

CHRONOLOGY OF LTTE TERROR

From the **Daily News Archives**

A murderer at large

The hand behind the killing of former Jaffna Mayor Alfred Duraipapp, was later found to be none other than Velupillai Prabhakaran.

The popular Mayor of Jaffna was gunned down outside Krishnan Temple at Ponnalai on July 27, 1975. In fact, the LTTE hadn't been formally set up at that time and Duraipapp killers had been with TNT (Tamil New Tigers) which was later renamed as the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam.

Velupillai Prabhakaran was later identified as being among the three youth who shot dead the politician as he got down from his car.

With the first major political killing in its bag the LTTE with the backing of finances and training it got, mainly from overseas, later went on to become the "most dangerous and deadly extremist" outfit in the world with scores of people killed in its campaign of "violence and bloodshed" including the assassination of two world leaders, "the only terrorist organization to do so."

Despite several preceding Governments of Sri Lanka making numerous genuine efforts to bring the terrorists to the negotiating table, the LTTE continued its atrocities engaging in mass killing of civilians belonging to all communities including Tamils.

Tactical assassinations of political opponents were continuing, and in some cases with the full awareness of the outside forces interested in destabilizing Sri Lanka.

Tamil political leaders such as C. Kumarasoorie, the then Posts and Telecommunications Minister, MP



Velupillai Prabhakaran

for Nallur C. Arulampalan and A. Thiagarajah, MP for Vaddukkottai, Ranjini Selvanayagam, the second MP for Batticaloa and Kanagaratnam who crossed over to the UNP from the TULF had been targeted in the early 70s.

In the backdrop of these political killings taking place in the North and East and beyond, the LTTE also settled old scores in cold-blooded fashion, killing other military organisation cadres with similar ideologies.

Thus, with the bullet overpowering the ballot, the LTTE tried to vanquish all other opposing Tamil groups with the use of violence means to portray themselves as the so-called sole representatives of the Tamil people.

During the period of peace or cessation of hostilities it was widely seen that "peace as violence by another name". The so-called peace bids were used

by the LTTE to strengthen their armoury and as a "license to kill" their political opponents.

The LTTE leader also took steps to fine-tune the weapons in his armoury by using brainwashed Tamil youth as human bombs, to further propagate the killings of opposing politicians and other community leaders. Under-aged children too were not spared as they were forcibly recruited from even as young as 10 years old.

With the use of these new found human bombs the LTTE assassinated two State heads in Indian Premier Rajiv Gandhi and Sri Lankan President Ranasinghe Premadasa.

The other prominent political leaders to be killed

by the LTTE included the late Minister of Highways and Road Development, Jeyaraj Fernandopulle, Nation Building Minister D. M. Dassanayake, Foreign Minister, Lakshman Kadirgamar, Minister of Industrial Development C.V. Gooneratne, UNP Presidential candidate Ganihi Dassanayake, former UNP cabinet Minister Lalith Athulathmudali, former Defence Minister Ranjan Wijeratne and many others.

Also the LTTE in their bid to assert supremacy among the Tamil community also resorted to kill the other up-and-coming Tamil politicians and community leaders such as Jaffna UNP MP T. Maheshwaran, TNA MP K. Shanmugan, TNA MP N. Raviraj, Joseph Pararasasingham, TULF MP Neelan Thiruchelvam, TULF leader A. Amirthalingam, Jaffna Mayor Sarojini Yogeswaran and scores of others.

Their killing did not stop

there; prominent peace activists such as deputy leader of Peace Secretariat Kethesh Loganathan, University Teacher and peace activist, Rajini Thirangama, Teacher, Pannaiyah Selvaraja too became victims of LTTE terror.

Also priests belonging to various religious faiths too were not spared as Buddhist Monk Kithalagama Seelaratana Thera, Hindu Priest, Kunguraj Kurukkal, Christian Priest Fr. M. Karunaratnam and several other Muslim priests too becoming victims of the LTTE bullet.

In addition civil servants such as Jaffna Central College Principal K. Rajadurai, Chief Secretary Eastern Province Herath Abeyweera, Assistant Government Agent, A. Paleel too became victims. Also authors and writers such as Nihal de Silva, C. Krishnamoorthy, T. Selvanithy to name a few too were gunned down in cold blood.

LTTE did not spare other opposing Tamil groups; they took steps to annihilate these outfits by killing their leaders such as Uma Maheswaran (PLOTE leader), Oberei Thevan (TELA leader), S. Thambirajah (EPRLF), etc.

Also LTTE resorted to kill its own cadres and leaders who voice dissent at the once deputy leader of the organization Mahattaya had found out.

The LTTE's bloody trail continues with thousands of other lives lost in the nearly three decade terrorist struggle.

The Daily News would continue to shed light on these LTTE atrocities on a continued basis during its future publications.

Prabhakaran The hand in Friday's triple killing?

BY SRIMAL ABEYWARDENE

Intelligence reports available in Colombo yesterday strongly suggested that Velupillai Prabhakaran the much wanted terrorist leader against whom criminal charges are pending in

now and suspicion is mounting that he slipped across the Palk Strait back to Sri Lanka.

The brazenness of Friday's killings, when two men leading the UNP lists for the Chavakachcheri and Point Pedro Urban Councils

from police headquarters asking the force to keep its eyes peeled for Prabhakaran who usually dresses in very and shirt but sometimes sports a pair of well-cut trousers.

A distinguishing feature of this terrorist leader,



Madras general Friday's strike against the UNP candidates running for election to urban councils in the North.

A high ranking source said yesterday, "We have good reason to believe Prabhakaran directed these crimes. But as to where he is that's question to which we have no answer. We are up against a blank wall."

Prabhakaran and his arch-rival, Uma Maheswaran, were arrested in Madras some months ago after a shootout in the Pandy bazaar area. Pending completion of their trials the two men were released but placed under police supervision.

Prabhakaran has not been reporting to police in Madras for some weeks

were shot dead by Jaffna's deadly bikies makes the authorities strongly suspects Prabhakaran's hand.

Friday's third killing was at Velvetiturai, when a man described as the bodyguard of UNP Northern Organiser K. Ganeshalingam, was shot dead as he sat in a van. All cases followed the classic pattern of the Northern terrorists gangs pedalled up on push bikes and shot their victims dead.

The funerals of the three victims Messrs. S. Ratnasingham, who led the UNP list of candidates for the Point Pedro UC election, M.K. Mattiah who heads the Chavakachcheri list and S. Rajaratnam, the bodyguard were held yesterday.

An urgent alert went out to all stations yesterday

whom Sri Lanka would have wished extradited here after his arrest in Madras is a burn scar on his leg.

Prabhakaran is 5 feet 4 inches tall of medium built, combs his hair to a side and has large eyes and an oval face. Several thousand rupees in reward money is payable for information leading to the arrest of this terrorist leader wanted for the killing of several policemen.

Fisheries Minister Festus Perera and Jaffna's District Minister U.B. Wijetunge were present at the funerals of the victims at Point Pedro, Chavakachcheri and Velvetiturai.

Daily News, Monday, May 2, 1983



Kethesh Loganathan



Ganihi Dassanayake



Lakshman Kadirgamar



Neelan Thiruchelvam

The blood lust of Prabhakaran

The assassination of Jaffna's SLP Mayor Alfred Duraipapp on July 27, 1975 (considered as the first assassination of a Sri Lankan Tamil political figure), sparked off a sequence of violent events in the country's history, claiming thousands of lives over a three-decade period.

When looking back on that fateful day it is reported that Mayor Duraipapp had just returned from a visit to Brunei to see his wife Parameswary, who was the Chief Medical Officer there a fortnight ago before the assassins struck.

It was customary for Duraipapp to visit the Hindu temple at Punnelay, Vaddukkottai every Sunday in his white Peugeot. This was obviously known to the assassins who had arrived at the scene on bicycles.

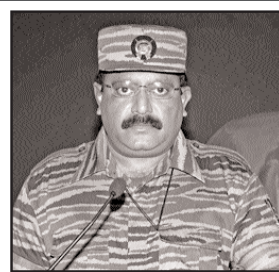
Mayor Duraipapp had alighted from his car and was about to enter the Vish-

nu temple when the assassins struck shooting him at point blank range. Death was instantaneous with a single bullet piercing his heart.

Thus Velupillai Prabhakaran claimed his first political victim, since he founded the Tamil New Tigers (TNT) organization, which later went on to be renamed as Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE).

Hardly anyone attributed the killing to a terrorist organization at that time; in fact, the LTTE hadn't been formally set up at that time and Duraipapp's killers had been with TNT (Tamil New Tigers).

Subsequent investigations revealed that Velupillai Prabhakaran was among the three youth who shot dead the politician as he got down from his car. Had he survived the assassination, the popular politician



Prabhakaran

would have definitely returned to Parliament which he first entered in 1960.

Duraipapp who contested the Jaffna electorate as an independent contestant

defeated All Ceylon Tamil Congress leader G.G. Ponnambalam, QC and Federal Party candidate Kadiravelupillai. Tamil youth affiliated to militant groups, made several

attempts on his life. The first one was a bomb attack on his Jaffna residence in February 1971. In March the same year a bomb was placed inside his car. Later in August, bombs were thrown at a carnival which was being worked off at the Duraipapp stadium.

The blood lust of Prabhakaran, even in the infancy stage of his terrorist activities is well documented. His attempts to restrain the rise of a democratic political leadership from among the Tamil community took him on a bloody trail of murder and mayhem starting from the charismatic former Jaffna Mayor.

C. Kumarasoorie, the then Posts and Telecommunications Minister is another politician stalked by terrorists, during their formative days.

During early '70s prominent Tamil politicians such as MP for Nallur C. Aru-

lampalan, A. Thiagarajah, MP for Vaddukkottai, Ranjini Selvanayagam, the second MP for Batticaloa and Kanagaratnam who crossed over to the UNP from the TULF had been targeted.

MP Thiagarajah of Vaddukkottai was one of the first Tamil MP's to die in the hands of an assassin. His assassination on May 25, 1981 was the first major political killing after the Duraipapp assassination six years earlier.

As the LTTE gained prominence with necessary training and financial backing from overseas, attacks on politicians identified with the democratic mainstream of the then government became prominent targets.

In the coming weeks Daily News would continue to shed light on such major episodes in the chronology of LTTE terror in detail.



Alfred Duraipapp