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IN JULY 1983, 2,000 TAMIL PEOPLE WERE MURDERED BY SINGAPORE CHAUVINIST MOBS SUPPORTED BY THE SRI LANKAN ARMY. THE GANGS WHICH LED THE MASSACRES WERE ORGANISED BY MINISTERS IN THE SRI LANKAN GOVERNMENT.

IN THE SAME MONTH, 53 TAMIL POLITICAL PRISONERS WERE MURDERED INSIDE WELIKADA HIGH SECURITY PRISON.

IN APRIL 1984, THE ARMY WENT ON THE RAMPAGE IN TAMIL AREAS. HUNDREDS OF TAMIL CIVILIANS WERE ATTACKED AND MURDERED.

ON 6th AUGUST 1984, THE PEOPLE OF VALVETTITURAI, A TAMIL COASTAL TOWN, WERE BOMBARDED FROM THE SEA BY A SRI LANKAN GUNBOAT. 1500 HOMES WERE DESTROYED. MORE THAN 700 YOUNG TAMILS WERE RANDOMLY ARRESTED. THEIR WHEREABOUTS ARE NOW UNKNOWN.

ON 11TH AUGUST, THE TOWN OF MANNAR WAS ATTACKED BY THE ARMY WHO BURNT HOMES AND SHOPS AND RANDOMLY KILLED TAMIL PEOPLE.

SINCE THEN PEOPLE HAVE BEEN KILLED BY THE ARMY IN JAFFNA, VAVUNIYA, CHUNNAKAM AND OTHER TOWNS ALL OVER THE TAMIL NORTH OF SRI LANKA.

Tourism is the industry which keeps Sri Lanka's US-controlled dictatorship alive

ALREADY TAMIL PEOPLE HAVE PAID THE PRICE OF DEATH TO KEEP SRI LANKA AMERICA'S PRIVATE PARADISE
DON'T SUPPORT THE MURDERERS—STAY AWAY FROM SRI LANKA

THE TAMIL PEOPLE OF SRI LANKA: A HISTORY OF OPPRESSION AND STRUGGLE

The persecution of the Tamil people by a Sinhalese regime is not something new. The Tamils of Sri Lanka have a long history of oppression and struggle.

Ceylon to Sri Lanka: Exploitation and British profits

For 150 years, up until 1948, Sri Lanka was a British colony. The British destroyed Sri Lanka's self-sufficient economic system and forced the people to grow only tea, coffee and rubber, which Britain then sold at huge profits. It was the British who originally and quite arbitrarily unified the island into one country, which they called Ceylon.

Yet while Britain ruled Sri Lanka as one country for economic convenience they deliberately created hostility between the Sinhalese and the Tamil communities, in order to weaken the people as a whole and retain their own power.

These 'divide and rule' policies sowed the seeds of anti-Tamil violence in Sri Lanka.

At official independence in 1948 the British handed over power to a small Sinhalese ruling class. Since then this class has only maintained the support of the mass of the Sinhalese people, who are themselves oppressed, by whipping up a fascistic Sinhala chauvinism against the Tamils. The Tamils have been effectively denied the right to higher education and jobs : the 1972 constitution installed a Sinhala Buddhist state and Sinhala alone was made the official language. The Tamil areas of the North and East were deliberately left under-developed by the State. Peaceful protests by Tamils were ruthlessly crushed.

1956, 1958, 1961, 1974, 1977, 1979 and 1981 were years in which the Tamil community faced horrifying massacres. Thousands of Tamil people were murdered and hundreds of thousands made homeless..

Meanwhile Britain is continuing to profit from the oppression of Tamils : although Sri Lanka is nominally independent, Britain still controls the market for tea.

The Ceylon tea which is on sale in British shops is produced by Tamil plantation workers who have to work under appalling and degrading conditions.

The plantation workers have no choice but to accept these conditions since the Government has made them officially 'stateless'. This means that they are denied all citizens rights.

AMERICA'S PRIVATE PARADISE

Today Sri Lanka is completely controlled by the United States and its Allies, including Britain. As the army uses murder, rape and torture to brutally suppress the Tamils in the North and East of the country, more and more American multinationals are moving to Sri Lanka and establishing themselves in the South, hoping for even greater profits in a country where land, labour and life itself has become cheap.

Almost 25 centuries later, Buddhism is still preserved in its purest form. Its doctrine of peace and tolerance has left its gentle mark on the land and her people. Different religions and ethnic groups live side by side in total harmony in a democratic society which strives today to establish the unique concept of a Free and Just Society.

CEYLON TOURIST BOARD

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P. PONNAMBALAM, aged 58, retired government servant, from Nallur. Nadarajah SIVAKUMAR, aged 24, labourer, from Jaffna. Kanesan Rasa RATNAM, aged 60, washerman, from Jaffna. Ramu SELVARAJ, aged 37, mason, from Jaffna. AI AMBALAVANAR, aged 55, cigar roller, from Jaffna. KANDIAH, aged 68, retired teacher, from Jaffna. PULENDRAN, aged 20, coconut dealer, from Jaffna. YOGARAJAH, aged 26, labourer, from Jaffna. THAYALAN, aged 19, student, from Jaffna. SIVAPALAN, aged 22, clerk, from Jaffna. SIVAKUMAR, aged 42, fuel clerk. Shanmugam GUNASINGHAM, from Urumpirai. Sinnathurai VASANTHAKUMAR, from Urumpirai. David VILVARAJAH, aged 26, welder, from Manipay. Maniyan UTHAYAKUMAR, aged 21, driver, from Anacoddai. Subban MANIYAN, aged 22, businessman, from Jaffna. Thirunavukarasu P. MANIYAN, aged 30, salesman, from Jaffna. Manuel CHRISTY, aged 23, labourer, from Jaffna. Sinnappan THURAIRAJAH, aged 47, from Manipay. . . .

MURDERED BY THE ARMY

Testimonies to Torture

The testimonies recorded by the Amnesty International mission indicate that people arrested under the Prevention of Terrorism Act have been tortured in the following ways:

- by being hung upside down and beaten;
- by prolonged and repeated beatings with heavy sticks, pipes and fists especially on the soles of the feet, around the head and shoulders, on the stomach and back, so badly that in some cases bones were broken;
- by being stripped naked and beaten on the genitals;
- by having needles inserted under the nails of fingers or toes or in the arms;
- by being forced to lie on the floor as long as six months while being chained to the wall.

Tamil Women and the Sri Lankan State

Tamil women have faced some of the most brutal attacks made on the Tamil community by Sinhala chauvinists and by the State.

In last year's massacres, there are reported to have been more than 200 cases of sexual violence. Pregnant women, young girls and elderly women were raped.

Women are also being arrested, imprisoned and tortured in the mass arrests of Tamils now taking place. Often soldiers are arresting women as 'hostages' if they are unable to arrest their husbands. Women who are pregnant or who have small babies have been held as hostages.

But Tamil women are also being arrested (under the Prevention of Terrorism Act) simply because by aspiring to freedom for their people they themselves are seen as a threat to the regime.

"A PEOPLE'S STRUGGLE FOR FREEDOM AND JUSTICE —OUR STRUGGLE FOR LIBERATION"

Officially the days of colonialism are over but in reality Sri Lanka like other neocolonies is more under the control of Western interests than ever. As more and more Western multinational companies move to Sri Lanka, the imperialist powers are merely tightening their economic stranglehold on the country. These multinationals are establishing themselves in the fertile south of the country: in the Free Trade Zone near Colombo all restrictions have been lifted. This means that the companies pay no taxes so their profits can go straight out of the country and the workers, who are mainly young women from the villages, can be paid extremely low wages and be forced to work under exploitative, unsafe and exhausting conditions.

Perhaps the clearest evidence of Western control in Sri Lanka is the tourist industry. Huge luxury hotels like the Holiday Inn and the Intercontinental dominate the coast. All are owned by foreign companies. Sri Lankan culture and history is seved up in a packaged and distored form for the benefit of Western tourists.

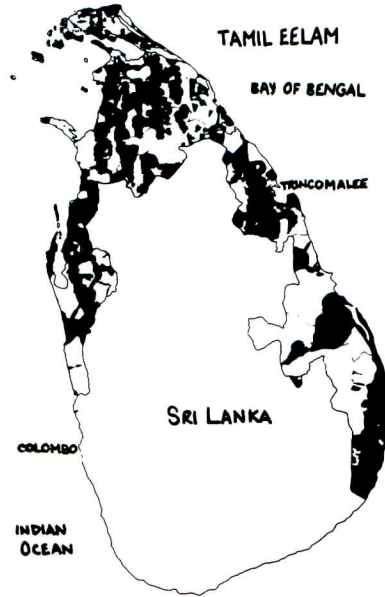
But Sri Lanka is a country of struggle-although the Unions inthe South have been crushed, the workers are continuing to try and organise. In the Free Trade Zone women workers are now resisting while in rural areas peasants are beginning to organise. However the strongest and most advanced challenge to imperialist domination now comes from the Tamil people of the North and East who are increasingly uniting to fight oppression. In order to maintain 'stability' for western investment the government has launched a military attach on the Tamils.

So while economic exploitation continues in the South, the North and East is facing the full force of a military onslaught. The situation in these areas is that of a country under occupation.

As the brutality of army methods increases, more and more people are participating in a liberation struggle against the occupying forces. The majority of Tamils now support

the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam, who believe that the only alternative is the establishment of an independant socialist Tamil state (Tamil Eelam) in the North and East of the country.

Apart from the general economic exploitation of Sri Lanka, America has a specific interest in the Tamil homeland. The port of Trincomalee which is in Tamil Eelam is the site of a planned U.S base. **If this base was established it would enable the United States to dominate the whole of the Indian Ocean.**



In this situation the U.S and its allies have rallied round the Sri Lanka Government in its attempts to crush all resistance. The Sri Lankan armed forces are now receiving training from the Israe Intelligence Service Mossad and from Britain's own SAS.

The Israeli Mossad is notorious for its acts of 'international terrorism' in support of U.S backed regimes all over the world; now there is evidence that South Africa has joined the forces who are backing the terrorism of the Sri Lankan state.

Inspite of this, resistance is growing. For the British in colonial times, Sri Lanka was the 'granary of the East' - today it is sold to the tourists as 'Paradise Island'. Behind these images lies the continuity of a people's struggle.

'Your military option will bring your own disaster. You cannot find and identify us since we are everywhere, immersed in the sea of the masses, or rather, we are the people'.

(open letter to the Minister for Internal Security
from the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam)