



NEWS LETTER

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APRIL 1986

JAFFNA BOMBED



S MAYURAN AGE : 7 YRS
CHILD VICTIM OF AIR RAID AT THAVADY North
ON 19 FEBRUARY 1986

Seven civilians, including two children, were killed and 16 others injured in bombing and firing by the Sri Lanka Air Force in the outskirts of Jaffna on 19th February.

Fourteen houses, rice mill, a power loom, the Vairavar Temple and a bo-tree were damaged.

The places affected by the bombing were Thavady, Suthumalai, Manipay, Kondavil and Navalay.

FOCUS

"I shall have a military solution to what I believe is a military problem. After doing so, I shall tackle the political side.

"My army is better equipped and better trained. Now I have more weapons, and countries like Pakistan are training my men.

"In any case, I have come to realize that only success matters. I do not care what New Delhi, London or, for that matter, any other country says. How quickly and effectively I can exterminate the militants is the crux of the problem and I am on the point of achieving this."

President Jayewardene to Kuldip Nayar in an interview (The Times, London, Monday January 27, 1986)

The bombing, by five Air Force planes, had started around 4.30 pm. and gone on for nearly one hour.

Later, a helicopter had come over and begun firing.

In the meantime, the Army had fired a number of shells towards Jaffna town itself.

The two children killed were Suntharalingam Mayuran (7 years) and Sri Rangan Raja Segar (12) of Thurai Road, Thavady North.

They and their mother had taken cover under a flat when the bomb fell on the roof.

THEY HAD BURN MARKS ON THEIR BODIES, INDICATING, ACCORDING TO MEDICAL OPINION, THAT SOME TYPE OF INCENDIARY BOMBS HAD BEEN USED.

ON
12th March
**Bombers
Strike Again**

AN OLD COUPLE AND A YOUNG BOY WERE KILLED WHEN AIR FORCE BOMBERS AND HELICOPTERS BOMBED AND STRAFED VALVETTI ON WEDNESDAY MORNING (12th March).

This was the third time aerial bombardment was carried out in Jaffna.

The dead persons are : Mylvaganam Vallipuram (55), Vallipuram Thangapillai (52) and Mahendram Vijendran (12). Thangapillai's skull was shattered by a direct hit while the other two bodies were bullet-riddled.

The air strike began round about 6.30 am. on Wednesday. By the time it ended about 45 minutes later, apart from the three people and livestock killed, three persons had been injured and four houses flattened.

The injured are: Mahendram Balamani (35; chest injury), Mahendram Vinodhini (15; leg injury) and Kandasamy Sellamuthu (66; broken arm).

The houses bombed were near the old Police Station at Valvetti.

On Tuesday, a low-flying helicopter had carried out a reconnaissance mission in the area, around about 11 am.

An unexploded bomb lies buried about 6 feet deep in a sand dune close to the bombed houses.

Political observers note that the aerial attack was carried out just three days after several countries had arraigned Sri Lanka before the UN Commission on Human Rights.

DR G S DHILLON, LEADER OF THE INDIAN DELEGATION AND FORMER UNION MINISTER TOLD THE COMMISSION ON SUNDAY (9th MARCH) THAT THE BLATANT KILLINGS OF INNOCENT CIVILIANS THROUGH GROUND, NAVAL AND AIR ACTIONS ARE BEGINNING TO LOOK LIKE THE VICTIMISATION OF THE ENTIRE COMMUNITY OF SRI LANKAN TAMILS BY THE SECURITY FORCES.

The hawks in the Sri Lankan Government seem determined to bomb the North and East out of existence, these observers point out.

The National Security Ministry announced at the end of February that the bombings will continue till the 'terrorist' hide-outs are completely destroyed.

FLASH: Air strikes will be conditionally suspended for a week beginning today (15th March), the Minister of national Security has announced.

JAFFNA BOMBED

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The apparent provocation for the aerial attack - the first in Sri Lanka since World War II when the Japanese bombed Colombo and Trincomalee in 1942 - was the reported presence of a camp of the Tamil Eelam Army (TEA), led by 'Panagoda' Maheswaran, in the Thavady area.

A man who took shelter under the bo-tree, during the bombing, was also killed.

(Source : Saturday Review, 22nd February 1986)



Crater caused by the 56 Kg. bomb in Sutharalingam's compound at Thavady on 19 February 1986.

From the reviews ...

SCHOOL TEXT BOOKS AND COMMUNAL RELATIONS IN SRI LANKA PART 1 : ANALYSIS OF TEXT BOOKS

By : Reggi Siriwardena,
K. Indrapala, Sunil Bastian and Sepali Kollegoda

A study of the text-books prepared and published for use in schools in Sri Lanka by the Educational Publications Department under the directions of successive governments in all the three language media, namely Sinhalese, Tamil and English, has revealed that the content of the Sinhala Books used in Grades 1 to 9 is mono-cultural, that is, Sinhala-Buddhist in substance, and that the existence of other communities, religions and cultures in Sri Lanka is not only ignored but denied by the authors of these books. For example, even the Independence won in 1948 is claimed to be the freedom for the Sinhalese only.

The research into all these text books used in schools in all the three media was carried out in 1981 by some eminent men of learning, both Sinhalese and Tamil through the media on behalf of The Council for Communal Harmony based in Colombo. They have carefully and in detail examined and analysed all these books and have come to the conclusion that "the Tamil readers (with whatever degree of success) do seek to

create an understanding of and respect for the way of life and culture of non-Tamil and non-Hindu linguistic and religious groups, and do attempt to project the sense of a common national identity, while the Sinhala books not only fail to do this but contain an abundance of material which will strengthen communal attitudes and reinforce communal antagonisms." They go on to state further: "It is necessary to relate this sharp divergence in content and purposes between the Sinhala and Tamil readers to the changes brought by the State policy of take over of the production of text books since 1960". It is appropriate to mention here that the schools in Sri Lanka were taken over by the then Sri Lankan government dominated by the Sri Lankan Freedom Party, with all the pomp and fanfare that they could muster, despite vehement protests by the Hindu, Muslim and Christian religious denominations in 1960 and continue to be run since then by the government.

Tamil Social Formation in Sri Lanka : A Historical Outline By : P Ragupathy, M.A., PH.D.

The early Sinhala history based on myths and legends accepted as authentic history by even the foremost Sinhalese historians, the contention that Tamils are recent arrivals to the island of Sri Lanka and the blurb that the origins of the Sinhalese lie in an Aryan migration in prehistoric times are demolished by the author in his analysis of the prehistoric origins of the Tamil culture and the regional emergence of cultural variations in South India and Sri Lanka.

Fundamentally important aspects such as the origin of the Tamil homelands and its demographical extensions are also discussed. The book provides insight into basic history of the Sri Lankan Tamils their settlement, their economic development and decline. It is hoped that this book would provide a basis for greater analysis of the subject.

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SERVICES

The TIC provides the following services :

- publication of situation reports on human rights violations and Sri Lanka
- publication of background briefing on important issues, incidents, events and personalities in Sri Lanka
- on request, investigation into materials on specific issues, incidents, events and personalities and preparing reports relating to Sri Lanka
- dissemination of up-to-date information on human rights violations, incidents, and events, through Tamil (2 lines) and English (2 lines) answer phone message services
- compilations on Incident reportings, arrests, torture, killings and disappearances
- co-operation in the preparation of relevant publications to create greater awareness of the problems of the Tamils in Sri Lanka
- researching and publishing suitable monographs to increase awareness of the problems of the Tamils in Sri Lanka
- provision of books, documents, newspapers (Sri Lankan) and magazines (selected) for reference work
- provision of photographs and films for exhibitions and conferences and meetings
- provision of verified and confirmed reports of human rights violations and other useful information in the form of TIC chronicles to the subscribers to this service
- provision of news clippings from the UK press and other periodicals relating to Sri Lanka to the subscribers to this service
- publication of Eye Witness Reports on gross violation of human rights

RESOURCES

- newspaper reports, articles and interviews relating to the ethnic conflict in Sri Lanka
- official reports from international or national organisations, relating to Sri Lanka
- government publications
- publications by non-governmental organisations on human rights situation in Sri Lanka
- papers, reports and theses that relate to Sri Lankan ethnic problem presented at conferences
- manuscripts, published and unpublished documents of various organisations, institutions and groups relating to the Sri Lankan ethnic problem
- notices, leaflets, posters, bulletins, news letters, periodicals, monographs and promotional and campaign materials of Tamil groups and others in relation to the Tamil problem
- photographs, audio and video tapes and films relating to the Tamil problem
- Sri Lankan Newspapers, journals and magazines
- statements, affidavits, and other documents relating to human rights violations in Sri Lanka. (THESE ARE CLASSIFIED DOCUMENTS)
- useful bibliographies

MATERIAL ACQUISITIONS MARCH-APRIL 1986

ACCN. NO	TITLE	AUTHOR/PUBLISHER	LANGUAGE
1217	Murder of Tamils at Kanniya, Trincomalee	FTDYMH	ENGLISH
1223	Rape of Tamil women and shooting by army men at Munnampodiveddai and Thoppur in the Trincomalee District	FTDYMH	ENGLISH
1238	Urgent Appeal to the United Nations	Tamil Eelam International Research	ENGLISH
RS 97	LTTE Comments on the resignation of the 2 Tamil members of the Ceasefire Monitoring Committee	LTTE	ENGLISH
RS 100	Porr Munayil Viduthallai Pullikal	LTTE	TAMIL
1247	The Proceedings of the international conference on human rights violations against Tamils in Sri Lanka	WTYF	ENGLISH
1246	Sri Lanka : state terrorism and the Tamil speaking people	EPIC	ENGLISH
1243	Killing of Muslim farmers and destruction of houses in the Muthur area	FTDYMHA	ENGLISH
1260	Stoppage of fishing in North	Point-Pedro Citizens' Committee	ENGLISH
1236	An appeal to stop the genocide of Tamils in Sri Lanka	TWHRC	ENGLISH
1234	Genocide of Tamils in Sri Lanka	AFTA	ENGLISH
1229	The Nurses' Strike	CRM	ENGLISH
PC 3705	Tamil Refugees in West Germany	Metha	ENGLISH
1218	Was the lady a spy ?	EROS	ENGLISH
PC 3724	Bombers Strike again	Saturday Review	ENGLISH
1240	Report on the helicopter firing at Myliddy North on 13.3.86	Myliddy North Citizen's Committee	ENGLISH
1250	Tamil refugees and their educational needs in the U K	T.A.C	ENGLISH
PC 3738	Sri Lanka is accused of killing Tamils	MC Gregor, Alan	ENGLISH
PC 3706	War of Genocide against Tamil Minority	Seneviratne, Brian	ENGLISH
1222	Shooting incident at Kumburupiddy village in the Trincomalee district.	FTDYMH	ENGLISH
PC 3727	Busy day of Fighting as the Tamils take on the army.	Hawkesley	ENGLISH
PC 3707	Christians die because they are Tamils'	The Catholic Leader	ENGLISH

**JOBS
CORNER**

**JOB TRAINING SCHEME AND
ADULT TRAINING PROGRAMMES**

REFUGEES CAN APPLY

**JOB TRAINING SCHEME AND
ADULT TRAINING
PROGRAMMES** are sponsored by the MSC to equip people with the necessary skills to get better jobs by:

- * adding to the skills they have already got or
- * learning new skills which employers need.

MAKE SURE, that you are right for the course and that the course is right for you. For most courses you will have to pass a preliminary test. In all cases, the final decision about suitability is made after an interview with people who have specialised knowledge of your chosen course.

TRAINING takes place in colleges, or an employers' premises, or in the MSC's own skill centres.

THE COST OF YOUR TRAINING will be paid for by the MSC and you are entitled to a training allowance. The amount you get will depend on your domestic circumstances.

TO APPLY, CONTACT YOUR NEAREST JOB CENTRE OR EMPLOYMENT OFFICE. THE ADDRESSES ARE IN THE TELEPHONE DIRECTORY UNDER MANPOWER SERVICES COMMISSION, EMPLOYMENT DIVISION AND THE OFFICES ARE USUALLY OPEN BETWEEN 9A.M-5 P.M MONDAY TO FRIDAY.

REFUGEE BENEFITS

ASYLUM SEEKERS in the UK..... awaiting the decision of the Home Office are entitled to **SUPPLEMENTARY BENEFIT** which is the money the government pays to people for rent, food, clothing and other such needs. Those who have been granted **TEMPORARY ADMISSION** in the UK can also claim supplementary benefit. Further advice on this matter can be obtained from the British Refugee Council, Citizens Advice Bureau or a Refugee Community Group.

NOTICE BOARD

- 14MAR86 - A 2-hour demonstration starting from 10.30 am. before the Swiss Embassy against possible decision to deport Tamil refugees from Switzerland.
- 14MAR86 - In Montreal a demonstration by non-Tamil Canadian citizens headed by Rev. Garth Bulmer of the Committee for Minority Rights in Sri Lanka condemning the atrocities of the Sri Lankan forces against the Tamils.
- 22MAR86 - A conference and social evening organised by the Tamil Women's League at Conway Hall, London.
- 22MAR86- Bharathi Kanda Eelam - a production of the EROS cultural Group presented by the ENLF at Kentwood School, London.
- 05APR86 - A march and rally organised by the Eelam Solidarity Campaign from Hyde Park to Trafalgar Square, London.
- 12APR86 - The Tamil Union of Herts celebrates the Tamil New Year at Wimbledon, London.
- 15APR86 - A cultural evening organised by the Thiravida Students Cultural Society of the London School of Accountancy, London.
- 21APR86 - A march and fast organised by the Tamil Refugees in the Anna District, Madurai, India, invoking the Indian government to stop the genocide of Tamils by the Sri Lankan forces.
- 23APR86 - Music recital organised by the Sindhu Fine Arts Society at Croydon, London, to raise funds for the Tamil Refugees.
- 24APR86 - A vigil organised by CAMPAIGN AGAINST ARMS TRADE (CAAT) at the Cafe Royal, London W1 to show concern over the Advanced Technology Internationals' Seminar on British Arms Export.
- 26APR86 - "Pulihalai Kalai Maalai" organised by the SOLT at Paddington, London.

Influencing Parliament & the government

LETTERS

For finding out your MP's opinion or party policy on a particular issue, write to the MP at the House of Commons, London SW1. To find out about government policies, or to protest against or support a policy or decision, you may write either to the MP or to the relevant government minister.

Whenever you write, be clear about why you are writing and what you hope to achieve: do you want to elicit information, or are you trying to change their opinion?

Don't be afraid to take

a moral standpoint in your letters, but at the same time be factual; if possible, politely recommend authoritative sources for further information or enclose a report or briefing from TIC.

Keep your letters short, timely and to the point, asking questions that demand specific, rather than "form letter", replies.

Type the letter if possible or write legibly, being sure to include your name and address and keeping a carbon copy so that you can tell whether the MP or Minister has

actually replied to your queries or has conveniently ignored them. Preserve all your correspondence; you may want to refer back to it later. MP's, government Ministers, and civil servants sometimes indulge in noncommittal waffle. Don't be taken in! If you are confused by their reply to you, send a copy of the letter to TIC and ask for suggestions about how to respond. But don't respond just for the sake of replying. Follow up issues with your MP or a government department only if you think you will get somewhere further.

A sample letter to an MP

123 High Street
Anycity ACI 2YZ

15 April 1986

Mr A B Jonathan, MP
House of Commons
London SW1

Dear Mr Jonathan

I am very concerned to read in today's Daily Telegraph that the Sri Lankan security forces carried out an air attack yesterday on a fishing settlement on the Northern Jaffna peninsula, killing three people and wounding several others.

I believe such attacks on civilians to be inhuman and completely unjustifiable. This is the third time the security forces have carried out air attacks on thickly populated areas of the Jaffna peninsula.

I would appreciate your personal views on this matter and also the views of Her Majesty's Government.

Yours sincerely,

J K Letterwriter

ideas
and
action

PETITIONS

Some people think that petitions are an effective means of influencing government opinions; others feel that their primary value lies in the educational and consciousness raising - process of collecting signatures. Whatever your views, if you are going to do a petition, do it well; feeble efforts can be counter-productive.

The petition should present specific demands rather than generalised discontent. The text should be as short as possible. It is important to say to whom the petition will be handed in and when, and to give your name and address and a deadline for getting the completed forms back to you.

It is a good idea not to have too many spaces for names; it is better to hand in 100 petitions with 20 signatures on each than vice-versa.

Use one side of the paper only. If the petition is going to be displayed on notice boards, use coloured paper so it shows up better. The petition will look nicer - and therefore attract more signatures - if it is well produced and incorporates some visual interest.

When collecting signatures be sure to have enough petition forms, a couple of ball point pens, and a clipboard (a home made clipboard can be easily made from a bit of plywood or heavy card and a bulldog clip from any stationer. Also have a good supply of leaflets relating to the issues to give to interested people).

And, you should always be aware of -

- * your rights if you are leafletting or collecting signatures on private property,
- * your rights on public property

Legal points :

Handing out leaflets in public places is not usually an offence but

there are some exceptions. British Rail and London Transport by-laws prohibit leafletting on their property and vehicles without prior permissions; military by-laws prohibit leafletting in the barrack and training areas of certain garrison towns; and some local authority by-laws prohibit leafletting in certain areas such as parks. The act of leafletting may be considered an obstruction, and the act of leafletting or the content of the leaflet may be considered to threaten the peace.

Obstruction may be of two kinds; obstruction of the highway, and obstruction of his or her duty. Obstruction of the highway includes the pavements, but not private forecourts, doorways etc. It is possible to cause an obstruction not only with one's person, but also by doing something on the highway or private property which causes a crowd to gather on the highway.

Breach of the peace is vague and can include any language or behaviour which is held to be abusive, insulting or threatening.

For most activities on public property it is not necessary to get police permission but it is nearly always wise to notify them in advance, and to make a note of exactly what was said. If you are planning any sort of activity on private property - which includes most indoor shopping precincts, church and shop forecourts, etc - you must get permission from the owner, manager, vicar or similar responsible person.

(These points are adapted from the Peaceworking, UNA. For further information refer the National Council for Civil Liberties' CIVIL LIBERTIES GUIDE. Published by penguin)

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