

IN REMEMBRANCE JULY 83 MASSACRE OF TAMILS



"...MOBS ATTACKED THE MINORITY TAMIL COMMUNITY AND BURNED AND LOOTED THEIR HOMES AND STORES, HUNDREDS OF SHOPS AND SCORES OF VEHICLES WERE DESTROYED
- GUARDIAN 26.07.83 -

"...THERE WAS A PATTERN ABOUT THIS ———
THESE WERE PREPARED VERY MUCH IN ADVANCE FOR AN OCCUPATION SUCH AS THIS" ———

DR ANANDA TISSA DE ALVIS
Minister of Information
JULY 29TH - 83

**THE TAMILS
OF SRI LANKA**

President JEYAWARDENE, the head of the SRILANKAN Government said in an interview given in JULY 1983

"I'm not worried about the opinion of the Tamil people. Now we cannot think of them; not about their lives or opinion. The more pressure in the north the happier the Sinhala people will be here. Really if I starve the Tamils out the Sinhala people will be happy."

In that same month - JULY 1983 - a vicious attack was launched on Tamils living in the Sinhala areas of Srilanka. Tamils were set upon by Sinhala goon squads. They were beaten, hacked and burnt to death - on the streets, in their homes, on busses and on trains. Women were raped. Houses and shops were looted. Tamil political prisoners were massacred in jail. Yet the Srilankan Security Forces seemed unwilling to stop the bloodpath. Indeed in many instances members of the Armed Forces joined in the fray.

DURING THE CARNAGE OF JULY 1983 -

- * 110 industries were burnt and completely destroyed.
- * 18,000 houses were burnt.
- * 2,500 business places were destroyed and looted.
- * 2,000 people were murdered.
- * 53 political prisoners were murdered inside the Welikada jail.
- * 200,000 people become homeless and sought shelter in refugee camps.

ETHNIC RIVALRY OR NATIONAL OPPRESSION.

The Tamils of Srilanka have faced discrimination and deprivation at the hands of successive Srilankan Governments for nearly four decades. The minority Tamils were always the victims and scapegoats of a system with deteriorating economy and growing political conflict. Over the years the helpless Tamils witnessed their language, employment, educational and territorial rights being taken away - one by one. The JULY 1983 bloodbath was the culmination of a series of nationwide pogroms conducted by the Srilankan state against the Tamils.

Since JULY 1983 - the war that was being waged against the Tamils has reached a new phase of unrelenting genocidal onslaught. After the massacres JULY 1983 - a further 10,000 Tamils have been killed. This number is increasing daily. Nearly 8,000 people have, arrested and are kept in special military camps under the most inhuman and barbarous conditions of torture and death - without trial. On average about 200 people simply disappear each month after security operations in Tamil villages by security forces.

Amnesty Reports — — —

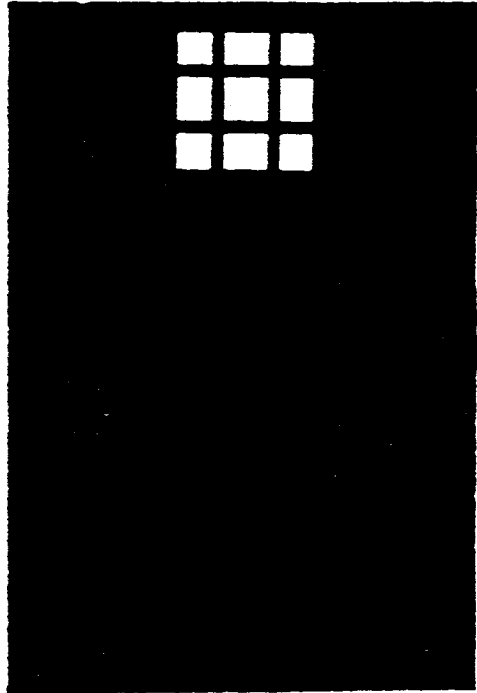
STORIES OF THE persistent harassment, torture and death of Tamil detainees, held on suspicion of involvement with armed groups, are continuing to come out of Sri Lanka.

The cases of more than 500 Tamils who have "disappeared" after arrests during the past 2½ years are being publicised today in a new report by Amnesty International.

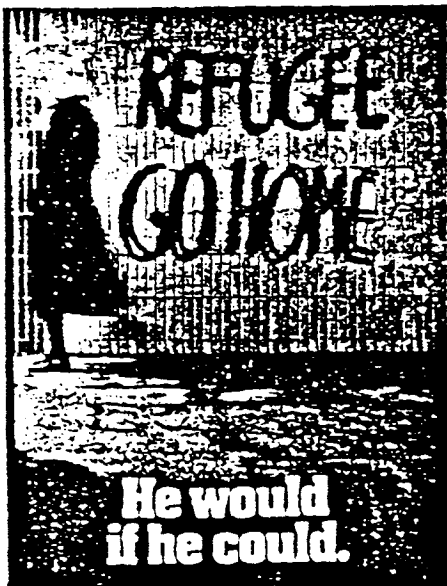
The human rights group is concerned about the growing number of reports of torture during interrogation, apparently as a means of extracting confessions, and of arbitrary killings of those detained by the security forces.

Sanitary conditions are atrocious and detainees suffer from dysentery, diarrhoea, chicken pox, mumps and measles. Ninety per cent of them are said to have scabies. Worms, centipedes, maggots and weevils have been found in the food.

Since families often spend many months trying to trace missing relations. — — —



In the Tamil homelands of the north and east of the entire Tamil population is kept prisoner by declaring whole areas as security and surveillance zones. The people hemmed in are unable to carry out even day to day economic activities such as farming, fishing and so on. Schools, hospitals, temples and markets in these zones are falling in to disuse as the Army has a policy of 'shoot at sight'.



The SriLankan Security Forces and the 'Homeguards' - squads of armed racist thugs, destroy and burn whole Tamil heartland. Then lumpen elements from the Sinhala community are armed and settled in these areas, so that Tamil villagers can never regain their lost land. In this manner more than 100,000 Tamils are permanently dislocated within their homeland. Another 150,000 have fled to India. And another 150,000 are scattered all over the world.

SRILANKA TODAY

Within the last few months the SriLankan Government has intensified its military campaign against the Tamils. Indiscriminate aerial bombings, heavy artillery shelling from naval ships and fortified garrisons have become a daily feature. The victims are almost all civilians. Temples, schools and even hospitals are frequent targets. Some Tamil areas suffer from acute shortage of food, fuel and medical supplies.

In the South, certain sections of the Sinhala population are courageously voicing their protest to this outrage against the Tamils. Such voices are brutally repressed. Nearly 500 Sinhala activists and human rights workers who campaigned for a peaceful resolution to this bloody war have been detained.

Israeli involvement in Sri Lanka's brutal war with the restive Tamils has long been evident. And the Israeli interests section in Colombo has long been operated out of the US Embassy there. Several months ago, Sri Lankan member of parliament Halim Ishak demanded to know how many Israeli agents there were in the country. He was told 178.

There is clearly even more involvement. As of April Israeli nationals do not need visas to enter Sri Lanka. They come and go freely. President Jayawardene has also admitted that Sri Lankan army officers have been trained in Israel.

Shin Bet, Israel's domestic intelligence agency has been training and directing Sri Lanka's deadly special task force which is causing trouble in the Eastern Province. Several Shin Bet officials have been spotted here.

Arun Chacko,
World Paper's associate editor in South Asia visited Sri Lanka recently.

INTERNATIONAL COMPLICITY

In this most inhuman war, international forces of reaction are behind the SriLankan Government. Israel, South Africa and Pakistan are important suppliers of arms to Sri Lanka. Israel, in addition trains the SriLankan intelligence units. Arms reach Sri Lanka from Britain and U.S as well. Along with the Israelis, British mercenaries also from the SriLankan Army. Ex SAS commandos employed by the private firm, the KMS, train and participate in this war.

<p>The mercenaries walked out on their £20,000-a-year tax free jobs after complaining that the Special Task Force, which they set up for the Sri Lankan Government in 1984, was running out of control and was indiscriminately killing and torturing Tamil civilians.</p> <p>NICK DAVIES</p>	DEFENCE EXPENDITURE	<p>1978 560 million</p> <p>1986 12,421 million</p>
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We earnestly request you to support our campaigns to stop the flow of arms, aid and training from Britain to Sri Lanka and express solidarity with the TAMILS of SRILANKA.

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