

44 shot dead and burned. (1988, December 29). *The Ottawa Citizen*.

SRI LANKA

44 shot dead and burned

COLOMBO — Authorities found the charred bodies of 44 suspected anti-government militants along roads in southern Sri Lanka, a police official said Wednesday. The officer said the victims had been shot to death and then burned. The government blamed the slayings in the south on the Tamil People's Revolutionary Red Army, which materialized slightly more than a month ago to counter terrorism by Sinhalese radicals. The Tamils are mostly Hindu and make up 18 per cent of the island's population. They accuse the majority Sinhalese of denying them jobs and education. The Sinhalese, predominantly Buddhists, make up 75 per cent of the population.