



Vision
To enhance National Security of Sri Lanka through excellence in research education and networking

His Excellency Gotabaya Rajapaksa
President of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka



Hon. Chamal Rajapaksa
State Minister of National Security and Disaster Management



General Kamal Gunaratne (Retd)
WWV RWP RSP USP ndc psc MPhil
Secretary, Ministry of Defence and State Ministry of National Security and Disaster Management



About Us
Institute of National Security Studies (INSS) is the premiere think tank on national security in Sri Lanka established under the Ministry of Defence

Annual Memorial Lecture 2020



Institute of National Security Studies (INSS) held the Annual Memorial Lecture for 2020 in memory of late Admiral Clancy Fernando VSV, ndc, psc at the Suhurupaya Auditorium on 19th February 2021 from 1500 hrs to 1700 hrs with the participation of members of the family and relatives of the late Admiral, Tri forces, Police, STF, retired military officers, members of the diplomatic corps, Defence services command and Staff College, General Sir John Kotelawala Defence University, National Defence College, officials from the Ministry of Defence and a few resource personnel attached to the institute. The lecture though planned to be conducted during the last quarter of 2020 was postponed due to the pandemic situation.



Welcome remarks were presented by the Director-General of INSS Admiral Prof. Jayanath Colombage, RSP, VSV, USP, rcds, psc, MSc (DS), MA (IS), Dip in IR, Dip in CR, FNI (Lond). He praised the efforts of late Admiral Clancy Fernando for being a mentor for the junior officers and always being dedicated, and humble in his actions. Moreover, as per Admiral Professor Colombage, the late Admiral is a man who can read, write and fight and stressed that the only reason why he was assassinated was because he was the only commander who did something different. Consequently, the Chief

Guest of the event the Secretary to Ministry of Defence & State Ministry of National Security and Disaster management, General Kamal Gunaratne (Retd) WWV RWP RSP USP ndc psc MPhil presented opening remarks of the memorial lecture. He shed light on the selfless services rendered by



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late Admiral Clancy Fernando during his short tenure as the Commander of the Navy who was the only military commander to be assassinated during the conflict and expressed his honour for the opportunity to grace the event as the Chief Guest. Aftermath Mrs. Monica Fernando, beloved wife of late Admiral, garlanded the Portrait of the late Admiral which was a very emotional moment for all. Succeeding, Cdr (ASW) Chandana Pawuluge introduced the guest orator of the memorial lecture, Admiral Thisara Samarasinghe, RSP, VSV, USP, ndc,

psc, DBA. Admiral Samarasinghe conducted an outstanding oration titled “Sea Power of an Island Nation and Admiral Clancy Fernando”. In his words, “Late Admiral foresaw the necessities of securing national interests on the oceans, taking examples of the past history which was his forte!” Some of the eclectic contributions by Late Admiral Clancy Fernando was the introduction of an efficient and secure communication by devising the first ever-cryptographic system known as “SINHALE” for Sri Lanka Navy replacing the Royal Navy’s system “BRITEX”. For his phenomenal, patriotic service to the nation, he was honoured with medals including Civil Armed Services Long Services Medal and Clasp, Sri Lanka Navy 25th Anniversary Medal, Sri Lanka Armed Services Long Service Medal and Clasp, Republic of Sri Lanka Armed Services Medal, President’s inauguration medal and Purna Bhumi Medal and Vishista Seva Vibushanaya medal. He is the highest-ranking military officer who sacrificed

his life for the nation. Aftermath of the remarkable oration made by Admiral Thisara Samarasinghe on behalf of the late Admiral Clancy Fernando, General Kamal Gunaratne (Retd) presented a Plaque of appreciation to the orator. Mr Nishan Fernando, son of late Admiral Clancy Fernando delivered the vote of thanks and appreciated the successful effort of INSS staff for organizing the event which brought fond memories of his father expressing the gratitude by his family and relatives for remembering the sacrifices made by the late Admiral even after 30 long years.



Round Table Discussion on “Right to Privacy in the Digital age; Liberty and Security at Loggerheads”.

Institute of National Security Studies (INSS) held a Round Table Discussion, at the INSS conference hall on 02nd February from 1600 hrs to 1730 hrs with the participation of several experts from the legal, information technology, academic, military, police and intelligence fields to discuss on Right to Privacy in the Digital field and its impact on security and liberty. The guest speakers of the discussion were Dr. Chamila Talagala, Legal Consultant and member Australian Centre for Intellectual Property in Agriculture and Mr. Jayantha Fernando, Director Sri Lanka CERT and the Legal Advisor to Information Communication Technology Agency.



The Round Table Discussion was moderated by Rear Admiral Dimuthu Gunewardena, RWP**, RSP, VSV, USP, nswc, psc, hdmc Director Communication and Publication of INSS. Rear Admiral Dimuthu Gunewardene commenced the session by welcoming the guest speakers including the distinguished invitees and the participants. He shed light on the matter of how privacy right has become vulnerable citing the example on recent controversy regarding alleged compromise in security in using social media sites such as WhatsApp and government websites shifting to Gmail to safeguard privacy. Dr. Chamila Talagala delivered an illustrious presentation on what is right to privacy, privacy as a human right, the components of privacy rights and the legal instruments relating to right of privacy.

Moreover, he highlighted the novel methods of intrusions to privacy of an individual. One of the key aspect he pointed is the right to

privacy and its relation to national security. In addition, the necessity of balancing individual rights against the collective rights and how national security, being the best interest of the majority must be given precedence. The second speaker Mr. Jayantha Fernando delivered a notable presentation by elucidating what is the privacy, how it is interlinked with rights. Moreover, he highlighted the key domestic as well as international legal instruments. He emphasized the challenges faced in the digital era and referred to the privacy by giving practical examples. Aftermath of the two remarkable presentations a lengthy and interesting discussion commenced. Additional Solicitor General Mr. Susantha Balapatabendi representing the Attorney General’s department delivered detailed remarks on UN Resolutions regarding privacy and national laws. Dr. Chathura De Silva and Colonel KP Prathapasinge added

noteworthy comments in information technology and security aspect especially on tracing technologies already in practice in Sri Lanka as well as the lacunas of existing laws and regulations to address issues of right to privacy vs. National Security. Rear Admiral Dimuthu Gunewardene presented certificates of appreciation to the two guest speakers.



Round table Discussion on 'Atrocities on Peace & Humanity: Role of the LTTE'

The Round Table Discussion on the topic of 'Atrocities on Peace & Humanity: Role of the LTTE' organized by the Institute of National Security Studies was conducted on the 29th January 2021. The discussion was held virtually, creating a platform with the participation of foreign missions in Colombo, Sri Lankan missions abroad, diplomats, academics, military personnel and the general public; covering the subject through multiple dimensions.

The session was moderated by the Director General of INSS, Admiral (Prof.) Jayanath Colombage and the panel consisted of Honorary Professor, General Sir John Kotelawala Defence University Professor Rohan Gunaratna, Major Sinduja Jayaratne from Department of Strategic Studies General Sir John Kotelawala Defence University and Mrs. Shanika Sriyananda, Director Research and Analysis at the Presidential Secretariat. At the onset, Admiral (Prof.) Colombage provided a descriptive narrative on how the LTTE was responsible for the deaths of a vast majority of Tamils and Muslims in the North and the east, and how the uprooting of LTTE terrorism by the Sri Lankan government had impacted the country in international forums; under violating human rights.

The panelists provided factual analysis based on the true incidents that took place between the Eelam war and the rehabilitation process that followed. The speakers in essence briefed on the involvement of the LTTE and the Diaspora lead money and weapons trail, atrocities by the LTTE on wreaking havoc and misery during the war. Incidents including Massacring Buddhist clergy at Arantalawa, killing of innocent civilians at Kebithigollewa, bombing the Central Bank,



Moderator



Admiral (Prof.) Jayanath Colombage
Director General
Institute of National Security Studies

Institute of National Security Studies Round Table Discussion on "Atrocities on Peace and Humanity: Role of the LTTE"

Panelists



Prof. Rohan Gunaratna
Honorary Professor
General Sir John Kotelawala Defence University



Major Sinduja Jayaratne
Lecturer
Department of Strategic Studies
Faculty of Defence & Strategic Studies,
General Sir John Kotelawala Defence University



Shanika Sriyananda
Director
Research and Analysis Division
Presidential Secretariat

Date : 29th January 2021
From : 10.00 am - 11.30 am
(Sri Lankan time)

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abductions and numerous abductions and killings were among the brutal crimes brought on discussion. Special attention to the impeding United Nations Human Rights Council report was given throughout the discussion. All three speakers provided facts portraying the breaches in human security and peace with the backing of solid evidence. All three speakers made significant revelations; Professor Gunaratna stressing on the involvement of LTTE backed NGOs' in the accusations of the UNHRC. An Important notion towards the involvement of child soldiers and incidents of the LTTE involving humans as a shield were stressed by Major Sinduja Jayaratne; signifying the ethical aspect of the malpractices carried out by the LTTE. The discussion also focused on the effort of the LTTE's international movement to incriminate the Humanitarian Operations of the Sri Lankan government using money and political powers of the world. Prof. Gunaratna vividly described how the LTTE diaspora money is linked to the said

accusations. An urgent need to disclose the actuality of the war and the true violators of human security was synonymous through the panel. Adding further significance to the discussion, Ambassador Ashraff Haidari added his insights to the forum by drawing comparisons to the Taliban operations in Afghanistan and how the international community of the Taliban had been supporting their operations to spread terror amongst the people. The ambassador's statement also complimented the Sri Lankan Government had been developing in terms of infrastructure and is optimistic of its rise to development. Adding further to his comment, Ambassador Haidari stressed that the international community should support the Government of Sri Lanka in its effort to rise. The discussion concluded successfully with a number of significant outcomes whilst providing insights to the local and international audiences, through the eyes of those who've been there witnessing the brutality of the LTTE.

Institute of National Security Studies (INSS) organized a Threat Lens on "Balancing Tourism with COVID 19"

Institute of National Security Studies (INSS) held a 'Threat Lens' a close door roundtable discussion at the Ministry of Defence with the participation of a number of experts to discuss particular threats to Sri Lanka's National Security.

The Threat lens was titled "Balancing Tourism with COVID 19" and was held at the main auditorium in the Ministry of Defence on 09th February 2021 from 1500hrs to 1430hrs.



The COVID-19 pandemic has given birth to a global humanitarian crisis effecting global health, economy, politics and social wellbeing. Amongst the sectors impacted, world tourism experienced the heaviest blow. Sri Lanka's tourism industry drastically fell due to the COVID 19 Pandemic. The discussion by various stakeholders at this 'Threat Lens' comprehensively aimed to address the contemporary issues related to revival of tourism focusing on how the relevant authorities should grapple economic security, and health security in ensuring national security.

The Threat Lens' was chaired by General G.D.H. Kamal Gunaratne (Retd) WWV RWP RSP USP ndc psc MPhil Secretary to the State Ministry of National Security and Disaster Management, and the guest speaker was Dr. Prasad Jayasuriya, Director, Tourism Planning, Development and Investor Relations at the Sri Lanka Tourism Development Authority (SLTDA).



Other experts who contributed for this discussion were Dr. (Ms.) Lakshmi Somathunga, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Health; Dr Sapumal Dhanapala, National Professional Officer for Health Emergency, World Health organization Sri Lanka; Dr. (Ms.) Susie Perera, Deputy Director General, Ministry of Health; Dr. Inoka Suraweera, Consultant Community Physician Environmental & Occupational Health; OIC Prabath Vidanagamage, Tourism Police and Air Commodore MDJ Wasage, Commanding Officer, Sri Lanka Air Force Station Bandaranaik International Airport.

Round Table Discussion on “Sri Lanka’s Children as Instrument of War”

The Institute of National Security Studies (INSS) held a panel discussion titled “Sri Lanka’s Children as Instrument of War”. The discussion was held at the Mini Conference Hall at the Foreign Ministry on 22nd February 2021 from 1000hrs-1130hrs with the participation of foreign missions in Colombo, Sri Lankan missions abroad, diplomats, academics, military personnel and the general public on a virtual platform covering the subject on multiple dimensions.

The session was moderated by the Director General of INSS, Admiral (Prof.) Jayanath Colombage, and comprised of an expert panel of speakers namely Dr. Dayani Panagoda, Senior Technical Advisor, US AID Score Project. Dr. Malkanthi Hettiarachchi, Clinical Psychologist and Major General Sudantha Ranasinghe RWP RSP ndu psc, Additional Secretary (Disaster Management), State Ministry of National Security and Disaster Management.



At the onset, Admiral Colombage provided a descriptive narrative on how the LTTE was responsible for robbing the children of their basic freedom, their school education, dreams and their childhood. The panel discussion over all focused on providing an insight to the ruthless acts committed by the LTTE against the innocent Children of Sri Lanka, and how those actions reflected upon Sri Lanka while addressing the allegations raised by the international community on Sri Lanka.

Dr. Dayani Panagoda set out the legal frame work to the fundamental child rights which was deliberately abused by the LTTE. She also firmly stated that children who were victimized must be protected under the law and to be reintegrated back into society and to receive the opportunity to live a life that they truly deserve.



Major General Sudantha Ranasinghe RWP RSP ndu psc, having personal experience in rehabilitation programs mentioned that over 6,000 of captured/surrendered cadres have been already re-integrated back into the society. The Former LTTE cadres were provided with vocational training while school children were facilitated to complete their secondary education. He also mentioned how 594 child soldiers have been reunited with their families. They are now into higher education, permanent employment and contributing to National Economy, whilst enjoying and living in peaceful environment in their original Habitats with kith and kin. Dr. Malkanthi Hetteiarachi discussed about the physiological aspect that the children underwent and stressed that the horrors the victims faced are unfathomable and further discussed how certain children during their abduction were raped, beaten, tortured, and forced to carry out acts of violence against the military and innocent civilians. The LTTE gave cyanide capsules and grenades to its child soldiers, with instructions to take the capsule or blow themselves in the event they are captured.

The discussion concluded successfully with a significant outcome and multi-dimensional aspects to the topic was discussed whilst providing insights to the local and international audiences of the grave child rights violations committed by the LTTE over innocent children where the future of a portion of our nation’s youth was stolen.



Defence Review 2020 launched!

Defence Review 2020 is a peer-reviewed journal with scholarly articles. This annual publication of INSS was first launched in 2017 and Defence Review 2020 marks the third volume. The main objective of Defence Review is to examine current trends, threats and challenges to various facets of national security; namely food security, water security, maritime security, health security and military etc.

Defence Review 2020 was successfully launched by General Kamal Gunaratne (Retd) WWV RWP RSP USP ndc psc MPhil, Secretary to the State Ministry of National Security and



Disaster Management on 27th January 2021 at the Institute of National Security Studies. The event was graced by representatives from State Ministry of National Security and Disaster Management, editorial board members and peer reviewers. Defence Review 2020 is a compilation of six papers from local and international scholars. Authors are from Sri Lanka, India, Afghanistan, Bangladesh, and United States of America.

This was a step forward in contributing to national security through research and education. Addressing the gathering General Kamal Gunaratne highly commended the publication and was thankful for all who contributed to it; authors, peer reviewers, editorial board and the copy editor for overwhelmingly contributing their time to share a portion of great knowledge for the rise of professionals. He stated that the Institute of National Security Studies has become successful in paving the path to assist the traditional national security dialogue to a broader platform with domestic and global experiences.

Admiral Professor Jayanath Colombage, Foreign Secretary, Director General of the INSS speaks at the book launch of “Geneva Crisis – The Way Forward”

Geneva Crisis – The Way Forward compiled by the Ambassadors’ Forum of Sri Lanka was launched on 12th March 2021 at the Foreign Ministry. Foreign Minister Dinesh Gunawardena and Foreign Secretary, the Director General of Institute of national Security Studies (INSS) Admiral Professor Jayanath Colombage participated at this event.

This book contains twenty eight (28) articles related to the Geneva Crisis. The writers of the articles consist of a number of key personalities including the incumbent Foreign Minister and Foreign Secretary. In addition, retired diplomats, experts, legislators, academics and others contributed to this book. Director General Admiral (Prof.) Colombage made a speech at this event and articulated Sri Lanka’s way forward in relation to the UNHRC resolution.



New Appointments for the Research Department



Madhushan Seneviratne



Savithri Sellaperumage



Bodhana Perera

Institute of National security Studies recruited new researchers to the research department on 22nd of March 2021. Madhushan Senevirathna was appointed as Research Analyst while Savithri Sellaperumage and Bodhana Perera were appointed as Research Assistants to the institute.

Public Lecture on “Impact of Port City to National Security of Sri Lanka”

Institute of National Security Studies (INSS) held a public lecture, on 26th March at the institute premises from 0930 hrs to 1100 hrs with participation of experts from Sri Lanka Ports Authority, tri-forces, academia diplomatic fields as well as from Urban Development Authority. The event was marked as the first discussion convened on Colombo Port City Project following the cabinet approval gained on 24th, March 2021 on Port City legislation. Accordingly, the discussion by various stakeholders at this discussion comprehensively aimed to address the contemporary and future issues related to the establishment of the Port City on how the relevant authorities should grapple with ensuring national security.



Accordingly, the guest speaker introduced the Colombo Port City to be a public private partnership (PPP) between the Government of Sri Lanka (GOSL) and CHEC Port City Colombo Pvt Ltd (Project Company) and is a FDI of at least US \$ 1.4 billion (Rs. 218 billion). She further expounded on the development plan touching upon the connectivity between infrastructure of Port City and Colombo, the land ownership of the project; as gazetted by His Excellency the President of Sri Lanka under the State Lands Ordinance, all reclaimed lands are established as part of the territory of Sri Lanka, and the master plan; where 74 marketable plots are categorized with 5 districts (Financial, the Marina, the International Island, Island Living, Central Park Living). Describing further key elements, she explained that there would be a well-defined road system, green network, network of public open places. Therefore, with the extensively of the project, the partnership between GOSL and Project Company in terms of security issues were discussed in extant especially pertaining to environmental, economic as well as military security.

Pertaining to ensurance of environvromental security, it was thus explained that first Environmental Impact Assessment on Port City was done in 2011 and consequently a Supplementary Environmental Impact Assessment was completed in 2015. The report linked environmental aspect for the first time to socio economic implications. In terms of economic growth and implications, it was highlighted that there would be a Light Railway Transit (LRT) within Port City as well. However, it was brought to light that a discussion



The lecture was moderated by Admiral (Prof) Jayanath Colombage RSP VSV USP rcds psc; Director General of the INSS and Secretary to the Foreign Ministry, and the guest speaker was Eng. S. K. A.P. Devaraja, Director General (Development) of State Ministry of Urban Development, Coast Conservation, Waste Disposal and Community Cleanliness. Other experts such as Former Commander of the Air Force; Air Chief Marshal Gagan Bulathsinghala RWP,RSP,VSV,USP,Mphil,MSc,FIM (SL) ndc, psc., Dr. Kamal Ranatunga Senior Lecturer Department of Zoology, University of Sri Jayawardenapura, Commander D V C B Paulis (Retd) Managing Director Neat Solutions, Commodore Suresh De Silva, USP, ndc, psc., Deputy Area Commander (West) and Captain R. Joseph RSP,USP,psc,MCPS Commanding officer of Sri Lanka Navy Ship Rangalla of the Sri Lanka Navy contributed to this discussion which was insightful and visionary.



on security plan for the Colombo Port City Project is yet to be finalized. And the gathering further opined that there should be an integrated approach for national security within the Port City incorporating the three forces, police, firefighters etc. As a key point, it was stated the need to allocate responsible authority to engage in operation and maintenance of breakwater to fill the current vacuum of authority. The discussion concluded with ending remarks by Director General and it was concluded that the project must be treated not only as a plot of land but more as a facility and appropriate policies and practices must be realized in reaping the maximum advantage of the project.

INSS bids ‘Adios’ to Research Assistant Udeshika Jayasekara

Udeshika Jayasekara was appointed as a research assistant to the Institute of National Security Studies on 01st January 2019. She handled media and press related work of the institute with excellence. In addition she was an active researcher in the research department and contributed immensely for the institute by organizing and participating in national security discussions, and in researches pertaining to national security. She has also published several commentaries, and research papers in local and international journals. She left the institute after serving for more than two years on 28th of February 2021 and INSS wishes her all the best and good luck in her new voyage.



Sri Lanka's Way Forward in UNHRC Discussed at the Diners Club Discussion

The Institute of National Security Studies organized a Diners Club Discussion on United Nations Human Rights Council on 8th February 2021 at the Wardroom, Western Naval Command, SLNS Rangalla, Colombo Port from 1930-2130 hrs. The speakers for the discussion were Amb. HMGS Palihakkara, Former Secretary to Ministry of Foreign Affairs and former Governor of Northern Province; Amb. Bernard Goonatilleke, Chairman at Pathfinder Foundation and former Secretary to Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Dr. Rohan Perera, Former Permanent Representative of Sri Lanka to UN. The discussion was based on Chatham House rules and was moderated by Admiral (Prof.) Jayanath Colombage, Director General of the Institute of National Security Studies and Secretary to the Foreign Ministry.



The event was graced by Secretary to Ministry of Defence and State Ministry for National Security and Disaster Management, General Kamal Gunaratne (Retd) WWV RWP RSP USP ndc psc MPhil. Other distinguished invitees were from the tri forces, police, STF, CNI, SIS, Ministry of Defence, State Ministry of National Security and Disaster Management, General Sir John Kotelawala Defence University, military academies and other academic institutions.

The discussion commenced with a preamble by Admiral (Prof.) Jayanath Colombage highlighting the potential of Sri Lanka, battling a three-decade long conflict with a terrorist organization. This was supported by Dr. Perera with his insights to International Legal Framework of UNHRC. Amb. Goonatilleke generalized the implications of UNHRC country specific resolutions and repercussions on withdrawal from these resolutions, with a special reference to the context of Sri Lanka. Finally, Amb. Palihakkara recommended the way forward for Sri Lanka.



Admiral Professor Jayanath Colombage, Director General of the INSS delivered the inaugural speech at the Lakshman Kadirgamar Institute.

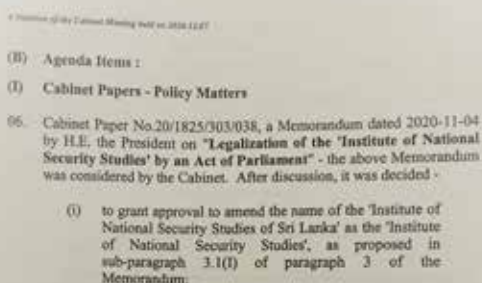


Admiral Prof. Jayanath Colombage addressed a networking meeting on 29th January 2021 at the Lakshman Kadirgamar Institute taking forward Sri Lanka's leadership role in the Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA) Working Group on Maritime Safety and Security (WGMSS). As the third largest ocean woven together by trade routes, The Indian Ocean commands control of major sea-lanes carrying half of the world's container ships, one third of the world's bulk cargo traffic and two third of the world's oil shipments, the Indian Ocean remains an important lifeline to international trade and transport.

Considering these circumstances, realizing the importance of regional cooperation in the Indian Ocean for the development of the Indian Ocean littoral states the Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA) was established in 1997. Sri Lanka is a founding member of IORA. In 2011, IORA assigned Maritime Safety and Security (MSS) as the top priority area of focus.

Addressing the gathering, the Director General elaborated that as a part of the overall responsibilities of heading the IORA WGMSS, Sri Lanka has committed to bring together like-minded persons working on MSS related issues in order to organize a series of workshops/seminars on MSS locally and regionally, looking at how Sri Lanka can benefit from and contribute to regional cooperation on MSS.

Institute of National Security Studies Sri Lanka continues to operate in excellence with a new title.



The name of the institute was changed by a cabinet decision taken on 07th December 2020 from Institute of National Security Studies, Sri Lanka (INSSSL) to Institute of National Security Studies (INSS).

Ruwanthi Jayasekara attended the Expert Round table on "EU-South Asia: Regionalism, Engagement and the Next Steps"

The expert round table was organized by the European Policy Centre (EPC) in cooperation with the Asian Institute of Diplomacy and International Affairs (AIDIA) and was held on 3rd February 2021 via zoom.

The EU and South Asian countries are stepping up their cooperation on various aspects including trade and investment. The discussion created the path to highlighting the need of establishing a strategy for South Asia by the EU and what differences and challenges South Asia is facing today that should be addressed for better regional integration.

Human Shields in Sri Lanka:

The proud national anthem of Sri Lanka starts off with the words “Namo Matha... unique is that it is a song of praise to the country alone. It does not specifically glorify any race, caste, creed, community or religion. It is non-partisan and appeals to the patriotism of all the people in–Mother Lanka. Due to Sri Lanka’s strategic geographic position we were lucky to be spared from much of the worlds war ravages. Our own armies have not gone out solely on the intention to instill an act of terror or conquer lands; Sri Lanka was not a martial race spoiling for a war nor a fight. However, when ideologies and differences cannot be settled amicably the weapons speak, wars happen bringing violent death and massive destruction to the economic structure and the overall deterioration of social standards. Similarly, in the history, Sri Lanka has a few dark pages where the country underwent into several communal clashes which turned out to be bloody wars.

The LTTE, or also known as the Tamil Tigers, emerged out with a dedicated aim to the fight for an independent state for the Tamils. Thereafter the LTTE began the war by ambushing an army convoy and killed Thirteen soldiers. This incident provoked Riots. Thus, led the armed conflict In Sri Lanka which began in 1983 this incurred heavy human and economic costs with many lives lost, and more than one million people displaced and civilian with acute humanitarian need. When the LTTE was eventually defeated and its leadership brought to an end on May 18th 2009. Many lives were lost due to the civil war and many still suffer from the consequences of it. The war was noted for its extreme bitterness, with the Tamil Tigers using suicide bombing, human shields, child soldiers as their tactical weapon. During the long-drawn war in Sri Lanka Civilians have been extensively used as shields for protection, coercion, or deterrence. The term “human shields” is described as a method of warfare which was prohibited by the International Humanitarian Law where the presence of civilians or the movement of the civilian population, whether voluntary or involuntary, is used in order to shield military objectives from attack, or to shield, favor or impede military operations. In both international and non-international armed conflicts, the use of human shields is prohibited and the rules are set in the Third and Fourth Geneva Conventions as well as the Additional Protocol I. Additionally, the International Criminal Court declares that “utilizing the presence of a civilian or other protected person to render certain points, areas or military forces immune from military operations” constitutes a war crime. During the war the LTTE had forced many innocent civilians into a narrow strip of land on Sri Lanka’s northeastern coast, effectively using several hundred thousand people as human shields. The LTTE heavily incurred and injured, brutally killed many of those who were trying to flee from their control of the war zone and seek basic humanitarian assistance and shelter to government-held territory which was on standby to help and save the innocent civilians. LTTE forces had also deployed near the densely populated areas, placing civilians in increased danger of attack. According to Human Rights Watch Report titled “Trapped and Mistreated” December 2008, the LTTE is using the displaced population as a human shield and preventing them from leaving LTTE territory.

It is evident that no attention has been paid towards the actions of the LTTE for forcibly taking a large population of Tamil civilians into an area demarcated by Sri Lanka’s Government as the No Fire Zone and making them immune from attack. The LTTE had bundle civilians (as hostages or human shields) into an atmosphere such as schools, places of religious worship, hospitals etc. After a long struggle by the valiant Sri Lanka Army 58 Division rescued over 30,000 civilians who were held as a hostage by LTTE terrorists at Puthumathalan and Amplalavanpokkani areas have been liberated. The mass rescue operation reached a huge significant phase when troops captured the 3 km long earth bund built by the LTTE, on the western border of the No Fire Zone in (April 20.2009) with this capture it created a safe route for the hostages to come out of the LTTE’s grip and gave tens of thousands of civilians to be free to seek refuge with the soldiers of Sri Lanka. Meanwhile, Defence sources on the field said that LTTE terrorists have launched many cowardly attacks at the Tamil civilians who tried to leave their grip. The Defence.lk special correspondent in the area has said that three LTTE suicide cadres have exploded themselves killing dozens of refugees including women and children. “The terrorists initially fired at the civilians on the causeway using heavy machine guns. When they stepped into the lagoon to avoid LTTE machine gunfire, three LTTE cadres ran on to them and exploded themselves”

Read full article here: <https://ceylontoday.lk/news/the-real-story-of-the-people-forced-to-stand-in-the-line-of-fire>

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Sri Lanka: World’s largest hostage rescue mission becomes success; over 30,000 rescued, reliefweb, 20 Apr 2009, [<https://reliefweb.int/>]

Shenali Waduge, LTTE War Crimes: Human Shields, Sri Lanka Guardian October 12, 2012, [<http://www.srilankaguardian.org/>]

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The real story of the people who were forced to stand between the line of fire.

**By: Lughadarini Yogaraja
Intern (Research)**

However, when we take a look at the LTTE they have deliberately prevented civilians under its effective control from fleeing to areas and unlawfully placed many lives at grave risk. The LTTE has forced civilians to retreat and prolonged the danger they face and kept them far apart from obtaining any sort of humanitarian assistance thus to make it convenient for the them to use the civilians as human shield for their own advantage. Furthermore, as the areas that was controlled by the LTTE strengthened the trapped civilians became the concentrated increasing risk in the events of attacks and placed great strains on the civilian’s life thus making situation difficult for the government to defend and save lives. The civilians were more desperate to escape these torture chambers and more and more people have tried to flee from the so called LTTE controlled territories. As mentioned on the video above the LTTE has forcibly tried to block these attempts by firing at civilians. The fact that many innocent Tamil civilians were desperately seeking to escape from the LTTE’s grip clearly indicates the amount of false accusations of genocide and mass killings by the Sri Lankan armed forces is simply a major smokescreen and nothing short of ridiculing an achievement no military has been able to do in the world. The so called patriotic Supporters of LTTE through an euphoric fantasy called the Eelam sensationalizing, have hidden the most horrid crimes that should have been condemned worldwide and international organizations must look into the atrocities and shed light on the real story that took place during the war.



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