

Atrocities by LTTE terrorists

May 11 - 17

■ 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.

■ **May 11, 1991:** At Kankesanthurai, three Navy personnel are killed during an attack by a group of three male 'Sea Tigers'.

■ **May 11, 2006:** The Navy supported by the Air Force repulsed a major LTTE attack on troop-carrier 'Pearl Cruiser' successfully. A flotilla of 15 suicide Sea Tiger boats took part in the attack in the sea off Vettalaikerni. At least 15 sailors were killed in the battle.

■ **May 11, 2006:** The LTTE proved that they are not interested in peace as a Tiger attack sunk one Navy ship and damaged another. Two Norwegian peace keeping officers too were among the unfortunate victims and the attack prompted the European Union to ban the terror outfit.

■ **May 11, 2008:** A piece of torso of a person and diving equipment were found floating near the sunken Naval ship A 520 (MV Invincible), in Trincomalee, suggesting the handiwork of a suicide bomber in the destruction of the vessel, the previous day. Navy divers recovered body parts of the suspected LTTE suicide cadre from the waters where the outfit sank a navy cargo ship in the Trincomalee harbour,



■ **May 11, 2009:** The LTTE proved that they do not care for the lives of their own community when the terrorists indiscriminately fired at Tamil civilians who were running from the No Fire Zone to cleared areas to seek the protection of the Security Forces. Many Tamil civilians were killed while 60 managed to escape and seek protection with troops of the 53 Division.

■ **May 12, 1997:** LTTE terrorists stormed a 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 Urumpirai, 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 Sgt. R.M.D.H.S. Rathnayake and an Army signaller A.M. Tissa Abeykoon were reported missing.



■ **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 Pabbattaramaya 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. Ordinary Level 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 at randomly shelling of densely populated areas around Jaffna

■ **May 15, 2007:** The LTTE set fire to an SLCTB school bus in Jaffna after ordering the 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 Kogolla 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 six children and wounded 80. The explosion occurred near a temple where people were witnessing an illuminated pandal on Vesak Poya Day.

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

