

**'...GO NOT GENTLY INTO THE NIGHT,
BUT RAGE, RAGE
AGAINST THE DYING OF THE LIGHT...'**



IN MEMORIAM

PRINTED IN

Sri Lanka today is facing the most serious socio-economic and political crisis that the country has confronted in recent times.

The struggle of the Tamil people of Sri Lanka for justice and self-determination, and the intensification of the ethnic conflict into a literal civil war in the aftermath of July 1983 (when Sri Lanka witnessed anti-Tamil riots of unprecedented proportions), led to a general breakdown of democratic institutions and an increase in the level of militarisation throughout the country.

In trying to resolve the ethnic conflict militarily, the Sri Lankan state increased its powers of control and repression; the consequence was an overall erosion of basic civil and democratic rights that the people of Sri Lanka had hitherto enjoyed.

During this period, the polarisation of the Tamil and Sinhala communities living in the island was accelerated. There were only a few organisations, other than the left political parties, that spoke out against a military solution to the ethnic conflict, condemning the indiscriminate arrests of Tamil youth, the passing of various pieces of anti-democratic and repressive legislation in the name of countering subversion, and the growth of political repression as a whole within this context.

By the mid-1980s, even the Sri Lanka state seemed to be seeking options for a negotiated political settlement to the ethnic conflict. The Indo-Lanka Peace Accord signed by the governments of Sri Lanka and India on July 29, 1989, can be seen as the culmination of this process.

At the same time the signing of the Accord proved to be the starting point of a massive campaign of opposition to the present United National Party government. While there is no doubt that the 12 year regime has consistently undermined the democratic and civil rights of the people of Sri Lanka, creating an atmosphere within which agitation and unrest are perfectly justifiable, yet the present opposition to the government is unfortunately tainted with shades of Sinhala chauvinism and outright terrorism.

In the immediate aftermath of the Peace Accord, a movement calling itself the Patriotic People's Movement (the Deshapremi Janatha Vyaapaaraya - DJV) first made its existence known by claiming leadership of the rioters who took to the streets to protest against the Accord, which, they said, was a manifestation of Indian imperialism. Since then, a grave polarisation of the Sinhala community has taken place; the division is between 'traitors' and 'patriots', the label of 'traitor' being loosely applied to all those who campaigned for a political solution to the ethnic crisis, who supported the Peace Accord as being a first step towards the restoration of peace in the country, who spoke out in favour of the Provincial Councils as being a measure of the devolution of power which ~~was~~ absolutely necessary if the Tamil people of Sri Lanka were to be re-integrated into the body

politic of the country - in short, to all those who have stood for the principles of social justice, peace and democracy for all, and who oppose the politics of narrow national chauvinism and fascism that the 'patriotic' movement espouses today.

Since July 1987, the so-called patriotic forces have assassinated over 5000 persons - among them, political leaders belonging to all the major Sri Lankan political parties, members of the clergy of a variety of religions and denominations, unarmed and defenceless civilian men, women and children. The government, for its part, has retaliated by unleashing a wave of indiscriminate terror against the people of this country in the guise of eradicating terrorism and subversion.

The State of Emergency, which had been lifted on January 11, 1989 in fulfillment of a campaign promise made by the new President of Sri Lanka, Mr. R. Premadasa, was reimposed on June 20, 1989, in the face of escalating violence. The figures for the killings in the period from 11 January to 20 June 1989 speak for themselves.

January	254
February	494 *
March	287
April	250
May	259
June (up to the 20th)	161
Total	<u><u>1705</u></u>

(* especially high figure due to heightening of violence around the time of the General Elections.)

The break-down of the figures is equally relevant:

Members of political parties/ supporters	650
Government employees	120
Police personnel	91
Members of the armed forces	50
Civilians	740
others - alleged informers, Home Guards etc.	<u>54</u>
TOTAL	<u>1705</u>

As the campaign of terror and intimidation has grown in scale and in intensity, the targets of the campaign have also become increasingly broad-based, up to the point that whoever dares to criticise or hold a different opinion is ruthlessly gunned down. Lawyers appearing for Police officers, newspaper agents who sell 'blacklisted' newspapers, state lottery sellers and even those who attend funerals of murdered persons, have all fallen prey to this vicious spree of unmitigated violence.

There is an aura of vindictiveness that marks many of these killings, which seems to be more suited to gangland murders than to political campaigns. On several occasions, when attacks have been launched on homes, there has been no regard for innocent bystanders. Old persons, infants, children, stray visitors, all have fallen in the hail of random bullets. Victims are burned to death, stabbed, hacked, decapitated. The 'patriots' also introduced the infamous 'lamp-post' killing to the south of Sri Lanka. They often leave behind posters or leaflets, acknowledging their hand in the killing, and stating reasons as to why, in their opinion, the person was served with a 'death sentence'. In many cases, the allegations are without foundation in fact, while in others, the mere fact of having cast a vote at the Provincial Council elections has been sufficient cause to be selected as a victim by these murderers.

In some instances, the brutal act of annihilation is carried on even beyond death itself. Persons killed by the DJV are deemed 'not worthy' of receiving last respects. Accordingly, the 'patriotic forces' insist that the body should not be embalmed, nor a wake held, but, instead, should be buried immediately, with no ceremony. Undertakers who dared to violate these orders have been punished, in one instance by being ordered to supply all coffins free for a period of one week. There is an insistence that no funeral, as such, be held. There should be no white flags put up to mark the home or the path along which the body will be carried to the cemetery; there should be no flowers, no wreaths, no procession. The body should not be carried to the cemetery on the shoulders of kinsmen, as is the usual practice, but instead be carried along the ground; the site of burial should be smoothed down, leaving no trace; no memorial stone should be erected. In the majority of the cases, poor villagers are helpless in the face of the intimidation by armed 'patriots' and so have no alternative but to comply.

Today, it is clear that the DJV is nothing more than a front for the Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna (JVP - people's Liberation Front), the militant group that first shot to the centre of the Sri Lankan political stage with the abortive insurrection of April 1971. The JVP's rhetoric, in 1971, was against 'Indian expansionism', with specific reference to the presence of a large work-force of Indian origin in the plantations established in the hill country of the island in the British colonial period. This grew into a blatantly chauvinist political stance, and, from 1987 onwards, this concept has broadened out into a diatribe against

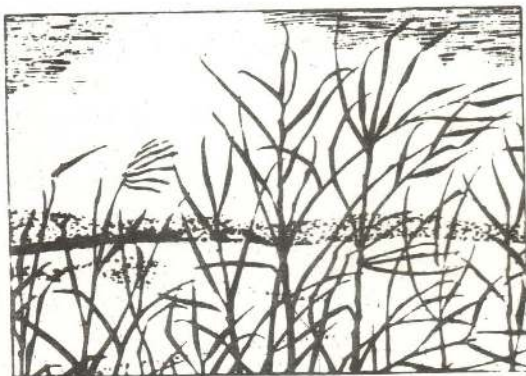
'Indian imperialism' in general, exhorting the Sinhala people to boycott Indian goods, Indian shops, Indian banks and so on. In reality, this seemingly 'nationalist' campaign masks a chauvinist political campaign to deprive all non-Sinhala Buddhist communities living in Sri Lanka of their rights to live in dignity and equality. What makes the situation most tragic is that few people dare speak out against this racist and fascist campaign - not because they condone it in any way, but because to speak out, in the circumstances, means to invite a brutal death.

On the face of it, it seems unthinkable that a 'patriotic' movement that seems to embrace the rhetoric of social justice should resort to this type of violence and terror in order to impose their will upon the masses on whom their political future depends. Nor can one understand a so-called democratic government reacting in a brutal and irrational way to repress an opposition movement. Yet this is the present-day reality of Sri Lanka.

Living through these black days in the history of our country, it is with deep and undying love and respect for those comrades of the United Socialist Alliance - the Sri Lanka Mahajana Party (SLMP), the Communist Party of Sri Lanka (CPSL), the Lanka Sama Samaja Party (LSSP) and the Nava Sama Samaja Party (NSSP) - as well as for the activists of the Independent Students' Union, the All Lanka Peasants' Congress and other human rights and mass organisations who have laid down their lives in the cause of peace, democracy and social justice in Sri Lanka, that we publish this incomplete record of their martyrdom.

Many of these comrades were pioneers of the left movement in Sri Lanka, veterans in the class struggle who began politics as a part of the anti-imperialist and anticolonial movements of the 1930s and 1940s. Some of them were in the twilight of their lives, feeble in body but strong in spirit. It seems that by murdering such comrades, the chauvinists want to wipe out an entire era in the history of the working class movement in Sri Lanka. Yet, we feel it is very clear that the memories of these comrades, of their struggles and of their triumphs as well as of their defeats, can never be erased from the pages of Sri Lankan history.

In Sri Lanka, the struggle against the forces of fascism and racism which rally under the banner of the so-called Patriotic Front, as well as against the repressive and authoritarian capitalist state, continues. And as long as the struggle endures, they live on.





Comrade Pathirana was born to a poor family in a village off Aparekka in Matara. He was an excellent student while at secondary school, and was thus able to enter University in Colombo. There too he continued to shine in his academic work, becoming the Best Student in the Science Faculty in his first year.

At the time Comrade Pathirana entered the University, the student movement was dominated by the JVP. He soon got involved in student politics, and emerged as an outspoken critic of the politics and policies of the JVP, both on and off the campus. The result of this activism was the link-up between Comrade Pathirana and the Independent Students' Union, which was a fledgling body at the time. He soon rose to become one of the leading figures of the ISU.

Comrade Pathirana was a well-known and popular figure among all progressive groups. Whether



DAYA PATHIRANA

it was a strike at a factory or a peasant demonstration in Moneragala, he was always there. Above all, Comrade Pathirana was known for his unrelenting stand on the ethnic question; always asserting the right of the Tamil people of Sri Lanka to self-determination, he spoke out against Sinhala chauvinism and racism at all forums. And it was because he consistently criticised and challenged the JVP's stand on the ethnic question that he moved into a situation of conflict with that organisation. It soon became obvious to them that if



they were to retain control of the student population, which was an essential part of their constituency, Comrade Pathirana would have to be 'removed'.

His murderers enticed Comrade Pathirana to a deserted spot by the lake at Bandaragama on the pretext of having a discussion with him. Ever open to debate and discussion, he went

along with them, not knowing that he was going to his death. On the night of the December full moon of 1986, Comrade Pathirana was brutally hacked to death. Many today believe that his death marked the beginning of the fascist cycle of violence that today has Sri Lanka firmly in its grip.





NANDANA MARASINGHE

Comrade Marasinghe became an active member of the JVP after attending one of its first educational camps at Middeniya in 1968, abandoning his formal education at the Central College in Anuradhapura for this political work.

He was first arrested in 1970; then, in the wake of the insurrection of 1971, followed a series of arrests and, more daring, a series of escapes from Police and Prison custody which made Comrade Marasinghe into a legendary figure among leftists in Sri Lanka.

In spite of all the harassment he had to face, including a record 362 days spent in shackles in the 1973/74 period

Comrade Marasinghe never faltered in his commitment to revolutionary ideals.

Both in and out of prison, he was the closest confidante and protector of the JVP leader, Wijeweera. After being released from prison in 1977, Comrade Marasinghe continued to work for the JVP with utmost dedication. The cultural work of the JVP and its Socialist Art Circle were entirely his initiatives.

Yet, by 1980, Comrade Marasinghe began to question the policies of the JVP; and, as is the usual practise of the JVP, his questioning was not tolerated. Thus, in 1981, he left the JVP, resigning from

all his positions of responsibility and even from JVP membership.

However, Comrade Marasinghe was determined to continue with some form of political and organisational activity. Therefore, he began to work in the field of culture, organising the People's Cultural Centre, first in Anuradhapura and later on extending it to other towns such as Kandy and Kurunegala.

Comrade Marasinghe was well-known for his anti-racist positions and in the aftermath of the attack on civilians in Anuradhapura by a Tamil group in May 1985 and the subsequent

backlash against the Tamil population then resident in Anuradhapura, he initiated the formation of the Citizens Committee of Anuradhapura.

What many people do not know about Comrade Marasinghe was the extreme difficulty with which he managed to continue with his work and maintain a young family, with no regular income. He tried his hand at a number of trades, and was finally engaged in the manufacture and sale of footwear together with some friends. He was shot down at the Sunday Fair in Anuradhapura while selling his wares.



*'He who would not give in
Has been done to death
He who was done to death
Would not give in.*

Was the fight in vain, then ?

*When he who did not fight alone is done to death
The enemy
Has not yet won.*

- Brecht -



Comrade Nandasena was born in Akmeemana, Galle, and became involved in politics while at Medical College. After the UNP government came into power in 1977, he began to work for the JVP as a gesture of his commitment to the struggle for social justice in Sri Lanka.

In 1983 he ran for the Parliamentary elections held for the Ratgama seat in Galle District, on behalf of the JVP. However, after July 1983, Comrade Nandasena began to have serious doubts about the politics of the JVP, and especially about its chauvinist attitude. Thus, he began to distance himself from the JVP politically; however, he continued to maintain his links with members of the JVP at a personal level, and there were many occasions on which he used his medical skills for their benefit.

Comrade Nandasena consistently maintained an anti-racist position, and was vehement in declaring that all Sri Lankans



NANDASENA FERNANDO

should be equal. At the time of Muslim-Sinhala conflicts in Galle, he was in the forefront of the initiatives for communal harmony in the area.

As a result of political victimisation, Comrade Nandasena was given a 'punishment transfer' to Vavuniya at a time when the ethnic conflict was at its peak. There, he was instrumental in setting up a Citizens' Committee and led many public demonstrations against the harassment of the Tamil people by the armed forces. At one time, he was even suspended from his job because of these involvements.

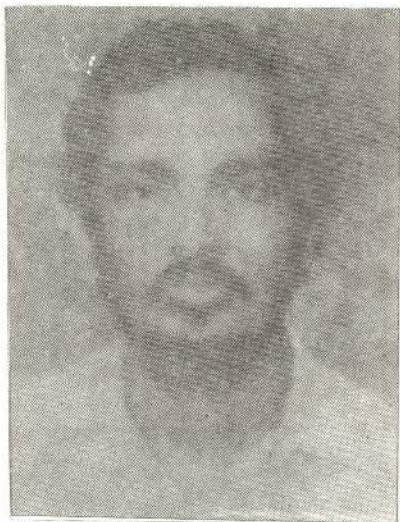


Comrade Gamini was an English teacher, employed in the state education system. At the time of his death, he was teaching in a small school in the Pollonnaruwa District.

He was an active member of the CPSL and the Secretary of the CPSL branch organisation in the Pollonnaruwa District. He was also very much involved in championing the cause of the impoverished peasants among whom he lived and worked, and was a leading figure in the United Peasants' Committee of the area.

He also maintained close and cordial relations with all other left and progressive groups, coming together with them to protest against injustice and deprivation wherever he saw them.

He defended the rights of the Tamil people of Sri Lanka and carried on a relentless struggle against racism and chauvinism.



GAMINI MEDAGEDERA

Comrade Gamini was shot dead while returning home from school one day, unsuspecting and unarmed.



In 1984, Comrade Nandasena became a member of the NSSP and continued with his fight for social justice and equality as a party member. He was standing for Provincial Council elections as a candidate for the USA when he was brutally murdered by the self-styled patriotic forces.



When he was assassinated by the gunmen of the JVP in December 1988, Comrade Solomon was 65 years old. He had spent 41 years of his life among the poverty-stricken peasants of Sri Lanka's north-central dry zone, involving himself in every single struggle for their rights and demands.

Comrade Solomon served in the British Army during the Second World War; his period of service as a soldier gave him the opportunity to travel widely in Asia. After the end of the war, along with other war veterans, he was allocated a plot of land in the north-



W.K.SOLOMON SINGHO

central province. This was a time when that was a thick jungle area, infested with all types of wild animals and rife with dread diseases such as malaria.

When the leaders of the pro-scribed LSSP came back into active politics after the end of the war, Comrade Solomon too joined them. He was instrumental in launching the branch of the LSSP in Pollonnaruwa. He also continued to be involved in local politics, running for local government posts and devoting himself to the upliftment of the peasantry, courting arrest and detention on many occasions.



MAITRI, SARATH, UPALI

All three of these comrades were members of the VEERA PURAN APPU STREET THEATRE GROUP, and performed all over the country at progressive rallies and public meetings. Their participation in the rallies against the sugar multinationals in Moneragala in 1982 can never be forgotten. They carved a niche for themselves as performers and

In the latter stage of his life, Comrade Solomon became a member of the NSSP, and at the time of his death he was the NSSP's organiser in the Pollonnaruwa District.

Comrade Solomon was murdered while he was unarmed and walking to his fields, because he was a man of principle and had been the first to cast his vote in the Presidential elections.

singers in the hearts of all those who witnessed them in action.

They were all brutally murdered on the 11th February 1989 at the Katugampola colony in Yapahuwa, in an attack that was clearly aimed at their prowess as a group of performers who had a strong non-racist and socialist ideological base. Two more members of the group were injured in the attack.



Jamis Athugala was a peasant leader who devoted his entire life to left-wing political activity in Sri Lanka. He became involved in political work in his youth, becoming a member of the JVP in the late 1960s, and spending several years in prison after the abortive insurrection of 1971. During his period of imprisonment, he lost faith in the politics of the JVP; nevertheless, he continued to hold fast to his belief in the need for a revolutionary transformation of society.

Even though his formal education had been limited, Comrade Jamis spent a great deal of time reading and educating himself. Thus, he was able to enter into political discussions and debates with any intellectual, and he had his own, very forceful way of presenting political theories and arguments couched in the language of the rural people among whom he lived and worked.



JAMIS ATHUGALA

Comrade Jamis worked very hard together with his wife, as an agricultural labourer, in order to eke out an existence for themselves and their family of four small boys. Yet he never lacked the time to get deeply involved in political work and public service.

During the strike of 1980, in student agitations, in peasant struggles, at the time of the nurses' strike, Comrade Jamis was a very prominent figure.

During times of ethnic conflict, when the flames of racism were being spread among

the rural Sinhala population, Comrade Jamis stood in the fore of the anti-racist movement, arguing for a negotiated political solution to the ethnic crisis. He was a leading member of the Kurunegala Peace Committee.

With the growth of the JVP campaign of political assassination, Comrade Jamis spoke out against this phenomenon, saying that a movement which consisted of youth and had no proper base in society was doomed to failure. For this criticism, he was condemned to death.

Comrade Jamis lived in a small one-roomed hut; there were no shutters to the windows. As he sat by a window one night in January 1988, writing a poem, as he so often liked to do, he was shot down by the assassins of the JVP.

At the time of his death, Comrade Jamis was the Asst. Secretary of the Kurunegala District Committee of the All Lanka Peasants' Congress and also Asst. Secretary of the Panduwasnuwara Branch of the SLMP.

He leaves a widow and four small sons, the oldest of whom is 11 years old.



*'Because he wanted to live like a human being
He was slaughtered like a savage beast.'*

*His last words were a whisper
For they came from a strangled throat, but
The cold wind carried them everywhere
To many freezing people.'*

- Brecht -



VIJAYA KUMARATUNGA

Popular film star and charismatic politician, Vijaya Kumaratunga was one of the most daring and radical young persons to enter Sri Lanka's political arena in recent time.

Coming from left-leaning origins, Vijaya became a popular film star in the 1970s. He entered politics by joining the SLFP, and later on left it to found the Sri Lanka Mahajana Party (SLMP) of which he

remained leader until his untimely death.

Vijaya will in particular be remembered for his bold and relentless condemnation of chauvinism and racist politics. His trips to South India and Jaffna to establish contact with Tamil militants created a great furore, but it was a genuine gesture of reconciliation, an attempt at evolving a peaceful and demo-



cratic solution to the ethnic conflict that tears Sri Lanka apart today.

He had a bold and idealistic vision of socialist politics in Sri Lanka and spared no pains to bring about an alliance between the left parties of the country. The United Socialist Alliance was formed under his stewardship

and his murder on the 16th February 1988 was timed to disrupt the declaration of the Alliance on the 21st February.

In murdering Vijaya Kumaratunga, the assassins of the DJV dealt a death blow to the aspirations of thousands of young Sri Lankans who had seen in him a new vision of hope for Sri Lanka.



*'Emerge from the darkness and go
Before us a while
Friendly one, with the light step
of total certainty, a terror
to wielders of terror.'*

- Brecht -

R.D.PITAWELA

Comrade Pitawala hailed from the remote and disadvantaged area of Uva-Paranagama. Having completed his secondary education with difficulty, he decided to continue his education at the Government College of Fine Arts, known as Heywood at that time, because of his innate aptitude for music and dance.

On graduation in 1975, Comrade Pitawala began a career as a teacher of dancing. From the time he became a teacher, he was involved in issues related to teachers' rights; he began to work in the Ceylon Teachers Union and was one of those who lost their jobs as a result of the strike of July 1980.

The seven years after 1980, when Comrade Pitawala was without any regular employment were years of hardship indeed. He did anything he could, in order to keep his family alive. He travelled miles on foot, in order to dance for a few tourists in Nuwara Eliya. He grew, and sold, vegetables. But he did not cease his political activity. He was a part of all demonstrations organis-



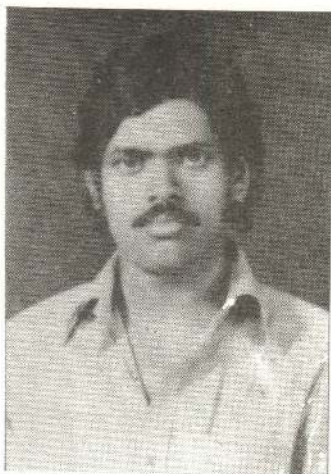
ed by the strikers of July 1980.

Once he was re-instated, Comrade Pitawala carried on with his work as the Secretary of Uva-Paranagama for the Union and as the Area Secretary of the Revolutionary Communist League. He went from house to house selling the newspaper, KAMKARU MAWATHA, and was a well-known anti-government and anti-racist figure in the area.



Comrade TB was born in the village of Doraweruwa, in Kurunegala District, and became a member of the JVP while going to school. During the time he spent in prison after the insurrection of 1971, he moved away from the JVP but retained an interest in politics and in social transformation. On release from prison, together with a few other comrades who were in the same situation, he began a Collective Farm called the Veera Puran Appu Farm. He was also instrumental in setting up the Gorky Library in the village of Thambuwa, which quickly became a centre for discussion and creativity; people not only from the surrounding areas but even from towns quite far away gathered at the Gorky Library for seminars and discussions. A theatre group was also a part of the activities.

From 1977 onwards, Comrade TB was a leading figure on many anti-government platforms. He



T.B. WIJESURIYA

was involved in the struggle against the water taxes, for drought relief and on many other peasant issues. At the same time, he was involved in other public activities; for example, he was part of the group that organised relief activities for cyclone victims in the Eastern Province in 1978; after the strike of July 1980, he took the initiative to collect rice and coconuts from the Kurunegala area and send it to Colombo for distribution among the strikers' families.

Comrade TB was a humanitarian, who did not believe in any distinctions between men based on caste, creed or race. Even though he had many deep questions regarding the nature of Indian involvement in Sri Lanka, his basic belief in a political solution to the ethnic conflict led him to accept the Provincial Councils in principle. This is why he contested the PC elections; his victory was an indicator of the love and respect he had won among the people of Kurunegala.

It is ironic indeed that Comrade TB was murdered on the very day that he distributed land to 150 poor and landless families. He was riding to a meeting along with three other colleagues - Comrades M.B. Wijesuriya, T. Sirimevan and D. Sumathiratna - when they were ambushed and cut down in a hail of gunfire.





D. SUMATHIRATNA



T. SIRIMEVAN



M.B. WIJESURIYA



Comrade Jayasena was born to an extremely poor family in the Maduragoda area in Kurunegala District. He gained a formal education with great difficulty. However, his natural aptitude for learning was such that he succeeded in entering University and graduated with a General Degree as well as a Diploma.

During the time he was a student, Comrade Jayasena had become involved in student politics. After his return to the village, he began working as a teacher. He also continued to be involved in social work and was deeply committed to the upliftment of the poor rural community to which he belonged.

He was particularly concerned about the plight of mine workers in the graphite mines of the area, who worked under extremely bad conditions and had no protection at all. He was able to organise them into a union, and after some time



R.D. JAYASENA

became the Secretary of the United Mine Workers' Solidarity Committee.

Comrade Jayasena was well-known throughout the area for his untiring efforts on behalf of the mine workers. He himself would write and put up posters and walk miles over hills and valleys to bring his message to the people.

Whatever struggle of the working people of Sri Lanka took place in the past years, Comrade Jayasena was always there, a leading figure at

meetings and demonstrations. The deep respect and affection shown to him by the people of the Dodangaslanda area is well known. His political stance on social justice and against racism led him to join the SLMP and he was the Vice-President of the Dodangaslanda branch of the SLMP at the time of his death. His deeply held political convictions led

him to speak out against racism and the wrong political ideology whenever he could. Thus, he posed a great threat to the JVP in the area.

In December 1988, Comrade Jayasena was taken away from his home and murdered while being made to stand on a symbol of the lamp (the USA's election symbol) which had been set on fire.

J.E. GUNASEKERA



The 'Suriya Mal Movement' was started in Sri Lanka as a part of the anti-imperialist struggle; when the British began to sell 'poppies' to commemorate their war dead, a group of young, anti-colonial Sri Lankans, N.M.Perera, Colvin R.de Silva and Philip Goonerwardena among them, began to sell the local sun-flower, known as the 'suriya' flower, in order to raise funds for their work in the poverty-stricken rural areas that were suffering from the malaria

epidemic. J.E. Gunasekera of Habarakada was one of the young men who began his political life as a member of this movement.

His involvement with the Suriya Mal Movement left Comrade J.E. with two lasting consequences: one was a physical disability including a bad stammer; the other was a life-long commitment to the ideals of socialism.

Even though he was a teacher by profession, Comrade J.E. could not continue teaching



due to his physical disabilities; yet he was deeply involved with the life of Habarakada, where he lived until his death. He was a local government representative on many occasions, and was the Secretary of the CPSL Habarakada branch.

However, Comrade J.E. is known throughout Sri Lanka not because of his politics but because of his literary activities. He was a much loved author of children's books and devoted a great deal of time and energy to translating for children. He translated many children's books published in the Soviet Union into Sinhala. In 1985, he was awarded the Sahitya Prize of the Ministry of Cultural Affairs.

To this day, it remains an unsolved puzzle as to why anyone would want to murder such a feeble and unassuming man, who lived by himself and led a very quiet life devoted to his writing and to social work. After the assassination, was

UPALI VITHANA

Comrade Upali belonged to the generation that was initiated into political life and activity through the 'hartal' of 1953. At that time, he was an active and youthful member of the LSSP. A teacher by profession, for many years Comrade Upali was a member of the Executive Committee of the Sri Lanka Jathika Guru Sangamaya, and at one time served as its Treasurer.

Comrade Upali was also well-known in his home town of Horana, for his leftist orientation and his concern for others. During the strike of 1980, not only Comrade Upali but also his wife lost their jobs and their entire family was left without a means of support. Yet, despite the many hardships he had to undergo, Comrade Upali never faltered in his anti-capitalist stance.

At the time that he was brutally murdered, Comrade Upali was a member of the NSSP and worked as its organiser in Horana.



Comrade Ratnayake was best known at the level of national politics in Sri Lanka as an adept trade unionist and humanitarian. He was always devoted to the left movement and spent over a year in prison in the aftermath of the JVP's insurrection in 1971.

Born in a small village off Habaraduwa in the Galle District, he lived there to the end of his days, serving the cause of the rural population. There was no person who had not received assistance or support in one form or the other from Comrade Ratnayake among the villagers of that area.

At the time of his death, Comrade Ratnayake was a member of the Central Committee of the CPSL and the Secretary of the Sri Lanka Jathika Guru Sangamaya, a major teachers' trade union. He was also elected as a Provincial Councillor of the USA for the Southern Province.



GEORGE RATNAYAKE

He was shot while travelling in a public bus, never suspecting that a sudden death lay in wait for him. It is no exaggeration to say that he was mourned by many ordinary people whose lives had been touched by his affection and concern for fellow human beings.

A black footnote can be added to the story about his murder. A person who dared to venture out to cover Comrade Ratnayake's body as it lay getting wet in the rain immediately after the assassination, was

himself murdered by those same assassins as punishment for that simple gesture of human feeling.



The anti-government 'hartal' of 1953 was Comrade Pamunuwa's initiation into politics. At that time he was a young activist of the CPSL; he retained his membership in the CPSL up to the time of his death, holding his final office as a member of the District Committee.

He was a well-known social worker in the Pamunuwa area, participating in many public organisations and running a Home for Orphans and for the Aged. He also played an active role in mass politics in the Maharagama area; it will never be forgotten how he led a demonstration through Maharagama town to protest against an attack on the Teacher Training College by UNP thugs.



HENRY PAMUNUWA

Comrade Pamunuwa never sought any recognition for his work and led a quiet life in his home town, devoting himself to the service of others to the very end of his life.

He was murdered before the eyes of his wife and children while at his home.

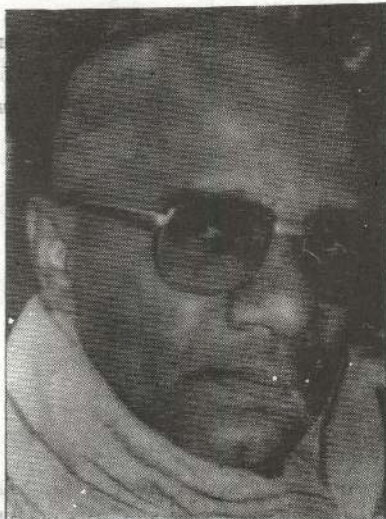




Born in 1935, the Ven. Pohodda-ramulle Pemaloka received his primary and secondary education in temple schools. In 1963 he entered the University and graduated with a B.A. While in University, he became involved in student politics; he became the Vice-President of the Vid-yodaya University Branch of the LSSP in 1963 and was in the forefront of the struggle against the Universities (Amendment) Act.

In 1967, he registered to read for his Honours Degree, but was very soon expelled from the campus due to his activities on behalf of the student body. Joining the Ukku Federation affiliated to the SLFP in 1970, the Ven. Pemaloka became a member of the SLMP at the time of its formation and remained its Patron until he was killed.

The Ven. Pemaloka was a teacher by profession and by inclination. He taught in a number of poor rural schools within the state educational



VEN. POHODDARAMULLE
PEMALOKA

system. As a result of the strike of 1980, he was without a job for several years; he was reinstated as a teacher at Moragalla Junior School and continued to teach there until his death.

The Ven. Pemaloka was, truly, a son of the Buddha; he did not use his position either within his political party or within the Buddhist hierarchy, for personal gain. In fact, until he passed away, few knew that he was entitled to use the title of Sanghanayaka.

A teacher who devoted his life

to the raising of the people's consciousness on social injustice according to the teaching of the Buddha, the Ven. Pemaloka was gunned down in cold blood as he lay in bed at his temple. He had been injured in a bomb attack on a SLMP rally about two weeks previously and had his leg in a plaster cast. Yet, this did not deter his killers.

M.K. METTANANDA

Comrade Mettananda was a clerical worker at the AGA's office in Tangalle at the time of his death.

He was a veteran trade unionist and had been elected General Secretary of the Govt. Clerical Servants' Union (GCSU) just before he died.

Comrade Mettananda was a member of the LSSP in early days, and was a founder member of the United Socialists group.

He was shot and stabbed to death on the 31st May, 1989, while he was at home, playing with his youngest child, an infant of 5 months old. He was 45 years old at the time of his death.

At the funeral of the late leader of the SLMP, Vijaya Kumaratunga, the Ven. Pemaloka gave the final sermon: On that occasion he said, 'May such a fate not befall even the smallest of beasts in the jungle'. It is ironic indeed that he was to meet with the same fate as that of his political leader, not even an year after he spoke those words.



WEERAKOON BANDARA

Comrade Bandara was an agricultural instructor by profession and was very involved in many village-level activities aimed at the upliftment of the community.

Comrade Bandara was dedicated to the building up of a new intellectual force at the village level and organised many public seminars and discussions under the auspices of the 'Prabuddha Samaajaya' with this aim in mind.

He was assassinated by the so-called 'patriots' of this country on the 9th February 1989.



It would not be wrong to describe Deva Bandara Senaratna as one of the most charismatic and militant youth leaders to come out of the abortive JVP insurrection of 1971.

In 1971, Comrade Deva was the area leader of the JVP for Maharagama, a suburb of Colombo. He had abandoned his education in order to work full-time for the organisation. In the aftermath of April 1971, when members of the JVP were being hunted down by the state security forces, Comrade Deva was able to evade arrest for many months; during this time, he did his best to keep up morale among his colleagues. However, he was betrayed, and taken in to custody. The scene of Comrade Deva being paraded around the town of Maharagama, half-naked and bleeding, while the Police crowded over him, is not one that anyone who witnessed it, or even heard about it, can easily forget.



DEVA BANDARA SENARATNA

Comrade Deva spent the years upto 1976 in prison. His experiences there made him determined to enter the working class and to continue with political work. On his release he joined the state transport service. He also began to be politically active as a member of the SLFP in the trade union sector.

After the UNP came into power in 1977, Comrade Deva was subject to a great deal of harassment due to his politics. He too was imprisoned along with Vijaya Kumaratunga on the charge of being 'Naxalites'.

In 1984, together with Vijaya Kumaratunga, he left the SLFP and supported the formation of the SLMP.

Whether it was a peasant demonstration in Moneragala or an anti-water tax meeting in Anuradhapura, Comrade Deva was always there, a forceful speaker, a charismatic personality. He relentlessly denounced violations of civil and democratic rights by the state and stood for equal rights for all citizens of Sri Lanka. While calling for a political

solution to the ethnic conflict, Comrade Deva also consistently called for the lifting of the proscription of the JVP.

Comrade Deva was gunned down while he spoke at a public meeting in support of Comrade Ossie Abeygunasekera's Presidential campaign at Kadawatha in December 1988. At the time of his death he was a Vice President of the SLMP and a Provincial Councillor for the USA in the North-Western Province.



Reputed to be one of the best science teachers in the area, Comrade Wijesinghe was well-known for his devotion to his pupils. Many were the special classes he organised after school hours, not for financial gain but out of his genuine wish to improve the educational standards of those he taught.

He was also in the forefront of many of the organisations in the village, taking the part of the villagers in their struggles for justice.



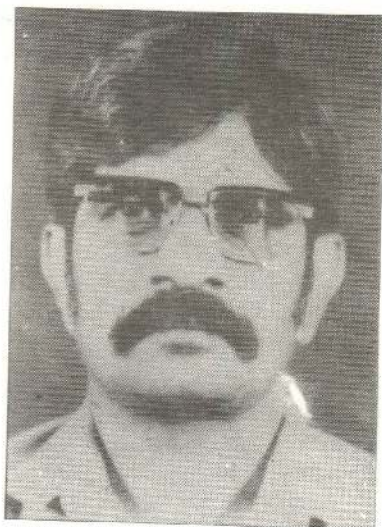
B.M. WIJESINGHE

Comrade Wijesinghe was a widower, father of 3 young children, when he was brutally murdered by the D.J.V. on the 9th of February, 1989.



At the time that Comrade Mahindabahu became a full-time worker of the JVP in 1968, he was only 18 years old. Leaving his home and travelling to Deniyaya in order to carry on with political activity, he immersed himself in working with and for the rural poor. However, he very soon began to have doubts regarding the correctness of the JVP's line of action; as a result of his daring to voice these opinions he was beaten up and chased away without even being given the chance to get his clothes together. Thus you see that the JVP's intolerance of any challenge, or even questioning is not of recent origin but has been a part of the organisation from its very inception.

The insurrection of 1971 saw Comrade Mahindabahu behind bars. He devoted his time in prison to educating himself. On his release, he obtained a job at the Sugar Corporation in



ERASIRI MAHINDABAHU

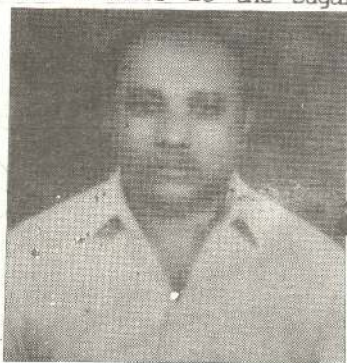
Wellawaya; at the same time he followed a course in Surveying at the Technical College. However he did not give up his political work. He organised the workers of the Sugar Corporation into a trade union and led many struggles to win their demands.

At the same time, when news came that land at Pelawatta was being set aside for a sugar multinational, Comrade Mahindabahu was one of the first persons to perceive the possible negative impact of the situation. At a time when consciousness about this issue

was very low, he read up many facts about agribusiness and mono-cropping and was vehement in pressuring all progressive groups to take action in this regard. His dedication to the struggle of the peasants of Moneragala will never be forgotten by any who were a part of it, even marginally.

Comrade Mahindabahu worked ceaselessly for the betterment of the workers at the Sugar

Corporation and was able to win many of their demands for them. He never nursed any personal ambitions for himself. He was employed by the Pelwatta Sugar Company as a Surveyor and could have enjoyed many privileges as a worker at a higher level, if he had wished to. But he preferred to live as a worker, fighting for justice for all.



P.D. WIMALASENA

Born in the village of Makuluduwa in 1940, Comrade Wimalasena began working life as an apprentice at the Govt. Press in Colombo in 1958. The strike of 1959 initiated him to trade union activity, and also led him to involvement with the LSSP. In 1963, he was elected General Secretary of the Printers' Union; by 1966,

he was President, which post he held up to the time of his death. He was also Secretary of the LSSP's trade union federation.

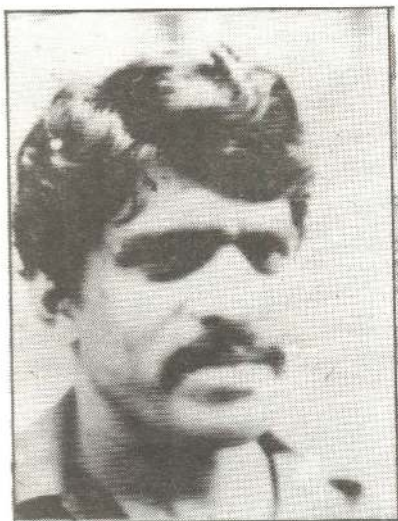
Comrade Wimalasena was shot dead in cold blood as he was finishing off his day's work at the LSSP printing press in Colombo, on the 27th May, 1989, depriving the working class movement of Sri Lanka of yet another of its experienced leaders.



From his childhood, Comrade Chandrawimala grew up in an environment conducive to left-wing political involvement. His father was a committed member of the LSSP, so it was only natural that the son should follow in the father's footsteps.

Comrade Chandrawimala began his adult life as a worker on the state transport services. Because of his involvement with the LSSP, he joined the All Lanka Motor Mechanics' Union and was active within the Union.

He later on became a member of the NSSP. His participation in the strike of 1976 led to his receiving a 'punishment transfer' in 1978; he was allocated the task of pumping diesel into buses at the Moratuwa Central Bus Workshop. But nothing would deter him from his political commitment. In spite of facing severe repression, in spite of being imprisoned on several occasions, he did



D.M.D., CHANDRAWIMALA

not lose his faith either in the NSSP or in his belief in the revolutionary transformation of society.

His commitment and activism won Comrade Chandrawimala a position on the Politbureau of the NSSP in his later years. He was killed in a bomb attack on a public meeting organised in support of the Presidential campaign of Ossie Abeygunasekera of the SLMP, in Colombo.

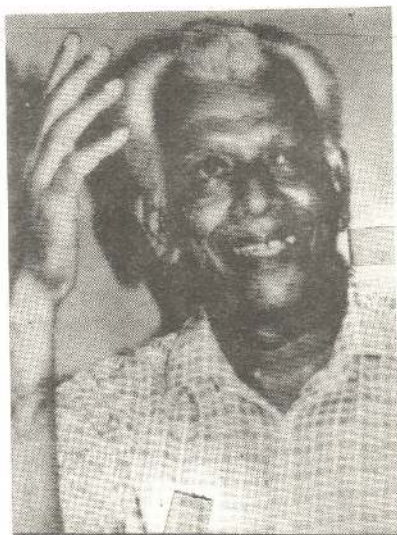




Comrade Panditha hailed from the town of Ratgama in the Southern Province and entered politics through the LSSP. At the time that the LSSP was proscribed by the British, due to its anti-war stance during World War II, Comrade Panditha was a young activist in its ranks.

Having continued with his political involvement during the clandestine period of the LSSP, Comrade Panditha grew into a leader of the left-wing movement in Sri Lanka. At the time of the 'hartal' of 1953, he was a trade union leader; in 1954, together with others such as K.P. Silva, he joined the Communist Party of Sri Lanka. At the time of his death, he was a member of the Politbureau of the CPSL.

Comrade Panditha is best known as a veteran left trade unionist. He participated in many strikes and joint trade union activities and many victories of the working class movement



L.W. PANDITHA

in Sri Lanka, such as the granting of six weeks medical leave and the deduction of trade union dues direct from workers' pay sheets, are to his credit.

When, in 1983, the UNP government then in power proscribed the CPSL for a short period, Comrade Panditha was among those taken into custody.

There is a little known fact about Comrade Panditha that we would like to place on record here. In the local government elections of 1958, he was pit-

ted against the present President, Mr.R.Premadasa, for the ward of St.Sebastian's Hill in the Colombo Municipal Council. He won.

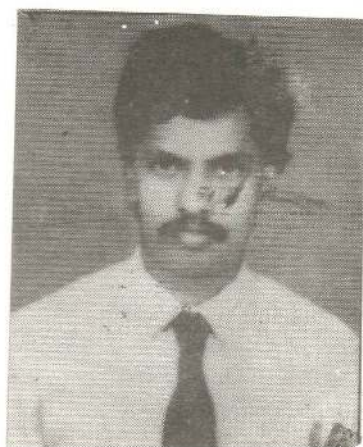
Comrade Panditha was stabbed to death as he walked to

his home in a working class district in the city of Colombo. Thus, a man who devoted his life to the working class movement met with his death at the hands of the so-called patriotic forces.

UDENI VIJITA NANDASIRI

Even though he was Udeni by name, he was always known as 'Kalu Punchi' by all. He began political work as a member of the JVP in 1978, while still a youngster and continued to work full-time for that organisation for three years. During that time, he not only engaged himself in organisational and educational work on behalf of the JVP but also worked at cutting bricks, or as a chena farmer, donating all that he earned to the JVP coffer.

Due to a number of differences of opinion he had with the JVP in 1981 he left the organisation and resigned from member-



ship in the JVP. Yet he continued to work in other broad organisations and was constantly involved in whatever struggles were taking place in the Moneragala area. He was a prominent figure in the agitation against the sugar multinationals, against the water taxes and so on. Due to his activities, he was elected to the General Council of the All Lanka Peasants' Congress. Thus

he became more involved in national level struggles.

Comrade 'Kalu Punchi' was deeply committed to the spirit of socialism and equality, and spoke out against racism at all times. He too joined in condemning the strategy of political assassination followed by the JVP. However, very soon Kalu Punchi found himself confronting the members of the Patriotic People's Movement, who 'advised' him to cease all these activities if he valued his life.

Considering that he was responsible for an aging mother and several sisters, Comrade Kalu Punchi decided that he did not want to risk his life. He therefore stopped all his political work and remained at home, and was assured by the JVP that no harm would come to him. He even went so far as to put up a banner outside his home announcing that he had ceased all political work, on the instructions of the JVP. Having fulfilled all their demands, Kalu Punchi thought he was safe. Yet he was wrong. He should have known that the word of the so-called patriots was not to be trusted. One

night, Comrade Kalu Punchi was taken away from his home. Together with a farmer, R. M. Wijesoma, a school boy, D. M. Punchi Bandara and a graduate of Sri Jayawardenapura University, M. B. Herath, he was marched to a lonely spot a short distance away from the village. There, these four were brutally tortured and then hacked to death. Their bodies were found with the eyes gouged out, the stomachs split open, hands and legs severed from the bodies. Their families were forbidden even to bury these bits of human flesh that had been their loved ones. This is the fate that overtook someone who trusted the word of the so-called patriots.





Dedicated to the religious life and to the well-being of his people, the Ven. Raddegoda Saranankara, often referred to as the 'Korosse Hamuduruwo' (the monk of Korossa temple), was deeply involved in many of the struggles carried on by the people of Dodangaslanda to win justice and equality.

In the early 1980s, he was a leader of the protest movement against the handing over of lands in Moneragala area to foreign multinationals, travelling to Colombo and even to Moneragala as a part of the campaign. He was also supportive of the many struggles of the graphite mine workers of Maduragoda, and a leader in the anti-Water Tax campaign launched by peasants in the region.

True to the Buddha's creed the Ven. Saranankara fought against the scourge of racism. His espousal of the cause of the Tamil plantation workers in the Delhena-Raddegoda area was typical of the way he



VEN. RADDEGODA SARANANKARA

lived according to the ideals of the Buddhist religion.

He was Patron of the Dodangaslanda Workers-Peasants Organisation.

According to the Ven. Saranankara, the precepts of Buddhism espouse democratic principles. Therefore, it is perfectly in order for a Buddhist monk to take a stand for democracy.

He was a devout and disciplined monk, who gave unstintingly of his time and energy to the community in which he

lived, preaching the word of the Buddha and endeavouring, at all times, to strengthen the peace-loving, harmonious traditions of the people of Sri Lanka.

At the same time, the Ven. Saranankara had the courage to take a principled stand against racism and fascism. At a time when racists were fuelling the fires of hatred against the defenceless Tamil plantation workers of Delhena-Raddegoda, he himself walked from house to house in the affected villages, preaching tolerance and peace.

When a colleague at Maduragoda was murdered by the D.J.V.

he defied the wrath of these fascist murderers and took the initiative to organise funeral arrangements for that comrade.

The Ven. Saranankara was unafraid of the many death threats he received, and continued to live as before when, on July 26, 1989, he was gunned down in cold blood at his temple.

There can be no better epitaph for the Ven. Saranankara than the words preached by the Lord Buddha himself : 'So long as the intent is pure, the will is strong and death is weak'.



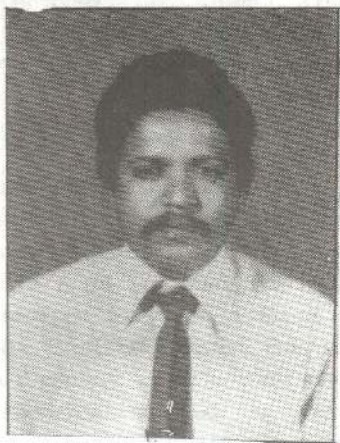


Comrade Siripala, or, as he was better known, Shelton, began his political life as a pioneer member of the JVP and was one of the first JVPers to be arrested, as far back as 1970.

After the abortive insurrection of April 1971, he continued to work towards re-organising the JVP, leading a clandestine life upto the time of his arrest and imprisonment.

During this period of underground political activity as well as while in prison, Comrade Shelton undertook a serious evaluation of the JVP and its politics, and became disillusioned with what he saw.

After leaving the JVP, Comrade Shelton sought regular employment in order to overcome the economic hardships he was facing. He obtained a job as a clerk in the Ministry of Public Administration and soon became involved in trade union activity, rising to the post



of Executive Committee member in the Union.

He joined the Strike of July 1980 and lost his job. Up to the time of his death, he had not re-entered regular employment, but was instead devoting his time and energy to work in organisations such as the Movement for the Defence of Democratic Rights.

Becoming deeply involved in many struggles carried on by workers, peasants, students, women and other oppressed people in various parts of the island, Comrade Shelton was a well-known figure among all engaged in the struggle for human rights in Sri Lanka.



Becoming deeply involved in many struggles carried on by workers, peasants, students, women and other oppressed groups in various parts of the island, Comrade Shelton was well-known, loved and respected among all those engaged in the struggle for human rights in Sri Lanka.

He was gunned down inside the kitchen of his home, in the presence of his wife and two children, on the 5th August 1989.



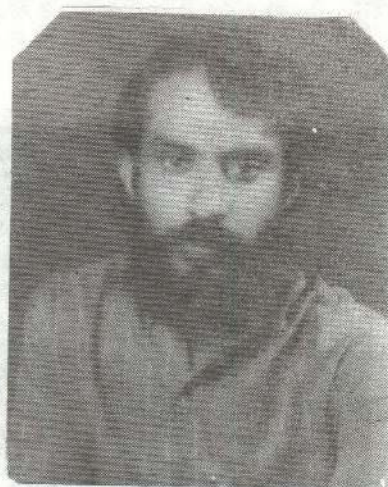


SARATH MALLIKA DE SILVA

Comrade Sarath was a veteran member of the LSSP. At the time of his death, he was Deputy Secretary of the LSSP's Youth League and their organiser for the Eastern Province.

He was a worker at the State Sugar Corporation in Kantalai, in the E.P., and an active trade unionist who was appointed to the Workers' Council as far back as 1973.

Comrade Sarath was also an active social worker who tirelessly espoused the cause of the poor peasants of Kantalai. In 1986, when the Kantalai tank breached its bund, causing death and destruction to the neighbouring area, he was in the forefront of the agitation against state inaction in this respect, organising and mobilising the people. It was he who also brought a case against the Water Resources Board, citing their neglect as being instrumental in the disaster.



Being totally committed to the principle of devolution of power to the Provinces, as well as being dedicated to the struggle against racism, Comrade Sarath was one of the main speakers in the Sinhala language on the platforms of the E.P.R.L.F. during the P.C. elections.

He was shot dead on the eve of the Sinhala and Tamil New Year, on 12th April, 1989, as he was travelling in a bus from the town of Kantalai to his home.

His loss is deeply felt not only by his family and his political comrades, but also by the poor people of Kantalai on behalf of whom he waged battle with the state.

ANANDA WEERAKOON

Comrade Ananda Weerakoon was born in 1927, to a family of regional aristocrats in the Uva Province. Yet he devoted his life to the welfare of the ordinary peasantry of the Wellassa area, and was fondly referred to as 'Ananda Mahataya' (Mr. Ananda) by all who knew him, out of respect not only for his age but for his wisdom.

Comrade Ananda's involvement in left-wing politics dates back to the 1940s. During the height of the anti-colonial and anti-imperialist struggle, he brought the message of socialism to the people of the Uva Province. Such was his enthusiasm for his work 'that before long he began to be referred to as 'the Karl Marx of the Uva'.

He spent his entire lifetime with the poor peasants of the Uva area, involving himself in a number of activities

aimed at the betterment of their conditions of existence. He was a leading activist of the All Lanka Peasants' Congress in the area and was in the forefront of a number of struggles for peasant rights. Yet, Comrade Ananda really shot into the limelight as a result of the relentless agitation campaign he organised against the handing over of traditional peasant farm lands in the Moneragala area to foreign-based sugar multinational companies.

He was arrested several times and even had a case filed against him, as a result of these activities. But nothing could deter him from the path

he had chosen and he continued to be a vigorous fighter against the sugar companies up to the time of his death.

While Comrade Ananda took the initiative to bring the struggle of the peasants of Moneragala to the sphere of national politics, by organising solidarity meetings and discussions with all progressive groups and political parties, he himself played a role in many other struggles that were carried on elsewhere in the island. In particular, it must be mentioned that he was consistent in denouncing racism and chauvinism in whatever form.

The situation of conflict between the sugar multinationals who were backed by the state, and the peasants of Moneragala led by persons such as Comrade Ananda, has brought about the death of a number of people on both sides. Comrade Ananda too was killed by a group of unknown gunmen. While it is still not possible to lay the blame directly at anyone's door, it can be said that the vicious cycle of violence perpetrated by the JVP and by the state is responsible for the death of this comrade.



WARNASURIYA SILVA

D. Warnasuriya Silva was a member of the LSSP in Kalutara and was deeply involved in leftist political activity in the area. He was assassinated by the DJV on April 14, 1989, New Year's Day.

His father, Lewis Silva, a veteran member of the LSSP, had been assassinated by the DJV almost exactly a year previously, on April 19, 1989.

LESLIE YATANWALA

Attorney-at-law and long-standing member of the LSSP, Comrade Yatanwala was a member of the Provincial Council for Sabaragamuwa from the USA at the time of his death.

He was assassinated by the DJV on 15, June, 1989.

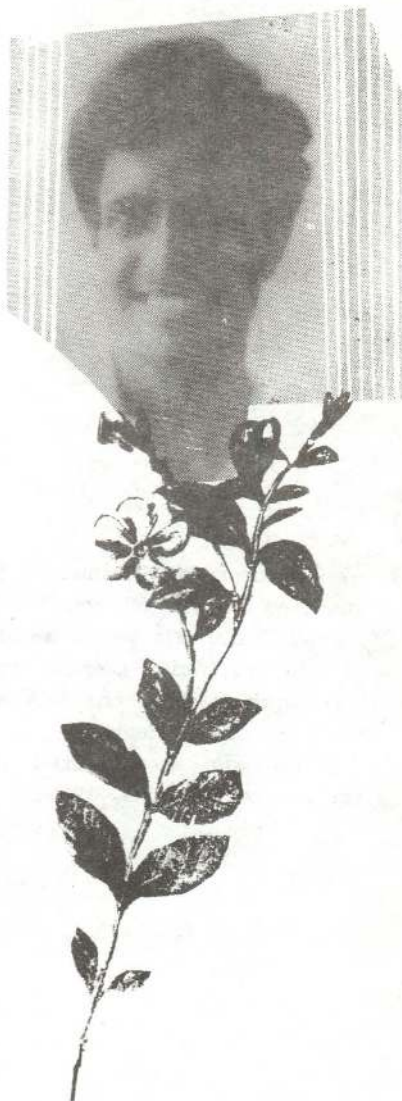
K. L. DHARMASIRI

Comrade Dharmasiri assumed leadership of the Independent Students' Union (ISU) on the death of Daya Pathirana in 1986.

As a student in the Law Faculty at the University of Colombo, he was active in propagating a non-racist political ideology among the student community, and was arrested on several occasions due to his activism.

His commitment to the principles of justice and equality as well as his fiery oratorical style, made him a key figure on the platforms of the progressive and left alliances in the country.

His courage and dedication to the struggle against fascism had made him a prime target for the assassins of the DJV and he was finally gunned down in Colombo on August 19, 1989.



An incomplete list of left-wing and progressive persons
assassinated by the Patriotic People's Movement (D.J.V.):

1. Daya Pathirana, leader of the Independent Students' Union (ISU); stabbed to death on December 15, 1986;
2. Nandana Marasinghe, one time JVP leader, musician and poet, founder of the People's Cultural Centre and Secretary of the Citizens' Committee, Anuradhapura; shot dead at Anuradhapura on November 29, 1987;
3. K.A.D. Saddhatissa, retired school principal, veteran member of the Communist Party and CPSL organiser for Akuressa; 65 years old; shot while sick and in bed, on January 4, 1988;
4. Upul Ranjith Saddhatissa, President of the District Committee of the CP Youth League in Akuressa, son of the above, shot dead at Akuressa on January 4, 1988;
5. Jamis Athugala, Asst. Secy. of the Kurunegala District Committee of the All Lanka Peasants' Congress and activist of the Sri Lanka Mahajana Party (SLMP); shot dead at Wariyapola on January 11, 1988;
6. Gamini Medagedera, attorney-at-law, teacher and peasant activist; member of Central Committee of CPSL Youth League; shot dead at Pollonnaruwa on February 11, 1988;
7. Yapa Bandara, student leader of the SLMP; shot dead at Kelaniya on February 8, 1988;
8. Vijaya Kumaratunga, popular actor, leader of the SLMP and founder of the United Socialist Alliance (USA); shot dead at his home in Colombo, on February 16, 1988;

9. M.R. Heen Banda, member of the LSSP, candidate for the Provincial Council elections; shot dead at Hingurak-goda, on March 14, 1988;
10. Erasiri Mahindabahu, one time member of the JVP, peasant organiser; NSSP candidate for PC elections; killed in Moneragala on April 12, 1988;
11. P.A. Jayawardena, 60 years old; retired Village Headman and CPSL candidate for PC elections; shot dead at Akuressa on April 22, 1988;
12. Lewis Silva, veteran member of the LSSP, candidate for the PC elections; shot, stabbed and beaten to death on April 19, 1988, at Kalutara;
13. Sarath Upali, artist, Secy. of Ratgama Branch of SLMP, injured in attack on SLMP leader Kumaratunga, he died at hospital in Colombo on April 25, 1988;
14. M.W.Nimal, supporter of USA, killed in Wattergama on April 27, 1988;
15. T. Amaradasa, 60, Secy. of CPSL Branch in Divulapitiya, Treasurer of CPSL Gampaha District Committee, retired school principal, candidate for PC elections; shot dead at campaign meeting on May 8, 1988;
16. Amara Wellappili, lawyer, regional leader of the LSSP in Matara, candidate for PC elections; shot dead along with his brother-in-law during the election campaign, in Matara, on May 7, 1988;
17. Dr. Nandasena Fernando, medical doctor, ex-JVPer, he ran a private dispensary in Ratgama; he was a NSSP candidate for the PC elections; shot dead at Hapugala, Galle on May 12, 1988;

18. H.Y. Rodrigo, 72, pioneer member of the LSSP from the days of the 'Suriyamal' campaign, he later became a founder member of the SLMP and was a candidate for the PC elections; shot dead in Horana, on May 24, 1988;
19. S.B. Yalagama, former SLFP MP for Rattota in Matale, he later on joined the SLMP and was a USA candidate for the PC elections at the time he was killed, along with Palitha Udugama, in Matale, on May 28, 1988;
20. B. Dhanapala, 75, ex-Village Council Chairman and a regional leader of the CPSL in Matara, he was killed during the PC election campaign, in Kirinda, on June 5 1988;
21. M.G. Gunawardena, member of SLMP, killed in Moneragala on June 6, 1988;
22. H.K. Dayawansa, supporter of the USA, killed in Akmeemana on June 8, 1988;
23. D.M.B. Nonis, supporter of the USA, killed in Beliatta on June 14, 1988;
24. G.W. Kulatunga, supporter of the USA, killed in Hakmana on June 19, 1988;
25. L.W. Panditha, veteran member of the CPSL and member of the Politbureau; leading trade unionist, General Secretary of the Ceylon Federation of Trade Unions; stabbed to death in Colombo on June 26, 1988;
26. K.G. Dahamsiri, retired school principal, Secretary of the Devinuwara branch of the CPSL, shot dead at Devinuwara on July 15, 1988;

27. Gamini Tudawe, member of the Central Committee of the CPSL Youth League and Secretary of the CPSL District organisation; shot dead in Matara on July 16, 1988;
28. H.P. Jinadasa, member of the District Committee of the CPSL in Embilipitiya, peasant activist, candidate for the PC elections, shot dead on July 20, 1988;
29. Colvin Wijithasena, Vice-President of the SLMP District Committee in Akuressa, candidate for the PC elections, killed on July 25, 1988;
30. S.A. Nilaweera, supporter of the USA, killed in Gandara on August 7, 1988;
31. Nirmal Fernando, 17, son of Dr. Nandasena Fernando, injured in attack on father on 12th May, he succumbed to his injuries on August 23, 1988;
32. R. Nimal, SLMP supporter, killed in attack on SLMP Provincial Councillor's home in Bandaragama, on August 28, 1988;
33. K.D.G. Udayasiri, supporter of USA, killed in Weligama on August 29, 1988;
34. Gamini Ranaweera, Organiser of the CPSL Youth League's District branch, killed in Matara on August 30, 1988;
35. A.G. Gunapala, member of the SLMP, candidate for PC elections, brutally murdered in Moneragala on September 12, 1988;

36. George Ratnayake, member of the Central Committee of the CPSL, leader of the teachers' trade union movement and Provincial Councillor of the USA for the Southern Province, shot and stabbed to death on September 14, 1988;
37. Weerasena Pitigala, member of the LSSP, Provincial Councillor for the USA in the Southern Province, shot dead in Kalutara on September 27, 1988;
38. Albert Wijeroopa, railway worker, District Secretary of the LSSP for Galle, and PC candidate, killed in Galle on September 30, 1988;
39. Jayantha Wijenaike Abeysekera, LSSP activist, killed in Galle on September 30, 1988;
40. Henry Pamunuwa, leading member of the CPSL in Kotte and a well-known social worker, USA candidate in PC elections, shot dead in Maharagama on October 1, 1988;
41. K.K. Pragnaratna, 65, veteran member of the LSSP and USA candidate for the PC elections; killed at Athurugiriya on October 2, 1988;
42. T.B. Wijesuriya, Provincial Councillor for the USA in the North-West Province, peasant organiser and well-known cultural worker, killed in ambush along with three colleague at Madagalla, Maho, on October 3, 1988;
43. M. Sumathiratna, USA candidate for the PC elections, killed in ambush at Madagalla, Maho, on October 3, 1988;
44. T. Sirimevan, supporter of the USA, killed in ambush at Madagalla, Maho, on October 3, 1988;

45. D. Wijesuriya Banda, supporter of the USA, killed in ambush at Madagalla, Maho, on October 3, 1988;
46. K.A.D. Jinadasa, member of the CPSL District Committee for Kurunegala, Vice Principal of Demataluwa Maha Vidyalaya, Wariyapola; teachers' trade unionist; killed near his school at Wariyapola on October 5, 1988;
47. Upali Vithana, 64, teacher and trade unionist, NSSP Organiser for Horana, killed on October 7, 1988;
48. Jayantha Padmasiri, supporter of the USA, shot dead while putting up posters for a USA rally, in Ratnapura on October 8, 1988;
49. N. Prathapasinghe, employee of postal services, member of the CPSL and Secretary of the CPSL branch at Makandura; killed along with his older brother at Kamburupitiya on October 13, 1988;
50. G.P. Wickremasinghe, Vice-President of the SLMP District Committee, shot dead at Akuressa on October 17, 1988;
51. J.E. Gunasekera, veteran member of the CPSL, well-known translator and journalist, shot dead at Habarakada, Homagama, on October 19, 1988;
52. Bandula Senaratna, student activist and supporter of the USA, shot dead at Rambewa, Anuradhapura, on October 20, 1988;
53. D.M. Amaradasa Heenpellege, Organiser for the SLMP in Deniyaya and USA candidate for PC elections, shot dead at Deniyaya on October 22, 1988;

54. K.M. Wimalasena, member of the Matara District Committee of the CPSL and USA candidate for PC elections, shot dead at Matara on October 26, 1988;
55. Premaratna Herath, member of the SLMP, killed in Kurunegala in late October, 1988;
56. Nihal Dayaratna, member of the SLMP, killed in Ratnapura in late October, 1988;
57. Mohamed Jiffry, supporter of the USA, killed in Weligama on November 1, 1988;
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58. Ariyaratna Jayasekera, Organiser for the SLMP in Weligama and USA candidate for PC elections, killed on November 5, 1988;
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59. E.A. Ranjith, supporter of the USA, killed in Horana on November 7, 1988;
60. D.M. Nandasena de Silva, ex-JVPer who lost his job as a result of the strike of July 1980 and who was running a farm in Ella-Wellawaya, Moneragala, brutally tortured and killed along with four others, on November 8, 1988;
61. D.M. Jayawardena, student of the University of Moratuwa, killed in above incident, along with Jayalath Sandanam, D.L. Joseph and Rohana, on November 8, 1988;
62. M.D.M. Chandrawimala, member of the NSSP, killed in bomb attack on USA rally during Presidential election campaign, along with two others, in Colombo on November 18, 1988;
63. Nandasena Thiranagama, supporter of the USA, killed in Habaraduwa, Galle, on November 25, 1988;

54. H.T. Sirisena, teacher, supporter of the USA, killed in Kamburupitiya on November 26, 1988;
55. M.G. Themiyadasa, Provincial Councillor for the USA in Matale, killed along with one other person on November 26, 1988;
66. K.L. Douglas, District Secretary of the NSSP in Matara, killed at Weligama on November 28, 1988;
67. P.G. Premapala, male nurse, official of the Public Services Nurses Union and member of the CPSL, killed in Matara on November 29, 1988;
68. Deva Bandara Senaratna, Vice-President of the SLMP and Provincial Councillor for the USA in the North-Western Province, killed in attack on USA rally during Presidential election campaign, at Kadawatha, on December 2, 1988;
69. Dharmadasa Atapattu, railway worker and striker of July 1980, member of the CPSL, killed in above attack on December 2, 1988;
70. Mahinda Vithanage, ex-Police officer, member of SLMP and bodyguard of SLMP Presidential candidate, Ossie Abeygunasekera, killed in above attack on December 2, 1988;
71. Jagath Rohana, member of SLMP Youth League, killed in attack on December 2, 1988;
72. Ananda Weerakoon, veteran leftist and peasant organiser of the Uva Province, killed in Moneragala on December 12, 1988;

73. Ven. Pohoddaramulle Pemaloka, Patron of the SLMP and respected monk, killed while lying in bed with an injured leg at his temple in Kalutara, on December 17, 1988;
74. Gunapala, employee of the Engineering Faculty of the Peradeniya University, member of the Revolutionary Communist Party, killed in Peradeniya on December 22, 1988;
75. William Fernando, supporter of the USA, killed in Passara along with two others, in late December, 1988;
76. W.K. Solomon Singho, veteran peasant organiser, member of the NSSP, killed in Pollonnaruwa on December 23, 1988
77. E. Wilbert, teacher, ex member of the CPSL, murdered along with his young daughter in Kamburupitiya on December 24, 1988;
78. Vasanth Kumara Senadheera, member of the Matara District Committee of the CPSL Youth League, killed in Matara on December 25, 1988;
79. R.D. Jayasena, member of the SLMP, leader of the mine workers' union, killed in Dodangaslanda on December 27, 1988;
80. Piyadasa Gamaachchi, employee of the Cooperative Dept., and President of the USA branch organisation in Akuressa, killed in Akuressa on December 28, 1988;
- K.G. Dhanapala, member of the CPSL, Grama Sevaka for Yatiyana, killed at Hakmana on January 6, 1989;

82. K.N. Wijeratna, 47, Vice-Principal of Rajangane Tract 14 Vidyalaya, member of the Anuradhapura District Committee of the CPSL and teachers' trade unionist, killed along with two brothers-in-law in Rajangane on January 6, 1988
83. K.K. Weeraratna, supporter of the USA, brother-in-law of the above, assistant school teacher, killed on January 6, 1989;
84. K.K. Tillekeratna, supporter of the USA, student and brother of above, killed in Rajangane on January 6, 1988
85. G.D. Susantha, Organiser for the SLMP in Beruwela, killed at Dharga Town, Beruwela, on January 17, 1989;
86. Upali Welgama, supporter of the USA, employee of the Dept. of Education in Trincomalee, killed at his home in Dummalasuriya, while on leave, on January 22, 1989;
87. G. Sumathipala, member of CPSL, Matara, killed in Matara on January 23, 1989;
88. K.A. Premachandra, member of Eksath Samaajawaadiyo group, killed in Devundara on January 23, 1989;
89. Nissanka Karunatilaka, USA candidate for Kandy in the general elections, killed together with 5 other members of his family, in Kandy, on January 27, 1989;
90. Lal Gunaratna, member of the SLMP, older brother of the Secretary of the SLMP's Youth League, killed on January 29, 1989;
91. D.A. Jayantha Ananda, member of the Lanka Jaathika Shishya Sammelanaya, (CPSL student group), killed in Matara on February 2, 1989;

92. U.P. Lankathilaka, supporter of the USA, killed in Matara on February 2, 1989;
93. J. Ratnapala, regional leader of the NSSP, teacher at Gemunu Maha Vidyalaya, Anuradhapura, shot dead on February 3, 1989;
94. Somadasa Gankanda, member of the SLMP, USA candidate for Kalutara at the General Elections, killed at Kalutara on February 5, 1989;
95. Dr. R.A. Jayaweera, USA candidate for Kurunegala at the General Elections, killed at Gokarella on February 5, 1989;
96. Maitri, member of the Veera Puran Appu Collective Farm at Thambuwa, Maho, and street theatre artiste, killed in the colony at Doraweruwa, along with two colleagues, on February 11, 1989;
97. Upali, progressive street theatre artiste, killed in above incident on February 11, 1989;
98. Sarath, progressive street theatre artiste, killed in above incident on February 11, 1989;
99. Weerakoon Bandara, agricultural instructor, killed at Madahapola in Kurunegala on February 9, 1989;
100. B.M. Wijesinghe, teacher and social worker, killed at Madahapola in Kurunegala on February 9, 1989;
101. P.M.V. Karunaratna, supporter of the USA in Kandy, killed while putting up posters in support of USA in campaign for General Elections, along with three others, at Halloluwa, Kandy, on February 12, 1989;

102. P.M.V. Francis, supporter of the USA, killed in above incident in Kandy, on February 12, 1989;
103. Bandulasena Ritigahapola, supporter of the USA, killed in above incident in Kandy, on February 12, 1989;
104. Sunil Fernando, supporter of the USA, killed in above incident in Kandy, on February 12, 1989;
105. G.A. Somapala, supporter of the USA and social worker, killed at Habaraduwa, Galle, on February 20, 1989;
106. D.J. Obeysekera, member of the District Committee of the CPSL Student Federation in Matara, killed along with one other in Matara on February 21, 1989;
107. Prasanga Lankathilaka, member of the CPSL Youth League in Kotuwana, Matara, killed in above incident, on February 21, 1989;
108. M.P. Jayakody, member of SLMP, killed in Galgamuwa on February 21, 1989;
109. Peter Jayasena, supporter of the USA, killed in Galle on February 24, 1989;
110. Kapila Jayantha Gunasekera, supporter of the USA, killed in Galle on February 24, 1989;
111. S.K. Lal, supporter of the USA, killed in Galle on February 24, 1989;
112. J.P. Piyadasa, Grama Sevaka, defeated candidate for the USA in Matara, killed at Laggala on March 8, 1989;

113. J. Herath, defeated candidate for the USA in Provincial Council elections in Kandy, killed in Kandy on March 6, 1989;
114. S.H. Weerakoon, supporter of the USA, killed in Kandy on March 8, 1989;
115. M. Jinadasa, member of LSSP, Treasurer of the Kegalle District Committee of the LSSP, killed in Kegalle on March 14, 1989;
116. R.D. Lal Sarathchandra, supporter of the USA, killed in Kuliypitiya on March 23, 1989;
117. K.A.G.J. Amaraweera, member of the LSSP, killed in Kalutara on March 25, 1989;
118. M.D. Kiri Banda, member of SLMP in Maho, killed at Alawwa on March 26, 1989;
119. D. Surasena, member of LSSP, employee of the state transport board and trade unionist, killed in Hambantota on March 28, 1989;
120. W. Chandrasena, member of LSSP, USA candidate for PC elections, killed in Embilipitiya on April 8, 1989;
121. Sarath Mallika de Silva, regional leader of LSSP, peasant activist and trade unionist, employee of Sugar Corporation, killed in Kantalai on April 12, 1989;
122. D. Warnasuriya Silva, member of LSSP, son of Lewis Silva veteran LSSP member who was assassinated on April 19, 1988, killed in Kalutara on April 18, 1989;

123. J.S.S. Dharmadasa Bandara, attorney at law, member of CPSL District Committee in Moneragala, killed in Moneragala on April 25, 1989;
124. S.M. Ariyasinghe, member of SLMP Youth League, Maho, killed on April 28, 1989;
125. Jayantha Gamage, guard, killed in attack on USA Provincial Councillor's home at Boossa, Galle, on May 18, 1989;
126. P.D. Wimalasena, veteran trade unionist, member of the Central Committee of the LSSP and General Secretary of the LSSP Trade Union Federation, killed at the LSSP printing press in Colombo on May 27, 1989;
127. 2 bodyguards of a USA Provincial Councillor in Nikaweratiya on May 30, 1989;
128. M.K. Mettananda, trade unionist, Secretary elect of the Govt. Clerical Servants' Union and member of Eksath Samaajawaadiyo group, killed in Deiyandara on May 31, 1989;
129. Ivan Jayasekera, USA Provincial Councillor for the Western Province, killed along with one other person at Pamunuwa, Maharagama, on June 6, 1989;
130. Chandana Munasinghe, USA supporter, killed along with above in Maharagama on June 6, 1989;
131. Gunatilaka Ilesinghe, member of the SLMP, killed in Veyangoda on June 12, 1989;
132. Lesley Yatanwala, attorney at law, Provincial Councillor of the USA in Sabaragamuwa, member of LSSP, killed in Sabaragamuwa on June 15, 1989;

133. G. Graetian Leo Anthony, member of the Revolutionary Communist League, Chilaw, killed on June 23, 1989;
134. D.P.B. Premachandra, USA Provincial Councillor for the North Western Province, killed in Kuliypitiya on July 24, 1989;
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135. B.D. Nimal Karunathilaka, peasant activist, killed at Madahapola in Kurunegala on July 24, 1989;
136. Ven. Raddegoda Saranankara, activist Buddhist monk, killed in Dodangaslanda on July 25, 1989;
137. Siripala Weerasinghe, (Shelton), social worker and activist of the Movement for the Defence of Democratic Rights, killed at Divulapitiya on August 5, 1989;
138. Wijeratna Padukka, defeated USA candidate for Western Province in PC elections, killed at Homagama on August 8, 1989;

