



# News Bulletin

Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam

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## **500,000 Tamils subject to Starvation and Neglect by the Govt.-- What happened to the Millions of Dollars grant aided to them?**

The Sri Lankan Sinhalese Government's so called mission to 'liberate' the Tamils of Jaffna from the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE)', 'to win the hearts and minds' of the Tamils and such similar poppycock boomeranged on them when 500,000 Tamils decided to evacuate their ancestral homes and trekked on foot overnight over several miles in torrential monsoon rain into Tiger territory to escape from their liberators. This must surely rank very high amongst the largest and swiftest demographic migrations that have ever occurred anywhere in the World, something that Chandrika's Government finds very difficult to digest, judging by its 'sour grapes' assertion that this spontaneous titanic efflux of population had been 'enforced' on them by the LTTE cadres allegedly running helter skelter and fleeing Jaffna in the wake of 'the heroic Sinhalese army' closing in on the city.

Such assertions stretch the limits of credibility, given Chandrika's Government's propaganda blitz on other occasions, especially for the consumption of the Western world that the Tigers have run out of adult fighters and that their battles are being fought today by 'conscripted, pitiable child soldiers and teenage girl soldiers'. Chandrika's Government wants the World to believe that a thousand or so of child soldiers and teenage girl soldiers, fleeing Jaffna in the wake of 50,000 robust, heroic adult Sinhalese soldiers (armed to the extent of wielding a machine gun to kill a mosquito) about to capture Jaffna, with the specific, declared purpose of 'liberating the oppressed Tamils of Jaffna from the LTTE', were able to drive out 500,000 Tamils into the 'territory of the oppressor' overnight. Baron Munchausen must be turning in his grave with envy.

The Tigers are not aliens who have fallen from the sky. The Tigers are the Tamils and the Tamils are the Tigers. Virtually every Tamil family in Jaffna has 'donated' a son or daughter to the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam, for they are the saviours of the Tamil Nation, having helped the Tamil people to keep their life and limb together, to the best of their abilities - and never reluctant to sacrifice their own lives, in the face of genocidal attacks by ruthless Sinhalese regimes.

So, it is not surprising that the 'Sinhalese Liberators' had to inherit a deserted town of Jaffna, something unparalleled in the war annals of the World.

500,000 Tamils moved from the army occupied areas (also known as Valigamam) into the LTTE controlled areas as refugees during the adverse tropical monsoon rainy season. A great majority of them moved into the Vanni Tamil mainland while others moved into the Vadamaratchi and Thenmaratchi areas. The Sri Lankan Government has been taking revenge on these hapless refugees for daring to run away from the so called 'liberators' into the hands of the so called 'oppressors' and the result has been a story of human tragedy, unsurpassed in modern history.

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### **BAN ON SALARIES, PENSIONS AND FLUID CASH**

Soon after the mass efflux of innocent civilians from Jaffna, the Government refused to pay the salaries of Government servants and payments of pensioners. The Government insisted that these people should return to Jaffna every month to collect their cheques. In the face of mounting International concern for these refugees, the Government had to abandon its arm twisting tactics and cheques were issued to them in the areas in which they now lived. However the Government played a 'dirty trick' by ensuring that the State owned banks in those areas did not have sufficient fluid cash to pay them. People were desperately running around with cheques which could not be cashed anywhere and many were forced to sell personal jewellery, which was the only worthwhile personal belonging they could bring with them when they ran away from their homes.

However, by then Pirabakaran's administration, which had up till then been operating with Jaffna as its base was quick to commence operations with Vanni as its new base. 'The Bank of Tamil Eelam' opened branches in the areas subject to refugee influx and it was able to give the refugees cash in return for cheques issued by the banks of the Government of Sri Lanka.

### **BAN ON FOOD AND GROCERIES**

During the initial days the refugees were subject to near starvation and had to keep life and limb together on two or three slices of bread per day. The situation improved slightly after the concerns expressed by the UN Secretary General, Dr Boutros Boutros Ghali and after the demands made by NGOs including the UNHCR to go into the refugee areas to render urgent humanitarian assistance. That was the last thing that the Sri Lanka Government wanted to happen. Considering the sheer brutality and the colossal fire power used in densely populated residential areas and the resultant carnage of civilian lives and properties, the Sri Lanka Government was having too many skeletons that were bulging out of its cupboards, and giving access to foreign NGOs to the area of the massacres was the last thing that President Chandrika wanted. What a furore it would cause world wide? She ordered the foreign NGOs to 'get lost' and made crash arrangements to provide the refugees with one cooked meal of rice and vegetable curry once a day. (To this day foreigners are not allowed by the Government to enter the area of the catastrophe, while the smooth talking Foreign Minister is gallivanting round the globe uttering sweet nothings about the Government's unquenchable thirst for peace and the need for Western governments to crack down on the LTTE offices in those countries, where the LTTE is only carrying out legitimate propaganda and PR exercises, well in keeping with the democratically accepted norms of public life and abiding by the laws in force in those countries).

Once the anxieties of the Western world calmed down somewhat, the Sri Lanka Government began flexing its muscles and cancelled the cooked food that was being provided to them. They offered dry rations instead. The Government issued strict directives to all the Government Agents (Chief Executive Officers of the Government in each District) in the North that only permitted amounts of dry ration and not more should be supplied to the refugees. **The amount that is permitted by the Government costs only Rupees 4.20 (ie, 5.3 pence) per day for up to ten persons in a family!!! Western Governments should address their conscience, if this is not genocide, what else is genocide?**

### **BAN ON COOKING UTENSILS**

The displaced refugees who were being temporarily sheltered in schools and other public buildings were now being forced to cook for themselves using the 'Oliver Twist' dry rations that were being thrown at them. In the overcrowded conditions in which they were being shepherded, there were neither cooking facilities nor cooking utensils. When they appealed for the provision of cooking utensils, the Sri Lanka Government responded swiftly by imposing a ban on the transportation of cooking utensils to these refugees. The Government also went to the extent of imposing a ban on International NGOs transporting Aluminium cooking utensils to the North.

### **BAN ON FREE FOOD SUPPLEMENTS**

The Government is to be held solely responsible for the widespread malnutrition prevalent amongst the Tamil population living in the Tamil homeland. It stopped the supply of nutritional foods or food supplements for Tamil

children and pregnant Tamil women living in the Tamil homeland. These nutritional foods are distributed free all over Sri Lanka for children and pregnant women. The Deputy Director of Health Services has said that most of these children and pregnant women are suffering from malnutrition and they need a supply of nutritional foods as a matter of absolute urgency. He has warned that if these nutritional foods are not supplied there is a real danger of these Tamil people becoming susceptible to all sorts of diseases.

### **BAN ON FOOD LORRIES**

The Government's economic embargo against the Tamil people, in force since 1990, is being ruthlessly implemented. Thandikulam marks the end of Government territory and the beginning of LTTE held territory and the Government troops manning the check point here have time and again stopped food lorries belonging to Tamil traders from going through to purchase food and groceries from Vavuniya, the nearest town in Government held territory. If these lorries had been permitted to pass through and return, the Tamil people would have been able to buy their food items and consumer goods from these private traders. That is strictly prohibited by the Government.

In mid February, even lorries despatched by the Sri Lankan Government Agents of Mullaitivu, Mannar and Killinochi to go to Colombo to bring essential food items to the Vanni mainland were stopped by the troops at Thandikulam and sent back. This happened day after day, precipitating a massive food crisis.

In a related incident, 383 lorries loaded with essential food items and kerosene oil, returning from Colombo to Killinochi in Vanni were detained by the Army at Thandikulam. These were orders placed by the Government Agent himself. Mr Ganesh, the Government Agent of Vavuniya who had been empowered to look into the requirements of the Mullaitivu, Mannar and Killinochi districts explained the overall position and said that even 675 lorry loads of essential items would be hardly sufficient to meet the requirements of the three districts. He had after all only got down only 383 lorry loads. The armed forces were not prepared to listen and were absolutely ruthless, permitting only 106 lorries to go through.

### **TOTAL BAN ON FOOD SUBSIDY UNLESS TAMILS GIVE WRITTEN PROOF THAT THEY ARE NOT AGAINST GOVT., ARMED FORCES**

The latest in the sordid saga of genocide by starvation comes in the form of a Government directive that the Tamil refugees in the North, from now onwards would have to furnish proof that they do not work against the Sri Lankan Government or its armed forces, to become eligible for Government relief. This directive is contained in a circular issued by the Ministry of Rehabilitation and Reconstruction. It stipulates that such proofs would have to be in the form of signed certificates issued by the Village Headman (Grama Sevaka) and the Assistant Government Agent of the respective areas.

Commenting on this draconian directive, political analysts have said that not a single Tamil refugee would qualify for relief if the instructions contained in the circular are implemented. All the Tamil refugees in the North are victims of State terrorism and quite naturally they would be opposed to the Government. They would also be opposed to the armed forces which are the instruments of State terror against the Tamil people. Hence all Tamil people would automatically be disqualified for relief.

The LTTE and the Tamil Rehabilitation Organisation have played a lead role in frustrating the starvation policy of the Government. They have supplied and distributed food to the refugees and kept them going. On Feb 11, 1996, under the aegis of the LTTE, the Akkarayan Multi Purpose Co-operative Society (MPCS) opened three new branches in Vanni to serve the large number of Jaffna Tamil refugees who have now settled there permanently. MPCSs are non profit making, co-operative organisations which are formed by the local residents in a voluntary capacity. The distribution of food and other provisions to the local residents is its primary function. A new branch has been opened at the newly established Kantharoopan housing scheme at Konavil. A second branch has also been opened at Konavil while a third branch has come up at Skanthapuram, all in Vanni.



## BAN ON FERTILISERS

The LTTE has distributed land for cultivation for Tamil refugees interested in making Vanni their homeland and pursue agriculture. The Tamil man renowned for his industriousness and perseverance over the ages, far from sitting and ruminating over the adversity that has been inflicted on him by Chandrika & Co. has started his fight back to re-establish his positive role in society.

The Sri Lankan Government knows this and hence it came as no surprise when 2000 cwt. of fertiliser that was being transported to the Tamil areas was stopped at the Thandikulam check point by the army in December 1995. To this date it has not been allowed to go through and the Government Agent of Kilinochi is helpless about it, the army giving flimsy bureaucratic excuses for the ban. The Deputy Commissioner of Agrarian Services had to undertake the tortuous journey to Colombo to try to get things sorted out.

According to a press release issued by the Government Agent for Mullaitivu, 17,267 farming families living in the Mullaitivu area in the Vanni mainland have been hard hit by the ban on fertilisers. Rice cultivation has been forced to come to a standstill and rice has to be purchased from other areas. The once self sufficient granary of Mullaitivu has been forced to abandon cultivation of 4503 hectares of rich paddy lands and 3954 hectares of rich crop lands, the press release concludes.

Political analysts say that this is a classical example of either the army functioning as 'a Government within a Government' or the Government working hand in glove with the army in an exercise of 'pinching the child and rocking the cradle'. Either way, the motive is to bleed the refugees further.

## BAN ON FREE SCHOOL BOOKS, EDUCATION

The Sri Lankan Government supplies a certain quota of school books free every year to school going children in the country. For 1996, the Government despatched its quota of free school books to the whole of Sri Lanka except the Northern Tamil homelands where 500,000 people languished in refugee camps and make shift accommodation. The crisis was gravest in Vanni which had to cope with the bulk of the refugee influx. Under normal arrangements Vanni should have received 300,000 free school books for its school going children. Up to the end of January 1996, not a single school book had been sent to Vanni in spite of the Government employed officials of the Kilinochi Education Department in Vanni engaging in frantic negotiations with the Ministry of Education in Colombo for the supply of the normal quota of books and the Ministry of Defence in Colombo to issue the necessary permits for these books to go through the Thandikulam military check points.

In the end the Ministry of Education consented quite grudgingly to supply at least part of the books but the Ministry of Defence doggedly refused to issue the necessary permits. After all this tug-of-war and uncertainty, several lorries left for Vanni loaded with just 55,000 books which the Ministry of Education had released but they were all stopped at the Thandikulam check point by the army. To this day, even the 'Oliver Twist' quota of books released by the Ministry of Education has been vetoed at the military check point by the representatives of the Ministry of Defence. **Who is running the so called civilised Government of Sri Lanka? Are Western Governments so naive as not to recognise the Machiavellian *modus operandi* in this exercise?**

Meanwhile, the Tamil Eelam Council for Advancement of Education (TECAE), an LTTE institution that looks after the educational affairs of Tamil Eelam, has met and made several key decisions affecting the educational needs of the Tamil children in the North. The meeting of the TECAE was chaired by the President of the Council, Rev. Fr. Francis Joseph. Several Sri Lankan Government employed officials participated in this key meeting, including the Directors of Education for Jaffna - Regions 1 & 2, the Directors of Education for the Kilinochi district, the representatives of the Director of Education of the Vavuniya District, the representatives of the Director of Education of the Mannar District, the representatives of the University of Jaffna, the Principals of Schools in the North and the representatives of various Government Departments.

After the deliberations, the TECAE issued instructions to re open all schools in the Vanni area for classes from

Year One to Year Five in the first week of March 1996, and to re open all schools in Vadamaratchi and Thenmaratchi for classes from Year One to Year Five in the second week of March 1996. The TECAE had also considered the position of Advanced Level students and instructions were issued to schools to begin classes in the first week of March 1996 to prepare them for the A Level examinations.

The TECAE also expressed its gratitude to all institutions in Tamil Eelam, particularly the Tamil Rehabilitation Organisation (TRO) and the Tamil Eelam Economic Development Organisation (TEEDOR), which had helped to resettle the refugees who had been initially rehoused in the various schools located in the region.

The Government agents of Mannar, Mullaitivu and Kilinochi districts face an uphill task in keeping to the deadline for re opening schools due to the presence of refugees in school buildings. At least temporary shelters need to be erected to re-accommodate these refugees but the army has even banned the transport of essential building materials needed to erect them. The three Government agents have sent a joint appeal to the Government as well as NGOs to help them in this matter but no favourable response has been received so far. To be a Government agent in Tamil Eelam must be the most frustrating and hardest assignment on Planet Earth.

### **BAN ON HOUSING**

Even though most of the Tamil refugees displaced from Jaffna into the Vanni were keen on settling down permanently in that area, the Government had been very hostile towards the idea. Political analysts say that the reasons are obvious. In Jaffna the Government is sitting and waiting in a kingdom without subjects, embarrassed and frustrated and trying trick after trick to arm twist the displaced refugees to come back. Hence they are making life as difficult as possible for the refugees in Vanni.

Officials attached to the Sri Lankan Government Secretariat in Vanni had confirmed that they had received strict orders from the Government NOT to undertake any house building projects or start any refugee resettlement schemes with a view to settling the 500,000 refugees. So, the refugee rehabilitation and resettlement department of the LTTE went ahead and allocated lands and are building houses in Vanni. The displaced people in Vanni are also being offered employment opportunities in Vanni by the LTTE.

The Social development department of the LTTE is currently constructing one thousand new homes in the Parasankulam village of Vanni. The construction work is progressing rapidly and according to plan. The construction of roads for the settlement has also reached an advanced stage. Over eighty fully completed houses belonging to this scheme have already been handed over to the displaced people.

The million dollar question that is being asked in political circles is--'What has happened to the millions of Dollars handed over by International NGOs to the Government of Sri Lanka towards the rehabilitation and resettlement of these refugees?' When numerous NGOs had wanted to move into these areas with humanitarian projects to tackle the catastrophe, the Government had said : 'Er.. Hold it mate, this is not a hold up, but this is Sri Lanka and those refugees are also Sri Lankans. They are 'apey sahodarayo'(our brothers). You keep out mate, but please hand over all the shekels to us and we will spend it on 'apey sahodarayo'. The shekels were collected, and the NGOs had also departed , and so did the Government with the shekels. 'The Government was never seen again and nothing was heard of the shekels also. It is the LTTE which is bearing the brunt of the cost of rehabilitation. Into whose pockets or hand bags have the shekels gone? Or, have they gone to Ukraine, China and Israel to purchase arms for General Anuruddha Ratwatte?

### **BAN ON HOSPITALS AND MEDICINE**

As a result of incessant shelling of the densely populated areas of Vadamaratchi by the Sinhalese troops, the Government hospital at Valvettiturai ceased to function in the last week of January 1996. 'This hospital cannot

function any longer,' lamented the Doctor in Charge. 'Shells fired by the Sri Lankan armed forces are exploding within the hospital all the time.'

This type of shelling of residential Tamil areas does not necessarily occur as a part of an overall military operation. It goes on all the time, day in and day out, 365 days an year. In whichever camp they live in, the Sinhalese troops spend their leisure time, not playing a game of cards or ping pong, but shelling Tamil residential areas, killing or maiming innocent civilians. That is the way the Sinhalese troops relieve their boredom and such genocidal 'blood sports' have gone on for at least twelve years in the Tamil homelands, away from the spot light of the news reporters and the leader writers of the Western media.

The hospital authorities had time and again pleaded with the ruthless Sinhalese Governments in Colombo, including the present 'jewel in the crown' Government of Chandrika, to recognise the hospital complex as a military action free zone but it all fell on deaf ears.

Kilinochi and Mullaitivu district hospitals ran out of essential medicines in January 1996 and were unable to treat their patients. The Deputy Director of Health Services responsible for these hospitals had to despatch one of his officers to Colombo to get urgent clearance from the Ministry of Defence to allow these drugs to pass through the military check point at Thandikulam. As expected, permission was not granted. In anticipation of the refusal, the Deputy Director had also set in motion a contingency plan to divert a tiny percentage of medicine stocks to Kilinochi and Mullaitivu from the District hospitals of Vadamaratchi and Thenmaratchi. That too proved futile as the latter hospitals themselves were in short supply and had nothing at all to spare.

The Sri Lankan Government has been, for the last six years, enforcing a strict, so called 'economic embargo' on the Tamil people living in the North and under its guise all medicines, except the bare essential ones, are banned. To date, hospitals in Kilinochi, Mullaitivu and Mannar have not received their permitted 'Oliver Twist' ration of the barely essential medicines for the last quarter of 1995.

In utter desperation, Mr S Pathmanathan, the Government Agent of Jaffna, made a special visit to Colombo and pleaded with the Government to permit the free flow of essential medicines to the North to save human lives. He even pleaded that if the Government was not prepared to supply the free medicines that Government hospitals all over the country were eligible for, for the people of the North, then they should at least lift the ban on the private pharmaceutical sector from supplying the private pharmacies in the North with medicines. The Tamil people did not want free medicines from Government hospitals and they were prepared to pay for it, however impoverished they might have been.

While the Western political world seems to have been bamboozled temporarily by the wayward charms of President Chandrika and her 'smooth talking' Foreign Minister Kadirgamar, we would at least try to appeal to the conscience of the members of the British 'Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals' to see whether they could not make a special case out of Darwin's theory of the origin of man from animals and extend their spectrum of beneficiaries and aid to cover these hapless humans from Tamil Eelam who are worse off and unsupported than their regular and lucky clientele and donate to them a supply of essential medicines.

#### **BAN ON PRIVACY OF MAIL; PILFERING OF MONEY OKAYED**

Mail bags containing letters for the Tamil people living in Eelam, coming from other parts of Sri Lanka or abroad are being routinely opened and read by the military personnel manning the check points at Thandikulam. Any money enclosed with the letters in the form of Cash, Postal orders, Money orders, Cheques etc. are robbed with absolute impunity by the Sinhalese soldiers who man these points. Very often such remittances come from the sons and daughters or the brothers and sisters, employed in other parts of the country or abroad, to their dependant families in Tamil Eelam and who have no other means of income. The Government in Colombo knows that this



daylight robbery is going on but couldn't care a hoot to investigate or intervene even if complaints are lodged. The troops are brazen and cheeky enough not only to pilfer the money but also to resealed the enclosed letter advising about the remittance in the tampered envelope and forward them to the addressees. So it is not surprising that a letter posted from Colombo could take as much as two weeks to reach their destinations in Tamil Eelam, just 200-250 miles away. In the normal course of events, they should have been delivered on the following day.

### **BAN ON THE ESSENTIAL EQUIPMENT NEEDED FOR UNHCR**

The United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR), which is a Non Governmental Organisation (NGO) that had done a tremendous service attending to the humanitarian needs of the hapless Tamil refugees in Vanni has an office at Kilinochi. UNHCR had applied for permission from the Government to take past the check point at Thandikulam to their Kilinochi office as a matter of urgency, a wireless communications set. This was not a luxury but a bare essential means of communication, as telephone services to and within Tamil Eelam had been withdrawn by the Government in Colombo nearly twelve years ago.

After persistent appeals by UNHCR, the Government came up with the lame excuse that if the wireless communications set was okayed for transport to Kilinochi for UNHCR there was a risk that the LTTE would take it over from them. The excuse was so stupid that it could have only been put up by the dullards of the Sri Lankan army intoxicated with arrogance and afflicted by myopia. Peter Meijer, the resident representative of the UNHCR expressed disappointment saying, *'We cannot find any reason why the Government should be objecting to the setting up of the communications centre.'*

The Sinhalese owned 'Sunday Times' of Sri Lanka (February 25, 1996) reported: *'In the conflicting set of political circumstances prevailing, it is somewhat awkward for international agencies to get involved in the alleviation of humanitarian needs of displaced persons. Their involvement whilst comforting to the displaced persons, and even more of enormous propaganda value to the LTTE, would be discomfiting and embarrassing to the Government. A classic example of this situation is the role of the UNHCR, currently involved in a ding-dong controversy with the Ministry of Defence over the installation in Kilinochi of a high frequency two-way radio link. Similar links between UNHCR's main office in Colombo and its branches in Jaffna, Madhu and Trincomalee, among others, now exist.'*

The relationship of the LTTE with the UNHCR in LTTE held territory has been absolutely flawless and has been based on mutual understanding, friendship and co-operation and when the Ministry of Defence raised the LTTE bogey to frustrate the UNHCR's communication equipment, it made Chandrika look silly.

The 'Sunday Times' (*Ibid*) reports further: *'According to a well-informed, Colombo based Western diplomat, there were indications that the UNHCR may shut down its operations in Kilinochi- a move which may cause considerable embarrassment to the Government. 'The move is under active consideration and is a matter of time,' the diplomat said, referring to high level deliberations in Geneva.'*

When there is no will there is no way out and when there is a hidden agenda to subject the Tamils to constant, chronic, cancerous genocide, the non sensational type which manages to escape International attention, one could not be surprised at the attitude shown by the Government towards the UNHCR.

### **BAN ON COMPENSATION FOR THE MASSACRED**

The Sri Lankan Government has refused to pay any compensation at all for the families of innocent Tamil civilians who had lost a bread winner, during the course of the brutal, 'broad front', military onslaught launched by 50,000 troops to take Jaffna. As a result of aerial bombing and incessant shelling of densely populated civilian areas by the Sinhalese army, more than 120 civilians were killed and 60 seriously injured. The casualty figures would have been astronomical if the 500,000 civilians had not taken that spontaneous and crucial decision to evacuate en masse from Jaffna into the safety and protection of other Tiger held territories, before the final onslaught by the army on

Jaffna town. When the Kilinochi Government Secretariat contacted the Ministry of Rehabilitation in Colombo regarding payment of compensation to the families of the deceased, amounting to Rupees 6.8 million (Sterling Pounds 850,000), the Ministry issued strict instructions that no compensation was to be paid.

Some animals are more equal than the others. The Colombo animals are more equal than the Jaffna animals. That is the permanent fixed delusion of the chauvinistic Sinhalese Government ruling from Colombo. Hence it is not surprising that the families of the victims of the bomb blast of the Central Bank in Colombo were awarded handsome compensation in cash even before the echo of the explosion receded over the troubled waters of the Indian ocean.

**It is an undeniable fact that various International agencies did donate millions of Dollars towards the SPECIFIC PURPOSE of alleviating the sufferings of 500,000 Tamil refugees and this included about 200 million US dollars from the Humanitarian Office of the European Union. This aid was to help meet the needs for basic items such as food, shelter, plastic sheeting, water tanks, medicine and medical supplies for the civilians affected by the war.**

Judging by the afore-mentioned reports coming from the Tamil Eelam homeland of starvation, neglect and deprivation enforced on 500,000 hapless Tamil refugees by the Sinhalese Government, it is becoming more and more clear that the millions of Dollars grant aided to the Tamil refugees by the International Community have so far not been utilised for the humanitarian needs for which they were allocated. President Chandrika's Government stands accountable to the world not only for the Chronic Genocide they are inflicting upon the 500,000 Tamil refugees, but also on the mode of utilisation of the millions of Dollars specifically meant for the Tamil refugees.

### **Sinister Disinformation Campaign against LTTE by Sinhalese owned 'Sunday Times'**

The Sri Lankan Sinhalese owned National news paper, the 'Sunday Times' of February 25, 1996 had carried as its main lead story of the first page, an article under the title- 'Japan, Malaysia come under LTTE threat'. The article states: 'The Japanese and Malaysian Embassies in Colombo have received death threats this week from a group calling itself the Ellalan Force, widely believed to be an arm of the LTTE, the Sunday Times learns.'

This report is a despicable and malicious lie. The LTTE has never issued threats of any form to any Foreign Embassy located in Colombo or anywhere else in the world and will never do so in the future too. On the other hand, the LTTE is very much interested in fostering goodwill and friendship with all the countries in the world. It welcomes the presence of foreign Diplomatic Missions in Colombo and elsewhere in the world and looks forward to working with them closely. The LTTE has nothing to do with the so called Ellalan Force. Neither is it aware if the Ellalan Force did actually issue such a threat to the said Embassies in Colombo.

The Sinhalese owned news papers in Colombo are actively colluding with the Sri Lankan Government *vis-a-vis* its chauvinistic game plan towards the Tamils. They have been coming out with false reports from time to time with the intention of tarnishing the image of the LTTE. These news papers are guilty of carrying out a sustained and sinister disinformation campaign against the Tamils and the LTTE in order to undermine their political aspirations, the current article in the Sunday Times being no exception.

### **Sinhalese News Reporters Manipulate Despatches to International News Agencies**

Almost all the Colombo based news reporters accredited to prestigious International News Agencies are Sinhalese. The war in Sri Lanka between the LTTE and the Sinhalese Government has been going on for well over a decade



and it has served ,amongst other things, to further sharpen the ethnic divide. These Sinhalese news reporters are naturally biased against the Tamils, and they have in their hands the means to disseminate throughout the world, a subtle anti Tamil propoganda designed to throw out of focus, the integrity and legitimacy of the National Liberation struggle of the Tamils.

They accomplish this in several ways. They make sure that they do not miss out on a single story or even half a story that is not favourable to the Tamils. It is in this context that they even copy sourceless, baseless, speculative stories against the LTTE and the Tamils which the Sinhalese news papers carry, off and on. Reporting as they are for prestigious Intenational news agencies, they do not care to check on the authenticity of the story, or get a cross section of the views about the story from those who might be involved with it, or affected by it. Thus if the Sri Lankan Deputy Defence Minister plants an anti LTTE canard in a news paper, in collaboration with its Sinhalese Editor, the Sinhalese news reporter despatches it as genuine news, sourcing the National news paper, to an International news agency, and unsuspecting media all over the world carry the canard. Truth is thus murdered and buried. These reporters also avoid reporting stories that portray the Sinhalese Government or its armed forces in bad light, unless the story is a very major one. Whatever stories they despatch are slanted in favour of the Sinhalese, by emphasising or failing to emphasise, by design, relevant aspects of the story.

Only when a foreign reporter makes a flying visit to Sri Lanka on a special mission and sends through his despatch does the difference in the political line adopted so far becomes suddenly obvious. It looks as if the wind has suddenly changed direction. When the foreign reporter departs it is a question of back to status quo. During the recent military onslaught to take Jaffna, using this devious information pathway, Sri Lankan army spokesmen were able to plant their propoganda stuff (at the expense of the other party to the war) with impunity in the world media.

**It is time that the International News Agencies took note of this and did something to correct this abuse to prevent the subversion of truth and the loss of their credibility.**

## **Foreign mercenaries in the fray for Sri Lanka?**

The Sri Lankan 'Sunday Leader' (18-2-96) has reported that a volunteer foreign naval officer, Cedric Martensteyn was on the ill-fated MI-17 helicopter that was shot down by the LTTE as it flew towards Vettalaikerni from Palaly on January 22. The Air Force had acknowledged that 29 persons on board had disappeared without a trace in that incident.

## **Macabre massacre of Tamil civilians by the Sinhalese Army Pregnant mother subject to a 'Barbaric Caesarean Section'**

Amnesty International accused the Sri Lankan troops of raping and killing a teenage girl during a massacre on February 11, which left 24 Tamil civilians dead. A woman in her advanced state of pregnancy was among those who were brutally murdered. Her body was recovered with her abdomen slashed open and her unborn baby pulled out of the womb. Amnesty said that a 17 year old girl was reportedly dragged from a grocery store and raped before being shot dead. Many of the 25 Tamils wounded in the shooting had told human rights workers that soldiers broke open doors and windows of houses and fired at those inside, the Amnesty statement said.

Sources from Trincomalee alleged that apart from men from the military being involved there was also a strong possibility that home guards too took part in the attack. Amnesty has demanded an independent investigation by civilian authorities. But the government had instead ordered a military investigation headed by Major General Samaratunga. Dr Pakiathurai who attended on the injured alleged that even though a military inquiry is being held Tamil villagers were afraid to talk to army personnel for fear of later retaliation from Government troops for giving evidence, implicating them. In an act of sheer savagery, the troops are supposed to have used an array of weapons including knives, machetes and swords in addition to guns to butcher the innocent villagers.

We publish below the details of the 24 civilians massacred to death (Sex and age in years within brackets):

1. Subiah Savirajah	(male, 76)	13. Arumaidurai Santhyaluxmy	(female, 15)
2. Kinnan Kovinthan	(male, 72)	14. Kanakarajah Subashinirajah	(male, 15)
3. Sivakkolunthu Sinnadurai	(male, 56)	15. Vinayakamoorthy Suthakaran	(male, 14)
4. Vadivelu Nadarajah	(male, 22)	16. Ramajeyam Kamaleswari	(female, 13)
5. Sundaralingam Luxmy	(female, 35)	17. Thangavel Kala	(female, 12)
6. Arunasalam Kamaladevy	(female, 35)	18. Shanmuganathan Nizandan	(male, 11)
7. Alahuthurai Parames	(female, 30)	19. Sundaralingam Prabakaran	(male, 11)
8. Subramaniam Pakkiyam	(female, 30)	20. Amirthalingam Rasanighandi	(female, 10)
9. Arumaithurai Vallipillai	(female, 28)	21. Theepan Patiny	(female, 9)
10. Selladurai Pakkiyam	(female, 26)	22. Sivapakiyam Thiraiyampan	(female, 6)
11. Anandan Annamah	(female, 26)	23. Pakkiyarajah Vasanthini	(female, 6)
12. Thurairajah Karunakaran	(male, 15)	24. Sundaralingam Subasini	(female, 3)

The Tamils who are the victims of systematic state sponsored terrorism see this as yet another sham inquiry in the catalogue of inquiries undertaken by the successive governments since the Black July 1983 pogrom against the Tamils. The Tamil people wish to ask the Government which supposedly propagates openness and transparency in their politics as to what was the outcome of (1) The Welikade Jail massacre of 53 Tamil political prisoners in July 1983 (2) The Air force bombing of the civilian target of Navaly Catholic Church where more than 100 Tamils were killed (3) The indiscriminate bombing by the Air Force of the Nagarkoil Tamil School in which over 40 innocent Tamil school children were killed (4) The inquiry into the deaths of innocent Tamils who were murdered and their bodies dumped into lakes in and around Colombo by the Special Task Force. Why have all the STF personnel who were remanded in this connection allowed to go scot free recently?

### **'Computing' magazine' urged to distance Tamil Tigers from abuse of UK's welfare system.**

The 'Computing' magazine, in response to representations made by the Tamil community in the UK, published (15-2-96) a correction to its misinformed article (11 January 1996) alleging that the LTTE was also one of the several organisations that was abusing the UK's welfare system. Here are some excerpts from the correction that was carried:

'A spokesman for the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) has categorically denied that the group is involved in benefit fraud, following *Computing's* investigations into the issue (11 January).

'Following publication of our revelation that more than 1 billion a year is lost to the DSS through computer-related benefit fraud perpetrated by political, criminal and terrorist groups, *Computing* was contacted by members of the UK's Tamil community, anxious to distance both community and the Tamil Tigers from any systematic abuse of the UK's welfare system. Following a meeting with members of the Tamil community, contact was made with a spokesman for the LTTE who stated: 'I can assure you we have nothing to do with DSS fraud.....'

'The denials follow a claim by benefit investigators that Tamil Tiger activity had been detected during welfare fraud investigations. But the LTTE claims this cannot be substantiated, adding that the organisation did not raise funds in the UK. The LTTE spokesman said that the Tamil cause was being targeted as part of a Sri Lankan Government-funded smear campaign being organised by one of the world's leading PR agencies'.

*It must be noted that the 'News Bulletin' (26.1.96) of the High Commission of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka in London published a lead news item entitled 'Tamil Tigers Involved in large-scale Benefit fraud- Computing Magazine' with its usual brouhaha to discredit the Tamils whom it claims as its own citizens. Out of the ten news items published in that bulletin, nine were devoted faithfully to sling mud at the Tamils!*

## **The Governor of the Central Bank and his baffling logic**

The logic of the Governor of the Sri Lankan Central Bank, A S Jayawardene speaks volumes for the appalling state of affairs of the Sri Lankan economy. According to the 'Sunday Leader' of 18.2.96, at a press conference he had said that the Central Bank was not going to claim compensation from the Insurance Corporation of Sri Lanka as it was another Government institution and it would mean the same whether they took it or not. If they claimed compensation, he said that the Government would lose on the profits that came to it from the Insurance Corporation.

This statement by the Governor seems to defeat the whole purpose and the very concept of insurance. If they are not going to claim insurance payouts from the Corporation, then why pay the premium at all --economic analysts have asked.

## **Chaos in the Central Bank - Rupees One Million missing!**

The Central Bank of Sri Lanka is in a state of total disarray after the bomb blast of January 31. The Bank's Governor has said that they could not account for Rs One Million and which he says was pilfered during the aftermath of the bomb blast!

Meanwhile, serious questions have arisen in the financial and banking circles as to whether the Central Bank has lost all records of treasury bill transactions. The primary dealers in treasury bills are now preparing extensive lists giving dates of maturity and issue, TB number, face value and purchase price of all the TBs issued by them, following a plea by the Central Bank. It has come to light that the bank has lost almost all records required for their day to day transactions, without any back-up copies to support them. Among these are signature verification records virtually needed to sanction payments from bank to bank.

Officials of Commercial banks said that they had not received any statements from the Central Bank to confirm their transactions and balances as of January 31. 'This is a terrible situation to be in as we are just operating blind. We are depositing monies but do not know whether it is being credited to our account,' wondered one concerned banker ('Sunday Leader', 25.2.96).

Meanwhile, Train fares have been increased by 20% from March 1st.

## **Sunrise Radio's 'Soap box' on the Sri Lankan conflict was slippery, say the Tamils living in UK**

The long awaited 'soap box' programme of the Sunrise Radio on the current situation in Sri Lanka received the wrath of the Tamil community in the UK. The suspicion of the community that the Sunrise Radio was working hand in glove with the Sri Lankan Government for its rapacious commercial objectives was clearly felt by the Tamils who listened dumbfounded to the programme. While the programme was just half way through on the air the Sri Lanka Government controlled 'Daily News' reporter despatched the news to Colombo jubilantly. He went out of the way to pamper and panegyrised the Chair of the programme, Dr Avtar Lit.

Many Tamils and Tamil associations have expressed their dissatisfaction to the Sunrise Radio. The composition of the panel gave numerical advantage to the Sinhalese and the role of the presenter was seen as very biased against the Tamils. The Tamils accused the Sunrise for its devious strategies to influence the Sri Lankan Government to approve its application for a broadcasting licence to operate in Sri Lanka. One of the Tamil Associations which contacted the Sunrise observed that the programme was 'well planned and meticulously executed', as a part of the propaganda work of the Sri Lankan Government against the Tamil people. Another saw the Sunrise as practising 'sycophancy and sleaze' with the commercial objective of establishing radio stations in Sri Lanka.

The Tamils were represented only by Vasantha Rajah and the Sinhalese were represented by Sri Lanka's Acting High Commissioner- Gamini Munasinghe, Douglas Wickremaratne (Sinhala Association, UK) and Upali Cooray



(A Sinhalese Marxist and pro Chandrika propagandist). Dr Lit was clearly taking the side of the Sinhalese members of the panel. He did not stop the intimidatory behaviour of the other members of the panel shouting down Vasantha Rajah and time and again he himself interrupted Vasantha Rajah to prevent him from building up a case. "Given the hostile situation Vasantha Rajah did a marvellous job," said a listener. The Tamils felt that the programme was extended by one hour under the pretext of entertaining more phone in questions but it became palpably clear as the programme proceeded in the extended hour that it was really a cunning extension introduced to harass Vasantha Rajah by the other panel members and the chair. One Tamil association wished the Sunrise by saying, 'Well, well, well, it will now be easy for the Sri Lankan Government to reward you with your long awaited application for radio stations?'

## Deputy Defence Minister of Sri Lanka -- 'Triple jump Champion' of the World, thanks to auntie Sirimavo and cousin Chandrika

Sri Lanka's Minister of Irrigation, Power and Energy and Deputy Minister of Defence, Mr Anuruddha Ratwatte is eligible to enter the Guinness Book of Records with his meteoritic triple jump promotion from the rank of Lieutenant to that of General.

### Anuruddha Ratwatte

Irrigation, Power and Energy  
and Deputy Defence



According to the 'Sunday Times' of Oct 1, 1995, Anuruddha was a Lieutenant in the Volunteer Force of the Sri Lanka Army when his aunt and the then PM Sirimavo Bandaranaike promoted him to the rank of Colonel. He was a small time politician at one time, serving as a Municipal Councillor in Sirimavo's rival party - the UNP. He became a strong ally of Sirimavo's daughter, Chandrika (currently President) when she was involved in a power struggle within their party (SLFP) with her brother, Anura Bandaranaike, and together they managed to drive Anura away into the UNP.

And now, Anuruddha has been rewarded by his cousin, President Chandrika with the rank of General. Chandrika's maternal uncle, Mackie Ratwatte, who owns the 'Island Group of Newspapers', recently carried a picture of Anuruddha Ratwatte on the front pages of his news papers with a caption that just like his ancestors who fought the British, Anuruddha too had taken the war to (foreign?) Jaffna. Wow...wow...Anuruddha, what a hop, step and jump!

Some are born lucky, aren't they, unlike the unsung, unknown soldiers, born to ordinary, low country Sinhalese villagers who perished in the adventurous military misadventure, conceived and hatched in the mind of a pompous, Kandyan, caste conscious and silly ex-Lieutenant from the Volunteer Forces?

## Former British SAS mercenary confirms Sinhalese atrocities

In the book entitled 'Immediate Action - The True Story of his Life in the SAS of Bravo two Zero', a former SAS man who was employed as a mercenary by the Sri Lankan Government to fight the Tamils has the following to say (page 181): 'Nobody was worse affected by AI's death than Frank Collins. I've seen a lot of mates die during my seven years in the Regiment,' he said, 'but this has hit me the hardest.'

'May be AI's death was the big test of his Christian faith. Frank left the Regiment soon afterwards and decided to train to be the Ayatollah. However, he wanted to pay off his mortgage before he enrolled at Bible College, and his first freelance job took him to Sri Lanka.'

'Frank lasted two weeks. when I saw him much later in Hereford he said, 'They (Sinhalese) had no understanding of right or wrong and thought nothing of wiping out the Tamils. Some of the people we trained committed atrocities. It was well-paid, but I came straight home'.