

Killing of Mahattaya's aide widens LTTE rifts. (1993, November 28).
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Killing of Mahattaya's aide widens LTTE rifts

By Panduka Senanayake

The recent killing in Jaffna of one of Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam's (LTTE) former deputy leader Mahattaya's aides by Prabhakaran is expected to greatly widen the rift between the supporters of both men.

According to military

officials, who are watching the situation closely, it may even lead to the annihilation of Mahattaya loyalists by fanatic supporters of the LTTE leader in a repetition of the 1986 wipe out of the

Sri Sabaratnam lead TELO (Tamil Eelam Liberation Organisation).

According to reports from the North, the aide who had been in India during Mahattaya's falling from Prabhakaran's grace which led to his sub-

sequent arrest, had returned to the island recently and was hospitalised following an incident. He had reportedly criticised the leader's actions in incarcerating Mahattaya and for sending 511 LTTE cadres to their deaths in

the recent Pooneryn attack, and the wounding of about 1500 more.

He had pointed out the senselessness in getting young cadres killed just because of their blind loyalty to the leader who

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launched the attack on the security forces base at Pooneryn as a prelude to the LTTE declared 'Martyr's Week' which culminated with Prabhakaran's birthday on November 26. It was widely known in the peninsula that the attack on Pooneryn which led to the deaths of 240 officers and men of the security forces was considered a birthday present from his cadres to Prabhakaran.

Following the criticism, Prabhakaran's cadres had been sent to get the aide