

Atrocities by LTTE terrorists

May 26 - June 1

■ 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 26, 1995:** LTTE terrorists assassinated Dimbulagala Nayaka Thera – Most Ven. Matara Kithalagama Sri Seelalankara Nakaya Thera, the Chief Incumbent of the Dimbulagala temple in Dimbulagala.



■ **May 26, 2006:** India's Central Government said that the LTTE continues to pose a threat and are detrimental to the sovereignty and territorial integrity of India.

■ **May 26, 2008:** Eight people were killed and 73 civilians injured when LTTE terrorists exploded a bomb on a commuter train during rush hour in Dehiwala - the 21st terrorist attack committed by the LTTE within the first five months of 2008, killing 149 civilians in 2008 alone.



■ **May 27, 2006:** Three LTTE landmines killed seven people in the Wilpattu Wildlife Park. The victims were local visitors from Colombo that included author Nihal Silva.

■ **May 27, 2007:** The LTTE exploded a roadside bomb, targeting a truck, killing three civilians in Thirukkivil.

■ **May 28, 2007:** The LTTE exploded a claymore mine at Ratmalana, killing seven civilians and wounding 37 others.

■ **May 29, 1987:** Armed LTTE terrorists raided Kadawathmadu ancient Sinhala village in the Polonnaruwa district, killing seven civilians and injuring five others. However, the terrorists failed in their attempt for a mass killing as most villagers sleep in the jungle hideouts due to LTTE threats.

■ **May 29, 1999:** A teenaged suicide bomber on a bicycle killed Muthulingam Ganeshkumar alias Razeek, leader of an anti-LTTE vigilante group, the 'Razeek Group' on the Trincomalee road in Batticaloa. His bodyguard Chandran Jeyakumar and two other civilians were also killed and eight people were wounded.

■ **May 29, 1999:** LTTE terrorists killed P. Ganeshmoorthy, a leader of the EPRLF, in Eravur, Batticaloa.

■ **May 29, 2006:** Thirteen farm workers were cut and shot to death by LTTE cadres in Welikanda, Polonnaruwa.

■ **May 29, 2006:** LTTE terrorists brutally massacred 12 civilians working at an irrigation canal construction site in eastern Welikanda. 15 armed cadres of LTTE - some in striped uniforms and some in civilian dress tied the construction workers together and fired at them point blank killing 12 instantly.

■ **May 29, 2008:** Six civilians including two children and a woman were killed when artillery shells fired by the LTTE during a sea battle with the Security Forces fell in the Jaffna town area in the wee hours.



■ **May 30, 1985:** Five Sinhala settlers were shot dead by armed terrorists in Mahandapura and Dehiwatta in Polonnaruwa district.

■ **May 30, 1986:** An LTTE bomb explosion near Elephant House, Slave Island killed eight people and injured 22 others.

■ **May 30, 1990:** A group of LTTE terrorists raided Mahindapura and Dehiwatta villages in Trincomalee and slaughtered five civilians.

■ **May 30, 2006:** In a brutal attack on ordinary citizens, the LTTE shot dead 12 civilians in Omadiyamadu, close to Welikanda. Bodies of the 12 Sinhala villagers from Mahasenpura had been restoring a neglected stream to get water for their families.

■ **May 30, 2006:** The European Union formally banned the LTTE as a terrorist organisation. The 25-nation bloc rubber-stamped the ban, which was agreed in principle, at a meeting of EU Ministers. The ban follows a series of deadly LTTE ambushes on the military, including the abortive attacks on the *Pearl Cruise II* vessel carrying 710 service personnel.



■ **May 30, 2008:** UN Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs John Holmes condemned the LTTE's targeting of civilians, saying that more than 200 civilian lives have been lost since the beginning of 2008 to date.

■ **May 31, 1999:** Pradeshiya Sabha member T. Rajkumar was killed in a terrorist attack at Kandaramadam.

■ **May 31, 1986:** LTTE terrorists activated a train bomb at Veyangoda station, killing 13 people and injuring several others.



■ **May 31, 2005:** Head of Military Intelligence Major Nizam Muthaliph was gunned down by men believed to be from the LTTE at Polhengoda. He was on his way to participate at a function at the Kotelawela Defence University when he was hit by bullets.

■ **June 1, 2006:** Two members of the EPDP were shot dead by the LTTE in Poomankulam, Vavuniya.

■ **June 1, 2007:** The LTTE's plan for another major devastation was averted when the police seized over 1,000 kg of explosives, concealed in a lorry transporting coconuts from Kurunegala to Puttalam at a checkpoint at Kotavehera, Palugashandiya. The explosives were stacked in 47 packs each weighing 20 kg.

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