

# Massacre of Civilians by the LTTE Tamil Tiger Terrorists

Dambulla Bus Bomb, 02 February 2008



Killing Innocents



**Another Massive Bomb Blast by the LTTE Tamil Tiger Terrorists at Dambulla, Sri Lanka; 20 killed; 50 Injured.**

## Dambulla Bus Bomb

[http://www.spur.asn.au/LTTE\\_Bus\\_Bomb\\_20080202\\_Dambulla.htm](http://www.spur.asn.au/LTTE_Bus_Bomb_20080202_Dambulla.htm)

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Tamil Tigers, an extremist racial separatist group terrorizing for decades in Sri Lanka, have targeted a bus packed with innocent civilians who are Sinhala Buddhist pilgrims killing 20 passengers, mostly women and children, and injuring 51 others. This repeated act of unmitigated brutality must bring to the attention of the entire civilised world the nature of the terrorist threat that is faced by Sri Lanka. Read more.....

LTTE Tamil Tiger terrorists exploded a bomb inside a public transportation bus targeting civilians in Dambulla this morning (February 2), defence sources said. According to available information, the blast was occurred in a privately owned bus traveling from Kandy to Anuradhapura around 7 a.m. So far , 18 people have been killed including 16 females and over 80 others suffered injuries due to the explosion, the sources say. The explosion took place as the bus came to the Dambulla Central bus stand which left from Kandy, the sources added. Among the dead and wounded many are Buddhist devotees on a pilgrimage to the sacred Anuradhapura City, Dambulla Police said. Dambulla hospital sources said, eighteen bodies of innocent civilians killed in the bomb attack were already received at the hospital. Four civilians who suffered serious head injuries were immediately transferred to the general hospital at Matale.

Also among the injured ten, eleven, six and five civilians were respectively transferred to the hospitals at Kandy, Kurunegala, Matale and Colombo, Dambulla , hospital sources said. The sources further said that, sixteen of the eighteen bodies received at Dambulla general hospital were already identified. LTTE is a ruthless terrorist outfit fighting for a mono ethnic separate homeland for the Tamils in Sri Lanka since 1983. Led by its psychopathic leader, V.Prabhakaran, LTTE has established its cause on extreme tribalism and carries out all sorts of egregious crimes against civilians, including genocides, child soldiering, ethnic cleansing, suicide blasts, etc.

LTTE has killed tens and thousands innocent civilians including Sinhalese, Muslims and Tamils in its bloody terrorist campaign against Sri Lankan people. However, the outfit has developed an effective propaganda machinery both in local and international context that clear its name from all abominable crimes it commits against Sri Lankan people and continue to maintain its facade as a liberator organization. An eye-witness telephoned SPUR and informed that all the victims are poor villagers going to participate the Nemum Mal pooja at Anuradhapura Ruwanwali Maha Saya.  [\(Details in SPUR\)](http://www.spur.asn.au/LTTE_Bus_Bomb_20080202_Dambulla.htm)  
[http://www.spur.asn.au/LTTE\\_Bus\\_Bomb\\_20080202\\_Dambulla.htm](http://www.spur.asn.au/LTTE_Bus_Bomb_20080202_Dambulla.htm).

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An injured child for immediate medical treatments



Rescue workers help to transport a critically injured woman to hospital Pic: AFP



The LTTE raises funds internationally saying that they are waging a 'freedom war', but continues with brutal murder of women, children and innocent civilians, indiscriminately. This toddler who received serious injuries in yesterday's Tiger bomb explosion in Dambulla is under treatment at the Dambulla base hospital. What offence has this child of God has committed to be punished in this gruesome manner? Pic: Chintaka Kumarasinghe.



A woman injured in yesterday morning's bomb blast inside an Anuradhapura-bound bus at Dambulla, being brought to the hospital for treatment. Twenty persons were killed and 52 injured in the explosion carried out by the LTTE.

### **Media Release : Sunday, 03 February 2008 LTTE's path to Democracy - Bus Bomb at Dambulla**

LTTE terrorists have notched up one more civilian target, a bus bomb at Dambulla, Sri Lanka on 2 Feb 08 killing at least 20 innocent civilians and injuring 50 others. Some

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were on their pilgrimage to the holy city of Anuradhapura. Terrorist LTTE have been targeting civilians using landmines and claymore bombs, whether a ceasefire agreement was in currency or not. In fact there is reason to believe in the face of this series of civilian attacks which has killed over 100 persons since December 2007, that the LTTE has misconstrued the dead CFA as one that was a 'ceasefire agreement in killing civilians'. SPUR, NSW condemns unequivocally acts of terrorism committed on civilians and expresses its deep sympathy with all affected. Human rights organisations around the globe have expressed their dismay and condemnation of the atrocities regularly committed by the LTTE, however in their public statements they leave large loopholes for the LTTE to sneak away. By this complacency in condemnation, the LTTE has taken advantage to notch up the toll to the next stage, so that, the same human rights organisations in their confusion and disarray, will be calling for enforcement of the R2P 'right to protect' on Sri Lanka, or call for international intervention. The claim for national rights for the Tamils has always been on LTTE's agenda, and has raised its ugly head once again a letter to the UN Secretary General in January 2008. By these inactions of the world community in taking strong view of the acts of terrorism as has been done in the US, only the manipulative strategy of the terrorist LTTE will be fulfilled ([read full Media Release](#)) [http://www.spur.asn.au/SPUR\\_NSW\\_20080203\\_LTTE's\\_Dambulla\\_Bus\\_Bomb.htm](http://www.spur.asn.au/SPUR_NSW_20080203_LTTE's_Dambulla_Bus_Bomb.htm).



Rescue: Survivors and bystanders struggle to free a woman trapped inside the mangled metal wreck of the bus torn apart in yesterday morning's blast which claimed the lives of 20 innocent civilians who were on a religious pilgrimage.

### LTTE trying to spark 'backlash', says Rajapaksa

Terming Saturday's bomb attack on a bus that killed 18 people as an act of "desperation" by the LTTE, Sri Lankan President Mahinda Rajapaksa accused the Tamil rebels of trying to trigger a "backlash" from the majority Sinhalese to obtain sympathy of the international community. "I vehemently and unequivocally condemn this latest act of savagery by the LTTE in carrying out the blast in a civilian bus at Dambulla today," Rajapaksa said in a statement. A parcel bomb planted by suspected LTTE rebels ripped through a bus packed with Buddhist pilgrims in the central town, killing 18 passengers, mostly women, and injuring 51 others, just two days before the strife-torn country celebrates its Independence Day. Many of those killed and injured were pilgrims going to the North-Central city of Anuradhapura to participate in a Buddhist ceremony, Rajapaksa said. He described the attack as a "repeated brutality by the LTTE which in its desperation in the face of defeats inflicted on them by the security forces, is eager to create a backlash to their terror, to obtain the sympathy of the international community". This act of terror, similar to many other acts of savagery directed at innocent civilians before, underscores the continued commitment of the LTTE to violence to achieve their goal of separation, the president said, while urging people to stay calm in the face of the attack. "These repeated acts of unmitigated brutality must bring to the attention of the entire civilised world the nature of the terrorist threat that is faced by Sri Lanka," he said. "It is only the most brutal and politically bankrupt movements that are capable of continuing with such acts," he said ([full report in Hindu](http://www.hindu.com/thehindu/holnus/001200802022073.htm)) <http://www.hindu.com/thehindu/holnus/001200802022073.htm>.

### LTTE kills 18 pilgrims in Dambulla bus explosion Suspects say 'goodbye' after alighting

A pilgrimage ended in blood-shed and carnage yesterday, after LTTE terrorists exploded a private bus killing 18 devotees including women and children, in Dambulla Town. Of those killed, fifteen were women who were on a pilgrimage to Anuradhapura to participate in a religious pooja organised to bless the country and people seeking peace. According to Military spokesman Brig. Udaya Nanayakkara over 60 people were injured in the explosion, which occurred when the ill-fated bus arrived at the Dambulla bus stand. He said that preliminary investigations on the incident revealed that the bus carrying 84 passengers including the driver and the conductor had left Kandy at 5.15 am yesterday. Brig. Nanayakkara said that the bomb was believed to have been placed inside the bus by LTTE terrorists. Police investigations also revealed that when the bus was on its way from Kandy two young men had boarded it in Matale and got down at Naula saying 'goodbye' to the passengers. It was later found that the parcel left by the men would have contained the bomb and exploded when the bus arrived at the Dambulla bus stand at 7 a.m. The LTTE raises funds internationally saying that they are waging a 'freedom war', but continues with brutal murder of women, children and innocent civilians, indiscriminately. This toddler who received serious injuries in yesterday's Tiger bomb explosion in Dambulla is under treatment at the Dambulla base hospital. What offence has this child of God committed to be punished in this gruesome manner? Those injured were rushed to the Dambulla, Matale, Kurunegala and Kandy hospitals in ambulances and private vehicles. The bus explosion at Dambulla yesterday was the second incident in the area since a vehicle driven by a suicide cadre killed more than hundred Navy personnel in Habarana in October 2006, the sources said ([Full report in Sunday Observer](#)).



### Two persons suspected in Dambulla bus blast

Two persons who boarded the ill-fated bus at Matale and had then got off at Naulla on Saturday morning are suspected of having planted the powerful bomb that killed sixteen women and two men and injured around 51 persons at the Dambulla bus stand, Senior DIG N. Illangakoon, the Police Media spokesmen told a hastily summoned media briefing at the Media Centre at Kollupitiya. Although the bus conductor had noticed two suspicious looking men carrying a parcel boarding the bus at Matale and then getting off at Naulla he had failed in his duty to inform anybody regarding this, until the bomb exploded inside the bus. If the bus conductor was a little more cautious, he would have averted this calamity. In the past several such explosions had occurred inside buses, Senior DIG Illangakoon said. When asked to describe the bomb that exploded inside the bus the, DIG said he was unable to say anything at the moment, because the Government Analyst who visited the scene of explosion is still conducting investigations. He said the LTTE terrorists were targeting civilians in the South these days due to ongoing military operations in the North to jeopardise such operations. He appealed to people to be cautious about terrorists and to move away when a suspected parcel or a bomb was found and promptly inform the police or the army as quickly as possible. Meanwhile, the Disaster Management Unit of the Health Ministry has appointed Director of Health Services Central Province Dr. Shanthi Samarasinghe as the coordinator to deal with the medical arrangements with regard to the incident, sources said. The National Blood Bank has despatched blood from Colombo, needed for the victims, to hospitals in Matale, Kandy and Kurunegala, where the casualties are now being treated. Meanwhile, the Medical Supplies Division has sent drugs and other essential medical items to those hospitals, Ministry sources said ([full report in \Sunday observer](http://www.sundayobserver.lk/2008/02/03/sec02.asp)) <http://www.sundayobserver.lk/2008/02/03/sec02.asp>.

### Public should be vigilant to thwart LTTE attacks on Civilians

The intense media campaigns by defence authorities and also by the media to keep the public on red alert against desperate Tiger attacks seems to be futile with the bomb blast in Dambulla yesterday although there are satisfactory security measures taken in Colombo in preparation for the 60th Independence Day celebrations. Yesterday's bomb blast in Dambulla again proved the fact that public had not taken these warnings seriously or disregarded these as rubbish. The thing that has to be emphasized here is that it were the innocent civilians who had become the victims of these ruthless bombings of the Tiger cadres due to less attention being paid towards their safety especially during this decisive period. Though it is premature to come to a conclusion regarding the bomb blast at Dambulla bus stand killing at least 20 civilians and injuring more than 50 civilians, again we can come to a conclusion that it would have happened due to less attention being paid by the passengers, who were on their way to Anuradhapura to attend a special Pooja in the sacred Ruwanweli Seya. It has been revealed that the blast had occurred when the bus NA-0284 was about to leave Dambulla bus stand taking the last passenger from Dambulla at 7.10 a.m. Taken into consideration the damage caused to the bus it is apparent that it could have been a bomb which exploded inside the bus. Eye witness accounts indicates that it was two suspicious persons who had got into the bus from Matale had got down from the bus from Naulla after keeping a parcel inside the bus. Many of the injured passengers and the bystanders were rushed immediately to the Dambulla, Matale, Kurunegala and Kandy hospitals. If we look back at the year 2007 it was a similar type of incident in which a number of civilians were killed at two separate bomb blasts in Nittambuwa and Seenigma, Hikkaduwa in January ([full report in Sunday Observer](http://www.sundayobserver.lk/2008/02/03/sec01.asp)) <http://www.sundayobserver.lk/2008/02/03/sec01.asp>.

## Statement by President Mahinda Rajapaksa on the bomb blast at Dambulla

I vehemently and unequivocally condemn this latest act of savagery by the LTTE in carrying out the blast in a civilian bus at Dambulla today. Among those killed and injured were many women pilgrims on their way to Anuradhapura to participate in a Buddhist ceremony. This shows the reality of the struggle we have to face to eliminate terrorism from our country. I send my sincere condolences to the families of the deceased and my prayers and good wishes for the speedy recovery of those injured. I call upon the people to remain calm and refuse to be provoked by this repeated brutality by the LTTE, which in its desperation in the face of defeats inflicted on them by the Security Forces, is eager to create a backlash to their terror, to obtain the sympathy of the international community. This act of terror, similar to many other acts of savagery directed at innocent civilians before, underscores the continued commitment of the LTTE to violence to achieve their goal of separation. In the face of such grave provocation, the people of Sri Lanka must be aware of the many forces that are attempting to obstruct the efforts of the government to eradicate terrorism from our country, and halt the success of the Security Forces in this task today. These repeated acts of unmitigated brutality must bring to the attention of the entire civilized world the nature of the terrorist threat that is faced by Sri Lanka, and that it is only the most brutal and politically bankrupt movements that are capable of continuing with such acts ([Full report in Sri Lanka Defence Ministry](http://www.defence.lk/new.asp?fname=20080202_13)) [http://www.defence.lk/new.asp?fname=20080202\\_13](http://www.defence.lk/new.asp?fname=20080202_13).



**The United States' top intelligence agency, Federal Bureau of Investigations (FBI) says that the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) is the most dangerous and deadly extremist organization in the world. The official website of FBI in its tops story said that LTTE is far more dangerous terrorists outfit than al Queda, Hezbollah or even HAMAS.**

[http://www.fbi.gov/page2/jan08/tamil\\_tigers011008.html](http://www.fbi.gov/page2/jan08/tamil_tigers011008.html)

What is really happening in Sri Lanka today is that a 'blood thirsty racist' group led by some misled Tamils called LTTE is terrorizing against the Government of Sri Lanka and its people irrespective of their ethnicity with an intention of carving out a separate state. There is no conflict as such between Sinhalese and Tamil communities in Sri Lanka. In fact, the majority of the Tamil community lives in peace and harmony among the Sinhalese population throughout the country apart from the Northern part of Sri Lanka. The entire Sinhalese and the Muslims population who lived in the Northern area for centuries were either killed or chased away completely by the LTTE Tamil Tiger terrorists. At the moment, not a single Sinhalese or Muslim is living in Jaffna, but, many thousands of Tamils are living in Colombo.

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Thank you.