

Date and Time: Saturday, May 4, 2024 2:08:00PM EEST

Job Number: 223507873

Documents (100)

1. [TIGERS BLAMED FOR BLAST CARNAGE SRI LANKA IN CRISIS AFTER YOUNG SUICIDE BOMBER BLOWS UP PRESIDENT AND 23 OTHERS](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

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News

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

2. [Sri Lanka bombing](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

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

3. [SRI LANKA : ALLOWS AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL TO VISIT](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

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

4. [Indian Troops Launch Offensive After Five Killed in Ambush](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

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

5. [Massacre raises awkward questions](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

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

6. [Indians secure an empty victory: The Tamil Tigers may have lost the war but have won the battle for hearts and minds](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

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

7. [Sri Lanka bombing](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

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

8. [Radio suspends announcer](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

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

9. [Broadcaster off air over Tamil links](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

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

10. [SRI LANKA -POLITICS: SRIMA KEEN ON REVIVING INDO-LANKA ACCORD](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

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

11. [Sri Lanka rebel chief wounded](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

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

12. [Tamil Tiger rebels honor their female fighters in Sri Lanka](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

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

13. [Island of strife](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

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

14. [PM-Sri-Lanka, DL Bgt ; Day Lead Budget; INDEX: International, Defence; HL: Sri Lanka police detain suspects in suicide bombing; president appeals for calm; From AP - Reuters](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

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

15. [Dream destination turns into a war zone](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by

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

16. [RIGHTS- SRI LANKA : PEACE COMES AT A PRICE IN WAR-TORN EAST](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by

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

17. [Overcoming odds, Tamil guerillas win battles 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, 1984 to Dec 31, 2002

18. [India rejects Tamil appeal to pull back: Jaffna 'collaborators' warned as Delhi and Tigers seek upper hand](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by

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

19. [Rebel Attack Ends a Cease-Fire 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, 1984 to Dec 31, 2002

20. [-0-](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type

Narrowed by

21. [SRI LANKA : UNDP HELP FOR JAFFNA WILL BOOST GOVERNMENT HOLD](#)**Client/Matter:** -None-**Search Terms:** "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors**Narrowed by:****Content Type**
News**Narrowed by**
Publication Type: Newspapers,Newswires & Press
Releases; Timeline: Jan 01, 1984 to Dec 31, 200222. [Sri Lankan Government Calls Tamil Truce 'Bogus'](#)**Client/Matter:** -None-**Search Terms:** "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors**Narrowed by:****Content Type**
News**Narrowed by**
Publication Type: Newspapers,Newswires & Press
Releases; Timeline: Jan 01, 1984 to Dec 31, 200223. [sri lanka 's rebels use women to destabilize 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, 1984 to Dec 31, 200224. [TIGER SUPREMO REPORTED HURT IN CAMP ATTACK](#)**Client/Matter:** -None-**Search Terms:** "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors**Narrowed by:****Content Type**
News**Narrowed by**
Publication Type: Newspapers,Newswires & Press
Releases; Timeline: Jan 01, 1984 to Dec 31, 200225. [Sri Lanka police detain suspects after suicide bombing](#)**Client/Matter:** -None-**Search Terms:** "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors**Narrowed by:****Content Type**
News**Narrowed by**
Publication Type: Newspapers,Newswires & Press
Releases; Timeline: Jan 01, 1984 to Dec 31, 2002

26. [LTTE Sri Lankan air force bombs Tamil refugee resettlements in Mannar district](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

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

27. [25 female tamil rebel activists rounded up in colombo](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

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

28. [PM-Sri-Lanka, ; Eds: UPDATES death toll, Gooneratne's widow dead, four more arrested; INDEX: International, Defence; HL: Sri Lanka police detain suspects in suicide bombing; president appeals for calm; From AP - Reuters](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

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News

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

29. [female tamil rebel activists rounded up in colombo](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

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

30. [Security sweep nets suspected Tamil Tiger spy](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

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

31. [Lanka considers Indian request to extradite rebel 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, 1984 to Dec 31, 2002

32. [SONIA GANDHI FACES REBEL DEATH THREAT](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

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

33. [Fears grow as Tamils flee fighting](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

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

34. [BOMB BLAST FOLLOWS WEEKEND OF DEATHS](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

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

35. [Rebels hold 144 ferry passengers](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

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

36. [26 people sentenced to death for Rajiv Gandhi's murder](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

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

37. [Call to ban Tiger supporters](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

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

38. [How the Tamil Tigers manage their own den / Focus on alternative government set up by separatist rebels in Sri Lanka](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

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

39. [Sri Lanka urges rebels to hold talks](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

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

40. [98 die in Tamil guerilla attack on military 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,Newsires & Press
Releases; Timeline: Jan 01, 1984 to Dec 31, 2002

41. [Rebel Tigers pounce again; Tamil Tiger guerrillas have staged a military comeback against Sri Lanka 's panicked army.](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

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

42. [BOMBS FAIL TO HALT 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,Newsires & Press
Releases; Timeline: Jan 01, 1984 to Dec 31, 2002

43. [Sri Lankan navy sinks Indian trawlers carrying supplies to rebels](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

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

44. [Indian Supreme court puts off hangings in Rajiv case](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

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

45. [suicide bombing kills 2 in eastern sri lanka](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

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

46. [26 Gandhi killers to hang](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by

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

47. [Sri Lanka separatist blame rivals for massacre](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by

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

48. [Tranquil emissary from a violence-torn land](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

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

49. [Prince Charles heads for Sri Lanka and Nepal Week Ahead](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by

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

50. [10 tamil rebels killed in northern sri lanka](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by

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

51. [Tamil gunmen massacre 19 civilians in raid on hamlet](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type

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News

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

52. [SRI LANKA : IN THE WAR ZONE, THE DEATH OF A LIVING VILLAGE](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

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News

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

53. [Supreme Court stays death sentence of all accused in Rajiv murder](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

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

54. [8 tamil rebels killed in fresh fighting](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

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

55. [dependents demonstrate outside icrc office in sri lanka](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

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

56. [Tamils Blamed For Slaying At Least 119 Moslem Villagers](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

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

57. [COLD-BLOODED BUTCHERY ON PARADISE ISLAND](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

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News

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Releases; Timeline: Jan 01, 1984 to Dec 31, 2002

58. [STRONG LIKELIHOOD GOVT-TAMIL REBELS SEPT 16 PEACE TALKS MAY SUCCEED](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

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Content Type
News

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

59. [Gandhi assassins sentenced to hang](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

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News

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

60. [AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL Sri Lanka - Amnesty International condemns attack on political rallies](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

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News

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

61. [SRI LANKA : GOVERNMENT TO WIPE OUT TAMIL REBELS](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

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

62. [HEAVY LOSSES IN TAMIL ATTACK](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

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

63. [Australian runs with Tigers 'The cyanide capsule is a symbol of self-determination'](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

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

64. [Sri Lanka : how to defuse terror](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

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

65. [Troops relieve the besieged Jaffna Fort](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

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

66. [SRI LANKA : CORNER OF A HOMELAND THAT IS FOREVER " VIETNAM " Analysis By IPS Correspondents](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

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

67. [Mideast parties could learn from Sri Lanka 's peace](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

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

68. [*Supreme court extends stay on hangings in Rajiv Gandhi murder case*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

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

69. [*Lessons From Sri Lanka*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

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

70. [*HOW TERRORISTS WERE TAMED SRI LANKA SHOULD BE A CASE STUDY*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

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

71. [*11 rebels reported killed as military continues attacks in Lanka*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

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

72. [*Troops kill over 300 rebels in counter-attack in northern Lanka*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

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

73. [Sri Lankan government, Tamil Tiger rebels make breakthrough in peace talks](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

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

74. [50 killed in renewed Sri Lanka violence](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

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

75. [Indian Troops Faulted For Holding Up Peace Accord](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

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

76. [Sri Lanka Gov't., Rebels Make Peace Deal](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

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News

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

77. [Bombing the ballot box](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

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News

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

78. [ROUNDUP: Death penalty upheld for four in Rajiv assassination case](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

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

79. [AP Photos COL101-103](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

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

80. [ROUNDUP: Death penalty upheld for four in Rajiv assassination case](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

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

81. [Canadian court hears deportation cases](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

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

82. [BOOKS- INDIA : NEW BOOK TRACES 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, 1984 to Dec 31, 2002

83. [Rajiv Gandhi's Congress party demands trial of Tamil Tiger 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, 1984 to Dec 31, 2002

84. [*In the Tigers' belly FEATURES*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

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

85. [*Tigers deny part in bomb 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,Newsires & Press
Releases; Timeline: Jan 01, 1984 to Dec 31, 2002

86. [*A goddess and lucky numbers are allies in ethnic war*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

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

87. [*Tamil Rebels Revenge Village Massacre*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

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

88. [*fresh fighting kills 40 combatants in sri lanka*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

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

89. [*Two Indians found guilty of Rajiv Gandhi's murder*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

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

90. [*Sri Lanka villagers killed in their beds*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

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

91. [*182 Tamils die as attacks foiled*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

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

92. [*Suspected rebels slay 45 villagers in Sri Lanka*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

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

93. [*news items from asia-pacific desk of xinhua \(part 2\)*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

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

94. [Tamil Tiger deal cost Gandhi's life](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

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

95. [Bullets whizzed over our heads; British holidaymakers caught in the crossfire of Sri Lankan terror raid relive airport drama and wonder how an earth they get out alive](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

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

96. [CAPITAL SHAKES AS PUSH ON TAMILS BITES](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

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

97. [Norwegian Government \\$% Breakthrough in Sri Lanka peace negotiations negotiations negotiations](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

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

98. [symposium on terrorism opens in colombo](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newspapers,Newswires & Press

Releases; Timeline: Jan 01, 1984 to Dec 31, 2002

99. [REBELS HACK VILLAGERS](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

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

100. [Sri Lankan violence sparks clampdown](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

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

TIGERS BLAMED FOR BLAST CARNAGE; SRI LANKA IN CRISIS AFTER YOUNG SUICIDE BOMBER BLOWS UP PRESIDENT AND 23 OTHERS

Sydney Morning Herald (Australia)

May 3, 1993 Monday

Late Edition

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Section: NEWS AND FEATURES; Pg. 6

Length: 548 words

Byline: LINDSAY MURDOCH Herald Correspondent

Body

COLOMBO, Sunday: Sri Lankan police accused Tamil separatists today of a suicide bomb attack that killed the President, Mr Ranasinghe Premadasa, and 23 others.

Yesterday's assassination has plunged the country into political turmoil and prompted a huge security crackdown to prevent majority Sinhalese turning on Tamils in a repeat of killings by rioting mobs in 1983 after Sri Lankan soldiers were massacred.

The director of Sri Lanka crime detection bureau, Mr Lionel Gunatilake, said parts of a cyanide capsule similar to those worn by Tamil rebels were found embedded in the bomber's neck.

Mr Gunatilake said: "From our investigations, we feel it is the **LTTE**." (Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam). The Tigers assassinated the Indian Prime Minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, in 1991.

Amid a security alert that brought 25,000 police and soldiers onto the streets of the capital Colombo, a teenager, believed to be as young as 14, rode a push bike through a May Day rally crowd to get near Mr Premadasa, who was standing on a procession float.

The boy is believed to have had high-powered plastic explosive strapped to his body and detonated it when police intercepted him.

The blast killed Mr Premadasa, 68, Sri Lanka's President since 1988, and at least 23 other people. More than 30 were injured. The bomber's head was severed in the explosion.

The **Tamil Tigers**, the main group fighting for an independent homeland in the north and east, are known to use **women** and children for suicide missions.

Preliminary police investigations have established that the explosives and detonation devices used in the attack were similar to those that killed Mr Gandhi at a political rally in southern India.

Reactions to Mr Premadasa's death were mixed. Some people ran into the streets to celebrate the death of a man they deeply distrusted and blamed for a decade of ethnic violence. Opposition supporters lit firecrackers in some parts of the country.

TIGERS BLAMED FOR BLAST CARNAGE SRI LANKA IN CRISIS AFTER YOUNG SUICIDE BOMBER BLOWS UP PRESIDENT AND 23 OTHERS

But tens of thousands of others today filed past Mr Premadasa's coffin at his house in Colombo to pay their respects to the man sections of the media called the "common man's President".

Dozens of people who waited for hours in a kilometre-long queue collapsed in anguish as they saw the flag-draped coffin.

The Government acted swiftly to head off further violence, introducing a strict night curfew and keeping thousands of soldiers and police on the streets. Troops have been moved from the north, where they are fighting the Tigers, to other parts of the country to maintain order, army sources said.

Security will remain tight at least until Mr Premadasa's funeral on Thursday. Many world leaders are expected to attend.

Despite repeated threats to his life and several plots to kill him, Mr Premadasa did not name an heir-apparent and there may be a destabilising leadership vacuum.

Parliament will meet in emergency session on Tuesday. MPs are expected to elect a new President within 30 days.

A national poll within six months is possible, although elections were not due to be held until December next year. Mr Premadasa was planning a second term in office.

The Prime Minister, Mr Dingiri Banda Wijetunga, was sworn in as Acting President only hours after the assassination. He told the nation the Government would track down the killers. He also called for calm.

Graphic

Two ports: Mr Premadasa Mr Wijetunga Illus: A soldier walks past a body and the bicycle used by the bomber in the attack that killed President Premadasa in Colombo. Picture by REUTER

Load-Date: July 21, 2007

Sri Lanka bombing

United Press International
July 5, 1996, Friday, BC cycle

Copyright 1996 U.P.I.

Section: International

Length: 256 words

Dateline: COLOMBO, July 5

Body

The number of people injured when a **female** suicide bomber in Sri Lanka rammed a motorcycle into an official motorcade rose to over 60, officials said Friday. Officials also said 13 of the 23 people killed in the attack were civilians, including several children.

Housing Minister Nimal Siripala De Silva, the apparent target of the attack, was among the wounded in the attack, officials said. "The ministerial motorcade was...hardly a kilometer (mile) out of Jaffna when a suicide bomber on a motorcycle rammed into the minister's vehicle," a defense ministry official said. Also killed were the chairman of the state-owned Lanka Cement Company, Ranjit Godamubuna, an official of the Building Materials Corp., the home minister's personal bodyguard and 11 soldiers, officials said. Authorities said they suspected the separatist Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam in the suicide bombing -- a hallmark of the group. De Silva has spearheaded a massive project to rebuild the island's war-torn northern Jaffna peninsula after 13-years of ethnic civil war between the **Tamil Tigers** and government security forces. Until a major government offensive last year, the **Tamil Tigers** had undisputed control over Jaffna, where they ran a headquarters and parallel civil administration for some five years. The rebels are fighting to establish an independent homeland for the island's roughly three million minority ethnic Tamils. Since the insurgency began in 1983, more than 40,000 people have been killed in the tiny island nation of 18 million.

Load-Date: July 6, 1996

SRI LANKA: ALLOWS AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL TO VISIT

IPS-Inter Press Service

March 21, 1991

Copyright 1991 IPS-Inter Press Service/Global Information Network

Length: 681 words

Byline: by Rita Sebastian

Dateline: COLOMBO, Mar. 21

Body

Sri Lanka has decided to throw its doors open to Amnesty International, a government spokesman announced today. Bradman Weerakoon, advisor to Sri Lankan President Ranasinghe Premadasa told reporters that Colombo would view "favorably" all AI's requests to visit the island. Weerakoon said a delegation from the human rights body had attended an international trade union seminar here last week. This was Amnesty's first official visit to the strife-torn island since 1983 when it was banned by the government which viewed its yearly reports as "biased". "We have nothing to hide," said Ranil Wikremesinghe, cabinet spokesman. Defending the earlier decision to keep the human rights watchdog out, he said AI which accused Colombo of violations was silent about the violent campaign in 1987-89 by the extreme left People's Liberation Front (JVP) to overthrow the government. "Amnesty made no mention of the JVP uprising and its killing people to gain power," he said. The minister claimed the JVP had kept "in regular contact" with Amnesty and "provided information". This month, Sri Lanka's controversial human rights record was examined at a meeting of the human rights commission in Geneva. But Colombo's representative Weerakoon, stalled a motion critical of the government's human rights record and invited the commission to visit the island to assess the situation. Under mounting pressure from international donors, Sri Lanka has been trying to change its poor human rights image. Last year the Sri Lanka Aid Consortium had warned future assistance to the country would be conditional on Colombo's safeguarding human rights.

Sri Lanka has been caught in a raging civil war since last June when the latest round of fighting between Tamil rebels and security forces broke out in the island's northeast. The Tigers last year walked out of peace negotiations in Colombo and attacked government outposts. Since 1983, Tamil guerrillas have been fighting for an independent homeland called "Eelam" in the island's northeast, strongholds of Sri Lanka's Tamil minority. According to human rights activists here roughly 60,000 persons disappeared or were killed during the JVP insurgency. In its report on Sri Lanka last year, Amnesty charged: "Since 1987, the security forces have killed under many guises -- in uniform, in plainclothes operations attributed to vigilantes, and in death squads that were sometimes directly linked to members of the ruling United National Party." With the elimination of the JVP leadership in November 1989 there was a scaling down of disappearances, but human rights activists say it has not stopped altogether. Last year, Sri Lankan women got together to form a "mothers front" to find out if their husbands, brothers or sons who disappeared without a trace were killed or are still in prison. To prove that he is serious about curbing violations, Premadasa early this year appointed a human rights task force and human rights commission on disappearance to collect data on all alleged instances of human rights abuse. Colombo says the two organizations will also systematically investigate every "known or reported" disappearance. Last week, Colombo sensitive to world opinion decided not to go ahead with controversial plans to evacuate refugees from the northwestern Madhu church camp administered by the United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR). Human rights organizations worldwide had strongly protested Colombo's decision to shift 16,000 refugees to clear the area for military operations against Tamil tigers. Recently the United States State Department released a human rights impact

SRI LANKA : ALLOWS AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL TO VISIT

report on Sri Lanka which alleged serious deterioration of civil rights in the island's north in the latter half of 1990. The report alleged the civil war in the northeast last year claimed 2,600 civilian lives. "Extra-judicial killing redoubled. The "**LTTE**" attacked not only the police but also Sinhala and Muslim villagers. In response regular security forces and newly armed homeguards carried out a number of abductions and killings," the report stated.

Load-Date: March 23, 1991

End of Document

Indian Troops Launch Offensive After Five Killed in Ambush

The Associated Press

December 16, 1987, Wednesday, AM cycle

Copyright 1987 Associated Press All Rights Reserved

Section: International News

Length: 439 words

Byline: By PATRICK CRUEZ, Associated Press Writer

Dateline: COLOMBO, Sri Lanka

Body

Indian troops backed by helicopter gunships and tanks launched a major offensive against Tamil rebels Wednesday after five of their soldiers were killed in an ambush, Sri Lankan officials said.

The offensive was in the Mullaitivu district, about 170 miles from Colombo in the Tamil-dominated east, said the officials in the capital, who cannot be identified under briefing rules.

"According to our reports, an unknown number of **Tamil Tigers** have been rounded up," one official said. **Tamil Tigers**, or the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam, is the largest rebel group.

"Our reports say **Tamil Tigers** were engaging Indian troops in many places in Mullaitivu. The fighting is being regarded from the military point of view as being one of the fiercest since Indian troops launched their offensive on Oct. 10," the official said.

More than 25,000 Indian troops are in Sri Lanka under a July 29 peace accord between India and Sri Lanka aimed at ending the 4-year-old Tamil ethnic conflict by granting the Tamils greater autonomy.

The soldiers are battling to disarm the Tigers, who were supposed to surrender their weapons under the accord.

An Indian embassy official confirmed that five soldiers had died in an ambush early Wednesday and five others had been injured.

The official, who spoke on the condition of anonymity, did not have details of Tiger casualties but said there could be several.

A police spokesman in Colombo said rebels killed 10 people in Polonnaruwa district in central Sri Lanka late Tuesday. He spoke on condition of anonymity.

The victims, mostly belonging to the majority Buddhist Sinhalese community, included three **women** and three children, he said, adding that at least one of the dead was a Moslem.

Tamils, who are mostly Hindus, comprise 18 percent of Sri Lanka's 16 million people. They claim they are discriminated against by the Sinhalese, who control the army and government.

Moslems comprise about 7 percent of the population.

Indian Troops Launch Offensive After Five Killed in Ambush

The Tigers renounced the peace accord in early October and went on a rampage, killing more than 200 people, mostly Sinhalese. Indian soldiers launched an offensive Oct. 10 to disarm them.

Military officials in Colombo said Wednesday that Indian troops had on Tuesday found a huge arms cache, including 10,000 AK-47 assault rifles, in two abandoned houses just north of Jaffna town.

The cache included 22,900 rounds of ammunition, 2,640 pounds of plastic explosives and 1,250 detonators, they said.

The northern Jaffna Peninsula was the rebel stronghold before the Indian offensive.

India has 60 million Tamils, most of whom live in its nearby Tamil Nadu state and sympathize with Sri Lankan Tamils.

End of Document

Massacre raises awkward questions

The Guardian (London)

April 21, 1987

Copyright 1987 Guardian Newspapers Limited

Length: 429 words

Byline: From JOHN RETTIE

Dateline: COLOMBO

Body

The Sri Lankan Government is looking more shaken today, following last Friday's massacre near Trincomalee, than at any time since 150 Sinhalese men, women and children were shot by the Tamil Tigers in Anaradhapura two years ago.

That was the only slaughter of Sinhalese in the present communal conflict that was bigger than the Good Friday shootings.

Sinhalese blood flowed again yesterday when gunmen crept into the village of Jayanthipura, several miles north of Friday's massacre, shortly before dawn. They slaughtered another 15 villagers, five men, five women, five children, and then they vanished.

If they were Tamil Tigers, as the Government maintains and the Tigers deny, it is difficult to see how they could have penetrated into Sinhalese areas, and melted away again.

The site of Friday's massacre is a Sinhalese area just inside the Polonnaruwa district. Unlike the land to the west which is jungle, the way to Tamil areas to the east lies across open paddyfields. How could 40 heavily armed murderers have stolen across them unnoticed, especially with all the army camps and patrols in the Trincomalee district, which the Government claims to control so tightly?

The Government is left with an awkward question to answer. If all this brutality can be laid at the door of the Tamil Tigers - and perhaps it can - then does the Government's military writ run at all in the eastern areas round Trincomalee and Polonnaruwa?

For some time the Government has been boasting that things are almost normal in Trincomalee. Now it seems that they can even protect their own Sinhalese people there and Polonnaruwa. The boast is shattered. But by whom?

Last week saw the resurgence of the extreme left-wing JVP (the People's Liberation Front), which rose against the government of Mrs Sirima Bandaranaike in 1971. It is now split into factions some of which are racist more than leftist.

Parts of the JVP have been increasingly active for some months. On Wednesday, a raid on a Armoured Corps camp near Kandy was attributed to the organisation. A number of machine-guns and automatic rifles were stolen, though many have been recovered.

Massacre raises awkward questions

Elsewhere, police stopped a van in which number of Sinhalese men were travelling with hidden bombs runs and air force uniforms. In another district, bogus policemen confiscated shotguns from people with licences to have them.

The JVP is believed to have infiltrated hundreds if not thousands, of people into the armed forces. This would not have been difficult at a time when so many young men have been hastily recruited to fight Tamils.

Load-Date: June 9, 2000

End of Document

Indians secure an empty victory: The Tamil Tigers may have lost the war but have won the battle for hearts and minds

The Guardian (London)

October 27, 1987

Copyright 1987 Guardian Newspapers Limited

Length: 682 words

Byline: By DEREK BROWN

Dateline: JAFFNA

Body

The battle for Jaffna is all over, bar the shooting. Mortar and small arms fire sounded distantly but steadily yesterday from the ramparts of the town's old Dutch Fort. Three separate curtains of smoke hung over outlying districts.

Brigadier Manjit Singh told reporters during a lull that his men had secured all of Jaffna west of the railway, meaning all important parts of the town. 'That is why you are hearing no firing,' he said.

A couple of seconds later, an explosion shook the air, followed by a prolonged rattle of automatic fire. 'That is probably our north-east column which has not yet linked up with our boys in the town,' the brigadier said. 'It is three or four kilometres away, not in my area.'

Earlier, the new commander of Indian forces in north and east Sri Lanka, Major General Amarjit Singh Kalkat, had formally announced the fall of Jaffna. 'There are certain pockets of resistance which will be mopped up,' he said.

The general is right. The Indians have taken over the town, but it is an uneasy control, and an empty victory.

Most of the Tamil Tiger defenders, including nearly all the important leaders like the Supreme Commander Velupillai Prabhakaran have melted away.

They will almost certainly regroup the redoubtable Tiger forces in the jungles and towns of the north and east to continue the fight against the Indians on their own guerrilla terms.

Behind them, Jaffna is a broken and silent place of refugees clustered in churches and temples among empty roads. The area around the Fort bears all the signs of two savage campaigns, first by the Sri Lankan army and now by the Indians. It is the Tigers who seem to have won the battle for hearts and minds.

Only one young man interviewed in an admittedly lightning tour of Jaffna Hospital and a nearby refugee camp was prepared to criticise the rebels. 'They have missed the boat. They threw away the chance given to them by the Indian Government,' he said. 'We hate them.'

All around him others were saying that though they wanted peace more than anything, the Tigers were 'their' boys, and the Indians were the outsiders.

Indians secure an empty victory: The Tamil Tigers may have lost the war but have won the battle for hearts and minds

'Some of the soldiers are good to us,' said one man in the appropriately named Our Lady of Refuge church. 'The south Indians are good to us. They speak Tamil. But the north Indians are rough men.'

The man was one of about 1,500 refugees packed into the Catholic church and adjoining school.

Last Thursday, he said, he had been ordered from his nearby house by Sikh soldiers, who were apparently clearing the area before an offensive. One of the soldiers struck him and when his daughter protested, she too was beaten.

Another old man told how his daughter had been killed, when she returned to the family home to fetch her jewellery.

The women's ward at Jaffna Hospital contained many casualties of war.

A middle-aged woman had half a leg missing - blown off by an Indian shell. A 14-year-old girl clutched a stomach wound.

A young woman with a blood-soaked plaster on her leg said she had been unconscious when Indian soldiers 'liberated' the hospital last week. She was certain that the Tigers had not been in occupation at the time, as the Indians had claimed.

No civilian doctors or nurses were available for comment, but even a cursory inspection was enough to disprove Tiger claims of Indian atrocities like the 450 deaths in mass shelling and subsequent butchery.

The hospital bears hardly any sign of damage. It has a few broken windows and the odd bullet mark, but that is small beer in this area, at this time.

One senior Indian officer had a sardonic answer to the claims of atrocities. 'It makes me so mad when I hear these things, that I want to shoot people,' he said.

The Indians talk breezily of the Tigers who have slipped away as the next target of their campaign to restore democracy and freedom to Tamil areas of Sri Lanka.

But the Tigers, with their leadership intact and a seemingly inexhaustible supply of explosives, have lost only prestige in Jaffna.

Major General Amarjit Singh Kalkat, who bears a name meaning ultimate victory in Punjabi, has captured a shadow.

Load-Date: June 13, 2000

Sri Lanka bombing

United Press International
July 4, 1996, Thursday, BC cycle

Copyright 1996 U.P.I.

Section: International

Length: 271 words

Dateline: COLOMBO, July 4

Body

A ***female*** suicide bomber in Sri Lanka rammed a motorcycle into an official motorcade Thursday, killing at least 23 people, including a senior military officer, a business leader and injuring the country's housing minister and 50 others, officials said. A brigade commander for the Jaffna sector, Brigadier Ananda Hamangoda was among seven who died in the blast, while Housing Minister Nimal Siripala De Silva, the apparent target of the attack, was among at least 50 wounded, officials said.

"The ministerial motorcade was...hardly a kilometer out of Jaffna when a suicide bomber on a motorcycle rammed into the minister's vehicle," a Defense Ministry official said. Also killed were the chairman of the state-owned Lanka Cement Company, Ranjit Godamubuna, an official of the Building Materials Corp., the home minister's personal bodyguard and 11 soldiers, officials said. Authorities said they suspected the separatist Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam in the suicide bombing -- a hallmark of the group. De Silva had spearheaded a massive project to rebuild the island's war-torn northern Jaffna peninsula after 13 years of ethnic civil war between the ***Tamil Tigers*** and government security forces. Until a major government offensive last year, the ***Tamil Tigers*** had undisputed control over Jaffna, where they ran a headquarters and parallel civil administration for some five years. The rebels are fighting to establish an independent homeland for the island's roughly 3 million minority ethnic Tamils. Since the insurgency began in 1983, more than 40,000 people have been killed in the tiny island nation of 18 million.

Load-Date: July 5, 1996

Radio suspends announcer

The Australian
October 6, 2000, Friday

Copyright 2000 Nationwide News Pty Limited

Section: LOCAL; Pg. 4

Length: 271 words

Byline: Amanda Meade

Body

SBS radio broadcaster Jay Maheswaran has been suspended pending an internal investigation into his links with the Sri Lankan **Tamil Tigers** rebel group.

Dateline revealed on Wednesday that Dr Maheswaran, the co-ordinator of SBS's Sri Lankan-language radio, is also the co-ordinator of the Tamil Rehabilitation Centre.

It is understood part of the investigation by senior SBS management involves screening Dr Maheswaran's old broadcasts for political propaganda sympathetic to the terrorist **Tamil Tigers**.

Meanwhile, the journalist who uncovered the story of Tamil infiltration in political and social circles in Australia and Canada, Graham Davis, resigned yesterday after a bitter two-week dispute with management.

Davis confirmed last night he had resigned but would not be drawn on the detail.

SBS sources say Davis, a Walkley award- winning broadcaster, was furious his story had been taken away from him, revoiced and put to air by management in a severely diluted form.

While on suspension, Davis was instructed not to speak to anyone from SBS and did not see a final version of his story until it was delivered to his lawyer 2 1/2 hours before it was put to air.

SBS management claims Davis was suspended because he was rude to a **female** staff member who happened to be the harassment contact officer, Angie Kenyan.

Davis has apologised for telling the woman to "f... off" but she took two weeks' stress leave, returning only yesterday.

It is understood Davis was frustrated by the substandard equipment and facilities at SBS and Kenyan walked in on him complaining about it to a colleague.

When Kenyan intervened, he swore at her.

Load-Date: March 1, 2002

Radio suspends announcer

End of Document

Broadcaster off air over Tamil links

The Australian

October 6, 2000, Friday

Copyright 2000 Nationwide News Pty Limited

Section: LOCAL; Pg. 7

Length: 271 words

Byline: Amanda Meade * Media writer

Body

SBS radio broadcaster Jay Maheswaran has been suspended pending an internal investigation into his links with the Sri Lankan Tamil Tigers rebel group.

Dateline revealed on Wednesday that Dr Maheswaran, co-ordinator of SBS's Sri Lankan-language radio, is also the co-ordinator of the Tamil Rehabilitation Centre.

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SBS sources say Davis, a Walkley award-winning broadcaster, was furious his story had been taken away from him, revoiced and put to air by management in a severely diluted form.

While on suspension, Davis was instructed not to speak to anyone from SBS and did not see a final version of his story until it was delivered to his lawyer 2 1/2 hours before it was put to air.

SBS management claims Davis was suspended because he was rude to a female staff member who happened to be the harassment contact officer, Angie Kenyan.

Davis has apologised for telling the woman to "f... off" but she took two weeks' stress leave, returning only yesterday.

It is understood Davis was frustrated by the substandard equipment and facilities at SBS and Kenyan walked in on him complaining about it to a colleague.

When Kenyan intervened, he swore at her.

Load-Date: March 1, 2002

Broadcaster off air over Tamil links

End of Document

SRI LANKA-POLITICS: SRIMA KEEN ON REVIVING INDO-LANKA ACCORD

IPS-Inter Press Service

November 4, 1994, Friday

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Length: 753 words

Byline: by Rita Sebastian

Dateline: COLOMBO, Nov. 4

Body

Sri Lanka's main opposition presidential candidate, Srima Dissanayake, today said she would resolve the island nation's vexed ethnic conflict on the basis of a controversial 1987 Indo-Sri Lanka accord if voted to power.

Addressing her maiden press conference after replacing her slain husband as the United National Party's (UNP) presidential candidate, Dissanayake said she would insist that rebel **Tamil Tigers** fighting for a separate homeland in the island's north and east lay down arms if they wished to hold peace talks.

The Indo-Sri Lanka accord sought to appease the minority Tamil demand by conceding provincial autonomy. While other Tamil militant groups accepted the accord, **Tamil Tigers** reneged on their commitment to it, prompting the despatch of a large Indian peace keeping force to Sri Lanka under its provisions.

There has been widespread speculation that Srima's husband, Gamini Dissanayake, was assassinated by a **female** suicide bomber at an election rally on Oct. 24 because of his closeness to India and his favoring of the controversial accord.

Former Indian prime minister Rajiv Gandhi, another major architect of the accord, was also felled by a **female** suicide bomber at an election rally in southern India on May 1991. While the matter has yet to be decided in court, an investigative team has held the **Tamil Tigers** responsible for the attack.

Sri Lankan investigators have drawn several parallels between the two assassinations. The Dissanayake family has openly accused the Tigers of being behind the brutal attack that killed Gamini and 50 others, including many front line leaders of the UNP.

Dissanayake has urged the government to seek the help of Indian authorities in resolving the case.

Breathing fire at her first encounter with the fourth estate since becoming presidential candidate, Dissanayake charged the People's Alliance (PA) government with initiating a sudden dialogue with the **Tamil Tigers** without consulting the opposition or the people.

She also accused the government of conceding all Tamil demands at the first round of unconditional peace talks held with the Tigers in the northern rebel stronghold of Jaffna on Oct. 13 and 14.

Most of the discussions between the two four-member teams of the government and opposition centered on relief and rehabilitation for victims of the 11-year-old civil war in the country.

SRI LANKA -POLITICS: SRIMA KEEN ON REVIVING INDO-LANKA ACCORD

The second round of talks scheduled with the Tigers for Oct. 24, were put off following the assassination.

Dissanayake said if she became president, she would ask the civilian population of Jaffna to throw up a democratically elected leadership with whom the government could negotiate.

"If the Tigers want to come for talks they will have to lay down arms and renounce terrorism," she said.

But she also added that she disagreed with UNP president D.B. Wijetunga's assertion that there was only a "terrorist problem" and no "ethnic problem" in the north and east.

Dissanayake denied that her selection as presidential candidate over former Premier Ranil Wickeremesinghe had split the fractious unp. "We are absolutely united," she said.

She said she had accepted the nomination because it was a unanimous decision of the party that thought she was the best candidate to carry forward the vision of her slain husband.

The new candidate refuted charges that she was a political novice chosen only because of her ability to corner sympathy votes.

She said she was very much part of her husband's 24-year political career and was also elected a member of the central provincial council in 1993 as a candidate of the breakaway Democratic United National Front (DUNF).

On Oct. 25, however, she resigned from the DUNF to rejoin the UNP, Dissanayake said.

Asked if she was in favor of abolishing the executive presidency if voted to office as the PA presidential candidate, Premier Chandrika Kumaratunga, has promised to do, she said she was in favor of reducing the powers of the president.

Though the PA had pledged to abolish the presidency at the time of the parliamentary polls in August, it said it would go ahead with the Nov. 9 presidential poll because there wasn't sufficient time to carry out the plan.

Asked whether she foresaw any difficulties in co-existing with the PA government if elected to office, Dissanayake said she would be responsible and try and adjust.

Dissanayake complained that the government controlled electronic media was blocking out her election campaign. Due to security reasons, Dissanayake has confined her campaigning only to the electronic media.

Load-Date: November 5, 1994

Sri Lanka rebel chief wounded

THE WEEKEND AUSTRALIAN

July 20, 1996, Saturday

Copyright 1996 Nationwide News Pty Limited

Section: WORLD; Pg. 19

Length: 434 words

Body

The founder and leader of the Tamil Tiger guerillas, Velupillai Prabhakaran, has been wounded, apparently while leading a massive rebel attack on an army garrison in north-east Sri Lanka, military sources said yesterday.

The sources said radios of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (**LTTE**) intercepted by the military indicated that the supremo had been heading Thursday's predawn attack on the camp at Mullaitivu.

"The messages make out he has been wounded," a defence official said.

"We don't know how serious these injuries are. But we are convinced he was involved in the attack."

Prabhakaran, 41, is the founder and leader of the **LTTE**, which has been waging a protracted separatist campaign in Sri Lanka's north and east in which more than 50,000 people have died.

The Mullaitivu camp is just north of **LTTE** base "one four", which is reputedly the rebel group's command centre and a hideout for Prabhakaran, Sri Lanka's most wanted man.

The **LTTE**'s Voice of Tigers radio said earlier yesterday that nearly 400 Sri Lankan soldiers could have died in the attack, the biggest by the **LTTE** since it wiped out at least 750 soldiers in the island's north in November 1993.

The elusive Prabhakaran, a father of two, has been pronounced dead and wounded many times in the past by both the Sri Lankan and Indian military.

Tamil sources in Vavuniya quoted the radio as saying that the **LTTE** also recovered bodies of about 40 guerillas killed by the security forces. It said some of its dead were **women**.

The radio said the **LTTE** took away all Sri Lankan military vehicles after overrunning the huge camp.

The Sri Lankan military said it had inflicted heavy casualties on the **LTTE** but gave no figures. A military spokesman said the number of dead and wounded on both sides would be made public later.

An earlier **LTTE** statement from London said the rebels dealt a severe blow to the Sri Lankan army in Thursday's attack, but gave no casualty figures.

"Sri Lankan armed forces suffered heavy casualties and a large number of them have died," the brief statement said.

Sri Lanka rebel chief wounded

It said LTTE guerillas, after taking control of the central military complex, "removed three armoured vehicles and large quantities of heavy weapons including two 122 mm artilleries". ". . . there was heavy fighting at the outer perimeter of the camp as the LTTE forces smashed the outer defence lines," the statement said.

Defence officials in Colombo said that hundreds of combatants could have died on both sides in the bitter fighting that lasted about 14 hours. But the Sri Lankan military denied that the Mullaitivu camp had fallen to the LTTE.

Load-Date: March 1, 2002

End of Document

Tamil Tiger rebels honor their female fighters in Sri Lanka

Associated Press International

October 12, 2002 Saturday

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Section: INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Length: 492 words

Byline: KRISHAN FRANCIS; Associated Press Writer

Dateline: KILINOCHCHI, Sri Lanka

Body

During her childhood, she was taught to obey the male head of her family, cook meals and take care of younger brothers and sisters.

An attack on her home and burning of her books by anti-Tamil mobs in 1983 changed all that.

Vilimagal, then 16, joined the Tamil Tiger rebels' fight for a separate homeland for her ethnic group, Sri Lanka's minority Tamils, who accuse the majority Sinhalese of widespread discrimination.

In 1992, she was partially blinded in a battle with government troops to capture a key entry point to the northern Jaffna Peninsula, scene of much of the fighting in this tropical island's 19-year ethnic war.

The Liberation Tigers of Tamileelam have put hostilities on hold after reaching a cease-fire with the government in February, and have begun peace talks.

But this week, **female Tamil Tigers** remembered the war, commemorating a famous rebel who died fighting Indian soldiers in northern Jaffna Peninsula in 1987 - an anniversary known as "**Women**'s Resurgence Day."

More than 3,700 **female Tamil Tigers** have died in fighting since 1983.

Vilimagal joined nearly 100,000 people, led by **women** fighters, who marked the occasion Thursday with a parade and rally at the rebel-controlled town of Kilinochchi, 275 kilometers (170 miles) north of Colombo, the Sri Lankan capital.

"We were a formidable force to reckon with," Vilimagal told The Associated Press, as she recounted the battle when she was blinded. Tamil rebel fighters don't reveal their first names.

"I don't want to leave the organization even though I am unfit to fight. I feel it's unfair to leave others to fight and want to contribute in whatever way I can," Vilimagal said. She's now a publisher of rebel books and magazines.

A large model of a battle ship and a large replica of a Tamil Tiger land mine formed part of the parade. The **female** fighters also re-enacted a battle when **women**'s unit overran a Sri Lankan military camp in 1997.

Tamil Tiger rebels honor their female fighters in Sri Lanka

The woman they honor is Malathi, a Tamil Tiger lieutenant, who took her own life by consuming cyanide after she lost her limbs in a battle with Indian soldiers in northern Jaffna on Oct. 10, 1987. Indian peacekeepers spent three years in Jaffna trying to end the conflict between the government and the **Tamil Tigers**.

The rebels wear cyanide capsules around their necks to avoid being captured alive.

"Gender makes no difference on the war front. We have proven that," said Janani, another **female** Tamil Tiger fighter.

Soosai, a rebel navy commander, said the insurgents were on alert despite the government holding peace talks with their representatives. Both sides met in Thailand last month and a second round of talks is scheduled to start Oct. 31.

"There is no guarantee that the government forces will not attack again," Soosai said.

"It is the strength of our forces that has helped achieve peace that we are enjoying now. The price we paid for this is the life of 17,648 cadres, thousands of people and millions of worth property," he said.

Load-Date: October 13, 2002

Island of strife

The Scotsman

July 20, 1996, Saturday

Copyright 1996 The Scotsman Publications Ltd.

Section: Pg. 16

Length: 1154 words

Byline: As Life In The Jaffna Peninsula Of A Divided Sri Lanka Returns To Some Normality, Paul Harris Asks How Long The Fragile Peace Can Last

Body

THE renewed bitter fighting in Sri Lanka comes as rebel Tamil liberation fighters hit back determinedly at the government forces, who have just retaken their heartland in the Jaffna peninsula. Today the Sri Lankan army controls what for years has been the rebel headquarters.

The approach to Sri Lanka's war ravaged northern peninsula of Jaffna is inauspicious.

The 25-year-old Avro passenger aircraft banks steeply and drops to just 50 feet above the clear blue of the Indian Ocean passing between four anchored navy ships marking a "safe" channel. Above, two Vietnam-vintage Bell Huey 412 helicopters fly top cover, gunners visible, pilots firing orange flares which arc brilliantly over the ocean, trailing white smoke before they drop and are extinguished. The pyrotechnics are not for show. They are to deter heat seeking SAM missiles. Out of the window I can see the polished metal plate affixed to the engine housing aft of the propeller - Rolls-Royce, it proclaims. This little bit of familiarity is reassuring.

This is the Sri Lanka Air Force's last Avro. The other two have been shot down by Tamil Tiger rebels on this regular run from the capital, Colombo, into Jaffna's Palaly air base.

The breakaway ***Tamil Tigers*** of the ***LTTE*** - the movement to create an independent state of Tamil Eelam in the north and east of the sunshine isle of Sri Lanka - have set the agenda for this war ever since July 1983, when a group of the rebels ambushed an army patrol in Jaffna and killed 13 soldiers. As the tide of war has ebbed and flowed, Jaffna and its city was always at the very centre of the movement, its actual and psychological home.

Last October the Sri Lankan army launched a massive offensive in a bid to take this heartland. Militarily, it seemed impossible. Material and 70,000 men all had to be flown into a narrow strip of land around Palaly air base - all that was left of government-held territory in the peninsula.

As the military machine rolled out, taking territory in the wake of artillery bombardment, the Tigers forced virtually the entire population to leave their homes in an exodus to refugee status. And so 900,000 people flooded out of Jaffna with whatever they could carry or load on to carts.

Last month the army was claiming that it had consolidated its hold sufficiently over the entire peninsula to enable people to return to their homes. In just six weeks, they say, more than 400,000 Tamils have chosen to return. This mass movement back into the area I found extremely difficult to believe. It is not just the scale of the movement - but have the Tamils of Jaffna effectively abandoned their erstwhile leaders after more than a decade? Recently, the

Island of strife

opportunity came for the military to make good on its claims as it opened up the newly liberated area to journalists for the first time.

On the hot, dusty road from Palaly to Jaffna city there is ample evidence of people returning home in old cars, trishaws, buffalo carts and on foot. White flags at the gates of houses set back from the road announce that the owners have returned home.

Jaffna University has just reopened its doors and around 900 of the 3,000 students have returned.

All the computers and expensive equipment in science, medicine and agriculture departments have been plundered by the retreating rebels, according to the vice chancellor Professor Balasunderampillai.

At one of the largest girls' schools - Jaffna Hindu Ladies' College - the story is similar. Around 40 per cent of the girls have returned to their studies. Incredibly, every one of the 300 or so girls who are gathered in the assembly hall are turned out in pristine white uniforms, striped ties and hair in neat pigtails. They describe how they have returned within the last four weeks from refugee camps. There is no running water or electricity in Jaffna and their turnout clearly reflects an extraordinary determination to return to normality.

In Jaffna City - a ghost town a month ago - businesses are reopening and people crowd the roads. On the pavement a man with an aged manual typewriter knocks out letters for a few pence a time. A private school advertises English lessons. A shell-damaged optician's shop is open again, although there is no sign of any customers. People on the streets complain about high prices, about the black market and a shortage of food but, almost universally, they appear to be grateful for peace and the opportunity to return home.

Military presence is apparent everywhere with sharpshooters atop the damaged buildings, foot patrols moving warily about, and South African-built Buffalo armoured cars touring the streets.

There are still isolated groups of terrorists around - gangs of young men who suddenly appear, open fire or plant a bomb, and then disappear again. A couple of weeks ago, a female suicide bomber blew herself up together with 23 people accompanying the housing minister to the area.

But what is truly surprising is the cordiality evident in relations between the military and the people.

There is much handshaking, geniality and banter. People have no complaints about the soldiers; but they will not be drawn on the Tigers.

Here is a window of opportunity for the government in Colombo. If food, services and infrastructure can be layered on top of the opportunity provided by the military then this could turn out to be a textbook classic. There are very few examples in recent history of government forces beating a group of rebel insurrectionists on the battlefield and then winning the hearts and minds of the people on the ground. The opportunity is there in Jaffna.

On the other hand, it could all too easily turn out to be a terrible disaster. It wouldn't take too many incidents to alienate the population.

At Point Pedro Hospital there are three women in one of the wards. A mother, in her mid-thirties, her 16-year-old daughter and her aunt.

The mother is demented. The daughter, poignant beyond belief, bears a perpetually puzzled expression. This is the unmistakable look of a woman who has suffered some terrible, catastrophic wrong.

Jaffna, Bosnia, Rwanda. The look is the same.

The men in uniform came to the door at night. A relatively well-to-do family trading in addictive betel leaves, they had gold hidden in the house. Which is probably why, unlike their neighbours, they hung on.

On the night of 19 May their house was effectively in no man's land between the Tigers and the army.

Island of strife

Their gold was discovered, the women taken outside, beaten, raped, genitally mutilated and branded on their foreheads.

The LTTE in London announced the women were dead - killed by the army. The army says this disinformation proves the Tigers did this.

Army, Tigers or freelances, it is academic.

It is the fate of ordinary people like this which will now determine the battle for hearts and minds in Jaffna and meantime the LTTE will seek out its targets in a bid to seek a terrible revenge.

Load-Date: July 22, 1996

End of Document

**PM-Sri-Lanka, DL Bgt ; Day Lead Budget; INDEX: International, Defence;
HL:Sri Lanka police detain suspects in suicide bombing; president appeals
for calm; From AP-Reuters**

The Canadian Press (CP)

June 8, 2000 Thursday

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Section: FOREIGN GENERAL NEWS

Length: 553 words

Dateline: COLOMBO, Sri Lanka

Body

COLOMBO, Sri Lanka (CP) - Police detained 15 men early today as suspects in Wednesday's suicide bombing that killed a cabinet minister and 20 others in a suburb of the capital.

The government blamed the attack on separatist rebels fighting for a homeland for the Tamil minority, and mobs in the neighbourhood, 15 kilometres from the centre of Colombo, threw stones at Tamil-owned shops in revenge.

-BODY- No injuries were reported and a nighttime curfew was imposed on the area.

The 15 suspects were taken from apartments and houses near the site of the bombing and were being interrogated at the local police station as anxious relatives hovered outside, said a police official, who spoke on condition of anonymity.

A suicide bomber with explosives strapped to his body killed Industrial Development Minister Clement V. Gooneratne on Wednesday along with 20 others during a street drive to raise funds for soldiers fighting Tamil rebels in the northern Jaffna peninsula. The government had declared Wednesday its first-ever War Heroes Day.

About half of the 60 people wounded in the attack were still being treated today, said Dr. W. G. Gunawardena, director of Kalubowila Hospital. The slain cabinet minister's wife was still in critical condition with internal injuries, he said.

President Chandrika Kumaratunga appealed for calm, saying the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam were trying to "inflame communal passions by provoking the people."

"I appeal to all Sri Lankans to consider this earnestly and act with patience to maintain peace at this hour," Kumaratunga said. In July 1983, Sinhalese mobs went on the rampage in Colombo and other parts of the country after the then nascent Tamil rebels killed 13 Sinhalese soldiers in northern Jaffna province. Hundreds of Tamils were killed and thousands more displaced in the riots that plunged the country into its current full-scale ethnic war, which has claimed more than 60,000 lives.

Since early April, fighting has intensified in the northern Jaffna Peninsula, where the rebels reached the edge of Jaffna city. But an infusion of foreign-bought weapons has helped the 40,000 government troops halt the rebel advance and there has been a comparative lull in fighting during the past two weeks.

PM-Sri-Lanka, DL Bgt ; Day Lead Budget; INDEX: International, Defence; HL: Sri Lanka police detain suspects in suicide bombing; president appeals for calm; From....

In Washington, White House spokesman Joe Lockhart condemned the bombing as a "reprehensible act" but urged a continuation of efforts to resolve the bitter conflict.

The United States and India have supported efforts by Norway to mediate between the rebels and the Sri Lankan government, but Kumaratunga has insisted that the **Tamil Tigers** cannot be trusted.

Although there was no claim of responsibility for the bombing, the **Tamil Tigers** have been blamed for most such attacks because they use similar methods of assassination.

The rebels have a unit of male and **female** suicide bombers called the Black Tigers, known for assassinating politicians and government officials.

President Ranasinghe Premadasa was killed by a suicide bomber in 1993, and former Indian prime minister Rajiv Gandhi was assassinated by a woman suicide bomber in 1991. Both killings were blamed on the **Tamil Tigers**, but the group did not acknowledge them.

Kumaratunga survived a suicide bombing in December but lost the sight in her right eye. Gooneratne was the first member of her cabinet to be assassinated.

Load-Date: October 11, 2002

Dream destination turns into a war zone

Derby Evening Telegraph

July 27, 2001

FIRST

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Section: People: LOCAL, Pg.10

Length: 642 words

Byline: By Phil Harrison, Pharrison@Derbytelegraph.Co.Uk

Body

DON'T TRAVEL IS THE ADVICE

A DERBY man is considering cancelling his dream trip to Sri Lanka following the latest violence to erupt there.

Simon Whittaker (30) is booked to arrive on the troubled island with girlfriend Wendy Roberts early next month after spending a week in the Maldives as part of the couple's GBP 2,000 two-centre holiday.

But, following explosive gun battles between government soldiers and rebel **Tamil Tigers** around the island's Bandaranaike Airport earlier this week the couple's holiday, along with many other British tourists, is in serious doubt.

The latest advice being handed out by the Foreign Office is for people to cancel their trips unless it is an absolute emergency. The couple are currently considering an alternative package offered by their travel agent Thomas Cook.

Mr Whittaker, from Littleover, said although it would be sad to cancel their dream trip their safety was more important than anything.

"If we do go it could all start up again and we could be in trouble," he said.

"It could either be part of the relaxing holiday we had planned or something a little more action-packed than we had hoped for.

"It's a bit more of a special holiday for us and we really want to go to Sri Lanka because it seems such a beautiful place. There are certain things we are looking forward to doing while we were there - such as going to see the elephant orphanage in Candi.

"But at the end of the day we want to go away and feel safe and not have to worry whether the trouble could start all over again while we are there.

"We are determined to go away and rather than cancel the whole holiday I'm sure we will be spending two weeks somewhere nice, hot and sunny.

Dream destination turns into a war zone

"I'm sure two weeks in the Maldives instead of one and something exotic has got to be better than two weeks here."

The couple have been told by their travel agents Thomas Cook that alternative destinations are available should they decide to cancel their Sri Lankan leg of the trip.

Among the options include a week in Dubai or spending a further week in the Maldives.

A spokesman for Thomas Cook said: "We obviously follow Foreign Office advice in situations like this and their advice is that people should cancel their trips.

"We are currently contacting customers who are booked to go to Sri Lanka and offering them an extra alternative package.

"We realise it is inconvenient for people to change their holiday plans at this stage but safety is really the top priority.

"If people choose not to take up an alternative destination we will offer them a full refund."

TIGERS FIGHTING FOR INDEPENDENCE FOR MINORITY

The Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (**LTTE**) is a terrorist organisation with a 10,000-strong force whose fighters include **women** and children.

Their aim is to create an independent state for the country's 3m Tamil population who are dwarfed by the 18m Sinhalese majority.

Their latest attack marks the anniversary of the death of nearly 3,000 Tamils at the hands of Sinhalese mobs back in 1983. This incident is regarded by many to be the catalyst for the Tigers' rebellion which so far has claimed more than 63,000 lives.

The Sri Lankan government spends GBP 500m a year on the war.

The Tigers are mainly funded by Tamils living abroad and most of their weaponry is either captured from government forces or bought from eastern European countries.

The Tigers are based in the town of Jaffna in the north of the island. Over the last few years fighters have developed suicide bombing as a favoured tactic. Fighters also wear cyanide capsules around their neck in case of capture.

More than 60,000 British tourists visit the island every year but tourists have never been singled out by the Tigers.

Bombs have been planted at hotels and beaches where tourists could have been victims and some terrorist experts believe holidaymakers are increasingly likely to become targets.

Load-Date: August 1, 2001

RIGHTS-SRI LANKA: PEACE COMES AT A PRICE IN WAR-TORN EAST

IPS-Inter Press Service

June 3, 2002, Monday

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Length: 835 words

Byline: By Kumudini Hettiarachchi

Dateline: BATTICALOA, Sri Lanka, Jun. 3

Body

The laughing teenage children pedalling their bicycles to and from school and the office workers busily commuting to work project an air of peace in this town on Sri Lanka's eastern coast.

The sense of normalcy is bolstered by the street vendors doing brisk sales and the fishermen casting their nets in the town's lagoon.

Batticaloa's residents are clearly enjoying the current break from Sri Lanka's over two decades long ethnic conflict. For this town has been the scene of clashes between the government troops and the separatist Tamil Tiger rebels during the last 20 years.

But this veneer of normalcy is deceptive. Conversations with some of the residents here paint a portrait of new hardships -- tales of abductions, forced conscription, extortion, houses and land being forcefully acquired and cattle being seized.

The residents of this largely agricultural town are precise about who is responsible: the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (**LTTE**), as the rebel group is formally known.

"There is no law and order now. It's the rule of the Tigers," says a retired public servant. "Those days, they moved about freely only in the 'uncleared' areas but now after the government and the **LTTE** signed the cease-fire pact, they are all over Batticaloa, even in the town."

In parts of Sri Lanka's eastern province, just as in the north, the **LTTE** have controlled tracts of the countryside, while government troops have held the roads and towns. The rebel-dominated areas are classified as "uncleared" by the government.

The Tamil rebels have been fighting government troops in this South Asian nation's north and east to establish the state of Tamil Eelam for the predominantly Tamil community who live there. During this separatist struggle, the **LTTE** has projected itself as the defenders of the Tamils, the country's largest minority, against the majority Sinhalese.

Some 64,000 people have died in the conflict.

Since last December, however, the two warring sides began observing a cease-fire. The cessation of hostilities, part of a Norwegian-brokered peace effort, has held so far.

RIGHTS- SRI LANKA : PEACE COMES AT A PRICE IN WAR-TORN EAST

As a result, the LTTE has stepped in to resolve the problems, even domestic ones, of the Tamil residents. However the solutions offered by the LTTE's representatives in the area are rough in many ways.

"We are expected to take our problems to the LTTE. They solve them immediately and arbitrarily," says one resident, citing the case of a man whose son-in-law came home drunk and assaulted his daughter.

"The man went to the LTTE. They came, thrashed the living daylights out of him, and warned him not to do that again," he said with a rueful smile.

Such rough justice and an open LTTE presence are welcomed by other Tamil residents. "It is good that the LTTE is here. We must help them," says another resident.

But there are those who disagree, particularly families that have been on the receiving side of the LTTE's many edicts.

Among them is a family who was forced to flee their home after the LTTE demanded their land, and farmers whose tractors have been seized after failing to pay a sum demanded by the rebels.

Two weeks ago, one farmer, who could not face such regular harassment, committed suicide. Women have not been spared either. They are expected to adhere to a strict dress code since Mar. 8 -- when the world marked International Women's Day.

Married women, according to the LTTE, should wear saris in public, while other women have to be dressed in shalwar kameez (a long, baggy shirt and loose trousers).

"The people have a grievous foreboding about what awaits them, but there is nothing they can do. There is no clear path," says a human rights activist who has been fighting long and hard for the rights of the Tamils from the time the conflict erupted in the early 1980s.

A leading independent human rights group has taken the LTTE to task for the climate of fear it has imposed in this region. Civilians are being harassed in direct violation of the Norwegian-brokered truce, the University Teachers for Human Rights (UTHR) stated in a report released early May.

"Abductions and extortion have in fact increased," the UTHR declared in its report, "Towards Totalitarian Peace: The Human Rights Dilemma."

However, the LTTE's representatives in town deny some of the charges, particularly extortion. According to L. Thurai, the Tamil rebels' political leader in Batticaloa, the people give them donations on their own accord.

But that does little to assuage the fear of some residents. The future for them appears uncertain, since part of the on-going peace efforts is to establish an interim administration in the northern and eastern provinces for the LTTE to govern.

"If the interim administration comes through with the LTTE at the helm, will it work under Sri Lanka's constitution, police, law and civil administration or under the Tiger system, because they already have one in place?" asks a resident.

And for one local businessman, there is little to feel optimistic about. "We have no choice; we are slaves," he says.

Load-Date: June 4, 2002

Overcoming odds, Tamil guerillas win battles in Sri Lanka

United Press International

May 12, 2000, Friday

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Section: GENERAL NEWS

Length: 1171 words

Byline: By MARTIN SIEFF, UPI National Security Editor

Dateline: WASHINGTON, May 12

Body

The Tamil Tiger guerrillas battering the gates of Jaffna are outnumbered 15 to one by the Sri Lankan government forces they have fought for 17 years, but they are winning.

Unlike the Viet Cong during the Vietnam War or the Afghan Mujahedeen fighting the Red Army in Afghanistan, the **Tamil Tigers** have not enjoyed significant support from any global superpower. Nor are they riding on the wave of any global ideological or religious movement, such as revolutionary communism, anti-imperialism or militant Islam.

They are, however, driven by fierce ethnic passions and resentments. They have also enjoyed the support of a huge Diaspora in South Asia and the West.

Most of all, however, they have forged out of a tiny population of only 3.2 million an egalitarian, mixed-sex, fanatical fighting force of awesome daring, ruthlessness and efficiency.

In their martial exploits, tactical skills and remorseless determination, they bear comparison to the Viet Minh and Viet Cong and to the Israeli Army in the 1950s and 1960s.

The Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam are believed to have around 10,000 effective combatants at any one time. They use both **women** and men as front line combat troops and suicide bombers. They have exceptionally high morale, and they subject their forces to the most intense training.

They have defied and increasingly outfought a well equipped conventional army with 15 times their manpower in a war that has cost 60,000 lives over the past 17 years in a country with a population of little over 20 million.

Proportionately, that is almost equal to Britain's military war dead of World War II or the equivalent of 750,000 people being killed in a U.S. civil war. It is also about 20 times the estimated Russian military dead in the current Chechen conflict

Like Islamic groups fighting Israel, including the Islamic Resistance Movement Hamas and the Islamic Jihad, the Tigers have succeeded in lethally combining theological inspiration with tactical terrorist efficiency. They have an apparently endless cadre of volunteers ready to carry out suicide bomb attacks.

One such attack took the life of former Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi in 1991.

Overcoming odds, Tamil guerillas win battles in Sri Lanka

Although Islamic fundamentalist suicide bombers in Israel and Lebanon have gained far more media attention over the past 20 years, their fanaticism and commitment pales in comparison to those of the **Tamil Tigers**.

Since the current military conflict in Sri Lanka began in 1983, the Tigers have carried out five times as many suicide bomb attacks as every other guerrilla or terrorist force in the world combined, including Hamas in Israel and the Israeli-occupied territories and Hezbollah in Lebanon, according to British Broadcasting Corp. estimates.

Indeed, the **Tamil Tigers** have shown levels of fanaticism and ruthlessness far outstripping even Hezbollah and Hamas. No Islamic guerrilla organization has ever used both **women** and men as suicide bombers. The Tigers do so as a matter of course.

Up to now, the Tigers have failed miserably to achieve the kind of international recognition that the Israeli independence movement amassed before 1948 or that the Palestine Liberation Organization put together over the past 30 years. The Tigers remain largely diplomatically isolated, having far more skill at military than political maneuvers.

But like the Israeli army in the 1950s and 1960s, they have amassed a formidable arsenal of weapons perfectly suited to the kinds of military operations they carry out.

They have large reserves of artillery, surface-to-air missiles and rocket launchers. And their troops have repeatedly shown they know how to use such weapons to neutralize the air and tank superiority of the regular Sri Lankan army.

The Tigers see themselves as a national army. In addition to using **women** as front-line combatants, they use children.

They both preach and practice total war. They have not hesitated to massacre defenseless Sinhalese **women** and children in villages they have overrun.

Like the Israeli army in its 1948 War of Independence and in subsequent conflicts, the Tigers' militant resolve has been generated by what they perceive as a long, dark history of contempt, discrimination and persecution at the hands of Sri Lanka's 15 million Sinhalese majority.

As in the Israel-Palestinian struggle, the Armenian-Azerbaijan one and the Bosnia and Kosovo conflicts in the former Yugoslavia, religious differences have served to further exacerbate an ethnic clash. The Tamils are Hindus; the Sinhalese are Buddhists.

But just as Israelis and Palestinians could look for support to Jewish communities or Arab states overseas, the Tigers have been sustained by immense financial aid and strong, uncritical emotional support from the far larger Tamil population in southern India, especially in the state of Tamil Nadu and in the great city of Madras.

Some 50 million Tamil speakers live in Tamil Nadu state - more than 15 times the Tamil population of Sri Lanka.

A significant Tamil community still lives in London -- a heritage of Ceylon's centuries as a wealthy British colony. And the Tigers' international headquarters is based there.

Previous Indian governments tactically supported them as fellow Hindus and to avoid antagonizing the large Tamil-speaking population of Tamil Nadu state.

But the Tamils are now more isolated on the international stage than the Israelis, the Palestinians, the Afghan Mujahedeen resistance or the Vietnamese guerrilla movements ever were.

Indian attitudes turned sharply against the Tigers after they inflicted serious casualties on Indian troops striving to achieve an end to their terrorism in Sri Lanka in 1987-90 and after Rajiv Gandhi was assassinated in 1991.

Overcoming odds, Tamil guerillas win battles in Sri Lanka

But they appear impervious to such developments. They continue to swim in a sea of Tamil support both in southeastern India and in overseas Tamil communities.

Their extreme militancy includes a commitment to die rather than be captured that has not been equaled by any army or guerrilla movement since the Imperial Japanese Army in World War II. Like the Japanese army then, the **Tamil Tigers** embrace death rather than surrender, and very few have ever been captured alive.

Indeed, their religiously enhanced aversion to being captured or surrendering has been formalized in ways even the Japanese army never followed at the height of the Pacific War.

The Japanese air force recruited an elite corps of kamikaze suicide pilots. But even ordinary rank and file a **Tamil Tigers** -- not just small elite units -- wear cyanide capsules around their necks to take if they are captured. They embrace martyrdom with a passion reminiscent of early Christians during the Roman Empire.

But this religious-nationalist passion does not extend to compassion or mercy to their victims. In addition to engaging in terror bombings, suicide attacks and village massacres, they ethnically cleansed the city of Jaffna of non-Tamils when they first captured it in 1990.

They are now winning more spectacular military successes than ever before, and they show no signs of mellowing.

Load-Date: May 13, 2000

End of Document

India rejects Tamil appeal to pull back: Jaffna 'collaborators' warned as Delhi and Tigers seek upper hand

The Guardian (London)

November 23, 1987

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Length: 554 words

Byline: From JOHN RETTIE

Dateline: COLOMBO

Body

India has rejected the demand of the **Tamil Tigers** that it should withdraw its forces in the north and east of Sri Lanka to the positions they held before October 10. It was on that date that Indian troops launched their offensive against the Tigers, in response to the massacre of hundreds of Sinhalese civilians in the Eastern Province.

The demand for a return to its previous positions was the first, toughest and least acceptable of seven conditions laid down by the Tigers, and an Indian Foreign Ministry spokesman announced yesterday that it was unacceptable.

He declined to say whether India would extend the 48-hour unilateral ceasefire, due to expire today, announced 'to give the **Tamil Tigers** a chance to surrender their arms.'

The Tigers' conditions were set out in a letter sent by their deputy commander, Mahattaya, to the Indian Government. They virtually demanded the same freedom of movement and action which they enjoyed before October 10. They asked for an end to patrols and searches by Indian troops, the restoration of the amnesty which the Sri Lankan Government cancelled at that time, and the withdrawal of the Pounds 20,000 reward for the capture of their supreme commander, Mr Velupillai Prabhakaran.

In addition, the Tigers said they should be allowed to live a normal life like all other Sri Lankan citizens. They said that if the life and security of Tamils were guaranteed, there would be no problem about surrendering arms.

In a communique issued at the same time, the Tigers said they had put up posters in Jaffna warning Tamil civil administrators not to collaborate with Indian administrators. The penalty for ignoring such warnings in the past has been shooting after being tied to a lamp post. The communique also accused Indian soldiers of raping two Tamil **women** in the Jaffna peninsula at the weekend.

The Tigers are hoping that support from the Tamil Nadu Government in southern India will enable them to recover much of what they have lost in the fighting of the past six weeks.

For their part, the Indians have been hoping that if the Tigers prove to be intransigent, they could resume military action against them with stronger support, both from Jaffna Tamils and from Tamil Nadu.

India rejects Tamil appeal to pull back: Jaffna 'collaborators' warned as Delhi and Tigers seek upper hand

Mr Prabhakaran wrote to the chief minister of the southern Indian state of Tamil Nadu, Mr M G Ramachandran, yesterday, promising that the Tigers would lay down their arms if New Delhi undertook to protect the island's Tamils.

Mr Prabhakaran said there were several aspects of the Indo-Sri Lankan peace agreement which did not fulfil Tamil political aspirations. This virtually amounts to a demand for the renegotiation of the peace agreement - something unacceptable to both the Indian and Sri Lankan Governments.

In an interview yesterday, the influential Sri Lankan Lands Minister, Mr Gamini Dissanayake, who played a key role in framing the agreement said its principles could not be renegotiated. But, he added 'subject to demilitarisation and the acceptance of the principles of the agreement in a democratic structure.' anything could be negotiated.

He said the position and role of the ***Tamil Tigers*** in the north and east would have to be reevaluated, implying that if the Tigers surrendered their arms and pledged to implement the agreement, they could negotiate a powerful role for themselves.

Load-Date: June 13, 2000

End of Document

Rebel Attack Ends a Cease-Fire in Sri Lanka

The New York Times

April 20, 1995, Thursday, Late Edition - Final

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Distribution: Foreign Desk

Section: Section A; ; Section A; Page 8; Column 4; Foreign Desk ; Column 4;

Length: 774 words

Byline: By JOHN F. BURNS

By JOHN F. BURNS

Dateline: COLOMBO, Sri Lanka, April 19

Body

Efforts to end Sri Lanka's long ethnic war appeared to collapse today after rebel commandos infiltrated a key Government naval base and blew up two gunboats, killing 11 sailors and wounding 21 others. The bodies of four rebels were also found.

The attack came early Wednesday morning, just after midnight, at the eastern city of Trincomalee, hours after the Tamil Tiger rebels delivered a letter to President Chandrika Bandaranaike Kumaratunga declaring their intention to end a 14-week cease-fire, the longest since the war began in 1982.

The rebel leader, Vellupillai Prabakaran, cited the Government's refusal to concede to rebel demands put forward at peace talks, and what he described as delays in carrying out other concessions.

[On Thursday, the **Tamil Tigers** claimed responsibility for the attack in a broadcast over rebel radio, Reuters reported. The news agency also said the death toll among naval personnel had risen to 12.]

Many in this nation of 18 million people consider the rebel moves as fatal to any hopes for an early end to the war, which has killed at least 34,000 people and caused the effective secession of an extensive northern region under Tamil control.

The Government's response, after a lengthy meeting between President Kumaratunga and her security council, seemed to be intended to save the peace talks.

The Government said it had placed armed forces on maximum alert and canceled some concessions previously made to the **Tamil Tigers**, but it also strongly re-affirmed its commitment to ending the war. The statement made no mention of any plans for retaliation.

"The Government considers this incident to be only a temporary setback in one stage of the peace process," a statement said, "not a defeat of the peace process itself. The Government will do its maximum to forestall any attempt to provoke the commencement of a new round in this disastrous war."

Rebel Attack Ends a Cease-Fire in Sri Lanka

The rebel strike at the naval yard was characterized by the ruthlessness that has marked the **Tamil Tigers**, who have dispatched suicide squads on many occasions to assassinate political leaders and to mount military attacks.

Spokesmen for the Sri Lanka Navy said rebel commandos had apparently entered Trincomalee harbor under water and had attached mines to two gunboats at a quay. The spokesmen said the bodies of four rebel divers, two men and two **women**, had been recovered from the wreckage, along with the bodies of naval personnel.

The vessels were small craft of the kind used by Sri Lanka to enforce a sea blockade around the Tigers' headquarters in Jaffna, on the northern tip of the island. For years the Tigers have sustained their rebellion by smuggling arms, ammunition and fuel across the narrow strait that separates the Jaffna peninsula from India.

But the attack drew less attention than the **Tamil Tigers**' decision to end the cease-fire. The move followed months of concessions by Mrs. Kumaratunga, who took office last year in an election won largely on a pledge to seek peace.

As President, Mrs. Kumaratunga has offered to re-draw the Constitution to meet long-standing Tamil grievances against the Sinhalese, the country's ethnic majority, mainly by granting wide autonomy to a new Tamil-majority region in the north.

But the Government's readiness to meet immediate rebel demands, mainly by lifting the Jaffna blockade for all but military supplies, failed to draw the Tigers' leaders into substantive talks on a political settlement. The Tiger position, that the siege of Jaffna must be fully lifted before political talks begin, had raised concerns in Colombo that the Tigers were using the cease-fire to prepare for a new round of fighting.

One of Mrs. Kumaratunga's top Cabinet officials said this week that some members of the Government worried that the Tigers, formally known as the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam, are still set on establishing a separate state and were exploiting the Government's peace effort to advance their cause.

"Some of our people are beginning to say, 'Can't you see what sort of people you're dealing with? How much more evidence do you need?' " the official said.

After the attack today, Mrs. Kumaratunga's response was to stiffen the Government's stance, but only slightly.

A Government announcement restored some items to the list of goods that are not allowed into Jaffna, including electrical appliances, penlight batteries and iron rods, which could be used for military purposes. The announcement also canceled two concessions made only last week, under which gasoline and diesel fuel would have been allowed to cross the siege lines and Tamil fishing boats would have been allowed more freedom to fish offshore.

Graphic

Map of Sri Lanka showing location of Trincomalee.

Load-Date: April 20, 1995

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United Press International

May 18, 2000, Thursday

Copyright 2000 U.P.I.

Section: GENERAL NEWS

Length: 1020 words

Body

TOP OF THE NEWS

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ETHIOPIA - Ethiopia on Thursday claimed a major victory in its war with Eritrea. The Eritreans admitted they had lost control of the regional center of Barentu, a city 45 miles east of their border, and that they had been forced to evacuate 200,000 people from it. According to some estimates, the latest eruption of fighting between the two historic East African enemies has already created half a million Eritrean refugees in less than a week.

In New York, the United Nations Security Council Thursday unanimously agreed by 15 votes to none to impose a year-long arms embargo on both Ethiopia and Eritrea. Eritrea has criticized the embargo as unfair, saying it is the victim of Ethiopian aggression.

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REST OF THE NEWS

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SIERRA LEONE - Prominent African-American leader and special U.S. presidential envoy Jesse Jackson launched a five-nation tour of West Africa on Thursday in Nigeria, seeking to negotiate a new peace deal for Sierra Leone. He also hopes to visit Liberia, Sierra Leone, Mali and Guinea. Jackson's trip began as citizens of the Sierra Leone capital Freetown celebrated the capture Wednesday by British troops of ruthless rebel leader Foday Sankoh. Sankoh's Revolutionary United Front troops in the heartland are still holding 250 U.N. peacekeepers hostage.

Jackson is expected to meet Liberian President Charles Taylor in the Liberian capital Monrovia on Friday. Taylor and Libyan leader Muammar Gadhafi have backed Sankoh's nine-year rebellion, which has cost thousands of lives as his troops cut off the hands of countless civilians including women and children.

Jackson last week said Sankoh should be brought back into the political process, a remark that angered many Nigerians. Their troops have borne the brunt of regional and U.N. peacekeeping efforts in Sierra Leone and have suffered serious casualties in past clashes with Sankoh's RUF. The United Nations Security Council was expected to adopt a resolution this week to expand the military contingent of UNAMSIL, the U.N. Mission in Sierra Leone, from 11,000 troops to 13,000.

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KOREA - North Korea and South Korea agreed Thursday in talks at Panmunjon on the Demilitarized Zone (DMZ) on the 38th parallel on the agenda and formula for a groundbreaking summit June 12-14 between their leaders. President Kim Dae-jung of the South and Kim Jong-il of reclusive, communist North Korea will meet in the North Korean capital Pyongyang. The two nations have yet to negotiate a peace treaty over the 1950-53 Korean war.

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PHILIPPINES -- Terrorist bomb attacks killed at least 5 people and wounded scores more on the southern Philippine island of Mindanao on Thursday. Four people were killed and dozens wounded in grenade attacks at a marketplace in the town of Jolo and another civilian was killed by a bomb attack on a bakery in the city Zamboanga at the eastern end of Mindanao. The attacks were widely believed to be the work of the extremist Abu Sayyaf terror group, which is holding more than 20 people hostage in the mountains of the island.

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IRELAND - Leaders of the Ulster Unionist Party, the largest Protestant political party in Northern Ireland, remained undecided about rejoining the Power-Sharing Executive with Catholic nationalist political leaders after meetings with their chief, David Trimble, Thursday. The UUP is to hold a crucial assembly Saturday to decide whether or not to rejoin the Executive, which was suspended in February. The Catholic nationalist Irish Republican Army has announced that it is prepared to start decommissioning, or handing over its arms supplies, to an independent disarmament commission. But Unionists remain distrustful and are also angry over British proposals to rename and reorganize the Protestant-dominated northern Irish police force, the Royal Ulster Constabulary.

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SRI LANKA - The Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam, or Tamil Tigers, claimed in an announcement from their office in London on Thursday they had conquered a major Sri Lankan army base guarding the besieged city of Jaffna in the northeast of the of the Indian Ocean island. If confirmed, the move would be a critical success for the LTTE guerrillas in their drive to conquer the 30,000 to 40,000 Sri Lankan regular army troops trapped in Jaffna.

The Sri Lankan government Thursday blamed the LTTE for a terror bomb attack Wednesday near a Buddhist temple that killed 23 people during religious festival celebrations in the town of Batticaloa. The Tamils are overwhelmingly Hindu, but the Sinhalese, who comprise 82 percent of the island's population, are Buddhist.

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POPE - Pope John Paul II celebrated his 80th birthday Thursday at the Vatican by holding a mass with several thousand bishops, cardinals and other senior officials of the Roman Catholic Church. John Paul is now the longest reigning pope of the past century. Only six of the recorded 261 popes in church history have reigned longer. He was elected in 1978 to succeed John Paul I, who only reigned one month. Although the pope is believed to have chronic health problem, he remains fully alert and appears determined to maintain his grueling schedule of work and travel.

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JAPAN - Japanese Prime Minister Yoshiro Mori informed his coalition allies Thursday in Tokyo that he would call a general election for June 25. Elections must be held by October, but Mori wants to have a fresh mandate as prime minister when Japan hosts the Group of Eight major industrialized nations summit on the island of Okinawa in July. Mori succeeded Prime Minister Keizo Obuchi only six weeks ago when he suffered a severe stroke, dying last Sunday. Mori was expected to cruise smoothly to electoral victory. But he angered moderates this week with politically charged remarks, saying Japan was still a divine society based on the emperor - using language that appeared to reverse or blur the historic post-1945 separation of state politics and Shinto religion. Other major power brokers in Mori's ruling Liberal Democratic Party are reportedly unhappy already about the new prime minister's propensity for making embarrassing public slips and politically charged remarks.

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Load-Date: May 19, 2000

End of Document

SRI LANKA: UNDP HELP FOR JAFFNA WILL BOOST GOVERNMENT HOLD

IPS-Inter Press Service

September 9, 1996, Monday

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Length: 1010 words

Byline: By Ishnala Samarasinghe

Dateline: COLOMBO, Sep. 9

Body

The Sri Lankan government's efforts to win the hearts-and-minds of the people of the war-ravaged northern Jaffna peninsula has for the first time received support from an international donor agency.

The United Nations Development Program (UNDP) has agreed to provide a grant of usd 287,000 to Sri Lanka for a program of relief and rehabilitation of the stronghold of the Tamil Tiger separatists that the government captured in April.

Although the grant amount is relatively small, the agreement marks a major achievement for the government of President Chandrika Kumaratunga, who needs to show that she is consolidating the military gains by a reconstruction drive.

The UNDP grant is a response to her appeal to international donors for assistance in speedily bringing life in Jaffna back to normal.

The grant will fund a needs assessment and technical and financial analysis of priorities and cost estimates to rebuild Jaffna, wrecked by a 14-year civil war.

"UNDP support will enable the government to develop a more comprehensive set of proposals which are essential for attracting additional international funding," said UNDP's Asia-Pacific director and a U.N. assistant secretary general, Nay Htun.

He said the priorities for rehabilitation work will be decided in close consultation with the people of Jaffna and local leaders.

The Sri Lankan government is seeking international assistance to rebuild Jaffna, the epicenter of the civil war which the government says has killed more than 50,000 people so far. Jaffna is the heart of what the island's Tamil minority considers its homeland.

The separatist Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (**LTTE**) have been fighting to make Jaffna the capital of Tamil Eelam, their name for a separate Tamil state in the island's northeast.

Nearly 18 percent of Sri Lanka's population are Tamils, while more than 75 percent are Sinhalese.

The **LTTE** ran a virtual state in Jaffna for the past decade with their own banks, currency and police force. They were driven out of Jaffna by the government forces earlier this year in a series of offensives.

SRI LANKA : UNDP HELP FOR JAFFNA WILL BOOST GOVERNMENT HOLD

The rebels have temporarily set up their headquarters in the mainland Wanni district south of the Jaffna peninsula, but still consider Jaffna as the centerpiece of their struggle.

The government, meanwhile, has embarked on an ambitious rebuilding program of Jaffna, hoping to give its population amenities and facilities which would keep them from crossing over to the rebels' side.

Both sides feel it is necessary to win over the civilian population for a complete victory over the other.

Jaffna has been without electricity for most of the past decade and its civilian population has suffered from government-imposed embargoes of essential items, which it feared would get into rebel hands.

Soon after taking Jaffna, the government reduced its huge list of banned items, which included chocolates, torch batteries and sanitary napkins. Chocolates give energy to fighting rebels, torch batteries are used to blast bombs and sanitary napkins can be used to treat wounded guerrillas on the field, the government said.

The government has already sent shiploads of foodstuffs, clothing, buildings material and medicines to Jaffna, but is seeking a multi-million dollar aid package to rebuild the peninsula's road network, electricity supply and ruined hospitals and schools.

But donors have been slow to respond to Kumaratunga's appeal, claiming the president's proposed rebuilding program lacked specifics and did not give details of the sort of expenses that would be incurred.

"Donors felt it was necessary to make a stronger needs assessment," Nay Htun told IPS in Colombo.

He said the UNDP grant would go towards assessing the damage and pin-pointing exact areas for rehabilitation and reconstruction, making it easier for the mobilization of international funds.

"UNDP will be providing this assistance on a humanitarian basis to include the population of Jaffna. The objective is to strengthen the capacity of the people to resettle and restart their lives so they can become economically active and generate their own incomes," a UNDP statement said.

It added: "There is a need to rehabilitate the basic social and physical infrastructure, to re-establish a civilian administration and to undertake vocational and technical training programs. The UNDP support will enable further assistance to be mobilized for such basic needs."

The government's success in rebuilding Jaffna will, to a large extent, decide the fate of its civilians.

Said one analyst in Colombo: "Just like it was for the Tigers, Jaffna will now be the showpiece for the government. If they can bring normalcy to Jaffna, they will get to keep it. Otherwise it will fall back to the rebel hands."

The government's aim has also been to isolate the **Tamil Tigers** from the Tamil population, thereby eroding their legitimacy and support base. A majority of Tamils would by and large support the government if their lives are allowed to return to normal and their grievances are met, Jaffna residents say.

"The Tamils, like all ordinary Sri Lankans, are sick and tired of this war. They are waiting for the government to show some genuine concern and take some genuine action to solve their problems," said Tamil journalist T. Sabaratnam.

As an answer, the government has proposed a peace plan, aiming to change Sri Lanka into a federal system of governments and offering substantial devolution of power to minorities.

The peace plan is now being discussed by a parliamentary select committee, but has drawn heavy criticism from Sinhalese hardliners who say it offers too much to the minorities and would act as a stepping stone to a separate homeland.

The rebels too will not stand idle until Jaffna rises from ashes, offering fresh hope to the Tamils.

SRI LANKA : UNDP HELP FOR JAFFNA WILL BOOST GOVERNMENT HOLD

In June, a **female** rebel suicide bomber made an unsuccessful attempt to kill Sri Lanka's Housing and Construction Minister Nimal Siripala de Silva, who heads the government's reconstruction program. The bomb killed several senior government officials, but only slightly wounding the minister.

Load-Date: September 11, 1996

End of Document

Sri Lankan Government Calls Tamil Truce 'Bogus'

The Associated Press

January 7, 1991, Monday, AM cycle

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Section: International News

Length: 310 words

Byline: By DEXTER CRUEZ, Associated Press Writer

Dateline: COLOMBO, Sri Lanka

Body

The government branded the Tamil rebels' cease-fire as "bogus" Monday and listed 19 violations in an acceleration of charges and countercharges that followed the truce's initiation New Year's Day.

The guerillas accused soldiers of "brutal attacks on civilians," including raping five Tamil women, abducting two men and killing a rebel supporter.

Deputy Defense Minister Ranjan Wijeratne told reporters troops defended themselves when the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam broke their own unilaterally declared cease-fire. He gave no details of the violations.

He said troops killed six Tamil Tigers in self-defense since Jan. 1.

"It appears the rank and file of the ... (Tigers) are not obeying orders of higher cadres. ... It is typical of them," Wijeratne said. "A cease-fire is a cease-fire. If they have no control over their cadres, it's too bad.

"The cease-fire appears to be a bogus one."

But he said the government would stick to its commitment to halt all offensive operations against the Tigers until midnight Thursday.

The Tamil Tigers said in a statement faxed from their London office Monday that the attacks on civilians took place from Friday to Sunday in the eastern Batticaloa district.

The military denied the rape and abduction charges but said one militant was shot to death when he tried to grab a soldier's rifle.

It was not possible to verify the claims.

The Tigers started fighting in 1983 for a separate homeland for Sri Lanka's Tamil minority. They declared an unconditional cease-fire to mark the New Year of 1991 and said they hoped peace talks would follow.

At least five previous cease-fires have broken down.

More than 14,000 people have been killed in the insurrection. Tamil separatists accuse Sinhalese majority of discriminating against Tamils in jobs and education.

Sri Lankan Government Calls Tamil Truce 'Bogus'

Tamils form 18 percent and Sinhalese 75 percent of Sri Lanka's 16 million people.

End of Document

sri lanka's rebels use women to destabilize north

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JUNE 2, 1998, TUESDAY

Length: 236 words

Dateline: colombo, june 2; ITEM NO: 0602070

Body

sri lanka's tamil rebels of the liberation tigers of tamil eelam (**ltte**) have sent a group of armed **women** cadres to destabilize jaffna peninsula in the north of the island nation, according to military sources here tuesday. jaffna peninsula was recaptured from the **ltte** by government troops in may 1995 and since then the government has made efforts to establish civilian rule in the peninsula. the **ltte** rebels however are opposed to this and are making every effort to destabilize the peninsula. the **women** cadres who were sent there shot dead two soldiers at kondavil in the chavakachcheri area sunday. they had first thrown grenades at them and later shot at them. a subsequent search operation of the area only drew a blank. however in another area government forces were able to apprehend an **ltte** woman cadre who with another colleague had launched a similar attack on troops stationed at sinnakadai near jaffna town. two more soldiers died in this incident as well while the arrested woman cadre was injured, said the sources adding that her colleague was shot dead by the troops. the sources were confident that government troops would be able to arrest more members of the group of **ltte women** infiltrators soon.

the **ltte** is fighting for a separate homeland for minority tamils in the country's north and east in a war which began in 1983.

Load-Date: June 2, 1998

TIGER SUPREMO REPORTED HURT IN CAMP ATTACK

Courier Mail (Queensland, Australia)

July 20, 1996, Saturday

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Length: 607 words

Body

KEYWORD-HIT

Tiger supremo

reported hurt

in camp attack

COLOMBO: Tamil Tiger guerrilla leader Velupillai Prabhakaran had been wounded while leading a rebel attack on a garrison in north-eastern Sri Lanka yesterday, military sources said yesterday.

The sources said high-frequency radios of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam intercepted by the military indicated that the supremo had been heading Thursday's pre-dawn attack on the camp at Mullaitivu.

"The messages make out he has been wounded," a defence official said.

"We don't know how serious these injuries are. But we are QNP

convinced he was involved in the attack."

Prabhakaran, 41, is the founder and leader of the **LTTE**, which has been waging a protracted separatist campaign in Sri Lanka's north and east in which more than 50,000 people have died.

The Mullaitivu camp is located just north of **LTTE** base "One Four", which is reputedly the rebel group's command centre and a hideout for Prabhakaran, Sri Lanka's most wanted man.

TIGER SUPREMO REPORTED HURT IN CAMP ATTACK

The elusive Prabhakaran, a father of two, has been pronounced dead and wounded many times in the past by both the Sri Lankan and Indian military.

The LTTE's Voice of Tigers radio said earlier yesterday that nearly 400 Sri Lankan soldiers could have died in the attack, the biggest by the LTTE since it wiped out at least 750 soldiers in the island's north in November 1993.

Tamil sources in Vavuniya quoted the LTTE radio as saying that the Tigers recovered bodies of some 40 guerrillas killed by the security forces in Thursday's battle.

It said some of its dead were women.

The radio said the LTTE, which mounted a daring pre-dawn attack on the garrison, took away all Sri Lankan military vehicles after overrunning the huge camp.

The Sri Lankan military said it had inflicted heavy casualties on the LTTE but gave no figures.

An earlier LTTE statement from London said the rebels dealt a severe blow to the Sri Lankan army in the attack, but gave no casualty figures.

"Sri Lankan armed forces suffered heavy casualties and a large number of them have died," the brief statement said.

It said LTTE guerrillas, after taking control of the central military complex, "removed three armoured vehicles and large quantities of heavy weapons including two 122mm artilleries.

"Little earlier, there was heavy fighting at the outer perimeter of the camp as the LTTE forces smashed the outer defence lines," the statement said.

Defence officials in Colombo said yesterday that hundreds of combatants could have died on both sides in the bitter fighting that lasted some 14 hours before the guerrillas retreated after setting fire

TIGER SUPREMO REPORTED HURT IN CAMP ATTACK

to parts of the camp.

The Sri Lankan military denied that the Mullaitivu camp had fallen to the **LTTE**.

Military officials and diplomats said a large force of rebels stormed the base from the south and by sea under the cover of darkness early on Thursday.

The navy, which sent eight Dvora-class gunboats to the area from the eastern port of Trincomalee, south of Mullaitivu, sank a large Tiger boat with 14 rebels on board, naval sources said.

One sailor was killed and at least four were wounded when rebel boats retaliated, they said.

The Defence Ministry said air force planes had destroyed seven rebel boats.

Tiger rebels also launched a separate attack in the north-eastern Meegasgodella area, killing eight soldiers in an ambush on a patrol on Thursday, military officials said.

The latest attacks come a week before the 13th anniversary of islandwide anti-Tamil riots that sparked the ethnic conflict.

They followed a lull in heavy fighting after government forces ousted the Tigers from their Jaffna peninsula stronghold, 320km north of Colombo, in April after a series of offensives.

AFP-Reuter

Load-Date: March 1, 2002

Sri Lanka police detain suspects after suicide bombing

Associated Press International

June 8, 2000; Thursday

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Section: International news

Length: 2337 words

Byline: DILSHIKA JAYAMAHA

Dateline: COLOMBO, Sri Lanka

Body

Police early Thursday detained 15 men as suspects in a suicide bombing that killed a Cabinet minister and 20 others in a suburb of the capital. Sri Lanka's president appealed for calm, urging people to refrain from retaliatory attacks on the Tamil minority.

The government blamed Wednesday's bombing on separatist rebels fighting for a homeland for the Tamil minority, and mobs in the neighborhood threw stones at Tamil-owned shops in revenge.

The 15 suspects were taken from apartments and houses near the site of Wednesday's bombing and were being interrogated, said a police official at the local station, who spoke on condition of anonymity. Their anxious relatives hovered outside the police station in the Ratmalana industrial area.

A nighttime curfew was imposed after mobs attacked Tamil shops in the district which is 15 kilometers (nine miles) from the center of Colombo. There were no reports of injuries.

A suicide bomber with explosives strapped to his body killed Industrial Development Minister Clement V. Gooneratne on Wednesday along with 20 others during a street drive to raise funds for soldiers fighting Tamil rebels in the northern Jaffna peninsula. The government had declared Wednesday its first-ever War Heroes Day.

About half of the 60 wounded people were still being treated Thursday, said Dr. W.G. Gunawardena, the director of Kalubowila Hospital. The slain Cabinet minister's wife was still in critical condition with internal injuries, he said.

The police official at the local station said the bomber was a man, although in the past women have cut their hair and posed as men in suicide bombings. Public officials are barred from providing information to the press under a strict code of conduct imposed in February.

President Chandrika Kumaratunga appealed for calm Thursday, saying the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam were trying to "inflame communal passions by provoking the people."

"I appeal to all Sri Lankans to consider this earnestly and act with patience to maintain peace at this hour," Kumaratunga said.

The Tamil Tiger rebels have been fighting since 1983 to establish a homeland in the north and east of the island nation for the country's 3.2 million Tamils, accusing the Sinhalese majority of discrimination in education and jobs.

Sri Lanka police detain suspects after suicide bombing

Since early April, fighting has intensified in the northern Jaffna Peninsula, where the rebels reached the edge of Jaffna city. But an infusion of foreign-bought weapons has helped the 40,000 government troops halt the rebel advance and there has been a comparative lull in fighting during the past two weeks.

The Tamil Tigers are outlawed in the United States, India and Sri Lanka but have fundraising and public relations offices in London and Paris.

In Washington, White House spokesman Joe Lockhart condemned the bombing as a "reprehensible act" but urged a continuation of efforts to resolve the bitter conflict.

Lockhart said, "Such terrorism should not and cannot detract from efforts to reach a negotiated solution to the current conflict in Sri Lanka."

He said, "The United States stands firmly in support of a solution that offers justice and human rights for all the citizens of a unified, peaceful, and prosperous Sri Lanka."

The United States and India have supported efforts by Norway to mediate between the rebels and the Sri Lankan government, but Kumaratunga has insisted that the Tamil Tigers could not be trusted in negotiations. The Norwegian effort, begun just before the Tiger offensive in April, has languished.

U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan's office said he was shocked by the bombing and "reiterates his condemnation of terrorism from whatever quarter."

Although there was no claim of responsibility for the bombing, the Tamil Tigers have been blamed for most such attacks because they use similar methods of assassination. The rebels have a unit of male and female suicide bombers called the Black Tigers, known for assassinating politicians and government officials.

President Ranasinghe Premadasa was killed by a suicide bomber in 1993, and former Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi was assassinated by a woman suicide bomber in 1991. Both killings were blamed on the Tamil Tigers, but the group did not acknowledge them.

Kumaratunga survived a suicide bombing in December but lost the sight in her right eye. Gooneratne was the first member of her Cabinet to be assassinated.

He had not been involved in the government's military efforts. With a trademark red handkerchief in his pocket, he often walked about freely in his district, Ratmalana.

Police detained 15 men Thursday as suspects in a suicide bombing that killed a Cabinet minister and 20 others in a suburb of the capital. Sri Lanka's president urged people to refrain from retaliatory attacks on the Tamil minority.

The government blamed Wednesday's bombing on separatist rebels fighting for a homeland for the Tamil minority, and mobs in the neighborhood threw stones at Tamil-owned shops in revenge.

The 15 suspects were taken at dawn from apartments and houses near the site of the bombing and were being interrogated, said a police official at the local station, who spoke on condition of anonymity. Their anxious relatives hovered outside the station in the Ratmalana industrial area.

A nighttime curfew was imposed after mobs attacked Tamil shops in the district, 15 kilometers (nine miles) from the center of Colombo. There were no reports of injuries.

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Elsewhere, a mine explosion set off by suspected Tamil Tiger rebels killed three members of a civilian security patrol and wounded four others Thursday outside the northern town of Vavuniya, a local police officer said.

Sri Lanka police detain suspects after suicide bombing

He said the remote-controlled Claymore mine exploded while a group of home guards civilians trained in handling weapons were on a routine patrol outside Vavuniya, 210 kilometers (130 miles) north of Colombo. It is the last government-held area before the northern Jaffna Peninsula, which has become the main battleground in recent months.

About half of the 60 people wounded in Wednesday's bombing were still being treated Thursday, said Dr. W.G. Gunawardena, the director of Kalubowila Hospital. The slain Cabinet minister's widow, Shyama, remained in critical condition with internal injuries, he said.

The police official at the local station said the bomber was a man, although in the past Tamil **women** have cut their hair and posed as men in suicide bombings. The government banned public officials from providing information to the press in February.

President Chandrika Kumaratunga appealed for calm Thursday, saying the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam were trying to "inflame communal passions by provoking the people."

"I appeal to all Sri Lankans to consider this earnestly and act with patience to maintain peace at this hour," Kumaratunga said.

The Tamil Tiger rebels have been fighting since 1983 to establish a homeland in the north and east of the island nation for the country's 3.2 million Tamils, accusing the Sinhalese majority of discrimination in education and jobs.

Since early April, fighting has intensified in the northern Jaffna Peninsula, where the rebels reached the edge of Jaffna city. But an infusion of foreign-bought weapons has helped the 40,000 government troops halt the rebel advance and there has been a comparative lull in fighting during the past two weeks.

The **Tamil Tigers** are outlawed in the United States, India and Sri Lanka but have fundraising and public relations offices in London and Paris.

In the House of Commons on Wednesday, British Foreign Office Minister Peter Hain said the government condemns terrorism but added that 17 "years of conflict have made it abundantly clear that the war is unwinnable." He said the European Union called on both sides to stop fighting and begin negotiations immediately on changes in the constitution "to respect the rights and aspirations of all communities."

In Washington, White House spokesman Joe Lockhart said Wednesday, "Such terrorism should not and cannot detract from efforts to reach a negotiated solution to the current conflict in Sri Lanka."

The United States and India have supported efforts by Norway to mediate between the rebels and the Sri Lankan government, but Kumaratunga said this week that the **Tamil Tigers** could not be trusted in negotiations. The Norwegian effort, begun just before the Tiger offensive in April, has languished.

Kumaratunga survived a suicide bombing in December but lost the sight in her right eye. Gooneratne was the first member of her Cabinet to be assassinated.

Although there was no claim of responsibility for the bombing, the **Tamil Tigers** have been blamed for most such attacks because they use similar methods of assassination. The rebels have a unit of male and **female** suicide bombers called the Black Tigers, which is known for assassinating politicians and government officials.

Police detained 19 suspects in a suicide bombing that killed 23 people, including a popular Cabinet minister and his wife, and Sri Lanka's president Thursday urged against retaliatory attacks on the Tamil minority.

Mobs on Wednesday threw stones at Tamil-owned shops in Ratmalana, an industrial suburb of the capital, Colombo, where the explosion occurred. There were no reports of injuries, but authorities imposed a nighttime curfew and sent more soldiers to the district.

Sri Lanka police detain suspects after suicide bombing

No one has claimed responsibility for Wednesday's bombing. The government blamed the explosion, which also injured 60 people, on Tamil Tiger rebels. The guerrillas have been fighting since 1983 to establish a separate homeland in the north and east of the island nation for the country's 3.2 million Tamils, accusing the Sinhalese majority of discrimination in education and jobs.

Industrial Development Minister Clement V. Gooneratne was assassinated during a fund-raiser for families of soldiers slain in the war against Tamil rebels. Gooneratne's wife, Shyama, died of her injuries Thursday, Dr. W.G. Gunawardena, the director of Kalubowila Hospital said.

About half of those wounded were still being treated Thursday, Gunawardena said.

The government had declared Wednesday its first War Heroes Day to boost the morale of the 40,000 troops fighting the rebels in the northern Jaffna peninsula.

By Thursday morning, police had detained 19 men as suspected accomplices in the bombing.

Fifteen of the men were taken Thursday from nearby apartments and houses and were being interrogated, according to a local police official who spoke on condition of anonymity. Their anxious relatives hovered outside the police station.

Four other men in a cafe near the bomb site were detained by police for interrogation on Wednesday after the bombing.

President Chandrika Kumaratunga appealed for calm, saying the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam were trying to "inflame communal passions by provoking the people."

"I appeal to all Sri Lankans to consider this earnestly and act with patience to maintain peace at this hour," Kumaratunga said.

Kumaratunga was blinded in the right eye when a woman suicide bomber tried to assassinate her in December. Gooneratne was the first member of her government assassinated.

The police official said the bomber was a man, although in the past Tamil women have cut their hair and posed as men in suicide bombings. Public officials are barred from providing information to the press under a strict code of conduct imposed in February.

The rebels have a suicide unit, the Black Tigers, known for targeting government officials and politicians.

Suicide bombers have assassinated several high-ranking politicians, including President Ranasinghe Premadasa in 1993 and former Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi in 1991. The Tamil Tigers denied they killed Gandhi and have never commented on Premadasa's death.

The Sri Lankan parliament extended the nationwide state of emergency Thursday for another month, giving police and soldiers wide powers to detain people, seize property and shut down newspapers.

Meanwhile, a mine explosion set off by suspected rebels killed three members of a civilian security patrol and wounded four others Thursday outside the northern town of Vavuniya, police said.

The remote-controlled mine exploded while a group of civilian guards were on a routine patrol outside Vavuniya, 210 kilometers (130 miles) north of the capital, police said. It is the last government-held area before the northern Jaffna Peninsula, where the rebels are fighting to create a homeland.

Fighting between government troops and the rebels has intensified in recent months on Jaffna, where the rebels reached the edge of Jaffna city. But an infusion of foreign-bought weapons has helped government troops halt the rebel advance.

Sri Lanka police detain suspects after suicide bombing

The government Information Department said Thursday that eight rebels had been killed and five wounded Wednesday when the army shelled a rebel vehicle after a mortar fire exchange, and attacked a guerrilla bunker in the Jaffna Peninsula.

In Washington, White House spokesman Joe Lockhart condemned the bombing on Wednesday as a "reprehensible act" but urged a continuation of efforts to resolve the bitter conflict.

"Such terrorism should not and cannot detract from efforts to reach a negotiated solution to the current conflict in Sri Lanka," he said. "The United States stands firmly in support of a solution that offers justice and human rights for all the citizens of a unified, peaceful, and prosperous Sri Lanka."

The United States and India have supported efforts by Norway to mediate between the rebels and the Sri Lankan government, but Kumaratunga said this week that the ***Tamil Tigers*** could not be trusted in negotiations. The Norwegian effort, begun just before the Tiger offensive in April, has languished.

Load-Date: June 8, 2000

End of Document

LTTE

Sri Lankan air force bombs Tamil refugee resettlements in Mannar district

M2 PRESSWIRE

January 30, 1996

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Length: 624 words

Body

On Sunday evening a Sri Lankan airforce "Puccara" fighter aircraft launched rocket attacks on Tamil refugee resettlements at Iranamadha Nagar (Mannar). A total of six rockets was fired into the settlement at 1.37 p.m. Two children and two adults were killed on the spot. Another child died after being rushed to the Kilinochi hospital. Twenty refugees escaped death but were seriously injured. Dead and injured included many young children.

It is ironic that all these refugees, only fled from Jaffna in November 1995, in order to escape from the very same Sri Lankan military attacks that was being directed against the Tamil people in Jaffna at that time. Unfortunately, their reprieve soon ran out in Iranamadha Nagar on the fateful day on Sunday 21 January 1996. All the refugees except six were originally from the Jaffna town.

Iranamadha Nagar is a new refugee resettlement scheme that was opened up recently in the Mulankavil area of Mannar district to settle Tamil refugees who fled to escape the Sri Lankan military offensive to capture Jaffna in November/December 1995.

Details of the five refugees killed, their original place of residence appears in bracket; Selvarajah Jeyarani **female** age 23 (Iranaitheevu Island) Selvarajah Kousalya child **female** age 10 (Iranaitheevu Island) Thangavelu Tharasha child **female** age 12 (Iranaitheevu Island) Jesudhasan Pilashsilda **female** age 28 (Jaffna Town), Jesudhasan Kabin child male age 10 (Jaffna Town).

Details of the wounded refugees, their original place of residence appears in bracket; Jesuthasan Reegan child male age 8 (Jaffna Town) Christian Franklin child male age 8 (Jaffna Town) Thirugnanan Manoharaseelan male age 17 (Iranamadha Nagar) Don Bosco Keethaponilalan male age 20 (Iranamadha Nagar) Balasingam Rathy child **female** age 8 (Kakkaitheevu Island) Sabin Lujiswas male age 19 (Iranamadha Nagar) Thangavelu Kunapalan male age 15 (Jaffna Town) Kanikkai Larthu **female** age 70 (Jaffna Town)

Thangavelu Vasanthi **female** age not available (Jaffna Town) Amtorn Chandra male age 20 (Jaffna Town) Balasingam Dikosha **female** age not available (Jaffna Town) Yohathasan Roopan child male age 7 (Jaffna Town) Manuvvetpillai Marushkela **female** age 19 (Jaffna Town) Mariyanayagam Selvamalar **female** age 19 (Jaffna Town) Thangavelu Kumamapalka **female** age 20 (Jaffna Town) Vasthiyampillai Seelan male age 20 (Jaffna Town) Edward Ranjithamalar **female** age 36 (Jaffna Town) Santhirika Vethanayagam **Female** age 35 (Jaffna Town) Edman Konsi **female** age 36 (Jaffna Town)

Sri Lankan defence ministry prevents food going through to the Tamil people living in Vaharai area (Batticaloa district) The Sri Lankan military personnel manning the military check point at Valaichenai (Batticaloa district) has stopped food lorries from passing through its check point. Food was being transported in lorries by Vaharai Division MPCS (Multipurpose co-operative society) for distribution to its various co-operative societies in the division under

LTTE Sri Lankan air force bombs Tamil refugee resettlements in Mannar district

the auspices of the ICRC (International Committee of the Red cross). Vaharai division is populated with Tamil people and the lorries were carrying food for consumption by the people.

Sri Lankan ministry of defence has been enforcing an undeclared economic embargo on the Vaharai division for nearly an year. In the past, the military personnel used to allow no more than eight lorry loads of food to pass through its check point. Even this was hardly sufficient for the people. The people of the division who are all Tamils have protested that the Sri Lankan government has been deliberately starving them as they are all Tamils.

CONTACT: Political Committee, Liberation Tigers of
Tamil Eelam
Tel: +44 (0)181-470 8593

Load-Date: May 23, 1997

End of Document

25 female tamil rebel activists rounded up in colombo

The Xinhua General Overseas News ServiceXinhua General News Service

SEPTEMBER 4, 1993, SATURDAY

Length: 257 words

Dateline: colombo, september 4; ITEM NO: 0904095

Body

at least 25 **female** rebel activists of the liberation tigers of tamil eelam (**ltte**) were rounded up by colombo police during the past three days from several parts of the city. they had been sent to the city individually or in couples to gather information on various sensitive areas which had been specifically assigned to them, police officials were quoted by local newspaper "the island" as saying today. the sources said that some of them had under interrogation admitted their respective missions and revealed details of their assignment entrusted by the leadership of the **ltte** fighting to set up a separate state of the tamils in the north-east of sri lanka. at first most of these **female ltte** activists had tried to convince sleuths that they had come to colombo from the north of the island gathering specific information and feeding "contacts" to be passed on to the **ltte** hierarchy in jaffna, the sources told the paper. some 200 **ltte** suspects have been rounded up by the police during the past week in colombo. they are now under intense grilling, according to police authorities here. meanwhile, police stations in colombo have been alerted to track down a 14-member **ltte** gang of explosive experts who had slipped into the city, top intelligence sources revealed. all surveillance has been intensified and a close check was being maintained on vehicles parked in the city. police appeal to the public to be vigilant about strangers and to inform the nearest police station about suspicious characters seen in their vicinity.

Load-Date: September 5, 1993

PM-Sri-Lanka, ; Eds: UPDATES death toll, Gooneratne's widow dead, four more arrested; INDEX: International, Defence; HL:Sri Lanka police detain suspects in suicide bombing; president appeals for calm; From AP-Reuters

The Canadian Press (CP)

June 8, 2000 Thursday

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Section: FOREIGN GENERAL NEWS

Length: 622 words

Dateline: COLOMBO, Sri Lanka

Body

COLOMBO, Sri Lanka (CP) - Police detained 19 suspects today in a suicide bombing that killed 23 people, including a popular cabinet minister, and Sri Lanka's president urged against retaliatory attacks on the Tamil minority.

On Wednesday, mobs threw stones at Tamil-owned shops in Ratmalana, an industrial suburb of the capital, Colombo, where the explosion occurred. There were no reports of injuries, but authorities imposed a nighttime curfew.

-BODY- No one has claimed responsibility for Wednesday's bombing. The government blamed the explosion, which also injured 60 people, on Tamil Tiger rebels who have been fighting since 1983 to establish a separate homeland for the country's 3.2 million Tamils.

Industrial Development Minister Clement Gooneratne was assassinated during a fund-raiser for families of soldiers slain in the war against Tamil rebels. Gooneratne's wife, Shyama, died of her injuries today, said Dr. W. G. Gunawardena, the director of Kalubowila Hospital.

The government had declared Wednesday its first War Heroes Day to boost the morale of the 40,000 troops fighting the rebels in northern Jaffna peninsula.

Four men in a cafe near the bomb site were detained by police for interrogation on Wednesday after the bombing.

Police detained 15 men early today as suspects. The men were taken from nearby apartments and houses and were being interrogated, according to a local police official who spoke on condition of anonymity.

President Chandrika Kumaratunga appealed for calm, saying the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam were trying to "inflame communal passions by provoking the people."

"I appeal to all Sri Lankans to consider this earnestly and act with patience to maintain peace at this hour," Kumaratunga said.

Kumaratunga was blinded in the right eye when a woman suicide bomber tried to assassinate her in December. Gooneratne was the first member of her government assassinated.

PM-Sri-Lanka, ; Eds: UPDATES death toll, Gooneratne's widow dead, four more arrested; INDEX:
International, Defence; HL: Sri Lanka police detain suspects in sui....

About half of those wounded were still being treated today, Gunawardena said. In July 1983, Sinhalese mobs went on the rampage in Colombo and other parts of the country after the then nascent Tamil rebels killed 13 Sinhalese soldiers in northern Jaffna province. Hundreds of Tamils were killed and thousands more displaced in the riots that plunged the country into its current full-scale ethnic war, which has claimed more than 60,000 lives.

Since early April, fighting has intensified in the northern Jaffna Peninsula, where the rebels reached the edge of Jaffna city. But an infusion of foreign-bought weapons has helped the 40,000 government troops halt the rebel advance and there has been a comparative lull in fighting during the past two weeks.

In Washington, White House spokesman Joe Lockhart condemned the bombing as a "reprehensible act" but urged a continuation of efforts to resolve the bitter conflict.

The United States and India have supported efforts by Norway to mediate between the rebels and the Sri Lankan government, but Kumaratunga has insisted that the Tamil Tigers cannot be trusted.

Although there was no claim of responsibility for the bombing, the Tamil Tigers have been blamed for most such attacks because they use similar methods of assassination.

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President Ranasinghe Premadasa was killed by a suicide bomber in 1993, and former Indian prime minister Rajiv Gandhi was assassinated by a woman suicide bomber in 1991. Both killings were blamed on the Tamil Tigers, but the group did not acknowledge them.

Kumaratunga survived a suicide bombing in December but lost the sight in her right eye. Gooneratne was the first member of her cabinet to be assassinated.

Load-Date: October 11, 2002

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female tamil rebel activists rounded up in colombo

The Xinhua General Overseas News ServiceXinhua General News Service

SEPTEMBER 4, 1993, SATURDAY

Length: 258 words

Dateline: colombo, september 4; ITEM NO: 0904087

Body

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Load-Date: September 5, 1993

Security sweep nets suspected Tamil Tiger spy

South China Morning Post (Hong Kong)

October 11, 1996

Copyright 1996 South China Morning Post Ltd.

Section: Pg. 19

Length: 347 words

Byline: GASTON DE ROSAYRO in Colombo

Body

The arrest of a young woman suspected of being a Colombo-based spy for the Tamil Tigers has been hailed by police as a security breakthrough.

The arrest follows a defence forces warning that female Tamil Tiger suicide killers were in the city disguised as pregnant women.

Police would not divulge the detained woman's suspected activities within the rebel movement.

She was taken into custody in Colombo's southern Wellawatte area.

Authorities have tightened security after threatened reprisals by the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam who have been routed by government forces in their northern stronghold of Kilinochchi. "The police Intelligence Bureau has received information that 25 members of the women's suicide squad have infiltrated Colombo to destabilise the administrative setup and create unrest in the city," Colombo's Deputy Inspector-General of Police D. M. T. B. Dissanayake said yesterday.

Police believe the suicide bombers are in various parts of the city.

Investigators said individual members of the elite Black Tiger suicide squads were operating independently to make it difficult to trace the entire network.

Security forces have increased searches in Colombo, while a large-scale hunt has been launched for a haul of powerful explosives in the city following the arrests of two of the Tigers' most wanted operatives and six of their accomplices in the Greater Colombo area. Investigators said 26 suspects rounded up over the past few days had been identified as Tamil Tigers.

Police have banned the use of helmets and other guards used by motorcycle and pillion riders that cover any part of the face. "The riders are expected to have their faces fully exposed to view. It is illegal to cover any part of the face, which would be construed as an attempt to wear a mask. Covering the face with a handkerchief is also prohibited," Mr Dissanayake said yesterday.

Meanwhile, both sides have agreed to a cease-fire today and tomorrow to allow health workers to conduct a polio immunisation campaign in the northern war-torn region.

Security sweep nets suspected Tamil Tiger spy

Load-Date: October 12, 1996

End of Document

Lanka considers Indian request to extradite rebel leader

Deutsche Presse-Agentur

June 4, 1995, Sunday, BC Cycle 09:32 Central European Time

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Section: International News

Length: 460 words

Dateline: Colombo

Body

An official request by the Indian government to extradite the leader of a Tamil rebel group and two others wanted in connection with the 1991 assassination of former Indian Premier Rajiv Gandhi is under consideration by the Sri Lankan government, officials said Sunday.

Lankan Foreign Secretary Rodney Vandergert confirmed that a formal request for the extradition of the leader of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), Velupillai Prabhakaran, and two others were handed over by the Indian High Commission in Colombo on Saturday.

"The Sri Lankan government would now process the extradition request in accordance with the terms of extradition law," Vandergert was quoted in the state-run Sunday Observer newspaper.

Foreign ministry officials said the extradition request and the supportive material would be handed over to the defence ministry while the legal case will be taken up by the Attorney General's department.

The Indian government has accused the LTTE in Gandhi's murder by a woman suicide bomber at an election rally near Madras on May 21, 1991. The two others India wants extradited are rebel intelligence chief Pottu Amman and the LTTE women's wing leader Akila.

Presently the Lankan government does not have access to the area where rebel chief Prabhakaran and Pottu Amman are believed to be living in the northern part of the country as the area is controlled by the LTTE.

The Lankan government has been reluctant to talk about the Indian request for extradition in the past few months as the Colombo government was holding negotiations with the LTTE to end the Tamil minority ethnic conflict in the north and eastern parts of the country.

However, after peace talks broke and rebels renewed fighting on April 19 the government has not hesitated to speak about the Indian request.

The Indian request is expected to put pressure on the LTTE who have been criticised by Western governments and international organisations for breaking a three and half month truce and renewing fighting with Lankan security forces.

The rebels also have been condemned for the massacre of 42 civilians of the majority Sinhala community a week back.

Lanka considers Indian request to extradite rebel leader

A peace accord signed in 1987 between the Indian and Lankan governments and 14 months of peace talks between the **LTTE** and the Lankan government in 1990 failed to bring a settlement to the ethnic conflict which flared up in 1983 and claimed over 34,000 lives so far.

Gandhi was allegedly assassinated by the **LTTE** for sending nearly 75,000 Indian troops to disarm the rebels under 1987 accord.

In the renewed fighting since April more than 500 persons are believed to have been killed with most of the fighting and attacks centering around the eastern province. dpa ad ba kr

Load-Date: June 4, 1995

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SONIA GANDHI FACES REBEL DEATH THREAT

Courier Mail (Queensland, Australia)

May 26, 1999, Wednesday

Copyright 1999 Nationwide News Pty Limited

Section: NEWS; Pg. 19

Length: 352 words

Body

Sonia Gandhi faces

rebel death threat

NEW DELHI: India's main opposition leader Sonia Gandhi is under threat from Sri Lankan Tamil rebels who murdered her husband Rajiv Gandhi in 1991.

Intelligence sources told two newspapers Mrs Gandhi was being targeted by the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam, who feared she would launch an offensive against them if she came to power.

The news of the threat to Mrs Gandhi came as she bowed to pressure from her Congress party and withdrew her resignation as president of India's oldest political group.

QNP

The Hindu newspaper quoted senior intelligence officials as saying the **LTTE** had resolved, at an April meeting in Durban, South Africa, to kill Italian-born Mrs Gandhi in a car-bomb attack.

The meeting had also reportedly produced a proposal to target the 52-year-old widow in northern India "so that the needle of suspicion did not indicate the involvement of any south Indian groups or the **LTTE**", the newspaper said.

Former prime minister Rajiv Gandhi was killed during an election rally on May 21, 1991, in the southern Indian state of Tamil Nadu, where several **LTTE** members are active.

His killer was a **female LTTE** suicide bomber.

Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee has acknowledged the threat to Mrs Gandhi's life and said security around her had been tightened.

Mrs Gandhi's Congress party claimed an unidentified "fascist" group was trying to kill her.

The Indian Express said the federal intelligence bureau had intercepted two wireless messages last week between an **LTTE** activist in Madras, the capital of India's Tamil Nadu state, and another in the Sri Lankan town of Jaffna.

The newspaper said the messages revealed the plan to kill Mrs Gandhi.

It said the **LTTE** "feared a crackdown on its bases if she became prime minister" after India's national election in September-October.

SONIA GANDHI FACES REBEL DEATH THREAT

After Mrs Gandhi resigned as Congress party president a week ago, hundreds of workers besieged her fortress-like house in New Delhi to urge her to withdraw her resignation letter.

Opposition parties called the resignation a sham, aimed at drumming up support for her leadership.

Associated Press

Load-Date: March 1, 2002

End of Document

Fears grow as Tamils flee fighting

THE AUSTRALIAN

November 7, 1995 Tuesday 0 Edition

Copyright 1995 Nationwide News Pty Limited

Length: 340 words

Byline: -SOURCE- AFP

Body

INTERNATIONAL concern mounted yesterday for tens of thousands of Tamils fleeing Sri Lanka's war-torn northern Jaffna peninsula, triggering acute food shortages. Up to 500,000 men, women and children have fled Jaffna town, the citadel of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), since Sri Lankan troops launched a major offensive on October 17. Travellers from the region said in the town of Vavuniya, 254km north of Colombo and the gateway to the LTTE-controlled north, that most people had fled their homes. It is the biggest civilian exodus from Jaffna since Indian troops deployed in Sri Lanka's embattled northeast eight years ago went to war against the LTTE in October 1987. "The situation is worsening by the day," said Mr K. Ganesh, the chief Sri Lankan official in Vavuniya, the northern part of which is held by the LTTE, and the southern part by Colombo. "At least 10,000 people have been arriving daily recently," he said here, adding that 60,000 had already poured into LTTE-administered Kilinochchi in the mainland, south of Jaffna, and thousands more were expected. "It is a very serious situation," said Mr Geeti Linganathan, the chairman of the Vavuniya Urban Council. "Only rice is available there. Almost everything else is in short supply." Last week, United Nations Secretary General Dr Boutros Boutros-Ghali appealed for massive aid for the hundreds of thousands of people fleeing fighting between the LTTE and advancing Sri Lankan troops. Tamil activists said the Tigers were forcing the people to leave to create a refugee problem which would warrant international intervention.

Others said the exodus had been caused by army shelling. The LTTE has stopped the mass of refugees from leaving Kilinochchi where, Mr Ganesh said, the distraught civilians were living in school buildings, Hindu temples and even under trees. "The real problem is sanitation," he said. "Health facilities, cooking utensils, infant food and clothes are in very short supply. This is the biggest movement of civilians from Jaffna in recent years."

Load-Date: October 1, 2003

BOMB BLAST FOLLOWS WEEKEND OF DEATHS

Sydney Morning Herald (Australia)

May 3, 1988 Tuesday

Early Edition

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Section: NEWS AND FEATURES; Pg. 12

Length: 340 words

Byline: Source: Agence France-Presse

Body

COLOMBO, Monday: An Indian soldier and four civilians died in Sri Lanka at the weekend, and 12 people were wounded in a bomb blast today, officials in the capital said.

Late on Saturday, an Indian soldier was killed and a colleague wounded in eastern Trincomalee district, when they walked into a booby trap planted by the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (**LTTE**), a Sri Lankan military official said.

Yesterday, Indian troops shot dead two cyclists in northern Vavuniya district, after they tried to escape an army patrol, the official said. Both were suspected of belonging to the **LTTE**, the dominant guerilla group on the island.

The official said that an **LTTE** militant killed himself by taking cyanide after Indians overpowered five rebels who had fired at troops in Vavuniya yesterday.

Also yesterday, an unidentified man fired into a market crowd at Killinochchi, in the island's north, killing a civilian.

The **LTTE**, which has rejected an Indo-Sri Lankan peace pact aimed at ending the separatist campaign, attacked a Sri Lankan army camp and a nearby Indian post in Trincomalee overnight. No casualties were reported.

The **LTTE** is fighting 52,000 Indian troops deployed in the island's north and east under the peace accord.

Nearly 400 Indian troops and more than 1,450 suspected rebels have died since New Delhi launched an offensive to disarm the **LTTE** in October.

The bombing today destroyed a textile shop in Batticaloa town, 300 kilometres east of Colombo. Residents said four of the 12 injured were in a serious condition.

Indian soldiers had a rooftop watchtower in a house adjoining the building, but none was hurt. The Eelam People's Revolutionary Liberation Front, also had an office nearby, Indian officials said.

Five of the wounded were taken to an Indian army field hospital and seven, including four seriously wounded **women**, to a civilian hospital.

Indian soldiers immediately cordoned off the area.

BOMB BLAST FOLLOWS WEEKEND OF DEATHS

A house-to-house search was being made for members of **LTTE** said to be in hiding at Eravur, a small town 10 kilometres from Batticaloa.

Load-Date: July 20, 2007

End of Document

Rebels hold 144 ferry passengers

Hobart Mercury

September 5, 1995 Tuesday

Copyright 1995 Nationwide News Pty Limited

Length: 441 words

Body

Colombo SRI Lanka's hostage crisis deepened yesterday, with Tamil Tiger rebels demanding direct talks with Colombo to free 144 ferry passengers and crew, and killing 20 people in an attack on an army patrol.

Gunmen of the separatist Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (**LTTE**) fired automatic weapons at an army patrol in the eastern town of Sinhapura, killing 18 soldiers and two civilian bystanders, the military said.

The two dead civilians were caught in crossfire, a military spokesman said, adding that it was not immediately clear if the rebels suffered casualties during the half-hour gun battle.

The attack came as the **LTTE** continued to hold the government-chartered Iris Moana and issued a renewed demand that Colombo should initiate negotiations for the release of the 136 passengers and the eight-man crew, officials said.

The government has yet to react to the **LTTE** demand, but President Chandrika Kumaratunga has repeatedly said that she would not open negotiations with the rebels, who broke off a truce on April 19 to resume fighting.

Meanwhile, three **women** among the hostages gave birth during their captivity over the weekend, Tamil sources said. Fifteen other children under 15 are also among the captives.

The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) here said passengers were in good health, but declined to discuss details of the hostage crisis.

"We are acting as an intermediary between the government and the **LTTE** and for that reason we cannot give details," said Paul Fruh, ICRC deputy head of delegation. "All we can say is that the passengers are in good health." The hostages are Tamil civilians who were travelling from the north-eastern port of Trincomalee to a government-held islet off the **LTTE**-dominated northern Jaffna peninsula.

Relatives of the victims appealed yesterday to the ICRC to secure the release of the hostages and ensure the future safety of passenger ferries off the island's embattled north-eastern region.

"This (the Iris Moana) is the ship that rendered a great service for the transport of islanders and for the transport of their daily requirements for their livelihood," the relatives said in a statement.

"We request the ICRC to take charge of the crew and the passengers . .

. and provide security to this service." The anti-**LTTE** political group, the Eelam People's Democratic Party (EPDP), which administered the ferry service, said the **LTTE** was forcing the civilians to address meetings and criticise the government and military.

Rebels hold 144 ferry passengers

"They want passengers to say that conditions in government-controlled areas are very bad," said EPDP leader Douglas Devananda.

AFP

Load-Date: October 1, 2003

End of Document

26 people sentenced to death for Rajiv Gandhi's murder

Deutsche Presse-Agentur

January 28, 1998, Wednesday, BC Cycle 14:36 Central European Time

Copyright 1998 Deutsche Presse-Agentur

Section: International News

Length: 411 words

Dateline: New Delhi

Body

A single-judge court in the southern city of Madras on Wednesday sentenced to death 26 persons convicted of the murder of former premier Rajiv Gandhi.

Judge V. Navaneetham ordered the 10 Indians and 16 Sri Lankans to be hanged, after he found them guilty of having conspired to assassinate Gandhi in 1991.

The sentence, which came at the end of a trial lasting six years, is subject to confirmation by the Indian Supreme Court.

In his judgement, read out at a high-security jail, Judge Navaneetham also held the Sri Lankan secessionist Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (**LTTE**) responsible for the killing.

Rajiv Gandhi was assassinated by a **LTTE** woman suicide bomber in May 21, 1991 at Sriperumbudur in the southern state of Tamil Nadu while campaigning for his Congress Party in general elections.

According to the prosecution, **LTTE** chief Veluppillai Prabakaran ordered the killing in revenge for Gandhi's decision to send Indian troops to the Tamil-dominated parts of Sri Lanka under a 1987 agreement with the government in Colombo.

The agreement was designed to resolve Sri Lanka's ethnic troubles, but did not make any provision for the secession of Tamil areas from the Sinhalese majority regions on the island.

Prabhakaran, his intelligence chief, Pottu Amman, and **LTTE women's** wing chief Akila escaped detection and were declared proclaimed offenders, but were not put on trial as there is no provision under Indian law for trial in absentia.

The prosecution alleged that the **LTTE** sent groups of assassins under the supervision of Sivarasan, a leading activist of the secessionist organization.

The suicide bombing killed a total of 17 persons, including the attacker.

The first two arrests were made within a month - a woman called Nalini, and her husband, Murugan, a Sri Lankan national working for the **LTTE**.

26 people sentenced to death for Rajiv Gandhi's murder

Sivarasan and other **LTTE** activists escaped to Bangalore, the capital of neighbouring Karnataka state where they were detected in a house in August the same year. Sivarasan shot one of his associates and killed himself while five others committed suicide by consuming cyanide.

The trial of the 26 began in May 1992 after police filed charges against a total of 41 persons, including the three who avoided detection and 12 who were dead.

Besides murder and conspiracy to murder, the accused faced a host of other charges ranging from providing refuge to fugitives from law and violation of the foreigners' act. dpa mvb ms

Load-Date: January 28, 1998

End of Document

Call to ban Tiger supporters

MX (Melbourne, Australia)

August 10, 2001, Friday

Copyright 2001 Nationwide News Pty Limited

Section: TALK; Pg. 20

Length: 267 words

Body

This letter is in response to some news items that appeared in your paper.

On July 24 the people of Sri Lanka awoke to hear of a tremendous tragedy the only international airport of Sri Lanka, Bandaranaike International Airport (BIA), had been attacked by separatist terrorists **LTTE** (Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam).

In that attack three Airbus passenger jets belonging to the national carrier SriLankan Airlines, were completely destroyed. Three others were badly damaged. Note that Sri Lanka being a poor country, SLA has only 12 planes in all.

The airforce airbase adjoining BIA was also attacked, and many fighter jets were damaged. Many foreigners and locals were inconvenienced.

More than 12 people died, and the damages are estimated to be more than \$670 million.

To my utter dismay, this terrorist organisation is still not banned here in Australia. The governments of Sri Lanka, India, the US and the United Kingdom have banned the **LTTE**. It's also in the US's "Terrorist Organisations" list.

LTTE is killing innocent people, hacks to death **women** and even sleeping infants, and destroys their property.

It is destroying Sri Lanka's economy. Yet it can operate freely here in Australia.

During the past few years, successive Sri Lankan governments agreed on ceasefires, sincerely wanting to bring peace. But every time, the **LTTE** used the period to gather weapons and broke the ceasefire with brutal attacks around the country.

I appeal publicly to the Australian Federal Government to ban the **LTTE** from operating in this country. Please help to bring peace to Sri Lanka.

Name and address

supplied

Load-Date: November 12, 2001

Call to ban Tiger supporters

End of Document

How the Tamil Tigers manage their own den / Focus on alternative government set up by separatist rebels in Sri Lanka

The Guardian (London)

April 11, 1986

Copyright 1986 Guardian Newspapers Limited

Length: 997 words

Byline: From HUMPHREY HAWKESLEY

Dateline: JAFFNA

Body

Tamil militants, who over the past eight months have taken control of the hot and dusty Jaffna peninsular in northern Sri Lanka, are now setting up their own system of civic administration, with tax collection and make-shift magistrates courts for petty criminals.

Since last summer, the army camps here have been virtually under siege by the guerrillas who confront the troops each time they try to carry out a patrol. Because of the success of the siege, an air of calm has descended on the peninsular, where people talk bitterly of the days when the army was on the streets.

Nearly everyone says they have a relative or friend who was arrested, assaulted, some killed by the troops, and, although uneasy at the present situation, there is no doubt that they find it a welcome change.

'We are with the militants,' explained one community leader, 'because we used to live in daily fear of the army entering our homes and taking away our children. The situation here is uncertain. But we have security and we are allowed to get on with our lives.'

The main fear among the peninsular's 800,000 people now is of bombing and helicopter attacks, which have intensified because of the army's inability to use the roads.

A prime target is the fishing town of Valvettiturai on the north coast, a frequent landing point for the militants' speed boat runs from Southern India, and the stronghold of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam, considered by both the military and the local residents to be the most effective and disciplined of the groups fighting the war.

The government said that 'terrorist hideouts' were hit in the air attacks there over the past month. Most of the targets appeared, however to be civilian homes. In one raid, on March 12, eye-witnesses say five **women** aged between 18 and 70 hid under their beds. Next door, an elderly couple were killed, together with an 11 year-old boy who had run to warn them to take cover. More than ten 50lb bombs fell on the house and grounds. The victims died instantly when three bombs exploded near the front porch, tearing huge chunks of concrete out of the verandah.

The Tigers have now published a booklet, which was serialised in the local papers, on how to protect yourself during an air raid. Families in Valvettiturai are digging trenches, covered with sandbags and tree trunks to act as bomb shelters. Local contractors carry out the work for about pounds 20. Doctors at the hospital, who say they used to treat between 50 and 60 casualties after some helicopter attacks. says far fewer people are now getting hurt.

How the Tamil Tigers manage their own den / Focus on alternative government set up by separatist rebels in Sri Lanka

About 75 percent of the young men are said to be active members of one of the militant groups. Nearly all have some sort of affiliation, making it difficult, according to many people, to comply with the Government's consistent warnings that civilians should stay away from the 'terrorists.'

'How can we?' said one 45-year-old woman, who is a member of the group called the Mother's Front. 'If they hadn't have joined the boys (the militants) they would have been arrested. They are our children. We raised them and looked after them. Now they are looking after us.'

The swiftness with which the militants are moving into the day-to-day administration of the area is perturbing some of the more moderate people, who would still prefer an authorised government to be in control, but not the army.

At the beginning of last month, the main groups began to impose taxes on goods and services, dividing the revenue between them. I had to pay ten rupees (about 30p to the Eelam Revolutionary Organisation of Students for each international telephone call.

The militants watch the market to prevent profiteering from shortages, and they have helped the municipal council in checking house-holders who illegally tap electricity. They often quarrel among themselves over how far to go. One group commandeered the hospital's only ambulance. Within an hour it was returned by another group. There were moves to get telephone bills paid directly to the militants. It was stopped by a group. because they said the central government in Colombo would simply have cut the lines.

The most significant step is the setting up of civilian committees to act as magistrates' courts where people from each village try and punish petty offenders under the auspices of the militants.

There are, however, increasing complaints about looting and robberies by splinter elements within the guerilla groups. Although one militant leader from the Tigers, who gave his name as Rahim, said anyone caught looting would be shot, many people are concerned that the gun and not the court of law has the final say.

Rahim is a serious young man. He is bored by small talk, does not laugh readily, and in place of a dog tag round his neck carries a glass phial of cyanide in case of capture.

According to the rules of his movement, he does not smoke, drink or gamble, and relationships with women are discouraged. Like most of the guerrillas, he says he is a Communist, and will not lay down his machine gun until the north and east of the country are amalgamated into a separate Marxist sovereign state controlled by the Tamil people

This is what disturbs the moderate men and woman who ran businesses and raised families in Jaffna in less troubled times, they simply want peace and wonder what will happen when there common enemy, the army, does eventually leave.

A committee headed by President Jayewardene is trying to put together new peace proposals to break the deadlock in the Tamil war. Government officials say the proposals might be ready in time for the Foreign Minister, Mr Hameed, to take to New Delhi for the nonaligned foreign minister's conference next week.

There has been increasing pressure from moderate cabinet ministers for a new initiative. The most outspoken is the Finance Minister, Mr De Mel, who said in Washington yesterday that the Government was willing to allow provincial assemblies with small provincial cabinets.

Load-Date: June 13, 2000

Sri Lanka urges rebels to hold talks

United Press International

April 29, 2001, Sunday

Copyright 2001 U.P.I.

Section: GENERAL NEWS

Length: 473 words

Byline: By RAVI R. PRASAD

Dateline: COLOMBO, Sri Lanka, April 29

Body

Barely hours after suffering a humiliating military setback, the Sri Lankan government Saturday appealed to the separatist Tamil Tiger guerrillas to come forward for peace talks.

A statement issued by the government's Special Media Information Center said that the government had repeated its call to the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam to engage honestly and swiftly in commencing the process of negotiations.

The SMIC statement was issued after the government announced that its troops had pulled back to their original positions in the northern Jaffna peninsula after suffering heavy losses in the four-day-long offensive, Operation Agni Khela (Fire flame) against the LTTE.

More than 200 soldiers, including some officers, were killed and nearly a thousand wounded in the battles. The government troops fell back after advancing two kilometers and coming up against a heavy barrage of mortar and artillery shells fired by the guerrillas.

The military campaign was launched Wednesday, just four hours after the LTTE's unilateral cease-fire ended. The rebels had announced a cease-fire in December 2000 and extended it three times urging the government to reciprocate positively and engage in talks. The government refused to oblige saying it would not halt military operations until talks begin.

But, the government now claims that it does not believe in the use of violence to resolve the 18-year-long ethnic conflict.

"The government wishes to reiterate that it has never believed in the use of violence for the resolution of any problem. It has from the very beginning made every endeavor to persuade the LTTE to halt armed hostilities and to engage in dialogue with a view to resolving the problems that have caused the military conflict," the SMIC statement said.

The LTTE, on its part, had claimed victory in the recent battles. A statement issued by the rebels said that nearly 400 government soldiers were killed and over 2,000 wounded in the fighting. The guerrillas have admitted to losing some 100 combatants, including female cadres.

Sri Lanka urges rebels to hold talks

The International Committee of the Red Cross spokesman said Sunday that the ICRC was transferring bodies of 56 soldiers to the armed forces. The LTTE had handed over the bodies to the ICRC.

A local weekend newspaper, Sunday Leader, said that the Norwegian peace negotiator, Erik Solhiem was expected in Colombo Monday to hold talks with the government and the rebel leaders to finalize a date for talks.

Analysts said that government's appeal to rebels for talks had come at a time when the LTTE had proved its upper hand in a conventional battle against the state. "While the government wanted to capture some areas and negotiate with the guerrillas from a stronger position, the LTTE has turned the table on the government. Now the rebels will have a stronger position," a military observer said.

Load-Date: April 30, 2001

End of Document

98 die in Tamil guerilla attack on military base

THE AUSTRALIAN

June 30, 1995 Friday 0 Edition

Copyright 1995 Nationwide News Pty Limited

Length: 228 words

Byline: -SOURCE- AFP

Body

COLOMBO: Tamil Tiger guerillas yesterday claimed victory in a major assault against a key military base in northern Sri Lanka as the army death toll rose to at least 90 soldiers. In the worst single day of violence in the 13-year civil war, the separatist Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam said eight rebels were killed in Wednesday's pre-dawn commando raid on the army-held islet of Mandativu ordered by Tiger supremo Mr Velupillai Prabhakaran. The LTTE's clandestine radio, the Voice of the Tigers, said a self-styled Tiger lieutenant-colonel and two women cadres were among the eight guerillas killed in the offensive supported by seaborne rebel units. The LTTE also said it killed 80 soldiers, whereas the military admitted 90 men were killed and 41 wounded in action. Another 26 soldiers were listed as missing, defence sources said. The deaths at Mandativu, just outside the LTTE-held Jaffna peninsula, raised to 166 the death toll from a 10-hour orgy of violence across Sri Lanka's north and east, military figures showed. The Voice of the Tigers, monitored by Tamil sources in the island's north, said the LTTE captured 300 guns, a 50mm calibre gun, 150,000 rounds of ammunition, 177 grenades and four heavy machine-guns from Mandativu. The casualties also brought to 450 the military death toll since the LTTE pulled out of peace talks with the Government on April 19.

Load-Date: October 1, 2003

Rebel Tigers pounce again; Tamil Tiger guerrillas have staged a military comeback against Sri Lanka's panicked army.

Hamilton Spectator (Ontario, Canada)

May 13, 2000 Saturday Final Edition

Copyright 2000 Metroland Media Group Ltd

Section: WORLD; Pg. D10; News

Length: 1133 words

Byline: Martin Regg Cohn

Dateline: COLOMBO;SRI LANKA

Body

The feared Tamil Tiger rebels have Sri Lanka's armed forces on the run again despite the fact the rebels are outnumbered and outgunned.

Jaffna, the jewel of a Tamil homeland claimed by the Tigers, is falling into the hands of the ragtag guerrilla group that has grown into a formidable conventional fighting force.

Five years after being pushed backed from the northern Jaffna peninsula, the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (**LTTE**) are returning triumphantly as 35,000 panicked government troops flee for cover.

Jaffna City has been penetrated by an advance column of only a few hundred Tiger fighters, who waded across a shallow lagoon to slip into the urban area, sources said here yesterday. Thousands of Tamil refugees are fleeing the city in response to radio broadcasts by the Voice of Tigers station warning of fierce fighting ahead.

Torstar News Service

Still, the Sri Lankan government denies Jaffna has fallen, for the moment.

"Jaffna City and other places are still intact," insisted spokesperson Ariya Rubasinghe, choosing his words carefully. But, he conceded, "troops had to readjust their defences temporarily" during the past week of fighting that has left more than 200 combatants dead.

But even as government planes bombed rebel positions, a military spokesperson later confirmed that "**LTTE** fighters have entered the city."

The government has just imposed blanket censorship across this island democracy, off India's southeast coast, and barred journalists from the front lines. But even with limited access to information, analysts and diplomats here in the capital are convinced that the defence of Jaffna is a lost cause.

And that the Tigers are once again a force to be reckoned with. Five years ago, when the roles were reversed, the government's propaganda line was, "We have taken Jaffna and will crush the **LTTE**," Opposition leader Ranil Wickremesinghe recalled in an interview yesterday.

"Now, the **LTTE** is taking over Jaffna and crushing the government," he mused.

Rebel Tigers pounce again; Tamil Tiger guerrillas have staged a military comeback against Sri Lanka's panicked army.

After so much blood was expended to capture Jaffna, the latest string of humiliating army defeats proves that no military solution exists to Sri Lanka's 17-year-old ethnic strife, the opposition leader argued. Renewing his pledge to back a political solution, he called for foreign mediation as the only way to bring the two sides back to the negotiating table.

The story of how a band of barely 5,000 to 7,000 guerrilla fighters outmanoeuvred the country's 150,000-strong security forces has rocked this languid tropical capital. With newspapers blanked out, and live broadcasts banned, Sri Lankans knew more about the bloody battles in Kosovo and Sierra Leone than about events in their own country.

The gravity of the situation only started sinking in this month when the government imposed draconian regulations barring strikes and demonstrations, and made a desperate appeal for foreign military help.

Now, Sri Lankans are asking how the Tigers made such a stunning comeback.

Codenamed "Operation Unceasing Waves 3," the latest LTTE offensive has revealed its new double-barrelled approach: Its traditional guerrilla tactics are now complemented by the antics of a mini-army, using conventional armaments purchased abroad or seized from retreating government forces.

Indeed, many blame the government's overambitious strategy of recent years -- seeking high-profile conquests rich in political symbolism -- for leaving the army overextended. The army was left vulnerable to the Tigers' hit-and-run tactics, allowing the guerrillas to poach abandoned artillery.

"The whole question of holding onto real estate is ludicrous," said political analyst Paikiasothy Saravanamuttu. "The Sri Lankan army lacks the capability to hold territory."

Bolstered by their newly captured arsenal, the Tigers now have the capability to shell government troops with heavy guns. In addition, the LTTE's legendary ruthlessness -- ranging from suicide bombers to assassination squads -- spooks poorly trained and demoralized government opponents.

Saravanamuttu, who heads the Centre for Policy Alternatives, predicted the Tigers would round up suspected collaborators as they move into Jaffna and "get rid of them ... there will be reprisals."

But like many other analysts, he argued that the Tigers' growing military strength is accompanied by a more polished public face on the international stage. From its user-friendly web sites to its media savvy spokespersons, the LTTE is revamping its image.

"This demonization of them as a terrorist group has distorted things," Saravanamuttu said.

Diplomats and analysts detect a shift in the LTTE's public persona during its latest military triumph. It proposed a ceasefire to allow trapped government troops to avert a bloodbath and permit a dignified retreat. The government dismissed the offer as a psychological tactic, but many noted the absence of customarily shrill LTTE rhetoric.

"The LTTE didn't want to slaughter retreating troops, they're being very statesmanlike," said Sunila Abeysekera, a human rights worker here. "What a lot of people don't see is how the LTTE has changed in the last three to four years, in terms of maturity and manoeuvring."

The Tigers' increasing confidence on the political stage stems not only from their recent military successes, but also their brutal tactics toward any moderate Tamils who dared challenge their supremacy. Today, the Tigers stand alone on the Tamil stage with an unrivalled power base.

"Now there is no one -- you have to negotiate with the LTTE," notes Abeysekera. "There is no middle ground, they've killed every single person. Now, they can afford to be statesmen."

Rebel Tigers pounce again; Tamil Tiger guerrillas have staged a military comeback against Sri Lanka's panicked army.

But even if, as opposition leader Wickremesinghe says, the LTTE is showing "more sophistication," they are still plagued by serious blind spots. As one diplomat put it, "there is a mix of real sophisticated operations, and some pretty simplistic ideology."

The Tigers were founded in 1976 by high school dropout Velupillai Prabhakaran, rebelling against perceived discrimination against Tamils by the Sinhalese majority in this country of 18 million people. He conceived his brigades of suicide bombers -- usually teenage women who carry cyanide capsules in case they are caught -- as the "self-protective armour of our race."

The Tigers also recruit child soldiers to mount human wave assaults on the battlefield. Tiger intransigence at the negotiating table has antagonized Sri Lankan President Chandrika Kumaratunga, who won election in 1994 on a peace platform, only to see the guerrillas break a 1995 ceasefire.

Despite the consensus among many analysts that the Tigers cannot be crushed, she sounded a defiant note.

"Let us learn lessons from our recent setbacks and march forward to wipe out the LTTE terrorism completely and for good," she said in a statement published yesterday.

Graphic

Photo: Gemunu Amarasinghe, the Associated Press; A wounded soldier is treated at the army hospital in Colombo, Sri Lanka, about a week before Tamil Tiger rebels started their armed assault yesterday on the city of Jaffna. The latest rebel offensive has surprised many Sri Lankans.

Load-Date: October 17, 2002

End of Document

BOMBS FAIL TO HALT SRI LANKA ELECTION

The Independent (London)

December 20, 1999, Monday

Copyright 1999 Independent Print Ltd

Section: FOREIGN NEWS; Pg. 12

Length: 282 words

Byline: Peter Popham In Colombo

Body

SRI LANKA'S president, Chandrika Kumaratunga, who escaped assassination in a suicide bombing at the weekend at her final rally, said tomorrow's elections will go ahead.

She was treated in Colombo for an eye injury said to be minor.

But 22 people died in the attack when a man in women's clothing detonated a bomb around his waist as Mrs Kumaratunga was about to get into her car. Almost simultaneously a blast 15km away at a rally by Mrs Kumaratunga's election rival, Ranil Wickremesinghe, killed 11 people.

It was assumed the separatist Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) were responsible. Commentators had seen indications that the LTTE was inclining towards Mr Wickremesinghe and his United National Party. The bombing of both parties' meetings was a way of indicating that the Tigers are neutral.

The small change of political debate in Sri Lanka is that the war between the Sinhalese government and the LTTE goes on because it is in the politicians' interests. Mrs Kumaratunga's escape exposes that view as far-fetched to say the least. The Tigers' supremo, Velupillai Prabhakaran, has put another question mark over the effectiveness of Mrs Kumaratunga, who in her five years in power has vacillated between pacific and belligerent positions.

Yet Mr Wickremesinghe, who has offered the Tigers peace talks, cannot draw much comfort from the latest atrocities either. His party remains squarely in the line of fire.

"The LTTE has made clear it wants Mrs Kumaratunga out of the picture ... and this may harden attitudes of many Sinhalese against the LTTE," said Jehan Perera, a political analyst. "My feeling is that this will create a sympathy vote and will help her in the election."

Load-Date: December 20, 1999

Sri Lankan navy sinks Indian trawlers carrying supplies to rebels

Associated Press International

March 14, 2000; Tuesday

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Section: International news

Length: 757 words

Byline: DILSHIKA JAYAMAHA

Dateline: COLOMBO, Sri Lanka

Body

Sri Lanka's navy killed one person and wounded three others when it destroyed two Indian fishing trawlers bringing in arms and ammunition for Tamil Tiger rebels, the Defense Ministry said Tuesday.

The death and injuries were caused by flying debris after one of the trawlers exploded when it was hit, Defense Ministry spokesman Maj. J.D.A. Gunasekara said of Sunday's incident.

The Indian High Commission (embassy) in Colombo said it was not aware of the incident.

Tamil guerrillas have been locked in a 17-year battle for a homeland with government forces that has left 61,000 people dead.

Undeterred by a weekend of violence, Sri Lankan President Chandrika Kumaratunga said she would pursue peace with the **Tamil Tigers** and said Tuesday she saw a climb-down in the rebels' main demand for a homeland.

There was a "softening of their stance" Kumaratunga said at her first news conference since she won the Dec. 21 presidential election for a second six-year term.

"They have given signals that they may settle for less than Eelam (the Tamil homeland)," Kumaratunga said. She did not elaborate, but said the **LTTE** may come under international pressure.

Twenty-nine people were killed and 74 wounded when suspected Tamil Tiger rebels armed with machine guns, rocket propelled grenade launchers and Claymore mines penetrated a high security zone in the vicinity of Parliament over the week end.

On Monday, federal investigators arrested a former university professor and three others in connection with what appeared to have been an assassination attempt on the defense minister. The Daily Mirror newspaper reported Tuesday that the former professor had lived in the United States before returning to Sri Lanka 1 1/2 years ago. The arrests brought the total number of suspects taken into custody to 10.

"There seems to be a ray of hope" for the talks to start, she said. "My government is committed ... This is the most difficult battle we have had to undertake."

A new peace initiative by Norway has raised hopes of an end to the rebellion.

Sri Lankan navy sinks Indian trawlers carrying supplies to rebels

Kumaratunga, who herself escaped a Tamil rebel assassination attempt in December, initiated the peace process after winning the last election.

The rebels have maintained in the past that they will settle for nothing less than an independent state for the country's 3.2 million minority Tamils. The government says its peace offer will include a self-rule zone within Sri Lanka.

Sri Lanka should do more to investigate allegations of gang rape and murder of women and girls by members of its armed forces, a United Nations human rights expert said Tuesday.

Radhika Coomaraswamy, the U.N. expert on violence against women, said in a statement she is "dismayed that the incidence of gang rape and murder of women and girls by Sri Lankan soldiers is continuing unabated."

In a letter to the government Coomaraswamy, herself from Sri Lanka, "expressed her grave concern over the lack of serious investigation" of such allegations.

Coomaraswamy cited a number of reported rapes and killings.

Despite orders from the president, little is being done to investigate the alleged gang-rape and murder last December by navy soldiers near the northern Jaffna peninsula of 29-year-old Sarathambal Saravanbavananthakurukal, she said.

The investigator said she also is concerned about "political violence in the south of the country affecting women in particular."

Coomaraswamy called on Sri Lanka to make "every effort ... to prevent further violations through the investigation of the alleged incidents and the prosecution of alleged perpetrators."

Sri Lankan officials in Geneva could not immediately be reached for comment.

(gm)

Sri Lanka should do more to investigate allegations of gang-rape and the murder of women and girls by members of its armed forces, a U.N. human rights expert said Tuesday.

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In a letter to the government, Coomaraswamy, herself from Sri Lanka, "expressed her grave concern over the lack of serious investigation" of such allegations.

Despite orders from the president, little is being done to investigate the alleged rape and murder last December by navy soldiers of a 29-year-old woman, she said.

The investigator said she also was concerned about "political violence in the south of the country affecting women in particular."

Sri Lankan officials in Geneva could not immediately be reached for comment.

Load-Date: March 14, 2000

Indian Supreme court puts off hangings in Rajiv case

Deutsche Presse-Agentur

July 15, 1999, Thursday, BC Cycle 11:11 Central European Time

Copyright 1999 Deutsche Presse-Agentur

Section: International News

Length: 302 words

Body

New Delhi (dpa)- The Indian Supreme Court Thursday stayed the execution of four people convicted of the assassination of former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi pending the hearing of their review petitions next month.

Judges K.T. Thomas, S.S.M. Qadri and D.P. Wadhwa said they would hear review petitions by Nalini, her husband Murugan, Perarivalan and Santhan, challenging the death sentence imposed on them, on August 17.

Before taking a decision on the four condemned prisoners, the court would also hear a petition by the federal police Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) challenging the acquittal of 19 others accused in the case by the court.

In a Judgement on May 11, the Supreme Court had confirmed death sentences imposed on the four accused, reduced the sentences of three others to life imprisonment and released the remaining accused.

A total of 26 people, all activists and sympathizers of the Sri Lankan separatist Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (**LTTE**) were sentenced to death by a special court in the southern city of Madras.

Rajiv Gandhi was killed on May 21, 1991 along with 17 others by Dhanu, a Sri Lankan Tamil woman suicide bomber, in Sriperumbudur town in the southern state of Tamil Nadu while campaigning for his Congress Party in parliamentary elections. He was an opposition leader then.

LTTE chief Velupillai Prabhakaran, his intelligence chief Pottu Amman and **LTTE women's** wing leader Akhila were among 41 accused in the case.

But only 26 could be brought to trial as the others either died or could not be brought from **LTTE** strongholds in northern and eastern Sri Lanka.

LTTE's opposition to Gandhi stemmed from his sending Indian peace-keeping forces to Sri Lanka to end the secessionist conflict there in favour of the Colombo government. dpa mvb BO

Load-Date: July 15, 1999

suicide bombing kills 2 in eastern sri lanka

Copyright 1999 Xinhua News AgencyXinhua News Agency

AUGUST 9, 1999, MONDAY

Length: 206 words

Dateline: colombo, august 9; ITEM NO: 0809202

Body

a suicide cadre of tamil rebels monday blasted himself, killing one army officer and injuring another in eastern sri lanka, the defense ministry said in a statement. the bombing followed a series of recent suicide attacks by the separatist liberation tigers of tamil eelam (*Itte*) against political figures and security forces. the ministry said that the suicide cadre carried out the attack against army officers at vakarai army camp while they were engaged in distribution of weekly food relief items to the civilians in the area. major karunanayake, the second in command of sri lanka infantry, succumbed to his injuries after admission to hospital, the statement said. the security forces captured vakarai, an eastern stronghold of the *Itte*, in june last year. the *Itte* rebels, fighting since 1983 for a tamil homeland in sri lanka's north and east, have been blamed by the government for the suicide bomb attack which killed leading tamil lawmaker neelan thiruchelvam in colombo at the end of last month. an *Itte female* suicide bomber blasted a cycle claymore mine last wednesday in northern sri lanka, killing 12 special task forces commandos and injuring 25 others.

Load-Date: August 10, 1999

26 Gandhi killers to hang

Hobart Mercury (Australia)

January 30, 1998, Friday

Copyright 1998 Nationwide News Pty Limited

Length: 285 words

Body

AN Indian court today sentenced all 26 Indians and Sri Lankans accused in the 1991 assassination of former prime minister Rajiv Gandhi to death.

A special court ordered the 13 Sri Lankans and 13 Indians should be executed by hanging, subject to confirmation by the Supreme Court of India.

The sentence was heard in stunned silence and "without any emotion" by the accused, seated in a heavily-guarded court on the outskirts of this southern city, chief public prosecutor Daniel Jacob said.

The court had earlier in the day found the 26, listed as members or sympathisers of the powerful Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) of Sri Lanka, guilty of conspiracy to murder.

It also held the LTTE, which is fighting for an independent homeland in Sri Lanka's north and east, guilty of assassinating Gandhi at an election rally near Madras on May 21, 1991.

The court heard evidence against a total of 41 people. Three of them, including LTTE chief Velupillai Prabhakaran, who is in hiding in Sri Lanka's north, have evaded capture. Twelve died since the start of the investigation _ mostly by committing suicide to avoid capture.

The special court ruled that the killing was masterminded by the

26 Gandhi killers to hang

Tigers to prevent Gandhi from returning to power.

A visibly elated Jacob said: "We asked for the death sentence, and we got it."

The court ruling was the first time members of the LTTE, which is outlawed in Sri Lanka, India and the United States, have been found guilty by a court of a political assassination.

The LTTE has repeatedly denied its involvement.

Gandhi, who was Indian prime minister in 1984-89, was killed when a female suicide bomber detonated explosives strapped on her body while pretending to touch his feet as a mark of respect.

AFP

Load-Date: March 8, 2002

Sri Lanka separatist blame rivals for massacre

United Press International
October 11, 1988, Tuesday, BC cycle

Copyright 1988 U.P.I.

Section: International

Length: 384 words

Byline: By ELMO PERERA

Dateline: COLOMBO, Sri Lanka

Body

The Liberational Tigers of Tamil Eelam guerrilla group Tuesday denied it was responsible for the massacre of 45 Sinhalese villagers in northern Sri Lanka and said the attack might have been "the dirty work" of rival Tamil factions.

The denial from the Liberational Tigers, known as LTTE, came a day after an estimated 75 assailants armed with guns and knives attacked the sleeping jungle hamlet of Makongaskada, near the town of Vavuniya, 130 miles northeast of Colombo, in Northeastern Province.

The attackers woke up residents, dragged them from their homes and shot or stabbed to death 21 men, 12 women and 12 children, according to military officials.

The village was home to about 140 families of the majority Buddhist Sinhalese ethnic community. Military officials blamed the carnage on the LTTE, which has been fighting for more than five years for independence for the predominantly Hindu Tamil minority, most of which lives in Northeastern Province.

In its statement, the LTTE categorically denied it was behind the attack, which it called "a naked form of terrorism," and criticized the Sinhalese-controlled government for blaming the group.

The statement asserted the attack might have been staged to discredit the LTTE by former rebel groups that dropped their demand for Tamil independence and endorsed a July 1987 Indo-Sri Lankan accord that granted limited autonomy to the northeast.

"It could be the dirty work of other Tamil groups with the help of the Indian peace-keeping forces," said the statement.

The statement was headlined "LTTE Headquarters" in the northern Jaffna peninsula and sent by telex to news organizations in Colombo from the group's representatives in London. Similar statements in the past have been deemed authentic.

Under the Indo-Sri Lankan accord, India deployed troops in Tamil areas in place of the Sinhalese-controlled Sri Lankan army to restore peace and oversee the holding of elections to a new provincial council, the final step in the limited autonomy transfer process.

But the LTTE refused to disarm and has killed more than 500 Indian troops. The group's losses are unknown.

Sri Lanka separatist blame rivals for massacre

The massacre Monday came on the first anniversary of an Indian offensive that drove the **LTTE** out of its former bastion of Jaffna town and caused hundreds of Tamil civilian casualties.

End of Document

Tranquil emissary from a violence-torn land

The Ottawa Citizen

February 7, 1998, Saturday, FINAL EDITION

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Section: CITY; CHARLES ENMAN'S WORLD; Pg. C3

Length: 1207 words

Byline: CHARLES ENMAN; THE OTTAWA CITIZEN

Body

Ananda Goonasekera, the High Commissioner of Sri Lanka to Canada, is the tranquil emissary of a violence-riven land.

He has been in Canada for 18 months, a stay that he has found refreshing, not least because Canada, for all its problems, is more blessed among nations than it knows.

In a delightfully musical upper-crust English that would make Vincent Massey seem bestial, he pronounced the problems of Canadians serious, yes, but decidedly manageable on the larger scale.

"This is a lovely country -- all the world knows that," he said. "And you complain about nothing compared to the problems that other countries face. Perhaps you are a little spoiled." A remark to which he quickly adds: "You know, my country, too, is a paradise in many ways -- not, of course, in all."

His implicit reference is clear. Over the past 25 years, some 55,000 Sri Lankans have been killed in an ongoing clash between Tamil rebels and the government. The Liberation Tigers of Tamil Ealam (**LTTE**) are fighting to establish a Tamil homeland on the north and northeast corners of the country. They are led by Velupillai Prabhakaran, who is almost worshipped by his hardcore followers, who may number only 5,000 or so.

Not all Tamils are hardliners; many want no part of a separate homeland, though most would welcome a relatively autonomous Tamil province. In fact, even the **Tamil Tigers** themselves are divided into two groups.

The government has made constitutional proposals which, if passed, will give Tamils a considerable degree of political autonomy. But despite all of this, the violence continues.

Even the approach to the nation's 50th anniversary of independence on Feb. 4 was marred by killings on sacred ground. In the last week of January, Tamil suicide bombers surreptitiously entered the country's holiest Buddhist shrine, the Temple of the Tooth in the central town of Kandy, and set off an explosion that killed 16 people.

In retaliation, the government banned the **Tamil Tigers** -- a natural enough move that cannot help but put all negotiations on hold, at least temporarily.

With 2,400 years of living together uneasily on a small island, Sri Lankans seem in some ways as irretrievably divided as the Israelis and the Palestinians. Not that this conflict is religious, the high commissioner pointed out.

Tranquil emissary from a violence-torn land

True, most Tamils are Hindu and most Senhalese are Buddhist. But even Senhalese soldiers (mostly Buddhist) will worship in Hindu shrines, and the Hindus regard Buddha as one of their gods.

"No, this is not a religious matter at all," Mr. Goonasekera said. "A bit like in Canada, it turns largely on the matter of language. And it is true that for a long while we did not give the Tamil language its full place -- but that has largely been rectified."

Canada, unwittingly, plays an important role in the conflict, the high commissioner said. It's hard to say how many Sri Lankans are now living in Canada, but Mr. Goonasekera believes 200,000 would be a good estimate. More than 80 per cent have arrived over the past 15 years, most often as Tamil refugees. Toronto is their Canadian destination of choice. Most live in the borough of Scarborough.

In fact, there are more Tamils in Toronto than in any other city outside of Sri Lanka or India. Though they claim political refugee status, most appear to be attracted by economic opportunities in Canada, where the average wage is 28 times higher than in Sri Lanka. (Canada's acceptance rate of Tamils claiming refugee status is 90 per cent; the Americans accept only 15 per cent.)

In the Tamil community in Canada, it is common knowledge that many refugees pay smugglers fees of as much as \$ 20,000 to make their way on to Canadian soil.

Tamil bagmen in Canada funnel over \$ 700,000 a month into the war effort, Mr. Goonasekera says.

The Sri Lankan government has tried to mollify the rebels, particularly through constitutional reforms that would give Tamil autonomy formal blessing. The formula is "devolution of power to the regions as a political solution to the ethnic problem leading to peace," as reads a government paper discussing constitutional proposals.

Constitutional change will require a two-thirds majority in the Sri Lankan Parliament, a figure that may prove elusive following the announcement a week ago by the main opposition party that it could not support the changes.

Constitutional deadlock. Linguistic divisions. Talk of separation. This is reminiscent in broad outline of some recent political history in Canada. But Mr. Goonasekera cautions against drawing too firm a parallel.

"I wouldn't compare the Tamils to the Quebecois, for example," he said. "After all, there has been very little violence here, and none for a long time. And all sides believe in negotiation. And even some convinced Quebecois sovereigntists want some kind of continued relationship with Canada.

"No, the situation in my country is much more extreme."

Sri Lanka was the first south Asian nation to open its economy up to foreign investment. Bilateral trade with Canada remains modest, the high commissioner said, in 1996 attaining only \$ 132 million, with the balance of trade \$ 10 million in Sri Lanka's favour.

Bell Canada is an important investor, bringing First World telecommunications technology to the land the Arabs called Serendip. Canadian banks are also making cautious opening moves in Sri Lanka.

The high commissioner finds Canada, even in winter, a congenial home.

The recent ice storm was "of course, the experience of a lifetime," he says. Small wonder, he adds. "Even for you Canadians, that was a real phenomenon, not something we would ever, ever see in Sri Lanka."

SRI LANKA AT A GLANCE

Location: Indian Ocean, about 80 kilometres southeast of India

Population: 18,553,000 (1996 est)

Size: 65,610 square kilometres

Tranquil emissary from a violence-torn land

Government: Republic, with strong presidential form of government from 1978 constitution

Capital: Colombo

Life expectancy at birth: 69.77 years male, 75.06 years **female**

Religions: 69 per cent Buddhist, 15 per cent Hindu, 8 per cent Christian, 8 per cent Muslim

Languages: Sinhala (official) spoken by 74 per cent of population, Tamil 18 per cent, English 10 per cent

Ethnic groups: 74 per cent Sinhalese, 18 per cent Tamil, 7 per cent Moor, 1 per cent others

Literacy: 90 per cent

Economy: GDP in 1995 was \$ 94.4 billion Cdn, with per capita production of \$ 5,180 Cdn

Exports: \$ 4.6 billion Cdn (1994 estimate): garments, textiles, teas, gems, petroleum products, graphite

Imports: \$ 6.9 billion Cdn (1994 estimate): machinery and equipment, food, building materials

National Day: February 4

ALL ABOUT SRI LANKA'S HIGH COMMISSIONER ANANDA GOONASEKERA

* Married with one son

* Born May 30, 1943

* BA History (Honours) from University of Ceylon

* Stationed in Canada since September 1996

* Oct. 1991 to Dec. 1994: Ambassador to Kuwait

* Feb. 1983 to June 1988: Deputy High Commissioner to London

* July 1982 to Jan. 1983: Charge d'Affaires to United Arab Emirates

* Nov 1970 to July 1974: Third secretary at Permanent Mission of Sri Lanka to UN in Geneva

* March 1970: appointed to the Sri Lanka Foreign Service

Graphic

Black & White Photo: Julie Oliver, The Ottawa Citizen / Ananda Goonasekera, the High Commissioner of Sri Lanka to Canada, prizes this pair of ebony bookends from his homeland, which now sit in his Ottawa office.

Load-Date: February 8, 1998

Prince Charles heads for Sri Lanka and Nepal Week Ahead

The Scotsman

February 2, 1998, Monday

Copyright 1998 The Scotsman Publications Ltd.

Section: Pg. 20

Length: 720 words

Byline: James Johnston

Body

EVERY effort is made to try to ensure that members of the Royal Family are not drawn into controversial internal political issues when they visit countries overseas, but the Prince of Wales will have a delicate task this week when he attends the celebrations marking the 50th anniversary of Sri Lanka's independence.

The prince is due to leave Britain tonight to attend the independence celebrations which will take place in the Sri Lankan capital, Colombo, on Wednesday.

Details of his engagements in Sri Lanka are being kept strictly under embargo, and, although no official statement to the effect has been made, this is undoubtedly due to the activities in Sri Lanka of the group generally referred to as the **Tamil Tigers**.

To give them their full name, the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (**LTTE**) guerrilla group has been fighting Sri Lankan forces for control of the Tamil majority areas in the north and east of the country since 1983.

Since the insurrection began there have been many deaths in violent incidents.

What can be said about the prince's visit to Sri Lanka, an island in the Indian Ocean off the southern tip of India, is that he will attend the golden jubilee of the country's independence from Britain at the invitation of President Chandrika Bandaranaike Kumaratunga. This will be the prince's first visit to Sri Lanka.

Apart from saying that the prince will remain in Sri Lanka until Friday, when he is due to travel on to Nepal, no further details of his engagements in the country are being disclosed in advance.

The country, formerly known as Ceylon, became a self-governing state and member of the Commonwealth on 4 February, 1948. A republican constitution was adopted in 1972 at which time the country was renamed Sri Lanka, which means Resplendent Island. On leaving Sri Lanka on Friday, the prince will fly on to Nepal which he will visit at the invitation of Crown Prince Dipendra Bir Bikram Shah Dev. The prince was last in Nepal in February 1992.

Nepal lies between India and the Tibetan Autonomous Region of China on the slopes of the Himalayas, and includes the world's highest mountain, Mount Everest (29,028 feet).

The prince will be in Nepal from Friday until next Monday, during which time he will travel extensively throughout the country. The mountain kingdom of Nepal, which has an estimated population of more than 21 million, is home to the famous Gurkhas, whose loyalty to the British Crown is legendary. The prince will, of course, meet the

Prince Charles heads for Sri Lanka and Nepal Week Ahead

Gurkhas during his time in Nepal. He will also have an audience with the king in the Royal Palace in the capital, Kathmandu.

Next Monday, the prince will leave Nepal for Bhutan, which has never before been visited by a member of the Royal Family.

He will visit Bhutan, bounded to the north by Tibet and to the west, south and east by India, at the invitation of King Jigme Singye Wangchuck. The prince's visit will end on 12 February.

ON Wednesday, the British Prime Minister, Tony Blair, is due to arrive in Washington at the start of a four-day visit, during which he will have talks with President Clinton.

The subject of Iraq is likely to be at the top of the agenda, while Mr Clinton will no doubt welcome the opportunity to try to switch the spotlight from the allegations concerning his private life.

THE British Book Awards, known as The Nibbies, will be presented during a star-studded evening in the London Hilton on Thursday.

Unlike the Booker and Whitbread literature prizes, The Nibbies go to a much wider category of recipients, such as the KPMG Publisher of the Year, won last year by Fourth Estate, and the David & Charles Award for the Independent Bookseller of the Year, which last year went to John Smith, of Glasgow.

For the fourth successive year, the evening will be hosted by Ned Sherrin. The invited audience of 900 people will see 16 awards being presented.

AN exhibition of photographs entitled "Arms and the Woman", sponsored by Oxfam in Scotland, will be officially opened in the Edinburgh Filmhouse today by the chief executive of the Scottish Refugee Council, Kaliani Lyle.

The photographs, which will be on view until 14 February, were taken by Network photographer, Jenny Matthews, over a period of 15 years. They document the experience of women in areas of conflict, from Afghanistan to Uganda.

Load-Date: February 4, 1998

10 tamil rebels killed in northern sri lanka

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JULY 5, 1999, MONDAY

Length: 233 words

Dateline: colombo, july 5; ITEM NO: 0705091

Body

sri lankan government troops sunday killed 10 tamil rebels in separate clashes in the northern province, the defense ministry announced here monday. government troops operating ahead of defenses observed a group of terrorist women cadres of the liberation tigers of tamil eelam (ltte) and engaged them with small arms fire west of janakapura sunday morning, military spokesman n. wadugodapitiya said. the troops confirmed three rebels were killed. soon after the assault rebel reinforcements consisting of 25 rebel cadres rushed into the area and retaliated with mortar, machine-gun and small arms fire. the spokesman said the troops directed artillery on the rebel section. monitored terrorist transmission indicated heavy casualties among the ltte rebels. northeast of gajabapura town at around 11:00 sunday, he said, troops operating ahead of defenses confronted a group of rebel women cadres. the troops confirmed at least three rebels were killed. in another incident at around 11:30 north of the town, troops confronted a group of ltte rebels. the troops killed at least four of them, the spokesman added. the ltte rebels have been fighting the sri lankan government since 1983 for an independent tamil homeland in the north and east of the island country. tens of thousands of people have been killed in the armed conflict.

Load-Date: July 6, 1999

Tamil gunmen massacre 19 civilians in raid on hamlet

Hobart Mercury

October 25, 1995 Wednesday

Copyright 1995 Nationwide News Pty Limited

Length: 421 words

Body

Colombo TAMIL gunmen massacred another 19 Sinhalese civilians yesterday as fighting raged in northern Sri Lanka and raised to 128 the death toll in the latest ethnic violence, the military said.

The separatist Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (**LTTE**) raided the south-eastern Kotiyagala hamlet and hacked to death six children, five **women** and eight men and escaped after torching several homes, local police said.

An AFP photographer who flew to the area said he saw people beheaded and cut to pieces while others had been disemboweled. About 1000 villagers were now leaving the village for fear of more attacks, he said.

"None of the victims had bullet wounds. They had been attacked with knives, swords and blunt weapons. It was a very nasty sight," photographer Sena Vidanagama said.

The killings were seen by military officials here as another retaliation for the army's ongoing offensive against the **LTTE**'s main stronghold of the Jaffna peninsula in the island's north.

Security forces killed at least 75 **LTTE** fighters for the loss of 29 soldiers while advancing amid heavy Tiger resistance in the peninsula, the military said, adding another five soldiers were killed in the east.

Some 200 combatants on both sides were wounded in overnight fighting, the military said.

"Troops confronted terrorists at several places (in the peninsula).

Troops retaliated with small arms, mortar and artillery fire forcing terrorists to flee with their casualties," a military spokesman said.

Military figures showed the latest deaths brought to 647 the total number of people killed since the army launched its offensive code-named Rivirasa (Sunshine) in Jaffna on Tuesday ending a week-long lull in violence.

Of the total, 530 have died in the offensive alone with the remainder killed in ethnic violence outside the peninsula, including an **LTTE** rocket attack that devastated two oil depots in the capital Colombo.

The military drive has taken soldiers within 8km of Jaffna which the Tigers have vowed to defend to their last man. The offensive was launched from the Palaly base located at the northern tip of the peninsula.

However, the **LTTE** said in a statement from its London office that the army advance in Jaffna peninsula was bogged down in the face of a "ferocious counter-attack" by the guerillas.

"The **LTTE** counter-attack has caused enormous casualties on the military side. Exact figures are still not known. The fighting is continuing in Atchchelu area (of the peninsula)," the **LTTE** statement said.

Tamil gunmen massacre 19 civilians in raid on hamlet

AFP

Graphic

Women weep besides the bodies of their children after a Tamil attackin which 19 were killed. _NO PIC (DUE TO HURLEY BREAKDOWN)AP

Load-Date: October 1, 2003

End of Document

SRI LANKA: IN THE WAR ZONE, THE DEATH OF A LIVING VILLAGE

IPS-Inter Press Service

November 10, 1992, Tuesday

Copyright 1992 IPS-Inter Press Service/Global Information Network

Length: 688 words

Byline: by Rita Sebastian

Dateline: PALLIYAGODELLA, SRI LANKA, Nov. 10

Body

Hunched up on a wooden chair in an army camp in Sri Lanka's embattled north-east provinces, a farmer is waiting for his cows to come home.

A.M. Shariff, 52, is armed with a letter from the village headman that confirms his herd of 15 cattle disappeared the night half the population of Palliyagodella was wiped out by the Liberation Tigers for Tamil Eelam (**LTTE**) rebels.

Almost three weeks after the massacre, Shariff has picked up the courage to cycle back to the abandoned village from Tambalai, 8 miles away where he has sought temporary refuge, to track down his cows.

The young army officer in the camp is sympathetic, but will not let Shariff go looking for his lost cattle.

Almost a mile away the forest looms menacingly. It was from here that an estimated 300 to 500 tigers swooped at dawn on the sleeping village to massacre men, **women** and children.

Shariff has no plans of returning immediately. "When the military clears the forest and provides us with absolute safety and security we will return," he said. His young son did not survive the killing.

Mounds of fresh earth and the destroyed and deserted village are mute testimony to the fact that Palliyagodella was till recently a bustling settlement.

M.M. Buhari is removing the zinc sheets from the roof of what was home to his six-member family. "I will never come back. This is the second time the tigers have driven us away."

The zinc sheets will help him build another home in Tambalai where friends have given him some land.

"It cost me rupees 10,000 (\$250) to build this house," says Buhari sadly. He abandoning the house, and about 10 hectares of paddy field that was his main source of income.

In Tambalai those who survived the massacre are busy constructing what will be temporary homes.

The predominantly Muslim village has come forward to assist their neighbors.

"We are doing what we can. We have helped them with money, with clothes and provided them the land where they can build their temporary homes," says M.L. Umur Lebbe who runs a general store in the village.

A 45-year-old teacher of Arabic, he is as frightened as the villagers of Palliyagodella.

SRI LANKA : IN THE WAR ZONE, THE DEATH OF A LIVING VILLAGE

"The forests are only a short distance away and what happened in Palliyagodella can happen here as well" says Umur.

"There is no protection against the Tigers. Not until the forests are cleared and the military and the police are deployed in strength," he adds.

"Why did the Tigers do this to us. Why?" Asks an angry T. M. Karim living on the generosity of friends in Tambalai. He has managed to find 60 of his 125 cows which are now tethered in Tambalai. Karim also does not intend to return to his village.

In Gaminipura, a mainly-Sinhala village which borders Palliyagodella, a frightened community spends the day working on their fields of chillie and aubergines, and sleeps at night in the army camp, one mile away.

The villagers consider themselves lucky that the military came in just as their village was attacked.

Only B. G. Yasomenike lost her homeguard husband who was on duty on the village's outskirts. About 20 people armed with shot guns take turns to guard the village day in and day out.

"Buddhism teaches you not to take revenge. But what do you do when they kill innocent people, butcher the women and children." Queries a young bleary-eyed homeguard who says he hardly sleeps at all at night.

"As soon as it starts getting dark the children begin making their way to the camp. They are terrified." Says Dingirihamy who claims her family has lived in the village for generations.

"We have nowhere else to go to. This is where we will have to live and die," she says with weary resignation.

Official records reveal there have been 18 massacres of Muslim civilians since the current round of hostilities broke out between government forces and Tamil Tigers fighting for a separate homeland in the island's north and east provinces.

"It began with the Tigers alleging that the Muslims had turned government collaborators after the war broke out afresh in June 1990," says an army official.

Muslim leaders in Sri Lanka accuse the Tigers of trying to cleanse the multi-ethnic northeast of other communities.

Load-Date: November 12, 1992

Supreme Court stays death sentence of all accused in Rajiv murder

Deutsche Presse-Agentur

March 27, 1998, Friday, BC Cycle 08:36 Central European Time

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Section: International News

Length: 301 words

Dateline: New Delhi

Body

The Indian Supreme Court Friday granted a stay of execution on the death sentences given to all 26 defendants convicted for the murder of former premier Rajiv Gandhi.

A three-member bench's interim order in New Delhi said the stay of the sentences "will operate until further orders" while allowing the accused to appeal.

A single-bench court headed by Judge V. Navaneetham had ordered on January 28 that 10 Indians and 16 Sri Lankans be hanged, after he found them guilty of having conspired to assassinate Gandhi in May 1991.

In his judgement, read out at a high-security jail, Judge Navaneetham also held the Sri Lankan secessionist Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (**LTTE**) responsible for the killing.

Rajiv Gandhi was assassinated by a **LTTE** woman suicide bomber in May 21, 1991 at Sriperumbudur in the southern state of Tamil Nadu while campaigning for his Congress Party in general elections.

According to the prosecution, **LTTE** chief Velupillai Prabakaran ordered the killing in revenge for Gandhi's decision to send Indian troops to the Tamil-dominated parts of Sri Lanka under a 1987 agreement with the government in Colombo.

The agreement was designed to resolve Sri Lanka's ethnic troubles, but did not make any provision for the secession of Tamil areas from the Sinhalese majority regions on the island.

Prabhakaran, his intelligence chief, Pottu Amman, and **LTTE women's** wing chief Akila escaped detection and were declared proclaimed offenders, but were not put on trial as there is no provision under Indian law for trial in absentia.

The prosecution alleged that the **LTTE** sent groups of assassins under the supervision of Sivarasan, a leading activist of the secessionist organization.

The suicide bombing killed a total of 17 persons, including the attacker. dpa mgs jh

Load-Date: March 27, 1998

Supreme Court stays death sentence of all accused in Rajiv murder

End of Document

8 tamil rebels killed in fresh fighting

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AUGUST 6, 1999, FRIDAY

Length: 237 words

Dateline: colombo, august 6; ITEM NO: 0806202

Body

sri lanka's defense ministry said friday that eight tamil rebels were killed in fresh fighting in the north of the country thursday, while a tamil party's district military leader was said to be shot dead by tamil rebels. the sri lanka army killed the eight rebels of the liberation tigers of tamil eelam (**ltte**) in three clashes in the northern jaffna area, the ministry said in a statement. k. uthayakumar alias kannadikumar, the military wing leader of vavuniya of the people's liberation organization of tamil eelam (plote), was shot dead thursday night by a suspected **ltte** gunman near his house in northern sri lanka, military officials said. the officials said seven special task forces (stf) commandos of the sri lanka army were wounded friday near vavuniya when the truck in which they were traveling was hit by a rebel claymore mine. another stf truck was blasted on wednesday by an **ltte female** suicide bomber with a cycle claymore mine near vavuniya, the defense ministry said. it said 14 people were killed in the explosion, including 12 commandos, one civilian and the suicide bomber, and 25 were injured. the **ltte** rebels, fighting since 1983 for a tamil homeland in sri lanka's north and east, have been blamed by the government for carrying out a suicide bomb attack which killed leading tamil lawmaker neelan thiruchelvam in colombo last week.

Load-Date: August 7, 1999

dependents demonstrate outside icrc office in sri lanka

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JANUARY 26, 1998, MONDAY

Length: 342 words

Dateline: colombo, january 26; ITEM NO: 0126063

Body

hundreds of sri lankans gathered outside the office compound of the international committee of red cross (icrc) here monday morning and asked the organization to help them obtain names of those security personnel who they said are in ltte custody. under scorching sunlight, the man and women, who were the next of kin of those missing servicemen in the north, were waiting in desperation. their representatives were holding closed-door talks with icrc officials. the placards in their hands read: "icrc must give the figures of missing military and security personnel." "let us see our brothers and sons--parents." a banner asked: "what happened to the people captured by the ltte?" most of the demonstrators were sinhala people while some of them were tamils. their brothers and sons are missing in action against the liberation tigers of tamil eelam (ltte) in the north. the demonstrators asked that while thousands of relatives are being burnt in the flame of sorrow due to the most tragic incidents in their country, why are the government, opposition and icrc silent about the warriors? a petition which was handed over monday morning to the icrc office said that the innocent parents and wives are now suffering mentally and physically because of the loss of their beloved children and husbands. a participant said they turned to the icrc for help because they are the only persons who can enter the ltte territories to contact the rebels. they also handed their requests to the government. but more of their expectations are on the icrc, the man said. he said the demonstrators would continue their action outside the icrc office until it accepts their request to obtain a name list of those missing persons from the ltte. an icrc official said this was the first demonstration outside their office premises. another senior icrc official said they were not informed of the demonstration beforehand. so far there are no results of talks.

Load-Date: January 27, 1998

Tamils Blamed For Slaying At Least 119 Moslem Villagers

The Associated Press

August 12, 1990, Sunday, AM cycle

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Section: International News

Length: 691 words

Byline: By DEXTER CRUEZ, Associated Press Writer

Dateline: ERAVUR, Sri Lanka

Body

Tamil gunmen rampaged through five fishing villages, butchering Moslems in the street with machine-gun fire and machetes, military officials said Sunday. They said at least 119 people were slain.

The killings were the latest in a round of intensifying ethnic violence that pits Tamil separatists against the Sinhalese-dominated government and Sinhalese and Moslem civilians.

Although Moslems claim neutrality in the war, the government says Tamils suspect them of siding with the army.

A Tamil politician said Saturday night's attacks were in retaliation for the killing of 33 Tamil villagers by Moslems earlier Saturday. But a spokesman for the **Tamil Tigers** guerrilla group denied responsibility for the killings.

At least 450 villagers have been killed on the once-tranquil island nation's east coast in a wave of reprisal violence in the past nine days.

The victims include 305 Moslems, 85 Tamils and 60 Sinhalese, according to military officials and politicians.

In Eravur, one of the villages hit in Saturday night's attack, puddles of blood were on the sidewalk. **Women** implored visitors to help keep them safe, and young men surrounded army officers demanding weapons.

"They have killed everybody," one weeping woman told a delegation of Moslem politicians and soldiers. "There is no one to look after us. Please don't leave."

Led by Moslem religious leaders, villagers gathered up corpses in trucks for a mass burial. Residents and military officials on Sunday said at least 119 people were killed in the five villages and an additional 40 were injured.

Brigadier Upali Seneviratne, the top army officer in the province, said at least 40 Tamil gunmen attacked the villages.

"They broke into three groups and shot at everybody in sight," he said. The dead included 29 **women** and 31 children, one of them a 9-day-old girl, he said.

Residents said the attackers broke down doors and dragged villagers into the streets.

Tamils Blamed For Slaying At Least 119 Moslem Villagers

After a 90-minute raid on Eravur, the gunmen moved to adjacent villages, military officials said. One of the villages is called Saddam Hussein, named after the Iraqi leader who sent construction aid several years ago.

The villages are clustered north of Batticaloa on the east coast, about 125 miles east of Colombo.

On Aug. 3, gunmen raided another eastern village and massacred 140 Moslems in two mosques. The incident set off a chain of killings.

"The two communities are on an annihilation spree. Nobody knows how many more will die before it all ends," said Mahalingam Savajilingam, a leader of the Tamil Eelam Liberation Organization, a former guerrilla group which gave up arms for politics.

He said Saturday night's killings were carried out by the Tigers after 33 Tamils at a refugee camp, including eight patients in a hospital, were killed by Moslems using government-supplied weapons.

"This led to the Tamil Tigers attacking the villages...and killing innocent Moslems," he said.

The Tamil Tigers, the militia fighting for an independent Tamil homeland in the north and east, deny the charges and say the killings are being carried out by government agents to discredit their organization.

"Why should we attack Moslems?" said Lawrence Thilakar, a Tiger leader, in a telephone call Sunday to The Associated Press in Colombo. "We need the fullest cooperation of the Moslem people, who are also suppressed at the hands of the government."

Thilakar spoke from London, where the Tigers maintain an office.

"This dangerous game being played by the government will not last long," he said. "Very soon, the truth will come out."

Tamil separatists, seeking an independent nation, resumed a 7-year-old war with the Sinhalese-dominated government on June 11 after a 13-month cease-fire.

At least 3,200 combatants have been killed in the latest phase of fighting. Hundreds of civilians have also been killed, but there is no precise figure.

Tamils, mainly Hindu, make up 18 percent of Sri Lanka's 16 million people. Sinhalese, overwhelmingly Buddhist, comprise 75 percent and Moslems 7 percent.

An estimated 14,000 people have been killed since 1983 when Tamil rebels took up arms, claiming they were discriminated against by the majority Sinhalese.

COLD-BLOODED BUTCHERY ON PARADISE ISLAND

Sydney Morning Herald (Australia)

June 30, 1990 Saturday

Late Edition

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Section: SPECTRUM; Pg. 67

Length: 2400 words

Byline: JOHN LYONS

Body

EVEN in this blood-soaked land, where butcherings and massacres have become so commonplace that it's difficult to shock people any more, something happened this month which has sent a chill wind through the one-time paradise of Sri Lanka. Already the incident has set off a series of savage reprisal killings which people here fear might have doomed the country to a future of political violence.

Late on the afternoon of June 11, as the sun set over the Indian Ocean, whose waters lap this island nation the size of Tasmania, guerillas from the **Tamil Tigers**, some believed to be as young as 11, stalked through the jungles along the east coast.

Their commanders, bunkered in well-organised camps through the island, had ordered a new offensive: attacks on police stations.

It was the cold-bloodedness of what occurred at Kalmunai, a small, tranquil village which nestles among coconut palms, which has haunted many Sri Lankans

The Tigers blindfolded all 115 police, removing their watches and wallets. One by one they took them outside and made them lie face down in the dirt. One by one, each policeman was shot in the head.

According to Piyeratna Ranaweera, one of only two survivors, the **women** cadres laughed mockingly as each man cowered in fear as his turn came. After each one was shot, the **women** applauded.

Ranaweera survived only because "his" bullet passed through his earlobe. For the next two hours he lay among the pile of bodies feigning death.

Although the exact number is not yet known, because hundreds of bodies were burnt, as many as 1,000 policemen might have met a similar fate that night.

Next day, the Tamils' ethnic rival, the Sinhalese, hit back. At nearby Ampara, 28 Tamils, including children, were doused with kerosene and set alight. As they burnt, they were hacked with hoes.

In response to this, the Tamils slaughtered 32 Sinhalese at Kinniyai. Then the Sinhalese responded by forcing 39 Tamils out of a nearby hospital, with medical workers saying they believed the patients had been "necklaced" - the technique made infamous in South Africa, where a tyre is placed around a person's neck and set alight.

COLD-BLOODED BUTCHERY ON PARADISE ISLAND

In January, leading playwright Lakshman Perera disappeared, presumed dead, after he wrote a play critical of President Premadasa.

In February, popular broadcast journalist, Richard de Zoysa, was dragged from his home at 3 o'clock one morning by six men who had been drinking, including two in police uniform. The others wore black T-shirts. Government officials had suspected him of having a role in writing Perera's play.

De Zoysa's bloated body was fished out of the water near a tourist resort the next day. His mother, a respected doctor, has publicly identified a Colombo police superintendent as leader of the death squad. She has received a letter that if she pushes for charges she will also end up in the Indian Ocean.

Last December soldiers wiped out a village of 175 people suspected of sympathising with the Marxist People's Liberation Front (JVP).

Last October, a 73-year-old doctor, Gladys Jayawardene, was assassinated by a JVP death squad as she waited at traffic lights. She had defied a strike to stop supplying medicine to hospitals.

In November, television host, Sagarika Gomes, Sri Lanka's Jana Wendt, was gunned down by a death squad after becoming engaged to an army officer. Her death squad also was JVP, an organisation which employs tactics as brutal as Pol Pot's Khmer Rouge and which has declared open season on the families of soldiers.

Last year, some **Tamil Tigers** met in downtown Colombo for negotiations with moderate Tamil leaders. While eating biscuits, one of the Tigers became upset- he stood up and shot through the head the secretary of the Tamil United Liberation Front, Pillal Amirthaliam. In turn, bodyguards outside the house shot dead the Tiger assassin.

This week, about 100 bodies were discovered near Trincomalee. They were difficult to recognise because dogs had begun eating them. Authorities were not sure whether they were Tamils or Sinhalese.

All this in bargain-priced paradise.

Australian officials in Sri Lanka, formerly the British colony of Ceylon, have begun using a rather disturbing phrase - they talk of their fear of a series of "salutary massacres".

Salutary? The Oxford Dictionary says it means producing a beneficial or wholesome effect. Salubrious, even.

Under this scenario, they are warning of the possibility of the **Tamil Tigers** wiping out three or four entire villages in the north to spark a backlash in the capital, Colombo, of Sinhalese against Tamils. The world would then see images of Tamils being slaughtered, causing pressure, the Tigers would hope, for Government troops to back off from the military campaign in the north and east.

This would be a re-run of 1983, when Colombo was convulsed by racial violence - buildings were burnt, people were murdered and bombs exploded. There was effectively tacit Government support for Sinhalese vigilante mobs.

There is a long history of bloodshed in this sad country. The basic conflict is between the majority Sinhalese, who are Buddhists, and the Tamils, who make up 18 per cent of the 17 million Sri Lankans and who are Hindu.

The Sinhalese dominate the central Government and over the years have been unsympathetic to the Tamil culture - the Sinhala language has been forced on them and education and employment opportunities denied.

Until three weeks ago, there had been a cease-fire of sorts for the past year in this 18-year guerilla war. Tamil groups, including the hardline Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam - the **Tamil Tigers** - had been negotiating with Colombo for a political solution.

Essentially, the Tigers want an autonomous region, called Eelam, in the north and east, where Tamil communities dominate, so they can administer their own affairs.

COLD-BLOODED BUTCHERY ON PARADISE ISLAND

But peace was fragile. While the Government offered greater Tamil representation on provincial councils, it simultaneously oversaw a major transmigration program, moving thousands of Sinhalese to the north and east to dilute the Tamil majority. This heightened tensions.

There seemed some hope in March when a 50,000-strong Indian "peacekeeping force" departed after failing to crush the Tigers. Like the Americans in Vietnam, the Indians found manpower and resources do not win guerilla wars.

Even the Sri Lankan Army had begun to resent the Indian Army which arrived in 1987, and to an extent the Tigers and the Sri Lankan military had found a common enemy.

Late last year, President Premadasa softened his earlier line, which had been that negotiations could not be conducted until the Tigers laid down their arms.

Likewise, the Tigers appeared to give ground. In December they said they would renounce violence and contest elections, but only after the Constitution was amended to remove a provision that candidates swear an oath of allegiance to a unitary State. This created suspicions among Sinhalese that the Tigers still harboured ambitions of a separate State.

Negotiations foundered on this, and after yet another cease-fire broke down three weeks ago, the Government changed strategy. It declared an all-out military attack on the Tigers.

This has plunged Sri Lanka into a chasm of violence - at week's end there were estimated to be 200,000 refugees fleeing the war. At least 30,000 people were killed last year, a year in part covered by patchy cease-fires.

The human cost in this war that the world has forgotten is already staggering. Amnesty International says reports of human rights violations by Government forces reached unprecedented levels last year.

Amnesty says thousands of people "disappeared" or were executed by uniformed security forces and death squads believed to be associated with them or politicians of the ruling party. This mirrored the "criminal violence" of the JVP. Recently Amnesty has condemned the atrocities of the Tamil Tigers.

It is believed there are up to 14,000 political prisoners in Sri Lanka. One can understand therefore, why many Sri Lankans braced with fear when Defence Minister, Ranjan Wijeratne, said of the Tigers last week: "We will annihilate them."

"Annihilation" of the Tigers will not be easy. Few guerilla forces anywhere in the world are as well organised, as well supplied or as fanatical.

With up to 5,000 fighters, the Tigers come under the command of 36-year-old Velupillai Prabhakaran, described by some here as the second most powerful man in Sri Lanka next to the President.

Damascus-trained Prabhakaran said in a recent interview the Tigers had defeated the Indian Army with a combination of Irish Republican Army tactics in the cities and Maoist tactics in the country.

The Tigers employ a classic guerilla strategy - the stay-behind theory. The moment you are militarily overwhelmed you bury your weapons and blend in with the people.

As one of the Sri Lankan Army's top commanders, Alfred Gurusinghe, told the Herald during a tour of the front line this week: "We don't know who our enemy is. We only know once we are attacked."

In recent years the Army has sometimes levelled entire villages suspected of harbouring Tigers - but this often swelled Tiger ranks as bitter relatives vowed revenge on the Army.

For this reason, and because of enormous pressure from foreign diplomatic communities, this time the Sri Lankan Army appears, at least for the moment, to be trying to minimise civilian casualties.

COLD-BLOODED BUTCHERY ON PARADISE ISLAND

And this time, the Government is trying to win an international public relations battle, with the Army having been ordered to play it by the rules -that is, no atrocities.

While Prabhakaran is the military brains of the Tigers, Dr Anton Balasingham, is the political strategist. A former tutor at the London Polytechnic, he and his Australian wife, Adele Wilby, provide political guidance to the Tigers. Ms Wilby, a one-time nurse in Melbourne, met Dr Balasingham while she was studying in London. As with all the Tiger leadership, they have gone into hiding in the Jaffna area in the north.

Many of the Tigers are as fanatical as they are well-trained. Most wear cyanide pills around their necks in case they are cornered - young Tigers delight in pointing them out to foreign journalists as they say "Four seconds| Four seconds |"

The Tigers' arms come mainly by boat from southern India, home for 52 million Tamils, while funds come from Tamils abroad - both volunteered and forced donations, the latter particularly in London - and "taxation" levied on shopkeepers in Tiger areas.

They have built an elaborate system of bunkers, hospitals and communication networks through the jungle - around Jaffna the military for some years has effectively been confined to its barracks unless it gets Tiger approval for travel.

The Sri Lankan military, with about 35,000 troops, is having to quickly hone its guerilla-war skills. While casualties are difficult to estimate because both sides burn bodies, it appears in the past three weeks that the military has been suffering far higher casualties than the Tigers.

So where to for the land which so enchanted Portuguese, Dutch and British traders from the 16th century?

Most locals seem grim. They expect a prolonged war which will involve great costs. One diplomat predicted the Tigers would turn Jaffna into "the Stalingrad of Eelam".

If 50,000 Indian troops alongside 35,000 Sri Lankan troops could not defeat the Tigers, there are serious doubts about the impact the Sri Lankans alone will make.

Sadly, Sri Lankans seem to have accepted that violence is here to stay. One said this week that the relative peace of the cease-fire had been abnormal. "Sri Lanka is now back to normality," he said of the new violence.

Outsiders are shocked by a culture of savagery which has grown up here.

There is a South American feel to Sri Lanka - the fear people have travelling along the roads at night, the fear that the police and soldiers they see in uniform during the day may visit them as death squads at night.

Most people whose relatives disappear never take it any further - how can you go to the authorities when it is often the authorities committing the murders?

There is also a Haiti-type atmosphere here - some Canadian tourists were shocked recently when on a day trip they came across 47 human skulls on poles beside the road.

Few people are any longer seduced by the once-touted gentleness of the locals.

Says Sri Lankan journalist, Rita Sebastian: "The gentleness is a facade."

Much of Sri Lanka has been crippled. The Tigers have mined many roads, making travel treacherous, and tourism, which had been helping the troubled Sri Lankan economy, is also facing a bleak future.

The Sri Lankan Tourist Commission has been running an advertising campaign describing the country as "The Next Best Thing to Paradise".

It's unlikely to be able to use this much longer.

COLD-BLOODED BUTCHERY ON PARADISE ISLAND

WHO'S WHO IN THE CIVIL WAR

President Ranasinghe Premadasa Elected 1988.
64, from Ceylon Labour Party.

Initially, conciliatory to Tamil Tigers but in recent weeks has abandoned negotiation for military solution.

Ranjan Wijeratne, Defence Minister Like defence establishment, believed to have been critical of the President over trying to accommodate Tigers.

Has declared "all out war" on the Tigers.

Velupillai Prabhakaran 35, Supreme Commander of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (Tamil Tigers).

Acknowledged by all sides as a military genius.

Personally directs all Tiger operations.

Described as personally shy and somewhat politically naive.

Dr Anton Balasingham Chief Tiger political strategist.

A Tamil Marxist scholar who wrote his thesis on Freud and socialism.

Married to Australian nurse, Adele Wilby.

KEY DATES

1983 State of emergency declared as Tamils clashed with Singhalese across the country.

Press censorship imposed.

1987 50,000 Indian troops arrive to

assist Government to defeat Tamil Tigers in the north and east.

Indians came as "peacekeeping force" but soon realised the military capabilities and aggression of the Tigers.

March 1990 Indian troops withdraw after losing more than 1,200 soldiers.

June 11, 1990 Tamil Tigers break cease-fire.

Colombo, the capital, scene of racial violence.

Jaffna, predominantly Tamil city.

Tamil territory, the area (north and east) the Tamils are seeking as an autonomous region.

Kalmunai, scene of Tamil massacre of police.

Kinniyai, where 32 Sinhalese were murdered by Tamils.

Trincomalee, 100 bodies discovered, partly eaten by dogs.

Graphic

Illus: A young Tamil Tiger contemplates the poison capsule he will swallow if captured. Two Tables: WHO'S WHO IN THE CIVIL WAR and KEY DATES Map: Places of violence

Load-Date: July 21, 2007

End of Document

STRONG LIKELIHOOD GOVT-TAMIL REBELS SEPT 16 PEACE TALKS MAY SUCCEED

Malaysia General News

August 27, 2002, Tuesday

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Length: 1462 words

Byline: Feizal Samath

Dateline: COLOMBO, Aug 27, 2002

Body

From the Bhutanese capital of Thimpu to the exotic shores of Thailand, peace talks to solve Sri Lanka's ethnic conflict -- now Asia's longest running battle -- have mystified Sri Lankans and most of the world.

Peace talks have always been a case of will-it, will-it-not end years of unrest and demands for equal opportunities and political space from the country's minority Tamil community.

As the war-racked country heads for the latest round of talks between the government and Tamil rebels starting Sept 16 amidst a gloomy future over a shaky cohabitation between President Chandrika Kumaratunga from the People's Alliance and Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe's United National Front government, it is useful to go back in history and see why the previous rounds of talks failed and why there is a strong likelihood that this round may succeed.

1985:

July -- The first ever peace talks between the government, Tamil rebels and Tamil political parties are held in the Bhutanese capital of Thimpu, after the ethnic conflagration flares up in 1983 following bloody attacks on the country's Tamil minority community by sections of the majority Sinhalese people.

The government delegation is led by H.W. Jayewardene, eminent lawyer and younger brother of President Junius Jayewardene and includes all top lawyers -- Mark Fernando (now a senior Supreme Court judge), H.L. de Silva and S.L. Gunasekera (until recently the leader of a hardline Sinhala Buddhist political party).

Sri Lanka-Talks

The leaders of all Tamil militant groups are represented like Velupillai Prabhakaran (***LTTE***), Uma Maheswaran (PLOTE), Sri Sabaratnam (TELO) and also Douglas Devananda (now an MP and leader of the EPDP). Politicians from democratic Tamil political parties include A. Amirthalingam and M. Sivasithamparam -- leaders of the moderate Tamil United Liberation Front (TULF). It is also the first and -- still remains -- the most representative peace talks between a government team, militants and moderate Tamil politicians.

Political analysts say the talks failed and conflicts arose because the composition of the government team was made up of lawyers -- not political thinkers -- who were not prepared to budge from set positions. They thought bowing to the demands of the Tamils would tantamount to giving Eelam -- the name of the separate state.

STRONG LIKELIHOOD GOVT-TAMIL REBELS SEPT 16 PEACE TALKS MAY SUCCEED

The militant groups and Tamil parties came up with the formula that the government should accept, firstly, Tamils as a nationality; secondly, the right to self determination by the Tamil minority; thirdly, the traditional homelands of the Tamils in the north and the east; and fourthly, that all Tamils (this was aimed at plantation Tamils of Indian origin many of whom were stateless) should be given citizenship. These are now touted as the Thimpu principles.

The LTTE and Tamil militant groups also came to the conference under the pre-conceived notion that they could get Eelam.

1987:

July -- Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi and President Junius Jayewardene launch discussions aimed at ending the fighting. A peace pact is signed in Colombo between the two leaders and the LTTE is asked -- virtually ordered -- to consent to the pact and lay down arms.

Velupillai Prabhakaran is flown to India from Sri Lanka's northern jungles and locked up in a hotel room at the Ashok Hotel in New Delhi. He is not supportive of the pact but is forced to agree because of "big brother and one time mentor" India's involvement.

As riots break out in southern Sri Lanka sparked by leftwing rebels, opposed to the pact, Jayewardene invites Indian troops to implement the pact while Sri Lankan troops in the north and team are shifted to the south to battle the new threat.

LTTE rebels start laying down their arms cautiously but call off their commitment and sneak back into the jungles. This follows an incident where a group of senior unarmed Tiger leaders is arrested at sea by the Sri Lanka Navy. Indian officials urge the government to detain them in northern Jaffna but National Security Minister Lalith Athulathmudali, who is also opposed to the peace pact like some other members of Jayewardene's cabinet, insists that they be brought to Colombo.

The nine rebels commit suicide by swallowing cyanide pills while in custody, triggering clashes between Indian forces and the LTTE. The pact collapses.

1988:

December -- Ranasinghe Premadasa is elected president, replacing Jayewardene, and he wants Indian troops out of Sri Lanka. Government officials hold secret talks in the northern jungles with the LTTE with one aim -- getting rid of the Indians. Premadasa secretly gives cash and weapons to the LTTE.

February 1990 -- Official peace talks between the government and the LTTE get underway at the posh Hilton hotel in Colombo. The rebel delegation is led by Yogaratnam Yogi, head of the LTTE's political wing and includes Anton Balasingham (now the Tiger's chief negotiator) and his Australian-born wife, Adele. (The last two are expected to be in this year's rebel negotiating team too.)

The rebels are flown straight to Colombo for talks in a government helicopter from the northern jungles, dressed in combat uniform and carrying arms.

A top government official is quoted as saying at an NGO-organised peace conference in Lucerne in Switzerland some years back that the 1990 peace talks failed because of a conflict of vision. Premadasa wanted the support of the LTTE to throw the Tigers out while Prabhakaran thought by helping Premadasa get rid of the Indians, he would be given control of the north and the east.

When the talks dragged on and the LTTE realized they were not getting what they wanted, they accused the government of building up militarily for another bloodbath and abruptly ended the discussions.

1994:

STRONG LIKELIHOOD GOVT-TAMIL REBELS SEPT 16 PEACE TALKS MAY SUCCEED

August -- The People's Alliance party led by Chandrika Kumaratunga wins parliamentary polls ousting the United National Party which had been ruling since 1977.

October -- Peace talks get underway. The composition of the government team is weak. Led by Presidential Secretary Kusumsiri Balapatabendi, absolutely inexperienced in political negotiations, the team includes an architect, accountant and a civil servant.

Kumaratunga by virtue of winning a thumping majority at parliamentary and later in December presidential polls, sees this as an opportunity to control the entire country including the north and the east parts which came under the supremacy of the LTTE.

Prabhakaran views peace talks as a means of legitimizing his control. Both leaders have different agendas resulting in a fundamental clash of ideas.

The majority of the Tamil population, particularly the women, considers the new president as a new light in the horizon towards peace and there is much rejoicing in Jaffna over her win. The president feels that by winning the hearts and minds of Tamil residents, she could isolate the Tigers and take control.

But that fails and so does peace talks after fuel and cement supplies to the north are blocked by the army.

2001:

December -- Ranil Wickremesinghe, whose United National Party wins parliamentary polls in December, positively responds to a unilateral ceasefire by the Tigers.

2002:

February -- He formalises it by signing a memorandum of understanding on the truce with rebel leader Prabhakaran.

Being a politician who has watched the progress of peace talks since 1985 and why it has failed, Wickremesinghe is smart and tactful in making sure the LTTE is not marginalized while clearing all roadblocks towards peace talks.

Food and essential goods flow into the northern and eastern provinces while major highways there -- closed for years -- are open, resulting in thousands of Sinhalese from the south visiting the north, many for the first time. The people-to-people contact helps to promote peace in the country and the need for an end to the conflict.

Political analysts say the global situation with the United States leading the way in opposing terrorism also helps push Wickremesinghe's case for talks. World support for Sri Lanka's peace process has been overwhelmingly with particularly the US and India pledging to help the war-torn country with aid and investment. The visit last week by US Deputy Secretary of State Richard Armitage, the high-level US official to visit Sri Lanka in recent decades, endorses strong US support to the peace process.

The parameters for discussions between the two sides are clear and not uncertain like on previous occasions when peace talks were held. The LTTE has agreed to talk on the basis that a solution would be within a united Sri Lanka, finally giving up an earlier demand for a separate homeland.

Load-Date: August 28, 2002

Gandhi assassins sentenced to hang

Hamilton Spectator (Ontario, Canada)

January 29, 1998 Thursday Final Edition

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Section: LOCAL NEWS; Pg. A1 / FRONT; News

Length: 411 words

Byline: Rahul Bedi

Dateline: NEW DELHI

Body

Twenty-six people were sentenced yesterday to hang for conspiring to assassinate former Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi.

In a 2,000-page judgment, Judge V. Navaneetham held the separatist **Tamil Tigers** of Sri Lanka solely responsible for masterminding Gandhi's murder by a **female** suicide bomber at an election rally at Sriperumbudur, 65 kilometres from Madras, in May 1991.

Velupillai Prabhakaran, leader of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam, and his two top aides were convicted in their absence but not sentenced. India's federal government has sought their extradition from Sri Lanka for more than three years. The fugitives have been waging war against their government for an independent Tamil homeland since the mid-1980s.

Southam Newspapers

Two of the 26 who stood trial, including the man who built the bomb, were convicted of murder. Others, such as those accused of helping plan the assassination or providing transportation, housing or food to those involved, were found guilty on charges such as aiding and abetting.

All the defendants were tried under special terrorist laws that permit the death penalty. Such sentences are rare in India, although they have been common in cases of political assassination.

Officials from the Central Bureau of Investigation said the hearing had been delayed -- making it India's longest assassination trial -- because 12 of the 38 people arrested soon after the assassination committed suicide to conceal information. Most of them bit into cyanide capsules.

Gandhi and 17 others died after a member of the Tigers' **women** suicide squad garlanded the former prime minister at an election rally and simultaneously detonated the belt of plastic explosive tied around her waist and chest. Investigating officials said the assassination had been meticulously rehearsed for nearly nine months.

The **Tamil Tigers** held Gandhi responsible for committing the Indian army to disarming their cadres in northern Sri Lanka following a tenuous peace treaty they were tricked into signing with their federal government in Colombo.

The Indian Peace Keeping Force met stiff resistance from well-armed and committed Tiger guerrillas and were forced to withdraw without achieving their objective more than two years later.

Gandhi assassins sentenced to hang

Hundreds of police officers were posted to the area where the trial was held.

Southern India is heavily populated by ethnic Tamils with strong ties to the Tamils in Sri Lanka, but initial response to the sentencing was muted.

Load-Date: October 16, 2002

End of Document

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL

Sri Lanka - Amnesty International condemns attack on political rallies

M2 PRESSWIRE

December 21, 1999

Copyright 1999 M2 Communications Ltd.

Length: 282 words

Body

Amnesty International condemned last Saturday's attacks on two political rallies in and near Colombo in which at least 25 civilians were killed. The rallies were being held at the close of the campaigning in presidential elections scheduled for tomorrow, 21 December.

The attacks happened within hours of each other.

The attack on a rally organized by the People's Alliance killed at least 14 civilians and injured numerous others, including President Chandrika Bandaranaike Kumaratunga and four ministers. It was reported to have been carried out by a **female** suicide bomber suspected of being a member of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (**LTTE**), the main armed opposition group fighting for an independent state in the north and east of the country.

In the other attack, a bomb was thrown at a rally organized by the United National Party in which at least 11 civilians were killed. The attack was also suspected to have been carried out by the **LTTE**.

Amnesty International opposes killings by armed opposition groups which violate fundamental principles of international humanitarian law, specifically these requiring civilians be protected at all times. The organization has written today to representatives of the **LTTE** in London condemning these attacks and appealing again to the **LTTE** to desist from such abuses.

Amnesty International, International Secretariat, 1 Easton Street, WC1X 8DJ, London, United Kingdom

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Load-Date: December 22, 1999

SRI LANKA: GOVERNMENT TO WIPE OUT TAMIL REBELS

IPS-Inter Press Service

December 21, 1990, Friday

Copyright 1990 IPS-Inter Press Service/Global Information Network

Length: 416 words

Dateline: COLOMBO, Dec. 21

Body

The Sri Lankan government has declared "all out war" on Tamil rebels in the island's north and east.

State Minister for Defense Ranjan Wijeratne told journalists today: "We are hammering them (**Tamil Tigers**) on all sides until we wipe out the remnants."

Wijeratne said seven Tamil Tiger guerrillas were killed in two separate incidents in the initial stages of the combined air, sea and land military operation which began yesterday.

The government claimed Tamil rebels were trying to escape by sea as land trails have all been blocked by government forces.

"Our gunships attacked small boats in which the Tigers were fleeing killing 32 of them," Wijeratne announced.

Colombo's fresh offensive against the Tamil rebels follows the killing this week of two senior security personnel.

Brigadier Lucky Wijeratne and Superintendent of Police Richard Wijeskera, both in charge of security operations in Trincomalee in the island's east were blown up by a landmine planted by Tiger guerrillas under their jeep.

"This provocation by the Tigers makes us more determined to wipe them out," the minister said here.

Both officers had been responsible for restoring normalcy in war torn Trincomalee after the Tigers started the latest round of fighting last June when they broke the cease fire.

The government this week clamped curfew in several parts of Batticaloa and Ampara districts in Sri Lanka's east.

Wijeratne said: "Several Tiger safe houses have been destroyed in the military offensive."

Less than 24 hours before the Sri Lankan security forces launched this latest operation to rout Tamil rebels from their strongholds, the military killed 25 Tigers in a surprise attack on their main base camp in the island's northern province.

Wijeratne said here 15 of those killed were **women** guerrillas.

The Sri Lankan government has been compelled to launch this offensive to "wipe" out the Tamil rebels as criticism has been mounting here that the fighting was deadlocked.

SRI LANKA : GOVERNMENT TO WIPE OUT TAMIL REBELS

Political observers say that armed with recently acquired military hardware from China, the government is also feeling better equipped to take on Tamil guerrillas who are entrenched in Sri Lanka's north and east, a region they claim as their homeland.

But a western diplomat here thinks the civil war is "a no-win situation" and the only way out of the imbroglio was for both sides to return to the negotiating table.

Before fighting resumed last June, the Sri Lanka government and **Tamil tigers** had been working at solving the ethnic crisis in the island.

Load-Date: December 23, 1990

End of Document

HEAVY LOSSES IN TAMIL ATTACK

COURIER-MAIL

July 29, 1995 Saturday

Copyright 1995 Nationwide News Pty Limited

Length: 324 words

Body

KEYWORD-HIT Heavy losses in Tamil attack COLOMBO: Heavy fighting raged in north-eastern Sri Lanka yesterday as security forces repulsed a Tamil Tiger guerrilla attack on five camps. A military spokesman said at least 116 rebels _ including two **female** cadres on a suicide mission _ and two government soldiers were killed. The navy and the airforce were called in to support ground troops which beat off the simultaneous attacks by the separatist Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam, spokesman Sarath Munasinghe said. He said hundreds of rebels, including **female** cadres, mounted the pre-dawn offensive against five military facilities at Weli Oya, Kokkuthuduvai, Kokilai, Janapakura and Jayasinghepura, but troops successfully beat it off. Two soldiers were killed and another 22 wounded, 13 of them seriously, in the fierce three-hour fighting. Mr Munasinghe said the Tigers suffered heavily in the well-executed army counter-offensive based on advance information. The **LTTE** fired a heat-seeking surface-to-air missile at an airforce helicopter transporting troops to the battle field but the pilot managed to dodge it as he was flying low, Mr Munasinghe said. It was the first time the rebels were known to have fired a heat-seeking missile outside the **LTTE**-held northern Jaffna peninsula where they have downed three aircraft since April. Mr Munasinghe said the military was well prepared for the **LTTE** offensive. Two **LTTE women** cadres were shot dead by soldiers as they tried to break into the Weli Oya camp. ""As they were hit, they exploded in a ball of fire.

QNPObviously they were strapped with explosives," Mr Munasinghe said. Earlier this month, the **LTTE** used 17 suicide cadres _ known as Black Tigers _ to blast a navy ship. ""They have learnt a bitter lesson. We have reports that 47 terrorists bodies are outside the Weli Oya brigade headquarters alone," Mr Munasinghe said, adding the airforce and the navy destroyed several rebel boats.

Load-Date: October 1, 2003

Australian runs with Tigers; 'The cyanide capsule is a symbol of self-determination'

Sydney Morning Herald (Australia)

February 4, 1995 Saturday

Late Edition

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Section: NEWS AND FEATURES; Pg. 23

Length: 951 words

Byline: TIM MCGIRK

Body

JAFFNA, Friday: In the 1970s, Adele Ann Balasingham was an Australian student at a London university, but for the past 15 years, she has donned combat dress and an AK-47 rifle to help fight a jungle rebellion with the ethnic separatist **Tamil Tigers** in Sri Lanka.

A wiry, gaunt woman with the air of a stern librarian, she leads the graduation ceremony for **women** fighters of **Tamil Tigers** when they complete their basic military training.

She awards each girl - some are as young as 16 - with a cyanide capsule. The teenaged tigresses are expected to kill themselves rather than be captured by the Sri Lankan army. And many do.

"The cyanide capsules are a symbol of the combatants' sacrifice and self-determination," Ms Balasingham has explained. Her voice is clipped, nervy. She, too, is known to carry the slender glass vial of cyanide hanging around her neck. "You bite it, the glass cuts your mouth, so that the poison goes into the bloodstream faster," she once told an interviewer.

How Ms Balasingham, now in her early 40s, came to be mixed up with an army of suicide killers on an island thousands of miles from her native Australia is a love story. She fell for her goateed sociology professor, Anton Balasingham, who despite his British passport had never forgotten his roots among the Tamil minority community of Sri Lanka. They returned to the troubled island in the late 1970s, when the Colombo Government, made up of the island's Sinhalese majority, inflamed ethnic hatred against the Tamils, leading to riots and murder.

Adele and Anton Balasingham joined up with Velupillai Prabhakaran, a Tamil fisherman's son, who had little schooling but plenty of charisma, ruthlessness and the tactical instincts of Rommel and Che Guevara rolled into one. He was a fast learner, too. "We studied various guerilla movements - the Cubans, Mao, the African resistance," Ms Balasingham told the Herald in the rebel-held city of Jaffna. "But we realised it was hard to apply all that here, where we are fighting both jungle and urban warfare".

Over the past 12 years of fierce fighting, the **Tamil Tigers** have managed to carve out their own de facto State on the northern tip of Sri Lanka. They also controlled large swathes on the eastern side of the island where the jungle is dense enough to hide wild elephants. In doing so, they have beaten off the better-equipped and numerically-superior forces of the Sri Lankan army, navy and airforce. And, when the Indian army, one of the world's mightiest,

Australian runs with Tigers 'The cyanide capsule is a symbol of self-determination'

intervened on the island from 1987 to 1990, the Tigers also inflicted on them a humiliating defeat. During the Indian occupation, the Balasinghams were on the invaders' wanted list.

Fanatical Black Tigers - as the Tamils suicide squads are also known - are suspected of having assassinated a Sri Lankan President, a leading politician, a defence minister, scores of generals, and even a former Premier of India, Mr Rajiv Gandhi. A trio of suicide tigresses even sank the Sri Lankan navy's second-biggest ship.

Now, having realised that the Tigers on their Jaffna Peninsular strongholds cannot be over-run, the new Sri Lankan President, Mrs Chandrika Kumaratunga, has opted for peace. A cease-fire is now in its third week and holding, a record for Sri Lanka, where mistrust and suspicion runs high on both sides. The Tiger chief, Prabakharan, recently dropped his demand for a tiny, independent State on Sri Lanka - an island the size of Tasmania but with Australia's population. He may settle for self-rule under a federation.

The ***Tamil Tigers*** have become one of the most successful guerilla movements in modern times not only because of their mastery of hit-and-run tactics but also through their fanaticism. A cult of martyrdom has been whipped up among the Tamils that far surpasses anything seen among the better-known Muslim extremists groups in the Middle East, such as Hamas and Islamic Jihad.

The Tamil commanders have done so by recruiting a school children's army, where boys and girls begin secret training with the Tigers and are warned not to tell their parents. In Jaffna, nearly every square has a shrine dedicated to "martyred combatants" with larger than life images of the dead soldiers, like screen idols.

Many Tamils are Christians, and both the Anglican and Catholic churches are extremely militant. They condone Tamil martyrdom. Father Emmanuel, who lectures at the St Francis Xavier Seminary in Jaffna, said, "I was born a Tamil first. Then I became a Christian." Even the suicidal death squads are theologically acceptable, he claimed. "The Church refused to let suicides have a Christian burial. But for us, these boys and girls aren't suicides, they're martyrs and patriots. They're giving up their lives the way Jesus Christ did." Hindu Tamils, who die in combat, are not cremated, as their faith dictates, but instead are buried. The vision of long rows of tombstones at the Martyrs Resting Place keeps the Tamils' hatred of the Sri Lankan army at fever pitch. "Those who fall in battle are the seeds for future Tamil generations," one Tiger political worker explained.

But after so many years of war, this fanaticism is beginning to pale for some of the 800,000 Tamils inside the Tiger-held region of Jaffna. The Tiger chief, Prabakharan, is merciless against dissidents; although no guerillas are allowed to wear their weapons in the streets, in Jaffna few dare speak out against the Tigers.

Yet, when a Sri Lankan army helicopter flew in the first peace mission from Colombo recently, joyful Tamils mobbed the pilot, smothering him in kisses.

The next day, the official Tigers' Voice newspaper scolded the crowds: "Don't forget, a week ago, this same pilot was shooting at you and your children."

Graphic

Illus: Eye of the Tiger ... Adele Balasingham, who has fought with the guerillas for 15 years. Photograph by DOMINIC SANSONI Map: Sri Lanka - Tamil Tiger strongholds

Load-Date: July 23, 2007

Sri Lanka: how to defuse terror

The Star Phoenix (Saskatoon, Saskatchewan)

August 8, 2002 Thursday Final Edition

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Section: Forum; Thomas Friedman; Pg. A12; Column

Length: 743 words

Byline: Thomas Friedman

Dateline: COLOMBO, Sri Lanka

Body

COLOMBO, Sri Lanka -- It's often forgotten that, while suicide bombing started in the Middle East, the people who perfected suicide as a weapon of war were the **Tamil Tigers** militia here in Sri Lanka, the island-state off the southern tip of India.

In the last decade, Tamil suicide bombers, many of them **women**, killed some 1,500 people, including an Indian prime minister and a Sri Lankan president. And in a bizarre twist, the Tigers filmed many of their suicide bombings to show and motivate their troops.

But since December, a cease-fire between the Tigers -- who have been militating for a separate state for Sri Lanka's Tamil Hindu minority in the northeast -- and the government, which is dominated by the Buddhist Sinhalese majority, has halted all suicide bombings.

New York Times Service

No one can be sure it will last, after 18 years of civil war. But it's still worth examining how suicide was defused here and whether any of this might apply to Palestinians and Israelis.

To begin with, one of the key factors in halting Tamil suicide bombings was the Tamil diaspora, living in North America, Europe and India. This Tamil diaspora had been the main source of funding for the **Tamil Tigers**. But the Tamil diaspora is made up largely of middle-class merchants and professionals, and when in the late 1990s the U.S., Britain and India all declared the Tigers a "terrorist" group, not freedom fighters, the Tamil diaspora became embarrassed by them and started choking off their funds.

"The Tamil diaspora started out as a force encouraging Tamil radicalism, but eventually it evolved into a source for moderation," said Suresh Premachandran, head of a Tamil rights party in Sri Lanka. "Sept. 11 changed that even more. People here knew after that there would never be any sympathy for any suicide bombers."

Unfortunately, in the Middle East, Arabs and Muslims continue to indulge, justify, praise or provide religious legitimation for Palestinian suicide bombers, even after 9/11. The Palestinians have convinced themselves, with the help of many Arabs and Europeans, that their grievance is so special, so enormous that it isn't bound by any limits of civilized behaviour, and therefore they are entitled to do whatever they want to Israelis. And Israelis have convinced themselves that they are entitled to do virtually anything to stop it.

Second, Sri Lankans had to pay retail for their extremism. They had no oil or foreign powers to finance their war. And because so much domestic savings was diverted to the war, Sri Lanka's roads and infrastructure today are

Sri Lanka : how to defuse terror

decrepit. It is not surprising, therefore, that the peace movement, which blossomed in the last two years, was led by the business community -- particularly after the **Tamil Tigers** blew up Colombo's airport in July 2001 and sent the country into an economic tailspin.

"The business community finally said, 'Enough is enough'," said Mahesh Amalean, chair of MAS Holdings, Sri Lanka's leading apparel maker. "That turned the tide. Our motto became 'Sri Lanka first'."

Israelis and Palestinians, by contrast, got to buy their extremism wholesale. Palestinians could engage in suicide bombings without becoming destitute because the Arab states are always ready to pass the hat for them. Israelis have been able to build insane settlements in the heart of the West Bank, because the U.S. was ready to provide aid with no limits attached.

Third, in Sri Lanka, the government realized it had no military solution for suicide bombers -- that the only way they could be stopped was if the Tigers themselves could be induced to turn them off. The Tigers, meanwhile, realized that while they could terrify the government with suicides, they couldn't even hold their own ethnic capital, Jaffna. So, they both finally opted for negotiations.

Unfortunately, the Palestinians abandoned a peace offer and opted instead for the delusion that suicide bombing will get them more. And Ariel Sharon has opted for a purely military response.

Finally, while Jews and Arabs have carried out their war with all the world watching -- and often meddling in ways that prolonged the conflict -- Sri Lankans have conducted their war, in which 64,000 people have died, with almost no coverage.

"Ours has been a forgotten war, and we've had to live with our mistakes and to find our own way out," said Milinda Moragoda, one of the government's peace negotiators. "It had its disadvantages, but also its advantages."

Load-Date: August 8, 2002

End of Document

Troops relieve the besieged Jaffna Fort

The Independent (London)

September 14, 1990, Friday

Copyright 1990 Independent Print Ltd

Section: FOREIGN NEWS PAGE; Page 13

Length: 388 words

Byline: From JOHN COLMEY in Colombo

Body

FOUR companies of Sri Lankan army commandos invaded the Jaffna Peninsula from the sea yesterday and fought their way to Jaffna Fort, ending a 96-day siege by the *Tamil Tigers*.

The army had hoped to cross a nearby causeway when the main offensive to take the fort began three weeks ago, but apparently decided to advance by sea rather than wait until the land bridge was cleared of Tiger landmines. At least 12 soldiers died and 40 were wounded in the assault at dawn. Military sources said as many as 100 guerrillas also died.

Relief came just in time for the estimated 200 soldiers and policemen who had been trapped inside the garrison since the *Tamil Tigers* renewed their military campaign for a separate state on 12 June. Running short of food and ammunition, the men were also subjected to daily attacks from Tiger snipers, mortar fire and heavy artillery.

According to the Sri Lankan army commander, Lt-Gen Hamilton Wanasinghe, once the area around the fort is cleared an additional 3,000 soldiers will be moved to Jaffna in an effort to gain control of the entire peninsula, a Tiger stronghold, in the north of the country. "It'll be quite a while before civil administration is properly established in Jaffna," said Lt-Gen Wanasinghe."

There have been reports of in-fighting among the Tiger leadership, the most recent from a group of *women* Tigers who deserted to Tamil Nadu in India. Popular support for the guerrillas is reported to be declining because of increasing brutality towards civilians.

At the same time the government is having difficulty in sustaining support for the war among the majority Sinhalese, themselves besieged by rising inflation and unemployment made worse by the Gulf crisis. Sri Lanka's economy has been particularly hard hit by the crisis, putting in doubt the government's ability to continue to fund a war costing pounds 160,000 a day.

"If the crisis continues the economic situation in the south will be ungovernable by December," said a diplomat in Colombo. "The government will have to negotiate."

Although the government had originally sought a quick military victory over the Tigers, most officers now say they do not have the soldiers or the equipment to win the war. The best they can hope for is to "pressure the Tigers to the negotiating table". Taking the fort is the first step.

Troops relieve the besieged Jaffna Fort

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SRI LANKA: CORNER OF A HOMELAND THAT IS FOREVER
"VIETNAM" Analysis By IPS Correspondents

IPS-Inter Press Service

July 23, 1996, Tuesday

Copyright 1996 IPS-Inter Press Service/Global Information Network

Length: 1239 words

Dateline: COLOMBO, Jul. 23

Body

It was the corner of Sri Lanka that the soldiers who fought there nicknamed "Vietnam," where the forests and the fighting are as thick as can be found anywhere on the island, that the Indian Army decided it had enough.

In June of 1988, after months of constant losses and no advance against Sri Lanka's separatist Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (**LTTE**), the so-called Indian Peace Keeping Force began to withdraw from the nearby port of Trincomalee.

As they left they fought a fierce rear-guard action through "Vietnam," the rough forest around the forward army base of Mullaitivu, aiming to ensure that their withdrawal could be safely described in public as a "redeployment," and not as a "retreat."

"Mullaitivu," an Indian Army paratroop officer said memorably at the time, "will not be our Dien Bien Phu." It was another reference to Vietnam, to the 1950s French base from which its colonial army tried and failed to break the Viet Minh rebels.

Dien Bien Phu fell after a savage battle and months of fruitless efforts to relieve it, in May 1954. Thousands of French and Foreign Legion troops were killed, wounded and captured. It was a defining moment in post-war French history and no small date in the diaries of the Viet Minh either. The French accepted the fact that Vietnam was no longer theirs and withdrew as gracefully as they could.

What is happening in Sri Lanka is no Vietnam, a war in which some two million have died, scarring the consciousness of an generation worldwide. Some 50,000 have died in Sri Lanka's own inconclusive war, 13 years old on July 23, against the ferociously tenacious **LTTE**.

And the American round of the Vietnam War, in its own 13 year reach between 1962 and 1975, was covered inch by inch by the world's media. There is no media covering the fighting at Mullaitivu in 1996, journalists having been excluded by forest to the north and strict state control to the south.

Yet the analogies so lightly dropped in 1988, when Sri Lankan and Indian troops watched pirated Saudi videos of Oliver Stone's Vietnam movie "Platoon" before loping out through the thickets on their own doomed and pointless real-life patrols, are back again.

As the fighting around Mullaitivu re-intensifies for one more uncountable time, the talk is once more of Vietnam and the base at Mullaitivu as Sri Lanka's own Dien Bien Phu.

SRI LANKA : CORNER OF A HOMELAND THAT IS FOREVER " VIETNAM " Analysis By IPS Correspondents

Not much is known about what is happening at Mullaitivu, and not just through lack of television news crews. LTTE spokesmen in London claim that their side have killed 1,208 Sri Lankan troops, a bizarrely precise number for an ongoing battle of such magnitude, but frighteningly close to the camp's normal contingent. (The LTTE put their dead at 241, including 68 LTTE "Tigress" women fighters).

Colombo is more cautious said Deputy Defense Minister Anurudha Ratwatte conceding that the LTTE morale was clearly high. Yet there is much evidence to suggest that the total has already overtaken the 750 government troops killed in a single assault in 1993, making it the worst military debacle in the 13 year war.

Ratwatte, who led the army to what was prematurely described as a decisive victory over the LTTE in the town of Jaffna this year, refuses to give figures. "We can't give numbers just like that," he snapped at reporters yesterday. "This is not a cricket game."

Indeed it is not. According to some reports, just 15 soldiers escaped the LTTE attack, struggling through forests for three days without food, water and ammunition before reaching safety on July 21 in the historic town of Anuradhapura, once, a long time ago, one of the island's top tourist spots.

Today's 13th anniversary marked the day in 1983 when a LTTE ambush killed 13 Sri Lankan troops and triggered vicious island-wide attacks by the majority of its Sinhalese community on its Tamil minority. Hundreds died in rioting between July 24-27 in 1983, forcing Sri Lanka's 2.5 million Tamils into support for what was then a maverick and lightly armed rebel guerrilla force.

Since then the LTTE has transformed itself into a fearsome fighting machine. It saw off the Indian Army, fourth largest in the world; is believed to have killed the Indian Prime Minister who ordered them in; and has too many times bested the Sri Lankan army.

Dozens of times the government forces have shouldered their French-made backpacks, locked and loaded Indian-made rifles and Belgian pistols, tuned in Israeli radios to call down British-made spotter planes on targets fixed by U.S.-made rangefinders and plastered them with Swedish-made light artillery.

And dozens of times the LTTE have scattered into the forests to strike again later.

The July 23 anniversary usually brings attacks on civilian targets in Colombo and assaults on security forces. Three years ago more than 50 died as the LTTE marked the anniversary of the riots with a massive blitz on an army camp.

President Chandrika Bandaranaike Kumaratunga has returned from a private tour abroad to personally supervise the fighting. Talks are said not to be an option: the LTTE have flatly rejected extensive devolution proposals that have only undermined Bandaranaike's own support among the Sinhalese right-wing.

This where the Dien Bien Phu analogy falters. In 1954, when French General Christian de Castries called enough, 2,000 were dead and 7,000 missing or wounded after 55 days of remorseless fighting.

But on the same day, May 8, 1954 in Geneva, Pham Van Dong, later Prime Minister of a united Vietnam, was able to look across the table to French Foreign Minister Georges Bidault and hear him call defeat.

Negotiations in Geneva had ebbed and flowed with the tide of war. But Viet Minh General Vo Nguyen Giap had given Dong the military edge in the talks, not to mention 7,000 French POWs.

In the 74 days of negotiations that followed the French recognized the Communist government and the end of 150 years of colonial rule in Vietnam. There are no negotiations with the LTTE planned or expected.

Not only that, but France was a colonial power. Colonialism was exposed at Dien Bien Phu as more than just morally unacceptable, but also, as the writer Paul Cleves noted, also "economically ruinous and now militarily unenforceable."

SRI LANKA : CORNER OF A HOMELAND THAT IS FOREVER " VIETNAM " Analysis By IPS Correspondents

Sri Lanka is not a colonial power. The land in dispute was accepted as part of a single independent state by Sinhalese and Tamil alike in 1948. But, as Cleves noted, "the lesson of the battle of Dien Bien Phu was that if the French, with U.S. support, could not hold just one strategic fort their authority in Vietnam, ever tenuous and always imposed was at an end."

Dien Bien Phu's strongpoints, supposedly named after de Castries' mistresses, Beatrice, Gabrielle, and Anne-Marie, fell swiftly, exposing flawed strategy and hopeless underestimation of the enemy. It is here the analogy leaps back to life.

France has put Dien Bien Phu behind it. Veterans are touring the battle zone on scheduled holiday trips. Films and books have sanctified the battle, no one except the British and the Serbs revere a "honorable defeat" like the French.

Today the abiding memory of the slaughter belongs to nurse Genevieve de Galard-Terraube, the so-called "Angel of Dien Bien Phu," caring for the wounded throughout the battle.

But there are no talks to bring the slaughter to an end in Sri Lanka, no films to be made or books to be written, no "Angel of Mullaitivu" to soften defeat. Fulsome foreign military aid has not turned the tide.

Only more war and more death is to come.

Load-Date: July 24, 1996

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Mideast parties could learn from Sri Lanka's peace

Deseret News (Salt Lake City)

August 10, 2002, Saturday

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Section: OPINION;

Length: 746 words

Byline: By Thomas L. Friedman

Body

COLOMBO, Sri Lanka -- It's often forgotten that while suicide bombing started in the Middle East, the people who perfected suicide as a weapon of war were the Tamil Tigers militia here in Sri Lanka, the island-state off the southern tip of India.

In the last decade, Tamil suicide bombers, many of them women, killed about 1,500 people, including an Indian prime minister and a Sri Lankan president. And in a bizarre twist, the Tigers filmed many of their suicide bombings to show and motivate their troops.

But since last December a cease-fire between the Tigers -- who have been militating for a separate state for Sri Lanka's Tamil Hindu minority in the northeast -- and the government, which is dominated by the Buddhist Sinhalese majority, has halted all suicide bombings. No one can be sure it will last, after 18 years of civil war. But it's still worth examining how suicide was defused here, and whether any of this might apply to Palestinians and Israelis.

To begin with, one of the key factors in halting Tamil suicide bombings was the Tamil diaspora, living in North America, Europe and India. This Tamil diaspora had been the main source of funding for the Tamil Tigers. But the Tamil diaspora is made up largely of middle-class merchants and professionals, and when in the late 1990s the United States, Britain and India all declared the Tigers a "terrorist" group, not freedom fighters, the Tamil diaspora became embarrassed by them and started choking off their funds.

"The Tamil diaspora started out as a force encouraging Tamil radicalism, but eventually it evolved into a source for moderation," said Suresh Premachandran, head of a Tamil rights party in Sri Lanka. "Sept. 11 changed that even more. People here knew after that there would never be any sympathy for any suicide bombers."

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Second, Sri Lankans had to pay retail for their extremism. They had no oil or foreign powers to finance their war. And because so much domestic savings was diverted to the war, Sri Lanka's roads and infrastructure today are decrepit. It is not surprising, therefore, that the peace movement, which blossomed in the last two years, was led by the business community -- particularly after the Tamil Tigers blew up Colombo's airport in July 2001 and sent the country into an economic tailspin.

Mideast parties could learn from Sri Lanka 's peace

"The business community finally said, 'Enough is enough,'" said Mahesh Amalean, chairman of MAS Holdings, Sri Lanka's leading apparel maker. "That turned the tide. Our motto became 'Sri Lanka first.'"

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Finally, while Jews and Arabs have carried out their war with all the world watching -- and often meddling in ways that prolonged the conflict -- Sri Lankans have conducted their war, in which 64,000 people have died, with almost no coverage.

"Ours has been a forgotten war, and we've had to live with our mistakes and to find our own way out," said Milinda Moragoda, one of the government's peace negotiators. "It had its disadvantages but also its advantages."

New York Times News Service

Load-Date: August 10, 2002

End of Document

Supreme court extends stay on hangings in Rajiv Gandhi murder case

Deutsche Presse-Agentur

August 17, 1999, Tuesday, BC Cycle 07:26 Central European Time

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Section: International News

Length: 338 words

Dateline: New Delhi

Body

The Indian Supreme Court Tuesday extended until further orders its stay on the hanging of four people convicted of the assassination of former prime minister Rajiv Gandhi.

The court directed its officials to set a date for a final hearing of petitions filed by them to review the sentence. The hearing was put off by judges S.S.M. Qadri, K.T. Thomas and D.P. Wadhwa who said they were busy with other matters.

The lawyer for defendants Nalini, her husband Murugan, Perarivalan and Santhan said he would argue at the final hearing that the sentences of the four deserved to be commuted to life imprisonment.

In a judgement on May 11, the Supreme Court had confirmed death sentences for the four, reduced the sentences of three others to life imprisonment and released the remaining 19 accused.

The court had earlier stayed the execution on July 15 and said it would hear their review petitions on Tuesday.

The Supreme Court also has a petition by the federal police Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) seeking a review of the order releasing the 19 accused before it.

A total of 26 people, all activists and sympathizers of the Sri Lankan separatist Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (**LTTE**) were sentenced to death by a special court in the southern city of Madras.

Rajiv Gandhi, then the opposition leader, was killed on May 21, 1991, along with 17 others by Dhanu, a **female** Sri Lankan Tamil suicide bomber, in Sriperumbudur in the southern state of Tamil Nadu while campaigning for his Congress Party in parliamentary elections.

LTTE chief Velupillai Prabhakaran, his intelligence chief Pottu Amman and **LTTE women's** wing leader Akhila were among 41 accused in the case.

But only 26 could be brought to trial as the others either died or could not be brought in from **LTTE** strongholds in northern and eastern Sri Lanka.

The **LTTE's** opposition to Gandhi stemmed from his sending Indian peace-keeping forces to Sri Lanka to end the secessionist conflict there in favour of the Colombo government. dpa mvb fz

Supreme court extends stay on hangings in Rajiv Gandhi murder case

Load-Date: August 17, 1999

End of Document

Lessons From Sri Lanka

The New York Times

August 7, 2002 Wednesday

Late Edition - Final

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Section: Section A; Column 6; Editorial Desk; Pg. 17

Length: 736 words

Byline: By THOMAS L. FRIEDMAN

Dateline: COLOMBO, Sri Lanka

Body

It's often forgotten that while suicide bombing started in the Middle East, the people who perfected suicide as a weapon of war were the **Tamil Tigers** militia here in Sri Lanka, the island-state off the southern tip of India. In the last decade, Tamil suicide bombers, many of them women, killed some 1,500 people, including an Indian prime minister and a Sri Lankan president. And in a bizarre twist, the Tigers filmed many of their suicide bombings to show and motivate their troops.

But since last December a cease-fire between the Tigers -- who have been militating for a separate state for Sri Lanka's Tamil Hindu minority in the northeast -- and the government, which is dominated by the Buddhist Sinhalese majority, has halted all suicide bombings. No one can be sure it will last, after 18 years of civil war. But it's still worth examining how suicide was defused here, and whether any of this might apply to Palestinians and Israelis.

To begin with, one of the key factors in halting Tamil suicide bombings was the Tamil diaspora, living in North America, Europe and India. This Tamil diaspora had been the main source of funding for the **Tamil Tigers**. But the Tamil diaspora is made up largely of middle-class merchants and professionals, and when in the late 1990's the U.S., Britain and India all declared the Tigers a "terrorist" group, not freedom fighters, the Tamil diaspora became embarrassed by them and started choking off their funds.

"The Tamil diaspora started out as a force encouraging Tamil radicalism, but eventually it evolved into a source for moderation," said Suresh Premachandran, head of a Tamil rights party in Sri Lanka. "Sept. 11 changed that even more. People here knew after that there would never be any sympathy for any suicide bombers."

Unfortunately, in the Middle East Arabs and Muslims continue to indulge, justify, praise or provide religious legitimation for Palestinian suicide bombers, even after 9/11. The Palestinians have convinced themselves, with the help of many Arabs and Europeans, that their grievance is so special, so enormous that it isn't bound by any limits of civilized behavior, and therefore they are entitled to do whatever they want to Israelis. And Israelis have convinced themselves that they are entitled to do virtually anything to stop it.

Second, Sri Lankans had to pay retail for their extremism. They had no oil or foreign powers to finance their war. And because so much domestic savings was diverted to the war, Sri Lanka's roads and infrastructure today are decrepit. It is not surprising, therefore, that the peace movement, which blossomed in the last two years, was led by

Lessons From Sri Lanka

the business community -- particularly after the Tamil Tigers blew up Colombo's airport in July 2001 and sent the country into an economic tailspin.

"The business community finally said, 'Enough is enough,' " said Mahesh Amalean, chairman of MAS Holdings, Sri Lanka's leading apparel maker. "That turned the tide. Our motto became 'Sri Lanka first.' "

Israelis and Palestinians, by contrast, got to buy their extremism wholesale. Palestinians could engage in suicide bombings without becoming destitute because the Arab states are always ready to pass the hat for them. Israelis have been able to build insane settlements in the heart of the West Bank, because the U.S. was ready to provide aid with no limits attached.

Third, in Sri Lanka the government realized it had no military solution for suicide bombers -- that the only way they could be stopped was if the Tigers themselves could be induced to turn them off. The Tigers, meanwhile, realized they while they could terrify the government with suicides, they couldn't even hold their own ethnic capital, Jaffna. So they both finally opted for negotiations. Unfortunately, the Palestinians abandoned a peace offer and opted instead for the delusion that suicide bombing will get them more, and Ariel Sharon has opted for a purely military response.

Finally, while Jews and Arabs have carried out their war with all the world watching -- and often meddling in ways that prolonged the conflict -- Sri Lankans have conducted their war, in which 64,000 people have died, with almost no coverage.

"Ours has been a forgotten war, and we've had to live with our mistakes and to find our own way out," said Milinda Moragoda, one of the government's peace negotiators. "It had its disadvantages, but also its advantages."

<http://www.nytimes.com>

Load-Date: August 7, 2002

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HOW TERRORISTS WERE TAMED SRI LANKA SHOULD BE A CASE STUDY

Pittsburgh Post-Gazette (Pennsylvania)

August 8, 2002 Thursday

SOONER EDITION

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Section: EDITORIAL,

Length: 740 words

Dateline: COLOMBO, Sri Lanka

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It's often forgotten that while suicide bombing started in the Middle East, the people who perfected suicide as a weapon of war were the Tamil Tigers militia here in Sri Lanka, the island-state off the southern tip of India.

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HOW TERRORISTS WERE TAMED SRI LANKA SHOULD BE A CASE STUDY

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Notes

Thomas L. Friedman is a syndicated columnist for The New York Times, specializing in foreign affairs.

Load-Date: August 8, 2002

End of Document

11 rebels reported killed as military continues attacks in Lanka

Deutsche Presse-Agentur

April 1, 2001, Sunday, BC Cycle 10:12 Central European Time

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Section: International News

Length: 259 words

Dateline: Colombo

Body

Government troops backed by Air Force jets continued to carry out attacks on Tamil rebels in northern Sri Lanka, killing at least 11 rebels over the weekend, military officials said Sunday.

Air Force jets bombed rebel positions in the Nagarkovil area, 370 kilometres north of the capital Colombo on Saturday, destroying the positions and inflicting casualties, officials said.

They said at least seven rebels had been killed in the attacks, according to radio transmissions of the rebels of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (**LTTE**) monitored by security forces.

In a separate incident Saturday three rebels were killed by ground troops who attacked a row of enemy bunkers in the Kilali area, officials said.

A **female** rebel was shot dead by the army in the Mhuamali area of the northern Jaffna peninsula on Saturday during a confrontation.

Government troops have been continuing their military offensives against the rebels despite the **LTTE** declaring a unilateral cease-fire in a bid to facilitate peace talks.

The government has refused to accept the cease-fire offer, but agreed to talk with the **LTTE**.

Norway's peace envoy to Sri Lanka, Erik Solheim, is trying to facilitate talks between the government and the **LTTE**, but so far there has been no indication as to when talks could commence.

Rebels claim to be fighting for an independent homeland for minority Tamils in the north and eastern parts of Sri Lanka.

The ethnic war has continued for the past 18 years claiming an estimated 67,000 lives. dpa ad vc

Load-Date: April 1, 2001

Troops kill over 300 rebels in counter-attack in northern Lanka

Deutsche Presse-Agentur

July 29, 1995, Saturday, BC Cycle 09:54 Central European Time

Copyright 1995 Deutsche Presse-Agentur

Section: International News

Length: 372 words

Dateline: Colombo

Body

An estimated 300 rebels have been killed by security forces in an abortive attack by fighters of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (**LTTE**) on four military detachments in the north-eastern part of the country, marking one of the biggest setbacks to the Tamil separatists in their 12-year-old armed struggle, a military spokesman said Saturday.

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

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

More than 200 rebel bodies had been recovered so far and the military was handing over the bodies to the International Committee of Red Cross (ICRC), a defence ministry spokesman said Saturday.

The Lankan military described the counter-attack as one of the most successful in the conflict with the **LTTE**, which has so far claimed over 33,000 lives.

The military said only two soldiers had been killed in the attack and that a large stock of weapons was seized in the counter-attack.

The pre-dawn abortive attack by the rebels came just two weeks after government troops conducted a major offensive and advanced towards the rebel stronghold of the northern main city of Jaffna. The troops advanced nearly 200 kilometres, stopping just six kilometres short of the city before returning to their bases.

Since then the government has formulated a proposal aimed at ending the crisis. It offers extensive devolution to the north and east, where the **LTTE** is fighting for an independent homeland for the minority Tamils. The proposal is expected to be announced officially by President Chandrika Kumaratunga next week.

The military offensive is also regarded as an attempt to persuade the **LTTE** to return to the negotiating table.

The rebels unilaterally ended a three and a half month truce and peace talks with the government and resumed fighting on April 19. Since then over 1,000 people have been killed. dpa ad kr

Troops kill over 300 rebels in counter-attack in northern Lanka

Load-Date: July 29, 1995

End of Document

Sri Lankan government, Tamil Tiger rebels make breakthrough in peace talks

December 5, 2002, Thursday, BC cycle

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Section: International News

Length: 426 words

Byline: By SHIMALI SENANAYAKE, Associated Press Writer

Dateline: OSLO, Norway

Body

Sri Lanka and the *Tamil Tigers* agreed Thursday to develop a government that would give the rebels regional autonomy, a breakthrough decision capping months of efforts to end 19 years of fighting.

The *Tamil Tigers* have been fighting for independence since 1983, but gave up the demand just ahead of the third round of peace talks in Norway. Now both sides have agreed to pursue peace by allowing the Tamil-dominated regions in the north and east to govern themselves autonomously, according to a draft copy of the joint statement obtained by The Associated Press.

"The parties have decided to explore a political solution founded on internal self-determination based on a federal structure within a united Sri Lanka," the statement said.

It also said an existing cease-fire must continue and "that new concrete measures will be taken to facilitate further de-escalation."

Norway's Deputy Foreign Minister Vidar Helgesen said the three days of talks were conducted in a "frank, open and constructive manner."

The statement said the rebels would allow competing political parties to stay in their regions as long as they are unarmed, and that the activities of their courts and police would not extend into government-held areas.

Chief rebel negotiator Anton Balasingham said "both parties made an unprecedented historic decision."

The Liberation Tigers of Tamileelam had long demanded a separate homeland for the island's 3.2 million Tamil minority. They claim the country's 14 million Sinhalese discriminate against them. The fighting has claimed nearly 65,000 lives and displaced another 1.6 million people.

Government negotiator Gamini Peiris said his country was committed to peace.

"There is not going to be a war. We are certain of that," he said. "The people of the country are yearning for peace."

The agreement came exactly a year after a parliamentary election in Sri Lanka that brought Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe to power with a pledge to make peace.

Sri Lankan government, Tamil Tiger rebels make breakthrough in peace talks

Ways of incorporating the rebels into the government will be examined in the next round of talks. Human rights, public finance, and law and order will be discussed at upcoming meetings, in Thailand in January and Japan in March.

The Tigers - who have admitted recruiting child fighters - agreed to work with the U.N. Children's Fund on that issue, and both sides agreed to establish a joint committee to examine women's issues.

Balasingham also said a separate Muslim delegation would be included in future talks. Sri Lanka's 1.3 million Muslims are fearful of being marginalized in any final settlement.

Load-Date: December 6, 2002

End of Document

50 killed in renewed Sri Lanka violence

The Independent
April 14 1989, Friday

Copyright 1989 Independent Print Ltd

Section: Foreign News ; Pg. 11

Length: 400 words

Byline: From IQBAL ATHAS of United Press International

Body

COLOMBO - A car bomb planted by Tamil extremists exploded yesterday in the heart of a bustling market in north-eastern Sri Lanka, killing at least 45 people and wounding 57 others. Enraged Buddhists killed five Tamils in retaliation.

A senior military official said the powerful device exploded at 10am and appeared to have been timed to inflict maximum casualties in the central market, crowded with thousands of Sinhalese buying presents for yesterday's celebrations of the Buddhist New Year. 'The bomb had been planted inside an old Morris Minor and parked near the clock tower in the heart of the town,' the official said of the incident in the port city of Trincomalee.

'The scene resembled a slaughterhouse. Limbs, legs and pieces of flesh were strewn all over the place, and blood was splattered around like paint.' The death toll was the second highest from a single attack since the Tamil rebellion erupted more than five years ago. About 230 people were killed on 24 April, 1987, when a bomb planted in a lorry exploded at a Colombo bus station.

Yesterday's car bomb attack was followed by revenge killings as Sinhalese hunted Tamils in the market near the 17th century fort. The Buddhists killed five Hindus, four of them women, the military official said, adding that the blast and the communal violence prompted the authorities to declare an indefinite curfew across the city, parts of which were sealed off for search operations by Sri Lankan and Indian troops.

The Deputy Defence Minister, Ranjan Wijeratne, travelled with senior military personnel to Trincomalee to assess the situation and report back to President Ranasinghe Premadasa. The attack appeared aimed at marking the Tamil Tigers' rejection of the unilateral weeklong ceasefire declared on Wednesday by the government in Colombo. The Tigers said on Tuesday that ceasefires would be unnecessary if their goal of the creation of the nation of Tamil Eelam was met. The government's offer was a 'ruse to make us surrender arms'.

On Wednesday, Tamil rebels detonated a land mine under an Indian patrol near the northern city of Vavuniya and followed it up with an intense barrage, in which 13 soldiers and four Tamils died. The Tamil Tigers, led by Vellupillai Prabhakaran, have been reduced to about 1,000 fighters, most of whom have retreated to hideouts in dense jungle along the remote north-eastern coast.

Foreign News Page 11

Load-Date: September 28, 2000

50 killed in renewed Sri Lanka violence

End of Document

Indian Troops Faulted For Holding Up Peace Accord

The Associated Press

January 23, 1988, Saturday, AM cycle

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Section: International News

Length: 396 words

Byline: By PATRICK CRUEZ, Associated Press Writer

Dateline: COLOMBO, Sri Lanka

Body

Sri Lankan government officials on Saturday said Indian troops are delaying peace in their country because they have failed to disarm Tamil rebels.

President Junius R. Jaywardene and two Cabinet ministers will meet Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi of India in New Delhi this week to discuss Sri Lanka.

Senior government officials, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said Jaywardene will tell Gandhi that Sri Lanka has completed its part of the peace accord between the two countries, but peace has been delayed by the failure of Indian troops to "defang the **Tamil Tigers**."

Other issues will include allegations that Indian troops have raped **women** and looted towns, the officials said.

The peace accord, signed in Colombo last July 29, called for elections to establish councils in all of the island's nine provinces by Dec. 31, 1987.

Another clause of the agreement called on the Sri Lankan government to lift the emergency regulations covering the Tamil-dominated northern and eastern provinces by last Aug. 15.

"Both time-frames have fallen by the wayside because from Sri Lanka's point of view the **Tamil Tigers** have not been subdued by thousands of Indian troops," said one government source.

An estimated 25,000 Indian soldiers are in Sri Lanka to enforce a peace pact aimed at ending the civil war Tamil rebels began four years ago for an independent homeland.

Tamils, who make up 18 percent of the national population of 16 million, say they are discriminated against by the Sinhalese majority. Sinhalese comprise 75 percent of the population and control the national government and the military.

The Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam are the most dominant Tamil rebel group and have rejected the peace accord.

Government sources said they did not believe that the provincial elections would be held until April. The elections would allow the Tamil minority to set up semi-autonomous governments in the northern and eastern provinces.

Jaywardene and his delegation will leave for New Delhi Monday and return next Saturday.

Indian Troops Faulted For Holding Up Peace Accord

On the eve of his trip, Jayewardene was facing criticism from his fellow Sinhalese, the Tamils and members of his government who increasingly are critical of the Indian presence in Sri Lanka.

The Sinhalese allege that the president has sold out their rights to Tamil extremists. The Tamils say Jayewardene has given them no alternative but to fight for a separate state.

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Sri Lanka Gov't., Rebels Make Peace Deal

Associated Press Online

December 5, 2002 Thursday

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Section: INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Length: 426 words

Byline: SHIMALI SENANAYAKE; Associated Press Writer

Dateline: OSLO, Norway

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Load-Date: December 6, 2002

End of Document

Bombing the ballot box

Sydney Morning Herald (Australia)

December 24, 1999 Friday

Late Edition

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Section: NEWS AND FEATURES; News Review; Pg. 19

Length: 2038 words

Byline: Christopher Kremmer

Body

Sri Lanka's President Kumaratunga won a second term in office after surviving an assassination attempt. Christopher Kremmer asks, will Sri Lanka survive her?

IT WAS probably the most remarkable lunch in the world this week, as Sri Lanka's re-elected President Chandrika Kumaratunga rallied the party faithful at her palatial residence, Temple Trees, just four days after a Tamil suicide bomber narrowly failed to kill her.

Kumaratunga, 54, was riding an emotional roller-coaster hours after she was returned to office with 51 per cent of the national vote in elections marred by unprecedented violence that physically and emotionally scarred even her.

The tears flowed as, addressing a hundred or so of her closest colleagues, family and friends after taking the oath of office, she spoke of staring into the abyss and confronting an enemy called hatred.

"I see him in front of me as I speak. I see him. I know him . . . I have felt his touch for the last time," she said. "The night of December 18 will go down in history as the night this land was touched by the hand of darkness one too many times."

The hand referred to is the 45-year-old son of a low-caste Tamil civil servant, Velupillai Prabhakaran, who has built up one of the world's most formidable guerilla armies, the **Tamil Tigers**, which undoubtedly carried out the failed hit on the President. He has been throwing bombs since he was 18.

Only Prabhakaran, who controls a vast belt of jungle across the north of this Indian Ocean island, can inspire young Tamils to such an extent that they compete for the right to obliterate themselves and innocent bystanders in their quest for martyrdom as members of the elite Black Tigers (suicide squads).

Last Saturday night at two election rallies in Colombo, two of them were lurking, young Tamil **women** wearing saris which concealed specially designed vests carrying a lethal combination of TNT and steel ball bearings. The crowds around them were festive, celebrating the final election rallies of the Government and Opposition. With the single-mindedness of the assassin, the bombers manoeuvred themselves towards the podiums, and when they could move no nearer, blew themselves and 54 other Sri Lankans to kingdom come.

Shielded by the car she was getting into at the time of the blast in the graceful grounds of the white-washed Colombo Town Hall, Kumaratunga was sprayed by fragments of shrapnel and bone from the other victims. One of

Bombing the ballot box

the cameramen filming her, and her personal chauffeur of 38 years died in the blast. The President, suffering from shock, was rushed to hospital and underwent surgery for injuries to her face and right eye.

At Wednesday's swearing-in ceremony, Kumaratunga and her Cabinet resembled the walking wounded: she sporting a white eye patch and strips of sticking plaster on her face and head, the Constitutional Affairs Minister, Professor G. L. Peiris, with one arm in a sling, who attended despite having undergone an operation to remove shrapnel from his lungs, and others carried injuries.

Until the blasts, the Government's campaign had been faltering, with voters attracted by the slick campaign of the Opposition's presidential candidate, Ranil Wickremesinghe, and blaming Kumaratunga for failing to deliver on her promise of ending the 16-year-long ethnic conflict that has claimed more than 60,000 lives. But buoyed by a wave of sympathy that contributed to the record 75 per cent voter turnout, Kumaratunga survived politically, as well as physically, in a victory she described as "miraculously bestowed".

Having become the only politician ever to survive a Black Tiger attack, Chandrika Bandaranaike Kumaratunga has acquired an aura reserved for those politicians blessed by fate.

Not that she really needed it. Both her late father and frail but enduring mother ruled Sri Lanka in instalments from the 1950s until 1977, leaving their daughter a grand but confused political legacy.

The Bandaranaiques were socialists, but her father Solomon's decision to enshrine Sinhala, spoken by the majority, as the official language of what was then Ceylon gave birth to the Tamil freedom movement which dogs the country to this day. Extremists in the Buddhist clergy opposed Bandaranaike, and in 1959 he was assassinated by a monk. His wife Sirima carried on the tradition, promulgating the 1971 Constitution that entrenched Sinhalese domination of the island's government.

The teardrop-shaped island off the southern tip of India, once known as Serendib in recognition of its tropical beauty, was ruled by Europeans for more than 400 years. The British used the mainly Hindu Tamils - an industrious and clever 18 per cent minority - to run the bureaucracy, and imported hundreds of thousands of them from southern India to work the tea estates, sowing the seeds of rivalry with the Buddhist Sinhalese.

As in Malaysia, the arrival of independence and democracy in 1948 opened the gates for the majority to reassert their supremacy, which they did with a range of regulations that amounted to positive discrimination in favour of the Sinhalese. The civil service became a prime target for the equalisers, and Tamil civil servants who failed to learn Sinhalese found their careers stalled.

In 1977, the Bandaranaiques' grip was broken by the right-wing United National Party, whose Singapore-style pro-business policies - backed by a hardline authoritarian stance against dissent, and introduction of a powerful executive presidency - poured fuel on the flames of the ethnic problem.

Jaffna Library, the main repository of the Sri Lankan Tamils' rich literary heritage, located in the northern Jaffna Peninsula, was burnt down in 1981. Two years later, after a maturing Prabhakaran killed 13 soldiers in an ambush, some 3,000 Tamils died and 18,000 Tamil homes were destroyed in government-orchestrated riots.

Even Sinhalese inmates of the Welikata prison were given liquor and a free hand to kill dozens of Tamil prisoners. It took four days for President Junius Jayawardene to issue a public call for calm, and no inquiry was ever held into the riots. Almost half a million Tamils eventually fled overseas.

When Kumaratunga came to power in 1994, promising to resolve the ethnic conflict, she inherited a country in which democracy, tolerance, the rule of law and basic human decency had been severely eroded by decades of chauvinism. She also inherited the problem of the **Tamil Tigers** - the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (**LTTE**) - who under Prabhakaran's ruthless leadership had eliminated moderate Tamil opposition and established a de facto state based in northern Jaffna Town.

Bombing the ballot box

With overwhelming support from war-weary Tamils and Sinhalese alike, Kumaratunga won a record 62 per cent of the vote, and opened direct talks with the Tigers. But after months of fruitless dialogue, they returned to the battlefield, leaving the President "feeling betrayed".

The 100,000-strong Sri Lankan army had used the five-month ceasefire to build up its troops and weaponry. When hostilities recommenced, the army struck fast, evicting the outnumbered 15,000 Tigers from Jaffna Peninsula, and forcing them into the snake-infested, malarial jungles of the Wanni region.

Cut off and surrounded, the Tigers were at their most vulnerable, and a well-led army might have finished them off. But increasingly it was the President who set the military priorities, and her disastrous insistence that the main road to Jaffna through Tiger territory be re-opened cost the lives of thousands of government troops, sapping the army's morale.

Steeled by their trials, the Tigers hit back last month, taking control of the entire Wanni and putting pressure on the army's defences in Jaffna. Government troops fled in their thousands in disarray, pouring into villages across the north. One in five Sri Lankan soldiers has deserted, observers say.

Against that background, Kumaratunga's return to office is seen as bad news by many Sri Lankans who had hoped elections might deliver a pause in the hostilities. Instead of seeing her close shave as a warning not to repeat the mistakes of her first term, the President is infused with an almost messianic - and most believe unrealistic - determination to destroy Prabhakaran's army, which she denounced at her swearing-in as comprising nothing more than "terrorist cowards".

"Look at my wounds," she told the polite company gathered for lunch at Temple Trees on Wednesday. "Those who inflicted such wounds can no longer be allowed to go unchecked and unpunished."

The need of the moment, according to Dr Paikiasothy Saravanamuttu, a political analyst, is dialogue, not destruction.

"Can she talk to the man who has just tried to kill her? Because it's quite clear that her efforts to defeat him militarily have failed," he said.

Describing the Government's devolution plan - which would give the Tamil-majority north and east self-government within a unitary Sri Lanka - as a landmark, Dr Saravanamuttu complains that the package was never presented to Parliament because of what

he calls the President's "high-handed, almost feudal refusal to consider any amendments".

He is also critical of Kumaratunga's refusal to consider the Tigers' demand for third-party mediation of any future peace talks, and hopes this week's blast will act as a savage reminder call.

"We need to be shocked, because we've had so much violence as part of the political architecture that a numbing insensitivity has got into our collective psyche."

The President, for one, has been shocked enough by the large swing against her to seek the support of the parliamentary Opposition for her constitutional package to address Tamil grievances and wean them away from the **LTTE**. She has extended an olive branch to the defeated candidate, Ranil Wickremesinghe, inviting him to join the Government. But with the Opposition crying foul over alleged poll rigging, and with parliamentary polls next August, it's an offer he'll probably decline.

Anyone who has survived an assassination attempt, and won a presidential election in the same week, has the right to get a little emotional. After being sworn in, Kumaratunga fell at the feet of her wheelchair-bound mother, Sirima, the first woman to lead a modern nation. The framed photographs in the living room showed a young Chandrika with her late husband, another victim of political murder. Her daughter, Yasodhara, escorted her through a forest of embraces to a group of Buddhist monks seated on the living room settee enjoying cups of tea. Handing the

Bombing the ballot box

President a skein of thread, which joined her to their group, the shaven, orange-robed monks started a rhythmic, droning prayer.

Talk of an anti-Tiger crusade could, if not managed correctly, spill over in return to anti-Tamil policies. The LTTE is certain to keep up the pressure on a woman it clearly regards as its main enemy. A renewed rebel offensive in the north, and more terrorist bombings in Colombo are considered likely.

Reports from the Wanni say the Tigers are telling people to prepare for a formal declaration of a separate state of "Eelam". The murder in August of a Tamil politician, Dr Neelan Tircuchelvam, by a Black Tiger suicide bomber was widely seen as symbolising the death of reason in Tamil politics.

Dr Rajiva Wijesinha, a professor of English at Sabaragamuwa University, and the presidential candidate of the small Liberal Party, warns that the burden of war is causing economic stagnation, and an erosion of human resources and infrastructure that were once the envy of Asia.

"When I was young, we used to export judges to Singapore. Now all we export are housemaids," he says. But he's hopeful that Kumaratunga can make a fresh start.

Sri Lanka's President faces a gargantuan task in breaking the rituals of politics, which have made savagery part and parcel of normal life. In the villages, for instance, women don't want the war to end because it provides employment for their sons - as home guards.

But Wijesinha says Kumaratunga has one invaluable asset in her mission. "She has the devil's own luck. Prabhakaran - who has never missed with a suicide bomber - sends one to get her, and fails. And that failure hands Chandrika a second six-year term on a platter. Which is pretty lucky, isn't it?"

Graphic

Three Illus: Scene of the crime...shown left, a soldier stands guard at the site of the suicide bombers' assassination attempt on Chandrika Kumaratunga, left, who escaped with shrapnel injuries to her right eye. A policeman, shown right, seals off the area near the hospital where she was treated.

Load-Date: August 8, 2007

ROUNDUP: Death penalty upheld for four in Rajiv assassination case

Deutsche Presse-Agentur

May 11, 1999, Tuesday, BC Cycle 11:17 Central European Time

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Section: International News

Length: 598 words

Dateline: New Delhi

Body

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

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

Judges reduced the sentence of Robert Payas, Jayakumar and P. Ravichandran to life imprisonment.

Life imprisonment in India rarely goes beyond a dozen years and many convicts are released early on grounds of compassion or good conduct.

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

The judges ordered that except for the seven facing death or life imprisonment, the others should be released forthwith.

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

The accused can now move a petition within 30 days seeking a review of the judgement, Additional Solicitor General Altaf Ahmed said.

The Tamil National Movement, a pro-**LTTE** organization, announced in the southern city of Madras that it would move a review petition for those sentenced to death and the four whose sentence was commuted to life imprisonment.

Even if that option fails they can seek clemency from federal president K.R. Narayanan, who is empowered under the Indian constitution to suspend, remit or commute any sentence.

Rajiv Gandhi, who was in opposition in 1991, was killed along with 17 others by Dhanu, a Sri Lankan Tamil woman suicide bomber, in Sriperumbudur town.

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The accused included both Sri Lankan and Indian Tamils. Nalini, who is the sole survivor of a five-member team formed to kill Gandhi, is an Indian.

Besides Dhanu, Haribabu, a photographer who was recruited to take pictures of the killing, died on the spot.

The film from his camera helped police to zero in on Sivarasan, who masterminded the killing, and his associate Subha, the other two members of the team who killed themselves along with five others in the southern city of Bangalore when cornered by the Special Investigation Team set up to probe the assassination.

Nalini's husband Murugan and Santhan are Sri Lankan LTTE activists. The other Indian sentenced to death is Perarivalan, who procured the batteries which helped Dhanu trigger the bomb that killed Gandhi.

Nalini, who married Murugan in jail, now has an eight-year-old daughter.

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

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

The LTTE's opposition to Gandhi reportedly stemmed from his sending Indian peace-keeping forces to Sri Lanka to end the secessionist conflict there in favour of the Colombo government.

But Gandhi's killing backfired on the LTTE when its activists and supporters were hounded out of the southern state of Tamil Nadu.

Even political parties which had been in favour of the se unvollst[ndig

Load-Date: May 11, 1999

AP Photos COL101-103

Associated Press International

September 18, 1999; Saturday 12:55 Eastern Time

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Section: International news

Length: 448 words

Byline: GEMUNU AMARASINGHE

Dateline: BORAPOLA, Sri Lanka

Body

Tamil Tiger rebels, led by women waving machetes and firing guns, raided three Sri Lankan villages on Saturday and massacred 61 Sinhalese residents as they slept or fled into rice fields, the military said.

At least 11 children were among the dead, some with their heads smashed, a military official said. Fifty civilians and five policemen were injured.

"I survived because they could not find me," said 70-year-old Rankothabandi Peter, who escaped the 90-minute rampage by 100 rebels.

No one claimed responsibility for the attacks, but military spokesman Maj. Nishantha Wadugodapitiya blamed the Liberation Tamil Tigers of Tamil Eelam, who are fighting for an independent Tamil homeland in the island's north and east.

Authorities said the rebels probably killed the Sinhalese to avenge the deaths of 21 Tamil civilians in air force bombings of rebel-held areas on Wednesday.

Sinhalese, the majority ethnic group in Sri Lanka, control the military and the government. The Tamil Tiger rebels accuse them of oppressing the Tamil minority, which accounts for about one-fifth the island nation's population.

The raid started early Saturday in Borapola, a village of mostly rice farmers. The area, 125 miles (200 kilometers) east of the capital Colombo, is mostly under government control and far from the Tamil Tiger strongholds in the north and the east.

"I heard gunshots first, then the scream coming from frightened people and then again the scream that people who are dying make, and I knew our village was under attack," Peter said.

He asked his son, daughter-in-law and two grandchildren to flee and then hid in a corner of the verandah, covering himself with rice straw and leaves.

The International Committee of the Red Cross said 46 people, including the 11 children, were killed in Borapola. The rest were in the villages of Bedi Rekka and Sinnawatta.

One man, M. Premasiri, lost his entire extended family of 14 people.

"Some of our relatives had come for a religious function. I had gone to a nearby village to get supplies for a feast and I stayed back there," said Premasiri. "When I returned this morning I found all are dead, gone."

"The terrorists have carried out an inhuman, brutal and barbaric act at a time when my government is taking all measures to end the war," President Chandrika Kumaratunga said in a statement blaming the **Tamil Tigers** for the attack.

Mrs. Kumaratunga, who came to power in 1994, held talks with the rebels a year later. But the talks failed after the rebels refused to accept anything less than a division of Sri Lanka, a small island country off India's southern coast.

Since the civil war erupted in 1983, more than 58,000 people
ave been killed.

Load-Date: September 18, 1999

ROUNDUP: Death penalty upheld for four in Rajiv assassination case

Deutsche Presse-Agentur

May 11, 1999, Tuesday, BC Cycle 11:31 Central European Time

Copyright 1999 Deutsche Presse-Agentur

Section: International News

Length: 626 words

Dateline: New Delhi

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The judges ordered that except for the seven facing death or life imprisonment, the others should be released forthwith.

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

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The LTTE's opposition to Gandhi reportedly stemmed from his sending Indian peace-keeping forces to Sri Lanka to end the secessionist conflict there in favour of the Colombo government.

But Gandhi's killing backfired on the LTTE when its activists and supporters were hounded out of the southern state of Tamil Nadu.

Even political parties which had been in favour of the secession of the Tamil-dominated northern and eastern areas from Sri Lanka clammed up and turned against the organization, fearing being accused of backing Gandhi's killers.
dpa mvb jh

Load-Date: May 11, 1999

Canadian court hears deportation cases

United Press International

May 22, 2001, Tuesday

Copyright 2001 U.P.I.

Section: GENERAL NEWS

Length: 424 words

Dateline: OTTAWA, May 22

Body

The Supreme Court of Canada began hearing arguments for and against the deportation of two refugees suspected of being members of terrorist groups.

One of the men, Manickavasagam Suresh of Sri Lanka, appealed to the Supreme Court after the Federal Court of Appeals upheld a government decision to deport him as a security risk.

His lawyers are arguing that he would face torture if sent back to Sri Lanka and the deportation orders violate Canada's Charter of Rights and Freedoms.

Suresh, 45, was given refugee status shortly after his arrival in Canada in 1990, but in 1995 the Canadian authorities decided he was a security risk because of his connections with an organization that allegedly raised funds for the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam, a group accused of using terrorism in its fight for a Tamil homeland in Sri Lanka.

Mansour Ahani, the other man facing deportation, does not deny he was formerly a member of the Iranian security forces, but says he deserted and fled his country after he was ordered to enter Iraq and assassinate women and children associated with an Iranian dissident group.

The two appeals are being closely watched as test cases and come against a background of accusations by U.S. authorities that Canada has been too lax in its treatment of suspected terrorists, who also posed a threat to the United States because of the ease with which they could cross the border.

For their part, lawyers for Suresh and Ahani believe the provisions of the Canadian law for deportations are too vague, and that too much authority is vested in the minister of immigration in making the final decision on the expulsion of an individual who comes to Canada as a refugee or immigrant.

Lawyers for the federal government are basing their argument on whether Canada should be allowed to "become a haven for terrorists."

Suresh is said to have acted as a coordinator in Canada of the World Tamil Movement and the Federation of Associations of Canadian Tamils. Federal lawyers have argued that the federation has links to the Tamil Tigers, but Suresh's lawyer says he merely put up posters and raised funds for the group in Canada, and did not participate in acts of terrorism.

Canadian court hears deportation cases

A controversy has raged for months in Canada over whether the Federation of Associations of Canadian Tamils is a front for the **Tamil Tigers**.

The United Nations is participating as an intervenor in the case and is arguing against deportation to countries where the fear of persecution persists.

The Supreme Court is expected to hand down a decision later this year.

Load-Date: May 23, 2001

End of Document

BOOKS-INDIA: NEW BOOK TRACES MURDER OF RAJIV GANDHI

IPS-Inter Press Service

October 13, 1998, Tuesday

Copyright 1998 IPS-Inter Press Service/Global Information Network

Length: 903 words

Byline: By Dev Raj

Dateline: NEW DELHI, Oct. 13

Body

The 1991 assassination of charismatic Rajiv Gandhi, former prime minister and a member of India's leading political family, still raises more questions than answers.

For a start, while there is little doubt that the suicide bomber who killed Gandhi was sent by the Sri Lankan Tamil militant group, the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (***LTTE***), the motive for the killing remains unclear.

So when journalist Rajeev Sharma set out to chronicle the whole saga of the assassination -- based on interviews with key investigators and political actors -- he hoped that he would get closer than others to the forces which had put out the contract on Gandhi.

He hoped to fare better at discovering the people behind Gandhi's death at an election rally, which could have seen his return as Prime Minister, which was the purported aim of an earlier commission of enquiry headed by the unremarkable Justice Jain.

In the foreword to Sharma's book, "Beyond The Tigers," Vijay Karan, former director of the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) records how he failed to convince P. V. Narasimha Rao who succeeded Gandhi as chief of the Congress party and became Prime Minister, the uselessness of a commission of enquiry.

The Jain Commission never turned up anything worthwhile and the learned judge was dubbed "Calamity Jain" after his initial report, presented a long six years after the assassination resulted in the fall of the United Front government led by Inder Kumar Gujral.

Rather than eject from the Front, the Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK) party, which Jain accused of supporting the ***LTTE***, Gujral preferred to lose the support of the Congress party for his minority government and face elections. Gujral's demand for a debate in Parliament on the issue before a trial of strength in the house was curiously enough stalled by the filibustering Congress party men showing that there was indeed a lot to hide.

In the elections, early this year, both the United Front and the Congress suffered reverses paving the way for the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) to come to power at the Center.

Sharma does not come any closer in his book than did Jain in discovering whether Gandhi was murdered on the orders of international arms dealers, conspirators acting from Indian soil or some other power. Still, he has produced a readable account. "Beyond The Tigers," published by the relatively small Kaveri Books, does throw light on the ***LTTE***'s free use of southern Tamil Nadu state, the original home of the Sri Lankan Tamils.

BOOKS- INDIA : NEW BOOK TRACES MURDER OF RAJIV GANDHI

But the belief that **LTTE** leader Velupillai Prabhakaran, a formidable guerilla leader would put his logistic and psychological bases in Tamil Nadu in jeopardy by carrying out the assassination without hope of gaining any advantage is unthinkable, writes Sharma.

In the event, the **LTTE** was flushed out of Tamil Nadu in the aftermath of the assassination which also saw the spectacular electoral defeat of the DMK party under Chief Minister M. Karunanidhi for his alleged links with Prabhakaran.

Where Sharma's book does score is in the amazing detail he has brought out in chapters such as the one on the flight of the alleged mastermind of the assassination Sivarasan, from Tamil Nadu, concealed in a road tanker.

The closest that investigators came to cracking the mystery behind the assassination was when Sivarasan, his **female** accomplice Subha, and five other **LTTE** militants finally were discovered in the village of Konankunte in neighboring Karnataka state.

But a special team of National Security Guard (NSG) commandos which surrounded the house botched up by wasting precious time in sending for antidote for cyanide which **LTTE** militants carry in capsules around their necks. By the time the commandos stormed the house not only had the all the militants committed suicide but they had also managed to burn all the records which could have proved valuable to the case, Sharma says in his detailed account.

In a blurb on the cover, Karan says the book, which sells at \$ 10, reminded him of a police case diary for its rich painstaking detail. "It appears as if Sharma was the Chief Investigative Officer of the case," the normally circumspect former CBI chief writes.

Sharma also examines the many complexities of Indo-Sri Lankan relations arising from the overt support given by Rajiv Gandhi for the Sri Lankan Tamil cause, following a policy established by his mother and predecessor in office, Indira Gandhi.

The Indian army's occupation of Jaffna to guarantee the Indo- Sri Lanka Peace accord may have settled the ethnic turmoil in the island country but turned into a war between the **LTTE** and the Indian army and bitterness between New delhi and Colombo.

An influential section of Sri Lankan politicians led by the late President Premadasa had actually sided with the **LTTE** and demanded that Indian troops leave the island. That led to speculation that Colombo's collusion with Prabhakaran could have extended to the assassination.

But the most intriguing of all is a theory which links Gandhi's assassination to that of Swedish Prime Minister Olaf Plame. After all the two leaders were at either end of the infamous deal under which India bought Bofors artillery for alleged huge kickbacks paid by the Swedish armaments firm.

Gandhi is said to have been bent on confessing the truth once he returned as Prime Minister, a move which may have improved his career but not that of others who allegedly benefited from the deal.

Load-Date: October 14, 1998

Rajiv Gandhi's Congress party demands trial of Tamil Tiger chief

The Canadian Press (CP)

April 11, 2002 Thursday

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Section: FOREIGN GENERAL NEWS

Length: 302 words

Body

NEW DELHI (AP) _ India's Congress party, whose former leader Rajiv Gandhi was assassinated by a Sri Lankan Tamil Tiger suicide bomber, Thursday demanded that the chief of the rebels be brought to trial in India.

In a statement, senior Congress member Arjun Singh said Vilupillai Prabhakaran, the chief of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam, is the sole architect" of Gandhi's killing and we can never forget this."

We call upon the government of India to take all legal steps necessary to bring Mr. Prabhakaran to justice," he said.

AP

Gandhi, a former prime minister, 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.

Gandhi's widow, Sonia, now heads the Congress, which is in the opposition. The government is run by a coalition dominated by the Hindu nationalist Bharatiya Janata Party, which also has no sympathy for the ***LTTE***.

Prabhakaran appeared in public Wednesday for the first time in 15 years at a press conference in northern Sri Lanka to talk about future peace talks with the Sri Lankan government. He described Gandhi's assassination as a tragic incident that happened 10 years ago."

Singh, the Congress leader, said Prabhakaran's statement has shocked all Indians.

We cannot tolerate anybody making light of this unfortunate event," he said.

The ***LTTE***, which has been waging an 18-year war for a separate homeland in Sri Lanka, is banned as terrorist by India, Sri Lanka, Canada and three other countries.

The ***LTTE*** was angered by Gandhi's decision as prime minister to send Indian troops to keep peace in northern Sri Lanka in 1987 as part of an accord with the Sri Lankan government. The Indian troops ended up fighting with the ***LTTE*** and withdrew from the country in 1990.

Load-Date: June 6, 2002

In the Tigers' belly; FEATURES

Australian Financial Review

January 25, 1999 Monday

Late Edition

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Section: NEWS; Pg. 11

Length: 1436 words

Byline: Geoffrey Barker. Geoffrey Barker visited Sri Lanka as a guest of the Sri Lankan Government.

Body

Geoffrey Barker recently visited Jaffna in northern Sri Lanka, epicentre of the bloody civil war between the Sri Lankan army and Tamil Tiger separatists, to find the guerillas contained but far from crushed.

Colonel War dreams of peace and of returning to the two acres of coffee and pepper he has planted in the lush uplands of southern Sri Lanka.

But today he is standing, wide awake, on the gravel apron of Palali military airport in northern Sri Lanka awaiting word that the road into Jaffna has been cleared of mines placed overnight by the Tamil Tiger guerillas.

Lieutenant-Colonel War Gunawardanah is a 57-year-old veteran of Sri Lanka's bloody 15-year struggle with the Tamil Tiger separatists, and the weariness shows. "This place would be paradise if the killing ended," he sighs. And he adds wistfully: "Coffee and pepper bring good prices these days."

Word comes that the road is clear. We climb into an army van between two soldiers toting automatic rifles and hurtle over the narrow pot-holed road towards Jaffna, 15km away.

We jolt past troops manning sandbagged bunkers equipped with heavy machineguns and rocket launchers, past the ruins of deserted houses with walls holed by shells and pocked by bullets, and past fields of chillies, onions and tobacco being hand cultivated by farmers trying to restore normality to their war-torn lives.

Closer to town we pass hundreds of people on bicycles who move aside quickly as we pass with a blast of the horn. And so we reach Jaffna, green, dusty, damaged, the once-vibrant city at the epicentre of the war between the Sri Lankan National Government and the separatist Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (*LTTE*).

For five years between 1990 and early 1996 the Tigers occupied Jaffna after the withdrawal of a controversial Indian peacekeeping force. It was won back by the national army after an offensive in which thousands of troops, guerillas and civilians died, but it is still far from secure and remains totally isolated from the rest of Sri Lanka.

While heavily armed soldiers watch street crossings from bunkers and patrol the town on foot or in jeeps, the road to Colombo is still held by the Tigers, who control significant areas of the region only a few kilometres away across the narrow lagoon

at the southern edge of the Jaffna peninsula.

In the Tigers' belly FEATURES

Sea routes to and from Jaffna are restricted for security reasons. The only transport is by the military transport aircraft that fly in and out daily by circuitous routes to minimise the chance of attacks by Tamil Tiger surface-to-air missiles. Civil flights were abandoned last September after 54 people were killed when a Tiger missile brought down a Lionair domestic airliner.

Today Jaffna looks peaceful enough, although signs of war are everywhere in the damaged buildings and bullet-marked walls. People are working, shopping, cycling and chatting or fooling around with the ancient British cars (Austins, Hillmans and Morris) that seem to be everywhere.

Listless brown dogs roam the streets and the population (now about 413,000) is less than half what it was in 1990. But the buses are running normally, the shops are open and seem reasonably well stocked and electricity and water supplies are improving.

But the Tigers remain a threat. They are a well-lead, well-financed and fanatical guerilla force of possibly 7,000 fighters led by Velupillai Prabhakaran and they control substantial, if slowly diminishing, areas to the south and east of the liberated Jaffna peninsula.

More than 900 Sri Lankan troops have died in the so-far unsuccessful campaign to reopen the Jaffna-Colombo road. Last year two newly elected Mayors of Jaffna were assassinated. In July, some 100 Tiger fighters infiltrated Jaffna, attacked the prison and freed all the prisoners, including three ***female*** Tiger cadres.

Within days of shooting down the Lionair flight last September, the guerillas overran an army base at Kilinochchi, south-east of Jaffna, killing up to 1,900 troops and capturing military equipment including tanks, trucks and artillery.

For Australian John Dixon, the Jaffna representative of the United Nations High Commission for Refugees, the taking of heavily fortified Kilinochchi was an act of stunning audacity and he now doubts the ability of the Sri Lankan army to defeat the Tigers militarily.

"Until Kilinochchi I would have said yes. But the Tigers are resilient and have the capacity to pull surprises. I was stunned by their audacity," Mr Dixon said. So stunned that last December he crossed into Tiger-held territory to seek assurances that UN workers were not being targeted.

Sri Lankan Army Brigadier Tissa Tillekeratne (an uncle of the cricketer) believes the Tigers can be defeated if army manpower is increased. But with at least half of Sri Lanka's 100,000-strong military based in the Jaffna region and unable to clear the road to Colombo, it is not surprising that the army is now also fighting to win Tamil hearts and minds away from the Tigers.

The Sinhalese-speaking troops are learning to speak Tamil and avoid once regular human rights violations, including reported mass kidnappings and retaliatory murders. John Dixon credits the present army chief, Major-General Lionel Balagalle, with introducing more relaxed and disciplined attitudes by army and police personnel, but says that distrust and suspicion continue.

Jaffna's government agent, Mr Kandiah Anmuganathan, the civil servant responsible for overall administration of the region, cites transport and travel problems, shortages of doctors and medical specialists and inadequate electricity supplies as the main problems in Jaffna. "We just don't have freedom because of the security situation," he says.

Mr Anmuganathan also complains that Jaffna's farmers and fishermen are economically disadvantaged because they cannot export their goods to lucrative southern markets like Colombo.

Notwithstanding Government, army and NGO efforts to restore Jaffna to normality, it is far from clear where the ultimate loyalty of the Tamil population lies, despite the obvious and understandable desire of the population for permanent peace. That becomes clear in conversation with Mr N. Vithiyatharan, associate editor of Jaffna's Tamil language newspaper, Uthayan (The Sun).

In the Tigers' belly FEATURES

During the years of the Tiger occupation of Jaffna, Uthayan's offices were the LTTE's military headquarters. Mr Vithiyatharan packed up his ancient press (the type is set by hand), went to another town and published a cut-down version of the paper for five years. Now he is starting over and is installing computerised typesetting and an offset press.

Mr Vithiyatharan says the Voice of Tigers radio broadcasts two hours a day into Jaffna, presenting a mix of news, music and talks. He says his only source of information about the Tigers is the radio and occasional faxes sent to him, but John Dixon says suspected Tiger contacts are well known around the region.

Uthayan, Mr Vithiyatharan says, is independent but sits carefully on the fence to avoid offending either the army or the Tigers. While the newspaper has condemned human rights abuses in general terms, it has not condemned the Tigers for their ruthless use of children as young as 12 as soldiers. "We do not mention it because they deny it," Mr Vithiyatharan says.

While he believes the Tigers cannot be beaten militarily, Mr Vithiyatharan says he does not support their demand for a separate state. Like other moderate Tamils, he says the solution lies in local autonomy, a homeland and protection of identity for the Tamils.

So what are the prospects for peace in Sri Lanka? Given the deep historical roots of the ethnic competition between the Sinhalese majority and the Tamil minority, the continuing armed conflict, the failure of peace talks in 1995, the inability of the Sri Lankan military to defeat the Tigers and the reluctance of politicians on both sides to take hard decisions, it is hard to be optimistic.

But the Sri Lankan President, Mrs Chandrika Bandaranaike Kumaratunga, has acknowledged the failure of governments since Independence in 1948 to build a united nation and in 1995 offered a package of quasi-federal devolution proposals to meet Tamil concerns. So far these proposals have come to nothing, and the Government has paid a high economic and social price for what seems limited success in its war against the LTTE.

Despite some gains by the Government, the Tigers remain formidable and capable of striking throughout Sri Lanka, including at the heart of the capital Colombo, where troops maintain constant roadblocks and checkpoints. The Tigers may be contained; they are yet to be crushed.

Graphic

ILLUS: Jaffna has been reclaimed by the Sri Lankan army from the Tamil Tigers, but a strong military presence is maintained in the northern city. Picture: AP

Load-Date: March 21, 2012

Tigers deny part in bomb blast

Guardian Weekly

October, 30, 1994

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Section: INTERNATIONAL NEWS; Pg. 3

Length: 434 words

Byline: John Rettie in New Delhi

Body

THE *Tamil Tigers*, prime suspects in the bomb blast that killed 56 people including Gamini Dissanayake, leader of the opposition United National Party, on Sunday have denied any involvement.

They told the International Red Cross, who informed them of the government decision to call off the second round of peace talks scheduled for Monday in Jaffna, that they were "shocked" at the incident.

The Tigers have denied involvement in all the assassinations they have been accused of, including those of the former Indian prime minister, Rajiv Gandhi, the former Sri Lankan president, Ranasinghe Premadasa, and the leading Sri Lankan politician, Lalith Athulathmudali.

As in the case of Mr Dissanayake, the Tigers' guilt has never been proved. But police reports that a suicide bomber was responsible for his death were enough to convince many Sri Lankans that no one else could have done it.

Mr Dissanayake's family stated that the Tigers were responsible, following death threats he had received and a bomb thrown at his house.

But details given by police and witnesses were contradictory. A senior police officer told reporters: "We believe the severed head of a woman found on top of a two-storey building near the blast was that of the bomber." In addition, it was a *female* suicide bomber, widely believed to be sent by the *Tamil Tigers*, who killed Rajiv Gandhi in the Indian state of Tamil Nadu three years ago.

Later, however, police investigators spoke of a pair of crutches found near a mangled torso and a body belt that could have carried explosives.

The government had no choice but to abandon the peace talks. For the time being, at least, the peace initiative launched by the prime minister, Chandrika Kumaratunga, after her narrow election victory in August has been derailed.

The curfew imposed by the outgoing president, DB Wijetunge was expected to be lifted on Tuesday so that the presidential election campaign could still go ahead.

According to the constitution, the party of a candidate who dies during the campaign must select another within three days. The most obvious candidate would be the former prime minister, Ranil Wickremasinghe, who narrowly lost the election for party leader in August. But he is said to be reluctant to stand.

Tigers deny part in bomb blast

Pressure was reported to be growing on Mr Dissanayake's widow to put herself forward and cash in on a sympathy vote. Mr Dissanayake's impressive campaign might have won him a majority of votes from the Sinhalese, the majority community. But most Tamils, and possibly Muslims, would probably have voted for Mrs Kumaratunga, giving her an overall majority.

Load-Date: November 14, 1994

End of Document

A goddess and lucky numbers are allies in ethnic war

United Press International
November 21, 2000, Tuesday

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Section: GENERAL NEWS

Length: 787 words

Byline: By UWE SIEMON-NETTO, UPI religion correspondent

Dateline: NEW YORK, Nov. 21

Body

A Hindu goddess and lucky numbers play a vital role in what some Asians call "a dirty war in paradise."

The 15-year fight of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam for the independence of eastern and northern Sri Lanka was expected to move into high gear this week as the rebels began ceremonies to honor their dead on Tuesday.

These celebrations will reach a climax Sunday when Velupillai Pirabhakaran, the **Tamil Tigers**' elusive leader, turns 46.

Sri Lankan authorities are bracing for a spate of assassination attempts.

Pirabhakaran has a propensity for sending teenage girls as suicide bombers into Colombo, the nation's capital, and other parts of the world. On May 21, 1991, one of his **female** guerillas killed former Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi as he was campaigning in the southern state of Tamil Nadu, home to India's Tamils. In 1993, Sri Lanka's President Ranasinghe Premadasa was killed in a similar attack.

Among the many facets of this war, two stand out. One is ethnic. This is a conflict between two utterly different population groups who have shared the spectacularly beautiful island of Sri Lanka for thousands of years.

The Tamils, who are in the minority, live chiefly in the north and in the east. Their idiom is part of the Dravidian family of languages. The Singhalese majority speaks a Sanskrit-based tongue that is related to the Indo-Aryan group of languages.

Then there are religious differences. The Singhalese are Buddhists, the Tamils predominantly Hindus. One particular feature of their faith appears to have an important influence on how Pirabhakaran fights his war.

In past interviews with this correspondent, former **women** guerillas reported that Pirabhakaran fervently worshipped the Hindu goddess Kali. They said the image of this beautiful black deity accompanied him from bunker to bunker in Sri Lanka's dense jungle.

Kali plays a dual role in the Hindu pantheon. On one hand, she brings blood, violence and destruction, especially of human life. On the other hand, she is also the giver of new life, and therefore a potent idol for guerillas fighting for what they believe is a just cause.

A goddess and lucky numbers are allies in ethnic war

"As a result, those young girls willing to sacrifice themselves for the Tamil Tiger cause revere even Pirabhakaran as a kind of an incarnate deity whose mission it is to destroy life so that new life may emerge," Dr. Thomas Savandaranayagam, the Roman Catholic bishop of Jaffna, explained.

According to Savandaranayagam, who has met Pirabhakaran several times, Kali is only one aspect of the rebel commander's complex belief system.

"He is also a numerologist," the bishop said. "He goes to great lengths to avoid the unlucky number eight in the conduct of his war," confirmed Lt. Gen. Lionel Balagalle, until recently commander of government forces in northern Sri Lanka.

This superstition seems to conflict in his case with traditional Hindu mythology, where eight is considered auspicious.

"He has structured the entire LTTE army along multiples of 15," the general continued, "and it's easy to see, why: no matter how often you multiply this figure, you never come up with an eight."

Elisaman Jenova, a former Tamil Tiger volunteer from Chundrikulam in Jaffna district, confirmed this. She is a fisherman's daughter and thus belonged to the same caste as Pirabhakaran. Elisaman was 14 when she was recruited and sent to be trained as a machine gunner in a Tamil Tiger jungle camp.

"There I was made to share a bunker with two other girls," she said in an interview last year. "The base consisted of many such bunkers each of which was precisely 15 meters apart from the next one. There was also a large central bunker where we watched videos of battles the Tigers had fought or suicide attacks in which some of our girls had sacrificed themselves. That structure was exactly 135 meters away from every other dugout." 135 is a multiple of 15.

"Our units were 15, 30, 45, 90 and 135 strong," the young woman related, "and when any of these numbers changed in combat, the losses were immediately replaced."

Said Gen. Balagalle, "Again, the reason for this was to avoid a combination of numbers whose multiplication might produce an eight."

Elisaman Jenova was wounded and captured when her company of 90 "Tiger Girls" attacked a government position.

"The first to die was our commander, a woman, and then almost our entire unit was wiped out, except for five of us."

For Elisaman and her unit the war is over, but many others have taken their place.

"The elite of the Tiger Girls," she said, "are those singled out to strap explosives on their bodies to blow themselves up."

The night before that happens, Balagalle told this reporter, "Pirabhakaran throws them a festive dinner, with the goddess Kali looking on."

Load-Date: November 22, 2000

Tamil Rebels Revenge Village Massacre

The Associated Press

March 14, 1988, Monday, AM cycle

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Section: International News

Length: 429 words

Byline: By PATRICK CRUEZ, Associated Press Writer

Dateline: COLOMBO, Sri Lanka

Body

Tamil separatists raided a Sinhalese village Monday, killed 11 Sinhalese civilians and seriously injured six others, military officials said.

The raid was the latest in a series of attacks on Sinhalese and Tamil civilians by extremists in the northeast section of this island nation.

On Friday, 22 Tamils were killed in an attack on a bus.

Government officials, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the attack took place Monday afternoon on the Galmetiya village, about 11 miles south of the northeastern city of Trincomalee.

"We blame the **Tamil Tigers** for this attack and cannot give more details," one official said.

He refused to speculate why the Tigers may have attacked the village. During the past week, 67 civilians have been killed in revenge slayings in the eastern parts of Sri Lanka.

In an attack on a bus and a village, **Tamil tigers** killed 45 Sinhalese civilians last week in the north eastern Trincomalee district.

On Friday, a group of men wearing masks and black uniforms attacked a passenger bus near the Horawapatans village, 28 miles west of Trincomalee.

Eighteen passengers, all Tamils, were killed and burned in the attack, and four more died in hospitals.

Police who arrested 15 Sinhalese men said the bus attack was carried out by Sinhalese extremists avenging earlier killings of Sinhalese citizens.

In Batticaloa on Monday, Sri Lankan police used tear gas to disperse about 2,000 people trying to march in support of a Tamil woman on a fast for peace.

Witnesses said about 2,000 men, **women** and children tried to walk from Ariampattai village, five miles south east of Batticaloa, to the Pillaiyar Hindu temple where a 58-year-old Tamil woman has been fasting.

Tamil Rebels Revenge Village Massacre

Annamma David, who has not eaten since Feb. 19, demands that the Indian government call an unconditional cease-fire and begin negotiations with the Tamil Tiger rebels to end the fighting. The rebels have put up posters in the northern capital of Jaffna calling for a week-long strike beginning Tuesday in support Mrs. David's fast.

Militant Tamils have been fighting since 1983 for a separate state in northern and eastern Sri Lanka, where most Tamils live.

India has an estimated 45,000 soldiers in Sri Lanka to try to enforce an Indian-sponsored peace accord signed last July to try to end the war.

Tamils, most of whom are Hindus, make up 18 percent of Sri Lanka's 16 million population. They claim they are discriminated against by the majority Sinhalese Buddhists, who control the government and the military.

India has become involved because it has 60 million ethnic Tamils in its southern states.

End of Document

fresh fighting kills 40 combatants in sri lanka

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OCTOBER 17, 1999, SUNDAY

Length: 204 words

Dateline: colombo, october 17; ITEM NO: 1017093

Body

sri lanka's defense ministry said sunday that fresh fighting between government troops and tamil tiger rebels has left up to 40 combatants dead in the northern wanni region. a ministry statement said the troops on saturday assaulted tamil rebels' strong points amid heavy resistance in general area east of ampakamam. ground troops confirmed that up to 20 tamil rebels were killed due to the confrontation, said the statement, adding four soldiers were killed and 10 were injured during the conflict. in the same area troops in ambush killed three women cadres of the separatist liberation tigers of tamil eelam (ltte). troops on search and clear operation also recovered eight dead bodies of ltte rebels near ampakamam, said the statement. in another incident, troops destroyed a terrorist bunker with rocket propelled grenade fire, killing five rebels, according to the statement. the latest clashes followed fierce fighting since thursday in the north and east of the country which left about 200 combatants dead, according to the defense ministry. the ltte has been fighting for a separate homeland for minority tamils in sri lanka's north and east since 1983.

Load-Date: October 18, 1999

Two Indians found guilty of Rajiv Gandhi's murder

Deutsche Presse-Agentur

January 28, 1998, Wednesday, BC Cycle 11:31 Central European Time

Copyright 1998 Deutsche Presse-Agentur

Section: International News

Length: 316 words

Dateline: New Delhi

Body

A court in the southern city of Madras Wednesday convicted an Indian man and woman of the 1991 murder of former premier Rajiv Gandhi and found 24 others guilty of a variety of other charges.

Those found guilty in the case by judge V. Navaneetham included 10 Indians and 16 Sri Lankan nationals.

Navaneetham, who pronounced his judgement in a high-security jail in the city, also held the Sri Lankan secessionist Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (**LTTE**) responsible for the killing.

The judge, who is yet to pronounce the sentences, pronounced Nalini, a 33-year-old woman living in Madras, guilty of conspiracy and murder of Rajiv Gandhi.

Nalini, who actively participated in the conspiracy to kill Gandhi, was also found guilty of aiding a terrorist act and for participating in disruptive activities under the country's anti-terrorist law.

The other accused, Perarivalan, 26, was found guilty of the murder of Gandhi and 15 others who lost their lives in the explosion caused by an **LTTE** woman suicide bomber on May 21, 1991 in Sriperumbudur in Tamil Nadu. The former premier was campaigning for his Congress Party in a general election campaign at the time of the attack.

Perarivalan reportedly procured the batteries which were used to charge the belt bomb used by the bomber, Dhanu.

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

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

The agreement planned a settlement of Sri Lanka's ethnic troubles but did not make provision for the secession of the Tamil areas. dpa mvb jh

Load-Date: January 28, 1998

Two Indians found guilty of Rajiv Gandhi's murder

End of Document

Sri Lanka villagers killed in their beds

The Australian

September 20, 1999, Monday

Copyright 1999 Nationwide News Pty Limited

Section: WORLD; Pg. 15

Length: 478 words

Byline: * A correspondent in Colombo

Body

MORE troops yesterday poured into eastern Sri Lanka as survivors prepared for a mass funeral for the 54 Sinhalese villagers hacked to death by Tamil Tiger guerillas in one of the worst massacres in recent years.

Junior defence minister Anuruddha Ratwatte ordered more than 100 paramilitary home guards to be deployed in the district of Ampara, 350km east of Colombo, after Saturday's massacre.

Women fighters of the separatist Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam early yesterday stormed a small hamlet near the village of Punchisigiriya and systematically slaughtered the residents in their sleep.

* AFP

"We have used a bulldozer and dug a mass grave to bury 48 people killed in one village," local legislator Yasendra Bakmeewewa said. "People are now living in fear that there could be more attacks."

One family lost 14 members, while another lost 12 when the guerillas went on their killing spree, then fled after torching at least 10 houses.

The slaughter of the ethnic Sinhalese was carried out with knives and swords in what is believed to be a revenge attack for the deaths of 22 minority Tamil civilians in an air force bombing three days earlier.

The International Committee of the Red Cross said late on Saturday it had eyewitness accounts of how the Tigers carried out Saturday's massacre and expressed concern over the mounting civilian casualties.

In its statement released to news agencies here, the ICRC said it was calling on the **Tamil Tigers** and government forces not to deliberately target civilians and urged them to desist from acts of terror.

There was no immediate reaction from the **Tamil Tigers** to the killing of Sinhalese civilians and charges they carried out the massacre.

President Chandrika Kumaratunga strongly condemned the massacre and said she was deeply saddened by the killing, which she blamed on "Tiger terrorists".

"Such slaughter on innocents carried out by barbaric terrorists who do not know human values will be condemned by all peace-loving people," she said.

Sri Lanka villagers killed in their beds

A local police official said the guerillas also had decapitated a few of their victims and just one had been shot dead. The rest were hacked to death.

"The victims were asleep when the attack started," a policeman in Ampara said.

"The Tigers seem to have chopped up the people because firing would have alerted security posts."

Police reinforcements sent to Punchisigiriya after the attack recovered the bodies of eight children, 17 women and 23 men, officials said. Five women were among 20 people who escaped with serious injuries.

Police said another six people in two more villages were killed by the guerillas during the pre-dawn massacre, the worst to hit Sri Lanka in more than four years.

Tiger guerillas have in the past been accused of killing ethnic-Sinhalese and Muslims civilians living in areas where they are fighting to establish an independent Tamil homeland.

Load-Date: March 1, 2002

End of Document

182 Tamils die as attacks foiled

The Advertiser

July 29, 1995 Saturday

Copyright 1995 Nationwide News Pty Limited

Length: 431 words

Body

Fierce battles raged in north-eastern Sri Lanka yesterday as security forces repulsed a wave of Tamil rebel attacks led by women suicide bombers.

The fighting left at least 182 rebels and two soldiers dead, the military said.

Women fighters known as "Freedom Birds" led the main pre-dawn assault against the Weli Oya army base where troops later recovered the bodies of 58 rebels, most of them women, a military spokesman said.
afp

Military sources said another 69 members of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam were killed in an attack on a smaller army camp at Kokkuthuduvai, on the coast. Fifty-five others were killed at three nearby camps at Kokilai, Jayasinghepura and Janapakura.

"We recovered a total of 182 bodies of terrorists. But their actual casualties may be higher," the military spokesman said.

The Sri Lankan navy had destroyed at least 10 LTTE boats that tried to ferry reinforcements, he added.

There was no independent confirmation of the casualty figures but military claims for Tamil Tiger casualties in recent weeks have been lower than the figures eventually admitted by the guerrillas.

"Two women LTTE cadres exploded in a ball of fire after being hit by sentries. They were obviously strapped with explosives and were coming to blow up the brigade headquarters," the spokesman said.

Military prepared A Defence Ministry statement said two soldiers were killed and another 13 seriously wounded.

The military apparently was prepared for the LTTE offensive.

The rebels fired a surface-to-air missile at a helicopter gunship carrying troop reinforcements but the pilot managed to evade it as he was flying low, the spokesman said.

But the use of the missile has alarmed the authorities. It was the first time the rebels were known to have fired a SAM outside the rebel-held northern Jaffna peninsula where they have shot down two transport planes and a ground attack aircraft since April 28.

In an offensive launched on July 9, government forces lost 75 men killed or missing and claimed killing nearly 300 rebels.

182 Tamils die as attacks foiled

The Tamil rebels are believed to have been transported to yesterday's battle areas in boats as well as overland along a jungle route from a key base north of the Weli Oya military complex.

The latest attacks against the camps in the north-east came more than a week after government security forces conducted a major ground offensive against the **LTTE** inside the Jaffna peninsula, in northern Sri Lanka, where the rebels maintain a de facto State.

More than 50,000 people have died since 1972 in the **LTTE**'s drawn-out guerilla campaign for an independent Tamil homeland.

Load-Date: October 1, 2003

End of Document

Suspected rebels slay 45 villagers in Sri Lanka

United Press International

October 10, 1988, Monday, AM cycle

Copyright 1988 U.P.I.

Section: International

Length: 652 words

Byline: By ELMO PERERA

Dateline: COLOMBO, Sri Lanka

Body

Suspected Tamil separatist rebels stormed into a remote northern village of majority Sinhalese early Monday, dragged sleeping residents from their homes and killed at least 45 men, women and children, military and hospital officials said.

In southern and central parts of the strife-torn Indian Ocean island, an anti-government strike Monday triggered a string of bombings and clashes with police and soldiers that left four people dead and at least 30 hurt, officials said.

Military officials in the capital of Colombo and in the Northeastern Province town of Vavuniya, 130 miles northeast of the capital, said that at about 1 a.m. about 75 assailants with guns and knives entered Makongaskada, a village of about 140 families belonging to the island's majority Buddhist Sinhalese ethnic group.

The attackers awoke residents, dragged them from their homes and shot or knifed to death at least 21 men, 12 women and 11 children, aged two years to 10 years, the officials said. Some had their throats cut.

An official at a hospital in the central city of Annuradhapura said seven injured were brought to the facility and one, a 5-year-old boy, died.

After the attack, the raiders fled north through dense jungle and Sri Lankan troops launched a hunt for them, a military spokesman said. No arrests were reported.

Military officials said they believed the attack was staged by the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), which is demanding independence for the northeast, home to most of the 3 million-strong predominantly Hindu Tamil minority.

The LTTE has been blamed for a number of massacres of Sinhalese civilians since the Sri Lankan civil war erupted in 1983. The worst occurred May 13, 1985, when members of the group stormed through Annuradhapura and killed at least 125 people.

On April 17, 1987, LTTE rebels slaughtered 122 bus passengers in eastern Sri Lanka.

There were no clear indications as to why Monday's massacre was carried out, although it occurred on the first anniversary of an Indian military offensive that drove the LTTE from its one-time northern bastion of Jaffna and caused hundreds of Tamil civilian casualties.

Suspected rebels slay 45 villagers in Sri Lanka

The offensive was launched after the LTTE refused to disarm and join four other Tamil guerrilla groups in endorsing an Indo-Sri Lankan accord aimed at ending the island's civil war by granting limited autonomy to Tamil areas.

Under the plan, Indian troops were deployed in the northeast in place of the Sinhalese-dominated Sri Lankan army to restore peace to allow the holding of elections to a new provincial council, the final step in the process of transferring limited autonomy to the area.

Although badly hurt by the Jaffna offensive, the LTTE has continued its fight for total independence for the Tamils and has threatened to kill anyone who participates in the provincial council polls, scheduled for Nov. 16.

There are now more than 60,000 Indian troops in the northeast of the island that was once called Ceylon. More than 500 Indian troops have been killed in combat with the LTTE, whose casualties are not known.

In Sinhalese-dominated southern and central Sri Lanka, shops and businesses closed and transportation services were badly disrupted in a protest strike against the Indo-Sri Lankan accord called by a Sinhalese extremist group, the Janatha Vimukti Peramuna (JVP), or Peoples Liberation Front.

Officials said about 1,000 anti-accord protesters massed outside the JVP stronghold of Matara, 140 miles southeast of Colombo, and tried to march into the town in defiance of a curfew.

Police fired on the crowd, killing at least one person and wounding six. Troops were brought in to help police as clashes erupted and the protesters hurled rocks and other debris injuring at least eight officers.

Clashes were reported in two other towns, leaving three people dead and 20 injured, officials said. Bombs in a Colombo suburb and in another town injured four people, police said.

news items from asia-pacific desk of xinhua (part 2)

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JANUARY 26, 1998, MONDAY

Length: 243 words

Dateline: hong kong, january 26; ITEM NO: 0126241

Body

following are news items from the asia-pacific desk of xinhua in hong kong monday: hka012630 --anson chan returns from overseas trip hke012631 --air force plane crash-lands in philippines hka012632 --weather information for asian-pacific cities hke012633 --thai bourse index up 1.64 points hke012634 --bangkok rice f.o.b. prices hke012635 --lower hiv/aids cases reported in philippines in 1997 hke012636 --share prices close lower on singapore market hke012637 --india, france to enhance all-round cooperation hke012638 --howard hopes republic would keep australian character hke012639 --world bank president to visit malaysia next week hke012640 --adb grants technical assistance to nepal hke012641 --kuala lumpur stocks stage pre-holiday rally hka012642 --hk celebrates international customs day hke012643 --new senate president installed in philippines hka012644 --more officers to be deployed at lo wu checkpoint for hke012645 --foreign banks in philippines tell employees not to hke012646 --reconstruction of tooth relic temple begins in s.lanka hke012647 --pakistan's cost of wheat import to rise sharply hke012648 --pakistan minister pledges all-out support to women hke012649 --poll-sensitive areas identified in philippines hke012650 --pakistan to increase rice exports to europe hke012651 --urgent: sri lankan govt bans ltte hke012652 --1stadd: sri lankan govt outlaws ltte hke012653 --sri lankan govt outlaws ltte

Load-Date: January 27, 1998

Tamil Tiger deal cost Gandhi's life

The Sunday Times (London)

December 14, 1997, Sunday

Copyright 1997 Times Newspapers Limited

Section: Overseas news

Length: 785 words

Byline: Stephen Grey, Delhi

Body

SIX years after Rajiv Gandhi was killed by a suicide bomber who knelt at his feet and detonated a bomb strapped to her waist in the southern state of Tamil Nadu, new evidence has emerged that the former Indian prime minister was the unwitting architect of his own downfall.

Testimonies published in the interim report of the Jain commission, investigating the circumstances surrounding his murder in 1991, confirm that he may have sealed his fate by sponsoring the Tamil Tiger terrorists from Sri Lanka who were behind his death.

Even more damaging are allegations that after the assassination, his once all-powerful Congress party tried to protect the reputation of the Gandhi dynasty by suppressing evidence about the extent to which Rajiv and his mother, Indira - killed by her Sikh guard seven years earlier - both supported terrorist groups.

Disclosures from the Jain report helped to bring the minority coalition government of Inder Kumar Gujral to its knees this month. A second general election in two years was called after it was claimed in the report that the DMK, a Tamil Nadu regional party and member of the ruling coalition, was implicated in the conspiracy to murder Rajiv.

But the Congress party, which hoped to regain power when the elections are held in two months' time, was thrown on the defensive this weekend by the claims that it took part in a cover-up of the Gandhi family's role in sponsoring terrorism.

The Jain report contains details of how successive Congress governments trained and equipped Tamil Tiger terrorists. The fact that much of this was concealed after Rajiv's assassination is a significant embarrassment to the party and is bound to damage its chances of re-election, already hit by the reluctance of his widow, Sonia, to become embroiled in campaigning.

One of the most damning testimonies in the report comes from S B Chavan, the former Congress party home minister, who admitted the motivation for the cover-up. "Uppermost in our mind was to save the name of the Gandhi family," said Chavan as he tried to explain why attempts were made to prevent inquiries into Rajiv's assassination from extending to the period before 1987, when the *Tamil Tigers* began fighting Indian troops in Sri Lanka.

The Indian government first became involved in supporting Tamil militants against the alleged oppression of Sri Lanka's majority Sinhalese community after civil war broke out on the island in 1983, the year before Rajiv succeeded his mother as prime minister.

Tamil Tiger deal cost Gandhi's life

According to one former police chief of Tamil Nadu, the government supported six training camps for **Tamil Tigers** in the southern state when the rebels' strength was put at 495, including 90 **women**. Nearly 3,000 militants from other Tamil groups were then given training in the camps.

"The prime ministers' advisers were working overtime giving facilities to the militants," said the police chief. "The idea was that after training, they would be supplied with arms and sent to northern Sri Lanka to engage the Sri Lankan troops in guerrilla action."

According to intelligence sources quoted in the Indian press, one of the activists trained at the camp was a fighter named Sivarasan, who allegedly became a key conspirator directly involved in Rajiv's death.

In the conclusion to his report, Justice Milap Chand Jain condemns the support the governments of both Indira and Rajiv Gandhi gave to terrorist groups, saying they could not escape blame for "allowing leeway for Sri Lankan Tamil militants". Opponents of the Congress party are less charitable. They point to testimonies in the report alleging that in addition to the six government-run guerrilla training camps, 19 further camps for Tamil militants were allowed to operate on Indian soil from 1983. They claim the Tigers were also given arms.

This covert support for the guerrillas, they say, continued until weeks before Rajiv was forced to turn his back on them after the Sri Lankan government appealed directly to Delhi to send Indian troops to the beleaguered island as fighting there raged out of control.

Indian diplomats have since confirmed that the country's intelligence services were engaged in a "dual strategy" of maintaining contact with the militants at the same time as fighting them on behalf of the Sri Lankan government.

Senior Congress party officials yesterday confirmed that both the Indira and Rajiv Gandhi governments supported the **Tamil Tigers** initially. But they insisted that such support ended after the Indian army began fighting the Tigers.

The most important evidence before the Jain commission, they claimed, was that regional politicians of the DMK had continued encouraging the Tigers even as they plotted Rajiv's death.

Load-Date: December 17, 1997

**Bullets whizzed over our heads;
British holidaymakers caught in the crossfire of Sri Lankan terror raid relive
airport drama and wonder how an earth they get out alive**

DAILY MAIL (London)

July 25, 2001

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Section: Pg. 6

Length: 1155 words

Byline: David Williams;Richard Shears

Body

BRITISH tourists told yesterday how they feared they were going to die as they huddled terrified in a ditch with grenades and bullets exploding around them on the island of Sri Lanka.

Some couples said goodbye to one another as planes and buildings went up in flames and shrapnel tore through the air.

The holidaymakers, who included several honeymoon couples, were among hundreds waiting to fly home from the main airport when Tamil Tiger guerillas launched an attack which left 13 rebels and seven Sri Lankan troops dead.

At one point pregnant women and children fled across the burning airfield and threw themselves to the ground while, under intense gunfire, a group of Britons tore down a perimeter fence.

Newlyweds Benjamin Martin, a stage technician, and his wife Clare, 33, were among 47 Britons caught in the ten-hour raid.

'We heard some thumping outside and then some pops but didn't think much of it,' 27-year-old Mr Martin said last night in the capital Colombo.

'The next minute I heard staff yelling, "Get out, get out, run, run!"

'As soon as we got outside it got really hairy. We could hear the rattle of machine gun fire and we saw tracer bullets screaming across the road from all directions.

'Clare and I and a large group of others made a dash for a concrete outhouse, and flattened ourselves down on the grass behind it.

'We couldn't run any further because the airport fence was behind us, so we were trapped between this outhouse and the fence.

'Mortars were screaming across the tops of our heads and we could hear the whizz of bullets.

Bullets whizzed over our heads; British holidaymakers caught in the crossfire of Sri Lankan terror raid relive airport drama and wonder how an earth they got out....

'Then some government soldiers came running around firing in all directions. They told us to run before they ran off themselves.' Mr Martin, from Hitchin, Hertfordshire, said they found a hole in the airport fence. But it was too small for all of them to escape through quickly so they kicked the fence down.

'Finally we got out on to the road, keeping our heads down,' he added.

'We were all huddled together, pregnant women, some kids, all hoping and praying we weren't going to get hit.

'The next minute the tracer bullets whizzed across the road in front of us and behind.

'Some of us managed to scramble into a ditch. I think that was the worst part, lying there in the dark with all hell breaking loose and not knowing whether one of the mortars that were flying around was going to hit us.' Mr Martin said soldiers and airport staff, except for one brave check-in counter worker, had abandoned the tourists.

During a break in the shooting, the airport worker led the holidaymakers across fields to a hotel.

Astonishingly, none of the Britons was injured in the raid in which eight fighter jets and helicopters and five airliners, including two jumbos, were set ablaze.

'We estimate the losses at GBP 200million,' Sri Lanka's aviation minister Jeyaraj Fernandopulle said.

One rebel blew himself up in the

whizzed baggage-handling bay where bags lay unattended on a gore-spattered conveyor belt.

Engineer Alan Liddle, 31, from Newcastle, and his wife Sarah, 30, who had been in the Maldives, said it was a 'miracle' none of the tourists died.

At one point, Mrs Liddle said, she had turned to her husband to say, 'I love you', fearing they could be parted.

'You can't have that number of people at least 30 of us running through gunfire and ricocheting bullets and not get hit, but that's how it was,' her husband said. 'We got away with it.' Matt Skeats and his pregnant wife Rebecca's flight from the Maldives to Bandaranaike airport, 19 miles from Colombo, arrived half an hour early.

The scheduled 3.55am arrival was the moment the Tigers attacked and had their plane landed amid the gunfire scores of holidaymakers could have died.

Mr Skeats, a health club manager from London, said: 'I'm alive because we arrived early.' Another holidaymaker Louise King, who is also pregnant, said she had crouched down as bullets peppered the wall behind her.

Mrs King, from Hartlepool, said: 'It's the kind of thing you see on TV but is never supposed to happen to you.' Builder Jimmy Belleini, 36, from Holland Park, West London, who had been on honeymoon, described how he had seen rebels firing into the airport from lookout towers and then watched as they launched mortars.

It was 'like Sarajevo', he said.

n Q Q Is it safe to visit Sri Lanka?

A The Foreign Office yesterday urged Britons to consider postponing visits until further notice. It said that fighting continues in Tamil areas in the north and east of the island and strongly advised Britons not to visit those areas. Anyone in doubt should contact their tour operators.

Q How popular is Sri Lanka with British holidaymakers?

A Around 60,000 Britons a year visit the island, formerly Ceylon, but this is one of the quietest tourist times.

Q Have the Tigers ever targeted western visitors?

Bullets whizzed over our heads; British holidaymakers caught in the crossfire of Sri Lankan terror raid relive airport drama and wonder how an earth they get out....

A Bombs have been planted at beaches and hotels where tourists could have been victims, but visitors have never been singled out. Several years ago, a bomb was planted next to the hotel of the Australian cricket team. Terror experts say that tourists are increasingly likely to become targets since the U.S. put the Tigers on a list of proscribed groups.

Q Who are the Tamil Tigers?

A The Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) is a 10,000-strong fanatically-driven force based in the northern stronghold of Jaffna. Its fighters have developed suicide bombing as a favoured tactic.

Their support comes from Tamil agricultural workers whose families lost their livelihoods in reforms in the late 1970s.

Q What are their aims?

A To create an independent state for the country's 3million Tamils. Sri Lanka is run by the 18million Sinhalese majority.

Q What is the background to the latest attack?

A Yesterday was the anniversary of the deaths of up to 3,000 Tamils at the hands of Sinhalese mobs in 1983 regarded as the trigger to the Tigers' rebellion which has claimed more than 63,000 lives.

Q Who arms the Tigers?

A Most of their weaponry is captured from government forces or bought from the countries of the former Soviet Union. The Tigers, whose fighters include women and children, wear cyanide capsules around their neck in case of capture martyrdom is achieved through avoiding capture by suicide.

Q How are they funded?

A The bulk of their money is from abroad, especially from Tamils in Britain, France and Canada. Methods of raising cash are reported to include extortion and illegal trade as well as legitimate business and charities.

Q Are their activities legal in Britain?

A Last March, then Home Secretary Jack Straw said he intended to ban the LTTE under antiterrorist laws.

Q How effective have the Tigers been?

A Sri Lanka spends GBP 500million a year on the war and has 100,000 troops fighting. Whenever Colombo claims a success, the Tigers attack elsewhere with lightning strikes from their jungle bases. The rebels are guilty of many atrocities, notably the 1991 murder of Indian premier Rajiv Gandhi.

Load-Date: July 26, 2001

CAPITAL SHAKES AS PUSH ON TAMILS BITES

Herald Sun

July 10, 1995 Monday

Copyright 1995 Nationwide News Pty Limited

Length: 358 words

Body

COLOMBO - Tamil rebels exploded powerful bombs in the Sri Lankan capital today as 10,000 soldiers continued a major offensive against them in the north. Blasts rocked the high security Galle Face Green opposite the army headquarters, the Vihara Maha Devi Park and the Mount Lavinia beach resort but there were no casualties, police said. The explosions came hours after infantry troops broke out of their garrison in the Jaffna peninsula where the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (**LTTE**) maintain their de facto separate state. At least two soldiers were killed and 27 wounded in heavy fighting after security forces advanced 5km on one axis and 7km on another from the Palaly military complex. "This operation is aimed at taking on **LTTE** targets within Jaffna," spokesman Sarath Munasinghe said as hand-to-hand battles continued. The Tamil Tiger guerrillas said more than 100,000 Tamil civilians were left homeless and a "large number" killed or wounded in the government offensive. The **LTTE** said air force planes carried out indiscriminate attacks "over large parts" of the Jaffna peninsula. The military claimed to have killed at least 11 Tiger guerrillas for the loss of two soldiers dead and 51 wounded in 12 hours of fighting. Aircraft supported the advancing ground troops by hitting a boatyard of the **LTTE**'s Sea Tiger unit and a camp of the **women** cadres known as Freedom Birds along the north-eastern sector of Jaffna, Mr Munasinghe said. Mr Munasinghe had no details of rebel casualties but said a helicopter hit by Tiger small arms fire made an emergency landing at the Palaly base from where Leap Forward was launched.

As close-range battles raged in the north, the police and armed forces tightened security in the capital, fearing revenge attacks from the Tigers. Operation Leap Forward came 12 hours after President Chandrika Kumaratunga vowed to restore peace to where over 50,000 people have been killed since 1972. "If peace cannot be achieved by peaceful means, we will resort to any means to restore peace," Ms Kumaratunga said at the launch of a campaign to raise (\$21.10 million) for the welfare of soldiers. - APPEND OF STORY

Graphic

PRESIDENT KUMARATUNGA.

Load-Date: October 1, 2003

Norwegian Government \$% Breakthrough in Sri Lanka peace negotiations negotiations negotiations

\$%M2 PRESSWIRE presswire presswire

December 5, 2002 2002 2002

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Length: 948 words

Body

The third session of Sri Lanka peace negotiations was completed in Oslo today. The government and **LTTE** have decided to explore a political solution founded on internal self-determination based on a federal structure within a united Sri Lanka.

This is a most positive breakthrough in the peace negotiations and an important step in the direction of a solution for lasting peace in Sri Lanka, says Deputy State Secretary Vidar Helgesen in the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

The parties agreed on a common declaration (attached)

Statement of the Royal Norwegian Government

Oslo, 5 December 2002

Parties have decided to explore a political solution founded on internal self-determination based on a federal structure within a united Sri Lanka

The third session of peace talks between the Government of Sri Lanka (GOSL) and the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (**LTTE**) was held in Oslo, Norway on 2 to 5 December 2002. In a frank, open and constructive manner, the parties focused on three major areas:

- * Consolidation of the ceasefire ceasefire ceasefire

- * Humanitarian and rehabilitation action

- * Political matters

The parties agreed on a working outline defining the objective as well as a number of substantive political issues for negotiation.

Responding to a proposal by the leadership of the **LTTE**, the parties agreed to explore a solution founded on the principle of internal self-determination in areas of historical habitation of the Tamil-speaking peoples, based on a federal structure within a united Sri Lanka. The parties acknowledged that the solution has to be acceptable to all communities.

Guided by this objective, the parties agreed to initiate discussions on substantive political issues such as, but not limited to:

Norwegian Government \$% Breakthrough in Sri Lanka peace negotiations negotiations negotiations

- * Power-sharing between the centre and the region, as well as within the centre
- * Geographical region
- * Human Rights protection
- * Political and administrative mechanism
- * Public finance
- * Law and order

The parties recognised that progress on political issues must be supported by the continued consolidation of the Ceasefire Agreement. New concrete measures will be taken to facilitate further de-escalation and to improve normalcy:

- * The GOSL will shortly return one of the hotels in Jaffna to its original use
- * The LTTE will ensure that all future transportation of area commanders will take place under the supervision of the Sri Lanka Monitoring Mission (SLMM)
- * The LTTE will accept the right of political groups to carry out political work, including in the Jaffna peninsula and the islands, provided that they are unarmed, as stipulated by the Ceasefire Agreement
- * The GOSL will, in consultation with all relevant parties and groups, evolve a solution to the problems arising from recent developments in the Delft island
- * The parties will facilitate restoration and rehabilitation of places of worship in the north and the east belonging to all religious communities.

On the basis of their firm conviction that the maintenance of law and order in the north and east is of paramount importance, the parties agreed to request the Sub-Committee on De-escalation and Normalization to propose a common approach to settling cases involving the disputed use of private property, where such use has been impeded by the conflict.

Furthermore, the LTTE will ensure that the activities of their law and order mechanisms will not be extended beyond the areas dominated by the LTTE.

The parties strongly underlined the need to move rapidly on humanitarian and rehabilitation efforts in the north and east.

For this purpose, the early establishment of the North-East Reconstruction Fund will be critical. The parties agreed that the custodian of the fund should be selected and modalities for its operation agreed at the next meeting of the Sub-Committee on Immediate Humanitarian and Rehabilitation Needs. The parties expressed their appreciation of the strong support extended by several governments to the peace process at the Sri Lanka Support Meeting held in Oslo on 25 November, and urged these governments to rapidly release funds needed for humanitarian and rehabilitation efforts.

The parties agreed that a committee of women will be instituted to explore the effective inclusion of gender issues in the peace process. The committee will also, on a regular basis, submit proposals relating to womens interests to the sessions of negotiations and to the sub-committees of the peace process. The committee will consist of four representatives of each party.

As a priority area identified by the parties for humanitarian action, the parties stressed the need to improve the situation for children affected by armed conflict. Inspired by the international norms protecting the rights of the child, the parties underlined that children belong with their families or other custodians and not in the workplace, whether civilian or military. The LTTE will engage in a partnership with the United Nations Childrens Fund (UNICEF) to draw

Norwegian Government \$% Breakthrough in Sri Lanka peace negotiations negotiations negotiations

up an action plan for restoring normalcy to the lives of children, and the parties called on the international community to provide financial support for such an action plan.

The GOSL will, in order to arrive at the broadest possible consensus, establish an appropriate mechanism for consultation with all segments of opinion as part of the ongoing peace process.

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symposium on terrorism opens in colombo

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SEPTEMBER 28, 1999, TUESDAY

Length: 360 words

Dateline: colombo, september 28; ITEM NO: 0928133

Body

the 14th symposium on international terrorism was inaugurated tuesday in colombo, the capital of sri lanka, amid tight security for fears of tamil rebels' sabotage. the two-day symposium, held under the auspices of the international criminal police organization (interpol), has been shrouded in secrecy in sri lanka which has been plagued by a 16-year-old civil war between government troops and the liberation tigers of tamil eelam (ltte). there were few reports about the symposium in the local media and even the venue of the symposium is not known to the public until tuesday due to security concerns. the symposium will focus on the financing of international terrorism, the biggest concern for countries like sri lanka which sees ltte's overseas funding prolong the disastrous civil war. sri lanka's acting minister of defense gen. anuruddha ratwatte told the inauguration ceremony, "the government of sri lanka has made a strong commitment toward combating and suppressing this scourge of terrorism which is taking a heavy toll of the lives of thousands of innocent men, women and children in almost every corner of the globe." the ltte, fighting for a homeland for minority tamils in sri lanka's north and east since 1983, has been branded by the government as a terrorist organization and was banned at home as well as in india, malaysia and the united states. however, the ltte's complex overseas fund-raising network has enabled it to survive the government's economic sanctions and successive military offensives and has been the headache of the government.

ratwatte said that combating international terrorism requires a concerted global effort. "no state however strong could by itself deal effectively with combating terrorism, given the international dimensions of this phenomenon." the symposium is attended by 72 experts from different police agencies of 37 countries and regions, including canada, china, china's hong kong, france, germany, sri lanka, the united states and britain. several international organizations are invited to the symposium.

Load-Date: September 29, 1999

REBELS HACK VILLAGERS

Herald Sun

October 27, 1995 Friday

Copyright 1995 Nationwide News Pty Limited

Length: 351 words

Byline: NICK MACFIE

Body

SRI LANKA'S Tamil Tiger guerrillas hacked to death or shot at least 36 villagers yesterday and the death toll could rise as high as 100, the military said. The Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (**LTTE**) advanced two kilometres through the sparsely populated area in and around the villages of Thamannagama and Kebithigollewa, 220 km northeast of Colombo, hacking and shooting as they went. "The death toll so far is 36, but we expect it to go as high as 100," military spokesman Brigadier Sarath Munasinghe said. He said most of the victims had been hacked to death in the dawn attack, the fifth of its kind since Saturday, with the combined death toll of mainly Sinhalese well over 120. Police in the nearby ancient capital of Anuradhapuram could not confirm yesterday's death toll, but said the **LTTE** had used guns, knives and "katties" (long-handled machetes) to kill at least 21 men, **women** and children. "The villagers were fast asleep when the **LTTE** opened the doors and called them out and killed them," an officer said. "They want to clear the border, clearing out the Sinhalese." An army source in Colombo said the Tigers were distressed after losing ground and 425 men against the armed forces in their northern Jaffna peninsula stronghold in eight days of fighting. "They are losing now. They are wild, like animals," he said. A final thrust on Jaffna by the armed forces is expected soon. The two villages lie in Welioya district, the heart of the separatist conflict, lodged between government and Tiger controlled areas where Sinhalese villages are under continual threat from the **LTTE**.

Diplomats say the village attacks are diversionary tactics also aimed at ethnically cleansing the east of Sinhalese, who make up the majority of the country's population. "They are trying to pull down the armed forces from the north," a western diplomat said. "But the government seems determined not to (move troops) at this stage." The diplomat said an attempt to sow communal unrest with the massacres was also likely to fail, as the security forces were in control of major civilian areas. - REUTEREND OF STORY

Graphic

-KEYS- -LIB- -SECT- NEWS

Load-Date: October 1, 2003

Sri Lankan violence sparks clampdown

THE AUSTRALIAN

October 23, 1995 Monday 0 Edition

Copyright 1995 Nationwide News Pty Limited

Length: 489 words

Byline: -SOURCE- AFP

Body

THE Sri Lankan Government yesterday tightened security and appealed for calm as ethnic tensions reach flashpoint with fighting intensifying around the country. As battles raged in the north where Tamil separatists continue their campaign for a separate State, Sinhalese lynched two Tamils and government officials reported a massacre of Sinhalese civilians. Authorities had imposed a curfew after Tamil rebels allegedly slaughtered 73 ethnic Sinhalese men, women and children in three separate attacks. Sinhalese mobs lynched two Tamil men in Colombo in an apparent revenge attack for Friday's Tamil Tiger attack on key oil installations. A police spokesman said the two men may have been mistaken for members of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) who launched rocket attacks against Kolonnawa refined oil tank depot and Orugodawatte crude oil reservoir. Security has been tightened at the main international airport, railway station and other "sensitive" facilities. "The situation is under control. We have also tightened security at sensitive installations. From now on there will be frequent search operations in Colombo," a military spokesman said. The fire at Kolonnawa was brought under control with help from Indian fire-fighters but the crude oil complex still burned out of control yesterday, officials said. The Information Minister, Mr Dharmasiri Senanayake, appealed for calm and said in a statement release yesterday that the terrorist attacks were aimed at creating inter-communal tension and disrupting the economy. "On behalf of the Government, I wish to appeal to all sections of the people of Sri Lanka not to be influenced by rumours and false propaganda which will lead to a breach of peace," the minister said.

Military officials also said a Sinhalese was killed and at least six others wounded in army shooting during search operations yesterday. At least 22 security personnel and seven LTTE cadres were killed in the attacks against the oil depots on Friday. A military spokesman, Mr Sarath Munasinghe, said the Tiger attacks were aimed at blunting an army advance in the rebel-held northern Jaffna peninsula, where security forces claim to have killed nearly 200 rebels in the past five days. The LTTE killing of 13 Sinhalese soldiers in July 1983 sparked ethnic riots in Colombo, killing at least 400, mostly Tamils. The 1983 ethnic riots have developed into a full-scale separatist conflict with the LTTE vowing to set up an independent nation in the northern and eastern regions for Sri Lanka's two million Tamils. A night curfew that was imposed in the capital was lifted at dawn yesterday after a day of sporadic gun-battles between troops and suspected LTTE militants holed up in Colombo, police said. Residents in the capital stocked up on provisions in anticipation of more curfews while long queues formed outside filling stations amid fears of fuel shortages caused by the attacks on the two oil depots.

Load-Date: October 1, 2003