

'Attempt to discredit PLOTE'. (1994, April 25). *The Island*.

Sivaya.

'Attempt to discredit PLOTE'

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We are compelled to bring to your notice certain actions of some interested parties who are giving false information to the authorities and to the print media which cause lot of misunderstanding among those forces who are truly fighting against the LTTE and its agents who are operating in various places under various pretext and also discourages those forces who are willing to join hands against the LTTE and its brutal activities, states a release from the People's Liberation Organisation of Thamil-eelam (PLOTE).

The statement further states: You are aware that from the time of late General Ranjan Wijeratne was the State Minister for Defence we have been engaged in the anti LTTE operation in the North East and more than twenty five of our members have sacrificed their lives in the common cause of anti LTTE struggle without expecting any award or gain in return. It alone proves to the world at large the sincere commitment on the part of our members of their resolve to fight the LTTE.

On the 16th instant Saturday about 9.45 p.m. our members who went out on the normal anti LTTE patrolling in the Mannar town area became suspicious over some happenings in and around the residence of a person who owns two Liquor Bars in Mannar one opposite his residence near the Govt. Hospital and the other at the fish market. His bar at the fish market closes about 9 p.m. daily and his arrack business at the bar

near his residence is closed in the night only for name sake but the sale continues even till midnight from his residence. Our members who were aware of this activity never took any notice as it was not part of the anti LTTE operation in which we were engaged with the Sri Lankan Security forces.

But on this Saturday the activities were some what different and our members suspected some foul movements inside his residence and out side where the barking of the dogs was very unusual. When it was noticed that some one or few of them were trying to flee when some of our members went closer to this house our members opened fire towards those who were making an attempt to escape. Also we were aware that some of those who were trying to escape from the residence of this person too were injured in our firing but we were not aware as to who they were or how many of them were injured. After some time our members went to the hospital and checked with the hospital staff as to whether anyone came for treatment for gunshot injuries and found none had gone there. Some of the shots fired by our members struck the wall of his residence. It could be seen even now.

Following morning (Sunday) we sent word to this person to come to our office and he came to our office about 6.30 a.m. When we inquired from him as to who were there in his residence the previous night he admitted that

some ten to twelve LTTEers led by Haren called at his place suddenly and demanded money and he was compelled to part with a sum of Rupees one Hundred and sixty five thousand or more and he was not sure of the actual amount. Thereafter we informed the military intelligence and in the company of an officer from the M. I. unit, this person was handed over to the Mannar police. There was no abduction or robbery at the Liquor bar as alleged in the newspaper. In fact there was no such incident at the liquor bar on that night. It is we who sent our four members to Mannar police on a request made by Mr. Ayupala the Superintendent of Police for Mannar.

We are certain that this is another well planned out programme to disre-

dit the PLOTE by those who are interested in serving their own ends and protecting the agents of LTTE for their personal benefit. The bar owner was well known for assisting the LTTE with finance not only now but even before the IPKF came to Sri Lanka in 1987.

But what we are concerned is the effort on the part of some people to provide cover for LTTE agents and throw mud at PLOTE to discredit it before the public. We feel there is a marked increase in the activity of some police officers in the recent times specially since our political wing i.e. Democratic People's Liberation Front (DPLF) had some shocking successes in the recently held local government election in Vavuniya and East.