

LTTE unloaded three shiploads of arms in two months. (2008, May 04). *Yahoo news.*

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Colombo, May 4 (IANS) Despite the Sri Lankan Navy's claim that it had destroyed all 10 arms ships of the Tamil Tiger rebels, the country's intelligence agencies have revealed that the guerrillas unloaded at least three shiploads of military hardware in the last two months, a media report here said Sunday.

It said that intense use of heavy artillery shells by the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) in the northeastern Weli Oya and northern Wanni and Jaffna fronts has 'raised fresh concerns' about the LTTE's ability to replenish their dwindling armoury regularly.

'The general impression among the public was that the LTTE had been starved of military supplies since the navy destroyed a fleet of LTTE vessels which functioned as floating armouries for the group. However, recent reports by intelligence agencies suggest otherwise,' the English weekly *Lakbima News* said in its defence column Sunday.

'They (intelligence reports) paint a gloomy picture, revealing that the LTTE had unloaded three shiploads of arms during the months of February and March,' it said.

Quoting a recent report 'filed by the Directorate of Military

Intelligence (DMI) and presented to the National Security Council', the media report said a shipload of arms was smuggled to the Wanni March 12.

'Another report by the State Intelligence Services (SIS) stated that two vessels had been unloaded by the LTTE during Feb 16-17. These consignments were transferred to trawlers from ships anchored in the deep seas and unloaded in Chalai, Mullaitivu and Veththilaikerny on the northeastern coast,' it said.

According to the media report, the recent developments in the battlefield 'appear to substantiate the findings of these two reports' with the significant increase in artillery and mortar attacks by the LTTE being observed during recent battles, including the one that left over 200 combatants killed and nearly 1000 wounded on both sides in Muhamalai in the northern Jaffna Peninsula April 23.