

Terrorism in the guise of liberation – 48

■ The LTTE cohorts have made numerous unsuccessful attempts to tarnish Sri Lanka's image and prevent the country hosting the Commonwealth Heads of Government meeting in Colombo in November, 2013.

■ Despite Canada's objection, the majority of Commonwealth States have given the green light to Sri Lanka. Australia's Foreign Minister Bob Carr's recent visit to Sri Lanka has strengthened bilateral relations further. It is evident that Australia has the best understanding on Sri Lanka's developments - much more than any other Western nation.



■ **Dec. 28, 1997:** Three suicide bombers died when their truck exploded half a mile from the Magalle naval base in Galle District where Navy Commander Cecil Tissera was staying. Ten shops and two houses were damaged.



Joseph Pararajasingham

■ **Dec. 28, 2008:** Eight persons were killed when a suspected LTTE suicide bomber blew himself up after entering the premises of a Civil Defence Force (CDF) post at Wattala in the Colombo District. One Army officer, six CDF personnel and one civilian died while 17 others sustained injuries.

■ Hence, the CHOGM 2013 will enable Sri Lanka to showcase its development after terrorism was eradicated. Let the Commonwealth Heads of State find out for themselves the agony we underwent for almost three decades under LTTE terror.



■ It is still fresh in people's memories how LTTE terrorists carried out some of the most brutal bomb attacks during this period.

■ This is the 48th in a series of graphic stories by the **Sunday Observer** on the anniversaries of those indiscriminate and inhuman attacks.

■ **Dec. 25, 2005:** LTTE terrorists shot dead former TNA and TULF Batticaloa District MP Joseph Pararajasingham in Batticaloa.

■ **Dec. 25, 2006:** A policeman was killed after Tigers lobbed a grenade at officers guarding a church in Mannar on Christmas day. The LTTE attacked a police post at St. Lucia's church in Mannar district.

■ **Dec. 26, 1998:** LTTE terrorists shot dead the General Secretary, TULF Nallur Branch, Pon Mathimukarajah (Mathimugaraj).

■ Championing the human rights of terrorists would only support and encourage terrorist groups the world over. The UN Human Rights Council should only respect the human rights of civilians and not that of terrorists, either directly or indirectly.

■ Any further action against a sovereign state such as Sri Lanka at the UNHRC would set a bad precedent and infuse fresh hopes for global terrorism. When the Tiger terrorists mercilessly killed hundreds of thousands of innocent people, hardly any of these godfathers of human rights were there even to speak a word on behalf of Sri Lankans who had been at the receiving end of terrorism.



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

GRAPHICS BY MAHIL WIJESINGHE



St. Lucia's church in Mannar

■ The Australian Foreign Minister has demonstrated implicit faith in Sri Lanka's own mechanism for reconciliation - the Report of the Lessons Learnt and Reconciliation Committee (LLRC). He referred to the LLRC report as the 'best instrument' to resolve issues. Minister Carr's remarks on Canada's stance to skip the 2013 CHOGM is an eye opener to one and all.

