



லண்டன் தமிழ் மன்றம்

LONDON TAMIL MANRAM

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THE THIRST OF THE TIGERS

TERRORISTS OR PEOPLE'S ARMY ?

The first exhibition in Britain of more than 300 photographs and documents portraying the struggle of the Tamil people in Sri Lanka.

REPRESSION

- * What three decades of oppression have meant in the streets of Jaffna, in the poor fishing villages of the North and East, for the workers on the tea plantations, and for the peasants who have been driven off their land. The effects of systematic economic, cultural and linguistic oppression of the Tamil people.
- * The pogroms of increasing violence in 1956, 1958, 1961, 1974, 1977, 1979 and 1981 in which thousands of Tamils were killed, innocent people burnt alive and women and children raped and mutilated.
- * THE HOLOCAUST IN 1983 - the attempted genocide of the Tamil people.

RESISTANCE

The growth of resistance:

- * In a first phase which saw the failure of non-violent protest under bourgeois and petit-bourgeois leadership- when the violence of the oppressor silenced the non-violence of the oppressed and the armed might of Sinhala chauvinism crushed the 'ahimsa' of the Tamils.
- * In a second phase in the early 1970s when the youth reacting to the brutality and violence of the state spontaneously took up arms to avenge the Tamil people.
- * And the third phase which has seen the development of a disciplined Marxist-Leninist guerrilla movement, a politico-military structure for national liberation and social emancipation and a situation where the people in the villages and towns may not call themselves 'Tigers' but shelter and protect them and see them as their hope for the future, so that they can move 'like fish in the sea'.
In this latest phase the methods of guerrilla warfare are not arbitrary nor are they dictated by blind militancy or adventurism. They are suited to the specific conditions of the country where the fascist State makes open organising out of the question and where the flat and open countryside of the Tamil traditional homelands does not afford cover to guerrilla fighters

The Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam has survived and grown over ten years because of the courage and support of the Tamil people and the courage and dedication of the fighters. While the TULF (the constitutional party of the Tamil bourgeoisie) talked and compromised with successive Sinhalese neo-colonial rulers, the Liberation Tigers have given voice to the aspirations of the people.

The Thirst of The Tigers exhibition shows how National struggle is inseparable from class struggle. How it has involved attacking and humiliating the corrupt Tamil bourgeoisie and taking on the feudal oppression of the caste system.

The exhibition vividly illustrates the meaning of a struggle for National Liberation and against imperialism which should be of interest to all progressive people in Britain.

LETTER FROM A LIBERATION TIGER
TO THE SINHALA SOLDIER

"You probably know that today, on the soil of Tamil Eelam, a desire for national liberation has been set aflame. It is an inevitable historic necessity that we win the freedom of our homeland. You have been an instrument of the racist State of Sri Lanka, in practising terrorism against the people of Tamil Eelam. You have also been an instrument in the manhunt, ordered by the state, on the liberation fighters of our nation.

We see you riding down the streets of Tamil Eelam, khaki-clad and armed. The care of an old mother or father, or a sister, maybe, compels you to carry arms. While those in the seats of power in Sri Lanka, flourish, you fall down as the victims. Very soon, you will stand turned against your own people, your own class, ordered by this very same class in power. Those in power will use you to crush the revolt of your people.

We, motivated by an unceasing yearning for national liberation, are forced to oppose you, a puppet of the state. When we meet at the battle-front, you become the sacrificial lamb. We walk the path of national liberation, our death will acquire dignity and meaning. But yours will become insignificant.

Even though a pawn in the hands of state terrorism, the atrocities and murders that you committed in Tamil Eelam have left permanent scars in the hearts of the Tamil people and will never be healed. Do not die labouring for the foul campaigns of the ruling class. Do not lose your integrity and your humanity so that those who rule us may prosper. It is only when you take up arms on the side of the oppressed Sinhala workers and peasants, against the State of Sri Lanka, that we could speak the language of friendship. When and if you do that, you will understand the pulse of our own struggle."

FURTHER INFORMATION ABOUT THIS EXHIBITION OR ABOUT THE LIBERATION STRUGGLE OF THE PEOPLE OF TAMIL EELAM FROM
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