

## **Tamil nationalist movement in Tamil Nadu**

Sri Lanka which was formerly a British colony known as Ceylon was granted independence in 1948. There were differences between the majority Sinhalese community and the minority Tamil ethnic community even while drafting the country's new post-independence constitution. In 1956, Prime Minister S.W.R.D. Bandaranaike's "Sinhala only Act" had led to ethnic riots in the island state. In 1963, some documents advocating a separate Tamil Eelam were found in circulation in Tamil-inhabited areas. It was around this time that Anton Balasingham, an employee of British High Commission in Colombo, started participating in separatist activities. He soon migrated to Britain where he later emerged as one of the most prominent leaders of Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam. In the late sixties, several young Tamil youths, including Velupillai Prabhakaran, had become very active in campaigning for Tamil Eelam and they together formed the Tamil New Tigers (TNT) in 1972. These youngsters had taken inspiration from the great first Millennium Chola Empire and even had adopted the tiger emblem of the Chola empire. The first major operation of TNT was the assassination of Alfred Duraipah, Mayor of Jaffna by Prabhakaran in 1975. The Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) was founded in 1976 by Velupillai Prabhakaran as a successor to the Tamil New Tigers. The formation of the Tamil United Liberation Front (TULF) in 1976 and the Eelam Revolutionary Organization of Students in Manchester (England) further strengthened the Tamil militant movement both within Sri Lanka and among the Tamil diaspora.

The LTTE carried out its first major terror attack on July 23, 1983 by staging an ambush against a Sri lankan Army convoy outside Jaffna, killing 13 Sri Lankan soldiers, leading to the Black July riots against the Tamil community in Sri Lanka in which hundreds of Tamil civilians were killed. ([http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Black\\_July](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Black_July)). Enraged by the intensity of anti-Tamil riots, Tamil youths in large numbers started joining various Tamil militant groups to fight against the Sri Lankan government, marking the beginning of a long-drawn insurgency movement in Sri Lanka.

Initially, the LTTE operated in cooperation with other Tamil militant groups and in April 1984, it formally joined a common militant front called the Eelam National Liberation Front (ENLF), an alliance formed by the LTTE, the Tamil Eelam Liberation Organisation (TELO), the Eelam Revolutionary Organisation of Students (EROS), the People's Liberation Organisation of Tamil Eelam (PLOTE) and the Eelam People's Revolutionary Liberation Front (EPRLF). The TELO generally toed the Indian line on all issues and pushed for India's views during peace talks with Sri Lanka government and other groups. The LTTE always denounced the pro-India line of TELO alleging that India's action was always guided by its own interest. As a result of such internal contradictions, in 1986 the LTTE broke away from the ENLF and soon fighting broke out first between the TELO and the LTTE and subsequently between LTTE and EPRLF, resulting in the ouster of both TELO and EPRLF from the entire Jaffna Peninsula. The LTTE then ordered all other insurgent groups to accept the leadership of Prabhakaran for the effectiveness of the Tamil insurgent movement. With other major groups like TELO and EPRLF decimated, the remaining splinter groups numbering about

20 had no other choice but to fall in line with the dictate of the LTTE, thus making Jaffna, an LTTE-dominated city. The LTTE by then had already eclipsed all other militant factions in popularity. Tamil people were highly impressed by the practice of LTTE cadres wearing a cyanide vial hung around their neck for consumption to avoid being captured alive which showed their extreme dedication and sacrifice. Other traits of admiration associated with LTTE cadres included their strict abstinence from smoking, liquor, sex, their snapping of all ties with the family members and their practice of taking an oath of loyalty proclaiming their goal of establishing the Tamil Eelam.

### Indian support and intervention

Right from the beginning of the conflict, both the government of India as well as the government of Tamil Nadu have supported the various Tamil insurgent organisations in Sri Lanka. While the government of Tamil Nadu gave asylum and material help to Sri Lankan Tamils who came as refugees to Tamil Nadu, the Centre provided money and arms training to cadres of various Sri Lankan Tamil insurgent outfits, including LTTE and its rival TELO, in secret training camps in Tamil Nadu. India had many compulsions. The Tamil insurgency in Sri Lanka is a touchy problem for India. The people of Tamil Nadu are emotionally and linguistically are closely attached to their Tamil brothers in Sri Lanka. Any feeling among them that the government of India is indifferent and insensitive to the plight of Tamils in Sri Lanka may cause deep resentment among the people of Tamil Nadu with the potential danger of Tamil militancy and separatism in Sri Lanka eventually spilling over to the shores of Tamil Nadu. So the government of India had to play a careful balancing act. India probably also thought that by helping the rival Tamil factions in Sri Lanka, it could keep the movement divided, and keep a hold over them. India's role as a regional power and the closest neighbour of Sri Lanka may also have prompted India to play an interventionist role in Sri Lanka.

In 1987, amidst growing anger among its own people in Tamil Nadu and continued inflow of refugees from Sri Lanka, India finally decided to intervene directly in Sri Lanka and on June 5, 1987, Indian Air Force planes, in a direct show of support for the Tamil rebels, air-dropped food and medicine parcels in Jaffna area which was under siege by Sri Lankan forces. Though initially the Sri Lankan authorities were enraged by this development, subsequently they held a series of peace talks with Indian authorities which culminated in the signing of an Indo-Sri Lanka Peace Accord by Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi and Sri Lankan President Jayewardene on July 29, 1987. Under this accord, the Sri Lankan government had conceded a number of demands raised by the Tamils like devolution of power to the provinces, merger of Northern and Eastern provinces into a single province and official language status to Tamil. India in turn agreed to restore peace in the Northern and Eastern provinces by deploying an Indian army contingent in a new role as an Indian Peace Keeping Force, to disarm all militant groups and to stop giving any assistance to the militant groups. ([http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Indo-Sri\\_Lanka\\_Accord](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Indo-Sri_Lanka_Accord)) Although the accord was signed between the governments of Sri Lanka and India, and the Tamil militant groups did not have a role in the agreement, most Tamil militant groups including a reluctant LTTE accepted it.

Though the LTTE had initially participated in a symbolic surrender of arms, later it reused to disarm its cadres. The IPKF which was keen to ensure the success of the peace accord then decided to disarm the LTTE cadres by force and thus got engaged themselves in a full-scale conflict with LTTE. In the three-year long conflict with LTTE, the IPKF lost more than 1000 men and also faced numerous charges of human rights violations by various human rights groups as well as some sections within the Indian media. Guided by nationalist sentiments, majority of the Sinhalese population had also started opposing the continued presence of Indian army in Sri Lanka. Prompted by such sentiments, even the Sri Lankan government had also asked the IPKF to leave the island nation. When the IPKF was adamant to stay on, the Sri Lankan government was even reported to have entered into a secret deal with the LTTE to force the IPKF to leave Sri Lanka. However Rajiv Gandhi was not impressed and did not want to recall the IPKF. Incidentally, Rajiv Gandhi lost the elections held in December, 1989. The new prime minister V.P.Singh ordered the withdrawal of IPKF and the last of the IPKF contingent left the Sri Lankan shore on March 24, 1990. Thus came the end of a most ignominious chapter of the history of Indian army. (<http://www.rediff.com/news/special/special-series-the-story-of-ipkf-in-sri-lanka/20131011.htm>)

### Assassination of Rajiv Gandhi

After the departure of the IPKF, there was resumption of fighting between the Sri Lankan army and the LTTE and it continued throughout the 1990s. This phase was also marked by two key assassinations, that of former Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi in 1991 and Sri Lankan President Ranasinghe Premadasa in 1993, both carried out through suicide bombers of LTTE. Earlier at one stage, there was a time when the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Elam (LTTE) enjoyed the overwhelming support and goodwill of the people of Tamil Nadu. However after the ghastly assassination of Rajiv Gandhi by a suicide bomber of LTTE, there was shock and disbelief and a surging outrage among the people over the heinous crime and the support base of LTTE was almost wiped out from Tamil Nadu. Only some small groups of hard-core Tamil fanatics like MDMK leader Vaiko and P.Nedumaran of Tamil National Movement (TNM) continued to extend their support to the LTTE, that too in a subdued manner. M. Karunanidhi, the former chief minister of Tamil Nadu, who had also shown his open support for LTTE earlier, had also stopped showing any open sympathy for the LTTE after the assassination of Rajiv Gandhi. However, after lying low for a couple of years, the pro-LTTE outfits like MDMK and TNM again became active and vociferous in their support for LTTE and some new pro-LTTE organisations also started springing up in the state with the support of some NGO and human rights groups. However the then Chief Minister Jayalalitha dealt very firmly with all such militant pro-LTTE elements and in July 2002 she imposed a ban on two pro-militant organisations, namely Tamil Nadu Liberation Army (TNLA) and Tamil Nadu Retrieval Troop (TNRT), under POTA. The Tamil National Movement (TNM) was also outlawed by the Tamil Nadu government in August 2002 and its leader P. Nedumaran was arrested under POTA. Earlier on July 11, 2002 MDMK leader Vaiko was also arrested under POTA for making public speeches in support of LTTE.

### Sonia's helping hand in reviving support for LTTE in Tamil Nadu

Sonia Gandhi, widow of slain leader Rajiv Gandhi, was initially very much opposed to DMK leader Karunanidhi as the Jain Commission report had made some adverse remarks against him in connection with Rajiv Gandhi's assassination. In 1997 she had demanded that the DMK which was linked to Rajiv Gandhi assassination case as per the Jain Commission report be sacked as a partner of the United Front Ministry at the Centre and even pulled down the government when her demand was not met. However after the Lok Sabha elections in 2003 despite Karunanidhi's past record of being a staunch supporter of LTTE, the Congress-I led by Sonia Gandhi, in contrast to her earlier stand, decided to align with Karunanidhi's party to form the UPA government at the Centre. Very soon some NGO and human rights activists in Tamil Nadu started a campaign to get the death sentence given to Nalini Sriharan, one of the four convicts sentenced to death for Rajiv's assassination, commuted to life term. Strangely, their movement had the blessing of Sonia Gandhi. In 1999, i.e. one year after becoming the congress president, Sonia had a private meeting with President K.R.Narayanan and she reportedly told the President that neither she nor her son and daughter wanted any of the four convicts sentenced to death for Rajiv's assassination be hanged. She further pleaded that no child should be orphaned by an act of the state. The Indian Express daily dated November 20, 1999 commenting on these developments had observed that before Sonia's plea for mercy to Rajiv's killers, the congress leaders were the leading opponents to showing any mercy to them. Sonia's mercy plea silenced them all. What transpired at Sonia's private meeting with the President was revealed by Mohini Giri, former Chairperson of the National Women's Commission, and acting on Sonia's plea, Nalini's death sentence was commuted to life imprisonment by the state governor in May, 2000. (Front Line, November 5-18, 2005) .

(<http://indiatoday.intoday.in/story/kin-of-rajiv-assassins-celebrate-commutation-of-death-sentence/1/344188.html>)

The campaign carried out for getting Nalini's death sentence commuted to life with Sonia extending a helping hand got wide publicity in the press and electronic media which resulted in the revival of some public support and sympathy for the LTTE in Tamil Nadu giving it a fresh lease of life. Slowly the erstwhile supporters of LTTE including DMK chief M. Karunanidhi also started airing their views in support of the LTTE. In 2006, Nalini had sent a representation to the state government seeking her early release from the jail as she had completed 15 years in jail by then. But her plea was rejected by the government on September 14, 2006 stating that the state government cannot do anything in the matter as her case was investigated by the CBI. Meanwhile some pro-LTTE leaders and human rights activists in Tamil Nadu also started a campaign in support of Nalini's early release from the jail.

On March 19, 2008, Sonia Gandhi's daughter Priyanka Vadra had visited Vellore jail in Tamil Nadu to meet Nalini Sriharan who was undergoing life imprisonment in connection with Rajiv Gandhi assassination case. Priyanka had reportedly spent about an hour with Nalini. Priyanka's explanation for her controversial visit to Vellore jail to meet

Nalini was that it was her way of coming to peace with her loss. Some sections of the people believe that Sonia's personal efforts to get Nalini's death sentence commuted to life term was the height of her magnanimity and her daughter has surpassed her mother's largeheartedness by her Vellore visit. But what has really happened is that Priyanka's controversial visit to Vellore jail and the publicity it generated created a new sympathy wave for Nalini and a new respectability for the LTTE, the outlawed terror outfit.

(<http://www.rediff.com/news/2008/apr/15rajiv.htm>)

Nalini Sriharan, the life convict in the Rajiv Gandhi assassination case, who was lodged in Vellore Central Prison in Tamil Nadu since more than a decade, was shifted to high-security Puzhal prison near Chennai on June 28, 2010. In April 2010, Nalini had sent a written complaint to Additional Director General of Police (prisons) alleging harassment from the prison officials and attempts to poison her food, etc. and demanding a transfer to Puzhal prison. The Tamil Nadu government had subsequently appointed a high-level committee headed by DIG (prisons), Coimbatore, to enquire into her allegations. But the committee could not substantiate any of the allegations made by her. On April, 20, 2010, the prison officials during a surprise raid had seized a mobile phone and two SIM cards from her prison cell. Nalini had made a vain attempt to destroy the phone by throwing it into the toilet. An analysis of the call-details by experts of the Q branch, which deals with the extremist activities in Tamil Nadu, revealed that Nalini had contacted UK eight times, Sri Lanka once and 27 other numbers across the state. It was also found that the phone was activated in March 2009. Though a criminal case has been registered against Nalini at Bagayam police station, Vellore, for illegal possession of a mobile phone in violation of the prison rules and obstructing a public servant from discharging his duties, etc. nothing came out of it. Nalini has been frantically trying for pre-mature release from jail since last three years with the help of some human rights activists. The seizure of a mobile phone from her illegal possession has come as a severe set-back for her efforts for freedom. In June, 2010, she had made an appeal to Tamil scholars from across the world who had descended in Coimbatore for the World Classical Tamil Conference to support her plea for early release from prison.

### Pro-LTTE forces make a powerful comeback in Tamil Nadu

The LTTE had already regained its lost support base and influence in Tamil Nadu with the active support it received from the former state chief minister and DMK supremo M.Karunanidhi and his party and the indirect boost given by the so called magnanimous gestures shown by Sonia Gandhi and her daughter Priyanka Vadra towards Nalini. Former Chief Minister Karunanidhi had again started openly displaying his pro-LTTE leanings as demonstrated by penning a poem in memory of the slain LTTE political wing leader S.P.Tamilselvan who was killed in an air strike by the Sri Lankan Air Force in the first week of November, 2007. The revival of support for LTTE was not confined to Tamil Nadu alone. It had started spreading to all Tamil pockets in the country. A section of students of Jawaharlal Nehru University, Delhi mostly hailing from Tamil Nadu had shown their support and sympathy for the LTTE and its slain leader Tamilselvan by conducting a poster campaign in the JNU campus on November 7, 2007. The posters conceptualised by one M Phil student Kalaiarasan on the occasion condoled

the death of Tamilselvan in strong terms and described him as a martyr. The posters also proclaimed that “Martyrs are not born, they are sown”.

The reverses suffered by the LTTE since January 2008 in its war against Sri Lanka has had a serious impact on the political and law and order situation in Tamil Nadu. Fearing more reverses, the beleaguered LTTE leadership had sought the help of its supporters and well-wishers in Tamil Nadu including Chief Minister Karunanidhi to put pressure on the Centre to intervene to stop the war in Sri Lanka and force the Sri Lankan authorities to start a peace dialogue with the LTTE for an amicable settlement. Meanwhile the pro-LTTE parties, organizations and groups in Tamil Nadu had started a massive campaign in the state holding protest programmes, meetings and demonstrations against the killing of Tamil civilians in Sri Lanka and asking the union government to intervene to stop the genocide of innocent Tamils in Sri Lanka.

The pro-LTTE campaign in Tamil Nadu soon took a violent turn with the pro-LTTE supporters unleashing a reign of terror on all those who oppose any Indian intervention in Sri Lanka. On October 14, 2008 there were two incidents targeting the office of the English news daily “The Hindu” in Coimbatore by pro-LTTE supporters belonging to the Periyar Dravidar Kazhakam (PDK) in protest against the anti-LTTE stance of the newspaper. The miscreants burnt some copies of the newspaper. Their attempt to storm the office was however averted by the police. On October 16, 2008 morning some pro-LTTE supporters belonging to PDK and Tamil Desiya Podhu Odaimai Katchi assaulted a distributor of “The Hindu” newspaper at Erode and snatched thousands of copies of ‘The Hindu’ and ‘Business Line’, doused them with petrol and set them on fire. MDMK leaders Vaiko and M.Kannappan were arrested by the Tamil Nadu police on 23d. October, 2008 for threatening to start an armed struggle against the government for its failure to stop the war against the Tamils in Sri Lanka. On 24th. October, 2008 a violent mob of supporters of pro-LTTE organisations like Federation of Tamil Advocates and Revolutionary Youth Front ransacked the office of Janata Party President Subramanian Swami at Lal Bahadur Shastri Road in Madurai in protest against his anti-LTTE stance. On the same day a statue of former prime minister Rajiv Gandhi was found vandalised in the northern suburb of Chennai city by some unknown miscreants. In another development on the same day, Tamil movie director Seeman was also arrested by the police for making secessionist statements and justifying the assassination of former prime minister Rajive Gandhi in 1991 by the LTTE suicide bomber stating that the Tamils were betrayed by the Indian leader. Addressing a protest rally in Rameshwaram on October 19th. Seeman had also reportedly threatened to take part in an armed struggle against India if the Centre did not intervene to stop the killings of Tamil civilians by the Sri Lankan forces. The pro-LTTE campaign in Tamil Nadu was thus dangerously drifting towards a Tamil separatist movement in the state.

### Situation in Sri Lanka

After the IPKF withdrawal, the fighting between the government troops and the LTTE continued throughout the conflict period with fluctuating fortunes, disrupted only by brief spells of ceasefire and peace talks. In 2001, the LTTE dropped its demand for a separate state and conveyed its willingness to accept a form of regional autonomy. When



Ranil Wickringsinghe came to power in December, 2001 with a landslide victory, the LTTE announced a unilateral ceasefire which was agreed upon by the government. After the subsequent peace talks under the mediation by Norway, an official Ceasefire Agreement was signed by both the sides for the fourth time in March, 2003, with Norway and other Nordic countries agreeing to jointly monitor the ceasefire through the Sri Lanka Monitoring Mission.

In 2003, the LTTE proposed an Interim Self-Governing Authority (ISGA). This move was welcomed by some western countries, but was rejected by the Sri Lankan President. In March 2004, in a major jolt to the LTTE, a senior LTTE commander known as Colonel Karuna @ Vinayagamoorthis Muralitharan broke away from the LTTE and formed a rebel outfit called the Tamil Eelam Makkal Viduthalaip Pulikal. He later aligned himself with the government forces.

Soon there were allegations and counter allegations of ceasefire violations made by both the sides against each other. In 2005, Mahindra Rajapaksa, PM, won the presidential elections. Attacks by the LTTE began to escalate from April 2006 onwards. Alleging continued ceasefire violations by the LTTE, the new Sri Lankan government that came to power in 2006 threatened to abrogate the ceasefire agreement. The new government believed that the Tamil rebellion in Sri Lanka cannot be contained without crushing the LTTE movement. Ultimately, with no let up in the continued ceasefire violations and military confrontation between the two sides, the Sri Lankan government officially pulled out of the Ceasefire Agreement in January 2008. In the subsequent major offensive launched against the LTTE, the government forces started making impressive gains.

### Western support to LTTE

Though most of the western countries had imposed a ban on LTTE declaring it as a terrorist organization, it was found that most of those countries had also shown considerable sympathy for the cause of LTTE. The LTTE has powerful support bases in countries like Canada, France, US, UK, Norway, Germany and Switzerland. Norway had put in a lot of efforts and officially mediated to find a lasting solution to the dispute between the Sri Lankan government and the LTTE. In the final phase of the war, starting from January 2008, there was renewed pressure on Sri Lanka from several Western and European countries and some international NGOs to agree to a ceasefire and fresh peace dialogue with the rebels which was not acceptable to the Sri Lankan authorities as they could smell an early victory in the war. With the LTTE facing further reversals, there was intensified pressure from January, 2009 onwards from several western countries and international NGOs for an immediate ceasefire allegedly to stop the mounting civilian casualties in Sri Lanka. The Sri Lankan leadership, confident of a military victory soon in the 30-year old conflict, outrightly rejected all such appeals. Meanwhile on February 2, 2009, Sri Lankan authorities warned Western diplomats, foreign journalists, aid groups and international NGOs that they would be chased out of the country if they were found giving any kind of assistance to the Tamil Tiger rebels. Defence Secretary Gotabhaya Rajapaksa singled out the ambassadors of Switzerland and Germany and television networks CNN, BBC and Al-Jazeera in his criticism of foreigners, accusing them of behaving in a biased and irresponsible way. He accused the BBC anchor of being

partisan towards the LTTE since 1990s. Some of these foreign diplomats and TV networks had voiced their concern about the government not doing enough to extricate civilians trapped in the fighting between the military and the Tamil Tigers in the northern province. In an interview published in the independent Sunday Island newspaper, Rajapaksa charged that the three TV networks were sensationalizing civilian hardships by telecasting video clips from a website run by the rebels and accused the said TV networks and some diplomats of trying to create panic.

With the fall of almost all major citadels, an imminent military defeat for LTTE was certain by April 2009. Following this development, frustrated Eelam supporters of Tamil Diaspora and activists of international NGOs and human rights groups conducted protest demonstrations in all major cities in the imperialist block asking the Sri Lanka government to agree to an immediate ceasefire and start a peace dialogue with the LTTE. Foreign ministers of UK and Canada visited Sri Lanka in April 2009 to convey to the Sri Lankan authorities about the joint appeal made by the foreign ministers of European Union urging Sri Lanka for an immediate ceasefire agreement with the LTTE. The UN Secretary General, Ban Ki-Moon, sent his Chief of Staff Vijay Nambiar as a special envoy to Sri Lanka in the last week of April to impress upon President Mahindra Rajapaksa to agree to a ceasefire so as to stop the mounting civilian casualties. But President Rajapaksa who was confident of an imminent and outright victory over the LTTE was simply not ready to relent and resisted all such pressures politely.

[http://www.nytimes.com/2009/05/01/world/asia/01lanka.html?\\_r=0](http://www.nytimes.com/2009/05/01/world/asia/01lanka.html?_r=0)

Highly offended by the defiance of a small country like Sri Lanka, leaders of some of the western countries and agencies even started using threatening language against the country for its alleged insensitive attitude towards the world opinion. Navi Pillai, UN Human Rights Chief, referring to the Sri Lankan situation had said that she supported the European Union's call for a war crimes enquiry against Sri Lanka. The US threatened to block an application by Sri Lanka for an emergency loan of \$1.9 billion from the IMF because of its conduct of the war with the LTTE.

### Military defeat of LTTE

Meanwhile in the final phase of the war with the LTTE that started from January 2008, the Sri Lankan forces continued to make impressive gains, while the LTTE position steadily deteriorated. The Sri Lankan forces captured Kilinochchi, the administrative HQs of LTTE, on January 2, 2009 and liberated the entire Jaffna peninsula by January 14. On February 20, 2009, in a desperate attempt, two LTTE planes on a suicide mission, attacked the Sri Lankan capital killing two and wounding 45 others. Both the planes were shot down. The planes failed to bomb the intended targets like the army and air force head quarters. Meanwhile in another jolt to the LTTE leadership, two senior LTTE leaders, by name, Velayuthan Dayanithi (Daya Master) and Kumar Pancharatnam @ George surrendered to the Sri Lankan forces. On May 16, 2009, Sri Lankan President Mahindra Rajapaksa officially claimed total victory over the Tamil Tigers. LTTE supremo Prabhakaran himself was killed in action on May 17, 2009 along with Colonel Susai, leader of Sea Tigers, and Pottu Amman, intelligence chief of LTTE.



<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/worldnews/asia/srilanka/5342331/Tamil-Tiger-leader-Velupillai-Prabhakaran-shot-dead.html>)

### Jubilation in Colombo

Sri Lanka has been suffering from the worst kind of terrorism unleashed by LTTE since 1983. The cumulative loss it suffered since then in terms human lives and money is unimaginable. The menace of terrorism stalled the industrial and economic progress of the country and threatened the unity and integrity of the island nation. Naturally when the terrorist forces were defeated after a 30-year long struggle, there was great relief and jubilation among the majority community in the country and people celebrated the event by distributing sweets and taking out victory processions.

### Western response to decimation of LTTE

Along with a large majority of Sri Lankan people, all the peace-loving and right-thinking people all over the world also celebrated the defeat of the LTTE as a victory for peace. Because, with the decimation of LTTE leadership, not only Sri Lanka, but the entire world was freed from one of the most monstrous terror outfits in the world. But no, not every country and all the people thought so. For most of the western countries in the imperialist block, some international NGOs and human rights organizations, some of the Tamil groups and even for the United Nations, it was a day of mourning. Leaders of these countries and organizations have raised serious allegations of grave human rights violations against the Sri Lankan troops during the last phase of the war alleging the killing of tens of thousands of Tamil civilians caught in the cross-fire and even deliberate killing of innocent Tamil civilians by knowingly targeting the “no-fire zones”.

After the military defeat of the LTTE, under pressure from various international human rights groups based mainly in western countries, the United Nations Human Rights Council held a special session on May, 26, 2009, to discuss about the war crimes and gross violation of human rights that took place in Sri Lanka during the last phase of the war between the Sri Lankan troops and Tamil Tigers. UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Ms. Navi Pillai had called for an international investigation into the war crimes in Sri Lanka. She had also severely criticized the Sri Lankan government for not taking adequate measures for the rehabilitation of tens of thousands of war-displaced people in Sri Lanka. However all efforts made by the western lobby to pass a resolution condemning Sri Lanka for its war crimes and inadequate initiatives on rehabilitation issues was foiled by countries like Russia, China, India and Sri Lanka at the special UN session held on May 26, 2009.

Meanwhile, there was growing frustration, anger and disappointment among the Tamils in all Tamil settlements both within India and abroad over the developments in Sri Lanka. About 40 activists of Puthiya Tamizhakam, a Tamil Nadu-based pro-LTTE outfit, stormed the Sri Lankan High Commission office located at Chanakyapuri in New Delhi on October 2, 2009 and pelted stones and ransacked the premises and fled from the spot before the arrival of police. The activists carrying banners and shouting slogans were protesting against the alleged firing by the Sri Lankan navy on Tamil fishermen. A few hours earlier the same group had conducted a peaceful demonstration at Jantar Mantar

protesting against the alleged atrocities against Tamils staying in refugee camps in Sri Lanka. Following the incident, the security around the Sri Lankan High Commission in Delhi was strengthened.

A so-called independent commission of the jurists of the Rome-based Permanent People's Tribunal (PPT) which met in Dublin, Ireland, on 14th and 15th January, 2010 to investigate the war crime charges against the Sri Lankan government and its armed forces held the hearings from the eye-witnesses and other material evidence and announced its preliminary findings that the Sri Lankan government is "guilty of war crimes" and "guilty of crimes against humanity". It called upon the Sri Lankan government to allow the UN to conduct an inquiry into the war crimes and crimes against humanity perpetrated during the final stages of the war between the Sri Lankan Armed Forces and the LTTE and also in the aftermath of the war. (<http://www.jdslanka.org/index.php/2012-01-30-09-30-42/politics-a-current-affairs/432-sri-lanka-guilty-of-continued-crime-of-genocide-against-eelam-tamils-ppt>)

The Channel-4 News of UK had shown a video on August 24, 2009 about some Sri Lankan army soldiers summarily executing unarmed Tamils, stripped naked and hands tied behind the back, in support of its allegations of war crimes against the Sri Lanka government. While the Sri Lanka government dismissed the controversial video footages as concocted evidence created through digital manipulation, some US and UK-based agencies claiming themselves as independent verification groups had asserted that their own independent analysis had found no evidence of any digital manipulation, editing or any special effects. Shocked by this controversial video footage, rights groups all over the world, especially the Amnesty International, Human Rights Watch and International Crisis Group had renewed their call for a UN probe into the war crimes committed by Sri Lankan government.

International Crisis Group, an advocacy group based in Brussels and Washington, alleged in a report released on the eve of the first anniversary of the civil war in Sri Lanka that the government troops killed thousands of civilians by shelling the "no fire zones" during the last phase of the ethnic conflict in the island. The report charged that the Sri Lankan forces had bombed relentlessly in areas where they knew unarmed people were present. It further alleged that the government forces had repeatedly and intentionally violated the law by attacking civilians, hospitals and humanitarian operations. The report called for an international probe into all such war crimes. The Amnesty International also called for a UN probe into the human rights violations in Sri Lanka. (<http://news.rediff.com/slide-show/2010/may/18/slide-show-1-lankan-troops-knowingly-killed-civilians.htm>)

On June 22, 2010, UN Secretary General Ban Ki-Moon announced the formation of a three-member panel headed by Marzuki Darusman of Indonesia to probe into the alleged violations of international human rights and humanitarian laws during the final phase of the conflict between the government troops and Tamil tigers in Sri Lanka and advise him on the issue of accountability. Yasmin Sooka, a human rights activist from South Africa and Steven Ratner, a US lawyer, are the other two members of the panel.

The panel was asked to complete its work within four months. This 3-member panel was appointed by the UN Secretary General in an arbitrary manner without the consent or approval of the Security Council and flouting all accepted procedures and protocols. Sri Lanka has taken strong objection to this UN action and described it as unwarranted and uncalled for interference in the internal affairs of a sovereign nation. Sri Lanka's External Affairs Minister Gamini Lakshman Peiris speaking to the media people had even announced that Sri Lankan government will ban the entry of UN panel members into the island nation. He had pointed out that that Sri Lankan President Mahindra Rajapaksa had already appointed an eight-member commission in May, 2010 to probe into all human rights violations and war crimes during the last seven years of the war and also the post-conflict ethnic reconciliation.

On August 11, 2010, 58 members of the US Congress had sent a letter to Hillari Clinton, Secretary of State, urging her to press for an independent inquiry into the war crimes in Sri Lanka. Almost every country in the western block and Japan, Malaysia and the UN also continued to put pressure on Sri Lanka to agree to an independent international probe into the alleged war crimes in Sri Lanka.

On June 24, 2010, Sri Lanka out-rightly rejected an insulting demand of the European Union asking Sri Lanka to make a written undertaking to improve its human rights in exchange for trade benefits. Colombo also rejected a July 1 deadline issued by the EU to agree to 15 specific conditions, including relaxation of its Prevention of Terrorism Law, to qualify for preferential trade tariffs. The European Union on July 5 announced that Sri Lanka would temporarily lose its General Tariff Preferential (GSP) from August 15, as the island nation has rejected the conditions put forward by the EU. Colombo however stuck to its stance and asserted that it was not prepared to barter its sovereignty for the sake of EU concessions to the tune of \$150 million. ([http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5i-k6plwnoAbdIKO\\_NYN-MAk9NryA](http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5i-k6plwnoAbdIKO_NYN-MAk9NryA))

### JNU conference against war crimes in Sri Lanka

A conference on Sri Lanka's war crimes was held at Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU), New Delhi, on April 15, 2010. Addressing the conference, Rajinder Sachar, former chief justice of Delhi High Court, severely criticized the Sri Lankan government for its brutalities against the Tamils and denying a respectful place to Tamils in the society as equal citizens. Prof. G.N.Saibaba, Vice Chairperson, League of People's Struggles, in his speech described the war on Tamils in Sri Lanka as one of the biggest genocides of the 21st. century and warned that if the international community cannot stop the extermination of Tamils in Sri Lanka, they would be unable to intervene to stop the repression in Kashmir and North-East India or in the case of the suffering Adivasis of the Indian heartland. Syed Ali Shah Jelani, leader of All Party Harriet Conference of Kashmir said that all humanity should unite against state terrorism in Sri Lanka, Kashmir, Iraq and Palestine. Former judge of Chandigarh high Court Ajit Singh Pains demanded that a UN Commission should be appointed to probe the atrocities committed by the Sri Lankan government against the Tamils. Kolathur Mani, President of Periyar Dravidar Kazhakam accused the Government of India of aiding Sri Lanka in its war crimes against

the Tamils. Kavita Krishnan of CPM (ML) Liberation in her speech pledged her organization's solidarity with the Tamils' movement for self-determination and justice in Sri Lanka. SAR Geelani of Committee for Release of Political Prisoners, who also addressed the gathering, said in his speech that the martyrdom of Prabhakaran does not signal the end of struggle for self-determination by the Tamils in Sri Lanka. Recorded video statements of V.R. Krishna Iyer, former judge of the Supreme Court and Viraj Mendis of International Human Rights Association, Germany, condemning the genocide in Sri Lanka were played at the conference. A written statement of Varavara Rao holding the Indian government responsible for the genocide in Sri Lanka was also read out at the conference. The conference put forth the following five resolutions which were unanimously passed by the house.

The house condemns the genocidal war crimes perpetrated by the Sri Lankan government on the Tamils. War criminals in the Sri Lankan government must be brought to justice.

The house demands the release of all the Tamils who have been forcefully detained in camps and their settlement in their native homes.

The house demands an immediate end to the colonization of Tamil Eelam by the Lankan state.

The house demands that the Indian government stop providing political, military and logistical aid to the genocidal Lankan government.

The house condemns the Indian state's war on the various nationalities fighting for self-determination.

The resolution number 5 which refers to Indian state's war against various nationalities fighting for self-determination is very significant. As per this resolution, not only the Kashmiri separatists but all the insurgency movements in India like the Nagas, Manipuris, ULFA militants, Bodos, Khalistanis and Maoists are among the nationalities fighting for their independence, and all the signatories to this resolution are committed to their cause. In other words, they do not believe in the unity and integrity of India. The most prominent speaker at the JNU convention was Justice Rajinder Sachar, who headed the Sachar Committee earlier. This resolution makes it amply clear that Rajinder Sachar appointed by the UPA government to head the Sachar Committee is an antinational who wants to see the break up of India.( <http://www.tamilguardian.com/tg416/p11.pdf>)

### Atrocities committed by LTTE.

The LTTE, in its heydays was the most deadly terror outfit in the world. The LTTE established the Black Tigers, a unit of LTTE responsible for conducting suicide attacks in 1987. The Tigers also pioneered the use of suicide belts. Its first suicide attack was carried out against the Sri Lankan army camp located at Nelliady on July 5, 1987, killing 40 soldiers. Since then the LTTE is reported to have carried out about 170 suicide attacks, which is a record for any terror group in the world. The LTTE's precision and deadliness in carrying out suicide / terror attacks was much admired by most other terror groups in the world and according to experts on international terrorism like Glen Jenvey, LTTE terror tactics were widely copied by Al Qaeda in its operations across the world. The Tigers used even light aircrafts in conducting some of their attacks. Former Indian

Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi was assassinated by an LTTE suicide squad at Sriperumbudur in Tamil Nadu, India, on May 31, 1991. The Tigers also assassinated Sri Lankan President Ranasinghe Premadasa through another suicide bomb attack at Colombo on May 1, 1993.

The LTTE is also notorious for using civilians for shielding their fighters and using children to fight the war. It showed utter contempt for all allegations against their use of children in the war. One of the fiercest fighting units of the LTTE is called Leopard Brigade. Members of this unit are drawn from LTTE-run orphanages. The LTTE started recruiting women and children in greater numbers only after it declared a war against the Indian Peace Keeping Force in October 1987. Reportedly 60 per cent of LTTE cadres killed in combat since 1995 were children. This information was further confirmed by 'Olivichu', the LTTE monthly bulletin, which regularly releases the list of LTTE martyrs. A study undertaken by Dushy Ranatunga, a UK-based Sri Lankan researcher had revealed that 60 per cent of the dead LTTE fighters were under 18 and were mostly girls and boys aged between the age-group of 10 to 16 years. (South Asia Intelligence Review, Weekly Assessments and Briefings, Volume 1, No.31, February 17, 2003.). The LTTE had carried out hundreds of suicide attacks, ambushes, etc. since 1983, killing thousands of people. The victims of LTTE terror attacks include a number of Sri Lankan ministers and former ministers, sitting and former MPs, academics, journalists, religious leaders, senior police and army officials and even leaders of other Tamil rebel groups. The LTTE is proscribed as a terrorist organization by 32 countries including India, US and the European Union.

### Imperialist plot

Despite such monstrous image and record of brutality against the LTTE, why was the western block extending so much support to the LTTE ? Why are they making such a big international propaganda and outcry over the alleged war crimes committed by the Sri Lankan troops? Do they really care for the innocent Tamil civilians in Sri Lanka? Not at all. In fact the US intelligence agencies are responsible for genocide of people in many parts of the world. The US will continue to engineer genocides anywhere in the world if the US strategic experts consider it necessary to achieve their strategic aims and interests. The shocking truth is that LTTE was promoted and cultivated by the western intelligence agencies as part of a larger conspiracy by the imperialist lobby aimed at the balkanization of India. It was because of this support from certain western agencies and local NGO and human rights activists that it was able to liquidate all other Tamil rebel groups in Sri Lanka and emerge as the sole and all powerful movement of Tamil rebels in Sri Lanka. Again it was because of its links with western intelligence agencies, that the LTTE could build strong bases among the Tamil Diaspora in all western countries, especially in countries like the US, UK, France, Germany, Canada, Norway, Switzerland and Australia. It is significant to note that the LTTE enjoyed greater support in the western countries than in its traditional overseas bases in Malaysia, Singapore, Thailand and Indonesia.

It is to be noted that late Anton Stanislaus Balasingham, a top LTTE leader and ideologue, was one of the earliest members found indulging in Tamil separatist activities

in Sri Lanka. At that time, he was working at the British High Commissioner's Office (BHO) in Colombo as a translator. While working with the BHO, he fell in love with a Tamil Protestant woman working at the adjacent British Council and later married her. However his wife soon became extremely ill requiring advanced medical treatment abroad. The British High Commissioner's Office in Colombo showed unusual sympathy in giving a transfer to Anton and sending them both to London and arranging her treatment. Anton was also able to complete his higher education in London. His wife who had chronic renal failure however died six years later. By that time Anton had developed another love affair with a nurse of Australian origin, by name Adele Ann Wilby. They got married in September 1978. Anton later became a top leader and ideologue of LTTE and Adele became a top functionary of the LTTE's women's wing. Both Anton and Prabhakaran were reportedly linked to British intelligence and according to unconfirmed reports, even Anton's wife is linked to MI 5.

Promoting Christianity and balkanization of India have always been on top of the priority areas of the western intelligence agencies ever since India's independence. Encouraging violence, dissensions and separatism among the people were the tactics routinely used by the western Christian and intelligence agencies to achieve their twin objectives. They successfully used these tactics in the North-East and converted 90% of the local people to Christianity in Nagaland, Meghalaya and Mizoram and also built up strong separatist movements in all the three states. The violence level has come down in these three states. But the other North-eastern states of Manipur and Tripura still remain highly disturbed. The reason is that there are strong Hindu pockets still in these two states. The western Christian and intelligence agencies have always been fully involved in encouraging various militant movements in India's mainland, like naxalism, Islamic militancy, Kashmiri separatism and Tamil nationalism.

The Tamil nationalist movement in Tamil Nadu is not a new phenomenon. Such sentiments were there even in fifties and sixties led by Periyar E.V.Ramaswami and Annadurai, and promoted by Christian missionaries. The concept of Dravidian identity and Aryan invasion, etc. were propagated by Christian missionaries only to alienate the Tamil masses from the Hindu fold and to promote Tamil separatist movement. This movement however suffered a set-back in the fifties because of the growing unpopularity of Dravida Kazhakam leader Periyar and a more moderate image assumed by Dravida Munnetra Kazhakam leader Annadurai in the sixties. In 1963, Annadurai announced his decision to dissociate with Tamil separatist movement.

The main objective of western intelligence agencies in supporting and cultivating the LTTE was to use it to stir up Tamil nationalist sentiments in Tamil Nadu and to build up a militant movement seeking an independent Greater Tamil Nadu, comprising of Tamil Nadu and Tamil-speaking areas of Sri Lanka. With the help of some pro-western NGO and human rights organizations, some such Tamil separatist outfits have already come into existence in Tamil Nadu. The frantic efforts made by the US and its allies to save the top LTTE leaders when they were cornered by the Sri Lankan forces in the last stage of the war clearly showed the close association between the western intelligence agencies and the LTTE. The international campaign by the US and its allies seeking an



independent probe into the war crimes in Sri Lanka was meant mainly to stir up extreme feelings of anger and revenge in the minds of Tamils in Tamil Nadu. It also appears that the video showing brutal custodial killings of Tamils shown by Channel- 4 News of UK was not actually genuine, but doctored and digitally manipulated one for the same purpose.

### Global Tamil Forum

A new Tamil separatist movement called Global Tamil Forum (GTF) was formally formed at a meeting held at the House of Commons in London on February 24, 2010, with the main objective of seeking a separate state for Tamils in Sri Lanka. The concept of GTF was launched at a meeting of overseas Tamil activists in Paris in August, 2009, with the following objectives. (<http://www.demotix.com/news/259743/inauguration-global-tamil-forum-london>).

To establish a separate and sovereign state for Tamils in Sri Lanka .

To help to prosecute war criminals and persons who committed crimes against humanity in Sri Lanka. To lobby international governments, NGOs and institutions to help to resolve the conflict in Sri Lanka on the basis of legitimate democratic mandate given by the Tamil people in Sri Lanka. To help the interned Tamils and men and women held without proper legal representation.

The GTF is formed by the merger of 15 LTTE-controlled overseas outfits such as British Tamil Forum, La Maison du Tamil Eelam of France, US Tamil Political Action Council, Canadian Tamil Congress, Norwegian Council of Eelam Tamil and Australian Tamil Congress drawn from 15 countries to revive the fight for a sovereign Tamil Eelam. Fr. S.J. Emmanuel, President of GTF and Perinpanayagam Shivaparan @ Nediyan, an Oslo-based overseas Tamil, took the initiative in organizing the said meeting. Despite strong opposition from Sri Lankan authorities, the then foreign secretary David Miliband inaugurated the Global Tamil Forum meet and delivered the keynote address. He emphasized in his speech that there is no substitute for political voice in asserting political rights. Conservative leader William Hague and Liberal Democratic leader Ed Davey also addressed the meeting extending their support to the GTF which indicated that the GTF enjoyed the goodwill and patronage of all the main political parties in the UK. Rev. Jesse Jackson who also attended the meeting was introduced to the gathering as a close friend of US President Obama. The GTF leaders later had a meeting with British Prime Minister Gordon Brown. The fact that the inaugural meeting of a militant Tamil separatist outfit like GTF was allowed to be held within the British Parliamentary Complex and that it was addressed by the British foreign secretary clearly showed that the British government not only approved the political agenda of the GTF, but it was unashamedly giving open support to the Tamil separatist movement in Sri Lanka. The imperialist forces wanted to resurrect the defunct LTTE with possible help from their side to further their political and strategic objectives in Sri Lanka and India. As the LTTE is a banned organization in most of the Western countries, there are practical difficulties for these countries in giving open support and patronage to LTTE. So the terror sponsors from the West have now given a new face and image to the LTTE and created the GTF. The Sri Lankan authorities were naturally quite upset and angry over British Foreign Secretary David Miliband's action of giving open

encouragement to a separatist and pro-LTTE outfit like Global Tamil Forum. Sri Lankan Foreign Minister Rohitha Bogollagama had summoned the acting British High Commissioner Mark Gooding to his office to lodge the Sri Lanka government's strong protest over the issue to him.

Fr.S.J. Emmanuel, President of GTF, was formerly the Vicar General of the catholic Diocese of Jaffna. Fr. Emmanuel, in a controversial interview given earlier to British national newspaper 'the Independent' had compared LTTE leader Prabhakaran to Jesus Christ.( <http://www.infolanka.com/org/diary/2.html>). In his writings and speeches he had always justified the most brutal ways and style of LTTE terrorism. He was also a prominent link-man in the LTTE's international network because of his connections abroad, especially in Europe and South Africa. The activities of Fr.Emmanuel and another church leader Gasparaj in Tamil Nadu expose the role of church in promoting Tamil separatism in Sri Lanka and Tamil Nadu.

The official website of the GTF clearly describes its mission as to use all resources available to Tamil Diaspora to establish the Tamil people's right to self-determination and rights to reestablish their nationhood which was taken away by force from them by succeeding colonial powers including the Sri Lanka government. The GTF aims to further the cause for a "Provisional Transnational Government of Tamil Eelam", a concept created by the New York-based Eelam activist and former legal adviser of LTTE, Visuanathan Rudrakumaran. With the help of US Tamil Political Action Council (USTPAC), Rudrakumaran and the Diaspora followers, who maintain a close relationship with the US State Department officials, are trying to achieve their end-goal of a separate sovereign state in Sri Lanka. These facts further confirm that the LTTE was cultivated, promoted and controlled by the Western countries and their intelligence agencies.

Earlier in an article published in 'The Guardian' newspaper on January 15, 2010, David Miliband had given an unsolicited advice to India to settle the Kashmir issue to shut out terror from India. See how the British authorities are openly indulging in activities meant to promote separatism in Sri Lanka and India.

### Kumaran Pathmanathan

Kumaran Pathmanathan (KP), former arms procurer of the LTTE, who was taken under custody by the Sri Lankan authorities after the war along with a few Tamil rebels based abroad, has reportedly been cooperating with the Sri Lankan government in its efforts to rehabilitate the nearly three lakh war-displaced Tamil civilians and help in the reconstruction of the war-ravaged northern province. According to a report in the state-owned English weekly 'Sunday Observer' of Sri Lanka, KP, who had held the charge as LTTE chief for a short period after the death of Prabhakaran, had recently organized a meeting of nine former rebels based in countries like Canada, the UK, Switzerland, Germany, France and Australia with the Sri Lankan authorities and they all had pledged their full support to the government's rehabilitation and reconciliation initiatives. The former rebels are also reported to have promised to float an NGO to collect funds from Tamil Diaspora for the welfare of the war-displaced Tamils in Sri Lanka. This change of

heart in them came reportedly after getting some first-hand information about the post-conflict humanitarian activities carried out by the Sri Lankan government in the affected areas. In view of this report, the western claims about the scale of atrocities committed by Sri Lankan troops appear to be highly exaggerated, and made with ulterior motives.

### Terrorism takes root in Tamil Nadu

Sonia Gandhi's sympathetic attitude to DMK and LTTE after the UPA came to power in 2004 led to a gradual revival of mass support for LTTE in Tamil Nadu. Many new Tamil separatist organizations also took roots in the state with the active support of some NGO and human rights activists. With the weakening of the LTTE's position in the final battle with the Sri Lankan forces in 2008, these separatist outfits openly started organizing anti-India rallies and demonstrations for the Centre's failure to enforce a ceasefire in Sri Lanka. The separatist elements unashamedly vandalized statues of Rajiv Gandhi and publicly burned Indian national flags at many places in Tamil Nadu. On 29th January, 2009 Muthukumar, a Tamil youth, committed self immolation in front of the central government's main office in Chennai in protest against the failure of the UPA government in preventing the massacre of Tamils in Sri Lanka. His self-immolation led to massive protest demonstrations in Tamil Nadu and his funeral on 31st January, 2009 in Chennai drew mammoth gathering. The pro-LTTE protest movement in Tamil Nadu took a dangerous turn when the Tamil separatists attacked an army convoy on its way to Thiruvananthapuram from Secunderabad at Coimbatore on May 2nd, 2009. Those arrested in this connection included activists of Periyar Dravida Kazhagam, MDMK and some human rights activists. (<http://indiatoday.intoday.in/story/LTTE+supporters+attack+Indian+army+convoy+in+Coimbatore/1/40036.html>)

Luckily for India, the LTTE was totally decimated and its leader V.Prabhakaran himself was shot dead by the Sri Lankan forces on May 17, 2009. With the decimation of the LTTE in Sri Lanka, the pro-LTTE movement in Tamil Nadu also lost momentum. However, frantic efforts were made by the western agencies to reignite the movement by the various agencies in the west, including the Amnesty International, by carrying out a vicious propaganda about the alleged genocide against the Tamils in Sri Lanka during the last phase of the war. Causing further concern, some terrorist incidents have also started taking place in Tamil Nadu in protest against the genocide of Tamils in Sri Lanka.

For instance, the passengers of the Tiruchi-Chennai Rockfort Express had a miraculous escape on June 12, 2010, as the Rockfort driver managed to bring the train to a halt just 20 feet short of a crater caused by an explosion triggered by pro-LTTE supporters in Sithani village near Villupuram, about 160 km from Chennai. The incident happened in between Mundiambakkum and Perani stations around 0200 hrs in the morning. A part of the track was blown off in the explosion, which also left a four-foot crater beneath it. A major disaster was averted as the alert guard of the Salem-Egmore Express, that had passed through the spot a little earlier, alerted Pirani railway station master U.Mandi about a deafening noise that he heard which was followed by a quiver on the track. U.Mandi immediately passed on the information to the control room which issued a caution order to Rockfort Express which was following the Salem-Egmore

Express, to slow down to 10 km per hour and look out for any defect on the track. The Rockfort driver was lucky to spot a one-meter gap on the track. Some leaflets recovered from the site condemned the government for inviting Sri Lankan President Mahindra Rajapaksa to Delhi. The perpetrators of the crime claimed themselves as younger brothers of late LTTE chief Prabhakaran. If the miscreants had succeeded in their attempt to cause derailment of the Rockfort Express, it would have been the first major terror incident planned and executed by LTTE elements in Tamil Nadu. There were also four/five incidents of derailment attempts reported from different places in Tamil Nadu.

‘Nam Tamilar’ (We Tamils) is a new political party founded by pro-LTTE leader and film director Sebastian Seeman in Tamil Nadu. The launch of the new political party was formally announced by Seeman at a mammoth public meeting at Madurai in Tamil Nadu on May 18, 2010, coinciding with the first anniversary of the death of LTTE chief Prabhakaran. Speaking on the occasion, Seeman said that the new party was aimed at protecting the interests of Tamil people, promoting the liberation struggle of the Tamils in Sri Lanka and ensuring social justice by eliminating the caste-based structure from the Tamil-speaking world. The flag of the new party was unveiled earlier by Sebastian Seeman on April 10, 2010. It closely resembles the LTTE flag with a similar Tiger insignia, barring the twin rifles in the background. Naam Tamilar was originally formed as a social outfit during the last phase of the civil war in Sri Lanka, when Tamil Nadu also faced a lot of protest programmes. Seeman himself was arrested a couple of times under NSA, for making inflammatory speeches in Tamil Nadu. Seeman was once deported from Canada for preaching extremism. (<http://www.thehindu.com/news/international/director-seeman-arrested-and-deported-from-canada/article55523.ece>)

### World Classical Tamil Conference :2010

The first World Tamil Conference was held at Kaula Lampur in Malaysia in the year 1966. Since then World Tamil Conferences were held in different cities in India and also abroad in cities with significant Tamil population, on the initiative of the political dispensation in Tamil Nadu. The main aim of the conference is to promote the rich heritage of the Tamil language, though the event was often projected by the ruling party in the state as a rallying point for improving the party’s political fortunes.

| Sr.No. | Title                      | Host City    | Host Country | Year |
|--------|----------------------------|--------------|--------------|------|
| 1      | 1st World Tamil Conference | Kuala Lampur | Malaysia     | 1966 |
| 2      | 2nd World Tamil Conference | Chennai      | India        | 1968 |
| 3      | 3rd World Tamil Conference | Paris        | France       | 1970 |
| 4      | 4th World Tamil Conference | Jaffna       | Sri Lanka    | 1974 |
| 5      | 5th World Tamil Conference | Madurai      | India        | 1981 |
| 6      | 6th World Tamil Conference | Kuala Lampur | Malaysia     | 1987 |
| 7      | 7th World Tamil Conference | Port Louis   | Mauritius    | 1989 |

|   |                            |           |       |      |
|---|----------------------------|-----------|-------|------|
| 8 | 8th World Tamil Conference | Thanjavur | India | 1995 |
|---|----------------------------|-----------|-------|------|

Since the government of India had accorded the status of classical language to Tamil in 2004, the World Tamil Conference held in Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu from June 23, 2010 was named as the World Classical Tamil Conference. The conference was inaugurated by the president of India, Prathibha Patil. Prominent Tamil scholars who attended the conference included Finnish Tamil scholar Asko Parpola, US Tamil scholar George Hart, V. Sivathambi of Sri Lanka, UNESCO Director Arumugam Parasuraman and Alexander Dubianskiy from Moscow University. Tamil nationalist leaders like Viduthalai Chiruthigal Katchi President Thol Thirumavalavan and Pattali Makkal Katchi founder S.Ramdoss also attended the conference. ([http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/World\\_Classical\\_Tamil\\_Conference\\_2010](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/World_Classical_Tamil_Conference_2010))

Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M.Karunanidhi while addressing a mammoth public meeting at Coimbatore on 27th June,2010, asked the Union government to accept Tamil as an official language. He also demanded a stronger Indian intervention in Sri Lanka to protect the Tamils facing the Sinhalese wrath in the island nation. The public meeting where these demands were raised, was organized in connection with the concluding day function of the five-day World Classical Tamil Congress in Coimbatore.

### Hijacking of World Tamil Conference by western intelligence agencies

In the World Classical Tamil Conference held in Cimbatore, Finnish Indologist Asko Parpolo was presented the Kalaingnar Karunanidhi Classical Tamil Award by President Prathibha Patil. The award carried a cash prize of Rs.one million, a Thiruvalluvar statue made of ‘panchaloha’ and a citation. Asko Parpola is an exponent of the Aryan invasion / migration theory which has already been demolished by so many reputed scholars and also by DNA studies. Only some Dravidian parties in Tamil Nadu, egged on by some Christian activists and NGOs, still harped on this theory with the sole objective to divide and alienate Tamil masses from the Hindu fold. Iravatham Mahadevan, a great scholar on Indus Valley civilization, is also an exponent of Aryan invasion theory. Though his earlier pioneering work was remarkable, his present efforts to connect his research work with the racial assertions of some of the fanatic Dravidian party leaders have only helped to sully his image. No wonder that he was honoured by the DMK government with the Thiruvalluvar award for his contribution in the fields of epigraphy and Indus Script studies. Iravatham Mahadevan is a close friend of Asko Parpola because of their long association with Indus valley research work. Mahadevan was also one of the four Vice Presidents of the Supreme Committee constituted for the Classical Tamil Meet. Parpola’s research findings like his assertions about the underlying language of the Indus Script being Proto-Dravidian could be interpreted as supportive of the cause of Dravidianism and this may have influenced the DMK government and also Iravatham Mahadevan in recommending Parpola’s name for the Classical Tamil Award. Parpola himself had admitted this much in his acceptance speech made at the conference where he said that when the chief minister of Tamil Nadu’s award was given to him for a Dravidian solution to the Indus enigma, this award will inevitably be interpreted by many people as politically motivated. His statement needs no more interpretation or clarification.



Iravatham Mahadevan who was allowed to play a prominent role by the DMK government in Tamil Nadu in organizing the World Classical Tamil Conference at Coimbatore in 2010 is also known to be a Hindu-baiter. In July 2009, Mahadevan had brought a German scholar by name Michael Witzel from the Sanskrit Department of Harvard University to give a lecture on Rigveda at the Sanskrit College, Chennai. Witzel's lecture was a big flop as he could not give satisfactory answers to any of the questions raised by the audience after his lecture was over. Witzel is notorious for his anti-Hindu bias. For instance in the state of California, in the history textbooks for grade VI for 2005, there were a number of errors and discrepancies. These textbooks were found not only historically inaccurate, but were discriminatory. They were certain to hinder the development of self-esteem in young children of Indian origin in California and may even cause perpetuation of prejudices against Hindu Americans. These textbooks did not even meet the State of California's own guidelines. Two Hindu organizations namely the Vedic Foundation and Hindu Education Foundation examined the textbooks and found hundreds of errors. The corrections proposed by the two organizations were accepted to the extent of 90%. Suddenly a motley group of people calling themselves as Indo-American leftists who included some rabid Hindu baiters under the garb of secularists surfaced to oppose the proposed changes. As a result only a few of the proposed changes could be effected. Michael Witzel was their leader. Mahadevan's association with Witzel exposes his own true colours. ([http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/California\\_textbook\\_controversy\\_over\\_Hindu\\_history](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/California_textbook_controversy_over_Hindu_history))

Some of the western Tamil scholars who attended the 2010 world Tamil conference were found taking undue interest in praising the purity and richness of the Tamil language and projecting it as one of the oldest and greatest languages in the world on par with Greek and Latin. There were also efforts by some of them to project Tamil as a separate religion. Some of the scholars claimed that Tamil enjoyed equal or even higher status in comparison to Sanskrit. All these assertions were quite pleasing to the Tamils in the audience. But there are reasons to believe that such statements were made deliberately with the mischievous intentions of stirring up the chauvinistic feelings among a section the Tamil fanatics and provoke them to demand some sort of special status for the Tamil language in view of its uniqueness and historic importance. Western intelligence experts are well aware of the Tamil people's fanatic love and attachment for their language and that they can easily exploit such sentiments to sow the seeds of Tamil separatism among them. The CIA is known for using the services of linguists and anthropologists for such dirty work.

Some of the demands of the World Tamil Conference-2010, like the demand for declaring Tamil as an official language in India, official declaration of Tamil as the court language in Tamil Nadu and the demand to give preference in employment to all those who were educated in Tamil medium educational institutions in the state, etc. are meant only to create differences and tension between the Centre and the state government. If the Tamil Nadu government decides to press for these impractical demands, it will not only strain the Centre-state relations, but encourage other states also to come up with similar divisive demands. The emphasis given by the Tamil conference on projecting the



greatness and superiority of Tamil language and the efforts to resurrect the Aryan-Dravidian theory are also meant to promote Tamil separatism in India. Some Christian NGO activists are reported to have played a key role in promoting this sinister and divisive agenda of the Tamil Conference and the government of Tamil Nadu.

### Sonia's mysterious love for LTTE

Tamil Nadu Chief Minister Karunanidhi was a staunch supporter of LTTE. There was a reference to him even in the Jain Commission Report on the Rajiv Gandhi assassination case. Sonia Gandhi had in 1997 demanded the dismissal of DMK from the UF ministry as the DMK was linked to Rajiv Gandhi's assassination. She even pulled down the UF ministry when her demand was not met. How could she then align with DMK to form the UPA ministry in 2004?

In 1999, one year after becoming the congress president, Sonia Gandhi had told President K.R.Narayanan that neither she nor her children wanted any of the four sentenced to death in the Rajiv Gandhi assassination case, be hanged. She further told him that no child should be orphaned by an act of the State. Earlier it was congress leaders who were in the forefront in opposing any move to show mercy to Rajiv's killers. Sonia's U-turn in the matter was a great embarrassment to them. Nalini's death sentence was subsequently commuted to life in May, 2000, by the Governor of Tamil Nadu, as pleaded by Sonia Gandhi. (Front Line, November 5-18, 2005). (<http://indiaview.wordpress.com/2008/04/30/lte-sonia-link/>)

On March 19, 2008, Sonia Gandhi's daughter Priyanka Vadra had visited Vellore jail in Tamil Nadu to meet Nalini Sriharan who is undergoing life imprisonment in connection with Rajiv Gandhi assassination case. Priyanka had reportedly spent about an hour with Nalini. Priyanka's explanation for her controversial visit to Vellore jail to meet Nalini, was that it was her way of coming to peace with her loss. Priyanka's controversial visit to Vellore jail and the publicity it generated had created a new sympathy wave for Nalini and a new respectability for the LTTE, the outlawed terror outfit..

What could explain Sonia's sympathetic attitude to the LTTE, a brutal terror outfit which was responsible for her husband's assassination and which fought a war with Indian Peace Keeping Force in Sri Lanka for more than two years? Both Sonia and Priyanka played a major role in reviving the support base of LTTE in Tamil Nadu. But this support base has now clearly assumed anti-national character. During the final phase of the war in Sri Lanka, the LTTE supporters took out protest morchas, burnt national flags and broke Rajiv's statues at many places in Tamil Nadu. Prabhakaran is dead now. But a militant Tamil nationalist movement, which was the major objective of the western intelligence agencies, has clearly taken root in Tamil Nadu.

Top LTTE leader Kumaran Padmanathan in an interview given to CNN-IBN Firstpost on May 24, 2011 had apologised to India for V.Prabhakaran's mistake of killing the former Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi. He said that it was well-planned and actually

done by Prabhakaran and LTTE intelligence chief Pottu Amman. Padmanathan, who was the treasurer and chief arms procurer of LTTE, said that Prabhakaran was influenced by the idea propagated by late Periyar E.V.Ramaswami for a greater Tamil Nadu comprising of four southern states and Tamil areas in Sri Lanka.

### Extra inputs

Launching the centenary celebrations of the Dravidian movement in Chennai on February 27, 2012, DMK president M. Karunanidhi reasserted the old slogan of 'Dravida Naadu for Dravidians'. He declared that more Karunanidhis would emerge to strengthen the Dravidian ideology and the goal of a Dravidian state would be achieved one day.

Some of the photographs released by the Sri Lankan army after its final victory over LTTE, had shown Vaiko sporting a pistol while an old picture has a much younger P.Nedumaran, President of Tamil Nationalist Movement, with V. Prabhakaran, holding what looks like a rocket launcher. Nedumaran, a former Congressman, has been an LTTE supporter since 1983 and has written some books on the struggles of Lankan Tamils. V.Gopalasami @ Vaiko was always known for his oratorical skills and his solidarity with the Tamil Tigers. He launched the pro-Tamil Marumalarichi Dravida Munnetra Kazham (MDMK) in 1993.

Thol Thirumavalavan is the president of a Dalit outfit called Viduthalai Chiruthaigal Katchi (VCK) which was earlier known as Dalit Panthers of India. He openly supported the cause of LTTE and his cadres sported T-shirts that have photographs of Prabhakaran or Tiger-sword insignia of the LTTE. Thirumavalavan has written a book titled "Eelam means Tigers, Tigers mean Eelam".

Kolathur Mani is another hard core supporter of LTTE who shot to fame when it was known that he was involved in training rebel personnel in Tamil Nadu. In early 1980s, when India was sympathetic to the cause of Tamils in Sri Lanka, Mani organized training camps for LTTE cadres at his home village of Kolathur. Mani, a follower of Periyar's teachings, was one of the office-bearers of Dravida Kazhagam, the parent organization of DMK. When the organization split, he joined the nascent Periyar Dravida Kazhagam and is now its president. According to the report of the Jain Commission, which probed Rajiv Gandhi's assassination, Mani had knowledge about all those involved in the brutal killing of Rajiv Gandhi and he was also reportedly instrumental in transporting them from Bangalore to Chennai. He was also in the news in 1995 in connection with the daring escape of 43 LTTE cadres who got out of Vellore Fort by digging a 153-feet tunnel. However he was acquitted by the court. Mani was also among the special group of emissaries led by Nedumaran who held talks with Veerappan for the release of Kannada matinee idol Raj Kumar whom the brigand had kidnapped.

24-4-2012

DMK president M.Karunanidhi on April 19<sup>th</sup> sought to make a case for the formation of a separate Tamil Eelam drawing parallels with Kosovo, South Sudan, East Timor and Montenegro, all nations that have come into being in recent years following United Nations's intervention and referendums. He said in a statement in Chennai that

“The song of freedom is ringing in the ears of Tamils across the world. The blood and tears shed by Sri Lankan Tamils will not go in vain. If not tomorrow, it will come into existence one day.” He pointed out that the DMK had advocated the idea of a separate Eelam as early as 1983 and a general council meeting of the party on August 27 that year had stressed that ‘a separate Tamil Eelam shall be the only remedy and permanent solution’.

3-5-2012

DMK president and UPA ally M.Karunanidhi on April 30<sup>th</sup>, 2012 chaired the first meeting of the Tamil Eelam Supporters Organisation (TESO) at Chennai. Karunanidhi has been consistently supporting the efforts of pro-LTTE elements in Tamil Nadu and Sri Lanka to revive the movement for a separate Eelam in Sri Lanka. The meeting, attended by DMK leaders K.Ambazhagan and Subulakshmi Jagadeesan

### Rajapaksa’s London meeting cancelled

Sri Lankan President Mahinda Rajapaksa was forced to cancel a speaking engagement in London on June 6, 2012 because of security concerns after Tamil activists threatened to hold a large demonstration against alleged human rights abuses in Sri Lanka. Mr.Rajapaksa was to give a key-note speech at the Commonwealth Economic Forum to be organized by the Commonwealth Business Council (CBC). The CBC after a thorough analysis of the situation decided that it was not in their interest to stage the event. President Rajapaksa was jeered by the Tamil protesters who had gathered outside his hotel and the Commonwealth Secretariat where he had gone for a lunch for the Queen, hosted by the Commonwealth Secretary General. During the President’s last visit in December 2010 also, a speech he was to give at the Oxford Union debating society was cancelled because of security concerns.

### TESO conference in Chennai

Addressing a conference of Tamil Eelam Supporters Organization (TESO) at YMCA ground in Chennai on August 12, 2012 DMK leader M.Karunanidhi called upon the UPA government to move a resolution in the UN for bestowing full rights to the Tamils in Sri Lanka to decide about their political future themselves. He declared Eelam as his life’s dream and said that he will seek the help of all like-minded people in its realization. The conference also passed a resolution in this regard and urged the union government to take immediate steps to move a resolution in the UN on the issue.

The Tamil Eelam Supporters Organization (TESO) was originally founded on May 13, 1985 with M. Karunanidhi as its president, with the aim of establishment of a separate Tamil Eelam in the northeast region of Sri Lanka. Later, with the emergence of LTTE as a powerful separatist organization under the leadership of V.Prabhakaran, TESO had become inactive. On April 20, 2012, Karunanidhi had announced the revival of TESO with the objective of realization of his long-cherished goal of Eelam.

### Channel 4 mischief

In March 2012, India had voted in favour of a UN resolution seeking an impartial international probe into the alleged war crimes committed by the Sri Lankan forces during the last stages of the civil war in Sri Lanka. Raising the issue of war crimes

against the Sri Lankan army, the Channel 4 of UK had telecast a number of special bulletins, stories and documentaries in the past highlighting the atrocities committed by the Sri Lankan army on Tamil civilians in Sri Lanka during the final stages of the war. Prior to the voting on the UN resolution over the Sri Lankan war crimes issue in March 2012, the Channel 4 had also shown the bullet-ridden body of Balachandran, 12-year old son of LTTE supremo V.Prabhakaran, allegedly killed in cold blood by the Sri Lankan army, stirring up anguish and anger among the Tamil masses in Tamil Nadu, which ultimately forced India to vote against Sri Lanka on the UN resolution. At a time when the human rights situation in Sri Lanka was scheduled to come up for a reappraisal in the UNHRC in March, 2013, the Channel 4 again raked up the controversy over the killing of Balachandran by releasing some new pictures of Balachandran sitting in an alleged army bunker and having some snacks and then his lifeless body lying on the ground with bullet wounds indicating that the boy was brutally shot dead by the Sri Lankan army personnel. A new documentary titled “No Fire Zone: The Killing Fields of Sri Lanka” is the third in the series by British journalist and director Callum Macrae showing the alleged butchering of civilians and other war crimes committed by the Sri Lankan army during the final stages of its war against the LTTE. The documentary had its first public screening at the UN Human Rights Council (UNHRC) on March 2, 2013. The mischief played by the Channel 4 by the release of pictures of Balachandran, before and after his killing, and the new documentary had the desired effect on the people in Tamil Nadu. Convinced by the new evidence brought out by the Channel 4 of UK, the animosity against the Sri Lankan regime reached a hysteric high among the people of Tamil Nadu leading to a fresh bout of violence and protest demonstrations all across the state. The government was forced to announce temporary closure of schools and colleges in the state due to student unrest over the Sri Lankan war crimes issue. Pro-LTTE and Tamil militant parties and organizations resorted to road and rail roko programmes in some parts of the state. There were also some instances of attacks on Sri Lankan pilgrims and Buddhist monks visiting Tamil Nadu and also on Sri Lankan establishments in some places like Chennai and Madurai. Even the staff of Sri Lanka’s deputy high commission office in Chennai were harassed and intimidated and Colombo is reportedly thinking of shifting the deputy high commission office in Chennai to Trivandrum.

The people’s anger is not directed only against the Sri Lankan authorities. There is growing resentment among the people of Tamil Nadu against the Union government also for not doing enough to force the Sri Lankan regime to agree to an international probe into the war crimes committed on innocent civilians in Sri Lanka so as to ensure justice to the Tamils in the island nation. Pro-LTTE groups in Puducherry burnt effigies of Prime Minister Manmohan Singh and Congress President Sonia Gandhi and there were also protest demonstrations in front of some of the central government offices in Tamil Nadu over the UPA government’s alleged soft approach to the issue of Sri Lankan war crimes. A statue of Rajiv Gandhi was found desecrated at Pattinampudur, near Coimbatore. Meanwhile the two main political parties in the state, the ruling AIADMK and opposition DMK indulged in political one-upmanship by supporting the demand for an impartial international probe into the war crimes committed by the Sri Lankan army and making many other impractical demands. The DMK high command announced the withdrawal of its support to the UPA government with all its ministers tendering

resignations from the Union cabinet in protest against the reluctance of the government to force the UN to move a sterner resolution against Sri Lanka in the UNHRC. Chief Minister Jayalalitha meanwhile wrote to Prime Minister Manmohan Singh asking him to declare Sri Lanka as an unfriendly country. She also moved a resolution in the state assembly urging the UPA government to impose economic sanctions on Sri Lanka and to stop classifying it as a friendly nation and also asking the Union government to move a resolution in the United Nations Security Council seeking a referendum among the Tamils in Sri Lanka over the creation of Tamil Eelam. Jayalalitha also imposed a ban on Sri Lankan cricket players participating in any Indian Premier League matches in Tamil Nadu. Influenced by the events and public sentiments in Tamil Nadu, India on March 21, 2013 voted in favour of a resolution moved by the US at the UNHRC, urging the Sri Lankan government to conduct an independent and credible probe into the allegations of atrocities committed by the Sri Lankan army on innocent civilians during the last stages of the war against LTTE. While the Tamil parties and organizations condemned the latest resolution as too mild, Sri Lanka described India's action as a betrayal by a friendly neighbor.

### CHOGM meeting in Colombo

The Commonwealth Secretariat recently confirmed that Colombo will be the venue for the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting due to be held in November, 2013. Many human rights activists and organizations in the west with the backing of the Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative had started a global campaign demanding a change in the venue of the CHOG meeting citing the blatant violation of the Commonwealth's Latimer House rules by Sri Lanka like its refusal to allow an international inquiry into the accusations of human rights violations in the final stages of its war against LTTE in 2009 and its illegal impeachment of chief justice Shirani Bandaranayake. Canada, which accounts for the second- largest contribution to the Commonwealth's coffers after Britain, has announced its decision to boycott the CHOGM at Colombo in protest against Sri Lanka's refusal to allow an impartial international probe into the human rights violations by the Sri Lankan forces during the last phase of the war against the LTTE.

Four activists of a Tamil fanatic organization called Dravidar Viduthalai Kazhakam were arrested by the Tamil Nadu police on October 29, 2013 for throwing petrol bombs at two post offices located at Mylapore and Mandaveli in Chennai demanding Union government to boycott the CHOG meeting scheduled be held at Colombo in November, 2013. Kolathur Mani, founder leader of Dravidar Viduthalai Kazhakam, was also arrested by the police on November 2, 2013 for throwing a burning wooden log inside the Income Tax office premises at Salem on October 30 morning in protest against the reported decision of the UPA government to attend the CHOG meeting in Colombo. Earlier on October 24, the Tamil Nadu assembly passed a unanimous resolution urging the UPA government not to send any representative to the CHOG meeting in Colombo as a mark of protest against the war crimes committed by the Sri Lankan forces against the innocent Tamils in Sri Lanka during the last phase of the war against LTTE.

### 95 Tamil women join Sri Lanka Army

A batch of 95 Tamil women recruits of Sri Lanka Army who completed their training at the Bharathipuram Army Training School in Killinochchi had their passing out parade at Security Force Headquarters in Killinochchi in March 2013. The recruits from the former conflict zones had been part of the LTTE's women's wing during the conflict. Though the Sri Lanka Army had a number of Tamil women officers since its founding, this was reportedly the first time the Army saw Tamil women joining the organization en block.

All India Samatuva Makkal Katchi

President---R.Sarat Kumar.

Nam Tamizhar Iyakkam

President--- Sebastian Seeman.

Pattali Makkal Katchi

President---G.K.Mani.

Viduthalai Chiruthai Katchi

President---Thol. Thirumavalavan.

Tamil Desiya Iyakkam---

Periyar Dravida Kazhakam.

President---Kolathur Mani.

Manithaneya Makkal Katchi.

President---Jawahirullah M.H.

Christian Munnetra Kazhakam.

Tauheed Jamaat.

Tamil Nadu Munnetra Kazhakam.

Marumalarchi Dravida Munnetra Kazhakam (MDMK).

General Secretary--- Gopala Swami @ Vaiko.

Tamil Nationalist Movement.

President---P.Nedumaran.

Ulaga Tamizhar Peramaippu.

President---P.Nedumaran.

### Nam Tamizhar Party

After the killing of hundreds of Tamil civilians in Sri Lanka by the security forces during the last phase of the war against LTTE, supporters of LTTE gathered in large numbers in Madurai on May 18, 2009 to condemn the Sri Lankan action and formed a pro-LTTE political outfit called Nam Tamizhar Iyakkam. It converted into a political party called Nam Tamizhar Katchi on May 18, 2010. During the formation of the new party, Sebastin Seeman, the architect of the new outfit, had declared that he has not founded a new party, but was only reviving the Nam Tamizhar Katchi founded by S.P.Adithanar in 1958. Adithanar was also the founder of Tamil Newspaper 'Dina Thanthi'. The party's principal agenda was the creation of a sovereign Tamil Nadu. It contested the state assembly elections in 1962 and 1967. It merged with DMK in 1967. Sebastian Seeman, who is a strong advocate of a separate greater Tamil Nadu with inclusion of Tamil-dominated provinces of Sri Lanka, was once arrested by the Royal



Canadian Mounted Police and deported to India for making hate speeches in Canada against the Sinhalese.

Rajiv Gandhi's statues vandalized

(<http://www.sikh24.com/2014/03/rajiv-gandhi-statues-vandalised-in-chennai/#.UxhN9T-SxWI>)