

19 killed in Sri Lankan, Tamil battles. (1995, October 24) *The Globe and mail.*

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COLOMBO —The Sri Lankan army fought fierce battles with Tamil guerrillas in the north as the rebels trained their guns on the soft underbelly in the east and killed another 19 civilians, the military said yesterday.

“The Tigers are stepping up pressure on us to deflect our push on (the northern rebel-held city of) Jaffna,” a senior military officer in the east said.

In the latest attack on civilians, Tamil Tiger guerrillas struck at the remote eastern hamlet of Kotiyagala, killing 19 men, women and children, survivors and police said.

They said the 19, all from the majority Sinhalese community, were either hacked to death or shot dead by the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam rebels (LTTE), fighting for an independent homeland for minority Tamils.

— *Reuters*