

# Atrocities by LTTE terrorists

April 21 - 27

■ 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-decade of terror.

■ This **Sunday Observer** graphic series highlights how the Tigers carried out their brutal terror acts in the guise of the so-called liberation until they were crushed militarily by our valiant Security Forces by May 18, 2009.

■ **April 21, 1987:** Over 116 people were killed and 298 people sustained injuries when the LTTE exploded a powerful bomb opposite Central Bus Stand in Pettah, Colombo.



■ **April 21, 1987:** Tiger terrorists stormed Jayanthipura Village and shot dead 15 civilians while injuring a few others.

■ **April 21, 2008:** The LTTE took control of the sacred Madhu church and removed the statue of Our Lady of Madhu into an uncleared area.



Catholic Bishops' Conference (CBC) appealed to the LTTE to adhere strictly and observe international law regarding places of worship and asked the outfit occupying the sacred precincts to vacate the premises forthwith.

■ **April 22, 2003:** Meera Lebbe (50), a resident of Selvanagar in Muttur, was shot dead by the LTTE. The attackers had slashed the neck of the man and taken away the head. His daughter Lafir Sashila (24) who was with him survived with injuries.

■ **April 22, 2007:** The Body of a fisherman who went missing following the LTTE attack on a group of fishermen in the Silvathurai Sea was found near the seas off Baththalanguduwa. The LTTE threatened a group of fishermen and forcibly took away 13 boats fitted with high powered outboard motors.

■ **April 23, 2006:** The LTTE murdered a three-year-old Muslim child while he was with his mother in Trincomalee.

■ **April 23, 2006:** LTTE terrorists massacred six Sinhala farmers working in their paddy fields in Kalyanapura, Gomarankadawala in Trincomalee District. The victims were trying to retrieve a tractor that had got stuck in a muddy paddy field. Suddenly, a group of LTTE cadres raced in from the nearby forest and indiscriminately fired on them. Two 15-year-old children were among those gunned down by the Tigers.



■ **April 23, 2007:** Five civilians were killed and 35 others injured when a Colombo bound night bus from Mannar was caught in a LTTE claymore mine near Chettikulam. When the bus was passing the Manik Farm Junction, the LTTE triggered the claymore mine.

■ **April 24, 2006:** LTTE terrorists hacked to death a young mother while she was breastfeeding her infant at home in the Block C area of Serunuwara in Trincomalee.

■ **April 24, 2007:** Six soldiers, five attached to the Engineering Regiment and one attached to the Infantry Regiment were killed as an LTTE light aircraft dropped three bombs on Palaly Air Base. 20 LTTE artillery shells fell inside and outside Palaly High Security Zone. They were fired from the direction of Pooneryn.



■ **April 25, 2006:** Army Commander Lt. General Sarath Fonseka was critically injured and at least eight persons were killed when a female suicide cadre of the LTTE, disguised as a pregnant woman, blew herself up in front of the military hospital inside the Colombo Army headquarters. 27 persons were injured in the explosion.

■ **April 25, 2008:** LTTE carried out a cowardly bomb attack targeting innocent civilians who were returning home after office hours at Pliyandala. A powerful bomb was exploded inside a CTB bus parked at Pliyandala public bus stand. 24 people including a monk were killed and 52 people, including schoolchildren were injured.



■ **April 26, 2006:** United States vowed to organise an international pressure campaign against the LTTE in the aftermath of Tuesday's suicide bombing which injured Army Commander. Assistant Secretary of State Richard Boucher said the State Department was in touch in Washington and abroad with other countries "to bring to bear whatever pressure we can on the Tigers to abandon this course of action" and to look for ways to support the Government of Sri Lanka.



■ **April 27, 2006:** The LTTE miserably failed in their attempt to recruit children to their baby brigades from Trincomalee as none of the children had shown any interest in joining the LTTE fighting battalions. The LTTE had carried out an extensive campaign in the Tamil populated Salli area in Trincomalee for several weeks in a desperate bid to recruit more children to the terror outfit.

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 MAHIL WIJESINGHE