

**IS THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY
AWARE OF CRIMES AGAINST HUMANITY AND
WAR CRIMES COMMITTED BY**

SRI LANKA?

**APPEAL TO THE
UN HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL**

**APPEL A LA PRISE DE CONSCIENCE DU
CONSEIL DES DROITS DE L'HOMME - NATIONS UNIES**

**LLAMADO PARA REACCIÓN URGENTE DEL
CONSEJO DE DERECHOS HUMANOS-NACIONES UNIDAS**

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03/03/2008 -- 28/03/2008

LOGO

**TAMIL CENTRE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS - TCHR
CENTRE TAMOUL POUR LES DROITS DE L'HOMME - CTDH
CENTRO TAMIL PARA LOS DERECHOS HUMANOS
(ESTABLISHED IN 1990)**

FORMER PRESIDENT CHANDRIKA KUMARATUNGA
LTTE POSITIONS ATTACKED EVEN DURING THE TALKS
BBC Sinhala service, 19 February 2008

.....When questioned that the current government did not attack the LTTE positions until after the repeated provocations by the LTTE including the attempted assassination of the Army Commander, Mrs. Kumaratunga said that was not true. ***The Rajapaksa administration, she said, attacked LTTE positions even during the talks between the parties.***

(Excerpt http://www.bbc.co.uk/sinhala/news/story/2008/02/080219_chandrika_vijaya.shtml)

* * * * *

LTTE HAD PULLED OUT, IT HAD BEEN SIDELINED
ANDREW LOVE (LABOUR, MP FOR EDMONTON)

“..... Almost immediately after the ceasefire agreement in 2002, despite six rounds of talks that seemed to be very positive — the LTTE discussed prisoner exchanges ***and was going to drop the idea of an independent state*** — by 2003 the LTTE had pulled out, ***suggesting that it had been sidelined.*** That resulted in a serious loss of momentum.” said in the House of Commons on 2 May 2007 . (Excerpt)

* * * * *

GOVERNMENT HAVE EMPLOYED DELAYING TACTICS
JEREMY CORBYN, (LABOUR, MP FOR ISLINGTON NORTH)

“..... There seems to have been a long period in which the Sri Lankan Government have employed delaying tactics.....” said in the House of Commons on 17 January 2008. (Excerpt)

* * * * *

AFTER 30 YEARS OF CIVIL WAR, UN MUST BE REPRESENTED
SIMON HUGHES, (LIBERAL DEMOCRAT, MP FOR NORTH SOUTHWARK & BERMONDSEY)

“I have to say that without international adjudication and verification, the Sri Lankan Government will not be regarded as acceptable. I understand the arguments about sovereignty, but if they are trying to win credibility in the world after 30 years of civil war, the UN must be represented in the country and able to go about its business there. The Sri Lankan Government must change their view on that.” said in the House of Commons on 17 January 2008. (Excerpt)

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(Established in 1990)

WEBSITE : www.tchr.net

TCHR PARTICIPATION IN UNITED NATIONS WORLD CONFERENCES AND OTHER MEETINGS

- * *The Tamil Centre for Human Rights (TCHR) officially participated in the 'United Nations 7th Global Forum, Re-instating good governance', in Vienna, Austria 26-29 June 2007.*
- * *Members of TCHR participated in the World Federation of United Nations Associations (WFUNA) seminar in Geneva, Switzerland, 29-31 July 2007.*
- * *TCHR officially accredited to participate in the United Nations Conference on Anti-corruption Measures, Good Governance and Human Rights, in Warsaw, Poland 8-9 November 2006.*
- * *A meeting was held on 7 March 2006, in the European Parliament – titled "EU contribution to the peace process in Sri Lanka". This was jointly organised by TCHR and Mr. Robert Evans, a member of European Parliament of Labour Party in UK.*
- * *Accredited by the United Nations to participate in the World Summit on the Information Society – WSIS in Tunisia, 16 – 18 November 2005.*
- * *Officially participated in the NGO forum of the UN World Conference Against Racism – WCAR in Durban, South Africa, from 28 August to 1 September 2001. TCHR held an information stall including an exhibition at the forum. The TCHR representatives also attended the main WCAR conference held in Durban, 31 August to 7 September 2001.
(http://www.tchr.net/reports_wcar_detail.htm)*
- * *A meeting was held on 14 October 1998, in the European Parliament – titled "Press censorship in Sri Lanka". This was jointly organised by the Tamil Centre for Human Rights (TCHR) and Ms. Anita Pollack, a member of European Parliament of Labour Party in UK.*
- * *In 1993, held an information stall and a photo exhibition on human rights violations, in the United Nations 2nd World Conference on Human Rights held in Vienna, Austria, from 14-25 June.*
- * *TCHR participates in meetings of Treaty bodies and submits reports to the same.*

Fact finding missions to the North East of the Island of Sri Lanka

- * *May 2003* (http://www.tchr.net/report_studymission_2003.htm)
- * *December 2003 – addendum report* (http://www.tchr.net/report_studymission_2003add.htm)
- * *July-August 2004* (http://www.tchr.net/reports_visite_2004.htm)

HEAD OFFICE

9, RUE DES PEUPLIERS
95140 - GARGES LES GONESSE
FRANCE

Email : tchrgs@hotmail.com
tchrdip@hotmail.com

Fax : + 33 - 1 – 42 67 54 36

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3 March 2008

**The President
Members and Delegates
7th Session – UN Human Rights Council
1211 Geneva 10, Switzerland**

Distinguished Sirs / Mesdames,

Since the establishment of our organisation in 1990, we have been bringing our concerns regarding the situation in Sri Lanka to all UN Human Rights forums.

We wish to place before your esteemed honors our report on the violations of human rights and denial of fundamental freedoms perpetrated on innocent Tamil civilians in the North and East by long years of war and military occupation. The human rights situation has been deteriorating there for many long years. Cultural and mandated genocide, multiple displacements, a systematic economic embargo and impunity are all very serious problems.

On a daily basis, over a hundred Tamils are being arrested and detained. The security forces and paramilitaries are given a free hand to abduct, arrest, rape and carry out arbitrary killings. Aerial bombing and artillery attacks on the civilian population are causing severe problems in the North.

The situation of the Internally Displaced People (IDPs) in the North East remains critical. Press freedom and freedom of expression are in peril in Sri Lanka. Journalists are arrested, tortured, abducted, disappeared and killed over-night. International human rights law and international humanitarian law are being massively violated by Sri Lanka.

Misinformation is disseminated locally and internationally by the Sri Lankan government, to distort the real picture of what is happening in Sri Lanka.

Sirs / Mesdames, the reports of UN Special rapporteurs, UN Working groups and many statements by international NGOs to this august forum, clearly indicate that there is **imminent danger in Sri Lanka!**

According to article one of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights-ICCPR and International Covenant on Economic and Social and Cultural Rights-ICESCR, the demand to exercise their right to self-determination is the birth right of the Tamil-speaking people.

In free and fair elections held in July 1977, the Tamil people overwhelmingly voted to establish and exercise their "Right to Self-determination" in the North East. It is surprising, that this democratic mandate is continuously ignored by Sri Lanka and also by the international community.

After all parliamentary and non-violent methods had been exhausted an armed struggle started. For the last twenty five years, the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam - LTTE has been engaged in this armed struggle with the support of the Tamils, in exercise of the right to self-determination in the Tamil hereditary regions. Presently there is a de-facto government under the LTTE administration. It has been in existence for nearly 18 years and it has its own infrastructures - Tamil Eelam police and judiciary; banking and educational institutions, as well as welfare centres for children, disabled people, elders and war victims and various other institutions.

This January 2008, Sri Lanka withdrew from the Ceasefire Agreement-CFA between the government of Sri Lanka and the LTTE that was signed in February 2002. Even while the CFA was in place, most of its articles were never implemented by the government of Sri Lanka. Significantly, the government did not disarm paramilitaries (contrary to stipulation in article 1.8), people continued to be harassed at checkpoints (article 2.1 and 2.5); temples, churches and schools remained occupied by the Sri Lankan army (article 2.2, 2.3), displaced people remained in their camps, deliberate High Security Zones were created and freedom of movement was denied. Furthermore the fishermen (article 2.11) in the North East continued to be constantly harassed and intimidated by Sri Lanka Navy and armed forces.

Sirs / Mesdames, members and delegates will be aware that in October 2006, Diplomats of the European Union took the initiative and Finland as the holder of the EU presidency tabled a "draft decision 2006/....." (A/HRC/2/L.37) on Sri Lanka. Unfortunately, as anticipated by many, this was unsuccessful in earlier sessions. We fervently hope it will be successful during the current session. We urgently appeal to you and other distinguished delegates to seriously consider all available mechanisms to ensure rigorous and timely international scrutiny.

In addition, we urge this session to take immediate steps and prompt action to alleviate the humanitarian catastrophe that is being deliberately inflicted by the government of Sri Lanka on civilians in the North East.

Yours sincerely
**S. V. Kirubaharan
General Secretary**

GOVERNMENT MINISTER SAYS SOLUTION TO CONFLICT A MOCKERY

Daily Mirror, 26 January 2008 - Up Country People's Front leader and Minister P. Chandrasekaran has refused to accept the 13th Amendment to the Constitution as a solution to the conflict terming it as a mockery saying it disregards the aspirations of the Tamil People.

"If the, proposed implementation of the 13th Amendment is to be considered as the solution to the ethnic crisis, then the long battle fought since the 13th Amendment was introduced and the discussions conducted in that connection among the political parties will have to be discarded as meaningless," the UPF leader whose party is an ally of the government said

Mr. Chandrasekaran said the 13th Amendment which was introduced in 1987 had been rejected 20 years ago as falling short of the aspirations of the Tamil People and subsequently it was emphasized that a credible political solution which would guarantee the rights of the Tamil people must be worked out.

"This was the reason why the provincial council system introduced for the North and East of the country was not accepted. In this backdrop the same provincial council system being put forward once again as a solution to the ethnic issue, will be a mockery," he said.

Minister Chandrasekaran said the bifurcating of the North and East as separate units with the East as a single province was pointless and added that taking a unilateral decision on the appointment of an interim administrative structure would only antagonize the Tamil community even more.

"Further by keeping the LTTE away from all these activities can practically bring no results

13TH AMENDMENT HAS RISEN FROM THE ASHES

The Sunday Leader, 10 February 2008 - Although the 13th Amendment - an offshoot of the Indo-Lanka Peace Accord of 1987, has now been reduced to a dusty, orphaned document, it remains the only agreement that binds the LTTE as much as it does the Sri Lankan government to devolve power from the centre.

At the time of its introduction, it was rejected as being flawed by Tamil political parties, the main opposition SLFP and the JVP. Once again, the 13th Amendment has risen from the ashes to the cry of a resounding 'nay' from the Tamil political parties, who refuse to accept it even as a basis for talks.

It is strange however that the JVP too rejects it, having weaselled their way into the provincial councils through the mid 1990s, where they currently bear the fruits of the council's mere existence. The JVP in fact has threatened to topple the government if the President proceeds to implement the 13th Amendment. (*Excerpt*)

KILLINGS BY THE JVP DURING 1987-1992 OVER THE 13TH AMENDMENT (Excerpt – The Sunday Leader, 10 February 2008)

Buddhist monks-	30	Catholic priests -	02
Police officers -	342	Army personnel -	209
Public servants -	487	School principals-	50
Lawyers -	10	Engineers -	03
University professors -	02	Media personnel-	04
Doctors -	04	Gramarakshakas-	98
Estate Superintendents -	18	UNP supporters-	1,735
SLFP supporters -	102	Politicians-	06
Reputed business persons-	06	Trade union leaders	27
Other political killings -	2,892		
Elected representatives -	64		
Family members of army personnel -	69		
Family members of police personnel -	93		
Suspected as government informants -	260		
United Socialist Front supporters -	64		
Total -	6,577		

(Source: Government Intelligence Reports)

PROPERTY DESTROYED BY THE JVP

CTB buses	-	613	CTB depots	-	16
Trains	-	16	Railway stations-		24
Tea factories	-	73	Grama Niladhari offices	-	294
District Secretariat offices-		79	Post offices	-	680
Agriculture service centres-		103	Schools	-	08
Co-operative shops	-	16			

(Source: Government Intelligence Reports)

BIRTH OF BANGLADESH USA, PAKISTAN, INDIA AND CEYLON (SRI LANKA)

WASHINGTON, MARCH 6, 1971, 11:40 A.M.-12:20 P.M.
MINUTES OF SENIOR REVIEW GROUP MEETING/1/

SUBJECT - Pakistan

PARTICIPATION – Chairman: Henry A. Kissinger

State : U. Alexis Johnson, Christopher Van Hollen, William Spengler, Thomas Thornton

Defense: James S. Noyes, Brig. Gen. Devol Brett

CIA : Richard Helms, David H. Blee

JCS : Vice Adm. John Weinel, Col. James Connell

NSC Staff : Col. Richard Kennedy, Harold Saunders, Samuel Hoskinson, Jeanne W. Davis

SUMMARY OF DECISIONS

It was agreed to:

- discuss the situation with the British to see if they would take the lead in an approach to West Pakistan to discourage the use of force, if it should become necessary;
- advise our missions at Dacca and Islamabad of our thinking and instruct Dacca, if they receive an approach from Mujib on recognition of a separate East Pakistan regime, to say nothing and refer it to Washington;
- consult by telephone on Sunday, March 7 following word on Mujib's speech.2

Mr. Van Hollen: There are three possibilities for Mujib tomorrow: a unilateral declaration of independence; something just short of that-possibly a suggestion for two separate constitutions; or acceptance of Yahya's proposal that the National Assembly meet on March 25.

Mr. Kissinger: What would be the motive for a declaration of independence?

Mr. Van Hollen: There has been movement in East Pakistan in that direction which was intensified by Yahya's postponement of the National Assembly meeting that was scheduled for last Wednesday./7/ Also, they have interpreted Yahya's speech yesterday as being particularly hardline, blaming Mujib for the situation and threatening the use of force.

Mr. Helms: To coin a phrase, Yahya's attitude is that he did not become President of Pakistan to preside over the dissolution of the Pakistan state.

Mr. Kissinger: What force do they have?

Mr. Helms: 20,000 troops.

Mr. Kissinger: Would East Pakistan resist? What is their population?

Mr. Johnson: *75 million, and they would resist. Also, West Pakistan would not be allowed to overfly India.*

Mr. Kissinger: *It would be impossible. They would have to reinforce by ship.*

Mr. Johnson: *They have some C-130's which could fly around India by refueling in CEYLON.*

Mr. Kissinger: *CEYLON wouldn't let them, would they?*

Mr. Van Hollen: *They do it now, but they might not if circumstances should change.*

Mr. Noyes: India would put pressure on Ceylon to refuse.

Mr. Johnson: They could use their jet transports.

Mr. Noyes: They have 15,000 troops in Dacca.

Mr. Kissinger: You mean 15,000 of their 20,000 troops are in Dacca? They might just want to hold Dacca.

Mr. Van Hollen: It would depend on the West Pakistan reaction. It would probably buy us time. Something short of a unilateral declaration of independence might be accepted by West Pakistan. In that event, they would not use force.

Mr. Kissinger: In any event, that's not our problem. If West Pakistan accepts a solution in which each part conducts its own foreign relations, we would go along. **If West Pakistan doesn't accept such a solution, we will have to decide whether to go along and grant recognition to East Pakistan.** There would be no need for us to take a stand on autonomy. If they declare independence, we face the recognition question. If autonomy is rejected, we face the problem of our positions on the use of force. In other words, we have to face the question on the use of force in independence and autonomy. We face the problem of recognition only if they declare independence. Is that a fair statement? What are your views on this?

Mr. Johnson: On autonomy, if West Pakistan does not accept that solution and seeks to use force, I think we would want to **discourage the use of force. We would do the same in the event of a unilateral declaration of independence.**

Mr. Kissinger: What would we do to discourage the use of force? Tell Yahya we don't favor it?

Mr. Johnson: **We would first go to the British to try to get them to take the lead. We shouldn't take the lead.**

Mr. Kissinger: Intervention would almost certainly be self-defeating.

Mr. Van Hollen: *Another reason for our not taking the lead is that **West Pakistan is very suspicious that we are supporting a separate East Pakistan state.** If we tell Yahya to call off the use of force, it will merely fuel this suspicion.*

Mr. Kissinger: *The President will be very reluctant to do anything that Yahya could interpret as a personal affront. When we talk about trying to discourage West Pakistan intervention, **we mean try to get another country with a history of concern in the area to do it.** Would they do it in both our names?*

Mr. Johnson: It would be most unwise to do anything to prejudice our relations with Yahya. To whatever degree he remains and has power, we should do what we can to help him.

Mr. Kissinger: Would it make any difference if we suggested to West Pakistan that the use of force would be unwise? You understand ***I don't mind having another country taking the rap.***

Mr. Johnson: When we say "discourage" or "participate in discouraging" we don't mean pound the table and tell them they can't do it. We mean discuss it with them.

Mr. Kissinger: If we could go in mildly as a friend to say we think it's a bad idea, it wouldn't be so bad. But if the country is breaking up, they won't be likely to receive such a message calmly. ***If we can get the British to do it, I wish them well!***

Mr. Johnson: There has been no decision on our part to do anything. This is the purpose of our talks with the British.

Mr. Kissinger: It is essential that we discuss this with the British.

Mr. Van Hollen: The British may be very reluctant to do anything. It does have some advantages, though, because the ***Pakistanis are not as suspicious of the British*** as they are of us and the British odor in Pakistan is not bad now because of their attitude toward the recent hijacking.

Mr. Kissinger: Alex (Johnson) will talk to the British and we will all consult tomorrow-unless, of course, Mujib's speech is conciliatory. What if they declare their independence? Will we get an immediate recognition request?

Mr. Johnson: Probably, but we don't have to rush. We can see what Mujib says in his approach to us. ***We shouldn't be the first to recognize.*** We will want to consult with the British first since they have interests in both East and West Pakistan.

Mr. Van Hollen: ***The Japanese do too; also, possibly the West Germans and the French.***

Mr. Johnson: We will want to recognize eventually but not be the first.

Mr. Kissinger: *Option 3/9/ suggests we consult with the Indians in case a military situation develops. I wonder whether we should do that. I can see that, if there is a threat of **Indian military intervention**, we might wish to advise them that we think it unwise.*

Mr. Van Hollen: The prospect of Indian intervention is very slim in the early stages.

Source: Document 6, volume XI, South Asia crisis 1971, Department of State. (Excerpt Page 37-45) <http://www.state.gov/documents/organization/45587.pdf> Bangladesh Independence on 16 December 1971

ETHNIC CLEANSING / COLONISATION

The following statistics show how the Sri Lankan governments and their destructive agents plundered and robbed 50% of the ancestral lands of the Tamils of the Island of Sri Lanka. The author of this report is **Mr K. Sachithanandan**. He was a lecturer at the University of Jaffna and adviser to the United Nations on Food and Agriculture in twenty-three countries. He was also appointed as a research officer in the Fisheries Corporation in Colombo. (Report dated 1990)

Since 1827 - Tamil and Sinhala populations in the Eastern province (Table is shown on a language basis)

<u>Year</u>	<u>Tamil Speaking</u>	<u>Sinhala Speaking</u>
1827	99.24%	0.53%
1881	93.82%	4.66%
1891	93.89%	5.06%
1901	91.8%	5.05%
1911	93.4%	3.76%
1921	93.95%	4.53%
1946	87.8%	9.87%
1953	85.5%	13.11%
1963	79.25%	19.9%
1971	78.61%	20.7%
1981	74.4%	24.92%

Tamil and Sinhala populations in Trincomalee District, Batticaloa District* (Until 1963 it includes Amparai within Batticaloa district) & Amparai District (created in 1963)

YEAR	Trincomalee District		Batticaloa District		Amparai District	
	Tamil	Sinhala	Tamil	Sinhala	Tamil	Sinhala
1827	98.45%	1.53%	99.62%	0.00%	---	---
1881	90.72%	4.21%	93.27%	4.75%	---	---
1891	91.44%	4.3%	93.2%	5.21%	---	---
1901	89.04%	4.22%	92.34%	5.21%	---	---
1911	90.54%	3.82%	92.95%	3.74%	---	---
1921	92.13%	4.38%	93.12%	4.56%	---	---
1946	75.09%	20.68%	92.55%	5.83%	---	---
1953	78.8%	18.22%	87.64%	11.52%	---	---
1963	79.25%	19.9%	95.6%*	3.35%	70.22%	29.34%
1971	70.2%	28.8%	94.49%	4.49%	69.47%	30.18%
1981	65.38%	33.62%	95.95%	3.21%	62.03%	37.64

(<http://www.tchr.net/colanization.htm>)

In 1833 the Colebrook-Cameron Commission allocated approximately 26,500 sq.km as the Tamil People's Ancestral Motherland.

In 1901 when the nine provinces came into being, the Tamil administration of the Northern and Eastern Provinces measured approximately 19,100 sq.km. Due to some of the area being incorporated into the Sinhalese provinces the Tamil area had been reduced by approximately 7,500 sq.km.

After 1948 the government's settlement plan deprived the Tamils of 7,000 sq.km. in the Eastern Province and 500 sq.km. in the Northern Province. Although the Tamils protested, the Colombo administration ignored the Tamils and settled Sinhalese in these regions.

Approximately 7,500 sq.km of Tamil land was plundered by the Sinhala Government's Demarcation and Resettlement Plan when it came into operation. This has been taking place over the last forty years.

Before 1833, 25% of Tamil speaking people occupied 35% of land, which was in their administration as Tamil ancestral homeland. In 1901 this area shrunk from 35% to 29%.

Within 162 years the Sinhalese government under its crafty Demarcation and Resettlement Plan has plundered 50% of the Tamil ancestral homeland and is still attempting to colonise more and more!

DISPLACED TAMILS DURING COMMUNAL RIOTS :

Year	No. of refugees	Year	No. of refugees
1956	3000	1958	35,000
1977	15000	1981	5000
1983	250,000		

‘SINHALISATION OF EAST’ by M. I. M. Mohideen

The Island, 27 December 2007 - Facts and figures about population growth will help to illustrate how demography patterns have been unnaturally altered or distorted through state aided colonisation, demarcation of new political and administrative units and accelerated irrigation schemes in the Eastern Province.

	Trincomalee District	Batticaloa District	Amparai District	Eastern Province
Tamils	93,510 (39.78%)	238,216 (72.59%)	79,725 (20.57%)	411,451 (42.42%)
Muslims	74,403 (29.26%)	79,317 (24.17%)	116,481 (41.66%)	315,201 (32.49%)
Sinhalese	89,341 (33.96%)	10,646 (3.24%)	146,371 (37.77%)	243,358 (25.09%)
Total	245,250	328,170	387,577	978,010

The Eastern Province is 3,839 sq. miles in extent. Originally Trincomalee - 1,016 sq. miles and Batticaloa - 2,823 sq. miles were the districts in this province. According to the 1921 census, the Sinhalese were 3% of the population in the Trincomalee District and 4.5% in the combined Batticaloa and Amparai District. The Sinhalese were less than 4% in the whole Eastern Province.

The Batticaloa District was divided into the present Amparai District - 1,775 sq. miles and Batticaloa District - 1,048 sq. miles in 1961.

Population Increase between 1949 and 1981.

Tamil population increased from 136,059 to 411,451 - 302%, Muslim population increased from 109,024 to 315,201 - 289%, Sinhalese population increased from 27,556 to 243,358 - 883%. The National average increase of Sinhalese during this period is only 238%. The sudden increase of Sinhala population is the result of Government planned Sinhala Colonisation in Gal-oya, Pannal-oya, and Ambalam-oya in Amparai District, and Kanthalai, Allai, Morawewa, Muthalikkulam, Pathaviya (Part), and Mahadiuluwewa schemes in Trincomalee District. (*Excerpt*)

TAMIL-SINHALA POPULATION IN PUTTALAM DISTRICT

	Tamil		Sinhalese		Increase of Sinhalese
	1953	1971	1953	1971	
Puttalam	9,010	30,994	31,587	309,298	277,711

Source : *Memorandum of the Ceylon Institute for National and Tamil Affairs*

INTERNATIONAL OPINION

SRI LANKA – ‘THE COUNTRY WILL NEVER BE PUT TOGETHER AGAIN’ FOUNDING FATHER AND FORMER PRIME MINISTER OF SINGAPORE LEE KUAN YEW

Lee Kuan Yew: the Man and His Ideas is the title of a book published in Singapore in 1998. Written by three Straits Times journalists Han Fook Kwang Warren Fernandez and Sumiko Tan, the book carries fresh interviews with Lee Kuan Yew on the events that shaped his life and the way he governed Singapore.

Now in his graying years - he is 74 now - the founding father of Singapore is regarded as virtually a national institution at home. In transforming a busy ramshackle port city on a resourceless island into a prosperous multi-lingual nation, he created a model for other developing countries. He left the premiership in 1990 and assumed the role of , senior minister, but wields as much prestige and influence today as he did while holding office, a distinction rarely earned by any politician in any other country.

In talking of Sri Lanka, this is what Lee Kuan Yew says: -

'We have got to live with the consequences of our actions and we are responsible for our own people and we take the right decisions for them. You look at the old Philippines. The old Ceylon. The old East Pakistan and several others. I have been to these countries and places. When I went to Colombo for the first time in 1956 it was a better city than Singapore because Singapore had three and a half years of Japanese occupation and Colombo was the centre or HQ of Mountbatten's Southeast Asia command.

And they had sterling reserves. They had two Universities. Before the war, a thick layer of educated talent So if you believe what American liberals or British liberals used to say, then it ought to have flourished. But it didn't.

One-man one-vote led to the domination of the Sinhalese majority over the minority Tamils who were the active and intelligent fellows who worked hard and got themselves penalised. And English was out. They were educated in English. Sinhalese was in. They got quotas in two universities and now they have become fanatical Tigers. And the country will never be put together again.

Somebody should have told them - change the system, loosen up, or break off. And looking back, I think the Tunku was wise. (The reference is to Tunku Abdul Rahman the Malaysian Prime Minister under whose rule Singapore separated from Malaysia). I offered a loosening up of the system. He said: 'Clean cut, go your way'. Had we stayed in, and I look at Colombo and Ceylon, I mean changing names, sometimes maybe you deceive the gods, but I don't think you are deceiving the people who live in them. It makes no great difference to the tragedy that is being enacted. They failed because they had weak or wrong leaders '.

http://lifestyle.monstersandcritics.com/travel/features/article_1207597.php/A_lofty_palace_and_a_Buddhas_tooth_Sri_Lanka_beyond_the_beaches

TAMIL STATEHOOD

By Bruce Fein*

(former Associate Deputy Attorney General of the USA)

The Washington Times, January 29, 2008 - Applying the "self-evident" truths celebrated in the Declaration of Independence, the United States should recognize the right of Sri Lanka's long oppressed Tamil people to independent statehood from the racial supremacist Sinhalese. To deny the statehood right—sought by the Tamil people since 1976--would mark one of the United States' most ill-conceived hours. Double standards beget enmity or contempt, a steep price even for a superpower.

To borrow from the Declaration, let facts be submitted to a candid world.

In 1948, Sri Lanka achieved nationhood from British colonial rule with a population of approximately 10 million. The commanding majority were Buddhist-Sinhalese. A Hindu-Tamil minority approximated 2 million. Immediately upon independence, the Sinhalese denied citizenship and disenfranchised a staggering one million Tamils, which reduced them to a politically impotent ink blot. There has never been a Tamil President, Prime Minister, or head of the military. In the last two years, four Tamil parliamentarians under the ostensible protection of the Government of Sri Lanka (GOSL) have been assassinated. Sri Lanka's signature became predation, repression, and state sponsored race riots against Tamils, the first organized on May 27, 1958.

Take the grim fate of Tamil Jayantha Gnanakone, whose story speaks for all Tamils. Beginning in 1958, his family's businesses were thrice looted and burnt by Sinhalese while police and fire fighters played spectator. His best friend was burned alive; and, Jayantha was forced to flee to the United States for safety. No prosecutions were

forthcoming nor compensation paid. As an international airline pilot, Jayantha's career was stymied for balking at aping the Sinhalese. His shipping and transport business was crippled by the GOSL for protesting Tamil subjugation; and, the Parliament concocted allegations that he was smuggling drugs and guns. The GOSL similarly manufactured a criminal charge against Jayantha's mother, likening her to Colombia's notorious Pablo Escobar. She died of a heart attack in her home caused by stress during the appeal of her conviction and life sentence. In 2005, Jayantha's brother was arrested and falsely accused of complicity in the assassination of Sri Lanka's foreign minister. Jayantha's homes have been regularly raided and ransacked by the police or military without warrants. His wife was arrested in 2000 on suspicion of assisting the Tamil Tigers. Even his minor children, who are United States citizens, have been threatened with arrest on more than one occasion while visiting Sri Lanka.

The 1958 Sinhalese Only Act was a landmark in the history of Tamil oppression. It generally excluded or handicapped Tamils in public or private employment, education, housing, or welfare. Roads, schools, hospitals, and public utilities were short-changed in Tamil areas, which reflected a Sinhalese policy of "separate and unequal" that has persisted for 50 years. Budget revenues have been spent exclusively on Sinhala and Muslim areas; and, only three industries—cement, chemicals, and paper-- were founded in the Tamil region, and they have been shuttered for two decades.

In 1961, Tamils began a non-violent, Gandhi-like protest in favor of regional autonomy. The Sinhalese government answered with assaults on the demonstrators; mass arrests; detentions of Tamil members of Parliament; torture; and, shootings. The fire hoses and cattle prods employed by white policemen in the United States against civil rights demonstrators in the 1960s were gentle in comparison.

In 1978, then Prime Minister Junius Jayewardene unilaterally re-wrote the Sri Lankan constitution to the exclusion of Tamil representatives. It created an omnipotent presidency, an office which President Jayewardene employed to enact the 1979 Prevention of Terrorism Act. The law enables the Sinhalese police to arrest, search, or punish any Tamil who might question Sinhalese supremacy without judicial review or supervision.

In 1983, the Sinhalese government originated racial riots that culminated in the slaughter of 4,000 Tamils. No prosecutions were brought against the Sinhalese culprits. No Tamil was compensated. Crimes of violence against Tamils by Sinhalese are never pursued, reminiscent of black lynchings in the United States during Jim Crow.

Tamils cannot resort to Sri Lankan courts for protection. There is no parallel to the United States Supreme Court decision in Brown v. Board of Education (1954). In 1970, for example, the GOSL inaugurated a system of standardization which required Tamil students seeking college admission to score substantially higher marks than Sinhalese applicants.

This abbreviated chronicle of Sri Lanka's persecution of the Tamil people easily justifies Tamil statehood, with boundaries to be negotiated. The Declaration of Independence proclaims: "[W]hen a long train of abuses and usurpations, pursuing invariably the same Object, evinces a design to reduce [a people] under absolute Despotism, it is their right, it is their duty, to throw off such Government, and to provide new Guards for their future security." The Canadian Supreme Court in **re Secession of Quebec** (1998) elaborated that a right to secession may arise whenever a government flouts its obligation to represent "the whole people belonging to the territory without distinction of any kind." Tamils have been treated as third-class citizens for half a century.

Last Friday, the Sri Lankan Ambassador to the United States, Bernard Goonetilleke, sported with facts in likening the persecuted Tamils to the Confederate States of America. The Confederacy dominated the Congress and the White House for decades before 1860. The institution of slavery had been fortified by the Fugitive Slave Act of 1850, the Kansas-Nebraska Act of 1854, and the Supreme Court's decision in **Dred Scott v. Sanford** (1857) protecting slaveholders in Free States. The Civil War erupted when the Confederacy fired on Fort Sumter, not because of Union aggression. Is it any wonder that an ambassador has been defined as an honest man sent abroad to lie for his country?

President George W. Bush should not tarry in urging the GOSL to recognize Tamil statehood and to negotiate boundaries.

*** Bruce Fein is a lawyer for Tamils For Justice and Chairman of the American Freedom Agenda.
(Courtesy - www.tamilsforjustice.org)**

'YOU CAN'T LUMP ALL TERRORISTS TOGETHER'

-- SENATOR HILLARY CLINTON

Hillary Clinton's interview with Michael Tomasky-UK Guardian - Tuesday 23 October 2007

Yeah. Do you think that the terrorists hate us for our freedoms, or do you think they have specific geopolitical objectives?

Well, I believe that terrorism is a tool that has been utilized throughout history to achieve certain objectives. Some have been ideological, others territorial. There are personality-driven terroristic objectives. The bottom line is, you can't lump all terrorists together. And I think we've got to do a much better job of clarifying what are the motivations, the *raison d'être* of terrorists. I mean, what the Tamil Tigers are fighting for in Sri Lanka, or the Basque separatists in Spain, or the insurgents in al-Anbar province may only be connected by tactics. They may not share all that much in terms of what is the philosophical or ideological underpinning. And I think one of our mistakes has been painting with such a broad brush, which has not been particularly helpful in understanding what it is we were up against when it comes to those who pursue terrorism for whichever ends they're seeking.

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/uselections08/hillaryclinton/story/0,,2197197,00.html>

OBAMA CALLS SRI LANKA'S CIVIL WAR VICIOUS

News Post India, 8 January 2008 - The Sri Lankan ethnic issue has entered the US presidential campaign with Democratic Party contender Barack Obama saying that the conflict in the island is a 'vicious civil war'.

In an interview to candidates@google, Obama said that conflicts, such as those in Sri Lanka and Northern Ireland, stemmed from the inability of people to accommodate others who were not like them.

'The problem of the 21st century is the problem of the other,' he said.

The problem of 'the other' also afflicted the US, where there was a race issue, he said.

Speaking about Sri Lanka, he said that a 'vicious civil war' raged in that country even though 'everybody there looks exactly the same'.

Late last year, another Democratic presidential candidate, Hillary Clinton, had told a leading British newspaper that she would like a more 'nuanced' approach to armed non-state actors who were routinely dubbed as terrorists in the current war on terror.

Some of these groups needed to be viewed differently, she said, and mentioned the Tamil Tigers as one group that deserved such consideration.

In his interview to candidate@google, Obama spoke about the 'climate of fear' that President George W. Bush's war on terror was creating in the US.

'Part of my job as the next president is to break the fever of fear that has been exploited by this administration. We are told to be afraid of terrorists, immigrants and each other.

'This becomes the means by which our civil liberties are subverted and our values are distorted,' he said.

'We should show a willingness to speak to our adversaries,' Obama said and quoted the late US president John F. Kennedy who said: 'We should never negotiate out of fear but we should not fear to negotiate.'

'The notion that not talking to leaders we don't like makes us look tough is fundamentally flawed. It makes us look arrogant and sends a message to the world that we are not listening,' Obama said.

His approach to Iran would be different from that of Bush. He would talk to Iran to find 'common ground.'

Obama pointed out that the Bush administration had 'repeatedly rebuffed' gestures from Iran that might have allowed for some resolution of the conflicts in a non-military way.

<http://newspostindia.com/report-30168>

SOVEREIGNTY SHOULD BE FIRSTLY ABOUT RESPONSIBILITY RATHER THAN POWER BRITISH HIGH COMMISSIONER DOMINICK CHILCOTT

(Excerpts from the British High Commissioner Dominick Chilcott speech on 10 December 2007. The lecture was titled "A new diplomacy for a new century".

..... Of course, it is not easy to speak out against corruption, graft and the lowering of standards of public life. It takes courage. Many people feel that the space within civil society to express dissenting views is under great pressure. One of the unintended, but nonetheless, observable effects of the resurgence of the internal conflict has been to polarise society. There is a tendency to put people into one of two camps – either one is an uncritical supporter of the military campaign against the LTTE or one's loyalty to the Sri Lankan state is considered suspect.

That's a dangerously false dichotomy. There are a million shades of grey (and many other colours) between the black and white over-simplification of being pro-war or pro-LTTE. Traditionally it is people of liberal views who are in the vanguard of speaking up for those intermediate colours. Let their voices be heard.

There is one other aspect of Dudley Senanayake's life that I wish to mention, the agreement he signed with the moderate Tamil leadership in 1965. This agreement addressed three key issues for the minorities: language, devolution and land. It was an agreement that could have re-enfranchised the Tamil-speaking minorities. ***Dudley Senanayake's failure to muster sufficient support for it in the South had tragic consequences for the country. Had it been implemented, it is quite possible that Sri Lanka today would have been a vibrant, prosperous, multi-ethnic country at peace with itself.***

This episode showed Dudley Senanayake's strength and weakness. He had the insight to understand what was needed to reach an accommodation with the minorities. But he did not have the political skills or muscle to convince his fellow Sinhalese.

..... In a less extreme way, internal events in Sri Lanka affect Britain. The conflict here makes waves in the UK. For example, as the conflict worsens, we get more asylum seekers from Sri Lanka. It becomes more difficult to manage the movement of people between our countries. More Sri Lankans try to get into the UK illegally. The numbers of those overstaying their visa also increases.

..... *Those who argue for the inviolability of the principle of non-interference in the internal affairs of a country are swimming against the tide of history.* In the last 50 years, states have voluntarily bound themselves together in a net of international treaties and conventions covering even the most sensitive internal issues, such as human rights.

.....Treaties are agreements made between States: and human rights treaties are like any others in this respect. A State's obligations under human rights treaties are owed not only to the individuals present in the State's territory but also to all other States Parties to those treaties. As both the UK and Sri Lanka, for example, are party to all six of the core UN human rights treaties, in the hypothetical case that either the UK or Sri Lanka failed to comply with any of the provisions of those treaties, it would be in breach of obligations owed to the other country (and to the other States Parties to the treaties concerned). Sri Lanka or the UK would then be well within its rights, according to the Vienna Convention, to take action to defend its interests in seeing those human rights standards upheld in the other country.

.... The idea of the responsibility to protect emerged from work carried out by the International Commission on Intervention and State Sovereignty. The authors argued that sovereignty needed to be reassessed in light of today's greater sense of the commonality of humankind. ***Sovereignty should be firstly about responsibility rather than power.***

..... In the relatively short time I've lived in Sri Lanka, I've learned that making predictions about the future is a mug's game. There is always a surprise around the corner. Each week seems to be absolutely critical to the future of the country. And yet issues that seemed so important last week are quickly forgotten as people and politicians get caught up in this week's crisis. But paradoxically, despite all the political fireworks and scandals and controversy and crises, little seems to change.

..... This year, Prabhakaran's Heroes' Day speech was critical of the international community for not putting more pressure on the government over its share of responsibility for the suffering of the Tamil people in the conflict. ***It is not a baseless charge.*** But Prabhakaran conveniently ignored the international community's wish to see movement from the LTTE on the key issues of democratisation and the pursuit of political goals through non-violent means.

.... Let me be clear. ***I am not saying that the political aspiration for Eelam is illegitimate***, any more than I would argue that the Scottish National Party's goal of an independent Scotland is illegitimate. Similarly, I see nothing illegitimate in some crackpot demanding that Yorkshire or some other English county should become an independent state. What is crucial, however, is what methods are used by the SNP or the LTTE to achieve their goals. And the LTTE's methods are simply unacceptable.

I cannot tell whether the government armed forces are capable of defeating the LTTE on the battlefield. But Iraq, Afghanistan, Northern Ireland and plenty of other conflicts tell us that winning the peace is more difficult than winning the war. Without resolving the underlying issues, even if the LTTE are badly beaten in the Wannu, the conflict will continue in a different guise. The social and political issues, which caused the alienation of so many Tamils in the first place, cannot be left unresolved if there is to be a lasting peace.

..... We shall encourage all parties to look at what worked in Northern Ireland's peace process. We believe there are lessons that apply in Sri Lanka, though we don't expect the experience ***of Northern Ireland to be translatable in total***.

We shall work with our partners in the international community to maintain our constructive engagement with Sri Lanka, despite all the frustrations. It is important that the EU and the Commonwealth should have sensible policies towards Sri Lanka. **(Excerpt)**

<http://www.britishhighcommission.gov.uk/servlet/Front?pagename=OpenMarket/Xcelerate/ShowPage&c=Page&cid=1196170259582>

JAPAN REFUSED TO BRAND THE TAMIL TIGERS AS TERRORISTS

TOKYO (AFP) 31 January 2008 - Japan, Sri Lanka's top donor, warned Thursday it could cut off aid if violence continued to escalate but said it hoped to provide long-term support to bring peace.

"We could be forced to review our aid policy if military action keeps escalating, although Sri Lanka wants Japan to continue it," Yasushi Akashi, Japan's special peace envoy to the island, told reporters in Tokyo.

Sri Lanka is embroiled in 36 years of conflict since Tamil Tiger rebels launched an armed campaign to carve out an independent homeland for minority Tamils in the majority Sinhalese nation.

Colombo on January 2 scrapped a Norwegian-brokered 2002 ceasefire, which had become little more than symbolic amid escalating fighting with the rebels, formally known as the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE).

"Unless the government and the LTTE choose peace, appeals from the outside world, no matter how many are made, will fall on deaf ears," Akashi said.

But Akashi, a former UN diplomat and trouble-shooter in Cambodia and Kosovo, said that Japan wanted to stay engaged for decades to come.

"Peace should be built over a long timespan through different methods. We should prepare ourselves to look at peace-building for 30 years," he said.

Japan provides nearly two-thirds of all international aid to the island but has not linked financial assistance to the fighting or to human rights, despite calls from international rights groups.

Japan has also refused to brand the Tamil Tigers as terrorists despite similar prohibitions by the United States, European Union and India, which have all been bases for LTTE fundraising.

"By demonising the Tigers and calling them terrorists, they have constrained negotiations," Akashi said.

LIBERATION TIGERS OF TAMIL EELAM 'FREEDOM FIGHTERS' Osservatore Romano on 11th, 12th and 18th January 2008,

HEMANTHA CORRECTS VATICAN NEWSPAPER ON LTTE - THE ISLAND, 7 FEBRUARY 2008 (Excerpt)

Sri Lanka's Ambassador to Italy Hemantha Warnakulasuriya has written to the Editor of the Vatican's official Italian language newspaper 'L' Osservatore Romano' pointing out to him that the LTTE is a terrorist organization and not a group of freedom fighters as his newspaper has seen fit to call them.

The Ambassador's letter addressed to the Editor Giovanni Maria Vian on January 28, 2008 said:

"Dear Sir,

I wish to make reference to the regular news items that appear in your esteemed newspaper with regard to my country, Sri Lanka. Just to illustrate, I would cite the news reports in **Osservatore Romano on 11th, 12th and 18th January 2008**, concerning the present situation in Sri Lanka. Though the State of Vatican does not come under my jurisdiction and as the paper is published by the Vatican, **I did not have the opportunity to read it.** Yet, a very respected and senior Catholic Priest brought these matters to my attention and I thought it was my bounden duty to clarify certain matters in the said news items, so that you would kindly act with circumspect when reporting matters relating to the ongoing conflict in Sri Lanka, in future.

"The contents refer to events that are causing so much loss of life (both Sinhalese and Tamil) in the country, that I have the honour to represent, giving the incorrect and superficial impression that the LTTE (Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam) is a group of freedom fighters on behalf of the Tamils in the country, operating for the liberty of a discriminated minority in Sri Lanka, thereby earning them the sympathy of the readers for their cause. Moreover, permit me to point out that your news reporting on the violent situation in my country often tend to identify the notorious terrorist group LTTE (which practically consists of some thousands of youngsters who were captured when they were young and brain-washed) with the rest of the Tamil citizenry in the country. This is a serious distortion mainly because it equates hundreds and thousands of innocent ordinary Tamil citizens with a terrorist organization! As a matter of fact, a good number of the recent victims of the LTTE terror are Tamils themselves who were branded by the same LTTE as "traitors" simply because they dissented from the LTTE terror tactics. **(Excerpt)**

MILITARILY OVERCOMING LTTE OR KILLING ITS HEAD WOULD NOT SOLVE THE PROBLEM RTD. SUPREME COURT JUDGE, JUSTICE C.V. WIGNESWARAN

How stupid would it be to think that militarily overcoming the LTTE or killing its head would solve the ethnic problem of Sri Lanka? The LTTE is the offspring of the ethnic problem itself created by the successive mono-ethnic parliamentary majority in Sri Lanka. It was State terrorism on their part which created the Liberation Tigers. The ethnic problem concerns the denizens of the Northern and Eastern Provinces who had lived in their areas for centuries from pre-historic times. True, there were influxes of Tamils at various stages of our history. But the fact that right throughout history the Dravidians had occupied the present Northern and Eastern Provinces and even more lands surrounding them cannot be disputed. The Buddhist remains in the North are the remnants left by the Demala Bauddhaya not anybody else. Buddhism flourished in South India, too, at that period of history. Even though students join a College like, say, Royal College from Royal Primary or after passing the Scholarship exam or at the level of GCE Ordinary Level or even at some other class they are all called Royalists. You don't call them by any other name. Similarly, whatever may have been the period at which Tamils may have arrived in Sri Lanka, we cannot dispute the fact that always the Northern and Eastern Provinces were occupied by Tamil-speaking people, including the Muslims. Whether the East came under the suzerainty of the Kandyan King was irrelevant. If it is relevant, then the fact that the Tamil King Elara wielded power over the entire Island would also become relevant. I hope you understand the connection.

There are no terrorists who are born into this world. They are made. Mostly by persons in power and authority, the mighty and the powerful, due to their selfishness and insensitiveness which give rise to resistance and reaction. Such mighty conveniently call those unable to accept their dictatorial dictates by names. Earlier they were called Communists, then Fundamentalists and now Terrorists. It is the terror tactics of those in power and authority which creates such antagonistic opposition and hostility. Those in authority who lack humanism or who have personal and selfish agendas of their own take cover behind such loaded terms such as Terrorism and Terrorists.

Speech made by Justice C.V. Wigneswaran, Retired Supreme Court Judge, at the Book Release of "Senator Tiruchelvam's Legacy"- a Vijitha Yapa Publication on 1 February 2008, Colombo, Sri Lanka (Excerpt)

BECAUSE OF THE LTTE, THE TAMILS TODAY ARE ABLE TO WALK WITH PRIDE

On 16 January 2008, in a meeting held in the Grand Committee Room in the UK Parliament building, Dr. Raj Chandran of the UK Conservative Party stated that he is not a supporter of the LTTE, **however, because of the LTTE, the Tamils today are able to walk with pride.**

VIOLATION OF 2002 CEASEFIRE AGREEMENT BY SRI LANKA

CEASEFIRE AGREEMENT STANDS TERMINATED AND SLMM CONCLUDES OPERATIONS IN SRI LANKA

Following notice given by the Government of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka through the Foreign Ministry to the Royal Norwegian Government, in terms of Article 4:4 of the Agreement on a "Ceasefire between the Government of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka and the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE)" concluded on 22nd February 2002, the Ceasefire Agreement stands terminated with effect from Wednesday 16th January 2008.

Pursuant to the above termination, the Status of Mission Agreement (SOMA) on the Establishment and the Management of the Sri Lanka Monitoring Mission (SLMM) dated 18th March 2002 between the Royal Norwegian Government and the Government of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka also stands terminated with effect from 16th January 2008. The SLMM concluded its operations on the evening of 16 January 2008 and most of its staff have already left the country. On a request by the Royal Norwegian Government, the Government of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka has permitted 11 SLMM personnel to remain in the island for a further period of six weeks, in order to complete the remaining administrative formalities.

Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Colombo. 17 January 2008

http://www.srilanka.no/press_releases.html

FORMER PRESIDENT CHANDRIKA KUMARATUNGA LTTE POSITIONS ATTACKED EVEN DURING THE TALKS

BBC Sinhala service, 19 February 2008 -When questioned that the current government did not attack the LTTE positions until after the repeated provocations by the LTTE including the attempted assassination of the Army Commander, Mrs. Kumaratunga said that was not true.

The Rajapaksa administration, she said, attacked LTTE positions even during the talks between the parties. (Excerpt http://www.bbc.co.uk/sinhala/news/story/2008/02/080219_chandrika_vijaya.shtml)

HOUSE OF COMMONS ON THE UNILATERALLY ABROGATED CEASEFIRE AGREEMENT - 17 JANUARY 2008

"..... it was the Sri Lankan Government who unilaterally abrogated the ceasefire agreement in January this year?"
Barry Gardiner, Minister & MP-UK (Excerpt)

"..... it was unfortunate that the Sri Lankan Government abrogated the peace agreement unilaterally, and I had a discussion with the high commissioner this morning in which I made that very point. Mr. Clifton-Brown, MP-UK (Excerpt)

"Having chosen to end the ceasefire arrangement, the Sri Lankan Government have a clear responsibility to live up to their commitment to address the grievances of the Tamil people." **Dr. Kim Howells, Minister for the Middle East-UK (Excerpt)**

UN SECRETARY-GENERAL REGRETS DECISION BY SRI LANKA TO TERMINATE 2002 CEASEFIRE AGREEMENT

SG/SM/11357 – 3 January 2008

The following statement was issued today by the Spokesperson for UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon:

The Secretary-General regrets the decision made by the Government of Sri Lanka to terminate the 2002 Ceasefire Agreement with the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE). He is deeply worried that the withdrawal from the Agreement comes amidst intensifying fighting in the north and increasing violence across the country, including Colombo.

The Secretary-General urges all concerned to ensure the protection of civilians and enable humanitarian assistance to be provided to affected areas. He underlines the urgent need to end the bloodshed in Sri Lanka through a political solution. <http://www.un.org/News/Press/docs/2008/sqsm11357.doc.htm>

UN HUMAN RIGHTS CHIEF URGES RESPECT FOR INTERNATIONAL LAW WITH END OF CEASEFIRE IN SRI LANKA

Geneva, 15 January 2008 -- As the Ceasefire Agreement in Sri Lanka is due to effectively end on 16 January 2008, the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, Louise Arbour, reminded the Government of Sri Lanka and the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) of their obligations under international law to respect human rights.

"An intensification of hostilities will likely have a devastating effect on the human rights of many Sri Lankans from all communities," the High Commissioner said.

The High Commissioner noted that international law obliges all parties to protect civilians without discrimination and includes prohibitions against the arbitrary deprivation of life, arbitrary detention, forced displacement, enforced disappearances, torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment. It also forbids the recruitment and deployment of children as soldiers.

The High Commissioner warned that violations of these rules by any party could entail individual criminal responsibility under international criminal law, including by those in positions of command.

The High Commissioner visited Sri Lanka in October 2007. In her dialogue with the Government she has stressed the critical need for independent, public reporting on the human rights situation in Sri Lanka and the readiness of her Office to assist in this regard. <http://www2.ohchr.org/english/press/newsFrameset-2.htm>

THE NORDIC COUNTRIES REGRET THE DECISION BY THE GOVERNMENT OF SRI LANKA

4.1.2008 - The Government of Sri Lanka has formally notified Norway of its decision of 2 January to terminate the Ceasefire Agreement with effect from 16 January 2008. As the Sri Lanka Monitoring Mission derives its mandate from this agreement, the Sri Lankan Government expects the mission to cease its operations from the same date.

This decision comes at a time when the Government and LTTE are engaging in a high level of hostilities in a war-like situation with large-scale displacement of civilians and repeated violations of human rights. The Nordic countries are deeply concerned about the worsening situation in Sri Lanka, an overall development which now have reached the point where one party terminates the Agreement.

The Ceasefire Agreement was concluded between the Government of Sri Lanka and the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) in February 2002 and has lasted for almost six years. It served as the fundament for the peace process and for international efforts to assist Sri Lanka in its attempt to end its long history of conflict. At the request of the parties, the Nordic countries set up a civilian mission to monitor adherence to the ceasefire, both with regard to cessation of hostilities and restoration of normalcy.

The Ceasefire Agreement had a number of positive consequences. **During the first three years, conflict-related casualties dropped to almost zero, which means that as many as 10 000 lives may have been spared.** The agreement allowed for greater freedom of movement for all people in Sri Lanka, and opened for economic development. It also improved the human rights situation and the protection of civilians. However, violations of the Agreement have been particularly numerous and increasingly serious during the past two years.

The Nordic countries are worried that the violence and human suffering will now further escalate. The withdrawal of the Sri Lanka Monitoring Mission will mean the end of an important mechanism that protected civilians and gave a voice to the victims and their families.

The Nordic countries believe that only a political solution that addresses the grievances of all the ethnic groups in the country can provide a sustainable peace. The termination of the Ceasefire Agreement will only make it more difficult to find a way back to the negotiating table.

The Nordic countries are both grateful for and proud of the efforts and contributions made by the international and local monitors and staff of the Sri Lanka Monitoring Mission under very demanding circumstances.

Jonas Gahr Støre, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Norway

Ingibjörg Sólrún Gísladóttir, Minister of Foreign Affairs and External Trade, Iceland

Per Stig Möller, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Denmark

Carl Bildt, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Sweden

Ilkka Kanerva, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Finland

<http://www.mfa.is/speeches-and-articles/nr/4041>

US TROUBLED BY SRI LANKA'S DECISION TO TERMINATE CFA

Press Statement

Sean McCormack, Spokesman
Washington, DC
January 3, 2008

Government of Sri Lanka's Withdrawal from Ceasefire Agreement

The United States is troubled by the Sri Lankan Government's January 2 decision to terminate the 2002 cease-fire agreement. Ending the cease-fire agreement will make it more difficult to achieve a lasting, peaceful solution to Sri Lanka's conflict. We call on both the government and the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam to avoid an escalation of hostilities and further civilian casualties.

All parties to the conflict share the responsibility to protect the rights of all of Sri Lanka's people. We urge them to work toward the goal of a just, political solution that ensures the rights of minority communities and benefits all Sri Lankans. Only a peaceful political solution, not a military one, offers a way out of the current cycle of escalating violence.

2008/003 - <http://www.state.gov/r/pa/prs/ps/2008/jan/98381.htm>

JAPAN DEEPLY CONCERNED ABOUT THE DECISION TAKEN BY THE GOVERNMENT OF SRI LANKA

Statement by Mr. Masahiko Koumura, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan, on The Government of Sri Lanka's withdrawal from the Ceasefire Agreement

January 4, 2008

On 3rd of January, the Government of Sri Lanka announced that they have decided to withdraw from the Ceasefire Agreement with the rebel organization, the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam reached in 2002. The Government of Japan is deeply concerned that the decision taken by the Government of Sri Lanka may lead to the escalation of the conflict by way of increased level of violence and greater civilian casualties, and leave the peace process at a standstill.

Conflict in Sri Lanka cannot be solved by military means. The Government of Japan calls on the parties concerned to reach a solution not by violence but by political means through negotiation. The Government of Japan strongly hopes that necessary steps will be taken for the development of the peace process, such as early submission of a devolution package, in line with President Rajapaksa's previous commitment. Japan continues to work on the peace process, cooperating with Co-Chairs of the Tokyo Conference on Reconstruction and Development of Sri Lanka--Norway, U.S., and EU. http://www.mofa.gov.jp/announce/announce/2008/1/1177042_924.html

BRITISH FOREIGN OFFICE MINISTER LORD MALLOCH-BROWN

04 January 2008 - British Foreign Office Minister Lord Malloch-Brown, commenting on the end of the Ceasefire Agreement said;

'I regret the lack of a genuine commitment to peace from the Liberation Tamil Tigers of Eelam (LTTE) and the Government of Sri Lanka that has led to the end of the Ceasefire Agreement in Sri Lanka.

'I pay tribute to the tireless efforts of Norwegian facilitators and the Sri Lanka Monitoring Mission, often in very difficult circumstances, to further the cause of peace in Sri Lanka.

'There can be no military solution to the conflict. It is vital now that the Government lives up to its commitment to address the grievances of Tamil people. It is essential that the final recommendations of the All Party Representative Committee issue soon and that the President urgently takes a bold and courageous lead from this foundation to set out a framework for a just political solution. We look to the political parties in Sri Lanka to place the need to work together for peace above their narrow self-interests.'

<http://www.fco.gov.uk/servlet/Front?pagename=OpenMarket/Xcelerate/ShowPage&c=Page&cid=1007029391629&a=KArticle&aid=1199197354598&year=2008&month=2008-01-01>

FOREIGN SECRETARY DAVID MILIBAND COMMENTS ON 60TH ANNIVERSARY OF SRI LANKAN INDEPENDENCE

6 February 2008 - Foreign Secretary, David Miliband, has today commented on the 60th Anniversary of Sri Lanka's independence. He said:

'The 60th anniversary of Sri Lankan independence is a time to reflect on the health and welfare of the nation and its people as it moves forward in the 21st century. The cycle of violence in Sri Lanka has worsened in recent weeks. Civilian lives have been lost from all communities and regions of Sri Lanka. The end of the formal 2002 cease-fire agreement does not remove the obligation of all parties to the conflict to protect civilian life.

'I wholeheartedly condemn these attacks upon civilians and those responsible. My thoughts and condolences are with the victims of the attacks, and their families. I call for an immediate end to practices which target civilians or put them in peril. I urge all in Sri Lanka to take steps to safeguard the civilian population and find ways to reduce the violence.

'Violence can never provide an answer to Sri Lanka's problems. People in Sri Lanka need to find space to realise their many similarities, rather than becoming further polarised by their differences. A sustainable solution to Sri Lanka's conflict can only emerge through a just political process involving all communities.'

(<http://www.britishhighcommission.gov.uk/servlet/Front?pagename=OpenMarket/Xcelerate/ShowPage&c=Page&cid=1026318565967&a=KArticle&aid=1199209771091>)

INDIA STRONGLY BELIEVES 'NO MILITARY SOLUTION'

For India, any step that leads to a reduction in levels of violence and human suffering in Sri Lanka is welcome. Unfortunately, what we have seen recently has been an increase in violence, tension and conflict in Sri Lanka. At the same time, we are acutely conscious that what is required in Sri Lanka is a settlement of political, constitutional and other issues within the framework of united Sri Lanka with which all communities in Sri Lanka are comfortable. It is only through such a settlement that a lasting peace can return to that troubled country. We strongly believe that there is no military solution to the issue.

New Delhi - January 4, 2008

EU COMMISSIONER ON THE SITUATION IN SRI LANKA

"I am deeply disappointed by the Sri Lankan government's decision to abrogate the 2002 Ceasefire Agreement. This decision risks complicating the already difficult situation in the country. I firmly condemn LTTE's recent acts of terror and statements announcing further violence from their side. As Co-Chair together with Japan, US and Norway we have always held the view that violence is not the appropriate way to solve this conflict. A lasting solution can only come from a ceasefire and a negotiated settlement.

I hope that the Sri Lankan government will come forward with a substantive devolution offer around which negotiations can start as soon as possible. As the Co-Chairs stated in Japan last year, for an arrangement to be credible to minorities and to serve as a feasible base for negotiations, it needs to go beyond past offers that failed."

http://ec.europa.eu/commission_barroso/ferrero-waldner/speeches/index_en.htm

CANADA AND THE WORLD CANNOT IGNORE SRI LANKAN CONFLICT

Fri, 01/04/2008 - TORONTO - The recent decision by the government of Sri Lanka to formally end the ceasefire agreement with the Tamil Tigers should not be ignored by the world community, Liberal Foreign Affairs Critic Bob Rae said today.

"This is a formal indication that the country has once again descended into war, which can only result in a humanitarian disaster," Mr. Rae said.

"It is precisely when the parties seem most determined to find a military solution to this conflict that the world community – the United Nations, the Commonwealth, donor countries – should be doing more to find political solutions instead."

Mr. Rae – who worked on the peace process in Sri Lanka as Chairman of the Forum of Federations – said there have already been more than 70,000 killed and hundreds of thousands turned into homeless refugees as a result of this terrible conflict.

Liberal associate Foreign Affairs Critic Bryon Wilfert condemned the tactics used by both sides and warned the situation will only get worse if the world community continues to ignore the humanitarian consequences of this situation.

"A pluralist, diverse country like Sri Lanka needs bold and innovative changes in governance, and not aerial bombings of villages and suicide bombings of civilians," said Mr. Wilfert.

Noting that other conflicts have received far more attention, Mr. Rae said Canada's interest in the conflict should be heightened by the fact that we are home to so many members of the Sri Lankan community.

"We need an activist, concerned response from Canada, instead of the current approach of the Harper government," he said. <http://bobrae.ca/en/Canada+and+the+World+Cannot+Ignore+Sri+Lankan+Conflict>

INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY MUST INTERVENE

Mon 7 Jan 2008, OTTAWA – The NDP remains deeply concerned by the government of Sri Lanka's decision to withdraw from a ceasefire agreement with the separatist Tamil group, the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE).

"A formal end to the ceasefire agreement will only escalate the hostilities against innocent civilians," said NDP leader Jack Layton. "Canada should join allies in the United Nations and the Commonwealth to stabilize the situation through political means."

The conflict between the Tigers and the government of Sri Lanka has claimed more than 60,000 lives in the past 20 years. The ceasefire agreement came into effect in February 2002, ahead of inconclusive peace talks. Regular clashes between the two parties have taken place despite the formal agreement being in place.

"When in August 2006, Canadians of Sri Lankan and Tamil origin called for an immediate cessation of hostilities between the two parties, the NDP demanded that the government of Canada work toward restoring the peace process," said NDP Foreign Affairs Critic Paul Dewar (Ottawa Centre). "We cannot afford to lose any more time in the attempt to stop this country's descent into an all-out civil war."

The decision comes as brutal acts of violence by both parties have been occurring at an increasingly frequent rate. Attacks and counter-attacks have cost the lives of hundreds of innocent civilians, particularly children in both government- and Tamil Tiger-controlled territories.

"Canada must support international efforts toward stabilizing the situation in Sri Lanka and bringing the parties back to peace talks. This would mean strengthening the UN's peace-building capacity through financial, technical and other means of assistance as needed," said Layton.

"Without urgent action by the international community, the situation will only deteriorate," concluded Dewar. "Canada must act immediately by playing a leadership role in helping to resolve the conflict in Sri Lanka."

<http://www.ndp.ca/page/6068>

SRI LANKAN MONITORING MISSION – SLMM

SLMM press statement regarding the termination of its monitoring operations as of 16th January 2008

Thus, the abrogation of the CFA also implies the termination of the SLMM. In practical terms, this means that the Nordic monitors will leave Sri Lanka today and early tomorrow morning, leaving behind only a few personnel to wrap up administrative obligations related to the closing down of the mission. (*Excerpt*)

'INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY HAS A RESPONSIBILITY TO ACT' GERMANY WANTS SRI LANKA TO DECIDE BETWEEN WAR AND AID

The Morning Leader, 13 February 2008 - German Economic Cooperation and Development Minister, Heidemarie Wieczorek-Zeul has vowed to demand from the EU that it withdraws the General System of Preference Plus offered to Sri Lanka if the Sri Lankan government continues to insist on a military option to the ethnic issue.

Wieczorek-Zeul is a highly respected and powerful politician. Widely known as an influential politician with strong principles, political analysts in Germany told The Morning Leader her statements should be taken seriously as she would lobby vigorously for causes she believes in. Wiecezorek-Zeul was also one of the most outspoken politicians to press for the resignation of former World Bank boss Paul Wolfowitz.

German law empowers the German Bundestag to participate in the EU's legislative processes. In addition to this, the committees of the European Parliament and the German Bundestag are able to hold joint meetings together, while the European committees of the EU's national parliaments and Members of the European Parliament (MEPs) meet regularly under the auspices of the Conference of Community and European Affairs Committees of Parliaments of the European Union (COSAC).

The German Minister made these statements to the highly respected Tages Spiegel newspaper published on February 9. We reproduce in full an English translation of the interview which focused entirely on Sri Lanka.

Q: In January the Government of Sri Lanka has withdrawn from the Ceasefire Agreement. What can Europe and the world do?

A: The international community must influence both parties to the conflict to seek a political solution and withdraw from the war which brings only suffering to the people. In the beginning of March a EU-Troika will travel to Sri Lanka. If the Sri Lankan government continues to insist on a military option, I will demand that the EU should withdraw the General System of Preference (GSP) offered to Sri Lanka. This concession enables Sri Lanka to export its goods and products to the EU at reduced or exempted tax and duty levies. This step will really bring economic pressure on the GoSL. For Sri Lanka a preference system plus is in place until the end of 2008 which, however, requires good governance.

If the EU continues to accept the present situation the plus is meaningless. The biggest portion of Sri Lanka's exports consists of textile exports. Only garment product exports to the EU markets are valued at US\$ 1-2 billion annually. The other part is exported to the United States. It is also important to consult with the US which has also taken up a very critical position towards Sri Lanka in the past weeks.

Q: How should the United Nations act?

A: It would be encouraging if the UN Security Council takes up this issue. However, it seems that it is difficult at the moment for the UN Security Council to act. However, what the UN Secretary General, Ban Ki Moon can do without a formal decision of the Security Council is to send a special envoy to Sri Lanka. After the departure of the Norwegian monitors who were in place since the Ceasefire Agreement of 2002 there is nobody to document human rights violations. The war is now again in full swing.

Q: Why has Sri Lanka failed to achieve peace after the tsunami of 2004 as it has happened in the Aceh Province of Indonesia?

A: After the tsunami I had greater hopes of Sri Lanka achieving peace than in Indonesia. There were so many initiatives from people from around the world. But it turned out to be different. The reconstruction in Aceh is successful and there is a responsible government set up even in the province of Aceh.

In the north and the east of Sri Lanka where many Tamils live we practically cannot further undertake development projects. I presume both parties to the conflict believe they can solve the conflict which continues from 1983 by military means. However, this is unrealistic. It will result only in more deaths numbering thousands.

Since 1983 more than 75,000 lives have been lost in the fighting between the government and the LTTE. ***The LTTE considers itself as a freedom movement but the EU banned the LTTE as a terrorist organisation almost two years ago.*** It is such a beautiful country and its people are very motivated. I feel a genuine responsibility for the people of this country. If the violence increases the international community has a responsibility to act.

Q: Should tourists travel to Sri Lanka?

A: It is up to the Federal Foreign Office of Germany to issue travel recommendations. However, we are withdrawing half of the personnel working in development cooperation and we will close the office of the German Development Bank (Kreditanstalt fuer Wiederaufbau), because the security situation is very critical. **(Excerpt)**

ON FACT FINDING MISSION

UN SECRETARY GENERAL SENDS SPECIAL ENVOY TO SRI LANKA

The Sunday Leader, 17 February 2008 - The United Nations Secretary General Ban Ki Moon is to send a special envoy to Sri Lanka this week to report on the ground situation in the country in the wake of the escalating conflict which has taken a heavy civilian toll.

The decision to send a special envoy follows a telephone discussion the Secretary General had with President Mahinda Rajapakse a few days back where the humanitarian crisis and the rising civilian casualties were discussed.

The Sunday Leader learns the UN Secretary General (UNSG) had inquired from President Rajapakse whether he had any objection to a special envoy being sent to report on the country situation and was told by the President he had no objection.

It is learned, the UNSG had informed the President he would be sending UN Assistant Secretary General for Political Affairs, Angela Kane as his representative.

Kane who is expected in Sri Lanka on February 24 is scheduled to meet Foreign Minister Rohitha Bogollagama, Human Rights Minister Mahinda Samarasinghe, Senior Presidential Advisor Basil Rajapakse and Defence Secretary Gotabaya Rajapakse from the government side.

The UN Assistant Secretary General is expected to submit a report on her findings to Ban Ki-Moon on her report for follow up action.

Germany's Minister for Economic Cooperation and Development, Heidemarie Wiecezorek-Zeul last week in an interview to the respected Tages Spiegel newspaper said while it would be encouraging for the UN Security Council to take up the Sri Lankan issue, what the Secretary General Ban Ki Moon can do without a formal decision of the Security Council is send a special envoy to Sri Lanka.

She said after the departure of the Norwegian monitors who were in place since the ceasefire agreement of 2002 there is nobody to document human rights violations. "The war is now again in full swing," she charged.

COLOMBO, Feb. 20, 2008 (Xinhua) -- A top UN official has arrived in Sri Lanka for a week-long fact finding mission to the island, foreign ministry officials said.

Angela Kane, UN Assistant Secretary General for Political Affairs, arrived in Colombo's Bandaranaike International Airport in the early hours of Wednesday, officials said.

She is to hold talks with the Sri Lankan foreign minister Rohitha Bogollagama, foreign secretary Palitha Kohona and diplomats from the European Union, Norway, India and the U.S. in addition to a meeting with the leader of the main opposition Ranil Wickremesinghe. http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/2008-02/20/content_7636156.htm

TOP UN OFFICIAL FAILS TO MEET TAMIL, MUSLIM PARTIES

26 February 2008, Colombo, Indiaenews - top UN official who was in Sri Lanka to study the worsening ethnic conflict in the island went back Tuesday without meeting leaders of the Tamil and Muslim minorities.

UN Assistant Secretary for Political Affairs Angela Kane met ministers, officials, and leaders of a radical Sinhalese political party, the Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna (JVP), but avoided the Tamil National Alliance (TNA) and the Sri Lanka Muslim Congress (SLMC), two of the biggest political parties of the minorities.

She did not meet the Civil Monitoring Commission (CMC) that keeps a watch on human rights violations, particularly in multi-ethnic Colombo.

Reacting angrily, head of the CMC and MP Mano Ganeshan said that it was highly iniquitous on the part of the UN official to have met the JVP and avoided the parties of the minorities.

He told IANS that while the minorities were the victims of the on-going war, the JVP, as an avowed representative of the majority Sinhalese, was goading the Mahinda Rajapaksa government to keep fighting the Tamils and not talk about devolving power to them before the war was over. **(Excerpt)**

WAR CRIMES AND CRIMES AGAINST HUMANITY

"DISAPPEARANCES AND KILLINGS WILL CONTINUE"

- SRI LANKA'S ARMY COMMANDER, LT. GEN. SARATH FONSEKA

<http://video.google.co.uk/videoplay?docid=-4461610936009497424>

14 November 2007 - Disappearances and killings of will continue as long as 'anti-terrorist' operations are continuing, Sri Lanka's Army commander, Lt. Gen. Sarath Fonseka said this week in a interview to British investigative reporters. Asked about human rights abuses in the newly captured Eastern province, the commander replied: *"This area is not a normal area. So people getting killed and some people going missing will happen as far as the anti-terrorist operations are continuing."*

In a program on Sri Lanka by the 'Unreported World' program by Channel-4, British reporters tried to travel to the island's North and East to investigate the continuing abductions and killings of civilians.

As part of the program, the reporters interviewed Sri Lanka Army commander, Lt. Gen. Sarath Fonseka.

Asked about the atrocities, he first accused 'vested interests' opposed to the military operations of making unsubstantiated allegations but then admitted these were part of 'anti-terrorist' operations.

Asked how it is that so many people were being murdered or abducted in mysterious circumstances across in Sri Lanka, even in the capital, Colombo, Gen. Fonseka said: ***"those are the allegations by interested parties who are trying to sabotage or block the military operations. They have vested interests. They say hundreds are missing, hundreds are murdered. But as far as complaints are concerned, there are no formal complaints even entered in the police station or something like that. There are no witnesses who come to police station and given evidence. As far as we are concerned, we give protection to the civilians, innocent people."***

Asked about the killings and abductions that refugees in the east, the General first said in reply: ***"If you are saying Karuna's people are doing it or any other paramilitary groups, then it is a problem between the LTTE and the paramilitary groups."***

He then added: "this area (east) is not a normal area. So people getting killed and some people going missing will happen as far as the anti-terrorist operations are continuing."

Western Province People's Front (WPPF) leader, Mano Ganeshan, who is Convenor of the Monitoring Commission (CMC) on extra judicial killings and disappearances was amongst civil society voiced interviewed by Channel4. Pointing out that checkpoints were visible all over Colombo, but none had ever stopped those responsible for disappearing people, he said: "You don't need to be a rocket scientist to understand there is cooperation between the security forces and the abductors."

Blaming "influential people within the state" for the killings, Mr. Ganeshan said: "they say this is the way to put down the Tamil rebellion."

Lt. Gen. Fonseka meanwhile insisted the LTTE can be defeated militarily.

"The President has stated he likes to convince the terrorists that getting a solution by military means is not going to work for them," the General also said.

"We want to also convince them you can never beat us militarily and you can never get what you want by military means. We are capable of beating them militarily. We have done it one area in the eastern province."

"And if still they don't understand, we have to do it once more, hoping they will understand."

When the reporters went to the east, they were shadowed by Karuna Group paramilitaries as they sought to interview local people. The reporters were warned that they posed a risk to people they tried to interview.

People told the reporters they were terrified of being abducted by the Karuna Group, who "everyone told us" were collaborating with the military.

"Karuna Group cadres are coming and going from refugee camps, day and night" the reporters quoted people as saying.

The British reporters had been given permission to visit Jaffna for four days. But after reaching the northern city they were told they could not "out of sight" of the military. They were also told they would be leaving the following day and given 90 minutes for a guided tour.

In the time they were there, four people went missing, the reporters said.

MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT KILLED BY EPDP

Mr. Thiyagarajah Maheswaran who escaped an assassination attempt on the final day of the election campaign in March 2004, was shot dead on new year's day, 1st January 2008. Maheswaran was killed by **so called unknown gunmen** when he went to pray in the morning with his family at Ponnambala Vaneasvarar temple, near St. Anthony's church at Kochchikkadai in Colombo.

Mr. Thiyagarajah Maheswaran was a Colombo district parliamentarian of the opposition United National Party – UNP and former Hindu Affairs Minister.

Maheswaran's assassination took place a few hours after he had told media in Colombo that he would reveal details in Parliament of how the Sri Lankan government carries out abductions and killings in Jaffna through the EPDP paramilitary. Days before his assassination the government of Sri Lanka had reduced Maheswaran's security, provided to him as parliamentarian, from eighteen personnel to only two.

"Meanwhile, President's Counsel, M. L. N. Ameen looking after the interests of the Maheswaran family at the magisterial inquiry had submitted to court that investigations should also include the information emerging from the final interviews given by the slain MP, particularly to the Minnal programme on Shakti TV and an interview with Lanka-e-News where he had been severely critical of the EPDP and vowed to divulge vital information on January 8 when parliament meets, of those responsible for the spate of abductions and killings in the northern peninsula".
(excerpt from 'The Sunday Leader' of 6 January 2008)

TCHR strongly condemns the killing of Mr Maheswaran and requests Civil Society to work hard to pressurise Mahinda Rajapaksa's government to bring the culprits to justice. **(see page 46)**

4000 INNOCENT PEOPLE WERE KILLED MOST OF THEM TAMILS **Mano Ganesan, Member of Parliament,** **Leader of Western People's Front (WPF) and Convener of Civil Monitoring Commission (CMC)**

The new government in the last 2 years has exceeded the job the NAZI / Idi Amen did.

MORE THAN

- 4000 Innocent people were killed, most of them Tamils.
 - 30 aid workers killed/abducted
 - 20 Journalist / media staff killed/abducted
 - 400 Tamils (children/elders/patients) evicted from Colombo brutally.
- 4000 people were injured, most of them Tamils.
 - including 60 school children (air raid)
 - 11 school kids (land mine) etc..
 - 5 students in Trincomalee (shooting)

2000 Tamils abducted - including women, children and elders.

3000 Tamils arrested in one week only in Colombo area.

4000 Tamils in prisons waiting for years, for release or to be put on trial

300,000 Tamils displaced. Their homes robbed and the locality brought under High Security zones.

ALSO THIS GOVERNMENT:

Supported the Karuna group (which hired child soldiers and kidnapped people in their hundreds), gave him a diplomatic passport and engaged in Human smuggling.

Burnt down the (Sunday Leader) newspaper office in Colombo, which is within a High Security Zone.

Killed 2 Tamil Members of Parliament (Ravi Raj and Joseph Pararajasingham)

Abducted relations of Tamil MPs to force the MP's to vote in favour of the budget

Displayed the killed LTTE cadres' naked bodies to the public.

TO ADD TO THE LIST:

Every day 6-8 Tamils are killed/disappeared.

The same country killed 150,000 Sinhalese (70,000 + 80,000) during the JVP uprisings of 1971 and 1987.

KILLINGS OF HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS
BY THE SECURITY FORCES AND PARAMILITARY SINCE 2000
 (ACADEMICS, LAWYERS, PARLIAMENTARIANS, JOURNALISTS, MEDIA WORKERS, HUMANITARIAN WORKERS, SOCIAL
 WORKERS, RELIGIOUS DIGNITARIES, LAY PERSONS AND OTHERS)
 TAMIL CENTRE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS - TCHR/CTDH - JANUARY 2008

<u>Name</u>	<u>Place of incident</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Killers</u>
Mr Kumar Ponnambalam <i>Leading Lawyer – President Council</i>	Colombo	05/01/2000	SL Military Intelligence
Mr. Kumaravel Thambaiah Senior lecturer in the Eastern University	Batticaloa	24/05/2004	Karuna group
Aiyathurai Nadesan - Journalist	Batticaloa	31/05/2004	Karuna group
Varatharaja Kurukkal Harihara Sarma - Priest	Jaffna	14/11/2004	EPDP
Mr. Ariyanayagam Chandra Nehru- <i>ex-Parliamentarian</i>	Welikanda, Polanaruwa	07/02/2005	Karuna group
Dharmaratnam Sivaram - Journalist	Colombo	28/04/2005	Paramilitary
Sabanatha Sarma - Priest	Jaffna	14/09/2005	SL Military
K Navarathnam - Media workers	Jaffna	22/12/2005	EPDP
Mr Joseph Pararajasingham – Parliamentarian	St Mary's Cathedral Batticaloa	25/12/2005	Karuna group
Mr. Thambiah Tharmasiri (Humanitarian worker)	Jaffna	11/01/2006	EPDP
Mr. Narayanamoorthy Kandeepan -do-	Jaffna	11/01/2006	EPDP
Mr. Charles Huston Ravindran (Humanitarian worker)	Jaffna	15/11/2006	EPDP
Subramaniam Sugirdharajan (SSR) - Journalist	Trincomalee	24/01/2006	EPDP
Mr. Kasinathar Ganeshalingam (Humanitarian worker)	Welikanda	29/01/2006	Karuna group
Mr. Thangarasa Karthirkamar (Humanitarian worker)	Welikanda	29/01/2006	-do
Ms Thanushkodi Premini (Humanitarian worker)	Welikanda	30/01/2006	-do
Mr. Thamiraja Vasantharajan (Humanitarian worker)	Welikanda	30/01/2006	-do
Mr. Shanmuganathan Sujendran (Humanitarian worker)	Welikanda	30/01/2006	-do
Mr. Kailyapillai Ravinthiran (Humanitarian worker)	Welikanda	30/01/2006	-do
Mr. Arunesara Satheeskaran (Humanitarian worker)	Welikanda	30/01/2006	-do
Mr. Gunaratnam Logithas (Humanitarian worker)	Jaffna	04/02/2006	EPDP
Mr Vanniasingham Vigneswaran <i>(intended to replace the late Mr Pararajasingham,MP)</i>	Trincomalee	07/04/2006	EPDP
Mr. P Shanmugaratnam (Humanitarian worker)	Jaffna	10/04/2006	EPDP
Mr. S Pradeepkumar (Humanitarian worker)	Jaffna	10/04/2006	EPDP
Suresh Kumar) Media workers Ranitha Kumar)	Jaffna	02/05/2006	EPDP
Ven. Nanda Rathan - Buddhist monk	Trincomalee	13/05/2006	EPDP
Jeyaruban Gnanapragasam (Humanitarian worker)	Vavuniya	15/05/2006	SL Military Intelligence

<u>Name</u>	<u>Place of incident</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Killers</u>
Mr. Ratnam Ratnarajah (Humanitarian worker)	Batticaloa	26/05/2006	Karuna group
Venkata Krishna Sharma - Priest	Jaffna	26/05/2006	EPDP
Mr. Krishnapillai Kamalanathan(Humanitarian worker)	Welikanda	02/07/2006	Karuna Group
Mr. Rasiah Muraleeswaran(Humanitarian worker)	Jaffna	08/07/2006	EPDP
Mariathas Manojanraj - Media worker	Jaffna	24/07/2006	EPDP
Pon. Ganeshamoorthy <i>General Manager of Peoples Bank</i>	Kankesanturai, Jaffna	04/08/2006	EPDP
Mr. Primus Anandarajah (Humanitarian workers)	Muttur, Trincomalee	04/08/2006	SL Military Intelligence
Mr. Matahavarasa Ketheeswaran –do-	Muttur, Trincomalee	04/08/2006	-do-
Mr. G. Sreetharan –do-	Muttur, Trincomalee	04/08/2006	-do-
Mr. Narmathan –do-	Muttur, Trincomalee	04/08/2006	-do-
Mr. R. Arulraj –do-	Muttur, Trincomalee	04/08/2006	-do-
Mr. P.Pratheeban –do-	Muttur, Trincomalee	04/08/2006	-do-
Mr. M. Rishikeshan –do-	Muttur, Trincomalee	04/08/2006	-do-
Mr. Y Kodeeswaran –do-	Muttur, Trincomalee	04/08/2006	-do-
Ms. K.Kovarthani –do-	Muttur, Trincomalee	04/08/2006	-do-
Ms. S.Romila –do-	Muttur, Trincomalee	04/08/2006	-do-
Ms. V.Kokilavathani –do-	Muttur, Trincomalee	04/08/2006	-do-
Ms. G. Kavitha –do-	Muttur, Trincomalee	04/08/2006	-do-
Mr. S. Ganesh –do-	Muttur, Trincomalee	04/08/2006	-do-
Mr. Abdul Latif Mohamed Jauffer –do-	Muttur, Trincomalee	04/08/2006	-do-
Mr. A. Jaseelan –do-	Muttur, Trincomalee	04/08/2006	-do-
Mr. K. Koneshwaran –do-	Muttur, Trincomalee	04/08/2006	-do-
Mr. Muraleetharan –do-	Muttur, Trincomalee	04/08/2006	-do-
Sathasivam Baskaran- Media worker	Jaffna	15/08/2006	EPDP
Mr S Sivamaharajah – ex-Parliamentarian & Media worker	Jaffna	20/08/2006	EPDP
Nagarasa Thavaranjitham (Humanitarian worker)	Vavuniya	20/08/2006	SL Military Intelligence
Rev Fr. T. Nihal Jimbrown	Allapiddy-Jaffna	20/08/2006	EPDP
W Winsan Vimalathas <i>Fr Nihal Jimbrown's helper</i>	Allapiddy-Jaffna	20/08/2006	EPDP
Mr. P. Jestly Julian (Humanitarian worker)	Amparai	24/08/2006	Karuna Group
Mr Ragunathan Ramalingam (Humanitarian worker)	Trincomalee	11/09/2006	EPDP
Dr. Bala Sugamar Dean, Arts Faculty– Eastern University	Batticaloa	30/09/2006	Karuna group
Mr Nadarajah Raviraj – Parliamentarian	Colombo	10/11/2006	EPDP
Prof. S Raveendranath <i>Vice-Chancellor, Eastern University, Batticaloa</i>	Colombo	15/12/2006	Karuna group
Mr. Subramaniam Parameswaran (Humanitarian worker)	Jaffna	04/01/2007	EPDP
Mr. C. Rajendran (Humanitarian worker)	Jaffna	09/01/2007	EPDP
Selliah Parameshwaram – Priest	Batticaloa	07/02/2007	SL Military Intelligence
Mr. Nagarasa Narenthiran (Humanitarian worker)	Jaffna	09/02/2007	EPDP

<u>Name</u>	<u>Place of incident</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Killers</u>
Pastor Victor Emmanuel Yogarajan <i>along with his two sons and a friend</i>	Negombo	01/03/2007	SL Military Intelligence
Subramaniam Ramachandran – Journalist	Jaffna	22/03/2007	EPDP
Mr. Muthuraja Aruleswaran(Humanitarian worker)	Welikanda	24/03/2007	Karuna Group
Selvarajah Rajivarman – Journalist	Jaffna	29/04/2007	EPDP
Ratnasabapathy Aiyar Somaskantha – Priest	Velanai, Jaffna	30/04/2007	EPDP
Mr. Sinnarajah Shanmuganathan(Humanitarian worker)	Jaffna	01/06/2007	EPDP
Mr. Karthigesu Chandramohan (Humanitarian worker)	Jaffna	01/06/2007	EPDP
Mr. Sivarasa Vimalarasa (Humanitarian worker)	Jaffna	19/06/2007	EPDP
Mr. Arumainayagam Alloysius (Humanitarian worker)	Jaffna	23/07/2007	EPDP
Sahathevan Nilakshan– Trainee Journalist	Jaffna	02/08/2007	EPDP
Mohamed Z. Mohamed Rizvi (Humanitarian worker)	Trincomalee	06/08/2007	EPDP
Mawlawi Rafeek <i>Muslim religious leader</i>	Amparai	11/08/2007	Karuna group
S. Thiyagachandra (Social worker)	Batticaloa	20/08/2007	Karuna Group
Sivasamy Sritharan (Humanitarian worker)	Jaffna	20/08/2007	EPDP
Thilaiampalam Paramalingam(Social worker)	Batticaloa	02/09/2007	Karuna Group
Rev.Fr. Nicholaspillai Packiyaranjit	Mannar	26/09/2007	SL Military Intelligence
Sivaguru Panchalingam (Social worker)	Jaffna	21/10/2007	EPDP
Sebamalai Kristi Jeyanthan(Social worker)	Jaffna	23/10/2007	SL Military Intelligence
Kanagarajah Pratheepan(Social worker)	Jaffna	26/10/2007	EPDP
Shanmuganathan Pakeerathanathan (Humanitarian worker)	Jaffna	28/10/2007	EPDP
Vadivelu Nirmalaraj Media worker	Jaffna	16/11/2007	EPDP
Thangarajah Sujeevan (Humanitarian worker)	Jaffna	17/11/2007	EPDP
Subramaniasharma Ketheswara Kurukkal – Priest	Jaffna	17/11/2007	EPDP
Mr. Thiyagarajah Maheswaran Parliamentarian	Colombo	01/01/2008	EPDP
Parasuraman Nanthakumar – Trade Unionist	Batticaloa	07/01/2008	Karuna group

(MANY MORE TO BE INCLUDED)

ICRC - CIVILIAN CASUALTIES REACHING APPALLING LEVELS

13-02-2008 News release 08/26 - Geneva, Colombo (ICRC) – The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) is deeply concerned about the growing number of civilian casualties, including children, resulting from the deteriorating security situation across Sri Lanka.

Since the beginning of this year, the ICRC has observed an increase in the number of civilians killed or injured in targeted and/or indiscriminate attacks.

In the first six weeks of 2008, more than 180 civilians were reported killed and almost 270 injured in a series of attacks on civilian buses, railway stations and individuals in Colombo, Dambula, Kebhitigollewa, Madhu, Okkampitiya and Welli Oya.

"The number of civilians affected by the violence throughout the country, either by being directly targeted or as bystanders, has reached appalling levels," says Toon Vandenhove, head of the organization's delegation in Colombo. "Sadly, many of the victims have been children on their way to or from school."

While international humanitarian law does not prohibit the targeting of persons taking direct part in hostilities, attacks against those not directly involved in the fighting are prohibited without exception and constant care must be taken to spare the civilian population and civilian objects.

As a humanitarian organization with a mandate to protect and assist persons affected by armed conflict, the ICRC strongly condemns any attacks on civilians and urgently calls on all concerned to put a stop to violence against civilians.

The ICRC has been working in Sri Lanka since 1989. Its activities include acting as a neutral intermediary between the parties to the conflict, protecting and assisting the civilian population, visiting security detainees, transferring the remains of fallen fighters and promoting international humanitarian law.

<http://www.icrc.org/Web/eng/siteeng0.nsf/html/sri-lanka-news-130208!OpenDocument>

8 CIVILIANS INCLUDING 4 CHILDREN KILLED IN POONAKARI

22 February 2008 - In a Sri Lanka Air Force aerial bombardment of a civilian settlement at Kiranchchi in the Poonakari, eight civilians including four babies were killed and many others wounded. The children were all under four years old.

11 SCHOOL CHILDREN KILLED IN A CLAYMORE MINE ATTACK

29 January 2008 - A Claymore mine planted by the Deep Penetration Unit of Sri Lanka Army targeted a bus carrying school children in Madu killing 18 civilians, including 11 school children. The incident took place in Thadcha'naamaruthamadu near Madhu church in Mannar.

Bishop of Mannar, Rayappu Joseph on 29 January charged that **12 school girls were killed in the claymore attack by an Army Deep Penetration Unit.** The state media chose to remain silent.

756 TAMILS KILLED AND 485 ABDUCTED

S. Gajenderan, Member of Parliament, said in the Parliament

	KILLINGS	ABDUCTED
East	241	118
North	471	313
Other District	44	54

KILLINGS AND ABDUCTIONS OF CHILDREN

IN THE NORTH EAST SINCE AUGUST 2005

TAMIL CENTRE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS - TCHR/CTDH - CENTRE TAMOUL POUR LES DROITS DE L'HOMME

<u>Please of Incident</u>	<u>No . of Children</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Killed by</u>
Kiranchchi, Poonakari, Kilinochchi	04	22/02/2008	SL Air Force
Thadcha'naamaruthamadu, Mannar	11	29/01/2008	SL Army
Monaragala	03	16/01/2008	Claymore
Kondavil, Jaffna	01	06/12/2007	Abducted by Paramilitary
Chankanai, Jaffna	01	04/12/2007	Abducted by Paramilitary
Iyankankulam, Killinochchi	07	27/11/2007	SL Army
8 th Unit, Tharmapuram, Kilinochchi	01	25/11/2007	SL Air Force
Periyamadu, Mannar	01	25/10/2007	SL Army
Maruthanaamadam R-College, Jaffna	01	20/10/2007	Abducted by Paramilitary
Iranaimaatha Nagar, Mannar	02	18/10/2007	SL Navy
Urumpirai, Jaffna	01	16/08/2007	Abducted by Paramilitary
Koppay, Valigamam East, Jaffna	01	01/08/2007	Paramilitary
Kantharodai, Chunnakam	01	04/06/2007	Abducted by Paramilitary
Pooneryn, Kilinochchi	01	15/05/2007	Abducted by Paramilitary
Jaffna	03	04/05/2007	Abducted by Paramilitary
Chenkaladi, Eravur, Batticaloa	02	13/04/2007	SL Army
Mannar Road, Vavuniya	01	07/04/2007	Claymore
Koiyathottam, Jaffna	01	31/03/2007	Abducted by Paramilitary
3 rd Division, Siththaandi, Batticaloa	04	29/03/2007	SL Army
Negombo, Colombo	01	05/03/2007	Abducted by Paramilitary
Vantharumoolai West, Batticaloa	01	01/03/2007	SL Army
Kannankiramam, Batticaloa	01	20/01/2007	Abducted by Paramilitary
Jubilee Mawatte, Colombo 15	01	10/01/2007	Abducted by Paramilitary
Pethalai, Valaichenai, Batticaloa	01	04/01/2007	Abducted by Paramilitary
Pethalai, Valaichenai, Batticaloa	01	03/01/2007	Abducted by Paramilitary
Padahuthurai, Mannar	06	02/01/2007	SL Air Force
Sea off Vahari, Trincomalee	03	15/12/2006	SL Navy
Araiampathy, Batticaloa	01	12/12/2006	Paramilitary
Kalmuniar, Batticaloa	01	11/12/2006	Paramilitary
Pannai Bridge, Jaffna	01	06/12/2006	Land mine
Santhiveli, Palayadi, Batticaloa	04	04/12/2006	Abducted by Paramilitary
Thikkodai, Vellaveli, Batticaloa	01	23/11/2006	STF
Savukady Road, Batticaloa	04	14/11/2006	Abducted by Paramilitary
Aanaipanthi Junction, Jaffna	01	11/11/2006	Paramilitary
Kayts, Jaffna	01	06/11/2006	SL Navy
Muneeswaran Rd, Jaffna	01	30/10/2006	SL Army
Udupiddy, Vadamaradchi, Jaffna	02	29/10/2006	Bomb
Chenkalady, Batticaloa	02	26/10/2006	Bomb
Kaiveli, Puthukudiyiruppu, Mullaitivu	02	16/10/2006	SL Army
Kaluwankerny, Batticaloa	01	29/09/2006	Abducted by Paramilitary
Chenkalady, Batticaloa	01	27/09/2006	Abducted by Paramilitary
Murunkan, Mannar	01	20/09/2006	Abducted by Paramilitary
Anpuvallipuram, Trincomalee	01	17/09/2006	Paramilitary
Valvettithurai	01	12/09/2006	SL Army
Savukaddy coast, Batticaloa	01	06/09/2006	Paramilitary
Mavadivembu, Batticaloa	01	16/08/2006	Paramilitary
Vallipunam, Mullaitivu	53	14/08/2006	SL Air Force
Murakodanchenai, Batticaloa	02	14/08/2006	Paramilitary
Thenmaradchi, Jaffna	01	11/08/2006	SL Army
Ninthavur, Batticaloa	01	11/08/2006	Abducted by Paramilitary
4 th Div. Vinayagapuram. Batticaloa	01	10/08/2006	Abducted by Paramilitary
Koyilkudiyiruppu, Trincomalee	01	04/08/2006	SL Army
St Anthony's, Muttur, Trincomalee	01	01/08/2006	SL Army
Kebitigollawe, Vavuniya	15	15/06/2006	Claymore

<u>Place of Incident</u>	<u>No. Children</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Killed by</u>
Muhamalai, Jaffna	01	14/06/2006	SL Army
Puliyadichanthi, Trincomalee	01	10/06/2006	Paramilitary
Vankalai, Mannar	02	09/06/2006	SL Army
Nedunkal, Vadamunai, Batticaloa	03	07/06/2006	SL Army
Thikiliveddai, Batticaloa	02	24/05/2006	SL Army
Periya Pandivirichan at Madhu in the Mannar	01	21/05/2006	Claymore
Mavadivembu, Eravur, Batticalo	01	20/05/2006	SL Army
Allaipidiy, Jaffna	02	13/05/2006	SL Navy
Muttu East, Trincomalee	01	25/04/2006	SL Air Force
Polonnaruwa colony, Polonnaruwa	01	23/04/2006	Paramilitary
Thandavanveli, Batticaloa	01	19/01/2006	SL Army
Pesalai, Mannar	01	25/12/2005	SL Navy

(MANY MORE TO BE INCLUDED)

HORRENDOUS VIOLATIONS BUT NO MONITORING AND INVESTIGATION

Between January 2006 and August 2007, more than 1,300 new disappearances / abductions were reported, mostly in the North East – areas under Sri Lankan military control.

Human rights defenders, humanitarian workers, journalists, parliamentarians, academics and social workers and others have been systematically abducted and killed.

WARNING OF A MOUNTING HUMANITARIAN TOLL IN 2008 DUE TO THE ESCALATION IN HOSTILITIES - CHAP

COLOMBO, 25 February 2008 (IRIN) - The UN and NGOs working in the conflict-ridden north and east are warning of a mounting humanitarian toll in 2008 due to the escalation in hostilities between Sri Lankan government forces and the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE).

Agencies should be prepared to assist “up to 500,000 conflict-affected individuals comprising IDPs, returnees and economically affected persons”, according to the **Common Humanitarian Action Plan (CHAP)** 2008, prepared by the Inter Agency Standing Committee (IASC) country team for Sri Lanka and released on 22 February.

The report warned that displacement levels could be similar to 2007 when 308,000 persons were forced from their homes. More than 140,000 have now been resettled in eastern Sri Lanka, but as of mid-February, 225,000 people remained displaced in eight north and eastern districts. **(Excerpt)**

COMMISSION OF INQUIRY FALLS SHORT OF INTERNATIONAL NORMS AND STANDARDS, ALSO LACKS TRANSPARENCY

International Independent Group of Eminent Persons - IIGEP

18 December 2007, REF: IIGEP-PS-004-2007 - The above issues reinforce the IIGEP’s prior assessment that the Commission of Inquiry’s process falls short of international norms and standards. The Commission’s work also lacks transparency. For instance, all sessions conducted by the Commission have been held to the exclusion of the public, the victims and their families and, on occasions, the IIGEP. In addition, there continues to be a lack of full and timely disclosure of information to the IIGEP. The IIGEP reiterates its concerns regarding the Commission’s lack of independence, ineffective witness protection measures and shortcomings in the investigations. **(Excerpt)**

"OUR DAILY TARGET IS TO KILL AT LEAST 10 LTTE TERRORISTS"

ARMY COMMANDER GEN. SARATH FONSEKA
Wanni is surrounded on all prongs

The Sunday Observer, 30 December 2007 - The Security Forces have occupied the LTTE's Forward Defence Lines and surrounded the Wanni LTTE bases from all directions. The Army Chief said that the LTTE could not prevent losing their remaining 3000 cadres and there is no assurance that the LTTE Leader V. Prabhakaran would survive for the next six months as the Sri Lankan Air Force plans to attack all the LTTE bases.

Therefore the three armed forces are confident of wiping out the LTTE, which is now smarting its wounds due to the present military operations.

The Army Commander Gen. Sarath Fonseka is highly satisfied over the successes against the terrorists in the outgoing year and said that the prime target of the military was to destroy the LTTE's presence in the North completely.

In an interview with the 'Sunday Observer' the Army Chief said that there are around 3000 LTTE terrorists remaining and that the military targets to annihilate them within the first six months of the next year. **"Our daily target is to kill at least 10 LTTE terrorists"** and for the last few months over 500 LTTE carders have been killed by the armed forces. We have weakened the LTTE by 50 per cent or more and we are confident we can go that extra mile in the coming year", he said.

He said the correct directives and the support given by the President and the Ministry of Defence had helped the military to achieve the set targets. " All the citizens are waiting to see an end to terrorism. The President very clearly announced his firm opinion about wiping out terrorism and bringing political solutions to address the problems of the Tamil people", Gen. Fonseka said.

He said the military has come a long way defeating terrorism and the military operations in Wanni were 100 per cent successful. " The damage to the LTTE in Wanni is high and their major camps have already fallen", he said adding that now the outfit is facing a severe shortage of man power.

"Bodies of the LTTE Police and the Sea Tigers seized by the armed forces show that the outfit is facing a severe shortage of man power and it is evident the outfit is in total disarray", he said.

Meanwhile, over 8000 army deserters have reported back to the army. Gen. Fonseka said the Ministry of Defence and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs together work out to block the LTTE's gun running activities. **(Government news paper)**

LTTE POLITICAL HEAD KILLED IN A AN AERIAL BOMBING

02 November 2007 - Political head, Chief negotiator, diplomat, Humanitarian co-ordinator and Brigadier, S P Thamilselvan was killed along with five others in Kilinochchi by the Sri Lankan Air Force.

Thamilselvan was engaged in many political negotiations with the various governments of Sri Lanka over several years, with the unwavering intention of bringing a negotiated political solution to the people in the North East. In the latest negotiations in Thailand, Norway, Germany and Japan he played an important role in giving the views of the people who were severely affected by decades of bloody war.

The Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) in a press communiqué said that the Sri Lanka Air Force attack has specifically targeted the residence of the members of the Political Division.

DEFENCE SECRETARY GOTHABHAYA RAJAPAKSA

Guardian UK, 2 November 2007 - "This is a message that we know their leaders' location," the defence secretary, Gotabhaya Rajapaksa, said. "This confirms that our information is very accurate."

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/world/2007/nov/02/jamessturcke1>

SRI LANKAN STYLE OF DEMOCRACY

A well known paramilitary force, the “Karuna/Pillayan Group”, which is responsible for hundreds of abductions, killings, rapes and lootings was registered as a political party in the name of Tamil Makkal Viduthalai Pulihal– TMVP.

The TMVP was started by V. Muralitharan (Karuna), a former member of the LTTE in the Amparai-Batticaloa district. He was dismissed from the LTTE in 2004 for his misconduct. He is presently serving a jail sentence in the United Kingdom for illegally entering the UK with a false Sri Lankan diplomatic passport.

In the latest development, the ruling UPFA has signed an agreement with TMVP to contest elections in the Eastern province.

Several local and international human rights organisations have accused the TMVP for its notorious human rights violations.

While the TMVP leader is in jail and going to be charged for Crime against humanity, President Mahinda Rajapaksa’s political party is signing an agreement with such outfit.

“Every paramilitary group, including TMVP must lay down arms. The US does not believe a free and fair election can be held if one party is armed. Unchecked, illegal paramilitary activity affects development. Paramilitary groups must compete with the strength of their words and not the threats of their bullets to win elections” – **Robert O’ Blake American Ambassador to Sri Lanka.**

According to the working arrangement reached between the UPFA and TMVP, the government will channel all development work through the TMVP to the district of Batticaloa. (**Excerpt**) **The Nation – 27 January 2008**

EVERY PARTY CONTESTING THE ELECTION HAS THEIR WEAPONS

Lakbima News, 8 January 2008 - With the elections in the East set to be held in March, LN staff reporter Thava Sajitharan spoke to TMVP leader Pillayan

Ln: Most of the political parties contesting the Eastern local polls have expressed discontent over your armed activities. They are of the view that your carrying arms in the region will adversely affect the election. What do you have to say?

P: Every party contesting the election has their weapons... (**Excerpt**)
http://www.lakbimanet.com/lakbimanews/lakbimanews_08_01_27/special/spe5.htm

WE ARMED OURSELVES WITH THE LAW FOR A REASON!

Lanka Dissent, 23 February 2008 - Interview with Asath Moulana, Media Spokesman of TMVP.

Q: Why did your party sign a MoU with the ruling UPFA to contest the east polls?

A: Today, we are a political party recognized by the Elections Commissioner. Civil society activists, religious leaders and intellectuals in the east requested us to contest the polls. In the beginning, we decided to field candidates independently. After seeing our strength, the government reached an agreement with us. That means the people of the east as well as the present regime are trusting us. Minister Susil Premajayantha signed the MoU on behalf of the government. For the Batticaloa MC, we are contesting with the government. For the seven Pradeshiya Sabhas, we are fielding candidates under the ‘boat’ symbol.

The other thing is we are joining forces with the government not because we accept its policies. We don’t agree with its policies. We have different policies. Our aim is the development of Batticaloa.

Q: However, you have been accused of murders, abductions, extortions and other human rights violations in the east?

A: We have armed ourselves in accordance with the law for a reason. All other groups have taken up arms unlawfully. Most groups try to disrupt civilian life in the east and put the blame on us. All of them know that we will emerge winner at the election. They cannot beat TMVP at an election. The other thing is that we are not a communalistic party. Our candidates include Muslims of the area as well as women in a display of our adherence to democratic norms. We did that after seeking public opinion through suggestion boxes placed at religious places. (**Excerpt**) <http://www.lankadissent.com/columnews/asathmawlana.htm>

MEDIA FREEDOM

GOVERNMENT MINISTER RUNS AMOK IN STATE RUN TV STATION IN SRI LANKA

27th December 2007, Colombo, Sri Lanka: The Free Media Movement (FMM) is outraged, not for the first time, at the behaviour of Government Minister Mervyn Silva today. In a wanton act of violence, the Minister stormed into the State run television station Sri Lanka Rupavahini Cooperation (SLRC) this morning with group of his thugs and assaulted its News Director, Mr. T.M.G. Chandrasekara. MP Mervyn Silva ostensibly entered the SLRC premises to protest that a speech made by him the previous day at a public meeting was not broadcast in the channel's TV news bulletins. According to SLRC sources, Mr. Chandrasekara was assaulted twice and then dragged to the chairman's office.

The FMM notes with deep regret and alarm that this unprecedented attack against a journalist in Sri Lanka by a politician of the ruling party is deeply indicative of the desultory attitude of the government towards media freedom. Further, we note that MP Mervyn Silva's behaviour in particular and the context within which such hooliganism is allowed to persist in general is clearly demonstrates the significant breakdown of law and order in Sri Lanka today. In this regard, we note that it is a matter of public record that the Minister in question has repeatedly and vituperatively threatened media personnel, particularly journalists from the MTV and Sirasa TV channels and the Sinhala newspaper Divanina.

(Excerpt - Free Media Movement (FMM) - <http://freemediasrilanka.wordpress.com>)

ATTACK ON SUNDAY LEADER CONDEMNED

BBC Sinhala service, 22 November 2007 - International media watchdogs have condemned the arson attack on Leader publishing house on Tuesday night.

The armed men who staged the attack "must have had support within the security forces," Paris based press freedom watchdog Reporters Without borders (RSF) said.

"By attacking the Leader Publications group, this gang wanted to silence one of the main sources of incisive criticism of the current government. We urge foreign diplomats to publicly express their solidarity with the group," a statement issued RSF stated.

CPJ statement

The printing press that publishes three Sinhala and English language newspapers was destroyed in the fire.

Executive Director of New York based Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ), Joel Simon, said the watchdog was appalled by the attack.

"It's time official inquiries into press attacks in Sri Lanka yielded some results, to counteract the message that critical newspapers can be threatened with impunity," he was quoted in a statement.

The English-language Morning Leader and Sunday Leader, and the Sinhala-language weekly Irudina are known for their critical stances towards Sri Lankan authorities.

Sunday Leader editor, Lasantha Wickramatunga, and the group has come under constant attack by the Sri Lanka authorities.

Security forces 'involved'

Leader of the opposition and the United National Party (UNP), Ranil Wickramasinghe, has said that the attack could not occur without the knowledge of the security forces and the defence ministry.

However, the government denied the accusations. The Sri Lankan government has ordered an investigation.

However, results of similar inquiries launched in the past two years have yet to be made public Free Media Movement's (FMM) convenor, Sunanada Deshapriya, told the CPJ. (Excerpt) http://www.bbc.co.uk/sinhala/news/story/2007/11/071122_leader_attack.shtml

REPORTERS WITHOUT BORDERS ON MEDIA FREEDOM IN SRI LANKA

(Excerpts from Reporters Without Borders - <http://www.rsf.org>)

IRRESPONSIBLE COMMENTS AND ACTIONS BY MINISTERS ENDANGER JOURNALISTS

29.01.2008 - Reporters Without Borders appealed today to President Mahinda Rajapakse to rein in various government ministers whose inflammatory comments and incitements to violence have seriously threatened the safety of dozens of Sri Lankan journalists.

The defence secretary Gotabhaya Rajapakse, the president's brother, said in an interview in the *Sunday Lankadeepa* on 27 January: "Journalists should not be allowed to write about military matters. Strong action ought to be taken against those who do. We should return to the laws that criminalize defamation in order to punish those who try to murder us." He also criticised the Wijeya and Maharajah private press groups.

Thugs working for labour minister Mervyn Silva, who is well known for his racist comments about Tamils and his diatribes against journalists, were probably responsible for the stabbing of **Lal Hemantha Mawalage**, a journalist employed by state broadcaster *Sri Lanka Rupavahini Corporation* (SLRC), on 25 January.

Mawalage told several journalists he had received death threats in the weeks that followed the violence at SLRC headquarters on 27 December, when Silva ordered his men to beat up the channel's news director **T. M. G. Chandrasekara**. Terrified at the possibility of further reprisals, Chandrasekara recently asked to be relieved of his post.

On 7 January, social welfare minister Douglas Devananda, who is also the head of the pro-governmental EPDP militia, accused journalists working for Minnal, a Tamil programme on *Shakthi TV*, of orchestrating an interview with a Tamil opposition parliamentarian at the behest of the Tamil Tigers rebels. In the interview, conducted a few days before he was murdered in Colombo, the parliamentarian told the station he was being threatened by the EPDP.

Devananda called on the police to investigate the programme's journalists, especially **Sri Ranga Jeyaratnam**. Following his comments, demonstrations were held in various parts of the country to defend Minnal, which is one of the few remaining Tamil programmes to cover politics in an independent manner.

Devananda's thugs are also suspected of being responsible for the threatening phone call made on 6 January to the Jaffna-based daily *Uthayan*. The call came from Kayts, an island controlled by the EPDP. *Uthayan* editors told Reporters Without Borders they feared for the safety of their employees.

Another journalist, **Suhaib Kasim**, a former senior member of the staff of the Tamil-language daily *Thinakaran*, was stabbed by unidentified assailants at his Colombo home yesterday. The motive of the attack is not known. (Excerpt)

FRANCE – 24, JOURNALISTS FREED AFTER BEING HELD FOR TWO DAYS

26.12.2007 - Reporters Without Borders welcomes the release today of two French journalists employed by the French TV news channel *France 24* - reporter **Capucine Henry** and cameraman **Constantin Simon** - who were arrested on the evening of 24 December in the southern district of Galle while travelling with a Tamil family. Henry has been told she can stay in Sri Lanka to do a report on a Bizet opera performance in Colombo.

"We applaud the efforts undertaken by French diplomats, which helped to get Henry and her cameraman freed," the press freedom organisation said. "After being arrested while doing a report on the life of a Tamil family, the two journalists remained in detention because they had not yet registered with the foreign ministry in Colombo."

Reporters Without Borders added: "We appeal to the government in Colombo to show more flexibility with foreign journalists and to let them work freely in Sri Lanka, including when they are doing reports on members of the Tamil population." (Excerpt)

REPORTERS WITHOUT BORDERS SAYS AIR STRIKE ON REBEL RADIO STATION IS "WAR CRIME"

28.11.2007 - A Sri Lanka military air strike yesterday on *the Voice of Tigers*, the radio station of the Tamil Tiger rebels in the north of the country, was a "war crime," Reporters Without Borders said. Three of the station's staff, who had not been given any warning, and six other civilians were killed in the bombardment by air force jets.

"*Voice of Tigers* is a propaganda radio operated by the LTTE rebels, but the rules of war are clear - military bombardment and bombing must be limited to strictly military targets," the press freedom organisation said. "The government in Colombo uses the Geneva Conventions to condemn LTTE crimes but forgets the conventions when it bombs what is a civilian installation and therefore protected by the conventions." (Excerpt)

TAMIL NEWSPAPER'S PROOF READER MISSING IN JAFFNA

22.11.2007 - Reporters Without Borders is very concerned about the fate of proof reader **Vadivel Nimalarajah** of the Jaffna-based Tamil daily *Uthayan*, who has been missing since 17 November. His colleagues think he was kidnapped near the Navalar Road railway as he was cycling home after a night shift as copy editor at the newspaper.

"We urge the authorities to do everything possible to find Vadivel Nimalarajah," the press freedom organisation said. "We fear he may have been abducted like other Tamil journalists, in the past. This incident highlights the terrible plight of journalists in Jaffna." **(Excerpt)**

SECURITY FORCES ACCUSED OF COMPLICITY IN ARSON ATTACK ON LEADER PUBLICATIONS

21.11.2007 - Reporters Without Borders condemns an arson attack early today on the printing press of the *Sunday Leader* media group, which is located in a high security area outside Colombo. The approximately 15 gunmen who staged the attack must have had support within the security forces, the press freedom organisation said.

"Armed men have once again attacked a independent news media in a high security area of the capital," Reporters Without Borders said. "It unfortunately shows that the press freedom enemies have accomplices within the security forces. By attacking the *Leader Publications* group, this gang wanted to silence one of the main sources of incisive criticism of the current government. We urge foreign diplomats to publicly express their solidarity with the group." **(Excerpt)**

COLOMBO WEBSITE EDITOR SHOT AND WOUNDED OUTSIDE HIS HOME

2.11.2007 - Reporters Without Borders today said it was shocked by an armed attack on Kumudu Champika Jayawardana, the editor of the E-thalay.org (<http://www.ethalaya.org>) news website, who was shot and wounded in the back as he was returning home by motorcycle on the evening of 30 October in Colombo. **(Excerpt)**

COURT UPHOLDS WITHDRAWAL OF ABC'S LICENCE, SAYS GROUP'S PRESIDENT TRIED TO MISLEAD IT

26.10.2007 - Reporters Without Borders is outraged by the information ministry's decision last night to suspend the licence of five radio stations (Sun FM, Gold FM, Hiru FM, Shaa FM and Sooriyan FM) belonging to the Asia Broadcasting Corporation (ABC), an independent media group, for broadcasting an erroneous report.

Meanwhile, reporter **Arthur Wamanan of the Sunday Leader newspaper** has been detained since 24 October after reporting that enterprise development minister Mano Wijeratne got the National Gem Authority to pay his wife's mobile phone roaming charges. The minister claimed that Wamanan tried to blackmail him before writing the story. The newspaper's editor said Wamanan simply called the minister to get his comments before completing the report, which was published on 21 October. **(Excerpt)**

GOVERNMENT MINISTERS ASSAIL INDEPENDENT MEDIA AND DEFENCE REPORTER, WHILE FOREIGN TV CREW IS PREVENTED FROM WORKING IN JAFFNA

8.10.2007 - Senior officials have threatened independent news media and investigative journalist Iqbal Athas in recent weeks, and the government is reportedly planning to increase restrictions on coverage of the security situation as fighting rages in the north, Reporters Without Borders said today. A foreign TV crew was prevented from working in the northern city of Jaffna at the end of last week. **(Excerpts from Reporters Without Borders - <http://www.rsf.org>)**