

HOT SPRING

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No. 08

Hostages in their own Homeland

Tamils in Trincomalee have expressed concern over new Sinhalese settlements in areas where Tamils fled violence. Visitors to Trincomalee say Tamils in the town feel like hostages surrounded by Army Camps and new settlements.

The Sri Lanka Monitor - August, 1992
Produced by the British Refugee Council.

IN CHEDDIKULAM

Sinhalese Take Over Lands of Tamils

Sinhalese settlers have begun to cultivate private lands belonging to Tamils in the Vavunia District along with the onset of the rainy season denying the proprietary rights of Tamils to these lands.

News from Vavunia state Division area which are that Tamils have fled parts occupied by the Sinhala Army. New Sinhalese settle-

ments have been organised by Government efforts in these Tamil areas on the strength of the presence of Sinhala Army there.

It is learnt that these Sinhalese settlers have cultivated all lands that belonged

to the Tamils in these areas while the Tamils are unable to stop it or assert their proprietary rights because these acts of aggressions are committed under army protection.

According to reports from Vavunia the problem of Sinhalese settlers committing trespass on lands held by Tamils has become very acute.

Scores Highest in the Island



Mas. K. Pirundapan, a student of St. John Bosco, has scored 199 marks in the islandwide 5th year Scholarship examination and has scored the first place.

Tamils Feel: 40 Years too Long Self-Determination Only Way Out

December, 10 will be celebrated all over the world as the UN Human Rights Day, commemorating the proclamation of the Charter of Human Rights by the United Nations General Assembly, on December 10, 1948.

Though 44 years have passed by since the proclamation of the Charter, the Tamils of Eelam are still suffering under gross violation of their human rights.

The Eelam Tamils look up hopefully to the realisation of the UN Charter on Human Rights and are grateful to a number of international organisations which have espoused the Tamil cause in international fora.

We publish here the text of the submissions made to the 47th session of UN High Commission on Human Rights in Geneva in February, 1991 by the International Educational Development Inc. (IED) and urge the peoples and Governments all over the world to support the Tamil Eelam case and restore human rights especially the right of self-determination for Eelam Tamils - the brazen violation of which rights by the Sinhalese had become possible due to British imperialism - though ironically Britain is a permanent member of the Security Council too of the UN pledged to uphold the Charter on Human Rights including the right of self-determination to peoples but which has decided to give military equipment to the Sinhala government to carry on its genocidal war against Eelam Tamils.

The IED Inc. submissions are as follows:

In Sri Lanka a civil war still rages. We were heartened by the peace initiative of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam of December 21, 1990 and by the government's initial response announced by a Communique on January 3, 1991. Regrettably, the government was unwilling to continue a cease-fire.

The situation in Sri Lanka has been detrimental to the Tamil people there for forty years, especially since the 1950 disenfranchisement of the plantation Tamils reduced

Tamil voting power to less than 20% and increased the Sinhala voting power to 80%.

The many peaceful means to defend human rights tried by the subjugated Tamils all failed, and, especially after the massacres of Tamils in 1983, the Tamil people have increasingly sought the use of force to defend basic human rights and their aspirations as a people. At this point, the Tamil people appear totally unwilling to accept any alien domination - they have justifiably lost all

confidence that a Sinhala-dominated government will ever protect full rights of Tamil people.

This forum has heard voluminous testimony about Sri Lanka from many NGOs and governments at one time or another in the past ten years. Today, the situation is probably worse than at any other time in these ten years. Current examples include:

- (1) 2009 disappeared Tamil youths in recent months according to a tally compiled by Christian missionaries, some of them Jesuits affiliated with IED;
- (2) nearly 6000 Tamil civilian casualties since June 1990;
- (3) up to 60,000 deaths in the South since 1987.

In spite of the worsening situation, there has been no official Commission action on Sri Lanka since 1987. IED most strongly urges the Commission on Human Rights to address the on-going armed conflict and human rights situation in Sri Lanka with a view to helping the parties to the conflict arrive at a ceasefire, a process of dialogue to meet the legitimate demands of the Tamil people and full restoration of

human rights to all Sinhala citizens.

IED would like to address an issue that is very difficult - the rights of groups that because of accidents of history, have found themselves to be a minority in a majority-dominated state, when for centuries they were self-governing and that now suffer under a severe, persistent subjugation, and oppression by the majority. This situation is of great importance to the work of the Rapporteur of the Sub-Commission, whose progress report, E/CN.4/Sub.2/1990/46 is part of the documentation under this item.

The situation in Sri Lanka clearly illustrates this dilemma. In Sri Lanka, the colonial rulers imposed unitary rule in an island where there had been two distinct states for thousands of years - one Tamil and one Sinhala. The Tamil people are racially and ethnically different from the Sinhala people, and they have a separate language, territory, and religion.

Since the British left in the late 1940's, the Sinhala people comprising 75% of the population have dominated the Tamil minority in every way possible. As one small example, there have

been a series of extremely ugly Sinhala attacks on Tamil people throughout this post-colonial period.

For much of this time, international community remained silent or took the government at its word that things would improve. For example, following the particularly bad genocidal spree against Tamils in 1983 the Sri Lankan government promised the Sub-Commission that it would "leave no stone unturned to bring to justice all those responsible for the killings...A long year later, British Justice Paul Sieghart reported:

"But what I find most extraordinary is that to this day there has been no attempt to find the truth through an official, public or impartial inquiry, when the situation in the country cries out for nothing less".

Under the electoral dominance of the Sinhala majority. Tamil people have almost no voice in national policy. While some times there have been some Tamil representatives in ministries, at this time there is practically none. The vast majority resigned claiming that the marriage forced on them by the British had completely broken down and there was no will on the part of Sinhala authorities to address the rights and aspirations of the Tamil people. The Armed Forces are now approximately 99% Sinhala. Out of about 225 national legislators, there are only ten Tamils. In 1986, Aus

(Continued on Page 4)

Floundering Military Tactics

Within the last month, four big incidents have happened which could show the pulse of the on-going war for the liberation of Tamil Eelam:-

(i) the unsuccessful military activity (Jayapahara) that took place in Batticaloa;

(ii) the evacuation of Alampil army camp;

(iii) the killing of Naval Commander, Admiral Clancy Fernando in a bomb attack by a member of the suicide squad;

(iv) the successful attack launched by the LTTE at the Palaly military aerodrome.

These four incidents depict to a certain extent the military ineffectiveness of the Sri Lankan armed forces and the crises it is facing in its war efforts.

It can be said from the happenings of the last month that a situation seems to have arisen where the hope of defeating the Tigers by military means is more or less completely disappearing in Colombo circles. News

appearing in Colombo newspapers, columnists writing about war, views and speeches of the politicians and army strategists reflect this. Even after the changes that were effected in the command structure of the Sri Lankan armed forces in order to strengthen the morale of the Sinhala armed forces and to achieve success in war, Sinhala forces have not made any progress in the war. No military victory had been scored by the Sinhala armed forces to boost the morale of the Sinhala youth who are fighting in the three categories of the armed forces. In this state of affairs, the despondency and disappointment that had occurred in the Sinhala nation about the war, continue to loom large.

General Hamilton Wanasinghe who took over the command of the Sinhala military machinery, in order to consolidate his position, concentrated the strength and with careful planning, launched a military campaign in

Batticaloa. Joint Operations Command Headquarters too was very much interested to see that this military campaign should succeed.

In order to see that the first campaign he launched after assumption of his new position ends up in success, he chose Batticaloa instead of Jaffna to launch his attack.

This military activity which was launched with a view to dislodge the Tigers from the jungles of Batticaloa, was named 'Jayapahara'. The meaning of this Sinhala word is 'victory attack.' That is, to victoriously destroy the Tigers in the Batticaloa District or to drive them out. This is what it meant.

On 8.11.92 military activity was launched with the help of planes and helicopters. The military action proceeded with the bombing of jungles, paddy fields and villages bordering the jungles.

This military campaign which was launched with

big fanfare in the Colombo newspapers, was hailed by the Army Command as a victorious one and that it had achieved its goal. The statements in the newspapers were also to this effect. Newspapers too devoured this and spread it to the Sinhala masses.

It is to be noted that not even one Tiger fighter met with death in this military action. At the same time, the Sinhala armed forces lost one helicopter in this campaign. With that loss that military campaign was brought to an end.

The failure of this military operation accelerated the opposition and non-cooperation that was already prevailing in the Command Structure against General Hamilton Wanasinghe. For this reason, the Sinhala armed forces, it is presumed will meet with more setbacks in the coming months. At the same time, Colombo Radio announced that the Sinhala Naval Commander was killed in a suicidal attack in Colombo.

The loss one after another of Commanding top officers like

Lieutenant General Kobbe-kaduwa, Major General Wimalaratne, Rear Admiral Jayamaha, and Admiral Clancy Fernando, has caused a big impact on the strength of the armed forces and that it will do so, is explicit. Loss of these very top officers cannot be easily replaced. Sri Lankan government is bewildered. Apart from this, these losses are causing political crises and headaches to the Government of Premadasa.

At the same time on 23.11.92, LTTE attacked more than 150 sentry points for a distance of 4½ kilometres and destroyed them.

These sentry points were set up in the Eastern Sector of Palaly army base.

In this attack more than 50 army personnel were killed. 70 weapons were recovered. Apart from these, other Army equipments were also recovered on a large scale.

To the Sri Lankan Army Command which was in a fix to decide what to do next, this surprising and big attack has caused further complications.

Courtesy:-

Liberation Tigers Nov.1992

S. L. ARMY ATTEMPT FOILED

The LTTE foiled a Sri Lankan Army attempt to move forward to Sambilturai in Silalalai from Mathagal on Monday, November 23.

The news in this connection states that the Sri Lankan Army supported by battle tanks and armoured vehicles tried to move from Mathagal along the beach road at Silalai towards Sambilturai about 6.00 a. m. on Monday, November 23.

The LTTE confronted them and battle continued till noon. The Sri Lankan Army thereafter retreated, giving up its attempt to move forward.

SIX S. L. SOLDIERS KILLED AT MANAL ARU

In a lightning attack carried out by the Tigers on Sri Lankan Army sentry posts at Manal Aru, six Sri Lankan soldiers were killed and the LTTE captured arms and ammunitions from the S. L. Army.

The news in this connection states that at 6.30 A.M. on Tuesday, November 24, the LTTE attacked Sri Lankan

Army sentries near the Ceylon Theatres Camp at Manal Aru. The attack lasted for three minutes.

Six Sri Lankan soldiers were killed and the LTTE also captured arms and ammunitions at the sentry posts of the Sri Lankan Army.

There was no Tiger casualty.

Supersonic Jets Bomb Katchilaimadu

Supersonic Jet bombers bombed Katchilaimadu in Mullaitivu District. Two persons were killed, two were injured and two houses were completely destroyed.

The news in this connection states that on Saturday, November 21 morning, three supersonic Jet bombers bombed the village of Katchilaimadu in the Mullaitivu

District. Two persons died on the spot. They are Iyathurai Thavamalar (23) and Manikavasakar Alageswaran (7). Two others sustained serious injuries.

The injured are Paramanathan Iyathurai, (7) husband of the deceased Thavamalar and his eight month old child. Two houses were completely destroyed.

Another report says that a battle tank was stuck in the ground and the attempts of the Sri Lankan Army to remove the stuck tank was retarded by the heavy fire launched by the LTTE. The same report says that heavy artillery shell attack was carried on in the area by the Sri Lankan Army presumably to prevent the stuck battle tank falling into LTTE's hand.

Pensioners' Federation asks for 30 percent Increase

The Federation of Northern Pensioners' Association has in a letter sent to the Minister of Finance stated that the pensioners too must be granted the 30 percent increase in their pensions as has been given to serving government officers instead of Rs. 300/- proposed to be given to pensioners.

The federation has further pointed out that revision of pensions and salaries should be on the same basis and this principle was tacitly accepted by the government. In keeping with this principle, the pensioners must also be given 30 percent increase in their pensions.

The letter further states that the proposed increase for pensioners is only Rs. 40 because the Rs. 260 promised in 1988 and eagerly

Supersonic Jets Bomb Kilinochchi

News from Kilinochchi stated that Supersonic Jet Bombers bombed Kilinochchi on Wednesday, November, 18.

According to the report the bombing took place near Karadipokku junction. No death or other damages were reported.

awaited by the pensioners every month has now been merged into the Rs. 300.

SPORTS

Soccer Referees' Exam

An Examination for Soccer Referees will be conducted by the Jaffna Soccer Referees, Association on December 20th, 1992 at the Jaffna Hindu College Hall. Those desirous to sit for this Examination are requested to be present on this date at the premises.

Soccer Results

In the finals of the Tournament conducted by the Kondavil Kalaivani Club, Gnanakala S. C. beat Young Henricans 5-3. Mr. Augustine was referee at this match. Royal S.C. beat Trinco Stars 7-3 to get Third Place.

- Vijayakumar -

OUR READERS SAY

Sinhalese are no respecters of Tamils' Rights

I write to express my appreciation of the excellent efforts your Paper is making to enlighten all concerned and particularly the Sinhalese and the world at large of the justice of the Tamil cause. Your Opinion on 'Duplicity of Devolution' is just one example.

There is a saying that one can easily wake up a person who is asleep but not one who pretends to be asleep. It is not the Sinhalese are unaware of the National Rights of the Tamil people. They simply do not want to give up their Colonial rule of the Tamil people. The Sinhalese politicians know nothing other than anti-Tamil racial politics.

While your efforts are laudable, it is only the grit and greatness of the LTTE leadership of the Tamils and their military preparedness that can win the rights of the Tamils and no amount of reasoning can succeed. The fact that the Tamils have recognised this reality and are contributing their mite in this regard, is the only redeeming feature in this otherwise difficult situation for them.

N. Mylvaganam
Jaffna.

SINHALESE HANKERING AFTER FEDERALISM

Big guns in the Sinhala political arena are now talking of federalism. The Eelam Tamils have already gone far ahead in this context. They have already given up the demand for a federal form and are demanding that their sovereign right which they had enjoyed before the coming of the Portuguese to rule themselves be restored to them. The representatives of the people of Tamil Eelam viz. the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam are fighting to achieve Eelam and have gone a fairly good distance towards their goal. In fact foundation has already been laid and the super-structure in the form of law and order, administration and local government are all in the process of being built. At this stage, for whom is this federalism? Of course, the Sinhalese can have a federal form of constitution for themselves after allowing the Tamils to have their own Tamil State in the already merged North and East.

Indian Federalism

Having come to swallow the bitter pill that Sri Lankan giant-sized and colossal armed forces cannot win the war against the Tigers and also having realised that the war has come to the headquarters of the armed forces in Colombo and Sinhala land, the Sinhala elite are very anxious to solve the ethnic problem. They do not mind even a federal set-up. Some Tamils who live in Colombo do not realise what the Sinhalese really mean by federalism. Probably some form of government similar to that of India. In India, even though it is boasted that the Constitution is a federal one, the States do not enjoy real power. A perusal of Tamil Nadu politics will show anyone this fallacy. If the party that forms the government does not get the approval of the Central government, the State government, will somehow or other get dissolved.

Recently, even inspite of his party obtaining the majority of the seats in the State Assembly and was allowed to form the government, Karunanidhi's government was dissolved. Thereafter, Jayalalitha came to power on sympathy votes resulting from the death of Rajiv Gandhi. Even now, she is enjoying a majority in the Assembly. But inspite of all this, she is going to be ousted by Narasimha Rao. He had set up in motion, Dr. Subramaniam Swamy,

the destroyer of peace and stability in the opposition camps to start his campaign of villifying Jayalalitha (She deserves this) and to pave the way for the dissolution of the State Assembly. Even though, the Tamils have rejected this type of farce to be thrust upon them, why are the Sinhala leaders reluctantly showing keen interest?

Political manoeuvre

The government, having realised their nakedness in the war against the Tigers owing to their determined attacks, both direct and indirect, which had resulted in many soldiers being dead and wounded and others deserting with recruitment of new soldiers being impossible and many top ranking soldiers from the Sinhala elite families being put to death and also realising that the war had come to Colombo, covertly approached its advisers like Mr. Dayan Jayatileke and others to devise ways and means to get over the difficult situation. It is talked about in high political circles that Mr. Dayan Jayatileke who was a minister in the merged North East Provincial Council, used the background influence he had in India (where he was for a considerable period of time, guest of the Indian Government) to start his campaign of breaking up the union of Tamil groups functioning from Colombo. This union of Tamil groups functioning from Colombo was throughout for the continuation of the already merged character of the North East. Dayan Jayatileke first succeeded in breaking the Tamil Eelam Liquidation Organisation (TELO) to agree to a de-merger and it was also prepared to sacrifice the Tamil Amparai to the Uva Province and other places where Sinhalese have colonised in the North and East with other Sinhala Provinces. Next to succumb was the ENDLF. Mr. Srinivasan, Jaffna District List Member of Parliament was prevailed upon to put forward a solution. His compromise is the demerger of the already merged North and East and that the Constitution be amended to provide for a 'federal structure'. Now the ENDLF says that Mr. Srinivasan is no longer its member, as he has already been sacked. These are all 'minor adjustments' among those parties. Whatever it is, both the TELO and the

ENDLF have already destroyed whatever unanimity that was among the Tamil groups that functioned from Colombo.

Betrayal

The next stage was set by all the Muslim Members of Parliament of all political parties meeting under the aegis of Mr. A.C.S. Hameed. Here it was posed that they all favour Mr. Srinivasan's proposals. Mr. M. H. M. Ashraff also participated. The SLFP was contacted

S. Thiagarajah

and briefed about the urgent necessity of a solution. An agreement was reached that the Government would first spell out its willingness to accept a federal set up, if the Tamil groups in Colombo agree to a demerger of the North and East and that the SLFP would thereafter agree to accept it. These were all stage-managed with the intention of showing to the world that the Sinhalese are a peaceful race willing

to accommodate and tolerate the demands of the Tamils so that the Tigers might get isolated in the opinion of the world. It was only an outward show like the Bandaranayake - Chelvanayakam Pact or the Dudley - Chelvanayakam Pact which was agreed to but never meant to be implemented. With the first show of objection by the Sinhalese, the Pacts were torn to pieces. Intention was the same here too but there was a small hitch. Sinhala elites are famous for their betrayals. Here too, Sirimavo was betrayed. The ultimate report released said that both the Government and the SLFP were agreeable to a federal set-up. This turned the tables. Sirimavo was annoyed and refuted the fact she was in agreement with Srinivasan's proposal.

Saman Deio

All these reveal that the Sinhala leaders were not prepared for any settlement and that they were only worried about their parliamentary seats. If it were not so, how can one explain the so-called Socialist and Communist parties viz. LSSP and CP of Sri Lanka who are supposed to be

Marxist in origin and believe in dialectical materialism participate in sending a petition to the Saman Deio (God Saman) in Ratnapura. These betrayers of Marxism will go to any length to hoodwink the people for a few Parliamentary seats. What a disgrace?

Only alternative

As far as the Tamils are concerned, we have no other alternative, as said by our National Leader, Pirabakaran, other than to continue our fight for independence. He has said that freedom is not a commodity for which we could bargain for. Freedom is something which we have to fight for. It can only be obtained by shedding blood the hard way.

Recent reports from Colombo say that saner counsels seemed to have dawned among the Tamil groups in Colombo. Led by Mr. Thondaman of the CWC, the Tamil groups in Colombo have opposed the demerger of the North East and the setting up of a so-called federal structure with nine Provincial boundaries. Sinhala elite are far behind time and are going to miss the bus once again!

EXPATRIATE TAMILS SHOULD AGITATE FOR RECOGNITION BY UN OF EELAM LIBERATION STRUGGLE

Expatriate Tamils living all over the world have contributed their share in focusing international interest and concern towards the plight of Eelam Tamils ever since the Sinhala Only Act was enacted in June, 1956.

Eelam Tamils' Association set up in U. K. initially by Mahendiran Rasiah set the ball rolling in this respect but today there are many such associations in various capitals the world over. They have conducted demonstrations, seminars and conferences to propagate the demand for Eelam. To draw international attention for the Tamil Liberation struggle, expatriate Eelam Tamils have not failed to use even the International Workers' Day and those demonstrations had received maximum coverage in the international media as well. So why not they use to their advantage the forthcoming United Nations Human Rights Day - 10th December - as well? On this day they could arrange demonstration in every Capital where there are substantial numbers of Tamils and demand international recognition for the liberation struggle that is

being waged by the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam for the restoration and re-constitution of the lost State of Eelam.

Tamils the world over must now demand the international community to recognise the Tamils of Eelam as a nation. They must demand the recognition of Eelam as the Homeland of the Tamils; and they must emphatically demand on behalf of Eelam Tamil Nat-

THIRAVIAM

ion, the right to self-determination in accordance with the Charter of Human Rights as proclaimed by the UN General Assembly on December 10th, 1948.

When that Declaration was made by the UN General Assembly, all the member states resolved to uphold the right of self-determination guaranteed to all nations and peoples everywhere. Other nations which joined the UN as members too had taken the same oath on being admitted as member-states.

Thus each and every member state of the UN is morally bound to recognise the right of the Eelam Tamil Nation to exercise its right to self-determination. So why not openly demand it? The auspicious day to do so is the date on which the Charter of Human Rights was universally proclaimed.

On this forthcoming Human Rights Day, expatriate Tamils living outside Eelam must agitate by organising demonstrations for such recognition. They must demand:-

Recognition of Eelam Tamils as a nation;

Recognition for the territorial unity and integrity of the Tamil Homeland;

Recognition of the Liberation Struggle led by the LTTE as a legitimate freedom movement and by doing so, make it possible for the UN General Assembly to hear the voice of Mr. V. Pirabakaran.

The Palestinian Liberation Organisation has achieved it. So why not we?

HOT SPRING

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HUMAN RIGHTS

Sri Lanka is also a member of the UNO.

She has also ratified the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.

The International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights came into effect on January, 3, 1976. The International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights came into force on March 23, 1976 together with the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.

Sri Lanka (then Ceylon) as a state that ratified the two Covenants had undertaken to abide by and uphold the provisions of the two Covenants.

Article 1 of both Covenants are alike.

They read :

"All Peoples have the right of self - determination. By virtue of that right they freely determine their political status and freely pursue their economic, social and cultural development."

As a state that has ratified both Covenants the Sri Lankan state is bound to uphold and implement the various provisions of the two Covenants.

Even before Ceylon became a member of the UNO the Tamil people in the island of Ceylon freely exercising their vote decided for the right of self-determination for Tamils. This happened in 1956 general elections when the Tamils of the Northeast (Tamil Eelam) voted the Ilankai Tamil Arasu Kadchy under the leadership of the late Mr. S. J. V. Chelvanayakam. Ever since then the Tamils have been repeatedly and consistently demanding this right by the exercise of the ballot but it has always eluded them despite the pious declarations of the world body.

This denial of a fundamental right enshrined in an article in the International Covenants to the Eelam Tamils is being made by a State that has ratified the Covenants. What have other member states done about this flagrant violation of an article pledged to be implemented by the Sri Lankan State? This question naturally arises amongst the Eelam Tamils facing a genocidal war. Are the Articles of the two Covenants pious and pompous declarations meant to be violated and suppressed by some member countries of the UN, while others choose not to see them? Cannot the UN question its erring member? If the UN is not able to devote its attention to the problems of peoples all over the world, where do people look up for justice? Well, these and similar questions do arise in the hearts of an oppressed and suppressed people as the Eelam Tamils are - especially on an occasion when lot of celebrations will be held all over the world marking the International Human Rights Day.

A world body is intended to work for the rights of people all over the globe and we have no doubt that it was the intention of the great men who mooted the idea. Will not UN failure result in despair to humanity?

Organisations cutting across State boundaries and even the world body is being used to do propaganda for the rulers of states but hardly anything is done to grant relief to oppressed and suppressed peoples.

As world leaders get ready to celebrate International Human Rights Day, we wish to touch their hearts with an appeal on behalf of Eelam Tamils that they do look not askance but seriously consider the case of the Eelam Tamils who are suppressed and oppressed and are facing extinction as a people solely due to British legacy which had bound the Tamil people to perpetual slavery under the Sinhalese, when they were free and independent before. The UNO can at least persuade its members not to provide military and war materials to new imperialist states like Sri Lanka.

MANNAR - VAVUNIA BORDERLAND ATTACK

20 Sri Lankan Soldiers Killed Three Army Posts Destroyed

The LTTE carried out a simultaneous attack on three Sri Lankan Army Posts in the Mannar - Vavunia borderland area and destroyed the three Army posts.

The news in this connection states that at 12.30 am, on Wednesday, December 2, the LTTE attacked the Sri Lankan Army posts at Vannankulam, Veeravila and Hanthapangoda on the Vavunia - Mannar borderland. The attack lasted for 10 minutes. The LTTE estimated at least 20 S. L. soldiers killed and forty injured. The LTTE

captured the Sri Lankan posts and destroyed them. A large haul of arms, ammunition and other military-ware were captured by the LTTE.

The LTTE also announced the death of nine of its men in this action.

Jaffna Law Society Inaugurated

A New organisation called the Jaffna Law Society was inaugurated on Sunday, November 29.

At a meeting of lawyers held at the Jaffna Hindu Ladies' College under the chairmanship of Mr. A. Muthukrishnan, the constitution for the Society was adopted.

The following were elected office-bearers:-

President:

Mr. M. S. Suntharalingam.

Vice Presidents:

Mr. C. Kodeeswaran
Mr. A. Kumaragura

Secretary:

Mr. A. Muthukrishnan.

Asst. Secretaries:

Mr. P. Sivagnanam
Mr. K. Sabaratnam

Treasurer: Mr. C. Mahesan
Eight others were also elected to the Executive Committee.

Methodist Girls' High School, Point Pedro

Prizes awarded to Best Performers at G. C. E. (O/L)

Swamiji Sithroobanandha of Saratha Ashramam, Point Pedro honoured the following students of Methodist Girls' High School, Point Pedro for their brilliant achievement in obtaining the highest marks in G. C. E. (O/L) Examination 1991 by awarding them prizes at a meeting held at the College hall on 18.11.92.

The Students are :

1. Miss. Mathumai Kanapathipillai
2. „ Kugapiriya Kulanthaivadivel
3. „ Thamilvani Velupillai
4. „ Anushiya Sivasubramaniam
5. „ Nanthini Veeravahu
6. „ Sangitha Rajanathan
7. „ Sivathevi Sivasubramaniam
8. „ Vanitha Thatparananteswara Sarma
9. „ Sutharsana Kathiravetpillai
10. „ Gowri Chelliah
11. „ Meena Thillainathan
12. „ Shyamala Thevachchandran

Tamils feel...

(Continuation from Page 1)

Italian Senator A. L. Missan wrote:

"Democracy in Sri Lanka does not exist in any real sense... The continued subjugation of the Tamil people by a permanent Sinhala majority within the confines of a unitary constitutional frame, constitutes the reality of 'democracy' Sri Lanka style."

At this point, the Tamil people have endured 40 years of gross violations of their rights. Regrettably, they have found essentially no internal peaceful recourse to violations of their rights. Most Western states and Tamil Nadu have been inundated with Tamil refugees and these refugees and their fellow Tamils in Sri Lanka have found defending their rights with the use of force increasingly appealing. Therefore, for the past seven years there has been a continuous state of civil war.

The Tamil people have also felt the abandonment of their plight by the international community, while the Commission chose

to act over a regrettable incident in Lithuania, the Commission remains silent over 7000 Tamil deaths, including 2009 known cases of disappearances in 1990 alone. What is clear, however, is that the Tamil people have decided that 40 years of intolerable oppression is long enough and that the only way to resolve their situation is through the exercise of the right to self-determination. They appear to no longer accept their role as perpetual minority in a Sinhala-dominated state.

What is clear to us is that condemning the victims, in this case the Tamils, because one does not approve of their reliance, as a last resort, to the use of force to overcome tyranny and oppression, is rather futile if there is genuine international will to resolve this and other similar conflicts. The international community, and certain states in particular, have made heavy use of force in situations of far shorter duration than 40 years. Also, the Tamils clearly indicate they are not going to cease their struggle for human rights merely because their cause is not

as popular as other causes. And, we are convinced, the international community cannot insist that yet another generation of Tamils in Sri Lanka live without the full enjoyment of their human rights.

We agree with the 18 non-governmental organizations at the Sub-Commission, who stated that steps must be found "to satisfy the aspirations of the Tamil people within the framework of Human Rights and the Rights to Self-Determination".

IED made a separate statement on this issue at the 1990 session of the Sub-Commission which, for the convenience of the Commission, we will annex to this statement along with an appeal by us to you, Mr. Chairman.

Three Tamils Shot Dead

Three Tamil civilians were shot dead on Tuesday, December 1, at Karaveddy in Batticaloa by the Sri Lankan Army.

Many others were taken to the Vavunativu Sri Lankan Army Camp. No further information is available in regard to those taken to the Army Camp.

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