

Hunt for two LTTE women suicide bombers in Colombo. (1993, November 07) *The Island*.

# Hunt for two LTTE women suicide bombers in Colombo

by Shamindra Ferdinando

Police have thrown a dragnet around Colombo and suburbs in a massive hunt for two LTTE women suicide bombers believed to have slipped into the capital.

The two suspected women assassins whose photographs were released to the media, are believed to have gone to ground and may have taken up some innocuous employment such as domestic work as 'cover' police sources said, yesterday.

"They are here on a mission", a senior police officer said while identifying them as associates of Muthukumar Mahendran, a former police officer wanted for Tiger guerrilla operations in Colombo.



The presence of two women assassins had come to light after the Police Crime Detection Bureau (CDB) captured some close associates of Mahendran a few weeks ago. The CDB had been able to secure pictures of the two, described as 'suicide assassins', after interrogating Mahendran's associates defence sources said.

Both are known to be



from Jaffna.

The Tigers first used a woman bomber in May 1991 to assassinate former Indian Premier and Congress-(I) Leader Rajiv Gandhi in South India.

The CDB believe the women had slipped into Colombo after President Ranasinghe Premadasa was killed in a suicide attack on May Day.

Initial investigations re-

vealed that the two may have successfully sought employment in Colombo and were now waiting for instructions from Jaffna.

Meanwhile, the CDB had seized another suspected LTTE operative whom the police believe to be involved in moves to assassinate a top DUNF politician. However, the attempt is believed to have failed and he was caught by the CDB a few days ago.

The CDB believes that they have captured at least eight would-be assassins following investigations into LTTE operations in Colombo including political assassination, sabotage and arms build-up.

