

Atrocities by LTTE terrorists

March 31 - April 6



■ It is still fresh in people's minds how LTTE terrorists carried out some of the most brutal bomb attacks and massacred Sinhala, Tamil and Muslim civilians during their three-decades of terror.

■ This ***Sunday Observer*** graphic series highlights how the Tigers carried out their brutal terror acts in the guise of so-called liberation until they were crushed militarily by

■ **March 31, 1988:** Terrorists attacked a village at Saindamarandu, Kalmunai, killing 17 civilians - ten Muslims and seven Tamils.

■ **March 31, 1991:** LTTE cadres shot dead eight civilians at a night market in Irudayapuram, Batticaloa.



■ **April 1, 1996:** At least 10 Special Forces personnel were killed after two LTTE suicide squad cadres detonated a boat laden with explosives at Vettalaikerni.

■ **April 1, 1999:** Two civilians were killed and several others were wounded when an LTTE suicide bomber exploded himself at the Central Bus Stand in Kandy.

■ **April 1, 2007:** The LTTE killed six innocent Sinhala aid workers who were attending to construction work at Village of Hope, a housing scheme for orphaned children in Eravur, Mailambaveli. Two others suffered serious gunshot injuries. The Sinhala civilian workers were helping the Tamil community to provide better living conditions for children.



■ **April 1, 2008:** The LTTE directed 120 mm artillery fire at the Murunkan hospital causing heavy damage to a hospital building. One 120 mm shell fell on the hospital building compelling patients to flee the hospital in search of cover. Security Forces and Police took prompt action to evacuate the patients into safer areas.

■ **April 2, 2000:** LTTE terrorists went on a killing spree and overran the Elephant Pass camp killing 758 soldiers and injuring 2,368, many of them seriously.



■ **April 2, 2007:** The LTTE exploded a bomb at SLCTB bus 63-4387 plying between Ampara and Badulla at Konduwattawan in Ampara district killing 17 people, including women and children. When the bus was stopped at a check point, the terrorists exploded a bomb planted inside the bus.



■ **April 2, 2008:** A group of suspected LTTE cadres killed a man and his 17-year-old son when they had gone to collect firewood in the Katupattuwa area in Wilpattu yesterday afternoon.

■ **April 3, 1991:** LTTE terrorists on two boats surrounded six vallams and opened fire at the fishermen at Keviliya, Foul Point in Trincomalee. Some fishermen jumped into the sea and swam. Four vallams were set on fire. Ten dead bodies and 11 injured were found. Over 16 were believed to have drowned after being shot.

■ **April 3, 2008:** Priests at Madhu Church conveyed the Sacred Statue of Our Lady of Madhu to a safer place following a virtual takeover of the church premises by LTTE terrorists, who invaded the church and installed mines and booby traps in the vicinity.



■ **April 4, 2005:** Director of Vocational Training, T. Kailainathan was killed by terrorists in Jaffna.

■ **April 5, 2005:** The LTTE violated the Norwegian-brokered ceasefire. A truce monitor on board a Navy patrol boat in the sea off Trincomalee suffered injuries, as LTTE cadres, in a deliberate ceasefire violation, fired at the boat. The Navy boat on routine patrol came under LTTE fire around 9.52 a.m. in the seas off Upparu, in Trincomalee.

■ **April 5, 2007:** LTTE cadres attacked a village in Nidanwela, Aralaganwila, killing over ten civilians.



■ **April 6, 2008:** Minister of Highways and Chief Government Whip Jeyaraj Fernandopulle and 13 others were killed in a suicide attack carried out by the LTTE at a sporting event in Weliweriya. Minister Fernandopulle was about to inaugurate a marathon when a suspected LTTE suicide bomber disguised as a marathon runner blew himself up, killing the Minister and at least 12 others, including Sri Lanka national athletic coach Lakshman de Alwis and Olympic marathon runner and national record holder K.A. Karunaratna. Over 90 people were injured.

■ **April 6, 2009:** A woman suicide bomber of the LTTE blew herself in the Ramanathapuram area of Mullaitivu district immediately after she spotted the presence of Army troops ahead of her. One of the officers on duty was injured.

The freedom enjoyed by one and all today had been achieved due to the supreme sacrifices by the Security Forces, the political sagacity of President Mahinda Rajapaksa and the military strategies of Defence Secretary Gotabaya Rajapaksa.



GRAPHIC BY MANIL WIJESINGHE