

LTTE Suicide Bombers of Sri Lanka

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Suicide Human Bombing attacks are the most virulent and horrifying form of terrorism in the world today. The smooth functioning of Civic, Social, Political and the Defence sectors of many countries has succumbed to the lethality of such acts. The *LTTE* re-invented “Martyrdom Operation Concept” as a lethal and precise destruction weapon, targeting them on Security Forces, Political Leaders, Economic Nerve Centers, technological hubs and religious sanctuaries to achieve collateral damage, strategic advantage, ability to balance power in an asymmetric war, unleash fear and utmost psychological damage to the society, gain publicity and even sympathy and to motivate their subscribers. One of the societal dimensions of Suicide Terrorism focuess on factors such as the degree of frustration caused by social injustice. The charismatic *LTTE* leadership commonly succeeded in promoting highly pro-social and non-destructive goals, along with the significant contribution of Suicide Martyrs.

The main method of collecting primary and secondary data on over 150 suicide attacks (1987-2009), included: various sources, such as Police Investigation Reports, Case Proceedings, Published Datasets and interviews of the captured suicide bomber suspects and *LTTE* cadres, currently in the Police custody, pending legal action.

Research Findings revealed that suicide attacks are highly effective at civilian deaths and injuries accounted for almost 57% and 80% respectively of the total of 1,608 deaths and 5,098 injured persons. Average casualty rate per event was 11 deaths against 34 injured.

This research has made an attempt to look into the suicide attacks as a; “homicide” and method of “deliberate and killing of others”, with number of recommendations to prevent recurrence of such incidences in future, while stressing the need to address the political, socio-economic and ethno-cultural aspirations of the people through democratic processes.

Key words: *Succumbed, Suicide bombers, Terrorism, LTTE, Homicide, Lethality & Criminal act*