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LIBERATION TIGERS OF THAMIL EALAM

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A LEADING TIGER GUERRILLA COMMANDER KILLED IN GUN BATTLE

One of the leading commanders of the Liberation Tiger guerrillas was killed recently in a gun battle between the Sinhala military and the Tamil freedom fighters. He is Lieutenant Chelvanayagam (Alias Aman, Chellakilli, Chandran).



On the midnight of 23rd July 1983 a Tiger guerrilla unit under the command of Lt. Chelvanayagam ambushed a Sinhala military convoy at Tinnevely, Jaffna. In the fierce gun battle that ensued fourteen Sinhala soldiers were killed and several others seriously injured. The Tigers destroyed the military vehicles and captured all the weapons. Lt. Chelvanayagam was the only casualty on the guerrilla side.

Lt. Chelvanayagam, popularly known as Aman among the co-revolutionaries was an experienced guerrilla fighter engaged in several guerrilla raids.

He is famous for his outstanding courage and self-determination.

Lt. Chelvanayagam
His tactical intelligence is superb. He was responsible for wiping out a police raiding party headed by the notorious torturer Inspector Bastiampillai. On the 7th April 1978, Inspector Bastiampillai and his

police party suddenly surrounded a Tiger training camp deep into the northern jungle and held the guerrillas at gun point. Lt. Chelvanayagam tactfully swooped on a police officer, snatched his SMG and gunned down the police party. Such an act of valour and quick thinking on the part of this guerrilla commander saved a Tiger training camp. Lt. Chelvanayagam was a trusted and close comrade of V. Prabhakaran, the leader and commander-in-chief of the Tiger Movement. He joined the Liberation organisation at the very early stage of the Movement, and commanded several successful military operations. His technical knowledge of weaponry was quite remarkable. He trained several young men as outstanding guerrilla fighters. He died as a hero, and his demise is a severe blow to the Tamil freedom movement.

A PROFILE ON THE TAMIL TIGERS

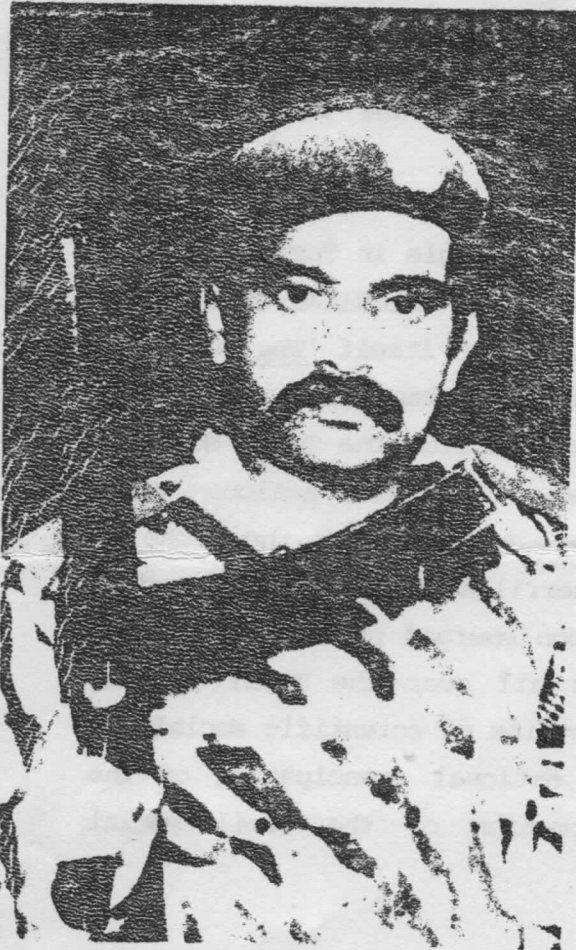
The history of the freedom struggles of the oppressed people of the Third World shows that armed resistance as a mode of political struggle arises when peaceful democratic forms of struggles have exhausted its moral power to mobilise the people, when the oppressor shows utter disregard to the spiritual and human values underlying non-violent agitations. The Tamil people in Sri Lanka have been pursuing a peaceful path of political struggle for decades. Following Gandhijees principles of ahimsa, the Tamils launched non-violent campaigns of satyagraha, of peaceful picketing seeking the restoration of their human rights. For a quarter of a century they pleaded for a federal system within a unified state structure to co-exist with the majority nation. Yet their legitimate and civilized demands found no sympathetic hearing. Instead of looking into the genuine grievances of the minority nation the racist Sinhalese leaders unleashed military violence brutally crushing the satyagraha campaigns. A savage form of State oppression emerged attacking the very foundations of the ethnic structure of the Tamil society. Waves after waves of communal violence were let loose on the Tamils which reflected a genocidal intent aimed at the mass destruction of the life and property of the Tamils. Large contingents of armed forces poured into Tamil areas and the Tamil nation was finally brought under military siege. Because of the ever unfolding oppression, of the continuous military terrorisation, of the constant hostility and betrayals the Tamils have lost all hope of a

peaceful negotiated settlement. It was during this period of utter disillusionment and hopelessness, when the Tamil people were presented with no other alternative other than to defend themselves against a savage form of genocidal onslaught, that gave rise to the phenomenon of armed resistance. The armed struggle that emerged in the early seventies must be viewed as a political phenomenon expressing the desperate struggle of the Tamil people to resist and fight back an intolerable chauvinistic oppression aimed at the systematic destruction of the Tamil national formation:

The Tiger Movement which spearheads the armed struggle in Tamil Eelam was formed in 1972 by its leader and military commander VELUPILLAI PRABAKARAN. At the time of its inauguration the Movement called itself 'The Tamil New Tigers' and later in 1976 May 5th the organisation renamed itself as the LIBERATION TIGERS OF TAMIL EELAM. From its inception the Tiger Movement took into its ranks the most dedicated, the most zealous young revolutionaries disciplined with an iron will to fight for the cause of national freedom. Structured as an urban guerrilla force and committed to a prolonged people's warfare, the Tigers soon emerged as a revolutionary liberation movement with clandestine cells all over the Tamil nation. Ideologically bound to the revolutionary doctrine of scientific socialism, the Movement's political objective is the national emancipation of the Tamil people and the socialist transformation of the Tamil social formation.

Prabakaran, the leader of the Tiger Movement, is an ardent young revolutionary, born on the 26th November 1954, in the coastal town of Valvettiturai a place famous for its militancy against Sinhala State repression. He was drawn into revolutionary politics when he was sixteen, and earned the name 'Thanby' amongst the co-revolutionaries as he was very young. Prabakaran represented the aspirations of the rebellious Tamil youth who, having become disenchanted with the failures of non-violent political campaigns, resolved to fight back the barbarous form of state violence perpetrated on their people. Prabakaran soon organised a politico-military structure which found an organisational expression to the revolutionary ardour of these militant youths. Showing an extraordinary talent in planning military strategy and tactics and executing

them to the amazement of the enemy, Prabakaran soon became a symbol of Tamil resistance and the Tiger Movement he founded became the armed vanguard of the Tamil national struggle.



V. Prabakaran

Leader of the Tiger Movement

The armed struggle of the Tiger Movement from its inception was directed against the repressive State apparatuses, the Police and the military and against the traitors who betrayed the Tamil cause. The guerrilla operations of the Movement effectively destroyed the secret police network in Tamil areas. This military enterprise involved the execution of several secret service police officers and their informants. In the later stages the guerrilla attacks were directed at well guarded police stations resulting in the closure of police stations and destroying the Police administrative system. The military soon became the target, causing panic and indiscipline in the armed forces, who, unable to pin down the evasive guerrillas, turned their frustrated anger in the indiscriminate killing of the innocents.

The effect of the Tigers armed struggle on the State system and the economic structure is disastrous. The civil administration of the Sinhala state in Tamil Eelam has been paralysed; political institutions have become defunct; the state system as a whole is destabilised a state of anarchy is fast developing in the Sinhala nation, and a crisis is brewing up in the Government itself. The island's economy is in shambles,

primarily due to the cost of sustaining prolonged guerrilla war and owing to the chaos of perpetual racial violence. The July 1983 racial upheaval, has effectively destroyed the entire economic infra-structure of the capital.

The Tamil people support and sustain the Tigers and acknowledge them as their freedom fighters. In the recent local elections the Tamil people, responding to a call by the Tiger Movement, boycotted the elections and rejected the Tamil United Liberation Front's appeal to vote, which amply proves the growing mass support for the armed revolutionary struggle.

The nature of the recent genocidal racial holocaust, the barbaric manner in which the Tamils were put to death, the utter callousness of the Sinhala racist leaders who shed no remorse, the clamp down on the Tamil political institutions and the banning of the Left parties who sympathised with the Tamil cause - all these acts of uncivilized behaviour have hardened the will of the Tamil nation and made them realise that co-existence with the Sinhalese is an impossibility. Secession, at the cost of a war of national liberation, has become a reality. In this grave and grim situation of a national crisis the Tamils are looking forward to the Tigers as their saviours and the rebellious youths are being mobilised under Prabhakaran whose immediate objective is to form a people's army of national liberation.

Department of Press and information
Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam