body**

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#### Britain

UK cancels planned meeting of Adams, Paisley as dispute continues

The British government cancelled a meeting of Northern Ireland's political parties because of "differences" over their understanding of devolution plans published last week.

The two party chiefs, Democratic Unionist Party leader Ian Paisley and Sinn Fein President Gerry Adams, were due to take part in talks on a new program for a future Northern Ireland power-sharing government.

The decision was confirmed hours before the negotiations were due to start and followed a new row over whether Sinn Fein's Mid Ulster MP and former IRA commander Martin McGuinness would swear an oath to support the police and the rule of law next month.

#### Italy

One dead, 236 hurt

in Rome subway crash

A Rome subway train rammed into the back of another car that was discharging passengers yesterday, killing at least one and injuring 236 others, authorities said.

Officials were "looking into whether it was a human mistake or if something went wrong with the signalling."

#### United States

Texas serviceman born

in Canada killed in Iraq

A Texas marine born in Canada was killed during combat operations in Iraq, the U.S. military said yesterday.

Marine Sgt. Jonathan Simpson, 25, of Rockport, died Saturday during combat operations against enemy forces in Al Anbar province.

#### Israel

Pressure grows for Katsav

to resign as charge drafted

Prosecutors have begun to draft a charge against Israeli President Moshe Katsav, 60, after police said they had evidence he committed rape, Israeli media reported yesterday.

As pressure grew on Katsav to resign, two allies of Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert went on trial: former Justice Minister Haim Ramon over charges he forced a kiss on a **female** soldier and lawmaker Tzachi Hanegbi over appointments he made while a minister in a previous government.

Sri Lanka

Suspected **Tamil Tigers** attack navy base

A battle broke out when suspected Tamil Tiger rebels attacked a Sri Lankan navy base and an adjoining port in the southern of Galle today. Police and military officers said at least three rebels were killed.

The attack on the navy in Galle, 113 kilometres south of the Sri Lankan capital of Colombo is the second in three days. Nearly 100 people, mostly sailors, were killed in a suicide bombing on a naval convoy in a north-central district on Monday.

From the Star's wire services

## Graphic

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A planned meeting between Sinn Fein leader Gerry Adams (above) with Rev. Ian Paisley has been cancelled.

**Load-Date:** October 18, 2006

## *Sri Lankan rebels' suicide squad known for its deadly proficiency*

Associated Press International

April 25, 2006 Tuesday 2:24 PM GMT

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**Section:** INTERNATIONAL NEWS

**Length:** 412 words

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

**Dateline:** COLOMBO Sri Lanka

### **Body**

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The Black Tigers a special Tamil Tiger rebel unit have long been regarded as the world's most proficient suicide squad, having perfected the use of suicide bombing in Sri Lanka even before al-Qaida was formed.

On Tuesday, the Black Tigers struck again, the military said.

A ***female*** suicide bomber pretending to be pregnant to conceal her explosives targeted the car of Lt. Gen. Sarath Fonseka, Sri Lanka's army commander, inside Colombo's heavily fortified military headquarters.

The brazen attack killed eight people and wounded 27, including Fonseka, who suffered serious abdominal injuries.

The Black Tigers are renowned for their skill at deploying human bombs against military, economic and civilian targets during their two-decade separatist war with the Sri Lankan state.

Black Tiger victims have included former Sri Lankan President Ranasinghe Premadasa, former Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi, and numerous Sri Lankan ministers and senior politicians.

Another former president, Chandrika Kumaratunga, narrowly survived a suicide attack in 1999, but lost one eye in the blast.

According to University of Chicago Professor Robert Pape, author of "Dying to Win," there were 315 suicide bombings worldwide in 1980-2003. Of those, 76 were carried out by the Black Tigers.

"The leading instigator of suicide attacks is the ***Tamil Tigers*** in Sri Lanka," Pape wrote in a May 2005 op-ed piece in The New York Times.

The first Black Tigers suicide attack was on July 5, 1987, when a rebel known as Captain Miller drove a truckload of explosives into a military camp and detonated them, killing 40 soldiers.

Since then, 240 other rebels have blown themselves up.

The Tigers have fought the government since 1983 to create a separate state for ethnic minority Tamils, accusing the majority Sinhalese-dominated state of discrimination.

About 65,000 people were killed in the conflict before a 2002 cease-fire, which now looks increasingly precarious.



## Sri Lankan rebels' suicide squad known for its deadly proficiency

The Black Tigers have also staged daring suicide truck bomb attacks on the country's Central Bank in the heart of the capital, Sri Lanka's World Trade Center, and the Temple of the Tooth, a holy site for the country's majority Buddhists.

The Tigers have also piloted explosive-laden boats into navy ships.

The last suicide blast came on July 7, 2004, when a woman believed to have been plotting to kill an ethnic Tamil government minister opposed to the rebels blew herself up while being frisked at a police station. Four officers were killed.

**Load-Date:** April 26, 2006

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End of Document

## **Tamil Relief agency says five employees missing in northeast**

Associated Press International

February 1, 2006 Wednesday 1:10 PM GMT

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**Section:** INTERNATIONAL NEWS

**Length:** 402 words

**Byline:** By DILIP GANGULY, Associated Press Writer

**Dateline:** COLOMBO Sri Lanka

### **Body**

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A relief agency affiliated with Sri Lanka's Tamil Tiger rebels said Wednesday that five of its staff had disappeared while traveling to a tsunami reconstruction project. Police said they would investigate, but questioned the group's previous claim that five other workers had been kidnapped two days earlier.

The Tamil Rehabilitation Organization said the alleged disappearances showed "a campaign of terror has been unleashed" on its personnel.

After the group reported the kidnapping of five of its workers on Monday, the **Tamil Tigers** threatened to pull out of upcoming peace talks unless the government does more to protect Tamils.

However, an investigation ordered by the country's top police officer, Inspector General Chandra Fernando, into the alleged disappearance on Monday indicated the claim was untrue, police spokesman Rienzie Perera said.

"We have not come across any evidence which will suggest that the kidnapping allegation is true," Perera said. "These are only allegations."

He said police would also investigate the claim that five other TRO workers had disappeared on Tuesday.

The TRO said the second group three **women** and two men went missing while traveling from the rebels' de facto capital of Kilinochchi to the eastern city of Batticaloa. They were involved in projects to rebuild the area after the December 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami, it said.

"In light of the disappearance of these five persons and the abduction of five other TRO personnel it appears that a campaign of terror has been unleashed on TRO personnel," the group said in a statement sent to The Associated Press.

The military also disputed the abduction claim.

"There is no security forces involvement at all. These people are making baseless allegations," military spokesman Brig. Prasad Samarasinghe said. "This is a totally fabricated story. That's what we feel."

The Tiger rebels started fighting in 1983 to create a separate Tamil homeland in Sri Lanka's northeast, claiming discrimination by the majority Sinhalese. About 65,000 people died in the conflict before a Norwegian-brokered cease-fire was signed in 2002.

## Tamil Relief agency says five employees missing in northeast

Norway also helped coordinate six subsequent rounds of peace talks, which broke down over rebel demands for extensive autonomy in the northeast, where most of Sri Lanka's 3.2 million minority Tamils live. The two sides recently agreed to a Norwegian proposal to resume the talks in Switzerland in mid-February.

**Load-Date:** February 2, 2006

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End of Document

## 56 victims of Sri Lankan bus bomb attack buried in mass graves

Associated Press International

June 16, 2006 Friday 3:43 PM GMT

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**Section:** INTERNATIONAL NEWS

**Length:** 385 words

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

**Dateline:** KABITHIGOLLEWA Sri Lanka

### **Body**

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Buddhist monks and Roman Catholic priests led prayers at a funeral Friday for 56 men, women and children killed in a bus bombing by suspected Tamil Tiger rebels in northeastern Sri Lanka.

Thousands of mourners paid their respects as the bodies including those of 15 children and a monk killed in Thursday's mine blast were interred in three mass graves in Kabithigollewa, a town about 285 kilometers (180 miles) northeast of the capital, Colombo.

The women's bodies were wrapped in white saris and the slain men in white sarongs. All had red paper flowers pressed into their open palms.

Children carrying garlands of flowers led a long procession of mourners who carried the bodies of the bomb victims to the public cemetery. Policemen and soldiers armed with assault rifles stood guard along the route.

Distraught relatives and friends cried and comforted each other as they looked at their loved ones' bodies for the last time, before lowering the coffins side-by-side into the long pits and each throwing a handful of soil onto the coffins in an emotional farewell.

Police fired a gun salute for the victims before bulldozers trundled in to fill the pits.

White and black flags fluttered in surrounding towns to signify mourning, while a banner hanging in Kabithigollewa read: "We condemn the Tamil Tigers for the senseless attack on innocent civilians."

A total of 64 people died early Thursday when an anti-personnel mine ripped through a passenger bus close to Kabithigollewa. Some remains were taken away by relatives for private funerals.

Residents voiced their anger that the government had failed to protect ethnic majority Sinhalese who live close to Tamil Tiger strongholds.

The Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam rebels began fighting for a separate homeland for the country's ethnic minority Tamils in 1983, claiming discrimination at the hands of the majority Sinhalese who control Sri Lanka's government and armed forces.

The Tamil rebels control much of Sri Lanka's north and east.

## 56 victims of Sri Lankan bus bomb attack buried in mass graves

"The main cause for this disaster is the government's inability to protect us from the Tigers despite repeated pleas," said Prasanna Sirisena, 26, a school teacher who lost his mother-in-law in the blast.

"If there is peace, it has to be a proper peace. The current status only results in mass killing of civilians," he said.

**Load-Date:** June 17, 2006

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End of Document

## ***Suicide bombings kill 18; Sri Lanka attack follows threat from Tamil leader***

The Calgary Herald (Alberta)

November 29, 2007 Thursday

Final Edition

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**Section:** NEWS; Pg. A15; Asia Report: News From the Region

**Length:** 433 words

**Byline:** Mel Gunasekera, Agence France-Presse

**Dateline:** COLOMBO, Sri Lanka

### **Body**

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At least 18 people were killed in Sri Lanka on Wednesday in two bomb attacks blamed on Tamil Tiger terrorists, officials said, one day after the group's leader said peace with Colombo was impossible.

A powerful parcel bomb exploded outside a clothing store on the outskirts of the capital Colombo, killing 17, wounding 43 others and leaving the street littered with body parts, police said.

The attack came just hours after a disabled **female** suicide bomber blew herself up outside the office of a Tamil government minister, killing his secretary and injuring two security guards.

Social Welfare Minister Douglas Devananda, a vocal opponent of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (**LTTE**), escaped unharmed. He had been the target of at least four previous attempts on his life.

Officials blamed both attacks on Tamil Tiger terrorists, who have been fighting for an independent Tamil homeland for 35 years, a conflict that has left tens of thousands of people dead.

The two blasts came a day after Tiger leader Velupillai Prabhakaran vowed to strike back at what he branded the "war of genocide" led by the Colombo government and said peace efforts on the island were a waste of time.

Prabhakaran launched a furious attack on the government of President Mahinda Rajapakse, accusing the "Sinhala nation" of trying to destroy the "Tamil nation" -- language which observers said could signal a return to all-out war.

The bombing outside the clothing shop came during the evening rush hour, preventing ambulances from reaching the scene. Three children were among the wounded, a hospital official said.

"It's chaos," a police officer told AFP. "**LTTE** terrorists carried out this cowardly bomb attack targeting innocent civilians in the densely populated Nugegoda town this evening," the defence ministry said in a statement.

The government appealed to the public to be on the lookout for more bombs.

"The public is urged to be vigilant and inform the nearest police or army checkpoint of any suspicious parcels placed in public places," said military spokesman Udaya Nanayakkara.

## Suicide bombings kill 18; Sri Lanka attack follows threat from Tamil leader

Earlier, a **female** suicide bomber with polio tried to enter the heavily guarded building housing Devananda's office, but was halted and blew herself up outside. Tiger suicide bombers usually don jackets with a manual detonating device around waist level, police said, but she appeared to have wired her bra to explode.

On Tuesday, the reclusive Prabhakaran delivered his annual speech from a jungle hideout in his northern fiefdom, warning: "Those who plan to destroy the Tamil nation will in the end be forced to face their own destruction."

## Graphic

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Photo: Buddhika Weerasinghe, Reuters; Bomb disposal unit soldiers inspect the site of a bomb explosion Wednesday near a shopping centre in a suburb of Colombo, Sri Lanka. ;

**Load-Date:** November 29, 2007

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End of Document

## *Sri Lanka's Tamil Tiger rebels commemorate suicide bombers*

AP Worldstream

July 5, 2005 Tuesday

Copyright 2005 Associated Press

**Section:** INTERNATIONAL NEWS

**Length:** 396 words

**Dateline:** COLOMBO, Sri Lanka

### **Body**

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Sri Lanka's Tamil Tiger rebels on Tuesday honored hundreds of suicide bombers who since 1987 have killed a president, an Indian prime minister and dozens of others.

Reclusive rebel leader Velupillai Prabhakaran was expected to pay tribute to the 241 suicide soldiers - including 64 **women** - who have died for their cause, at an undisclosed location in the rebel-controlled Wanni region in northern Sri Lanka.

Parades and remembrances were held across Sri Lanka's predominantly Tamil northeast.

In the restive eastern town of Batticaloa, a large float carrying portraits of suicide bombers paraded the streets and stopped near schools for children to offer flowers.

A split in the rebel group last year has resulted in factional killings in the town, 225 kilometers (135 miles) east of the capital, Colombo.

The rebel stronghold of Kilinochchi was decorated with red and yellow rebel flags and senior rebels joined parents of the suicide bombers - known as the Black Tigers - for a public ceremony.

The first suicide attack came on July 5, 1987, when a rebel - known as Captain Miller - drove a truckload of explosives into a military camp, killing 40 soldiers.

Since then, 240 other rebels have blown themselves up in attacks that have killed Sri Lankan President Ranasinghe Premadasa, former Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi and dozens of others.

Gandhi died in 1991 when a Tamil woman blew herself up in southern India as she bowed to touch Gandhi's feet in a traditional gesture of respect.

Premadasa was killed in 1993 when a bomber on a bicycle approached him at a May Day parade. In 1996, bombers drove an explosive-laden truck into the Central Bank in Colombo, killing 91 and damaging the nearby 37-story World Trade Center.

Hundreds gathered to pay tribute to Captain Miller in the northern town of Nelliady, in the main Tamil heartland of Jaffna, where he attacked the military camp. Traditional bands beat drums while others carried posters of Miller.



## Sri Lanka 's Tamil Tiger rebels commemorate suicide bombers

The **Tamil Tigers** have been fighting since 1983 to create a separate state for ethnic minority Tamils, accusing the majority Sinhalese-dominated state of discrimination.

About 65,000 people were killed in the conflict before the two sides signed a Norway-brokered cease-fire in 2002. Peace talks came to a halt a year later, however, over disagreements on postwar power sharing.

Peace has largely held despite occasional violations.

**Load-Date:** July 6, 2005

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End of Document

## *Relief efforts running smoothly in areas controlled by Tamil rebels*

Guelph Mercury (Ontario, Canada)

January 3, 2005 Monday Final Edition

Copyright 2005 Metroland Media Group Ltd

**Section:** NEWS; Pg. A8; NEWS

**Length:** 459 words

**Dateline:** KILINCHCHI, SRI LANKA

### **Body**

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In times of crisis, envy the authoritarians. Veterans of a long guerrilla war, the Tamil rebels who control northern Sri Lanka moved with military precision to help victims of the Indian Ocean tsunami.

The speed and efficiency of the massive humanitarian operation showed an administrative capability that underscored the rebels' demand for Tamil independence from the Sinhalese-dominated southern part of Sri Lanka. Associated Press

Within minutes of the disaster, soldiers of the Liberation Tigers for Tamil Eelam, or **LTTE**, were evacuating survivors and pulling bodies from the still-roiling water, villagers and aid workers said.

In a well-practised drill, squads set up roadblocks to control panic and prevent looting. Others requisitioned civilian vehicles to move the injured to hospitals. Many donated blood.

Teams with digital cameras and laptops moved into disaster zones to photograph the faces of the dead for later identification, then swiftly cremated or buried the corpses.

Sathinathan Senthana, the village mayor of Kallappadu, said boats of the elite Sea Tigers, the **LTTE** naval arm which had a base at the neighbouring town of Mullaitivu, arrived even as the tsunami floodwaters were receding. Other sailors arrived on bicycles, he said.

"Until now, they are still there," Senthana told a reporter in the refugee camp, where he was trying to hold the grieving survivors together.

Half his village of 2,200 people was killed, he said, and not a building remained standing. By the end of the first day, the first refugee centres were set up. **Women** in the Tigers' camouflage uniforms began registering the survivors and recording the relief items they received -- ensuring no one got more than he should.

"They applied a very efficient military machine. All they had to do was give the command," said Reuben Thurairajah, a British doctor who watched in amazement.

Meanwhile, in the south, the government was struggling to cope while politicians argued over who was in charge. From the field came isolated reports of corruption and hijacking of relief trucks. Thurairajah, a volunteer public health officer who was in the area several weeks before the tsunami, said the Tigers were scrupulous in ensuring equal distribution of aid.

## Relief efforts running smoothly in areas controlled by Tamil rebels

"If they have 100 bars of soap and 800 people, they'd rather not give it to anyone," he said.

The tsunami brought an equal measure of tragedy to the Tamils of the north and the Sinhalese of the south. Nearly 30,000 people have been killed, a crushing toll for a country of only 19 million. Yet that is less than half the number of casualties from this island's 20-year ethnic-based civil war.

Tamil nationalists have been fighting for independence for the north and east, where the minority group is concentrated, since 1983.

**Load-Date:** January 3, 2005

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End of Document

## **Thousands of Tamils demand Sri Lankan troops withdraw from Jaffna Peninsula**

Associated Press International

February 14, 2003 Friday

Copyright 2003 Associated Press All Rights Reserved

**Section:** INTERNATIONAL NEWS

**Length:** 426 words

**Byline:** JOE ARYARATNAM; Associated Press Writer

**Dateline:** JAFFNA, Sri Lanka

### **Body**

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Thousands of Tamils rallied Friday in northern Sri Lanka to demand the withdrawal of government troops after a fistfight between soldiers and Tamil rebels dealt a blow to a year-old truce.

At least 8,000 Tamils carried placards, shouted slogans and burned effigies of Sri Lanka's president and the regional army commander as they marched through the northern town of Jaffna, the traditional homeland of the nation's Tamil minority.

"Sri Lanka forces leave our homeland," read one poster. "Sri Lanka government don't provoke the Liberation Tigers of Tamileelam," read another.

The protest was sparked by an incident Wednesday in which four soldiers took part in a fistfight with three Tamil rebels - all **women** - who refused to give up their military-style belts before entering a government-controlled area.

The army has banned rebels from wearing the belts while inside territory it controls, saying they contravene the terms of the cease-fire because they identify the wearers as rebels and can hold small arms.

The rebels' chief negotiator, Anton Balasingham, on Thursday called the clash "an intolerable provocation."

"The peace talks with the Sri Lankan government will undoubtedly be seriously jeopardized if such incidents continue," he said.

The protesters Friday burned effigies of Sri Lankan President Chandrika Kumaratunga and Jaffna army commander Lt. Gen. Sarath Fonseka before submitting a letter condemning the incident to European truce monitors.

Kumaratunga has accused the government led by her political rival, Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe, of making too many concessions to the rebels. Kumaratunga, whose party is in opposition in Parliament, has the power to dismiss the government and is also the military commander.

Fonseka, meanwhile, has angered the Tigers by demanding that they lay down their arms before the army evacuates key military positions in the peninsula. The rebels have rejected the demand.

## Thousands of Tamils demand Sri Lankan troops withdraw from Jaffna Peninsula

Friday's demonstration was organized by the International Student Association of Tamileelam, a group believed to be supported by the rebels.

"We are organizing this protest and demonstration to show our solidarity to the Tamil people," said S. Gajenran, president of the association.

The **Tamil Tigers** started an insurrection in 1983 for a separate state for the country's 3.2 million Tamils, claiming discrimination by the Sinhalese majority.

Nearly 65,000 people have been killed during the civil war, which was halted last February when the parties signed a cease-fire agreement.

The warring parties have held five rounds of peace talks.

**Load-Date:** February 15, 2003

## *Hundreds gather for funeral of slain Sri Lankan general*

Agence France Presse -- English

June 28, 2006 Wednesday 2:11 PM GMT

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**Length:** 488 words

**Dateline:** COLOMBO, June 28 2006

### **Body**

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Hundreds gathered Wednesday for the sunset funeral of a top Sri Lankan army general who was assassinated earlier in the week amid ongoing attacks by Tamil Tiger guerillas.

Major General Parami Kulatunga, the army's number three, was killed Monday along with four others when a suspected Tamil Tiger suicide bomber rammed the 54-year-old general's car with his motorcycle.

Flanked by columns of troops from all branches of the country's military, the general's casket was marched from his home in a Colombo suburb to General Cemetery, the capital's largest burial ground.

He was cremated as evening fell according to Buddhist tradition, the quiet broken only by 15 symbolic cannon blasts and the din of crows roosting in the trees overhead.

Shortly before Kulatunga's casket was put to the fire around 6:15 pm (1245 GMT), Education Minister Susel Pramjayatha told mourners: "We are extremely distressed by the untimely demise of General Kulatunga."

Crowds of onlookers stood opposite the cemetery as military police kept the curious at a distance with a wave of their swagger sticks amid heavy security.

Soldiers armed with automatic weapons and in battle dress stood watch among the cemetery's headstones.

Kulatunga's death came amid a surge in killings that has claimed more than 820 lives since December.

His assassination, for which no one has formally claimed responsibility, was widely condemned and is the latest blow to a faltering ceasefire between the government and the rebel Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (*LTTE*).

"On this occasion I would like to remind everyone that this brutal assassination further strengthens our resolve to achieve a durable peace in our motherland by defeating the enemies of democracy and all terrorist forces," President Mahinda Rajapakse said in a statement.

Earlier in the day hundreds gathered at Kulatunga's home to view his body as it lay in state.

Under the watch of armed soldiers posted every few meters, mourners filed through a sweltering room where the casket was draped in white silk and garlanded with jasmine flowers.

## Hundreds gather for funeral of slain Sri Lankan general

Groups of schoolboys passed through the house, while young soldiers saluted on the order of senior officers.

Men in white shirts shepherded elderly women who peered at the general's face through a glass plate over the top half of the casket.

Some pressed their hands together in prayer as a security guard hustled along those who lingered too long. Several women in white saris sat in chairs lined against the wall and sobbed.

Government spokesman Keheliya Rambukwella called the killing "undoubtedly an LTTE terrorist act".

"No other organization in Sri Lanka is capable of deploying suicide bombers," Rambukwella said earlier, warning the rebels wanted to cripple international efforts to monitor the ceasefire.

"We salute our batchmate ... May you attain Nibbana (Nirvana)," read one of the dozens of white banners lining fences along the lane leading to Kulatunga's home.

**Load-Date:** June 29, 2006

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End of Document

## **LANKAN PEACE HOPES REST ON WICKREMESINGHE, KUMARATUNGA**

Malaysia General News

January 12, 2003, Sunday

Copyright 2003 Pertubuhan Berita Nasional Malaysia

**Length:** 1172 words

**Byline:** Feizal Samath

**Dateline:** COLOMBO, Jan 12, 2003

### **Body**

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If 2002 was dubbed the year of hope and uncertainty in Sri Lanka as the peace process took shape, then 2003 is going to be one of consolidation in crucial talks between the government and Tamil rebels but with much more difficult and complex issues to counter.

Most people believe - for the first time, in fact - that Sri Lanka is unlikely to go back to war with both the government and Tamil rebels being too committed to a process to back out now. The role of the international community which is in a pro-peace, hate-terrorists mood, is also a key factor in pull-push factor towards the peace table.

Also on the positive side, most Sri Lankans are backing the peace process - despite problems described by many analysts as minor irritants - while there is growing belief that the country's two main protagonists, Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe and President Chandrika Kumaratunga, would come together finally and work towards for peace.

Sri Lanka

Wickremesinghe plans to have weekly peace briefing meetings with Kumaratunga, who insists she is not opposed to peace but annoyed that she is not being kept informed of government moves. She is also miffed over the ruling United National Party's persistent refusal to include her opposition People's Alliance (PA) in the process and have a representative on the government's peace negotiating team.

"Wickremesinghe knows the value of having Kumaratunga on his side in finding a solution to the ethnic conflict and is working towards a better relationship with the president," one analyst said.

Despite reservations at the beginnings, there is also growing realization by the rebels that the war should end and the problems of minority Tamils sorted out at the negotiating table. In this context **LTTE** negotiators led by the able Dr Anton Balasingham even surprised many Sri Lankans last year by offering to abandon their decades-old demand for self-determination and opt for a federal system.

Expectations are running high this year with Sri Lankans hoping a political solution to a conflict that has killed 64,000 people in some 20 years of fighting would evolve. The relief is evident all around that there has been no loss of combatants from both sides since December 2001 with a ceasefire holding.

The Norwegian involvement has been the key to the success of the ceasefire and the formation of an independent monitoring committee. Norway, which is also facilitating peace talks in Thailand, Norway and later Japan and South



## LANKAN PEACE HOPES REST ON WICKREMESINGHE, KUMARATUNGA

Africa, is hoping this process would succeed unlike previous attempts in the Middle East which failed after initial success.

"For the Norwegians, their global skills as a peace provider and negotiator rests on finding long and lasting peace in Sri Lanka," an Asian diplomat noted.

With thousands dying in Sri Lanka since 1983, 2003 marks a watershed in Sri Lanka's ethnic conflict with residents placing much more hopes than in the past towards a final resolution of an issue that has raged since the country gained independence from British colonial rule in 1948.

Indigenous Tamils, the country's second largest community but representing just 12 percent of Sri Lanka's 19 million people, have been agitating for equality in land use, education and jobs.

Peace talks since the middle of last year has seen much progress with satisfactory progress on the possibility of a federal structure for the northeast region, freedom for all political parties to operate in the LTTE-ruled north, respect for human rights, extensive joint development of the northeast by the government and the rebels with international support, among other matters.

International aid is also expected to pour in to revive Sri Lanka's economy and take it to prosperity once a permanent solution is found, sealed and delivered by both sides.

The peace process is not without concerns however but these, according to political analysts, are just minor problems or irritants that could be sorted at the negotiating table.

Two weeks back, the LTTE and the government reached an impasse over a government proposal. The government it would allow refugees to resettle in homes they had abandoned in high security zones or areas close to army camps in the north and the east, only if the rebels moved back from those areas or disarmed. The LTTE refused to accept the proposal and the issue was expected to create some friction at last week's peace talks.

Not surprising, there was no heated discussion. Both sides agreed to disagree on the proposal and take it up at another meeting.

"So far there hasn't been any problem that cannot be overcome. Both sides have been very flexible in their approach and looking for solutions rather than arguments," noted a university academic and political scientist.

Civil society has also been pushing for a bigger role in the talks but has still not been brought into the process except for a decision last week for a committee of women, representing both the government and Tamil rebels, to review gender related issues in the conflict and report to the two sides.

The government's handling of the peace process has been referred to as the "Track One" phase in which only combatants and their leaders discuss and negotiate. The "Track Two" process is when civil society gets involved.

While the economy gradually picks up momentum this year, many international guests are expected in Sri Lanka this year proving that Wickremesinghe has been able to build substantial international goodwill for his peace process.

Topping the list of high profile visitors is UN Secretary General Kofi Annan who arrives in Sri Lanka next month, in the first visit in 35 years by a UN chief, followed in the same month by UNICEF Executive Director Carol Bellamy and UN Special Representative on Children in Armed Conflict Olara Ottuno. Last year the Japanese Foreign Minister headed a list of international figures, who were impressed with the peace process.

Among the major events this year apart from ongoing peace talks is a meeting of donor countries hosted by Japan to discuss a mega aid package to develop Sri Lanka. The aid pledged at this meeting would cover projects across the island, not only the war-torn northern region.

## LANKAN PEACE HOPES REST ON WICKREMESINGHE, KUMARATUNGA

One of the more crucial issues confronting the government and Tamil rebels is also the future of their armies. The government is expected in the next few months to seriously consider various options for its 100,000 plus armed forces, many of whom would have to be disbanded if the war comes to an end. The same applies to Tamil Tiger guerrillas with one of the options to absorb its senior members into a regional police force.

While both sides are likely to confront serious issues in 2003, the most fervent hope of Sri Lankans is that the animosity between Kumaratunga and Wickremesinghe would end and a joint effort made to end a conflict that has not only ruined the country's development but also the younger generation.

**Load-Date:** January 13, 2003

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End of Document

## **SAFE HAVEN**

Santa Fe New Mexican (New Mexico)

May 4, 2003 Sunday

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**Section:** OUTLOOK; Pg. F-1

**Length:** 1658 words

**Byline:** Story and photos by Kitty Leaken

### **Body**

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Art program helps Sri Lankan orphans cope with horrors of civil war

New Year in the small and historic nation of Sri Lanka comes in the month of April. This year an unfamiliar feeling of hope has come to the land. A cease-fire holds the promise of peace in a country that has been at war for more than 20 years.

The exact moment of the dawning of the New Year is determined astrologically. The conclusion of the old year is also determined, leaving a period of a few hours in between. This is called the nona gathe or neutral period.

In a more specific context, this time across Sri Lanka is also a neutral time, a period of truce. But it is an uneasy time for the children, who have known only war in their homeland.

I work for a nonprofit organization that has a program called Art Refuge, which offers children in orphanages the opportunity to paint, play and tell their stories in a safe environment.

Sri Yasodara Devi Balika Niwasaya, an orphanage, is home to 63 girls who have lost their parents to the civil war or the poverty it has created. It is run by a Buddhist nun called Loku Maniyo, which means chief nun. Without official funding, there are times when the girls have gone without food; Loku Maniyo's sheer strength of spirit keeps the home going.

Loku Maniyo imparts a bit of wisdom. "If one day these children gather the strength to stand on their own feet, I will show them that it is important to help other children who are helpless like they have been. If they have two pencils, I teach them to give away one, feel the sorrow of another like their own and, remembering the path they have come on, strive to bring light into others' lives."

The orphanage is near Colombo, the capital in the south. Loku Maniyo and the five nuns who assist her are committed to providing the best possible education publicly available to the girls. Meeting basic needs, however, such as providing nutritious food and sanitary lodging, is no small daily task. Dormitories are overcrowded and the nuns work late hours helping the girls, ages 3 to 18.

Krishanti, a brave girl I have come to know, was an orphan who found herself at age 9 living with a family in Ampara, a terrorist-occupied village in the east of Sri Lanka. A Sinhalese girl, she was lucky to escape alive. "If I had been at that home three days more, surely I would have been taken by the terrorists. I did not want to go, but if I was taken I would have done what I was told. They remove the kindness from our hearts."

## SAFE HAVEN

Now 14 and in the safety of Sri Yasodara Devi Balika Niwasaya, Krishanti can tell her story. Her parents died when she was very small. Her older sisters tried to care for her, but were either working or too young themselves. Eventually, a family related to one of Krishanti's sisters through marriage agreed to take her in. They had three boys and one mentally handicapped girl, and they lived in a terrorist-occupied farming village in eastern Sri Lanka.

"Every night we went to the forests or paddy fields to hide from the terrorists," she recalls. "We couldn't sleep, we were so afraid. In the morning, the terrorists were gone. When we came home, we saw burned people. People who were shot, burned with kerosene, people whose heads had been cut off with a knife. I never saw them doing that; I saw the bodies when I was coming home.

"When the bombs blast far away, they sound as though they are nearby. We were told to put a stick in our mouth when the bombs went off. I did that. One day it was raining and a bomb fell. I saw it. It was very loud. There was a big fire from that; houses and children were burning. I had a good hiding place in a rock, so I was covered. The paddy fields were red from all of the bodies and dead animals.

"The terrorists tie people's hands behind their backs and put a cloth across their eyes. They put them in tires and put kerosene on them and set them on fire. If they shoot or cut the necks, no voices come out. But if they are burning them, until they are dead they are shouting, 'Don't kill me, let me live,' until there is silence."

Krishanti described their appearance: "The terrorists don't have proper uniforms. They wear sarongs, T-shirts and because they are Tamils they have three white lines on their foreheads and a red dot. They have bullet belts around their chests."

The villagers lived in constant fear. A neighbor in the rice paddies during the day could become violent at night. One villager had scolded a farmer and at night, the farmer returned to cut off his fingers and toes.

Some villagers had acquired guns for protection. The three boys in the family that Krishanti lived with trained her to use a rifle. She learned about machine guns, hand-held bombs and how to set a land mine. "I was afraid at first and I cried. The brothers said, 'Do you want to die? Then you have to learn these things.' "

(Milinda Moragoda, Sri Lanka's economic-affairs minister, estimates that there are 1 million land mines set in the country.)

One day the terrorists came to the house in search of weapons. The father denied that he had one, so they took him outside. They interrogated the mother and told her that they would let the father return if she surrendered the gun. When she did, they blindfolded the father, shot him and took the boys away.

Later, the mother took Krishanti to her sister, who then brought her to the orphanage in Colombo. At this point, she was 12 years old.

Krishanti is happy at the orphanage. For the first time, she can go to school: She doesn't have to work and she can sleep at night.

In early 2003, Art Refuge made its fourth trip to Sri Lanka. Among the artists were Zuleikha, a Santa Fe-based performer, who taught the girls dance and Sarah Lukas, known as Mother of the Painting Club, who painted and sang with the girls. I took photographs and recorded the girls' stories.

"I am surprised to remember the times I had earlier," Krishanti says. "Sometimes I can't believe that I have been through such experiences."

Krishanti found healing in the telling of her experiences. Late at night, under the sheets and mosquito nets in the dormitories, the girls often share stories with one another.

But no one knew the extent of Krishanti's experiences, and as her story unfolded, and as Surangi, an 18-year-old orphan translated, a deep respect for Krishanti crept across the home.

## SAFE HAVEN

The opportunity in Art Refuge to tell their stories brought some girls to tears. Sometimes it brought relief from holding on to dark memories that had not been resolved. Some were too young to remember or were unwilling to share their experiences.

Lalitha, a Tamil girl, told of being locked in a house that was set on fire after terrorists abducted her brother and father. Shanthi, also Tamil, told of being kept in a kitchen, forced to work as a servant, not able to read or write. Lakmali remembers the day her father committed suicide by swallowing seeds he bought in the market. Rosie and Nilusha hope one day their mother will return. Seven years ago, she left them with their father, a vegetable seller. Sashikala rarely speaks.

"I teach others to live simply," says Loku Maniyo, "so that others may simply live."

(Sidebar)

#### Sri Lanka's civil war

Sri Lanka, once known as Ceylon, is a small island off the southeastern coast of India in the Indian Ocean. The country is mired in a civil war that started in 1983.

Some 64,000 people have lost their lives in the civil war, which was initiated by the Tamils, a largely Hindu ethnic minority of the northern and eastern portions of the nation. The Tamils seek independence from the Sinhalese, the Buddhist majority residing in the south.

The war has devastated the economy and displaced more than a million people, according to a recent article in The New York Times.

The **Tamil Tigers** are known as some of the world's most ruthless terrorists. It is believed that the discipline and methods of the Black Tigers, the Tamil suicide bombers, were studied by the al-Qaeda pilots of Sept. 11, 2001. Black Tigers have assassinated several Sri Lankan politicians and former Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi, and are held responsible for blinding an eye of the current president, Chandrika Kumaratunga. They have taken out numerous government officials, destroyed one third of the Sri Lankan navy and attacked the Colombo airport.

The leader of the Tamil state, Vellupillai Prabhakaran, personally approves and honors those selected for suicide missions. The truce, however, has suspended most terrorist activities.

The agreement was signed in February 2002 between the **LTTE**, the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam, and the presiding Sinhalese government.

**LTTE** representatives at the peace talks claim they have stopped recruiting child soldiers. But UNICEF, the United Nation's Children's Fund, has recorded more than 700 complaints of child recruitment by the rebels since the cease-fire, according to The Times. Several thousand children, some as young as 12, have been abducted by the terrorists. Tamil families with three or more children are compelled to commit at least one to the cause.

Kitty Leaken

(Sidebar 2)

#### About Art Refuge

Friends of Tibetan **Women's** Association, a Santa Fe-based nonprofit organization, brought Art Refuge to the orphanage in 1999.

Art Refuge began in 1994, reaching Tibetan refugee children living in India, and expanded to Sri Lanka after Loku Maniyo, the head nun of Sri Yasodara Devi Balika Niwasaya, wrote and invited us to visit.

## SAFE HAVEN

Paintings made by Tibetan refugee children in the first Art Refuge programs were exhibited at the Museum of International Folk Art in Santa Fe, published in a book, *The Art of Exile*, and featured in a documentary video, *Dance of Young Nomads*. The exhibit is in Auckland, New Zealand.

Paintings made by the girls in the Sri Lankan Art Refuge project are exhibited in "Honoring the Child" through May 11 in at El Museo Cultural, 1615-B Paseo de Peralta, 992-0951.

For more information about the organization, go to [www.fotwa.org](http://www.fotwa.org).

Kitty Leaken

## Graphic

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1. Above: Burning House, painted by orphan Shyama, depicts Lalitha's story. Lalitha, pictured on Page F-3, was trapped in her home when terrorists set it ablaze, shortly before she joined the orphanage.; 2. Left: Krishanti, 14, narrowly escaped capture by terrorists before coming to the orphanage two years ago.3. Loku Maniyo, the chief nun at the orphanage, says she tries to help the girls remember their love for other people. 'I teach others to live simply,' she says, 'so that others may simply live.'4. Girls at the orphanage play under the mosquito netting in the dormitory.5. Lalitha recounted her experience at the hands of terrorists.;

**Load-Date:** May 6, 2003

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End of Document

## **Sri Lanka Supreme Court halts evictions of Tamils from Colombo**

Japan Economic Newswire

June 8, 2007 Friday 2:58 PM GMT

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**Section:** INTERNATIONAL NEWS

**Length:** 535 words

**Dateline:** COLOMBO June 8

### **Body**

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Sri Lanka's Supreme Court issued an interim order Friday restraining police from evicting minority Tamils living in cheap lodges in the capital Colombo until the court hears a petition filed by a civil activist group.

"The Center for Policy Alternatives filed a petition before the Supreme Court, and we have got a restraining order on the police," a lawyer for the CPA said.

An angry debate took place in parliament Thursday over the predawn sweep in which, according to Defense Ministry figures, a total of 376 people were bused to their home villages in northern and eastern provinces.

Opposition leader Ranil Wickremesinghe said the Tamils had been treated like Jews in Germany during World War II.

The U.S. Embassy in Colombo in a statement condemned what it called the "forced removal of Tamils," saying such measures "violate the Sri Lankan Constitution's guarantee that every citizen has the right to freedom of movement and choice of residence within Sri Lanka."

"The United States understands and supports Sri Lanka's obligation to defend itself against terrorism. But this action can only widen the ethnic divide at a time when important efforts are under way to reach a national consensus to end Sri Lanka's nearly quarter-century old conflict," the statement said.

Analysts said the timing of the government move was atrocious, given that it happened as Japan's peace envoy to Sri Lanka, Yasushi Akashi, was visiting the country trying to bring the government and Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam to the negotiating table for peace talks.

The Defense Ministry attributed the evictions to "security demands," citing recent deadly bombings blamed on the Tigers.

"Investigations have confirmed that those responsible for these brutal killings have hatched their plans and executed them from these 'lodgings,'" the ministry said on its website.

"Some **LTTE** activists operate from these lodges," a Colombo-based diplomat said on condition of anonymity. "But sweeps such as these cause injustice to innocents."

The police reported the discovery of a 7-kilogram claymore mine wrapped in a sleeping mat near a school in Colombo on Friday morning.

## Sri Lanka Supreme Court halts evictions of Tamils from Colombo

If not for the vigilance of a member of the public who brought the suspicious bundle to the notice of the police, there could have been a major tragedy, the police said.

The Defense Ministry reported a second grisly discovery on Friday, nine partially decomposed bodies.

TamilNet, the pro-**LTTE** website, said it was 15 bodies, including those of two **women**.

Hours after the Supreme Court made the interim order, the president's office issued a statement saying President Mahinda Rajapakse has called for an immediate report from the Inspector General of Police.

"Allegations that officials exceeded their authority in implementing this initiative will be thoroughly investigated and appropriate remedial action will be taken, including disciplinary action against wrongdoing on the part of any government official," the statement said.

The president's office statement said Rajapakse had taken "serious note" of concerns expressed by lawmakers in parliament, civil society and human rights organizations and activists, religious leaders and the media over Thursday's evictions.

**Load-Date:** June 8, 2007



## [Aid agency probes Sri Lanka massacre as monitor slams shelling](#)

Agence France Presse -- English

August 7, 2006 Monday 3:46 AM GMT

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**Length:** 529 words

**Byline:** Amal Jayasinghe

**Dateline:** COLOMBO, Aug 7 2006

### **Body**

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A French aid agency was Monday trying to find out who shot dead 15 of its employees as a Nordic truce monitor hit out at the Sri Lankan government for shelling Tamil rebels as they tried to reopen a bitterly contested waterway.

The bodies of 11 men and four women, wearing Action Against Hunger (ACF) T-shirts, were found face-down in their office on Sunday in the town of Muttur, close to heavy fighting between Tamil rebels and government forces.

The rebels have accused the security forces of killing the aid workers, who were all members of Sri Lanka's minority ethnic Tamil community.

Benoit Miribel, the director general of Action Against Hunger (ACF), said his organisation was stunned by the killings which were unprecedented in its 25-year history.

"We are trying to send a team to find out what is going on in this area," Miribel told AFP in Paris. "But soldiers have prevented us from entering the town which remains completely sealed off."

ACF is one of the hundreds of aid agencies that set up operations in Sri Lanka after an Indian Ocean tsunami wiped out much the island's coastal infrastructure and killed an estimated 31,000 people in December 2004.

There was no immediate word from the government about what happened to the aid workers.

Fighting intensified last Wednesday after sluice gates at a dam were closed to get the government to improve drinking water for residents in the town and the surrounding northeastern district of Trincomalee.

The government accused the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) of blocking the waterway. The rebels say residents shut the sluice gates.

The rebels were close to reopening them on Sunday but were forced back by government shelling, which brought a stern rebuke from Ulf Henriksson, head of the Sri Lanka Monitoring Mission (SLMM) which is trying to negotiate a ceasefire.

## Aid agency probes Sri Lanka massacre as monitor slams shelling

Henriksson said the Maavilaru dam was just minutes away from being re-opened, returning water supplies to thousands of families, when the bombardment started.

"No water. War instead of water. Not a good idea, not a good solution," Henriksson told the BBC in comments reported Monday.

"... we could have waited some minutes more for the water so I think (the attack) was a bad idea," he said.

At least 425 people have died in clashes over the Maavilaru dam since July 26.

A spokesman for the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (**LTTE**) said the monitors had a "narrow shave" in the shelling.

"We had informed the Sri Lankan government and clearance was obtained," S. Puleedevan told AFP. "But, as they approached the area, there was heavy shelling and they can't open the sluice gates. Even the monitors had a narrow shave."

The government said it was not involved in talks between peace-broker Norway and the rebels on re-opening the dam.

"Water should not be a negotiating tool," Colombo spokesman Keheliya Rambukwella told AFP. "We don't want terrorists to come and open the waterway. They must simply allow irrigation engineers to do it, otherwise we will open it anyway."

It has been the worst fighting in Sri Lanka since a truce was agreed in 2002. An estimated 60,000 people have been killed since the Tamil insurgency began around three decades ago.

**Load-Date:** August 8, 2006

## **Sri Lanka government uses special powers to persecute journalists, rights group says**

Associated Press International

April 12, 2007 Thursday 7:06 AM GMT

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**Section:** INTERNATIONAL NEWS

**Length:** 540 words

**Byline:** By DILIP GANGULY, Associated Press Writer

**Dateline:** COLOMBO Sri Lanka

### **Body**

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Sri Lanka's government is abusing anti-terror legislation to target journalists who write on human rights abuses or question the administration's handling of the conflict with separatist rebels, an international watchdog said Thursday.

Standard Newspapers Ltd. was forced to close March 29 after the government froze its assets citing links with Tamil Tiger insurgents, Human Rights Watch said.

The move follows the arrest of the paper's financial director, Dushantha Basnayake, under the Prevention of Terrorism Act in February. Basnayake has remained in detention without charge since then, the group said.

Standard Newspapers used to publish the Sinhalese-language weekly Mawbima and the English-language Sunday Standard.

Sri Lanka reinvoked the strict counterterrorism law last December after suspected rebels launched a failed suicide attack on the country's defense secretary. The law grants security forces sweeping powers to hold anyone without a warrant for up to 12 months without charge, raid any home and even demolish properties considered a threat to national security.

"The government is using anti-terrorism legislation to silence the press," said Sam Zarifi, Asia research director for Human Rights Watch. "As the war heats up, the government is clamping down on criticism and dissent."

Mawbima reporter Munusamy Parameswary was arrested in November under the Prevention of Terrorism Act, and accused of giving shelter to an alleged **female** Tamil rebel. The Supreme Court, however, found no reasonable grounds for her detention and ordered her release on March 22.

"The government's moves against Mawbima are a disturbing blow to press freedom in Sri Lanka," Zarifi said. "Increasingly, critics of government policy are being treated as traitors and enemies of the state."

The Mawbima frequently reported on the disappearances of Sri Lankans, allegedly abducted by government forces or Tamil rebels.

No comment was immediately available from the government, which generally denies charges of rights violations.

Sri Lanka government uses special powers to persecute journalists, rights group says

Press freedom and journalists are also being squeezed by the other parties in Sri Lanka's decades-old civil conflict, HRW said.

"In the areas under its control, the LTTE does not allow a free press. In other areas it has intimidated, attacked and sometimes killed journalists critical of their policies or actions," the group said, referring to the Tigers by their official name the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam.

A rebel breakaway faction, known as the Karuna group, which split from the LTTE in 2004 has "blocked the sale of the Tamil-language dailies Virakesari, Thinakkural and Sudar Oli, which are critical of the armed group," the watchdog said.

The rebels have been fighting since 1983 for a separate homeland for Sri Lanka's 3.1 million Tamils, a largely Hindu ethnic group. The Tamils have faced decades of discrimination from the predominantly Buddhist Sinhalese, who make up a majority of the nation's 19 million people.

At least 65,000 people were killed before a 2002 cease-fire which officially remains in force but has completely unraveled over the last 18 months as tit-for-tat attacks have grown into all-out war. Another 4,000 people, many of them civilians, are estimated to have been killed since late 2005.

**Load-Date:** April 13, 2007

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## **Cricket: England confirm Sri Lanka Tests on despite blasts**

Agence France Presse -- English

November 29, 2007 Thursday 5:52 AM GMT

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**Length:** 421 words

**Byline:** Kuldip Lal

**Dateline:** KANDY, Sri Lanka, Nov 29 2007

### **Body**

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England's cricket test series in Sri Lanka will go ahead despite two deadly bomb attacks blamed on Tamil Tiger rebels that killed at least 19 people, officials said Thursday.

The British High Commission (embassy) told team management, preparing for Saturday's first Test in Kandy, the travel advisory warning had not changed.

"It is for the team to decide on the tour but we have told them our travel advisory to Sri Lanka has not changed, except for a minor amendment following Wednesday's blasts," High Commission spokesman John Culley told AFP.

"The level of the advisory has not changed."

A powerful parcel bomb exploded Wednesday outside a clothing store on the outskirts of the capital Colombo, killing 17, wounding 43 others and leaving the street littered with body parts, police said.

The attack came just hours after a disabled female suicide bomber blew herself up outside the office of a Tamil government minister, killing his secretary and injuring two security guards.

England, who are due to play the second Test at the Sinhalese Sports Club from December 9-13 in Colombo, said the series would go ahead as originally planned.

"We have spoken to the (British) High Commission in light of the bombs," team spokesman Andrew Walpole told reporters here.

"There has been no change in the travel advice we have received from them, at this stage, and it has no effect on the tour arrangements.

"We always keep the tour itinerary and security arrangements under review and we won't be complacent during the tour."

The third and final Test will be played in the southern coastal town of Galle from December 18-22.

### Cricket: England confirm Sri Lanka Tests on despite blasts

The High Commission's travel advisory has been updated to include Wednesday's blast and reminds British residents that "there is a high threat from terrorism."

"Attacks can be indiscriminate, and have occurred in places frequented by expatriates and foreign travellers," it said.

"There is heightened security in Sri Lanka and you are advised to comply with government and security force instructions."

Wednesday's blasts came a day after Tamil Tiger leader Velupillai Prabhakaran declared that Sri Lankan peace efforts were a waste of time and vowed to strike back at the island's "genocidal" government.

"Those who plan to destroy the Tamil nation will in the end be forced to face their own destruction," he said in his annual policy speech from a jungle hideout in his northern fiefdom.

The **Tamil Tigers** launched their campaign for an independent homeland in 1972 and tens of thousands have since died on both sides.

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## *Tamil Tiger rebels kill dissident, another dead in northern fighting*

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### **Body**

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The Sri Lankan army killed a Tamil Tiger rebel in a gunbattle in the restive northern Jaffna Peninsula overnight, the military said Thursday, the same day that women's groups held a rally to call for an end to the violence.

Elsewhere, suspected Tamil Tiger rebels fatally shot one of their members who broke away from the separatist movement in the volatile east, a spokesman for the Defense Ministry said.

Fighting broke out near Jaffna when a group of Tamil tigers attempted to enter government-held territory, said a spokesman with the Media Center for National Security who spoke on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to speak to the media.

Soldiers repulsed an insurgents' attack, using mortars and small arms and the battle lasted for nearly an hour, the official said.

The killed rebel, identified as 22-year-old Mailvahanam Kohulam, had fled from the Vakare rebel base in the east and was gunned down in the eastern Batticaloa district on Wednesday night.

Rebel officials were not reachable for comment on either incident.

On Thursday, women's groups took part in a demonstration to call for an immediate end to violence.

"We are urging killings to stop and resolution of the country's conflict through dialogue to bring peace," said Kumudini Samuel, one of the organizers.

The latest killing was reported as police on Thursday morning lifted an 18-hour curfew in the Muslim-dominated Pottuvil area, about 250 kilometers (155 miles) east of the capital, Colombo.

On Wednesday, 14 people were wounded when police fired on Muslim protesters angered by the massacre on Sunday of 10 laborers. They blame government special police forces for the killings and have demanded the removal of a local police chief.

"Schools, offices and shops are opened," Adam Bawa, a civilian in Pottuvil, told The Associated Press by phone.

The government and rebels blamed each other for the massacre after the Muslim men's bodies were found Monday.

## Tamil Tiger rebels kill dissident, another dead in northern fighting

Muslims are Sri Lanka's second-largest minority after ethnic Tamils, who are mostly Hindu. The Muslims generally oppose the Tamil Tiger rebels, who are fighting to carve out a separate Tamil homeland.

The guerrillas accuse Muslims of supporting the government, which is dominated by the country's majority ethnic Sinhalese. The rebels also oppose Muslims cultivating land in areas they consider Tamil territory.

The Sri Lankan conflict killed more than 65,000 people before a 2002 Norwegian brokered cease-fire which has given way in recent months to all-out fighting in the north and east which has left hundreds more dead.

**Load-Date:** September 22, 2006

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