

HOT SPRING

Vol. 1

3rd March 1991

No. 21

Kilinochchi came under bomber attack for the second day in succession on the 2nd of this month.

Two lorries were damaged. Two persons, Kathiripillai Thuraisingam (40) and Rasiah Tharmalingam (34) sustained severe injuries. K. Thuraisingam is the driver of one of the damaged lorries.

MADHU CHURCH REFUGEES

ORDERED TO VACATE

★ INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS NOT IN FAVOUR ★ INDIA ALSO SAYS: NOT HUMANE

Tamil Refugees in the Madhu Church Refugee Camp in the Mannar District have been asked to vacate the camp and proceed to Vavuniya town or the Mannar Island by the Government of Sri Lanka.

After the outbreak of hostilities a large number of Tamils left their villages out of fear for the Sri Lankan Army. A large number of refugees came to Madhu where a Refugee centre was set up.

Independent international organizations like the UNHCR and ICRC undertake relief work amongst these refugees. In fact the Government of Sri Lanka suggested Refugee Camps under supervision by international

organizations and the Indian Government also welcomed the suggestion. But right from the beginning the Tamil people objected to any refugee camp under the protection of the Sri Lankan Government forces under guise of providing security. The people also objected to

being classified as refugees in their own home land.

Now the Government of Sri Lanka has asked the refugees in Madhu Church camp to vacate the camp and proceed to Vavuniya or the Island of Mannar.

Hand bills to this effect have been printed and dropped all over Madhu Church area from helicopters.

Explaining the decision of the Government to issue quit notices to the refugees in the Madhu Church Refugee Camp, Sri Lanka's State Minister for Defence has said that there are LTTE 'hideouts' close to Madhu from where LTTE cadres function. It was from this area that the LTTE planned and executed an attack at Kondachchi a distance of over 40 miles from Madhu, which claimed the lives of 49 soldiers the Sri Lankan Army last month. Therefore the Minister said that aerial bombardment of the area has been planned by the Government and therefore the refugees should vacate the Camp.

The Minister has said that there are about 10 000 refugees in the Camp.

But independent organizations like the UNHCR and ICRC have disputed the Minister's figures and said that the refugees number well over 20,000.

They have also said that the evacuation of these refugees is not feasible. All India Radio in its news bulletin quoted an official of the Indian Foreign office as saying that the Sri Lankan Government's plan was not humane.

Navy harasses

After the killing of 49 soldiers of the Sri Lankan Army at Kondachchi in Mannar District on the 17th of last month, large Naval Vessels have anchored both on the Northern and Southern seas of Mannar Island.

Naval ratings chase fishermen going out to sea for fishing making use of smaller boats.

Naval boats with cannons are anchored very close to coastal villages such as Vidathalthivu, Erukalam-piddy, Talaimannar, Old Birdge, Olai Thoduvai, Vankalai and Arrippu.

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ATROCITIES IN REFUGEE CAMPS REFUGEES KILLED, MISSING AND RAPED

We give below a list showing only Army atrocities to refugees in Refugee Camps, so far as we have been able to collect.

Name of Refugee Camp	Name of Victim	Nature of injury	Date of injury
Tampalakamam Refugee Camp (Trincomalee Dist.)	1. Murugupillai Santhiralingam 2. Subramaniam Kumarakulasingam 3. Rasaratnam Sountharam	Arrested where - abouts not known	28-8-90
University Refugee Camp (Batticaloa Dist.)	Pakkiam (45) mother of 5 Children 5 other children names not verified	Injured by Army excesses within camp	13-9-90
Chenkalady Refugee Camp (Batticaloa Dist.)	Ketheeswary (14)	Shot dead	18-9-90
Sorikalmunai Refugee Camp (Amparai Dist.)	37 men unidentified	Shot dead	18-9-90
University Refugee Camp (Batticaloa Dist.)	Mahenthiran	Shot dead	21-9-90
" "	6 unidentified refugees	Murdered and burnt with tyres round - necks	23-9-90
" "	8 persons	arrested not seen thereafter	23-9-90
Sorikalmunai Refugee Camp (Amparai Dist.)	35 women	Sexually assaulted	29-9-90
University Refugee Camp (Batticaloa Dist.)	6 men and one woman unidentified.	Killed and burnt with tyres round necks	30-9-90
Kanthalai Refugee Camp (Trincomalee Dist.)	Sithiwachi Kanagalingam - teacher	Severely assaulted	5-9-90
" "	R. Manickam	Arrested - Missing	5-9-90
Tampalakamam Refugee Camp (Trincomalee Dist.)	Kanthisamy Apputhurai	Arrested - Missing	9-9-90
Tampalakamam Refugee Camp (Trincomalee Dist.)	1. V. Konanayagam 2. P. Iyah 3. Aiyamuthu	Arrested - Missing	15-9-90
" "	1. Muthulingam 2. Mahalingam	Killed	5-1-91
" "	1. T. Puvanasegaram 2. V. Selvam 3. M. Ravi 4. Indiran 5. Sekar 6. Uthayan & 2 other refugees	Arrested - Missing	5-1-91
Kakkaachiveddai School Refugee Camp (Batticaloa Dist.)	Three married women with children	raped - Names with held	4-1-91

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Kumar's 'Kuthukaranams'

A certain Mr. Mariadasan of Colombo 6, wrote a letter in the SUNDAY TIMES of 27th. January chiding the paper for giving undue publicity to the EPDP and its "self-appointed leader, Douglas Devananda"

A certain Kumar wrote a 'reply' to Mr. Mariadasan in the SUNDAY TIMES OF 10TH. February. He had given his name as G.G. Ponnampalam (Jr.). It is fully appreciated, as Kumar already, does that he would only be given a hearing not in his own right but only by the man he wears. Right from the beginning Mr. Kumar has tried to gain place by 'reflected glory.'

If this Colombo Tamil has restricted himself to defending his present political playmates at the so called A.P.C., one need not bother. On the other hand he had chosen to speak more and shown his true colours, as he inevitably must.

Mr. Kumar has said that one thing must be said in favour of the EPDP and that is, if the EPDP had decided to sell its soul and itself for a livelihood, it was doing so openly and completely. How true is the same comment about this Kumar also.

He contested the Jaffna Electorate in 1977 General Elections as the Tamil Congress candidate. His credo was Tamil Eelam. Today he asks: "Is this what Tamil Eelam will be, if it is born?". So Kumar contested the Elections on the cry of Eelam in 1977 even when the TULF from which he sought nomination, declined to give him nomination. And Kumar made an ass of himself by telling the Tamil people that Tamil Eelam was a certainty under his leadership and not under that of Amirthalingam. The Tamil people rightly rejected him for his antics.

Today this Tamil Eelam hero of 1977, has abandoned his Tamil Eelam and from the 'temporary comfortable'

headquarters in Colombo asks what Tamil Eelam would be like, if it were born!

It is to the credit of the young men in the LTTE that they found out the true colours of the so-called "elite" leadership of the Tamils much earlier than the previous generation of Tamils. Today this so-called educated, (perhaps Kumar may not make this claim) elite leadership is found out to be perpetrators of fraud, the persons who led the Tamils up the garden path, who cheated the Tamils to be cheated in turn by the Sinhalese political overlords and come back to the Tamils with empty hands. The Tamils of Eelam have rejected the 'elite gentlemen'

By S. Thiyagarajah

Mr. Kumar complains of inability to set foot in the North East. How many times has he come to Jaffna? Has he ever made a visit to Jaffna except for a political purpose of utter selfish motivation? Surely there is no place for self-seekers and place-seekers in Tamil society today. Our society today has martyrs who would die for Tamil Eelam. They will die not only facing enemy bullets but if unavoidable by taking cyanide, as many of the LTTE men have already proved. They will not live on the miseries of the people as the 'elite' leaders sought to do.

Mr. Kumar says that there are LTTE men who do not know what they want. Quite true. Unlike Kumar they do not want anything for themselves.

They only want to restore their sovereignty stealthily usurped by the Sinhalese with the active co-operation of these Tamil 'elite' leadership.

The grievous mistake that the 'elite' leadership made was, that they thought the youths would not take the Eelam cry seriously but would vote for them and later tolerate the debacles, the Kuthukaranams of the leaders without murmur. The youths took the Eelam cry seriously and when they found the elite self-seeking leadership betrayed had chosen to fight it out themselves and today, thanks to the LTTE, at least some portions of Tamil Eelam are liberated territory where a Tamil need not be ashamed of the accident of his birth. He may face the Sinhala enemies' aerial bombardments but he has nothing to fear from his own people. And looked at it in this light, it is a boon that self-seeking fifth columnists like Kumar are not in their midst.

Mr. Kumar exclaims, "Oh God, if things happen, as they do under LTTE in the North East, I want to be somewhere else?". My question is "Has Kumar ever been in Tamil Eelam?" His only motive has been to get a place in the sun in imperial Colombo on the basis of Eelam votes. That shall not be hereafter.

Mr. Kumar has also said that some of the more sophisticated Tamils always run with the hare and hunt with the hound - and in the same breath has said that having been disillusioned with his erstwhile Colombo groups with their role as militants, has joined them in their role as politicians in the "treasure hunt to find the political solution". So, Doesn't Kumar, run with the hare and hunt with the hounds, all for treasure? Isn't he guilty of the same charge he levels against this "sophisticated Tamils"?

Mr. Kumar ends by saying that if he is further disillusioned, he will kick himself and tell himself - "Serves you bloody well right". He need not bother himself. The Tamil people have already told him so.

If Mr. Kumar and the sophisticated Tamils think that they can conjure up emotions for political gains and betray the Tamil people and Eelam, they will have nothing but disillusionment. But a Tiger even when he takes his own life with cyanide, is not disillusioned but very hopeful that Eelam will be restored. Even in death the tiger is peaceful and unagitated because he has an ideal - not selfish personal gain - which motivates him. Let Mr. Kumar remember that the Colombo Tamil leadership of Eelam Tamils has been buried long ago.

Usually hospitals are supposed to be 'safe' places but even in these institutions, Wijeratne's Air Force men smell a rat - no matter even if the hospital concerned is under the control of the ICRC.

In the Vanni District, the reports so far collected show that at least five hospitals and all of them under the Ministry of Health of the Government

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THIS AND THAT

by Rambler

IRAQ and AFGHANISTAN

What may you ask have these two countries in common? Quite a great deal if one takes a close look at them both. They are both moslem nations and have their own share of troubles, which like a night flame has attracted many extraneous months.

In Afganistan the Russian armed forces went into that country in great numbers to prop up a regime that was not too popular and which the outside world thought was a PUPPET of the Russians. The unpopular Afghan regime was opposed by a terrorist organisation called the Mujahideen, who operated from neighbouring Pakistan, a stooge of the Americans and via this stooge, the Americans began to supply the Mujahideen with the most sophisticated armaments that a terrorist organisation could ever dream of. The Mujahideen made good use of the American weapons, especially the Stinger Missile and brought down many Soviet planes and other aerial machines that were widely used by the Russians, thus causing a severe dent in the Russian war effort in Afghanistan and also causing heavy loss of Russian service personnel running into the thousands.

Unable to overcome this opposition that the Russians never anticipated, they opted to withdraw from Afghanistan, rather than mount an attack against Pakistan, which they could have done and profitably at that.

Today the wheel of retribution has turned full circle and we witness the Russians supplying the Iraqis with the utmost sophisticated equipment and the Americans and their allies at the receiving end. Unlike in Afghanistan, where the Americans supplied a terrorist organisation with arms surreptitiously, the Russians have supplied Iraq on a government to government basis, with the supply having commenced long before the present fracas in the Gulf occurred. It could

therefore be reasonably deduced that what started in Afghanistan and is now being continued in the Gulf, is in fact a dress-rehearsal between the two super powers, whilst in Afganistan the Americans came on top, the question now remains open as to who will come on top in the Gulf.

For us here in EELAM who have had our homes blown up by the marauding Sinhala hooligans, in the same way the hapless Palestinians had their homes blown up by the marauding Jewish hordes, there is some consolation in seeing the tutors of the Sinhala hooligans in far off Israel covering with every scud missile fired by the Iraqis. The Sinhala Buddhists do believe in retribution and one hopes so do the chosen people in Israel.

I. C. R. C

Scene - A school somewhere in EELAM

OCCASION - A class in General Knowledge in session

AGENDA - Teacher poses the following question

TEACHER - Who is the student that can give me the meaning of the initials I. C. R. C.

FIRST STUDENT - Why Sir it stands for INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION FOR RECOVERY OF CORPSES (TAMILS)

SECOND STUDENT - No Sir it stands for INDEPENDENT CRO-NIES RAMBLERS CONSORTIUM

TEACHER -

I am sorry you are both wrong those initials stand for the INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE Of the RED CROSS

STUDENTS - What do they do Sir

TEACHER - They thrive on the miseries of others by silently picking up the corpses, without expressing their opinion, for fear of displeasing their hosts.

Q. E. D.

Vanni District Five Hospitals Bombed

Sri Lanka's War Minister, Mr. Ranjan Wijeratne claims that his Air Force men hit only LTTE hideouts from the skies. If confronted with bombing of temples, schools, etc., he will explain them away as mistakes. However, unfortunately for the Minister his Air Force had never hit an LTTE 'hide-out' but always had temples, schools, hospitals refugee camps or private buildings of civilians as their targets.

An open letter to His Excellency Bishman Narayan Singh Governor of Tamil Nadu

Sinhala Imperium Extends over Tamil Nadu

Your Excellency was appointed Governor of Tamil Nadu by constructively forcing out Mr. Barnala from that position solely to appease President Premadasa and the Sinhala Sri Lanka.

Will Your Excellency recall to mind certain facts of the not distant past.

(a) Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi was given a thrashing with the butt-end of a gun by a Sinhala naval rating at a parade on the day he signed the Accord with Sri Lanka.

(b) Be that, this naval rating who was convicted and sentenced to jail for this act was given a reprieve and thereafter he revealed that higher authorities were aware of his intention to assault Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi.

(c) That President Premadasa gave ample indications of his contempt for this Accord and Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi.

(d) That he made a summary Quit Order to the Indian troops as his election plank in late 1988.

(e) That he announced his intention to issue a Quit Order to the Indian troops at a temple ceremony without any prior consultation with India and that he issued a peremptory Quit Order as announced by him.

(f) That the wording in the provisions of the Accord relating to withdrawal of troops laid down that the troops should be withdrawn when requested by the President of Sri Lanka instead of the conventional phraseology that the troops would be withdrawn as mutually agreed upon between the Governments of India and Sri Lanka. That Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi did sign this stupidly worded agreement without any consultation with his Cabinet.

(g) That Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi's pompous pronouncement asserting Sri Lankan Sovereignty over the North-East and consequent territorial integrity stopped him from pursuing any steps to effect any settlement for the ethnic problem by making the ethnic conflict an internal affair and denying India a locus standi on the matter.

(h) That President Premadasa told Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi that devolution and other matters mentioned in the Accord were internal matters and that India had no status to raise these issues.

(i) That Diplomat Dixit had frankly confessed that among the middle and younger ranks of India's Armed Forces there was some bewilderment at their being ordered to shoot and kill the Tamils when in reality they went to Lanka under the

impression that they were to protect the Tamils.

(j) That the Commanding Officer of the Peace Force did not enjoy unity of command in the North-East of Lanka where he was given a Mandate to protect the citizens of all communities and that in the event Sinhala Armed Forces remained in sixty to seventy Camps there in over which the Indian Peace Force was only nominally given complete jurisdiction. That at several places on public highways posters and sign-boards appeared announcing out of bounds for the Indian Peace Force.

(k) That Sinhala colonists objected to the Indian Peace Force setting up Camps at various places and that the Indian Peace Force sheepishly withdrew from such camping sites.

(l) That the incident at Palaly aerodrome, at the very beginning, when the Indian Commander surrendered to the Sri Lankan Air Force and agreed to hand over the seventeen senior men of the LTTE cadres to be taken for torture to Colombo was contrary to the General Amnesty and other provisions of the Accord.

(m) That Diplomat Dixit offered to transport the Sinhala investigating officers and their equipment to Jaffna to enable them to carry out their interrogation there.

(n) That it was Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi who personally ordered the surrender of the seventeen LTTE men to be tortured by the Sinhala Air Force and this led to the LTTE refusing to observe a ceasefire.

(o) That the first act of the Indian Peace Force was to blast two popular newspaper establishments in Jaffna.

(p) That as a result of the action of the Peace Force the judicial function completely collapsed in the North-East and the civil administration came to a halt.

(q) That the Indian Peace Force, far from making any efforts to restore normalcy, treated the Tamil people as enemies, issued a peremptory Quit Order for more than a lakh of people to leave their homes immediately on pain of being shot dead.

(r) That the Indian Peace Force declared an indefinite curfew lasting more than a month and ruthlessly enforced a curfew ignoring all human rights and decency of conduct.

(s) That nearly ten thousand civilians were killed and a large number injured by the action of the Indian Peace Force.

(t) That the Indian Peace Force indulged in raping, looting and senseless destruction of assets.

(u) That for the bulk of the period the Indian Peace Force was there, freedom of the Press was denied and for months there were no newspapers.

(v) That this war against the Tamils compelled - the Tamils to appeal to President Premadasa to send out the Indian troops thus giving the Indian Government no excuse to remain in the North-East of the Island.

(w) That Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi's Sri Lankan policy was absolutely disgraceful and did untold damage to India's image.

(x) That today Prime Minister Chandrasekar's Government is merely acting as a proxy or protegy of Mr. Rajiv Gandhi and seeks to continue the blundering policy in an effort to justify his patrons past blunders.

(y) That Senior Executive Personnel in a polity the Governorship of a State is one such - should carry out the biddings of the political bosses if only they are themselves convinced of the soundness of the policies Senior Executive personnel cannot say that they just carried out the orders of their political bosses.

— S. Vanniasingham

Commission on Bank Pay Order

Bank constituent obtains Refund

The Bank of Ceylon, Point Pedro Branch has been instructed by the Bank's Head Office to refund a Commission charge of Rs. 50/- which it debited to a customer's account.

Mr. K. C. Adipathan of Valvettiturai is a customer and account holder of the Bank of Ceylon, Point Pedro Branch. Mr. Adipathan had not been able to draw his own money from his account since the North-East war broke out. The last time he drew money from his Bank was on 15-5-90.

Despite repeated requests and representations, even to the Head Office, Colombo, Mr. Adipathan could not draw money from his account and in desperation he obtained a Pay Order from the Point Pedro Branch of the Bank

on 04-12-90. The Bank promptly debited Rs. 50/- to Mr. Adipathan's account for issuing the Pay Order though the issue of a Pay Order was necessitated by the failure of the Bank to discharge a fundamental condition of the contract a Bank enters into with its customer - viz. to pay cash when a customer presents his own cheque, if funds are available to his credit in his account.

In the case of various Banks in the North, they are unable to carry out this fundamental contract obliga-

tion as the Government does not provide liquid cash for the business of the Banks to be carried out. So the Bank of Ceylon issues Pay Orders where requested instead of cash.

Mr. Adipathan, after waiting for 6 months, was compelled to at least obtain a Pay Order from his Bank, as the Bank had no liquid cash to pay. But the Bank charged a Commission of Rs. 50/- on the Pay Order and debited the Commission charges also to Mr. Adipathan's account. That Mr. Adipathan again had to pay Rs. 50/- to someone else to encash the Pay Order is another story.

Mr. Adipathan took up the propriety of the Bank levying a Commission on a Pay Order which it made available as a poor alternative to payment of cash.

The Deputy General Manager (Operations) of the Bank of Ceylon, Head office has now informed Mr. Adipathan that he has instructed the Area Manager to

refund the commission charged, "having considered sympathetically the hardships undergone by Mr. Adipathan at present" No mention about the Bank's failure to honour a contractual obligation.

Authoritarian mentality whether in politics or business seems to die hard.

IN MEMORIAM

The 120th birth Anniversary of the late Rev. Bro. Grousault of the Oblates of Mary Immaculate was celebrated at St. Mary's Cathedral on 22nd February 1991 at 6-30 a. m.

The Chief Celebrant at the Concelebrated High Requiem Mass was Fr. Louis Ponniah the local Provincial of the Oblates and assisted by Rev. Fathers A. Singarayar, O.M.I. and S.H. Jebanesan.

In his homily, Fr. Ponniah explained in detail the vari-

ous poverty alleviation services rendered by the late missionary brother to the people of the North and exhorted the congregation to pray for him.

Late Bro. Grousault was born in Brittany, France on 22-2-1871. He arrived in Jaffna in 1888 and passed away in March 1948 after giving his best years of his life to the people of the North. May his soul rest in peace.

— J. A.

OUR READERS' CASE

National Identity Cards

The Editor,
Dear Sir,

Kindly publish this letter in your magazine of understanding and social justice to spotlight all forms of injustice, discrimination and other anomalies which are common in this land.

There are a large number of persons whose national identity cards have been lost stolen, damaged, burnt, and most shamefully to be eaten by the owners themselves at gun point by some security personnel since 1983.

To obtain a duplicate identity card, the holder has to lodge a complaint at a police station and to attach the complaint extract certified by the O I C of the Police Station on a ten rupee stamp. The Police Stations are not functioning and all the police meant for the North are operating at Colombo ranging from the Police Constable down to the D I G of the range.

It is humanly impossible for a person to go to the Police Station in the country without the said identity card. If he goes with a temporary identity card signed by the AGA of the division such card is not honoured and the said person will be the guest, who has to face innumerable hardships, which are well known to the readers.

To ease the present situation to get duplicate identity cards, May I suggest that the Gramaseva Officer be empowered to record the complaint and to issue the certificate of the entry extract, counter signed by the area A G A at least for the time being to help the people who are desperately in need of such cards to transact their various business.

The relevant form RPT 7 U may also be signed by the AGA of the area instead of the OIC of the police in column police certificate on page 2.

The Gramaseva Officer is the sole authority in handling these identity card system. There is nothing wrong to entrust the police aspect of the case in view of the present pitiful scenes.

It is sincerely hoped that the Commissioner for the Registration of Persons, Colombo 5 will be pleased to consider this reasonable request to ease the sufferings of the affected people. It is also impressing to learn that the said Commissioner is fair to all castes and creeds and has cleared an appreciable number of applications which were pending for a long time.

The present authorised officer of the said department, attached to the Kachcheri, Jaffna, (Mr. Carthi-

gesu) has also sent his retirement papers. It will be appreciated if a kindhearted and hospitable officer like Mr. Carthigesu is sent in his place in order that the work of the said institution may be continued without interruption.

J. Arulanandam
Retired Gramaseva Officer.

Electoral Registers

The Editor
Dear Sir,

It is saddening to observe that the annual revision for the electoral registers of the north east province has not been properly done since 1987 enumeration, as statutorily done by the Department of Elections throughout the Island.

As a result of this lapse plenty of youths who have reached the required age of 18 years on first of June 1987 and those who have returned to their homes from many parts of the island and from abroad, mostly on retirement, have been deprived of their civic right. It is estimated that more than 125000 eligible voters have been deprived from the said registers, since 1987.

The election department simply copied the original certified voters list at Colombo for the years 1987, 1988, 1989, 1990, just to show that the electoral revisions have been completed and certified. This may be another world record, in the entire election system of the whole world. Some arrangements should have been made to enumerate the said unfortunate people.

Most of the people are not at all interested to get their names registered in the voters registers. But they are very very interested to get the provision cards even under the air attacks, hot sun or rain. The department of election may assert that they gave the maximum publicity through the mass media to register the voters in the respective elections offices. It will be appreciated if the people are to compelled to register their franchise on a specified form with deterrent punishment, as done in many countries. The present Gramaseva Officer and special enumerators system to register the voters is an eye wash and there are plenty of loopholes. I know a gramaseva officer who was out of the country was able to return all his enumeration documents earlier than the dateline. He simply signed all the relevant forms and gave it to his wife and some trusted friend. They completed all the particulars from the previous year registers, forged the signatures of the chief occupants, bundled

the forms according to the wards and returned it to the regional elections office. They had only to add one year more to the previous year enumeration forms.

There had been incidents of willful omission of the voters with some petty excuses to take political revenge. Plenty of non-existent names were also found in the said voters lists. There were various complaints of such irresponsible action by some cunning enumerators. Plenty of persons who have acquired citizenship in the western countries also enjoy voting rights in this island. It is estimated that some one million adults are out of the Island. These persons' votes will be definitely used by some professional impersonators during the elections. I know some people who had no votes voted not only once, but twice, thrice

Yours respectfully,
J. Arulanandam.

Reputed Distributors of Rubbish

The Editor,
Dear Sir,

Every week you publish the letters to Premadasa, sent by the Citizen's Committee of Jaffna. Those letters are interesting, give us many details show the woes of Tamils but finally they put me into the mood of anger at the Citizen's Committee which writes everyone of those letters.

Why? Because the Sinhala Government has been killing the innocent Tamil people since Independence was given by the British Colonial Masters and now it is known to the whole world. But even last week the Citizen's Committee has sent a letter

Vanni...

(Continuation of Page 2)

of Sri Lanka have been targets of direct attack by bombers of the Sri Lankan Air Force.

The Mullaitivu Base Hospital was ransacked by the heroes of the Sri Lankan Army. Drugs, medicines, equipments and furniture were robbed by these heroes - staff and patients having fled the hospital at the approach of these marauding murderers.

Not content with the havoc already done, the Sri Lanka Air Force planes bombed this hospital causing heavy damage to the buildings. This hospital - the premier hospital in the Mullaitivu District - does not function.

So too the Mankulam Base Hospital was subject to severe air bombing by Sri Lankan Air Force planes.

to Premadasa saying "you are hitting us" and "you are killing us". What kind of joke is this?

I think the Citizen's Committee is "reputed distributors of rubbish" to Premadasa's office table dustbin.

P. Logamanyan
Chavakachcheri

Compensation for Licensed Guns

The Editor,
Dear Sir,

In 1977, the Sri Lankan Government called upon all those who had licensed guns to surrender them. We did so in the hope of getting them back. Now more than 13 years have passed. I understand that these guns have been distributed to Home Guards and other Government Agencies.

These guns are our private properties and as such since they have not been returned, Government should pay compensation to the owners. I hope this matter will be taken up by some M.P. or G.A. and see that the legitimate owners are paid their dues.

When the bus companies were taken over, they were paid; when estates were taken over, they were also paid.

Then why, when the properties of Tamils are taken over, they are not paid? Are we the slaves of Sinhalese or do they feel that we belong to an inferior community and as such we need not be paid? Justice must be done. We should be paid.

A.R. Rajasingham
Chavakachcheri

This hospital has been completely destroyed.

The Iranai Illuppaikulam hospital was also subjected to bombing from the air. This hospital does not function now.

The hospital at Mallavi too was hit by Air Force planes on a number of occasions. Somehow staff are carrying out very restricted treatment from those portions which escaped the wrath of the bombers.

Kilinochchi Hospital was also bombed but is now functioning with difficulty.

So all these five hospitals in the Vanni District were all direct targets of Air Force bombing.

One is constrained to ask whether the Minister for War is at war with the Minister of Health.

Justice in Lanka

Justice in Lanka
In many kinds!
Justice in Lanka
Here some kind!!

Construction of houses
In South and West!
Destruction of houses
In North and East!!

Opening of model villages
In South and West!
Opening of refugee camps
In North and East!!

Rise of new towns
In South and West!
Rise of more tombs
In North and East!!

Growth of wisdom
In South and West!
Grave for wisdom
In North and East!!

Milk and honey
In South and West!
Blood and tears
In North and East!!

Rights for people
In South and West!
Raids on people
In North and East!!

Bunds from IMF
For South and West!
Bombs from IMF
For North and East!!

Government by ballots
In South and West!
Government by bullets
In North and East!!

People in bungalows
In South and West!
People in bunkers
In North and East!!

People in cheers
In South and West!
People in fears
In North and East!!

Fighting for rice
In South and West!
Fighting for rights
In North and East!!

Preach of "Pirith"
In South and West!
Breach of peace
In North and East!!

List is long
Limit my duty
List them along
It's your duty!!

— Saravanas

Sri Lankan Skill at identification!

The following are excerpts from the Daily News of 8th February, 1991:-

Q: What about the air raids?

A: I told you, air raids are only against identified LTTE targets.

Q: There is evidence that civilian places like temples and schools have been bombed?

A: Temples and schools are not targets. There might be accidental hits somewhere. The problem is they cannot be identified.

Q: In the past six or seven days, five or six temples and schools have been hit. There is no question of making mistakes.

A: We have told our officers that they should be careful. They know the area quite well and there should be no question of any mistake.

Q: There are instances of refugee camps being hit?

A: Where?

Q: At Kokuvil, at Mullaitivu, Is it not deliberate?

A: Never, It might be by mistake. We will convey this to the Commanders, so that such mistakes will not be repeated.

Q: So many such accidents have happened. It looks as though it has become a practice. Have you no control over your men?

A: We have control over our men. We are at war. Remember that we are not playing marbles.

Q: In the process you are killing civilians?

A: I have said we are fighting a war. In a war it sometimes happens. What is happening in Iraq?

Q: We are not talking about Iraq. We are talking about Sri Lanka.

A: War is war everywhere. We are fighting a war. We are fighting to a finish.

Mr. Ranjan Wijeratne, State Minister had met the Press and excerpts from the Questions and Answers at the Press Conference are given above.

It would appear from answer to question one above that air raids are only against IDENTIFIED LTTE targets.

We take it that the forces have indentified their targets before the attack and they have identified them as LTTE 'hideouts'. Surely the forces must be congratulated for their skill at identification of LTTE hideouts when as Mr. Wijeratne himself pathetically admits that they have no control of the territory.

The Sri Lankan Army and Navy are confined to a few camps in the North and from the safety of these camps launch artillery shell attacks when and where it pleases them. The Air Force only roams the skies and bombs from above. There is not even the Police functioning. In these circumstances, the forces deserve congratulations, if they really indentify LTTE 'hideouts and targets'.

But when one is inclined to congratulate the Sri Lankan Forces for the reported skill at identification, the Minister himself dampens that enthusiasm with his own statement.

In answer to question 2 above, Minister Ranjan Wijeratne has said: "The problem is they (meaning temples and schools) cannot be indentified".

Hindu temples as much as other temples are easily identifiable. Most Hindu Temples have structures that are called 'Gopurams' which are very tall. A Temple or a School is the most easily identifiable place in any locality

and this is known even to a child. But Minister Wijeratne says that these public places cannot be identified and he wants the press to believe that his men identify 'LTTE hide-outs' but not public places of worship or education. It is beyond anyone's comprehension how the Sri Lankan forces that cannot identify temples and schools, are able to identify LTTE 'hide-outs' and carry out air raids against those targets.

So when one reads Mr. Wijeratne's answers to the pressmen's questions, one is convinced of the charges made by the public in the North that air bombing is indiscriminate, carried out only on civilian dwellings, business places or other like public institutions and that the Government of Sri Lanka carries out a war of destruction of Tamil Eelam and its people and not against the LTTE, as it makes out for public consumption to hide its heinous crime. The questions and answers above show the jumbles in which Mr. Wijeratne found himself at the Press Conference.

When Pressmen said that there was no question of making mistakes, he said that he had told his officers that they should be careful but hastened to add that his men knew the area quite well and there should be no question of any mistakes.

THE PERVERT COLOMBO PRESS

It is reported that the newspapers published in Colombo have advised the Government to avoid suffering heavy casualties and to negotiate with the LTTE and reach a political settlement to the ethnic problem. This advice has come consequent to the death of 48 soldiers when the LTTE attacked them in Kondachi recently.

When Tamils are being subjected to the horrors of an unjust war, thrust upon them by an intransigent chauvinist Sinhala Government, the Press in Co'ombo does not think fit to advise the Government to reach a negotiated settlement. The Press has been abetting the misrule of the Sinhalese and basking itself in propagating Sinhala chauvinism. For decades together, when Tamils have been progressively denied their fundamental rights, the Press had not cautioned the Government. When the fabric of a United

Does this answer not expose the Government? Does this answer not substantiate the public charge that air bombing of civilian targets is deliberate? If Mr. Wijeratne's men knew the area well and there should be no question of mistakes, were not all the bombings of civilian targets deliberate?

What happened at Valvetiturai? Over thousand houses, temples, schools and hospitals were damaged. Even according to the Government Agent of Jaffna ninety percent of civilian houses in that small town were damaged. Not a single LTTE target came in for attack.

Mr. Ranjan Wijeratne says his men know the area, they identify LTTE targets, they cannot identify public places such as Temples or schools, they cannot make mistakes, but if cornered with questions, he will pass off everything as a mistake and justify all his 'mistakes' - nay misdeeds - as inevitable consequences of a major war - as the Gulf War - but if some foreign nation draws attention to what is happening here - to the genocide of the Tamils - he and his Government will promptly say that the matter is an internal affair in which others need not poke their fingers

So much in this muddled thinking of a Baudha Sinhala imperialist head!

-A. Selliah

Are those passengers to Jaffna, Escapees from Government atrocities?

In reply to a question from the Press as to how there were only 500 people in the Vavuniya Refugee Camp, Minister Ranjan Wijeratne said that there was a large movement of people. He added: 'Some people go to Colombo, others go back to Jaffna.'

He was reported earlier

as having said that the Tamils have gone into Colombo from Jaffna unable to bear the Tiger atrocities. Now he says, "Others go back to Jaffna". So is it that those who go back to Jaffna, find Colombo worse and want to escape from the atrocities perpetrated by Minister Wijeratne's Government?

In Vavuniya Suburb

Artillery Shell Attacks cause havoc

Sri Lankan Army stationed at Vavuniya launched heavy and indiscriminate artillery shell attack on the suburban villages of the North of Vavuniya town in its attempt to proceed North of Vavuniya on the 10th of February, 1991.

As a result of this artillery shell attack, the Pillaiyiar Temple was damaged. 30 houses in the Puthukulam

village were also damaged by shell attacks. Twenty five cattle in this village were killed and over 50 were injured.

3 houses in the village of Sasthirikoolankulam were

also damaged by shell attacks. The owners of these house are ordinary civilians. They are Kumarasingham, Sivanadiyar and Shanmugam Bala Michael, all of Sasthirikoolankulam.

Three Houses Completely Destroyed by Bombers

The houses of three non-combatant civilians in the suburbs of Vavuniya town were completely destroyed by bomb attacks made by the Sri Lankan Air Force planes, when they provided the so-called "air cover" for the Sri Lankan Army on the 10th of February, 1991, when the latter made attempts to push further North on the road to Jaffna from Vavuniya.

One house belonged to Arulampalam of Neryakulam. Another house belonged to certain Ratnam of Puthukulam. The third in which business was being carried on in the name of "Thevan Stores" is in the village of Sasthirikoolankulam.

All three buildings were completely destroyed but the inmates escaped injury as they had fled the houses at the approach of the bombers.

Victims of Shell Attack

Ahilapody Parwathy (35), a married woman with seven children and Ledchumy (32) also a married woman with three children both of Vantharumoolai in the Batticaloa District, died as a result of artillery shell attack by the Sri Lankan Army on 21st January, 1991.

Sri Lanka was being torn apart, by petty, self-seeking and short-sighted Sinhala Buddhist politicians and the Tamils were being driven to reach the conclusion that separatism was the only way out for them, What was The Press doing?

The thrust of the present war is against the Tamil civilians. Thousands of civilians are being killed daily; their private and public wealth are being destroyed; their Temples and Churches are being deliberately bombed and desecrated; they are subject to a continuous economic embargo. All these acts are being done by a deranged Government that must be taken to task for its war crimes and for all its criminal acts. Yet the Colombo Press have not cared to caution the Government. Only when Sinhala soldiers get killed that the Press expresses its concern.

Is this fair for the 'Enlightened National Press?'

- S. Selvarajah

HOT SPRING

VOL: 1 SUNDAY 3:d. MAR. 1991 ISSUE 21

Evacuation or Emigration ?

Mr. Ranjan Wijeratne, State Minister for Defence of the Government of Sri Lanka is reported to have repeated his call to the people of the Jaffna District to move out of their homes. He is reported to have made this call at a Press Conference held in Colombo in the first week of last month.

Reports have also been received that the State Minister has called upon the refugees in Madhu Church to move out of the Refugee Camp there and go to the Island of Mannar or Vavuniya town and that his Air Force helicopters have dropped notices to that effect from the skies.

These reports also say that independent international relief organisations like the UNHCR and the ICRC have said that the Government's call, asking the refugees in Madhu to vacate that area, is not a feasible proposition.

The State Minister has also said at the Press Conference in the first week of February, 1991 that if the people of Jaffna 'want to live', they must move out. According to him the whole of Jaffna should be vacated.

He has also given a grim reminder to the Tamil people that they should 'understand by now that it is not safe to be in areas where the LTTE is operating'. According to Mr. Ranjan Wijeratne, the evacuation of the whole of Jaffna by all the people is necessary to carry out his 'fight to the finish' with LTTE.

Of course Mr. Wijeratne has also boasted that they (the Government) have already looked after a million refugees.

According to Mr. Wijeratne the people of Jaffna are being used as hostages by the LTTE. They are being used as human shields. The LTTE is hiding behind old men and children.

We shall not grudge Mr. Wijeratne carrying out his tirade against the LTTE for his self-satisfaction.

But we ask Mr. Wijeratne what right he has to ask us Tamils to leave our own homeland - a land where not only we but our forefathers had lived and died from days beyond human memory? What right has this man from Ruhuna to ask us Tamils to leave our homeland of Eelam? We are not in his country to be kicked out and chased by him as he desires.

A naked aggressor may ask a people to get out of their homeland - but Mr. Wijeratne does not admit he is an aggressor. On the other hand he reiterates his being a democrat. What democrat will ask the people of a country to leave their own country?

We tell Mr. Wijeratne and his Government that they have no right whatsoever to ask the people to evacuate their homeland.

We reiterate that Mr. Wijeratne and his Government have no moral or legal right to rule Tamil Eelam or its people. The Government of Sri Lanka claims the right to rule Tamil Eelam and its people only by perpetrating a fraud. We have not submitted to Sinhala rule by consent or conquest.

If Mr. Wijeratne and his Government wants to 'fight to a finish', the unfortunate decision is theirs.

We know the atrocities committed on Tamil refugees in refugee Camps in the Amparai, Batticaloa and Trincomalee Districts.

We, however, ask Mr. Wijeratne why the civilians should evacuate their homes when the Sinhala Army may try to win the LTTE by fighting them. The LTTE is not hiding behind 'old men and children' They are before the very eyes of the Sri Lanka Army which is confident in the security of its camps.

So the only thing Minister Wijeratne has to do is to get his men move forward to get at the LTTE and not retreat by the backdoor as he ordered his men to do in Jaffna Fort and said something quite different to the Sinhalese people.

We reiterate that the LTTE and the Sinhala Army may fight the war, if it is the unfortunate choice. But the civilians need not evacuate. Nor need their houses, shops and other possessions destroyed by bombing and artillery shell attacks.

The combatants are face to face. Why should the non-combatants suffer?

Students' Demonstration -

PROTESTS AGAINST KILLING OF PRINCIPALS OF SCHOOLS

Students and Teachers from all over the Jaffna District including students attached to the University of Jaffna, walked out of their classes on Friday the 1st March to join in a demonstration and rally to protest against the wanton killing of some school Principals in the Mannar District.

Following the killing of 49 soldiers of the Sri Lankan Army by the LTTE in Kondachchi in the Mannar District, the Sri Lankan Army arrested a large number of Tamil persons on whom they could lay their hands. Those arrested, included three principals of some schools in the Mannar District.

These three principals who were from the village of Vankalai, had gone to Mannar town to draw the salaries of teachers. On the way they were nabbed by the Army and taken to Army Camp. They were killed there in retaliation to the killing of 49 soldiers. The fate of others so arrested, is not known.

Earlier there were similar demonstrations in the Mannar District, protesting against the killing of school Heads.

Friday's demonstration was called out by a Students' Organization. The All Ceylon Tamil Teachers' Union also exhorted its members to

participate in the demonstration and support the students.

Reports from other Divisions within the Jaffna District indicate that there were similar demonstrations in Vadamardchchy, Thenmaradchchy, Islands Division and also in the Killinochchi District.

The demonstrators carried placards and slogans calling for a stoppage of killings. The demonstrators also shouted slogans calling for the holding of G.C.E. Examination both Advanced and Ordinary Levels which were not held in August and December, 1990 when they were respectively due.

The demonstration was followed by a rally.

NEWS ROUND UP

2. 2. 91

At Manalpitty in Batticaloa District Army shot mother and daughter during search operations. Mother dead daughter injured.

3. 2. 91

At Vavuniya - Helicopter straffing. A woman named Mrs Sivakauripillai (50) and Kulam (40) injured and admitted to hospital.

6. 2. 91

At Kollankalladdy-Bomber attack one woman died. The following ten were injured: Rajapoopathy (09) Rudrakumar (40) Jegathajenani (04) Tharshini (01) Jegatheeswaran (37) Anusha (08) Ganeshwaran (4) Vaitheeswaran (41) Prabakaran (35) Thenmolhi (06).

7. 2. 91

At Kalviankaddu, Nallur. Helicopter attack. Shell and gun firing. Sinnathurai (70) and his wife Rasammah (62) and another person injured.

8. 2. 91

At Sasthrikoolankulam, Vavuniya Bomber attack-one person died.

9. 2. 91

Kantharmadam, Jaffna, Bomber attack. A refugee woman from Valikamam North named S. Selvalachumy (36) mother of 4 children died on the spot. 2 persons were injured and more than 7 houses damaged. The injured are Sivasanthiran (35) and Velupillai (70)

At Kokuvil-Bomber attack. Potpathy Pillyar Temple damaged. A primary school,

a shop and more than five private dwelling houses were damaged. A mother and three of her children were injured. The injured are V. Loganayaki (30) and her children Vijitha (14) Gowri (12) and Gokulam.

At Konawalai - bomber attack-three houses damaged.

At Olumadhu, Nedunkerni, Mullaitivu District, Firing from Helicopter one person died.

10. 2. 91

At Kokuvil - bomber attack -S. Varatharajah (41) injured. Three houses damaged.

At Kalviankaddu, Nallur. Bomber attack. One woman Parameswary Sellappa (60) died on the spot. A private dispensary, two houses, a car and a number of cycles damaged.

Atro . . .

(Continuation of Page 1)

Tamil Refugees living in Refugee Camps in Sinhala Army Occupied territories of Tamil Eelam are undergoing great hardships. This is especially so in the Amparai, Batticaloa and Trincomalee Districts where these unfortunate people are also subjected to even greater atrocities at the hands of Muslim thugs called Homeguards, in addition to the Army atrocities. A large number of these unfortunate refugees have even been killed by the Muslim Homeguards.

This list does not include instances of atrocities committed by the Muslim Homeguards. Nor is this list exhaustive of Army atrocities and also does not include Army atrocities in Mannar and Vavuniya Refugee Camps. Some refugees have been killed. Others have been arrested and taken and their whereabouts are not known. They are "missing".

Note:- Atrocities outside. Refugee Camps are not included in this list.