



# A NATION BLEEDS

Genocide of Tamils in Sri Lanka

A LTTE Publication



This document provides a pictorial illustration of the gruesome and horrific crimes perpetrated against our people by the Sri Lankan armed forces, the terror instrument of the racist state. The crime is obviously a blatant form of genocide.

Genocide as generally defined has two aspects. One aspect refers to the gradual and systematic destruction and dismemberment of the basic foundations of a nation of people, their language, their culture, their history, their economic existence and their geographical entity. The other refers to the actual physical extermination of a national community. The Tamil nation of the Island has been subjected to this dual form of genocide since the independence of Sri Lanka in 1948.

A calculated multi-pronged genocidal oppression was unleashed against our people by successive Sinhala chauvinistic regimes to up-root and undermine the national identity of our people. This genocidal thrust attacked simultaneously on the structural foundations of the Tamil nation, on the language, culture, economic life and geography the cumulative effects of which threatened the very survival of our people.

Overshadowing the cultural and economic destabilisation of the Tamil nation were the vicious and violent forms of genocidal practices aimed at the physical extermination of our people. State organised riots, which erupted periodically and assumed as a consistent phenomenon during the present regime, have the deliberate intent in the physical liquidation of the Tamil people. Thousands of our people have perished in these mad orgies of violence. The July holocaust of 1983 peaked this pattern of

genocidal mass killings. Since this unprecedented upheaval of violence, the genocide of Tamils assumed a new dimension of which the armed forces and the commando police directly and openly involved in mass murders. The killings became a well calculated military strategy of collective punishment, or rather, collective mass reprisals, a notorious strategy inducted by the Israeli Intelligence, the Mossad, aimed to contain the armed resistance campaign of the Tamil guerrillas. Unable to contain the escalating guerrilla war, superbly organised and executed by the Tamil Tigers, the demoralised army turned their vengeance on the innocent civilians unleashing a campaign of terrorisation to break the will of our people and force them to betray the freedom fighters. The armed forces adopted savage methods of mass extermination unheard of in contemporary times.

People are burnt alive, buried alive, blasted alive. People are gunned down in cold blood in the market place, in their homes, on their farms, on the roads, on the sea anywhere the armed forces choose to slaughter them. Innocent young men are rounded up, forced to dig their own graves and buried alive at gun point. School children are mowed down in their class rooms. Villagers are rounded up, locked in buildings and blasted with explosives. Young women are brutally raped and murdered. The manner in which the Tamils are physically exterminated is so cruel, callous and brutal that has shocked and enraged the conscience of the world. We document here three recent massacres that occurred at Kurikadduvan, Valvettiturai and Ariyalai.

#### MASSACRES ON THE FERRY

On the 15th of May 1985 the Sri Lankan navy personnel attacked a ferry carrying Tamil passengers from Delft to Kurikadduvan and massacred about 46 people. It was a savage and ruthless massacre. The navy men used axes, swords, knives and crowbars and hacked to death all the passengers including old women and children.

#### VALVETTITURAI MASSACRE

On the 9th of May 1985 Sri Lankan armed forces went on a rampage committing arson, looting, rape and mass murder in the coastal village of Valvettiturai in Northern Sri Lanka. About 50 Tamil civilians including children and women were rounded up and forcefully locked into the village library. Army men then planted high explosives around the building and blasted the people dead. About 25 people were rounded up in the streets and were gunned down in cold blood. In this blood thirsty rampage more than 90 people were murdered.

#### ARIYALAI MASSACRE

On the 29th of April 1985 the army personnel attached to Navatkuli camp entered the village of Ariyalai about three kilometres from Jaffna city and rampaged the whole village. In this mad frenzy of military terror about 60 people including women and children were senselessly slaughtered. Hundreds of houses were set ablaze.

The photographs published in this pamphlet provide authentic testimony of the heinous and horrid crimes committed by the agents of the Sri Lankan State. Sri Lanka now stands indicted for the crime of blatant genocide, for the crime against humanity.



VALVETTITURAI  
MASSACRE

50 people were blasted to death in a village library.



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The dead bodies of innocent civilians who were rounded up in Valvettiturai  
& surrounding villages were shot dead in cold blood.



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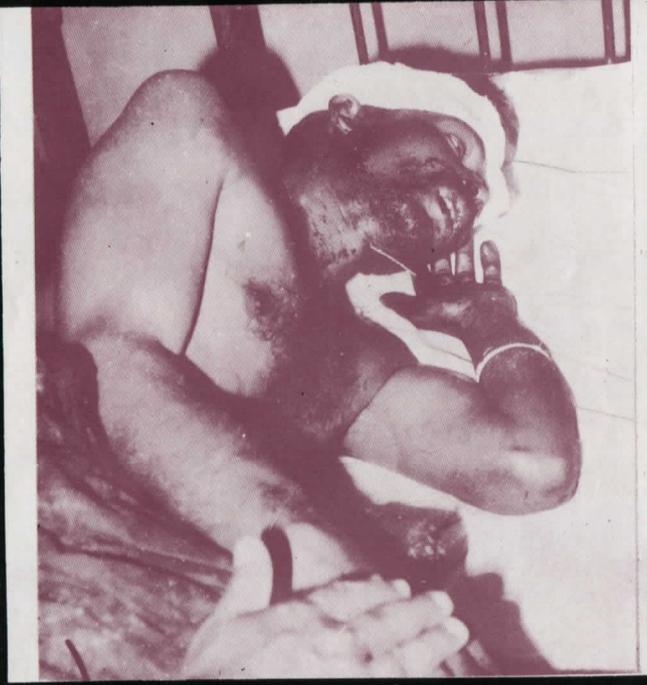
ARIYALAI MASSACRE





*A newly wedded couple lay dead on the floor as victims of military terror*

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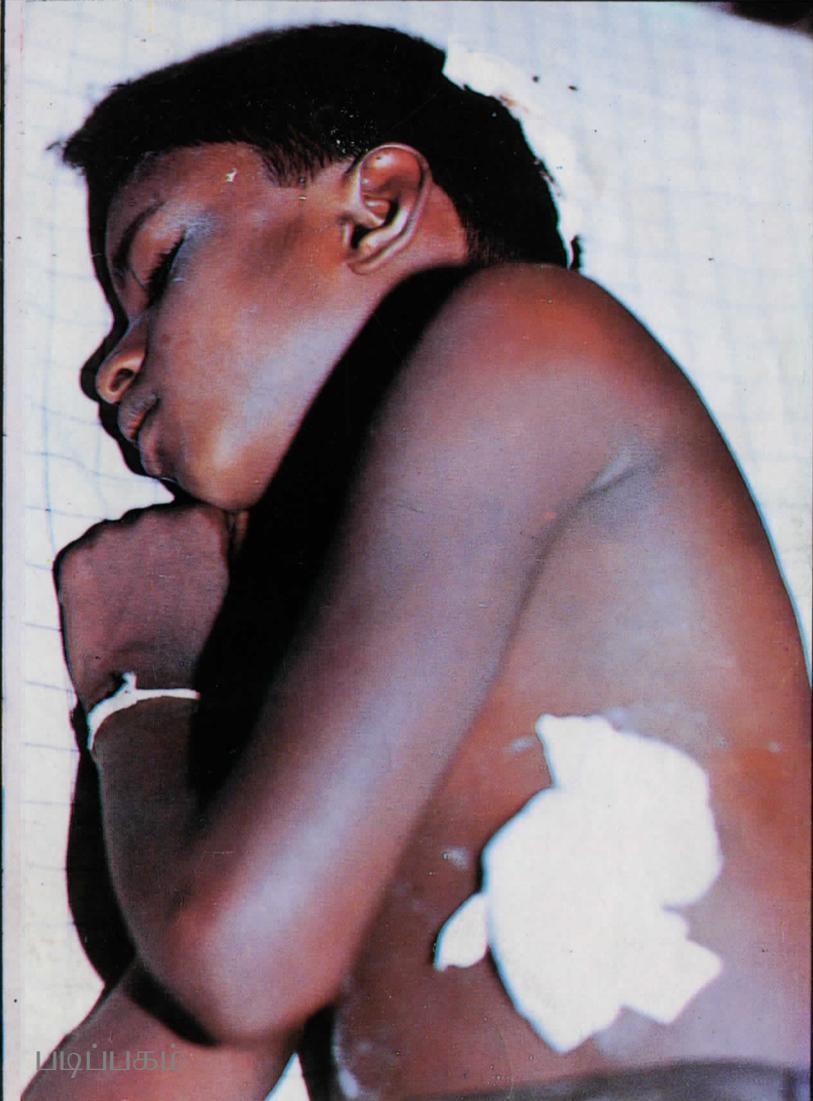
Houses destroyed by arson, at Ariyalai.

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**MASSACRE  
ON THE FERRY**

*Mutilated bodies of innocent Tamils who were hacked to death on the ferry.*



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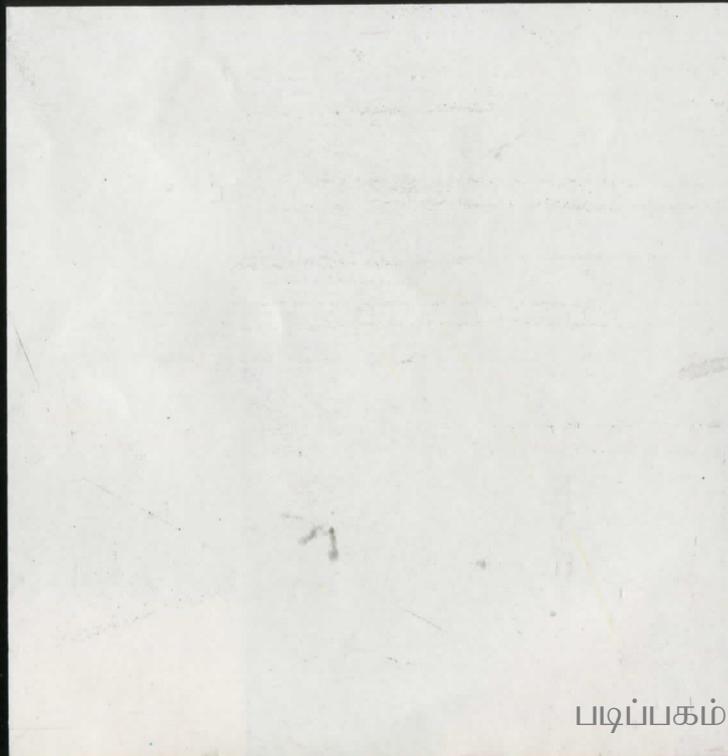
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The injured in the army violence.





**BLOOD STREAM**

The procession of the printed word  
Freezes. The news bulletin  
Mirrors the reader  
Within whose face  
Is the sudden screaming  
Of a thousand skulls.  
It is the voice of an ancient race.  
And its bloodstream pulses  
In the world's conscience.

The child gunned down in our courtyard  
Has in its dying pulse  
The river of an age  
Which was the threshold of ages.  
The Pyramids were still unborn  
When from the ageless Himalayas  
A seven pronged source — culture  
Flowed down to this day  
To be riddled under the bullets  
Of a savage caveman in uniform.  
Stuck in the bloodied mud  
Of the human Indus  
Lies the compassionate Buddhas  
Wheel of Dharma .  
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