



President Rajapaksa and Turkish President Gul at the press conference.



Pope Benedict XVI looks at two candle holders given to him as a gift by President Mahinda Rajapaksa during a private audience at the Vatican. The Pontiff gave the President a pen, kept in its gift box with the Vatican coat of arms.

President's visits to Vatican & Turkey



President Mahinda Rajapaksa and First Lady Shiranthi Rajapaksa being welcomed by Embassy officials on arrival in Rome. Sri Lankan Ambassador to Italy Hemantha Warnakulasuriya was also present.



President Rajapaksa being greeted by Pope Benedict XVI



President Rajapaksa, First Lady Shiranthi Rajapaksa and Pope Benedict XVI at the Vatican



President Mahinda Rajapaksa being greeted by Turkish President Abdullah Gul at the Presidential Palace.



The President and the Pontiff having talks in the Papal Library.



President Rajapaksa, First Lady Shiranthi Rajapaksa and Pope Benedict XVI at the Vatican



President Rajapaksa inspecting the Guard of Honour



The two Presidents stand to attention to the playing of the National Anthems



Foreign Minister Rohitha Bogollagama and the Turkish Foreign Minister exchange documents during the signing of a bilateral agreement. President Rajapaksa and his Turkish counterpart are looking on.



President Mahinda Rajapaksa and First Lady Shiranthi Rajapaksa with President of Turkey Abdullah Gul and Turkish First Lady Hayrunnisa Gul.



President Rajapaksa laying a wreath at the Ataturk Mausoleum.

