

## Passengers aboard ferry released from captivity

colombo — All 136 passengers aboard a ferry seized by Tamil separatist rebels have been taken off the ship and are safe. The passengers were visited by members of the Red Cross, a government official said Friday. It was unclear what had happened to the ferry's eight crew members. Tamil Tiger rebels halted the ferry off the northeastern coast on Tuesday. That action drew two navy gunboats to the scene, which the rebels sank, leaving 21 sailors missing and presumed dead.