

# Terrorism in the guise of liberation – 52



■ Sri Lanka's friendly countries which helped us during the 2006-2009 battle against terrorism never meddled in the country's internal matters. They always respected the country's sovereignty and territorial integrity and stayed clear of internal affairs.

■ Nevertheless, a few Western countries have once again begun being extremely concerned about Sri Lanka's internal affairs. These countries had been a safe haven for LTTE terrorists though their leaders glibly talk about the need to eradicate international terrorism.

■ It is common knowledge how anti-Government and Opposition activists joined INGOs and LTTE cohorts during the impeachment motion against Dr. Mrs. Shirani Bandaranayake.



■ The United Nations Human Rights Council, several countries in the West and numerous INGOs have been voicing strongly against human rights and acts against mankind. But hardly any of those countries took any notable measure to stop LTTE terrorist acts against civilians in Sri Lanka.



■ The LTTE, the world's most ruthless terrorist outfit, had been instrumental in hundreds of terror attacks, massive bomb explosions targeting innocent civilians and brutal killings for almost three decades until they were crushed militarily in May, 2009.

■ In the guise of the so-called liberation to 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.

■ This is the 52nd in a series of graphic stories by the **Sunday Observer** on the anniversaries of those indiscriminate and inhuman attacks.

■ **Jan. 20, 1985:** LTTE carried out a massive explosion in a train in Colombo killing 22 soldiers and 10 civilians.



*Attack on the Sri Dalada Maligawa*

■ **Jan. 21, 1984:** One person was killed and several others were injured due to an LTTE bomb blast at Oberoi Hotel, Colombo.

■ **Jan. 21, 1987:** The LTTE showed its ruthless terror when they exploded a massive bomb at the Pettah Bo Tree, near the Bus Stand, Colombo, killing 111 people and injuring hundreds of others.



■ **Jan. 21, 2009:** Two persons were killed and 11 others injured including four schoolchildren, when a bicycle bomb exploded near the Batticaloa police station. The bomb had been triggered off by suspected LTTE cadres during the morning rush hour.

■ **Jan. 22, 2009:** The United Nations in Sri Lanka issued its strongest possible protest to the LTTE for their refusal to allow UN staff and dependents to return from the Vanni with the UN convoy.

■ **Jan. 23, 1991:** Armed terrorists hacked to death 25 Sinhalese villagers and injured several others in Bogamuyaya, Maha Oya in the Ampara district. Subsequently, four of the injured succumbed to their injuries.

■ **Jan. 23, 2007:** Five schoolchildren were among 15 civilians injured in two separate claymore mine attacks in the Jaffna peninsula in which a soldier and another civilian were killed. Two soldiers were also injured in the blast which occurred at Sandilippai and Chavakachcheri. A soldier was killed and eight civilians injured when a claymore mine went off in Thanankilappu, Chavakachcheri targeting an Army truck.



■ **Jan. 24, 2000:** LTTE terrorists executed 14 civilians, whom the Tigers suspected of giving information to the army regarding their movements.

■ **Jan. 24, 2006:** *Sudar Oli* correspondent Subramaniam Sugrirdharajan was shot dead by terrorists in Trincomalee.

■ **Jan. 24, 1978:** K. Kanagaratnam was shot in the head at Kollupitiya by Uma Maheshwaran and other LTTE members for switching party affiliation from the TULF to the UNP.



■ **Jan. 25, 1998:** Sixteen persons were killed while 23 were injured when the Sri Dalada Maligawa was attacked by a group of LTTE suicide bombers causing extensive damage to its buildings.

■ **Jan. 25, 2008:** Thalangama police averted a major disaster when a constable on foot patrol found C4 explosives at the Japan-Lanka Friendship bridge.

■ **Jan. 26, 1992:** A private bus plying between Maha Oya and Ampara got caught in a land mine explosion killing nine civilians and an Airman while 26 people were wounded.

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



*Uma Maheshwaran*

GRAPHICS BY MAHIL WIJESINGHE