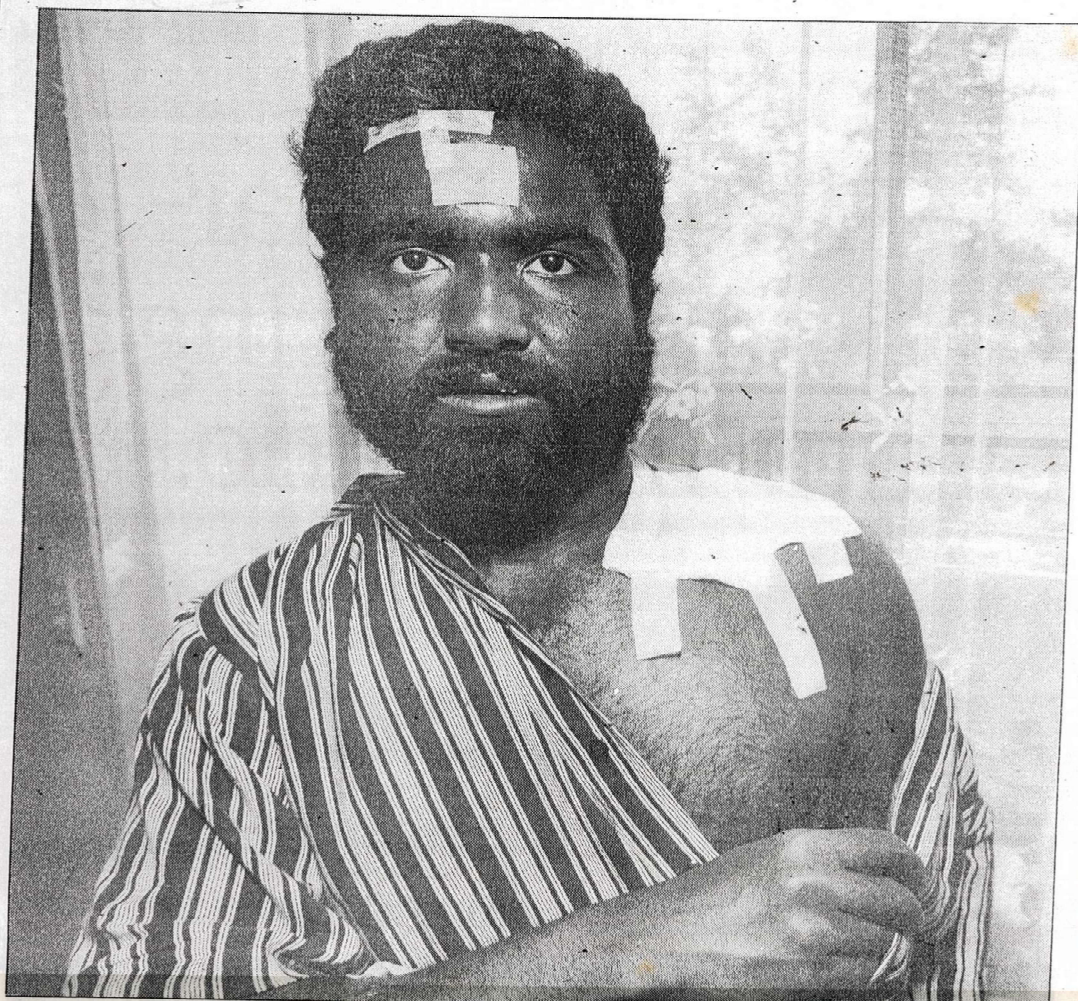


Refugee slashed by 2 men in third attack on Tamils. (1993, June 22).
The Toronto Star.

GREATER METRO



JIM RANKIN/TORONTO STAR

STABBED REPEATEDLY: Ganeshamoorthy Vignswaramoorthy was cut with broken beer bottles by two men, who attacked him Sunday near King St. W. and Dufferin St. He was not robbed.

Refugee slashed by 2 men in third attack on Tamils

By Peter Small
TORONTO STAR

A Tamil refugee says passers-by stood watching while two "racist" thugs stabbed him with broken beer bottles.

It's the third vicious attack on Metro Tamils in two weeks — a string that worries and angers members of the community of an estimated 75,000.

"They were trying to kill me," Ganeshamoorthy Vignswaramoorthy said quietly yesterday as he sat bandaged in the Scarborough apartment he shares with his sister and her husband.

The 26-year-old restaurant worker was attacked after he left a friend's party and went for a meal at an eatery near King St. W. and Dufferin St. at 1 a.m. Sunday, he said.

He found the restaurant closed so he headed across Dufferin St. to catch a bus north.

That's when two men with broken beer bottles suddenly challenged him.

"They asked me, 'What the

f--- are you doing here? What are you doing here?'" Vignswaramoorthy said.

"I think it was racism," he said. They didn't try to steal his money, he added.

For what seemed like at least two minutes one man stabbed him in the front while the other attacked from the rear, he said.

"Around three or four white guys stood around and watched," he said. "They didn't do anything."

Finally Vignswaramoorthy broke free and ran north on Dufferin St. His attackers ran south.

He found a phone booth and called a friend, then hailed a cab to St. Joseph's Health Centre.

He received numerous stitches for gashes in his head, shoulder, stomach, back and arm.

Vignswaramoorthy spoke softly, gingerly moving his body as his 3-year-old nephew ran around the living room. "I told him it was a car accident. I cannot tell him it was racism," he said. He still hadn't told his fiancée about the attack yesterday.

Vignswaramoorthy came to Canada as a refugee 3½ years ago, running from the Sri Lankan army, which claimed he was helping Tamil militants.

"I like peace and freedom," he said, explaining why he chose Canada.

Vignswaramoorthy graduated from Central Technical high school in Toronto with an 83 per cent average and has been accepted by Carleton University for the fall, one of three universities he approached to study computer science, he said.

Detective Cliff McConnell has assigned a detective team to the case. "We must put a stop to these kinds of hate crimes," McConnell said in an interview.

Police are seeking two white men, both about 5 feet 8, in connection with the attack. One is about 24, weighs 165 pounds and has red hair. The other is about 25, 150 pounds, has brown hair and a moustache.

"Oh, my God," said Subramaniam Rajaratnam, executive

director of the Tamil Ealam Society of Canada, when told of the stabbing.

"It is very worrying. We have to think of something to do," he said.

Sivarajah Vinasithamby is in fair condition in hospital after a vicious June 6 beating that police describe as racist.

Gunalan Multhulingam, 32, died after being beaten by a white man on Bleeker St. June 7. Police have not called that attack racist, but have not ruled racism out.

Sam Duraiswamy, president of the Tamil Ealam Society, cautions there's no way of knowing whether the attacks were specifically aimed at his ethnic group, or just at people with dark skins generally.

Nevertheless, Tamil Ealam and several other groups are planning an anti-racist demonstration, expected to attract up to 4,000 to central Toronto next Monday evening, Duraiswamy said.

□ With files from Dottie O'Neill and Jim Rankin