

Air attack: Bishop writes to DB

Bishop D.J. Ambalavanar of the Jaffna diocese of the church of South India has informed President Wijetunga that scores of civilians were killed or injured and their church badly damaged during an attack by the Air Force recently.

In a letter to the President, the Bishop states: "Once again it grieves us very much to bring to your notice the tragic consequences of an aerial attack at Chavakachcheri December 30, at about 5.15 p.m. The Air Force sprayed rockets which directly hit our church at Chavakachcheri and the Mission House next to it which is the residence of the Pastor of the Parish. The Pastors wife Indrani

Lawrence was seriously injured and died on being taken to the hospital. She was 46. Another visitor at the Mission House Rosemary Gunaratnam, also suffered severe injuries. We are told that ten others just outside also were killed and about sixty seriously injured. All these were again innocent civilians.

"Our Church building has been badly damaged and its stained glass windows and equipment destroyed. As for the Mission House, it has been so badly damaged that it is beyond restoration. We have on more than one occasion brought to the knowledge of your predecessor in office such attacks on civilian life and property."