

# HOT SPRING

Vol. 3

25th July 1993

No. 41

## You Will Never Conquer

You think when you have slain me, you will conquer France but that will never do. Though there were a hundred thousand God-dammes more in France than there, they will never conquer that kingdom.

Joan of Arc

### TORTURE DENS:

## Tamil Detenus Burnt Alive!

## Chests Pierced with Crow-bars!!

### RELEASED DETENUS REVEAL HORRIFIC LIFE AT PALALY AND OTHER SRI LANKAN CAMPS

Tamil civilians arrested by Sri Lankan armed forces and kept under detention have been subjected to severe torture while under detention. Some have been killed brutally. Some have been even burnt alive. The atrocities in Sri Lankan detention camps have come to light as a result some of the detenus now released, relating their experiences to pressmen in Jaffna.

According to reports, Augustine, a detenu from the Pallegala camp, who was released last week said he was fishing in Kalmunai sea when he was arrested by the Sri Lankan Navy.

Augustine said that the Palaly Army Camp was a torture den. About 350 Tamils were arrested by the Sri Lankan forces and kept in detention at the Palaly Army Camp. During his incarceration there, only about 15 have escaped gruesome murder at the hands of the Sinhala soldiers.

Describing a specific instance, he told local newspaper reporters that some persons who were bringing Indian

goods, were arrested by the Sri Lankan Navy. There was a Muslim in the group called Nana. He was a smuggler in narcotics. Out of fear for his own life and hoping to obtain release, he had told the Sri Lankan soldiers that others in the group were LTTE men.

There were 12 of them. The eyes of all the twelve were bound with cloth and all of them put alive on burning tyres and burnt to death.

Augustine had also told news men that some of the arrested persons were tied to trees and their chests pierced with crow-bars. They were killed in this cruel

manner. Augustine further said that he was detained at Palaly Army Camp for 8 months after an initial detention at the Karainagar Sri Lankan Naval Camp for 8 days. From the Palaly Camp he was sent to the Kalutara Camp where he was detained for seven months. Thereafter he was sent to the Pallegala Camp where he was detained for 4 months before he was finally released.

Soosaipillai Jesudas (32) another released fisherman also had told newsmen that he was arrested on 25.2.91 when he went to the Munai sea off Point Pedro for fishing. He too was handed over to the Sri Lankan Navy at Karainagar. According to Soosaipillai Jesudas, he was subjected to unbearable assault and torture there. He had been tied upside down into the bathing water tank of the naval ratings.

(Continued on Page 4)

### NAVY FIRES INTO RESIDENTIAL AREAS

Sri Lankan Naval vessels in the sea off Valvettiturai sent volleys of fire directed towards residential areas in Valvettiturai.

The firing itself took place at most untimely hours. On Friday July 16 early at 2.00 a.m. suddenly volleys of fire were rained on many houses in Valvettiturai. Again on the early morning of Sunday, July

18 about 4.00 residents of Valvettiturai were broken up from their sleep when missiles hit many residences. Many houses were damaged on both days. Residents of Valvettiturai remarked that the Sri Lankan Navy did not seem to wage a naval battle against the Sea Tigers but was only trying to destroy property and kill civilians in their houses.

### 2 FISHERMEN ARRESTED AT ARALY SEA

Two fishermen who were fishing at Kottakkadu sea off Araly, are reported to have been arrested by the Sri Lankan Navy.

The report in this connection stated that fishermen from Araly had gone out fishing on the night of Friday, July 16. When they were fishing they saw speed boats of the Sri Lankan

Navy approaching. This was in the early hours of the morning of Saturday, July 17

Seeing the Naval Boats, the fishermen hurried back to coast but the Sri Lankan Navy had surrounded two men and taken them into custody.

The fate of the two arrested fishermen is not known.

### ANOTHER BOMBER VICTIM DIES

Arumugam Arulanantham (42) of Urithirapuram in Kilinochchi, died at the Jaffna Hospital on the early morning of Monday, July 19.

Arumugam Arulanantham was admitted to the Jaffna Hospital on Friday, July 16.

with injuries sustained, when Sri Lankan Air Force planes bombed Kilinochchi about 1.00 P.M. on that day.

The Kilinochchi aerial bombardment was reported in last week's Hot Spring.

## QUALITY CONTROL OF SOFT - DRINKS & FRUIT CORDIALS

The Industrial Development Organisation (IDO) has said that soft-drink and fruit-cordial manufacturers have to conform to certain norms of production.

The IDO has issued the following rules in this connection:

1. The use of saccharine is completely prohibited.
2. Prohibited colourings and preservatives should not be used.
3. Factories should maintain health standards.
4. Labels on containers should have the following details:
  - (a) Date of Manufacture.
  - (b) Date of Expiry.
  - (c) Name of manufacturer/organisation and address.
  - (d) Details of ingredients used

- (e) Nett weight of contents
5. If carbon di oxide is used it should be properly sealed.

The Press note issued in this connection states that the Tamil Eelam Police Force

### Civilian Arrested

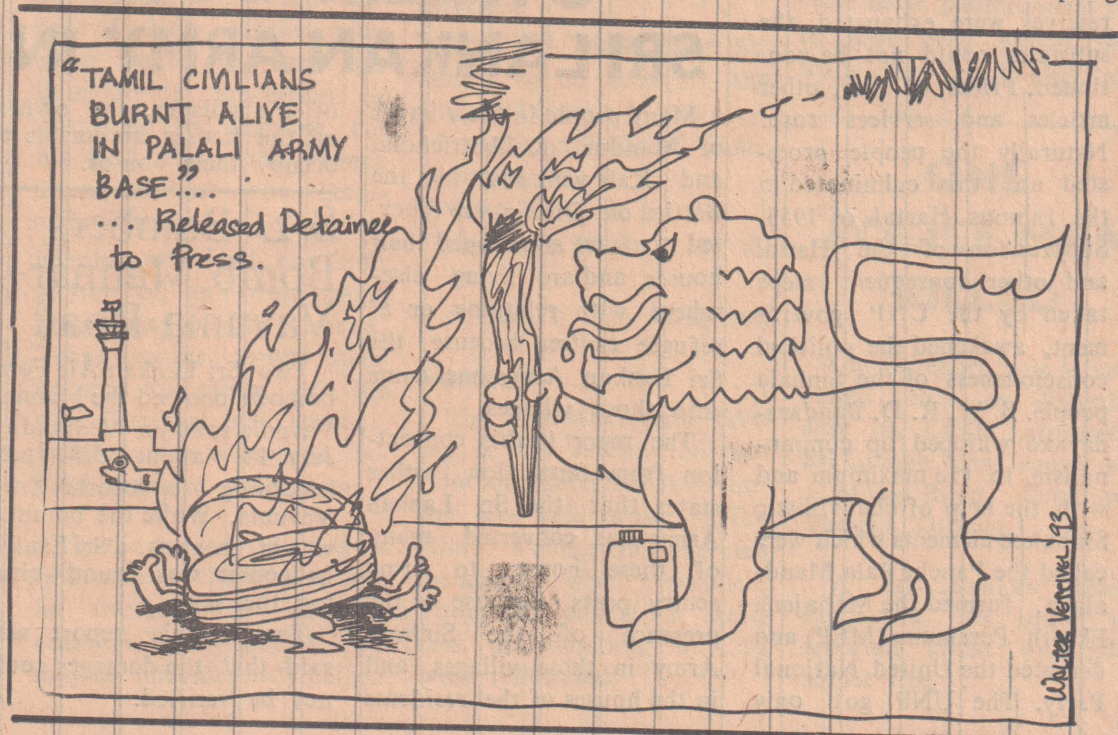
A civilian named Nathan Pavanan of Eechilampattai in the Trincomalee District, was arrested by group of Tamil gangsters.

The incident is reported to have taken place at Karukkaimunai near Eechilampattai on July 11, Sunday.

The report further says that the arrested man was handed over to the Sri Lankan Army.

The arrested man is married and having two children.

will take action against manufacturers who do not conform to these rules relating to quality-control.





# Present Constitution Not Good Enough

Who said that J.R. Jayewardene has retired from politics? He is very much alive and kicking at random in politics exhibiting his frustration and is making up for lost time during which he was compelled to take back seat (during the Presidency of late Ranasinghe Premadasa). Speaking at a seminar, held recently at the Ceylon Moors' Association, he has advised constitution-reformers not to abandon the 1978 Constitution altogether. Constitutions are made to protect and safeguard those who are holding actual political power during a certain period. When the British through circumstances which have nothing to do with freedom struggle of any sort by the Sinhalese, were forced to give up their hold on Ceylon, they transferred their power to the big capitalist and feudal class among the Sinhalese so that they could continue exploitation indirectly through this new regime. That is how the Soulbury Constitution was brought in to serve the neo-colonial needs. That Constitution tolerated British military bases in Katunayake and Trincomalee.

## August 1953 Hartal

The Soulbury Constitution functioned for a decade. It contained entrenched safeguards for the Minorities in the form of Section 29. Time does not stand still. D. S. Senanayake and his crowd ate up all the financial reserves which Ceylon held in U. K. These reserves were accumulated during the Second World War because of the boom in Rubber and Tea which were the main exports at that time. These reserves were used up to provide subsidies on rice and other articles. When these reserves were exhausted, the subsidies could not be continued. Prices of rice, other articles and services rose. Naturally the people protested and this culminated in the famous Hartal of 1953. Suppression of the Hartal and other consequent steps taken by the UNP government, awakened the political consciousness of the Sinhala people. S. W. R. D. Bandaranayake whipped up communalism to the maximum and with the help of chauvinistic Sinhalese elements which were called the Pancha Bala Mandalaya, formed the Mahajana Eksath Peramuna (MEP) and defeated the United National Party. The UNP got only

eight seats in Parliament. The Sinhala Only Act was the vehicle on which S. W. R. D. Bandaranayake rose to power.

## Colvin's Constitution

Bandaranayake found it difficult to cope with the rising chauvinistic nationalism of the Sinhalese who wanted to dominate all spheres of life for themselves and began to oust the Tamils from all their rightful and legitimate areas and positions. Frequent pogroms with the intention of eliminating the Tamils occurred. After the assassination of Bandaranayake, Ceylon was ruled by both the Bandaranayake and Senanayake families. In 1970 the so-called Leftists sacrificed all they stood for and formed a United Front government under the leadership of Mrs. Bandaranayake. It is this United Front government that abolished the Soulbury Constitution. They found that the chauvinistic aspirations of the Sinhalese could not be fulfilled under the Soulbury Constitution because of the purported Entrenched Clause - Section 29. The members of the above government formed themselves into a Constituent Assembly and brought about a new constitution.

Batty Weerakone, General Secretary of the Federation of Labour of the LSSP too participated at the seminar where Mr. J. R. Jayewardene spoke. Mr. Weerakone commenting on the present constitution said that it could not be re-moulded or tinkered with but that it should be abandoned altogether because it had helped to

create a dictatorship. Has Mr. Weerakone even an iota of right to speak about dictatorship or anything about any constitution? Has he forgotten that it was his party, the LSSP and his leader, Dr. Colvin R. de Silva who abolished the Constitution and brought in a new one in 1972 despite the opposition of the Tamils? Did he not take away the only purported safeguard to the Tamil people entrenched in Section 29 of the Soulbury Constitution? He purposely did so because of

## S. Thiyagarajah

the famous Kodeeswaran Privy Council Case to eliminate the Tamils from their legitimate positions. In the circumstances, Mr. Weerakone has no moral right to speak about dictatorship etc.

## 'Conscience'

Prof. G. L. Pieris who too participated in the same seminar, was critical of the present constitution. He stressed that the Executive has swallowed up Parliament and that Members of Parliament could not vote according to their 'Conscience', as is provided for in several European Constitutions. These learned people come out with words like 'conscience' etc. to make fools of the people. Dr. Neville Fernando formerly of the UNP and presently of the SLFP, who has given notice of a motion in Parliament to allow Members of Parliament to cross over to other parties, if they so wish, acting according to their

## Civilian Houses:

# OWNERS OUT - SRI LANKAN ARMY IN

Many people in the villages of Mandur, Kokkatticholai and Kalvankadu in the Batticaloa District are reported to have abandoned their houses and are living elsewhere with relations or at refugee centres because the Sri Lankan Army has come into those villages.

The report in this connection from Batticaloa further states that the Sri Lankan Army has converted many of these houses to Army sentry posts. Because of the presence of the Sinhala Army in these villages and in the houses of the residents

of the villages, the owners of the houses are unable to occupy their houses.

## S.L. Bombers Bomb Mannar- Vavunia Road

Two Sri Lankan Air Force bombers bombed the Mannar-Vavunia road on Wednesday, July 14 about 5.30 p.m. according to reports from Vavunia. While the bombing was in progress, a Sri Lankan helicopter was found circling the sky.

The Vavunia report also said that the damages could not be verified.

'consciences' or is he acting according according to the conscience of the UNP to split the SLFP?

## Human Rights

Kumar Ponnampalam who too, was one of the speakers at the abovesaid seminar, was right, when he said that the present Constitution had failed to help the two Presidents who ruled the country under its provisions to solve the ethnic problem. But he should understand that the UNP brought in the new constitution not to solve the ethnic problem but to throttle the rights of the Tamils. By giving pride of place to Buddhism, the Sri Lankan government deviated from secularism. These actions do not spell anything good about the present Constitution. It is not even worth a discussion. J. R. states that in his Constitution, provisions are there to see that fundamental rights are justifiable. Actually this is a joke! Apart from numerous human and fundamental rights violations in Sri Lanka, what is happening in the North East is genocide.

The 'Lanka Guardian', editor, Mervyn de Silva, speaking on the same subject, viewed the present Constitution from two angles, one

economic and the other ethnic. He said that economically the Constitution solved many a problem. Is not the present demand for change in the Constitution coming from a section of the big capitalists who feel that it is not helping them favourably? They feel that during the past fifteen years, it has not served them well. The new Minister for Constitutional Reforms is a typical representative of this class. Does Mr. Silva not know that even the ordinary man is not benefited economically. Free Trade Zone nor the opening-up of a few garment factories do not mean that the economic problems of the people have been solved. Some journalists look at things with a tinted glass.

## Parliament's Sovereignty

The present agitation for a change of the Constitution is a selfishly motivated desire by a section of the Sinhalese elites to concentrate more power in their hands. They are singing a popular song, viz 'Sovereignty back to Parliament'. But everyone knows that Parliament does not represent sovereignty of the people. They want people's participation up to a limit, i. e. up to the Parliament but not thereafter in the Government.

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### July, 3rd. Saturday

About 8.30 a.m. Sri Lankan Army in ambush fired upon LTTE militants who were on their way to Vellavelly in the Batticaloa District, killing one militant. The LTTE too returned the fire but the Army casualty is not known.

### July, 4th. Sunday

When the army ambushed some LTTE cadres on their way to Chillaru in the Trincomalee District, one LTTE militant was killed.

### July, 6th Tuesday

Sebastiampillai (22) received gun-shot in jury in his chest, while fishing in the Pannai lagoon, due to firing by the Navy. This incident happened in the early hours of the morning.

In another incident where the Sri Lankan army ambushed militants who were proceeding towards the 7th milepost in Nilaveli at 9.50 p.m., two militants died.

### July, 8th Thursday

Security forces opened cannon fire towards the coasts of Kilaly and Allipalai. Ferrying of passengers, however, went on without interruption.

### July, 9th Friday

Stringent checks were carried at all check-points approaching Batticaloa Town by a combined force of

Army and Police personnel using metal detectors. Even houses in Town were checked. These stringent measures were imposed because of the impending mobile Presidential Secretariat Service.

### July, 10th Saturday

Civilians heading towards Vavunia Town from the North, were not permitted to approach the City using the main roads. In another incident Security Force sent back four civilians who went towards Vavunia town from the North.

### July, 12th Tuesday

Mandaitivu Sri Lankan Army fires shells from morning till noon. All shells directed towards the coast of Jaffna town.

### July, 13th Tuesday

Heavy gun fire in the Kilal sea for about 15 minutes. Damages not known.

## Shot Dead

A news from Batticaloa stated that on Friday, July 16, Sri Lankan soldiers in ambush shot and killed Shanmugam (44), a trader from Vaharai. The victim was a married man with seven children. The report also said that the Sri Lankan soldiers too removed with them the body of the victim.



# Ten Years After The Holocaust

## OR Thoughts for an Anniversary

23rd. July 1993 is a day of remembrance because exactly ten years ago something tragic happened. It was not the beginning of the ethnic conflict nor yet another break out of State terrorism against the Tamils. It was the greatest turning point of the Sri Lankan government with its forces against all the Tamils of Sri Lanka and it was the last of the many signals given by the majority that the Tamils can survive in Sri Lanka only in subordination to the Sinhalese.

From 5th, June 1956 onwards, with the passage of the infamous Sinhala Only Bill in Parliament, the racial discrimination had officially started. To every form of democratic Tamil opposition (including satyagraha and other peace protests) to Sinhala discrimination and aggression, there was an outburst of Sinhala Terrorism against innocent and unarmed Tamils especially those living in the South. Between 1956 and 1983 there were at least four such mass violence against innocent Tamils living in the South. These have left thousands of Tamils dead, wounded, homeless and displaced. Even the Satyagrahas of the North and East were aggressively terrorized and broken by the Army stationed here in the Jaffna and in other areas of the East.

### Arrogant Refusal to Accept Truth of History

On the 23rd. of July 1983, Tamil militancy reacted for the first time openly to State Terrorism in the North by killing 13 soldiers who openly terrorized and violated young Tamil women. Even today for the majority of Sinhalese, the killing of the 13 soldiers is falsely shown as the starting point of all Tamil violence. Little do they know of the crimes of these soldiers. Anyhow this killing of the 13 soldiers was enough to ignite the already inflammable Sinhala Terrorism against the unarmed civilian Tamils all over the Island, be it in the capital Colombo or in the hill town of Nuwara Eliya or in the lower regions of Badulla. All Tamils were mercilessly dragged to the street and brutally killed and their property destroyed or stolen under the nose of conniving state forces. It was a holocaust or an ethnic cleansing against the Tamils.

23rd JULY 1983 - 23rd JULY 1993

It is a futile exercise on the part of the Sinhala government and the Sinhala people trying to deny or forget all the injustices and discriminations inflicted on the Tamils during the past 40 years. It is an arrogant refusal to accept even the truth of recent history beyond 1983. It was no less a person than President Wijetunge who soon after taking office, in spite of his grey-haired political career, made the world laugh by saying that there is no Tamil problem in Sri Lanka, it was only a problem of Tamil Terrorism!

On the 19th. of July 1983, some religious dignitaries met the then President Jayawardene and alerted him of the growing tension as a threat for peace. The latter appears to have told the former, "I am like a man seated on a bomb about to burst". It burst three days later. And it was an Island-wide pogrom, holocaust, extermination, genocide of all that was Tamil in the South. Only after about a week this mass extermination was brought under control by the State forces. It was only the late Anglican Bishop Lakshman Wickremesinghe of Kurunegala who had the unique courage of a Sinhala religious leader to admit shame and apologise to the Tamils on behalf of his Sinhala brethren. Neither the government nor any religious leader of the South has ever expressed such sorrow or tendered apology for the crimes against a helpless people.

Since that day, ten years have passed. What has happened to the Sri Lankan Tamils during these ten years could not have happened even during a century of history. Many thousands of youth and innocent civilians have been brutally massacred, their property destroyed, many thousands made homeless, many thousands among whom were hundreds of qualified and skilled people made to flee from here to foreign lands where they have become almost like beggars and thieves, and still worse the remaining helpless population of Tamils here have been treated with scorn denying every human right for sustenance and survival -

no education, travel, health facilities etc. etc. More than the visible deaths and killings, it is the slow but determined starvation to death of the million in the Jaffna Peninsula that becomes the peak of Sinhala oppression.

### Flirtation with forces of evil

Politicians have blundered and plundered because none among them was a statesman. Even responsible religious leaders have staggered and faltered, in their stance for ethnic truth and justice. While the oppressed Tamil Nation was drowning in death, destruction and despair, the power-hungry politicians flirted with the forces of evil and never came near truth and justice. Some social and religious leaders played second fiddle to the former. All Party Conferences, Summit Talks and talks of Cease-Fires from time to time to deceive both the easily deceivable Sri Lankans and the western weapon-benefactors were all ill-motivated.

### S. Ratnarajah

We have moved far away and nowhere near any solution. The problem has aggravated and the leaders are still playing their fiddle.

Today the war is raging in all areas of the North and East. Hundreds are dying and still more are wounded badly for life. But still the war is not the meeting point of evil forces. The young Tamil boys and the Sinhalese soldiers who are facing each other for life and death are not the evil persons. In fact, the poor Sinhala soldier who either wants to earn his living by a profession or misguided as fighting for his land and the young Tamil militant who heroically dies in defending his people and land are both victims of an irresponsible government of Sri Lanka. These youths could easily become the saints of the day. The real evil personifications are elsewhere, behind them or over them.

We who are still surviving on both sides of the divide, may be unconsciously labelling ourselves as innocents. We may be unconsciously helped

by the media moved to a state of emotionalism in which we may rejoice or weep by comparing figures of death and destruction on both sides. But that is not the right thing.

### Atrocious label by a Sinhala Government

By our passivity of the past we have fueled a war of death and destruction. In the South it is the evil-scheming politicians and power-seeking leaders from social and religious ranks. By their arrogance and stubbornness of heart and mind, they have led the Sinhala people to a racial war against the Tamils. In the North and East, power-hungry politicians who fell for the plums of office in the Sinhala government faltered in their leadership of the Tamils. As a result a helpless and discriminated youth took up arms to defend their rights and their homeland. The demand for Eelam and defence of a homeland for Tamils were caused by the prolonged injustice and discrimination by the oppressive Sinhala chauvinists. This fight of the

Tamils for human rights of a people has been atrociously labelled by the Sinhala government as Terrorism! How else could they get their begging bowl filled in Paris if not by such criminal lies!

We who are still surviving this war of destruction as a determined people, imprisoned for the last three years by an inhuman embargo on the essentials for life and forced into a slow-death-chamber are charged justifiably with lot of anger, hatred and despair. The events of the day could force us into depths of depression and even help breed evil thoughts. But let us not give into such weaknesses. Even if we feel that we are in the midst of a wilderness without any sight of the promised peace for the Tamil people, let us stand as one determined people weathering the onslaughts of the enemy. Truth will triumph and freedom will be ours. Let patience, love and hope be strengthened in us. The breadth in our reading and understanding of the situation and events and the depth of profitable reflection we make out of them must give us spiritual strength to persevere in this war for truth, freedom, justice and peace.

## TAMILS IN BATTICALOA, POLONNARUWA BORDER AREAS ABDUCTED

A report in the local papers stated that over 200 Tamils in border areas between Batticaloa and Polonnaruwa Districts have been abducted within the last four weeks.

According to the reports a teacher by name Pathma-

nathan, a rich man named Sothinathan, Dr. Sivarajah of Mannampiddy Government Dispensary, school principals by name Kanapathy (53), Anandarajah (45) and a teacher by name Thiruchelvam, Thangarajah (28) are some of the persons identified as being abducted.

Some persons who abducted these people, were said to have been in uniforms while other were in civil dress.

## SPORTS

### Cricket

Kokkuvil Hindu beat St. John's by 86 runs in the Under 15 Cricket Match played at the grounds of Canagaratnam M. V.

#### Scores:-

Kokkuvil Hindu - 184 all out.

St John's - 98 all out.

### Football

The Annual General Meeting of the Jaffna District Football Referees' Association was held at the Jaffna Hindu College Hall and new members were enrolled. Those who passed the Referees' Examination in 1992 were felicitated.

## ONE POLICE MAN KILLED

A news report from Vavunia stated that on Saturday, July 10, LTTE attacked a Sri Lankan Army sentry post at Manal Road, Mamaduwa, Vavunia District.

A Sri Lankan Reserve Policeman on duty was reported killed by LTTE sniper fire.



# HOT SPRING

VOL: 3 Sunday 25th July 1993 ISSUE: 41

## AN EVENTFUL DECADE

The decade ending July 1993 is an eventful period in the history of Tamil Eelam.

On the 23rd July, 1983 the LTTE ambushed Sri Lankan Army and killed 13 of them in the heart of Jaffna. That set in motion a new course and assured the people of Tamil Eelam that the murderous Sinhala army can be contained and should be contained.

The killing of the Sinhala soldiers at Jaffna was made use of by the J. R. Jayawardhene Government to carry out a pogrom against the Tamils in Sinhala Rata but the Government-backed pogrom of 1983 also had reverse effects which J. R. Jayawardhene could not suppress.

About six years earlier in 1977, he had carried out a pogrom against the Tamils in order to cow them down and teach them a lesson for demanding Tamil Eelam but that pogrom did not put the Tamils off their path and so a bigger and more cruel pogrom was let loose in 1983. The 1983 pogrom, however, exposed the false Sinhala claims.

The world became aware for the first time of Sinhala chauvinism. It became aware of the genocide of the Tamils in the island. During this decade the plight of the Tamils came to be discussed in international forums including the General Assembly of the United Nations Organisation. The decade ending 1993, therefore, has been an eventful period in bringing Tamil Eelam problem to the knowledge of the world. A sympathetic world opinion will be a great asset to the Tamil Eelam War of Independence.

This decade also saw the Tamil youths deciding to dedicate themselves entirely to the cause of Tamil freedom and the Sinhala imperialist armed forces which were reigning supreme and imposing a reign of terror in in Tamil Eelam being completely driven out from many areas of Tamil Eelam and being put on the defensive in the rest.

The strength of the freedom fighters greatly increased during this period so much so that the LTTE which started as a small group of guerrilla fighters has increased its support and strength which has led it up to the position of even being able to shoot down enemy planes and drive out Sri Lankan Naval vessels.

This decade also saw how some of the rulers of India sought to manipulate the tragic events in Tamil Eelam to serve their selfish interests. The military occupation of Tamil Eelam by the armed forces of the super regional power had to return to India without being able to achieve the Indian ruling class elite's desire to control both Tamil Eelam and Sinhala Rata for the benefit of the ruling class in India. The Indian episode in Tamil Eelam history during this decade amply demonstrates that freedom fight does not retract but will march forward until freedom is won.

This decade also brought to the knowledge of the world the determination of the Sinhala imperialists to retain in their hands the power to rule Tamil Eelam. The Sinhala Government has spent not only most of its vital resources to build its war machinery against the Tamils but had fraudulently made use of foreign aid too to build itself militarily solely for the purpose of keeping Tamil Eelam under its rule. This decade saw not only how the Sinhala imperialists would make alignments even with their enemies to suppress the Tamils but it also saw that all such unholy alliances to suppress the legitimate desire of a people to be free are bound to fail despite the heavy loss to life and property. Eelam Tamils have lost properties and priceless lives but not their determination to be free.

This decade has its debit side of the story in the emigration of large numbers of Eelam Tamils as refugees to almost all parts of the world. Eelam Tamils ran away during this period forsaking their property and people to save their lives. The large exodus of Tamil refugees from the land of their forefathers and their unhappy lives in refugee camps is a matter for regret.

The marriage of convenience of Sinhala Rata and Tamil Eelam made by British imperialism stands marred by Sinhala imperialism and awaits the pronouncement of a formal divorce at the end of an eventful decade in Tamil Eelam history.

## Sinhala Policemen To Re-Start Hunger Strike

DEADLINE - JULY 29

The thirty-three Sinhala policemen in LTTE custody will undertake a fast again from the 29th of this month, if the Government of Sri Lanka fails to obtain their release before then. Letters conveying their decision signed by all the 33 prisoners have been sent to all concerned, through the ICRC.

The decision of the policemen in custody was conveyed to the pressmen by the relatives of these prisoners, who are still in Jaffna. They said the letter signed by the 33 prisoners was handed over to ICRC Team in Jaffna on July 22, Thursday.

The relatives also said that some of them propose to leave for Colombo with the letters and seek the assistance of important persons to intervene and persuade the Government of Sri Lanka to move in the matter.

It will be recalled that these Sinhala policemen who were taken prisoners by the LTTE on 15.6.90 at the

### Tamil Detenus...

(Continuation from Page 1)

According to Jesudas, he was handed over to the Palaly Army Camp a few days later on March 10. He was at the Palaly Army Camp for about one and a half years. During this period he and other detenus were subjected to severe torture frequently.

Jesudas added that even food was not provided regularly and he had eaten leaves from a nearby margosa tree for days because of excessive hunger.

Jesudas further stated that whenever dead bodies of Sinhala soldiers were brought to the Palaly Camp after battles with LTTE, the detenus at Palaly Army Camp were subjected to severe torture.

Referring to a specific incident that took place at the Palaly Army Camp which he saw, Jesudas said that about 15 detenus were chained together, blind-folded and severely assaulted.

Jesudas later was transferred from Palaly Army Camp to the Kalutara prison. About 81 detenus were sent along with him to Kalutara from Palaly Army Camp. In March this year he was transferred from Kalutara prison to the Pallegala Detention Camp.

He also said that JVP detenus expressed mirth at the killing of President Premadasa,

New Era Publications,  
Luckshmi building, Dutch Rd.  
Kalviyankadu.

outbreak of the current war, have remained prisoners - of-war for 3 years. They all began a fast unto death demanding that the Government of Sri Lanka do negotiate with the LTTE and obtain their release.

The Government of Sri Lanka kept silent for about a week and the fast by the policemen continued with the imminent prospect of the policemen succumbing to their fast. It was at this critical stage that the Government of Sri Lanka sent Brig. Ananda Weerasekera to negotiate with the LTTE.

When the question of exchange of prisoners was discussed, the LTTE wanted a full list of persons held prisoners by the Government to enable it to determine who its cadres were. But the Government of Sri Lanka said that such a list could not be furnished for security reasons. The LTTE therefore dropped the question of exchange of prisoners and demanded as an alternative the lifting of the embargo on certain essential consumer-commodities and sending them to Jaffna.

Brig. Weerasekera went back to Colombo for discussions with the Government of Sri Lanka. He returned to Jaffna immediately and conveyed the Sri Lankan Government's decision to lift the embargo on some of those items. He also handed over a copy of the Government Gazette notification removing the ban on the items.

As a settlement was reached, the LTTE forthwith released 5 of the prisoners it held and wanted the Government of Sri Lanka

to send to Jaffna the goods on which the ban had been released. The Government too loaded some of these items in a ship which left Colombo harbour for Point Pedro harbour in Jaffna.

Before the goods arrived at Point Pedro harbour, the Government of Sri Lanka went back on its agreement and ordered the ship laden with goods not to proceed to Point Pedro and directed it to go to Kankesanthurai. The war hawks within the Government of Sri Lanka had pressurised the Government into retracting from the agreement reached with the LTTE. It was said that it was the Sri Lankan Army which led the opposition to the agreement from within the Sri Lankan Government ranks. The government indulged in a false propaganda to say that the LTTE had made new demands but Brig. Weerasekera who negotiated on behalf of the Government of Sri Lanka, denied that the LTTE made new any demands.

When the Government of Sri Lanka went back on the agreement, the LTTE refused to release the balance thirty three prisoners it held. The agreement having thus failed, the thirty three Sinhalese Policemen continue to be under LTTE custody. Some of the relatives of these policemen who had come to see them when they were fasting are still remaining at Jaffna as guests of the LTTE.

In the meantime the Policemen who had lost hope of their release as a result of the Government of Sri Lanka going back on its agreement, decided to stage a second hunger-strike effective from the 14th of this month but postponed it because some of them fell sick then. According to the relations of these Sinhala prisoners, the prisoners are to begin a new fast again on July 29, Thursday.

## HEAVY CANNON FIRE AT ALL IPPALAI COAST

Five Sri Lankan Naval Gun Boats simultaneously opened heavy cannon fire towards Allippalai coast on Saturday, July 17.

The news in this connection states that on Saturday, July 17, about 6.15 p. m. five Sri Lankan Naval gun-boats suddenly appeared near the Kilai-Allippalai

Coast and started cannon-fire. The cannon fire lasted for about 20 minutes and was followed by fire from 50 calibre guns. Most of the shells fell on the Sea coast and into the Sea.

One man was injured and several boats on the coast were damaged.