

Terrorism in the guise of liberation – 20



■ President Mahinda Rajapaksa, despite security advice by the Scotland Yard about to pro-LTTE protesters in London, emerged like a lion from his hotel to address peace-loving Sri Lankan expatriates who were in their numbers to support Sri Lanka's reconciliation efforts.

■ Speaking to Sri Lankans who had demonstrated in support of Sri Lanka Government, President Rajapaksa said he would never allow any force on earth to rob Sri Lanka's hard-earned peace. That has been a bold and fearless statement by the President who is currently in London to attend the Diamond Jubilee celebrations of Britain's Queen Elizabeth II.



■ There was a time LTTE terrorists killed thousands of innocent civilians in broad daylight, violating all accepted norms and human rights. There was hardly anybody to support Sri Lanka then, except for a

handful of friendly countries. It was due to supreme sacrifices made by the true sons of our soil that all communities are enjoying the dividends of peace today.

■ In the guise of the so-called liberation of Tamils, LTTE terrorists inflicted untold misery on hundreds of thousands of innocent civilians, including their own community. It is still fresh in people's memories how the LTTE terrorists carried out some of the most brutal bomb attacks during this period in previous months.



Vavuniya

■ This is the 20th in a series of graphic stories by the **Sunday Observer** on the anniversaries of those indiscriminate and inhuman attacks.

■ **June 11, 1985:** 13 Sinhalese settlers were shot dead by armed Tiger terrorists in Dehiwatta, Muttur.

■ **June 11, 1986:** Two bombs exploded in two CTB buses one in front of the Bank of Ceylon and another in close proximity to the SP's office, along Inner Harbour Road, Trincomalee. Almost simultaneously which were bound for Kantalai and Colombo respectively. 22 persons were killed due to the explosion. 75 others injured.

■ **June 11, 1987:** 13 civilians killed in a pressure mine explosion, Veppankulam. Private Van No. 38 Sri 496 proceeding from Horowpathana to Trincomalee was blasted by an LTTE pressure mine.

■ **June 12, 1987:** 175 villagers who assembled to discuss about construction of a new temple were surrounded by the LTTE at the old temple site. The brutal LTTE attack killed eight villagers while several were injured in Godapotta, near Medirigiriya, Polonnaruwa.

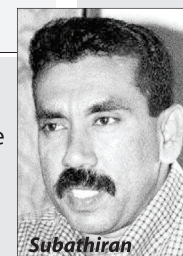
■ **June 12, 1991:** LTTE bomb explosion in Manmunai ferry in Kokkadicholai, killing 14 people, including 10 civilians.

■ **June 14, 2000:** Two civilians were killed and 11 persons sustain injuries during an abortive attempt by a person on a bicycle fitted with an explosive device at the Gemunu Palace cinema junction in Wattala to target a Sri Lanka Air Force bus.

■ **June 12, 2006:** A Tamil political party member in Nunavil, Jaffna was severely injured after he was shot by LTTE gunmen. In a separate incident, a group of Tiger terrorists attacked Kopay police station with small arms fire after throwing a hand grenade at the main entrance.



■ **June 14, 2003:** Leader of the EPRLF political party, Thambirajah Subathiran was murdered in Jaffna by an LTTE sniper. Subathiran has been critical of the way LTTE have been harassing the Tamil population in Jaffna.



Subathiran

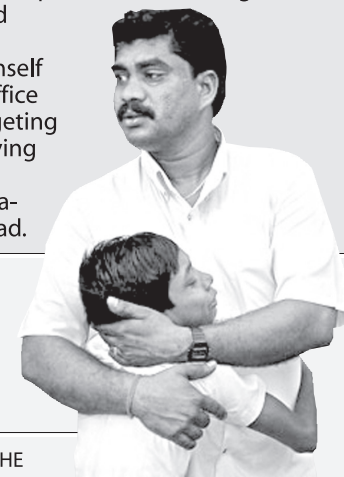
■ **June 15, 2006:** LTTE terrorists murdered 64 passengers and injured at least 80 by exploding a claymore mine on a bus to Kebithigollewa, Anuradhapura. Most of the killed were children. The LTTE launched twin side-charger claymore mines targeting the civilian Tata CTB bus using a remote control device soon after the Army and the homeguards cleared the road. This was the only available bus for these villages to reach

Kebithigollewa for their daily needs. Most of them were attending the Kebithigollewa hospital children's clinic.

■ **June 11, 2008:** The Security Forces averted a major disaster planned by the LTTE when a time bomb was found in the heart of Anuradhapura city close to the main clock tower along Main Street on a tip off. If the bomb, hidden in a parcel containing a pair of shoes inside a barrel placed on the roadside near a hotel, had gone off many civilians would have been killed.

■ **June 16, 2008:** A suspected LTTE suicide bomber on a motorbike blew himself up in front of a police building in Vavuniya, killing 12 police personnel, including three female police officers and wounding 23 others. The suicide bomber blew himself up in front of the SSP's office complex in Vavuniya targeting the police personnel leaving the SSP office for their duties along the Vavuniya-Medawachchiya main road.

■ We salute Sri Lanka's Security Forces for providing a safer today for all communities to live in peace and harmony.



GRAPHIC BY MAHIL WJESINGHE