

PULSE OF FREEDOM

A Day to Remember

November 27, 2006

All around the world people gather together on a special day to remember those lives that were given for their freedom. The Western world gets together on November 11th at 11th hour to commemorate the lives lost during the world wars. Likewise, Tamil Eelam remembers and respects its martyrs on November 27th.

The roads are lined with yellow and red flags and small shrines huts add emphasis to each house. Children run around from house to house collecting flowers and the LTTE Cadres go to houses, hoping for flowers. Meanwhile, the adults hurriedly cook, clean and make garlands for the evening's event. All over Tamil Eelam people are busy with chores and preparations, doing as much as they can to show that they care for the lives lost and are thankful for what they have achieved and left behind. Tamil Eelam awaits another Heroes' Day.

As usual an atmosphere of sorrow looms over Tamil Eelam. Even the children forget their innocence on this day and give their utmost respect to the Martyrs. The wind blows hard, and the waves of the oceans hit forcefully, both showing their sorrow and disappointment of having lost so much. The clouds come out earlier blocking out the sun, wanting to pay homage to the Martyrs. As skies begin to darken, showing their mood, hundreds and hundreds of people from various parts of Eelam leave their houses with

bags of candles and flowers and assemble on the roads to the Martyr's Resting Place.



Pressure Points

Pushing through a huge group of people, it is an incredible sight in which the LTTE cadres and the people walking hand in hand. As they smile and talk with one another, their faces portray a hidden, yet visible expression. An expression that could not be read or comprehended.

Was it sorrow? The sorrow of having lost so much? Or was it an expectation? As if expecting some sort of a miracle? Or rather is it the anxiety? The anxiety of waiting for their national leader's annual speech? Maybe, just maybe, it could be a hint of happiness and serenity in the eyes, and a certain amount of pride that was evident in each step that they took.

The roads leading to the Resting Place were free of all vehicles; it had turned into a sea of people. Amongst the people, the LTTE cadres walk proudly with their sorrows pushed deep down.

Finally, they all anxiously entered the Temple of the Martyrs. Once inside they separate their own ways in search of their loved ones final resting place.

The Resting Place is adorned in the national colours. The main stage is specially enhanced for the day's grandeur. Martyr's songs are played in the background, and cadres along with students from schools in the area walk around providing assistance to those needed.

Despite the evident sorrow, this is not a day of mourning, but rather a day celebrating the fallen heroes that have sacrificed their lives for our freedom. Our right to stand on our own land. They will be remembered, not only today, but forever.

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Clockwise: A cadre carrying his daughter to the Martyr's Resting Place (top); A child, paying homage in front of her relatives grave-stone (right); Crowd gathered to hear our National Leader's speech and pay homage to their fallen heroes.



Celebration of a Different Sort

The day before Heroes' Day, is a celebration of a different sort. Travellers are stopped along the A9 Road, and given sweet treat. The reason? Well, it is the birthday of our dear national leader! Although the world may refer to V. Pirabakaran as a reclusive guerilla leader, for the Tamils of the North east and Diaspora, he is a saviour. Many refer to him as the 'sun' that brought light to the Tamil's plight.

Having dedicated his life and in many ways foregone his family for the betterment of the Tamil people since the young age of 16, our 'thalaivar' (national leader) turned 52 this year.

LTTE cadres from all over Tamileelam sent their handmade birthday greetings to their 'Anna' (elder brother) on this auspicious day. They all know that Anna will send them a hand-signed reply, thanking them for their wishes. Birthday treats are organized for all cadres by the administration, rising at 12 midnight on the 26th to welcome the day of celebration for their revolutionary leader.

Unlike ordinary leaders, V. Pirabakaran is extraordinary. His foresight, military intelligence and more importantly, his ability to understand every cadre's state of mind, are some of the few outstanding qualities of our leader.

Thousands of birthday greetings were sent via mail, radio, television and internet from Tamil's worldwide.

Remembering the Killer Wave

It was two years ago that the wave hit. Pushpa remembers the days that followed and her experience in providing relief for the people of the North and East following the Tsunami.

She was posted in Batticoloa. There the site of the thousands of people suffering from the loss of their loved ones and the homes; their livelihood in entirety, remains embalmed in her mind. She tells us of the dire situation that the Tamils suffered due to the lack of supplies and support.

Homes were upturned from their foundations. In one area, there were young children that had survived but their families not, due to them being transported by tractor to an unknown location. The realisation of their loneliness made the physical endurance of their wounds even harder.

One man came and told them of his sad tale. He was the only person remaining in his family of 7. His wife and kids had been dragged away by the killer wave. The reason he survived was because he knew how to swim. Many women and children were taken by the wave because of their inability to swim. In the society there, women swimming is a taboo. It was this very taboo that cost the lives of thousands

Pressure Points

Calls from every corner of the globe reflected one yearning for all Tamils. A free, liberation Homeland. Tamileelam must be victoriously attained within the lifetime of our great leader for it is difficult for a person of such clarity, vision and earnest sincerity to be found in the world, let alone the Tamils.

While Tamil's celebrate, V. Pirabakaran prepares for his Heroes' Day speech the next day. Refusing to celebrate his birthday, he instead remembers the life of the first martyr, Lieutenant Shankar, laying on his lap throughout the 26th, taking his last breaths before becoming one with the Tamileelam soil. So many lives have followed with the steadfast belief and loyalty to the struggle led by Pirabakaran himself.

A heavy burden for one to shoulder, as evident in the face of our leader when lighting the main fire on Heroes' Day. But his goal is unshakeable, for the hope of the Tamil people also lay on his shoulders:

A liberated Tamileelam, within his lifetime.



On the left: Our National Leader lighting the main fire on Heroes' Day 2006. Unshakeable determination and clear vision for the freedom and self-determination of Tamils.

Tales from the Tide

and thousands of mothers, daughters and wives.

In attempt to overcome this taboo, effects have been made by the Sea Tigers to educate the community, especially woman, and provide them with swimming lessons to ensure that in the future, lives are not lost in vain.

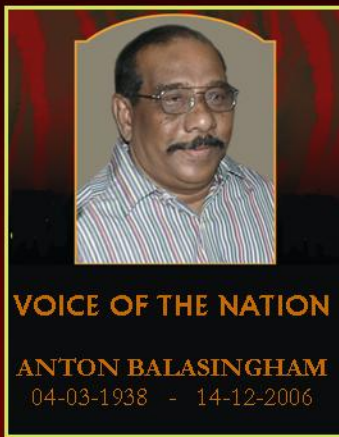
Pushpa recalls the unreal survival story of a baby boy in Mullaitivu. He was found buried neck deep in sand a day after the wave. His life was saved by the split of a hair by the doctors in Puthukudiruppu. It took him months to overcome his trauma, and even today is frightened at the site of water.

Many boys from the Batticoloa district that witnessed the Tsunami stayed with Pushpa. She recalls them shouting throughout the night, screaming for their father and mother to come and save them. Any time given to them in silence brings back those awful memories.

It is because of this that Pushpa has taken extra care of the trauma survivors, helping them cope from the devastation. She tells us, "it is a slow process, but slowly they are becoming naughty young boys again, just the way they should be."

That in itself is good news, two years on...





Chief Political Advisor
Voice of the Nation:
Anton Balasingham

“Irreplaceable Loss”

Tamil Eelam and its struggle for freedom has gone through many obstacles and hurdles during its journey. It has been the unwavering unity and faith of the people along with the dedication of the LTTE cadres and the leadership of the Honourable V. Pirabakaran that permitted the movement to come this far. However without the great perseverance and commitment of Anton Balasingham, the trials and tribulations faced by the Tamils and the LTTE would not have caught the global eye.

Anton Balasingham, to be known as the Voice of the Nation, has accomplished a lot during his lifetime. Educated in the west, Balasingham lived in Eelam for more than 10 years developing his understanding of the Liberation Struggle, and doing his part for it. Since then, he has adopted the LTTE's ideals and stood by them through their problems, as an advisor and supporter. He has been a political advisor of the movement for more than 30 years providing them with his insight. With the sole goal of a free Tamil Eelam, he has given his mind and soul to the cause of the Tigers.

Anton Balasingham fought against all odds to bring the struggles of his people and LTTE to the front. Along with his wife Adele Balasingham, he sought international acknowledgement and legitimacy for the movement. He was a key component in showing the world that the LTTE and its leader, V Pirabakaran is the sole representatives of the Tamils.

Anton Balasingham was also a great author, philosopher and a great political mind of all times. He was the author of *War and Peace* and *Political Duplicity* which brought out Tamil politics to the west. Many see and accept him as the godfather of Tamil politics.

Mr. Balasingham was given the honorary title of Voice of the Nation to credit his endeavours for a free Eelam. Till the day he breathed his last, he consecrated his life to bringing out the truth of his people. Making their voice be heard to the international society was his first priority in life. Even though his body was ill and sometimes unable to cope, he did not let his body weaken his mind and moral strength.

It is a great regret that Anton Balasingham will not be there to see his beloved Tamil Eelam, or to see his people live a free and happy life. However, he will live past his time, in the memory

Lieutenant Colonel Akbar

The command post of the Northern Front. The communication lines were in search of Akbar. The line was dead. It was only that morning that he had informed Commander in Chief Colonel Theepan that he was to go on a round to view and prepare the team leaders at the frontline. He was not in contact since. Knowing that the Sri Lankan forces could advance any time, Akbar had always ensured his contact was consistently maintained. Could something have happened to him? Water filled the hearts of those in the command post.

Akbar was born and bred in the town of Kathiraveli in Batticaloa. The liberation struggle was intrinsic in his personal life having been attacked by the Indian forces, dragged to the streets and tortured. It was following this experience that Akbar took on the path of being a fighter himself in 1990, beginning his long and honourable military service.

Akbar's military fetes are innumerable. In the Mullaitivu operation Unceasing Waves I, he led a brave fight which resulted in the destruction of two army tanks. Following this, he was honoured with the responsibility of commanding the newly formed Lieutenant Colonel Victor Special Anti-Tank Unit. He was known for his ability to lead in a most comradely fashion. He was known to pay attention to the most minute needs for his unit. After an incident when milk was accidentally burnt, Akbar himself would boil the milk, ensuring that his boys received the necessary nutrients for their rigorous training.

His parting on the 7th of October 2006 as a result of the enemy shellfire bombardment brought forth much grief and sadness for those commanders and cadres that knew Akbar. His loss was felt on a more acute level by his wife. Having wed Akbar in the last few years, their short marriage life brought forth two young boys. For both, aged two and four months respectively, they have yet to comprehend the loss of their father. Staring at the photo of her loved one, Akbar's wife feels the pain three folds over.

She now must bring up the two boys to live up to the name of their courageous father. Lieutenant Colonel Akbar, like many other victorious fighters, showed the extent to which families have sacrificed and continue to sacrifice for the liberation of their beloved country.

In the words of Akbar himself, "Let me struggle, so at least my children will live a free and just life." His unit continues to fight and make Akbar's dream come true.



Commander for Lieutenant Colonel Victor Anti-Tank Unit : Lieutenant Colonel Akbar

Words from Our Leader

"The uncompromising stance of Sinhala chauvinism has left us with no other option but an independent state for the people of Tamil Eelam. We therefore ask the international community and the countries of the world that respect justice to recognize our freedom struggle.

"At this historic time when the Tamils are recommencing their journey on the path of freedom, we seek the unwavering support and assistance of the world Tamil Community ...

"We express our gratitude to the Tamil Diaspora, our displaced brethren living all around the world, for their contribution to our struggle and ask them to maintain their unwavering participation and support."

Nature's Touch



**Excerpts from Heroes' Day Speech
November 27 2006**



*Left: Heroes' Day Speech
November 27
2006*

Get Active

The wave hit the shores of the island two years ago, but the memories and the trauma continues even today. Tsunami, December 26th 2004 has to be the worst Christmas greeting that mother earth has given the people of South Asia.

For those people living in the coastal towns of Sri Lanka's North and East, it was tragedy above another. Despite there being 2 years of ceasefire, the area was still overcoming the ravages of war. Damaged buildings, destroyed homes, devastated lives, all are part and parcel of the legacy for the predominately Tamil populated North-East. A daily reminder of the cost of liberation.

Ceasefire period brought them with many false hopes of destined peace, only to be reminded again that the Sri Lankan State had and continues to have no intention of bringing about everlasting peace of the Tamil people. This was made dreadfully clear in the events following the Tsunami.

Attempts made by the international community to provide for the Tamil people affected in the North-East were blocked by the Sri Lankan State with her rejection of the P-TOMS agreement. As a result, much of the relief work provided for the people of the North-East was funded by collections made by the thousands of Tamils worldwide.

Tamils of all ages, from children to grandparents, stood in the freezing winter cold and boiling heat to collect the finances needed to provide for their brethren. It was made clear to the world that Sri Lanka nor the international community would priorities and care for the Tamils. The only people that Tamils can depend on, are Tamils.



Tamils worldwide have helped the Tamils in the homeland when mother nature attacked two years ago. Similarly, it is the Tamil Diaspora that are standing in the front to help their brethren when mankind is attacking their brethren. In response to the economic blockades on the Jaffna and Vaharai people, the Tamil Diaspora has began a "Boycott Sri Lanka" campaign, showing that if Sri Lanka was to Block the Tamils in Jaffna and Vaharai from basic needs, then the Tamils of the world will Block Sri Lanka: by boycotting goods manufactured and exported from Sri Lanka.

"Boycott Sri Lanka" campaign is taking speed now, and expanding country by country. For further information refer to the www.boycottsrilanka.com website or email boycottsrilanka@gmail.com. With the unity of Tamils worldwide, it is possible to inform Sri Lanka, loud and clear :

IF YOU BLOCK US! WE WILL BLOCK YOU!