

A safe zone for Sinhalese in Trinco. (1988, August 24). *The Island International*.

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## A safe zone for Sinhalese in Trinco

by Shamindra Ferdinando. July 20 in Trincomalee Town alone has at least 20 victims.

An exclusive 'Security Zone' for Sinhalese has been declared in the Eastern port city of Trincomalee with immediate effect to prevent attacks by northern terrorists, a top Sri Lankan Army officer told *The Island*.

The move came after the Sinhalese residents demonstrated in the town asking for the deployment of Sinhalese soldiers against the concentrated attacks by terrorists, sources based in the area said.

The Security Zone was declared after the Sri Lankan co-ordinating officer Brigadier Tilak Paranagama and the IPKF Eastern Province Commander Major General J. Mehood discussed the security situation in the Trincomalee town on Wednesday (17) after the latest attack directed against the Sinhalese, a bomb explosion, killed ten persons including a Sri Lankan soldier and injured twenty other civilians.

Army sources based in the Eastern province said that the Security Zone will protect more than 1500 Sinhalese living with the people of the other communities.

After the declaration of the zone Sri Lankan police units and IPKF soldiers had set up four check points to prevent armed terrorists entering the area.

Brutal violence directed against the Sinhalese and the Sri Lankan Army since

Police sources also based in the Eastern sector said that quite a few Sinhalese families had now fled to Ampara after the attacks in Akkaraipattu in which unidentified Tamil terrorists massacred a Sinhalese family of five.

They said at present most Sinhalese families spend the nights in Buddhist Temples out of fear. The police and the IPKF had been deployed around the temples to protect these families, sources said. However they said that special task force men in the area had not been deployed to protect temples from attacks in the Ampara areas.

Meanwhile at Kalmunai a civilian was killed in crossfire on Friday when terrorists confronted the IPKF. The attack was repulsed without any casualties, the IPKF sources said.

In Killinochechi, Kankesanthurai, Muruththamawadu and Pandaiurpu areas at least 17 suspected terrorists had been taken in continued Indian operations against the LTTE.

In Jaffna a top LTTE'er had been arrested, sources said. He was identified as a LTTE explosive expert. In Mullathivu terrorists robbed bus passengers after stopping a bus, sources said. The driver and the conductor had been assaulted.