



Sri Lankan cluster shelling kills 129 civilians within 7 hours

[TamilNet, Tuesday, 10 March 2009, 10:55 GMT]

Sri Lanka Army (SLA) fired artillery shells fitted with cluster munitions and fire-bombs into civilian 'safety zone' killing at least 129 civilians between 2:30 a.m. and 10:00 a.m. on Tuesday. Around 200 civilians were wounded. 300 tarpaulin huts burned down to ashes in Multi-Barrel Rocket Launcher (MBRL) fired rockets. The medical store at Valaignarmadam has sustained damage and the son of a doctor was reported killed there, according to initial reports. A local NGO official, who was coordinating the rescue of the wounded described the carnage as "Colombo's show of open mockery at international concern," reports TamilNet's Vanni correspondent. "The attack was criminally deliberate as it was timed for the aftermath of a mini cyclone and floods, at the stranded civilians," the NGO official said.

"In a show of open mockery at the mounting international concern for civilians in Vanni, the Colombo government indiscriminately attacked all parts of the 'safe zone' using every kind of lethal shells, some of them banned in many countries."

The low-lying and inhospitable coastal terrain, bereft of vegetation, was the choice of the government as the safe-zone for herding civilians. The government has now turned it into a killing zone, where civilians every day die in hundreds due to shelling and starvation.

Commenting further, the NGO official who didn't wish to be named said: "What the Colombo government is committing is not ordinary genocide, but mass torture and genocide."

"Why Colombo is doing this is quite obvious. Because, in truth, the war waged by Colombo is against the Tamil people, aiming at their subjugation," he says.

"Let the criminal minded international pundits, who argue in favour of the Colombo government for its right to wage this war tell us in what way the killings in the 'safe zone' are different from the proven genocides elsewhere in the world."

"The alternative suggested to the civilians is a worse form of concentration camps intended for years."

A civilian who escaped the shelling, but witnessed people standing nearby killed, came out with a touching statement on Sunday that he was 'unfortunate to survive'.

Comments from the NGO official tells the extent of the resentment and anger among the civilians in Vanni:

"The Indian Establishment and the Co-Chairs countries share responsibilities for the genocide and war crimes taking place in the island.

"With a stroke of pen they declared the fighting force of the Tamils as 'terrorists' and tilted the balance in favour of the genocidal government.

"They provided money, weapons and diplomatic leverage to Colombo.

"The war waged by Colombo is a proxy war of all of them.

"Are they in a position now to stop the real terrorism of Colombo and genocide?"

"All these years they couldn't even lift a finger to all the human rights abuses

taking place in the island.

"What we see even now is only lip services, meaningless statements, sabotage at UN and dodging tactics.

"While the US Pacific Command is planning how to handover the people into the murderous hands of Colombo, the US Ambassador in Colombo is seen pleading the chauvinists even for subservient concessions, rejected by Tamils long back," commented the NGO worker.

Chronology:

- 14.05.10 [Lest We Forget: Children affected by Genocidal War..](#)
- 20.05.09 [Fears mount for safety of doctors arrested by SLA](#)
- 16.05.09 [Doctors quit safety zone, volunteer medics remain ..](#)
- 16.05.09 [SLA continues intense barrage of heavy weapons](#)
- 16.05.09 [Stench of dead bodies permeate Vanni, wounded allo..](#)
- 15.05.09 [More than 100,000 civilians in safe zone, ICRC sus..](#)
- 15.05.09 ['Safety zone' in smoke, close-quarter fighting is ..](#)
- 14.05.09 [LTTE urges IC to save civilians in the name of hum..](#)
- 13.05.09 [SLA barrage inflicts carnage, makeshift hospital r..](#)
- 13.05.09 [SLA shells hospital again, several killed includin..](#)
- 12.05.09 [US, UK want UN to facilitate 'safe evacuation' of ..](#)
- 12.05.09 [SLA attacks hospital, 47 massacred](#)
- 11.05.09 [SLA continues to inflict carnage](#)
- 10.05.09 [1200 bodies counted, hundreds seriously injured, a..](#)
- 10.05.09 [LTTE urges IC to act in the international way](#)
- 10.05.09 [2,000 civilians feared slaughtered in a single nig..](#)
- 09.05.09 [SLA artillery barrage hits 'safety zone' as ICRC s..](#)
- 09.05.09 [Malnutrition in mothers triggers Jaundice, Hepatit..](#)
- 08.05.09 [SLA steps up carnage on civilians](#)
- 05.05.09 [US responsible, least humanitarian is dropping foo..](#)
- 05.05.09 [TRO: Food shortage in Safe Zone, critical](#)
- 05.05.09 ['Drop food now if the concern is humanitarian': Va..](#)
- 03.05.09 [Colombo builds up for imminent massacre](#)
- 02.05.09 [SLA massacres patients with targeted shelling, 64 ..](#)
- 01.05.09 [SLA steps up attacks, civilian casualties mount am..](#)
- 29.04.09 [300 feared killed, worst spurt of massacre imminen..](#)
- 29.04.09 [Hospital attacked, SLN naval crafts fire artillery..](#)
- 28.04.09 [500 grams rice, 20 grams sugar per person to reach..](#)
- 28.04.09 [SLA fired 5,600 shells within 15 hours: LTTE](#)
- 28.04.09 [IC makes history in experimenting 'genocide bomb'](#)
- 28.04.09 [Unprecedented carnage unfolds in Vanni](#)
- 27.04.09 [Sri Lanka steps up intense barrage of heavy weapon..](#)
- 27.04.09 [Sri Lanka continues air strikes violating own anno..](#)
- 26.04.09 [Several civilians killed, 200 wounded within 5 hou..](#)
- 26.04.09 [Inaction may cause 10,000 casualties: SOS appeal t..](#)
- 26.04.09 [SLA poised for all-out-carnage](#)
- 26.04.09 [Sri Lankan Defence Secretary rejects ceasefire, ca..](#)
- 26.04.09 [LTTE announces unilateral ceasefire](#)
- 26.04.09 [Colombo steps up air strikes, safe zone targeted 3..](#)
- 25.04.09 [Starvation: Colombo deploys the worst genocidal we..](#)
- 25.04.09 [Sri Lanka intensifies bombardment, 'safe zone' bom..](#)
- 25.04.09 [Another carnage imminent as the two Indian mandari..](#)
- 24.04.09 [165,000 civilians face imminent starvation, LTTE u..](#)
- 24.04.09 [Colombo uses starvation, denial of medicine as wea..](#)
- 24.04.09 [Civilian casualties top 20,000 in Vanni: Leaked UN..](#)
- 23.04.09 [SLN crafts encircle ICRC ship in Vanni](#)
- 23.04.09 [SLA shelling on church kills 14, Caritas-HUDEEC Van..](#)
- 22.04.09 [SLA fire hampers ICRC evacuation of seriously woun..](#)
- 22.04.09 [SLA shells Church in Valaignarmadam, Fr. James Pat..](#)
- 21.04.09 [SLA cluster bombs kill doctor, medical staff at Va..](#)
- 21.04.09 ['SLA advances behind human shield, act fast to res..](#)
- 20.04.09 [Nadesan denies reports of human bomb, blames Colom..](#)
- 20.04.09 [Casualties cross 1000 in SLA's attempt to capture ..](#)
- 20.04.09 [SLA fires cluster bombs on 'safety zone'](#)
- 20.04.09 [Chaos and carnage as SLA enters 'safety zone'](#)
- 19.04.09 [SLA launches ground push targeting 'safety zone'](#)
- 19.04.09 [SLA attacks continue to target 'safety zone'](#)
- 18.04.09 ['Starvation poised for worse killings than shellin..](#)

- 16.04.09 UN and IC signal civilian carnage
- 16.04.09 Onslaught of civilians continues, more than 57 kil..
- 16.04.09 SLA, SLAF intensify offensive targeting safety zon..
- 15.04.09 SLA offensive on civilian zone continues
- 15.04.09 Unprecedented carnage, SLA turns firepower on civi..
- 14.04.09 Mass human tragedy possible any moment in 'safety ..
- 14.04.09 SLA continues offensive at the doorstep of 'safe z..
- 13.04.09 SLA attacks kill 23 Tamil civilians within 12 hour..
- 13.04.09 SLA steps up ground offensive targeting 'safety zo..
- 12.04.09 Plight of babies born and unborn
- 12.04.09 31 civilians killed in SLA shelling, gunfire in 's..
- 11.04.09 SLA embarks upon capturing attack on civilians, 30..
- 11.04.09 SLA buildup poses severe threat to civilian securi..
- 11.04.09 599 killed, 3350 injured inside 'safety zone' sinc..
- 11.04.09 69 percent kids malnourished: Vanni health officia..
- 10.04.09 Stop shelling say Co-chairs, attack continues amid..
- 09.04.09 Carnage continues in Vanni
- 08.04.09 SLA attacks kill 129 civilians, 282 wounded in 'sa..
- 08.04.09 SLA bombs child nutrition centre in safety zone, 2..
- 07.04.09 Colombo turns firepower onto 'safety zone'
- 07.04.09 Threat of starvation haunts "Safe Zone" families
- 06.04.09 Medical official reports on pattern of shelling in..
- 05.04.09 Mangled bodies, torn limbs litter Safe Zone - medi..
- 05.04.09 SLA intensifies attacks on Safe Zone, 71 civilians..
- 04.04.09 Recognize our freedom: Vanni civilian leader
- 03.04.09 SLA attacks kill 90 civililans within 3 days, 195 ..
- 03.04.09 Eyewitness reports horrific experiences at makeshi..
- 02.04.09 SLA fired artillery shells create havoc inside saf..
- 31.03.09 SLA fires cluster shells, 45 civilians killed, 120..
- 31.03.09 SLA attacks kill 88 Tamils, including 21 children ..
- 30.03.09 SLA attacks kill 53 civilians inside 'safety zone'..
- 29.03.09 'Global order' experiments with body and mind of V..
- 28.03.09 179 civilians including 76 children killed within ..
- 26.03.09 SLA attacks kill Mullai DS officials engaged in hu..
- 26.03.09 SLA attacks hospital, 5 patients killed, 11 wounde..
- 26.03.09 Carnage continues, 131 civilians including 32 chil..
- 24.03.09 62 civilians killed, SLA, SLAF step up attacks on ..
- 24.03.09 SLA attacks kill 128 civilians in 48 hours
- 22.03.09 42 civilians killed, 80 wounded in Vanni Saturday
- 21.03.09 SLA shelling kills 102 civilians within 3 days ins..
- 17.03.09 84 killed, 182 wounded in SLAF attacks, shelling o..
- 17.03.09 18 civilians reported missing in 'safe-zone' borde..
- 17.03.09 'Safe zone' under encircling fire, 137 killed in 3..
- 15.03.09 Makeshift-hospital struggles without medicines
- 15.03.09 Shelling doesn't spare even babies in wombs
- 15.03.09 Civilian casualties mount as intense bombing and s..
- 13.03.09 SLA shelling targets relief supplies and hospital,..
- 13.03.09 SLA shelling targets humanitarian supplies in 'saf..
- 12.03.09 SLA shelling kills 82 civilians inside 'safe zone'..
- 12.03.09 50,000 families affected by floods in 'safe zone'
- 11.03.09 SLA shelling kills 133 civilians including 49 chil..
- 10.03.09 Sri Lankan cluster shelling kills 129 civilians wi..
- 10.03.09 Colombo's shelling carnage of flood-hit civilians,..
- 09.03.09 Shelling amidst mini-cyclone and lashing rains, th..
- 07.03.09 Sri Lankan attacks kill 208 civilians within 72 ho..
- 06.03.09 Doctors warn severe shortage of medicines in Vanni
- 06.03.09 Acid test for international actors
- 06.03.09 Only 2.2% of humanitarian supplies reached Vanni i..
- 05.03.09 Perpetrating civilian starvation is violation of a..
- 05.03.09 SLA fires cluster shells near hospital, scores wou..
- 05.03.09 Diarrhea claims 13 lives in Vanni within 14 days
- 04.03.09 SLA shelling kills more children, carnage in 'safe..
- 04.03.09 ICRC worker killed in SLA shelling
- 04.03.09 SLA in killing spree in the 'safety zone', 73 kill..
- 04.03.09 Shell landed on a civilian saves others
- 04.03.09 Deputy ZDE of Mullaitheevu dies of shock from sh..
- 03.03.09 RDHS confirms 13 hunger deaths, urges officials to..
- 03.03.09 SLA shells hospital environs, 13 killed including ..
- 03.03.09 Skin rash breaks among children in Vanni
- 03.03.09 Vanni IDPs starving due to acute shortage of food

02.03.09 SLA shelling kills 122 within 3 days in Mullaithth..
 02.03.09 Hunger claims lives in Vanni
 02.03.09 Colombo killed 700 children in 2 months - LTTE Rad..
 28.02.09 Newborn babies bereft of milk, humanitarian situat..
 27.02.09 Downed SLAF aircraft was engaged in carpet-bombing
 24.02.09 Heavy fighting in PTK, civilians trapped in SLA ba..
 24.02.09 Children vulnerable to SLA shelling in new 'safe z..
 22.02.09 50 Tamil civilians killed, 130 wounded within 48 h..
 21.02.09 13 civilians killed, 70 wounded in SLA barrage Fri..
 21.02.09 SLA barrages Mullaiththeevu after Tiger air attack..
 19.02.09 30 families wiped out in massive attack Wednesday,..
 18.02.09 Massive air attack on civilian targets, scores kil..
 18.02.09 SLA artillery fire hits new 'safety zone', 108 kil..
 16.02.09 260 killed, SLA shells and boxes civilians, preven..
 16.02.09 Colombo uses firebombs setting ablaze civilian tar..
 14.02.09 75 feared killed in SLA shelling, elders home
 13.02.09 Herding people by terror: Intense shelling, dead b..
 10.02.09 Relentless shelling expels civilians from 'safety ..
 08.02.09 80 killed, 200 wounded, carnage continues inside '..
 08.02.09 More than 180 killed in Sri Lankan bombardment wit..
 07.02.09 SLAF bombs Ponnampalam hospital, 61 patients kille..
 05.02.09 SLA attacks 'safety zone' using short-range mortar..
 05.02.09 Hospital attacked, 7 killed, dozens wounded
 04.02.09 Deliberate massacre, not 'crossfire' killing Tamil..
 02.02.09 SLAF bombers attack Vanni, deploy cluster bombs
 02.02.09 Nurse killed in Udaiyaarkaddu hospital, ICRC staff..
 02.02.09 More than 5,000 shells fired on 'safety zone', cas..
 02.02.09 SLA fires MBRL rockets on IDP camp, several feared..
 02.02.09 SLA shells PTK hospital, 9 killed, 15 wounded
 01.02.09 Civilian casualties rise, SLA, SLAF attacks contin..
 01.02.09 Shelling hits hospital, ICRC shocked
 31.01.09 Artillery-fired cluster shells, aerial bombing on ..
 31.01.09 SLA shelling continues on 'safety zone', Colombo r..
 30.01.09 Only international-sponsored ceasefire can lead to..
 29.01.09 Artillery barrage kills 44 civilians, 178 wounded ..
 28.01.09 Brutal attack on civilians, assurance to Mukherjee..
 28.01.09 46 more civilians killed Tuesday, few wounded surv..
 28.01.09 Hospitals, ambulances hit by shelling, hundreds ki..
 27.01.09 300,000 civilians face hunger, Colombo, abettors r..
 27.01.09 Norway breaks silence, condemns war
 27.01.09 Dead bodies decomposed beyond identification - med..
 27.01.09 Artillery barrage continues on 'safety zone', no s..
 26.01.09 Targeting civilians in safety zone, premeditated w..
 26.01.09 'Biased UN official misleads humanity, safely sitt..
 26.01.09 More than 1,000 wounded, Mullai RDHS urges IC to s..
 26.01.09 TNA seeks IC to stop carnage, urges medical help t..
 26.01.09 More than 300 civilians feared killed, people blee..
 26.01.09 Does IC know no human dignity of civilians, asks a..
 26.01.09 100 civilians feared killed, countless wounded, ar..
 25.01.09 SLA shelling kills 22 civilians, wounds 60, target..
 24.01.09 12 civilians killed, 87 wounded, SLA continues art..
 23.01.09 'Safety zone' shelled again, 5 civilians killed, 8..
 23.01.09 Artillery barrage continues, 3 killed, 33 wounded
 22.01.09 2 medical staff wounded in artillery barrage on ho..
 22.01.09 Military was provided with exact coordinates of ho..
 22.01.09 Hospital bombed, 5 killed, 15 wounded
 22.01.09 66 civilians killed within 3 days - Mullai RDHS
 22.01.09 SLA attacks civilians in 'secure zone', several ki..
 21.01.09 IC urged to act on humanitarian grounds to safegua..
 20.01.09 Unprecedented civilian carnage in Vanni
 18.01.09 Vanni civilians under deadly siege
 18.01.09 Artillery barrage kills several civilians, dozens ..
 18.01.09 Sri Lankan shelling kills 4 civilians, children am..
 17.01.09 Catholic priests appeal to UN to intervene in Vann..
 16.01.09 5 civilians killed, 7 injured in Sri Lankan artill..
 16.01.09 Jaffna Bishop urges SL President to stop bombardme..
 16.01.09 Humanitarian tragedy in Vanni enters deadlier phas..
 16.01.09 "Which norms of liberal democracy preclude IC atte..
 13.01.09 Doctors call for attack free zones surrounding dis..
 13.01.09 Humanitarian tragedy unfolds in Vanni

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