

# 100 more killed in Sri Lanka

Associated Press

COLOMBO

Government planes bombed rebel Tamil bases and the insurgents attacked soldiers yesterday, adding more than 100 to a death toll that has reached almost 400 in six days of conflict in Sri Lanka's civil war.

The attacks by both sides came a day after a car bomb tore Colombo's main bus station apart, killing at least 106 people and injuring 295.

The Government estimated that 80 Tamils were killed in an air raid, and a military source said at least 36 soldiers and police were killed in rebel raids that cost the insurgents eight men.

Government and military figures put the death toll since Friday at 374.

Tamil terrorists stopped vehicles in eastern Sri Lanka on Friday, pulled passengers out and opened fire, killing 127 people, most of them Sinhalese.

On Monday, more terrorists

## Raids on rebels, counter-attacks bring 6-day toll to almost 400

killed 15 Sinhalese at a village in the same region.

Friday's attack brought an end to a Government ceasefire aimed at renewing peace talks in the conflict, which has cost more than 5,500 lives since Tamils began fighting for an independent state in northern and eastern Sri Lanka in 1983.

Unofficial sources said the number of deaths since Friday could surpass 500 when the final casualty figures from the bus terminal bombing and air raid are known.

A Health Ministry official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the count from the car bomb may reach 200. Tamil sources said an equal number of people may have been killed in yesterday's air raid and shelling on the

Tamil-dominated Jaffna Peninsula.

The Government said civilians probably were among the Jaffna casualties. It warned residents in the area to stay away from obvious targets of military action.

Tilak Ratnakara, head of the Government media centre, said: "We will continue to strike at militant targets until the civilian killings are stopped and peace negotiations resume."

The Government said its retaliatory air strike was aimed at outposts of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam and the Eelam Revolutionary Organization of Students, which it blamed for the bus station bombing. Both issued denials from their exile headquarters in southern India.

Tamils, most of whom are Hin-

dus, make up 18 per cent of Sri Lanka's 16 million people and say the majority Sinhalese, nearly all of whom are Buddhists, discriminate against them.

Yesterday's violence included three rebel attacks on Government forces in the north and east and rioting in Colombo's main prison, where Sinhalese prisoners attacked Tamil convicts.

There was confusion about casualties in the prison riots. A Government source said six Tamils were injured, but a military source said three were killed and three critically injured.

During anti-Tamil riots in 1983, when the civil war began, 59 Tamil inmates were killed in the prison.

Officials said Tamil prisoners, numbering about 200, were moved to a separate building for safety.

The Government announced that it was continuing a curfew in the Colombo area and imposing one on Trincomalee, an eastern port city.