

LTTE runs nine cop sheds in north. (1994, May 8). *Sunday times*.

LTTE runs nine cop sheds in north

The so-called Tamil Eelam police force is running nine police stations in the Jaffna peninsula covering all aspects including criminal activity and traffic control, an officer-in-charge has said.

The officer, identified as Nadesan told 'Tamil Land' published by the LTTE International Secretariat in London that several of the Eelam police stations were run by women officers.

Excerpts from the interview:

Q: Will you be able to give in a nut-shell the formation, its growth and its functions?

A: The birth of the police force is the result of the growth of the Tamil Eelam liberation struggle. The Tamil Eelam police force which started in June 1991 has completed its two years service successfully. This institution is directly under the Tamil Eelam national leader Velupillai Prabhakaran. Under his control and supervision it is administering the law and order in the areas liberated by the LTTE. This police force is entrusted with the duty of looking after the welfare of the society during the period of struggle.

There are about nine police stations in the Jaffna peninsula and three functioning in the Wannai area. Apart from this, in order to prevent road accidents and to supervise traffic, there is a section known as City Traffic Section.

There is another section called Criminal Investigation section to handle the serious crimes. There is a special section to inquire into the civil cases. Well trained officers have been appointed in these sections. These



Nadesan: Tiger Police officer

police stations are providing 24 hours service to the public.

Q: What are the achievements of the Tamil Eelam police force?

A: After this police force has started functioning almost all the criminal offences have got reduced. Specially the cruelty and mischief against women have been brought under control. Thefts and accidents have come down. Lectures are given in schools and other public institutions as to how to avoid and prevent accidents. And also the civil cases which have been accumulated in the Sri Lanka courts and were not adjudicated have been settled amicably. At the same time unlike the Sri Lanka Police Force, our police force has women functioning as officers-in-charge in some police stations. For example, Chunnakam, Kopay, Kilinochi and Chavakachcheri police stations.

Q: At certain police stations people who come for inquiry have to wait for a long period of time.

What do you say about that?

A: In case of complaints we send summons asking the respondents to be present at the police station for an inquiry. But certain respondents do not come to the police station on that date. They give certain reasons for not coming, which we will have to accept due to the present war situation. But certain respondents use this excuse to drag the inquiry. Or they come to the police stations at different times. Due to this the complainants have to stay at the police stations for a long time. Also due to the absence of the respondents the inquiries have to be postponed. We are taking all necessary actions to remedy this shortcoming.

Q: Is it true that the police officers do not take immediate action on certain complaints?

A: We have divided the complaints into four categories and are dealing with them.

1. Serious crimes
2. Petty crimes
3. Complaints of civil nature
4. Complaints on road accidents.

We are taking immediate action to complaints of serious crimes and road accidents by going to the place of incident. But for petty crimes and civil complaints, it takes some time for inquiry. At least it takes one week. The reason for this is shortage of officers.

Q: Some allege that the police officers are supporting one party against the other at the time of inquiry. What is your opinion about this allegation?

A: Even after an impartial inquiry and a just verdict, it is natural for one party to get hurt or to be in a position not to accept it. At certain times even the party that gets a favourable verdict can bring about the allegation against the police officers if it is not to their expectations. When we make an inquiry, it is based on the evidence placed before us and on the observations made by the officers. If any party is dissatisfied over a judgement they can make an appeal. Proper proceedings will be instituted on this appeal.