



PROGRESSIVE VOICE

VOLUME 1

NUMBER 2

AUGUST 1979

ARMY OCCUPATION

POLICE MASSACRE YOUTH :

8 MURDERED

350 ARRESTED

The fascist UNP regime of Mr. J.R. Jayawardene has launched a massive campaign of terror, torture and murder in the Northern Province. A state of emergency has been declared and new laws have been enacted to curb the Eelam Liberation struggle (What the Government calls 'terrorism').

At least eight youths are known to have been tortured and murdered by the police, and about 350 have been arrested and are in custody. These arrests, torture and murder took place under the cover of a state emergency, and the murders are still at large masquerading as 'public servants' among the people in Jaffna district.

The bodies of Kanagaratnam Visvajothirathnam (Inpam) and his brother-in-law Saravanamuthu Selvaratnam were found near the Allaipiddy bridge on Saturday 14th July. They were arrested the night before. At the inquest held on 24th July the following evidence was recorded; Both bodies had extensive burn marks which indicates torture before they were finally killed by gun shot. Each of them had an entry wound and no exit wound. Their skulls were found broken by a blunt instrument and the brain matter completely removed. There was no trace of any bullets in the bodies.

The suspects one I.P. Karunaratne of Kankesanthurai Police and one Banda are still at large and no action has been ta-

ken by the Sri Lanka Government to bring these criminals to book.



Bodies of Inbam and Selvaratnam. Their heads were found smashed and the brain matter completely extracted.

Also on Friday 13th July nine others were arrested and three were beaten to death in Chavakachcheri Police station. The three victims were Ramalingam Balendran, Sellathurai Rajeswaran and Sellathurai Parameswaran.

Another youth Aiyadurai Indrarajah also arrested on the same night was assaulted in Chavakachcheri Police station and later remanded in Jaffna prison died on Saturday 21st July due to injuries. It is reported that there were in the excess of 33 assault marks on his body.

Others arrested on the same night and in remand are Jeyendran, Rasakilli and marimuttu Mahendran. The fate of another two S. Mathiaparanam Sri Rajendran are not known.

At the time of going to press the known dead were;

1. Kanagaratnam Selvaratnam (Inpam)
2. Saravanamuthu Selvaratnam
3. Ramalingam Balendran
4. Sellathurai Rajeswaran
5. Sellathurai Parameswaran
6. Aiyadurai Indrarajah

It is also reported that the wave of arrest were not confined to the Northern Province alone, but several youths in the Eastern Province have also been taken in to custody.

The national oppression of Eelam has taken a new dimension. With over two thousand more army personnel occupying Eelam and the 'witch hunt' of political activists together with the intimidation and harassment of the population the UNP regime is determined at least to knock the wind out of any demand for an independent Eelam.

On the first 3 days of the emergency the intimidation tactics of a show of strength by the army with a display of modern weaponry on the streets together with armoured vehicles can no longer leave anybody in any doubt about the actual intention of this fascist regime.

PAPER OF THE EELAM STUDENTS

Editorial

While the Tamil speaking people in the Island are engaged in a bitter struggle against the national oppression and voice a legitimate demand, symbolised by the slogan 'EELAM', some SriLankan Marxists (or, people who claim to be so) have been engaged in only theoretical matters of the national question. Those Marxists who had most vociferously championed the causes of oppressed nations across the seas have very strangely maintained a silence fringing on indifference. Yet in the case of other national oppressions they actively rallied in support of their liberation struggles.

Why is this non-committal silence? Only half statements are issued on the national question, with obscurity of language their defence. Is this because they are incapable of clearly formulating the national question? Or because, even though fully able to comprehend the issue are impotent to put theory into practice (thus not being proper Marxists), what they have remained silent? Or, have the racial prejudices become too daunting a task to tackle together with the successive bourgeois capitalist regimes?

Here are some of the arguments behind which our Marxists hide to escape real commitment: We are opposed to Sinhala racialism as well as Tamil racialism. Marxism is opposed to racialism. Therefore we oppose the Eelam demand. Another version is The TULF is a bourgeois capitalist force and their demand for Eelam is reactionary. Therefore, we oppose the demand for a separate state.

Let us examine these two arguments in turn.

Firstly, how can any honest Marxist derive simple equations as nationalism equals Tamil racialism? Could one say white racialism and 'Black consciousness' are equal. And that Male chauvinism and 'womens consciousness' are equal? Of course not. Similarly, Tamil nationalism cannot be equated with Sinhala chauvinism. Tamil nationalism springs up as a direct result of national oppression with a lot of anti-Sinhala sentiments. But that is not the same as the anti-Tamil sentiment of the oppressor nation. The nationalism of the oppressed has a progressive content in contradistinction to the nationalism of the oppressor which is reactionary in content.

Secondly, TULF is a bourgeois party. We do not claim that they are not. Any national movement has general bourgeois democratic content. This did not stop our Marxists from supporting some of these national movements in their struggles for nation liberation:— So long as they were outside the Island. But our Marxists correctly supported these struggles. The important factor was whether or not the nation is oppressed and not whether a Marxist group leads the liberation struggle. Yet our Marxists, let the social character of the political organisation most prominent, within the nationalist movement, to dilute the issue and impose constraints on the nature and course of struggle.

Does the rejection of the Eelam demand stem from the standpoint of the interest of the socialist revolution? Or, does it stem from the Sinhala chauvinism?

It is the right and the duty of every Marxist to actively support and struggle, fully identifying themselves with the Eelam liberation struggle.

international NEWS

NICARAGUA Sandinists take over

19th July saw the fall of the infamous Somoza dictatorship and at the same time the beginning of the effort to consolidate the Nicaraguan revolution with the victory to the Sandinistas.

Only a couple of years ago Nicaragua was, for many people, another South American country under the yoke of US imperialism with yet another dictator. Sandinista? Not many people knew what it meant. Yet, Sandinistas broke into the political consciousness of the world with the same intensity as they struck the final death blow to the Somoza dictatorship and the national guard.

In the bloody civil war that followed, which swept right through the country in the bid to oust the tyrant, against innumerable odds, the Sandinistas won a victory which is also a victory to all the oppressed masses of the world.



The price of victory was expensive. Ravaged by civil war and blasted by the bombs of their former ruler, Nicaraguans found themselves in an impossible situa-

tion. The immediate problems of food, shelter and disease demanded urgent attention and enormous sacrifices by the masses. The economic strength of the country was at a low ebb.

In just over a month of peace the Sandinista National Liberation Front (FSLN) has achieved great stability.

Foreseeing just how difficult economic consolidation would be, the revolutionaries moved quickly towards political consolidation but with a concrete and practicable economic programme. For the 50,000 landless peasants who threw all they had behind the revolution the agrarian reform in the pipeline is crucial.

The new government plans to distribute fallow lands to the landless peasants and organise communal production in a large scale based on native Indian tradition.

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NEWS IN BRIEF

VAVUNIYA ANNEXED

Three Sinhala speaking areas in Madhavachchi have been annexed with the Tamil speaking Vavunia district.

By a simple resolution passed in the National state Assembly, the district with a Tamil speaking majority has been converted into a district with a Sinhala speaking majority almost overnight.

This calculated and conscious move by the government spells imminent danger to all Tamil speaking areas bordering Sinhala areas. This cannot be considered as an isolated move by the government in the light of the fact that their programme of colonisation of Tamil lands in Vavunia preceded this particular action. The heart of the danger lies precisely within the programme of colonisation where increasingly large numbers of exclusively Sinhala families are settled in Tamil areas in a campaign to make Tamil speaking people a minority in their own areas.

It has happened in Vavunia and there is no guarantee that the same will not happen in Batticaloa or Trincomalee. To quote a recent example, which is not an isolated case but has been the pattern over the years of successive governments in their colonisation schemes, in the Mahavilankulam settlement scheme in the Trincomalee district the government has been calling for applications exclusively from Sinhala villages.

The dangers of such annexation is not confined to the obvious physical threat to the Tamil speaking people, but will extend into the spheres of education, employment and the use of Tamil language.

Education: With the entry into university to be on district basis according to the recent proposals added to the existing discrimination of Tamil students far fewer Tamil speaking people will have access to university education.

Employment: As it happened in Prima Flour Mill in Trincomalee employment in these areas will be largely given to exclusively Sinhala speaking people.

Use of Tamil language: As the areas become Sinhala areas automatically the use of Tamil language officially will be reduced to a minimum.

Most important of all, if Eelam is colonised at the rate it is being practiced presently, and if the trend continues, very soon the territorial identity of Eelam will be lost.

No doubt the government has precisely this in mind when embarking on such schemes. If the colonisation is not stopped immediately within Ten years more than 90% of the Tamil speaking areas will become Sinhala speaking areas.

NAZI ORDER BY J.R.

Brigadier Tissa Weeratunga, Army chief of staff has been appointed commander of the security forces in the Jaffna district with orders to "wipe out terrorism in all its forms, before 31st December"

J.R's order read:

It will be your duty to eliminate in accordance with the law of the land the menace of terrorism in all its forms from the Island, and more especially from the Jaffna district. I will place at your disposal all resources of the State. This task has to be performed by you and completed before 31st December 1979.

No other man could have better credentials than Weerathunga in ruthlessness. He was the co-ordinating officer in Moneragala in 1971 where thousands of JVP youth were murdered by the armed forces, in the JVP misadventure.

The Nazi like directive given, to eliminate terrorism before a certain day, clearly indicates the fascist streak in J.R. Jayawardena.

Here we have a man (J.R) more dangerous than even Hitler, for he hides behind a Buddhist 'dharma' shroud.

ISLAMIC CONFERENCE

The international Conference on Islamic Literature was held recently in Colombo.

The conference resolved that Islam is their religion and in culture and language they are Tamils.

They discussed the development of Tamil Literature at length. One speaker said that the concept of 'Islamic Tamil literature' was misleading and that Tamil literature could not be divided into various religious divisions.

It is notable that Tamil speaking people of Islamic faith have contributed enormously to the development of Tamil literature in the recent past.

NO DISCRIMINATION ?

We publish below the statistics on employment of Tamil speaking people in public service, since the coming into power of the UNP Government.

Description of employment	Total No. Employed	No. of Tamil speaking people
Ceylon Administrative Service	140	—
Asst. Station Masters	98	4
Pharmacists & Radiographers	480	7
Surveyors	318	5
Ceylon Navy (approx)	2170	146
Graduate Teachers (approx)	1000	—
Teachers (approx)	17000	700
Clerks	1000	—

LSSP(NL) PROTEST IN COLOMBO

Colombo. 19.7.79

The LSSP(NL) staged a demonstration in Colombo to protest against the repression in the North and the new anti-terrorist laws enacted in the parliament.

The demonstrators carrying an empty coffin and placards with various slogans were attacked by the police with batons and truncheons. Amongst those attacked were Mr. Vasudeva Nanayakara and Dr. Vickramabahu Karunaratne.

Apart from the obvious application of these laws in Eelam, they could also be used against any 'left' opposition of any political organisation or trade-unions.

On 26th July while putting up posters advertising an LSSP protest meeting two of their members were beaten up and stripped naked by the police.

The LSSP(NL) was the only political party demonstrate against the atrocities of the government in Eelam, albeit as a token gesture.

It might be worth noting that the TULF did not actively condemn the government actions.

JC OF TUS

The Joint Committee of Trade Unions met on the 23rd July 1979. It unanimously moved the following resolutions:

- 1/ We denounce with the utmost vehemence the attempts on the part of the Government to suppress the masses using its armed forces and emergency powers under the guise of combating so-called terrorism, instead of resolving the burning problems of the entire people of the North in particular
- 2/ We likewise denounce with equal vehemence the so-called 'Anti-Terrorist Law' enacted by the Government which is a clear violation of the fundamental human right and democratic freedoms of the masses.

The above resolution was sent to the president of Sri Lanka.

WOMEN'S GROUP

If you are interested in participating in an Eelam Women's group contact,

Ms. Shanthi Jacob,
15 Lampton Park Road,
Hounslow, Middlesex

POLICE COMPLICITY: PROBE

A select committee has been appointed to probe the police complicity in the recent events in the North.

Mr. Lalith Athulathmudhali has been named the chairman. Other members of the commission are Mr. W.J.M. Loku Bandara and Mr. Jabir.A.Cader.

The TULF and the SLFP have also been asked to nominate a representative each.

RACIALIST POSTERS

IN COLOMBO

Certain blatantly racist posters have appeared in Colombo, reports our correspondent in Colombo.

He further adds: These posters are obviously aimed at creating a feeling of insecurity and panic amongst the Tamil people living in Colombo. They call for the 'blood' of Tamils to purify the land. These have appeared in Wattle and Hendala in particular.

YOUTHS SHOT AT

Two youths were shot at by the police on their way back from the Temple. They were Sabaratnam Sritharan and K.M. Jayakumar.

Police opened fire on the youths as they cycled along Sir Ponnambalam Ramanaathan Road between 10 - 10.30 P.M. on 16/7/79.

Sabaratham was injured in the incident and was hospitalised. Sritharan was arrested and remanded in police custody.

Police alleged that the youths had opened fire first. No arms were found in their possession.

SMP RESOLUTIONS

In a meeting held on 23.6.79 nearly 500 Buddhist priests and over 1500 Buddhists participated. Among those present were the heads of Asgiriya Temple, Sri Sandhananda Thero and Malwatte Temple, Rumbukwella Sri Sobitha Thero.

The following resolutions (in brief) were passed.

- * Ban TULF.
- * Sack Mr. Amirthalingam.
- * Colonise more Sinhalese in the Northern Province.
- * Close down Jaffna campus and move it to Anurathapura
- * Condemn the Massachusetts Resolution.

EAGLES OF EELAM

It has been widely reported in Sinhala papers in Sri Lanka and some international English newspapers that a movement called the EAGLES are fighting to establish an independent socialist Eelam. It was also reported that they are well established in the Northern and Eastern provinces and in Colombo with some international connections.

FARM RAIDED

Kannadi Commune which was raided by the joint Army-Police crack unit last year, has been raided again.

Many other refugee farms also came under attack. It is believed that all the youths who were working in these refugee farms are in the Army-Police detention camps.

COMMISSION

The fascist regime of Sri Lanka has announced the appointment of the 10 member presidential commission to probe into the Tamil grievances. Dr. Neelan and Dr. A.J. Wilson, son and son-in-law of two big feudal lords - S.J.V. Chelvanayagam and Thiruchelvam - have been included in the commission.

CAMPAIGN AGAINST REPRESSION

A broad based campaign against the 'Repression of Tamil speaking people in Srilanka' has been launched in London. Individuals and organisations, from a wide cross section of British political organisations, individuals and organisations from Eelam and Sri Lanka have come together in a joint venture to bring into the open, the nature and the character of the repression of Tamil speaking people in Srilanka. Another objective is to counter the false Government propaganda amongst various foreign government bodies.



Campaign Pickets outside the Tea Centre

The campaign also seeks to unite all individuals and organisations concerned with the violation of basic human rights everywhere.

The first programme of action was a picket opposite the Ceylon Tea Centre in London on Saturday 28th July. More than 100 people were in the picket line

Slogans like "J.R. is a fascist", "End the killings", "Stop the torture", "Stop colonisation" and "End the emergency" were shouted along with demands to boycott Ceylon Tea and an end ^{to} British aid to the fascist regime.

The campaign put forward the following five demands:-

1. The immediate end to the emergency in the Tamil speaking regions of Sri Lanka.
2. The halt to the torture and killings of Tamil political activists and police intimidation of innocent people.
3. The end of military occupation of the North and East.

4. The stop to the practice of deliberate use of non-Tamil speaking police officers in the Tamil speaking regions and vice versa.
 5. The stop to the incitement of racial hatred, using state machinery.
- The campaign specifically appealed to all trade unions and other progressive organisations in Sri Lanka to actively support the struggle against the repression of Tamil speaking people.

PREMADASA PICKETED

The Eelam Research Organisers (EROS) organised a picket outside the Ceylon Tea Centre in London, where a reception was held for the Prime Minister Mr. Premadasa on Saturday 21st July.

Over eighty people were present at the picket line. It was reported that Mr. Premadasa was forced to use the back entrance of the Tea Centre to get in and made a hasty exit at the end of the reception also using the back entrance.

DEMONSTRATION IN GERMANY

A massive demonstration was held in Frankfurt, Germany on Saturday 21st July against the repression of Tamil speaking people in Eelam.

More than 350 people participated in the demonstration.

JVP

Their whole thesis on the understanding of the problem is hinged around a class analysis, devoid of any comprehension of the concrete historical conditions and the nature of the struggle of the Tamil speaking people.

They claim that the slogan of Eelam is a 'racialist slogan of the Tamil capitalists'. No serious student of the historical events both colonial and post colonial period, could say with any intellectual honesty, that the slogan of Eelam is a racialist slogan of the Tamil capitalists. It is clearly evident that the Tamil nationalisation is a direct result of acute national oppression and not a result of racialist class opportunism.

The statement further says that 'the JVP is strongly opposed in principle to the demand for a state of Eelam'. How can anybody claim to be a Marxist-Leninist, and in the same breath also say that they do not accept the right to self determination of an oppressed nation. The petty bourgeois chauvinist mentality of the JVP is crystal clear. They have no right to call themselves Marxist-Leninists.

JVP: NO TO EELAM

The press statement issued by the politbureau of the JVP on 11th July 1979 has clearly expressed their lack of proper theoretical understanding, confusion and their reactionary stand on the national question and the right to self determination of the Tamil speaking people.

Nowhere in their lengthy statement do they mention the national question and the right to self determination. Instead, Tamil nationalism is equated to Tamil racialism and the right to self determination is rejected outright. Yet, without even a paucity of embarrassment they claim themselves to be Marxist-Leninists.

UNP-TULF leadership in talks

DEAL, COMPROMISE OR CONSPIRACY?

The declaration of a state of emergency and the killings and massive arrests can be construed as setting the stage for a possible TULF-UNP deal.

The presidential commission with a TULF representative in it will no doubt grant certain concessions to the Tamil speaking people to alleviate their 'grievance', and there is little doubt that the TULF leadership will accept these. With the militant element of the liberation force out of the way for the government and the TULF to negotiate, in the expectation that there will not be any voices raised against any agreement reached, which will suit the bourgeois TULF leadership and the UNP, which is desperate to get at least a semblance of political stability, to get their pet capitalist venture, the free trade zone off the ground.

Recent reports of mass arrests in the Northern and Eastern Provinces is intended to create a favourable atmosphere to woo possible foreign investors who are reluctant at present to risk their capital in a volatile political climate.

The leader of the TULF Mr. Amirthalingam released a joint statement with the Prime Minister Mr. Premadasa on 16th July immediately following the declaration of the emergency, the commission given to Brigadier Weeratunge to 'wipe out' terrorism in Eelam before the 31st of December. It urged all people to keep calm and pledged that they will take responsibility for maintaining communal harmony also stated that "We (TULF and UNP) have the capacity to solve our common problems peacefully, and to show the rest of the world that issues can be resolved in keeping with the traditions of our great religions".

In view of the fact that this statement was issued immediately after the declaration of emergency and the Nazi like

directive given to an Army Brigadier to completely wipe out terrorism, the fear of a vast number of Tamil speaking people that the TULF might go back on the election mandate viz. an independent Eelam and compromise with the UNP, is more than justified.

Further, the statement issued by Mr. A. Amirthalingam asking the Tamil speaking people to protect those who have moved into Eelam on official duties only substantiates this fear when all those who have moved into Eelam are the Army and Police forces which have carried out these ruthless and callous murders.

Can the return to parliament of the TULF parliamentary group be interpreted as a hidden intention of a secret deal with the UNP?

Is it polemics or some grand political strategy?

Army..... Cont. from page one.

The new laws enacted under the pretext of combating 'terrorism' gives it legal as well as judicial protection to detain, search, imprison and murder any individual. Not only political activists face this danger but also any ordinary subject has this threat looming over their heads.

MARTYRS OF EELAM LIBERATION STRUGGLE



Nicaragua cont.....

The task ahead for the revolutionaries is herculean. We salute them and offer our solidarity to the Nicaraguan revolution. Victory to all the oppressed masses of the world.

APOLOGY

We apologise to our readers for not publishing the prison diary. The current situation demands this decision.

FOR A FREE COPY OF THE PROGRESSIVE VOICE, SEND YOUR NAME AND ADDRESS TO: DEPARTMENT OF INFORMATION, GENERAL UNION OF EELAM STUDENTS, B.M. BOX. 2860 LONDON WC 1V 6XX.