

A New Year Wish - 1994

Honour to the Heroes of Tamil Eelam
 Glory to their blood and bravery.
 We give our love and loyalty
 For their blood sustains us
 To fight till victory be ours.
 You will be free for ever, Our Nation,
 Glory to our Tamil Eelam,
 Be Alert Tamil Eelam, March to freedom
 With your sons and daughters,
 May the New Year augur well.

S. N. Prakash

MILITARY ORDERS RED CROSS

No Movement of Vehicles at Night

The Sri Lankan Army High Command has come down on the Jaffna Branch of the Sri Lanka Red Cross Society forbidding it to run its vehicles in the night.

It is learnt that an order has been sent to the Jaffna Branch of the Sri Lanka Red Cross Society that its vehicles should not be put on the roads in the nights after 7.00 p.m. till the following morning 7.00 a.m.

The Jaffna Branch has divisional branches in each of the A's Division and there is a full demand on its work. As a matter of fact the primary duty of the Red Cross is to render humanitarian service during war and Northeast is a war zone. The Red Cross Society in Jaffna has to undertake multifarious functions. It has to transport the sick and injured persons, attend to

health hazards in refugee camps and undertake several other humanitarian services in the war-torn area of Jaffna.

Since the out-break of the war and total ban on petrol, diesel and other transport fuel even the sick and injured cannot reach the nearest hospital because of non-availability of transport. The Red Cross renders yomen service in transporting patients in serious condition to hospitals. As a matter of fact some months back a Red Cross Official, the Vice-President of the Jaffna Branch Red Cross, lost his own life being hit by a bomber while

on duty having gone to transport injured persons to the hospital.

The ban imposed by the Sinhala Army on the movement of Red Cross vehicles during night is seen as a deliberate attempt to ensure that the victims of indiscriminate aerial bombing and shelling and helicopter strafing in the night do meet with definite death.

There are a number of instances when aerial bombing of civilian dwelling areas have been carried out by the S.L. Air Force at night. Shelling, and helicopter strafing are a usual phenomena in the nights and many people have died and many others seriously injured due to such attacks. This type of malicious murder and mayhem is taking place even now.

Therefore the Military High Command order to the Jaffna Branch of the Red Cross Society of Sri Lanka is seen here as a calculated

move to see that the injured and the sick do not receive proper medical treatment and are allowed to die.

(Continued to page 4)

Colonel Kittu-MEMORIES



Colonel Kittu, beloved son of Tamil Nation,
 With his team of peaceful mission,
 Vanish'd away from our vision,
 A year ago, for the benefit of our nation.
 Sailing along the Bay of Bengal,
 Marooned by the Indian Jackal,
 Our children proved their reality,
 And made their way with dig'nity
 Their ship was wreck'd and split,
 And our beloved ones; all lost
 On their way, swallowed by the deep sea,
 Leaving us with panic and tears.

Oh! Colonel Kittu! Your courage and equity,
 Well praised by us with dig'nity,
 Even though you are away,
 Our target will be your way.

— Malarannai

NAVAL ATTACK FOR ONE HOUR HOSPITALS SHELLED 2 DEAD - FIVE INJURED

A Sri Lankan Naval vessel and gun-boats attacked the coastal areas from Munai to Valvettiturai in the Vadamardhy coast. The Valvettiturai hospital and the Point Pedro Rural Hospital were damaged amongst many other buildings.

On Thursday, January 13, three Sri Lankan Naval

vessels started firing all over the coast from Munai to Valvettiturai for one hour from 5-45 a.m. Cannon fire and 50 calibre gun fire were incessantly fired both on the sea and coastal residential areas. Fishermen abandoned work and swam for safety to the coast.

VAKARAI ROUNDED-UP 500 CIVILIANS ARRESTED

News from Batticaloa stated that on Tuesday, January 4, the Sri Lankan Army rounded the village of Vakara and arrested 500 civilian villagers. The arrested persons were taken to the Army Camp. There is no further report about the fate of the persons arrested.

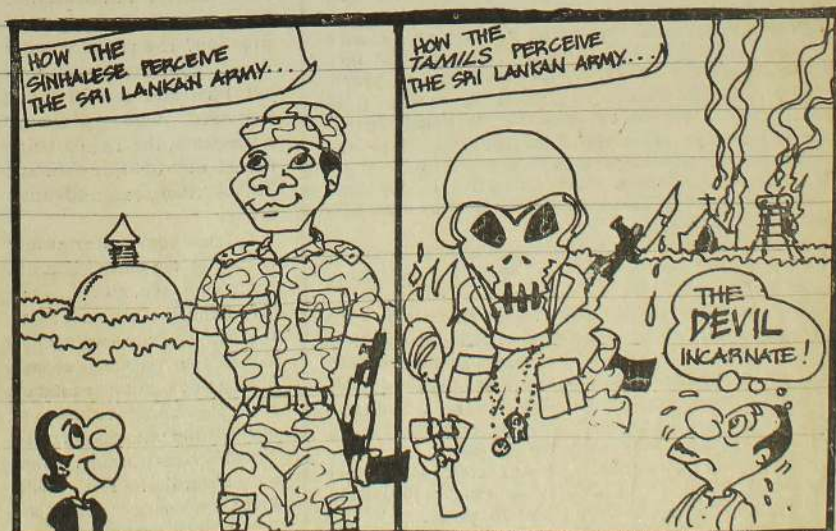
The Batticaloa report also said that the Sri Lankan Army has banned certain drugs and other stuff from being taken to the Vakara village. The banned goods include Panadol, Disprin, Viva and box of matches.

At the same time the Special Task Force (STF) is said to have arrested three Tamils from the village of Vellaveli.

Hospital Comes Under Helicopter Fire Patients Escape Hospital

The Kodikamam Government Hospital came under fire from a Sri Lankan Air Force helicopter and the patients at the hospital dispersed in all directions to seek safety. This happened on Monday, January 11,

about 8.00 a.m. A helicopter started random firing on the Mirusuvil - Kodikamam main road when it also struck at the hospital. Some houses in the area and the hospital were slightly damaged by the helicopter fire.





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KEY TO PEACE

A 'national' newspaper has, in its editorial of 5.12.93, chosen to give Mr. Thondaman gratuitous advice that he "must stop referring to them (the hill-country Tamils) as 'HIS PEOPLE'" forgetting for a moment that in the same editorial in the preceding paragraph - to be exact in the sentence just two places preceding the one wherein the gratuitous advice is given - the editorial on its own refers to "MR. THONDAMAN AND HIS PEOPLE". This paper seems to believe - or it pretends that it believes - that if different peoples are granted citizenship and voting rights in some state, the grantees of these rights lose their identity as a people and are lost - except of course when the dominant people wish to refer to them derogatorily.

The editorial says that "Mr. Thondaman for years waged a RIGHTEOUS battle for citizenship rights for HIS PEOPLE...." We pause to challenge this paper to say whether it ever did during course of these long years of battle support this righteous battle? Why should it wait till after the citizenship of the hill-country Tamils have been finally wrested from the Sinhala government to discover the righteousness of the battle? Of course, ostrich-like the 'nationalists' will never see the contribution of Eelam Tamils to win the rights of their brethren in the hill country but it makes no difference.

Th paper does not want Mr. Thondaman to refer to the hill-country Tamils as his people but will do so itself! Not only that. Its columnist (fifth of course) would disparagingly and consistently refer to Mr. Thondaman as T' man feigning pun T(ea) man but actually giving vent to the deep-rooted racialism in the other hidden pun T(amil) man, however resentful such derogatory references are.

Really this is not what we are trying to drive at. We are only wanting to know whether it is a privilege only for the Sinhala leaders to refer to the Sinhalese people as their people and their land as theirs but it is sinful for the Tamil leaders to refer to the Tamils and their country as their people and their country.

The Govt. backed Daily News, in its issue of October, 9, 1993, published excerpts of a speech by Prime Minister, Ranil Wickremasinghe, in Parliament on 23.9.93, wherein he defended President Wijetunge's 'famous' 'no ethnic - but terrorist problem' speech.

The President was quoted as saying:-

"People from Jaffna come to OUR AREAS and live among US. They buy lands from US... Colombo is full of them.... Forty percent TAMILS live with US..." (Emphasis Ours)

Is it a Presidential Prerogative to refer to Colombo and other areas as "OUR AREAS" meaning that they are Sinhalese areas and referring to the Sinhalese people as "US" and the Tamils as Tamils or in the third person 'They'? We did not hear any 'national' newspaper complaining about the President's speech or the Prime Minister defending it even though President Wijetunge has brought out a clear distinction of the land as Sinhala area and Tamil area and the people as Sinhalese and Tamil.

Prime Minister, Ranil Wickremasinghe's Presidential Quote also contains This: "Sauce for the goose in sauce for the gander"

We are also exactly saying the same. We are also entitled to call our country ours and our people as our people inasmuch as President Wijetunge calls Sinhala Rata 'OUR AREAS' and the Sinhala peoples 'US'. Sinhala Rata and Tamil Eelam are real. Sinhalese and Tamils are different and distinct peoples. Nature marks her children deep even emotionally.

So give up the pretence of one country and one people and accept Tamil Eelam and the Tamil Nation as a reality. Therein lies the key to peace.

I happened to read an article in the Sunday Island of 17th October 93, written by a Sri Lankan from Australia. I deeply and optimistically felt much obliged as a citizen of the oppressed Nation to respond to the clauses of the article entitled "Nobel Prize Winners taken for a ride."

First of all I must tell the Australian based Sri Lankan that unlike any leader of this country, Marshall Tito proved his concern of re-generating peace and harmony in Yugoslavia through the efforts at his best level to find a peaceful solution.

Can Mr. Sri Lankan point out even a symbol of honest concern, so far, taken to solve the Tamil problem to remedy the grievances of the Tamils, lasting for about four decades, except militarism to repress their emotions?

The Sri Lankan, chewing empty mouth, as if a formal peace proposal were discussed twenty years ago, writes in his abominable article that the Yugoslavian ambassador in Colombo had said 'Thank God you did not accept our advice.'? Twenty years ago did any foreigner discuss a peaceful solution with the Sri Lankan government? Or could it be an imagination of the writer who wishes to catch fish in the troubled waters? Why does the foreign-based Sri Lankan involve the innocent foreign diplomats into hostile diversions through such blunt statements?

Let us study the 2nd clause posed by the Sri Lankan in his article. He is shedding crocodile tears that the Bosnian majority Muslims were - according to Tito's solution - allocated only 30 percent of the land. According to the writer, only the ground situation is the stumbling block to solve the problem. What is the ground situation? What actually happens here, in this Island? Who is causing the ground situation? The predominantly Tamil populated vast area has been and is still being aggressed with Sinhalese settlements, the Tamils being driven out of their habitats. This is the ground situation today.

Let me come subsequently to one of the most malicious aspects of the article. The Sri Lankan criticizes that the Nobel Prize winners had signed the peace proposal, having not studied the nature of the ethnic problem as one of the ventures of their Nobel Prize winning. What an absurdity! The Nobel Prize winners, for their honourable status might, perhaps haven't studied the

vicious intentions of the Sri Lankan government's - "Political solution for ethnic Council on the ground that the LTTE had breached the Indo - Sri Lankan Peace Accord.

Did any one sign the so called Peace Accord on behalf of the affected to argue that the accord was breached?

SRI LANKAN BLASTS FROM AUSTRALIA

problem, no - no military solution for the terrorist problem"; but otherwise they would have certainly

Edward George

studied the problem before drafting the peace proposal. The Nobel Prize winners endeavoured enthusiastically and charitably and not at all, as the writer mocks, foolishly directed. I would like to reiterate Mr. Sri Lankan, from Australia - 'the Nobel Prize winners have not been taken for a ride'.

Your mockery and devaluation of them are clinking into our ears the chorus of your Pessimism.

In the sixth paragraph, the writer seems to be utterly a deliberate liar. He says that "the LTTE - the most vigorous militant force in the world had themselves brought the IPKF of a hundred thousand troops to the North East to implement the Indo - Sri Lanka pact". Does the Sri Lankan know that the former President J. R. Jayawardena still regrets over the untimely withdrawal of the so called IPKF - which according to him would have completely eliminated LTTE? Does he know that the assassinated President Premadasa described the IPKF as an aggressive army? Thus the credibility of the writer's statements are subjects to be questioned.

The Sri Lankan further collapses with his ridiculous contradictory claims that any peace solution ought to be implemented at gun-point. He advises the government not to accept any foreign peace proposals hereafter, which do not carry unconditional military commitments from the Security

The whole Tamil community absorbed it as another political stunt to dump the the future generations too in an autocratic trap.

Besides Peace-Solution? Military Implementation? Very good joke. The writer seems knowing not even the basic principles of the definition of a peace solution, "A peace solution is the integral final state of the the theme or themes, mutually discussed and on unanimous consent, bilaterally signed to be implemented". This is the international definition of a peace solution. Why, then military commitments?

There is another wonderful discovery: the LTTE - alleged to have been handing the N. P. Winners to advance in battle fronts. How it is feasible, is an enigma. The writer's heart is indexed very well; he is fearing for something which we all know well.

Now let me tell the Australian-based Sri Lankan, once and for all, that we live in an age of transition. If what I say is correct, then the current age, is of unprecedentedly, rapid transitions in which aggressions and repressions are being challenged. We have been seeing the happenings before our eyes. Empires shaken to their foundations - Super Powers - like Soviet Union - overthrown. Nations have obtained freedom from alien dominations; these and further events - Israel - P.L.O. compromise - De Clerke-Nelson Mandela shaking hands are favourable omens of our motive - 'liberation'. Our future generations will judge our decision when they find themselves living in a happy land from which war has been banished and where freedom reigns.

Demand an International Commission of Inquiry?

In 1974, the Sri Lankan Police Force killed nine innocent spectators who had gone to Jaffna Veerasingham Hall to witness a reception given to the

International Tamil Scholars

who had participated in the Fourth International Tamil Research Conference held in Jaffna.

The Government in power then failed to appoint a Inquiry Commission, even though it was demanded

by the Public. The Jaffna Public Affairs Committee decided to hold a public inquiry and in consequence a Public Inquiry Commission was appointed.

The Commission appointed by the Jaffna Public Affairs Committee comprised two retired Supreme Court judges in the persons of De Kretser and Manickavasagar and the third was the former Bishop of Jaffna, Rt. Rev. Kulendiran.

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OUR READERS SAY

LTTE RELEASES Following the Leader's Footsteps

Poonakari Sinhala P. O. W.

The LTTE released a Sinhala soldier taken captive in the Poonakari battle during November last year.

On Monday, January 10, the Poonakari war and taken Mr. Karikalan, Deputy Head of the Political wing of the LTTE, handed over a Sinhala soldier whom the LTTE took captive during the Poonakari war last November, to the Team Head of the ICRC in Jaffna.

The Sinhala soldier thus released, is Ranjit Gunasekera of Kegalle who was a Lance Corporal in the Gaja Bahu Regiment of the Sri Lankan Army. He was injured in

the Poonakari war and taken prisoner by the LTTE.

The LTTE said that the prisoner was being released on humanitarian grounds on an order made by the LTTE leader, Mr. V. Pirabakaran to continue further treatment for his injuries in Colombo.

The prisoner who was released was taken on Monday itself from Point Pedro harbour to Kankesanthurai from where he was flown to Colombo from Palaly.

It is a fact that the infra-structure of the Sri Lankan army has been shaken due to the military defeats encountered by it during the course of last year. Yet their impact created only crises in the infra-structure but did not destroy it completely or disintegrate it. Even during those crises, the military infra-structure retained its control over its forces.

The infra-structure of the Air Force in particular remained fairly strong. On a comparative basis, it was the Air Force which suffered minimum damages during the past year. Under such circumstances, the denial of any knowledge regarding the aerial attack carried out last Wednesday at Thavady and Chavakachcheri was not only a mischievous one but was also a planned act of sabotage. This is similar to the denial of D. B. Wijetunge of the existence of an ethnic problem in the Island. In other words, it is a statement following the footsteps of the leader.

The Sri Lankan government came out with several reasons in the past for its acts of genocide and attacks perpetrated by it. When soldiers themselves directly committed wanton killings, those were justified, as done by a soldier suffering mental strain or committed under high tension. Moreover, it was the customary feature to include innocent civilians into a general term 'terrorists'. This was stated by many sections including the President of Sri Lanka himself.

The explanation given for attacks carried out by the Air Force, was that the places so targeted were all camps belonging to Liberation Tigers! The victims killed in such attacks from infants to old persons who have passed the ripe old age of ninety, were all listed as 'Tigers'.

But the denial of any knowledge by the military spokesman regarding the attack, when six persons

In such circumstances, the exposure of the

news regarding the indiscriminate aerial attacks killing innocent civilians and destruction of their properties will all the more aggravate the difficulties of the Sri Lankan government. Further, the atmosphere which prevails in the world today, tends for the ready acceptance by the world of charges levelled against the Sri Lankan government. It is in this context, that the Sri Lankan government, avoiding statements as in the past to the effect that they attacked Tiger targets and killed 'terrorists' has started saying that they did not attack nor have any information of any such attack. This is like hiding a full pumpkin in a plate of rice! In other words, the Sri Lankan Government has begun to realize that its utterances in the past, have not been accepted and the world has begun to understand its propaganda. It is because of this, it is attempting to maintain that attacks did not take place at all.

But this is not a matter that can be hidden. The UNP's belief that if the bodies of the victims of its murder are buried deep in trenches, truth will also be buried along with those bodies, is a false one. The human skeletons that are exhumed today from the Suriyakande hills, are adequate to proclaim the atrocious murders committed by the UNP.

Editorial:
EELANATHAM of 08.01.94

Council of NGOs 3 Years Old

The Jaffna District Council of NGOs completed three years of its formation on 15.11.1993.

A function was organised at the Secretariat of the Council the same day where members of the constituent

organisations assembled.

It was decided to build up co-ordination and co-operation amongst NGOs which had already received a boost with the formation of the Council on 15.11.1990.

DEMAND-

(Continued from page 2)
Now the Sinhalese have found human skeletons in an army reserve area in Ratanapura. The Tamils were then fortunate in that they had a Public Affairs Committee, and were able to hold a public inquiry even without the sanction of the government then in power. But can the Sinhalese people even imagine to hold such a public inquiry into the finding of human skeletons at Suriyakande? Even if the Leader of the Opposition desires such a public inquiry, the government of D. B. Wijetunge will not permit the Commission to hold its sittings.

The only alternative to the aggrieved parties is to demand the appointment of an International Judicial Commission. The International Commission of Jurists (ICJ) and the Centre for Independence of Judges and Lawyers (CIJL) which already mooted the establishment of a permanent International Penal Court to judge war criminals and perpetrators of gross human rights violations anywhere in the world should be invited to lead the campaign to give moral support to the demand for the appointment of an international Judicial Commission which could serve as a test case for them. Jaffna. Thiraviam.

Thesawalamai Law and Tamil Eelam

Thesawalamai is a combination of two words, 'Thesa' which means country and 'Walamai' meaning custom, and the composite word 'Thesawalamai' is the law applicable to the Tamil inhabitants of North Tamil Eelam and all the properties contained therein are also subject to this law.

History

Dutch Governor Simons in 1704 instructed Claasz Isaacs to inquire into the customs of the Tamil inhabitants of Jaffna, as it existed and to compile them. In 1707 Isaacs reported to Commander Van Der Dwyer in Dutch. This commander directed that this Dutch document be translated into the Tamil language. He subsequently delivered these translations to 12 'sensible' Mudaliyars to peruse the translation and revise, if necessary. The Mudaliyars reported agreement with the translation.

In 1708 these customs were promulgated by the Governor as law. After the Dutch settlements in Ceylon were ceded to Britain by regulation No. 18 of 1806, it was declared that the Code of Customs commonly known as Thesawalamai should be considered to be in full force and that all questions between the Malabar inhabitants of the Province of Jaffna or in which a Malabar inhabitant was defendant, should be decided according to this Code.

The Code of Thesawalamai remained unchanged in spite of many changes in customs and many repeals of Statute. The world has changed. Jaffna has also changed. Early customs are in disuse now. Archaic customs regarding adoption, mortgage of slaves etc. have disappeared. Slavery, a component of Thesawalamai Code, was abolished. A good portion of the Code of

Thesawalamai is obsolete. But in spite of all, there are several matters which still remain to be changed. Socio-political, economic and cultural changes and advances necessitate abolitions, amendments and additions to the Law of Thesawalamai. The Administration of Justice Division of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam has attempted to do

S. THIAGARAJAH

this by bringing a set of laws called 'Thesawalamai Law of Tamil Eelam' with effect from 01.12.93. Some of the changes that have been introduced in the new 'Thesawalamai Law of Tamil Eelam' are illustrated below. Section 13 of the Law is a new one and a long-awaited remedy to family problems in the North.

Section 13

We have known of cases where young girls from poor

families are given in marriage to wealthy men who are sickly or invalid. This results from the inability of the girl's parents to find dowry and the inability of the latter to get wife from equally resourceful ranks. Take for instance, a girl of 18 who is without any dowry, being given in marriage to a wealthy but sickly person of the age of 25. The girl has no say over the affair, as her parents are unable to find the dowry. Parents, because of their poverty, agree to this marriage and the girl like a good obedient child has to agree to the marriage. The couple lead a married life for all purposes. Suppose the man who is already sick dies, say after seven years of married life, without any issues, what is the position of the girl who married him purely due to economic reasons? After the thirty first day ceremony of the

deceased man, the girl (wife) who would now be 25 years old and in the prime of life, can and will be chased out of the husband's house either by the parents of the husband or brothers or sisters of the husband because the 'Mudusam' property (ancestral property) reverts to the parental side, if the man dies without any issue. The wife whose parents would have been dead by now, or would not be in a position to support her because of other commitments they have to face after this girl's marriage, will be left in the lurch and she is doomed for ever. Now, we take the reverse of this problem. A healthy man who does not possess any property but who is capable of looking after a family, is married to a girl to whom a house and garden is given as dowry. The man carries on a normal life, looks after his wife well, makes necessary repairs to the house of his wife and also improves the land. Unfortunately, this couple is not blessed with

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Aerial Bombing at Nedunkerni: HUSBAND- WIFE KILLED

Two Puccaro S.L. Air Force planes bombed Nedunkerni in the Mullaitivu District resulting in the death of two, serious injury to one and heavy damage to property.

On Tuesday, January 11, about 10.45 a.m. two Sri Lankan Air Force Puccaro bombers bombed the village

of Nedunkerni. Many houses and tractors were damaged.

A husband and wife, parents of four children, died on the spot. The deceased are M. Jeyanathan (44) and his wife N. Vasantha (40). Another woman sustained serious injuries.

Harvested crops like tobacco and chillies worth Rs.

200,000/- were completely destroyed.

A school was in session when the bombing started. Teachers and students ran in all directions in great panic to escape the bomber attack.

No Movement-

(Continued from page 1)

When a local Red Cross official was asked about this order he would neither confirm nor deny it. When further asked whether people have to wait for a night tragedy to test the receipt of the Military order he merely gave an evasive smile.

Special Task Force around 12 noon at Thumpankerny in the Batticaloa District took his own life by swallowing cyanide to escape arrest by the Sri Lankan Forces.

January 9 - Sunday

Yet another woman who suffered serious injuries, when the Sri Lankan Air Force planes bombed St. James Church, Gurnagar on November 17th and undergoing treatment at the Jaffna Hospital passed away. The deceased was a displaced person from Mandativu, named Kurusupillai Arulnayaki (42). The death-toll due to that bombing has now risen to 11. (eleven).

DONATION REACHES THE DONEES

6,637 school kits containing exercise books, pens, pencils and rulers donated by UNICEF to the Council of NGOs, Jaffna District, have been distributed amongst school children living in camps for displaced persons

through the different NGOs in - charge - of each AGA's Division.

This information is contained in NETWORK (December 1993, Issue)- the newsletter published by the Council of NGOs, Jaffna District.

News in Brief

January 2 - Sunday

Three Sri Lankan Air Force Puccaro planes bombed several areas in Manal Aru at 10.40 a.m. In all six bombs were dropped. Several trees were damaged. There was no report of casualties or damages to buildings.

January 3 - Monday

One Sri Lankan Air Force Puccaro plane carried out aerial surveillance over residential areas in Point Pedro twice, once around 7.00 a.m. and later at 9.15 a.m.

January 4 - Tuesday

Three persons were severely

injured when an S. L. Air Force helicopter propelled a grenade and fired 50 calibre guns at Chavakacheri about 5.00 a.m. P. Thiagarajah (56) of Innuvil East and T. Rajamanickam (39) of Chunnakam were injured by 50 calibre gun fire and S. Thangarajah of Navatkuli suffered injuries by the grenade explosion. The injured are admitted for treatment at the Jaffna Hospital.

An LTTE militant who was injured in a surprise attack carried out by the

DEMOCRATIC PROCESS -Sri Lankan Style

1. Sinnathamby Sithiravel of Muhathuvaram
2. Sellappah Veerakutty of Muhathuvaram
3. Tharmapillai Ekananthamoorthy of Poomarathadichenai
4. Vairamuthu Nagenthiram of Verugal
5. Viswalingam Jeeva of Verugal
6. Vairamuthu Rasa of Verugal
7. Sellathamby Velayutham of Verugal
8. Kathirgaman Ramupillai of Karukkamunai
9. Veerakutty Arulnesarasa of Poonagar
10. Arunasalam Selvarasa of Poonagar.

The above ten are some prominent persons in Verugal, Mutur, Trincomalee District.

They have been arrested by the Sinhala Army.

Why? What offence have they committed?

They have declined to file 'nomination papers' for the intended local government 'elections' the Government of Sri Lanka proposes to stage in certain parts of occupied Tamil Eelam territory!

The government of Sri Lanka leaves no stone unturned to see that everyone joins the 'democratic process' it sets in motion under the 'democratic way of life' it has bequeathed to the sufferers under its military boots.

So if you prefer to mind your own business instead of minding others business you are liable to be arrested by the Sinhala Army-perhaps a unique situation in the whole world! Why not world democrats try to learn the 'democratic way of life' from the Sri Lankan government?

District Court at Puthukudiyirruppu

A Tamil Eelam District Court was opened at Puthukudiyirruppu in the Mullaitivu District.

Mr. Paraz, the Head of the Administration of Justice Division, presided over the function.

The national flag was hoisted by the Special Commander of the LTTE for Mullaitivu, Mr. Solomon and

the court was declared open by Mr. Appachchi, the LTTE's Mullaitivu commander.

M/s. Ponthiyagam, P. Nadesan, Mr. Gemini and Mr. Mathan also participated in the function.

The Puthukudiyirruppu District Court is the sixth Tamil Eelam Court to be opened.

Economic Embargo and Banned Goods

A Sinhala gentleman is reported to have criticised recently the economic embargo placed on Tamil Eelam

We have lived with this embargo for three and a half-years now and some have forgotten things they used or consumed. Here is the list of banned items:

1. Arms/Ammunition
2. Explosives
3. Toy Guns
4. Electric Wire
5. Remote control devices
6. Electrical/Electronic toys
7. Helmets
8. Binoculars
9. Telescopes
10. Compasses
11. Cloth material similar to those worn by security Forces
12. Iron and Iron Rods
13. Aluminium / Aluminium ware
14. Empty Gunny Bags
15. Cement
16. Bicycle razors
17. Timber
18. Barbed wire
19. Wire cutters

20. Inflammable materials
21. Camphor
22. Coal
23. Urea fertilizer
24. Batteries of all varieties
25. Radio spare parts
26. Electrical equipment
27. Plastic cans
28. Motor vehicle tyres
29. Motor vehicle spare parts
30. Motor cycles
31. Printing papers
32. Typing/duplicating sheets
33. Printing machines & other equipment used in printing
34. Roneo and photostat machines
35. School bags
36. Gold
37. Alcohol
38. Surgical equipment
39. Medicines
40. Petrol / Diesel / Lubricants
41. Polythene / Polythene bags
42. Wax / Candles
43. Turpentine, Brasso, Shoe Polish
44. Soap
45. Chemicals
46. Soya based food
47. Sweets and confectionery

Thesawalamai...

(Continued from page 3)

children. Suppose his wife predeceases him after say a period of thirty years of married life. In this instance, the parents of the wife, if they are living or the heirs of the wife can and do, chase the dutiful husband away because he has no right over the dowry property of the wife. The house and the land revert according to Thesawalamai to the heirs of the wife. The husband is not an heir to the dowry property of his deceased wife. This has been rectified by Section 13 of the Thesawalamai Law of Tamil Eelam. The new law says that if during subsistence of a valid marriage, one of the spouses died childless, the remaining one, if he or she does not contract a second marriage, will be entitled to $\frac{1}{4}$ th share of the property of the deceased spouse.

This is a long-awaited and timely remedy to the evils existing in our society. The old Thesawalamai Law has been changed in this regard.

Independence of Women

Another long-felt need of the changing social structure of Tamil society has been fulfilled by the new Thesawalamai Law. Section 19 of this law states that married women are independent like men and that they can dispose of their property and the half share of the acquired property without the consent of the husband. Earlier, once married any sale, mortgage or donation of the dowry property needs the sanction and consent of the husband and in writing. This was an anomaly. Many married men leave their wives and go abroad. There some may acquire a new wife or partner and do not return home or provide for the subsistence of the wife or children. In that event, even though the woman has property of her own, she is prevented from disposing the same even to eke out a living because Thesawalamai requires the consent in writing of the husband for the sale or mortgage of her property.

The new law has rectified this anomaly. As a consequence of this provision, another section, viz Section 21, entitles a woman to sue in any court of law without joining her husband, as was in the past. A woman can also be sued without the husband being joined.

Old Laws

The new Law in its final section says that provisions in the earlier Thesawalamai Code will be supplemented subject to the changes now brought in.

With the advancement of the Tamil society and due to social changes, there are still matters like right to pre-empt property and rights pertaining to share in wells or right to the use of water in the well, should draw the attention of the society and proper steps taken to put things in order. Whatever it is, this new Thesawalamai Law is timely and has been issued to cater to the needs of the changing Tamil society.

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