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NEWS



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JULY - 1987



*massacres will
never stop the
fight for freedom*

1983 JULY 25-27 *welikade prison massacre*

DEMOLISH ALL REPRESSION



A WELL KNOWN ACCOUNT.

The racist Srilankan Government has gone crazy.

It obtained arms from Pakistan with the excuse of suppressing Tamil separatists. It also procured heavy military vehicles, strike aircrafts, Gunboats and modern weaponry from United States, Britain, Italy and Italy.

The Srilankan Government has permanently stationed personnel from the Israeli Intelligence, Mossad and former SAS men to teach, train and participate with its forces on all its combat missions against Tamils.

In short the Imperialist foreign influence is rampant in Srilanka today.

The Government did not show any interest in the diplomatic and political advice of the neighbouring countries. It has also brushed aside the tears of the Indian Government that the peace in Indian ocean is being disturbed by Srilanka.

Instead of solving the burning problems, the Government is strengthening its power and influence on its people. The Leaders are more and more dependant on imperialists to hang on to political power.

Sharp drop in exports steep price rises in domestic market, unemployment and dozens of local problems are all covered up with the thick camrass of Ethnic problem.

The Government is unable to beat or overpower Tamil fighters with all its military might and cunning manipulations. Its attacking and killing innocent civilians by aerial bombardment to cover up its losses.

It has lost all hopes on its own forces and have now got hold of Pakistani forces to try and do it for them. This is a new and dangerous exercise with wider implications of the superpowers.

This would bring forth the Tamils ability to attack or retaliate in the South. It would invite India to Srilankan shores. Then the full cycle of American and Russian supports and sympathy, would follow. All this would turn Srilanka into another super power battlefield. Finally Srilanka would be almost erased from world map.

Who is to live in Srilanka?

The Tamils rearing to live, or the Sinhaleese, inviting death and Genocide?

Who is to blame?

After Operation Poomalai, Pak, Israeli presence more pronounced

Pakistanis have increased their presence in Sri Lanka especially after the Indian air-dropping of food supplies in Jaffna 4 June, informed sources said here Friday.

The increasing presence of Pakistanis, which was causing concern to India, was besides the Israelis who have been very active since 1979. The presence of men of the Israeli Agency Shinbet which was mainly responsible for extensive damage of the Israeli occupied Arab lands was becoming more pronounced.

Israelis and Pakistanis had also been seen flying Italian made Siamarchi aircraft in the Jaffna peninsula during last month's military offensive, the sources said.

South Africa had also increased its presence in Sri Lanka with supplies of sophisticated arms and ammunition.

All these aspects, the sources said, had brought a new dimension to the Tamils problem in Sri Lanka which was viewed by India as "very serious".

India was of the view that a solution to the ethnic issue could be found only through negotiations, the sources said. Though Sri Lankan armed forces had expressed confidence of wiping out Tamil militants in the peninsula within 36 hours if they wanted, India believed that there could never be a military solution to the issue.

India was of the view that any further move for negotiations between the Sri Lankan Government and Tamil groups depended entirely on them. But the time appeared to be ripe now for negotiation as the Sri Lankan Government and militants had been weakened after last month's offensive, the sources said. The ball was, however, on Sri Lanka's court to initiate negotiations for which restoration of normality was a prerequisite. This called for ending the military operations.

In this context, the sources said, the Indian relief mission was aimed at bringing about normality in the island republic which would pave the way for negotiations.

The sources said the 19 December proposals were considered by India as "good" as a starting point for fresh negotiations. These proposals envisaged linkage between Northern and Eastern Provinces in the first stage which could be further improved in the second stage later on.

Asked which Tamil group the Sri Lankan Government could negotiate with the sources said it was for the Tamil people in Jaffna to decide.

Besides the militants, the Tamil United Liberation Front (TULF) too would have to be involved in any negotiations, as it had represented the people of Jaffna in Parliament before the members resigned.

NEWS DIARY

21.5.87

The Srilankan Army Navy and Airforce launched an all out attack on the Jaffna Peninsula. The offensive Included Bombing raids, Naval Bombardment and the Air drop of hundreds of Troops. Armoured vehicles moved out of Army Camps and engaged the freedom fighters with mortar and Artillery Fire. At least 10 war Planes and 8 Helicopter Gunships had inflicted the worst damage on civilians lives and Property, setting fire to houses, temples, schools and shops.

Jaffna Peninsula has been totally cut off from contact with the rest of the Country. The Government declared a 48 hours curfew on the Jaffna Peninsula.

Fierce Fighting was reported in Mannar, And Point-Pedro Coastal Areas and the Navy launched snelling from ten warships from at least 11 Coastal Areas killing more than 90 people and many hundreds are severely injured.

An Air drop of leaflets warned the 800,000 Tamil Population that they had two hours to leave their homes and take to 18 designated sanctuaries. These included temples and colleges. But the Armed forces Ruthlessly attacked the Hospitals and schools without any warning.

30.5.87

The Srilankan Armed forces opened New six Mini Army Camps in VADAMARACHI AREA.

31.5.87

Chundikuli Palaly, Point Pedro and Idaikadu were reported to have been heavily raided by the Bombs. Kodikamam Nellyyadi Ariyalai were also Bombed by the Airforces.

3.6.87

Batticola University Students boy cotted their Lecturers and started fasting to condemn the Govt Forces atrocitties and the Genocides on Jaffna People and the troops launched the latest attack on the Jaffna Peninsula.

The flotilla of Indian Boats carrying emergency supplies has been stoped by the Srilankan Navy. The Boats were Intercepted as soon as they entered Srilankans waters and ordered to drop anger of Katchaithevu Island negotiations took place between Indian Officials and the Srilankan Govt.

3 Army were killed and 40 were injured when the freedom fighters attacked the Jaffna Telecommunication Dept which the Army occupies the Building.

4.6.87

The Government of India has Airlifted 25 Tons of food and medical supplies to Jaffna. This supply was carried 5 Russian made transport Planed escorted by four mirage 2000 fighter Planes. The Indian Govt has given 35 minutes advance warning to S/L Govt of their Airdrop.

Army went on Rampage at Senthankulam in Jaffna Savagely hacked to death 30 Tamils and robbed their valuables.

More than 3000 innocent Tamil civilians have been taken into custody by the Srilankan Army in vadia-

11.6.87Contd

by the force of the explosion Killing Eighteen Passengers in cludin: nine muslims.

12.6.87

A voluntary welfare organisation in the Eastern Province has reported that 8753 Tamils in Kechelampathai in Trincomalee district are under going sneivour hardships due to lack of food and medical Supplies. It is believed that about 16 people have died due to lack of proper medical care.

13.6.87

A young Girl in Pollykandi was raped and subjected to sexual abuse by some Srilankan soldiers. Her Brother was badly assaulted and he died Subsequently.

14.6.87

A Refuge Camp at Mallakam in Jaffna a new born Infant died due to lack of proper medical care.

Twenty decomposed bodies were washed to the shores of the Manaithevu Costal Area in Jaffna.

Due to Contineous harrasments by the Srilankan Security Forces 1286 Refugees have fled from Jaffna to Vavuniya.

14.6.87

Some soldiers from the Karadiyanaru Camp raped a young woman at Koduvamaduva Area. The victim

Marachi Area.

6.6.87

A Protest march by more than 40 Buddhist monks took places in Colombo Denouncing the Airdrops by the indian Govt.

Eight Tamil detainees in Boosa detention camp were shot dead by the Army.

7.6.87

An attempt was made at Kattunayake Army Camp which resulted in the death of three people and another Incident took place at the Ratmalana Camp. One soldier Killed and large number of weapons and amunition were taken. this believed that the People Liberation Front (J V P) was involved.

8.6.87

Army arrested ten women at Manalkadu and Thunnalai Area in Jaffna and savagely hacked to death few men in this area.

Seven innocent civilians including one muslim were killed when the Batticola police opened fire indiscriminately on Public.

11.6.87

Thirty one people have been killed in Srilanka in the Northern and Eastern Provinces in two seperate Explosions. In one of the attacks in Thikkam Northern Jaffna Peinsula 10 civilians and three solaires died.

The other attack took place near the Eastern city of Trincomalee a Mini Bus was blown up 10 miles from Trincomalee. The vehicle was shown to pieces

14.6.87contd

has been admitted to the Eaticola Hospital. some Soldiers from Ottisittan army Camp went on a Rampage Raping two young women and causing injury to some Victims.

The Army entered Keerimalai and Mavittapuram and have established Army post after Bulldozing and destroying number of houses.

S.L.F.P has announced that their party will not participate in the local election to be held in early September this year. Earlier four other leftist parties including communist party had made similar statement.

17.6.87

The security forces entered Sivan Temple in Keerimalai Jainra. Having committed Sacrilege these men looted and robbed the valuable belongings to temple and set fire to the rest of the property.

Over 18 schools in Vadamarachi have been closed indefinitely as the Army had taken possession of these premises.

20.6.87

Govt forces launched heavy motor attacks and Helicopter Bombardment causing very serious damage to property in Ariyakulam, Kottadi and Uduvil. Kottadi Narachivaya Vithiyalayam and Uduvil Girls College and other buildings were damaged.

Srilankan marxist party severely criticise the Govt for killing of 100's of innocent civilians in the Jaffna Peninsula by the Army.

20.6.87Contd

The large quantities of weapons and amunitions have been moved from Colombo to K.K.S, Karainagar, and Manaithevu Army Camps. These includes bulldozors and modern weapons.

24.6.87

President Jeyawarane announced by elections within two months for 16 vacant Parliimentary seats in the North and East of the Country. He called for nominations of candidates by July 15th for the seat once held by the main Tamil Political Party the T.U.L.F.

12 J.V.P supporters were taken into custody in the South East of Srilanka. Police Inteligence services had reports that the J.V.P was planning to assassinate leading members of the Government.

Students from eight school in the Jaffna Peninsula has started a fasting with the request to the Indian Government that they should take more initiative in the Tamils acheiving. Thamileelam and that India should make every effort to unite and cordinate the Liberation movements.

Mrs Srimavo Bandaranayake issued a statement that all the opposition Parties other than the LSSP will unite in Sathiyakiraka movement to force the Government to hold a General election.

26.6.87

The two ships reached with the food and medical supplies in K.K.S harbour. One ship carried 800 Tons food and Medical supplies. The other ship

26.6.87Contd

carried six Indian Redcross officials together with some Journalists and Medical Personals.

28.6.87

The second consignment of food and other essential supplies arrived K.K.S harbour.

T.U.L.F issued a statement requesting the Northern and Eastern Provinces People to Boycott the General Election which will be held very shortly.

Refugee influx: Central official meets Chief Secretary

G. Parthasarathy, Joint Secretary in the External Affairs Ministry, dealing with Sri Lankan affairs met Tamil Nadu Chief Secretary A. Padmanabhan at the State Secretariat.

He also held discussions with officials of the State Public and Rehabilitation Department.

Padmanabhan also told newsmen here that they discussed the question of Sri Lankan Tamil refugee influx into the State. About 120,000 Sri Lankan Tamils have taken refuge in the State since 1983.

The recent despatch of relief supplies to the beleaguered Jaffna Tamils also figured in the 30-minute meeting.

Diplomat's assurance to Tamils

India will continue to send relief supplies to the Tamils of Jaffna peninsula, defence attache of the Indian High Commission at Colombo Capt. B.K. Gupta assured Tamil civilians at Jaffna Thursday morning.

India will send all the 8,000 tonnes of relief supplies by ships as per the recent agreement signed by the two countries, he added.

Capt. Gupta, who flew into Jaffna from Colombo Wednesday after discussions with the government officials, also assured the Tamils that the Sri Lankan security forces would not go ahead with the much-feared "third" offensive of the peninsula region.

A 30-member medical team sponsored by the Tamil Nadu Congress-I committee conducted a five-day health camp recently for the Sri Lankan Tamil refugees camped at Mandapam.

Some 4,000 Tamil refugees were benefitted by the exercise, according to Dr. M.M. Rajasekharan who led the medical team.

As a follow-up measure, similar health camps would be conducted once in three months, he said.

Missing fishermen in Lanka custody

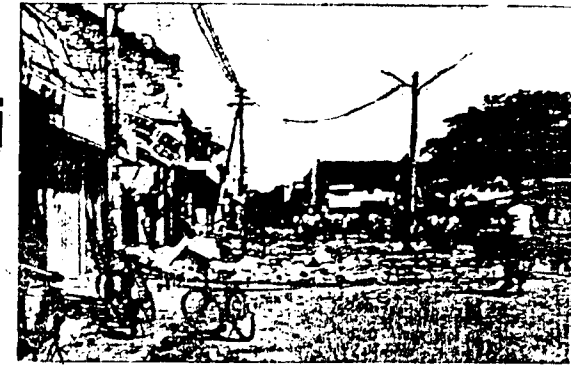
Tamil Nadu Food Minister S. Ramachandran Friday said that seven Indian fishermen from Kanyakumari district, who had been missing for some time now were under the custody of Sri Lanka.

The External Affairs Ministry was in touch with Sri Lanka to secure their release, he told newsmen here. Ramachandran has been handling the Sri Lanka affair at the State level.

Following the Indian shipment of essential articles and medicines to the beleaguered Tamils of the island's Jaffna peninsula, Ramachandran said the Tamils there now had something to hope for and were "happy".

A permanent settlement for the ethnic problem could be arrived at, he added.

'Vadamarachi operations



ruthless, deadly'

The recent military operations in the Vadamarachi area of Sri Lanka's northern Jaffna peninsula has been handled in such a manner that the severity of its impact and the human cost of its execution—both in terms of loss of lives and displacement of people has never been known outside, not even at the national level. The operations on unarmed civilians were ruthlessly carried out.

This charge has been levelled by human rights activists and relief workers quoting eye-witness accounts.

They said while no exact number of people killed in the operations was available, according to rough estimates about 650 people had died in the Vadamarachi operation and 50 more in the Achchuveli operation that followed. A considerably larger number had been injured and about 4,000 youths in the age group of 15 and 35 arrested and taken to the Boosa Army Camp in the South for questioning. No list of the arrested was available.

The security operations constituted the climactic point of the fuel embargo policy of the Sri Lankan government. The consequent restriction on the inflow of food, medicines and other items to the peninsula by the time the operation was started 26 May had reduced the poorer sections of the community to starvation levels. Besides the health situation deteriorated following disruption in the working of all hospitals including Jaffna hospital, which were catering to the needs of the entire north.

Intimation after attack

When the announcement about the imposition of the curfew came over the national media at noon, the operations had already been on for over six hours with continuous and uninterrupted bombing. The leaflets announcing the two-hour "grace" for people to rush to specified places of safety was dropped long after Jaffna and Valvettithurai had been subjected to heavy bombardment, they said.

Tar barrel bombs thrown

Giving details of the operations, the human rights activists and relief workers said that the initial bombardment was followed by the moving in of the Army by land which culminated in establishing mini camps at strategic points, thus sealing off Vadamarachi from the rest of the peninsula. The actual operations consisted of throwing tar barrel bombs from airplanes, aerial bombing, helicopter strafing and cannon shelling by advancing troops along with the shelling from the camps.

The dreaded tar barrel bombs were oil drums of 45 to 75 gallon capacity filled with tar and cut rubber pieces. The bomb were rolled down from slow-flying Avro planes and as it touched the ground the drum exploded, catching fire and spraying the petroleum product on objects close by. The cut rubber stuck on and burnt causing heavy damages to animal and human life.

The activists said the worst hit in Vadamarachi was the area from Kambarmalai to Nelliady, along the Udupidy-Narividil Road and Valvettithurai to Point Pedro along the coastal road.

Temples were targets

The bombing had been "arbitrary and indiscriminate", despite claims by the government that they were directed against buildings occupied by the militants. They said a number of temples too were damaged and these included the Muthumariamman Temple at Alvai where about 37 persons died in the shelling, the Muruga temple at Nelliady, where two persons were killed, and the Jaffna Sivan Temple.

They said most of the deaths had been due to shelling and firing by the advancing troops.

They specifically mentioned Valvettithurai, Udupidy and the two hamlets of Kottavattai and Sankarawatti where people who had returned after the operations had found several bodies scattered in the compounds of houses. The bodies were later burnt in the house compounds.

Bunkers as traps

They also said that many old, and infirm people who could not join the fleeing people had died and in Valvetthurai area alone half of the 65 years population was no more.

In most cases the bunkers dug for emergency shelter in many of the houses turned out to be death traps, especially when the bunkers were not well constructed. In some places when the entry and exit points were covered with sand thrown up due to bombing the bunkers became graves, especially if those inside were old and infirm.

The advancing troops were particularly harsh on those who had built bunkers. At Vallalai, twelve persons who were inside a bunker were pulled out and shot dead they alleged.

They said many people were left starving during the ten day-long operation. Finally, 7 and 8 June the army forced open most of the multi-purpose cooperative societies and asked the people to help themselves. This disrupted the food distribution system completely. While the more enterprising managed to get enough food, the poor and the needy were left hungry.

They said a major feature of the aftermath of the operation was that there had been no refugee camps, because people feared to stay in large numbers. They huddled in houses which they thought would not attract the attention of the army. In Karaveddi and Thunalai an average house would have accommodated about 100 persons at the height of the operation.

4 brothers shot dead

The Sri Lankan security forces raided a farm at Anand Putiyankulam in the northern Vavuniya district Wednesday and allegedly shot dead four brothers in front of their father, according to a complaint lodged with the Vavuniya Citizens Committee by the local people.

Committee sources said the four youths, aged between 22 and 26 years, were working in their father's farm, when the security forces arrived on a search operation under cover of air force helicopters.

When the security personnel found out that the youths belonged to Udipiddy in the Vadamarchi area of the Jaffna peninsula, scene of the recent massive military offensive, they were lined up and shot dead without further questions, the sources alleged quoting the complaint.

The names of the youths killed were Thataratnam, Thavakumaran, Vijitharan and Kanthan. The four youths had fled from their home in Udipiddy following the recent security operations, they said.

Deserted totally

Vadamarchi in Jaffna district with a population of nearly 1.5 lakh Tamils is a deserted area now. Following continuous shelling from the ten army camps in the area and helicopters strafing since last Sunday nearly 90 per cent of the people of the area have deserted their houses and taken shelters in Themararchi and Jaffna area.

Most of the Jaffna younger men and women had already left the area following the offensive by the army last month, but since last Sunday elderly persons who had stayed behind were also leaving the area consequent on continuous shelling, according to the Tamil Information Centre press release.

French medical team in Jaffna

A French medical relief team flew to Sri Lanka's northern peninsula Thursday to help victims of a recent military offensive against Tamil militants.

A spokesman for the Medicins Sans Frontiers (MSF) organisation said in Colombo the team planned to set up a medical centre at Point Pedro.

Government officials said this is the first foreign medical team allowed to visit the peninsula after security forces recaptured the north-east Vadamarchi area from rebel control three weeks ago.

"We got clearance from the military and Health Ministry this week and hope to spend about one to two months caring for people injured during recent security operations", the team's leader Alain Rouvillois told Reuters.

Rouvillois said Point Pedro, the worst affected area in Vadamarchi, urgently needed medical facilities and his team hoped to treat many people there.

The Government invited non-governmental organisations, local and foreign, to help in food distribution and other relief work in the peninsula after criticism, particularly by India, that many civilians had been killed and more were starving.

Refugees' boat shot at

According to Tamil daily 'Uthayan', a boat carrying five refugees from Mannar was shot at by the Sri Lankan navy Friday, causing it to capsize in the sea.

Another daily 'Eelamarasu' alleged that the security forces were reportedly threatening the civilians in the peninsula that after "eating Indian food" they must leave for India.

Sources close to the Vavuniya citizens' committee said that the security forces went to the village Nelukkula, near Vavuniya town at night and rounded up 25 civilians.

They were brought to Vavuniya camp and barring one, all were, however, released late in the night after interrogation.

Red Cross members

A Sri Lankan Air Force helicopter strafed the refugee camp area at Kuppilan Vigneswara Vidhyalaya when the Indian Red Cross members and Sri Lankan Red Cross members were distributing the Indian relief supplies to the refugees.

The Red Cross members and the refugees ran for shelter.

Red Cross men caught in crossfire

In the northern Vadamarchi area the visiting Sri Lankan and Indian Red Cross representatives had a 48-hour nightmarish experience, according to reports from north.

Reports said three Red Cross representatives who were in Vadamarchi area to oversee Indian food relief operation stayed at Nelliadi on Sunday when the camp was attacked.

They spoke to the Jaffna daily 'Uthayan' on Tuesday about their nightmarish experience.

The Sri Lankan Red Cross official, Mr. Somasiri and the Indian Red Cross officials Mr. Sahal and Mr. Ghali Shahab were staying at the residence of Mr. J. S. Rasenthiran of Citizens Committee Federation, about 500 metres away from the Nelliadi camp. Suddenly they heard a terrific sound and followed with firing and shooting sounds.

In chimney for two days: They sought refuge in a chimney for two days and existed only with water since no food was available. A curfew was on and because of lack of food facilities people were compelled to move out of the area and the officials too along with them left Nelliadi and reached Jaffna.

The daily quoted them as claiming that they had seen the attack from helicopter. They reported exclaiming "how the people manage to live under such duress and difficult situation there".

Lanka beefing up air force

The Sri Lankan Air Force is strengthening itself through purchase of more effective fighter aircraft and larger type transport planes.

Quoting sources, the English daily 'The Island' reported Friday that the new type of aircraft proposed to be purchased by the Air Force "are likely to perform better than the Italian built 'Sia-Marchettis'".

According to the daily, the 'Marchettis' can only fire rockets, deliver bombs and can be mounted by 7.62 machine guns etc.

The newspaper said among the many types considered was the Brazilian "Tusano" aircraft, which "short brothers", a western aircraft manufacturing company is supplying to the Royal Air Force. It is believed that the plane is very sophisti-

cated and can be used in any type of operational duty.

The Air Force is also considering purchasing a few transport planes, the daily further said quoting "sources".

Although, according to the daily, the Sri Lankan Air Force purchased a few Soviet MIGs during the 1971 insurgency, these MIGs are not operative due to lack of pilots with MIG experience and due to unavailability of spare parts.

At present the Sri Lankan Air Force has only a fleet of six Italian made 'Sia Marchettis', Chinese built Y12 helicopters, bell helicopters, Avros for transport purposes and few other varieties, the newspaper added.



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