



தமிழீழ விடுதலைப் புலிகள் Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam

(UK Branch) (பிரித்தானியக் கிளை)

Madras,

19 May 1986.

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PRESS STATEMENT

TIGERS REPULSE ARMY OFFENSIVE - 50 SRI LANKAN SOLDIERS KILLED

Guerrilla units of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam have put up stiff resistance and repulsed army attack on the several fronts in the Jaffna Peninsula to-day. Having suffered heavy casualties the armed forces withdrew to barracks at Elephant Pass, Palaly, Jaffna Fort, and Valveti Thurai. In the last three days of fighting since the beginning of the major offensive on Saturday last, fifty military personnel have been killed, four armoured vehicles are destroyed and a helicopter was damaged and grounded. On our side we have lost eight guerrilla fighters.

Having caught up in an intense fighting with the Tiger guerrillas a military unit of hundreds of Sri Lankan soldiers supported by tanks and armoured cars withdrew to the barracks at Elephant Pass to-day. This military unit was halted by the Tigers at Kodikamam on their way to Jaffna and in the fierce fighting that raged for the last three days two armoured personnel carriers were destroyed and several soldiers were killed. Faced with the stiff resistance, the army withdrew to their barracks.

A large contingent of military personnel who attempted to come out from the Jaffna Fort Garrison confronted fierce resistance from the LTTE fighters who used mortars, rockets and RPGs against the soldiers. After several hours of intense fighting the troops finally withdrew to the barracks and opened artillery firing from the Fort Garrison. Several civilians were killed in the artillery bombardment. An army convoy which was surrounded by our fighters at Pannai causeway in Jaffna finally retreated to the Fort Garrison with ^{heavy} air cover.

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