SRI LANKA AND THE MYTHICAL TAMIL HOMELAND

WHY A SEPARATE STATE IN SRI LANKA IS AN IMPRACTICAL GOAL

Compiled by Embassy of Sri Lanka, Washington DC, U.S.A

SRI LANKA - GEOGRAPHICAL AND ECONOMIC REALITIES



- ◆ 25,000 sq. miles in extent. Similar to West Virginia in size.
- Population : West Virginia 1.8 million
 Sri Lanka 20 million
- Not an ethnic conflict between Sinhalese and Tamils in north and east of the island, but an issue of poverty and underdevelopment, affecting all communities.
- In 1971, Sinhala youth rebelled in the south due to similar reasons.

KINGDOMS OF SRI LANKA & WHAT EELAMISTS SAY

History

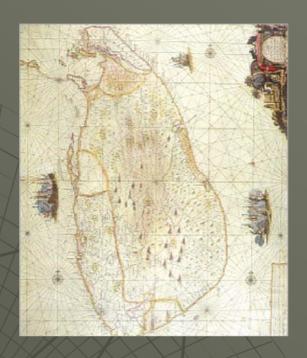
- When Portuguese took possession of the island in 1505 there were 3 Kingdoms
 - <u>Tamil Kingdom</u> in the North-East - Tamil Homeland - (yellow)
 - Sinhalese Kingdoms in the South-West (grey).



Note, the yellowed section is not given as part of the Jaffna kingdom, but as "main areas where Tamils reside"!

HISTORICAL REFERENCE MATERIAL HOWEVER INDICATES THAT:

- In ancient Sri Lanka, there were three kingdoms viz. Ruhunu, Maya, Pihiti.
- ♦ In the 16th century (between 1515-1597AD), Sri Lanka was divided into several subkingdoms under the Kotte Kingdom (up to 1597), viz. Sitawaka (1521-1594 AD), Kandy (1590-1815 AD), and Jaffna
- Origin of the Jaffna kingdom is said to go back to 1246 AD and lasted until 1620 AD in Singai Nagar and Nallur. (C.Rasanayagam: Ancient Jaffna pp.370,374). No separate Tamil kingdom in Jaffna prior to 13th century.
- Eastern region of the island was never a part of the Jaffna kingdom.
- ◆ Jaffna was a sub-kingdom under the King of Kotte, during the latter part of the 15th century. So was Kandy, years later. However, when the Kotte kingdom became weak, Jaffna sub-kingdom was able to exercise greater power (*Temporal and Spiritual Conquest of Ceylon, De Queyros* (*Book I*; page 101)
- The Jaffna kingdom ended nearly four centuries ago in 1620 AD, with Sankili Kumara being deposed and hanged by the Portuguese.



Map of Ceylon by Dutch cartographer Hendrick Doncker 1660 AD

Areas under the former Kotte kingdom and Jaffna sub kingdom under the Portuguese are to the West and North respectively, and the Kingdom of Kandy to the East. Portuguese areas came under the Dutch with the fall of Jaffna in June 1658.

EAST WAS NEVER PART OF A TAMIL KINGDOM



Myth: Tamils in possession of northern and eastern districts from the dawn of history (Vadukkodai resolution of TULF in 1976)

Truth: The East was never a part of the Jaffna kingdom.

• According to the "Temporal and Spiritual Conquest of Ceylon", Portuguese Historian De Queyros (Book I; page 101), by the early 16th Century, the island was divided into 5 sub-kingdoms; "that of Cota (Kotte) to which all others were tributary (subordinate) acknowledging the King as Emperor." One such Sub-Kingdom with a Sub-Ruler was Jaffnapatnam.

- On 14 May 1638, Rajasinghe II, the King of Kandy, proceeded to Batticaloa and entered into a treaty with Adam Westerwold, Commander of the Dutch Naval Forces, by which the King and the Dutch entered into an alliance against the Portuguese on 23rd May, which was known as Kandyan Treaty of 1638, signed at Batticaloa. This proves that even 18 years after Sankili was deposed by the Portuguese, the king of Kandy was in control of the east.
- Rev. Phillipus Baldeus, the Dutch historian, who had lived in Jaffna for many years around 1658 A.D., stated that the ruler of Jaffna had jurisdiction over a limited area in the north, including Jaffnapattnam, the adjacent isles and the island of Mannar.
- * "when the Dutch replaced the Portuguese, in 1658 as the Maritime European Power, the Kandyan Kings yet had on the West Coast, Kalpitiya and Puttalam and on the East Coast, Trincomalee, Kottiyar and Batticaloa. Each of these ports served as the entrepot of separate areas of the Kandyan Kingdom." (Professor Sinnappa Arsaratnam, "The Kingdom of Kandy; Aspects of its External Relations and Commerce; 1658-1710" (CJHSS Vol. 3 No.2, page 109).
- Robert Knox, the Englishman, who landed in Kottiyar in the Trincomalee District in 1659 A.D., was apprehended by the Dissawa of Tambalegam (Tambalagama or Tampalakamam), and was produced before the Sinhalese King in Kandy.

- ♦ It was King of Kandy, Keerthi Sri Rajasinghe, who signed a treaty with the Dutch Governor Flack in 1776, ceding an area of the east coast 4 miles wide, and parts of the west coast. How could he have signed a treaty with the Dutch, if the East was under the Jaffna Kingdom?
- If the eastern part of the island had been a part of the Jaffna kingdom, why did Portuguese and Dutch historians make such statements? And why did the Dutch sign treaties with the Kings of Kandy in 1638 and 1776?
- ♦ Eelamists have twisted the truth, circumvented history and spun a web of lies and resorted to deceit with a view to laying claims to the Eastern Province, not because the east was a part of the Jaffna kingdom but to have access to the port of Trincomalee and rich agricultural land in the east.

CONVOLUTED HISTORY ACCORDING TO THE EELAMISTS

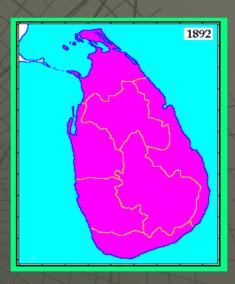
History

- 1505 -1658: Portuguese held the island
- 1658 1796: Dutch usurped control
- 1796: the British took over
- Portuguese and Dutch ruled the Tamil and Sinhala Kingdoms <u>separately</u>, but, the British artificially <u>joined</u> them for their administrative convenience <u>only in 1833.</u>
- On Feb. 4, 1948 British left the Island leaving it as one country, CEYLON, leaving political power in the hands of the 'majority' Sinhalese.

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- ♦ Despite the above claim by the Eelamists, Portuguese (1505-1658) and the Dutch (1658-1796) controlled only parts of the maritime areas of the island and Jaffna in its entirety. Dutch maritime possessions were formally ceded to Britain in 1801 under the Treaty of Amiens. The entire island became a colony of the British only in 1815.
- When the maritime areas of East were annexed to the north, by the Portuguese in 1619, that was also done purely for administrative purposes. http://www.gale.cengage.com/pdf/samples/sp658434.pdf
- 1801 to 1833, no changes were made by the British to the composition of the former Dutch territories, consisted of 3 Collectorates made up of a network of 13 Provinces.
- In 1833, following the Colebrooke and Cameron reforms, the island was divided into 5 provinces viz. Northern, Southern, Eastern, Western and Central.

- Result was the former Kandyan territories of *Nuwara Kalaviya*, (present day North Central Province) was annexed to the Northern Province, while *Thamankaduwa* (*Polonnaruwa*) to the Eastern Province, along with large tracts of land from the Kandyan Kingdom comprising Bintenna, Uva and Panama.
- Similarly, the Western Province was extended toward the Kandyan territories on the western flanks of the central highlands, and parts of Sabaragamuwa and Uva were incorporated into the Southern Province.



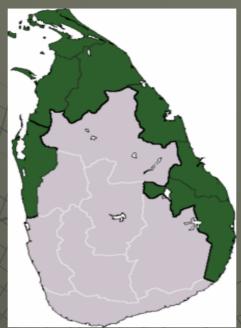
Map of seven provinces of Ceylon under the British in 1892

PROVINCES INCREASE TO NINE IN 1899



- In 1899, the number of provinces was increased to 9 by the British.
- ♦ These provinces too were arbitrarily created for administrative convenience, (just as much the east was attached to the north in 1833 by the British) and to generate revenue. The demarcation was, NOT made on ethnic or religious basis.
- "However, in demarcating provinces and districts, hardly any attempt was made to draw from history or to accommodate the geographical realities such as natural lines of access, composition of the population and the development prospects of the different parts of the country." (Professor G. H. Pieris)

EXISTENCE OF A TAMIL EELAM IS FICTITIOUS



- ◆ Fiction: Tamil Eelam covers the northern and Eastern Provinces, subsuming one-third of the country's land mass and two-thirds of the coastline for the Sri Lankan Tamils, who make up app. 12% of the country's population (1981 Census by the Dept. of Census & estimate of 2001).
- Fact: 54% of Sri Lankan Tamils live outside the north and the east, among the Sinhalese and other communities.
- Demand for a Tamil Homeland is based on an erroneous Minute by Hugh Cleghorn, British Colonial Secretary in 1779.

- The Vaddukkodai Resolution of 1976 of the Tamil United Liberation Front (TULF) attempted to establish a Tamil homeland (or Eelam) in the Northern and the Eastern Provinces of Sri Lanka, based on the Minute made by Cleghorn.
 - "Two different nations from a very ancient period, have divided between them the possessions of the island: First the Cinhalese (Singhalese) inhabiting the interior of the country in its southern and western parts from the river Wallowe to that of Chilaw, and secondly the Malabars, who possess the northern and eastern districts. These two nations differ in their religions, language and manners."
- ♦ TULF and the LTTE conveniently ignored the fact that even the then Governor of Ceylon, Fredrick North, expressed reservations on the accuracy of Hugh Cleghorn's Statement.
- Cleghorn also made other monumentally erroneous statements, that the Sinhalese derived their origin from Siam (present day Thailand), which was cunningly ignored by wily Tamil political groups.
- Significantly, Cleghorn also said that the Northern and Eastern Districts were inhabited by 'Malabars' meaning, Indians of Southern parts of India, not necessarily Tamils of present day Tamil Nadu.

• Six years after Cleghorn's Minute, Captain Robert Percival, in his book 'An Account of the Island of Ceylon' (1805) said:

"The inhabitants of Jaffna consist of a collection of various races. The greatest number of Malabars are of Moorish extraction and are divided into several tribes known by the names of Lubbhas, Belalas, Mopleys, Chittys and Choliars and a few Brahmins; they are distinguished by wearing little round caps on their close shaven heads. There is also a race of Malabars found here somewhat differing in their appearance from those of the continent. These different tribes of foreign settlers greatly exceeded in number the native Ceylonese in the district of Jaffna (pp71-72)"

• If Percival's statement is to be accepted, it were the Moors (Muslims) that were in majority in Jaffna during the period of his presence there, a little over two hundred years ago, and not the Tamils.

DID SINHALESE NOT POPULATE JAFFNA BEFORE TAMILS?

This is what a Tamil scholar said about the population of Jaffna in the ancient times:

"That Jaffna was occupied by the Sinhalese earlier than by the Tamils is seen not only in the place names of Jaffna, but also in some of the habits and customs of the people."

('Ancient Jaffna' Mudliyar C. Rasanayagam, 1926 (p.384)).

- The modern Sinhalese word "Yapane" is a variant form of the Sinhalese word "Yapapatuna" found in Sinhalese literature. The word "Yalpanam" is a Tamil translation of the Sinhalese word "Yapane".
- King Vasabha's Gold plate found at Vallipuram near Point Pedro mentions a minister named Piyaguka Tissa who built a vihara. As the word "Piyaguka" is identical with "Piyagudipa" where 12,000 monks are said to have resided, this particular minister must have hailed from Piyangudipa or the modern Pungudutivu. This fact proves that the peninsula and its environs have been occupied by Sinhalese people during the 1st century A.D.
- Mangala Vihara which was in the North was restored by King Dhatusena (5 A.D.).
- King Mallaka Naga founded a vihara called Salipabbata vihara in Nagadipa.

- Ports at Vallikaman (Valigama) and Mattuvil are also mentioned in the campaigns on Prakramaahu I. Valigama is mentioned in Sigiri Graffitti where a Sinhalese person had visited Sigiri and had inscribed a Graffitti in Sinhala which proves that during the eight century the Valikamen area had been populated by the Sinhalese.
- Gradual Tamilisation of Jaffna peninsula was started after the Cola invasions, which took place during the 13th century and was more or less completed during the time of Aryacakravartis, whose control of the Jaffna peninsula commenced during the 13th century.

IS THE CURRENT CONFLICT AN 'ETHNIC ISSUE'?



Kiri Vehera in Kataragama, Lord Muruga and Entrance to the Ruhunu Kataragama Devalaya

Myth:

This is a conflict between Sinhalese Buddhists and Tamil Hindus.

Truth:

- ♦ There are two groups of Tamils in Sri Lanka viz. Sri Lankan Tamils and Indian Tamils.
- ◆ The demand for a separate state is made supposedly on behalf of the Sri Lankan Tamils.

- The 'Indian Tamils' are distinct from the 'Sri Lankan Tamils' and are concentrated in the central regions of the island. Their representatives have traditionally been coalition partners of the government of Sri Lanka. They make no claim for a separate state.
- ◆ Tamilş live in harmony among the Sinhalese and other communities in Sri Lanka.
- Most Sinhalese are Buddhists but some are Christian. Likewise, most Tamils are Hindus but some are Christian.
- Sri Lanka has a multi-ethnic, multi-religious society.
- There is amity among the followers of religions, i.e. Buddhists, Hindus, Muslims and Christians.
- ♦ 54% of Sri Lankan Tamils live outside the Northern and Eastern Provinces and do not support the demand for a Tamil Homeland.
- "Tamils are living in Colombo peacefully with their Sinhalese and Muslim friends. So there is no ethnic conflict here. And certainly the government is defending itself against terrorism" (U.S. Ambassador Robert Blake Hindu-PTI May 25 2008)

ORIGINS OF THE CURRENT CONFLICT

- While Sinhalese comprise app. 74% of the population, Sri Lankan Tamils make up app. 12%.
- The British, as part of their "Divide and Rule" policy, gave minority Tamils more prominence in society than the majority Sinhalese.
- During British colonial times, Tamils, particularly those in Jaffna, had greater facilities for education and more numbers in the civil service than the percentage of their population.
- Sri Lankan leaders, who took the reins of power in 1948, had to rectify this imbalance, which resulted in unrelenting accusations of discrimination against Tamils, even prior to independence.
- ◆ In response to a complaint by the All Ceylon Tamil Congress (ACTC) about discrimination in respect of appointment to the civil service, the Soulbury Commission said it "did not as might have been expected, disclose that the proportion of posts held by the Ceylon Tamils was smaller than the size of their community would justify. On the contrary, the Ceylon Tamils appear at any rate as late as 1938, to have occupied a disproportionate number of posts in the public services".

- At the time of independence in 1948, Tamils demanded 50% of representation for the minority communities in the state legislature. (Note: Indian & Ceylon Tamils comprise 23% of the population at that time.) This demand was not seen favorably by Britain. All Ceylon Moors' Association representing the Muslims in Ceylon disassociated themselves from this demand. (Ch. 12 of Soulbury Commission Report).
- ♦ When the Soulbury Commission report became public, G. G. Ponnambalam informed the Secretary of State for the Colonies that if the proposals were not revised, Tamils would be forced to press for a federal constitution. (*The Fall and Rise of the Tamil Nation by V. Navaratnam page 37*). Subsequently, the Federal Party (Illangai Thamil Arasu Kachchi -ITAK) was established by S.V.J. Chelvanayagam in 1949, which broke away from the ACTC, and demanded a federal state for Sri Lankan Tamils.
- ◆ The reason for Chelvanayagam's decision was due to the fact that the government accepted G.G. Ponnambalam as a member of the cabinet without making similar offer to him. Petty personal political ambitions, rather than issues affecting the Tamils were at the root of fracturing the Sri Lankan polity.

JUSTIFICATION OF CLAIM FOR A SEPARATE STATE BY TAMIL POLITICIANS

◆ 1 million Tamils declared as non-citizens in 1948!

This issue affected Indian Tamils numbering around 850,000 and not Sri Lankan Tamils (or Ceylon Tamils). They were brought by the British to work as bonded laborers in tea plantations and resided in Ceylon on Temporary Resident Permits (TRPs). Ceylon, as a newly independent country, had to decide, who should comprise citizens of the island.

The Ceylon Citizenship Act of 1948 allowed those, who were born in Ceylon, prior to November 1949, of a father born in Ceylon, to be accepted as a citizen of the country.

The Indian and Pakistani (Residents) Citizenship Act of 1949 made further concessions, which enabled 145,000 more Indian Tamils to acquire citizenship and G.G. Ponnambalam (Sr.), leader of All Ceylon Tamil Congress supported the 1949 Act.

Subsequent to negotiations with India in 1964 and 1974, and finally, with the Grant of Citizenship of Persons of Indian Origin Act of 2003, the issue of Indian Tamils was finally resolved.

♦ Sinhala made the sole official language

At the time of independence, the overwhelming majority of the country, (70%), was Sinhalese. However, the official language was English, spoken by a mere fraction of the population.

In 1956, Sinhala, the language of the overwhelming majority, became the official language, following a pledge made by the government.

Two years later, another Act was passed by parliament, providing for reasonable use of the Tamil language. However, it must be admitted that provision failed to have the desired results.

Today, both Sinhala and Tamil are official languages, and English is a link language as provided for in the 13th amendment to the constitution of Sri Lanka in 1987. Action is being taken to teach Sinhala to the Tamil students and Tamil to Sinhala students.

Sinhala colonization of traditional Tamil homeland!

Population in the post independent period increased significantly from 6.7 million in 1948 to 8.1 million in 1953, representing an annual growth from 1.5 % to 2.8%. By 1963 the population stood at 10.6 million.

http://www.jstor.org/pss/2730390

http://iussp2005.princeton.edu/download.aspx?submissionId=51728

- Movement of people from densely populated areas to sparsely populated areas in the North and East was undertaken during the British colonial era following restoration of reservoirs built since pre-Christian era.
- That practice was followed by post-independent Ceylon, and the land thus occupied, was crown land and not Tamil homeland. By the time of independence, Ceylon Tamils lived in all parts of the island, thus making redundant the claim of an exclusive area for Tamils.
- Mr. Chelvanayagam negotiated with Prime Ministers S.W.R.D. Bandaranaike and Dudley Senanayake in 1957 and 1965 respectively, and signed two agreements addressing issues of interest to Ceylon Tamils. However, these agreements could not be implemented due to objections by the principal opposition political parties and non-consultation of the population.

NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE LTTE



- Sri Lankan government is often advised to seek a negotiated settlement to the conflict.
- With whom should the government negotiate? With the LTTE?
- The LTTE is a fascist organization claiming to represent Tamils, but refuses to subject itself to the will of the people and systematically assassinates Tamil leaders.

- Negotiations between government of Sri Lanka and LTTE go back to 1985, when both sides met in Thimpu, Bhutan, with India's backing. Two years later, in 1987, India brokered the Indo-Lanka Peace Accord. LTTE walked away from negotiations in Thimpu, and having sabotaged the Accord later, assassinated Indian premier Rajiv Gandhi, in 1991.
- Sri Lankan President Premadasa negotiated with the LTTE in 1989/90, and President Chandrika Kumaratunga in 1994/95.
- ◆ LTTE walked away from negotiations in June 1990 and killed over 600 policemen, who had surrendered to them. In April 1995, LTTE broke negotiations and attacked naval vessels in Trincomalee harbor.
- LTTE assassinated President Premadasa in May 1993, and attempted to assassinate President Kumaratunga in 1999, using suicide bombers.
- ◆ LTTE and government signed a ceasefire agreement in February 2002, and engaged in 6 rounds of negotiations. However, in April 2003, it disengaged from negotiations and disbanded mechanisms set up for infrastructure development in the conflict affected areas etc., and assassinated Tamil Foreign Minister Lakshman Kadirgamar in 2005.

- In 2006, LTTE was persuaded to return to the negotiation table in Geneva, which they did, but abruptly walked away, in their customary fashion. In June 2006, LTTE delegation having travelled to Oslo for another round of negotiations, decided not to sit at the negotiating table, citing frivolous reasons.
- LTTE track record proves that the organization does not believe in a negotiated settlement, but is hell bent on achieving a separate state, not through the ballot, but through the barrels of guns.
- If LTTE does not believe in a negotiated settlement, with whom can the Government negotiate?

SUPPOSED GRIEVANCES OF TAMILS AS CLAIMED BY EELAMISTS

Myth:

Tamils are not free to live where they chose to, in Sri Lanka.

◆ Truth:

Tamils, as all other citizens, are free to choose where they wish to live within Sri Lanka. Consequently, over the years, Sri Lankan Tamils, by the thousands, abandoned areas in the north and the east, where LTTE dominated, and settled down in the south, among Sinhalese and other communities.

Myth:

Tamils do not have the same access to education that the Sinhalese do.

♦ Truth:

Tamils do not face discrimination in education, irrespective of where they choose to live. Tamil children are able to study in their mother-tongue and enjoy equal opportunity to enter universities. Education, from primary to secondary and tertiary levels is provided free to all children in Sri Lanka. The state continues to fund the school system even in the areas dominated by the LTTE.

Myth:

Tamils do not have access to quality healthcare and hospitals, when compared to the Sinhalese.

◆ Truth:

Contrary to LTTE claims, the Tamils in North and East enjoy similar access to healthcare, as the Sinhalese in the South. All health care is provided by government hospitals, is free of charge, including in areas dominated by the LTTE.

LIBERATION TIGERS OF TAMIL EELAM (LTTE)

♦ \ Goalt

A mono-ethnic separate state for Sri Lankan Tamils in the North and the East of Sri Lanka.

The vision of Tiger leader V. Prabhakaran :

"....although 80 million Tamils live all around the globe, the Tamils do not have a country of their own." (*Prabhakaran's Heroes' Day Speech, Nov 27, 2007*)

Strategy employed to achieve objective:

Acts of terrorism such as assassinations of presidents, elected members of parliament irrespective of ethnicity, bombings of public places such as trains, buses, shopping complexes, economic nerve centers etc., kidnapping for ransom, forcible recruitment of child soldiers, systematic elimination of Tamil political leaders etc., since 1976, development of suicide vests, belts etc., for eliminating political opponents. Mass massacres of unarmed Sinhalese, Tamils and Muslims.

Myth:

LTTE claims that it is "the sole representative of Tamil people"

Truth:

The status of 'Sole representative' was usurped by assassinating Tamil politicians and preventing democratic elections in the areas dominated by the LTTE..

A FEW EXAMPLES OF POLITICAL ASSASINATIONS

Demonstrate unwillingness to a negotiated settlement





















- A.Amirthalingam Leader of the Tamil United Liberation Front (TULF) and Former Opposition Leader - 13 July 1989
- Ranjan Wijeratne Former Foreign Minister and State Minister for Defence 02 March 1991
- Rajiv Gandhi Former Prime Minister of India 21 May 1991
- R Premadasa President of Sri Lanka 01 May 1993
- Gamini Dissanayake Presidential Candidate & Opposition Leader -24 October 1994
- Dr Neelan Thiruchelvam Eminent Tamil Intellectual and constitutional expert –
 29 July 1999
- C.V. Gooneratne Minister of Industries 07 June 2000
- Lakshman Kadirgamar Foreign Minister 12 August 2005
- Ketheshwaran Loganathan Deputy Secretary General of the Government Peace Secretariat - 12 August 2006
- ♦ Jeyaraj Fernandopulle Minister of Highway and Road Development 06 April 2008

BRUTALITY OF TIGER TERRORISM

(A few examples of LTTE brutality over 30 years)

- 27.07.1976 Assassination of Mayor Duraiappah
- ♦ 30.11.1984 Dollar and Kents Farms, Vavuniya Armed terrorists shot dead 62 Sinhalese settlers and injured many
- 14.05.1985 Shot dead 120 and injured 85 Sinhalese Buddhists at prayer at the sacred Sri Maha Bodhi, Anuradhapura
- 07.02.1987 Arantalawa, Ampara Killed 28 Sinhalese villagers by slashing their necks
- 02.06.1987 Aranthalawe, Ampara Massacre and brutal mutilation of 33 novice Buddhist priests, their mentor the Chief Priest and four Sinhalese civilians
- 02.11.1995 Moneragala Terrorists hacked to death five children aged of one-and-half years, two and-a-half year, 13 years and 15 years and set fire to two huts, where the children were living
- 09.10.1988 Medawachchiya Shot dead 44 Sinhalese villagers and set fire to 11 houses
- 02.02.1989 Ampara Hacked to death 112 Sinhalese villagers
- 11.08.1990 Eravur Attacked Division 3 & 6, Eravur, killing 116 Muslims and injuring 20 others

- 08.04.1990 over three hundred Muslims, men and boys, prostrate in prayer in a mosque in the East were massacred
- 31.01.1996 Central Bank of Sri Lanka, Colombo bomb explosion kills 86 civilians, injures 1338 and severely damages several buildings
- * 24.07.96 Dehiwala twin bombs in rush hour train kills 63 civilians, injures 366
- ♦ 18.09.1999 Ampara 31 men, 15 women, 2 pregnant mothers and 14 children hacked to death
- ◆ 15.06.2007 64 women and children killed, 39 women and children injured in bus bomb
- ◆ 26.05.2007 a rush hour parcel bomb in a congested Colombo suburb killed 8 and injured 72
- 25.04. 2008 a bomb explosion in Piliyandala, a Colombo suburb, killed 25 and injured 73
- ♦ 27.05.2008 a bomb explosion in a rush hour train in Dehiwela, a Colombo suburb, killed 9, and injured 73
- ◆ 06.06.2008 a bomb explosion in Moratuwa, killed 21, and injured over 60

INTERNATIONAL PROSCRIPTION OF LTTE











The world has rejected the use of terrorism as a tool to achieve political objectives

The LTTE is listed as a terrorist organization by many countries around the world and action is being taken to bring its operatives to justice.

- India in 1992, following LTTE assassination of former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi in May 1991
- USA October 1997 proscribed LTTE as Foreign Terrorist Organization
- UK April 2001
- Canada April 2006
- 27 member EU May 2006



• US designated the hitherto accepted charity, Tamil Rehabilitation Organization (TRO) as an LTTE front organization on November 15, 2007.

FULL IMPLEMENTATION OF 13TH AMENDMENT TO THE CONSTITUTION FIRST STEP TOWARD DEVOLUTION



- The 13th amendment to Sri Lanka's constitution as part of the Indo-Lanka Peace Accord of 1987, allowed for provincial autonomy.
- Implementation of the 13th amendment offers to govern their areas with considerable autonomy.
- President Mahinda Rajapaksa has accepted as a first step toward negotiation, the full implementation of the 13th Amendment, as a proposal from the All Party Representative Committee
- Sri Lanka, as any other country, has a responsibility to protect its sovereignty, territorial integrity and lives of the people, by responding militarily to acts of terrorism.
- "As our forces seek to defeat and disarm the LTTE, we are firm in our resolve to have a negotiated solution to the crisis in Sri Lanka. I do not believe in a military solution".
 President Mahinda Rajapaksa's address to the Oxford Union May 13, 2008

ELECTIONS IN THE EASTERN PROVINCE





- The LTTE intends establishing a separate mono-ethnic Tamil state in the north and east of Sri Lanka.
- Sri Lankan armed forces wrested control of the Eastern Province from the LTTE in July 2007, and the government held elections in there on May 10, 2008.
- Despite violations and intimidation, people of the east, Tamils, Moors and Sinhalese etc., took part in the provincial elections with over 60% participation.
- Following the elections, the provincial council administration is headed by a Tamil, with Muslim and Sinhala participation.
- Priority of the government and the eastern provincial administration is to undertake rapid development of the province by providing infrastructure, investment etc., thereby improving the economy and giving an opportunity to the people, particularly the youth of the province, an alternative to violence and destruction.

QUO VADIS SRI LANKA?



- Sri Lanka has a multi-ethnic, multi-religious and multicultural society
- Sinhalese comprise approx. 74% of the population
- Sri Lankan Tamils comprise app. 12% of population
- Indian Tamils comprise 5.8% of population
- Moors comprise 7% of population
- Other communities 1%
- Although Eelamists demand a separate state for Sri Lankan Tamils in the north and the east, 54% of them live outside the North and the East
- Sinhalese, Tamils, Moors, Malays, Burghers and numerous other communities have lived in relative peace and harmony throughout the country for many centuries.
- After 70,000 deaths over 30 years and acrimony generated mainly by narrow political interests, is it not the time for all Sri Lankans to look to the future, rather than the past, and work together for a solution of the conflict that has bedeviled the country?

OUR GLORIOUS RAINBOW OF DIVERSITY OUR HERITAGE & OUR STRENGTH



SRI LANKA ONE ISLAND, ONE NATION

Compiled by Embassy of Sri Lanka, Washington DC, U.S.A