

# Banning LTTE: why the delay?

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While the war is being fought in the north the question asked in political circles is why the Government hesitates to ban the LTTE.

It is no secret that the LTTE derives sustenance mainly from its ever expanding office network abroad. Although these offices are said to be part of the LTTE's so-called political wing, the LTTE being an organisation that does every little politicking the only purpose these offices serve is to sustain and promote terrorist activities in Sri Lanka. This is known to the government's military pundits.

Some European governments are on record having stated that although they do not want

the LTTE offices to function in their soils, they are not in a position to order the LTTE to close down their offices until the Sri Lankan government takes the initiative by banning it.

The LTTE on the other hand is accused by President Kumaratunga of having assassinated Indian Premier Rajiv Gandhi. She also says that it is planning to kill her and has had her Temple Trees residence garrisoned with commando regiments inspiring awe in passers by on the Galle Road.

Security of her ministers has been beefed up following reports that the Tigers are prowling in Colombo awaiting an opportunity to launch an attack. It has also killed

President Premadasa. In addition, it carted a bomb recently to the office of Western Province Chief Minister's office killing a score of civilians.

Several aeroplanes and naval vessels belonging to the Sri Lankan state have been destroyed by the LTTE within the last year under the PA's rule. Therefore one wonders why the Government hesitates to ban the LTTE.