

Tamil Attacks Seek to Deter Local Voting. (1988, November 20). *The New York Times*.

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TRINCOMALEE, Sri Lanka, Nov. 19 (Reuters) — Tamil separatist guerrillas attacked troops and civilians in eastern Sri Lanka today in an attempt to disrupt local council elections, military officials said.

But many voters defied a call for a boycott made by the Tamil rebels and Sinhalese extremists, said Lieut. Gen. A. S. Kalkat, commander of Indian troops on the island.

The balloting takes place under an accord reached last year that is aimed at addressing the grievances of the Tamil minority. In Eastern Province, voters are to elect 35 members to a council joining their province with the Tamil-dominated Northern Province.

The merger was offered as an alternative to the Tamil militants' demand for an independent state carved out of the region.

The Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam and a Sinhalese radical group, the People's Liberation Front, both oppose the accord, which is being enforced by about 50,000 Indian troops.

Sri Lankan military officials said guerrillas attacked five camps and checkpoints today at Trincomalee. An Indian soldier died. They said Tamil rebels also fired at three police stations in the Batticaloa and Ampara districts. Residents of the town of Akkaraipattu said the Tigers set off bombs to scare voters.