

Two Tiger women rue joining LTTE. (1993, November 22). *Daily news.*

'We know nothing of Eelam and are not interested in it'

Two Tiger women rue joining LTTE

By Daryll de Silva

Two senior female hardcore terrorists who were recently captured by the security forces in the Eastern Province told the *Daily News* on Monday that they would in any case have defected from the LTTE because of their disenchantment with the Tiger movement.

The captured women, Sinnathambi Athpudarani alias Gowri and Bandaiya Gnanawathie alias Riga, are expert handlers of weapons and have participated in many terrorists attacks on military and civilian targets. The security forces consider them a prize catch.

Gowri (20) confessed that she participated in several attacks on military targets. She joined the LTTE in 1990 and underwent three months intensive weapons training in the jungles of Thoppigala under group leader Hira and later joined a group headed by a female Tiger named Jancy.

She told this reporter through an interpreter that she had participated in attacks on the Sittandy police station on September 12, 1991; the ambush of an army patrol at Vakaneri on September 20, 1991 and another attack on an army patrol in the Vadumunai area on October 24, 1991.

Later, on January 29, 1992, Gowri said she participated in the LTTE attack on the Sinhapura army camp, where 27 soldiers lost their lives. On April 29 last year, she took part in the attack on the Muslim village of Alanchipathana and later on May 29, in the

ambush of an army patrol in Vakaneri.

She was a member of the LTTE squads which massacred Muslim villagers in Palliyagodalla on October 15, 1992 and killed 21 armed forces personnel in Arantalawa in November 1992. She had also taken part in low-intensity attacks on military targets.

Riga (18) said she joined the LTTE when she was 13 because she was enticed by the glamour of wearing a camouflage uniform and carrying a weapon. She received weapons training under Judy and also joined Jancy's group.

Among the attacks she took part in are, killing ten soldiers in Vakaneri on September 20, 1991 and killing 14 soldiers in Vadumunai on October 27, 1991. Like Gowri, she was a member of the LTTE squad which killed 21 security forces personnel in Arantalawa in November 1992.

Both girls said their lives had been ruined by their

joining the LTTE. "We know nothing of Eelam and are not interested in it either. The LTTE got the maximum out of us while treating us very shabbily," they said.

They said they had joined the LTTE in their school days because they thought it would be fun. But they now realise that it has only ruined their lives.

"We are being treated very well now," both girls said. They regretted having led such a life of killing without motive, but said they were forced to do so by their leaders.

"Our presence on the battlefield was used to motivate male fighters who would otherwise have not gone forward. But we are now relieved that we can live without fear," they said.

Both girls confessed to have received training under the LTTE's former Eastern Province leader Karuna and political leader Karikalan. But they themselves had no interest in the Tiger demand for Eelam.

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