

Sri Lanka looks Ahead- Now, to Win The Peace



By

Dr. Palitha Kohona

*Ambassador and Permanent Representative
of Sri Lanka to the United Nations*

SRI LANKA'S CONFLICT ENDED SUDDENLY ON 18TH MAY 2009

The terrorist group, Tamil Tigers (LTTE) was defeated militarily in May of 2009.



Area controlled by
the LTTE before
2009

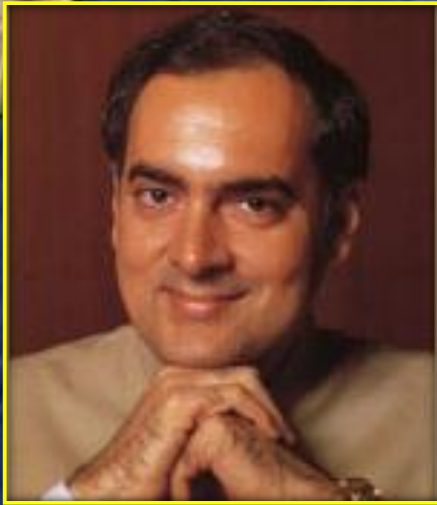
"The most ruthless and deadly terrorist organization in the world"- FBI



A BRIEF HISTORICAL SURVEY OF **SRI LANKA'S CONFLICT**

- Since 1985 , successive governments have sought a peaceful end to the conflict.
- In 1987, India sent peacekeepers to Sri Lanka.
- After losing over 1200 lives, India withdrew its troops in 1990.
- The LTTE assassinated Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi of India and President Premedasa of Sri Lanka.
- The LTTE continued its terrorist violence despite government overtures.
- Over 21,000 children (Human Rights Watch) were recruited as combatants.
- The retreating LTTE, surrounded itself with thousands of men women and children as a human shield.

ASSASSINATION OF TWO STATE LEADERS BY THE LTTE



**Former Prime Minister of India
Hon Rajiv Gandhi**

INDIA



**President of Sri Lanka
His Excellency R Premadasa**

SRI LANKA

The government constantly sought a negotiated end to the conflict

THE LTTE



Over 21,000 Children were recruited as child combatants (Human Rights Watch)





The commencement of the Worlds largest hostage rescue mission

DURING THE PERIOD OF THE CONFLICT

- The government sought a negotiated end to the conflict.
- The government continued to send food and medical supplies to the North.
- All the schools and hospitals in the North were supplied and maintained by the government.
- Numerous NGO's and UN agencies operated in the North.

The government continued to send food and medical supplies to the North, even during the height of the conflict



Many NGOs and UN agencies operated in the North



The LTTE normally fought in civilian clothing



ONCE THE CONFLICT ENDED

- **The first objective of the government was to restore economic normalcy.**
- **In parallel, the government wished to reestablish democratic institutions and conduct democratic elections in the areas formerly controlled by the LTTE.**
- **The government also launched a reconciliation process to heal the wounds of 27 years of conflict.**

The retreating LTTE, surrounded itself with thousands of men women and children as a human shield



The LTTE holding the civilians at gunpoint, to form a human shield



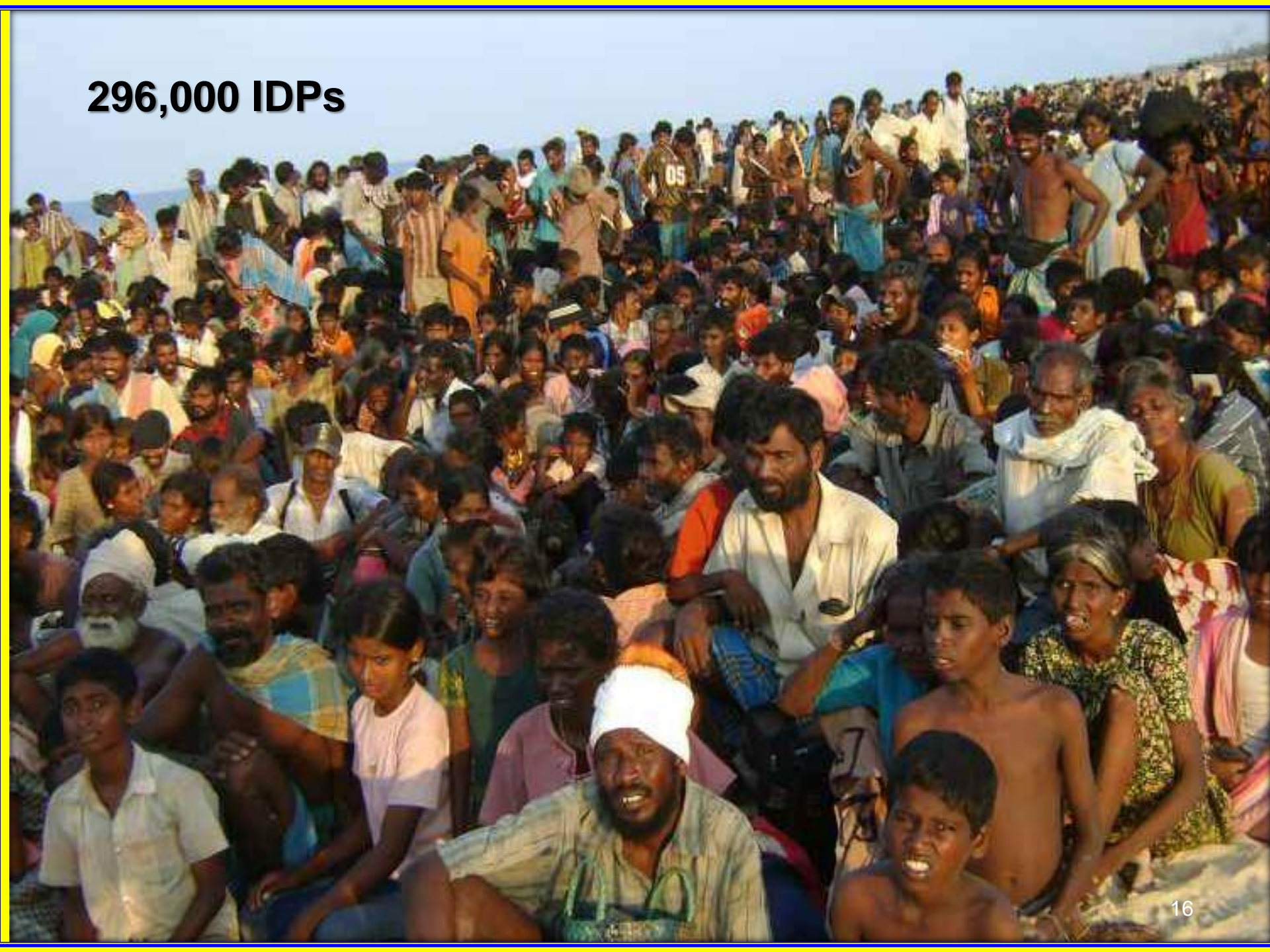
Sri Lanka Air Force Drone Footage



SUCCESSFUL CONCLUSION OF THE WORLDS LARGEST HOSTAGE RESCUE OPERATION



296,000 IDPs



296,000 Internally Displaced (IDPs)

- They were sent to government constructed camps.
- They had to be clothed, fed and provided with healthcare; children had to be schooled.
- Despite dark predictions, there was no hunger or epidemics.

Housing and caring for 296,000 IDPs



Resettlement of the IDPs

- All the IDPs have now been settled in their towns and villages.
- Essential supplies were provided to them.
- 5000 Sq Km. had to be demined: 1500 Sq Km have already been demined.



Restoration of normalcy

- **Over 1000 Schools restored.**
- **All hospitals and clinics restored.**
- **Roads, electricity, irrigation canals rehabilitated.**
- **Over 200,000 acres of rice, vegetables and fruits brought into production.**
- **Fisheries have been restored.**
- **Over \$ 2.5 billion invested in the North.**
- **Foreign donors have contributed an additional \$ 2.4 billion.**
- **All travel Restrictions to the North lifted.**

Unprecedented reconstruction effort in the North



Agricultural and Fisheries production in the North has continued to surge



BUSINESS CONFIDENCE HAS BEEN RESTORED

- In 2011 the economy grew by 8.2 %.
- The North grew by 27% in 2011.
- The industrial sector grew by 10.3%.
- Exports grew by 20% in 2011.
- Foreign Direct Investment exceeded \$ 1.06 billion.
- Tourism has increased by over 50% since 2010.
- Hospitals, resorts etc. are being opened regularly.
- Trade with the US exceeds 2.4 billion.

Continued Economic Growth



In 2011 the economy grew by 8.2 %.



Colombo, Sri Lanka

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A Massive Influx of Foreign Investment



DEMOCRACY HAS BEEN RE-ESTABLISHED

- **Presidential and Provincial elections held in 2010.**
- **The President was re-elected with over 58% ballots.**
- **The government has won all Provincial Council elections-held in 8 Provinces.**
- **Provincial Council elections will be held in the North in 2013.**

Re-establishing democratic institutions in the North



The LTTE Systematically assassinated all moderate Tamil leaders



Mayor of Jaffna
Mr. ALFRED DURAIAPPAH



Foreign Minister
Mr. LAXMAN KADIRGAMAR



Dr. NEELAN THIRUCHELWAM



Member of Parliament
Mr. RAVIRAJ



Member of Parliament
Mr. T. MAHESWARAN

The President was re-elected with over 58% ballots



RECONCILIATION

- Over 12,000 former combatants captured (2240 women).
- Over 11,000 rehabilitated and allowed to return to their communities
– Despite buried weapons continuing to be recovered.
- They have been provided with life skills.
- 560 child soldiers returned to their communities.
- Over 17,000 individuals separated from their families, re-united.
- The ICRC and the UNICEF helped reunite children with their families.
- Sri Lanka de-listed from the United Nations Security Council list of countries under observation for child soldiers.

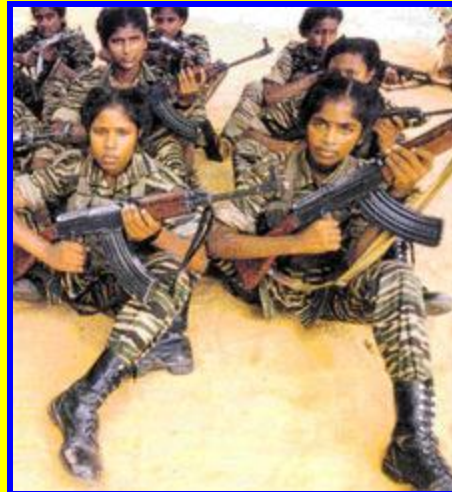
Over 11,000 Former Combatants have been rehabilitated and re-intergrated into society



Over 17,000 individuals reunited with their families



Over 560 child combatants surrendered following the end of the conflict



Former child combatants are now back at school



NGOs HAVE MADE SIGNIFICANT CONTRIBUTION TO THE RECONSTRUCTION AND REHABILITATION PROCESS

- 1350 NGOs registered in Sri Lanka.
- 45 legal NGOs and INGOs and.
- The ICRC provides valuable.
- Tamil armed groups disarmed.
- Tamil expatriate community approached by the government-
The government seeks peace and reconciliation with them.
- Every opportunity taken to reach out to the Tamil expatriate community.

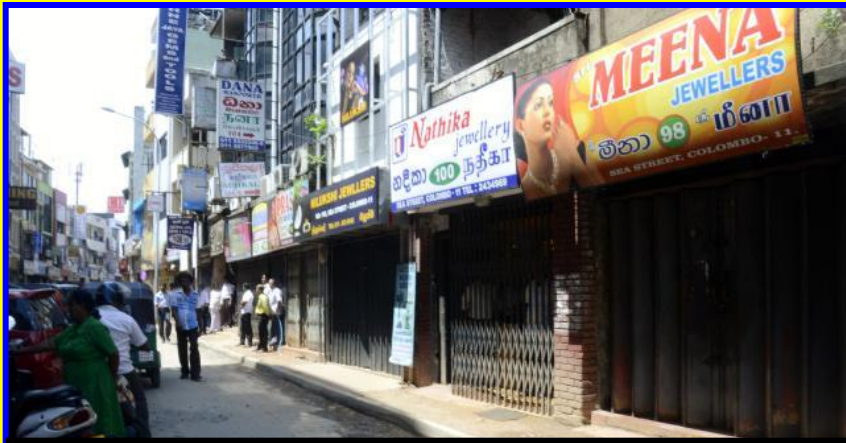
There are over 1350 NGOs registered in Sri Lanka



Large numbers of the Tamil Diaspora supported the LTTE



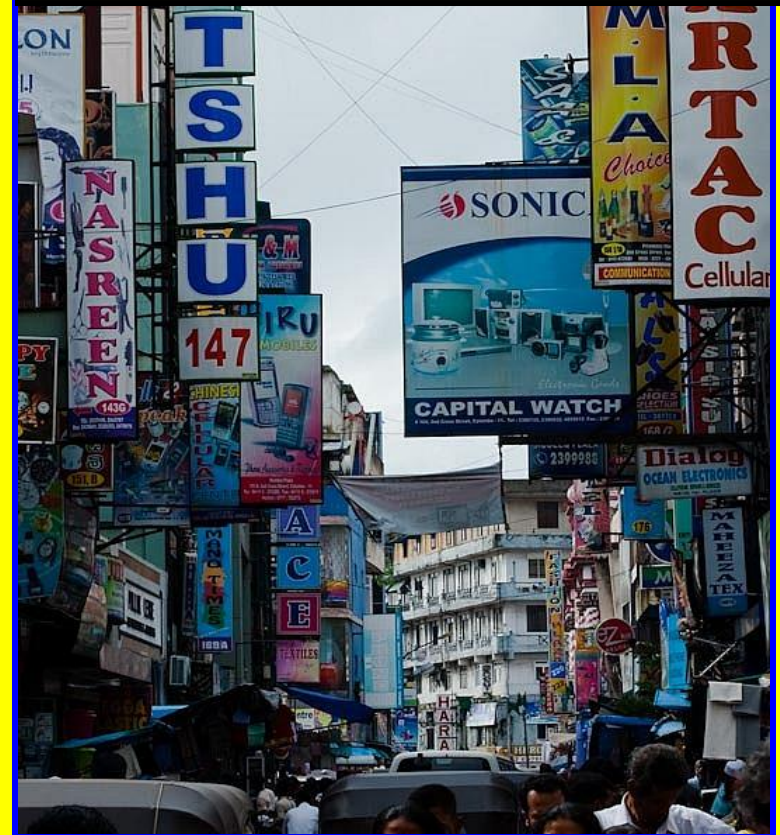
Minorities continue to prosper in majority Sinhala areas of the country



Around 54% of the Tamils live among the majority Community.

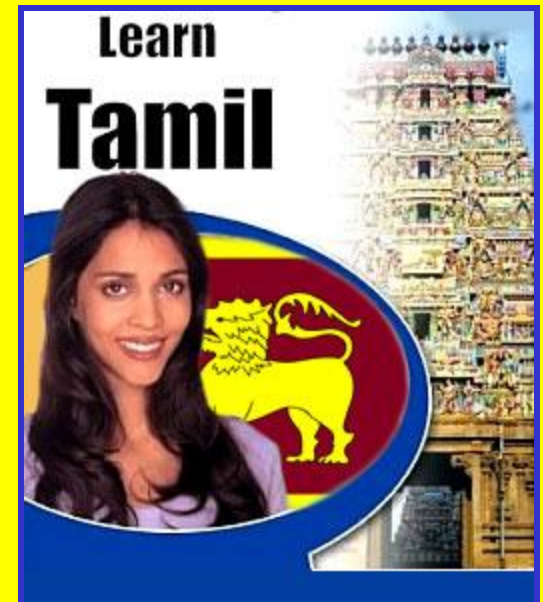


Tamils constitutes over 40% of the population of the capital, Colombo.

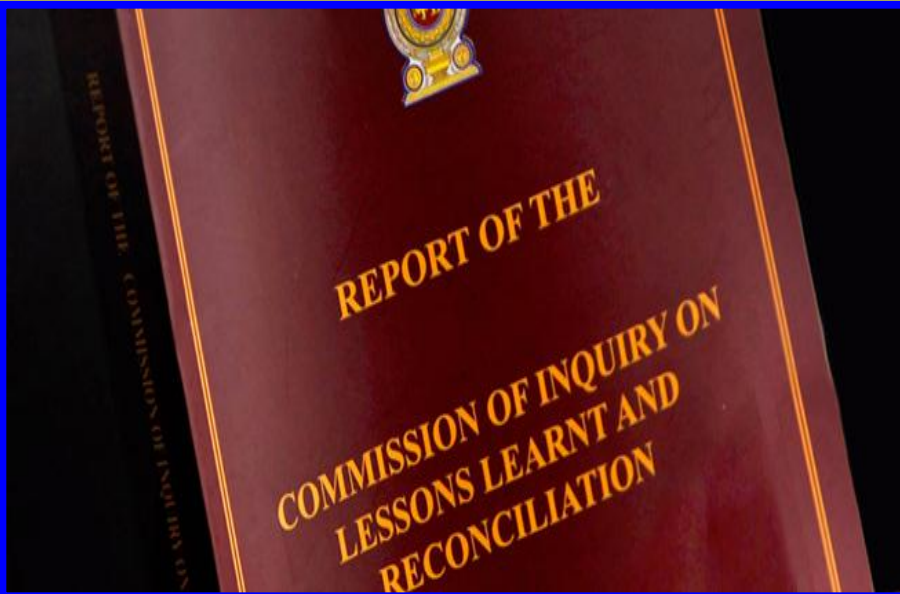


SOCIAL CONDITIONS

- The Language policy is being implemented.
- 3200 were given language training in 2012.
- All government officers are required to be proficient in both languages.



The establishment of the Lessons Learnt and Reconciliation Commission (LLRC)



THE LESSONS LEARNT AND RECONCILIATION COMMISSION (LLRC)

- **280 recommendations were made.**
- **The Secretary to the President oversees their implementation.**
- **Individual infractions by soldiers are being investigated by Courts of Inquiry and by the Police.**

TALKS WITH TAMIL GROUPS

- The government established a Parliamentary Select Committee to discuss political grievances.
- All political parties have been invited to participate.
- Sri Lanka has, in addition to the Tamil minority, Muslim and other minorities.
- They have all been engaged.





PEACE AT LAST



THANK YOU !

Questions?