



New Zealand SPUR

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

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News Release by NZ SPUR

## Tamil Tigers attack a Catholic Church in Mannar

The New Zealand Society for Peace, Unity and Human Rights in Sri Lanka (NZ SPUR) joins with others in the civilised world to condemn the shelling of the St Sebastian's Catholic Church in Thallady, Mannar. Recent attack by the LTTE marks a yet another dastardly act of desecration of places of religious worship committed by the terror machine of the LTTE.

The heinous act of killing people at religious places is an act of desperation that has been committed by LTTE in so many occasions. It was only a few weeks ago that a Tamil Parliamentarian T Maheshan was brutally gunned down while he was at prayers in a Hindu Temple in Colombo.

The long list of desecration of religious places of worship and mindless murder of priests and devotees attending to religious rites include the massacre of Muslims at prayers in Kattankudy (1990), the bomb attack on the most venerated Buddhist Shrine of the Temple of the Tooth in Kandy (1998), the selective murder of 33 Buddhist monks proceeding to a religious ceremony in Aranthalawa (1987) and the attack on Buddhist worshippers at the Sacred Bo-tree in Anuradhapura (1985).

It is reported that Rev Fr Thevaraja and four other priests had visited the St Sebastian's Catholic Church on the previous day and requested some soldiers from the nearby army camp to help in cleaning and repairing the church premises. The shelling of the Church took place while they were helping.

The Catholic Bishop's Conference of Sri Lanka (CBCSL) has vehemently condemned the attack on the Catholic Church.

It was stated in a communique issued on 15 February 2008 by the President Bishop Vianney Fernando and Secretary General Bishop Norbert Andradi of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of Sri Lanka.

"This attack is deplorable as all places of worship are sacred and should be kept free of violence and bloodshed even in combat" it was further stated.

It is very clear to the world that terrorism is LTTE's religion and Prabhakaran, as a cult leader whose followers refer to him as the "Sun God", has no respect to any other God. Cult leaders who do not care for any established religions or humanity are nothing but psychopaths believing in a messianic role.

NZ SPUR joins with all those who condemn terrorism in all its manifestations in the sake of humanity.

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