

movement.

- Ahle Hadith, a militant Sunni group based in the province of Punjab in Pakistan.
- Harkat-ul-Ansar.

**Religious/ideological/ethnic motivating ideology:** Operates at two levels. In Punjab and Azad Kashmir, Sipah is an anti-Shia grouping with limited hostility toward the Barelvi group of Sunnis. In Sindh, it has joined the ethnic groupings of Sindhis and Punjabis against the MQM. Even in Sindh, Sipah terrorizes the Shias. ASS demands that Pakistan be declared a Sunni State, and that all other Muslim sects like Shia be declared non-Muslim entities.

**Known controllers/mentors/theoreticians of:** Jamiat-e-Islami, which in essence, is controlled from Saudi Arabia.

ISI, the intelligence grouping within the Pakistan military which reports directly to the President, who is not an elected official. ISI became increasingly prominent during the Afghan resistance war against the Soviet Union.

Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam (JUI), led by Maulana Fazlur Rahman, of the North West Frontier Province.

**Current number of cadres:** More than 10,000.

**Training:** Trained and armed by the Pakistani ISI, which is heavily influenced by the Jamaat supporters recruited into the agency by the late President Mohammed Zia ul-Haq.

**Known funding:** Pakistani ISI and Saudi individuals.

**Thumbnail historical profile:** Created during the mid-1980s by President Zia ul-Haq, to bring to the fore the more orthodox Muslim groups in Pakistan. ASS was also created to provide mercenaries to the Afghan jihad, and to confront the minority Shias in Pakistan. However, the group turned terrorist soon after establishing domination over a section of the Sunnis.

## London runs cover for terror in South India

by Linda de Hoyos

On May 21, 1991, former Prime Minister of India Rajiv Gandhi was assassinated at an election campaign rally in Madras, India. The murder method was an RDX bomb attached to a woman who greeted Gandhi, which was exploded either by her or by remote control. Gandhi was killed instantly, along with 15 other people, including the terrorist. By reason of arrested or known persons involved in the assassination plot and the method used, the killing of Rajiv Gandhi, who was expected to win in national elections later that year, was pinned on the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) of Sri Lanka, the most vicious separatist terror operation in South Asia.

Within ten days of Gandhi's death, Sri Lankan President Ranasinghe Premadasa, who would be assassinated by the LTTE in May 1993, forced the hasty departure from Sri Lanka of British High Commissioner David Gladstone. The charge was that Gladstone, a descendant of the Victorian-age prime minister William Gladstone, was interfering in local election politics. But he had also been criticized earlier for allegedly meeting with known drug traffickers in Sri Lanka. Gladstone, who had previously spent years in the Middle East, was a known British intelligence link to the Israeli intelligence service, the Mossad, which was involved in training both the Sri Lankan Armed Forces and the LTTE.

While evidence has never surfaced publicly implicating Gladstone directly in the murder of Rajiv Gandhi, Gladstone's prominent profile in Sri Lanka points to the broader reality of London's terror-capability.

### A global strategic impact

First, whatever the LTTE's motivations for murdering Rajiv Gandhi, the killing had a longlasting and global strategic impact—as did the assassination of Rajiv Gandhi's mother, then-Prime Minister Indira Gandhi, in October 1984. It was expected that Gandhi would again become prime minister of India in elections later in 1991. As Indian Home Minister S.B. Chavan stated on July 26, 1991: "Rajiv Gandhi could emerge as leader of Third World countries, and the newly independent nations were looking forward to India's leadership in the world. This was an irritant in the eyes of some countries, and the probe [of his murder] would have to look into this aspect, whether certain forces abroad could accept Mr. Gandhi as the new leader of the Third World or whether they wanted him to be finished. This issue has got to be gone into in depth, to find out who were behind the killing of the former prime minister." For example, Gandhi had undertaken a series of diplomatic initiatives to avert the full-scale war against Iraq, which Britain's Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher had led.

Second, the removal of Gandhi turned India's ruling Congress Party into an increasingly fractured, leaderless group, eroding India's political institutions and paralyzing India on the international scene.

In this context, Gladstone's involvement in circles that overlap LTTE orbits—the LTTE's Mossad trainers and local drug dealers—becomes even more suspect.

Chavan's advisory was not acted upon, by either the Indian or Sri Lankan governments—even though the British Special Air Services and Israeli Mossad are known to have been involved in training both sides in the Sri Lankan civil war, which has claimed 128,000 lives since 1983. In the interim, the LTTE has become so strong, especially with the acquisition of anti-aircraft missiles like those used by the Afghan mujahideen, that President Chandrika Kumaratunga has voiced doubts that the government can defeat the LTTE.

The LTTE did benefit by Premadasa's decision to shut down the "countergang" insurgency to the LTTE: the Peo-

ple's Liberation Front (JVP), a Sinhalese (Buddhist) insurgency and part of the British-based Naxalite Revolutionary Communist Party. By 1992, Premadasa's uprooting of the JVP put that terrorist operation into dormancy. The LTTE then turned against the government—in alliance with London! In March 1993, Premadasa was interviewed by the British Broadcasting Corp.:

**"BBC:** Using military means does not actually protect the civilians you seek to protect. . . .

**"President Premadasa:** What is the position when terrorist activities are unleashed on common people, innocent people? You can't expect the armed services people to just look on. They will have to protect the people.

**"BBC:** You don't feel a need at this stage for a U.N. role in solving what is a long-standing dispute in which many thousands of people have lost their lives? . . .

**"President Premadasa:** They may not have a role. But what I am saying is we are capable of doing so if we have the will. . . . Only one group is now outside the democratic process. It is the LTTE. It is conducting an armed struggle in the north and east. Our conflict, I must say, is not against Tamil-speaking people. It is against terrorism.

**"BBC:** At this stage the amount of money expended on defense (30% of the budget), on military expenditure is not going to go down?

**"Premadasa:** It has in fact gone up.

**"BBC:** Do you feel that is justified? . . . Amnesty International reports there are still human rights abuses taking place."

Perhaps, it might be asked, for such protection from London, the LTTE is willing to do odd jobs for British intelligence—such as the murder of Rajiv Gandhi?

## Southern India, Sri Lanka terrorist groups

by Joseph Brewda and Madhu Gurung

### Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam

**Name of group:** Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam.

**Other names:** LTTE, Tamil Tigers.

**Headquarters:** Jaffna peninsula, Sri Lanka; headquarters previously in city of Jaffna.

**Other major office/outlet:** London; Paris, office of public spokesman Anton Balsingham; Toronto, Ontario, Canada.

**Founded:** In 1972 as the Tamil New Tigers; renamed LTTE in 1973.

**Locations of operations, areas active:**

Terror operations in southern India, the Sri Lankan capital Colombo, and other locations in Sri Lanka. Waging guer-

rilla war against the Sri Lankan Army in the Tamil territory of Sri Lanka, particularly in the Jaffna peninsula, and terror campaigns in other locations. Currently holds two-thirds of the Sri Lankan coastline. Previously sought refuge in and operated from Tamil Nadu and Karnataka states in southern India, a mere 20 miles across the Palk Straits from LTTE-held areas of Sri Lanka. In southern India, in 1990, LTTE customarily hid out in the Vedaranyan wildlife sanctuary.

### Major terrorist actions:

- In May 1986, the LTTE exterminated the leadership of rival Tamil Eelam Liberation Organization, in a terror campaign.

- In October 1988, the LTTE murdered 45 Sinhala villagers.

- In February 1990, the LTTE kidnapped 15 Indian customs officials in Tamil Nadu, India.

- In July 1990, the LTTE launched terror attack in Madras, Tamil Nadu state, India, against the headquarters of the Eelam People's Revolutionary Liberation Front, killing 14 leaders of this rival group.

- On March 2, 1991, the LTTE murdered Sri Lankan Defense Minister Ranjan Wijeratne with a remote-control bombing device.

- On May 21, 1991, the LTTE murdered former Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi, during an election rally, using a woman suicide-bomber. Bomb was composed of RDX explosives. Gandhi was killed, along with 15 others, including the alleged bomber. Although Prabakaran consistently denied responsibility for the assassination, a Washington, D.C.-based LTTE outlet did claim credit. It is believed that up to 500 LTTE members or sympathizers were involved in the plot against Gandhi. The alleged masterminds behind the plot were one Sivarasan (a.k.a. "One-Eyed Jack"), who used his cousin to act as a "human bomb" against Gandhi, and LTTE leader Peria Santham. Sivarasan was killed or killed himself during a shoot-out at a hideout in Bangalore, India on Aug. 19, 1991, along with 26 other persons at the hideout. Santham was trapped at his hideout in Trichy, Tamil Nadu, India, and committed suicide before capture.

- In August 1992, the LTTE carried out the bombing-murder of Sri Lankan General Kobbekaduwa and nine others during a campaign rally in Kayts, Jaffna.

- On April 26, 1993, the LTTE shot dead leading Sri Lankan opposition leader and former national security minister Lalith Athulathmudali, while he was campaigning in provincial elections. The assassin swallowed a cyanide capsule before capture.

- On May 1, 1993, the LTTE murdered Sri Lankan President Ranasinghe Premadasa. An LTTE suicide-bomber rammed her explosive-loaded bicycle into the President's motorcade, killing Premadasa, herself, and 34 other people. Bomber was believed to be a 14-year-old girl.

- On June 5, 1995, the LTTE blew up a Red Cross ship chartered by the International Committee of the Red Cross, off the Jaffna peninsula.