

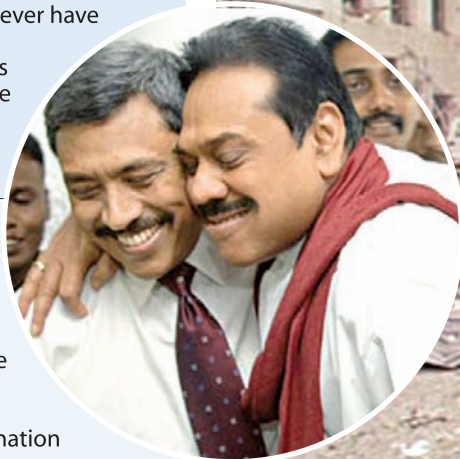
Terrorism in the guise of liberation – 53

■ The damage and the devastation that had been made during three decades of terror may be a forgotten chapter to many. But the manner in which Sri Lanka crushed terrorism almost single handedly, except for the support of a few friendly countries, is written in the country's history in letters of gold.

■ If not for the political sagacity of President Mahinda Rajapaksa, Sri Lanka would never have achieved that herculean task. Defence Secretary Gotabaya Rajapaksa, with his vast first-hand experience as a versatile senior Army officer, gave that much-needed leadership to the Security Forces in the battlefield.

■ We recall the immense sacrifices made by the country's valiant Security Forces with gratitude. They gave their lives to make our country a safer place. They sacrificed their future to offer us a safer tomorrow. The nation is ever grateful to all those true sons of our soil for all those immense sacrifices they had made to unite the nation under the Lion flag.

■ Nevertheless, a few Western countries have once again become 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.



Central Bank bombing in Fort

■ In the guise of 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 53rd and final in a series of graphic stories by the **Sunday Observer** on the anniversaries of those indiscriminate and inhuman attacks.

■ **Jan. 27, 2000:** At least 11 civilians were killed and over 70 wounded when LTTE terrorists exploded a bomb in a letter box at the main post office in Vavuniya. Officials said a parcel bomb went off inside the post office, which is opposite a police station, at 1100 hours local time, totally destroying it



■ **Jan. 28, 1990:** Former EPRLF minister, North Eastern Provincial Council, P. Ganesgalingam was gunned down by Tiger terrorists in Colombo.

■ **Jan. 30, 2000:** Two people were killed and at least 14 people were wounded when the LTTE terrorists exploded another bomb at Polgahawela in a bus heading for Colombo.

■ **Jan. 31, 1996:** A suicide cadres detonated a truck loaded with more than 100 kilograms of explosives in front of the Central Bank at Janadipathi Mawatha in Colombo killing 91 people and wounding 1,338 others.

■ **Jan. 31, 2008:** A LTTE suicide bomber on a bicycle blew himself at Thinnaveli in the Jaffna district killing three civilians and injuring 17 others.

■ **Feb. 2, 1986:** Tiger terrorists raided Kantale Village in the Trincomalee District, massacring 19 villagers and injuring several others.



■ **Feb. 2, 2008:** LTTE terrorists exploded a bomb in a passenger bus at Dambulla, killing 20 passengers and injuring over 50 others.

■ **Feb. 3, 2008:** A suicide bomber exploded herself at on board a train at the Colombo Fort railway station killing eleven people and wounding 97 others.



■ During the past one year, we have been refreshing your minds with those brutal killings and bomb explosions of the LTTE during its three decades of terrorism. It is unfortunate that certain countries and organisations still attempt to resurrect the Tigers by talking about their human rights while completely ignoring that of innocent civilians killed by the terror outfit.

We once again salute Sri Lanka's Security Forces for providing a safer today for all communities to live in peace and harmony. All Sri Lankans must rally round to protect this hard-earned peace.



GRAPHICS BY MAHIL WIJESINGHE

End of series.



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■ 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 them had taken 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.