

# HOT SPRING

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## AN OPINION

While at the same time expressing in sweet words a desire to resolve the Tamil problem by means of peaceful negotiation, the Government lays down pre-conditions to the LTTE as well. Where as it should be Tamils who lay down the conditions for conducting talks with the Government for resolution of the Tamil issue. The minimum condition to be insisted upon by Tamils should be to disband all land settlements carried out under various Colonisation Schemes since 1948 and cancel all changes effected in the Administrative boundaries of the Eastern Province during the said period. Uthayan 28-5-1991

# PROBLEMS FACING TAMILS IN SRI LANKA

## AUSTRALIAN GOVT. REFERS TO ITS FOREIGN MINISTER

The Australian Government has acknowledged the Petition sent by the residents of Valvettiturai setting out the havoc displayed by the Sinhala Air Force at Valvettiturai between 20th and 23rd. January and referred the subject-matter of the petition to the Australian Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade, Senator, the Hon. Gareth Evans Q. C.

Leading Senior citizens of Valvettiturai presented a petition setting out the atrocities committed by the Sinhala Air Force at Valvettiturai between 20th and 23rd. January to the UN, Heads of Non-aligned Nations and Commonwealth countries.

This news appeared in the Hot Spring of 10.2.91.

The Ministerial Officer of the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet, Government of Australia in a letter acknowledging receipt of the letter addressed to

the Australian Prime Minister said that the comments about the problems facing the Tamil people in Sri Lanka in the correspondence sent by the residents of Valvettiturai have been noted and referred to the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Senator, the Hon Gareth Evans Q.C. who has portfolio responsibilities for this matter.

The Ministerial Officer's letter is addressed to Mr. K. C. Adiapathan of Valvettiturai.

## WHY AND THE WHEREFORE NEED INVESTIGATION

Rohan de Silva, ex-navel rating of the Sri Lanka Navy has received international media publicity again. He is reported to have condemned the killing of Rajiv Gandhi.

Rohan de Silva first received international publicity, when he hit the late Mr. Rajiv Gandhi, while the latter was inspecting a Guard of-Hon-

our, when he came down to Colombo to sign the notorious Rajiv-Jayewardene Accord of July, 1987. Rohan de Silva was a member of the navy personnel, who provided the Guard-of-Honour. Mr. J. R. Jayewardene who was present closely, immediately stated that Rohan de Silva did what he did as a result of a sun-stroke!

However, the incident was far too serious in the international eye to be explained away in that light manner and later there was some inquiry on Rohan de Silva was sent to a jail term. After Mr. Premadasa became President, he was granted a reprieve and released from prison. And Rohan de Silva stunned the world by saying that some superiors knew of his intended attack on Rajiv Gandhi- the sun-stroke story could not hold good.

Now this same Rohan de Silva has condemned Rajiv Gandhi's killing which has received international publicity through the official media. Rohan de Silva is not a man of any stature or consequence in Sri Lanka. He does not represent anyone in Sri Lanka - least of all the Government. So how did he come to make a statement which became worthy of quotation in the international media? Surely some one must be behind this drama? Who prompted the statement to Rohan de Silva and who strained to give the statement such wide publicity? And all for what?

These are questions that need investigation especially as Sri Lankan Government is reported to be over-enthusiastic to associate the LTTE with the crime against Rajiv without any evidence in possession.

Army from Palaly and the Baudha Sinhala Navy from gunboats off the shores started shell and cannon fire attack but no one was injured. A number of houses were damaged but no was injured. In spite of the attack the people thronged the temple to thank the deity for saving them.

of Valvettiturai. It is their firm belief that there were only 12 deaths and also a few cases of bodily injuries despite the carpet bombing which left over thousand houses damaged and a large number of public buildings like schools, temples and churches destroyed because the deities keep guard over the people. A private school was bombed, whilst it was in sessions but miraculously none was killed. There were about 200 students and some teachers at the time the bombing took place. A few suffered injury but no one was hurt in a major way. The people also regard the Amman temple with some awe because of the belief that the Goddess metes out justice and gives punishment in her own way to the wrong doers. The villagers would, therefore, on no account postpone the annual festivals.

So the Annual Festivals were held between the 14th and 28th April with almost the entire Valvettiturai population participating daily in the various celebrations in spite of the bombers roaming over their heads or naval boats firing from the sea close by. In fact while the festival was on the 23rd April, the Baudha Sinhala

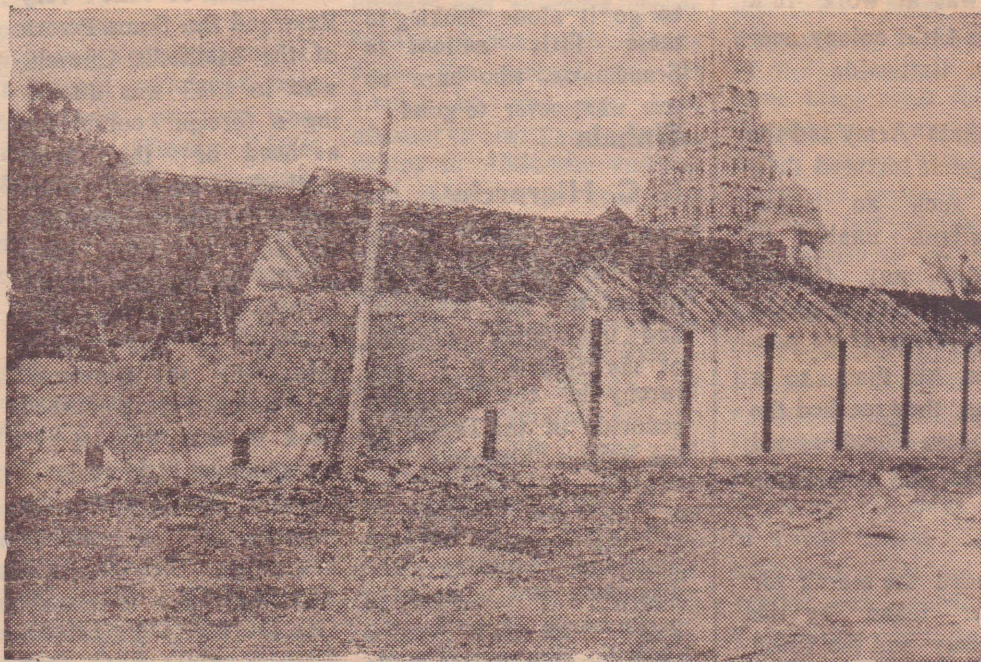
## Festival at damaged Temple People throng to pray to their guardian deity

The Annual festival at Valvettiturai Amman Temple which was severely damaged during the four day carpet bombing of Valvettiturai between 20th and 23rd January, 1991, was held between the 14th April and 28th April, 1991 on a unanimous decision of the residents of Valvettiturai. Temporary and ad hoc repairs were made to enable the festival to be conducted, as the full repairs could not be undertaken immediately. The total

damage to this temple is assessed at Rs. 9,311,250. Nevertheless, a fervently religious population which believes that they were saved by their guardian deity from complete annihilation at the hands of the Baudha Sinhala Air Force, was very keen that the temple's annual festival should not be disturbed despite the tremendous damage caused to it.

Valvettiturai is a thickly populated town where almost 90% of the population is

engaged in sea-going trades and fishing industry. Being always engaged in risky vocations in life, they are intensely religious and the people of Valvettiturai, who are predominantly Hindus, regard the Sivan and Amman temples dedicated to the Chief God and Goddess of Hindu mythology as their dearest possessions and the deities as their guardian deities. Both temples were severely damaged during the January 20 - 23rd bombing



A picture of the Amman Temple Valvettiturai completely damaged during 20th to 23rd January, 1991. The estimated loss to the temple is Rs. 9,311,250/-



# Terrorism and Torture cannot frustrate us Give us the Tools and We will finish the job

Sir Winston Churchill's World Broadcast

February 9, 1941

Five months have passed since I spoke to the British nation and the Empire on the broadcast. In wartime there is a lot to be said for the motto: 'Deeds, not words'. All the same, it is a good thing to look around from time to time and take stock and certainly our affairs have prospered in several directions during these last four or five months, far better than most of us would have ventured to hope.

We stood our ground and faced the two dictators in the hour of what seemed their overwhelming triumph, and we have shown ourselves capable, so far, of standing up against them alone. After the heavy defeats of the German Air Force by our fighters in August and September, Herr Hitler did not dare attempt the invasion of this island, although he had every need to do so and although he had made vast preparations. Baffled in this mighty project he sought to break the spirit of the British nation by the bombing, first of London and afterwards of our great cities. It has now been proved, to the admiration of the world and of our friends in the United States,

that this form of blackmail by murder and terrorism, so far from weakening the spirit of the British nation, has only roused it to a more intense and universal flame than was ever seen before in any modern community.

The whole British Empire has been proud of the Mother country, and they long to be with us over here in even larger numbers. We have been deeply conscious of the love for us which has flowed from the Dominions of the Crown across the broad ocean spaces. There is the first of our war aims: to be worthy of that love, and to preserve it.

All through these dark winter months the enemy has had the power to drop three or four tons of bombs upon us for every ton we could send to Germany in return. We are arranging so that presently this will be rather the other way around: but meanwhile, London and our big cities squares at Waterloo. They are not squares of soldiers: they do not wear scarlet coats. They are just ordinary English, Scottish and Welsh and Welsh folk-men, women and children standing steadfastly together. But their

spirit is the same, their glory is the same, and, in the end, their victory will be greater than far-famed Waterloo.

There is another thing which surprised me when I asked about it. In spite of all these new wartime offences and prosecutions of all kinds; in spite of all the opportunities for looting and disorder, there has been less crime this winter and there are now fewer prisoners in our gaols than in the years of peace.

We have broken the back of the winter. The daylight grows. The Royal Air Force grows, and is already certainly master of the daylight air. The attacks may be sharper, but they will be shorter, there will be more opportunities for work and service of all kinds; more opportunities for life. So, if our first victory was the repulse of the invader, our second was the frustration of his acts of terror and torture against our people at home.

We shall not fall or falter; we shall not weaken or tire. Neither the sudden shock of battle, nor the long-drawn trials of vigilance and exertion will wear us down. Give us the tools, and we will finish the job.

## Like to Read a Joke?

*We publish below the text of a notice dropped from a helicopter in and around Jaffna.*

*We believe the notice will be good fun for our readers who are denied all sorts of hilarity:*

Many members of the Maha Sangha, Religious Leaders of all denominations and Buddhist Associations have appealed to remind that the period of Wesak provides the opportunity of practising one of the teachings of the Buddha, which is Ahimsa or non-violence. This is the cornerstone of all religions practised in our country.

Mindful of these appeals the Security Forces have declared a cessation of offensive operations beginning midnight 26 May until midnight 29 May 1991.

During this period of the cessation of offensive operations it is expected that all people especially the religious leaders and elders of all communities will take the opportunity to guide the youth who have resorted to violence to discontinue violence and follow the path of Ahimsa or non-violence.

All Police Stations and detachments of the Security Forces in the Island have been issued with instructions to give all protection within their means and provide maximum security and facilities to those youths who present themselves at their location having renounced violence.

24th May, 1991.

SECURITY FORCES

## Unable to bear torture Man commits suicide

News received from Batticaloa state that on the 18th April, 1991, the Sinhala army accompanied by a group of gangsters, arrested a man named Murugesu Gopal, when he was at work in a field in the 13th colony near Mandur in Batticaloa.

The Sinhala Army and the Tamil gangsters tortured their victim to such an extent that the victim unable to bear torture any further told his captors that he would show some arms in his possession and led them to a well. When they reached the well, Murugesu Gopal jumped into the well and committed suicide.

Thus ended the search for arms under-taken by the Sinhala Army and the Tamil gangsters without the Army recovering any arms but only the victim of torture ending his own life.

## THIS AND THAT

by Rambler

### It is unbelievable but true

When an indigenous african flippancy called a black is shot dead in South Africa it makes the headlines in the world's news media. When an unarmed Palestinian is shot dead by the evil jews in the occupied territories, it makes the headlines in the world's news media. When a Kashmiri crossing into India from Pakistan is shot dead, it makes the headlines in the world's news media. Yet when innocent Tamils are shot dead, or burnt alive or tortured to death by the scores in this island we hear not a murmur about same, not even in the neighbouring Indian news media. Why should this be so? Is the whole wretched world against Tamils? The answer is simple. It is a case of our interests, against yours. As for the western news media, Sri Lanka is strategically situated and ideal for refuelling. Refuelling for what, to smash the arabs like the Iraqis. So it is prudent not to give publicity to the savage misdeeds of the savage Sinhalese. Not only should we ignore the savagery of the Sinhalese but grant them unlimited financial aid to make them happy and give us strategic assistance such as refuelling facilities and the like.

But what about India? why is she also like the rapacious West keeping her trap shut. Well to serve her own/limited imperial interests. So that the sikhs, Kashmiris and the Assamese will not get their tails up, seeing and knowing the chivalrous performance of the Tamils in EELAM. So we have to go it alone, looking to those little nations in Scandinavia, who have no axe whatsoever to grind.

**Sinhala**

### R. C. Hierarchy

A reader quite justifiably expresses his utter disgust at the shameful and unchristian attitude of the Sinhala R. C. Hierarchy in the ongoing genocide of the Tamils by the savage Sinhalese.

It would therefore be appropriate to go back in time and compare the disgusting and unchristian performance of the Roman Catholic church over similar incidents, such as the Present in this island. When Adolf Hitler and

his savage Nazi gangs roasted the pathetic jews in the gas chambers in the thirties, the Roman Catholic church remained deaf dumb and blind whilst six million jews were roasted alive in the gas chambers, whilst other christian denominations did attempt to even make a meek demur. When requested by the world community to at least condemn the Nazi atrocities belatedly, the Pope of the time, steadfastly refused to do anything of that kind.

The Roman Catholic church adopted a similar attitude in apartheid South Africa, dictatorial South America, Racist North America and in every other part of the globe, where man's inhumanity to man was rife. So it should be no surprise that it is happening here too. I believe the Bishops like Marcus Fernando and the like should seriously consider swapping their white robes for saffron, then no one will fault them for their studied silence. As for Bishop Vianey Fernando of Kandy donating lavishly to the National Defence Fund, one is reminded of another infamous Tamil Bishop with a deceptive surname Edmund Peries, who endeavoured to outdo the Sinhalese by masquerading as a great Sinhala scholar, when Tamils were greatly humiliated and disabled by the racist Sinhala only policy of the government of that time.

The only true Sinhala christian of our times could well be the Very Reverend Dr. Soma Perera of the Methodist Church, who in 1983 was attending a foreign conference as head of the local Methodist Church, when the Sinhala Buddhist carried out the mass murder of innocent Tamils in July of that year. On hearing of the racial slaughter, the Reverend Dr. Soma Perera rushed back to this country to do whatever little he could for the Tamils and in the process told a leading newspaper "THAT THE SINHALESE SHOULD GO DOWN ON THEIR KNEES AND BEG THE TAMILS TO FORGIVE THEM" that was a truly christian gesture.



Dear Bradman Weerakoon,

I would like to take this opportunity to reply to your letter to Amnesty International member Rachel Kiddell-Monroe, which was published in the Sunday Observer, Colombo, in December, as it is put forward there as the Government of Sri Lanka's response to Amnesty International's recent work on Sri Lanka.

The central issue addressed in your letter concerns the role of human rights organizations such as Amnesty International in contexts of widespread opposition violence, and the relative weight we place on abuses committed by armed opposition groups as compared with those of the official security forces. Indeed, you make the grave and false charge that, by reporting on only one side of the issue, "and ignoring altogether the right of the State... to defend itself against the challenge to its legitimacy and survival," human rights organizations such as ours tend "to encourage and legitimize the atrocities perpetrated by terrorists." At the same time, you appear to argue that excesses committed by the security forces during counter-insurgency operations while not defensible, are a natural consequence of their situation: "The proneness of security forces to commit excesses is not peculiar to Sri Lanka. It is a characteristic universal to military personnel, or all cultures and all traditions." We believe these views are misleading and fail to address the fundamental issue of the state's responsibility to protect and promote human rights.

As an organization which works on human rights issues world-wide, we are well aware of the varying political contexts in which human rights violations are committed, and of the serious provocation which armed organizations such as the LTTE and the JVP pose for security forces personnel. This is why in our reports on Sri Lanka we have taken great care to ensure that the nature and scale of opposition violence is clearly stated, and that when reported violations by the security forces were apparently committed in response to murders by members of these groups they are presented in context as acts of reprisal. Indeed, we have included in our reports precisely those points which readers of your letter alone might think we had committed: that the JVP and the LTTE systematically murdered political opponents and many other people; that they threatened and killed voters; and in the

## Secretary General, A.I. (UK) Writes To Presidential Advisor Bradman Weerakoon

case of the JVP that they called extensive strikes under threat of death for non-participants and in August 1989 announced a program of murdering the relatives of security forces personnel who did not resign. In the case of the LTTE, we have

(ICCPR). And while the ICCPR does permit derogations from various rights at times of national emergency, there are no circumstances in which it permits derogation from the rights to life and freedom from torture.

The view that armed opposition groups necessarily provoke the security forces into committing unavoidable excesses is both misleading and potentially dangerous. First, the kinds of killings that we are concerned with in our reports are not panic

ments around the world. They are not addressed to opposition groups or individuals, who are answerable for the abuses they may commit under national criminal law. This approach is not intended to minimize the potential gravity of opposition violence; it does, however, recognise that there is a basic difference between governmental and non-governmental groups.

Treating abuses committed by members of non-governmental organizations as being equivalent to human rights violations committed by governments or their agents would blur an essential distinction. Governments and opposition groups are not equivalent, and Amnesty International does not treat them as such. The system of international human rights law is founded on governmental responsibility. Governments have a special role, a special responsibility to their own citizens and to the international community, to uphold the basic standards of justice contained in international human rights law. This includes providing remedies when human rights violations are committed: for example, by compensating victims, and by identifying and bringing to justice the perpetrators. Opposition groups which show no respect for law and which are not recognised as having international legal obligations can be condemned, but there is no basis in law nor any practical means for calling upon them to demonstrate their accountability. They cannot be asked to institute themselves such remedies as bringing perpetrators to justice through the courts, because to do so would be tantamount to suggesting that they establish their own criminal justice system separate from that of the state.

I hope these comments help to clarify Amnesty International's position.

Courtesy:  
SOCIAL JUSTICE

## Deliberate Killing, Enforced "Disappearances" And Torture Can Never Be Justified

also reported their murder of hundreds of policemen whom they took captive in June, 1990, their killing of many hundred Sinhalese and Muslim civilians, and their imprisonment of Tamils as hostages or because they believe them politically suspect.

Far from "encouraging and legitimizing" such actions by these groups as you allege, we have clearly, unambiguously and consistently condemned them.

However, you are correct in saying that we concentrate on human rights violations committed by government and their agents, and that it is to governments that we address our concerns. We do this in full recognition of the right and obligation of governments to defend themselves and their citizens against violent attack, as we have also made fully clear in our reports. In fulfilling this obligation however, we believe that governments must fulfil their obligations under international law to uphold and respect fundamental human rights. However widespread the violence of opposition groups and however much space we devoted to it in our reports—their abuses can never justify government forces ignoring the most basic of fundamental rights in responses: the right to freedom from arbitrary deprivation of life and the right to be free from torture. There can be no justification for the deliberate killing and enforced "disappearance" of thousands of prisoners, or for torture. The Government of Sri Lanka in 1980 clearly expressed its acceptance of these basic principles of international human rights law when it acceded to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights

Amnesty International urges Governments around the world to protect basic human rights and respect international standards because this is a universally recognized governmental responsibility. Governments have the legal obligation to bring to justice those who violate human rights just as they have responsibility for bringing to justice those who commit other kinds of crime. It is sometimes mistakenly thought that when we call for those who have committed violations such as extra-judicial executions to be brought to justice we are upholding the rights of only one side to a conflict. This is not so: upholding the right to life can include the prosecution of members of opposition groups who have committed murder, as well as bringing to justice members of the security forces or other government officials who have violated this right.

It is also sometimes mistakenly thought that we object to other use of force by government forces to counter opposition violence. Again this is not the case — so long as the force used is necessary and regulated, and is proportionate to the demands of the situation. That is, the force used should not exceed what is necessary to prevent crime or lawfully arrest suspects. The killings we object to and report on are those which exceed those bounds. The deliberate killings of unarmed criminal suspects as an alternative to their lawful arrest, of prisoners held in detention or facing trial, and of unarmed demonstrators. It is killing such as these which clearly violate international law, as does the deliberate killing of any other person who is clearly defenseless, including enemy combatants who are wounded and offering no resistance or who have surrendered;

killings committed by security forces personnel who are out of control. They are deliberate killings, carried out in reprisal attacks on particular localities several hours or days after murders by the armed opposition, or committed after people have been taken prisoner. Second, there is a strong argument to be made in permitting such excesses to be committed by its forces, governments can in fact further the aims of the very insurgent groups they seek to eradicate. If a government succumbs to the temptation — which in some circumstances can be strong — to let its forces commit crimes similar to those being committed by such groups, the break down in law and order at every level leads to a loss of moral authority, of the ability to protect public security and social stability, and of the very distinctiveness, and even legitimacy of government itself.

Amnesty International campaigns for the protection of human rights on the basis of international human rights standards. These standards were created by, adopted by and are binding on govern-

## WHY SEPARATION

For centuries you Sinhalese fought us  
Then under four centuries of European rule  
You did lay dormant and sterile  
No sooner the last white ruler left  
You commenced your brutal annihilation  
The white ruler merged our two nations  
Though we endeavoured to make the merger a success  
You claimed it was alone your very own nation  
And acted arbitrarily to make it so  
Your people—Your language—Your religion alone you promoted  
Any dignified democratic dissent from us you violently resented  
After trying for decades four to make you see reason  
We took to arms to establish nay re-establish our own nation  
Not for reasons of chauvinistic domination  
Purely for our own self preservation

— A. S. KUMAR



# State Terrorism Goes on Unabated

Reports received from Batticaloa state that State terrorism goes on unabated in the Sinhala Army occupied territories of the Batticaloa District. The following incidents have been reported during the month of April, 1991 from the Batticaloa District:-

1-4-91-

Looting at Thumpankerni by Sinhala Army and a group of Tamil gangsters working with the Sinhala Army. A textile shop belonging to Kannamuthu Mahenthiram, two tea boutiques belonging to V. Ganesamoorthy and V. Gunanayakam, a saloon, laundry and a provision store belonging to M. Sinnathangam were looted.

9-4-91-

The villages of Gandhipuram and Thumpankerni were rounded up by the Sinhala Army and a group of Tamil gangsters working in collaboration with the Sinhala Army. A civilian named Sithamparam Jeyakumar (23) of Talukamam

and Arumugam Sithrasegeram (22) of Thumpankerni were shot dead and burnt. At Santhipuram, a small girl aged ten sustained severe injuries as a result of the Army opening fire there. On the same day at Mandur, a group of Sinhala soldiers and a group of Tamil gangsters working with the army, hacked to death three civilian Tamils. The victims are Kanthan Karuvathamby (60), Vyrarnuthu Konesapillai (40) and Alagiah Thiruthani (18)

13-4-91-

The Sinhala Army arrested Murugesu Govintharasa (21) a married person from the 13th Colony in Mandur. Five days later on 18-4-91, he was stabbed to death by the Army. On the same day the Sinhala Army shot dead a person named, Kannan.

16-4-91-

The Sinhala Army shot and killed a person named Velapody Mylvaganam at Kurinchamunai. The victim is known to be a mentally afflicted person.

17-4-91-

The Sinhala Army and some Tamil gangsters working in collaboration with the Sinhala Army, rounded up the village of Palukama. A married man named Chelvanayakam Rajendram, who was going along the main road was attested by the Sinhala Army. Thereafter he was taken to Artrukaddil where he was killed brutally-his head being severed from his body.

23-4-91-

The Sinhala Army shot dead a fish vendor (40) named Chelliah Thangarajah who was married and a father of five children at Vantharumoolal. On the same day, they shot and injured another person at Koduvamadu. The injured person was Palipodi Vasantharajah, a father of seven children. Another married person from Chenkalady was taken to the Army camp. Later he was burnt to death a pile of old tyres.

24-4-91-

A small girl aged 12 who went to sell Vadai, was shot

dead by the C.I.D. Police of Sri Lanka at Kalladi. On the same day the Army shot dead man named Seenithamby Pathmanathan (40) a father of three children. The Army also arrested another person named Suppan (45) at Karadiyan Aru.

25-4-91-

Two headless bodies, believed to be that of Tamils, were found at Ural Junction in Batticaloa. As the bodies were headless, the identities of the deceased could not be verified. It is believed the Government's secret murder groups were responsible for these brutal Murders.

26-4-91-

Sinhala Army and some Tamil gangsters working with the Army rounded up the villages of Yanaikattiya veli, Kakkachchi Veddai and Nediaveddal. They arrested four persons. Later of those arrested were found dead near the Mandur bridge with their necks cut. The fate of other two is not known.

The Special Task Force of the Sinhala Government rounded up the village of Nilavanai and arrested twelve civilians whose fate is not known.

28-4-91-

A person named Therumal (25) of Pullumalai who were to Batticaloa town with cash amounting to Rs. 10,000/- for purchases, was taken by some Tamil gangsters and a secret group of Sinhala murderers. Nothing is known of this man.

## Sinhala Army's Special Tax

The members of the Sinhala Army in occupation of the Batticaloa and Amparai Districts are reported to be levying special taxes from the Tamils to meet the expenses of Army entertainment.

Reports from Batticaloa state that petty traders go to the villages of Thirukovil and Thambiluvil to buy coal wood and sand. These in turn are sold to the other villages. Now the Sinhala Army insists on payment of a special tax from those who are engaged in this trade. The tax ranges from Rs.5/- to Rs.500/- depending on the mood of the soldier who levies the tax.

It is further understood that the taxes so collected are liberally spent by men of the Armed Forces for their own entertainment. Even though the tax is

## is Cheating Who Who

In this ethnic war, are the LTTE cheating the Sinhalese? Or the Sinhalese cheating the Tamils? Or the Sinhalese cheating the Sinhalese?

Government says that the LTTE has cheated. Tamils say that the Sinhalese have cheated and that is why the answer of two nations came in my view that the Sinhalese are cheating the Sinhalese and this has not been realised by the Sinhalese themselves. The international community know about it but for their economic benefit, they do not wish to talk. An example is Iraq Vs Multinationals' war. The West like US, UK, France never like another country taking an important and popular place.

Similarly the Sinhalese in power cheated the Sinhalese to keep the power with them. Otherwise the Sinhalese will be having decent income per capita, if the foreign funds were spent on development but by diverting all their foreign funds to Defence, the handful of people are benefitted financially and they could make themselves rich further.

Have the Sinhalese no custom of dividing their land and live in separate entity, when they find it difficult to live together as parents, children, brothers and sisters.

Likewise can't the Tamils and Sinhalese live separately as separate entity which will solve all the crisis ethnically but could live in co-operation economically, like any other two countries.

The number dead and injured may look small among the forces, when compared to the population but why should this death and destruction take place? Have the Sinhalese benefitted by this destruction except for certain Army personnel who could carry house-hold items, money, jewellery from the occupied Tamil area. So it is not too late to have one Island with Sri Lanka Eelams instead of destroying the Island and having Sri Lanka and Eelam.

This form of solution should be offered which would ensure spending funds for development. It will prove that Sinhalese are not cheating the Sinhalese.

collected by the Army, it does not go to the Consolidated Fund of the Sinhala government. So armed personnel are making merry out of Tamil taxes.

## AN APPRECIATION

### MR. EHAMPARAM

Mr. Ehamparam's demise is a great shock to the teaching world. His devotion to teaching started in his alma-mater the leading institution today in Sri Lanka, named after Rev. Hartly as Hartley College. While at Hartley he was imbibed with Mathematics and Science most probably due to the influence of his uncle Mr. K.S. Arulnandy M. Sc. London who was for sometime the science master at Hartley after Dr. Kandiah the first Dean of the Faculty of Science at the University of Ceylon left Hartley. Not only the late Mr. K.S. Arulnandy (the former Director of Education) gave the late Ehamparam the taste for Mathematics and Science but also his brother Thanigasalam who retired as the first Director of Education of the Northern Province after he was Principal and teacher of J/Sri Somaskanda College-Puttur that has the unique distinction of having introduced free education before the Government gave thought to it. Mr. Ehamparam was an educationist. He had the pleasure of having his mother's sister's son Subramaniam Vithiyanaathan

late of Tellipallai as the first Vice-Chancellor of the University of Jaffna who had been for a good period the Professor of Tamil at the University of Peradeniya.

His devotion to the teaching of Mathematics and Science at Hartley College produced many an Engineers and lecturers in Engineering not only in the University of Sri Lanka, but also in far off Universities as the University of Singapore, Malaysia, West-Indies etc.

The administrative habits formed at the feet of Mr. K. Pooranampillai who guided the destiny of Hartley where as Teacher and Principal for more than two score years the late Ehamparam not only as Principal of his alma-mater but also the Principal of the leading college of Skandavarodaya College at Chunakam made his mark.

Late Ehamparam was the first batch of Graduates to receive convocation by the University of Sri Lanka. When he entered for Higher Education it was then University College of Colombo

that prepared students for the University of London.

An independent person was he, simple in style with a smile always streaking in his face, he rendered his services as a Teacher in Zambia and Transkei and rested to peace in New Zealand where he has his two daughters with a resident Visa.

Though a mediocre in sports during his student days his disciplinary attitude to life and his knowledge of sports earned a portfolio at College whilst as a Teacher the prefect of Games, during which period Hartley produced excellent Island wide recognised cricketers and athletes. He has remained a sportsman even at the age of sixty nine when he missed his birthday on the 5th May by five days.

May his soul rest in peace.

Santhi Santhi Santhi.

R. Rudra.

Attorney-at-Law,  
Ex-President O.B.A.,  
Hartley College.



# TWO WEEKS OF INTENSE AERIAL BOMBING VAVUNIYA NORTH RENDERED DESOLATE

Whilst President Premadasa talked about peace in Colombo, his armed forces went on the rampage in the Vavuniya District for two weeks overing the first ten days of the month of May, 1991.

It all started on 30th April, when the Sinhala Air Force roamed the skies of Vavuniya North and hit at all and sundry places. Two persons died and six were seriously injured. A house was completely damaged. This aerial bombing was a preliminary war strategy to get the Sinhala Army to aggress Tamil Eelam territory.

The Army made efforts to extend its Northern boundary from Thandikulam to anywhere further North they could go. But for the Sinhala Army to make this move, they required preliminary air attack in support from the Air Force and so on 30th April the Sinhala Air Force went into action in Vavuniya North.

The next day was May Day - a government holiday too. But the Sinhala forces worked overtime. Two bombers and two helicopters were on active duty in places like Omanthai, Koliyakulam and Paeyadikoolankulam dropping bombs, artillery shells and firing from the air. Two people were injured. At

Koliyakulam four big stone built houses were demolished by the bombs dropped on them. Lakhs and lakhs worth of belongings were destroyed. All the residents of Omanthai, Kontharaththankulam, Koliyakulam and Sigapoorvarasankulam evacuated their villages en masse. The sturdy farmer householders of yesterday were suddenly changed into nomadic refugees. The refugees ran to various places. Some went to Puliyanakulam some others to Kanagarayankulam, Kalmadu and Putur, all as refugees.

Early morning on the following day - i.e. 2nd May 1991 - four bombers, two Avro planes and four helicopters were out in the skies straffing all the areas alongside the Main Jaffna Road from Thandikulam to Kanagarayankulam. Not only bombs weighing over 50kgs were dropped but the Sinhala home-made barrel variety bombs were also thrown in addition to calibre gun attacks from the helicopters. The air straffing on that day left four civilians killed and over twelve wounded.

As people have learnt the savagery of the Sinhala Armed forces, they have developed various protective measures which reduce the death rate among the people

considerably but damage to property is immense. At Omanthai, two big shops and three houses were destroyed, at Koliyakulam three houses, Kontharaththankulam one house and at Puliyanakulam two tea boutiques were destroyed - all by bombing from the air.

A large number of vehicles waiting to proceed to Colombo were damaged by air straffing. Over twenty mini-passenger buses and over ten lorries laden with goods were severely damaged.

As the Sinhala Air Force carried on its savage attack on the villages mentioned, the Sinhala Army stationed at Vavuniya town and at Madukanthai Army Camp started moving towards Thandikulam on the North of Vavuniya town. At Paeyadikoolankulam-Manickavalavu Junction, a battle raged between the Sinhala Army and LTTE and whilst the battle was going on, the Sinhala Air Force was pounding the Housing Scheme Complex at Omanthai. Both bombers and Avro planes were at the job, the Avro planes as usual dropping barrel bombs.

Many houses were damaged as a result of the aerial bombings. People who came as refugees the previous day

to Kanagarayankulam and Puliyanakulam and the permanent residents of these villages, all were compelled to vacate the villages and go as refugees to Putur, Pandiyanakulam, Mallavi and Thunukkai. Virtually all the villages up to Omanthai, Kanagarayankulam and Puliyanakulam were deserted. Though loss of life was minimal, damage to property was very heavy.

On 4.5.91 again the Air Force began attack directed towards Koliyakulam, Kontharaththankulam and Panrikkeithakulam. Two bombers Avro planes and two helicopters were engaged in the attack. At the same time the Army which was stationed at Omanthai tried to move towards the villages. Houses shops and other buildings were being reduced to dust by constant bomb attack from the air on these villages to enable the Army to move towards them.

At Omanthai, four shops, six houses and the Agrarian Services Centre were brought down by massive air attacks which left these buildings a heap of debris. Many cattle also died and still more were injured. Also on the same day many houses in the villages of Koliyanakulam, Sigapoorvarasankulam and Palamodai were destroyed.

As a result of the military operations on these days, the people of the villages of Nochchimodai, Omanthai Koliyakulam, Kontharaththankulam, Chemamadu, Panrikkeithakulam and Kanagarayankulam evacuated the village. At Kalmadu also a number of people left the villages as refugees. They found temporary refuge around the Putur temple, Pandiyanakulam, Mallavi, at Vallivilankulam temple and some at Madhu Church.

The people who so evacuated their villages, underwent lots of difficulties. A sizeable number of them had to spend their time under big trees. They had no buildings to stay. Food problem was also very acute.

Another difficulty faced during this period was the inability to obtain medical treatment even for the injured. The injured could not be rushed to the hospitals at Killinochchi or at Jaffna. No vehicle was prepared to move about, as it was feared that the vehicles would be bombed. Even charity and welfare organizations could not function because of the aerial bombardment. At least six persons died and nineteen were injured. About 20 houses, 3 shops and a temple were damaged. Loss of property was very heavy, though it has not been still assessed. After two weeks of attack, the Army was compelled to retreat to Paeyadikoolankulam and Thandikulam.

## Traditional Sinhala Style Ride For-A.I.

Last week the International media widely reported the announcement in parliament made by the Prime Minister and Deputy State Minister of Defence, Mr. D. B. Wijetunge that Sri Lanka had allowed Amnesty International to visit Sri Lanka.

The Prime Minister's announcement was given world wide coverage, as A.I. was refused permission since 1983. Hence everyone concerned with Human Rights violations and disappearances felt satisfied that the Government of Sri Lanka had changed its heart and intended to rectify matters in regard to violations of Human Rights including that of disappearances at least after eight long years.

But now, the Sri Lankan government seems to have changed its mind. The present position adopted by the government is that the A.I. members could freely visit any part of the Island except the North East. The A.I. had particularly expressed its desire to visit the East

where disappearances continue to occur daily.

During the July 1983 holocaust, then Indian Prime Minister, the late Mrs. Indira Gandhi sent her Foreign Minister, Mr. Narasimha Rao to find out the position in Sri Lanka for himself and submit a report to her. When Mr. Narasimha Rao arrived in Sri Lanka, he was not even allowed to visit Tamil refugee camps in Colombo and instead taken on a conducted tour to Kandy to pay a visit to the Sub-office of the Indian Embassy. This incident reminds one of the manner in which the Portuguese who arrived at Colombo, were led to the Court of Kotte (now Sri Jayawardenapura). But all the efforts taken by the Sinhalese were in vain, for at dusk, the Portuguese ship anchored in Colombo harbour, fired its cannon and the foreigners correctly calculated the distance as well as the treachery of the Sinhalese.

## Desultory Ramblings of Vadali Velan

Behold another upheaval in our already beleaguered life. The price of lamp oil has shot up to new heights. Not that it matters, for yours truly is not a habitual "fly-by-night" and retires to bed at the first signs of impending nightfall. I hear this price hike, together with others, is an outcome of the general of generals, none other than the mighty Ranatunge avowing to help mighty India to unangle the mystery surrounding her last political mishap, the demise of Rajiv Gandhi. Not that the general has been able to achieve anything substantially new about his threatened naval blockade against the ingress of freedom fighters or goods into our country as a prelude to delivering the coup-de-grace to Tamil Eelam, adducing imaginary criminal intent against our patriots and discrediting them in the eyes of the world; it is only that the wily trader of our village is making capital of the situation, assisted by

rumours attending this brave soldier's utterances. As to the general's prowess at sleuthing, it would be of no use to India. Even if he ferrets out the culprits or deduce what has transpired, he won't tell! He has yet to make coherent declarations on who disposed of the former Sri Lankan Defence Minister and how; and about all other skeletons in his UNP cupboard. India would do well to carry out her investigations and bring them to a satisfactory conclusion, however, bizarre the results may be found to be. It is believed in our country that even the Gods and the Triple Gem are personally gunning on the side of Premadasa of Sri Lanka.

Exit Upali, Richard, photographers, newsmen, lawyers and sundry human rights activists,

Who knows what unrelenting animosity the Sri Lanka President may have had against the one-time Prime Minister of India?

The philosophical wit of our village avers that such national turmoils are result of the collective human conscience of the world going into recess and being snarled in diplomatic "hokey". Governments, the world over, branded the Tamil Eelam people, fleeing the Sinhala Buddhists' pogrom against them, as opportunists seeking greener pastures; and turned a Nelsonian eye on the genocidal excesses heaped by the Sri Lankan government on the Tamil Eelam people. It is only in recent times that we find glimmerings of recognition for our cause at the world forum. Even the Governments who have relented towards our people and those who are currently chanting "mea culpa" are much

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# HOT SPRING

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## Pax Romana type of peace cannot succeed

Elsewhere in the pages of this issue is published the entertaining notice dropped by the Sri Lankan helicopters announcing the intention of the Sri Lanka Government to observe a ceasefire for three days beginning from the midnight of 26th May, 1991.

The Security forces had decided to observe ceasefire not because ceasefire is per se necessary or good-not because a cease fire is the first step in resolving the dispute between the Sinhalese and Tamils in any other way other than the use of arms and ammunitions. The Security forces decided to observe ceasefire at the behest of the Baudha-Sinhala clergy! No wonder that the Buddhist clergy can so influence the Army in this Island - described by secular India as a 'pluralistic society'. And apologists for India may say that India did not call the state pluralistic but only the society pluralistic! The fact of the matter is that the Sinhala state is also a theocratic state - and Buddhism is the State religion but so mentioned only in devious verbiage in the constitution.

We all know that the ordinary Buddhists masses observe Vesak full moon day with great veneration and religious zeal. Though ourselves not Buddhists, we appreciate the sincere religious feelings of the Sinhalese masses. We are also aware how the Buddhist clergy has sought to extend its own power and influence at the expense of the gullible masses and how Sinhala politicians have always felt it necessary to sing a harmonious tune with the Buddhist priests - even though they may themselves have not been born Buddhists-but converts to Buddhism for political reasons which can otherwise be explained as freedom of conscience and what not.

So when the Army decided to announce the observation of a ceasefire, it did so to satisfy a Baudha-Sinhala clerical demand to ensure that Baudha Sinhala soldiers did not die on Vesak day. We do not like them to die on any day.

All what is clear from the notice referred to is that Baudha-Sinhala imperialism wishes to have its own brand of peace foisted. Like the ancient Pax Romana, a pax Baudha Sinhala. We want peace undiluted by any imperialism.

It is very sad to say that the ceasefire announced was nothing but the extension of a Baudha-Sinhala imperialist mentality hoping to establish its own brand of peace. Such an announcement of peace cannot win for the government any measure of goodwill from the Tamil nation. On the other hand it only demonstrates to the Tamils their own impotency in a Baudha-Sinhala state trying to encompass them also.

The hypocrisy that underlay this ceasefire announcement was exposed two days later when we received news from Trincomalee that in a confrontation between the Sinhala army and the LTTE near Pulmoddai, eight soldiers of the Sinhala army and one LTTE cadre died. The confrontation took place when a group of Sinhala soldiers left their camp at Pulmoddai and proceeded to some other point in the Trincomalee District, when the LTTE cadres met them and a fight ensued. This report clearly bears out the fact that the Sinhala Army was not confined to its own camp even during the period when they on their own initiative announced a limited ceasefire for three days to observe a significant Buddhist religious occasion.

If the government states that its Army went out of its camp with its arms and ammunitions in a peace mission of the Sinhala Buddhist variety, there is hardly anyone who could be fooled.

Again on the next day reports received from Vavuniya stated that fighting broke out between the LTTE and the Sinhala Army resulting in the death of two Sinhala soldiers, when the Sinhala Army started moving towards another point from their camp.

So the security forces announced a ceasefire to fall in line with pax Baudha-Sinhala but could not contain themselves and got involved in combat with the LTTE.

Whom is Baudha imperialism trying to fool? Do they not realize that modern though has developed to such an extent that another peace of the pax Romana type-the Baudha Sinhala peace - cannot be enforced on a people unwilling to bear the imperialist yoke.

## Tamil Eelem-Only Solution PMK States its Stand

The Pattali Makkal Katchi (PMK), leading the third front in the forthcoming elections in Tamil Nadu, says that declaration of "Tamil Eelam" is the only solution to the Lankan ethnic issue.

Releasing the Front manifesto in Madras on April 28, party leader Dr. S. Ramdoss said the Front will press the Centre to recognise Tamil Eelam and pass a resolution in the Assembly reiterating this stand. The Government of India should recognise the Lankan Tamil liberation struggle just as it had acc-

orded recognition to Nelson Mandela and Yasser Arafat. The PMK will help the Lankan Tamils without affecting India's integrity. Two other Front leaders, P. Nedumaran and "Panruti" Ramachandran were associated with Dr. Ramdoss. Mr. Nedumaran is the leader of the Thamilar Desiya Iyakkam.

In answer to a newsman's question whether the PMK Front felt the need for a separate Tamil Nadu as well, Mr. Nedumaran said the situation in India was in no way comparable to that in Lanka. "We will not be

responsible if such a situation arises in the future, however", he said.

Mr. "Panruti" Ramachandran who is contesting the Panruti constituency with the support of the PMK, in justifying the Front's stand on respect of the Lankan Tamils, referred to the UN declaration that the people with their own separate identity could not be denied the right of self-determination.

The PMK is contesting all the 234 Assembly constituencies in Tamil Nadu.

(Courtsey :- "Tamil Nation")

## IN BATTICALOA

### GOVT. OFFICIALS THREATENED

— Eelanatham reveals

"All correspondence addressed to government officials are first directed to the Intelligence Bureau where they are opened, photostats taken and later returned to the addresses". A high ranking military officer, addressing a seminar held for government officials in Batticaloa, is reported to have made the above statement according to the TamilDailyEelanatham.

The military officer concerned is further reported to have said that if intelligence bureau personnel take into custody any time those collaborating with the LTTE such apprehended persons will end up with tyre treatment (Burning tyres around human necks) and the Army cannot be held responsible for them.

Reports now state that the Sri Lankan Government will

not allow Amnesty International representatives expected to arrive in the Island in the near future to visit the Northeast. Is it because disappearances" will continue in these areas whether the Amnesty International is in the Island or not? But what is the "openness" that the Government tries to show when it wants to see that the Amnesty International representatives are not allowed to visit the Northeast under pretext of government being responsible for the safety of the visitors?

### Desultory....

(Continuation of Page 5)

too late. Hordes of our compatriots have already been murdered in cold blood or have disappeared for ever from their places of detention without trace, whatsoever! our homes have been burnt down and possessions robbed and our lands have been laid waste or forcibly taken over. How long could a people tolerate such violations? Is it a wonder that our youngsters abandoned their traditional way of life in defence of their homeland and her people?

How fortunate are we to be living during these times when our otherwise studious and sedate youngsters are transforming themselves into valiant "tigers" in the defence of their motherland of Tamil Eelam. We are witnessing history being made and a resurgent nation becoming an accomplished fact; and we should be content to shuffle off our mortal coils with the roar of these tigers resounding in our ears. No single nation came to our aid in the past except in the instance where one contrived to aggravate the situation and to make shameless use of our own woes to feather

its own nest even murdering our leading citizens and other innocent people in the process. It is not politic for anyone now to tell us how to deal with our arch aggressor, the Sinhala Buddhist government; nor is it apposite for anyone else to determine for us what aspirations our people should confine themselves to or what mode of governance Tamil Eelam should adopt.

The eyes of our people have run so dry through weeping for our numerous dead that we have no tear to spare for the passing away of Rajiv Gandhi. We are, however, glad that the members of his family have been able to gain solace and alleviation of grief by partaking of all the requisite obsequies for their dead beloved, a facility that has been denied to most of our Eelam Tamil families, when disposing of their dead, fearfully and surreptitiously, ever since a decade ago and even during the era of the "peacekeeping" extravaganza.

Our political wit opines that whoever occupies a position of undisputed political power should exercise proper circumspection and responsibility in his or her utterances

and deeds, and as such will determine the destiny of hordes of humanity. Whether numerous human beings will continue to exist or be blotted off the face of the Earth, whether real democracy of the people will be upheld by formal (governmental) democracy or will be subverted and other such vital considerations await the decisions of such powerful personages. Is it a wonder that people re-act in desperation when they see no end to their troubles in a manner shorn of all formality and pleasantries? Having indulged in many dealings of a dubious character, India has lost one of its erstwhile leaders and, bring no end confused, is pointing the finger of accusation at our freedom fighters guided by wild suspicions alone. It is only after blowing off the cobwebs of emotion and sentimentality that the Indian nation can achieve a measure of success in her endeavours. As for my village folk and myself, what is happening right now at our doorsteps including the bombings, shelling and the killing of our people, is much more real than what has happening and is happening in distant India.