

CHRONOLOGY OF LTTE TERROR

- Part 4

From the **Daily News Archives**

LTTE genocide at Kent and Dollar Farms

They were poor but were prepared to live working hard supporting their families. Therefore, they had worked hard on their farmlands at Dollar and Kent at Mullativu but when dusk fell on the two villages that were named farms, for some reason on the second day of December 1984 the tired workers had gone to sleep.

Yet none of them knew that would be the last sleep they would fall into and never wake up again. At dawn on Friday my wife woke me up saying she heard the report of a gunshot. She took our two children and ran out of the house. After some minutes I saw a group of armed people running. They shot at her and she was hit on the leg, fell down. I took the two children and ran towards the shed where bags of rice were stored and hid with the children. The Tigers came there and set fire to the shed and asked us to come out. My clothes had caught fire but I took the two children and started running out towards the cattle shed and hid there. Later, I heard that the terrorists had killed my wife and my elder son, Ramuni Sugathadasa who was one of the survivors of the LTTE terrorist attack on the Kent Farm Padaviya, in Mullativu, twenty five years ago recalled.

At Dollar Farm where we were working, we heard a gunshot and came out of our houses. We experienced a fear that we had never been felt that day. Therefore, we ran towards the chili plantation and hid there but gradually we heard gunshots now nearer to where we were hiding and we saw a group of armed persons running. Later they came towards the place where we were hiding. They asked us to come out with our hands held high. They then ordered us to get into our houses and again and again they ordered us in and out of the houses. They were shouting anti-government slogans also in between.

They ordered us to bring all the kerosene oil or petrol we had in the houses. They collected all the tractors and agricultural implements and set fire to the houses.

They left with the tractors and the other things and I saw they had killed my son before they left. Lucyhamy Perera, one of the survivors of the Dollar farm recalled.

On that day at dawn the LTTE terrorists had raided the Kent and Dollar Farms at Padaviya had shot at random and most of the people fell dead and the others who survived were either injured or hiding in



Distraught: Carrying the dead body of his son killed at Kent Farm

fear attempted to creep into the woods but some failed in their attempt to escape death as the terrorists in their numbers had surrounded the two farms blocking all the escape routes.

The terrorists then held those who were trying to flee and tied them up. Demonstrating their savagery, the terrorists urinated on the people who were tied up. Later they shot or hacked to death the helpless people displaying their brutal minds.

At the end of the carnage 33 people of the Dollar Farm and 29 people of the Kent Farm were dead but later others who had not been killed instantly also succumbed to their injuries and the final count was 65 men, women and children each one unnamed had died in the terrorists brutal

attack on those civilians. This was the largest number of unarmed civilians that the LTTE terrorists had killed in the first few years of their killing spree.

In the early 1970s when Tamil terrorist groups were in their formative stage the first Tamil civilian to be killed was a driver Ulaganathan. From then on they started killing civilians they thought were informants or those who helped the police. They killed policemen and others but they never had the strength to attack human settlements until they turned on the Kent and Dollar Farms brutality in its extreme, hacking to death little children, helpless old women or the old people without exception.

Kent Farm and Dollar Farm were in fact not farms but settlements under the

Padaviya irrigation scheme – they were villages. Though the LTTE terrorists, their sympathizers and political apologists term these settlements as colonies these were ancient settlements, the villages of the Sinhalese from very ancient times the very word Padaviya is a Sinhalese place name but to the LTTE who had their own warped mind and a cooked up history, these places had to fall into their imaginary homeland, Eelam.

The first act of genocide then was committed in Padaviya though the two villages were given names of foreign extraction. The LTTE described the attack in one of their publications as led by Captain Lawrence (Sivalingam) and Lt. Ravi (Karmarasa) who were specially trained in guerrilla combat operations. The

group of terrorists had suddenly left for Kokilai lagoon and they started firing their machine guns continuously. The incident reported by the LTTE takes place on a day important for Prabhakaran May 5, 1976 when he had given the members of his terrorist outfit a 'code of conduct' or rules.

The first of these rules was that none in the outfit could have love affairs. But by 1984 Prabhakaran himself had violated the rule by having a love affair with a young woman undergraduate Madivadini whom he later married in Chennai on October 1 but when the end of that month was reached he had ordered the massacre of the two villages just in the first two months as a newly married man killing 65 innocent unarmed civilians – genocide. **W.N**

Play down fishing village attacks, advises Tigers

Civilian killings smear terrorists

Even Tamil Nadu unhappy

The terrorist attacks on the Kent and Dollar farms in the Mullativu and Vavuniya district have seriously embarrassed the northern terrorists who found even their supporters in Tamil Nadu unhappy about the killings.

A government spokesman said in Colombo yesterday that LTTE had issued a statement in Tamil Nadu, asking their people in the North not to give poster and other publicity to that attack.

There is criticism of that incident even in Tamil Nadu, because of the killing of civilians, the spokesman said.

The authorities also reported the arrest on Sunday of a young Tamil, aged

He also said that Tamil fishermen in the Mannar area had reported the landing of two unknown boats. The persons who had arrived in them appeared to have vanished into the jungle. The security forces, who destroyed the boats, were combing the jungles for the visitors, the spokesman said.

He also reported the arrest on Sunday of 16 suspected terrorists, taken into custody by soldiers of the Palali camp. They are believed to be members of the Eelam People's Revolutionary Liberation Front (EPRLF).

The authorities also reported the arrest on Sunday of a young Tamil, aged

26, taken in on suspicion by an airport security official. The suspect, who hailed from Negombo, was in possession of some "very revealing documents".

They also found a small diary on him. "There was information in it which is considered to be significant breakthrough. The CID has taken over the investigation", the spokesman said.

He also reported that continuing operations on the Kent farm area were continuing and "12 more terrorists have been killed in the jungle. It's a vast jungle. I didn't realise what it was like until I saw a film of it", the spokesman said.

Curfew in A'pura, Ja-Ela

The government yesterday imposed a curfew in Anuradhapura and Ja-Ela.

The curfew in Anuradhapura was operative from 6 p.m. yesterday. It will end at 6 a.m. today.

In Negombo and Ja-Ela AGA's divisions the curfew was effective from 5 p.m. yesterday. It will end at 6 a.m. today.

In Jaffna, Kilinochchi and Mullativu the curfew was operative from 4 p.m. yesterday till 6 a.m. today.

In Mannar, Batticaloa and Vavuniya the curfew came into force at 8 p.m. yesterday. It will end at 6 a.m. today.

The curfew which began at 6 p.m. yesterday in the AGA's division of Tirukkovil and Akkarpattu will end at 6 a.m. today.



Infamous July 1983 pogrom

LTTE violated right to life

WUJITHA NAKKAWITA

The first act of genocide by the LTTE terrorists in early December 1984 was at two villages in Padaviya, in the named Kent Farm and Dollar Farm killing 65 Sinhalese villagers including children and women and men burning down their homes and stocks of rice brought out the reality of what they called a war of liberation.

The thin veneer of the pretence of being freedom fighters as the terrorists called themselves had been pierced and torn to shreds by the most heinous and bloodthirsty acts committed by all the Tamil Tiger outfits starting from the first ones like the ENDLF, EROS, EPRLF or PLOTE

yet the brutality of the LTTE always surpassed that of all other racist terrorist groups of this country.

One had to recall that the LTTE more than other terrorist groups enjoyed the patronage of foreign organizations and governments mainly due to political blunders committed by mediocre political leaders in Colombo even when it was known that India was the clandestine patron helping the terrorist groups.

However, more than attacking the Armed Forces or the police it was recorded that the LTTE held expertise in killing innocent unarmed civilians in larger and larger numbers after they killed the 65 people at the Kent and

Dollar Farm villages. At that time the so-called human rights activists or political leaders like Ranil Wickremesinghe who had earned a reputation for calling for the protection of human rights – though it is well-known that he was a minister of the government with the worst record of violation of human rights had around 50,000 people who involuntarily disappeared in 1988-89-90 – the champions of human rights were notable absentees!

The local and international NGOs like the Human Rights Watch appeared out of their watch about the gross and brutal genocide by the LTTE.

The hypocrisy of most west European nations and certain individuals of influ-

ence in those country was also a clearly visible factor. In fact before the Kent and Dollar Farm massacre took place a tutor of politics at Ruskin College, Oxford David Selborne who was one of the British propagandists of the LTTE terrorists had told the Illustrated Weekly of India in 1982 "Vavuniya not Jaffna is the front line of the Tamil struggle and for this battlefield they will not be defeated."

It was very clear that the British who had harped on violation of human rights during the recently concluded humanitarian operations demonstrated political and diplomatic duplicity as they continued to keep Anton Balasingham, the international spokesman of the LTTE

terrorist even after it was banned by their governments amply showing that the British governments were not sincere in their attitude towards their former workers as the Western Nations and their agencies not only Selborne had been hand in glove with the racist terrorists preparing the ground work for their future plans and Vavuniya the district in which

Padaviya is located was over a long period of time prepared as the base for terrorists activity. Though little known from the late 1970s groups of persons and individuals from the plantation sector were brought to Vavuniya district and settled in temporary shacks or houses put up for them. It was well-known that the INGO Redd Barna sponsored this settlement of squatters and Selborne and other west European busybodies were engaged in this covert and illegal operation in the North and around 50,000 people from the plantation sector were settled after 1977 especially in and around Vavuniya where large extents of bare lands were available. Once the terrorists espe-

cially the LTTE started its activities – bloodletting of innocents – the Sinhalese and later the Muslims were to be chased out. The grandiose plan of the LTTE with the main strategy of ethnic cleansing would have been achieved especially with their European godfathers planning and playing covert but important roles to assist the racist terrorists even when these countries and individuals knew that their activities would threaten the lives of the people and destabilize the economy of a country that had close and friendly diplomatic or even cultural ties with some of those godfather nations. Therefore, the strategy of the LTTE that attacked the two villages killing 65 civilians was aimed at

instilling fear into the Sinhalese at that time forcing them to leave the Vavuniya district so that they could strengthen their bases to build their separate Tamil state. With the squatters from the upcountry plantation people of Indian origin settled there, the next strategy of the terrorists groups, not only the LTTE was to get those people too to join what they called the liberation struggle of the Tamils. The attack on Sinhala villages was followed by acts of genocide where thousands of unarmed Sinhalese and Muslim civilians were killed with no international human rights groups or INGOs coming even to condemn such atrocious crimes of violating even the right to life.