

The Indian State in Sri Lanka "saviour" turns murderer

The last weeks have been the worst experienced by the Tamils in Sri Lanka since independence. Hundreds of thousands of civilians are trapped in the crossfire between the guerrillas and the Indian Army. They have sought refuge in schools which are not equipped to house such massive numbers of people. Even these refugee camps have come under fire from the Indian artillery. There is no blood or oxygen supply to treat the wounded at the Jaffna hospital. At least a 1000 people are feared dead. The Indian government, once regarded by the Tamils as a saviour, is now launching an offensive against the whole Tamil population more brutal than anything unleashed on them by the Sri Lankan army.

**PROTEST AGAINST INDIA'S ATTACK
ON THE TAMILS
PICKET THE INDIAN HIGH
COMMISSION**

Wednesday 4th November 2pm

India House, Aldwych, WC2

Holborn  

For the last five years the Tamil people of Sri Lanka have survived a brutal and repressive military campaign by the Sri Lankan state from whom they want independence. In this conflict India has been posing off as the protector of the Tamils. Now ironically enough, the protector has become the new oppressor.

Indian Expansionism.....

India today has grown into a regional power. Its military strength and hegemonic interests in the South Asian sub continent are of no small magnitude. All other nations of the South Asian sub continent including Sri Lanka have been at some time or other victims of the Big Brother complex of India. When the present regime in Sri Lanka opened up its economy to foreign interests, the liberal welcome to foreign capital investment, imports and tax concessions were a boon to Indian capital, always in search of new markets close to its shores. The eastern port of Sri Lanka, Trincomalee, one of the world's best natural harbours has been much coveted by both India and the super powers. India saw that its longstanding interest in Sri Lanka now had the possibility of materialising fully and this hastened its involvement in Sri Lanka's internal affairs.

.....and the Infiltration of the Tamil movements and cooption of the national struggle

The Tamil national struggle was an important and convenient vehicle to gain a foothold in Sri Lanka. It also exploited the empathy its own Tamil population felt for those on the other side of the Palk Strait, to infiltrate the forces at work in the conflict.

India which has massacred hundreds in Punjab, Assam and Bangladesh; which brutally represses its own national minorities and uprisings of its own oppressed, did not become the patron of the Sri Lankan Tamils out of altruism

After the genocidal pogrom of the Tamils by the Sri Lankan state in 1983 India made its grand entry, ostensibly on behalf of the Tamils and became their patron and spokesman. It welcomed with open arms 150,000 Tamil refugees. Every time

the Sri Lankan Army unleashed fresh violence on the Tamils, India issued veiled threats to Sri Lanka. It went even further than that. It trained and armed the Tamil guerrillas. It allowed them to solicit support from the Indian people and to operate from Indian soil. Consequently it began to use the Tamil guerrillas as a pawn against the Sri Lankan government.

The Tamil people and the militant leadership had grossly underestimated its real motives and readily accepted its patronage. The armed struggle of the Tamil militants born out of intense national oppression and which should have blossomed into a total liberation war was subverted by India's machinations to a form of crude militarism. The very grave mistake of allowing the Indian state to dictate the terms of the struggle, the timing and the intensity led to the sell out of the whole struggle. While extending its patronage India also played up the divisions within the Tamil national movement. Its divide and rule policy has fanned the egotism and personality cults within the leadership of these movements. India has been presiding over the slow process of division, hatred, conflict and ultimately decay within the Tamil national movement.

It is a widely held opinion that the present carnage was precipitated by the Tamil militants. But now it is becoming clear that the offensive against the Tamil Tigers had been planned months earlier when they decided to pass the Peace Accord over the heads of the two communities. The Peace Accord which actually accords precious little to the long suffering Tamils has been imposed on them by a powerful neighbour who would now like to settle the conflict by stabilising the crisis ridden Sri Lankan state, on its own terms.

India's Army of occupation

The Tamils who sent heartrending appeals to the supposed benefactor crying "Mother India - Save Us" never dreamt that India will turn around and strengthen the Sri Lankan state's hand against them. The Indian invasion of the Tamil homelands is the beginning of a new and horrific chapter in the history of the Tamils.

**COME AND SHOW YOUR
SOLIDARITY WITH THE
TAMIL PEOPLE!**

**JOIN THE PICKET ON 4TH
NOVEMBER**

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