

Atrocities by LTTE terrorists

March 23 – 29



■ 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 our valiant Security Forces by May 18, 2009.

■ **March 24, 2007:** Two persons were killed when an LTTE suicide bomber blew himself up at a military checkpoint in Jaffna. The man was killed along with the soldier who tried to search him near a Hindu temple.

■ **March 24, 1991:** A Bomb exploded at the fish Market in Akkaraipattu, killing nine Muslims and injuring 32 others.



■ **March 25, 1987:** Armed LTTE cadres stormed Serunuwara village, mostly inhabited by Sinhalese and herded the farming families at gunpoint to a road. They were then shot in execution style. At least 25 villagers were killed, most of whom were women and children.

■ **March 25, 2009:** The Navy rescued 165 civilians fleeing from LTTE captivity in Mullaitivu. Among the rescued civilians were 49 men, 59 women and 57 children seeking protection with the Security Forces. Naval troops carried out the rescue missions on three occasions in the Northern seas. The first group comprising 94 persons was found fleeing in six white flag-hoisted dinghies while the second group, comprising 45 persons, was found on two dinghies. The third group consisting of 26 persons were found huddled in a lone dinghy. The civilians had fled LTTE-held areas after they had been subjected to untold privations.



■ **March 26, 2007:** A light aircraft of the LTTE failed to destroy MiG ground aircraft when the LTTE carried out a pre-dawn air attack on the Air Force Base in Katunayake. Three Air Force personnel were killed and 16 others injured when three bombs were dropped from a light aircraft over the Katunayake Air Force Base.

■ **March 26, 2008:** Three fishermen died and another three injured when 11 fishermen held by LTTE terrorists attempted to enter the cleared area at Omanthai Forward Defence Line against stiff Tiger resistance. The LTTE chased the fishermen who fled the Tiger-held area and opened fire at them.



■ **March 26, 2009:** The United Nations, backed by Britain and the United States, pressed for a 'humanitarian pause' in Sri Lanka and blamed the Tigers for the plight of trapped civilians. United Nations Humanitarian Chief John Holmes told reporters after an informal UN Security Council briefing that his main concern "is the civilian population trapped in the combat area and not being allowed out by the LTTE."

■ **March 27, 2007:** The LTTE carried out a suicide attack targeting the main Army base at Chenkalady in the Batticaloa district. Three members of the Eelam People's Democratic Party (EPDP), identified as Carthic, Chandru and Vicky, a 12-year-old boy Navarathnam and two Security Forces personnel were killed in the explosion. Five civilians, two soldiers and two Policemen were injured.

■ **March 28, 2007:** Indiscriminate mortar fire by the LTTE at Sittandy and Morankottanchchena villages in Batticaloa claimed the lives of eight civilians including that of an 18-month-old baby girl. The rains of mortar fire directed by the LTTE from the cover of the Thoppigala jungles had caused the deaths of eight civilians while causing injuries to 18 civilians.



■ **March 28, 2009:** An LTTE suicide bomber blew himself, targeting SF personnel on a search operation in the Varikottoruwa area of Vavuniya District

■ **March 29, 1988:** LTTE terrorists exploded an SLCTB bus - 29 Sri 9037, at Wewalketiya, Anuradhapura. The bomb explosion in the bus, which was proceeding from Horowpathana to Medavachchiya, killed nine passengers and injured 14 others.

■ **March 29, 2002:** Three LTTE members clad in civil clothes had blocked the Valachchenai-Batticaloa road in Kinniady junction by placing rocks and logs in the middle of the road in the wee hours.

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.

