

STATE SPONSORED TERRORISM AND IT'S VICTIMS

INTRODUCTION

In the last few weeks the Sri Lankan government has intensified its military operation against the Tamil speaking people of Eelam:—

- * Atleast 150 people were killed.
- * Over 200 were injured.
- * A Catholic Church was attacked
- * Shops were burnt

At the same time, the Sri Lankan Government is attempting to prevent the news of its armed forces' atrocities from reaching both the South of Sri Lanka and outside world. Distortion of information is being purposely used as part of the strategy for suppressing Tamil speaking people. The pictures we publish in this dossier tells the real story.

APRIL 1984

STATE TERRORISM

In an interview given to S.Venkatnarayan, a senior journalist of "India Today", J.R.Jayawardene, the dharmista President of Sri Lanka, said ". . . . The worst India can do is to invade us. If they invade us, that is the end of Tamils in this country" He was answering a question about signing a treaty with a big country.



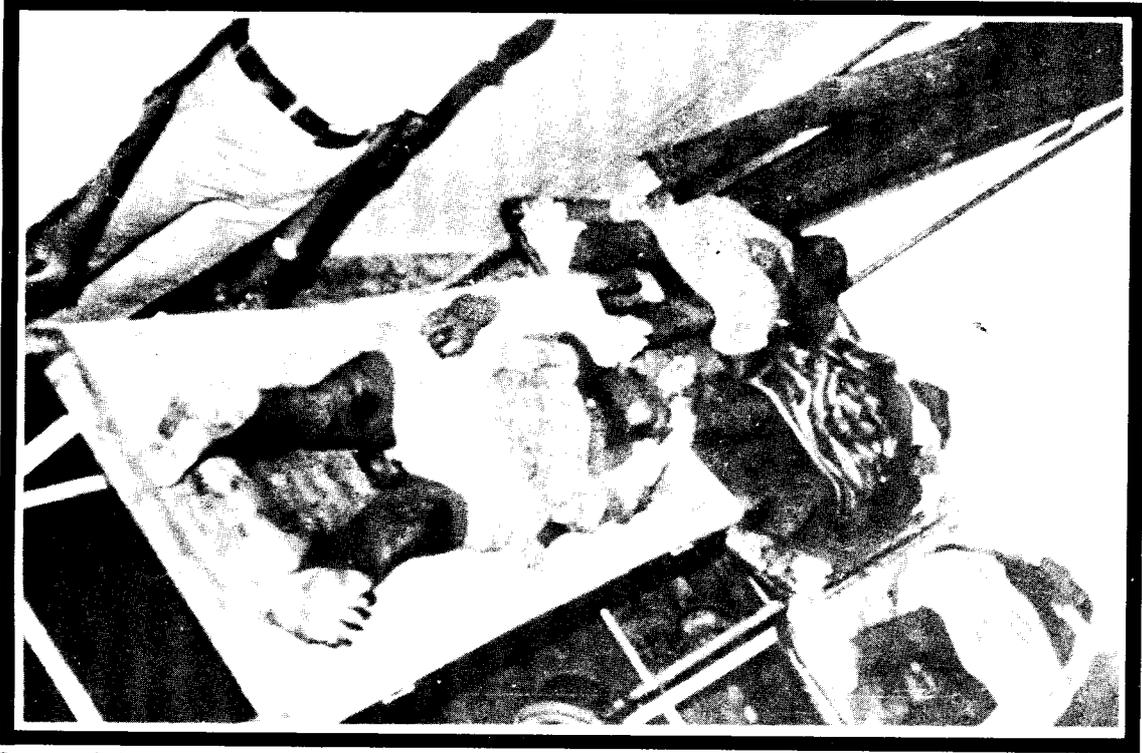
Burnt bodies found near the Naga Vihara.

This was after a week of violence by the armed forces when atleast 105 innocent civilians were killed and over 200 injured. A massacre of this kind was expected in the wake of the new military administration which came into force on 1.4.84 in the Tamil speaking Northern area. With enhanced powers for the armed forces, which goes beyond the draconian Prevention of Terrorism Act, the forces could kill any person and are not required to hold an inquiry to dispose bodies. The service personnel have already begun their work. Even though it has existed, organised terrorism by the State machinery has arrived in Tamil areas, especially Jaffna with a bang.

Mr. R. Premadasa said recently that "Northern terrorists through their activities are waging an undeclared war against Sri Lanka." What he failed to mention was that the government of Sri Lanka had already declared war on Tamil speaking people.

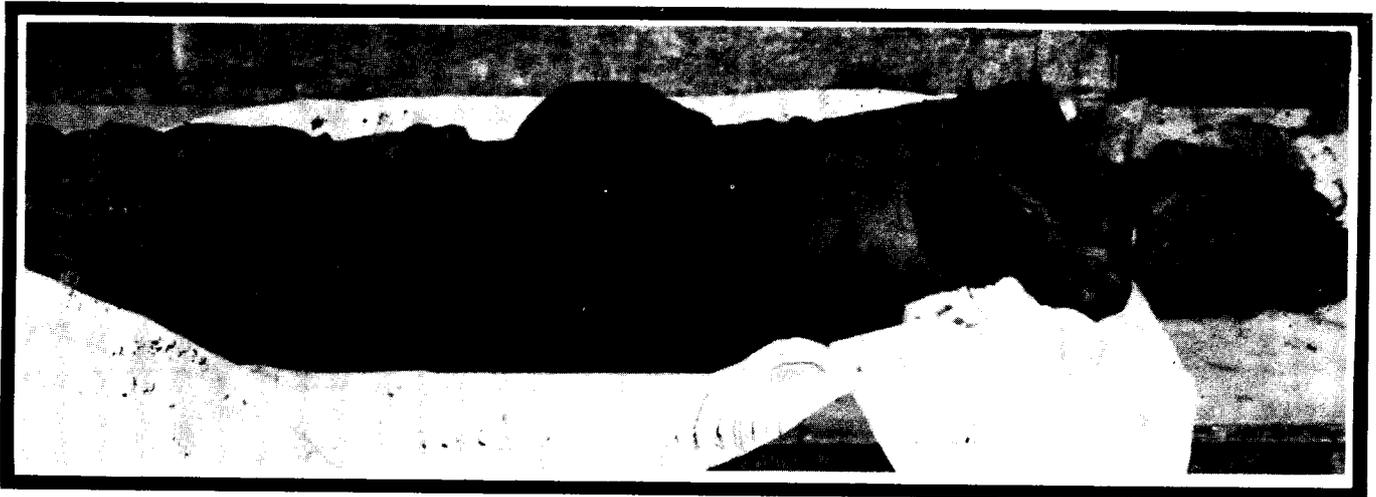
THE CHUNNAKAM MARKET INCIDENT

Chunnakam an important market village lies 7 miles from Jaffna on the K.K.S road. Wednesday 28th was a busy day as Wednesday is market day.



Some of the victims.

Between 11 a.m and 11.15 a.m three Air force trucks and a jeep moved away from the market area where they had come to the Bank for some business. The vehicle moved away towards the police station 50 yards away. After 10 minutes they came back. One Airman from the vehicle lit some fire crackers and threw it on the road. People who heard the noise and saw the Airman began to run in all directions, when the Airmen got off their vehicles and began shooting indiscriminately. 10 people died as a result and 52 received treatment for gunshot wounds.



A terrorist? Woman shot dead in Chunnakam

After about 6-8 minutes they got into the trucks and went along the K.K.S Road towards K.K.S. After Mallakam again they fired from the moving vehicles. So did they at Tellippalai.

The official story was that while the airman were returning after their business at the Bank they were shot at from a building. In returning fire, 8 people were killed including some civilians.



The official story is full of holes, almost as many as the airmen had made in the people. Everybody who were killed or injured in Chunnakam were unarmed. There were no weapons found at the place of the incident.

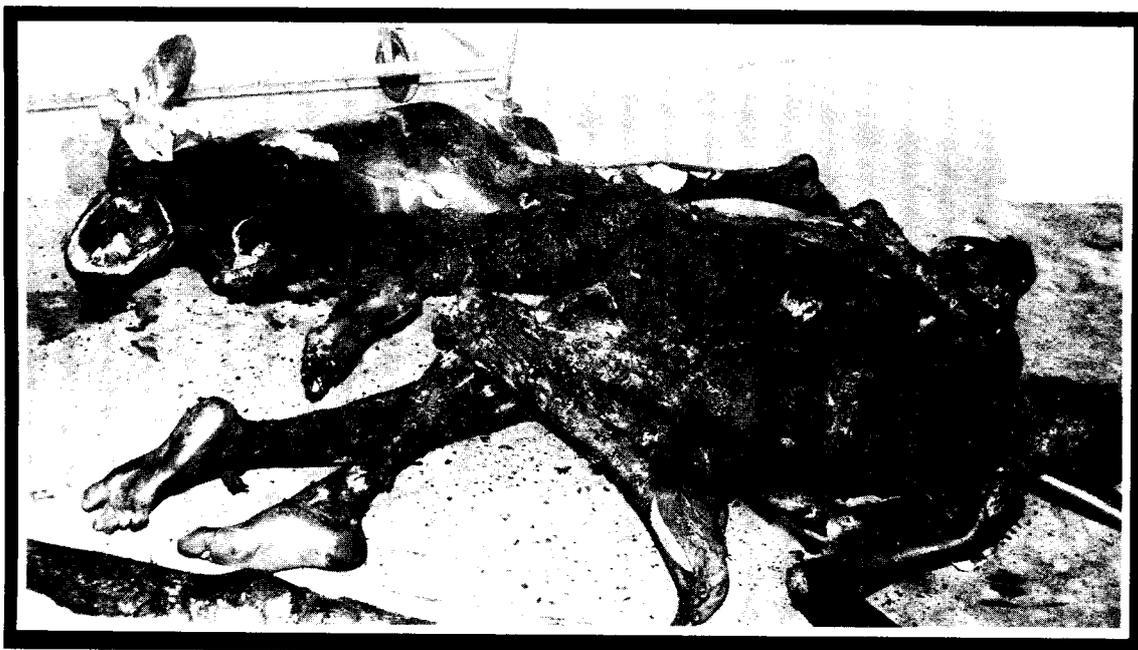
Who were the terrorists amongst the victims of this cold blooded massacre? Why hasn't government forces not even attempted to name the terrorists? Why haven't they interviewed any of the injured persons if they believed that some of them were terrorists? In fact the government knows exactly what happened and that the airmen just killed innocent civilians in cold blood. This barbaric act of the airmen was the prologue to what the army was to do and would do in the future. This was a dastardly act by the forces with callous and calculated motive to terrorise the Tamil speaking people with active connivance of the J.R.Jayawardene regime. So a story of an imaginary attack on the airmen was fabricated to justify these killings of innocent people including a woman vendor.



The next day 8 shops and a petrol station in Atchuveli were set on fire by some policemen.

THE DAY OF THE EXPLOSION

Monday, 9th of April was a busy day in Jaffna with shoppers as the Tamil New Year was only 4 days away. At about 1.45 p.m a loud explosion rocked the town. A bomb placed in an abandoned vehicle destroyed a truck in an army convoy. It was later reported that six soldiers were injured in the explosion. They were all airlifted to Colombo for treatment. Immediately following the explosion, soldiers in the other trucks began shooting at random in all directions. In the process the army shelled a catholic church, our lady of refuge, situated near the scene of the blast.



These bodies were found near Ariyakulam next day.

At least 20 people, all civilians, were killed and over a hundred were injured in this wave of indiscriminate shooting. As the injured soldiers were initially rushed to the General Hospital only 150 yards away, a large group of their comrades also gathered outside the hospital to begin their mindless burning. They set fire to the Jaffna Co-Op, the largest department store in the area, several private vehicles, a petrol station and six shops in the neighbourhood. Hundreds of people inside the Co-Op building had to be rescued as the flames engulfed the area.



Jaffna Co-Op. It served many.

தமிழ்த் தேசிய ஆவணச் சுவடிகள்

The rampaging soldiers also went on to open fire at 'Thodarpaham' a catholic retreat centre where the clergymen had to take cover to save themselves from the bullets. Most of those injured in the process of the mayhem could not be taken to the hospital for treatment as the soldiers were just outside the hospital gates and as a result several people actually bled to death.



PEOPLE'S WRATH FINDS EXPRESSION

The next day, 10th April, the general public saw for themselves the damage caused by the soldiers. The attack on the catholic church the previous day had infuriated the people of Jaffna, especially the catholic community. Mobs began together themselves in a spontaneous but disorganised manner and attacked Naga Vihara, Sinhalese school and about ten Sinhala owned business establishments. The Naga Vihara, even though a place of worship of the Buddhist in Jaffna has been identified with the CID and other state organs which have been responsible for several of the organised terrorising activities of the state. In June 1981, just prior to the DDC elections, the Vihara was used by the police and the army when they burnt the public library, Eela Nadu press, the TULF office and several other places.



LND (10th Branch)
LONDON WORKS

So it was not altogether surprising that the Naga Vihara particularly was the main Target. It should be mentioned that even after the July holocaust not a single Sinhalese was hurt or their property damaged in the Jaffna peninsula.



Body found near Ariakulam.

21 bodies were burnt in Chemmani.



13 bodies were found amongst bicycles in Ariakulam.

When the army arrived at the Naga Vihara and the Sinhalese school they opened fire. Curfew was declared in the Jaffna municipal area from 12 Noon on Thursday to be lifted at 6 a.m on Wednesday.

On Wednesday morning in a large drain near the Naga Vihara over 20 charred bodies were found. The army had murdered these people and as the new law empowers them, had burnt these bodies. They were beyond recognition. There was another lot of bodies burnt near the Navalur road level crossing. The death toll of the night before is estimated between 50 and 60. There have been several incidents of shooting outside the curfew zone during the night. It is strongly believed that those bodies too have been removed probably to another mass grave in the army camp at Palaly and burnt. It is worth noting that two weeks prior to these events there were reports by some garages that the army had removed used old tyres.

Kokuvil victim



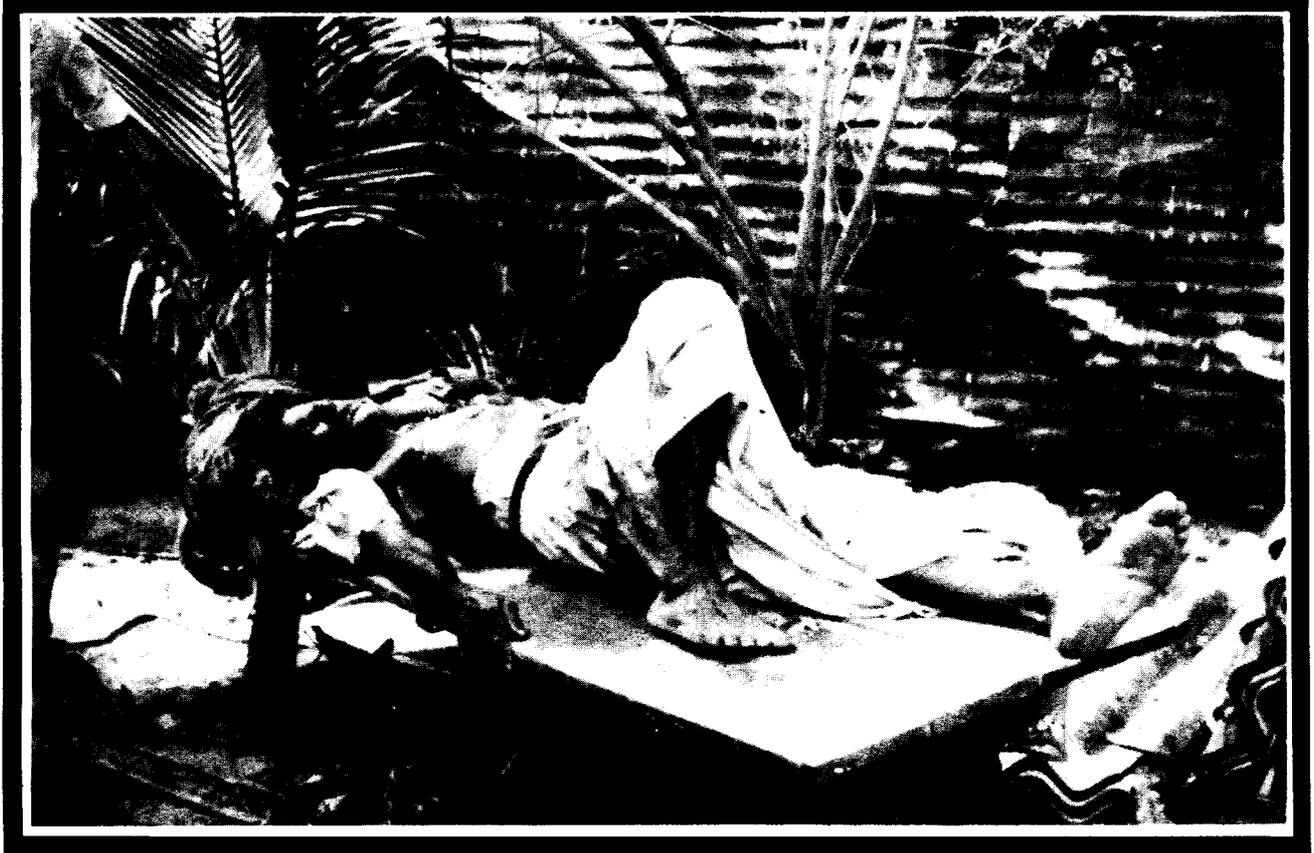
It would suffice to describe one incident which would clearly show the objective of the army. It happened at 4.30 pm in Kokuvil on Thursday 12th April. Kokuvil is outside the curfew zone and as such there was no restriction of movement in this area. A car bearing No CL4208 was shot at by the army patrol killing the driver. Another passenger was injured in the arm but managed to scramble to safety. The army patrol proceeded to set fire to the car, with the body of the dead driver inside it. As this area was outside the curfew zone, people in the neighbourhood helped the injured man to get medical treatment and put the fire out.

If the army patrol suspected that this car had any connection with "terrorist activity" they would have (i) Attempted to seek the man who escaped. (ii) Checked the car for any "subversive material". (iii) Atleast checked the dead driver's identity. But according to eye witnesses none of this was done. They were in a hurry to burn.

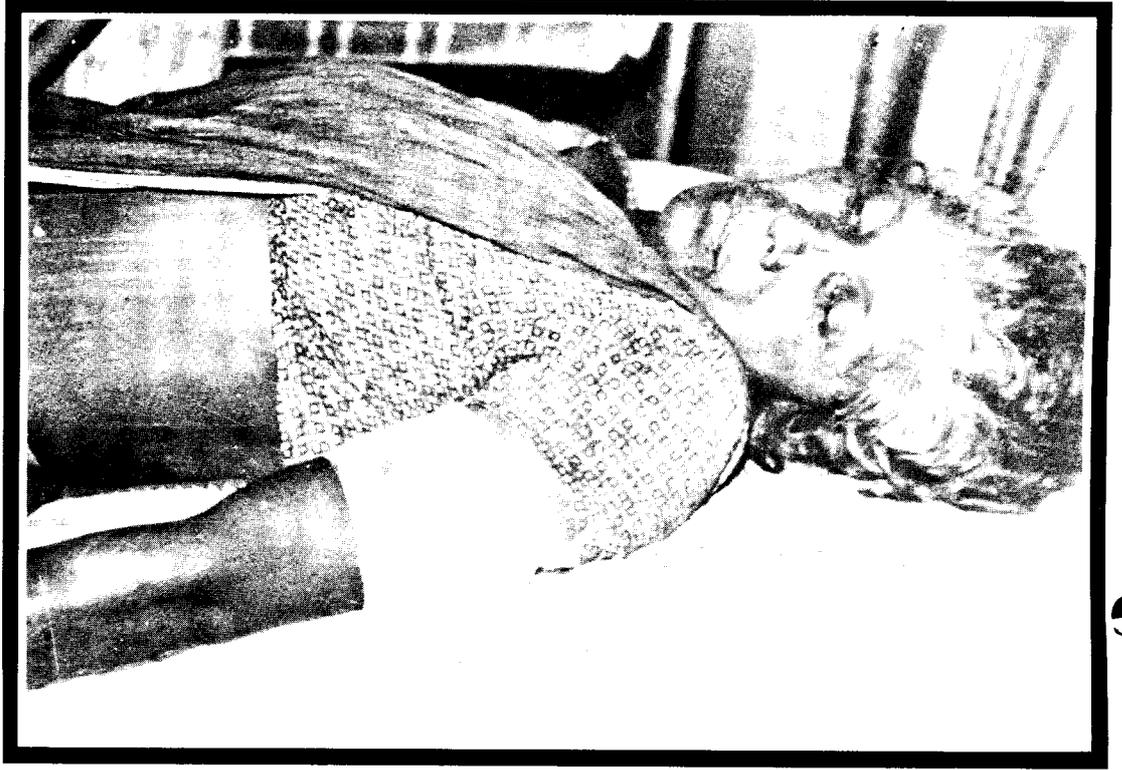
Under the guise of eradicating terrorism, the government has unleashed a kind of terrorism which is akin to what SS did in Germany, the South African regime's tactic with it's black population and the frightening stories from the banana republics. Special units of the armed forces have begun house to house searches and taken away young men who do not have



their national identity cards and those who have in their possession printed material which the forces believe is subversive. There have been many instances where the identity cards have been torn by one soldier and the one next to him demands the production of the document destroyed seconds earlier by his comrade. This sort of bullying, humiliating incidents are common place in the Tamil speaking areas.



The incidents described above and the photographs would tell the story of the Tamil speaking people under the so-called dharmishta regime. Lives of innocent people are in danger in the hands of the services. Basic human rights are violated with increasing intensity every passing day. There could not be any other motive but the annihilation of Tamil people and to destroy them as a political force forever.



A "terrorist" injured during the "crossfire" at Chunnakam.



Houses and shops destroyed by the armed forces.



A man shot dead.

The usual scene in the Jaffna hospital



Man shot dead while standing in his garden at Wyman Road.



DETAILS OF IDENTIFIED DEAD PERSONS

On 9.4.84

1. S. MAHADEVA at the Insurance Corporation entrance.
2. SELLATHURAI at Chundikuli.
3. THURAISINGAM at C.T.B office
4. T. YOGARASA at Fisheries Co-Operative ice plant.
5. P. ASAIPILLAI (railway employee) near Jaffna railway station.

On 10.4.84

6. S. PONNAMPALAM at Wyman Road at 10.30 a.m.
7. V. PARAMANATHAN at Kantharmadam
8. V. PARAMAKANTHANAR at Jaffna station.
9. K. D. VISVARASA at Stanley road
10. N. RASATHURAI at Wellington theatre junction.
11. KULANTHAIVEL at Wellington theatre junction.

On 11.4.84

- 12-13. P. DHARMALINGAM & K. RASIAH at Neeraviyadi.
- 14-18. MASILAMANI, THAYALAN & THREE OTHERS at Anaipanthi.
19. M. FAKROOM at Navalar road
20. AN EMPLOYEE OF JAMES GARAGE at Pt. Pedro road. Victoria road junction.

On 12.4.81

21. NALLANATHAR at Kokuvil
22. V. AMBALAVANAR at Kokuvil
23. CHRISTIE JAMES near Vihara
24. V. PAVALAKANTHAN at Anaipanthi

DETAILS OF PERSONS REPORTED MISSING

1. VASANTHAKUMAR (Urumpiray)
2. GUNARATNAM (Urumpiray)
3. NAVARATHINARASA (Employee of Atchurely Co-Operative)
4. JEYACHANDRAN (Punnalaikahuvan)
5. KETHEESVARAN (Trincomalee)
6. MASILAMANI KATHIRKAMATHAMBI (Anaikkottai)
7. JESUDASAN ANTON (Gurunagar)
8. VISVALINGAM SIVARASA (Elalai)
9. JENERETTE JENITTO (Chavakacheri)
10. NAMASIVAYAM SIVAPALAN (Eachomoddai)

About 47 bodies were unidentified.