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free fortnightly

Remembering Bala Anna

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Food aid from Tamil Nadu finally reached Tamils in need in the NorthEast of Sri Lanka this past fortnight, after numerous delays, but the restriction's on quantity placed by the Sri Lankan government meant that many people went back empty handed. Recipients interviewed were grateful for the assistance and hope for more. *Full story p3*

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NEWS



Heavy flooding has re-displaced many people in the NorthEast, forcing them to move from temporary shelters into even more precarious locations. The TRO is one of few organisations left to help the people after the Sri Lankan government ordered international NGOs out of the region

Floods, bombs add to displaced's woes

AS the ongoing war in Sri Lanka displaces yet more people, the indiscriminate targeting of civilian populations by the Sri Lankan government and mother nature have also added to the miseries of the displaced populations.

Sri Lanka Air Force (SLAF) Kfir bombers attacked a refugee camp in the Kilinochchi district in the early hours of November 29, killing at least 3 people and wounding another 20.

The bombers deployed Russian made OFAB-500 cluster bombs, eyewitnesses told TamilNet's Vanni correspondent. Cluster bombs release miniature bomblets and are used to spread damage over a wide area.

Many internally displaced persons (IDPs) had sought shelter at the camp bordering Piramanthanaaru and Uzhavaoor (Tharapuram) in Kilinochchi.

The IDP camp had been constructed and maintained by the TRO and a local NGO called REERDO for families that had been displaced due to the Sri Lankan government's ongoing military offensive into Vanni.

The settlement was named Tharapuram Kallaru Ranimayanathan Scheme or Uzhavanoor Kudiyiruppu settlement, the TRO said in its press statement.

The bombardment destroyed more than 29 shelters of IDPs within the 'secure zone' announced by Colombo government, the TRO noted.

Medical authorities described the bombardment as "terrible mid-night aerial attack on refugee camp".

IDPs living in the camp blamed the Sri Lankan government for targeting a refugee camp which was located within the

'secure zone' unilaterally announced by it a few weeks ago.

"We had some hope that the Sri Lankan government would not bomb refugee camps within the perimeter of secure zone announced by it," a mother told TamilNet correspondent who visited the site Saturday.

Meanwhile, in Jaffna and Vanni, heavy flooding made thousands of IDPs homeless once again as even the flimsy shelters they had were swept away.

Flooding between 21 and 27 November in the NorthEast of Sri Lanka directly affected over 70,000 of the 300,000 IDPs reported the Tamils Rehabilitation Organisation (TRO).

The Mullaitivu and Kilinochchi districts were the most severely affected, with the largest numbers of IDPs being 'redisplaced' in the Puththukudiyirippu, Marimpattu, and Oddusudan divisions, the TRO said.

Cyclone Nisha resulted in the deaths of 12 people, including 3 children, and injuries to over 300.

5,000 permanent houses and 6,000 temporary shelters were damaged as a result of the flooding caused by the cyclone and 14 IDP settlements and camps were affected, the TRO said.

Meanwhile in Jaffna, six people died and nearly 270,000 people were affected by the torrential downpour and gale-force winds that plagued the peninsula.

6,689 houses were totally destroyed while 14,820 were partly damaged, according to statistics revealed by the Additional Government Agent (AGA) of Jaffna.

In Ilavaalai, Balakrishnan Visuvalingam, 28, drowned while Arumathurai Kumaran, 19, from

Aanaikkoaddai, Ms. Rasalingam Manickam, 62, a resident of Madduvil, Visuvalingam Balakrishnan, 41, from Pannaakam and Thavaraja Thenmoli, 26, of Changkueali in Valikaamam have died due to rain related incidents, according to information released by Jaffna Secretariat officials.

Many people sought shelter in relatives' houses, schools and churches.

Though there were official reports that cooked meals were to be supplied to those displaced by the flooding, the relief food supply has not reached many of them, local residents told TamilNet.

Transport services in many parts of the peninsula were suspended, while the electricity supply was completely disrupted and telecommunication services were severely affected.

Another discomfort for the displaced is the effects of the embargo on goods going into the NorthEast. Aside from shortages of food and medicines, the displaced are also struggling to clear the carcasses of animals killed by the flooding.

Close to 5,000 cows and goats are estimated to have been killed by the floods, while the number of chickens killed is closer to 7,000.

Given that most animals are reared in family plots, the carcasses of these animals are now lying in the areas in which people live.

The embargo on goods into the area has made cleaning harder and means the smell of rotting flesh is yet another factor compounding the lives of the displaced.

NEWS

India is our friend, we are not against any country

Full text of LTTE's official translation of the Tamil speech of Mr. V. Pirapaharan:

MY beloved people of Tamil Eelam,

Today is Maveerar Naal - our Great Heroes Day.

On this day of purity we remember and honour our dearly beloved heroes whose supreme sacrifice for the liberation of our motherland continues to fill all our hearts.

It is for us a commemoration day of reverence when we pay homage to our brave and valiant heroes who have transformed our land from one that was for many years subjugated by foreign rule into a defiant land refusing to submit to the will of the alien oppressor.

This is our national day on which we engrave tenderly in our hearts the memory of our great heroes who died and whose sacred aspiration was the redemption of our land so that our people may live in freedom and with self-respect.

Our heroes loved this land deeply. From the moment they fixed their eyes on the redemption of our motherland to the moment they closed their eyes permanently, the sacrifices they made have no parallel in the history of the world. No country but ours had at any time encountered such wonderful dedication as expressed in the actions of our valiant heroes.

It was on this land that our heroes were born. They grew up here and lived here. It was on this land that their footsteps have their imprints. The air they breathed is mingled with this land. From time immemorial, from generation to generation the Tamil people lived on this land. It was this land which our heroes loved deeply. Our heroes died for this land and are at rest in its bosom. The land where they are embedded, belongs to us. It is our own land. But an arrogant Sinhala nation stands adamant and is determined to occupy and conquer this historic land. All human suffering springs from unbridled desire. Unless one extricates oneself from the clutch of greed, one will not free himself from the fetters of sorrow. With its greed for land, Sinhalam has entered a militaristic path of destruction. It has sought to build the support of the world to confront us. It is living in a dreamland of military victory. It is a dream from which it will

awake. That is certain.

My beloved people!

The land of Tamil Eelam is confronted with an intense war as never before. Rearing its head in different parts of Wanni, the war is gathering momentum. As the Sinhala state is committed to a military solution, the war is becoming intense and widespread. The underlying intent of the Sinhala state is to wipe out the national life and resources of the Tamils and subjugate the Tamil nation under alien Sinhala military despotism. With this in view, it is executing its war plan at full gallop. Pooling together all its military resources and arsenal, and with all its national wealth to buttress it, the racist Sinhala state has waged a fierce war on our land. Our freedom fighters, have dedicated themselves to unbending resistance against this war of aggression launched by the racist Sinhala state. With various countries of the world buttressing the genocidal war on the people of Tamil Eelam, we are waging a defensive war for the freedom of our people.

Today, our movement has embarked on a historic journey, hazardous and strenuous. In this historic venture, we have encountered numerous turns, twists and confrontations. We have faced forces much mightier than ours. We have had direct confrontations even against superior powers, stronger than us. We have withstood wave after wave of our enemy attacks. Standing alone, we have blasted networks of innumerable intrigues, interwoven with betrayal and sabotage. We stood like a mountain and faced all dangers that loomed like storms. When compared to these happenings of the past, today's challenges are neither novel nor huge. We will face these challenges with the united strength of our people.

This land which the Sinhala state is trying to occupy and enslave, has never belonged to it. This land is ours. Ancient Tamil civilisation stood long and firm on this land. Our ancestors lived and belonged here. Our ancient kings built kingdoms and dynasties and ruled from here. On this land where the roots of our nation have sunk deep, we wish to live in peace and with dignity and make



LTTE leader V Pirapaharan called for a lifting of the bans various countries have placed on the group

decisions on our lives without the intervention of foreign rulers.

From the day that British colonialism was replaced with Sinhala oppression, we have been struggling for our just rights - peacefully at first and with weapons thereafter. The political struggle for our right to self-determination has extended over the last sixty years. During this period our struggle has gone through different shapes, developments and advanced to maturity. In the beginning, it was a peaceful and democratic struggle by our people for justice. The racist Sinhala state resorted to armed and animal like violence to suppress the peaceful struggle of the Tamil people for their political rights. It was when state oppression breached all norms and our people faced naked terrorism that our movement for freedom was born as a natural outcome in history. We were compelled to take up arms in order to protect our people from the armed terrorism of the racist Sinhala state. The armed violent path was not our choice. It was forced upon us by history.

Even though the armed struggle was thrust on us by inevitable needs, yet we wish to stop the war and seek a peaceful resolution to the national question of our people. Our freedom movement is always ready for it. We are not opposed to a peaceful resolution. We have never hesitated to participate in peace talks. From Thimpu to Geneva, under diametrically varied historical circumstances, we have adopted peaceful methods and participated in talks in order to win the political rights of our people.

Although we acted honestly and whole heartedly, to find a peaceful resolution to the national question, all talks were futile. The intransigence of the Sinhala state, its dishonest approach and its faith in military solution were the

cause for failure of the talks. Even at a time when we had produced spectacular achievements in battle fields and broken the backbone of the Sinhala armed forces, we participated in the peace negotiations facilitated by Norway. Bringing the war to an end, we participated with honesty and diligence in the peace negotiations which protracted for six years.

We continued to exercise patience at the military rampages and provocations by the armed forces. It is not that we trusted the racist Sinhala state to respect our people's fair claims and advance justice, but it was to expose the hypocrisy of the Sinhala state and at the same time to impress upon the international community our commitment to peace, that we participated in the negotiations.

During the peace talks convened in different capitals of the world, there were no attempts to resolve the day-to-day needs of the Tamil people or to negotiate a resolution to the underlying national question. Sri Lanka made use of the opportunity of the peace talks to attempt to weaken the LTTE and hoodwink the Tamil nation and the international community. Using the talks as a masquerade, the Sinhala state made preparations to wage a major war on the Tamil nation. Making use of the cease-fire and the peace environment, the Sinhala state resuscitated its devastated economy and rebuilt its military might that was in shambles. It concentrated on heavy recruitment, refurbishing its arsenal, strengthening the armed forces and conducting military exercises. While the Tamil nation was engaged in peace-building, the Sinhala nation dedicated itself to preparations for war.

Meanwhile, some countries which identified themselves as so-called Peace Sponsors, rushed into activities which impaired

negotiations. They denigrated our freedom movement as a terrorist organisation. They put us on their black list and ostracized us as unwanted and untouchable. Our people living in many lands were intimidated into submission by oppressive limitations imposed on them to prevent their political activities supporting our freedom struggle. Humanitarian activities pursued by our law-abiding people in many countries, well within the purview of the law of the land, have been belittled and curtailed. These activities were aimed at providing humanitarian aid to helpless victims of genocidal attacks by the Sinhala Sri Lanka state in Tamil areas. However, these humanitarian activities were branded as criminal activities in those countries. Representatives of the Tamil people, along with community leaders were arrested, jailed and insulted. The explicit bias shown by the activities of these countries affected the talks, in its balance and in its consideration of our status as an equal partner. This further aggravated the racist attitude of the Sinhala state. Sinhala chauvinism was encouraged to raise its head with impunity and inevitably push the Sinhala state further on its war path.

The Sinhala state shut tight the gates to peace and waged its war again on the Tamil nation. The cease-fire agreement facilitated by the international community was abrogated unilaterally by Sinhala Sri Lanka. Strangely no voice of protest was registered by any peace sponsor. Not even as a formality. Nor was any concern expressed. In contrast, some countries from the international community are providing an abundant supply of war materials, military training and expert advice, all for free. This has encouraged the Sinhala state to

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NEWS

India is our friend...

Continued from p3

aggravate its genocidal war against the Tamils with a terrorist audacity.

Today, the Sinhala state has, as never before, placed its trust on its military strength, on military modalities and on a military solution. Its desire to impose its military despotism over the Tamil homeland and order a stringent military rule over the Tamils, has increased. As a result, the war has gathered intensity and momentum. In truth, this is not a war against the LTTE as the Sinhala state professes. This is a war against the Tamils; against the Tamil nation. In short, a genocidal war.

This war has affected Tamil civilians more than any body else. By turning the heat of war on our people and by burdening them with immeasurable sufferings, the Sinhala state is aspiring to turn our people against the LTTE. By closing the trunk-line roads, embargoing food and medicine and by suffocating people in tight military encirclements, the government has unleashed barrages of bombardments and shelling. Having lost their private lands and the serene life on them, our people have been reduced to destitution and live as wandering refugees. They have been forced to carry the cross of eternal suffering from birth to death. Struggling with disease and misery, malnutrition, ageing and untimely death, our people are steeped in suffering. With the solitary purpose of breaking the unbending will of our people, the Sinhala state has unleashed waves of oppression on them and subjected them to grievous injustice. A huge economic war has been declared on our people, their economic life shattered and their day-to-day living impaired. In Tamil areas under military control, hundreds of people disappear or killed, every month. In Sinhala areas, disappearance and killing of Tamils have become a normal routine.

Tamil areas under military occupation are encountering an accelerated agenda of genocide, today. Death, destruction, army atrocities and open prison-life in one's own land, are the unendurable suffering our people have to suffer, as an order of the day. Arrest, imprisonment, torture, rape, murder, disappearance and clandestine burial in unknown graves form a vicious circle in which the lives of our people is enmeshed. Yet, our people have not lost hope. No measure, however punitive, can withhold their will to resist. Their yearning for freedom remains strong. No aerial bombardment can wipe out their determination to attain their freedom. Our people are used to

carrying the cross of suffering. They are used to facing destruction and loss, daily in life. This suffering has further tempered their will to be steadfast in their aspiration. With such impetus, the urge for freedom has gathered momentum as never before.

Facing a great confrontation for such a long period, we have sacrificed so much and fought for so long, for nothing else, but for our people to live in freedom; live with dignity and live in peace. We are conducting this struggle with the unrelenting support of the Tamil people, the world over. Besides, our struggle does not contravene the national interest, geo-political interest or economic interest of any outside country. The inherent aspirations of our people do not in any way hamper the national interests of any country or people. At the same time, it may be noted that during the long history of our struggle, we have not conducted any act of aggression against any member state of the international community.

Our freedom movement, as well as our people, have always wished to maintain cordiality with the international community as well as neighbouring India. With this in view, we wish to create a viable environment and enhance friendship. We wish to express our goodwill and are looking forward to the opportunity to build a constructive relationship. Cordially I invite those countries that have banned us, to understand the deep aspirations and friendly overtures of our people, to remove their ban on us and to recognise our just struggle.

Today, there are great changes taking place in India. The dormant voices in support of our struggle are re-emerging aloud again. There are also indications of our struggle becoming accepted there. The positive change in environment gives us courage to seek renewal of our relationship with the Indian super power. The earlier approach and interventions of India were injurious to the people of Tamil Eelam, as well as to their struggle. The racist Sinhala state, with its intrigues, conspired to bring enmity between our freedom movement and the earlier Indian administration. The conflict arising out of this environment aggravated into a major war.

It was because we were firmly committed to our conviction and freedom for our people, that friction erupted between our movement and India. However, at no stage did we ever consider India as an enemy force. Our people always consider India as our friend. They have great expectations that the Indian super power will take a positive stand on our national question.

Notwithstanding the dividing sea, Tamil Nadu, with its perfect



Hundreds of thousands gathered across the globe, including in Tamil Nadu, to hear the LTTE leader speak

understanding of our plight, has taken heart to rise on behalf of our people at this hour of need. This timely intervention has gratified the people of Tamil Eelam and our freedom movement and given us a sense of relief. I wish to express my love and gratitude at this juncture to the people and leaders of Tamil Nadu and the leaders of India for the voice of support and love they have extended. I would cordially request them to raise their voice firmly in favour of our struggle for a Tamil Eelam state, and to take appropriate and positive measures to remove the ban which remains an impediment to an amicable relationship between India and our movement.

My beloved people!

No great changes have taken place in the Sinhala political panorama. Politics there has developed into the form of a demonic war. In a country that worships the Buddha who preached love and kindness, racist hatred and war-mongering vie with one another. We can listen only to the throbs on war-drums. No sane voice is being raised either to abandon war or to seek peaceful resolution to the conflict. In Sinhala, from politicians to spiritual leaders, from journalists to ordinary people, their voice is raised only in support of the war.

The Tamil Eelam nation does not want war. It does not favour violence. It is the Sinhala nation that waged war on our nation which had earlier adopted the path of ahimsa and asked for justice through peaceful means. When the SAARC leaders of our region met in Colombo, we expressed our goodwill and declared suspension of hostility. On the contrary, it was the Sinhala nation that rejected our overture, ridiculed us and continued with the offensive. It is the Sinhala nation that has laid down unacceptable and insulting conditions. It is the Sinhala nation that

is continuing with the war.

The Sinhala nation is conducting a major war of genocide against us in our land, the news about which is denied to the outside world. Successive Sinhala regimes have hoodwinked the international community with a series of deceptions. Commencing with the round table conference, the list of deceit has now stretched to include the All Party conference of late. During this period the international community remains cheated. The Tamil national question was also left to drag on with no positive resolution offered. Meanwhile, the Sinhala nation has used its armed forces to set the Tamil land, ablaze. It has wiped out peaceful life on Tamil land, making Tamils destitute, displaced and wandering. Sinhala has refused to offer the basic rights of the Tamils, split the Tamil land into two, installed anti-Tamil armed groups in the seat of administration while conducting a tyrannical military rule. It is now continuing with the war, offering to submit its plan to offer a solution only after the LTTE is defeated. Does Sinhala nation want to offer a solution only after the Tamils are suppressed and killed? Does it want to wipe out the true representatives of the Tamils and their bargaining power before offering a solution? The Sinhala nation is refusing to acknowledge the historic homeland of the Tamils. In such a situation, how will it offer a just solution to our people?

When it comes to the Tamil national question, the Sinhala nation is adopting only one policy. It is obviously a policy of suppression. Even the tinge of hope our people had that the Sinhala nation will abandon its path of violence and offer justice, has now evaporated. No political transformation has taken place during the last sixty years in the Sinhala nation. Therefore, hoping it will happen in the future is

futile. Our people are not ready to trust Sinhala nation again and get cheated.

It is true Tamil Eelam is a small nation on the globe. However it is a nation with great potential. It is a nation with a characteristic individuality. It has a distinctive language, cultural heritage and history. Sinhala seeks with its military might to destroy all these. It seeks to destroy Tamil sovereignty and replace it with Sinhala sovereignty. As the freedom movement of the people of Tamil Eelam we will never, ever allow Sinhala occupation or Sinhala domination of our homeland.

Whatever challenges confront us, whatever contingencies we encounter, whatever forces stand on our path, we will still continue with our struggle for the freedom of the Tamil people. On the path shown by history, on the command of the circumstances of today, we will continue with our struggle till alien Sinhala occupation of our land is removed.

At this historic juncture, I would request Tamils, in whatever part of the world that they may live in to raise their voices, firmly and with determination, in support of the freedom struggle of their brothers and sisters in Tamil Eelam. I would request them from my heart to strengthen the hands of our freedom movement and continue to extend their contributions and help. I would also take this opportunity to express my affection and my praise to our Tamil youth living outside our homeland for the prominent and committed role they play in actively contributing towards the liberation of our nation.

Let us all make a firm and determined resolution to follow fully the path of our heroes, who, in pursuit of our aspiration for justice and freedom, sacrificed themselves and have become a part of the history of our land and our people.

NEWS

'Thanks for food, but help to win our rights,' Vanni IDPs urge Tamil Nadu

INTERNALLY Displaced persons in Vanni who were receiving the humanitarian supplies sent by the people of Tamil Nadu, while expressing their gratitude for the timely help, urged the leaders of Tamil Nadu to help them to win their freedom by voicing for the political aspirations of Eelam Tamils.

TamilNet correspondent recorded expressions from the IDPs who were gathered at Karaichchi Multi-Purpose Cooperative Society, one of 23 supply centres in Vanni, on Thursday, December 4.

The IDP families in Vanni were receiving humanitarian supplies sent from Tamil Nadu, through the co-operative societies with active monitoring by the ICRC.

Vanathan Prema, a 27-year-old mother of three children aged 8, 2½ and 9 months, displaced first to Jeyapuram and then to Aanaivizhunthaan, Murippu and now living in a makeshift camp in Kaddaikkaadu said, described the plight of her baby struggling without milk. "Earlier, I managed to feed my children by doing chores in houses, but now it is impossible to find any work here."

She had to rely upon the lentils she got in the World Food Program (WFP) humanitarian ration to feed her elder children. One of them got ill being fed only on lentils, she said.

"I do not have the money to take them to the hospital. I cannot breast feed my child and our life in the makeshift camp is miserable with the continuing rain and floods making everything drenched in water," Prema told TamilNet correspondent.

Murugesu Thavarajah, an IDP who received humanitarian supplies for his family, said he had lost his properties many times in the war.

"Every time, after losing our places and properties, we build our lives again from the scratch," he said. What was different this time was that the people of Tamil Nadu, from all the corners of their state, with a clear understanding of the intention of the Rajapaksa regime, said Thavarajah. "From the common people of Tamil Nadu who joined hands in the human chain, amid heavy rains, to the poets and cinema artists, the entire Tamil Nadu has realised the real picture of the Rajapaksa regime," he said.

"The Tamil Nadu people should continue to struggle forward till they win the recognition for Eelam cause, I am sure they will succeed," he added.

The Sri Lankan government had only allowed 50 lorries carrying relief packages sent by the

people of Tamil Nadu to reach Kilinochchi district.

Officials said that the supplies that have reached them were adequate to cover immediate relief requirements of 40,000 IDP families in Vanni. At least 51,200 families, comprising more than 230,000 individuals, are in need of urgent aid, according to the officials. The officials were forced to prioritise families with children on Thursday.

"We thank the people of Tamil Nadu, Chief Minister Kalaingar Karunanidhi and all the other leaders for their generosity," Rasamani, an elderly woman displaced from Urithirapuram on October 18 due to intense artillery shelling, said. "We hope that a better future will dawn with their help," she added.

The distribution of the relief packages began Thursday in 23 branches of the Multi Purpose Cooperative Society (MPCS) in Kandaavalai Assistant Government Agent (AGA) division in Kilinochchi district.

The first distribution began around 8:30 a.m. Thursday in the branch of Karaichchi MPCS located near Tharmapuram No.1 School.

People displaced due to Sri Lanka military offensives, and staying in temporary shelters, had gathered in large numbers at the cooperative retail shops as early as 5:00 a.m.

Thavarathinam Kamalahasan, 32, a day labourer displaced from Mallaavi to Tharmapuram due to the bombardment by the SLA and the SLAF expressed his gratitude to the people of Tamil Nadu for the relief food. He complained that the World Food Program (WFP) supplies that didn't reach them on time for many weeks, were inadequate to meet the demand, but said the supplies from India was a great relief for the time being. "600 gram rice, 500 gram flour and 300 gm lentils were the only food relief items that we got earlier. We received it irregularly in bulks as the supplies were not allowed to reach Vanni on regular basis," he said.

"The food packages from there sent on 15 November have reached us only now. The clothes sent by the people of Tamil Nadu are yet to reach us. The few clothes that we had, been washed away in the recent floods and we hope that the clothes sent to us from Tamil Nadu will reach us soon," Kamalahasan who is presently living in Kaddaikkadu after being displaced from Mallaavi first and from Kanthapuram and Kilinochchi said.

Representatives of the International Committee of Red Cross (ICRC) and the ICRC



While grateful for the food aid from Tamil Nadu, the displaced are seeking more permanent assistance

Economical Relief Branch officer Mr. Harry Mewa Chilaffia visited the cooperative branches to ensure orderly distribution of the limited relief food that was

allowed in by the Sri Lankan government.

Hundreds of IDPs, including the singles who had lost their family members, had to return

empty handed after waiting for hours.

The IDPs who did not receive relief registered complaints with the ICRC.

EDITORIAL

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Growing Compulsions

India can end decisively end the now naked Sinhala oppression

Sri Lanka's protracted ethnic strife, now in its seventh decade, has entered an important phase. We refer not to the claims by the Sinhala leaders - ones we have heard time and again for thirty years - that they will soon destroy the LTTE and pacify the rebellious Tamils, but to the profound realignment of racial lines in the island. Never before has the gap between Tamils and Sinhalese been so clear and so deep. And never before has Sinhala chauvinism been so naked and rampant. We refer here not to the undisguised contempt the Mahinda Rajapakse regime exhibits for the Tamils but to the tangible racism of ordinary Sinhalese. It is in this context that the Tamil question (i.e. Sinhala persecution) has forced itself onto the agenda of the regional superpower, India.

Last week Tamils all around the world remembered those who had fallen in the cause of Tamil Freedom. In London, a staggering forty thousand people attended the Remembrance Day event. In some important Diaspora centers, the threat of poised anti-terrorism legislation had to be backed up by government intervention to disrupt this now central annual community event. It is one more indicator of the how the Tamil nation is rallying. Not since 1976, when the Vaddokoddai Resolution received its thumping endorsement through the Tamil vote, have Tamils embraced independence thus.

Just as importantly, for the first time since the eighties, the Eelam cause is reverberating in the politics of the region. Tamil Nadu has awoken once again to the oppression of the Eelam people and is also rallying to the cause. It is not simply a question of humanitarian concern, though this has prompted an outpouring of human sympathy (indeed, that Indian citizens are providing humanitarian assistance to the Tamils while the Sinhalese cheer on their government's blockade of the North is indicative of important racial fault-lines in the region. So is the vitriol heaped on Tamil Nadu's leaders by Sri Lanka's defence establishment.) The most important dimension of Tamil Nadu's agitation is the political one. Tamil Nadu backs Tamil Eelam. The myth that Eelam's independence will spark separatism is Tamil Nadu, meanwhile, is a bogus claim trotted out by opponents of the Tamil struggle: few states are as securely and happily ensconced in the Indian federation as Tamil Nadu.

It is in this context that the LTTE has made its clearest overture to India. Declaring that "our struggle does not contravene the national interest, geopolitical interest or economic interest of any outside country," LTTE



leader Vellupillai Pirapaharan, said in his Heroes' Day address that his organization was seeking a "renewal of our relationship with the Indian super power." Noting that "our freedom movement, as well as our people, have always wished to maintain cordiality with the international community as well as neighbouring India," he said: "With this in view, we wish to create a viable environment and enhance friendship. We wish to express our goodwill and are looking forward to the opportunity to build a constructive relationship."

Whilst some excitedly point out that the LTTE's overture is a sure sign of its military weakness, those with an intimate knowledge of Sri Lanka's conflict will be aware that this is but the latest - if the clearest - effort by the LTTE to mend fences. One notable earlier example was in 2002: long before Thailand was selected as the venue for the Norwegian-led talks, the LTTE appealed to India to provide the venue. It was Delhi's refusal (preceded interestingly by protests by the AIADMK government in Tamil Nadu) that paved the way for other countries to play host instead.

India remains the regional hegemon, unchallenged by even its nuclear-armed rival, Pakistan. The Tamils have always known that India will be an important actor in securing their freedom and thwarting Sinhala chauvin-

nism's ambitions. The Sinhalese also know this, which is why the once thinly disguised fear and loathing in the South, is now at the fore. Dutugemunu's warnings may be mythical but they ring no less loudly for that.

Amid changing global power distributions - i.e. the rise of new and old regional powers, changes in leadership and in the calculations of great powers, and renewed focus on 'old' problems like state repression and genocide, one thing is brutally clear today: the problem in Sri Lanka is not one of non-state terrorism, but of a murderous state project of subjugation of the Tamil people and effacement of their identity. This is why Tamil Nadu has been galvanized into action. In the coming era, the voices of 70 million Tamils cannot be ignored and will impact on governmental calculations in the region and further afield.

For those Tamils who had hoped that enlightened Sinhala leaders would one day emerge to shape genuine compromise solutions, the present dynamics in the island's south - the undisguised racism, the joy at the bloodshed the government is thought to be wreaking amongst Tamils and the open arrogance - have revealed the impossibility of that hope. Now, just as the Sinhalese have united in their determination to crush the Tamils once and for all, the Tamils must unite in unyielding resistance.

OPINION

Bala Anna

On the second death anniversary of Mr. Anton Balasingham, the Tamil Guardian takes a look back at the editorial published on December 27, 2006.

NEWS that Mr. Anton Balasingham had passed away after a brief battle with cancer was met with shock and profound grief across the Tamil community. In the thirty years he was associated with the Tamil freedom struggle, he had truly become a legend in his own time. He was the LTTE's theoretician for thirty years and its chief negotiator for most of that time. In that period, a fledgling guerilla group dedicated to the emancipation of the Tamil people grew and expanded into a national liberation movement with a powerful military and an apparatus of civil administration, while Bala Anna became an icon of the Tamil cause.

Mr. Balasingham was many things to the Tamil struggle. The formal titles of theoretician and chief negotiator do not capture them all. Within the LTTE he was a father figure. His door was always open to cadres and commanders alike. No subject was taboo, confidentiality was assured. Most importantly, of course, he was the struggle's political strategist. Beyond the LTTE, he was approached for advice and guidance by a range of Tamils, from parliamentarians to journalists, supportive of the cause of freedom. He was eloquent in formal Tamil, but he could also address us in the colloquial, unraveling the complexities our struggle faced and bringing every one of us closer to it. Which is why his public addresses were so eagerly awaited.

It was Mr. Balasingham's demonstrably keen intellect and political acumen that compelled LTTE leader Vellupillai Pirapaharan to ask him in 1979 to join the tiny group of young revolutionaries their movement then was. (And it was Mr. Balasingham's recognition of Mr. Pirapaharan's abilities as a leader and the LTTE's institutional strengths that persuaded him to throw in his lot with the Tigers rather than any of the many other Tamil militant groups setting out on the long road of struggle.) The strength of the personal bond that grew between them is reflected in Mr. Pirapaharan's poignant words this week as he awarded Bala Anna that unique title 'Voice of the Nation.'

Nothing captures what Bala Anna meant to the Tamils as that title does. For three decades he spoke for us, the Tamil people. He led LTTE delegations in five attempts to negotiate a political solution with the Sinhala state. He represented us in our dialogue with the international community,

both in public fora and private discussion. He explained the oppression we endure and defended our struggle for freedom. He as a formidable representative, aggressively and adeptly pursuing our interests. He could not be intimidated - though it was often tried. His razor sharp intellect was matched by a powerful personality.

But he was, as one commentator puts it, a quintessential negotiator. Amidst the heat of dispute he could find the sites of compromise. And, armed with the complete trust of the LTTE leadership, he would compromise - but not surrender. Thus he earned the begrudging respect of his interlocutors, both Sinhala and international.

His driving purpose was always the well being of his people, as all those who engaged with him from any side of the table quickly came to understand. It is entirely in character that his final public words in November, confirming his diagnosis with cancer, were mainly about the plight of the Tamil people. He loved us as much as we adored him.

It is inevitable that Mr. Balasingham's passing has brought joy to our enemies. Reflecting the character of some of them, there has been public jubilation at his death in parts of the south - just as when his illness was announced last month. This ugliness is characteristic of the oppression we fight.

It also reflects a misunderstanding of what Mr. Balasingham's multi-faceted role was, of where the LTTE now is as a movement and where the Tamils are as a nation. The growth of LTTE over the past three decades has been inexorable, despite the ferocious violence unleashed on it and the Tamil people by the Sri Lankan state and its allies. Mr. Balasingham contributed immeasurably to that growth. His analytical, calculative approach has been institutionalized. Every arm of the LTTE routinely weighs its decisions before committing to a course of action, the long-term benefit to the Tamil cause the overarching priority. As the LTTE's multi-faceted international engagement has grown in scale and complexity, new capabilities have emerged, both in the LTTE and wider Tamil nationalist movement. Mr. Balasingham guided many of these, devising strategies and advising key individuals. As deepening illness precluded a frontline role for Mr. Balasingham for much of this year, he was able to rest, secure



his many tasks were being competently carried forward by others.

The extent of his legacy will only be discernible in the fullness of time.

This newspaper and its staff are privileged to have had a very special relationship with Bala Anna. It began soon after he arrived in London in 1999. He readily agreed to meet the volunteers of the Tamil Guardian when we asked. Our discussions quickly became regular and frequent. We always met at the study in his home, where we were warmly welcomed by him and his wife, Adele. An experienced journalist, Mr. Balasingham had a passion for media. He also appreciated that we were committed to articulating the Tamil cause. He spent considerable time with us in prolonged discussion on the ethnic question, on the Tamil struggle,

on international affairs, and many other subjects. The depth of his knowledge was unfathomable. A warm, convivial and humorous man, he was a patient tutor. He scrutinized our work and was generous with his praise and scathing in his criticism. Yet he never constrained us, encouraging us to write freely on the Tamil cause. As with a handful of other Tamil correspondents, he took us into his confidence in exchange for our discretion. In March 2000 we were privileged to be exclusively granted his first media interview after leaving Vanni. He gave many of his infrequent subsequent interviews to us. Our relationship with the Balasinghams went beyond the production of the newspaper.

It was individual, personal and very affectionate. They took an active interest in each of us, inquiring of those who met them

about those who were not there. Bala Anna encouraged us to develop our individual interests and offered welcome advice on our academic and professional pursuits. We drew much inspiration and not a little courage from him.

Being close to Bala Anna, we were, for a long time, acutely aware of his health difficulties. His health declined rapidly this year, but only until recently were we unable to converse regularly with him. His death comes as a devastating personal loss to each of us. Our hearts go out to Adele Aunty, his beloved wife and constant companion. Her loss is the deepest. We will all miss him very much. We, at the Tamil Guardian, couldn't be more proud of our close association with Mr. Balasingham over the past seven years. He was, quite simply, a remarkable man.

HEROES DAY 2008



NEWS

GSP+ extended as violations spiral

DESPITE Sri Lanka refusing to cooperate with European Union's (EU) investigations into human rights violations, it was announced that a European trade concession scheme for the garments industry in Sri Lanka would be extended for a year whilst the probe take place.

The Generalised System of Preferences Plus (GSP Plus) which allows Sri Lanka to export 7,200 items duty free into the EU and is credited with helping to boost Sri Lankan exports, had been due to expire at the end of the year, and the EU recently warned it may not renew the concessions scheme after it expires in December because of continuing human rights abuses stemming from Sri Lanka's civil war.

In October, the EU proposed a probe into Sri Lanka's human rights violations to determine the latter's eligibility for GSP plus. According to the latest announcement, the GSP plus concessions will remain in place while the EU completes the human rights probe, even though the Sri Lankan state has made it clear that it will not cooperate with the probe.

Sri Lanka's Commerce Department said that an extension of GSP plus had been confirmed and will be available for local exporters at least until mid 2009 - if not longer.

Sri Lankan officials say the facility will continue to be available for an additional six months, after the investigation, even if the findings go against Sri Lanka.

"According to their regulations, during the period of investigation, even in 2009, the GSP plus will continue to be available for Sri Lanka. The investigation itself should finish within a 1-year period," said the Director General of Commerce, Chulabhaya Magedaragamage.

"But, even if the investigation ends well before 1-year and the findings are negative, we will still be given a 6-month 'notice period' before the GSP plus is withdrawn. So the GSP plus will be available at least up to around middle of next year, but probably longer," said Mr Magedaragamage.

Secretary for the ministry of export development and international trade, S Ranugge, whilst confirming that Sri Lanka will continue to enjoy the trade con-



Despite increasing accusations of human rights violations against the government, and the government's refusal to participate in investigations, the EU has extended Sri Lanka's GSP+ status

cessions until the investigation is completed, said the government would not cooperate with investigators if the EU sends them to Sri Lanka.

"That has been communicated to the E.U. by the government. Sri Lanka will cooperate with the investigations, but not with the investigators," Ranugge said.

In October, Minister of Export Development and International Trade, G.L. Pieris rejected the probe demand, saying it was a betrayal of the country.

"What the cabinet has decided is not to agree with investigations that are required by the EU to renew GSP Plus," Peiris told reporters at a press conference held on October 20, at the Central Bank to brief the media on the GSP Plus Scheme.

Pieris added that the Government will not betray Sri Lanka's sovereignty to obtain economic benefits from other countries.

"The Cabinet has decided to reject the investigation and we have instructed our Ambassador

in Brussels to inform relevant authorities on our decision. We are ready for open discussions with the Commission regarding the issue."

An E.U. spokesperson in Colombo said the rights probe started in October and must be completed within a year.

"We cannot say it will be six months or a year. Until a decision is made afterward, Sri Lanka will continue with GSP Plus," the spokesperson said on condition of anonymity.

Sri Lanka out of oil deal on court ruling

A RULING Friday by Sri Lanka's Supreme Court's to halt payments to an international bank in connection to a badly judged oil hedging deal entered into by the state-owned Ceylon Petroleum Corporation (CPC) could harm Colombo's ability to obtain credit from global markets, an interna-

tional rating agency warns.

The CPC had entered into a hedging deal on the assumption oil prices would not fall and was now obliged to buy 200,000 barrels of oil per month for 12 months at \$100, even though the market price is now almost half that.

Chanaka Wickramasuriya, Head of Fitch Rating Lanka, told local media that there is a real possibility of premiums going up or credit lines drying up for Sri Lankan state agencies, particularly CPC, which depends heavily on credit from global markets.

Wickramasuriya further added

that whilst the halt in payments imposed by the Supreme Court would not be construed as sovereign default per se, creditors would be forced to think twice prior to lending any money to or entering into a transaction with a Sri Lanka state agency, as the ruling raises doubts over the reliability of such financial transactions.

The interim ruling by the Supreme Court on the Fundamental Rights petition filed by Sri Lankan civil society group Corruption Watch might damage Sri Lanka's credibility in international financial markets, analysts say.

"Future agreements with any party are at risk and will have serious financial repercussions with possible increase of risk premium," Reuters quoted unnamed analysts as saying.

"This might make it very difficult for Sri Lanka to borrow commercial loans in future as investors will be concerned over termination of contracts on those borrowings as well."

In addition to suspending the remittance of any payments to Standard and Chartered Bank, the Supreme Court Chief Justice on Friday recommended the President take over the functions of the Minister of Petroleum, A.H.M. Fowzie, until a suitable minister is appointed.

The ruling effectively suspends the minister and orders the functions of the CPC chairman, Ashantha de Mell, be suspended

immediately.

Meanwhile, a Colombo stock market source speaking on the grounds of anonymity told the Sunday Leader newspaper that even before Friday's interim injunction foreigners were pulling out of the bourse.

"This [SC ruling] would only make it worse," the source was quoted as saying.

According to the paper, all was well and good when the CPC was saving money, but now the problem has arisen because the government is losing money.

According to the hedging deal with Citi Bank, Standard Chartered Bank, Deutsche Bank and two local banks, the Sri Lankan state, through CPC, committed to purchase 100,000 barrels of oil per month for three months at \$140 per barrel cap and 200,000 barrels of oil per month for 12 months at \$100 per barrel floor.

This meant if oil prices went above \$140 per barrel, CPC would still be able to buy oil at \$140 per barrel with the banks taking the loss. It also meant, even if the oil price dropped below \$100, CPC will have to pay a \$100 per barrel, taking the loss.

Oil prices have fallen sharply in recent months, to around \$50 per barrel.

Hedging analysts say Sri Lanka would have to pay at least \$300 million during the next seven months if global oil prices remained at current levels.

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NEWS

‘Went, saw, returned’

TamilNet

THE meeting of the representation from Tamil Nadu led by Chief Minister M. Karunanidhi with the Prime Minister of India on Thursday failed to achieve its basic objective of convincing the Indian government to take a stand against Colombo's war on Tamils, revealed journalistic circles in Chennai.

The silent listening of the Indian Establishment may have several meanings. Perhaps Dr. Manmohan Singh is not the authority to respond on this particular matter. But the message to Eelam Tamils is clear: either they ought to fight back the war thrust upon them, or face genocide, and probably they knew it long back, commented the circles.

The focal issue of the delegation from Tamil Nadu was to request the Indian government to take immediate steps to stop the war waged by the Colombo government against Tamils.

The Indian government is on record for abetting the war in the island by providing arms, training, intelligence, technical assistance and even personnel to the Sri Lanka government.

On earlier occasions at least as a matter of formality the Indian Establishment used to come out with the rhetoric that there was no military solution to the crisis. But nowadays even the rhetoric is conspicuously missing.

The Tamil Nadu delegation on Thursday was a result of an extraordinary uprising of angered masses in Tamil Nadu, in support of Eezham Tamils, demanding the Indian government to take action to stop the war and killing of Tamils in the island immediately.

The delegation was also a follow up of unanimous resolutions enacted in the Tamil Nadu State Assembly, Human Chain Protest, relief fund collection and two All

Party Meetings, initiated by the Chief Minister.

Earlier on Tuesday, 34 Members of Parliament from Tamil Nadu and Puduchery submitted a memorandum to the Prime Minister to take effective measures to stop the war in Sri Lanka against 'civilian Sri Lankan Tamils'.

When the delegation met, the Indian Prime Minister silently listened to them but didn't respond anything positively, journalistic circles said.

A Congress member of the delegation while agreeing that something has to be done expressed concern about 'LTTE sympathisers' getting benefited by the campaign, it is learnt.

Other members countered him by saying that they had gone there only to convey the will of the people of Tamil Nadu and not to talk about the LTTE.

Another member of the delegation reportedly pointed out to the Prime Minister about the need for always upholding a universal etiquette not to encourage war and to call for stopping it. But the PM was silent, it is said.

It was Kalignar Karunanidhi who finally suggested the PM to send Foreign Minister Pranab Mukherjee to Colombo for talks. It was accepted by the PM but what to talk was not specified. It looked as though the decision was primarily meant for giving an impression that there was some outcome from the delegation, said media circles.

Later on that day, speaking to media after a brief bouquet presentation meeting with Sonia Gandhi, Mr. Karunanidhi said that Mr. Pranab Mukherjee will take up the matter with the Colombo government, but media persons didn't fail in noticing the lack of zing in the countenance of the Chief Minister.

The people of Tamil Nadu may have to further pressurize the governments of Chennai and Delhi said D. Pandian, the state secretary of CPI in a press meet on Friday after returning from Delhi.

Tamil Nadu people and politicians have every right to demand the Congress President Sonia Gandhi to stop playing puppetry and to come out open on the question of Eelam Tamils was the comment on the sidewalks by a politician from Tamil Nadu.

Media circles in Tamil Nadu indicate that the post November 26th scenario in India, the stand off between India and Pakistan, millions of people taking to streets in the Indian cities protesting the Mumbai killings, the mood created by the visiting US and Russian dignitaries - all have considerably diminished the importance of the plight of Eelam Tamils. They also indicate the need for Delhi to woo Colombo in case of an escalated crisis between India and Pakistan. One may guess what Pranab will be actually talking in Colombo.

How the Eelam Tamil struggle is an altogether different phenomenon from the Pakistan-linked threat to India and even from the crisis in Kashmir, which from the very beginning a military situation internationalized than a national question, have to be made clear to the Indian public to avoid manipulation of national and international elements of vested interests, said some political circles in Tamil Nadu.

It is not new to Eelam Tamils that whenever their crisis needs concentrated involvement from India, some forces coordinate the situation with larger geopolitics and hijack it. Indra Gandhi's 80s are a good example.

Encouraged in every respect and unchecked, the Colombo government has embarked upon bold air and artillery attacks on civilians using prohibited weap-



Karunanidhi with Congress Party President Sonia Gandhi

ons of mass destruction in Vanni, stepped up killings in the East and arrests in the South, and has intensified all efforts needed for physical and structural genocide of Tamils.

By using Cluster Bombs on known civilian targets, that too when the war-torn population was suffering a natural disaster, the Colombo government and its abettors seem to pass a message, i.e., 'surrender to us'. It may look a folly to expect a people struggling for a cause for decades to surrender, after all their sacrifices, without the sight of any solution.

The Colombo government is reportedly having a large stockpile of cluster bombs. Except some powers the vast majority of the civilized world has decided to ban the weapon for deployment. As an emotionally charged IDP at Tharpuram said on Thursday: "There are elements to supply this weapon to Colombo, knowing

that it will be used against the people of a national struggle. Those who voiced against child recruitment are silent when children are killed by state terrorism. We are puzzled, wondering who the international terrorists are."

In the meantime, an obviously unhappy Chief Minister Karunanidhi reiterated the public in his typical literary way of his relentlessness in safeguarding Tamils.

But the reality is that the power centres never yield in, unless the arms are twisted.

The impressive delegation from Tamil Nadu consisted of representatives of various political parties and social movements, including DMK, Tamil Nadu Congress, PMK, CPI, VCK, DK, MGR Kazhagam, AILDMK, TN Muslim League, Social Justice Movement, Indian Muslim League, FB, AISMK, PMDMK, Puthiya Thamizhakam, TMMK, JMK, and PB.

India won't listen to "political jokers" in Tamil Nadu: Fonseka

PTI

WARNING that the LTTE's separate state ideology is a "threat" to India, the Sri Lankan Army chief says he is confident that New Delhi would not listen to "political jokers" in Tamil Nadu to force Colombo to broker a ceasefire with the LTTE.

The Indian Government would never influence Sri Lanka to restore the ceasefire with the LTTE and it would not listen to the "political jokers" of Tamil Nadu whose "survival depends on the LTTE" which killed one of the most respected Prime Ministers of India, Rajiv Gandhi, Sri Lankan Army Chief Lt Gen Sarath Fonseka told the 'Sunday Observer'.

Fonseka, whose tenure was extended by another year, said that the LTTE had caused much problems in Tamil Nadu and the outfit's separate State ideology would cause damage to the sover-

eignty of India.

Fonseka said that Lanka had taken all efforts to maintain "zero casualties" during military offensive, but blamed "corrupt politicians" in Tamil Nadu for making "false" allegations against the island nation's security forces.

"If the LTTE is wiped out, those political jokers like Nadumaran, Vaiko and whoever who is sympathising with the LTTE will most probably lose their income from the LTTE", he was quoted as saying.

"This is the time for them to realise the truth. And they should also realise their attempts to save the LTTE would not be successful as the LTTE is on the brink of extinction. Most importantly, they should realise that LTTE is an internal problem of Sri Lanka and need to honour the sovereignty of Sri Lanka."

UPFA, UNP reject ceasefire

EVEN as Tamil Nadu leaders pressed for an immediate ceasefire and India reiterated that there could only be a political solution to the Tamil national question, both the Sri Lankan government and the main opposition, United National Party (UNP), rejected calls for a ceasefire during a debate on the defence budget.

Sri Lankan Prime Minister Ratnasiri Wickramanayake addressing the parliament on Thursday December 4, declared that the government will not agree for a ceasefire till the ongoing operations are concluded.

Earlier, the UNP's Badulla District MP Laksman Seneviratne told Parliament during a debate

on the defence budget that the government should not end the ongoing operations in North until the LTTE leader Velupillai Pirapaharan is destroyed.

"It is our party's clear opinion," MP Seneviratne pointed out.

UNP MP John Amarathunga said that the UNP will vote in favour of the defence vote and will continue to support the ongoing military offensives as well. The vote was passed by 114 to 14.

Prime Minister, Rathnasiri Wickremnayake appreciated the support and thanked the UNP on behalf of the government.

Seneviratne said a political solution based on 'extensive devolution of power' should be

implemented for Tamils after 'curbing (LTTE) terrorism'.

The UNP MP questioned TNA members whether their claim during world tours that the Sinhalese are suppressing the Tamils was made according to their conscience.

Mr. Seneviratne asked the government not to label the UNP as 'pro-LTTE' just because the party points out shortcomings in war offensives.

Responding, Minister Mahindananda Aluthgamage said that that the UNP MP's statement could only be a personal opinion and challenged UNP leader Ranil Wickremesinghe to repeat this to the House in person.

FEATURES

Sri Lanka's 'White Van Syndrome'

Roland Buerk
BBC



Sri Lanka's security apparatus is accused at best of complicity in and at worst of organising and carrying out the 'white van' disappearances and kidnappings that have plagued the country

IN 2006, an internationally brokered ceasefire between the Sri Lankan government and the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) broke down.

Since then the government has been determined to win the civil war that began 25 years ago and has cost well over 70,000 lives.

On the battlefield, the Sri Lankan army has been remarkably successful. The Tamil Tigers have been pushed out of their traditional strongholds in the Eastern province and are now fighting for survival in the remote north.

Their goal of an independent state for the ethnic Tamil minority seems further away than ever.

But in the pursuit of victory and in order to exert control over the recently captured east, the government has controversially turned to former Tamil Tigers who changed sides. The Tamil Makkal Viduthalai Puligal or TMVP broke away from the rebels in 2004.

It has now become a political party, and in an alliance with the government, was elected to head the Eastern Provincial council.

Human rights groups have accused the TMVP of widespread human rights abuses, including abductions and extrajudicial killings.

White van syndrome

"His hands were tied up

behind his back and he was beaten. I could see that he was beaten. Sometimes we believe he will come back, sometimes we believe he is no more."

A mother-in-law describes seeing her daughter's husband in a TMVP camp after being detained by the group in eastern Sri Lanka.

That was a year ago, and he has not been seen since. The family do not know if he is alive or dead.

Sunila Abeysekera, a prominent Sri Lankan human rights activist says abduction is now common practice. She explains that in the east, the Tamil civilian population was forced to engage with the Tigers as they were in control of the area for many years.

Now that the rebels have been defeated, she says, the civilians that interacted with the LTTE are being targeted.

Tamil men have also disappeared in Colombo, Sri Lanka's main city.

We met another woman who said her husband disappeared when he went to Colombo to get a passport, on 12 January 2007. Unidentified men came to his hotel and bundled him off in a white van.

According to her, during the same period around 30 to 40 other people were abducted in Colombo in a similar manner.

Reports of Tamil men being

taken off in this way never to be seen again have become so common on the island that Sri Lankans have nicknamed the phenomenon "white van syndrome."

Sri Lanka's government says many of these stories are false, intended to discredit it and its allies.

Redemption

The man many people believe to be ultimately responsible for abductions and killings in the east is Vinayagamoorthis Muralitharan, aka Col Karuna Amman.

Col Karuna tells us he was the Tamil Tigers' military commander until he broke away in 2004, taking with him a rebel army that became the TMVP political party.

In November 2007, Col Karuna was arrested in the UK on immigration violations and served nine months in prison.

While in jail, human rights groups lobbied the British government to prosecute him for human rights abuses. However, after an investigation, the British Crown Prosecution Service said there was not enough evidence to try Col Karuna and he was released.

Today, Col Karuna has been installed as an MP by the Sri Lankan government and he is guarded by soldiers that not long ago he was trying to kill.

Col Karuna denies any involvement in abductions and killings and says he is willing to work with human rights groups.

For the government, the TMVP's journey from rebel fighters to political office is one of redemption.

Government spokesman Keheliya Rambukwella does not accept that the TMVP is responsible for the wave of abductions and killings and strongly refutes any accusations that the government has turned a blind eye to such activities or that elements of the security forces have taken part in them.

Instead he emphasises the repentance the former Tamil Tigers have shown and believes in giving them a chance.

He is aware that certain incidents have taken place, but feels that nonetheless Eastern Province is on the right track.

"Obviously for 25 years there has been terror, gun culture. And in a couple of months it will not be tickety-boo or come back to

normal.

"We are heading for total democracy and total development and total peace. But it's not there yet. I hope that tomorrow will be a happier day minus all these things."

Work in progress

The offensive by government forces against the Tigers remains widely popular with the Sinhalese who make up three quarters of the island's population.

For years people in Sri Lanka have endured the everyday danger of suicide bombings and attacks blamed on the Tamil Tigers.

Such attacks are a constant threat in Sri Lanka and many see victory in the war as the only way to peace.

The Sri Lankan government says it will be magnanimous in victory, and democracy in areas taken from the rebels so far is a work in progress.

But the government's human rights record during the war, and TMVP's unsavoury activities in the east, will not have helped build much needed trust among the Tamil minority.

UN, EU lament killings, carry on giving aid

THE United Nations (UN) strongly condemned the killing of an aid worker in late November and called for safety guarantees for humanitarian aid staff. The European Commission also condemned the killing but announced an increase of 2 million euros in aid to the Sri Lankan state, which is accused of killing number of aid workers.

The increase in aid is in addition to a 17-million-euro humanitarian aid package for Sri Lanka adopted by the European Union's executive arm earlier this year.

The announcement came in the same week the European Union decided to extend trade concessions to Sri Lanka through

its GSP plus scheme, despite Sri Lanka refusing to cooperate with an EU human rights probe.

"The aim is to help over 300,000 displaced and vulnerable people in the Vanni region, where recent heavy monsoon rains and flooding exacerbated the humanitarian situation," said EU aid commissioner Louis Michel.

Michel also condemned the recent killing of a 28-year-old aid staffer, who worked for the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) on a shelter project financed by Brussels.

A. Vigneswaran, a 28-year-old aid worker who worked for the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) in an EC-financed pro-

gram, was killed on November 27 by unidentified gunmen in eastern Sri Lanka.

"I believe that continuing our humanitarian assistance in Sri Lanka is the best tribute we can do to honour the memory of Mr. Vigneswaran and all his colleagues who lost their lives while making every effort to alleviate the suffering of those in desperate need," Michel said.

"I am appalled by the assassination of this brave and committed young aid worker in Sri Lanka,"

"The perpetrators of such horrendous acts must be brought to justice. There can be no impunity."

Michel applauded the work of the NRC, a partner of the Humanitarian Aid

department of the EC, the EU's executive arm, calling it "a highly valued and longstanding humanitarian aid partner of the EC in Sri Lanka working under often very difficult and dangerous conditions." Norway is not a member of the EU.

Neil Buhne, the UN Humanitarian Coordinator in a statement in Sri Lanka condemned the shooting of Vigneswaran, and urged authorities to "vigorously pursue" the perpetrators.

"For humanitarian workers to meet their responsibilities fully,

they must be able to work without fear," he said.

"A successful investigation resulting in the killer being brought to account would not only bring solace to Vigneswaran's family and to his colleagues, it would reduce this fear and create a better environment for the more effective implementation of humanitarian programmes in Batticaloa benefiting tens of thousands of people."

Vigneswaran is the third staff member from the NRC to have either disappeared or been killed.

At least 29 aid workers have been killed in Sri Lanka since 2006.

FEATURES

Behind the muzzled: voices from a troubled Sri Lanka

Peter Foster
Telegraph

WHILE the world focuses on the fallout from Mumbai, Sri Lankan government forces are reportedly closing in on the key rebel strongholds of Kilinochchi and Mullaitivu.

I say 'reportedly' as all information that comes out of the Sri Lanka conflict is inherently untrustworthy since it is provided only by the combatant, both of whom have a long track record of telling lies in the name of propaganda.

In the north, displaced Tamil civilian populations - perhaps more than 250,000 now, but it's hard to know since the international aid agencies were forced to pull out - are bearing the brunt of the fallout from the fighting.

However the effects of this dirty war are not confined to the battle zone. The attempts to crush the Tamil Tigers militarily and bring them to the negotiating table on their knees is taking a terrible toll on Sri Lankan society as a whole.

It now seems that, in the name of 'national interest' and 'war spirit' Sri Lanka's government has effectively crushed all opposition, even from those who would ordinarily be considered patriots of the Sinhala cause.

No dissent or counter-argu-

ment to the war strategy is tolerated by President Mahinda Rajapakse, his brother Gotabhaya (the defence secretary) and chief of the army staff Gen Sarath Fonseka.

Sri Lanka's newspapers, which always had to tread carefully in a small political world, are now being forced to speaking unanimously through a tight pro-government muzzle. Those who dare to speak are politically exiled, threatened with death or, worse, visited by one of the dreaded government snatch-squads in their 'white vans' and beaten, tortured or killed.

Keith Noyahr, a journalist was beaten after writing an article criticizing Gen Fonseka and his colleagues.

Here's what Gen Fonseka had to say in an interview posted on the SL Defence ministry website.

I quote him at some length since I can't think of a better way of showing how the SL government and its agencies thinks these days.

Q: But it is reported that the Army is behind the attack on Keith Noyair of The Nation newspaper who had written a military story criticizing the military few weeks before the attack. What do you have to say about this allega-

tion?

A: How many other journalists write political or military columns? Why should the Army attack only on Keith Noyair. I have never seen anywhere that Keith Noyair had said that the Army had attacked him. Some people are trying to put us against him. He has never accused that the Army had assaulted him. And I think perhaps he is guilty that he has done something wrong by writing against the military.

Q: Is he tight-lipped because he is supposed to be in fear of reprisals?

A: If he has not done anything wrong, he does not have to live in fear. If he has done some damage to our organisation or to a person, especially when he has done something which he is not supposed to do, then it is natural he must be living in fear. If they think that they have done something of that nature the best thing for them is to correct themselves and rectify the mistake.

Note first the denial, then the implicit justification in language 'correct' 'rectify themselves' worthy of Mao's China. Gen Fonseka interview gives a fantastic, if rather chilling, insight into Gen Fonseka's views on media freedom.

As for his views on the rightful place for the Tamils in Sri Lanka, this is what Gen Fonseka told Canada's National Post, attracting serious criticism from



Journalists continue to be at the forefront of the disappeared and murdered by pro-government forces as this serves to dissuade others who might wish to report on the situation in Sri Lanka

Colombo's Centre for Policy Alternatives.

"I strongly believe that this country belongs to the Sinhalese but there are minority communities and we treat them like our people...We being the majority of the country, 75%, we will never give in and we have the right to protect this country...We are also a strong nation ... They can live in this country with us. But they must not try to, under the pretext of being a minority, demand undue things."

I quote these since they shine a light into the thinking that lies behind so much of the lies and repression that is currently going on in Sri Lanka at the moment, all justified in the name of total victory over the LTTE.

There are dissenting voices, such as that by the former minister and now dissident MP Mangala Samaraweera who has set up an organization called 'Defence Watch' which, he says, is aimed to provide a more balanced view of Sri Lanka's war realities.

There's an element of politics in this, but Mr Samaraweera (who once had a ferocious pop at your correspondent after I wrote a series of articles criticizing Sri Lanka's slothful tsunami relief effort), has told parliament that he's already received death threats for his troubles.

Then there is the case of Tamil journalist, JS Tissainayagam who has been in jail since March under

Sri Lanka's sweeping anti-terror laws, for writing articles critical of the government in his magazine North Eastern Monthly which has now been shut down.

The SL government says Mr Tissainayagam and his publisher (also in jail) was 'inciting violence. Human Rights Watch says that Sri Lanka has shamefully used the anti-terror laws to silence all its peaceful critics.

The saddest thing of all is that even if the army wins its cherished 'victory' it will, as Roland Buerk, the BBC correspondent observes, create in the process 'a legacy of fear and deep distrust' for Sri Lanka.

As a patriotic Sri Lanka friend of mine observed to me on the phone last night, the poison, bitterness and division of the last 25 years is now being rekindled for a new generation.

Someone, somewhere needs to take some notice of this, particularly since the Government's relentless crushing of debate means that it's hard to see how Sri Lanka's next General Election (which my sources predict might be called soon, particularly if there's a victory in the north) can be free and fair.

What Sri Lanka needs is a serious and open debate about where this war is leading the nation. Unfortunately the current government and its military seem absolutely determined to make that impossible.

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FEATURES

East: Anything but 'liberated'

Frederica Jansz
Sunday Leader

THE government says that the 'liberated' east is an example of democracy in action and a model for areas recaptured from the LTTE. The reality is anything but. Killings and abductions are rife, and there is total impunity for horrific abuses.

On November 25, 18 people were killed within 24 hours in Batticaloa District alone. Following a claymore mine attack which killed two Sri Lankan military personnel in Eruvil, three members from the same family were killed (grandmother, father and a son) in the village.

On the same day, in Kaluthawali, a village close to Eruvil four members from another family were shot dead (young parents with their two kids). A vegetable vendor was killed in Kurukalmadam and a young woman was shot dead in Karuwakkerny.

A youth from Kimpankerney (Karadiannaru) was shot and later declared as a LTTE suspect. Another youth from Selvanagar Arayampathy was shot by the road side. Later that day in Manmunai West there were three incidents reported: A youth killed in Monkeycattu (Vavunatheevu) and three youth killed in Karravetti. A farmer was shot dead in the paddy field in Maheladditheevu. This - is a day in the 'liberated east.'

Deepening tension

Reports of these killings and other abuses come at a time of deepening tensions and violent infighting within the TMVP, particularly between factions loyal to Karuna Amman, the founder, and Sivanethurai Chandrakanthan, better known as Pillayan.

Instead of holding the group accountable, the Rajapakse government has provided unqualified support. No independent investigations into all these serious human rights violations have been opened nor perpetrators held accountable.

While the government is on the one hand announcing triumphantly an end to conflict and strife, the war with its creation of zones of 'liberation' and 'occupation' has exacerbated the issue of landlessness, narrowing down opportunities for recovery and economic development in multiple ways that include drastic curtailment of cultivation, fishing, trade and infrastructural and social and cultural development programmes.

Changes

Of course there have been qualitative changes that have taken place since the military's capture of the east. With the defeat of the LTTE in the east, the

threat of war has receded offering people the possibility of rebuilding their lives from the debris of war. Especially for communities that lived under LTTE control the sensational words of liberation and development, do have some meaning; a new road, banking facilities, and housing assistance programmes.

But despite these dramatic changes, violence and fear loom large, threatening to aggravate old wounds and grievances, and in many ways, producing new tensions and crises.

The Coalition of Muslims and Tamils for Peace and Coexistence (CMTPC) say they are deeply concerned that short term military imperatives of the central government and a disregard for the principles of coexistence and democracy are creating a situation of worsening ethnic relations; increasing the sense of insecurity felt by Tamil and Muslim communities in the region.

Why? We are compelled to ask. The government and its apologists, including people from the left and some sections of civil society to varying degrees, are largely silent on the issue of escalating violence in the east; citing it as a fall out of a time of conflict, predicting better times ahead.

A pyrrhic victory

For the government, a military victory over the LTTE is what matters most. Unfortunately the government has not capitalised on the moral victory it could have had over Tamil nationalist sentiments by pushing the agenda of peace and reconciliation in the east.

In the attempt to establish its control and command over the east in the short term, it has made politico-military alliances based purely on the need to control the Tamil people. So, we have the break-away LTTE group, TMVP in an unholy alliance with the government.

The TMVP, despite breaking away from the LTTE, is steeped in the violent culture of the LTTE. Even though the TMVP inducted, and even coerced, members of the general public as candidates for local government polls and to assist it in administration, the rank and file behaves with scant respect for the structures of democratic governance and are a law unto themselves. In the direct words of the people, "different name, same people."

Governance

At one level, there has been no fundamental change in the form of governance since the time of LTTE control, real or perceived. 'Taxation' has abated but kidnaps



Relations between President Rajapakse and Eastern Province Chief Minister Pillaiyan have been strained after Muralitharan, alias Karuna, returned to Sri Lanka and reclaimed the TMVP leadership

for ransom, crude intimidation by armed youth, and the spectre of abductions of children and adults continue. Killings in homes, paddy fields, by the road side or seaside, near check points, by temples, mosques, universities and hospitals continue.

Nor has there been any attempt at building upon the goodwill of the people following the elections on the part of the government. On the contrary, the government to all appearances has been actively promoting violent groups and political forces and alliances that are seeking to increase hostility among people.

Instead of encouraging the TMVP to embrace democratic politics and shed its LTTE practices, the government is determined to keep the TMVP as a paramilitary group.

It also appears the government is determined to divide the TMVP by setting up Karuna as an alternate eastern leader to Pillayan. As the two factions battle it out for control in the east, we can only expect the fratricide in the Tamil community to worsen.

The killing of Pillayan's Secretary Kumaraswamy Nandagopan, alias Ragu on November 14 is perhaps the most telling instance of this vicious struggle for power. The government seems to fundamentally distrust its own ally, which might end up forcing the TMVP back into the arms of the LTTE.

A region under siege

The LTTE in particular has been responsible for decimating rivals in other militant groups, political parties and allies of the state, and independent Tamils. This bloodbath has left a deep scar on Tamil society.

With the split in the LTTE in 2004, Eastern Tamils found themselves under attack as the two groups eliminated perceived enemies. This state sponsored fratricide may get worse as the internal struggle within the TMVP is hitting a crisis point, particularly with Karuna attempting to re-

establish control.

The CMTPC maintains the violence following the provincial council elections in May this year demonstrated a possible trajectory that ethnic relations could take. The killing of two TMVP cadres in Kathankudi resulted in the TMVP retaliating in a brutal manner against Muslim civilians. The violence rapidly escalated with both Tamils and Muslims becoming subject to violence and displacement.

Some instances included attacks on Muslim shops in Batticaloa Town; Tamils living in Saukadu displacement camps were forced to flee; a Muslim woman was shot dead in Eravur.

Pattern

A day before Ramazan a grenade went off near the mosque by the main road injuring 24 persons. A month later, on October 24, another grenade set off near Hussainmiyah Mosque near the Kathankudy-Manjanthoduvai border injured about six persons, one critically.

While the violence seems mindless, there is an insidious pattern, logic, to its ethnicised nature. The logic of violence pivots on the logic of ethnic divide, calculated to aggravate the fragile peace that exists between communities.

In recent months there have been targeted killings of Sinhalese in the east. On October 20 three Sinhala youth involved in construction work, part of the Negenahira Navodaya programme were shot dead in Kakkaddichcholia, Batticaloa. Why were they killed? Was it just because they happened to be Sinhalese?

On October 16 two Muslim and two Tamil men were killed in a paddy field in Waddamadu, Akkaraipattu. It remains unclear as to who killed them and why. Was it the LTTE, TMVP, military or another interested party? Was it because they had crossed an ethnic boundary which prevents certain ethnic communities from

accessing lands which they claim?

Under siege

The Eastern Province is under siege from all sides. While the government is showcasing the region as one that is returning to normal, the people are still caught in a vicious cycle of violence.

The hartal called by Karuna to protest Indian intervention is part of the circus of intimidation and a show put on by forces allied to the government. In a throw-back to the Pongu Tamil events organised by the LTTE in the north and east, the TMVP forced large numbers of people from far flung areas like Komari and Thirukovil into buses for a rally in Batticaloa on October 26 as a show of strength.

This time though the state is backing the intimidation of Tamil civilians - the buses are state-owned and armed forces and police watched as TMVP cadres forced people at gun point to close shops. The state's connivance in this abuse is absolute.

'Colonial' Development

Within this context the idea of development such as building roads, and rebuilding tanks are critical for the rehabilitation and development of the east. There are other ambitious plans of constructing factories, coal power stations and highways.

But where the local people fit into this programme of Negenahira Navodaya is still open to question. Concerned parties have been told construction companies are from the south, and bring their work force along with them.

Add to this the proposals for providing land for Sinhalese and the restoration

of Buddhist sites and the scene is set for unnecessary tension. In two previous reports the CMTPC focused on the fears of the local communities of state

Continued on p15

NEWS

HRW: Rights abuses on the up in east

A LEADING human rights group accused government backed paramilitary outfit in eastern Sri Lanka of being behind a worsening wave of killings and child abductions and urged the government to hold "open independent investigations into all serious human rights violations and hold perpetrators accountable".

In a statement issued on Tuesday, November 25, Human Rights Watch accused the Tamil Makkal Viduthalai Puligal (TMVP) of at least 30 murders and 30 kidnappings in the east of the island in September and October.

The rights watchdog said the TMVP, an ally of the Rajapakse administration was able to function with "total impunity".

"The Sri Lankan government says that the liberated east is an example of democracy in action and a model for areas recaptured from the LTTE," said Brad Adams, Asia director at Human Rights Watch. "But killings and abductions are rife and there is total impunity for horrific abuses."

He called on Sri Lankan authorities to "take immediate steps to address the deteriorating human rights situation in the Eastern Province, where there has been an increase in killings and abductions in recent weeks".

The New York-based watch-

dog said it had documented 30 cases of extra-judicial killings in the east in September and October. Reports of these killings and other abuses come at a time of deepening tensions and violent infighting within the TMVP, particularly between factions loyal to Karuna Amman, the founder, and Sivanesanathurai Chandrakanthan, known as Pillayan, who was appointed the chief minister of Eastern Province in May this year.

Karuna returned to Sri Lanka in July, after serving a six-month sentence for immigration fraud in the United Kingdom, and has reclaimed the leadership of the group. On October 7, the government appointed Karuna to Parliament.

In addition to extra-judicial killings, TMVP was also accused of abducting large numbers of children and forcing them to serve as soldiers. Human Rights Watch in its statement said, that it recently documented several cases of forcible recruitment of children by the TMVP. "Far from being a reformed and responsible party ready for government, the TMVP is still actively involved in serious human rights abuses," Adams said of the pro-government Tamil group. "Instead of holding the group accountable, the Rajapakse government has provided unqualified support."



Karuna's appointment as a government parliamentarian is exacerbating increasing Eastern tensions

Pillayan says he is powerless

EVEN as Sri Lanka and some members of the international community tout the 13th amendment and the provincial council system as a viable method to devolve power to Tamils, Chief Minister of the newly formed Eastern Provincial Council and Rajapakse ally Chandrakanthan alias Pillayan has announced that the Eastern provincial Council is powerless.

"I don't have any powers to implement the 13th Amendment. We have asked the central government to give us the powers

vested in the 13th Amendment," Pillayan told the Sunday times newspaper in Sri Lanka.

Pillayan added that since he took office in May this year not a single person has been recruited to the Council and lamented that only a few cabinet ministers in the district are directly involved in the ongoing development projects in the province.

"Only a few cabinet ministers in the district are directly involved in these projects. This is not what we need at the moment. We first need freedom of move-

ment to travel within the district and outside."

Pillayan also accused Vinayagamoorthy Muralitharan alias Karuna, the leader of his party, Tamil People's Liberation Tigers (TMVP) of convincing the government not to give powers to him.

"We have asked the central government to give us the powers vested in the 13th Amendment, but Karuna who is with the government is now convincing the government not to give powers to me."

East: Anything but 'liberated'...

Continued from p14

sponsored colonisation efforts in the militarised region.

The government website carries a page on its programme for the next three years for cultural and archaeological preservation which is almost wholly of Buddhist sites. The CMTPC says not a single Muslim site has been earmarked for cultural preservation or as a heritage site. Also, the omission of Koneswaram Temple in Trincomalee, parts of which ancient Pallava structure lie destroyed in the nearby sea bed is telling.

Boundaries marked in blood

Boundaries are being marked in blood. Individuals who have crossed ethnic borders and administrative divisions to carry out livelihoods as they have or had done for years pay the ultimate price.

The identity of the killers and their motives may remain unknown but it is speculated that four farmers were killed in Akk-

araipattu, two Tamil and two Muslim for trying to cultivate paddy land which had been declared off bounds by one or other of the Tamil militant groups.

A group of 26 Muslim wood collectors from Pottuvil found themselves at the mercy of the STF. There are rumours that they were beaten up in the camp and were accused of assisting the LTTE. On September 24, one of the incarcerated Muslims died in jail.

Militarising education

On November 16 Palithakumara Pathmakumar, a doctor serving in Naavatkaadu Hospital in Vavunatheevu was killed within the hospital premises. As a result the GMOA went on strike demanding better protection for doctors in the north and east.

This killing highlighted the crisis of violence in the east. At the same time it also showed how security is understood by the various actors.

The Health Minister called for only Tamil doctors to serve in the north and east while the GMOA

called for more security. The presence of police officers or armed military personnel or militant groups do not result in greater confidence as each community has fears and violent memories of each of the armed actors.

Political violence permeates and controls the actions of civil society. The Eastern Province boasts two universities; one in the Batticaloa District, located in Vantharamullai and the other, South Eastern University in Oluvil in the Ampara District.

Site of conflict

The Eastern University has been a site of conflict and battleground for long years now. Over the years various armed groups attempted to establish their presence in the university, with the LTTE taking extreme measures to control the expression of staff and students.

During the split in 2004 in the ranks of the LTTE, academics and others came under extreme scrutiny; academics, journalists and others suspected of being loyal to this or the other side were abduct-

ed, cautioned and on occasion murdered.

With the establishment of control by the army and police and TMVP, the university has come under increased surveillance from these quarters aligned to the state. In an effort to establish control of the Eastern University the TMVP abducted the Dean of the Arts Faculty in late 2006. Then the Vice Chancellor, Prof. V. Raveendranath disappeared in broad daylight from the heart of Colombo city, from an area marked for its high security check points. The TMVP is believed to be behind this abduction. The Vice Chancellor is believed to be dead.

The South Eastern University is also facing similar problems. The university has a 90% Muslim majority student population. During the Ramadan holiday in September, the government placed a new security system in the university, with many checkpoints and over 60 police personnel guarding the entrance alone in addition to STF and armed military patrolling the surrounding area round the clock.

Outside force

It is within this situation, that on August 22 of this year Sucharitha Pasan Samarasinghe, a fourth year Sinhalese student at the Eastern University was killed, purportedly by a force from outside the university.

A Tamil student was taken in for questioning after this incident and to date he is being detained by the CID without any charges.

When the University Grants Commission Chairman visited the Eastern University in August this year he talked to the Sinhala students and assured them of their safety. He did not see the need to allay the fears of the Tamils or Muslim students.

Hopes and fears

While we write, the war rages on in the north. But none of the political forces, none of the leading left wing activists who support the war have voiced their concern about the lack of political will on the part of the government to devolve power to the east and north.

British Tamils Football League 2008/2009
Table & Top Scores

Premier Division

	Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts		Players	Team	Top Scores
1	Mahajana	8	7	0	1	29	4	25	21	1	Sean	Mahajana	8
2	Santos	8	5	1	2	27	18	9	16	2	Chrishanthan	Santos	8
3	West-3	6	4	1	1	19	9	10	13	3	Pira	Kingston Boys	5
4	kingston Boys	7	3	3	1	19	7	12	12	4	Senthuran	Sunrise	5
5	Watch me	8	3	2	3	21	14	7	11	5	Similan	Mahajana	4
6	Surbiton	8	2	3	3	10	10	0	9	6	Roshan B	Santos	4
7	wembley	7	2	3	2	10	13	-3	9	7	Luxman	Santos	4
8	Sunrise	8	2	2	4	18	24	-6	8	8	David	West 3	4
9	Olimpics	6	0	2	4	5	23	-18	2				
10	Blues	8	0	1	7	8	42	-34	1				

Division One

	Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	PTS		Players	Team	Top Scores
1	Srimurugan	6	5	-	1	20	6	14	15	1	Mohamed	MTSSC	17
2	E 17 F.C	6	5	-	1	25	13	12	15	2	Thanu	11 Stars F.C	9
3	Harrow Boys	6	3	1	2	13	11	2	10	3	Anpalakan	E-17	6
4	MTSSC	7	3	1	3	24	23	1	10	4	Jenu	Srimurugan	5
5	11 Stars F.C	6	2	-	4	16	26	-10	6	5	Keeth	Harrow Boys	4
6	Valvai Blues	7	1	1	5	10	18	-8	4	6	Sunthares	E-17	4
7	Young rise	6	1	1	4	11	22	-11	4	7	Arujuna	MTSSC	4
										8	Sanjie	Srimurugan	4

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