

**Date and Time:** Saturday, May 4, 2024 2:17:00PM EEST

**Job Number:** 223507999

## Documents (100)

1. [\*SRI LANKA : GOVERNMENT, TAMIL TIGERS MUST PROTECT CIVILIANS\*](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

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

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

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

2. [\*Canada cynically encourages terrorism by the Tamil Tigers\*](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

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

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

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

3. [\*Tamil Tigers blame government forces for civilian massacres\*](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** "Tamil 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. [\*Tamil Tigers regrets assassination of Rajiv Gandhi: report\*](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** "Tamil 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. [\*Sri Lanka gov't accuses Tamil Tigers of massacring civilians\*](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

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

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**

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

6. [\*Embedded with the Tamil Tigers\*](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

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

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**

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

7. [\*Tamil Tigers deny deadly bus blast 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

8. [\*S. P. Thamilselvan Tamil Tigers political 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

9. [\*Sri Lanka orders probe on attacks against Tamil Tigers\*](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

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

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**

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

10. [\*Tamil Tigers deny bus bombing that killed 16 people\*](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

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

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

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

11. [Tamil Tigers a law unto themselves](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

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

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

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

12. [Sri Lanka 's Tamil Tigers releases policeman](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

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

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

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

13. [Aussie ex-nurse to be new face of Tamil Tigers](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

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

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

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

14. [Layton's defence of Tamil Tigers way over the top](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

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

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

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

15. [Tamil Tigers apologise for murder of Rajiv Gandhi](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** "Tamil 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. [Tamil Tigers apologise for suicide bomber's murder of Rajiv Gandhi](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

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

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

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

17. [Sri Lankan warplanes pound Tamil Tigers as conflict escalates](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

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

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

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

18. [Tamil Tigers say their boats defied sea transport ban](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

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

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

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

19. [Tsunami disaster: Tamil Tigers are accused of recruiting children from 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,Newsires & Press  
Releases; Timeline: Jan 01, 2003 to Dec 31, 2007

20. [Torture chambers used by Tamil Tigers found in eastern Sri Lanka , defense ministry 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

21. [Tamil Tigers blamed for bomb blast in Sri Lanka 's capital that kills 16](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

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

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

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

22. [Tamil Tigers Blamed for Sri Lankan Blast](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

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

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

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

23. [SRI LANKA : VIOLENT SPLIT AMONG TAMIL TIGERS IMPERILS 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

24. [Air force jets kill Tamil Tigers' top political leader in blow to island's 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

25. [Sri Lanka fears revival of civil war: Air force attacks Tamil Tigers after suicide bomber targets army chief](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

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

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

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

26. [Bomb in suburb of Sri Lanka 's capital kills 16, military says, blaming Tamil Tigers](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

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

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

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

27. [\*Vaiko tells Centre to desist supporting Colombo against LTTE\*](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

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

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

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

28. [\*Bus blast kills 15 in Sri Lanka ; officials blame Tamil Tigers\*](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

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

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

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

29. [\*Tamil Tigers blamed for bus blast that kills 15 in southwest 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

30. [\*SRI LANKA : TAMIL TIGERS GETTING EDGY AS PEACE PROCESS FALTERS\*](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** "Tamil 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. [\*Top Sri Lankan military officer killed in suicide attack; Tamil Tigers blamed\*](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** "Tamil 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. [Orphanage not tied to Tamil Tigers](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

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

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

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

33. [TOUGH STAND TAKEN ON SRI LANKA ; Deportation Orders; Ottawa treating government forces same as Tamil Tigers](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

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

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

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

34. [Rebels deny Sri Lanka "torture chamber" claim](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** "Tamil 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. [UK: Investigate Sri Lankan Rebel Leader for Atrocities](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** "Tamil 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. [Tamil Tigers deny recruiting children orphaned by 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

37. [Children enlisted by Tamil Tigers;](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

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

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

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

38. [Sri Lankan rebels pledge no more child soldiers by year 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,Newsires & Press  
Releases; Timeline: Jan 01, 2003 to Dec 31, 2007

39. [Tamil tigers blacklisting lauded](#)

**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

40. [Tamil Tiger involvement in killing Sri Lankan forces cannot be ruled out, Europeans say](#)

**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

41. [VOA NEWS: U.S. CONDEMNS SUICIDE ATTACK ON SRI LANKAN ARMY CHIEF](#)

**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



42. [Grenade thrown into European monitors' compound in Sri Lanka ; no casualties reported](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** "Tamil 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 Lankan navy destroys rebel boat, captures another](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** "Tamil 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. [Suicide bombing threatens Sri Lankan 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

45. [VOA NEWS: SUICIDE BOMBER KILLS 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

46. [Hardliner takes early lead in Sri Lanka election](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** "Tamil 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. [Blast hits European monitors' parking garage in Sri Lanka ; no casualties reported](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** "Tamil 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. [Rebels bomb convoy after air strike on former orphanage: Tamil Tigers say 61 girls died, 155 injured](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** "Tamil 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. [Sri Lankan army faces new woes from rebels Ouster of Tamil Tigers from last stronghold could bring a jungle war of attrition, analysts say](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** "Tamil 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. [SA election impresses Tamil Tiger observers](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** "Tamil 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. [7 Canadians among 11 in Tiger net](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** "Tamil 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. [THE DEMONS THAT HAUNT SRI LANKA Civil war in the jungle The deserted beaches are littered with rubbish. The jungles are burning, torched by troops trying to flush out the Tamil Tigers. Eighteen months after the tsunami, Justin Huggler reports from Trincomalee on the disaster confronting a seeming paradise](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

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

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

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

53. [Seven villagers shot dead in Sri Lanka](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

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

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

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

54. [Sri Lanka vows to keep bombing Tiger positions as conflict escalates](#)

**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

55. [SRI LANKAN GOVT, TIGERS TALK ENTER THIRD 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,Newsires & Press  
Releases; Timeline: Jan 01, 2003 to Dec 31, 2007

56. [Sri Lankan leader vows to 'wipe out terrorists': report](#)

**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

57. [SRI LANKA : WARRING SIDES MUST LET AID REACH CIVILIANS](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

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

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

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

58. [Sri Lanka parliament urged to remove World Bank representative](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** "Tamil 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. [Air strikes target Tamil Tigers after suicide blast](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

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

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

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

60. [Sri Lankan government, Tamil Tigers set to conclude sixth round of talks with preliminary map for sharing power](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** "Tamil 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. [Tamil support hit by death, arrests](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** "Tamil 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 Lanka launches airstrikes against 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

63. [Sri Lanka launches air strikes on 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

64. [Death toll mounts as Sri Lanka hits back by air, land and sea](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

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

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**

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

65. [TERROR BIG'S GIGS AT NEWARK. TAMIL TIGERS GANG BOSS NETS SECURITY, BAGGAGE JOBS; BUSTED IN ATM HEIST PLOT](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** "Tamil 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. [Sri Lankan navy destroy and capture Sea Tiger boats](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** "Tamil 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. [Bus attack kills 65 people in Sri Lanka](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

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

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

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

68. [Sri Lanka warring parties trade massacre charges](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** "Tamil 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. [Human Rights Watch says over 1,000 child soldiers recruited by Tamil Tigers](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

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

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

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

70. [Outrage over child soldiers in Sri Lanka](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

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

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

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

71. [Welcome to the new Darfur](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** "Tamil 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. [Human Rights Watch says more than 1,000 child soldiers recruited by Tamil Tigers](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

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

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

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

73. [India refuses LTTE apology for killing Rajiv Gandhi](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** "Tamil 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. [EU gives 5 million euros to victims, refugees in 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

75. [World: Children pay the price of Tamil violence: Around 200,000 refugees are struggling to survive on Sri Lanka 's east coast, having fled the escalating violence between three warring factions. Now ever younger recruits are being seized for combat. Dan McDougall reports from Batticaloa .](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** "Tamil 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. [Woman suicide bomber blows herself up outside Lankan Minister's office, one dead, two injured](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** "Tamil 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. [Bodies of civilians killed in northern Sri Lanka handed over to Red Cross](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** "Tamil 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. [Direct dialogue the only way is SF message for war-torn island - Sinn Fein MP Martin McGuinness recently visited Sri Lanka , where he shared his experiences of the north's peace process with leaders of both sides in the island's bitter civil war, writes Seamus McKinney](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** "Tamil 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. [SRI LANKA : WAR-TORN REGION ON EDGE WITH PEACE PROCESS UNCERTAIN](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** "Tamil 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. [20 LTTE men died in air base raid](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

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

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

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

81. [Roundup: Colombo bombing threatens Sri Lanka 's 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

82. [Sri Lanka explosion kill five](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** "Tamil 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. [\*Suicide bomber pushes Sri Lanka close to all-out war: Eight killed and military leader badly injured: Air strikes launched on Tamil Tiger strongholds\*](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

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

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

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

84. [\*Tamil Tigers Kill Soldier in Sri Lanka\*](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

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

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

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

85. [\*Colombo tells Karuna to cool off\*](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

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

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

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

86. [\*Tamil bra bomber targets Sri Lanka minister: military\*](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

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

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

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

87. [\*Sri Lanka military finds mines in north\*](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

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

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

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

88. [Sri Lanka on the brink after Tiger suicide attack](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

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

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

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

89. [Toll in Sri Lanka bus blast rises to 58, Tigers blamed](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** "Tamil 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 to blame for 700 deaths in Jaffna : rights group](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** "Tamil 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. [Sri Lanka peace talks to resume despite deadly clash with Tamil Tigers](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

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

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

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

92. [Sri Lanka peace talks: Tamil Tigers refuse to disband suicide squad](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** "Tamil 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. [\*The Tigers tamed? Why Sri Lanka 's president believes peace is within reach FT INTERVIEW: Despite recent ceasefire violations, Mahinda Rajapakse is confident that Tamil separatists will be forced to negotiate, he tells Jo Johnson and Khozem Merchant\*](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** "Tamil 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. [\*Tiger rebel leader regrets 1991 killing of former Indian prime minister\*](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

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

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

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

95. [\*Lanka Air Force attacks, damages LTTE's Mullaitive Sea Tiger base\*](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

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

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

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

96. [\*ROUNDUP: 5 killed, 12 injured as female suicide bomber sets off explosion in Colombo police station\*](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** "Tamil 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

97. [\*Factional fighting as Japanese envoy pushes peace bid\*](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

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

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

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

98. [Bus attack kills 64 in Sri Lanka , Tigers blamed](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** "Tamil 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

99. [Tamil trauma mars school chances](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** "Tamil 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. [A blind eye to Tamil terrorism](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

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

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

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

## **SRI LANKA: GOVERNMENT, TAMIL TIGERS MUST PROTECT CIVILIANS**

Targeted News Service

September 19, 2006 Tuesday 5:05 AM EST

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**Length:** 1334 words

**Byline:** Targeted News Service

**Dateline:** NEW YORK

### **Body**

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Human Rights Watch issued the following news release:

Both the Sri Lankan government and the armed opposition **Tamil Tigers** have been responsible for numerous preventable civilian deaths and injuries since major fighting resumed in April, Human Rights Watch said in a briefing paper released today.

The 56-page briefing paper, "Improving Civilian Protection in Sri Lanka," makes 34 recommendations to the Sri Lankan government and the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (**LTTE**), known as the **Tamil Tigers**, to better protect civilians. Human Rights Watch urged the government and the **LTTE** to accept a United Nations human rights monitoring mission in Sri Lanka and adopt specific measures to protect the civilian population.

"The renewed fighting has placed civilians at greater risk than at any time since the 2002 ceasefire agreement," said James Ross, senior legal advisor at Human Rights Watch and author of the briefing paper. "Both sides are responsible for serious abuses committed with utter disregard for civilian security."

Human Rights Watch found both government security forces and the **LTTE** responsible for failing to protect civilians during recent major military operations. Violations of the laws of war by government forces and the **Tamil Tigers** include indiscriminate attacks and summary executions. Neither side has taken adequate measures to facilitate humanitarian relief to the hundreds of thousands of people who have been forced to flee their homes or are otherwise in need of assistance. In addition, aid workers have been targets of threats and attacks, prompting fears of an exodus by international humanitarian organizations.

The human rights abuses that characterized the ceasefire period - politically motivated assassinations and "disappearances" - have increased since April. Both the government and the **Tamil Tigers** have exploited rather than dampened the rising communal violence between Tamils, Sinhalese and Muslims. Impunity for even the most serious crimes remains the norm.

Human Rights Watch's recommendations to the government and the **Tamil Tigers** were developed during a two-week mission to Sri Lanka in August. Human Rights Watch urges both the government and the **Tamil Tigers** to take stronger measures to protect civilians, including:

\* Agree to designate demilitarized zones as sanctuaries in conflict areas and pre-position humanitarian relief in known places of refuge;

## SRI LANKA : GOVERNMENT, TAMIL TIGERS MUST PROTECT CIVILIANS

- \* Improve humanitarian access to populations at risk, including by ending unnecessary restrictions on humanitarian work;
- \* Ensure the protection of displaced persons, regardless of ethnicity, and end forced returns;
- \* Ensure adherence to international law by all senior commanders and lower-ranking personnel and hold violators accountable;
- \* End threats, harassment and violence against non-governmental organizations and their staff;
- \* Support inter-ethnic networks to reduce the likelihood of communal violence; and,
- \* Agree to the establishment of a United Nations human rights monitoring mission in Sri Lanka.

Both sides have been responsible for serious violations of the laws of war since major fighting resumed in April, said Human Rights Watch. Sri Lankan armed forces have engaged in indiscriminate shelling and aerial bombing. At least 19 young women and girls (the LTTE have claimed 51) died in an August bombing raid in LTTE-controlled territory where the evidence indicates there was no genuine military target. The military's indiscriminate shelling of Mutur in August resulted in the deaths of at least 49 predominately Muslim civilians. The security forces have been implicated in the summary execution of persons in their control, including 17 aid workers from the international group Action Against Hunger in August. The security forces are also believed to be responsible for an increasing number of "disappearances."

The Tamil Tigers have directly targeted civilians with Claymore mines and suicide bombings, and summarily executed persons in their custody. They were allegedly responsible for a landmine attack in June on a bus in Anuradhapura that killed 67 civilians, including many children.

Outside the immediate battlefield, both sides have acted in a manner that has increased the risk to civilians under their control. In April, government security forces stood by for two hours while a Sinhalese mob burned Tamil homes and shops in Trincomalee. The military is providing weapons but little training to civilian "home guards," who readily become targets for Tamil Tiger attacks.

The Tamil Tigers impose mandatory military and civil defense training on a large scale to civilians in areas they control. They often arm civilians to fill checkpoints and sentry posts, dangerously blurring the line between combatants and civilians. In addition, the Tamil Tigers continue to recruit children to be soldiers in their forces. The breakaway faction of the Tamil Tigers under Colonel Karuna, which is increasingly linked to government forces, is forcibly recruiting children. Since June the Karuna group has abducted more than 100 children for its forces.

The renewal of major fighting has resulted in several hundred thousand people, including more than 220,000 persons displaced from their homes throughout the north and east, requiring humanitarian assistance. Yet neither the government nor the Tamil Tigers have acted to ensure that humanitarian assistance reaches these threatened populations.

Government efforts to provide aid have been slow and cumbersome. The Ministry of Defense has placed unnecessary obstacles in the way of humanitarian agencies, including new registration requirements that appear designed more to discourage humanitarian action than regulate it. Even after the end of major fighting in Jaffna, the government and the LTTE have hindered humanitarian assistance from reaching the peninsula.

"Harassment, threats and violence are becoming common occurrences for aid workers in the north and east, threatening the delivery of relief assistance," said Ross. "International organizations are considering the possibility of pulling out of Sri Lanka - this at a time when they are needed more than ever."

With the ceasefire all but officially collapsed, human rights abuses have dangerously increased, said Human Rights Watch. Sri Lankan security forces are believed to be responsible for a number of serious violations in 2006, including the summary execution of five Tamil students in Trincomalee in January, the "disappearance" of eight

## SRI LANKA : GOVERNMENT, TAMIL TIGERS MUST PROTECT CIVILIANS

young men from a Hindu temple in Jaffna in May, and the execution-style slaying of five Tamil fishermen on Mannar Island in June.

Since the start of the ceasefire in 2002, the **Tamil Tigers** have been implicated in more than 200 targeted killings, mostly of Tamils viewed as being political opponents. Alleged **LTTE** forces in April shot and killed eight Sinhalese farmers, including three boys, in Trincomalee district. An **LTTE** car bombing on August 8 in Colombo injured a Tamil member of parliament and killed his bodyguard and a 3-year-old child. On August 12, suspected **LTTE** gunmen shot and killed Kethesh Loganathan, the highly respected Tamil deputy head of the government's Peace Secretariat, at his home in Colombo.

Impunity for perpetrators of human rights abuses remains the greatest obstacle to ending the vicious cycle of murder and reprisal in Sri Lanka, Human Rights Watch said. The government has frequently initiated investigations into alleged rights violations by government security forces, but rarely have these investigations led to prosecutions, let alone convictions.

"The massive harm inflicted on the civilian population in so short a period of major fighting shows the need for real steps to protect civilians," said Ross. "Agreeing to a U.N. human rights monitoring mission would be a good place to start."

The Human Rights Watch briefing paper, "Improving Civilian Protection in Sri Lanka," is available at:

<http://hrw.org/backgrounder/asia/srilanka0906/>

**Load-Date:** November 24, 2006

## *Canada cynically encourages terrorism by the Tamil Tigers*

Ottawa Citizen

January 28, 2005 Friday

Final Edition

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**Section:** NEWS; Pg. A13

**Length:** 248 words

**Byline:** Jack Carter, The Ottawa Citizen

### **Body**

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Re: Tamil leader says Canada a great ally, Jan. 22.

The reluctance of Prime Minister Paul Martin and his government to denounce the ***Tamil Tigers*** as a terrorist group is another example of the cynicism constantly demonstrated by the Liberals in their attempts to win votes.

Seeing a leading official of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Elam (***LTTE***) endorse Canada as an ally surely must have amazed the nations that have long recognized the ***LTTE*** as a terrorist organization.

While the Tamil population of Sri Lanka has legitimate grievances because of its exclusion from government power by the Sinhalese majority, the ***LTTE***'s methods of addressing these grievances consist of assassinations and suicide bombings. Since the early 1980s these activities have killed and maimed thousands of innocent men, ***women*** and children. Canada has provided generous immigration opportunities for Tamils, which has led to one of the largest populations of Tamils outside of Sri Lanka. Many Tamil immigrants routinely contribute money to the ***LTTE***, often under duress, which means that Canadian dollars are helping to fund terrorist acts.

To protect Liberal seats in the greater Toronto area, Prime Minister Martin and his Liberal colleagues continue to ignore requests from other MPs and conscientious Canadians to censure the ***LTTE***. This attitude of the Canadian government not only fails to restrain the ***LTTE***, but actually encourages its terrorist activities. Canadians should be ashamed of this.

Jack Carter,

Almonte

**Load-Date:** January 28, 2005



## *Tamil Tigers blame government forces for civilian massacres*

Agence France Presse -- English

April 13, 2007 Friday 5:39 AM GMT

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**Length:** 277 words

**Dateline:** COLOMBO, April 13 2007

### **Body**

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Sri Lanka's Tamil Tiger rebels on Friday denied killing seven ethnic Sinhalese civilians, saying it was either the work of the military or a breakaway rebel faction allied with government forces.

The Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (**LTTE**) said a string of attacks against civilians had been orchestrated by security forces and former **LTTE** rebels now in the so-called Karuna splinter group to discredit the main Tiger outfit.

"We deny any hand in yesterday's killings in Avarantalawa," **LTTE** spokesman Rasiah Ilanthiriyar said by telephone from the rebel-held town of Kilinochchi. "The military or the paramilitaries have done it to discredit us."

"Survivors have seen the attackers dressed in Tiger uniforms. Any fool will know that we can't infiltrate into a government-held area in our uniforms," he said.

The defence ministry accused Tiger guerrillas of carrying out the attack in the northern district of Vavuniya, close to the frontline between government-held areas and the **LTTE**'s northern enclave.

The attack, which left six **women** and a man dead, took place on the eve of the traditional New Year shared by the majority Sinhalese community and the minority Tamils.

Police said the victims had been driven out of their homes 24 years ago and had returned in 2002 following a truce between troops and **Tamil Tigers**.

However, the ceasefire is now observed only on paper with more than 4,000 people killed in escalating violence since December 2005.

On Saturday, a roadside bomb attack killed eight people and wounded 25 in the troubled Vavuniya district. The military blamed the Tigers, who denied the allegation and in turn said the security forces were responsible.

**Load-Date:** April 14, 2007

## *Tamil Tigers regrets assassination of Rajiv Gandhi: report*

Deutsche Presse-Agentur

June 27, 2006 Tuesday 4:13 PM EST

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**Section:** POLITICS

**Length:** 435 words

**Dateline:** New Delhi

### **Body**

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Sri Lanka's rebel Tamil Tigers have taken responsibility for assassinating former Indian premier Rajiv Gandhi and have appealed for India's understanding, it was reported Tuesday. In an interview with NDTV network, Anton Balasingham, the chief

negotiator of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) termed the

killing of Gandhi by an LTTE female suicide bomber at an election rally on May 21, 1991 as a "monumental historical tragedy."

"As far as that event is concerned ... I would say it is a great tragedy ... a monumental historical tragedy ... which we deeply regret," he told the network.

"We call upon the government of India and people of India to be magnanimous to put the past behind ... and to approach the ethnic question in a different perspective," Balasingham added.

The NDTV said the interview was conducted near London.

India declared the LTTE a terrorist organization after the assassination of the popular Indian leader. His widow, Italian-born Sonia Gandhi, is chairperson of India's ruling coalition.

The LTTE has over the last 15 years denied any hand in Gandhi's

assassination. This is the first time a senior LTTE member has admitted to the organization's role in the killing.

In 2002, LTTE chief Velupillai Pirabhakaran described the assassination as a "sorrowful event."

Balasingham said the Tigers were seeking a "new relationship" with India and wanted it to play a positive role in resolving the conflict in Sri Lanka which was yet again on the threshold of civil war. But India's Foreign Ministry said there would be no forgive-and-

forget policy. Forgiving LTTE would be tantamount to endorsing the rebel's tactics of violence and terror, India's junior foreign minister Anand Sharma said.

"The people of India cannot forget the dastardly crime that was

committed by the LTTE," he told NDTV.

## Tamil Tigers regrets assassination of Rajiv Gandhi: report

Sharma said Balasingham's statement was a confession of their complicity in the killing. "This has been a well-known fact for the

last 15 years," he added, noting that LTTE leaders had been charged with the killing.

He also ruled out India's playing a direct or mediatory role in

the Sri Lanka peace process. "The LTTE is a banned organization in

India and many countries. The EU has banned it. It is for the LTTE to renounce violence and return to the negotiating table," he said.

India has declined to be drawn into any direct involvement in Sri Lankan affairs after its disastrous experience in 1987 when it got involved in a full-blown war with the Tigers.

The two decade-long insurgency has claimed more than 70,000 lives in Sri Lanka.

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

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End of Document

## ***Sri Lanka gov't accuses Tamil Tigers of massacring civilians***

Xinhua General News Service

August 5, 2006 Saturday 8:00 AM EST

Copyright 2006 Xinhua News Agency

**Section:** WORLD NEWS; Political

**Length:** 205 words

**Dateline:** COLOMBO

### **Body**

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Sri Lanka government Saturday accused the ***Tamil Tigers*** of killing over 100 civilians including women and children for supporting the security forces in the Muslim dominated town of Muttur in the eastern province.

A statement from the National Security Media Center said that while the displaced Muslim were fleeing Muttur, "Tigers blocked them at Pachchanoor area and killed over hundred including women, youth and children during night on Friday."

These civilians had been supporting the troops before the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (***LTTE***) began pounding the Muttur town with mortar and shell fire in the early hours of Wednesday.

There was no immediate response from the ***LTTE*** to the allegation.

The ***LTTE*** and the Muslim have a long history of animosity with a large number of Muslims found themselves chased out from the main Tamil town of Jaffna by the Tigers in 1990 during the height of their armed separatist struggle to create a separate homeland for the minority Tamils in the north and east.

The clashes in Muttur since Wednesday drove the Muslim population to the safety of neighboring Kantalai town where some 15,000 refugees are being put up in makeshift relief camps on Saturday.

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

## *Embedded with the Tamil Tigers*

The Straits Times (Singapore)

December 2, 2005 Friday

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**Section:** Review - Others

**Length:** 657 words

### **Body**

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AMONG the highlights at the Changing Faces of Terrorism exhibition are some particularly gruesome images.

One is a black-and-white photograph of a man clad only in a loincloth and tied to a stake, pending execution by the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), the rebels who have been fighting for an independent homeland in Jaffna in the north-east of Sinhalese-ruled Sri Lanka since 1983. There is also a colour photo of a man left on the road to die after being shot - a bloody warning to other would-be 'government collaborators'.

These photos were taken by Professor Shyam Tekwani, 50, a Sindhi Indian journalist who was then working for India Today magazine in New Delhi and is now teaching journalism at the Nanyang Technological University (NTU).

He is the only photojournalist who has ever managed to capture in pictures the massacre that the Tamil Tigers unleashed on Indian troops trying to keep the peace between the Tamil rebels and the Sri Lankan army in Jaffna in 1987.

'My editors were quite certain I was dead because I was Indian and the Tigers were fighting the Indian army. I was incommunicado for about nine days,' he recalls.

His 1987 experience was not the first time he was 'embedded' (on the wrong side, as far as the Indian government was concerned, he says with a laugh) with the LTTE militants. It started much earlier, when the first wave of Tamil refugees from Jaffna began to land on the shores of Tamil Nadu, India. 'I went to different (refugee) camps. I even went out to sea to pick up refugees from Sri Lanka,' he says.

He also covered press conferences given by the militants. 'One day I got this message (on the teleprinter) saying that 'the boss would like to speak with you'.' This was in 1984-85 and the boss was LTTE leader Velupillai Prabhakaran.

Thus began his journalistic interest in the LTTE, which has lasted till today. He has just returned from a trip to Sri Lanka, including some LTTE-controlled areas, with a group of his students.

To find out more about what was happening in Sri Lanka itself, he made sea journeys on boats supplied by the militants. Until April 1986 when the LTTE wiped out its rivals in Jaffna, there were five or six militant groups, he says.

'I made many trips at midnight, spending the next day speaking to people and taking pictures in Jaffna, before returning again by boat the next midnight,' he says.

## Embedded with the Tamil Tigers

Civilians living in Jaffna were petrified by the rebels, he says, as the price to pay for anyone marked as collaborating with the Sri Lankan authorities was summary death by the LTTE. He took several pictures of such summary executions.

In the lawless world of the LTTE, almost anything could be deemed as collaborating with government forces. 'If a soldier knocked on the door of a house asking for water in the sweltering heat of a mid-afternoon and he was given that, it would be seen as collaborating. You are supposed to say no and bang the door closed,' he says.

It was a 'marriage of convenience' for him and the LTTE - the militants wanted publicity, and 'here was a guy who was willing to do foolhardy things, so why not?', he says.

Life embedded with the rebels was not cosy. 'We had to run from the (Indian) army and there were times when (the Tigers) didn't allow me to take certain pictures. In the late 1980s, there were two kinds of pictures they would not allow me to take - their dead and their women.'

The elite all-female suicide squad, called the Black Tigers, was a card the LTTE wanted to keep secret until then Indian prime minister Rajiv Gandhi was assassinated, he says. Only when the assassination succeeded in 1991 - he was killed by a female suicide bomber who placed a garland round his neck - did the lethal tigresses become public knowledge.

Prof Tekwani is not through with the LTTE. He has just completed a study of its online network and its implications for regional security for NTU's Institute of Defence and Strategic Studies.

MAFOOT SIMON

**Load-Date:** December 1, 2005

## *Tamil Tigers deny deadly bus blast role*

The Australian (Australia)

June 16, 2006 Friday

All-round Country Edition

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**Section:** WORLD; Pg. 9

**Length:** 324 words

### **Body**

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AFP

COLOMBO: A landmine has ripped through a bus, killing 64 passengers and injuring 39, in the deadliest attack on civilians in Sri Lanka since a 2002 ceasefire.

**Women** and children were among the victims, the Government said last night.

The military retaliated with long-range artillery after blaming the rebel **Tamil Tigers** for the carnage in an ethnic Sinhalese district in the island's North-Central province. The rebels denied involvement in the blast.

About 500 people have been killed since early April as talks between the Government and Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam collapsed. Last week, peace broker Norway failed to arrange a face-to-face meeting between Colombo and the **LTTE**.

The spiralling violence renewed fears of a slide back into the island's two-decade civil war.

Policy Planning Minister Keheliya Rambukwella, the Colombo Government's spokesman on defence issues, said at least 58 people, including two Buddhist monks, were killed in yesterday's blast.

Six more people reportedly died in hospital, raising the toll to 64. The bus, packed with villagers, was heading to Kebitigollewa town when it was torn apart by the blast.

Casualties were high because it was overcrowded with people going to a weekly market, Mr Rambukwella said. "This is a most barbaric terrorist act of the Tigers," he claimed.

However, the separatists also condemned the blast.

"The **LTTE** condemns this attack on the civilian bus," they said in a statement. "Directly targeting civilians, as the Kebitigollewa Claymore attack has, cannot be justified under any circumstances."

Military spokesman Prasad Samarasinghe said it was the worst attack against civilians since a February 2002 truce went into effect. "We have no doubt that the attack is the work of the **LTTE**," he said. "No one else would do a thing like this."

## Tamil Tigers deny deadly bus blast role

He said the bus was hit by a Claymore mine, or a side charger, which overturned the vehicle and sent it crashing down the road for about 25m.

**Load-Date:** June 15, 2006

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End of Document



## *S. P. Thamilselvan; Tamil Tigers political leader*

The Independent (London)

November 3, 2007 Saturday

First Edition

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# The INDEPENDENT

**Section:** OBITUARIES; Pg. 48

**Length:** 476 words

## **Body**

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In October 2006, when talks in Geneva between the *Tamil Tigers* and the Sri Lankan government broke down, a journalist asked S.P. Thamilselvan whether the Tamil people had been given any hope by the discussions. The head of the Tamil delegation was to the point: "We ourselves are not hopeful, [so] how can the people be?"

In recent years, Thamilselvan had been the international face of the struggle by the rebels, known as the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam or (*LTTE*) or *Tamil Tigers*, as they fought for a homeland in Sri Lanka. With the group's leader, Velupillai Prabhakaran, declining to appear in public, Thamilselvan was one of the points of contact for a conflict that has taken an estimated 70,000 lives. On 2 November, he, too, became one of its victims when he was killed during a Sri Lankan air-force bombardment.

Thamilselvan joined the armed struggle in 1983 as fighting broke out between the rebels and the government forces. He took part in several military operations in north Sri Lanka, including an abortive bid to storm the Elephant Base camp in 1992 and the battles in Pooneryn. But he was wounded in both the stomach and the leg and had to refrain from any further active military service.

Many observers saw Thamilselvan as a moderate, but earlier this summer he told reporters that the rebels were prepared to launch major attacks on both military and economic targets to try to cripple the country's economy. "Let the Tamil people live in their traditional homeland," he said in an interview in Kilinochchi, the rebels' de facto headquarters. "Leave the Tamil people without any military occupation or persecution. That will be the day there is no war."

Thamilselvan was born into a humble background and worked originally as a barber, before rising through the *LTTE* ranks, partly through his association with the Tamil leader, Prabhakaran, for whom he once served as a bodyguard. His wife is a member of the Tigers' *women*'s wing.

In 2001 he was considered of such importance that the Sri Lankan government dispatched its army's Deep Penetration Unit after him; on that occasion he survived the attempt to kill him.

His profile grew during the late 1990s, especially after Norway took an interest in the struggling peace process. When the Tigers' international spokesman, [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Anton\\_Balasingham](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Anton_Balasingham) Anton Balasingham,

S. P. Thamilselvan Tamil Tigers political leader

became increasingly ill from kidney problems, Thamilselvan, who was already heading the rebels' political wing, found himself being asked to take a more prominent role as a spokesman - even though he did not speak English. Following Balasingham's death in 2006, Thamilselvan was the Tigers' chief point of contact for the outside world.

Andrew Buncombe

S.P. Thamilselvan, guerrilla leader: born Chavakacheri, Sri Lanka 1967; married (one son, one daughter); died Kilinochchi, Sri Lanka 2 November 2007.

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

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End of Document

## **Sri Lanka orders probe on attacks against Tamil Tigers**

Xinhua General News Service

March 2, 2005 Wednesday 12:00 PM EST

Copyright 2005 Xinhua News Agency

**Section:** WORLD NEWS; Political

**Length:** 242 words

**Dateline:** COLOMBO

### **Body**

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The Sri Lankan government has appointed a presidential probe committee to inquire into recent attacks against the Tamil Tiger rebels and escalation of violence in the east, a statement from the president's office said Tuesday.

Sri Lankan President Chandrika Kumaratunga's office said the president has appointed a two-member committee to look into escalation of violence and attacks against the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (**LTTE**).

It said the probe would look at any possible operation of terrorist groups or other elements carrying out attacks in the east.

In February the **LTTE**'s eastern province political leader E Kousalyan was murdered in ambush.

The Tigers were quick to blame it on a paramilitary group working alongside government troops.

On Monday at least three top **women** rebels of the **LTTE** came under another ambush, causing grievous injuries including political **women's** cadre Kuweni.

Defense sources said that the injured Kuweni was airlifted by courtesy of the government Tuesday evening to the capital Colombo for treatment.

Violence escalated in the east since March last year when the **LTTE**'s then eastern commander Karuna broke ranks with the rebels.

The **LTTE** has accused the government troops of conniving with Karuna in carrying out attacks against them.

Tuesday's decision by Kumaratunga to appoint a probe committee was the first response to such concerns expressed by the Tigers.

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

## *Tamil Tigers deny bus bombing that killed 16 people*

The Irish Times

April 3, 2007 Tuesday

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**Section:** WORLD; Other World Stories; Pg. 10

**Length:** 400 words

**Byline:** Simon Gardner and Ranga Sirilal

### **Body**

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SRI LANKA: Sri Lanka's ***Tamil Tigers*** bombed a civilian bus yesterday killing 16 people, mostly ***women*** and children during a Buddhist holiday, military officials said, but the rebels denied involvement.

The government condemned what it called a "cowardly terror" attack, which took place in the eastern district of Ampara, taking the death toll from a number of incidents overnight in the north and east to 33.

"There are 16 dead and 25 wounded," an official at the Media Centre for National Security said. "The dead include 11 ***women***, two boys and three adult males. The bomb was inside the bus. Of course it was the ***LTTE*** (Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam)."

The attack took place on a day when Sri Lanka's mostly Buddhist Sinhalese majority were marking a full moon holiday with visits to temples.

The military earlier said troops killed at least eight Tiger fighters in a series of mortar bomb exchanges in the northwest on Sunday, and accused the Tigers of shooting dead two political activists in northern Vavuniya and a civilian on the Jaffna peninsula.

Each side, separately, accused the other of shooting dead six ethnic Sinhalese civilians who were building a post-tsunami housing scheme in the eastern district of Batticaloa on Sunday.

The Tigers denied involvement in the attacks, saying they suspected the government or a splinter group of former rebel comrades called the Karuna faction, which analysts say has been helping the military, were trying to tarnish their name.

"We deny this allegation. The ***LTTE*** has never targeted civilians during the ceasefire agreement period," rebel humanitarian issues spokeswoman N Selvy said, referring to a 2002 peace pact which is now dead in the water.

"This bus blast has happened near a Sri Lankan army checkpoint. There are several forces working against the ***LTTE***. In the east there is the Karuna faction, or maybe it's the Sri Lankan army trying to discredit us by killing civilians." She accused troops of ruining ethnic Tamil farmland in Ampara by destroying a reservoir and flooding surrounding paddy fields.

The latest attacks come amid near-daily air raids, land and sea battles and ambushes that have killed around 4,000 people in the past 15 months alone.

## Tamil Tigers deny bus bombing that killed 16 people

President Mahinda Rajapaksa's majority-Sinhalese government is set to call on its south Asian neighbours to forge a common anti-terror drive at a regional summit in New Delhi this week.

- (Reuters)

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

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End of Document

## *Tamil Tigers a law unto themselves*

Sydney Morning Herald (Australia)

November 6, 2003 Thursday

Early Edition

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**Section:** NEWS AND FEATURES; International News; Pg. 9

**Length:** 422 words

**Byline:** Christopher Kremmer

### **Body**

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Sri Lankan guerillas abolish the death penalty from their legal system, writes Christopher Kremmer.

Sri Lanka's ***Tamil Tigers*** guerillas are renowned for ruthlessly eliminating their enemies. So it comes as a surprise to learn that the movement has decided to abolish the death penalty.

In the rebel capital of Kilinochchi, in the north of the island, a gleaming new courts complex symbolises the Tigers' yearning for both autonomy and legitimacy. Here, judges trained at the rebels' own law college dispense a form of justice they say is superior to a Sri Lankan judiciary they regard as corrupt and inefficient.

Chickens peck the ground adjacent to the district courthouse, while inside, a judge is dressed like a Mormon missionary. It is stiflingly hot, and the ceiling fans are not making much of a difference, and the case of the male plaintiff, who claims the ***female*** defendant is not paying interest on the loan he made to her, probably will not make the evening news bulletin on

Voice of the Tigers' radio.

It may appear bucolic, but the rebels' courts have the power of life and death. In the past decade they have ordered the execution of four prisoners.

Now, says the chief of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam's (***LTTE***) judiciary, their autonomous state of Eelam is sufficiently secure to dispense with the cruel and barbaric punishment. "Our leader told us that after the war was finished we could finish with the death penalty. Now we are a separate country, so the time to abolish it has come," said Elyaphamphy Pararajasingham, speaking before this week's political crisis in Colombo plunged the peace process into disarray. Although sceptics question the ability of an unelected militia that rules by the gun to respect the rule of law, Tamil lawyers have constructed an extensive body of law, all of which has been approved by the Tigers' supreme leader, Velupillai Prabhakaran. He has his own legal problems. He is wanted in India for the murder of former prime minister Rajiv Gandhi. Fortunately for him, Eelam has no extradition treaty with India.

The law of Eelam includes complete criminal and civil codes, and a law of evidence, all collected in 19 volumes. Students study the law of torts, international law, and English.

## Tamil Tigers a law unto themselves

The courts, including a court of appeal, have ruled on 10,000 criminal cases since they were set up in 1993. They also rule in civil matters. But given the **LTTE**'s unsavoury record of bombings that have killed hundreds of innocent civilians there is one curious gap there is no offence of terrorism.

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

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End of Document

## *Sri Lanka's Tamil Tigers releases policeman*

Xinhua General News Service

August 26, 2006 Saturday 3:00 AM EST

Copyright 2006 Xinhua News Agency

**Section:** WORLD NEWS; Political

**Length:** 492 words

**Dateline:** COLOMBO

### **Body**

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The Tamil Tiger rebels released Saturday a Sri Lankan policeman who had been detained over a period of nearly one year.

Police Inspector Bandujeewa Bopitigoda was handed over to Ulf Henricsson, head of the Sri Lanka Monitoring Mission (SLMM), Saturday morning at the rebel held north, SLMM officials said.

The release was ordered by Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam ( **LTTE**) leader Velupillai Prabakaran as a show of goodwill towards Henricsson, a retired Swedish major general, rebel sources said.

Bopitigoda and two of his colleagues, who are attached to the National Child Protection Authority, had proceeded to the **LTTE**- held Murunkan area in the northern district of Mannar last September in pursuit of a British paedophile accused.

The **LTTE** detained them, accusing them of trespassing on to their territory. While his two colleagues were later released, Bopitigoda continued to be held as captive of the rebels.

"He was released this morning at 10.45 a.m. (0515 GMT) at Omanthai", a SLMM official said.

The rebels' gesture towards Henricsson came as the Swede was about to leave the SLMM in keeping with the demand of the **LTTE** that all monitors from the European Union member nations must be excluded from the mission by Sept. 1.

The **LTTE** claims that EU monitors would be biased towards them after the EU's decision in May to name the **LTTE** as an international terrorist outfit.

Henricsson was visiting the rebels since Friday along with his successor, the new Chief of mission - Major General Lars Johan Solvberg of Norway.

Meanwhile, Sri Lankan security forces said that at least 6 soldiers were killed and 11 others were injured in the Army's forward defense lines at Muhamalai in the northern Jaffna peninsula Saturday morning.

The soldiers, who were on a consolidation mission, were killed when improvised explosive device laid by the Tiger rebels exploded.



## Sri Lanka 's Tamil Tigers releases policeman

Muhamalai was the scene of raging battles between the **LTTE** and the troops since Aug. 11, which marked the worst clashed between the two sides since the Norwegian backed truce came into force in 2002.

The police in the capital Colombo said that at least 6 suspected members of the **LTTE** rebels were arrested, including two **women**, at Pamunugama area in Wattala near Colombo on the west coast.

The combined special task force and police team also recovered two powerful claymore mines used by the Tiger rebels to target members of security forces.

The rebels have carried out several deadly attacks in the western province since late April, forcing the security establishment to carry out sudden search operations in the capital to nab members of the **LTTE** assigned for terror attacks.

The violence and armed battles have undermined the efforts by the Norwegians to kick start the stalled peace process aimed at ending the bloody armed separatist conflict that had claimed over 64,000 lives since mid-1980s.

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

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End of Document

## *Aussie ex-nurse to be new face of Tamil Tigers*

The Australian (Australia)

January 23, 2007 Tuesday

NSW Xtra Edition

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**Section:** LOCAL; Pg. 1

**Length:** 871 words

**Byline:** Bruce Loudon, Mark Dodd

### **Body**

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MATP

SRI Lanka's ***Tamil Tigers*** terrorist organisation is expected to name the Australian-born widow of a former top official as its new international spokeswoman amid escalating violence in its campaign for a Hindu homeland.

Adele Balasingham -- a 57-year-old one-time nurse from Warrigal in Victoria who was born Adele Ann Wilby -- is tipped to replace her husband, Anton Balasingham, who died from cancer last month.

The move, widely tipped by Indian newspapers, would continue a South Asian trend of Western-born wives taking over from their late husbands.

Italian-born Sonia Gandhi -- widow of Rajiv, the former Indian prime minister blown up by a ***female*** Tiger, took the helm of her husband's Congress party after his assassination.

Ms Balasingham, who is known as "Aunty" among cadres of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (***LTTE***) and is frequently referred to as "The White Tamil", has known the ruthless ***Tamil Tigers***' top guerilla commander, Velupillai Prabhakaran, for decades and is believed to have his trust.

She met her husband when he was a young Marxist student and they married in 1978. He subsequently went on to become the movement's top ideologue and negotiator in all its international contacts.

Ms Balasingham has always insisted her role with the organisation has been political and ideological and she has not been involved in violence.

She was at her husband's side when he negotiated the 2002 ceasefire that is now seen to be in tatters as government forces and guerillas fight fierce clashes.

But she posed in a BBC documentary with ***female*** Tigers with a pistol on her hip. The Tigers have also been linked to recruiting young teenagers for suicide bombings.

Since 1983, the Tigers have waged a bloody war -- including about 200 suicide-bomb attacks -- in a campaign for a separate homeland in Sri Lanka.

## Aussie ex-nurse to be new face of Tamil Tigers

Last year, the Australian Federal Police raided homes in Melbourne and Sydney amid concerns that Australia's Tamil community was helping fund the Tigers in their separatist war against the Sri Lankan Government.

The FBI has accused Australia's Tamil community of helping fund terrorist attacks by the Tigers.

The Tamil Tigers are not officially proscribed as a terrorist organisation in Australia but it is illegal to fund the group.

While Australian government officials would not comment on individual cases, the fact that the organisation is not proscribed as a terrorist group suggests Ms Balasingham's activities on face value would not breach the law unless linked to a specific terrorist event.

Ms Balasingham was raised in Melbourne, but left in her 20s. She has not lived in Australia for about 35 years and has returned to visit family only a couple of times since.

Her last visit, which was with her husband, was about 15 years ago, her brother Brent Wilby told The Australian last night.

Mr Wilby said the family rarely spoke about Ms Balasingham's connection to the Tamil Tigers.

"She's only been here twice and there is not much said about it then. I think they just come over here to get away from it a bit," he said.

"She has been in England now for 10 years so the concern (about her connections with the Tamil Tigers) hasn't been there, the worry about her being over there."

Mr Wilby said he spoke to her a month ago when her husband died.

Ms Balasingham has taken part in almost all major peace negotiations that her husband held with the Sri Lankan Government on behalf of the Tigers.

It was reported in Norway that the peace facilitator in Sri Lanka was already in touch with Ms Balasingham as well as SP Thamilchelvan, the LTTE political wing leader based in the rebel-held area of the island.

But prospects for a resumption of peace negotiations are regarded as bleak in view of the current violence.

Yesterday, Tiger suicide bombers rammed an explosives-laden boat into a private merchant ship off Point Pedro, in the northern Jaffna peninsula, sparking a major new battle.

The MV City of Liverpool, chartered to a Sri Lankan company and carrying a cargo of wheat, was taking on water after the attack and was under tow to the port of Kankesanthurai, a Sri Lankan navy spokesman said.

Continued -- Page 2

From Page 1

The attack followed the capture by government forces of the key eastern crossroads town of Vakarai.

The spokesman said one Tiger suicide craft exploded against the ship, damaging the hull. The merchant vessel was carrying wheat flour for the half a million civilians living under virtual siege conditions since the only land access to the Jaffna peninsula was cut off in August as a result of fighting raging in the area.

A government spokesman said: "This act of attacking a vessel engaged in a humanitarian mission proves the inhumanity of the LTTE and its callous disregard for the welfare of Tamil civilians, whom they claim to liberate".

Yesterday, Sri Lankan troops were reportedly continuing to consolidate their positions in Vakarai, a key rebel stronghold regarded as vital for the resupply of Tiger positions in the north of the island.

### Aussie ex-nurse to be new face of Tamil Tigers

For the first time in 11 years the Sri Lankan army yesterday took control of the main road along the east coast connecting the two main towns of Battacaloe and Trincomalee. This is seen as indicative of a major reverse for the Tigers.

**Load-Date:** January 22, 2007

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End of Document

## *Layton's defence of Tamil Tigers way over the top*

The Star Phoenix (Saskatoon, Saskatchewan)

September 29, 2004 Wednesday

Final Edition

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**Section:** FORUM; Pg. A10; SP Opinions

**Length:** 745 words

**Byline:** The StarPhoenix

### **Body**

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There apparently is no limit to how low New Democratic Party Leader Jack Layton is willing to stoop to try to earn a few votes or get himself in the public eye.

Layton's comments at a weekend rally at the Ontario legislature, where he likened an internationally condemned terrorist leader to Nobel peace prize winner Nelson Mandela, is what dismayed Canadians are learning to expect from the NDP leader.

The event at Queen's Park, ostensibly billed as a peace rally and which attracted thousands of expatriate Tamils from Sri Lanka, was a sea of placards featuring Velupillai Prabhakaran, leader of the Liberation **Tamil Tigers** of Tamil Eelam, along with a few militaristic Tiger flags.

Standing in front of a giant photo of the **LTTE** leader, Layton likened Prabhakaran to Mandela and the rally to an early anti-apartheid protest in South Africa, and vowed to introduce legislation that outlaws racial stereotyping in Canada.

"Most important, we will call on the government of Canada, and I call on the government today, to raise Canada's voice and call for the peace process to resume."

Layton was referring to the Norwegian-brokered peace talks that are now on the backburner, in part because of internecine squabbles within the **LTTE** that has seen a "colonel" in Prabhakaran's rebel army form a breakaway faction, leaving negotiators unsure of who speaks for the group.

No voice from Canada, especially that of Layton, is going to get things moving until the Tigers settle their internal problems and stop setting off bombs that target civilians around Sri Lanka, in the midst of a supposed ceasefire.

Perhaps, to Layton's mind, the **LTTE** is the "underdog" in this civil war that has claimed 64,000 lives in the island nation since the early 1970s. Perhaps he sees in the actions of the **LTTE** a David-vs-Goliath struggle; an oppressed people fighting to gain a homeland.

Although Prabhakaran seems to have relented in his unwavering demand for a separate Tamil homeland on the tiny island in favour of provincial autonomy and self-rule in the Tamil-dominated east and north, Layton should make no mistake as to his "Mandela."

## Layton's defence of Tamil Tigers way over the top

No parliamentarian who respects democracy can credibly stand up for Prabhakaran or the LTTE and their murderous ways.

The U.S. and Britain rightly have deemed the LTTE a terrorist group -- its everlasting gift to the world being the concept of using women and even children as suicide bombers to target innocent civilians.

According to the UN, the LTTE has "recruited" 500 children -- often this means taking them at gunpoint from their homes (each family in Tiger-controlled areas is expected to "donate" one child to the cause) -- this year alone, with 1,300 child soldiers believed to be in its ranks. This may not concern Layton, but the civilized world begs to differ.

Prabhakaran's first political assassination is suspected to be the 1975 killing of the mayor of Jaffna, Sri Lanka's main northern city. In 1991, he played a key role in the suicide-bomb killing of Indian prime minister Rajiv Gandhi, who incurred the LTTE leader's ire by sending peacekeepers to Sri Lanka.

In 1993, LTTE operatives assassinated Sri Lankan president Ranasinghe Premadasa, followed by the attempted killing of president Chandrika Kumaratunge in 1999. Among other LTTE victims have been moderate Tamil politicians, whose efforts to work within Sri Lanka's political system to achieve autonomous rule for their people posed a threat to Prabhakaran's ambitions.

No matter what spin Layton wants to put on it, terrorists who murder democratically elected political leaders in order to grab power aren't to be held up as idols.

Groups who extort money from immigrants by threatening harm to their families "back home" unless cash is forthcoming should be proscribed, not have would-be Canadian prime ministers speak up in their defence.

Layton wants to ban racial stereotyping? Fine. But let him speak up for Tamils who aren't waving Prabhakaran placards and waving military flags that feature a roaring tiger ringed with bullets.

By coming to Prabhakaran's defence, the NDP leader only undermines his own credibility and damages the cause of ordinary Tamils who seek no more than to build a peaceful and prosperous life in Canada.

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"Democracy cannot be maintained without its foundation: free public opinion and free discussion throughout the nation of all matters affecting the state within the limits set by the criminal code and the common law."

-The Supreme Court of Canada, 1938

**Load-Date:** September 29, 2004

## *Tamil Tigers apologise for murder of Rajiv Gandhi*

Belfast Telegraph

June 28, 2006 Wednesday

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**Length:** 243 words

**Byline:** By Justin Huggler

### **Body**

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Sri Lanka's Tamil Tiger rebels have unexpectedly apologised for the assassination of the former Indian prime minister Rajiv Gandhi in 1991. It was the first time the Tigers have directly admitted responsibility for the death of Gandhi.

I would say it is a great tragedy, a monumental historical tragedy which we deeply regret, the Tigers' chief negotiator, Anton Balasingham, said in an interview with India's NDTV. Gandhi was killed by a **female** suicide bomber as he was campaigning for elections in the Indian state of Tamil Nadu.

The Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (**LTTE**) are believed to have targeted him in revenge after he ordered Indian troops to intervene in the Sri Lankan civil war. The Indian government dismissed the Tigers' apology and said that it would not forgive Gandhi's death. This would be tantamount to endorsing the philosophy of terror, violence and political assassination, said Anand Sharma, a junior foreign minister.

Sources in Delhi say India is focusing on Sri Lanka in a way it has not done since Gandhi's assassination and that appears to have the Tigers concerned.

Recently banned as a terrorist organisation by the European Union, the **LTTE** has no international support. It may also be concerned about any possible move by India to block funds or arms supplies from reaching it. India recently gave the Sri Lankan government its first direct military aid for six years, in the form of radar to help detect Tiger air attacks.

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

## *Tamil Tigers apologise for suicide bomber's murder of Rajiv Gandhi*

The Independent (London)

June 28, 2006 Wednesday

First Edition

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The  INDEPENDENT

**Section:** NEWS; Pg. 24

**Length:** 431 words

**Byline:** By Justin Huggler Asia Correspondent

### **Body**

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Sri Lanka's Tamil Tiger rebels have unexpectedly apologised for the assassination of the former Indian prime minister Rajiv Gandhi in 1991. It was the first time the Tigers have directly admitted responsibility for the death of Gandhi, who was killed by a suicide bomber.

"I would say it is a great tragedy, a monumental historical tragedy which we deeply regret," the Tigers' chief negotiator, Anton Balasingham, said in an interview with India's NDTV. "We call upon the government of India and people of India to be magnanimous, to put the past behind them."

The apology comes at a time when Sri Lanka is on the brink of a return to civil war between government forces and the **Tamil Tigers**. It also comes as India is actively engaging in Sri Lanka for the first time in many years.

Gandhi was killed by a **female** suicide bomber who rushed up to him, ostensibly to greet him, as he was campaigning for elections in the Indian state of Tamil Nadu. The Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (**LTTE**), who have been fighting for two decades for autonomy for Sri Lanka's Tamils, are believed to have targeted him in revenge for his ordering Indian troops to intervene in the Sri Lankan civil war.

His killing on Indian soil greatly added to the Tigers' reputation for fearsome effectiveness. It was a crushing blow to India, which almost completely withdrew from involvement in Sri Lanka.

The Indian government dismissed the Tigers' apology and said it would not forgive Gandhi's death.

"This would be tantamount to endorsing the philosophy of terror, violence and political assassination," said the junior foreign minister, Anand Sharma.

The timing of the Tigers' apology, when the ceasefire in Sri Lanka appears to be collapsing, is interesting.

"India has been silent for the past 15 years and adopted a detached role," Mr Balasingham said. "Now there is the possibility of war emerging, so she can't keep quiet but she has to face challenges ... and orientate a new foreign policy towards her neighbour for which the relationship between the **LTTE** and India is crucial."



## Tamil Tigers apologise for suicide bomber's murder of Rajiv Gandhi

Sources in Delhi say India is focusing on Sri Lanka in a way it has not done since Gandhi's assassination - and that appears to have the Tigers concerned.

Recently banned as a "terrorist organisation" by the European Union, the **LTTE** has no international support. It may also be concerned about any possible move by India to block funds or arms supplies from reaching it.

It has emerged that India recently gave the Sri Lankan government its first direct military aid for six years, in the form of radar to help detect Tiger air attacks.

## Graphic

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Rajiv Gandhi: Killed while campaigning for elections

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

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End of Document

## *Sri Lankan warplanes pound Tamil Tigers as conflict escalates*

Agence France Presse -- English

April 26, 2006 Wednesday 8:41 AM GMT

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**Length:** 631 words

**Dateline:** COLOMBO, April 26 2006

### **Body**

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Sri Lanka's airforce staged fresh retaliatory strikes against Tamil Tiger positions Wednesday, police said, amid fears the country was sliding back to full-scale war after a four-year truce.

Air attacks targeted the northeastern district of Trincomalee where the military bombed a cluster of boats of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (***LTTE***) late Tuesday, an area police official said.

Tiger rebels launched a mortar attack in response, killing two civilians and wounding eight, the military said.

"Tigers fired mortars at the Thakwanagar naval detachment and that is when the civilians were wounded," a military official said, adding two navy sailors were among the eight hurt.

Israeli-built Kfir jets and Ukrainian MiG-27 aircraft carried out the air attacks after an overnight bombardment that involved multi-barrel rocket launchers, artillery and naval fire from gunboats, the military said.

"The air attacks resumed this morning after a break overnight," a police official in Trincomalee said.

Tiger rebels said the bombings violated a Norwegian-brokered ceasefire agreement and asked truce monitors if Colombo had declared full-scale war, the pro-rebel Tamilnet website said.

The ***LTTE***'s Trincomalee district leader S. Elilan late Tuesday asked the Swedish-led Sri Lanka Monitoring Mission (SLMM) to "clarify" whether the military has launched a "full-scale war violating the ceasefire agreement."

It said there was "severe damage" to life and property in rebel-held areas, but gave no details.

The military said on Tuesday night it acted in self defence and carried out the bombings in Trincomalee after guerrillas shelled military positions in the region.

The air assault followed Tuesday's suicide bombing of the army chief's motorcade in Colombo which left Lieutenant General Sarath Fonseka badly wounded and 10 others dead.

Washington led international condemnation of the attack blamed on a "Black Tiger" ***female*** suicide bomber who pretended to be pregnant.

## Sri Lankan warplanes pound Tamil Tigers as conflict escalates

"It's regrettable that the Tamil Tigers have decided to restart the war instead of restarting the peace process," US Assistant Secretary of State for South and Central Asian Affairs Richard Boucher said.

"We are in touch with governments around the world to bring to bear whatever pressure we can on the Tamil Tigers to abandon this course of action."

The state-run Daily News said the suicide bomber used maternity day to enter the military compound. Mothers-to-be entering the Army Hospital for the weekly maternity day are not subject to stringent security checks, the report said.

The suicide attack put intense pressure on a shaky four-year ceasefire between the government and the rebels which was already close to collapse.

At least 80 people have died in bombings in the past two weeks while Tamil rebels say 70 civilians have been killed by pro-government militia or security forces, a charge denied by the military.

Last week the Tigers indefinitely pulled out of planned peace talks in Switzerland, accusing the government of attacks on Tamil civilians and complaining about transport arrangements for internal rebel meetings.

"This attack is yet another serious blow to the ceasefire agreement and the peace process," the Sri Lanka Monitoring Mission said in a statement before the government launched retaliatory strikes.

President Mahinda Rajapakse vowed to stand up to "terrorism" in a televised address to the nation after the Colombo bombing.

However despite the retaliatory strikes, the government also insisted it remained committed to the Norwegian-brokered peace process and expected the rebels to return to talks aimed at ending three decades of civil war.

The Tigers are fighting for a homeland for the Tamil minority in the northeast, parts of which already fall under the de facto control of the guerrilla group.

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

## **Tamil Tigers say their boats defied sea transport ban**

Agence France Presse -- English

May 1, 2006 Monday 4:30 AM GMT

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**Length:** 329 words

**Dateline:** COLOMBO, May 1 2006

### **Body**

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Sri Lanka's Tamil rebels have moved an unspecified number of fighters along the island's northeastern coast in defiance of a ban on sea transport, a pro-rebel website reported Monday.

The boats of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (**LTTE**) were closely followed by naval craft and came under attack late Sunday from Sri Lankan artillery on shore, the Tamilnet.com website said.

"During the sea journey to Trincomalee, Sea Tiger boats had to defend against artillery fire from the shores," the Tamilnet said, quoting rebel officials in the northern guerrilla-held town of Kilinochchi.

"The Sea Tigers counter-attacked and completed their sea passage successfully."

Tamilnet said no casualties were reported.

It did not say how many fighters or vessels were moved to the Trincomalee district, where the military carried out air strikes last week after a suspected **female** Tiger suicide bomber tried to assassinate the army chief, killing herself and 10 others.

Defence ministry spokesman Prasad Samarasinghe said the rebels had arrived in boats and fired at two points manned by the military.

"We fired back using artillery and mortars," he said.

Troops kept up the barrage against the **LTTE** after reports the guerrillas stormed into a fishing village and opened fire, wounding two villagers, local police said.

Under a 2002 ceasefire arranged by peace broker Norway, access to the sea is reserved exclusively for the Sri Lankan navy. Scandinavian monitors have said repeatedly any unauthorized Tiger sea transport is a violation of the truce.

Sunday night's confrontation followed a clash elsewhere in the island's east where Tigers launched a major attack against a breakaway faction, leaving at least 18 people dead, military and rebel sources said.

## Tamil Tigers say their boats defied sea transport ban

Norway has been trying to arrange talks between the government and Tigers but they have not agreed on a meeting date.

Nearly 200 people have been killed in an escalation of violence in the past month, which has severely strained the truce.

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

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End of Document

## ***Tsunami disaster: Tamil Tigers are accused of recruiting children from camps***

The Guardian (London) - Final Edition

January 14, 2005

Copyright 2005 Guardian Newspapers Limited

**Section:** Guardian Foreign Pages, Pg. 19

**Length:** 484 words

**Byline:** Randeep Ramesh

### **Body**

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Tamil rebels have been recruiting children from tsunami relief camps, the head of Unicef in Sri Lanka said yesterday.

Although the government and the separatists have been working together in relative peace during the relief efforts, Ted Chaiban, of the United Nations children's fund, said there were three "verified cases of child recruitment" involving the **Tamil Tigers**.

"We are currently advocating with the **LTTE** (Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam) to get the children released," he said.

The three, all girls, were aged 11, 12 and 15, said Mr Chaiban. He did not say whether they were recruited to fight in rebel ranks or to work in the guerrilla camps. They were taken from eastern areas hardest hit by last month's seismic wave.

"In the case of the 15-year-old girl, she was in a relief camp in Batticaloa with her grandmother, who says that the girl had been convinced to join the **Tamil Tigers**," the UN official told the Guardian. "The other two came from Ampara in the east of the country, and we are seeking for all to be returned."

Human-rights groups have recently accused the rebels of continuing to enlist boys and girls at a rate of more than 100 a month in violation of promises given when a peace accord with the government was signed two years ago.

The rebels have repeatedly denied actively recruiting children, saying that any child who joins does so because of poverty or the loss of parents. In 2003, the rebels agreed with Unicef and the government to free all child combatants, but the UN agency has said the insurgents continue to seek underage soldiers.

For two decades the rebels have waged a war for a Tamil homeland in Sri Lanka, claiming that the majority Sinhalese population has openly discriminated against Tamils. The fighting has claimed more than 60,000 lives, and there was widespread relief when a Norwegian-brokered ceasefire was signed in 2002. But hopes have faded as talks have been stalled for nearly a year.

Officials said it was notable that the three latest child recruits were girls. More than 3,700 **female Tamil Tigers** - known as "Freedom Birds" - have died in the fighting that began in 1983.

### Tsunami disaster: Tamil Tigers are accused of recruiting children from camps

About 12,000 of the estimated 31,000 people killed by the tsunami in Sri Lanka were children. A further 800,000 people have been left homeless. Mr Chaiban said nearly 1,000 Sri Lankan children had been orphaned by the disaster and another 3,200 had lost one parent.

Unicef has also reported half a dozen cases of child abuse in relief camps and two cases of attempted trafficking. "We need to encourage people to report so that there can be a formal investigation," said Mr Chaiban.

Earlier this week, a man was arrested on charges of trying to sell his granddaughters, aged seven and nine, to foreigners.

Unicef has given warning that the tsunami could have long-term "psycho-social trauma" effects of children and has sent teams of counsellors to tackle the problem.

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

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End of Document

## **Torture chambers used by Tamil Tigers found in eastern Sri Lanka, defense ministry says**

Associated Press International

January 16, 2007 Tuesday 3:33 AM GMT

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**Section:** INTERNATIONAL NEWS

**Length:** 421 words

**Byline:** By DILIP GANGULY, Associated Press Writer

**Dateline:** COLOMBO Sri Lanka

### **Body**

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Torture chambers allegedly used by ***Tamil Tigers*** to punish escaping rebels and informers, including ***women*** fighters, have been found at guerrilla camps in eastern Sri Lanka, the Defense Ministry said.

The camps were uncovered by a Special Task Force, comprising of specially trained anti-terrorist commandoes who last week seized control of four rebel bases and seven smaller camps in the eastern Ampara district, the Media Center for National Security said in a report posted on its Web site late Monday.

At one of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam camps "torture chambers and lockups were established to torture escapees and informers including ***women*** cadres," it said.

The alleged torture cells were small, said the report, adding that "many of the surrendered ***LTTE*** child cadres have repeatedly revealed the harassment meted out to them by the ***LTTE*** if they are caught escaping."

One camp had a well maintained cemetery built by the rebels for their fallen cadres, said the statement.

The Web site carried photographs of the cells.

The rebels could not be reached, as there was no answer to phone calls made to their northern headquarters in Kilinochchi on Tuesday.

The Special Task Force launched a campaign Jan. 4 called "Niyathai Jaya," which translates from the Sinhala language as "Sure Victory," aimed at clearing up rebels bases in Ampara.

After some initial success, landmines planted by the fleeing rebels were hampering the progress of the task force. Four STF personnel were wounded in land mine blasts over several days, said the statement.

Military spokesman Brig. Prasad Samarasinghe said Monday that five rebels had accepted the armed forces' call to surrender and he urged others to turn themselves in.

The rebels on Monday ridiculed the idea. However, they conceded that government forces had taken some rebel-held areas in Ampara, but that it was not important because the rebels are constantly on the move.



Torture chambers used by Tamil Tigers found in eastern Sri Lanka , defense ministry says

The rebels have been fighting for over 20 years for a separate homeland for the country's 3.1 million minority Tamils, who have suffered decades of discrimination by the majority Sinhalese.

The military has recently stepped up efforts to flush the rebels from eastern Sri Lanka, where the insurgents have been weak since a top commander broke away in 2004 with an estimated 6,000 fighters.

Although both sides claim to be adhering to a Norwegian-brokered 2002 cease-fire, violence has escalated since late 2005, with over 3,600 people killed last year alone.

Defense Ministry Web site: <http://www.nationalsecurity.lk>

**Load-Date:** January 16, 2007

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End of Document

## **Tamil Tigers blamed for bomb blast in Sri Lanka's capital that kills 16**

Associated Press International

November 28, 2007 Wednesday 3:57 PM GMT

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**Section:** INTERNATIONAL NEWS

**Length:** 853 words

**Byline:** By ERANGA JAYAWARDENA, Associated Press Writer

**Dateline:** NUGEGODA Sri Lanka

### **Body**

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Tamil Tiger rebels set off a bomb at the entrance of a popular department store in a Colombo suburb Wednesday evening, killing at least 16 people and wounding 37 others, the military said.

It would be a rare attack by the separatist group on a purely civilian area in recent years, though civilians have been killed in previous Tamil Tiger attacks on government and military targets.

"We know that the attack bears all the hallmarks of the LTTE. It is nobody else but the LTTE," military spokesman Brig. Udaya Nanayakkara said, referring to the group by its formal name, the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam.

The Tamil Tigers, listed as a terror organization by the United States and the European Union, have carried out more than 240 suicide bombings and countless other attacks. Rebel spokesman Rasiah Ilanthirayan did not answer repeated calls from The Associated Press seeking comment.

Earlier in the day, a female suicide bomber sent by the Tamil Tigers killed one person and wounded two others in an unsuccessful attempt to kill a Cabinet minister in his office in Sri Lanka's capital of Colombo, the military said.

The blast Wednesday evening occurred just outside the four-story No Limits store in Nugegoda as commuters crowded a nearby bus stop during the rush hour, officials said.

The powerful explosion shattered the department store's windows and sent piles of crumbled concrete pouring onto the bloodstained sidewalk, according to an Associated Press photographer at the scene. Crumpled and charred parts of motorcycles and three-wheeled taxis were scattered nearby.

Police and firefighters were digging through the rubble in a search for more bodies.

"I was on the top floor of a shoe shop with my wife and child when I heard a big blast and there were glass pieces all over us," local resident A. Jayasena told AP Television News. "As we ran away, I saw the entrance of the No Limit shop burning, and in the midst of it a schoolgirl on the floor trying to get up and then falling back again."

Jayasena and his daughter suffered minor injuries, while his wife was in a hospital being treated for more serious wounds, he said.

## Tamil Tigers blamed for bomb blast in Sri Lanka 's capital that kills 16

The military said in a statement that at least 16 people were killed and 37 others injured. At a nearby hospital, residents came in search of missing relatives. One girl who suffered a broken arm in the attack sat with her mother as she received treatment.

The bomb may have exploded when a security guard at the mall became suspicious about a parcel and tried to open it, a defense official said, speaking on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to talk to the media.

However, police at the scene said the explosives may have been in one of the three-wheeled taxis that were destroyed.

The **Tamil Tigers** have been fighting since 1983 to create a separate homeland for Sri Lanka's minority ethnic Tamils following decades of discrimination by governments controlled by the Sinhalese majority. The fighting has killed an estimated 70,000 people.

In the past two years, rebel bombers had avoided deliberately targeting civilians, though they have ambushed military convoys at crowded places, causing many civilian deaths.

Earlier Wednesday, a handicapped suicide bomber blew herself up at Sri Lanka's social services ministry in the heart of Colombo, the military said.

The attack targeted the offices of Douglas Devananda, the minister of social services and the leader of the Eelam People's Democratic Party, an ethnic Tamil party considered a rival to the rebels, the military said.

Devananda, the target of repeated assassination attempts, was not injured in the attack, but the blast killed one of his staff members and injured two others, military officials said. The bomber was also killed.

"This was an attempt to kill the minister," Nanayakkara said, blaming the **Tamil Tigers**.

Ilanthirayan, the rebel spokesman, said he was unaware of the blast.

The attacks came a day after 22 civilians including 11 schoolchildren were killed in separate attacks inside rebel-controlled territory in northern Sri Lanka. The rebels blamed the military for the attacks.

The military denied responsibility for the roadside bombing that killed the children and two others, but said it was behind the bombing of a rebel radio station that killed nine people.

Also Tuesday, the rebels' top leader, the reclusive Velupillai Prabhakaran, blamed the international community for the worsening violence in the country, saying military, economic and diplomatic assistance to the government was feeding the bloodshed.

"This partisan and unjust conduct of the international community has severely undermined the confidence our people had in them. And it has paved the way for the breakdown of the cease-fire and the peace efforts," the rebel leader said in his annual address to the Tamil people.

He also accused the government of continuing "on the path of violence. It only desires to find a solution to the Tamil question through military might and oppression," he said.

The military also said it killed one rebel in an attack Wednesday on a Tamil Tiger bunker and another in fighting in the north on Tuesday.

**Load-Date:** November 29, 2007

## **Tamil Tigers Blamed for Sri Lankan Blast**

Associated Press Online

January 6, 2007 Saturday 6:23 PM GMT

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**Section:** INTERNATIONAL NEWS

**Length:** 533 words

**Byline:** By KRISHAN FRANCIS, Associated Press Writer

**Dateline:** COLOMBO Sri Lanka

### **Body**

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A bomb on a Sri Lankan passenger bus killed at least 15 people and wounded dozens more Saturday, officials said, blaming Tamil Tiger rebels for the country's second bus bombing in as many days.

The blast, which police suspect was triggered by a **female** suicide bomber, appeared to signal an escalation of the bloody ethnic conflict ravaging the island nation off southern India.

Police blamed Tamil Tiger rebels for the bus attack in the coastal town of Meetiyaagoda, 60 miles south of the capital, Colombo, and near a number of popular resort towns.

Though violence has risen sharply in Sri Lanka over the past year, most of it has occurred in the ethnic Tamil-dominated north and east, where the rebels run their own de facto state.

Officials said the bus wreckage indicated that a suicide bomber may have been behind the attack, which ripped through the bus on the crowded southern coast road early Saturday afternoon.

"There is a **female** body inside the bus, and looking at the damage the blast has caused around her, we suspect that she could have been a suicide bomber," said senior police official Upul Ariyaratne.

About 65 passengers had been on bus, Ariyaratne said, and some 40 had been admitted to hospitals.

The Tigers have made suicide bombings a hallmark of their two-decade campaign to carve out a separate state for the minority Tamils, who suffered years of discrimination by the Sinhalese-dominated government.

However, the Tigers denied any role in Saturday's bloodshed.

"We totally deny that (the bus bombing). We did not do that," the rebels' military spokesman, Rasiah Ilanthirayan, told The Associated Press by telephone from the group's northern stronghold, Kilinochchi.

Sri Lankan officials said the two bombings six people were killed in a similar bus attack Friday on a highway northeast of Colombo indicate that a stepped-up government military campaign has weakened the rebels, officially called the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam or **LTTE**.

"The **LTTE** is losing their strength in the east. Because of this, they are targeting innocent civilians," said military spokesman Brig. Prasad Samarasinghe.

## Tamil Tigers Blamed for Sri Lankan Blast

Both bus explosions came days after the rebels warned the government of "serious repercussions" for government airstrikes they said had killed 16 Tamil civilians, including eight children, in a Tiger-controlled northwestern area. The military said it targeted only rebel positions in the airstrikes Tuesday.

"This looks like a retaliatory attack for the air force raids," said Sunanda Deshapriya, an independent political analyst.

"The LTTE has gone back to its previous tactic of attacking Sinhalese civilians," Deshapriya said. "It wants to send a message through terror again."

In other violence Saturday, three separate roadside bombings, blamed on the insurgents, killed four soldiers and a civilian in the north.

A 2002 cease-fire between the rebels and the government has come under serious threat as more than 3,600 fighters and civilians were killed in renewed fighting in 2006. The cease-fire still officially holds.

The civil war has claimed about 68,000 lives, and displaced 1.6 million people.

Associated Press writers Dilip Ganguly and Ruwan Weerakoon contributed to this report.

**Load-Date:** January 7, 2007

## **SRI LANKA: VIOLENT SPLIT AMONG TAMIL TIGERS IMPERILS PEACE PROCESS**

IPS-Inter Press Service

July 29, 2004, Thursday

Copyright 2004 IPS-Inter Press Service/Global Information Network

**Length:** 953 words

**Byline:** By Amantha Perera

**Dateline:** BATTICALOA, Sri Lanka, Jul. 29, 2004

### **Body**

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The recent split within the **Tamil Tigers** and the ensuing violence in the capital Colombo and in the eastern town of Batticaloa are seriously undermining the two-year ceasefire between the Sri Lankan government and the militants.

On-the-ground ceasefire monitors and humanitarian workers gave this warning as Sri Lanka's peace broker Norway announced Wednesday that it had failed to secure an agreement with Tamil Tiger rebels to resume talks with the government.

Norway's top envoy Vidar Helgesen told President Chandrika Kumaratunga that no accord had been reached with the **Tamil Tigers** on a proposed agenda to reopen talks that have been suspended since April last year.

In April, Vinyagamorthi Muralitharan alias Col. Karuna, the former eastern military Tiger commander defected into government-held areas following an internal rebellion. Though the Tiger high command based in Kilinochchi in the northern part of the country was able to re-establish its control over the east, violence between the two factions has increased in over the past two weeks.

On Jul 25, a Tiger statement said eight top aides of Karuna had been shot dead in the capital Colombo.

The Tigers also claimed that a Sri Lankan military intelligence officer was among the dead, but the army has denied this.

Last fortnight, Ramalingam Padmaseelan alias Lt Col Senathiraja, the Batticaloa political head of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (**LTTE**) as the Tigers were formerly known, succumbed to gunshot injuries received during a clash blamed on Karuna supporters. Two others had earlier died during the same shooting incidents that occurred on Jul 5, the day the Tigers commemorate their suicide cadres.

Two days after Senathiraja's death, Mahendran Pulidaran a Tiger inmate at the Batticaloa jail shot and killed Kanapathipillai Mahendran alias Satchi Master and another prisoner.

Satchi Master was earlier accused by the Tigers of acting as the spokesperson on behalf of Karuna. The killings follow the murders of a journalist, a government servant, an academic in the east and an attempted assassination of a government minister in Colombo while intermittent skirmishes between Karuna supporters and the Tigers have been reported from the eastern jungles.

## SRI LANKA : VIOLENT SPLIT AMONG TAMIL TIGERS IMPERILS PEACE PROCESS

More than 64,000 people have been killed during the two decades of conflict. In February 2002, however, Norway helped broker a ceasefire between the Tigers and government troops.

The Tamil Tigers have been fighting a guerrilla war to establish "Tamil Eelam", an independent state for the Tamil people, who are a minority ethnic community compared to the majority Sinhalese population.

"It is only the tip of the iceberg that we are seeing, it is the sad reality," Susanne Ringgaard Pedersen, the head of the Sri Lanka Monitoring Mission (SLMM) in Batticaloa told IPS.

The SLMM has been receiving a spate of complaints on child recruitment and forced recruitment of young adults since the split.

Pedersen said that in the past such complaints were not a weekly occurrence but since the split several were coming to them every week.

"There is definitely a recruitment drive going on. It is clear that the Tigers are trying to consolidate themselves," she said.

Recently Amnesty International said that the Tigers were not only recruiting children but also resorting to violence against families that resist.

Citing figures from the United Nations Children's Fund or UNICEF, Amnesty said that since April 190 children have been recruited.

The total figure according to UNICEF is 330 since January.

"If armed conflict were to resume, these children would likely be among the first to die," Amnesty said.

UNICEF raised the issue of child recruitment with the Tigers two weeks ago, according to Geoffrey Keele -- the U.N. agency's communications director for Sri Lanka -- and was informed that the Tigers did not condone it and would look into the complaints.

There has been no communication since from the Tigers. UNICEF is currently running a rehabilitation home for child soldiers in Kilinochchi.

Keele told IPS that UNICEF had also requested other donor countries and agencies to raise the issue with the Tigers.

Evidence corroborated by different sources indicates that children are being given training in firearms.

"Training the children is completely against international law. The LTTE must take immediate steps at the highest levels to rectify this," said Keele.

The UNHCR office in Batticaloa has been investigating complaints on the forced recruitment of young adults between the ages of 19 to 25.

Soon after Karuna fled from the Tiger high command, 450 of his former cadres came to the UNHCR and registered themselves saying that they did not want to go back to the rebels.

Annka Sandlund, the Batticaloa protection officer for the United Nations High Commission for Refugees said the agency had confirmed that 20 persons out of the 450 ex-Karuna cadres had been recruited by force.

"So far the Tigers have not admitted that they have the 20," she said adding that cases of beating up of family members had been reported as well.

Despite claims by the Tiger high command that most of the cadres who supported Karuna have returned to the fold and that the rebels enjoyed limited support, the recruitments suggest an acute need for manpower.

## SRI LANKA : VIOLENT SPLIT AMONG TAMIL TIGERS IMPERILS PEACE PROCESS

Karuna commanded 7,000 cadres in the east and the number of Tiger fighters that fled the rebel organisation with him is around 2,000, according members of the Eelam People's Democratic Party (EPDP) in Batticaloa.

EPDP leader Douglas Devananda who is a government minister has had close links with Karuna since the split.

Devananda recently survived an assassination attempt by a **female** suicide bomber in Colombo and blamed the Tiger high command for the suicide attack.

**Load-Date:** July 29, 2004

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## **Air force jets kill Tamil Tigers' top political leader in blow to island's rebels**

Associated Press International

November 3, 2007 Saturday 5:32 AM GMT

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**Section:** INTERNATIONAL NEWS

**Length:** 476 words

**Byline:** By RAVI NESSMAN, Associated Press Writer

**Dateline:** COLOMBO Sri Lanka

### **Body**

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Tamil Tiger rebels have declared four days of mourning after Sri Lankan fighter jets bombed a secret rebel communications center, killing the **Tamil Tigers'** political chief in a strike certain to deal a sharp blow to the guerrillas' morale.

The killing on Friday of S.P. Tamilselvan, the public face of the rebels, was widely seen as a public relations coup for the government.

But analysts feared it would further escalate the country's civil war and spark a cycle of political assassinations.

Rebel spokesman Rasiah Ilanthirayan said the group on Friday declared a period of mourning until Tamilselvan's funeral on Monday. The bodies of five other rebels who died in the air attack were to be buried Saturday, he said.

On Saturday, the Tigers released photos of the group's reclusive leader Velupillai Prabhakaran garlanding Tamilselvan's body at an undisclosed location.

"This is a message that we know their leaders' location," said Defense Secretary Gotabhaya Rajapaksa. "This confirms that our information is very accurate."

The Tigers announced in an e-mail that Tamilselvan died in the attack. They said P. Nadesan, the police chief of their de facto state a delegate to earlier peace talks, would replace him.

The airstrike deep in northern rebel-held territory hit a compound used as a communications center with Tamil sympathizers abroad, who contribute funds and arms to the separatists, said air force spokesman Group Capt. Ajantha Silva.

In an interview with The Associated Press in July, Tamilselvan had promised that the rebels, known formally as the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam or **LTTE**, would retaliate for the army's capture of eastern Sri Lanka days before.

The rebels have been fighting since 1983 to create an independent homeland for ethnic minority Tamils, following decades of discrimination by the majority Sinhalese-controlled governments. More than 70,000 have died in the conflict.

Fighting has escalated in recent weeks as government officials hinted they were preparing an offensive to capture the north and crush the rebels.

## Air force jets kill Tamil Tigers' top political leader in blow to island's rebels

Tamilselvan's death will not change the war's military balance, but it gives the government an important political victory, said Jehan Perera, of Sri Lanka's National Peace Council think tank.

"The government will be able to rally more people around it saying it is weakening the LTTE, because the popular belief is that Tamilselvan is a very powerful leader," he said. "Now they (the rebels) will retaliate at a very high level."

Friday's airstrike killed five other Tamil Tiger leaders, including a man the rebels identified as Lt. Col. Anpumani, also known as Alex, whom the military said was in charge of the communications center and was a key link to the Tamil diaspora.

Meanwhile, the defense ministry said soldiers killed two female rebels in a clash reported from northern Vavuniya district on Friday.

**Load-Date:** November 4, 2007

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**Sri Lanka fears revival of civil war: Air force attacks Tamil Tigers after suicide bomber targets army chief**

Ottawa Citizen

April 27, 2006 Thursday

Final Edition

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**Section:** NEWS; Pg. A13

**Length:** 423 words

**Byline:** Rahul Bedi, The Daily Telegraph

**Dateline:** NEW DELHI

## **Body**

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NEW DELHI - The Sri Lankan air force launched a second round of retaliatory strikes on Tamil Tiger rebel positions yesterday amid fears the country was returning to civil war after a four-year truce.

At least 15,000 people -- almost all ethnic minority Tamils -- have fled the targeted areas in the island's northeast, said a rebel official.

Military spokesman Brig. Prasad Samarasinghe 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 at least 12 civilians had died in the strikes, a claim that could not be independently verified as the government, fearing a resumption of hostilities, closed the only main road linking Sri Lanka's south to **LTTE**-held areas.

Border crossings to rebel areas have been closed while aid workers involved in rebuilding efforts after the 2004 tsunami said they were evacuating from the north and east.

The **LTTE** has been fighting for an independent homeland for the minority Tamils in northern and eastern Sri Lanka for nearly 25 years. Nearly 70,000 people died in the civil war that erupted in 1983.

In retaliation for the air strikes, the **LTTE** 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 airstrikes followed a suicide bombing of the motorcade of 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 reportedly responsible for the attack.

Sri Lanka fears revival of civil war: Air force attacks Tamil Tigers after suicide bomber targets army chief

The **LTTE** 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.

President Mahinda Rajapakse has vowed 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 in a television address, adding that his administration's desire for peace should not be construed as weakness.

Despite the airstrikes, the government insisted that it remained committed to the peace process.

## Graphic

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Photo: Buddhika Weerasinghe, Reuters; Sri Lankan President Mahinda Rajapakse vows he will 'not be brought to his knees' by terror.

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

## **Bomb in suburb of Sri Lanka's capital kills 16, military says, blaming Tamil Tigers**

Associated Press International

November 28, 2007 Wednesday 3:15 PM GMT

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**Section:** INTERNATIONAL NEWS

**Length:** 507 words

**Byline:** By ERANGA JAYAWARDENA, Associated Press Writer

**Dateline:** NUGEGODA Sri Lanka

### **Body**

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The Tamil Tiger rebels set off a bomb at the entrance of a popular department store in a Colombo suburb Wednesday evening, killing at least 16 people and wounding 37 others, the military said.

It would be a rare attack by the separatist group on a purely civilian area in recent years, though civilians have been killed in previous Tamil Tiger attacks on government and military targets.

The military blamed the rebels for the blast.

"We know that the attack bears all the hallmarks of the LTTE. It is nobody else but the LTTE," military spokesman Brig. Udaya Nanayakkara said, referring to the group by its formal name, the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam.

Rebel spokesman Rasiah Ilanthirayan did not answer repeated calls from The Associated Press seeking comment.

Earlier in the day, a female suicide bomber sent by Tamil Tiger rebels killed one person and wounded two others in an unsuccessful attempt to kill a Cabinet minister in his office in Sri Lanka's capital of Colombo, the military said.

The blast Wednesday evening occurred just outside the four-story No Limits store in Nugegoda as commuters crowded a nearby bus stop during the evening rush hour, officials said.

The powerful explosion shattered the department store's windows and sent piles of crumbled concrete pouring onto the bloodstained sidewalk, according to an Associated Press photographer at the scene. Crumpled and charred parts of motorcycles and three-wheeled taxis were scattered nearby.

Police and firefighters were digging through the rubble in a search for more bodies.

"I was on the top floor of a shoe shop with my wife and child when I heard a big blast and there were glass pieces all over us" local resident A. Jayasena told AP Television News. "As we ran away, I saw the entrance of the No Limit shop burning, and in the midst of it a schoolgirl on the floor trying to get up and then falling back again."

Jayasena and his daughter suffered minor injuries, while his wife was in a hospital being treated for more serious wounds, he said.

## Bomb in suburb of Sri Lanka 's capital kills 16, military says, blaming Tamil Tigers

The military said in a statement that at least 16 people were killed and 37 others injured. At a nearby hospital, residents came in search of missing relatives. One girl who suffered a broken arm in the attack sat with her mother as she received treatment.

The bomb may have exploded when a security guard at the mall became suspicious about a parcel and tried to open it, a defense official said, speaking on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to talk to the media.

However, police at the scene said the explosives may have been in one of the three-wheeled taxis that were destroyed.

The **Tamil Tigers** have been fighting since 1983 to create a separate homeland for Sri Lanka's minority ethnic Tamils following decades of discrimination by governments controlled by the Sinhalese majority. The fighting has killed an estimated 70,000 people.

In the past two years, rebel bombers had avoided deliberately targeting civilians, though they have ambushed military convoys at crowded places, causing many civilian deaths.

**Load-Date:** November 29, 2007

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End of Document

## ***Vaiko tells Centre to desist supporting Colombo against LTTE***

Hindustan Times

August 30, 2006 Wednesday 9:51 AM EST

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**Length:** 373 words

**Byline:** Report from the Asian News International brought to you by the Hindustan Times

**Dateline:** New Delhi

### **Body**

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New Delhi, Aug 30 -- Tamil leader and Marumalarchi Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (MDMK) chief, Vaiko, today cautioned New Delhi against supporting the Sri Lankan government's "genocidal attack on Tamils".

Vaiko led a group of protestors to the Sri Lankan High Commission here to condemn the killing of Tamils in conflict between Sri Lankan army and Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (**LTTE**).

"If the Indian government gives any sort of assistance, military assistance to the Sri Lankan government, which has waged more or less an undeclared war against the Tamils, it will be construed as a direct help to the Sri Lankan government to attack the Tamils. In that case, the youth of the Tamil, the future youth they may not feel the voice of people like me, people like me will become irrelevant, they may become militants, they may be misguided, the youth may fall a prey to extremism," said Vaiko.

The Tamil leader, whose party is an ally of Congress-led UPA government at the Centre, wants India to pressurise the Sri Lankan government to resume the peace talks with **LTTE**.

"Indian government should pressurise the Sri Lankan government to stop immediately the genocidal attacks, aerial bombing, shelling in the Tamil areas where the innocent Tamil men **women** and children are killed. Then the peace talks initiated by the Norwegian government should be carried on, provided the commitment made by the Sri Lankan government made in the last round of talks, which should be honoured. So, now the ball is in the Sri Lankan government's court," he said.

Vaiko, known for his open support to the **Tamil Tigers**, was arrested and jailed in 2001 by the then Tamil Nadu Chief Minister J. Jayalalitha for making inflammatory speeches supporting the **LTTE** under a controversial anti-terrorist law- Prevention of Terrorism Act (POTA).

The Sri Lankan army launched its heaviest artillery barrage, for days towards rebel territory south of Jaffna early on Wednesday, since the siege began two and a half weeks ago.

Violence also flared further south overnight when Tiger rebels attacked an army camp in the eastern district of Batticaloa with mortar fire, injuring three soldiers.

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Vaiko tells Centre to desist supporting Colombo against LTTE

**Load-Date:** September 1, 2006

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## **Bus blast kills 15 in Sri Lanka; officials blame Tamil Tigers**

The Associated Press

January 6, 2007 Saturday 6:20 PM GMT

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**Section:** INTERNATIONAL NEWS

**Length:** 533 words

**Byline:** By KRISHAN FRANCIS, Associated Press Writer

**Dateline:** COLOMBO Sri Lanka

### **Body**

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A bomb on a Sri Lankan passenger bus killed at least 15 people and wounded dozens more Saturday, officials said, blaming Tamil Tiger rebels for the country's second bus bombing in as many days.

The blast, which police suspect was triggered by a **female** suicide bomber, appeared to signal an escalation of the bloody ethnic conflict ravaging the island nation off southern India.

Police blamed Tamil Tiger rebels for the bus attack in the coastal town of Meetiyaagoda, 60 miles south of the capital, Colombo, and near a number of popular resort towns.

Though violence has risen sharply in Sri Lanka over the past year, most of it has occurred in the ethnic Tamil-dominated north and east, where the rebels run their own de facto state.

Officials said the bus wreckage indicated that a suicide bomber may have been behind the attack, which ripped through the bus on the crowded southern coast road early Saturday afternoon.

"There is a **female** body inside the bus, and looking at the damage the blast has caused around her, we suspect that she could have been a suicide bomber," said senior police official Upul Ariyaratne.

About 65 passengers had been on bus, Ariyaratne said, and some 40 had been admitted to hospitals.

The Tigers have made suicide bombings a hallmark of their two-decade campaign to carve out a separate state for the minority Tamils, who suffered years of discrimination by the Sinhalese-dominated government.

However, the Tigers denied any role in Saturday's bloodshed.

"We totally deny that (the bus bombing). We did not do that," the rebels' military spokesman, Rasiah Ilanthirayan, told The Associated Press by telephone from the group's northern stronghold, Kilinochchi.

Sri Lankan officials said the two bombings six people were killed in a similar bus attack Friday on a highway northeast of Colombo indicate that a stepped-up government military campaign has weakened the rebels, officially called the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam or **LTTE**.

"The **LTTE** is losing their strength in the east. Because of this, they are targeting innocent civilians," said military spokesman Brig. Prasad Samarasinghe.

## Bus blast kills 15 in Sri Lanka ; officials blame Tamil Tigers

Both bus explosions came days after the rebels warned the government of "serious repercussions" for government airstrikes they said had killed 16 Tamil civilians, including eight children, in a Tiger-controlled northwestern area. The military said it targeted only rebel positions in the airstrikes Tuesday.

"This looks like a retaliatory attack for the air force raids," said Sunanda Deshapriya, an independent political analyst.

"The **LTTE** has gone back to its previous tactic of attacking Sinhalese civilians," Deshapriya said. "It wants to send a message through terror again."

In other violence Saturday, three separate roadside bombings, blamed on the insurgents, killed four soldiers and a civilian in the north.

A 2002 cease-fire between the rebels and the government has come under serious threat as more than 3,600 fighters and civilians were killed in renewed fighting in 2006. The cease-fire still officially holds.

The civil war has claimed about 68,000 lives, and displaced 1.6 million people.

Associated Press writers Dilip Ganguly and Ruwan Weerakoon contributed to this report.

**Load-Date:** January 7, 2007

## **Tamil Tigers blamed for bus blast that kills 15 in southwest Sri Lanka**

Associated Press International

January 7, 2007 Sunday 12:19 AM GMT

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**Section:** INTERNATIONAL NEWS

**Length:** 462 words

**Byline:** By KRISHAN FRANCIS, Associated Press Writer

**Dateline:** COLOMBO Sri Lanka

### **Body**

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A suspected suicide bomber on a bus killed at least 15 people and wounded dozens more in southwestern Sri Lanka, officials said, blaming Tamil rebels for the country's second bus bombing in as many days.

The Tamil Tiger rebels denied any role in Saturday's bombing that injured about 40 passengers in the coastal town of Meetiyagoda, 95 kilometers (60 miles) south of the capital, Colombo, and near a number of popular resort towns.

The blast, which police suspect was triggered by a **female** Tamil rebel, appeared to signal an escalation of the bloody ethnic conflict ravaging the island nation off southern India.

"There is a **female** body inside the bus, and looking at the damage the blast has caused around her, we suspect that she could have been a suicide bomber," said senior police official Upul Ariyaratne.

A bus bomb also blamed on the **Tamil Tigers** killed at least six people just northeast of Colombo on Friday.

Violence has risen sharply in Sri Lanka over the past year, but most has occurred in the ethnic Tamil-dominated north and east, where the rebels run their own de facto state.

Some 65 passengers were on the bus, said senior police official Upul Ariyaratne, and about 40 have been admitted to hospitals.

The military blamed the rebels, formally known as the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam, and said the latest bombings indicated that a stepped-up military campaign has weakened the rebels.

"The **LTTE** is losing their strength in the east. Because of this, they are targeting innocent civilians," said military spokesman Brig. Prasad Samarasinghe.

The rebels have made suicide bombings a hallmark of their two-decade campaign to carve out a separate state for minority Tamils, who have suffered decades of discrimination by the Sinhalese-dominated government.

Yet the rebels said they were not involved.

"We totally deny that. We did not do that, that's all I can say," the rebels' military spokesman, Rasiah Ilanthirayan, told the Associated Press by telephone from the group's northern stronghold, Kilinochchi.

## Tamil Tigers blamed for bus blast that kills 15 in southwest Sri Lanka

On Wednesday, the rebels warned the government of "serious repercussions" for a government airstrike they said killed 16 Tamil civilians, including eight children, in a Tiger-controlled northwestern area. The military said it targeted only rebel positions in the raid Tuesday.

Also Saturday, three roadside bombs blamed on the insurgents killed four soldiers and a civilian in the north.

A 2002 cease-fire between the rebels and the government has come under serious threat in renewed fighting that left more than 3,600 fighters and civilians dead in 2006. The cease-fire still officially holds.

The civil war has claimed about 68,000 lives, and displaced 1.6 million people.

Associated Press writers Dilip Ganguly and Ruwan Weerakoon contributed to this report.

**Load-Date:** January 7, 2007

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## **SRI LANKA: TAMIL TIGERS GETTING EDGY AS PEACE PROCESS FALTERS**

IPS-Inter Press Service

July 7, 2004, Wednesday

Copyright 2004 IPS-Inter Press Service/Global Information Network

**Length:** 953 words

**Byline:** By Amantha Perera.

**Dateline:** KILINOCHCHI, Jul. 7, 2004

### **Body**

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It is difficult to imagine Kumudini Ramalingam as a ***female*** Tamil Tiger cadre fighting the Sri Lankan army if one observes her working at the Vocational Training Institute for ***Women*** in northern Sri Lanka.

Four years ago she lost a leg in heavy fighting with government troops near the sprawling Sri Lankan Army complex at Elephant Pass. The Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (***LTTE***), as the Tigers are officially known, overran the place in 2000.

Ramalingam served in ***LTTE*** military units for 10 years, rising to the rank of captain before her wound.

Today she is married and works at the institute, which helps ***women*** get back to civilian life.

"I prefer peace, it is better," Ramalingam, who uses an artificial leg, told IPS during an interview in Tiger-controlled Kilinochchi.

The two-year ceasefire between the Tigers and the Colombo government has no doubt improved civilian life in the war-affected areas in Sri Lanka, especially in areas held by the Tigers.

With the ceasefire, the government lifted a goods embargo easing both civilian and commercial traffic. A new vehicle service station that is being built in Kilinochchi is symbolic of the changes peace has ushered in.

Donors and non-governmental agencies have increased work in the areas. Two weeks ago the World Bank announced a loan of \$ 64.7 million to develop agriculture in the North-east of Sri Lanka.

The Tigers too have made use of the ceasefire to develop and strengthen its civilian administrative structure.

However, the rising tension between the new government in Colombo led by President Chandrika Kumaratunga and the Tigers and the lack of goodwill between the two parties have brought considerable amount of strain on the Norwegian brokered peace process.

Since it came into power in April the new United People's Freedom Alliance (UPFA) government has been plagued by lack of a parliamentary majority and a cohesive policy, which have thwarted attempts to get talks, stalled since April 2003, recommenced.

In the Apr. 2 polls, Kumaratunga's narrowly defeated former prime minister Ranil Wickremesinghe's United National Party. But the UPFA lacks a majority in parliament to pursue its legislative agenda.

## SRI LANKA : TAMIL TIGERS GETTING EDGY AS PEACE PROCESS FALTERS

Last week Norwegian special envoy Erik Solheim met with both Kumaratunga and the Tiger leadership separately to break the deadlock but left the country without any deal.

In fact, during talks with Solheim, **LTTE** political wing leader S.P. Tamilselvan conveyed a much toughened stance.

On top of a demand that their proposals for an interim administration be implemented, the Tigers last week requested the government to refrain from aiding and harbouring renegade former eastern commander Vinayagamorthi Muralitharan, alias Colonel Karuna, who defected to government-controlled areas in April.

"If the Sri Lankan President and government are serious about the cease-fire agreement and peace talks they should stop sheltering Karuna and backing the murder and mayhem in which some of his henchmen are indulging in Batticaloa in the east," Tamilselvan told the press soon after meeting with Solheim.

"This is what we told the Norwegian facilitators," he added.

The **LTTE** negotiator warned that future talks would now depend on Colombo.

"If this situation is allowed to continue, it will jeopardise the ceasefire agreement and the entire peace process," the official Tiger website quoted Tamilselvan as telling the Norwegians.

But the Sri Lankan government rejected allegations that the country's armed forces were aiding Karuna.

Two weeks ago cabinet spokesperson and minister Mangala Samaraweera told the press that elements within the army had aided Karuna without the knowledge of the government.

On the issue of the interim administration proposals while Kumaratunga said in a national address last month that she was willing to accommodate them, a powerful coalition partner in her government -- the People's Liberation Front -- has rejected it outright.

The Front is steadfastly demanding that negotiations should tackle the interim administration and a final solution simultaneously.

Tilvin Silva, general secretary of the Front, said last week that there was no change in the policy.

"If you allow the process to drag on, all gains would be nullified," said Tamil National Alliance MP, M.K. Eelavethan, warning that patience was running thin among the Tigers.

Even before last week's meeting, the Tigers had been complaining of a lack of a clear policy on the part of the new government.

"The lack of cohesion in the leadership is the most important thing," **LTTE**'s Tamilselvan told IPS adding "Kumaratunga has to make her words come true by implementing them."

The impasse led the London-based 'Tamil Guardian', which is close to the Tiger thinking, to warn last week that the ceasefire was unravelling.

"We cannot recall a time when the prospects for peace have been lower," it said in its editorial.

And this is a fear shared by many observers in Colombo.

"The prospect for recommencement of peace talks is quite bleak. **LTTE** will agree to recommence talks with the new UPFA government only if it would accept their demands," Colombo-based economist Muttukrishna Sarvananthan told IPS.

The unease is heightened even more due to the fact that despite the ceasefire, both sides are well armed and continue to recruit. The Tigers have been conducting interviews for new police recruits during the past two weeks while the Sri Lankan Army also called for applicants for its commando units.

## SRI LANKA : TAMIL TIGERS GETTING EDGY AS PEACE PROCESS FALTERS

"The Sri Lankan army is buying weapons and recruiting. We accept that," the highest-ranking female Tiger commander Tamilini said during an interview with IPS.

"On the other hand, we are preparing for peace, but staying ready for war," said the head of LTTE's female political wing.

**Load-Date:** July 7, 2004

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## **Top Sri Lankan military officer killed in suicide attack; Tamil Tigers blamed**

Associated Press International

June 26, 2006 Monday 5:55 AM GMT

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**Section:** INTERNATIONAL NEWS

**Length:** 518 words

**Byline:** By DILIP GANGULY, Associated Press Writer

**Dateline:** COLOMBO Sri Lanka

### **Body**

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A suicide bomber on a motorcycle blew himself up next to a car carrying a top Sri Lankan general Monday, killing the third-highest ranking officer in the military and three other people, officials said. Five others were wounded.

The government blamed the Tamil Tiger rebels for the blast.

"The attack carries the hallmark of the LTTE," chief government spokesman, Keheliya Rambukwella told The Associated Press, using the initials of the insurgents' formal name, the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam. There was no comment from the rebels, but a pro-rebel Web-site reported the attack without comment.

Four months of violence have brought Sri Lanka dangerously close to the brink of resuming full-scale civil war, and Monday's attack came just over two months after the Tigers' tried to kill Sri Lanka's top military commander in a suicide bombing in Colombo.

The car carrying Maj. Gen. Parami Kulatunga was taking the general to work in Colombo when it was hit by a suicide bomber on a motorcycle, military spokesman, Brig. Prasad Samarasinghe said. The attack took place close to his home in Pannipitiya, 15 kilometers (nine miles) southeast of Colombo's city center.

Kulatunga was a hardened combat veteran who had led numerous operations against the rebels in the Sri Lanka's northeast, the main theater of fighting during nearly two decades of full-scale war.

Kulatunga survived the initial blast but died on the way to the city's National Hospital, Samarasinghe said.

An hour after the explosion, the general's Peugeot was still on fire. Another vehicle in the general's convoy, a pickup-truck, was also damaged.

The blast also killed the general's driver, a security guard and a civilian passer-by, the military said. Five other bystanders were wounded and admitted to a hospital.

Discrimination against Sri Lanka's 3.2 million Tamils, most of whom are Hindu, led the Tigers to take up arms in 1983. The resulting war on this tropical island of 19 million people nearly three-quarters of them Buddhist Sinhalese left more than 65,000 people dead before a 2002 cease-fire.

But talks to build on the truce soon faltered and in the past year, sporadic shootings and bombings have escalated into near-daily violence. Almost 700 people, more than half of them civilians, have been killed since April.



## Top Sri Lankan military officer killed in suicide attack; Tamil Tigers blamed

Throughout the conflict, the **Tamil Tigers** have used suicide bombers to target Sri Lanka's military and political elite.

The rebels' separatist war is mostly confined to the northeast, where they want to carve out a separate Tamil homeland, though they do sometimes target people in Colombo.

In April, a **female** rebel bomber tried to kill the country's top general at a military base in Colombo. Lt. Gen. Sarath Fonseka escaped the attack with injuries, but at least 12 others died in the blast.

In July 2004, a rebel suicide bomber targeted Douglas Devananda, a government minister and a moderate Tamil leader who opposes the rebels. The bomber detonated explosives, killing four people, while being frisked at a police station.

Associated Press writers Bharatha Mallawarachi and Gemunu Amarasinghe contributed to this report.

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

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## *Orphanage not tied to Tamil Tigers*

The Toronto Star  
March 3, 2006 Friday

Copyright 2006 Toronto Star Newspapers, Ltd.

**Section:** LETTER; Pg. A19

**Length:** 259 words

### **Body**

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Roar of the *Tamil Tigers*

Feb. 26.

I am the Canadian nurse mentioned in this story. For 11 months, the Tsunami Tender Sprout Home Initiative (TTSHI) has raised funds for children at the Senthilir orphanage in Sri Lanka. Out of 132 children, 94 were killed during the tsunami of December 2004. Many children orphaned by the tsunami have since been taken into the facility, yet more children remain on the waiting list. Through the sale of calendars depicting the orphans' drawings, we have raised \$75,000 to date which has been used to purchase beds, build bathrooms and hire caregivers.

From the wording in your story, readers might be errantly led to believe our fundraising effort is in some way connected to the *Tamil Tigers*. This could not be further from the truth. Funds raised through TTSHI are donated directly to the Centre for *Women's* Development and Rehabilitation (CWDR), an independent organization that runs the orphanage. The Norwegian government and NGOs such as Oxfam and UNICEF have assessed CWDR and the government of Sri Lanka gave the organization registered NGO status at the national level.

The Sri Lankan political situation is extremely complex and TTSHI, like many relief efforts, was established as a neutral organization determined to see aid delivered despite political dynamics. We believe that politics should have no bearing on aid provision and are working hard to relieve the suffering of the orphaned children living in northern Sri Lanka.

Andrea Warnick, RN, Founder and Director, Tsunami Tender Sprout Home Initiative, Toronto

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

## **TOUGH STAND TAKEN ON SRI LANKA; Deportation Orders; Ottawa treating government forces same as Tamil Tigers**

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

December 3, 2007 Monday

National Edition

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**Section:** NEWS; Pg. A1

**Length:** 1248 words

**Byline:** Stewart Bell, National Post

**Dateline:** TORONTO

### **Body**

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TORONTO - He lives on a suburban street in Ajax in a two-storey brick house with a double garage and fruit trees in the garden.

The quiet neighbourhood east of Toronto is worlds away from the civil war Raja Kasturiarachchi left behind when he moved to Canada after retiring from the Sri Lankan National Police.

But if he came to Canada to escape the past, he hasn't. The Canada Border Services Agency says it intends to deport Mr. Kasturiarachchi because he was complicit in war crimes.

As a former Sri Lankan police chief, the CBSA says, Mr. Kasturiarachchi is to blame for "systematic" and "widespread" abuses committed by the force "on a regular ongoing basis."

The case is one of several that suggest Canada has adopted a new hardline approach against those involved in Sri Lanka's bloody civil war -- regardless of which side they were on.

While the government has long fought to prevent **Tamil Tigers** rebels from using Canada as a safe haven, it is now extending the same treatment to members of the state security forces.

"The CBSA strives for a fair and consistent application of the law," said Anna Pape, a CBSA spokeswoman.

"Cases where there is evidence of crimes against humanity must be pursued, no matter the perpetrator." Those war crimes continue.

Last week, a bus travelling in territory held by the **Tamil Tigers** was ripped apart by a mine, killing 11 school children. The Tigers blamed the Sri Lankan Army. On Wednesday, a **female** suicide bomber detonated her explosive-filled bra near a government minister. He survived. A second rebel bomb exploded outside a department store in the capital, Colombo, killing 16 civilians.

The violence prompted Maxime Bernier, the Minister of Foreign Affairs, to call on both sides in the conflict "to respect international human rights and humanitarian law" and protect civilians.

## TOUGH STAND TAKEN ON SRI LANKA ; Deportation Orders; Ottawa treating government forces same as Tamil Tigers

The civil war reverberates in Canada because of the estimated 200,000 Sri Lankans who have resettled here since the fighting broke out, most of them in Toronto.

Most are ethnic Tamils and many are at least sympathetic to the **Tamil Tigers** guerrillas fighting to create an independent state in Sri Lanka's north and east.

When the deputy leader of the Tigers was killed last month, Canadian Tamils (and Liberal members of Parliament) attended a large outdoor rally in Markham.

Last week, events were held around Toronto to mark Tamil Heroes' Day, which commemorates the anniversary of the first **Tamil Tigers** suicide bombing.

The Canadian government has been cracking down on the Tigers.

The Conservatives placed them on Canada's list of designated terrorist groups last year, and the RCMP raided their suspected fundraising fronts and arrested several Tamils accused of trying to buy weapons for the guerrillas.

But a review of cases that have come before the courts since last year shows the government has also been quietly going after members of the security forces, barring them from entering Canada, refusing to give them visitor's visas and even deporting them. Even Sri Lankan police officers are now considered war criminals.

"Earlier they were taking a hard line on the ... army or navy," said immigration lawyer Kumar Sriskanda, who is representing Mr. Kasturiarachchi. "But in this case, the new development is they are taking a hard line on the Sri Lankan police force."

In a similar case, the CBSA is trying to revoke refugee status from former Sri Lankan police officer Indrabalan Ratnasingam, who entered Canada in 1996, on the grounds he was complicit in war crimes. The Federal Court ruled against the man last month.

Another recent case involves a Sri Lankan Army officer who was denied entry to Canada because he was found complicit in "grave" human rights abuses and the use of torture as an investigative technique.

Sujeewa Jayasinghe had applied for a visitor's visa at the Canadian High Commission in Sri Lanka. His wife had immigrated to Canada and she was expecting. He wanted to be present for the birth.

But when the Canadian immigration officer found out that Mr. Jayasinghe had served in the army, and that he had interrogated and killed people suspected of being **Tamil Tigers** rebels, she refused to give him a visa. The shift in Canada's approach comes as human rights groups are reporting mounting abuses by the Sri Lankan security forces, such as disappearances, torture and the killing of journalists and foreign aid workers.

Fred Abrahams, senior emergencies researcher at Human Rights Watch, said while his group condemns the **Tamil Tigers**, also known as the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam, or **LTTE**, it is also troubled by the deteriorating conduct of the government security forces.

"Our concern over past two years is that the government has stooped to the level of this very abusive group, meaning the Tigers," he said.

Mr. Abrahams co-authored a report on human rights in Sri Lanka issued in August and is preparing to release another this month on the more than 1,000 disappearances that have occurred in the country in the past 18 months, mostly in areas under government control.

Toronto resident Naithan Vaithilingam says he experienced the brutal conduct of the security forces first-hand. He was returning to his home in the government-controlled city of Trincomalee in 2005 when he was stopped at a checkpoint.

## TOUGH STAND TAKEN ON SRI LANKA ; Deportation Orders; Ottawa treating government forces same as Tamil Tigers

A group of men he believes were Sri Lankan Army personnel (because they were standing near an army checkpoint next to an army truck) asked him his ethnicity. "I told them I am Tamil," he said.

They then attacked him with a knife and left him to die on the road with stab wounds in his head, leg and hands. His sister arranged to get him to a hospital in Colombo, where he spent the next nine months and had three operations before coming to Canada in June, 2006.

Sri Lankan MP M.K. Eelaventhana, a member of the Tamil National Alliance who recently visited Canada, blamed the security forces for abduction, killings and disappearances.

"Disappearance is now becoming a normal feature. I will call it a normality. When a person disappears and doesn't appear for three days, you can safely say that he is among the dead."

Sri Lankan police are blamed for some of those abuses. Chief Inspector Kasturiarachchi spent more than 25 years in the police force. He moved to Canada with his family after retiring in 2002.

Even though there was no evidence he had personally committed war crimes, the CBSA argued he was nonetheless to blame. As a long-time senior officer of a police force that engaged in abuses that were "disproportionate and routinely committed throughout the country with impunity" he was found responsible.

"By virtue of his membership and activity with the Force, he shared in its common purpose or objectives and was therefore complicit in the commission of crimes against humanity," according to the Federal Court ruling on his case.

"That's pretty harsh," responded Mr. Sriskanda, the lawyer. "That means any police officer from Sri Lanka cannot even apply for a visitor's visa. They are excluded for all purposes under the Immigration and Refugee Protection Act."

Mr. Kasturiarachchi's last hope for remaining in Canada is a letter that is being sent to Public Safety Minister Stockwell Day. "As there is no personal allegation against him, I think that the Minister will give him an exception," Mr. Sriskanda said.

But Ms. Pape, the CBSA spokeswoman, said the agency "intends to remove Mr. Kasturiarachchi from Canada based on his complicity in crimes against humanity committed against a civilian population in Sri Lanka."

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

## **Rebels deny Sri Lanka "torture chamber" claim**

Agence France Presse -- English

January 16, 2007 Tuesday 11:37 AM GMT

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**Length:** 482 words

**Dateline:** COLOMBO, Jan 16 2007

### **Body**

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Sri Lanka's Tamil Tiger rebels rejected Tuesday a claim by the island's defence ministry that commandos had found "torture chambers" used by the guerrillas to punish deserters.

Police Special Task Force (STF) commandos found the chambers at a rebel camp in the eastern district of Ampara after a nine-day offensive, which ended at the weekend with the capture of 12 bases, the ministry said in a statement.

The Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (**LTTE**) swiftly denied the charge. It accused the military of "spin doctoring" and said the captured "bases" consisted of huts belonging to civilians fleeing recent fighting.

The rebels invited international organisations to investigate the military's charges about the "torture chambers". They said the commandos had taken a rebel "prison" abandoned a year ago when the rebels returned to guerrilla warfare.

"They (the cells) are more than six feet tall and the size of a standard prison cell to be found around the world," the **Tamil Tigers** said in a statement.

"These were abandoned by the **LTTE** more than a year ago when **LTTE** moved further inland," the statement added.

The defence ministry did not say what type of torture had been employed by the **Tamil Tigers**.

"At the Madurakavi camp, torture chambers and lockups were established to torture escapees and informants, including **women** cadres," the ministry said.

A Human Rights Watch report released this month accused the rebels and the government of routine extra-judicial killings and abductions in the island's bitter ethnic war, which has claimed more than 60,000 lives since 1972.

The two sides have escalated the conflict in recent months, despite a ceasefire agreed in 2002 but now seen as moribund. More than 3,800 people have been killed in the fighting since December 2005.

## Rebels deny Sri Lanka "torture chamber" claim

The defence ministry also charged that the rebels were running illegal logging operations, poaching and growing cannabis.

"The STF had come across a large plantation of cannabis grown by the LTTE deep inside the forest reserve," the ministry's statement said. "STF troops also detected carcasses of elephants dumped in swamps."

The STF released pictures of the bases they captured together with a haul of arms, ammunition, bombs and motorcycles said to have been used by Tamil Tigers.

"The pictures in the Sri Lankan defense ministry website of cannabis cultivation is certainly from a (majority) Sinhala village," the LTTE said. "The LTTE would urge any international agency to go and check this for themselves."

The rebels also denied logging. They said they were inviting observers to visit areas they held to observe their forestation program.

"The Sri Lankan Defense Ministry must be congratulated because the international media too has eagerly repeated their spin-doctoring," the rebels added.

The STF said one trooper was wounded in its recent offensive and claimed that a large number of rebels were killed or wounded.

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

## **UK: Investigate Sri Lankan Rebel Leader for Atrocities**

Targeted News Service

November 16, 2007 Friday 11:49 PM EST

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**Length:** 594 words

**Byline:** Targeted News Service

**Dateline:** WASHINGTON

### **Body**

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Human Rights Watch issued the following news release:

(London) - The British government should open a criminal investigation into a former Tamil Tiger leader in immigration detention, Human Rights Watch said today. Vinayagamoorthi Muralitharan, known as Colonel Karuna Amman, was a leader of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (**LTTE**) until he split to form his own group.

Human Rights Watch said the case provides an important opportunity for justice for victims of human rights abuses in Sri Lanka.

"Karuna has a long and horrific record of abuse that demands justice," said Brad Adams, Asia director at Human Rights Watch. "His arrest in the UK is a golden opportunity to bring justice for the victims of his many atrocities."

On November 2, 2007, UK immigration authorities arrested Karuna, a rebel military commander who has long been linked to the summary execution and torture of civilians and the use of children as soldiers. Until leaving the **LTTE** in March 2004, Karuna was the Tigers' top commander in eastern Sri Lanka, and the reputed number two in the **LTTE** hierarchy. Because he had been given a de facto amnesty by the Sri Lankan government and his armed group fought against the **LTTE** in recent years, it is unlikely the Sri Lankan government would prosecute him.

Tamil Tiger forces under Karuna's command were directly involved in some of the worst crimes of Sri Lanka's ongoing civil war. In June 1990, some 400 to 600 police officers in the east who surrendered to the **LTTE** were bound, gagged and beaten. The **Tamil Tigers**, including forces under Karuna's control, then executed the Sinhalese and Muslims among them. In July 1990, Karuna's forces stopped a convoy of Muslims traveling in Batticaloa district and executed about 75 people, including **women** and children. In August 1990 Karuna's forces killed more than 200 civilians in two incidents in Batticaloa district.

In 2004, Human Rights Watch investigated the **Tamil Tigers**' recruitment and use of children as soldiers (<http://hrw.org/reports/2004/srilanka1104/>). Karuna's forces played a prominent role, routinely visiting Tamil homes to tell parents to provide a child for the "movement." The **LTTE** harassed and threatened families that resisted, and children were abducted from their homes at night or while walking to school.

After Karuna broke away from the **Tamil Tigers** his armed group operated with the complicity of the Sri Lankan security forces. The Karuna group, as it was known, engaged in abduction of children for use as soldiers in Sri Lanka's eastern districts, taking boys from their homes, work places, temples, playground, public roads, camps for the internally displaced, and even a wedding. These abuses are documented in the Human Rights Watch report



## UK: Investigate Sri Lankan Rebel Leader for Atrocities

"Complicit in Crime: State Collusion in Abductions and Child Recruitment by the Karuna Group," published in January 2007 (<http://hrw.org/reports/2007/srilanka0107/>).

British law permits the prosecution of individuals for serious violations of international law, including torture and war crimes, committed abroad. For example, in 2005 UK courts convicted a former Afghan warlord, Faryadi Sarwar Zardad, for acts of torture and hostage-taking in Afghanistan.

"The British government has shown that it can successfully prosecute those who have committed serious abuses abroad," said Adams. "Karuna is one of the worst human rights abusers ever to end up in custody in the UK. We expect the government to fully explore all legal possibilities for prosecuting Karuna."

TNS gv51-jf78-071117-1252938 18MASHJofrey

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

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End of Document

## *Tamil Tigers deny recruiting children orphaned by tsunami*

Associated Press International

January 19, 2005 Wednesday

Copyright 2005 Associated Press All Rights Reserved

**Section:** INTERNATIONAL NEWS

**Length:** 332 words

**Byline:** DILIP GANGULY; Associated Press Writer

**Dateline:** KILINOCHCHI, Sri Lanka

### **Body**

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Sri Lanka's Tamil Tiger rebels on Wednesday denied claims by the United Nations and human rights groups that they were recruiting children orphaned or displaced by last month's tsunami.

"This is clearly shocking," said S.P. Thamilselvan, the rebels' top political leader, after meeting Kamel Morjane, the assistant high commissioner of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and Erika Feller, director of the U.N.'s International Protection.

"This is totally false and a fabrication to malign us," Thamilselvan said.

Morjane and Feller told Thamilselvan that the rebels must protect tsunami-affected children and women and desist from conscription, especially of the underaged.

UNICEF said Tuesday that the rebels recruited three tsunami-affected girls to their ranks but later released two of them. The girls, aged 11 and 12, were reunited with their parents.

"The Tamil Tigers are preying on the most vulnerable by taking advantage of children who have been orphaned or displaced by the tsunami," said Jo Becker, children's rights advocacy director for Human Rights Watch last week.

Thamilselvan said the cases cited by UNICEF and Human Rights Watch were not true, as the children were being taken to a relief center run by the rebels' rehabilitation groups when they were stopped at a Sri Lankan army checkpoint.

Feller, of UNHCR's International Protection, told Thamilselvan that every effort must be made to protect children and other vulnerable groups after the tsunami.

"It goes not only beyond human decency, but against all norms and laws," to recruit children as soldiers, she said.

Human Rights Watch said that the rebel group has a "long history of recruiting children as soldiers."

Last November, Human Rights Watch documented that the rebels had recruited thousands of children since a cease-fire between the government and Tamil Tigers took effect in early 2002. It said prior to the cease-fire, "children were routinely used in combat, and often deployed on suicide missions."

Tamil Tigers deny recruiting children orphaned by tsunami

**Load-Date:** January 20, 2005

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End of Document

## *Children enlisted by Tamil Tigers;*

Irish News

January 14, 2005

Copyright 2005 The Irish News Limited

**Section:** Pg. 11

**Length:** 329 words

### **Body**

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SRI Lanka's Tamil Tiger rebels have recruited tsunamiaffected children into their ranks, Unicef officials said yesterday. They said there were three verified cases of child recruitment, all girls.

Two of the three - an 11-year-old and a 12-year-old - were released following an appeal for their freedom by the UN body, a Unicef spokesman in Colombo said.

"They have been reunited with their parents, " he said.

Unicef was working to secure the release of the other child, a 15-year-old, he added.

It was unclear whether the girls were recruited to fight in rebel ranks or to work in the guerrilla camps.

All three children were from eastern Batticaloa and Ampara, among the areas worst hit by the 26 tsunami.

Children accounted for a staggering 40 per cent - 12,000 - of Sri Lanka's tsunami death toll of nearly 31,000.

Another 800,000 people have been left homeless.

Ted Chaiban, Unicef chief in Sri Lanka, said preliminary data indicated that nearly 1,000 children had been orphaned by the tsunami in Sri Lanka and another 3,200 lost one parent.

The rebels are known to recruit children to bolster their ranks in their fight for a separate Tamil homeland.

Peace talks stalled two years ago amid demands by the rebels for wide autonomy in the Tamil-dominated north and east.

More than 3,700 **female Tamil Tigers** - known as freedom birds - died in the separatist rebellion that began in 1983, including a woman accused of assassinating former Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi in 1991.

Since the rebels signed a truce with the Sri Lankan government in 2002, more than 3,500 children have been enlisted by the insurgents, according to human rights groups.

The rebels have denied actively recruiting children, saying that any minor who joins their forces does so because of poverty or the loss of parents.

### Children enlisted by Tamil Tigers;

In 2003, the rebels agreed with both Unicef and the government to free all child combatants but the UN agency has accused the insurgents of continuing to seek child soldiers.

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

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End of Document

## *Sri Lankan rebels pledge no more child soldiers by year end*

Agence France Presse -- English

June 18, 2007 Monday 8:39 AM GMT

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**Length:** 307 words

**Dateline:** COLOMBO, June 18 2007

### **Body**

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Sri Lanka's Tamil Tiger rebels on Monday made a fresh pledge to rid their ranks of child soldiers by the end of the year.

The rebels, classified as one of the worst offenders in the world for the recruitment of children to fight, made the same promise in 1998 but have since been accused by the United Nations of recruiting more than they actually freed.

The Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (**LTTE**) said in a statement that its "Child Protection Agency" had freed 135 males and **females** below the age of 17 who were found within their guerrilla army in the past six months.

"The CPA hopes that the work that has been done and the work that is ongoing will ... (bring the) recruitment for the **LTTE** to international standards by the end of 2007," the **Tamil Tigers** said.

The rebels also asked the United Nations children's agency UNICEF to adjust its child recruitment database to take into account the latest batch of child soldiers to be released.

There was no immediate reaction from UNICEF to the **LTTE** statement, but the agency says on its website that there were 1,591 outstanding cases of underage recruitment by the rebels as of the end of May.

"Of these, 506 are under the age of 18, and 1,085 were recruited while under 18 but have now passed that age," UNICEF said.

UNICEF said there were another 198 outstanding cases of child soldier recruitment by the **LTTE**'s breakaway faction, the Karuna group, which is active in the east of the island and is believed to be supported by government troops.

The UN body also said it believed its database accounted for just "a third of the actual number of children recruited" to fight in the island's long-running ethnic war.

The Sri Lankan government has also come under severe criticism by local and international rights groups for colluding with the Karuna group to recruit children to fight the **Tamil Tigers**.

Sri Lankan rebels pledge no more child soldiers by year end

**Load-Date:** June 18, 2007

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End of Document

## **Tamil tigers blacklisting lauded - Correction Appended**

Ottawa Citizen

April 12, 2006 Wednesday

Final Edition

### **Correction Appended**

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**Section:** CITY; Pg. C5; Jennifer Campbell

**Length:** 1109 words

**Byline:** Jennifer Campbell, Citizen Special

### **Body**

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The Conservative government's move to add the **Tamil Tigers** military organization to Canada's list of known terrorists shows a "pattern of consistency" and a hard line against terrorists, said Elliot Tepper, a professor who specializes in Asian studies in Carleton University's department of political science.

"There was a pattern of consistency in regards to the Conservative party policy," Mr. Tepper said. "While in opposition, the party took the principled position in regards to terrorism in general. Now in power, they're following through on that position."

Mr. Tepper pointed out that one can see the pattern in terms of Canada's role in Afghanistan, as well as the party's position on sending aid to the Hamas regime in Palestine and now, the listing of the **Tamil Tigers** as a terrorist organization.

The fact that this position aligns Canada and the U.S. is also helpful, Mr. Tepper said.

The move by the Conservatives last week, ushered by Minister of Public Safety Stockwell Day, comes with an edict that it is now illegal for the controversial **Tamil Tigers** to raise money in Canada. It is also illegal for individuals to donate to the group. Those caught doing so could face up to 10 years in jail.

According to Human Rights Watch, the **Tamil Tigers** have used intimidation, threats, extortion and violence in Canada to finance operations in Sri Lanka. Mr. Tepper said that report was probably also a factor in the announcement.

"In terms of timing, the fact that the government announcement comes so soon after the release of the Human Rights Watch report on the extortion of Canadians of Tamil descent undoubtedly also played a role," he said.

A. J. Pathiraja, Sri Lanka's acting high commissioner, did not return calls when asked to comment on the move.

The Ottawa mission has been without a high commissioner since Geetha de Silva returned to Sri Lanka to take a senior position in the ministry of foreign affairs more than a year ago.



## Tamil tigers blacklisting lauded

A high-profile Russian delegation was in Ottawa this week to discuss the priorities for Russia's G-8 presidency and the upcoming summit in St. Petersburg.

Igor Shuvalov, a top aide of Russian President Vladimir Putin, who is also known as a "Russian G8 sherpa", led the delegation hosted by Russian Ambassador Georgiy Mamedov. The delegation's meetings in Ottawa were also scheduled to look at relations between Canada and Russia.

Russia's priorities for the G-8, which it hosts for the first time in July, are international issues of energy security, education and health care.

As the giant country's officials point out, securing a reliable energy supply "is crucial for sustainable economic development and political stability in the world." The leaders must look at energy security in the context of global climate change and the fact that many of the world's poorest countries can't access "pure and affordable energy," the embassy noted in a release.

When it comes to education, the Russian embassy officials said expert knowledge and access to information are crucial to the growth of national economies and the quality of life of their citizens. Even G-8 countries have problems with education, particularly in linking educational systems and labour markets, the Russians explained, adding that there's also a disconnect between education and required fields of expertise.

Meanwhile, poor countries' inability to adopt new technology that would enable them to compete in unskilled-labour fields internationally may seriously obstruct the progress of the global economy and social prosperity, the Russians contended.

On the health care front, they want G-8 members to take a serious look at the threat infectious diseases pose to humanity.

"That such diseases spread at a different rate and take a different toll in various regions and communities is a litmus test of aggravating hardship, discrimination, social injustice, and a widening gap and strengthening tension between developed and developing nations," the embassy notes. "Such diseases as HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, malaria, and new ones like avian flu grossly impede nations economically and socially and are a threat to sustainable development."

### Helping the Community

Diplomats and representatives from Taiwan's government are getting on board to help the Shirley E. Greenberg Women's Health Centre.

A luncheon series begins April 25 with Kuwaiti Ambassador Musaed Al-Haroun hosting. Karen Fung Kee Fung, medical director of obstetrics and gynecology at the Ottawa Hospital, will be the special guest. On May 9, Thomas Chen, representative for the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office, hosts a luncheon featuring speaker Deborah Hannah, of the "Look Good Feel Better" program for women living with cancer.

Finally, on June 1, Roshan Reddaway, wife of British High Commissioner David Reddaway, hosts a luncheon with two guest speakers: Maureen McTeer, the patron of Osteoporosis Canada, and Dan Beamish, a personal trainer.

Tickets cost \$125 and can be purchased by calling 569-7100.

The Women's Health Centre, Ottawa's first, is dedicated to the diagnosis and treatment of disease and the promotion of good health in women of all ages. Proceeds from the luncheons will go toward buying equipment.

Jennifer Campbell is a freelance writer and editor in Ottawa.

Reach her at [Diplomatica@sympatico.ca](mailto:Diplomatica@sympatico.ca).

- - -

## Tamil tigers blacklisting lauded

## Insight Into Japanese Art

Kyoko Numata, wife of Japanese Ambassador Sadaaki Numata, hosted a gathering of the Friends of the National Gallery Thursday. Ms. Numata offered a tour of her Rockcliffe residence and described its art, including some from her personal collection.

## Jazz, Danish Style

Danish Ambassador Poul Kristensen hosted a jazz evening with the Danish group PET Douglas at his Rockcliffe residence Monday.

## Friendship Between Canada and Bangladesh

The Canada-Bangladesh Parliamentary Friendship Group held its founding meeting in Ottawa last week.

## A Sri Lankan Dance Experience

The Sri Lankan High Commission hosted a cultural dance show at the Bronson Centre Sunday evening. The Channa-Upuli Dance Group presented a fusion of modern ballet and Sri Lankan traditional dance, accompanied by traditional drum and contemporary east-west jazz, blended with traditional drum patterns.

## Introduction to Yemeni Cinema

Yemen Ambassador Abdulla Nasher presented the award-winning feature film A New Day in Old Sana'a by Yemeni-British director Bader Ben Hirsi Friday at the World Exchange Plaza theatre.

## Some Irish Eyes are Smiling

Irish Ambassador Martin Burke and British High Commissioner David Reddaway hosted a reception at Mr. Burke's Rockcliffe residence in support of the annual Emerald Ball of the Ireland Fund of Canada. The ball takes place April 22.

## Correction

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A Sri Lankan dance show at the Bronson Centre was hosted by the Beatrice Sevana Community House. Incorrect information appeared April 12 in a photo caption on the Diplomatica page.

**Correction-Date:** April 21, 2006

## Graphic

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Colour Photo: Tara Walton, The Ottawa Citizen; (1. Ms. Numata displaying kimonos from her personal wardrobe.);  
Colour

Photo: Tara Walton, The Ottawa Citizen; (2. Ms. Numata in the dining room of her home describing the place settings of a formal dinner.);

Colour Photo: Tara Walton, The Ottawa Citizen; (3. From left to right: Tor Berntin Naess, ambassador of Norway, Poul Kristensen, ambassador of Denmark, Else Philipp, wife the the Danish ambassador, and Bob Mills, MP for Red Deer.);

## Tamil tigers blacklisting lauded

Colour Photo: Tara Walton, The Ottawa Citizen; (4. From left: Arif Lalani (director, Foreign Affairs), Reaz Rahman (foreign affairs adviser to the Prime Minister of Bangladesh), Deepak Obhrai MP (parliamentary secretary to the Minister of Foreign Affairs), Bangladesh High Commissioner Rafiq Ahmed Khan, his wife Juyena Khan, and Japanese Ambassador Sadaaki Numata.);

Colour Photo: Aaron Lynett, The Ottawa Citizen; (5. The Sri Lankan High Commission hosted a cultural dance show at the Bronson Centre Sunday evening. The Channa-Upuli Dance Group presented a fusion of modern ballet and Sri Lankan traditional dance, accompanied by traditional drum and contemporary east-west jazz, blended with traditional drum patterns.);

Colour Photo: Aaron Lynett, The Ottawa Citizen; (6. The Sri Lankan High Commission hosted a cultural dance show at the Bronson Centre Sunday evening. The Channa-Upuli Dance Group presented a fusion of modern ballet and Sri Lankan traditional dance, accompanied by traditional drum and contemporary east-west jazz, blended with traditional drum patterns.);

Colour Photo: Aaron Lynett, The Ottawa Citizen; (7. The Sri Lankan High Commission hosted a cultural dance show at the Bronson Centre Sunday evening. The Channa-Upuli Dance Group presented a fusion of modern ballet and Sri Lankan traditional dance, accompanied by traditional drum and contemporary east-west jazz, blended with traditional drum patterns.);

Colour Photo: Bruno Schlumberger, The Ottawa Citizen; (8. Mr. Ben Hirsi with Dr. Nasher.);

Colour Photo: Tara Walton, The Ottawa Citizen; (9. From left: Julian Evans (deputy British high commissioner), Shawn Murphy (MP Charlottetown), Mary Burke (wife of Mr. Burke), Patrick Murray (ball chairman), and Jason Kenney (MP Calgary Southeast).)

**Load-Date:** April 12, 2006

## **Tamil Tiger involvement in killing Sri Lankan forces cannot be ruled out, Europeans say**

Associated Press International

January 14, 2006 Saturday 12:18 AM GMT

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**Section:** INTERNATIONAL NEWS

**Length:** 428 words

### **Body**

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By KRISHAN FRANCIS

Associated Press Writer

COLOMBO, Sri Lanka (AP) Tamil Tiger involvement in a series of attacks against Sri Lankan armed forces cannot be ruled out, European cease-fire monitors said.

Some 70 government-armed personnel have been killed since Dec. 4 in an upsurge in violence blamed on the Tiger rebels that is endangering a four-year-old cease-fire that halted nearly two decades of civil war.

"It is safe to say that **LTTE** involvement cannot be ruled out and we find the **LTTE**'s indifference to these attacks worrying," the Sri Lanka Monitoring Mission said in a statement Friday, referring to the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam group by its acronym.

The **LTTE** has consistently denied involvement.

In the latest attack Thursday, a convoy of navy sailors was attacked in northern Sri Lanka, killing nine. The monitors called the killings "yet another blow to the cease-fire agreement," and said if the violence continues, "the cease-fire agreement will be over."

Meanwhile, a military convoy escaped an attempted anti-personnel mine attack by suspected **Tamil Tigers** Friday in northeastern Sri Lanka, said military spokesman Brig. Athula Jayawardane.

Two mines failed to explode when they were triggered as troops returned to their base in Trincomalee, 230 kilometers (140 miles) northeast of the capital, Colombo, after visiting their families, he said. A **female** rebel cadre suspected to have planted the mines was later arrested.

Heavily armed troops Friday searched for Tamil rebel infiltrators in government-held areas in Sri Lanka's north.

The rebels, meanwhile, said thousands of ethnic minority Tamil families were fleeing their homes in the north after the military intensified house-to-house searches.

The **LTTE** and human rights groups have accused the military of targeting Tamil civilians, a claim defense officials deny. The monitors said they have reports of harassment of Tamil civilians by security forces as revenge for suspected Tiger attacks.

Tamil Tiger involvement in killing Sri Lankan forces cannot be ruled out, Europeans say

On Friday, the military's Web site described Thursday's mine blast as a "brutal criminal act" carried out by the **Tamil Tigers**. "**LTTE** men in hiding in (the) jungle were held responsible for this explosion," a statement on the Web site said.

The attack justified intensified search operations in Tamil-dominated northern areas, the military's Media Unit said.

Sri Lanka's 19-year civil war claimed 65,000 lives and displaced 1.6 million people after beginning in 1983. The **LTTE** wants to establish a separate Tamil homeland in the island's northeast, claiming discrimination at the hands of the Sinhalese majority.

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

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## VOA NEWS: U.S. CONDEMNS SUICIDE ATTACK ON SRI LANKAN ARMY CHIEF

US Fed News

April 25, 2006 Tuesday 6:23 AM EST

Copyright 2006 HT Media Ltd. All Rights Reserved

**Length:** 398 words

**Byline:** US Fed News

**Dateline:** WASHINGTON

### **Body**

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The Voice of America issued the following story:

By David Gollust

State Department

The attack by a **female** suicide bomber in Colombo severely wounded the Sri Lankan army chief and killed at least eight others, and it is being depicted here as an assault on the country's peace process as well.

The United States, along with Japan, Norway and the European Union, co-chaired a donor's conference on Sri Lanka in Tokyo in June of 2003, and have continued as informal sponsors of peace talks between the Colombo government and the **Tamil Tigers** in Geneva.

In a talk with reporters, Assistant Secretary of State for South and Central Asian Affairs Richard Boucher said he expects the Tokyo co-chairs to meet soon and discuss ways of dealing with the latest violence, which included retaliatory air strikes Tuesday by the Sri Lankan military.

Boucher expressed condolences and sympathies to those affected by the suicide bombing and said the United States is working with other parties to try to prevent a return to full-scale civil warfare on the troubled island.

"This is an act of violence to the political process as well," said Richard Boucher. "It's a provocation. It's regrettable that the **Tamil Tigers** decided to restart the war instead of restart the peace talks. And we are in touch with other governments both here and in capitals around the world to bring to bear whatever pressure we can on the **Tamil Tigers** to abandon this course of action."

Boucher said the United States has no direct dealings with the rebels, known formally as the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam, or **LTTE**, and listed by the State Department as a terrorist organization, but he said it does have contacts with parties who do.

The **LTTE** pulled out of a round of Geneva peace talks that had been set for this week, citing violence against its supporters by the government and a rival militant group they say is covertly supported by the government.

## VOA NEWS: U.S. CONDEMNS SUICIDE ATTACK ON SRI LANKAN ARMY CHIEF

Even though Sri Lankan forces Tuesday staged their first air attacks against **LTTE** targets since a Norwegian-brokered truce went into effect in 2002, government officials were quoted as saying the retaliatory strikes do not mean war, and that the rebels should return to peace talks.

United Nations Secretary-General Kofi Annan also condemned Tuesday's suicide attack and a spokesman said he was disturbed by the escalating cycle of violence on the island.

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:** April 27, 2006

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End of Document

**Grenade thrown into European monitors' compound in Sri Lanka; no casualties reported**

Associated Press International

January 14, 2006 Saturday 6:10 AM GMT

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**Section:** INTERNATIONAL NEWS

**Length:** 450 words

**Byline:** By KRISHAN FRANCIS, Associated Press Writer

**Dateline:** COLOMBO Sri Lanka

## **Body**

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Attackers hurled a grenade into a compound used by a European team monitoring Sri Lanka's shaky truce, damaging three vehicles, monitors and police said Saturday. No injuries were reported.

No one immediately claimed responsibility.

The explosion in the compound's parking area came hours after the Norwegian-led monitors said they would not rule out the Tamil Tiger rebels' involvement in recent attacks on government forces.

Sri Lankan police guarding the monitors' compound in Batticaloa, 220 kilometers (135 miles) east of the capital, Colombo, reported the blast Friday night.

"There was a hand grenade lobbed at our office around midnight and it landed in a parking area and damaged three cars," said Helen Olafsdottir, spokeswoman for Sri Lanka Monitoring Mission.

Two monitors were in a nearby building at the time of the blast, and it was not known who was behind the attack, she said.

The mission's 60 monitors come from Norway, Sweden, Denmark, Finland and Iceland.

They are overseeing the Norway-brokered 2002 cease-fire between government and the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam, or **LTTE**, who had fought since 1983 for a separate homeland for Sri Lanka's ethnic minority Tamils,

claiming discrimination by the Sinhalese majority.

Peace talks started after the truce but stalled over postwar power-sharing disagreements, and about 70 government-armed personnel have been killed since Dec. 4 in a surge of violent attacks. The government blames the **Tamil Tigers**, who deny involvement.

Hours before Friday's blast, the monitors also raised the possibility of the Tigers' involvement.

"It is safe to say that **LTTE** involvement cannot be ruled out and we find the **LTTE**s indifference to these attacks worrying," the monitors said in a written statement.



Grenade thrown into European monitors' compound in Sri Lanka ; no casualties reported

The **Tamil Tigers** could did not immediately comment on the attack or the monitors' remarks but pro-rebel Web sites reported the incident.

On Thursday, nine soldiers were killed in an attack on a convoy in the country's north. The monitors called the killings "yet another blow to the cease-fire agreement," and said if the violence continues, "the cease-fire agreement will be over."

Meanwhile, a military convoy escaped an attempted anti-personnel mine attack by suspected **Tamil Tigers** Friday in northeastern Sri Lanka, said military spokesman Brig. Athula Jayawardane.

Two mines were triggered to explode but failed to explode when they as troops returned to their base in Trincomalee, 230 kilometers (140 miles) northeast of the capital, Colombo, after visiting their families, Jayawardane said.

A **female** rebel cadre suspected to have planted the mines was later arrested.

Sri Lanka's 19-year civil war claimed 65,000 lives and displaced 1.6 million people.

**Load-Date:** January 15, 2006

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## *Sri Lankan navy destroys rebel boat, captures another*

Agence France Presse -- English

February 12, 2007 Monday 2:34 PM GMT

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**Length:** 365 words

**Dateline:** COLOMBO, Feb 12 2007

### **Body**

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Sri Lanka's navy destroyed a Tamil Tiger boat off the eastern coastal town of Trincomalee Monday, while air force jets pounded suspected rebel positions in the north, the defence ministry said.

A naval patrol cruising towards the southern part of Sri Lanka along the eastern shoreline detected two Sea Tiger boats, Navy spokesman Commander D. P. K. Dassanayake said, adding one was destroyed and the other disabled and captured in subsequent fighting.

The navy recovered two bodies, including one **female** Tiger rebel, after the attack, he said, adding several weapons and a map were also recovered.

Each boat was manned by about four people, but the fate of the other rebels was unknown, Dassanayake said.

Israeli-built Kfir jets also bombed suspected Liberation Tigers of Tamil Ealam (**LTTE**) targets in Mullaittivu in the north, a military official said.

The rebels however said six air force Kfirs dropped "several" bombs over a civilian settlement in the area.

"Panicked school children ran out of their classrooms," the **LTTE** peace secretariat website said.

Elsewhere, in the Kilali lagoon in the northern Jaffna peninsula, three soldiers were killed and one wounded when suspected rebels launched a mortar attack on government troops.

Meanwhile, Sri Lanka's National Bhikku Front, an organisation of Buddhist monks, launched a fasting campaign Monday in Colombo demanding the government scrap the Norwegian-backed February 22, 2002 ceasefire agreement.

The protesting monks are threatening to continue their fast until the ceasefire agreement is cancelled. The Marxist JVP, a main opposition party, is also demanding that the truce pact be called off.

The two parties are convinced that if the ceasefire reaches five years without being formally renounced by the government, the **Tamil Tigers** -- classed by many foreign governments as terrorists -- would gain international recognition.

## Sri Lankan navy destroys rebel boat, captures another

More than 60,000 people have died in the 35-year-old ethnic conflict in Sri Lanka, where the **LTTE** is fighting for a separate state for minority Tamils.

Fighting has escalated between troops and **Tamil Tigers** in the past year, killing more than 3,800 people, despite a truce that has been in place since February 2002.

**Load-Date:** February 13, 2007

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End of Document

## ***Suicide bombing threatens Sri Lankan peace process***

Christian Science Monitor (Boston, MA)

July 13, 2004, Tuesday

Copyright 2004 The Christian Science Publishing Society

**Section:** WORLD; Pg. 07

**Length:** 717 words

**Byline:** By Ravi R. Prasad Contributor to The Christian Science Monitor

**Dateline:** COLOMBO, SRI LANKA

**Highlight:** Separatist rebels said Monday that they are ready to resume fighting against the government.

### **Body**

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A suicide bombing here that left the bomber and four policemen dead has raised serious doubts about peace efforts with separatist rebels.

The attack last week - at a police station next to the prime minister's official residence - was the first suicide bombing since the government and the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (**LTTE**) signed a cease-fire agreement in 2002.

The **Tamil Tigers** denied any involvement, claiming that the attack was an effort to discredit them and derail the peace process. But few believe this argument, pointing to the fact that the Tigers are the only organization in the country that has carried out suicide attacks.

The blast has shaken the confidence of Sri Lankans in the Norwegian-brokered peace process and brought into question the **LTTE**'s commitment to find a political solution to the 20-year ethnic conflict that has claimed nearly 70,000 lives.

Some analysts say the government and the majority Sinhala community suspect that the **LTTE**, frustrated by lack of progress in peace talks, is trying to free itself of the cease-fire's constraints.

But the Tigers say that they are keen to hold talks and discuss a proposal of interim self-governance. They argue that the Sri Lankan armed forces are undermining the cease-fire agreement by providing shelter to renegade rebel leader Colonel Karuna, who broke from the Tigers in March.

"I don't think they are keen on breaking the cease-fire," says Pakiyasothy Saravanamuttu, executive director of the Center for Policy Alternatives here. "At the same time, they are also keen to be able to show that they will not be totally silent and unresponsive to what they consider to be provocations."

The **female** suicide bomber was initially caught while she was trying to meet a senior minister and leader of a Tamil political party, the Eelam People's Democratic Party, Douglas Devananda, in his office. Mr. Devananda, who has survived a dozen attempts on his life, has been encouraging the rebel Karuna to join politics.

"We cannot achieve anything without being in the political mainstream," says Devananda in an interview. "The armed struggle has only brought misery to Tamils."

## Suicide bombing threatens Sri Lankan peace process

The woman detonated her bomb as she was brought into the police station.

Shortly after Karuna rebelled against the LTTE, Tamil Tiger commandos swung down from the Tamil-dominated north and ousted him from his bastion in the district of Batticaloa. The split in the LTTE has rattled the Tigers, who say Karuna has undermined their strength in the east and challenged their claim to be the sole representative of the Tamil community in Sri Lanka.

But even senior military officials say that an isolated suicide bombing does not indicate that the Tamil Tigers want to return to war. "They want to eliminate Karuna and his friends," says a senior official who requested anonymity. "The suicide bomber came for Devananda. If the Tigers want to break the cease-fire they will carry out simultaneous attacks like they did in 1994," when the Tigers broke a cease-fire after only 100 days with massive attacks around the country.

Still, Monday the Tigers accused the government of using Karuna's faction to weaken them and said that they are "ready to face ... war," according to a posting on a rebel website.

The European Union, which is the country's biggest donor bloc, has urged the government and the Tamil Tigers to return to the negotiating table. So far, no dates have been set for talks.

President Chandrika Kumaratunga says she wants to engage the LTTE in negotiations, but that discussion on interim self-governance should be linked to a search for a lasting political solution.

But the Tigers want their demand for self-governing authority be taken up first. And Karuna's defection and the suicide bombing have galvanized hard-liners in the majority Sinhala community who oppose efforts to restart peace talks.

Jathika Helu Urumaya, a political party of Buddhist monks with nine members in parliament, has called for a debate opposing interim self-governance.

Mr. Saravanamuttu says the bombing does not mean that the government cannot hold talks with the LTTE. "There is every reason to get to the table to avoid such situations," he says. "These only send a message that a peace process in limbo is a dangerous one."

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**Load-Date:** July 12, 2004

## VOA NEWS: SUICIDE BOMBER KILLS SRI LANKAN GENERAL

US Fed News

June 26, 2006 Monday 5:08 AM EST

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**Length:** 437 words

**Byline:** US Fed News

**Dateline:** COLOMBO, Sri Lanka

### **Body**

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The Voice of America issued the following story:

By Patricia Nunan

A senior Sri Lankan general and two other people have been killed in a bombing in the capital Colombo. Officials immediately blamed the Tamil Tiger rebels, who they accuse of trying to derail the country's peace process. Tamil Tiger leaders deny carrying out the attack.

Officials say a suicide bomber on a motorcycle rammed into a car taking Sri Lanka's third-highest ranking military officer to work, detonating explosives.

Brigadier Prasad Semarasinghe, Sri Lanka's military spokesman, blamed the attack that killed the general and two other people on the **Tamil Tigers**, or the **LTTE**, which is a State Department designated terrorist organization. He says an **LTTE** terrorist suicide bomber this morning targeted the car of Major General Parami Kulatunga, totally destroying the vehicle.

Sri Lankan President Mahinda Rajapakse said the bombing was an attempt by the **Tamil Tigers** to derail efforts to restore peace in Sri Lanka. Last week Mr. Rajapakse asked the rebels to hold direct talks, an offer the they rejected.

The **Tamil Tigers** deny they carried out the attack. They say the incident, and others like it, are attempts by the government to smear their name, and to serve as a pretext for military action against them.

The government has not said how it intends to respond to the attack. In April, it launched air strikes on rebel-held territory after a **female** suicide-bomber attacked the army headquarters in the capital Colombo, wounding a senior commander.

The government and the rebels say they continue to uphold a 2002 cease-fire agreement, aimed at ending more than two decades of civil war. But with more than 800 people killed in clashes since December, some consider the ceasefire dead in all but name.

Palitha Kohona, the secretary general of the government's Peace Secretariat says there is a point at which violence by the rebels will force the government to resume full-scale military action against them. But for now, the government's objective is to renew peace talks.

## VOA NEWS: SUICIDE BOMBER KILLS SRI LANKAN GENERAL

"We hope that that point would not be reached for a long time," said Kohona. "Our whole objective at the moment - we are devoting all our strength - in order to drag the Tigers back to the negotiating table, so that a just and honorable peace can be achieved for all the people in this country."

The **Tamil Tigers** first launched their insurgency in 1983, demanding independence for the areas in the north and east of the country where the ethnic-Tamil minority is predominant. As part of peace talks they downgraded that demand to greater autonomy.

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:** June 29, 2006

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End of Document

## *Hardliner takes early lead in Sri Lanka election*

The Guardian (London) - Final Edition

November 18, 2005

Copyright 2005 Guardian Newspapers Limited

**Section:** Guardian International Pages, Pg. 18

**Length:** 483 words

**Byline:** Randeep Ramesh , South Asia correspondent

### **Body**

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A candidate taking a tough line towards Sri Lanka's Tamil rebels took an early lead in presidential elections last night after a vote marred by violence and a boycott by the minority Tamil population.

Mahinda Rajapakse, prime minister since last year and a left-of-centre nationalist, had secured 51.6% of the vote, with about a tenth of ballots counted, to 47.2% for the pro-business opposition leader, Ranil Wickremesinghe.

Many of Mr Wickremesinghe's strongholds have still to be tallied, leaving the result of the election in the balance.

The race is seen as a referendum on how to forge lasting peace with the rebel Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (**LTTE**) and develop the tsunami-hit economy.

Tamils, who make up 15% of the population, were banned from voting by separatist guerrillas who said the poll concerned only the Sinhalese Buddhist majority. The boycott was particularly effective in the north, where the **Tamil Tigers**, who until 2002 fought a civil war, have their base. In Jaffna only 1,000 people voted out of an electorate of 700,000.

Mr Rajapakse takes a hard line with the **Tamil Tigers**. He has threatened to drop the Norwegian diplomats who brokered peace in 2002 and also to tear up the pact as it stands. In doing so he reached out to hardline Sinhalese, who the current president, Chandrika Kumaratunga, recently compared to Hitler.

Despite this stance, the **LTTE**'s chief rival, a breakaway faction run by a former separatist leader who commands a fighting force in the government-controlled east, has blessed Mr Rajapakse's bid.

This has led many to suspect that, if Mr Rajapakse becomes president, he will seek to split the northern and eastern Tamil forces.

Mr Wickremesinghe, the architect of a peace deal with the **LTTE**, has been more conciliatory and has wooed Tamil voters. The boycott, say analysts, will damage his chances. Violence also marred the voting, as two rebels blew themselves up in Sri Lanka's restive east, and several people were also injured in grenade attacks.

The peace process has looked increasingly fragile as a spate of killings has rocked the island in recent months. In August, the country's foreign minister was assassinated, and just a few weeks ago the head of military intelligence was shot in Colombo.

No one took responsibility but many suspect the **Tamil Tigers**.



## Hardliner takes early lead in Sri Lanka election

More than 13m people were eligible to vote in the election, Sri Lanka's fourth national poll in six years. Thirteen candidates stood but the two frontrunners are said to be way ahead.

The poll also ends the tenure of Ms Kumaratunga, who has dominated the island's politics since taking office 11 years ago and marks the end of a period of dynastic rule.

Ms Kumaratunga's father, SWRD Bandaranaike, became prime minister in the 1950s. After he was assassinated in 1959 - when Ms Kumaratunga was 14- her mother, Sirimavo Bandaranaike, became the world's first **female** prime minister.

**Load-Date:** November 18, 2005

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End of Document

## **Blast hits European monitors' parking garage in Sri Lanka; no casualties reported**

Associated Press International

January 14, 2006 Saturday 2:47 AM GMT

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**Section:** INTERNATIONAL NEWS

**Length:** 385 words

**Byline:** By KRISHAN FRANCIS, Associated Press Writer

**Dateline:** COLOMBO Sri Lanka

### **Body**

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An explosion went off in a parking garage used by European peace monitors overseeing Sri Lanka's shaky truce, damaging a vehicle, police said Saturday. No injuries were reported.

The blast came hours after the Norwegian-led monitors said they would not rule out the Tamil Tiger rebels' involvement in recent attacks on government forces.

Sri Lankan police guarding the garage in Batticaloa, 220 kilometers (135 miles) east of the capital, Colombo, reported the blast Friday night and said it damaged a vehicle used by the monitors, a city police official said on condition of anonymity in line with policy.

No comment was immediately available from the 60-member team of monitors from Norway, Sweden, Denmark, Finland and Iceland.

The mission is monitoring the Norway-brokered 2002 cease-fire between government and the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam, or **LTTE**, who fought since 1983 for a separate homeland for Sri Lanka's ethnic minority Tamils, claiming discrimination by the Sinhalese majority.

Subsequent peace talks stalled over postwar power-sharing disagreements, and about 70 government-armed personnel have been killed since Dec. 4 in a surge of violent attacks. The government blames the **Tamil Tigers**, who deny involvement.

Hours before Friday's blast, the monitors also raised the possibility of the Tigers' involvement.

"It is safe to say that **LTTE** involvement cannot be ruled out and we find the **LTTE**s indifference to these attacks worrying," the monitors said in a written statement.

On Thursday, nine soldiers were killed in an attack on a convoy in the country's north. The monitors called the killings "yet another blow to the cease-fire agreement," and said if the violence continues, "the cease-fire agreement will be over."

Meanwhile, a military convoy escaped an attempted anti-personnel mine attack by suspected **Tamil Tigers** Friday in northeastern Sri Lanka, said military spokesman Brig. Athula Jayawardane.

Blast hits European monitors' parking garage in Sri Lanka ; no casualties reported

Two mines were triggered to explode but failed to explode when they as troops returned to their base in Trincomalee, 230 kilometers (140 miles) northeast of the capital, Colombo, after visiting their families, Jayawardane said

A **female** rebel cadre suspected to have planted the mines was later arrested.

Sri Lanka's 19-year civil war claimed 65,000 lives and displaced 1.6 million people.

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

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End of Document

**Rebels bomb convoy after air strike on former orphanage: Tamil Tigers say  
61 girls died, 155 injured**

The Gazette (Montreal)

August 15, 2006 Tuesday

Final Edition

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**Section:** NEWS; Pg. A16

**Length:** 710 words

**Byline:** SIMON GARDNER, Reuters

**Dateline:** COLOMBO

## **Body**

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***Tamil Tigers*** attacked a Pakistan embassy convoy killing seven people yesterday, the Sri Lankan military said, and the two sides traded accusations over whether air raid victims were innocent teenagers or rebel fighters.

The bomb attack on the diplomatic convoy came hours after the Air Force attacked the grounds of a former orphanage, in a raid the Tamil rebels said killed 61 schoolgirls age 15 to 18 and injured 155 as they were receiving first aid training.

The military dismissed the claim, saying its jets had bombed a rebel training camp and killed 50 to 60 Tiger fighters. The military posted a photograph on its website which it said depicted Tamil schoolgirls taking weapons training.

Nordic truce monitors said that at the scene they had seen the bodies of just 19 youths, both male and ***female***, age 17 to 20. The United Nations Children's Fund said it had not had access to the dead, but that those injured were aged 16 to 19.

The incident came as the rebels and military fought artillery battles in the far north in the worst fighting since a 2002 truce which has given way to renewed civil war.

The blast in the capital, Colombo, was the second in a week. Officials said it looked like a suicide attack.

Four military personnel and three civilians were killed in the explosion, which bomb squad officials said was caused by a fragmentation mine inside a three-wheeled taxi. Seventeen others were injured.

"Definitely it's an ***LTTE*** (Tamil Tiger) attack to the Pakistan ambassador's car but they missed and the backup vehicle got caught," a military spokesperson said.

"It is perhaps because we support the (Sri Lankan) government," Pakistani High Commissioner Bashir Wali told Reuters. "We are against terrorism everywhere. It is all in that context, I think."

A defence analyst offered other theories.

Rebels bomb convoy after air strike on former orphanage: Tamil Tigers say 61 girls died, 155 injured

"Pakistan has been providing military hardware to Sri Lanka for some time," he said, adding: "I wouldn't rule out mistaken identity.

"It could be an opportunistic attack when they saw the military people in the car."

The government brought the start of the school holidays forward two weeks to today, which teachers said was because of security fears. And South Africa's cricket team wants to pull out of a triangular series and return home, team sources said.

The High Security Zone Residents Liberation Force, a presumed Tiger front group that says it wants the army out of civilian areas, said if the military targeted minority Tamils then bombs would explode in the majority Sinhalese south.

Aid workers estimate around 100,000 people have been displaced during three weeks of fighting. Dozens are confirmed dead, and many fear the eventual death toll will be far higher.

Yesterday the government accused the rebels of shelling civilian areas in the northern Jaffna peninsula. It said 88 troops had been killed in the area so far.

"They have mingled with civilians and are calling artillery fire onto the areas of the security forces," said Major Upali Rajapakse of the National Security Center. "It is falling in and around civilian areas. There has to be civilian dead."

He said the country's east was quiet but artillery rained down on Kayts island, just to the west of Jaffna town, and was being fired across a no-man's land that separates government from rebel territory around 32 kilometres to the east.

Jaffna residents flocked to shops to stockpile food after the army briefly lifted a curfew. With no prospect of fresh supplies from the south, prices of basic goods were soaring.

"We are used to being displaced, but this time it came about so suddenly we were ill-prepared," said 50-year-old fisherman Ledil Amaldas, who fled his coastal village and is staying with a relative in Jaffna.

Many of Sri Lanka's most prominent Tamils come from Jaffna and analysts say the Tigers are bent on eventually capturing a town that they have controlled in previous phases of a war which has killed more than 65,000 people since 1983.

UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan was "profoundly concerned" and urged all sides to return to the negotiating table, allow aid agencies free access and let civilians leave contested areas, a spokesperson said.

The blast in the capital shook buildings and the country's financial markets, with the Colombo stock market falling 2.4 per cent.

## Graphic

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Graphic/Diagram: (See hard copy for graphic)

**Load-Date:** August 15, 2006

***Sri Lankan army faces new woes from rebels; Ouster of Tamil Tigers from last stronghold could bring a jungle war of attrition, analysts say***

The Toronto Star  
July 13, 2007 Friday

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**Section:** WORLD AND COMMENT; Pg. AA01

**Length:** 782 words

**Byline:** Amal Jayasinghe, AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE ; REUTERS NEWS AGENCY

**Dateline:** COLOMBO

## **Body**

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The military's capture of the last Tamil Tiger rebel stronghold in eastern Sri Lanka is a boost for the government but could snare thousands of soldiers in a war of attrition, analysts said yesterday.

The rebels, from the minority Tamil community, appear to have melted away from an area of dense jungle where troops said they had won a battle giving them control of the Eastern province, an area of some 9,635 square kilometres.

But the rebels could now resort to hit-and-run attacks in the region after losing both the battle near the lagoon town of Batticaloa and the provincial territory they formerly controlled, experts said.

"It was a well-planned operation executed with minimum casualties," retired brigadier general Vipul Boteju said of the military advance, which involved months of aerial bombardments and ground attacks in the Thoppigala jungle.

"Troop morale is very high after this success, but holding the newly captured areas will require more men," he said.

The government had control of the Eastern province for the first time in over a decade, but there was still potential for trouble, the former general said.

This is because captured territory needs to be consolidated, but the remaining rebels in the area have become a more elusive, almost invisible enemy.

"It will be difficult to prevent infiltration and hit-and-run attacks," he said. "The (troop) numbers must be increased in the next three to four months or else there will be problems."

The Tamil Tiger rebels aim to cripple the island's economy with major attacks on military and economic targets, a top rebel leader told yesterday.

Tiger political wing leader S.P. Thamilselvan said peace was "not possible" with President Mahinda Rajapaksa, pouring cold water on international efforts aimed at halting a deadly new chapter in the two-decade civil war.

"Our targets would be in the future major military and economic structures of the government of Sri Lanka," Thamilselvan said in an interview in the rebels' northern stronghold of Kilinochchi.

Sri Lankan army faces new woes from rebels Ouster of Tamil Tigers from last stronghold could bring a jungle war of attrition, analysts say

"They will be targets which help the government sustain its military operations and military rule," he added.

"For instance (our) attack on the oil installations. That is one of the targets that will cripple the economy of Sri Lanka as well as the military capability of Sri Lanka, so such will be the tactic."

Defence analyst Namal Perera also said the military success had created new problems for the government.

"Now that the entire Eastern province is under government control, it must be responsible for law and order there," Perera said.

That was an additional burden requiring more manpower, he explained.

The extra responsibility could force the military to delay any planned offensives against the large Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (**LTTE**) mini-state in the north, he argued.

"As long as the army is tied down in the east, the **LTTE** has an assurance that the military will not make a push for the north," he said.

Sri Lanka's drawn out Tamil separatist conflict has shown that neither the rebels nor the security forces has enough men and material to fight simultaneously in the north and east.

The rebels are fighting for a separate homeland for ethnic Tamils in an area combining both northern and eastern provinces, which together account for one third of Sri Lanka's 65,000 square kilometres.

The **LTTE** admitted yesterday that its cadres had melted away from the eastern region, but warned that they would carry out guerrilla tactics.

Rebel spokesperson Rasiyah Ilanthiriyar told reporters that it was a setback for them to lose the east, but they were strengthening their forces in the island's north.

"Militarily, you can't call this an advantageous situation (for the government)," Ilanthiriyar said. "Because if you want to control one region, you may have to lose control over another region."

Rajapaksa's government has pledged to continue with its drive to destroy all Tiger military assets, and analysts say the focus of fighting is now shifting to the far north, which is largely controlled by Tiger rebels.

Rebels say they will use all of their arsenal - which includes suicide bombers and light aircraft that they smuggled into the country in pieces and reassembled - to battle on.

"Let the Tamil people live in their traditional homeland," Thamilselvan said. "Leave the Tamil people without any military occupation or persecution. That will be the day there is no war."

Government defence spokesperson Keheliya Rambukwella said that while the **LTTE** had suffered a major blow, the problems in the east were far from over.

"The threat ... is not completely eliminated because all they need is one terrorist to create trouble," Rambukwella said.

With files from Reuters

## Graphic

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Sri Lankan army faces new woes from rebels Ouster of Tamil Tigers from last stronghold could bring a jungle war of attrition, analysts say

ANURUDDHA LOKUHAPUARACHCHI reuters **Female** Tamil Tiger rebels gather at their base after overnight guard duty in Kilinochchi, northern Sri Lanka, yesterday.

**Load-Date:** July 13, 2007

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## **SA election impresses Tamil Tiger observers**

Sunday Times (South Africa)

April 18, 2004

Copyright 2004 Times Media Limited

**Section:** Politics; Pg. 98

**Length:** 303 words

**Byline:** Buddy Naidu

### **Body**

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BUDDY NAIDU

A DELEGATION of Sri Lanka's Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (**LTTE**) have given the South African electoral process the thumbs-up.

The five-member team, including two **women** from the organisation's military arm, were in the country as observers.

They were hosted by the Independent Electoral Commission.

The **LTTE** has strong links with the ANC because of its similar history.

In February, it was reported that the ANC were considering bringing an **LTTE** delegation to the country to campaign on their behalf for the Tamil-speaking vote.

The tiny Indian Ocean island has been racked by a bloody 20-year ethnic conflict between the Sinhalese government in the south and the **LTTE** in the north which has claimed around 64 000 lives.

On December 24 2001, the **LTTE** declared a ceasefire and signed an agreement with the government two months later.

Today the **LTTE** is trying to transform itself, much as the ANC did, from a military organisation into a political one.

Speaking at a voting station in Chatsworth this week, the secretary-general of the **Tamil Tigers'** peace secretariat, S Puleedevan, said he had been impressed by the smooth running of the elections and paid tribute to South Africa's growth as a democracy.

"In Sri Lanka, elections are synonymous with vote-rigging and intimidation and violence by the different parties. It is therefore amazing what a lot South Africa has achieved over a short period," said Puleedevan.

He said South Africa's conflict crisis management was a model that could be followed the world over.

"Much like the ANC, the **LTTE** would like to move towards a peace settlement and much has still to be done to promote the peace process."

## SA election impresses Tamil Tiger observers

He and compatriots Balasingham Yogarajah, Antun Panrajah, Thamilvilizhi Piyawardana and Malaimahal Thamaraiselvan visited several polling stations.

**Load-Date:** April 21, 2004

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End of Document

## 7 Canadians among 11 in Tiger net

The Toronto Star

August 25, 2006 Friday

Copyright 2006 Toronto Star Newspapers, Ltd.

**Section:** NEWS; Pg. A04

**Length:** 864 words

**Byline:** Surya Bhattacharya and Thulasi Srikanthan, Toronto Star

### **Body**

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Only three months ago, Thirukumaran Sinnathamby was preparing for his wedding to his high-school sweetheart.

Yesterday he was identified as the seventh Canadian caught in a joint FBI-RCMP operation this month that led to the arrests of 11 men.

Now, the newly married man sits in a U.S. prison with three other Canadians. Authorities link them to three Canadians arrested in Canada under provisional warrants, a first step in the extradition process to the U.S. Four Americans are also charged and being held in the United States.

All are accused of participating in a conspiracy to provide weapons and other materials to the Tamil Tigers, dubbed a terrorist group by Canada and the U.S.

A member of Sinnathamby's family identified him as Canadian.

On the surface, it seems like Sinnathamby had everything going for him: a beautiful wife, a freshly minted electrical engineering degree from the University of Waterloo and a job south of the border.

U.S. authorities allege Sinnathamby "used his bank account to launder funds from the LTTE" also known as the Tamil Tigers, and helped some of his co-accused to buy technology.

He is also alleged to have established accounts to purchase materials for the LTTE and "arranged to help smuggle scientific magazines" to an unnamed individual in LTTE areas of Sri Lanka. The Tamil Tigers are fighting Sri Lanka's military to establish a separate homeland.

Sinnathamby brings to four the number of students from Waterloo who are facing terrorism charges.

According to Sinnathamby's wedding website, he was born in Jaffna, Sri Lanka, where he lived until he was 13. Driven by the need to provide a better education for Sinnathamby and his brother, his parents left for Canada. Sinnathamby studied at L'Amoreaux Collegiate Institute in Scarborough when he first met his wife.

The news of his arrest came out of the blue to his family, who say the charges do not correspond with the man they know.

"He's not somebody like that, that's one thing I can tell you," said a female family member. "He has no bad history and he's always been helpful to people. This is something they must have gotten mixed up.

## 7 Canadians among 11 in Tiger net

"He's starting his life basically, he wouldn't screw it up."

At the University of Waterloo, administrators and students were stunned. "We are all shocked and surprised by the developments and dismayed," said Martin Van Nierop, a spokesman for Waterloo.

He said the university has been consulting with authorities as well as the Waterloo Tamil Students Association to monitor the situation.

"We have many Tamil students interested in social and community activities. It would be wrong to (paint) the organization and all the students with the same brush as the individuals involved in the arrests."

In Toronto yesterday, Brampton resident Piratheepan Nadarajah appeared in court, facing possible extradition on charges he was part of the alleged conspiracy. According to court documents, he was the fourth Canadian in a car attempting to cross the Canada-U.S. border in the Niagara area. The documents claim he planned to buy arms in Long Island, N.Y., but border officials turned him back because he had a criminal record. He took a taxi back to Toronto.

At the time of their arrests, the FBI found Nadarajah's cellphone number on some of the "telecommunication devices" of the other three suspects' - who successfully crossed the border - according to court documents. He was listed as "Peter Nadarajah," the documents say.

Wearing a red shirt and baggy jeans in court yesterday, Nadarajah scanned the crowd and stood with arms folded as lawyers briefly discussed his next court appearance.

Court documents state Nadarajah, nicknamed Nada, was under surveillance until his arrest Wednesday evening.

He has worked at Telephones To Go as a wireless specialist for five years. According to U.S. court documents, he was described by one of the accused as a "scientist" and technical expert.

"I knew this individual very well, on a close business relationship," said George Brody, Nadarajah's employer.

"He is not one I would've thought would be this. Authorities are often wrong. I am assuming this is not correct."

Nadarajah works flexible hours and Brody assumed he was making a sale somewhere when he didn't show up at work.. The document alleges Nadarajah is a co-conspirator with three Canadians who discussed buying arms, including ones to counter Kfir fighter-jets flown by the Sri Lankan military, with a man who was actually an undercover agent.

"The obvious connection to, and familiarity with, the intimate working of the LTTE demonstrated in this meeting, suggest that NADA would likely be welcomed and find shelter in LTTE controlled areas if he can make good his escape to Sri Lanka," RCMP officer Marwan Zogheib wrote in applying for the provision warrant.

In U.S. court documents, Mississauga resident Ramanan Mylvaganam, arrested Tuesday, is said to have smuggled materials to support the Tigers into Sri Lanka last year.

The documents allege Mylvaganam was to buy night vision equipment. Later, he is alleged to have worked with Suresh Sriskandarajah, who was arrested Monday, to buy submarine and warship design software, worth \$22,000, from a British firm.

## Graphic

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## 7 Canadians among 11 in Tiger net

In a photo posted on his personal website, Canadian Thirukumaran Sinnathamby poses in front of a picture of Tamil Tiger leader Velupillai Prabhakaran. Police allege the new groom and recent electrical engineering grad set up accounts to buy materiel for the **Tamil Tigers**.

**Load-Date:** August 25, 2006

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End of Document

**THE DEMONS THAT HAUNT SRI LANKA; Civil war in the jungle The deserted beaches are littered with rubbish. The jungles are burning, torched by troops trying to flush out the Tamil Tigers. Eighteen months after the tsunami, Justin Huggler reports from Trincomalee on the disaster confronting a seeming paradise**

The Independent (London)

May 3, 2006 Wednesday

First Edition

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**The**  **INDEPENDENT**

**Section:** NEWS; Pg. 32

**Length:** 1826 words

**Byline:** Justin Huggler

## **Body**

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The guide books say the beach at Uppuveli is the finest on Sri Lanka's east coast. The setting is the stuff of tropical island paradise, a graceful curve of white sand with palm trees leaning over it, and emerald water as far as the eye can see. But today the beach is covered in discarded rubbish. The hotels and beach huts are empty and boarded up, no tourists come here any more. As evening falls menacing packs of dogs roam the empty beach.

It has nothing to do with the tsunami that devastated Sri Lanka's beaches a year and a half ago. A different disaster is looming over Sri Lanka: a man-made disaster. The tourists are not coming here any more because Sri Lanka seems to be slipping inevitably back into civil war.

Tourists still flock to the other side of the islands, to the beaches of the south and west. You can still eat freshly grilled fish at a table on the water's edge, while the waves wash over your feet, or drink the water from a bright orange king coconut while you float in the Indian Ocean, or doze under a palm tree as the sun slowly sinks into the waves. The tsunami is a thing of the past, and paradise is back in business. But all the while there is an air of impending disaster.

If you drive through the jungle in the east, you can see herds of wild elephants crossing the road. Long-tailed monkeys watch you go by from the trees. At night, fireflies hang by the roadside, and green snakes are caught in the car's headlights as they slither across the tarmac. This is the unspoilt Sri Lanka tourists flock from around the world to see.

But these days even the elephants are on edge. They watch as Sri Lankan soldiers set fire to the foliage they feed on. The fires burn through the night and send blinding columns of smoke into the sky. The army is trying to clear the roads of hiding places for Tamil Tiger guerrillas, so they are burning the unspoiled jungles of Sri Lanka.

## THE DEMONS THAT HAUNT SRI LANKA Civil war in the jungle The deserted beaches are littered with rubbish. The jungles are burning, torched by troops trying to flu....

The tsunami on Boxing Day in 2004 was a defining moment. There was no compassion fatigue, the world shared in Sri Lanka's tragedy. The relief camp built for tsunami survivors just outside Sampoor village is full again. But this time it is sheltering people who fled air strikes on their village last week, more than 10,000 of them, using the makeshift lavatory facilities put up by international NGOs for those made homeless by the tsunami.

"I was in my house with my husband," says Nadaraja Parthipillai. "I heard a huge noise. My neighbour's house was hit, the Nahaiyas, and the whole family was killed, all 10 of them. Four of them were children. After we saw that we just started running and came here." Ms Parthipillai and her husband sleep in the open under the shelter of a palm tree. Like everyone else here, they say they are too scared to return home, afraid of more air strikes. At least 12 people died in the village last week. But Sampoor is not just any Sri Lankan village. It lies inside territory controlled by the **Tamil Tigers**, right on the frontline.

At least 64,000 people died during the two-decade war between the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (**LTTE**) and government forces, before an uneasy ceasefire was negotiated in 2002 by Norwegian mediators. That ceasefire has been slowly crumbling this year, until this week the European mission that monitors it admitted that while it is still technically in force, on the ground there is no longer a ceasefire.

The air strikes came after months of attacks on Sri Lankan security forces using remote-controlled mines and grenades, which culminated in the attempted assassination of the army chief by a **female** suicide bomber last week. The heavily pregnant woman entered the army headquarters in Colombo with explosives strapped to her body. Once inside, she detonated the bomb. At least eight people were killed, and the army chief is still in a serious condition.

Though they have strenuously denied responsibility, suicide bombing is the calling card of the **Tamil Tigers**. Long before Osama bin Laden or Hamas got in on the act, the **Tamil Tigers** were the militant group that first used suicide bombers deep inside their target's territory.

The attack was just the biggest in a series of strikes on Sri Lankan security forces. Last month, two British tourists were injured during a mine attack on a navy bus. The driver of the bus was killed, and it veered out of control into the minibus in which the Britons were travelling.

Every time the violence has begun to calm, there has been a new attack. Sri Lanka called off air strikes on Sampoor last week under intense pressure from its giant neighbour, India. But within days there were new attacks. On Monday, a remote-controlled mine exploded in Trincomalee's city centre. The target was a naval patrol, but a tuk-tuk auto-rickshaw bore the brunt of the blast, and four civilians were killed, as well as one sailor. It seems someone wants the violence to keep intensifying.

The Tigers deny responsibility for the attacks, but everyone in the diplomatic and aid community in Sri Lanka is convinced they are behind them. The international community has been trying all year to bring the two sides together for talks. At one point, they met in Geneva, in the first serious peace talks for years. But the Tigers have been refusing to travel to a second round of talks, citing government restrictions on their commanders travelling to meetings.

Crossing from government-held territory to the Tiger areas is a tense affair. At the front lines, barbed wire snakes across dusty fields. There is a government checkpoint with nervous soldiers. Then a short no-man's land, and you are inside Tiger territory.

There are only dirt roads inside the Tiger enclave at Sampoor, and there is little food - Sri Lankan journalists insist on loading up on biscuits before making the crossing. But the tiny enclave, only a few square miles, is fully administered by the Tigers - including a courthouse and government offices. And, amid the fields and bomb-damaged buildings, fighters in the tiger-stripe camouflage of one of the most effective guerrilla forces in the world. The Tigers have been fighting for more than two decades for a separate homeland for Sri Lanka's Tamil minority in the north and east of the country, saying they are discriminated against by the Sinhalese majority. At its height

THE DEMONS THAT HAUNT SRI LANKA Civil war in the jungle The deserted beaches are littered with rubbish. The jungles are burning, torched by troops trying to flu....

during the civil war, the LTTE controlled large areas of Sri Lanka, including the cities of Jaffna and Batticaloa. That is now reduced to a portion of the north, plus small enclaves, such as this, in the east.

The Tigers have carefully nurtured their mystique. Every guerilla fighter is issued with a cyanide suicide capsule the day he is accepted into the Tigers' military ranks - to take if he is ever captured alive. Suicide bombings, carried out by an elite unit known as the Black Tigers, have been at the heart of the Tigers' extraordinary effectiveness as guerrilla fighters.

Puli Kutty's ambition in life is to become a suicide bomber. Just 22 years old, he already wears the tiger-stripe uniform of the LTTE. He joined the Tiger ranks as a child soldier, at 14 - the Tigers say they do not recruit children any more, but international NGOs have accused them of continuing to do so. He says his three brothers were killed by Sri Lankan government forces. Puli Kutty is not his real name, it means Son of the Tiger. "I am ready for death," he says. "When I die I expect Tamil Eelam for our people one day." Tamil Eelam is the name the Tigers have given to the homeland they seek.

Talking to Puli Kutty is unsettling. There is none of the talk of a guaranteed place in heaven for martyrs you hear from Muslim suicide bombers. He says he is not religious and believes that there is nothing after death. "When I make a suicide attack, only one person can inflict major losses on the enemy," he says calmly. "If we fight conventionally, we will lose several people to inflict the same losses.

There is a sort of fanaticism to the young man, he is utterly devoted to the cause. The only proviso he makes is that he would not want children to die in any suicide bombing he carries out.

The head of the Tigers' political wing in Sampoor, S Elilam, does not shed any light on why Sri Lanka is lurching back towards civil war. He sticks to the official line: the Tigers have not been involved in any of the attacks. "We have not broken the ceasefire," he insists, "we are maintaining the ceasefire agreement. It was broken by the Sri Lankan government. One army commander was injured and the Sri Lankan government is targeting the entire Tamil people with these air strikes," he says. "The LTTE has a right to defend the lives of Tamils. The government is there to defend the Sinhalese, so who is going to defend the Tamils?" On the drive back from Sampoor, a huge tree is burning, the victim of a grenade attack only minutes before I passed by.

Jehan Perera of the National Peace Council, a widely respected Sinhalese peace campaigner, says there is "absolutely no doubt" the Tigers are behind the attacks on the Sri Lankan military. "The slide back towards war is primarily because of the LTTE's loss of confidence that it can achieve its objective through peace talks," he says. "They say they have met six or seven times with the government but the talks have yielded nothing. So they have gone back to what brought them the best results: military strength." The Tigers have reduced their original demand for an independent homeland to autonomy within a federal Sri Lanka, but the government has refused to countenance it. Mahinda Rajapaksa, the Sri Lankan President, was elected last year on a promise not give in to Tiger demands.

"What the LTTE is trying to achieve from the current violence is either to provoke a full-scale war, or to make the cost of a military campaign so high for the government that it will give in to their demands," says Dr Perera. In particular, the Tigers are demanding the government reins in the activities of a breakaway Tiger faction led by Colonel Karuna - it is an open secret in Sri Lanka that the government is supporting his renegade faction against the Tigers. Col Karuna, which is the nom de guerre for Vinayagamoothi Mu-ralitharan, is formerly the Tigers' most senior field commander and represents a real threat to Tiger security.

In a full-scale war, the Tigers may well believe they can win back the major towns they once controlled, Jaffna and Batticaloa.

"The present situation can't continue," says Dr Perera. "The only option the government has is to strike the LTTE at its roots, and that means war. I guess there is another option, for the international community to find some way to put pressure." With the violence intensifying by the day, the future looks bleak for paradise. The repercussions of



THE DEMONS THAT HAUNT SRI LANKA Civil war in the jungle The deserted beaches are littered with rubbish. The jungles are burning, torched by troops trying to flu....

the violence in the east are already being felt along the beach resorts of the south and west. As the sun sets and the tourists order another round of drinks, the party is still going on. But it may not be for much longer.

## Graphic

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A Tamil rebel guards his territory in Sampoor, the eastern port of Trincomalee. Above, one of the idyllic beaches that bring thousands of tourists to Sri Lanka BUDDHIKA WEERASINGHE/REUTERS

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

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End of Document

## **Seven villagers shot dead in Sri Lanka**

Agence France Presse -- English

April 12, 2007 Thursday 12:49 PM GMT

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**Length:** 211 words

**Dateline:** COLOMBO, April 12 2007

### **Body**

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Suspected Tamil Tiger rebels Thursday shot dead seven villagers of the majority Sinhalese community in northern Sri Lanka on the eve of the traditional New Year, police said.

Gunmen from the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (**LTTE**) raided the village of Avarantalawa in the district of Vavuniya where heavy fighting raged between troops and **Tamil Tigers**, police said.

Six **women** and a man were shot dead by the gunmen who escaped before constables reached the area, a police official said from Vavuniya, 260 kilometres (162 miles) north of here.

The attack came ahead of Saturday's traditional New Year shared by the majority Sinhalese and the minority Tamil communities. The attack came despite stepped-up security ahead of the New Year to guard against rebel attacks.

Police said Thursday's victims had been driven out of their homes 24 years ago and had returned in 2002 following a truce between troops and **Tamil Tigers**.

However, the ceasefire is now observed only on paper with more than 4,000 people killed in escalating violence since December 2005.

On Saturday, a roadside bomb attack killed eight people and wounded 25 in the troubled Vavuniya district. The military blamed the Tigers who denied the allegation and in turn said the security forces were responsible.

**Load-Date:** April 13, 2007

## *Sri Lanka vows to keep bombing Tiger positions as conflict escalates*

Agence France Presse -- English

April 26, 2006 Wednesday 10:45 AM GMT

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**Length:** 683 words

**Dateline:** COLOMBO, April 26 2006

### **Body**

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Sri Lanka vowed to keep attacking Tamil rebel targets with coordinated air, sea and land forces including artillery duels in the restive northeast Wednesday amid fears of full-scale war.

The fighting between the government and Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) was sparked after the guerrillas seriously wounded the army chief and scores of others and killed 10 people in a suicide bombing at army headquarters Tuesday.

"If the LTTE continues attacking, there will be coordinated retaliation in the form of defence," Plan Implementation Minister Keheliya Rambukwella said. "This will continue as long as the LTTE targets the security forces."

However, the government said it was still committed to a negotiated settlement to Sri Lanka's long-running Tamil separatist conflict which has claimed over 60,000 lives in the past three decades including many during a ceasefire in place since 2002.

"The ceasefire agreement is still on," Media Minister Anura Yapa said. "We are trying our best through the Norwegian facilitator, the truce monitors and the (international) donors to bring the LTTE to the negotiating table."

Defence ministry spokesman Prasad Samarasinghe said air attacks targeted the northeastern district of Trincomalee where the military bombed a cluster of LTTE boats late Tuesday.

Tiger rebels launched a mortar attack in response, killing three civilians and wounding 13, Samarasinghe said.

Israeli-built Kfir jets and Ukranian MiG-27 aircraft carried out the air attacks while naval gun boats and army artillery units also exchanged fire.

More than 15,000 people fled their homes in the Tamil Tiger-held northeastern region following Wednesday's air strikes, the pro-rebel Tamilnet website reported.

Washington led international condemnation of Thursday's spectacular bomb attack blamed on a "Black Tiger" female suicide bomber who pretended to be pregnant.

## Sri Lanka vows to keep bombing Tiger positions as conflict escalates

"It's regrettable that the Tamil Tigers have decided to restart the war instead of restarting the peace process," US Assistant Secretary of State for South and Central Asian Affairs Richard Boucher said.

"We are in touch with governments around the world to bring to bear whatever pressure we can on the Tamil Tigers to abandon this course of action."

The LTTE said the bombings violated the Norwegian-brokered ceasefire agreement and asked truce monitors if Colombo had declared full-scale war, Tamilnet said.

The LTTE's Trincomalee district leader S. Elilan late Tuesday asked the Swedish-led Sri Lanka Monitoring Mission to "clarify" whether the military had launched a "full-scale war violating the ceasefire agreement".

Rambukwella said the female suicide bomber faked pregnancy to enter military headquarters in the capital. Mothers-to-be entering the Army Hospital for the weekly maternity day are not subject to stringent security checks, he said.

The suicide attack put intense pressure on the already shaky ceasefire.

At least 80 people have died in bombings in the past two weeks while Tamil rebels say 70 civilians have been killed by pro-government militia or security forces, a charge denied by the military.

Last week the Tigers indefinitely pulled out of planned peace talks in Switzerland, accusing the government of attacks on Tamil civilians and complaining about transport arrangements for internal rebel meetings.

"This attack is yet another serious blow to the ceasefire agreement and the peace process," the Monitoring Mission said in a statement before the government launched retaliatory strikes.

President Mahinda Rajapakse vowed to stand up to "terrorism" in a televised address to the nation after the Colombo bombing.

A group of humanitarian agencies Wednesday asked both sides to show restraint.

"The attempt on the life of the commander of the army, the resumption of air, sea and artillery attacks by the government of Sri Lanka are all acts which severely impact on the spirit and intent of the ceasefire," the Consortium of Humanitarian Agencies said.

The Tigers are fighting for a homeland for the Tamil minority in the northeast, parts of which already fall under the de facto control of the guerrilla group.

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

## **SRI LANKAN GOVT, TIGERS TALK ENTER THIRD DAY**

Malaysia General News

January 08, 2003, Wednesday

Copyright 2003 Pertubuhan Berita Nasional Malaysia

**Length:** 449 words

### **Body**

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#### SRI LANKAN GOVT, TIGERS TALK ENTER THIRD DAY

BANGKOK, Jan 8 (OANA/PTI) -- Sri Lankan Government and **Tamil Tigers** began their third day of peace negotiations here Wednesday, a day after **LTTE** pulled out of a key sub-committee on de-escalation.

A Sri Lankan Government negotiator said the talks were continuing and Tuesday's move by the **LTTE** was not a setback.

Tigers' Chief negotiator Anton Balasingham Tuesday night said that both sides were engaging in constructive and cordial talks and emphasised that there was "no crisis, no problem."

The Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam said that it would immediately withdraw from the sub-committee on De-escalation and Normalisation to protest the "unreasonable and unacceptable demands" of the Sri Lankan security forces.

The Tigers want the government to shut down military camps in high security zones in Jaffna peninsula to enable thousands of displaced persons to return. The Government wants the **LTTE** to disarm first, which the rebel group has refused at this stage.

Decommissioning of the Tiger's armed forces before a peaceful resolution of the conflict was unfair and unacceptable, Balasingham said.

The two sides Tuesday agreed to focus on the resettlement of persons displaced outside the high security zones.

Balasingham said the Tigers will also boycott a meeting scheduled for Jan 14 by Scandinavian truce monitors, which was designed to thrash out differences between the rebels and security forces.

Sri Lanka's chief negotiator at the talks G.L. Peiris said the two sides had agreed to set up a committee on the rights of **women** and children. The panel will comprise equal number of representatives from both sides.

The Norway-sponsored peace talks are now in the third round. Civil war in Sri Lanka spanning the last 20 years has claimed over 60,000 lives and displaced hundreds of thousands especially in the North and East of the island.

Meanwhile, sources said the Sri Lankan Government and the **Tamil Tigers** have agreed to look into a report being finalised by a retired Indian army general Satish Nambiar about security issues and deescalation in Jaffna.

Peiris said the Colombo government and Tamil Tiger rebels decided to wait for an assessment from an "independent" authority on a question that has threatened to deadlock their peace talks.

## SRI LANKAN GOVT, TIGERS TALK ENTER THIRD DAY

"We are awaiting a report from an independent expert who will give us valuable advice," Peiris said Tuesday.

Official sources said Peiris was referring to retired Indian army general Lieutenant General Satish Nambiar. He had been commissioned last month by Colombo to assess security implications in the Jaffna peninsula, they said.

**Load-Date:** January 9, 2003

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End of Document

## **Sri Lankan leader vows to 'wipe out terrorists': report**

Agence France Presse -- English

November 29, 2007 Thursday 3:17 AM GMT

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**Length:** 294 words

**Dateline:** TOKYO, Nov 29 2007

### **Body**

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Sri Lankan President Mahinda Rajapakse has vowed to "wipe out terrorists" amid fears of a return to all-out war with the Tamil Tiger rebels, a newspaper said Thursday.

"We put pressure on the group to give up its arms and enter the political mainstream. Terrorists must be wiped out from the Earth," Rajapakse told Japan's Asahi Shimbun ahead of a visit to Tokyo next month.

But he said he was willing to negotiate with the **Tamil Tigers** if they returned to talks.

"We are ready to negotiate," he said.

The Asahi said it conducted the interview on November 15 in Colombo, before the latest surge in fighting.

At least 18 people were killed Wednesday in two bomb attacks blamed on the **Tamil Tigers**, including one by a **female** suicide bomber targetting a government minister from the Tamil minority.

On Tuesday, reclusive Tigers 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.

The **Tamil Tigers** have been fighting for 35 years for a Tamil homeland in the Sinhala-majority island in a conflict that has left tens of thousands of people dead.

Japan has been the biggest donor to Sri Lanka since the launch of the now moribund peace process, raising 4.5 billion dollars in foreign aid pledges for the island in 2003.

Rajapakse said he would speak to Japanese officials during his December 8-10 visit about assisting areas the government has recaptured from the rebels, formally known as the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam.

"In the areas that the **LTTE** once occupied, people's living standards must be raised," Rajapakse said.

He said he would seek further Japanese assistance in infrastructure, education, health and agriculture for the war-torn areas.

Sri Lankan leader vows to 'wipe out terrorists': report

**Load-Date:** November 29, 2007

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## **SRI LANKA: WARRING SIDES MUST LET AID REACH CIVILIANS**

US Fed News

August 21, 2006 Monday 6:32 AM EST

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**Length:** 807 words

**Byline:** US Fed News

**Dateline:** COLOMBO, Sri Lanka

### **Body**

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Human Rights Watch issued the following news release:

The Sri Lankan government and the armed opposition Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (**LTTE**) must allow humanitarian aid to reach thousands of civilians trapped in the embattled northern Jaffna peninsula, Human Rights Watch said today.

Fighting in Jaffna since August 11 has left the peninsula's 500,000 residents with dwindling supplies of food and water and no ability to go to safe areas. There has been little or no electricity or fuel. About 40,000 people in Jaffna are believed to have fled their homes but remain in the conflict area.

"The fighting in Jaffna has had its biggest impact on the civilian population," said Sam Zarifi, Asia research director at Human Rights Watch. "Both the government and the **LTTE** must promptly act to allow the delivery of food, water and medicine."

According to international aid agencies, including the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, the humanitarian situation on the Jaffna peninsula is reaching crisis levels. The Sri Lanka armed forces and the **LTTE**, also known as the **Tamil Tigers**, have closed the main access road to the peninsula, which goes through **LTTE**-controlled territory. Aircraft flights except by military helicopters have also ceased due to the fighting. The government has loaded a ship to carry relief supplies to Jaffna but its departure from Colombo has been postponed several times.

Under international humanitarian law, parties to a conflict are required to provide for the basic necessities of the civilian population under their control. They are obliged to allow and assist impartial humanitarian agencies to supply food, medical supplies and other essentials to civilians at risk. The belligerent parties must consent to allowing relief operations to take place, and may not refuse such consent on arbitrary grounds. They can take steps to control the content and delivery of humanitarian aid, such as to ensure that consignments do not include weapons. However, deliberately impeding relief supplies is prohibited.

Amid heavy fighting in the peninsula, there are serious concerns that civilians will not be protected from harm, Human Rights Watch said. International humanitarian law requires parties to a conflict to take all necessary precautions to protect civilians against the dangers resulting from armed hostilities. They must to the extent feasible avoid locating military forces near civilians and remove civilians from the vicinity of military objectives. It is unlawful to prevent civilians from leaving areas close to military targets.

## SRI LANKA : WARRING SIDES MUST LET AID REACH CIVILIANS

Human Rights Watch also expressed concern that sufficient humanitarian assistance has not reached conflict areas in the eastern districts of Trincomalee and Batticaloa, where thousands of displaced persons fled fighting earlier this month. According to the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees, at least 170,000 Sri Lankans have fled their homes in the north and east since the fighting in the country intensified.

Local and international aid organizations have increasingly been the target of threats, harassment and violence that hinders their ability to assist the population. The possibility that international organizations might permanently depart contested areas in the north and east has fueled fears among civilians for their safety. Recent incidents include:

- \* The execution-style murder of 17 Sri Lankan members of the international aid agency Action Against Hunger (Action Contre la Faim) on August 4 following fighting in Muttur in Trincomalee district;
- \* The blocking and harassment of several aid convoys to internally displaced persons by local authorities in Trincomalee district and other areas in August;
- \* Grenade attacks by unidentified persons on the offices of three international organizations on May 21 in Muttur;
- \* Threats seemingly made by the **Tamil Tigers** against **women** aid workers in several eastern towns in April.

Government officials and various political parties have contributed to an atmosphere of hostility against nongovernmental organizations by politically motivated criticism of aid agencies for delays in projects for victims of the 2004 tsunami.

"Threats and violence against aid organizations have made a bad humanitarian situation worse," Zarifi said. "Unless the government and the **Tamil Tigers** ensure such attacks stop, civilians in need will pay an unacceptably high price."

Human Rights Watch has called for an international human rights monitoring mission to Sri Lanka under the auspices of the United Nations to publicly report on violations of international law by all sides. An international monitoring presence could help deter abuses, provide systematic documentation of rights violations, and address the problem of impunity that has resulted in cycles of violence and reprisal in Sri Lanka.

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:** September 12, 2006

## *Sri Lanka parliament urged to remove World Bank representative*

Xinhua General News Service

March 9, 2005 Wednesday 3:00 AM EST

Copyright 2005 Xinhua News Agency

**Section:** WORLD NEWS; Political

**Length:** 369 words

**Dateline:** COLOMBO

### **Body**

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Sri Lankan government's main ally has urged the country's parliament to urge the world bank to remove its Sri Lanka representative if he does not withdraw press remarks as regards the Tamil Tigers which allegedly impinge on the country's sovereignty.

Wimal Weerawansa, the parliamentary leader of the Marxist JVP or the People's Liberation Front, told parliament Wednesday that Peter Harrold, the country director of the World Bank must be asked to withdraw his comments made to the local Sunday Times if not the World Bank authorities must be urged to remove him from Sri Lanka.

Harrold was quoted by the Sunday Times as saying "given the fact that there is an officially recognized LTTE-controlled area, a kind of unofficial state, and since it is a party to the ceasefire agreement the LTTE has the status of a legitimate stake holder".

Harrold's subsequent explanation has not satisfied the JVP. In a statement issued Monday, Harrold said "I never used the phrase" a kind of unofficial state.

"A careful review of a recording of the interview shows that what I said was that" given that there is such a thing as the LTTE-controlled area -- that's an official statement, an officially recognized part of the country is the LTTE-controlled area.

"There is an enormous difference between recognizing the LTTE's role in this process (which we and the Government do) and recognizing an unofficial state, which we do not," he added.

The JVP which holds 39 seats in the ruling United People's Freedom Alliance (UPFA) are bitterly opposed to direct peace negotiations with the LTTE rebels that would allow any form of concessions to the LTTE.

Their hardline stance has proved to be a stumbling block for the efforts by the Sri Lankan President Chandrika Kumaratunga to resume the stalled peace negotiations.

The JVP two weeks ago warned that they would quit the government if Kumaratunga opted to resume the Norwegian backed negotiations on LTTE's terms.

Not to be outdone the Sri Lankan President whilst addressing her Freedom Party's women's day rally Tuesday reiterated her commitment for a negotiated settlement despite opposition from her main ally.

Sri Lanka parliament urged to remove World Bank representative

**Load-Date:** March 10, 2005

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End of Document

## *Air strikes target Tamil Tigers after suicide blast*

The Independent (London)

April 26, 2006 Wednesday

First Edition

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# The INDEPENDENT

**Section:** NEWS; Pg. 35

**Length:** 504 words

**Byline:** Dilip Ganguly in Colombo

## **Body**

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Sri Lankan military jets have launched air strikes against areas held by the *Tamil Tigers* after a suicide bomb attack targeting the country's senior military general.

The *female* bomber killed eight people and injured 27 others, including Lt-Gen Sarath Fonseka, said a military spokesman.

A rebel official and witnesses said the military responded within hours with air strikes and mortar fire in the guerrilla-held region of Trincomalee, 135 miles north-east of Colombo. "There are at least two aircraft dropping bombs into our areas and there is shelling from army camps nearby," a rebel spokesman said by telephone from Trincomalee.

The Defence Ministry in Colombo declined to comment, but witnesses who live in nearby areas confirmed the air strikes and shelling. No reports of casualties or damage were immediately available.

Earlier, a Tamil Tiger *female* suicide, pretending to be pregnant to conceal explosives, triggered a blast near a car carrying Lt-Gen Fonseka, the commander of the army, at military headquarters in the capital. He suffered serious abdominal injuries, a hospital official said. He was operated on by 10 surgeons and his condition was stable, said Dr Hector Weerasinghe of Colombo's National Hospital.

The bomber died instantly. It was not clear whether she was included in the figure of eight dead.

The attack and apparent military retaliation are certain to put further pressure on the country's four-year-old ceasefire, which

has been threatened by a wave of violence this month that has killed at least 89 people, including at least 43 soldiers and police.

European ceasefire monitors said the suicide attack "could jeopardise any possibility for future talks" between the government and the rebels. "This attack is yet another blow to the ceasefire agreement and the peace process," the monitors said in a statement.

## Air strikes target Tamil Tigers after suicide blast

Lt-Gen Fonseka, a battle-hardened soldier with 35 years in the infantry, was appointed after President Mahinda Rajapakse took office in November.

The suicide bomber was able to enter the area by presenting fake identification and saying she had an appointment for a pregnancy examination at the army hospital inside the complex, said other officials, speaking on condition of anonymity. There was no claim of responsibility. The Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam, whose suicide bombers are known as Black Tigers, rarely admit such attacks.

The rebels staged their first suicide attack in July 1987, when a rebel, 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 killed the Sri Lankan president Ranasinghe Premadasa, the former Indian prime minister Rajiv Gandhi and dozens of others.

Last week, the rebels backed out of peace talks scheduled to start on Monday in Geneva, citing attacks on ethnic Tamil civilians and other disputes with the government.

A Norwegian-brokered ceasefire halted the war in 2002. More than 65,000 people were killed before the ceasefire was signed. ap

## Graphic

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A victim of the bomb attack is taken to hospital EPA

**Load-Date:** April 26, 2006

**Sri Lankan government, Tamil Tigers set to conclude sixth round of talks with preliminary map for sharing power**

Associated Press International

March 20, 2003 Thursday

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**Section:** INTERNATIONAL NEWS

**Length:** 427 words

**Byline:** BETH DUFF-BROWN; Associated Press Writer

**Dateline:** HAKONE, Japan

## **Body**

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Sri Lankans must share power with **Tamil Tigers** if they want lasting peace, the government's chief negotiator said on the eve of the final-day talks Friday with the rebels, who have waged war for a separate homeland for more than 19 years.

Sharing fiscal and political power with the **Tamil Tigers** under a federal system is possibly the most complex concession the government must make if it wants to end one of Asia's longest and most violent civil wars.

The rebels began fighting for a separate homeland for the ethnic Tamil minority on the island-nation off the southern tip of India in 1983, but now say they will settle for autonomy in a federal state.

While most minority Tamils and Muslims support a federal power-sharing agreement between the government and **Tamil Tigers**, the majority Sinhalese are opposed to the deal, according to a poll released earlier this week.

But Peiris insisted Sri Lankans were more concerned about peace.

"If one is talking about a political solution, one has to talk of power sharing," he said after talks Thursday. "We are convinced that the people of the country are prepared to accept a federal system."

Representatives of both sides say they've tasted life without war and are determined to end the ethnic conflict that has claimed nearly 65,000 lives and devastated the island's economy and infrastructure.

The government and Liberation Tigers of Tamileelam were to conclude the sixth round of talks Friday in Hakone, a quiet town in the foothills of Mount Fuji. The talks were launched in September in Thailand and a truce between the two sides has held firm for more than a year.

After discussions Thursday, Peiris said both sides had preliminary discussions about how the Tamil-controlled regions in the north and east, and remainder of the island under government control would be represented in a bicameral legislature.

Sri Lanka presently has a one-house Parliament. A bicameral legislature consisting of two chambers would require an amendment to the constitution, which in turn must get a two-thirds majority in Parliament.

Sri Lankan government, Tamil Tigers set to conclude sixth round of talks with preliminary map for sharing power

The Tigers accuse the majority Sinhalese, who are predominantly Buddhist, of discrimination in education and jobs against the country's 3.2 million minority Tamils, most of whom are Hindu and live in the north.

The government accuses the rebels of human rights abuses, such as recruiting children into their ranks and using women as suicide bombers, who have carried out some of the worst attacks of the civil war.

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On the Net:

Tamil Web site: [www.TamilNet.com](http://www.TamilNet.com).

Government site: [www.peaceinsrilanka.com](http://www.peaceinsrilanka.com)

**Load-Date:** March 21, 2003

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End of Document



## **Tamil support hit by death, arrests**

The Australian (Australia)

May 3, 2007 Thursday

All-round Country Edition

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**Section:** LOCAL; Pg. 5

**Length:** 484 words

**Byline:** Natalie O'Brien

### **Body**

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MATP

THE top tier of the **Tamil Tigers** support network in Australia has been dismantled following the sudden death of the Tigers' Melbourne-based leader and the arrest of two alleged members.

TAFE lecturer Thillainadarajah Jeyakumar, 54, the head of the Tigers in Australia, died of a heart attack in March. Police at the time were investigating alleged illegal fundraising for the Sri Lankan separatist group.

It is understood that Jeyakumar, who was an IT lecturer at Frankston's Chisholm TAFE, had been targeted by ASIO investigators over his activities.

Jeyakumar was also a member of the Melbourne-based charity, Tamil Co-ordinating Committee, which is suspected of sending funds raised for the victims of the Boxing Day tsunami to the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam or **Tamil Tigers**. The committee has denied this.

The two men charged this week with terrorism-related offences -- Sivarajah Yathavan, 36, and Aruran Vinayagamoorthy, 32 -- were also members of the TCC.

They have been charged with intentionally being members of the mainly Hindu **Tamil Tigers**.

The pair are the first non-Muslims to be charged under Australian terror laws.

They have also been charged with providing financial and material support between July 2004 and this year to the group under the guise of raising money for victims of the Boxing Day tsunami.

The **Tamil Tigers** have been fighting for two decades for an independent homeland in the north and east of Sri Lanka.

Although the group is not a proscribed terrorist organisation in Australia, it is considered to be engaged in terrorist activity and it is illegal to fund them.

Terrorism expert Rohan Gunaratna praised the Australian investigation into the Tigers.

## Tamil support hit by death, arrests

"For a long time the Australian Government has been reluctant to act against non-Muslim terrorist groups," Dr Gunaratna said.

"At last Australia is acting. It is good that Australia is taking responsibility."

Jeyakumar died on March 29, the same day Tiger rebels used light aircraft to bomb key targets in and around Sri Lanka's capital Colombo, injuring several people.

It has been reported that his coffin was draped with the Tigers flag at his funeral last month.

He was posthumously given one of the highest awards by the Tigers, the title of Maamaniathar (Great Human Being), which experts say is given only to die-hard Tigers agents.

He is understood to be one of a handful to have received the award. Other recipients include the father of the female suicide bomber known as Dhanu, who killed Indian prime minister Rajiv Gandhi in 1991.

Jeyakumar sparked the interest of ASIO officers when he ordered hang-gliders from NSW and then shipped them to Malaysia.

Dr Gunaratna said during Jeyakumar's leadership in Australia the Tamil Tigers were able to build their air capability.

"The first light aircraft and mini-helicopters were purchased from Australia by the LTTE during the peace process in the mid 1990s," he said.

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

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End of Document

## *Sri Lanka launches airstrikes against Tamil rebels*

Guardian.com

April 26, 2006

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theguardian

**Length:** 544 words

**Highlight:** Sri Lankan air force jets and artillery units have launched attacks on Tamil-held areas of the country, prompting fears of a return to full-scale war on the island.

### **Body**

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Sri Lankan air force jets and artillery units have launched attacks on Tamil-held areas of the country, prompting fears of a return to full-scale war on the island.

The Sri Lankan government said the strikes, which began on Tuesday night, were a "containment action" in retaliation for attacks on military patrol boats off the north-eastern port of Trincomalee in recent days.

The offensive also followed the most dramatic Tamil strike on Sri Lanka's government in five years, in which a **female** suicide bomber blew herself up yesterday inside the army headquarters in Colombo, killing nine and wounding the country's military chief, who is currently in a stable condition following surgery.

The air strikes prompted leaders of the **Tamil Tigers** - known in full as the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (**LTTE**) - to declare a possible resumption of hostilities. The attacks are Sri Lanka's first official military action against the rebels since a ceasefire was declared in 2002.

"It is like a war situation in Trincomalee. If the attacks continue, the **LTTE** will be forced to take military defensive action," the head of the Tigers' peace secretariat, S Puleedevan, told Reuters.

In a statement on the TamilNet website, the Tigers' regional chief for Trincomalee, S Elilan, called on the Sri Lanka monitoring mission, which polices the ceasefire, to consider "whether the Sri Lanka army has launched a full-scale war on the **LTTE**".

The head of the mission, Ulf Henricsson, said the ceasefire was still in force, but added that peace talks would be difficult if air strikes continued and a resumption of war was possible.

"We still have a valid ceasefire agreement. No party has ended it, but of course it is not a ceasefire right now," he told Reuters.

The TamilNet website reported that up to 15 people had been killed and 15,000 people from villages close in Muttur, south of Trincomalee, had fled their homes following the army's offensive.

Some aid groups were pulling their workers out of the area, which was one of the worst hit by the 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami, and border crossings into rebel-held areas were closed.

## Sri Lanka launches airstrikes against Tamil rebels

More than 100 people have been killed in communal in Trincomalee this month, with the **Tamil Tigers** blamed for a string of landmine attacks in the city centre and Sri Lankan military and police accused of standing by while mobs attacked Tamil civilians.

The city lies in the heart of Tiger-controlled territory, but is under the control of the Sri Lankan government.

More than 65,000 people were killed in Sri Lanka's 23-year civil war before the 2002 ceasefire agreement brought a reduction in hostilities.

Hindu and Muslim Tamil groups in the island's north and north-east seek an independent state separate from the Buddhist Sinhalese majority in the rest of the country.

A Sri Lankan military analyst and former head of the country's air force said that a return to open warfare was on the cards if the military operation continued.

"If the operation is limited to certain areas to frighten the **LTTE** and to keep them away, it might not escalate," retired Air Marshall Harry Goonetilleke said.

"But if these operations are enlarged and kill substantial number of rebel cadres or their sympathisers, then I think it will lead to full-scale hostilities," he added.

**Load-Date:** April 26, 2006

## **Sri Lanka launches air strikes on Tamil rebels**

Agence France Presse -- English

April 25, 2006 Tuesday 5:35 PM GMT

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**Length:** 617 words

**Dateline:** COLOMBO, April 26 2006

### **Body**

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Sri Lanka launched air and naval strikes on Tamil rebels Tuesday in retaliation for a failed assassination attempt on the army chief that left 10 people dead and risked returning the country to war.

The strikes came after a **female** suicide bomber blew herself up at the army headquarters killing at least 10 people, critically wounding army chief Lieutenant General Sarath Fonseka, and injuring 30 others.

Sri Lankan President Mahinda Rajapakse was unbowed, vowing to stand tough in the face of terrorism as he blamed Tamil Tiger rebels for the attack.

"Friends, no type of terrorism will frighten me," he said in a televised address to the nation.

"Similarly, I and my government will not be brought to our knees by whatever challenge that we face.

"I emphasize and caution that one should avoid mistaking our desire for peace and our responsibility to achieve it as a government, as weakness."

His address came as security forces retaliated with air strikes on suspected rebel positions in the island's restive northeastern district of Trincomalee.

The head of the government body for co-ordinating the shaky peace process in Sri Lanka, Palitha Kohona, said the military response had also come after the rebels had fired on army bases in Trincomalee.

"The airforce and naval action is to deter and contain the **LTTE** from carrying out further provocative attacks," said Kohona, the Director General of the Peace Secretariat. There were no immediate reports of casualties.

Asked if the strikes meant an end to the four-year ceasefire between Colombo and the **Tamil Tigers**, Kohona said the government remained committed to the Norwegian-brokered peace process and expected the rebels to return to talks.

But Tamil politician Dharmalingam Sidhathan, himself a former rebel, said the high-profile attacks signaled a return to full-scale hostilities.

## Sri Lanka launches air strikes on Tamil rebels

"You have the LTTE carrying out an attack inside the army camp and the government retaliating with air strikes," Sidhathan said. "If this is not war, what (else can you) ... call it."

Scandinavian truce monitors, who tried and failed to arrange a meeting this month in Switzerland between Colombo and the Tigers to rescue the ceasefire agreement, warned that the peace process was in deep trouble.

Fonseka was riding in a silver Peugeot 406, escorted by Land Rover Defender jeeps packed with armed soldiers, when the female suicide bomber struck.

"Five of his bodyguards who escorted the car on motorcycles were killed on the spot," a police official said.

"The commander was critically wounded," police chief Chandra Fernando told AFP.

A doctor who treated Fonseka said he was in a "stable" condition after surgery to remove shrapnel from his chest and abdomen.

"This attack is yet another serious blow to the ceasefire agreement and the peace process," the Sri Lanka Monitoring Mission said in a statement before the retaliatory strikes were launched.

Relatives of soldiers being treated at the army hospital are allowed into the high security compound for visits and police said the suicide bomber may have slipped in with them.

"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."

It was the biggest suicide bombing blamed on the LTTE since they entered into a truce with the government in February 2002 and the first since July 2004.

Rajapakse said the LTTE had carried out 20 bomb attacks since the last round of talks between his government and the Tamil Tigers in Switzerland in February, killing 47 troops and 28 civilians.

He accused the rebels of trying to provoke communal riots in the country in a bid to win international sympathy.

**Load-Date:** April 26, 2006

## *Death toll mounts as Sri Lanka hits back by air, land and sea*

Agence France Presse -- English

April 26, 2006 Wednesday 12:44 PM GMT

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**Length:** 717 words

**Dateline:** COLOMBO, April 26 2006

### **Body**

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Escalating violence between Sri Lankan forces and Tamil rebels left at least 15 civilians dead and 15,000 Tamil villagers fleeing for their lives, reports from both sides said Wednesday.

Three people died and 13 were wounded when the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (***LTTE***) fired mortar bombs against a naval detachment in the Muttur area of Trincomalee district, defence ministry spokesman Prasad Samarasinghe said.

He denied earlier military reports which said the civilians were killed when an Israeli-built Kfir jet accidentally dropped a bomb on Muttur jetty while attacking suspected Tamil Tiger positions in the northeast.

The pro-rebel Tamilnet website reported 12 other civilians died when government warplanes struck the rebel-held Sampur area late Tuesday in retaliation for a suicide bombing that killed 10 and wounded 30, including the army chief.

"Groups of people searching for casualties in Tuesday's attacks said at least 12 bodies of Tamil civilians were recovered so far," it said. "The death toll is expected to increase."

A large number of injured were seeking treatment in Sampur hospital.

It was not immediately clear if the military air strikes caused other damage, but Tamilnet said 15,000 villagers were fleeing their homes Wednesday as strikes continued.

The military launched the bombardments after a woman pretending to be pregnant blew herself up at army headquarters in the capital.

Sri Lanka vowed to keep attacking Tamil rebel targets with coordinated air, sea and land forces including artillery duels in the restive northeast Wednesday amid fears of full-scale war.

"If the ***LTTE*** continues attacking, there will be coordinated retaliation in the form of defence," Plan Implementation Minister Keheliya Rambukwella said. "This will continue as long as the ***LTTE*** targets the security forces."

## Death toll mounts as Sri Lanka hits back by air, land and sea

However, the government said it was still committed to a negotiated settlement to Sri Lanka's long-running Tamil separatist conflict which has claimed over 60,000 lives in the past three decades including many during a ceasefire in place since 2002.

"The ceasefire agreement is still on," Media Minister Anura Yapa said. "We are trying our best through the Norwegian facilitator, the truce monitors and the (international) donors to bring the LTTE to the negotiating table."

But on the ground, violence escalated.

Israeli-built Kfir jets and Ukrainian MiG-27 aircraft carried out air attacks while naval gun boats and army artillery units also exchanged fire.

Washington led international condemnation of the spectacular bomb attack blamed on a "Black Tiger" female suicide bomber.

"It's regrettable that the Tamil Tigers have decided to restart the war instead of restarting the peace process," US Assistant Secretary of State for South and Central Asian Affairs Richard Boucher said.

"We are in touch with governments around the world to bring to bear whatever pressure we can on the Tamil Tigers to abandon this course of action."

LTTE Trincomalee district leader S. Elilan late Tuesday asked the Swedish-led Sri Lanka Monitoring Mission to "clarify" whether the military had launched a "full-scale war violating the ceasefire agreement".

At least 80 people have died in bombings in the past two weeks while Tamil rebels say 70 civilians have been killed by pro-government militia or security forces, a charge denied by the military.

The Tigers last week indefinitely pulled out of planned peace talks in Switzerland, accusing the government of attacks on Tamil civilians and complaining about transport arrangements.

"This attack is yet another serious blow to the ceasefire agreement and the peace process," the Monitoring Mission said in a statement before the government launched retaliatory strikes.

President Mahinda Rajapakse vowed to stand up to "terrorism" in a televised address to the nation after the Colombo bombing.

But humanitarian agencies Wednesday asked both sides to show restraint.

"The attempt on the life of the commander of the army, the resumption of air, sea and artillery attacks by the government of Sri Lanka are all acts which severely impact on the spirit and intent of the ceasefire," the Consortium of Humanitarian Agencies said.

The Tigers are fighting for a homeland for the Tamil minority in the northeast, parts of which have long been under de facto rebel control.

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



**TERROR BIG'S GIGS AT NEWARK. TAMIL TIGERS GANG BOSS NETS  
SECURITY, BAGGAGE JOBS; BUSTED IN ATM HEIST PLOT**

Daily News (New York)

October 16, 2007 Tuesday

SPORTS FINAL EDITION

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**Section:** NEWS; Pg. 5

**Length:** 856 words

**Byline:** BY BARBARA ROSS

## **Body**

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A BAND OF MEN linked to Tamil Tiger terrorists - led by a Sri Lankan who used a fake passport to get security clearance at Newark Airport - has been busted in a massive plot to loot city ATMs.

Manhattan prosecutors told the Daily News the eight men had ties to the terror group and were part of a scheme to use stolen credit card numbers to steal \$250,000 in New York - and tens of millions from ATMs worldwide.

Six were nabbed in January in a raid at the Chelsea Inn, a reputed lair for the ultraviolent Sri Lankan separatist group.

The other two, including alleged ringleader Sivapalasri Velayuthampillai, 31, of Newark, were busted in July.

Until his arrest, Velayuthampillai worked three jobs at Newark Airport as a security agent and baggage handler with complete security clearance.

Prosecutors said Velayuthampillai entered the U.S. with a fake passport and dubious tale of persecution. He was given political asylum in December 2001 under circumstances still under investigation by District Attorney Robert Morgenthau.

"The defendant is part of a large, highly organized ring of international criminals who steal account and PIN numbers . . . and then come to the United States to steal money from our financial institutions," Manhattan Assistant District Attorney Kim Han said in court papers.

The U.S. and other Western governments consider the ***Tamil Tigers*** a terror organization. Velayuthampillai and the other alleged cell members came from families who emigrated from Sri Lanka, Pakistan and Somalia.

Prosecutors contend the men became part of a massive global identity theft scam last year when credit card numbers and PINs were stolen from thousands of customers at 200 gas stations in the United Kingdom.

## TERROR BIG'S GIGS AT NEWARK. TAMIL TIGERS GANG BOSS NETS SECURITY, BAGGAGE JOBS; BUSTED IN ATM HEIST PLOT

In recent bail arguments, Han said Velayuthampillai booked hotels for his "criminal cohorts," rented cars, drove them to various banks, moved them to different hotels every few days and hooked them up with a man who sent the money abroad.

Han said Velayuthampillai had 30 forged cards on him when he was arrested in midtown in July and more than 400 bogus cards in his rented car, all bearing account numbers stolen from two U.K. gas stations.

The operation was accidentally uncovered in the Chelsea Inn on 11th Ave. when NYPD narcotics detectives raided the hotel and one investigator shouted to everyone in the lobby, "Freeze! I will shoot you if you move!"

That's when one rattled suspect, Ibrahim Abdifatah, 27, dropped 67 blank credit cards on the floor, police said.

"These are playing cards. We play with them," Abdifatah said.

Cops found more than 250 blank credit cards, a coding machine, lists of financial account information and a laptop in an upstairs room that four of the defendants shared.

Abdifatah, who has pleaded guilty to more than 500 counts of identity theft and fraud, told cops he was recruited in England and promised \$5,000 to use the bogus cards. Investigators said the **Tamil Tigers** target the U.S. because American credit cards don't have the extra microchip security device that has helped curtail credit card frauds in Britain.

Another Sri Lankan, Krishantha Rasanayagan, 19, quickly fingered a cohort, Usman Mahmood, as the man who had organized the effort in London.

"He showed us how to encode the cards. We all do the encoding, and we each make withdrawals. Our goal was to reach \$250,000," Rasanayagan said.

All of the defendants, except Velayuthampillai, are being held without bail. Bail was set for him at \$2 million.

Lawyers for the defendants deny their clients have terror ties. "I don't think he was politically motivated," Abdifatah's lawyer Adam Freedman said.

"This is like tying a sidewalk crack dealer . . . to the Medellin drug cartel [in Colombia]," said Mahmood's lawyer Michael Dailey.

British and Sri Lankan authorities say the proceeds from this kind of international ATM fraud are routed back to the **Tamil Tigers**, Han wrote.

This summer, Jane's Intelligence Review said the **Tamil Tigers** raise up to \$300 million a year through international credit card fraud, extortion and donations. [bross@nydailynews.com](mailto:bross@nydailynews.com)

### GRAPHIC SUSPECTS LINKED TO ISLAND'S VICIOUS OUTLAWS.

THE **TAMIL TIGERS** are one of the world's most ruthless and violent nationalist organizations. Thirty-two countries, including the U.S., have branded the Tigers a terrorist group. Founded three decades ago in Sri Lanka, the Tigers have indiscriminately attacked civilians in order to create a separate Tamil state in parts of Sri Lanka, formerly known as Ceylon.

Known formally as the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam, the group pioneered the use of suicide bombers, called the Black Tigers. **Female** suicide bombers were employed in the assassination of former Indian President Rajiv Gandhi and in an attempt on the life of Sri Lankan President Chandrika Kumaratunga.

Experts have linked them to other terrorist organizations and note the similarity between the Tigers' attack on Sri Lanka Navy ships and the Al Qaeda attack on the U.S. destroyer Cole that killed 17 American sailors.

TERROR BIG'S GIGS AT NEWARK. TAMIL TIGERS GANG BOSS NETS SECURITY, BAGGAGE JOBS;  
BUSTED IN ATM HEIST PLOT

Their sources of worldwide funding, in addition to credit card fraud, include sea piracy, human smuggling and drug trafficking, the experts say.

## Graphic

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Abdifatah Rasanayagan Mahmood

**Load-Date:** October 16, 2007

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## *Sri Lankan navy destroy and capture Sea Tiger boats*

Agence France Presse -- English

February 12, 2007 Monday 7:19 AM GMT

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**Length:** 217 words

**Dateline:** COLOMBO, Feb 12 2007

### **Body**

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Sri Lanka's navy destroyed a Tamil Tiger boat Monday and captured another off the eastern coastal town of Trincomalee, the defence ministry said.

A naval patrol in the area detected the two Sea Tiger attack craft while they were cruising towards the southern part of Sri Lanka along the eastern shoreline.

Naval fast attack craft destroyed one boat and disabled the other craft, making it possible for the navy to capture it, Navy spokesman Commander D. P. K. Dassanayake said.

The navy recovered two bodies including one **female** Tiger rebel after the attack, he said, adding that several weapons were also recovered.

Each boat was manned by around four people. Dassanayake said the fate of the remaining six was unknown.

Elsewhere on the island, suspected Liberation Tigers of Tamil Ealam (**LTTE**) rebels gunned down a Sinhalese civilian driver in the northern town of Vavuniya late Sunday.

The victim was driving his three-wheeler taxi at the time the shooting took place, the defence ministry said.

More than 60,000 people have died in the 35-year-old ethnic conflict in Sri Lanka, where the **LTTE** is fighting for a separate state for minority Tamils.

Fighting has escalated between troops and **Tamil Tigers** in the past year, killing more than 3,800 people, despite a truce that has been in place since February 2002.

**Load-Date:** February 13, 2007

## **Bus attack kills 65 people in Sri Lanka**

Xinhua General News Service

June 16, 2006 Friday 1:00 PM EST

Copyright 2006 Xinhua News Agency

**Section:** WORLD NEWS; Political

**Length:** 488 words

**Dateline:** COLOMBO

### **Body**

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The death toll in Sri Lanka's bus bomb blast on Thursday by the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam ( **LTTE**) rebels in the North Central Province rose to 65 as government launched retaliatory air attacks on Tamil Tiger positions.

The Army said in a statement that 87 people had been injured in addition to the 65 dead as a powerful Claymore mine hit a civilian passenger bus around 8 a.m. local time (0230 GMT) on Thursday at Kebitigollewa, 270 km north of Colombo.

Eight of the injured had been transferred to Colombo National Hospital for immediate surgery as their condition turned worse.

Fifteen children proceeding to schools and a few pregnant **women** going for pre-natal care clinics were in the ill-fated state owned bus that was ripped in the **LTTE** claymore mine attack, said the statement.

Sri Lankan President Mahinda Rajapaksa visited the scene and the victims of the attack, instructing the officials concerned to provide all necessary relief and assistance to the people who are disturbed and suffering.

"All necessary arrangements will be made to protect the people, " Rajapaksa stressed, adding that the government will continue the peace process.

Meanwhile, military spokesman Prasad Samarasinghe said all evidence so far showed a deliberate targeting of a civilian bus by the **LTTE**, as no armed services personnel traveled in buses on that route.

The government has strongly condemned the attack occurred a day after the **LTTE** delegation returned to the island after the aborted talks in Oslo.

"The government is aware that the aim of the terrorists is to instigate a backlash in order to fulfill their evil designs," said Keheliya Rambukwella, the minister of Policy Planning and the government's defense spokesman.

Rambukwella said the claymore attack on the innocent civilians is a blatant violation of the cease-fire agreement by the **LTTE**.

On the other hand, the **Tamil Tigers** said in its official website that the organization had no links to the blast, saying " **LTTE** condemns this attack on the civilian bus.

## Bus attack kills 65 people in Sri Lanka

"The attack in Kebitigollewa timed to occur immediately after the arrival of the LTTE delegation from Europe is a reprehensible act of murders with the sole aim of blaming the LTTE for the attack," said the LTTE.

Hours after the claymore blast, the government ordered air raids on rebel positions in the Mulaitivu district in the north and Sampur in the east.

"The security forces undertook deterrent measures to neutralize certain identified LTTE terrorist targets in Sampur and Mulaitivu areas to prevent further acts of this nature in the future," said the military in a statement.

The military advised the public to remain calm in spite of any provocation, saying the armed forces and the police will assure security to all citizens.

Over 700 people have been killed in violence blamed on both sides since last December.

**Load-Date:** June 16, 2006

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## *Sri Lanka warring parties trade massacre charges*

Agence France Presse -- English

August 5, 2006 Saturday 6:54 PM GMT

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**Length:** 563 words

**Byline:** Amal Jayasinghe

**Dateline:** COLOMBO, Aug 5 2006

### **Body**

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Sri Lankan troops and Tamil rebels accused each other Saturday of atrocities against civilians as the death toll rose to more than 400 after 11 days of violence amid fresh moves to end the bloodshed.

The **Tamil Tigers** denied a government charge that they massacred over 100 Muslims trying to escape the fighting in northeastern Muttur and in turn accused the army of slaughtering 15 Tamil civilians, including three **women**.

"There is no massacre as alleged by the Sri Lankan government," Tiger spokesman S. Puleedevan told AFP.

"The Sri Lankan government has massacred a lot of Tamils. In one place 15 Tamils working for non-governmental organisations have been killed."

The allegation came after the defence ministry said the rebel Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (**LTTE**) blocked civilians, mainly Muslims, fleeing the town of Muttur and killed at least 100 of them Friday night.

Puleedevan also denied an allegation by a leading Muslim figure that they were holding more than 100 Muslims prisoner.

The official count of the fatalities has now risen to 426 with the 100 civilian victims. At least 20,000 civilians fled Muttur and sought shelter in the nearby Kantalai town.

The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) said they had no access to the area and could not verify reports of massacres and other civilian casualties.

"We still have no access to the area and therefore we can't say anything about these reports," ICRC spokesman Sukumar Rockwood told AFP.

However, he said the ICRC sent six trucks to a point south of Muttur Saturday to evacuate about 600 civilians who wanted to leave the area and travel to Trincomalee, capital of the northeastern province.

The **LTTE** said they had returned to their original positions after achieving their aim of using military force to stall a government offensive to capture a sluice gate within rebel-held territory.

## Sri Lanka warring parties trade massacre charges

The military launched air attacks July 26 to pressure the Tigers to open the waterway. The guerrillas resisted and said residents closed the waterway to get the government to improve drinking water supply to them.

"Our objective of the mission with a defensive character was accomplished and our forces returned to their positions as per the February 2002 ceasefire," **LTTE** military spokesman I. Ilanthiayan was quoted as saying by the Tamilnet.com website.

He said 32 Tigers were killed during the fighting, far fewer than the 152 rebel fatalities claimed by the defence ministry in clashes in and around Muttur late Friday alone.

The reports of the latest deaths came as Oslo's special envoy, Jon Hanssen-Bauer, travelled to the rebel-held town of Kilinochchi for what diplomats said were desperate talks to restore the collapsing ceasefire.

Diplomats feared the worsening violence in the island's northeast could lead to full-scale war although both the Colombo government and the **Tamil Tigers** had pledged to uphold the February 2002 truce.

Hanssen-Bauer, who held talks with Sri Lankan Prime Minister Ratnasiri Wickremanayake and Foreign Minister Mangala Samaraweera on Friday, was expected to spend the weekend in rebel-held territory.

Tamilnet reported the airforce bombed and destroyed a ferry inside rebel territory, southeast of Muttur, late Friday but gave no details.

The main Muslim party, the Sri Lanka Muslim Congress (SLMC), said Muslims were facing a "humanitarian disaster" and urged the two sides to halt attacks.

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



## *Human Rights Watch says over 1,000 child soldiers recruited by Tamil Tigers*

The Canadian Press (CP)

January 14, 2005 Friday

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**Section:** FOREIGN GENERAL NEWS

**Length:** 408 words

**Byline:** BY KRISHAN FRANCIS

### **Body**

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COLOMBO, Sri Lanka (AP) \_ Tamil Tiger rebels have forcibly enlisted more than 1,000 child soldiers since agreeing to release and rehabilitate child fighters already among the ranks, a U.S.-based human rights group said Friday.

While the Liberation Tigers of Tamileelam had released more than 1,000 child soldiers since a 2003 agreement, "forcible recruitment of children has intensified and new recruits outnumber those released," said New York-based Human Rights Watch.

The rebel group agreed with UNICEF and the Sri Lankan government in 2003 to release all child combatants for rehabilitation and later reunite them with their families. The UN agency has also accused the Tigers of reneging on its promises.

AP

UNICEF said Thursday the rebels forcibly recruited three tsunami-affected girls living in camps after the Dec. 26 disaster, a charge denied by the rebels.

"We categorically deny the accusation we are recruiting underage persons," the pro-rebel TamilNet website quoted the head of the women's wing of the rebels' political division as saying Friday.

"It is regrettable that UNICEF officials decided to speak to the press before clarifying the details of the matter properly," said Thamilini, who uses only one name.

Nearly 31,000 Sri Lankans were killed in the catastrophe and 800,000 made homeless.

Human Rights Watch said many children recruited were ones released by a dissident Tiger commander who broke away from the main faction in March. The rebels' former eastern commander, Vinayagamoorthy Muralitharan, also known as Karuna, split from the group along with some 6,000 trained fighters, including many children.

"The LTT specifically targeted for re-recruitment the 1,800 or more child soldiers released by the Karuna faction after its April defeat," the group said. The mainstream rebel group crushed the renegades in April.

Many political rivals, mainly those perceived as Muralitharan loyalists, have been killed by the Tigers during the year, the group said.

Human Rights Watch says over 1,000 child soldiers recruited by Tamil Tigers

**Tamil Tigers** fought a 19-year civil war against the government to carve out a separate state for ethnic minority Tamils, accusing the majority Sinhalese of discrimination. The conflict killed more than 65,000 people.

However, the situation improved with a 2002 Norway-brokered ceasefire, which continues to hold despite infractions. Peace talks broke down in April 2003 when the rebels withdrew after demanding more autonomy in Tamil-majority areas.

On the Net:

[www.tamilnet.com](http://www.tamilnet.com)

**Load-Date:** January 15, 2005

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## *Outrage over child soldiers in Sri Lanka*

Christian Science Monitor

November 29, 2006, Wednesday

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**Section:** WORLD; Pg. 7

**Length:** 913 words

**Byline:** Nachammai Raman Correspondent of The Christian Science Monitor

**Dateline:** VAVUNIYA, SRI LANKA

**Highlight:** A human rights group has accused government forces of aiding a militia in the kidnapping of children.

### **Body**

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The Tamil Tiger rebels have long been known to use child soldiers in their extended campaign against the Sri Lankan government. The average age of the Tigers' child soldiers, according to UNICEF, is 16 years old.

But the disappearance of three children in this frontier town two weeks ago near a Tamil Tiger rebel stronghold has sparked a different kind of outrage. As large-scale hostilities return to this island nation, international human rights observers are now accusing the Sri Lankan Army of helping a militia group enlist children in fighting the Tamil rebels.

The new accusations come one day after Tamil Tiger rebel leader Velupillai Prabhakaran, himself a former teenage soldier, declared a resumption to the violent struggle for an independent Tamil state. Many Sri Lankans who were once buoyed by optimism after a 2002 cease fire now worry that the forcible recruitment of child soldiers will rise sharply.

This is the first time, relatives of the missing boys say, that children as young as 11 years old have been abducted.

"This is a kidnapping, for sure. The children didn't run away," says Devaraj Amudharaj, a relative of one of the kidnapped boys, whom he says were neighbors and close friends. "We don't suspect anyone in particular. It could be the army, or the LTTE, or the Karuna group or some other armed group," he says, referring to the rebel militia Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam.

The Karuna group is a breakaway faction of the main Tamil Tiger rebel outfit. Led by Muralitharan Vinayagamoorthy, who is also known as Karuna, the group has a strong presence in eastern Sri Lanka, where they have been fighting against the Tiger militia since 2004.

Sri Lankan government forces are believed to be helping the Karunas kidnap young boys. UN Special Adviser Allan Rock directly accused the government of abetting child abductions at the end of a factfinding mission to Sri Lanka two weeks ago. US-based Human Rights Watch joined the UN envoy's allegations Monday, adding that the government has known about the Karuna group's kidnappings since at least June 2006.

"Official surprise at Ambassador Rock's allegations are not genuine," said Jo Becker of the US-based Human Rights Watch in a press release. "There's no way the Karuna forces could transport vanloads of abducted children along these roads without government forces knowing."

## Outrage over child soldiers in Sri Lanka

Despite the swelling chorus of angry human rights activists, right-wing politicians behind Sri Lanka's majority-Sinhalese government have vilified Mr. Rock, calling him a "Tiger" and a "village gossip." For their part, Human Rights Watch officials say they have "clear and compelling evidence" of government violations.

According to UNICEF communication officer Francis Mead, the only distinction between the Karunas and the Tamil Tigers is that while the former recruit only boys, the Tigers recruit both boys and girls.

"Since April this year, when the security situation began deteriorating, 315 children have been recruited by the LTTE and 145 by Karuna," says Mr. Mead.

But even if the government does aid child recruitment and kidnappings, UNICEF says the Tamil Tigers still have the largest number of child recruits since 2001, when the organization started collecting data.

"The total underage recruitment cases known to UNICEF, by the LTTE, are 5,794," says Mead.

Yet the Tamil Tigers rarely kidnap children, particularly in government areas, says Kumarakulasingham Karunavel, a former government employee and long-time Vavuniya resident. The lack of opportunities for regular employment, he says, drives young people to militancy.

"They're brainwashed to join," says Mr. Karunavel. "The only field of recreation for them is the fighting fields today."

Sri Lanka's unemployment rate is bloated by two decades of civil war. Among young people between age 15 and 24, 23.8 percent of males and 34 percent for females are unemployed, according to the 2002 Sri Lanka Labor Force Survey.

Young Sinhalese suffer as much as Tamils from the lean job market. Bleak unemployment prospects have also raised enlistment numbers in the official Sinhalese-dominated armed forces, according to journalist Mahamuni Subramanian.

The military insist that they comply with the minimum recruitment age of 18, but there are rumors that some soldiers are younger. After a year when hundreds of soldiers were killed, the government has launched a campaign to attract more candidates.

"They're going for the job. The salary is very high," says Mr. Subramaniam. The basic pay of an ordinary soldier with a minimum Grade 8 education is \$160 per month while a civilian machine operator with a high school certificate gets only half that amount, he says.

In his annual policy speech Monday, Tiger rebel leader Prabhakaran called the 2002 Norway-brokered truce "defunct." The Tamil Tigers, he said, are committed to pursuing an independent state, as opposed to the federal solution of a united Sri Lanka agreed to in the cease-fire.

Prabhakaran dropped out of school as a teenager to found the Tamil Tiger group, but today his legend is larger than life. Although Prabhakaran is widely disparaged as a ruthless guerrilla, many Sri Lankan Tamils look up to him as their "national leader." The Tigers use a combination of myth and propaganda to seduce youths into enlisting, says Karunavel.

According to Tamil Tiger media spokesperson Daya Master, 18,472 "martyrs" have given up their lives between 1982 and 2006.

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

## Welcome to the new Darfur

The New Zealand Herald

April 10, 2007 Tuesday

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**Section:** NEWS; World

**Length:** 1156 words

### **Body**

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Two children stand on the roadside staring into the thick darkness of a banana plantation, their slender shoulders drooping from the weight of ammunition around their necks. Their eyes betray unadulterated terror, and the younger one, no more than 13, looks close to tears.

Towards the jungle, across from the bleak strip of peninsula that separates the town of Batticaloa from the Sri Lanka mainland, comes the penetrating thud of shells from government field-guns.

As each shell falls, the children, cadres from the Karuna Faction, a breakaway militia which split from the **Tamil Tigers** two years ago, nervously twitch their fingers on the triggers of AK47s.

The Karuna Faction are now in the middle of a brutal struggle against their former comrades in the **Tamil Tigers**, a situation the Sri Lankan Army is well placed to exploit. But the three-way battle is causing untold misery in and around Batticaloa.

Army trucks hurtle past the children standing guard, heading towards positions in the west and north.

Across from a heavily guarded checkpoint, Vijay Lakshmi, 52, sits in a refugee camp surrounded by 27 members of her family. The sound of fighting in the distance is coming from the Sittnadikudi district, where she once lived.

For her and an estimated 196,000 others around Batticaloa, including the 12,000 people who share this camp, home is now a white United Nations tent.

Her children and grandchildren are fed sparse rations of rice in a communal kitchen. The World Food Programme fears it will run out of rations for the refugees within a month.

This remote eastern corner of one of the world's most beautiful tourist destinations has become the centre of a humanitarian crisis both the UN and the International Red Cross say is fast rivalling that in Darfur. As in the Sudan, the forced recruitment of children is at the heart of the crisis.

"The Government is shelling our land each day, the **Tamil Tigers** are looting everything and the Karuna Faction are abducting our children," Ms Lakshmi says.

A fortnight ago Ms Lakshmi's eldest nephew, Rajnish, 15, was dumped in a paddy field. His neck had been broken and his groin peppered with bullets. A pro-**Tamil Tigers** pamphlet had been stuffed in his mouth. His crime had been manning a Karuna Faction checkpoint. He had been "recruited" at gunpoint four months earlier.

## Welcome to the new Darfur

He was one of a growing number of child military victims of a bloody war being fought through thick jungle between Government troops, Government-backed Tamil fighters led by Commander Karuna, and battle-hardened guerrillas from the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (**LTTE**).

Karuna is the nom de guerre of 42-year-old Vinayagamoorthy Muralitharan, a widely feared guerrilla. Until two years ago he was the Tigers' military commander. Hailing from a small village near Batticaloa, he broke away from the Tigers, saying the eastern Tamils were dying in disproportionate numbers for the northern leadership.

Both Tamil factions claim to be fighting for a state for the three million Tamils on the Indian Ocean island where the 20 million population is dominated by Sinhalese people.

In Batticaloa, the two groups vie for control, using abductions and political assassinations to enforce their rule. Although these rivals were once on the same side - fighting the Sri Lankan Army for 20 years in a conflict that has claimed 65,000 lives, including 4000 in the past eight months - they are now sworn enemies. It is a widely held suspicion that Karuna and his troops are now sheltered by his former arch enemy, the Sri Lankan Army.

Those suffering the most are the children and parents caught in the middle.

With its poverty, ethnically-mixed population and fluid lines of control between the Government and Tamil rebels, the east coast of Sri Lanka is known for its volatility.

Stories of child abductions by the guerrillas are common. "Children and the destruction of family life are at the centre of the epic tragedy you see here," say Human Rights Watch campaigners, who accuse the Sri Lankan Government of complicity in the abduction of minors by refusing to stop child recruitment by the Karuna rebel group.

Brad Adams, Asia director of Human Rights Watch, said: "It's a shame that Government forces complicit with the Karuna group are now involved in the same ugly practice [as the **LTTE**]. There is strong evidence that government forces are now openly co-operating with the Karuna group despite its illegal activities."

Children under the age of 14 can be seen standing guard and Sri Lankan soldiers and police walk past the armed children without taking action.

Reliance by the **LTTE** and Karuna factions on children as frontline warriors in Sri Lanka's 20-year civil war has long been a stain on their international reputation. Agencies, including the island's peace monitors, have said that boys and girls as young as 11 have been recruited as fighters - many abducted from their homes, and that children make up more than 20 per cent of the rival forces.

The fears of the Karuna Faction child soldiers looking into the jungle are understandable.

The **Tamil Tigers** have carefully nurtured their deadly mystique. Every Tamil guerrilla fighter carries a cyanide suicide capsule the day he or she is accepted into the Tigers' military ranks - to take if captured alive.

Suicide bombings by an elite unit known as the Black Tigers are still at the heart of the Tigers' effectiveness as guerrilla fighters.

For the **Tamil Tigers** there is none of the talk of a guaranteed place in heaven for martyrs, such as espoused by Muslim suicide bombers.

The Tigers are not religious and believe that there is nothing after death. Their fanaticism is borne of indoctrination from childhood.

The estimated 4000 Tiger cadres embedded around Batticaloa, about half of whom are **women**, have emerged as a compact attacking force using the strategy of highly mobile conventional armies favoured by the world's most advanced countries.

## Welcome to the new Darfur

For most of their history, the Tigers, led by their reclusive leader, Prabhakaran, have demanded an independent homeland carved out of the north and east of Sri Lanka.

Prabhakaran's argument is simple: the Tamils, who make up 12.5 per cent of Sri Lanka's population, cannot live together in peace with the majority Sinhalese. A separate state, Eelam, is necessary in the Tamil heartland of northern and eastern Sri Lanka.

Government security forces have detained hundreds of people during sweeps of Tamil residential areas in Colombo.

Many have been freed days or weeks later without charge, and rights lawyers say there is a culture of impunity that gives the military and police free rein to detain anyone they want.

K.S. Ratnavale, a lawyer who handles detention cases and who is director of the Centre for Human Rights and Development, said: "East, south or north, if you are a Tamil you can expect to be terrorised from all sides, the people who govern you and the people who claim to fight for your freedom."

- OBSERVER

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

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## **Human Rights Watch says more than 1,000 child soldiers recruited by Tamil Tigers**

Associated Press International

January 14, 2005 Friday

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**Section:** INTERNATIONAL NEWS

**Length:** 403 words

**Byline:** KRISHAN FRANCIS; Associated Press Writer

**Dateline:** COLOMBO, Sri Lanka

### **Body**

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Tamil Tiger rebels have forcibly enlisted more than 1,000 child soldiers since agreeing to release and rehabilitate child fighters already among the ranks, a U.S.-based human rights group said Friday.

While the Liberation Tigers of Tamileelam released more than 1,000 child soldiers since a 2003 agreement, "forcible recruitment of children has intensified, and new recruits outnumber those released," said New York-based Human Rights Watch.

The rebel group agreed with UNICEF and the Sri Lankan government in 2003 to release all child combatants for rehabilitation, and later reunite them with their families. The U.N. agency has also accused the Tigers of reneging on its promises.

UNICEF said Thursday the rebels forcibly recruited three tsunami-affected girls living in camps after the Dec. 26 disaster, a charge denied by the rebels.

"We categorically deny the accusation we are recruiting underage persons," pro-rebel TamilNet Web site quoted the head of the women's wing of the rebels' political division, Thamilini, as saying Friday. Thamilini uses only one name.

"It is regrettable that UNICEF officials decided to speak to the press before clarifying the details of the matter properly."

Nearly 31,000 Sri Lankans were killed in the catastrophe, and 800,000 made homeless.

Human Rights Watch said many children recruited were ones released by a dissident Tiger commander who broke away from the main faction in March. The rebels' former eastern commander Vinayagamoorthy Muralitharan, also known as Karuna, split from the group along with some 6,000 trained fighters, including many children.

"The LTT specifically targeted for re-recruitment the 1,800 or more child soldiers released by the Karuna faction after its April defeat," the group said. The mainstream rebel group crushed the renegades in April.

Many political rivals, mainly those perceived as Muralitharan loyalists, have been killed by the Tigers during the year, the group said.



Human Rights Watch says more than 1,000 child soldiers recruited by Tamil Tigers

**Tamil Tigers** fought a 19-year civil war against the government to carve out a separate state for ethnic minority Tamils, accusing the majority Sinhalese of discrimination. The conflict killed more than 65,000 people.

However, the situation improved with a 2002 Norway-brokered cease-fire, which continues to hold despite infractions. Peace talks broke down in April 2003 when the rebels withdrew after demanding more autonomy in Tamil-majority areas.

On the Web: [www.tamilnet.com](http://www.tamilnet.com)

**Load-Date:** January 15, 2005

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## **India refuses LTTE apology for killing Rajiv Gandhi**

Xinhua General News Service

June 27, 2006 Tuesday 12:00 PM EST

Copyright 2006 Xinhua News Agency

**Section:** WORLD NEWS; Political

**Length:** 221 words

**Dateline:** NEW DELHI

### **Body**

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The Indian government said Tuesday that Indian people can not forget the "dastardly" killing of former prime minister Rajiv Gandhi, as a response to the apology made by a senior leader of Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (**LTTE**) of Sri Lanka.

"The people of India cannot forget the dastardly crime that was committed by the **LTTE**," said Indian Minister of State for External Affairs Anand Sharma when interviewed by NDTV.

**LTTE** chief negotiator Anton Balasingham told NDTV in an exclusive interview earlier Tuesday that the 1991 killing of Gandhi was "a monumental historical tragedy" and **LTTE** "deeply regrets" the assassination.

Sharma said Balasingham's statement was a "confession on their part of their complicity in the assassination of our former prime minister. This has been a well-known fact for the last 15 years. **LTTE** leaders have been charge-sheeted and declared proclaimed offenders."

Rajiv Gandhi was killed at an election rally at Sriperumbudur near Chennai, capital of south India's Tamil Nadu, by a **female** suicide bomber on May 21, 1991. The **LTTE** had initially denied any involvement in the killing.

Responding to Balasingham's plea to India to show "magnanimity", Sharma said, "that would be tantamount to endorsing the philosophy of terror, violence and political assassination."

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

## **EU gives 5 million euros to victims, refugees in Sri Lanka-conflict**

Deutsche Presse-Agentur

October 25, 2006 Wednesday 12:42 PM EST

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**Section:** POLITICS

**Length:** 328 words

**Dateline:** Brussels

### **Body**

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DPA POLITICS EU Diplomacy SriLanka EU gives 5 million euros to victims, refugees in Sri Lanka-conflict  
Brussels

The European Commission on Wednesday said it was providing 5 million euros (6.3 million dollar) in aid help conflict victims in war-torn Sri Lanka and Sri Lankan refugees in India.

The commission, the executive arm of the European Union, also slammed the fighting forces in Sri Lanka for not complying with international humanitarian law and violating the security of international aid workers.

Attacks and murders perpetrated against relief staff were "unacceptable", said EU development commissioner Louis Michel, calling to bring the culprits to justice.

EU funds would be used to finance food, housing, water, sanitation, healthcare and education for more than 250,000 displaced and vulnerable persons, the commission said.

Help will focus on women and children living in refugee camps in India's southern province Tamil Nadu, it added.

Peace talks between the Sri Lankan rebel Liberation Tigers of

Tamil Eelam (LTTE) and the Colombo government are expected to take place in Geneva this weekend.

However, experts are pessimistic about hopes for a peace deal. A previous round of talks in February ended only with an agreement to return to the negotiating table. Subsequent negotiations held in Oslo

in June collapsed when the LTTE delegation pulled out.

Fighting between the government forces and rebels has intensified since December last year. More than 2,500 civilians, soldiers and rebels have been killed mainly in the northern and eastern parts of

the country, where the LTTE has been fighting for a Tamil state in

## EU gives 5 million euros to victims, refugees in Sri Lanka -conflict

majority Sinhalese Sri Lanka.

Since 1983, the conflict between the Tamil Tigers and the Sri Lanka government has claimed more than 65,000 lives.

Up to 800,000 people have been internally displaced and around 80,000 Sri Lankan refugees are living in neighbouring India, with numbers going up significantly since last January.

Oct 2506 1242 GMT

**Load-Date:** October 26, 2006

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**World: Children pay the price of Tamil violence: Around 200,000 refugees are struggling to survive on Sri Lanka's east coast, having fled the escalating violence between three warring factions. Now ever younger recruits are being seized for combat. Dan McDougall reports from Batticaloa.**

The Observer (London)

April 1, 2007

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## TheObserver

**Section:** OBSERVER FOREIGN PAGES; Pg. 34

**Length:** 1770 words

**Byline:** Dan McDougall

### Body

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Two children stand on the roadside staring into the thick darkness of a banana plantation, their slender shoulders droop from the weight of ammunition around their necks, their eyes betray unadulterated terror. The younger of the two, no more than 13, looks close to tears.

Towards the jungle, across from the bleak strip of peninsula that separates the town of Batticaloa from the Sri Lankan mainland, comes the penetrating thud of shells from government field guns. As each shell falls, the children, cadres from the Karuna Faction, a breakaway militia which split from the **Tamil Tigers** two years ago, nervously twitch their fingers on the triggers of AK47s.

The Karuna Faction are now in the middle of a brutal struggle against their former comrades in the **Tamil Tigers**, a situation the Sri Lankan army are well placed to exploit. But the three-way battle involving the Tamils, the Karuna and the Sri Lanka army is causing untold misery in and around Batticaloa.

Trucks from the army hurtle past the children standing guard, heading towards positions in the west and north. At each checkpoint Government soldiers freshly sandbag temporary bases in preparation for attack, unloading coil upon coil of razor wire.

Across from a heavily guarded checkpoint Vijay Lakshmi, 52, sits in a refugee camp surrounded by 27 members of her family. The sound of fighting in the distance is coming from the Sittnadikudi district, where she once lived.

For her and an estimated 196,000 others around Batticaloa, including the 12,000 people who share this camp, home is now a white United Nations tent. The family toilet is a hole her husband dug in the ground. Her children and grandchildren are fed sparse rations of rice in a communal kitchen. The World Food Programme claims it will run out of rations for the refugees within a month.

World: Children pay the price of Tamil violence: Around 200,000 refugees are struggling to survive on Sri Lanka's east coast, having fled the escalating violence....

This remote eastern corner of one of the world's most beautiful tourist destinations has become the centre of a humanitarian crisis both the UN and the International Red Cross claim is fast rivaling Darfur. Like Sudan the forced recruitment of children is at the heart of the crisis. 'The government is shelling our land each day, the Tamil Tigers are looting everything and the Karuna Faction are abducting our children. Each night we count our young boys,' said Vijay Lakshmi. 'We warn them not to stray too far from the camps but what can you do, they are young boys. Losing them to the army, either the Tigers or the Karuna Faction, is losing them altogether. We tell them this, but they don't listen. They stray off.'

A fortnight ago Lakshmi's eldest nephew, Rajnish, 15, was dumped in a paddy field. His neck had been broken and his groin peppered with bullets. A pro-Tamil Tigers pamphlet had been stuffed in his mouth. His crime had been manning a Karuna Faction checkpoint. He had been 'recruited' at gunpoint four months earlier.

He was one of a growing number of child military victims of a bloody, sectarian three-way war being fought through thick jungle between Government troops, government-backed Tamil fighters, led by Commander Karuna, and battle-hardened guerrillas from the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE).

Karuna is the nom de guerre of 42-year-old Vinayagamorthy Muralitharan, a widely feared guerrilla. Until two years ago he was the Tigers' military commander. Hailing from a small village near Batticaloa, he broke away from the Tigers, saying the eastern Tamils were dying in disproportionate numbers for the northern leadership.

Both Tamil factions claim to be fighting for a state for the 3 million Tamils on the Indian Ocean island where the 20 million population is dominated by Sinhalese people. In Batticaloa the two groups vie for control, using abductions and political assassinations to enforce their rule. Although these rivals were once on the same side, fighting the Sri Lankan army for 20 years in a conflict that has claimed 65,000 lives, including 4,000 in the last eight months, they are now sworn enemies. It is a widely held suspicion that Karuna, and his troops, are now sheltered by his former arch enemy, the Sri Lankan army.

Those suffering the most are the children and parents caught in the middle. With its poverty, ethnically-mixed population and fluid lines of control between the government and Tamil rebels, the east coast of Sri Lanka is known for its volatility. Stories of child abductions by the guerrillas are common. Some of the children are taken from their homes, but more recently, villagers and aid organisations say the rebels have begun picking up their targets in the refugee camps.

The kidnapers, Karuna and LTTE alike, they claim, are becoming increasingly desperate for new recruits, taking bigger risks.

'Children and the destruction of family life are at the centre of the epic tragedy you see here,' according to campaigners Human Rights Watch. The group accuses the Sri Lankan government of complicity in the abduction of minors by refusing to stop child recruitment by the Karuna rebel group.

'The LTTE is a notorious repeat offender of child recruitment,' said Brad Adams, Asia director of HRW. 'It's a shame that government forces complicit with the Karuna group are now involved in the same ugly practice. There is strong evidence that government forces are now openly cooperating with the Karuna group despite its illegal activities.'

During The Observer's time in Batticaloa we witnessed children under the age of 14 standing guard at posts across district. Sri Lankan soldiers and police routinely walked past the armed children without taking action.

The LTTE and the Karuna factions' reliance on children as frontline warriors in Sri Lanka's two-decade-old civil war has long been a stain on their international reputation. In the past, various agencies, including the island's peace monitors have said that boys and girls as young as 11 or 12 years old have been recruited as fighters - many abducted from their homes. Aid agencies have estimated children comprised more than 20 per cent of the rival forces.

World: Children pay the price of Tamil violence: Around 200,000 refugees are struggling to survive on Sri Lanka's east coast, having fled the escalating violence....

The fears of the Karuna Faction child soldiers looking into the jungle are understandable. The Tamil Tigers have carefully nurtured their deadly mystique. Every Tamil guerrilla fighter carries a cyanide suicide capsule the day he or she is accepted into the Tigers' military ranks - to take if he or she is ever captured alive. Suicide bombings, carried out by an elite unit known as the Black Tigers, are still at the heart of the Tigers' effectiveness as guerrilla fighters.

For the Tamil Tigers there is none of the talk of a guaranteed place in heaven for martyrs you hear from Muslim suicide bombers. They are not religious and believe that there is nothing after death. Their fanaticism is borne of indoctrination from childhood.

The estimated 4,000 Tiger cadres embedded around Batticaloa, about half of whom are women, have emerged as a compact attacking force using the strategy of highly mobile conventional armies favoured by the world's most advanced countries.

Driving out of Batticaloa on Friday night their deadly capabilities became clear to us as the road ahead was closed by heavily armed Government troops.

Three miles from our position in the settlement of Vavuniya, at least 13 people had been killed, five soldiers and eight civilians, after the LTTE detonated a claymore mine targeting a tractor carrying meals for the security forces personnel. Earlier fighter jets above our head had launched strikes targeting three LTTE bases.

The LTTE emerged from violence between ethnic Tamils and the majority Sinhalese in the Seventies. Tensions already simmered before Ceylon, as the island was known under British rule, gained independence in 1948. Although there had been a long established Tamil minority in the north, the British imported large numbers of Tamils from southern India to work tea plantations. Fearing their culture would be swamped, the post-independence Sinhalese-dominated government promoted the Sinhalese language and culture at the expense of the Tamils. For most of their history, the Tigers, led by their reclusive leader, Prabhakaran, have demanded an independent homeland carved out of the north and east of Sri Lanka. .

To Prabhakaran's supporters, especially among the 900,000 Sri Lankan Tamils living in Europe, North America and Australasia, he is the only man who can defend Tamil rights and remedy Tamil grievances.

His argument is simple: the Tamils, who comprise 12.5 per cent of Sri Lanka's 19 million population, and the majority Sinhalese cannot live together in peace. A separate state, Eelam, is necessary in the Tamil heartland of northern and eastern Sri Lanka.

The Tigers also operate highly secretive businesses around the globe, including running illegal immigrants into the UK and North America, that deliver an estimated \$60m a year to the Tigers' war chest. They also own more than a dozen ships. In between smuggling arms, ammunition, explosives and illegal narcotics using different front companies, the Tigers transport rice, cement and other legitimate cargo to Asia, the Middle East and the Mediterranean.

The Tigers have tapped into Tamil communities in more than 40 countries, often using violence and intimidation to collect "taxes" from local businesses and Tamil families in London. Sri Lankan newspapers were this weekend reporting alleged links between the Tamils and a British-based charity.

Yet it's not just Tamil families in the north and east who are suffering. Many of the Tamils who have settled in the south of the country to work in the tourist industry, are similarly plagued by the terrors of conflict.

In recent months Government security forces have detained hundreds of people during sweeps of Tamil residential areas in Colombo. Many have been released days or weeks later without charge. But others remain in custody, and rights lawyers say there is a culture of impunity that gives the military and police free rein to detain whoever they want without justifying their suspicion.

World: Children pay the price of Tamil violence: Around 200,000 refugees are struggling to survive on Sri Lanka's east coast, having fled the escalating violence....

Sri Lanka's Terrorist Investigation Division says it has no choice but to hold people without charge under emergency regulations imposed after the assassination of the island's foreign minister in 2005 and tightened up after an abortive attack on President Mahinda Rajapakse's brother late last year.

'Detentions have surged in recent months,' says KS Ratnavale, a lawyer who handles detainee cases and is director of rights group the Centre for Human Rights and Development.

'East, south or north if you are a Tamil you can expect to be terrorised from all sides, the people who govern you and the people who claim to fight for your freedom.'

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

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## **Woman suicide bomber blows herself up outside Lankan Minister's office, one dead, two injured**

Hindustan Times

November 28, 2007 Wednesday 1:11 PM EST

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**Length:** 340 words

**Byline:** Report from Asian News International brought to you by HT Syndication.

**Dateline:** Colombo

### **Body**

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Colombo, Nov. 28 -- A **female** suicide bomber has killed one person and injured two others in an attack in Colombo.

The woman, who died in the blast, was stopped from entering the offices of Welfare Minister Douglas Devananda, and blew herself up outside.

Devananda was unhurt, but his personal secretary was grievously injured and died in hospital later. Of the two injured, one is said to be in critical condition.

Officials said that the **Tamil Tigers** is responsible for the attack.

Devananda is the leader of the Eelam People's Democratic Party, which is seen as a rival to the **LTTE**.

"It was a suicide mission by the **LTTE** (Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam)," said an elite police officer.

Officials said the bomber was disabled, and mingled with crowds outside the government building before detonating her device.

Wednesday's attack was apparently in retaliation to a Sri Lankan Army attack in the north of the country, in which the **LTTE** claimed that at least 11, including schoolchildren were killed. The army, however, has denied responsibility.

Nine others died when the Tigers' radio station was bombed by the Sri Lankan Air Force, the rebels said.

In a broadcast speech on Heroes Day, **LTTE** chief V.Prabhakaran said it was naivety to believe peace was possible with any of the parties in the Sinhalese-dominated south of the country.

He described the government as "genocidal" and said the international community should stop propping it up with economic and military aid.

"Those who plan to destroy the Tamil nation will in the end be forced to face their own destruction," he said.

Since his last address the Tigers have been driven from the east of the country and are under pressure in areas of the north that they still control.

Woman suicide bomber blows herself up outside Lankan Minister's office, one dead, two injured

A Norwegian-brokered ceasefire in 2002 broke down two years ago, resulting in renewed fighting that has killed more than 5,000 people.

At least 70,000 people have died since the war began in 1983.

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

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## **Bodies of civilians killed in northern Sri Lanka handed over to Red Cross**

Xinhua General News Service

September 3, 2007 Monday 8:00 AM EST

Copyright 2007 Xinhua News Agency

**Section:** WORLD NEWS; Science & Technology

**Length:** 265 words

**Dateline:** COLOMBO

### **Body**

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The bodies of some 12 civilians killed due to clashes between government troops and **Tamil Tigers** in northern Sri Lanka have been handed over to the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), officials said Monday.

The ICRC officials said the bodies were handed over to them at Uyilankulam in the northern Mannar district Monday morning by the Army.

Among the bodies are eight **women** and three children, officials said.

They had been killed during the military offensive Saturday at Silavaturai in the Mannar district.

The Army said the dead were the victims of a roadside bomb blasted by the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (**LTTE**) while the rebels charged the military for the civilian deaths.

Sri Lankan defense officials on Sunday claimed that government troops which launched a military offensive against the Tamil Tiger rebels had consolidated their hold in the area.

They said that troops were in full control of Silavaturai 15 km south of the northwestern town of Mannar, 312 km north of Colombo.

The troops launched its "humanitarian operation" in the early hours of Saturday with the objective of freeing some 7,000 civilians trapped in the area, officials claimed.

Among the gains for the military was a base operated by the **LTTE**'s sea wing, officials claimed.

Clashes have now shifted to the island's north ever since the government in mid July claimed that the rebels had been driven totally out of the eastern province.

More than 5,000 people have been killed in the escalation of the armed conflict since December 2005.

**Load-Date:** September 4, 2007

**Direct dialogue the only way is SF message for war-torn island - Sinn Fein MP Martin McGuinness recently visited Sri Lanka, where he shared his experiences of the north's peace process with leaders of both sides in the island's bitter civil war, writes Seamus McKinney**

Irish News

July 13, 2006 Thursday

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**Section:** Pg. 24

**Length:** 947 words

**Byline:** Seamus McKinney

## **Body**

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As Martin McGuinness was driven to Killinochi in Sri Lanka to meet the leadership of the infamous **Tamil Tigers**, he noticed the route lined with men carrying AK47 assault rifles.

Every 200 yards of the 50-mile road, a Tamil Tiger fighter stood fully armed.

The Sinn Fein MP inquired of his hosts if this was normal but was told they were there for his protection.

The Tigers said they feared pro-Sri Lankan government 'death squads' would seek to exploit his visit by killing him.

Along with party worker Aiden McAteer, Mr McGuinness had been invited to Sri Lanka to share his experiences of the Irish peace process with the warring sides there.

An estimated 60,000 people have died in a bloody 30-year civil war in the country.

Since 1950 there had been a growing sense of disenchantment and isolation among the Tamil-speaking population of northern Sri Lanka, who felt they were being treated as second-class citizens.

For 25 years that feeling festered through political initiatives and promises before civil war broke out in 1974.

The war was joined by the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (the **LTTE**, or **Tamil Tigers**) under their reclusive founder Velupillai Prabhakaran. In the years that followed it emerged as the most potent fighting force and now controls the northern region of Sri Lanka against government forces.

As well as its army of **Tamil Tigers**, the **LTTE** has a navy - the Tamil Sea Tigers - and, most recently, an air force. They operate the civic functions of policing and legislature in their northern territory but the war continues.

Against this backdrop Mr McGuinness and McAteer were invited by Sri Lankan president Mahinda Rajapaksa to advise on the country's peace process.

The Mid Ulster MP agreed to a visit Sri Lanka in January on the condition that he could meet both the head of government and the head of the **Tamil Tigers**.

Direct dialogue the only way is SF message for war-torn island - Sinn Fein MP Martin McGuinness recently visited Sri Lanka , where he shared his experiences of ....

"It was agreed that we should do that and efforts were made to arrange meetings," he said.

"The meeting with the president and half his cabinet was very detailed... (but) the situation was steadily deteriorating, with quite a number of people being killed, and the Tamil Tigers' advice was that it was too dangerous to go."

However, word came through last week that a visit to the northern Sri Lankan territory of the Tigers was now on, and so the two men travelled to Sri Lanka again.

After further meetings with President Rajapaksa, Mr McGuinness and Mr McAteer set off for the Tamil areas in the north of the island.

"We were helicoptered (from the capital, Colombo) to a South African base and then taken right up to the border," Mr McGuinness, his party's chief negotiator, said.

"When we got out at the border it was an incredible sight to behold - there were thousands of soldiers.

"It confirmed for me that we were in possibly one of the most dangerous and highly militarised zones in the world."

The pair were taken by car through no-man's land to a Tamil Tiger checkpoint, and it was after this that they came across the huge military bodyguard laid on for their benefit.

At Killinochi, they met the leadership of the Tamil Tigers, including their chief negotiator, Tamil Selven.

Mr McGuinness said he was amazed at the level of knowledge among both the Sri Lankan government and Tamil Tigers leadership of the Irish situation.

"We were told the military was still attacking the Tamil people; women were being raped, children were being killed, people were being hung," he said.

"And of course the Tamils have been active also.

"The reality is that since September of last year there has been a very steady deterioration."

Mr McGuinness said his message was that there should be direct dialogue between the leaders of both sides.

"I indicated my passionate belief that there could be no military solution and the only way forward was inclusive negotiations," he said.

He said President Rajapaksa had told him he was prepared to meet the leadership of the Tigers.

#### SINN FEIN MISSION INVOLVED IN MID-AIR EMERGENCY ON RETURN FLIGHT

Sinn Fein chief negotiator Martin McGuinness and party worker Aidan McAteer were involved in a mid-air crisis during their return flight from Colombo to London.

"I looked out the window expecting to be about 35,000 feet but found we were at about 5,000 and we were going round in circles in the middle of a 12-hour flight," Mr McGuinness said.

"We realised there was a problem... We were over Iran and southern Turkey. After about 20 minutes the pilot spoke and in both our opinions he was hyperventilating - he was in difficulty.

"All he could announce was that he was dealing with the situation and there was a crack in the cockpit - a crack in the cockpit."

It turned out that the outer window of the cockpit had shattered and the plane was told to go to Ankara and eventually Istanbul airport.

Direct dialogue the only way is SF message for war-torn island - Sinn Fein MP Martin McGuinness recently visited Sri Lanka , where he shared his experiences of ....

The plane landed and passengers were given a meal but they were then told Heathrow would no longer accept their arrival because it was too late and they could also not enter Turkey.

Eventually they were allowed to land at Gatwick airport and touched down safely.

Mr McGuinness said that at one stage he had thought of joking to the flight crew that they should fly on to Derry and land at Ballykelly army base, as a Ryanair jet had inadvertently done.

"I was never panicking. I tried to work out what was at issue but it appeared to me that as long as the engines were still working the plane could have gone on, even if the oxygen masks came down and we had to use them," he said.

But he did admit to thinking that after passing unscathed through one of the most dangerous regions of the world, complete with full military bodyguard, it was ironic that his plane home should end up flying in circles over Iran with a broken cockpit window.

**Load-Date:** July 13, 2006

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## **SRI LANKA: WAR-TORN REGION ON EDGE WITH PEACE PROCESS UNCERTAIN**

IPS-Inter Press Service

November 16, 2003, Monday

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**Length:** 1081 words

**Byline:** By Rahul Bedi

**Dateline:** JAFFNA, Sri Lanka, Nov. 16

### **Body**

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The ravages of war in Sri Lanka's northern Jaffna peninsula scar this verdant region some 21 months after the start of the ceasefire between Tamil Tiger rebels and the government - one that has now been put in peril by the country's political crisis.

But away from the political tussles in the capital, a traumatised population, besieged by around 40,000 soldiers stationed across the peninsula, thousands of shell scarred and abandoned houses and decapitated palm trees is the awesome debris that dots the landscape.

This is the legacy of ferocious, seesaw battles fought in the region's thick coconut groves and atolls between the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (***LTTE***), which has been seeking a homeland for minority Tamils in this Sinhalese-majority country, and the Sri Lankan and Indian armies over two decades.

Today, the toll of war has hardly begun to be eased, but the feud between President Chandrika Kumaratunga and Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe has raised fears about where the peace process can go.

On Nov. 4, while Wickremesinghe was in the United States, Kumaratunga suspended parliament and dismissed three ministers, saying the prime minister had been giving too many concessions to the rebels since peace talks began in September 2002.

The Tigers suspended participation in peace negotiations in April, but a new round of talks was being planned with the help of Norwegian mediators when the political standoff erupted.

On Friday, Norwegian Deputy Foreign Minister Vidar Helgesen announced Oslo's withdrawal from its mediator role amid the power struggle between Wickremesinghe and Kumaratunga, saying that there is no space to "assist" the process "unless clarity (in leadership) is re-established".

"The ceasefire is fragile," Bishop Thomas Sandranayagan, a Tamil, said in an interview here. He expressed fear that this impasse between Sri Lanka's two top leaders could "impact negatively" on the Jaffna region, the worst affected by the ethnic conflict that has cost 60,000 lives since 1983.

Other residents who want the calm to continue echo the bishop's warnings. "The ***LTTE*** wants to be patient and work for peace and we hope they are successful," Ponmalar Rajeshwaram from the Council of Non-Governmental Organisations said. Nobody wants war, she added.

## SRI LANKA : WAR-TORN REGION ON EDGE WITH PEACE PROCESS UNCERTAIN

Meantime, efforts to piece life back together, if slowly, continue in the war-affected regions of this South Asian island nation.

A U.N.-sponsored community mental health programme recently began work in Jaffna, the Tamil Tigers' cultural and political capital some 560 kilometres north of the capital Colombo, to treat hundreds of people, including women and children suffering from war-induced trauma.

The Sri Lankan army seized control of Jaffna from the Tigers in 1995 after weeks of fighting in which hundreds died.

Five years later the LTTE, outnumbered six to one by the army, almost succeeded in recapturing Jaffna after forcing over 10,000 government soldiers to retreat. But it stopped just short of the ravaged town that was further devastated by the conflict.

Shells and mortars rained down on the town for days, with an artillery round falling inside the Jaffna Bishop Sandranayagan's bedroom and several others in the nearby churchyard.

Innumerable bombed-out houses line the 9.6-km drive along the palm-lined dirt road from the seaside Palaly military airport to downtown Jaffna that still has check posts manned by soldiers carrying assault rifles.

The landscape is grimmer on the militarily strategic A9 highway heading south from Jaffna to the LTTE headquarters at Killinochchi, 64 km away on either side of which are minefields and homes, warehouses and buildings flattened by aerial bombing and artillery shells.

For two years, 1987 onwards, the LTTE battled an Indian expeditionary force sent to disarm the rebels. It retreated ignominiously after over 1,340 of its soldiers died.

"We live in a prison of rubble and bricks where one-third of the peninsula, including large parts its most fertile land growing rice and coconut, remain under military control," Sodinadan of the Council of Non-governmental Organisations said.

The government, he added, had done little or nothing, despite promises to help rebuild over 120,000 houses and buildings destroyed in the fighting.

When the LTTE had walked out of the negotiations in April after six rounds of talks, it accused Colombo of not doing enough to resettle refugees and to redevelop war-ravaged Tamil areas.

In the nearby coastal village of Savatkaddu, around 100 war widows want to join the Tamil Tigers to avenge the killing of their fishermen husbands by the military.

" If the ceasefire was not in place we would have willingly volunteered to fight for the LTTE," said 28-year old Sahila, head of the village widow association whose husband was shot by navy commandos while out fishing.

Activists attribute their keenness to join the LTTE to the fact that widows in traditional Hindu households, having no rights and being treated like pariahs and evil omens, are banned from participating in religious functions, including weddings.

The LTTE's women cadres earned a formidable reputation as fighters, especially suicide bombers.

Still, months of peace have brought dividends to Jaffna -- like new hotels, banks, Internet cafes and shops selling a variety of consumer goods like computers, refrigerators and airconditioners.

Power generation, a rarity during the war years, is relatively constant today, and mobile telephone networks operate efficiently.

Japanese cars have slowly begun replacing the city's numerous antiquated Morris Oxford, Morris Minor, Mini Minor and Hillman cars, many of which were adapted to run on kerosene during the conflict years due to a shortage of petrol.



## SRI LANKA : WAR-TORN REGION ON EDGE WITH PEACE PROCESS UNCERTAIN

But an atmosphere of mistrust hangs over Jaffna, whose residents fear that the peace process might become hostage to the standoff in Colombo and lead to tensions with the LTTE that might just end their brief boom period.

This week, the LTTE has also sought guarantees from the Sri Lankan government that it would remain committed to the ceasefire. The leader of the Tigers' political wing, S Thamilselvan, was quoted as saying "we do not want war".

But sources in Jaffna close to the LTTE said the rebels have been activating their cadres, whose numbers have reportedly doubled to nearly 20,000 after the February 2002 ceasefire.

"They want to be prepared for a high intensity war should the need arise in order to dictate their political terms," a Tiger supporter said.

**Load-Date:** November 18, 2003

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## 20 LTTE men died in air base raid

Hindustan Times

October 23, 2007 Tuesday 3:37 PM EST

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**Length:** 329 words

**Byline:** P.K.Balachandran Hindustan Times

**Dateline:** NEW DELHI, India

### **Body**

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NEW DELHI, India, Oct. 23 -- Out of the 21 **LTTE** cadres who attacked the Sri Lankan Air Force's base at Anuradhapura, 210 km north of Colombo on Monday, 20 perished, as they were suicide cadres belonging to the elite Black Tiger squad.

"We have recovered 20 bodies and have no idea what happened to the 21st person," a Sri Lankan military spokesman told the Hindustan Times on Tuesday.

The **LTTE** had announced that there were 21 attackers and that these were Black Tigers. By tradition, they meet the Supremo Velupillai Prabhakaran before the mission and have a meal with him. There were three **women** among them. The **LTTE** released a photo showing the 21 with the Leader.

The government military spokesman said that troops had recovered bodies with suicide kits strapped to them. Asked if they had recovered any **female** body, he said that identification was yet to be completed. Monday's attack was one of the biggest suicide operations carried out by the **LTTE**. Earlier, on July 24, 2001, a fairly large group of suicide cadres had attacked the SLAF's main base at Katunayake, 30 km north of Colombo inflicting very heavy damage to military and civilian aircraft. Sri Lanka's economy was so badly hit by this, that in 2001, the rate of the economy's growth was negative, for the first time in the island's history.

According to the **LTTE**, the SLAF lost eight aircraft valued approximately US\$ 30 million in Monday's attack. Fourteen military personnel were killed and over 20 wounded in the simultaneous land and air attack, the first ever by the **LTTE**.

Meanwhile, Defense Secretary Gotabhaya Rajapaksa, said the **LTTE**'s attack on the Anuradhapura base would not stop the armed forces' operations in north Sri Lanka. The Sri Lankan official had earlier vowed to liberate the entire north and East in three years. The east has been more or less cleared of the **LTTE**, but the North is still with the Tamil rebels.

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**Load-Date:** October 23, 2007

20 LTTE men died in air base raid

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## **Roundup: Colombo bombing threatens Sri Lanka's peace process**

Xinhua General News Service

April 26, 2006 Wednesday 12:00 PM EST

Copyright 2006 Xinhua News Agency

**Section:** WORLD NEWS; Political

**Length:** 651 words

**Dateline:** COLOMBO

### **Body**

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With a suicide bomb attack against Sri Lankan Army Commander Sarath Fonseka by the ***Tamil Tigers*** on Tuesday afternoon and the retaliation by the government troops afterwards, the peace process in the island is under serious threat.

Fonseka was critically injured and nine others were killed during the attack carried out by a ***female*** Tiger disguised as a pregnant woman.

Another 27 people were also injured during the attack occurred inside the Army headquarters in Colombo.

The attempt on Fonseka was the culmination of a series of attacks blamed on the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (***LTTE***) since April 7.

Military spokesman Prasad Samarasinghe said Wednesday that 56 soldiers and 32 civilians had been killed since April 7, when a key Tamil nationalist campaigner was shot dead by an unidentified person in the eastern port town of Trincomalee.

Sri Lankan President Mahinda Rajapaksa told the nation in the aftermath of the suicide attack that his government "is ready to face any challenge."

In his address to the nation on Wednesday evening, Rajapaksa said the suicide bomb attack had shown "that the ***LTTE*** had no desire to settle disputes through negotiations."

He said his government is ready to "face up to any threat or challenge and overcome it with the proper and courageous response."

About four hours after the suicide bombing in Colombo, the government troops began to launch air and naval raids on Tamil Tiger rebel positions in the Trincomalee district.

Palitha Kohona, head of the government peace secretariat, said the "attacks were done in retaliation as the ***LTTE*** had fired shells at the government troops in the Eastern Province."

Military spokesman Prasad Samarasinghe said the retaliatory attacks on selected targets on ***LTTE*** positions in the district of Trincomalee started Tuesday evening continued Wednesday morning.

## Roundup: Colombo bombing threatens Sri Lanka 's peace process

Samarasinghe said he was unable to give information on casualty figures from the attacks as all the targets were in the LTTE-held areas in the Trincomalee district.

Keheliya Rambukwella, minister of Policy Implementation and the government's defense spokesman said "the air attacks will be continued if the LTTE continue to behave in this fashion."

On the other hand, the LTTE said it would retaliate if the government continued the raids.

"It is like a war situation in Trincomalee. If the attacks continue, the LTTE will be forced to take military defensive action," said S. Puleedevan, head of the LTTE's peace secretariat.

The attacks were the first official military action of the government since a 2002 cease-fire halted the two-decade-old civil war and raised hopes of a lasting peace.

Meanwhile, the government said it was still committed to the Norwegian-backed cease-fire.

"Despite continued brutal terror attacks by the LTTE, we have conveyed to the Norwegians, and the co-chairs (the United States, Japan, Norway and the European Union) of the peace process our willingness to have peace negotiations," said the government spokesman and Media Minister Anura Yapa on Wednesday.

The international community, while condemning the suicide attack, also called on the two parties to settle their disputes through dialogue.

UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan slammed the suicide bombing and appealed to the Sri Lankan government and the LTTE "to summon the political will to resume their dialogue under the facilitation of the Norwegian government."

Some analysts said if the government makes only limited use of air strikes and the LTTE stops its attacks in the coming days, there will still be a chance that the talks could resume in the future.

However, if the attacks from the LTTE and retaliation raids from the government continue, the island country might return to civil war that killed about 65,000 people from the mid 1980s to 2002.

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

## **Sri Lanka explosion kill five**

Indo-Asian News Service

May 1, 2006 Monday 2:54 PM EST

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**Length:** 229 words

**Byline:** Indo-Asian News Service

**Dateline:** Colombo

### **Body**

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Colombo, May 1 -- A land mine exploded and killed at least four civilians and a sailor from the Sri Lankan Navy in the port city of Trincomalee Monday.

The Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (**LTTE**) are responsible for the attack, the military said.

An army spokesman said four civilians and three naval personnel were injured in the blast near a Hindu temple.

In Colombo, all May Day gatherings were cancelled due to security reasons.

The latest attack has further strained the already fragile truce between the **LTTE** and the Sri Lanka government.

Talks between the two scheduled for the April end in Geneva were postponed indefinitely.

According to Scandinavian monitors of the ceasefire, more than 300 people, at least half of them civilians, have been killed since the beginning of the year as a result of land mines or in other attacks.

On April 25, a **female** suicide bomber killed 11 people inside Sri Lankan army headquarters and injured the army commander.

The armed forces responded with two days of air strikes against Tamil-held areas in the east.

**Tamil Tigers** said the air attacks killed at least 12 civilians in the Sampoor area, 260 km north east of Colombo.

The stalled peace talks aimed at ending the dragging ethnic conflict has claimed more than 70,000 lives in the island.

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

## Sri Lanka explosion kill five

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**Suicide bomber pushes Sri Lanka close to all-out war: Eight killed and military leader badly injured: Air strikes launched on Tamil Tiger strongholds**

The Guardian - Final Edition

April 26, 2006 Wednesday

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**Section:** GUARDIAN INTERNATIONAL PAGES; Pg. 17

**Length:** 593 words

**Byline:** Randeep Ramesh, South Asia correspondent

## **Body**

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The shadow of a full-scale war between the Sri Lankan military and Tamil Tiger rebels was cast over the Indian Ocean island last night after a suicide bomber targeted the country's top military general, prompting reprisals on guerrilla positions.

The **female** suicide bomber, a suspected member of a ruthless Tamil Tiger suicide commando unit, killed eight people and injured 27 others, including Lieutenant General Sarath Fonseka as he was about to enter military headquarters in Colombo. She had apparently pretended to be pregnant to conceal her explosives.

Lt Gen Fonseka suffered serious abdominal injuries but was said to be stable last night. In response to the attack the Sri Lankan military launched air strikes and artillery fire against Tamil Tiger rebel positions in the north-east of the country.

Sri Lanka has suffered two decades of civil war, which has claimed the lives of an estimated 65,000 people. Officially both sides in the conflict have agreed to a ceasefire, brokered in 2002.

But since the beginning of April there have been daily reports of bombings and shootings between the Sri Lankan army and Tamil Tiger forces. Analysts say these largely unreported battles have claimed at least 65 lives in just a few weeks.

The trigger for the apparent collapse in relations was the presidential election last November of Mahinda Rajapakse, who campaigned as a hardliner determined to protect the interests of the majority Buddhist, Sinhalese population. The Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (**LTTE**) launched a war of independence in 1983 to secure a homeland for Sri Lanka's 3 million Tamil minority, claiming they were discriminated against by the majority population.

The Tigers now control large swaths of the north and east of the country, which they want to convert to an autonomous region called Eelam.

With a reputation for audacious and bloody attacks, they are reckoned to be the most tightly run "terrorist organisation" in the world.

Of the 315 suicide bombings worldwide in 13 years ending 2003, 76 were carried out by the **Tamil Tigers**.



Suicide bomber pushes Sri Lanka close to all-out war: Eight killed and military leader badly injured: Air strikes launched on Tamil Tiger strongholds

Recently the United Nations accused the rebels of holding almost 1,400 child soldiers, despite pledges to free all underage fighters.

President Rajapakse appointed Lt Gen Fonseka as army commander last November. A month later there were repeated clashes with the **Tamil Tigers**.

The rebel guerrillas have also accused the government of arming a breakaway faction in the east of the island where abductions and political killings are routine.

The Sri Lankan navy had also recently prevented Tiger commanders from travelling across government-controlled territory.

The breaking point appeared to come last week when Tamil Tiger rebels pulled out indefinitely from peace talks with the Sri Lankan government.

Despite the escalation in the simmering conflict, Palitha Kohona, the head of the government's peace secretariat, told Reuters that there was still "hope" for future talks.

"The **LTTE** did something this afternoon that clearly breached the ceasefire," he said. "The government had to act. We still hope that the **LTTE** will decide to come to talks."

Analysts say both sides have provoked each other in recent months - each trying to make the other look like the belligerent party.

Neither wants the blame for bringing a formal end to the four-year ceasefire.

But the European group of monitors, under Norwegian leadership, says that the truce is creeping towards crisis.

European ceasefire monitors said in a statement that yesterday's violence "is yet another blow to the ceasefire agreement and the peace process".

**Load-Date:** April 26, 2006

## **Tamil Tigers Kill Soldier in Sri Lanka**

Associated Press Online

February 24, 2005 Thursday

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**Section:** INTERNATIONAL NEWS

**Length:** 362 words

**Byline:** HRVOJE HRANJSKI; Associated Press Writer

**Dateline:** COLOMBO, Sri Lanka

### **Body**

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Tamil Tiger rebels opened fire at soldiers near a boundary for their territory in northern Sri Lanka, killing one and seriously wounding another in violence that imperiled the country's fragile cease-fire, the military and guerrillas said Thursday.

The rebels, when reporting the incident to cease-fire monitors, accused soldiers of approaching and taking aim at rebel forces before Wednesday's shooting on Jaffna Peninsula. The military said the troops were within their designated area and accused rebels of violating the cease-fire by opening fire.

The 60-member Scandinavian team that monitors the Norwegian-brokered cease-fire said it would not likely make any speedy ruling on whether the accord was violated.

"We have two versions of the event," team spokeswoman Helen Olafsdottir said.

The cease-fire has largely held for three years, though rebels recently blamed government-backed forces for the Feb. 7 slaying of one of their political leaders, E. Kausalyn, and said their patience with the government was running out. The government denied involvement.

The shooting Wednesday took place near Mukamalai, about 190 miles north of Colombo, after the soldiers advanced toward rebel positions, the Liberation Tigers of Tamileelam said in a statement posted on the pro-rebel TamilNet Web site.

The soldier who was killed was carrying binoculars and a hand grenade, and the other had a rifle, the rebel statement said. Tamil women fighters, who were holding positions at a 600-yard wide separation zone, opened fire when the soldiers took aim at them, the statement said.

A military official, speaking on condition of anonymity, confirmed the shootings. He said the incident represented a cease-fire violation by the rebels.

Olafsdottir said the government lodged a complaint saying the soldier was unarmed and within the government-controlled section of no-man's land when he was killed.

She said she expected rebels to file a complaint as well.

## Tamil Tigers Kill Soldier in Sri Lanka

The February, 2002 cease-fire halted 19 years of fierce fighting and restored some normalcy to the island. Subsequent peace talks broke down in April 2003 amid rebel demands for wide autonomy in the Tamil-dominated north and east.

**Load-Date:** February 25, 2005

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## *Colombo tells Karuna to cool off*

Indo-Asian News Service

January 30, 2006 Monday 7:14 AM EST

Copyright 2006 HT Media Ltd. All Rights Reserved

**Length:** 575 words

**Byline:** Indo-Asian News Service

**Dateline:** New Delhi

### **Body**

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New Delhi, Jan 30 -- Ahead of crucial peace talks scheduled in Geneva, the Sri Lankan government has told breakaway **Tamil Tigers** leader Karuna to halt attacks on his former comrades.

Although Colombo maintains officially that it has nothing to do with the "Karuna faction", informed sources in Sri Lanka said the message had gone to the group, which is active in the country's east, particularly in Batticaloa district.

"The government is gently applying pressure," a source told IANS over telephone. "There are now restrictions on the movement of Karuna's people in some areas."

Tamil sources confirmed the development but did not provide details beyond saying that government emissaries met Karuna's men over the weekend.

In a related development, a website quoted V. Muralidharan alias Karuna as saying he was declaring a "unilateral ceasefire" against the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (**LTTE**) to help the government to talk to the Tigers.

The Sri Lankan government and the **LTTE** have agreed to meet in Geneva next month to discuss the 2002 Norway-brokered truce that has come under serious strain in recent months.

The **LTTE**, which went on a killing spree of government troops from Dec 4 inviting strong condemnation from the US, is demanding that Colombo stop all help to the group led by Karuna, who broke away in March 2004 with his supporters.

This issue is expected to dominate the discussions in Geneva, which will be the first time the **LTTE** and Colombo will hold high-level talks since the Tigers walked out of the dialogue process in April 2003 after six rounds of discussions in foreign cities.

No dates have been announced for the Geneva talks but diplomatic sources said they would in all probability take place on Feb 21-22, coinciding with the fourth anniversary of the ceasefire agreement.

**LTTE** leader Velupillai Prabhakaran promised Norwegian facilitator Erik Solheim Jan 25 at Kilinochchi to scale down violence against the government forces if Colombo reined in the "paramilitaries", a Tigers euphemism mainly for Karuna's men.

## Colombo tells Karuna to cool off

The **LTTE** says the Sri Lankan military intelligence provides logistic and military backing to Karuna, whose whereabouts remains a mystery but who commands a group of armed men concentrated mainly in Batticaloa and Amparai districts.

Besides sections of the military, the government's chief ally, the Janatha Vimukti Peramuna (JVP) is also reportedly bitterly opposed to any appeasement of the **LTTE** that would involve completely cutting off support to the Karuna group.

Tamil sources put the number of armed men acting for Karuna in the country's eastern wing at 150 to 250 and said this included a growing number who had quit other anti-**LTTE** Tamil groups.

"Although Karuna has many sympathisers in Batticaloa in particular, those who were previously in **LTTE**, his men prefer now to recruit people from other (Tamil) groups so as to minimise **LTTE** penetration," said a source. "Members from the other groups also prefer this arrangement for a variety of reasons."

When Karuna, formerly the **LTTE**'s eastern wing commander, revolted in March 2004, he had thousands of male and **female** cadres - many under the age of 18 - under his command. After his rebellion was crushed, many deserted the Tiger movement. Several rejoined the **LTTE** later, willingly or under duress. A chunk of hardcore loyalists operate under Karuna's orders.

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**Load-Date:** February 1, 2006

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## **Tamil bra bomber targets Sri Lanka minister: military**

Agence France Presse -- English

November 28, 2007 Wednesday 7:09 AM GMT

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**Length:** 519 words

**Byline:** Mel Gunasekera

**Dateline:** COLOMBO, Nov 28 2007

### **Body**

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A disabled Tamil Tiger suicide bomber with explosives hidden in her bra blew herself up outside the office of a Tamil minister Wednesday, killing his secretary, the Sri Lankan military said.

Two men from the minister's security staff were also wounded in the blast, one seriously, Colombo national hospital spokeswoman Pushpa Soysa told AFP.

Officials said they believed that the attack was the work of the **Tamil Tigers** and aimed at Social Welfare Minister Douglas Devananda, who has survived at least four previous attempts on his life.

"At 8:05 am today (an) **LTTE** handicapped **female** suicide cadre exploded herself at the office of minister Douglas Devananda," in the heart of the Sri Lanka capital, the defence ministry said in a statement.

Devananda, a vocal opponent of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (**LTTE**), once fought alongside the guerrillas before turning to politics in the 1980s.

The minister, leader of the Eelam People's Democratic Party (EPDP) -- a key ally in President Mahinda Rajapaksa's ruling coalition -- escaped unhurt, a party spokesman said.

"The minister generally meets the public on Wednesdays to look into their grievances. The woman blew herself up when the minister's security personnel carried out a routine body check on her," the EPDP spokesman said.

Police investigators at the scene said the Tamil suicide bomber was disabled with polio and appeared to have wired her bra to explode when it was tampered with. She also died in the blast.

Tiger suicide bombers usually don jackets with a manual detonating device around waist level, police said.

Devananda survived a similar "bra bomb" attack in 2004.

Wednesday's attack came one day after 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.

## Tamil bra bomber targets Sri Lanka minister: military

"Those who plan to destroy the Tamil nation will in the end be forced to face their own destruction," he said delivering his annual policy speech from a jungle hideout in his northern fiefdom.

A reclusive leader, Prabhakaran launched a furious assault on the island's Sinhalese majority accusing "The Sinhala nation" of "trying to destroy the Tamil nation."

"It is unleashing unthinkable violence against another people. It only desires to find a solution to the Tamil question through military might and oppression," he said.

On Monday the island's defence secretary, Gotabhaya Rajapakse, told AFP that his forces were now going all out to kill Prabhakaran and recapture the north of the country.

The 35-year-old conflict, which has left tens of thousands dead, has escalated since 2004 when a peace deal began to unravel.

The government has this year wrested control of the east from the LTTE, sunk several LTTE gun-running ships and earlier this month killed the LTTE's political chief in an air raid.

The LTTE commemorated in July the 20th anniversary of their first-ever suicide bombing by honouring 322 fighters who have killed themselves in attacks.

The pro-rebel Puthinam.com website said the "Black Tigers" had deployed 61 suicide bombers in the past year alone, many of them women.

**Load-Date:** November 29, 2007

## *Sri Lanka military finds mines in north*

Xinhua General News Service

January 16, 2006 Monday 5:00 AM EST

Copyright 2006 Xinhua News Agency

**Section:** WORLD NEWS; Political

**Length:** 293 words

**Dateline:** COLOMBO

### **Body**

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Sri Lankan Army said on Monday that two deadly claymore mines had been recovered from the northern Jaffna peninsula.

Officials said the two mines each weighing about 10 kg were found at Kodikamam area in Jaffna on the Varani Road.

An Army patrol doing road clearing operations found the mines apparently aimed at the security forces by detonating remotely, officials said.

Since December last year the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam ( LTTE) rebels have stepped up their attacks against the government troops in the North and East provinces.

Claymore mine attacks blamed on the Tigers killed over 50 soldiers in over five separate attacks.

Two sailors were killed in the Kayts island in Jaffna on Saturday by one such claymore mine attack against the troops.

In addition, unexploded mines have been discovered by the security forces during several occasions as a result of road clearing operations. Meanwhile more murders of people have continued in the chain of violence which has gripped the two troubled provinces, defense officials said.

The pro-LTTE website, Tamilnet, reported the killings of three women in Jaffna on Sunday night.

On Monday morning at Nelliady in Jaffna an ex-member of a rival organization of the Tamil Tigers was shot dead by unidentified gunmen, the website said.

In the eastern town of Akkaraipattu two Tamil youth were shot dead around 12:30 noon local time Monday (0630 GMT) by unidentified gunmen, the police said.

Increasing violence has endangered the Norwegian backed truce making a return to war a distinct possibility. However the government has reiterated its commitment to pursue peace efforts aimed at ending the long drawn out separatist armed conflict.

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



## Sri Lanka military finds mines in north

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## *Sri Lanka on the brink after Tiger suicide attack*

Agence France Presse -- English

April 26, 2006 Wednesday 2:08 AM GMT

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**Length:** 459 words

**Dateline:** COLOMBO, April 26 2006

### **Body**

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Sri Lanka was Wednesday facing fears of a return to civil war after government forces responded to a Tamil Tiger suicide bombing in the capital with air and naval strikes.

The military said it pounded Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (**LTTE**) bases and ships in the northeastern district of Trincomalee following Tuesday's bombing targeting the head of the army's motorcade in Colombo.

The United States led international condemnation of the attack which was blamed on a "Black Tiger" **female** suicide bomber. It left 10 people dead and 30 injured, including army chief Lieutenant General Sarath Fonseka.

"It's regrettable that the **Tamil Tigers** have decided to restart the war instead of restarting the peace process," US Assistant Secretary of State for South and Central Asian Affairs Richard Boucher told reporters in Washington.

"We are in touch with governments around the world to bring to bear whatever pressure we can on the **Tamil Tigers** to abandon this course of action."

The attack in Colombo put intense pressure on a shaky four-year ceasefire between the Sri Lankan government and the rebels which was already close to collapse.

At least 80 people have been killed in bombings in the past two weeks alone while Tamil rebels say 70 civilians have been killed by pro-government militia or security forces, a charge denied by the military.

Last week the **Tamil Tigers** indefinitely pulled out of scheduled peace talks in Switzerland, accusing the government of attacks on ethnic Tamil civilians and complaining about the transport arrangements for internal rebel meetings.

"This attack is yet another serious blow to the ceasefire agreement and the peace process," the Sri Lanka Monitoring Mission said in a statement issued before the government launched its retaliatory strikes.

It was unclear whether the military's attack in the northeast caused any casualties.

Sri Lankan President Mahinda Rajapakse made a televised address to the nation after the Colombo bombing in which he vowed to stand up to terrorism.

## Sri Lanka on the brink after Tiger suicide attack

However despite the retaliatory strikes, the government also insisted it remained committed to the Norwegian-brokered peace process and expected the rebels to return to talks aimed at ending three decades of civil war.

The civil war in Sri Lanka between the Tigers and government forces, dominated by the majority Sinhalese ethnic group, has claimed an estimated 65,000 lives since 1983.

The Tigers are fighting for a homeland for the Tamil minority in the northeast of Sri Lanka, parts of which already fall under the de facto control of the guerrilla group.

Tuesday's suicide bombing was the largest attack blamed on the rebels since they entered into a truce with the government in February 2002 and the first in Colombo since July 2004.

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**Load-Date:** April 26, 2006

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## ***Toll in Sri Lanka bus blast rises to 58, Tigers blamed***

Agence France Presse -- English

June 15, 2006 Thursday 4:53 AM GMT

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**Length:** 374 words

**Dateline:** COLOMBO, June 15 2006

### **Body**

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Suspected Tamil Tiger rebels set off a powerful landmine in northern Sri Lanka Thursday that killed at least 58 bus passengers and wounded another 45, a government minister said.

The casualties were high as the bus was overcrowded with villagers travelling to the main town of Kebitigollewa to buy provisions, said Keheliya Rambukwella, the government's spokesman for defence related issues.

"This is the most barbaric terrorist act of the Tigers," he said, accusing the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (**LTTE**) of carrying out the attack.

"Among the 58 dead are two Buddhist monks. There are lot of children among the 45 wounded," he said.

Military spokesman Prasad Samarasinghe said it was the worst attack against civilians since a February 2002 truce went into effect.

"We have no doubt that the attack is the work of the **LTTE**," he said. "No one else would do a thing like this."

He said the bus was hit by a Claymore mine, or a side charger, which overturned the vehicle and sent it crashing down the road for about 25 metres (yards). **Women** and children were among the victims, he said.

The attack took place in the district of Anuradhapura, 200 kilometres (125 miles) north of Colombo, officials said.

There have been a spate of bomb attacks against security forces as well as civilians blamed on Tamil Tiger guerrillas who are waging a drawn out campaign for independence.

Despite the truce, there had been a surge in violence which official figures show has killed at least 720 people since December.

The latest attack comes a day after the **Tamil Tigers** said they had clashed with Sri Lankan soldiers who were allegedly laying mines deep within rebel-held territory further north in the island.

It follows the return to the island on Wednesday of leaders of the **LTTE** after abortive talks in Oslo with Sri Lankan government officials.

## Toll in Sri Lanka bus blast rises to 58, Tigers blamed

The rebels refused to sit at the table with a Sri Lankan delegation for what had been billed as two days of talks to discuss ways of ensuring the safety of Scandinavians monitoring the troubled truce between the two sides.

The government and the Tigers have accused each other of breaking the ceasefire and stepping up attacks.

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

**Load-Date:** June 16, 2006

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## ***Sri Lanka to blame for 700 deaths in Jaffna: rights group***

Indo-Asian News Service

December 4, 2007 Tuesday 11:16 AM EST

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**Length:** 663 words

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

**Dateline:** New Delhi

### **Body**

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New Delhi, Dec. 4 -- Sri Lankan security forces are to blame for the murder of 700 civilians in Jaffna, a rights body said Tuesday, holding both Colombo and the **Tamil Tigers** accountable for the island nation's misery.

The University Teachers for Human Rights (UTHR) also said in its latest report that "war-like ideologies" were leading the Sri Lankan government as well as the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (**LTTE**) to a destructive future.

"Making due allowance for the **LTTE**'s share in killings, we estimate that the government and its security forces are responsible for murdering in cold blood upwards of a base figure of 700 unarmed civilians in Jaffna during 2006 and 2007," said UTHR, a rights group led by a group of respected Sri Lankan Tamils.

"We make a large allowance for persons listed missing, but whose status is uncertain," it said in a 42-page document, focussing on the situation in Jaffna, the Tamil heartland in the north of Sri Lanka.

The report comes amid rising turbulence in Sri Lanka, where some 5,000 people have been slain since 2005 in violence blamed mainly on the government, the **LTTE** and Tamil groups allied to Colombo.

"War-like ideologies (are) gaining uncontested primacy on both sides, holding in prospect a bleak future for the people of Sri Lanka," it said.

"The **LTTE** having irretrievably bound itself in suicide politics would continue to plead the futility of a political settlement with Sinhalese governments bent on destroying the Tamils. Both sides would trot out seemingly logical arguments to back their stand. This is the tragedy of Sri Lanka."

The UTHR accused Sri Lankan security forces of conducting "routine shooting safari on motorcycles", targeting Tamils even remotely suspected of links with the **LTTE**.

"The absence of political engagement has left the army looking barbaric, ridiculous and stupid, chasing after schoolboys, peeping into school attendance registers, beating up boys, wives and mothers, shooting unarmed **women** on the street in cold blood and shooting old men and fathers before their wives and children."

The report said the "government's targeted killings of unsuspecting civilian Tamils significantly exceeds the **LTTE** cadres killed in combat". As a result, it added, "a large number of people are now trying to go to India as in the mid-1980s."

## Sri Lanka to blame for 700 deaths in Jaffna : rights group

It added: "Under the present government's direction there are no qualms about killing Tamils and one has an uneasy feeling that the effectiveness of the security services is measured by the number of Tamils they kill."

Today's counter-insurgency tactics, it went on, "treats the Tamil people collectively as the enemy". The state-sponsored violence "might reduce incidents in the short-term but would not reconcile the Tamils to the Sri Lankan state".

At the same time, the UTHR referred to "deep dissatisfaction among the people" in the LTTE-controlled Kilinochchi district and accused the Tigers of continuing to have an eye on children to be recruited for the war effort.

"Conscription has proved the LTTE's Achilles heel in the Vanni (the LTTE-held region in the north), resulting in widespread resentment," it said. "Resentment has been stirred, not just by the suffering imposed but also by the reckless use of new conscripts on the frontlines."

It accused the LTTE of ignoring the very basic scruples of conscripts, forcing those brought up as strict Hindus to work in kitchens cutting beef and fish for the guerrillas.

It said the LTTE had launched a new round of conscription in late October 2007 after the successful Black Tiger attack on the Sri Lankan air force base at Anuradhapura air base that dealt a major blow to Colombo.

"The reality is that both sides are skating on thin ice, bleeding the people and holding out for ends that, if attained at all, would be an unbearable cost to the people and absolute infamy to the name of this country and its people."

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**Load-Date:** December 4, 2007

## *Sri Lanka peace talks to resume despite deadly clash with Tamil Tigers*

The Associated Press

March 17, 2003, Monday, BC cycle

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**Section:** International News

**Length:** 552 words

**Byline:** By BETH DUFF-BROWN, Associated Press Writer

**Dateline:** HAKONE, Japan

### **Body**

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A deadly clash at sea between the Sri Lanka government and Tamil Tiger rebels could overshadow a critical round of negotiations to end one of Asia's longest-running civil wars.

The peace talks, which begin Tuesday in the foggy foothills of Mount Fuji, will focus on power sharing, economic recovery and human rights. But the Tigers are furious over the worst clash between the rebels and government forces since they reached a cease-fire a year ago.

On March 10, Sri Lanka's navy killed 11 rebel sailors and sank their boat, which was suspected of smuggling arms. The rebels warned the incident would have "far-reaching implications on the peace process."

The rebels' chief peace negotiator, Anton Balasingham, said the Tigers would respect the peace process despite speculation they would pull out of the sixth round of talks. The talks began in September, after the Norwegians brokered a cease-fire in February 2002.

The rebels have denied smuggling arms and accused the government of attacking their merchant vessel sailing in international waters.

In a separate incident on Monday, a navy patrol seized a rebel vessel suspected of transporting weapons, a senior navy officer said.

The patrol boat chased the rebel craft and arrested three guerrillas on board, the officer said on condition of anonymity. The rebels were believed to have thrown at least 10 boxes of ammunition overboard when they saw the navy boat approach, he said.

Gamini Peiris, the government's chief negotiator, said the peace talks are expected to focus on how the two sides would share tax revenue and power under a federal government. They will also discuss an international donor conference to take place in Japan in June.

Norway, Japan, the United States and the European Union will co-chair the conference intended to raise millions of dollars for the island nation off the southern tip of India. International donors pledged nearly \$90 million at a conference in Oslo, Norway, in November, and have since promised more aid.



## Sri Lanka peace talks to resume despite deadly clash with Tamil Tigers

"One of the most tangible and visible results of the peace process so far has been the degree of international support for our little country, which was never evident at any time in the past," Peiris said.

He said rebuilding the economy was critical. Yasushi Akashi, Japan's special envoy to Sri Lanka, will join the talks in Hakone to help map out a recovery plan.

"There will be a good deal of emphasis on human rights," said Peiris, noting that the former head of Amnesty International, Ian Martin, was working with both sides to formulate a human rights program.

The rebels began fighting for a homeland for the ethnic Tamil minority on the island in 1983 but now say they would settle for autonomy in a federal state. The war has killed nearly 65,000 people, displaced another 1.6 million and destroyed the economy.

The **Tamil Tigers** are one of the world's most notorious rebel groups, known for suicide attacks by **women** bombers and the cyanide capsules guerrillas wear around their necks to kill themselves if captured.

The Tigers accuse the majority Sinhalese, who are predominantly Buddhist, of discrimination in education and jobs against the country's 3.2 million minority Tamils, most of whom are Hindu and live in the north.

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On the Net:

Tamil Web site: [www.TamilNet.com](http://www.TamilNet.com).

Government site: [www.peaceinsrilanka.com](http://www.peaceinsrilanka.com)

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## **Sri Lanka peace talks: Tamil Tigers refuse to disband suicide squad**

Associated Press International

January 8, 2003 Wednesday

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**Section:** INTERNATIONAL NEWS

**Length:** 592 words

**Byline:** SHIMALI SENANAYAKE; Associated Press Writer

**Dateline:** NAKHON PATHOM, Thailand

### **Body**

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The Tamil Tiger rebel group on Thursday refused to disband its dreaded suicide bomb squad, but reiterated it was committed to peace while negotiating an end to Sri Lanka's 19-year civil war.

On Wednesday, Sri Lankan President Chandrika Kumaratunga's office said she wants the Liberation Tigers of Tamileelam to disband the "Black Tigers" - responsible for many political assassinations - to show sincerity about peace.

Kumaratunga is a staunch political rival of Prime Minister Ranil Wickremasinghe, whose government is leading the peace talks with the **Tamil Tigers** in a bid to end the ethnic war between the majority Sinhalese and the minority Tamils. The war has claimed nearly 65,000 lives.

Kumaratunga's party, which is in the opposition in Parliament, and a Marxist party are opposed to giving too many concessions to the Tigers. Kumaratunga is the commander of the military and has the power to dismiss the government.

Tamil Tiger chief negotiator Anton Balasingham said Thursday before entering the final session of the current round of peace talks in Thailand that Kumaratunga's demand is irrelevant since no fighting has taken place following the cease-fire last February.

"Everyone knows that the Liberation Tigers of Tamileelam have a massive military convention. The Black Tigers are apart of that convention. But they have not been operational since the cease-fire," Balasingham told reporters.

"The Black Tigers have fought a war for nearly two decades and are the bargaining power and a security issue of the Tamil people," Balasingham said. "Disarming or disbanding shouldn't be made an issue at this stage."

He said the Tigers will not revert to war. "Our organization is seriously and sincerely committed to peace."

Wickremasinghe's government also indicated that Kumaratunga's demand was premature.

"Decommissioning of weapons is certainly relevant but at the appropriate time. That should accompany a political settlement," chief government negotiator G.L. Peiris said, adding that "we are nowhere near the formation of a political agreement."

## Sri Lanka peace talks: Tamil Tigers refuse to disband suicide squad

The Tigers gave up their demand for independence at the outset of the talks - now in their fourth round - and both sides have agreed not to discuss details of political devolution until other matters including rehabilitation and resettlement in war-torn areas of the island's north and east are resolved.

On Wednesday, the two sides agreed to appoint the World Bank as the custodian of international aid that Sri Lanka will receive for rebuilding those areas, Peiris said.

A major international aid conference to provide rehabilitation funds is to be held in June in Japan.

The rivals also agreed to address the issue of resettling refugees under two phases - first in areas outside high-security zones followed by those within. High-security zones are former Tamil areas now occupied by the army as a buffer against Tamil Tiger forces.

Four teams will conduct a preliminary assessment of the situation on the ground and required assistance by Feb. 7, a government official said on condition of anonymity. He said a report on a plan to move soldiers out of public buildings and houses outside the high-security zone is to be submitted by the Sri Lankan army by Jan. 20.

Expediting demining activities, drawing boundaries and verifying ownership of land will also be part of the plan, he said.

Both sides also agreed that human rights and issues of women and children will be priority topics to be addressed when the two sides meet for the fifth round of talks, to be held in Nakhon Pathom between Feb. 7-10.

**Load-Date:** January 9, 2003

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**The Tigers tamed? Why Sri Lanka's president believes peace is within reach FT INTERVIEW: Despite recent ceasefire violations, Mahinda Rajapakse is confident that Tamil separatists will be forced to negotiate, he tells Jo Johnson and Khozem Merchant**

Financial Times (London, England)

May 25, 2006 Thursday

London Edition 1

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**Section:** COMMENT AND ANALYSIS; Pg. 15

**Length:** 1736 words

**Byline:** By JO JOHNSON and KHOZEM MERCHANT

## **Body**

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Have the **Tamil Tigers** finally been cornered? In a diplomatic coup for President Mahinda Rajapakse of Sri Lanka and the Sinhalese nationalist hardliners who elected him last November, the European Union is expected on Monday to add the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam to its list of banned terrorist groups. The EU's decision, which follows similar moves by India, the US, UK and, most recently, Canada, intensifies the diplomatic isolation of a group that has been fighting for an independent Tamil homeland since 1983.

"The **LTTE** thought the world was with them," says a jubilant Mr Rajapakse in an interview at his residence in Colombo, confident that the EU ban will help force the **Tamil Tigers** back to the negotiating table. "Their propaganda machine was very effective. Now, with the EU ban coming, they will realise that they can't use these tactics, killing innocent people, murdering. They will have to think twice and be much more careful. They have to think twice about fighting the whole world. Whoever has political sense won't do that."

If he is right, it will consolidate him in a position won with the slenderest of margins. The November election gave the people of Sri Lanka a clear choice between Mr Rajapakse's leftist Sinhala-majority politics versus the liberal reforms and **LTTE** appeasement proposed by opposition leader Ranil Wickramasinghe. Most of the Tamils in the north and east of the island did not vote - allowing Mr Rajapakse, who had promised to renegotiate the ceasefire and preserve the unitary nature of Sri Lanka, to win by 50.3 per cent to 48.4 per cent.

Many expect the EU ban will prompt the Tigers, who control around 10 per cent of Sri Lanka in the north and east, to demonstrate their strength by force of arms. They are redoubtable guerrillas. Pioneers of the tactic of suicide bombings, they boast an elite squad of martyrs, the Black Tigers, as well as their own navy, the Sea Tigers, and a nascent air force. "The **LTTE** now has no inhibitions," says Dr Paikiasothy Saravanamattu of the Centre for Policy Alternatives in Colombo. "They may as well be hung for a sheep as a lamb."

Civil war is arguably now more likely than at any time since the ceasefire agreement of 2002. The **Tamil Tigers'** chief theoretician and lead negotiator, Anton Balasingham, has warned that alienating the Tigers would achieve the opposite result to that intended. "The more the international community alienates the **LTTE**, the more the **LTTE** will

The Tigers tamed? Why Sri Lanka 's president believes peace is within reach FT INTERVIEW: Despite recent ceasefire violations, Mahinda Rajapakse is confident t....

be compelled to tread a hardline individualist path," he said. "An EU ban is not going to help bring about peace. It will only serve to exacerbate war."

It is a galling prospect for India, the regional power in south Asia. From Afghanistan to Myanmar via Nepal, Pakistan and Bangladesh, India's neighbours form a roll call of Asia's most troubled countries. Another failing state on its borders will do little to boost India's claim to be a force for regional stability worthy of a seat in the United Nations Security Council. Furthermore, for as long as South Asia remains one of the world's least economically and politically integrated regions, hawks in New Delhi worry that China's growing influence over India's neighbours will be difficult to contain.

The EU decision follows a series of violations of a four-year-old ceasefire agreement that culminated, a fortnight ago, in an extraordinary sea battle between the separatists' marine arm and the Sri Lankan navy. After sinking a navy fast boat by ramming it with vessels laden with explosives, the Tigers narrowly missed their main target, a ferry carrying 710 sailors and one European ceasefire monitor.

The move will restrict diplomatic contacts with EU governments, hinder the LTTE in its aggressive fundraising from the large Tamil diaspora, freeze the organisation's assets and prevent the Tigers roaming across a bloc of 25 countries. "It delegitimises them," says Jehan Perera, director of the National Peace Council of Sri Lanka, a think-tank. "For the Sinhalese psyche, the fear of a separate Tamil country being recognised by the rest of the world is allayed."

The LTTE also faces dissent within the Tamil community. It is battling to assert its claim to be the sole representative of the Tamil people, a status that the EU specifically denies it, and is embroiled in a bloody inter-Tamil battle in the east with a dissident militant force led by a former LTTE commander known as "Colonel" Karuna. An important factor in the breakdown of peace talks has been the Tigers' belief that Karuna receives support from the army, in contravention of the ceasefire agreement.

The LTTE has in the past indicated that it would accept a federal solution that falls just short of independence, albeit with full control of their own natural resources, sea lanes, airspace, judiciary and police. But Mr Rajapakse has shown no sign of budging from a formula of "maximum devolution within a unitary state". Dr T. Jayasingham, a Tamil academic at Sri Lanka's Eastern University, says: "It's very easy to ban the LTTE but the real question is how you pressure the government to address the Tamil problem."

Mr Rajapakse says he is working to form a consensus among Sri Lanka's mainstream political parties and complains about the caricature of him as a warmonger and Sinhalese chauvinist. "Even when we give (the Tigers) something they want, they say they don't want it," he says. "But I want the LTTE to come and discuss a solution. Without them we won't be able to have a solution to the problem."

That problem is fast spilling over into the politics of the southern Indian state of Tamil Nadu. A rich state with a big voice in New Delhi coalition governments, its 61m population is sensitive to human rights abuses in Sri Lanka and sympathetic to the plight of its Tamil minority. In recent weeks, following aerial attacks by the Sri Lankan military on LTTE-held areas, the exodus of Sri Lankan Tamils to India has reached worrying levels: 1,300 have crossed the Palk Strait this year to join the 55,000 Tamil refugees living in 102 camps across the state.

"The parameters of Indian policy are to ensure that there's no break-up of Sri Lanka and that the LTTE does not get too big for its boots," says Dr Saravanamattu. "The wisdom has always been that if the Tigers forged a separate state it would have a knock-on effect in India."

New Delhi has at various points been concerned that a breakthrough by the Sri Lankan Tamil minority, a population of 3.6m accounting for 18 per cent of the island's inhabitants, would revive Tamil nationalism in India. A more pressing concern is the message it might send to violent separatist movements in India's north-eastern states.

The Tigers tamed? Why Sri Lanka 's president believes peace is within reach FT INTERVIEW: Despite recent ceasefire violations, Mahinda Rajapakse is confident t....

"We've given a firm 'niet' to Eelam," says one top Indian official. "There's no question of us ever accommodating or recognising any separate entity run by the LTTE in the north. We support maximum devolution within a sovereign and territorially integral Sri Lanka that recognises the country's diversity and plurality."

In a delicate balancing act, India provides training to the Sri Lankan army but refuses Colombo a formal defence pact and is cagey about whether it supplies lethal weaponry that could be used to suppress Tamil militants. "We want India to be more involved," says Mr Rajapakse.

Memories of its disastrous peacekeeping operation in the late 1980s, however, are still raw. India never won the trust of the LTTE, which suspected it was trying to force an unfavourable settlement, ended up engaging the Tigers in guerilla warfare and was humiliatingly asked to leave by the Sri Lankan government. New Delhi's perceived abandonment of the Tamils fuelled a discontent in Tamil Nadu that led to the assassination of Rajiv Gandhi, then prime minister, by a female suicide bomber in 1991. India has accused the Tigers' current leader, Velupillai Prabhakaran, of involvement in the crime.

"India has its own version of the old US Monroe doctrine in its conception of its rightful sphere of influence, but refuses to intervene to back it up," says a senior European diplomat in New Delhi.

Indian foreign policy hawks fear this gives Beijing an opportunity. Growing Chinese influence over Sri Lanka's Dollars 20bn economy are a concern in New Delhi, which has recently lost out in a number of other markets where the two emerging powers have competed for control of strategic resources. China recently pipped India to a contract to build a 500mw coal-based power plant at Norocholai on Sri Lanka's west coast, while also bagging a project to build a road between Colombo and the city's airport. In both cases, Beijing sweetened the deals with soft loans to Colombo totalling about Dollars 800m.

More worrying for India is that China is also poised to transform the strategically located harbour of Hambantota, on the island's southern tip, into Sri Lanka's third big port. Nine nautical miles from international shipping lanes linking south and west Asia, it will, worries one Indian official, make an excellent berthing place for Chinese ships: "They are doing what they did with the Gwadar deep-water port in Pakistan. It's obvious they're trying to counter our influence and secure footholds in the region, creating an arc of influence. They're in Myanmar and Pakistan. Why not Sri Lanka?"

India has not been idle. Sri Lanka receives about half the aid India disburses to countries in the south Asian economic bloc SAARC. A five-year free-trade pact powered bilateral trade past the Dollars 2bn mark last year; the trade surplus is overwhelmingly in Delhi's favour, making it the largest single source for Colombo's imports. Officials in Colombo say India's expanding economic interest in Sri Lanka suggests New Delhi "does not intend to let go lightly. India will not watch silently".

"The India-China competitiveness is a new phenomenon in Sri Lanka," says Saman Kelegama, an economist at the Institute of Policy Studies in Colombo, "and it will gain in intensity." Mr Rajapakse is proving adept at playing India and China off against each other. "It's globalisation," he says. "Sri Lanka is an open economy and anyone is free to come and invest."

Securing lasting peace, however, will be the best long-term hope for sustainable development in Sri Lanka. So far, in the first six months of his presidency, Mr Rajapakse has shown himself an astute tactician, but little sign that he has a strategy for reconciling a divided and bitter island.

**Load-Date:** May 24, 2006

## **Tiger rebel leader regrets 1991 killing of former Indian prime minister**

Associated Press International

June 28, 2006 Wednesday 8:14 AM GMT

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**Section:** INTERNATIONAL NEWS

**Length:** 507 words

**Byline:** By ASHOK SHARMA, Associated Press Writer

**Dateline:** COLOMBO Sri Lanka

### **Body**

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Sri Lanka on Wednesday said it didn't take seriously a Tamil Tiger leader's expression of regret to India for the 1991 assassination of former Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi by a Tiger suicide bomber.

"They (**Tamil Tigers**) keep on changing their stand," Keheliya Rambukwella, the chief government spokesman, told reporters.

"During talks with the Sri Lankan government in 2002, they categorically denied having any hand in Rajiv Gandhi's assassination," Rambukwella said.

He described the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam, the formal name for **Tamil Tigers** fighting for a separate homeland for the minority Tamils in Sri Lanka since 1983, as a "ruthless terrorist organization."

The **LTTE**'s chief negotiator Anton Balasingham in an interview with India's NDTV news channel, parts of which were broadcast on Tuesday, said Gandhi's killing "is a great tragedy, a monumental historical tragedy for which we deeply regret and we call upon the Government of India and people of India to be magnanimous to put the past behind."

The Tigers killed Gandhi to protest India's involvement, during Gandhi's tenure in 1980s, in Sri Lanka's civil war.

The Tigers have acknowledged their role in the attack in the past, but this is the strongest expression of regret yet from the rebels.

Balasingham's comments came as mounting violence in Sri Lanka threatens to torpedo a shaky 2002 cease-fire that ended a bloody civil war, which left some 65,000 people dead in the island nation.

Harry Goonetilleke, a retired air force officer and an analyst, said the timing of the **LTTE**'s statement has something to do with the worsening crisis in Sri Lanka and a hope that India wouldn't take a hard line against it.

"It is trying to soften up New Delhi a bit about their future stand if hostilities were to break out with a greater force," Goonetilleke told The Associated Press.

However, Indian officials said Tuesday that India could never forgive the killing.

## Tiger rebel leader regrets 1991 killing of former Indian prime minister

"This would be tantamount to endorsing the philosophy of terror, violence and political assassination," India's junior foreign minister, Anand Sharma told NDTV.

"The people of India cannot forgive the dastardly crime committed by the (Tigers)."

Balasingham said the Tigers had given India a commitment that it would not target its leaders again and would welcome a greater Indian involvement in the peace talks between the Tigers and the Sri Lankan government.

The Tigers have pledged not to work against India's interests, Balasingham told NDTV, saying India should be "actively involved in the peace process."

Gandhi, the son of slain Prime Minister Indira Gandhi, was killed in an explosion triggered by a **female** Tamil Tiger who greeted him while he was campaigning for elections in the southern Indian state of Tamil Nadu on May 21, 1991.

The Tigers were angered by Gandhi's decision to send Indian troops as peacekeepers to northern Sri Lanka in 1987 as part of an accord with the Sri Lankan government to broker peace.

The Indian troops ended up fighting with the Tigers and withdrew from the island nation in 1990.

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



## **Lanka Air Force attacks, damages LTTE's Mullaitive Sea Tiger base**

Hindustan Times

January 4, 2007 Thursday 12:12 PM EST

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**Length:** 574 words

**Byline:** Report from the Asian News International brought to you by the Hindustan Times

**Dateline:** Colombo

### **Body**

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Colombo, Jan 4 -- Sri Lanka's Defence Ministry today confirmed that Air Force fighter jets had pounded **LTTE** terror targets in Mullaitive, destroying a sea tiger base at 7.15 a.m this morning.

A couple of hours after the aerial attack, the rebels detonated a claymore mine targeting the security forces personnel on foot patrol duty at Pirappanmaduwa in Vavuniya. The attack took place at 9:45 a.m. local time when the Army and Police personnel were jointly conducting a foot patrol in the area. An Army soldier was killed and two others received injuries due to the explosion.

The injured have been rushed to the teaching hospital in Anuradhapura immediately.

**LTTE** terrorists also fired T-56 rockets at security personnel manning an Army guard point at Kalyanapura in Walioya an hour earlier. Unconfirmed reports said that an army soldier was killed in that attack.

Security forces retaliated effectively causing heavy damages to the **LTTE**. In a subsequent search operation conducted by the troops recovered a body of an **LTTE** cadre and a T-56 weapon.

Military spokesman Brigadier Prasad Samarasinghe said the Pirappanmaduwa bomb attack was targeted at a foot patrol of the military.

Vavuniya is the last government-held town ahead of territory under the control of separatist rebels

Meanwhile, the Sri Lankan government has rubbished the false information spread by the **LTTE** on the air strikes on a Sea Tiger base in Mannar said that **LTTE** is attempting to mislead the international community.

Security Forces yesterday charged that the **LTTE** with being engaged in a vicious campaign against them, using captive civilians as a shield. The government said that its aerial strikes were carried out on a Sea Tiger base and the **LTTE** radio communications proved that they had suffered casualties and heavy damages.

Defence sources were quoted by the official Lankan website as saying that the civilians claimed to have been injured in the aerial attack on the Sea Tiger base in Illuppaikadavai, North of Mannar on Tuesday were those forcibly held under **LTTE** captivity used for manual labour such as the construction of underground bunkers for the terrorist outfit. It said that **women** and children were believed to be held captive in human farms, while the males provided hard labour in the military construction sites of the **LTTE**.

## Lanka Air Force attacks, damages LTTE's Mullaitive Sea Tiger base

The **LTTE**'s claim that the injured civilians were taken to a hospital in Kilinochchi was a total lie as the nearest hospital to Illuppaikadavai is the fully equipped Mannar hospital.

"If there were seriously injured people the closest hospital they could have been taken to would be the Anuradhapura General Hospital," a government spokesman said.

"It is clearly obvious that the **LTTE** carrying propaganda against the Sri Lanka Air Force to gain international sympathy," he added.

The defense ministry claims that there are between 8000 to 10,000 civilians waiting to find their way to government control areas. According to Brigadier Samarasinghe, most of these people are elders and ailing.

According to official statistics released as on January 1, 2007, 23,189 people have moved in to the safety of government-controlled areas where as the previous figures stated only 7,709 individuals between July 1, 2006 and October 31, 2006.

These people - 4,501 boys, 4,556 girls, 7563 **women**, 6569 men - belong to 7,349 families.

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**Load-Date:** January 4, 2007

## **ROUNDUP: 5 killed, 12 injured as female suicide bomber sets off explosion in Colombo police station**

Deutsche Presse-Agentur

July 7, 2004, Wednesday 11191111:19:11 Central European Time

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**Section:** Miscellaneous

**Length:** 478 words

### **Body**

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Eds: Adds quotes. Epa photo 00228184 available. Colombo (dpa) - A **female** Tamil-rebel suicide bomber set off an explosion inside a police station in Sri Lanka's capital Wednesday, killing herself and four police officers and injuring 12 others, the first such bombing in the capital since the group reached a truce agreement with the government in February 2002, police said. The woman in her early 20's was detained for questioning after behaving suspiciously in the vicinity of a ministry actively working against rebels of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (**LTTE**), known as the **Tamil Tigers**. The police station is located in the Kollupitiya area adjoining the Prime Minister's office in the capital. The U.S. embassy and the British High Commission are also located in the vicinity. The **female** bomber was first spotted outside the office of Hindu Affairs Minister Douglas Devananda and refused to be searched by two **female** police officers, Inspector General of Police Indra de Silva said. The bomber was then taken to the adjoining room which the minister was occupying, but failed to triggered the explosion, apparently unaware that the minister was present in his office. "If only the woman knew that I was in my office she could have blasted herself killing me," Devananda said. "I have been the target of the **LTTE** (Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam) for several years." Police said the woman was taken to the police station and set off the explosion in the reception area of the police station when she was about to be searched.

Devananda, leader of the Eelam Peoples Democratic Party (EPDP), is a strong critic of the **LTTE** rebels, and in recent weeks has been helping the leader of a breakaway group of rebels. Rebels have been accusing the military of helping the leader of the breakaway group, V. Muralitharan, who goes by the alias Karuna, while Devananda has been helping him register as a political party. This was the first major incident in the city since the **LTTE** and the government signed a cease-fire agreement under a Norwegian backed peace process in February 2002. Rebels over the past two weeks have been claiming that the military was maintaining ties with Karuna and called on them to stop all links with him. Devananda, however, has openly admitted to helping Karuna, who was once the regional military wing leader of the **LTTE** rebels for the eastern Batticaloa and Ampara districts. Police said they would step up security in the city following the incident. Rebels carried out the last suicide bomb attack in October 2001 in the city killing a police officer and a civilian and injuring 16 others. The incident was seen as a set back to the Norwegian efforts to resume peace talks between the Sri Lankan government and rebels aimed at ending the 20-year-old minority ethnic conflict that has claimed over 69,000 lives. dpa ad eu

**Load-Date:** July 7, 2004

## **Factional fighting as Japanese envoy pushes peace bid**

Agence France Presse -- English

May 8, 2006 Monday 7:12 AM GMT

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**Length:** 531 words

**Dateline:** COLOMBO, May 8 2006

### **Body**

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At least 11 people were killed in Sri Lankan factional fighting on Monday, defence officials said, as a Japanese envoy sought to salvage the island's faltering peace process.

A breakaway faction of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (**LTTE**) launched a pre-dawn attack against a base of the main guerrilla group in northeastern Trincomalee district Monday, killing 11 and wounding four, defence sources said.

There was no immediate word from the Tigers or the faction led by V. Muralitharan, better known as Colonel Karuna, but official sources said the attack appeared to be a retaliatory strike after an **LTTE** attack on Karuna's forces last month.

The defence ministry said they had no further details of the latest violence because the fighting occurred in rebel-held territory.

The reports of violence came as Japanese envoy Yasushi Akashi was set to meet President Mahinda Rajapakse on Monday after the government imposed a curfew Sunday in the northern Jaffna peninsula.

Defence Ministry spokesman Prasad Samarasinghe said the curfew would be lifted by Monday afternoon. The main entry and exit points to rebel-held territory in the island's north have been shut since Sunday.

"We hope to be able to open the entry and exit points very soon," he said without elaborating.

On Sunday, security forces clamped the curfew in Jaffna ahead of protests called by residents after last week's killing of seven men the army said were suspected **Tamil Tigers**, but whom the rebels described as civilians.

The security measures also followed reports that eight men were missing in Jaffna on Sunday.

They had slept overnight at a Hindu temple before troops allegedly took them away, the **LTTE** said in a statement, adding that villagers had found blood and three identity cards.

The defence ministry said it had no information about the Tiger allegations.

### Factional fighting as Japanese envoy pushes peace bid

Following his talks with Rajapakse, Akashi was to meet on Tuesday with the leader of the LTTE's political wing, S.P. Thamilselvan, in a rebel-held northern town, the Tigers confirmed.

Despite the truce signed in 2002, more than 200 people, mostly civilians, have died over the last month in tit-for-tat attacks by government forces and the rebel Tigers.

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

Formal political talks have remained on hold since April 2003 after six rounds of face-to-face discussions that began in September 2002.

In February the government and rebels held an initial round of discussions in Switzerland aimed at shoring up the ceasefire amid a surge in violence, but a follow-up round was postponed indefinitely and killings have since escalated.

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

Eleven people including the bomber died.

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

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

**Load-Date:** May 9, 2006

## **Bus attack kills 64 in Sri Lanka, Tigers blamed**

Agence France Presse -- English

June 15, 2006 Thursday 5:56 AM GMT

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**Length:** 552 words

**Dateline:** COLOMBO, June 15 2006

### **Body**

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At least 64 bus passengers were killed and 39 injured Thursday in a landmine blast in northern Sri Lanka in the worst attack on civilians since a 2002 truce which the government is blaming on Tamil guerrillas.

The attack renewed fears that the island is sliding back to war after peace broker Norway last week failed to arrange a face-to-face meeting between Colombo and the rebel Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (**LTTE**).

Policy Planning Minister Keheliya Rambukwella, the government's spokesman on defence related issues, said at least 58 people including two Buddhist monks were killed while another 45 escaped with injuries.

Hospital sources said six people had died in hospital and raised to 64 the total number of dead.

The bus packed with villagers was travelling to the town of Kebitigollewa when it was hit.

Casualties were high as the bus was overcrowded with people travelling to buy provisions from a weekly market, Rambukwella said.

"This is a most barbaric terrorist act of the Tigers," he said, accusing the **LTTE** of carrying out the attack.

Military spokesman Prasad Samarasinghe said it was the worst attack against civilians since a February 2002 truce went into effect.

"We have no doubt that the attack is the work of the **LTTE**," he said. "No one else would do a thing like this."

He said the bus was hit by a Claymore mine, or a side charger, which overturned the vehicle and sent it crashing down the road for about 25 metres (yards). **Women** and children were among the victims, he said.

The attack took place in the district of Anuradhapura, 200 kilometres (125 miles) north of Colombo, officials said.

There have been a spate of bomb attacks against security forces as well as civilians blamed on Tamil Tiger guerrillas who are waging a drawn out campaign for independence.

Despite the truce, there had been a surge in violence which official figures show has killed at least 720 people since December.

## Bus attack kills 64 in Sri Lanka , Tigers blamed

The latest attack comes a day after the **Tamil Tigers** said they had clashed with Sri Lankan soldiers who were allegedly laying mines deep within rebel-held territory further north in the island.

It follows the return to the island on Wednesday of leaders of the **LTTE** after abortive talks in Oslo with Sri Lankan government officials.

The rebels refused to sit at the table with a Sri Lankan delegation for what had been billed as two days of talks to discuss ways of ensuring the safety of Scandinavians monitoring the troubled truce between the two sides.

The government and the Tigers have accused each other of breaking the ceasefire and stepping up attacks despite the Norwegian-arranged truce that was the centre piece of the internationally-backed peace efforts in the island.

However, peace hopes all but vanished after Norway failed to bring the opposing parties to the table for two days of talks on June 8 and 9.

The **LTTE** refused to negotiate with Sri Lanka's government last week after travelling to Oslo.

Diplomatic sources say Norway is now looking for an exit after spending six years attempting to broker peace in the island nation where more than 60,000 people have been killed in three decades of fighting.

"There is at the present time no room for a Norwegian initiative in the peace process," Norwegian envoy Erik Solheim told AFP in Oslo last week after failing to get the Tigers to negotiate.

**Load-Date:** June 16, 2006

## *Tamil trauma mars school chances*

The Press (Christchurch, New Zealand)

March 23, 2005, Wednesday

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**Section:** NEWS; INTERNATIONAL;; NEWS EXTRA; A

**Length:** 1383 words

**Byline:** WELHAM Keri

### **Body**

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Education often becomes a forgotten luxury for children whose loved ones have died in the bitter 20-year conflict between the **Tamil Tigers** and the Sri Lankan Government. After deaths in the family, they miss months, sometimes years, of school, and struggle to keep up. But New Zealand aid money is helping to rewrite their chances.

A 13-year-old girl in a torn and faded school uniform held together with safety pins stands at the blackboard with a pointing stick. This is a lesson in reading and spelling Tamil.

Muththupillai Sumithra is reading aloud and her classmates are parroting every line. She concentrates hard, talks loud and clear, tries very hard to read every word correctly.

"Get up in the morning, wash, eat, dress and come to school," she says in Tamil, the second most common Sri Lankan tongue, and her classmates echo.

Sumithra's education came to an abrupt halt eight months ago when, she says through an interpreter, her father was murdered by the Government. Wide-eyed, she illustrates her words by making the motion of a noose around her neck.

In the **Tamil Tigers**' bitter 20-year fight for independence, an estimated 70,000 people have been killed. The subsequent trauma for shattered families has kept thousands of children away from school for long periods.

In a country with a 91 per cent literacy rate, education has long been considered essential. These children's families, as well as the wider community, do not want the war and its fallout to dictate their future opportunities.

So Sumithra is taking advantage of a predominantly New Zealand-funded catch-up education scheme run through the United Nations Children's Fund (Unicef). New Zealand's aid and development agency, NZAID, has given \$ US700,000 (\$ NZ942,380) over three years, from 2004, to the project.

This year, 1700 children are enrolled in the programme in the Kalkudah district where Sumithra lives. Kalkudah is roughly the same geographical size as Ashburton and its surrounds.

The one-year intensive programme for children aged seven to 14 aims to get them back up to pace with their age-group peers so they can be integrated into mainstream classes the following year. There are 40 centres for catch-up education in Kalkudah and several others spread around other districts in the north and east of Sri Lanka -- those regions affected by the war.



## Tamil trauma mars school chances

Most of the 25 children in Sumithra's class have taken the day off after spending all night at the Hindu temples for an annual festival of worship. But 10 children have dragged themselves to their desks, despite not sleeping at all the night before.

The classroom floor is made of concrete, cracked and perishing in one corner. The bare concrete walls stop at thigh-height to ensure ventilation in the stifling heat.

Unicef catch-up education implementation manager Noordeen Mohamed says the children of this district, on the tsunami-battered east coast, are among the poorest in Sri Lanka. Their uniforms are stained and worn but they are alert, responsive and eager, and stand to welcome the visitors.

"Good morning to you, good morning to you, good morning..." they sing, in stilted English. They forget how the song ends, or get shy, and the words drain away.

The district of Kalkudah was, for most of the 20-year war, a battlezone. **Tamil Tigers**, fighting for an independent state, fought Government troops in the homes and on the roads of this district. An uneasy ceasefire has held for three years, but killings are common in what many believe are Tamil Tiger efforts to coax the Government into breaking the ceasefire.

The Tigers, officially the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam, or **LTTE**, are acknowledged by the international defence authority, Jane's, as the most effective terrorist organisation in the world. Their tactics are studied by the international terror agents and they are recognised for an unsurpassed level of brutality.

Guerrillas are trained in jungle warfare by an Australian woman who married into the organisation. **Women** are often used as suicide bombers because, in this culture, they are less likely to be physically searched at checkpoints than men.

In the latest Jane's Intelligence Review, commentator Chris Smith notes that the December 26 tsunami, which killed more than 30,000 Sri Lankans, hit during a period of political gridlock. The peace process appeared to be fraying.

Smith says, despite speeches from the Government claiming the tsunami could bring the two sides together, the tragedy further divided the enemies. The Government's hidden message, Smith says, was that the tsunami could unite the two sides only if the **LTTE** was willing to let the Government take control of all aid.

For this to work, the **LTTE** would need to be confident that the Government would not use the distribution of tsunami aid as an opportunity to favour areas under army control, thereby weakening Tamil Tiger strongholds.

Daily killings in border towns near Kalkudah continue, but the shaky ceasefire still holds.

The **LTTE** is accused of child conscription, signing up children as young as nine for combat duties. Unicef claims, as of February 28 this year, the **LTTE** had 1452 children under 18 in its force. Of these, 544 were girls.

Sumithra has been back at school for one month. She talks, and translators distill her list of horrors: "During the wartime, her house was burned, her father died, the army killed her family". It is assumed, although the translators do not want to ask her outright, that Sumithra's father was an **LTTE** member, or at least a sympathiser.

She wants to be a teacher when she grows up.

Sumithra has a plastic bag on her desk with the Unicef insignia printed on it. Each day she studies maths, social studies, English, sports and her favourite subject, Tamil.

When the children first come back to school, many are struggling in all subjects. After six months, they are usually gaining ground, but English remains their weakest subject.

Sumithra attends catch-up classes from 8am until 1pm daily. She will sit an examination on December 31 and, if she passes, she will go back into her mainstream peer class the following day.

## Tamil trauma mars school chances

Over the past five years, 3000 children in the Kalkudah district have graduated from the catch-up education programme. Surveys have identified a further 3000 children in need of the classes, but funding cannot stretch that far.

There are 40 catch-up teachers in Kalkudah, each earning about 4000 rupees, or \$ US40, a month. Their assistant teachers earn about 3000 rupees a month.

The teachers are trained by Unicef for 10 days, then have one day of additional training every month. Their training is in both the psycho-social problems facing their young charges and in the syllabus. Many of their pupils live with family problems bred out of poverty and war, and they find it difficult to study effectively.

Aid money pays for classroom equipment, uniforms, books, blackboards, desks, chairs, teacher salaries and administration.

Separate catch-up education classes, also partly funded by New Zealand, are being run for tsunami survivors.

New Zealand is paying for university entrance study notes to replace those ruined in the waves, and materials for a daily after-school catch-up class for those who missed weeks of school after the tsunami.

Back in Kalkudah, Kangeshan Dilakshana, 10, was out of school for six months after her grandfather committed suicide.

A tiny girl with big eyes and dreams of becoming a teacher and a vocabulary of adult phrases, she explains that her grandfather killed himself because of "family problems". Her school principal says these problems were caused directly by the war.

Tamil and English are her favourite subjects. Her teacher says she is very clever; she just needs to catch up.

Noordeen Mohamed, as head of the catch-up education programme in Kalkudah, knows where the funding for this project comes from.

He has a message for Kiwi taxpayers: "Thank you very much, yeah."

Keri Welham travelled to Sri Lanka with the assistance of the Asia New Zealand Foundation. This is the second in a three-part series on Sri Lanka. Her third report from Sri Lanka will run in the Mainlander section on Saturday.

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CAPTION:

Catching up: Muththupillai Sumithra, 13, studies in one of the catch-up classes funded by New Zealand in Sri Lanka. Photo: Anaruddha Lokuhapuarachchi

**Load-Date:** March 24, 2005

## *A blind eye to Tamil terrorism*

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

January 18, 2005 Tuesday

National Edition

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**Section:** EDITORIALS; Pg. A15

**Length:** 656 words

**Byline:** National Post

### **Body**

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In Australia, Britain and the United States, belonging to or attempting to raise funds for the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (**LTTE**) -- better known as the **Tamil Tigers** -- can lead to arrest or imprisonment. Given the track record of this vicious terrorist group, that makes sense. But while other countries have banned the **LTTE** outright, Ottawa turns a blind eye. Our government bars known Tigers from entering Canada and freezes the group's assets when officials stumble on them. But more than three years after the passage of the federal Anti-Terrorism Act, the governing Liberals still refuse to place the **LTTE** on Canada's official list of banned terrorist groups.

Ottawa's failure to act cannot stem from ignorance. Until a recent shaky ceasefire took effect, the Tigers' two-decade long war with the Sri Lankan government had led to 60,000 deaths, many from **LTTE** terror bombings and ambushes. World leaders in suicide bombings, the Tigers are known for targetting civilians -- particularly **women** and children. And they press-gang children into doing much of their fiercest fighting: The **LTTE**'s "Leopard Brigade" contains as many as 3,000 seven- to 14-year-olds who were taken from their parents as toddlers and fed a steady diet of anti-government propaganda and nihilism.

To fund all this, the **LTTE** extorts money from the Tamil diaspora in over 50 countries, including Canada, threatening to torture or kill loved ones back home if Tamil immigrants don't pay up. They are also notorious for drug-running and people-smuggling.

The **LTTE** is particularly active within the Tamil communities in Toronto, Montreal and Vancouver. Just this week, the National Post revealed that Canadian and U.S. authorities had broken up a major Tiger-run smuggling ring that had sought to sneak Tiger agents and fundraisers into Canada via Bangkok, Mexico City and the United States.

Pierre Pettigrew, Canada's Foreign Affairs Minister, explained Monday that to outlaw the Tigers now would derail a heretofore-unknown Canadian-Norwegian initiative to broker peace between the Tamils and Sri Lanka's majority Sinhalese. But the Liberals' ambivalence toward the Tigers predates any secret Ottawa-Oslo treaty negotiations. In 2000, against the strong objections of the RCMP and the Canadian Security Intelligence Service, then-finance minister Paul Martin, then-international co-operation minister Maria Minna and several other government MPs attended a Toronto fundraising event for the Federation of Associations of Canadian Tamils (FACT) -- an organization identified by the U.S. government as a front for the **LTTE**. The reason was obvious: Courting the support of a vote-rich ethnic community was more important than worrying about which elements of it the Liberals were rubbing shoulders with.

## A blind eye to Tamil terrorism

To his credit, Mr. Martin resisted calls to visit the region of Sri Lanka under Tiger control during his current tour of tsunami-ravaged Asian nations. But he permitted Toronto-area Liberal MP Jim Karygiannis -- who joined him at the 2000 fundraiser -- to visit, with a spokeswoman saying the Prime Minister was "very keen" to hear Mr. Karygiannis's report on his trip. And before he left the Sri Lankan capital of Colombo yesterday, Mr. Martin himself met with three Tamil parliamentarians affiliated with the Tigers, two of whom were denied visas to enter Canada last year.

Until 2002, the Liberals clung to the notion that the Islamic extremists of Hezbollah were not terrorists, either. It took nearly six months of public and parliamentary pressure to convince the government to do what would have come naturally to anyone not trawling for votes in ethnic communities. Given that the Liberals seem even more entrenched in their sentiments toward the Tigers, convincing them to outlaw the LTTE could prove an even tougher battle. But sooner or later, Mr. Martin must surely recognize that a few extra votes don't merit cozying up to the friends of terrorists.

**Load-Date:** January 18, 2005

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