



SPUR - NZ

Society for Peace, Unity and Human Rights in Sri Lanka (SPUR) New Zealand

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Tsunami relief and other humanitarian aid for terrorism in Sri Lanka

The Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) are in the news again. They have acquired few small Cessna-type propeller-driven planes modified to carry bombs and have launched air raids on some oil/gas facilities in Sri Lanka, prompting some international airlines to cancel flights in and out of the capital Colombo.

According to some analysts it is a desperate act on the part of LTTE but according to some others, LTTE have become stronger to carry out more terrorist acts.

Whatever the conclusion, it is worthwhile to examine the recent responses of the International Community on the LTTE activities world over.

USA, UK, India, Malaysia and Canada and EU have proscribed LTTE as a Terrorist Organisation under their national Criminal Codes and banned their activities in their countries. However, it is a known fact that LTTE is continuing with their activities to raise funds around the world including Australasia. Australia has designated the Tamil Tiger as a terrorist organisation satisfying their obligations under United Nations Covenants.

- **Australian funds to propagate terrorism**

According to a news report posted by Sandra O'Malley in ["The Australian" of 03 May 2007](#), Singapore-based terrorism expert Rohan Gunaratna has stated that the Tigers (LTTE) have been procuring aircraft, arms, explosives and other technological devices from Australia for more than a decade. Dr. Gunaratna, Head of the International Centre for Political Violence and Terrorism Research, also has said that the Tigers were buying light aircraft from local manufacturers in the mid-1990s and as recently as last year bought remote control devices to detonate bombs in Sri Lanka.

A few days ago, Australian Foreign Minister Alexander Downer also admitted that the Australian Government had been aware for some time that money raised in Australia was being siphoned to the Tigers in Sri Lanka.

Interestingly, according to a report Sydney Morning Herald of 08 May 2007, the Australian Police have apprehended two men, Aruran Vinayagamoorthy of Mt Waverley and Sivarajah Yathavanof Vermont South, accused of using the Melbourne-based Tamil Coordination Committee to raise funds for the Tamil Tigers under the guise of fundraising for tsunami relief.

Reports say that the arrests followed raids across Melbourne and Sydney as part of a two-year joint investigation by the Australian Federal Police and Victoria Police into claims charity groups were raising funds for Sri Lanka's Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam - or Tamil Tigers. Victoria Police Deputy Commissioner Kieran Walshe has said that the men were accused of running a tsunami relief appeal to raise funds for the Tamil Tigers, allegedly duping people out of a substantial amount of money. If found guilty, the men face a maximum of 25 years in jail.

Although it has been highlighted regularly by anti terrorism organisations world over, the authorities in most of the countries did not take much notice to the allegations that LTTE is utilising humanitarian funds to escalate their terrorist activities in Sri Lanka. However, in the recent past it appears that the trend has been changed and authorities of several countries have started taking effective steps against LTTE within their respective countries.

- **Latest arrests of LTTE operatives in USA**

It was announced on 25 April 2007 that US Authorities have arrested an alleged senior representative of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam, Karunakaran Kandasamy in Queens , New York . According to the complaint, Karunakaran was responsible for arranging meetings in LTTE-controlled territory in Sri Lanka between LTTE leaders and prominent LTTE supporters from the United States. These supporters typically have backgrounds in engineering, technology, weaponry, medicine, and other scientific fields. Karuna and his subordinates also assisted LTTE intelligence agents in researching military technology. LTTE is a designated foreign terrorist organization in USA since 1997, with material support of a foreign terrorist organization.

According to the report of the complaint, the LTTE relies on sympathetic Tamil expatriates residing in the United States, Canada, the United Kingdom, Australia, France, and several other countries to raise and launder money; smuggle arms, explosives, equipment, and technology into LTTE-controlled territory; obtain intelligence about the Sri Lankan government; and spread propaganda. To coordinate these activities, the LTTE has established “branches” in at least 12 countries, including the United States.

Eleven defendants were previously indicted in the Eastern District of New York on charges relating to the material support of the LTTE. One indictment, United States v. Sathajhan Sarachandran, et al., charges five individuals with attempting to purchase several dozen surface-to-air missiles and other military arms and equipment from an undercover FBI agent in Queens, New York. The second indictment, United States v. Thavarajah Pratheepan et al., charges the defendants with participating a wide-ranging conspiracy to provide material support to the LTTE through the procurement of military arms and technology, attempting to bribe purported U.S. State Department officials to remove the LTTE from the foreign terrorist organization list and to sell classified intelligence concerning the LTTE, fundraising, and the LTTE’s covert payment of a U.S. Congressman’s trip to LTTE-controlled territory

- **Illegal use of Intelsat 12 satellite by LTTE to broadcast their propaganda**

Apparently, the LTTE was illegally utilising Intelsat 12 satellite to broadcast NTT (National Television of Tamil Eelam) to European and Asian countries. It appears that NTT has been the official television of the terrorist organisation. Recently Intelsat has taken effective steps to halt the LTTE transmissions. Meanwhile, Globecast, the satellite service provider for TTN in France, has confirmed to Sri Lanka's Embassy in France that it has stopped the TTN transmission using Eutelsat with effect from 2nd May 2007.

These combined actions, by US based Intelsat and France based Globecast to terminate use of its facilities by the LTTE and its front organizations, is expected to cause a significant blow to the LTTE's global dis-information campaign.

- **“ 2006 Country Report of Terrorism ” by Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice**

It appears that even belatedly, foreign governments and organisations have realised that LTTE is indeed a terror group and it has become a menace to the whole world. Today, terrorism is a global phenomenon and most terror groups have spread their menacing tentacles far beyond their ‘home’ base. As the American Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice very correctly stated in the latest “2006-Country Report of Terrorism -” submitted to the US Congress "Many LTTE innovations, such as

explosive belts, vests, and bras, the use of female suicide bombers, and waterborne suicide attacks against ships, have been copied by other terrorist groups".

Now the list will be extended to accommodate light aircrafts too and we expect a total commitment on the part of the governments and law enforcement authorities to take strong actions on terror groups regardless of their country of origin and intended destination of funds and weapons.

- **New Zealand is not immune to terrorist threats**

The Sri Lankan terrorist organisation, LTTE could be considered as a prime example for terrorism's global reach. It raises funds virtually all over the world - even using front organisations in countries and regions where it is banned. These front organizations appear as humanitarian organizations and appeal to the NGOs and other humanitarian organisations to support them to help the Tamil Nation in Sri Lanka. It may be a genuine request for tsunami assistance or a bogus to save the Tamil Nation from the so-called genocide at the hands of the Sri Lankan Government and its forces. Above reports have confirmed that irrespective of their stated reason, the funds will ultimately end up in the LTTE coffers.

Extortion of the Tamil Diaspora is another mode of raising funds for LTTE. However, the reports reaching us from the UK, France and few other countries in Europe are that the peace loving Tamil community members are now slowly raising their voice against such extortions and high handed demands of the LTTE sympathizers. **New Zealand is not immune to above modes of operations to siphon off funds for LTTE.** As members of NGO's or as the elected representatives of people in New Zealand or as influential policy makers you may have already come across such appeals.

We kindly request you to think twice and refrain from giving any support to these appeals. Else, you may regret one day that unknowingly or unwillingly you have contributed to the growing global terrorist menace.

Society for Peace, Unity and Human Rights in Sri Lanka (SPUR) New Zealand - (SPUR – NZ)

We, "The Society for Peace, Unity and Human Rights in Sri Lanka (SPUR) - New Zealand, is an organisation committed to a **peaceful resolution of the Sri Lankan conflict.**

SPUR- Victoria and SPUR-New South Wales are operating from Australia for a long period and SPUR-NZ is linked to SPUR-New South Wales.

SPUR-NZ intends to provide you with the information about the armed conflict in Sri Lanka and also of the peaceful avenues that are being pursued towards conflict resolution. **Excepting for the LTTE,** all other Tamil, Sinhala and Muslim parties in Sri Lanka are involved in democratic processes to seek a peaceful solution.

We call upon all peace loving people in New Zealand to support us to curb growing terrorism in Sri Lanka in particular and in the world in general. Inter-Governmental and inter organizational cooperation is the only way forward to curb global terrorism.

We have circulated this letter to all Members of NZ Parliament and to most of the NGOs in New Zealand.

If you would like to get more details or to discuss about the Sri Lankan conflict, we would be very happy to do so. Please send us your comments and suggestions. If your organization is not interested in receiving further communication from us, please feel free to send us an email to remove you from our circulation list.

Our contact address is spurnz.group@gmail.com
Please visit SPUR Web Site: www.spur.asn.au

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