

# The Black Tiger Phenomena ...

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produce sufficient information confirming the complicity to the LTTE supremo Prabhakaran. Despite weak arguments brought by opportunistic politicians who have also misled many in the south, as time passes it became more and more clear that the LTTE was responsible for the murders of Ranjan Wijeratne and Lalith Athulathmudali.

## Special ceremony

According to a recently captured LTTE cadre who served as a bodyguard to Prabhakaran, there was a special ceremony in Nallur on July 5, 1993, where Prabhakaran, Pottu Amman, Akila and another handful of leaders who garlanded the photos of the four cadres who killed the Sri Lankan leaders, that evening. They also commemorated the others who committed suicide when capture was imminent by the SIT team in India. It was revealed only last week that at least one of the LTTE assassins who killed Gandhi, Pramadasa, Wijerana and Athulathmudali were orphans, and in fact he was from an orphanage managed by the LTTE.

The LTTE has been patronizing two orphanages since Mahattaya took an interest in the Kilinochchi orphanage in 1986. To this date Prabhakaran continues to patronize two leading orphanages in Jaffna and in Kilinochchi. When the boys and the girls in these orphanages reach the age of 14-16 they are inducted to the LTTE. This has come under limited criticism by the elder citizens of Jaffna stating that the LTTE is using children who do not even know about the world to reach their political objective. Commenting on the orphanages, a foreign commentator on Sri Lanka said, "Some have drawn parallels of this and the programmes in Nazi Germany under Hitler. Even though propaganda, pomp and pageantry was very much a part of Hitler's projects and many German's supported him, he too had to come to terms with reality. Hitler too ran his concentration camps and orphanages until Germany was reduced to rubble, their armies were destroyed and ultimately he committed suicide." The parallel in this may hurt many of Prabhakaran's supporters. Some thinkers have urged that we all take a hard look at the remarkable similarity between Prabhakaran's psyche and that of Hitler's. Over Mahattaya being punished by Prabhakaran, some Tamil

lit lamps. The pictures of the other Black Tigers were garlanded by other Tiger leaders.

Prabhakaran addressed a meeting exclusively of Black Tigers said that they are the fire and thunder of the Eela Tamil people. "The meeting was more a propaganda type of meeting where the Black Tigers were attired in Black and masked and LTTE cameramen video recorded and photographed the event. The arts and the cultural section of the LTTE organised a number of competitions in sports to commemorate the "Valour and heroism" of the Black Tigers and also released a taped song in their memory. A poem published in their honour by Vasantha Thambiratham, published in Hot Springs July 4, 1993 stated,

"I salute you, I salute you  
Sons of my native land  
For your bravery and sacrifice,  
Your memory arrests my thoughts  
You never stooped for worldly desires  
Nor enslaved to childhood dreams  
No homefelt pressures or daring passions  
But you left never to come back  
Not even to look back at us  
Knowing well the parting soon to come  
We stood the silence with violent pain  
You went beyond detection  
I bowed my head in respect  
You are the best of all the best"

Black Tiger meetings were also held in Meesalai, Manipay, Kilinochchi, Madhu and in Toppigala. It was also reported that Black Tiger commemoration meetings could not be held south of Toppigala due to the poor LTTE strength and vigilance of the army and STF operations in the East. The importance the LTTE attach to their dead and the families of the dead is also a major motivating factor. There is a school of thought that the LTTE is mostly directing the economic resources in the peninsula to the families of their cadres. This has led many poor youth to seem to support their families as when there is war the means of livelihood becomes limited.

## Top targets

Today the four top targets of the LTTE in Colombo are President D. B. Wijetunga, Prime Minister Ranil Wickramasinghe, DUNF leader Gamini Dissanayake and Army Commander Lt.

Whether we like it or not, the Black Tiger phenomenon has come to stay. The protection against it is very small and limited. Sound intelligence coupled with covert operations is the only alternative the state has to fight the Black Tigers, but that too is limited as a preventive strategy in fighting this phenomena. The police and the army claims that they have managed to disrupt the LTTE suicide squad network in Colombo. They have attributed their success to the political blessing to interrogate any suspect. It is unfortunate that Minister Thondaman who recently urged all the Tamil groups to support the freedom fighters (meaning the LTTE) has brought the attention of the President to these arrests as detrimental to ethnic amity. In context a Muslim politician said, "It would be more worthwhile and even good for Mr. Thondaman's safety to ask the Tigers to stop sending suicide squads and assassins to Colombo. If the LTTE can keep out of Colombo, then the Tamils living in Colombo will not suffer. There will be no necessity to pick up and interrogate suspected LTTE militants who come to kill and destroy. Minister Thondaman must use his good rapport with the LTTE to do something more constructive, not only be communal and look after his people."

Meanwhile, the intelligence training camp in the Beirut base complex has changed hands. Since Newton, the former LTTE's intelligence Chief for Batticaloa/Ampara, left for Jaffna to manage the main check point and later to gather operational data in the Wilpattu area, Uttara Master was entrusted with intelligence and special operations functions. But early this year, he was transferred to Jaffna with over 100 intelligence wing members together with 500 fighting cadres led by Karuna, the Special District Commander for Batticaloa and Ampara. His successor and deputy Rudra Master is now in charge of intelligence and special operations functions in Batticaloa and Ampara. Two months ago, Rudra Master received information from Jaffna via Colombo to eliminate two important targets. Last month he dispatched to Colombo an LTTE cadre who had been trained in Black Tiger operations to eliminate the targets — a top intelligence operative and a parliamentarian. The team which apprehended the Black Tiger belongs to a police agency headed by an outstanding police officer. He was praised by the authorities and his

men were commended.

The intelligence operative, who was to be killed, had distinguished himself for training and leading several small teams in the East where the LTTE was quite strong. The success of this intelligence officer operating under the name of Moonas in apprehending or killing several key LTTE leaders with the support of LTTE deserters is what had hurt the LTTE most and had made them single him out for elimination. The operative who is now based both in Jaffna and in Batticaloa, was flown to interrogate his assassin in Colombo and returned with a wealth of information to track down other cadres who have been associated with the assassin. The operative, who functions side by side with another expert on the LTTE, has been responsible for arresting some of the most wanted LTTE leaders in the recent past.

## On hit list

The Parliamentarian scheduled for elimination was Jana, the TELO Member of Parliament who was once upon a time the bodyguard of Sri Sabaratnam, the TELO leader, who was killed by the LTTE. Jana has been on the wanted list by the LTTE even before Sam Tambimuttu and Appapillai Amirthalingam were killed in 1989. Jana has been classified as a traitor by the LTTE, firstly for playing a crucial role in the formation of the Tamil National Army, the illegal proxy army formed by New Delhi to further its designs in Sri Lanka. The TNA, conceptualized by the Research and Analysis Wing (RAW), India's foreign intelligence agency and trained by the Indian army training corps was mooted to checkmate the LTTE as well as to protect the pro-Indian North East Provincial Council. Interestingly, the Council was subverted by the Government of Sri Lanka which was honey-mooning with the Tigers at that time.

The second reason for ordering the death of Jana is his role in helping the Sri Lanka Army in the East to normalize the East. With Jana's information and his sources coupled by Special Intelligence, the Special Forces and the Commandos led by Brigadier Jana Perera has achieved tremendous success in the East. Jana has also helped the civil administration in the East to expand. Those civilians living under LTTE controlled areas have seen that the Tamils in the East under the newly established civil administration has prospered. The LTTE is today having a hard time in get-

ting the Tamil civilians to stay under LTTE controlled areas. It should be mentioned that under the direction of the Special Task Force Commandant Lionel Karunasena, the LTTE in the East has been tremendously weakened. However, the successes achieved by the Army and STF has not been exploited sufficiently by the government. It is unfortunate that the Ministry of Information under Tyrone Fernando has yet to formulate effective programs to project these developments in Tamil areas to strengthen the Tamil-Sinhala-Muslim rapport. The battle to defeat the LTTE would be a thousand times easier if government Minister of the capacity of Tyrone Fernando, who has already written a book on the northeastern conflict, titled "100 days in Sri Lanka were guided and tasked to fight the hitherto neglected political side of the war.

Today the international support the LTTE enjoys in the West is rapidly changing. The LTTE will have to depend more and more on Black Tiger type of operations to recover and survive particularly after they lost so heavily at Kilali. They will do whatever is possible to prevent another similar army offensive. This is also a clear warning to all the army, navy and air force outposts in the northern province, particularly those in the Mulaiwattuwand LTTE Command which comprise the Welioya and Vavuniya areas. Last Thursday's pre-dawn attack on the navy and army at Pooneeryn by the LTTE is also another clear indication of LTTE's need to depend more and more on the "capture supply." Today the Sri Lanka military strategy should be to intensify operations in the north and the outposts the north to intensify their security. The east will be relatively safe because of the high security forces strength and the low deployment of LTTE cadres. There is a hitherto unexamined aspect of the Black Tiger phenomena. Today, the greatest fear the American and European intelligence and security agencies have of the LTTE is that they will grade a human bomb for Stinger or SAM missiles with a Middle Eastern African fundamentalist group to kill a Western leader. It is such possibilities that have led Western security and intelligence agencies to monitor LTTE activities throughout the globe and wherever possible to prevent them from expanding. (Next Week: The LTTE's designs for the East).

writers living abroad have raised the question whether Prabhakaran is suffering from the same paranoia Hitler suffered and whether he too will start eliminating all the LTTE leaders whom he suspects of dissent.

Interestingly, while some sections of the Tamils, particularly those from Velvetithurai and families of LTTE cadres praise the Black Tiger effort, many others, strangely even some who are sympathetic of the LTTE, have denounced the Black Tiger as it ends on a suicide note. It is almost an open secret why the LTTE continues to deny the killing of civilians, both Muslims, Sinhalese and Tamils. The US and European governments have certain criteria for branding organisations as terrorist type. This prevents members of those organisations having a comfortable as well as an active life in their countries and risks being arrested and deported. These criteria includes killing of non combatants. This is the very reason the LTTE has always denied the killing of civilians as well as political leaders. This has made it difficult for them, publicly to commemorate the heroic acts of their most revered martyrs who killed Gandhi to Premadasa.

The LTTE emphasises on commemorating their dead, respectfully called martyrs. On July 5, 1993, the LTTE commemorated the Black Tiger Day at the Nelliaddy Central College premises where Captain Miller, the first Black Ti-

Gen. Cecil Waidyaratne. After the recent success of Operation Yal Devi during which the LTTE lost nearly 75 leaders and another 125 cadres, the LTTE focus is more on the military top brass than on the political leaders, at least during the past month. The LTTE hierarchy claiming that it cannot sustain another similar assault has requested the area commanders to recruit civilians. Anti-LTTE Tamil groups have made it public that the civilians recruited and trained will be used as frontline cannon fodder. The defence analysts have viewed this as a major draw back to the LTTE as it would be easier to apprehend and gather intelligence from poorly trained civilians whom the LTTE are now bent on recruiting.

### **Eliminate President**

A Black Tiger who was recently apprehended by the police said, "We received instructions from Pottu Amman to kill the new President soon after he made a statement that there is no ethnic problem but terrorism in the north-east. Two months ago we were suddenly summoned to Jaffna and our leader Prabhakaran told us that we must eliminate the President without further delay. Our leader said, President Wijetunga is no different from President Premadasa. He is only a different voice but playing the same record.