

Suicide Terrorism and Its Impact – Sri Lankan Perspective

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This paper takes the form of a research paper that traces the origin, ideology and development of this black tiger phenomenon, analysing the successful suicide attacks and their impact on the political and economic stability of Sri Lanka and also examines the potential threat and effective counter strategy.

The liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), with the most effective suicide capability in South Asia is indisputably the most efficient and brutal terrorist organization ever to utilize suicide terrorism other than the loss of political and military leaders, the country's national leaders, the country's national political, economic and cultural infrastructure has been damaged by suicide attack. The political contest of each suicide operation reveals how the LTTE has managed to survive and advance its aims. In this context, this paper analysis and examine: Firstly, the origin, ideology and development of the Black Tiger phenomenon; Secondly, the key elements behind the success of the suicide attack; Thirdly, selection of target and the modus operandi of black tiger land and sea tiger cadres; Fourthly, the successful suicide attacks and their impact, psychological, political, economic and military; and finally, the potential threat and an examination of an effective counter strategy to break the cycle of violence and evolve possible solutions to suicide terrorism.

This paper also makes an attempt to examine whether the impact of suicide terrorism today is the same as it was prior to 9/11, given that international opinion on terrorism has now changed, and is no longer one where terrorists had free sanctuary to conduct their operations on the basis that they were, as they had portrayed themselves, freedom fighters and saviours of religion.

However, whether the action taken by international community so far to curb international terrorism, particularly suicide terrorism is sufficient, is open to questions.

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