

# CHRONOLOGY OF LTTE TERROR - Part 9

From the **Daily News Archives**

When the euphoria of victory dies down, and together with it the media hype ceases, when the guns do not rattle and boom anymore, and the sky, the land and the sea become calm and serene, when tranquillity reigns through it is natural to live in the present moment and forget the past. But one cannot live in the present without a past. Nor can one envision the future discarding the experience of the preceding events.

Hence the *Daily News* is serialising the Chronicle of LTTE Terror taken from our own archives which would remind our readers how it all began. An awareness of the chronology of terror would help us prevent the recurrence of such terror and frustrate any attempts by misguided elements to repeat history to suit their evil designs. It was not simple terror. Nor was terror sporadic. It was all pre-planned, pre-determined, well-calculated terror. The victims were innocent people. Though it is too many innumerate we would like to recall the major episodes in the Chronology of Terror.



Another civilian target bomb in a bus.

## LTTE didn't care even for the IPKF

WILUJHA NAKKAWITA

As seen earlier the Indian Peace Keeping Force that was intended at least theoretically to keep peace by disarming the Tamil terrorist groups the LTTE had decided that they would not cooperate with the IPKF nor stop their acts of terrorism. On October 17 Indian Premier Rajiv Gandhi was quoted saying that the IPKF may have to go on the offensive as more and more civilians were being killed by the LTTE.

The entire exercise of devotion of power to appease the LTTE with intervention of a foreign power it was becoming more and more clear, could not be achieved given the intransigence of the terrorist group that did not stop their movement with any intention of accepting a political formula for peace as the word peace did not have any meaning in the LTTE's vocabulary or policy. They were a group of killers whose final objective was to capture the northern and eastern provinces and later when they were strong enough to spread terrorism to the whole country with a view to establishing their racist state of Eelam in the whole country.

For it would have been only foolish to believe the LTTE would stop at the northern and eastern province borders as the plan of the leader and his cohorts was much more grandiose than what most people at that time believed. For, the LTTE that started by killing the leaders of the Tamil people and all Tamils whom they believed would oppose them or even disagree with them meant that the so-called Eelam would be a State like Hitler's Nazi State where no dissent nor free expression of ideas were tolerated. As history proved such dictators or tyrants always reneged on their promises and dishonored their promises. For instance Hitler despite hav-



An IPKF patrol.

**The government of J.R.Jayewardene had confined the armed forces of the North and East to barracks**

ing had come to an accord with the then Soviet Russia (USSR) invaded that State and Mussolini's invasion of Ethiopia then known as Abyssinia were some of the several examples of reneged promises of tyrants. In the case of Prabhakaran or the LTTE that common disregard for any tradition or civilized conduct meant that he took India for a ride and by October 1987 it was becoming patently clear that the LTTE did not care a straw for its former patrons. By the third week of October 1987 the IPKF now determined to keep the LTTE out of Jaffna were advancing on several fronts and it was becoming obvious that the LTTE would no longer be able to hold sway in their own home soil.

Though on the run most of the time the terrorist group still managed to escape being detected by the Indian Javans as they had two clear advantages over the Indians. The first was that the LTTE knew the terrain, shortcuts and places where they could remain in hiding and the second that they still had their informants or sympathizers in the North though their popularity was on the wane.

The government of J.R.Jayewardene by this time had confined the armed forces of the North and East to barracks and even the local police sta-

tions were only engaged in nominal duties like inquiring into minor complaints. Thus the rule of Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka by that time had neither been democratic, socialist nor republican to say the least.

Though some people still call J.R.J. an astute leader or even go as far as to call him a statesman by this time he had become a "Stateless Man" as the edict of India was present possibly even in his own office. When the IPKF was surrounding the unyielding LTTE in Jaffna they wished to divert the attention by resorting to diver-

sionary tactics by attacking targets in the East and in this case civilians and IPKF members were targeted in the Eastern province. An IPKF patrol of 17 Javans went missing while in Jaffna 20 of them were killed in a land mine.

The LTTE did not stop at that and killed 10 Sinhalese civilians at Serunuwara and another 5 at Kital Uthura adding to the total number of civilians to more than 60 during the month. Other killings of civilians were to follow despite the fact that the LTTE was on the run now with the IPKF on their heels.

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men of the Indian peace-keepers were killed and four were in a landmine blast at the northern outskirts of Jaffna yesterday, as the IPKF's bid to disarm the LTTE entered its sixth day.

The explosion occurred as the lead vehicle of a convoy of seven entered Mylambivali, on the Batticaloa-Serunuwara road, yesterday morning. It was one of three major incidents reported from the Eastern province where the LTTE, according to military observers, is engaged in diversionary strategy to draw the fire from the Jaffna peninsula, which is now the main target of IPKF operations.

IPKF troops who tracked the source at which the landmine was triggered - a deserted house - a few yards away - kept following cycle tracks which led away from it, and were fired at from ambush at a spot nearly a mile further away. An engagement was in progress at this spot and no details of its outcome were immediately available in Colombo, official sources said.

At yesterday's news briefing at the Indian High Commission, an official denied that troops had engaged in any reprisals at the scene of the landmine. Correspondents said there were reports of reprisals including burning of houses and assaults. The diplomats said all such charges would be investigated.

In Delhi, an Indian External Affairs Ministry spokesman said he had "no idea" about the whereabouts of Prabhakaran.

leader would never be taken alive as he wore a cyanide capsule round his neck.

The other Eastern Province incidents reported were the killing of 10 Sinhala civilians at Elakande-Serunuwara on the Allai-Kantalai road, and five others at Kital Uthura, where a landmine was triggered by LTTE fighters.

The IPKF lost two soldiers in Jaffna in addition to the 20 landmine victims in Batticaloa bringing the total death toll since Saturday to 79.

An Indian diplomat said 17 Indian soldiers were missing since Wednesday and the LTTE communications intercepts indicated that they had been captured by the Tigers. They were ambushed and captured while on a search operation.

The IPKF now has firm information that 380 Tigers had died since the beginning of the operation and the number injured exceed 500. An intercept read out by an Indian diplomat at a news briefing last evening said: "A large number of LTTE cadres are dead".

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Aftermath of the LTTE bomb blast at Hotel Galadari, Colombo.

**TOMORROW**

LTTE landmine kills 40 Tamils

**YESTERDAY**

Murderous revenge by Tigers in Jaffna