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Nearly 8,000 deaths due to the fighting during the first five months of 2009.

Sri Lanka releases statistics on deaths during the war

Feb 25, Colombo: The Census and Statistics Department of Sri Lanka has released an official report on the deaths occurred in the five districts of Northern Province for the last four years of the war that ended in May 2009. According to the 80-page report on Enumeration of Vital Events-2011 released Saturday, the Department records a total of 22,329 deaths in Jaffna, Mannar, Vavuniya, Mullaitivu and Kilinochchi districts during the five years before the end of the conflict in May 2009 and nearly 8,000 deaths due to the fighting during the first five months of 2009. The Department had carried out the census project of Enumeration of Vital Events (EVE-2011) in the Northern Province from June 10 - August 15. The deaths were categorized under old/sick, natural disaster, accident, homicide and suicide, other which includes the deaths due to fighting, and unknown causes. Natural deaths include deaths due to

succumbing to diseases, aging, due to natural disasters etc. while 'other deaths' include deaths due to accidents, homicides, suicides, acts of terrorism etc. However 71% of the deaths that occurred in 2009 are reported as being due to extraordinary circumstances but majority of the deaths, prior to and beyond that, are reported to be the results of natural causes. The five districts of the Province recorded 22,239 deaths due to all causes during the period 2005-2009 and over half of those, 11,172 were in 2009. In 2009, a total of 7,934 died due to 'other deaths' and 2,523 died natural deaths. Out of the total deaths during the final stage of Sri Lankan war 6,858, including 552 children under the age of 10 were killed due to the fighting and another 2,635 were gone missing. Most of the killed From January to May of 2009 were from Kilinochchi district, where the Tamil Tiger terrorists had their de facto capital. The census recorded 2,614 deaths in

Kilinochchi, 1,576 in Mullaitivu, 1,273 in Jaffna, 1,047 in Vavuniya and 348 in Mannar.



In relation to the total size of the population, Mullaitivu and Kilinochchi districts have shown higher deaths during the year 2009. The report did not differentiate the deaths, whether they were of civilians or Tiger combatants. The actual recorded figures are much less than the estimates by international

rights groups, which have put the death toll as high as 40,000 during the five months of 2009. The EVE-2011 concluded the total population of the Northern Province to be 997,754, out of which 934,392 were Sri Lankan Tamils. There are only 21,860 Sinhala and 32,659 Muslims in the five districts of the Northern Province. All ethnic groups live in the five districts with Sri Lankan Tamil being the majority. Among the Sinhalese, about 75 percent lives in Vavuniya District. Most of the Muslim population lives in the Mannar District. According to the last Population of Census and Housing covering the entire province was conducted by the Department in 1981, the population of the Province was 1,109,404. The United Nations has estimated that up to 100,000 people died in the 30-year conflict. You can see report at: http://www.statistics.gov.lk/PopHouSat/VitalStatistics/EVE2011_FinalReport.pdf

Prelate presents silver stupa to Queen Elizabeth 11



A special inter-faith ceremony was held at the Lambeth Palace in London to mark the Diamond Jubilee of Queen Elizabeth 11 last week. Ven. Bogoda Seelawimala Thera, Chief Incumbent of the London Buddhist Vihara, headed the Buddhist delegation. He presented a small stupa to the Queen. Picture shows the chief monk describing the features of the stupa to the Queen as Archbishop Dr. Rowan Williams, Ajahn Amaro, the Abbot of the Amaravathi Monastery, and Dr. Desmond Biddulph, the President of the Buddhist Society, look on. This silver stupa which was imbedded with valuable Sri Lankan gems was donated by Kosala Ratnayake of Kandy.

Probable US, UK & EU backed resolution against Sri Lanka at UNHRC

The resolution formulated by the United States:- Guided by the Charter of the United Nations, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Covenants on Human Rights, and other relevant instruments, Reaffirming that States must ensure that any measure taken to combat terrorism complies with their obligations under international law,

in particular international human rights, refugee and humanitarian law, as applicable. Noting the Report of Sri Lanka's Lessons Learnt and Reconciliation Commission (LLRC) and its findings and recommendations, and acknowledging its possible contribution to Sri Lanka's national reconciliation process,.... **CONT ON P6**

Minister Mahinda Samarasinghe addressing UNHRC

Leader of the Sri Lanka delegation Minister Mahinda Samarasinghe told the delegates that there is no justification or urgency whatsoever in floating a resolution calling for the implementation of the LLRC's recommendations and engagement with the High Commissioner, when this has already been effectively undertaken by the

Government. Sri Lanka's leader Minister Mahinda Samarasinghe the Special Envoy of the President of Sri Lanka on Human Rights addressing in the high level segments of the 19th Session of the United Nations Human Rights Council said, "What we now need from the international community is ... **SEE P12**

Silva barred from elected UN position by Chairperson, Louise Fréchette

Last Wednesday UN Senior Advisory Group on Peacekeeping Operations Chairperson, Louise Fréchette, barred Sri Lanka's Deputy Permanent Representative to the United Nations; Major General Shavendra Silva's participations in future group meetings. Louise Fréchette, group chairperson and

former United Nations Deputy Secretary-General, had stated that Major General Shavendra Silva's participation is not appropriate or helpful for the purposes of UN Senior Advisory Group on Peacekeeping Operations and he will not participate in its deliberations. **CONT ON P8**

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By Reggie Fernando - OUR MAN IN COLOMBO
Farewell Ranil
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