

Atrocities by LTTE terrorists

May 12 - 18

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 the so-called liberation until they were crushed militarily by our valiant Security Forces by May 18, 2009.

■ **May 12, 1997:** LTTE terrorists stormed into Sinhala-dominated village of Morawewa in the Trincomalee district. Five villagers were butchered to death while several others were injured.

■ **May 12, 1999:** Pradeshiya Sabha member, M. Balasingham was killed by LTTE terrorists in Urumpirei, Jaffna.

■ **May 12, 2006:** Seven bodies of the 18 crew members of Dvora P-418 which sank after an LTTE attack off Vettalaikerni two days ago were found. Eighteen crew members including the commander of the vessel Lt. Commander E.A.L.P. Edirisinghe and Slt. R.M.D.H.S. Rathnayake and an Army signalman A.M. Tissa Abeykoon were reported missing.



■ **May 12, 2008:** A piece of torso of a person and diving equipment were found floating near the sunken Naval ship in Trincomalee, suggesting the handiwork of a suicide bomber in the destruction of the vessel a week ago. The dawn explosion ripped through a navy logistics ship, A 520 - *MV Invincible*.

■ **May 13, 2008:** Minister Douglas Devananda's Advisor Attorney-at-Law Maheshwary Velautham was killed by LTTE gunmen in Vinindil, Point Pedro. The human rights activist and lawyer succumbed to gunshot injuries before being taken to hospital.



■ **May 14, 1985:** LTTE attacked the sacred Jaya Sri Maha Bodhi, Anuradhapura and brutally killed over 146 civilians and wounded another 85 people. Many Buddhist monks and pilgrims who were inside the sacred Jaya Sri Maha Bodhi premises were among the dead.

■ **May 14, 1985:** The LTTE shot dead 18 Sinhala civilians in the Wilpattu forest reserve.



■ **May 14, 1998:** Brigadier Larry Wijeyaratne was killed in Jaffna by a woman suicide bomber wearing an abdominal belt bomb.

■ **May 14, 2007:** Chief Incumbent of Sri Pabbatharamaya Temple, Mahadivulwewa - Stage 1, Morawewa, Venerable Hadungamuwe Nandarathana was gunned down by Tiger terrorists in Morawewa.

■ **May 14, 2007:** The National Peace Council accused the LTTE of continuing with forcible recruitment of children and adults in the Mannar area regardless of protests by the Catholic Church. The NPC said that the situation in parts of the north, in particular, has sharply deteriorated with the LTTE stepping up its recruitment drive.



■ **May 14, 2008:** The LTTE intensified its forcible recruitment drive, depriving the education rights of those who sat for the Ordinary Level exam. The LTTE recruitment drive targeted schoolchildren in the Kilinochchi and Mullaitivu districts who had failed the G.C.E. O/L examination.

■ **May 15, 2000:** Tiger terrorists shot dead a Member of the Jaffna Municipal Council, Santhanam Kandeepan at Arasadi area, while he was standing outside his house.



■ **May 15, 2000:** LTTE terrorists killed six civilians in random shelling of densely populated areas around Jaffna.

■ **May 15, 2007:** The LTTE set fire to an SLCTB school bus in Jaffna after ordering schoolchildren to get out. The bus belonging to the Kondavil depot was plying from Maradanamadam to Urumpirai with students when it was forced to stop. Nine children were injured.

■ **May 15, 2009:** An explosion in the Vellamullivaikkal area targeting the 58th Division troops at the frontal defence positions failed to inflict damages to the SFs as the red-coloured LTTE double cab prematurely exploded and went up in flames as it was nearing the troops. At least five LTTE suicide bombers inside the double cab were killed in the huge explosion.



■ **May 15, 2009:** The Navy captured Sea Tiger leader Soosai's family members while they were attempting to escape by sea off Mullaitivu.

■ **May 16, 1992:** A group of LTTE terrorists stormed Kosgolla village in Ampara and butchered five civilians using swords and axes.

■ **May 16, 2008:** Thirteen people, including several police personnel, were killed and 95 others were injured when an LTTE suicide bomber on a motorcycle laden with explosives rammed into a bus carrying police officers near Sambuddhaloka Temple, Colombo Fort. Ten other vehicles were also damaged.



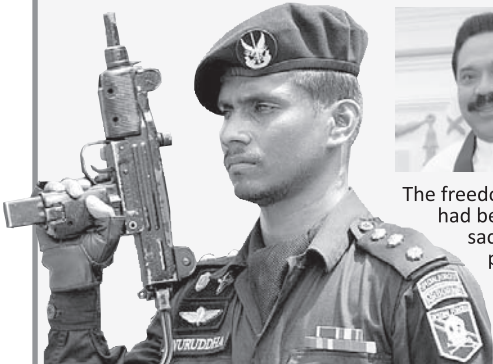
■ **May 17, 1998:** Mayor of Jaffna, Mrs. Sarojini Yogeswaran, was shot dead by LTTE terrorists at her residence in Jaffna.



■ **May 17, 2000:** A powerful bomb exploded by LTTE terrorists ripped through a Buddhist feast in Batticaloa, killing 29 people, including 6 children and wounded 80. The explosion occurred near a temple where people were witnessing an illuminated pandal on Vesak Poya Day.

■ **May 18, 1977:** Two Tamil officers who opposed LTTE terror were killed by Tiger cadres in Inuvil in the Jaffna District.

■ **May 18, 2009:** Security Forces liberated the country from the clutches of LTTE terror and successfully ended the humanitarian operation. Bodies of three key LTTE leaders identified as Nadeshan, Pulidevan and Ramesh were found during the mopping up operations North of Vellamullivaikkal. LTTE leader Velupillai Prabhakaran and several other top leaders were killed during the final phase of the battle at Nandikadal lagoon



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