

## MONTHLY COUNTRY REPORT

### Sri Lanka

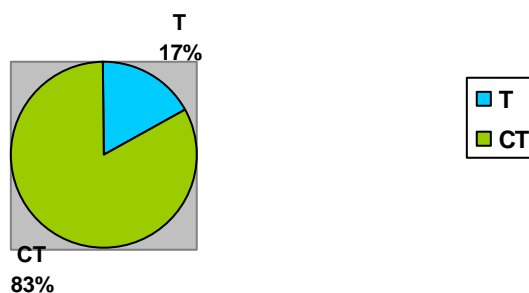
### September 2008

The month of September saw an overall rise in the level of violence. The LTTE which suffered losses during August continued to do so as security forces moved further into LTTE controlled areas in the Northern Province. The group did however conduct another air raid against a military target in the Northern Province. Nonetheless the military continued its counter terrorism operations, inflicting heavy losses on the LTTE. Most of the violence was restricted to the Northern Province, but there were several incidents of terrorism reported from the Eastern Western Provinces.

Incidents		Deaths				Injuries				Arrests	Surrenders	Captures
T	CT	LTTE	SF	Civ	Para	LTTE	SF	Civ	Para			
22	108	613	62	4	Unknown or none reported	352	198	13	Unknown or none reported	6	Unknown or none reported	Unknown or none reported

(*T – Terrorist, CT – Counter Terrorist, SF – Security Forces, Civ – Civilians, Para – Paramilitaries<sup>1</sup>, LTTE – Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam*)

### Number of Incidents



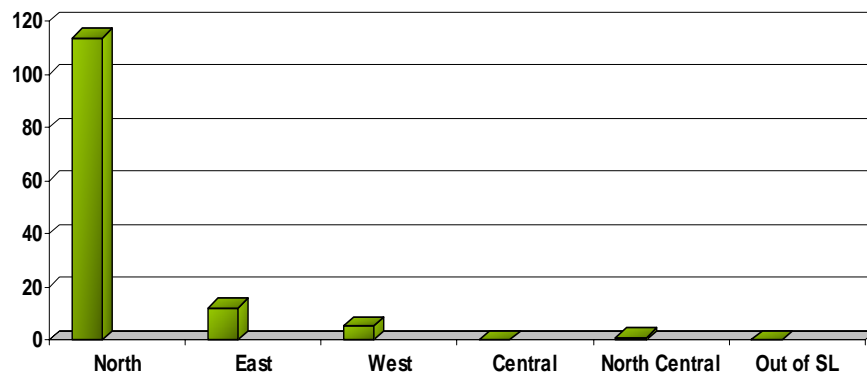
- Of the 22 terrorist attacks conducted this month the most significant was the Air Tiger attack against the Vavuniya army base on 9 September. Following this attack, the Sri Lankan military claimed that it had shot down one air craft of the LTTE. At least 22 people were killed in the air attack.

<sup>1</sup> In the Sri Lankan context 'Paramilitaries' refer to former militant groups that are fighting along side the Sri Lankan military against the LTTE. In recent times the most prominent of these has been the Karuna Group.

- Ground and air offensives of the Sri Lankan Army and Air Force comprise a majority of the counter terrorism incidents that took place in the month of September. The air raid conducted by the SLAF include targeting of a Female Black Tiger training facility in Rathnapuram, Kilinochchi on 27 September, as well as an LTTE radar point in Nagavanthurai on 24 September. Of the search and recovery operations conducted by the military and police, the most significant was the detection of a large haul of C-4 explosives from a house in Negombo, in the western province. The cache is the largest amount of explosives to be recovered from the Western Province in recent times.

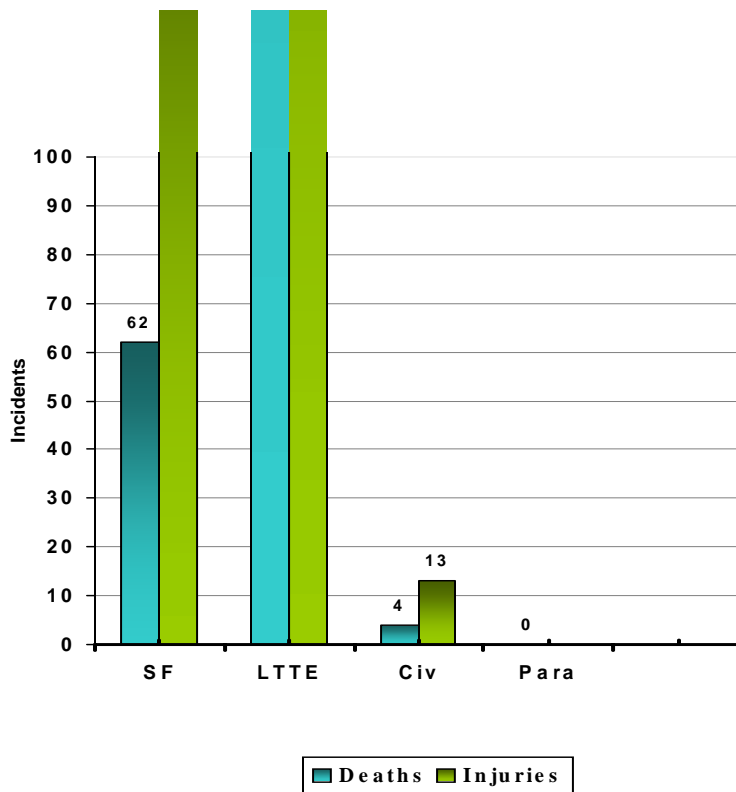
### **Incidents by Geographical Distribution**

Incidents by Geographical Distribution - September 2008



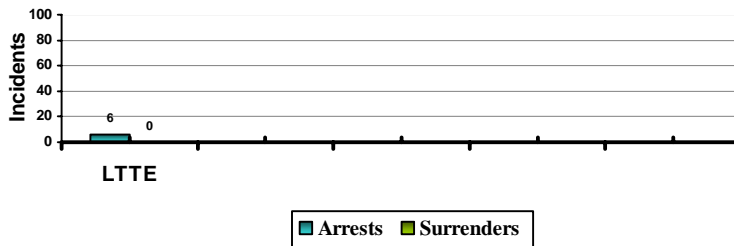
- As with August, the most number of incidents were reported from the Northern Province where security forces have been conducting operations along the forward defence lines.
- The incidents reported from the Eastern Province were primarily search and recovery operations where security forces recovered small weapons and explosives.
- The incidents reported from the Western Province also pertained to the recovery of a large cache of explosives (as mentioned earlier) and the arrest of six suspects in relation to this.

## Casualty Figures



- The LTTE continued to record the highest number of deaths (613) and injuries (352)
- The death and casualty figures for the security forces had also increased in the month of September as compared with the month of August.
- Of the civilian injuries, four were due to a bus bomb in Colombo on 16 September and a hand grenade explosion in Batticaloa on 29 September.

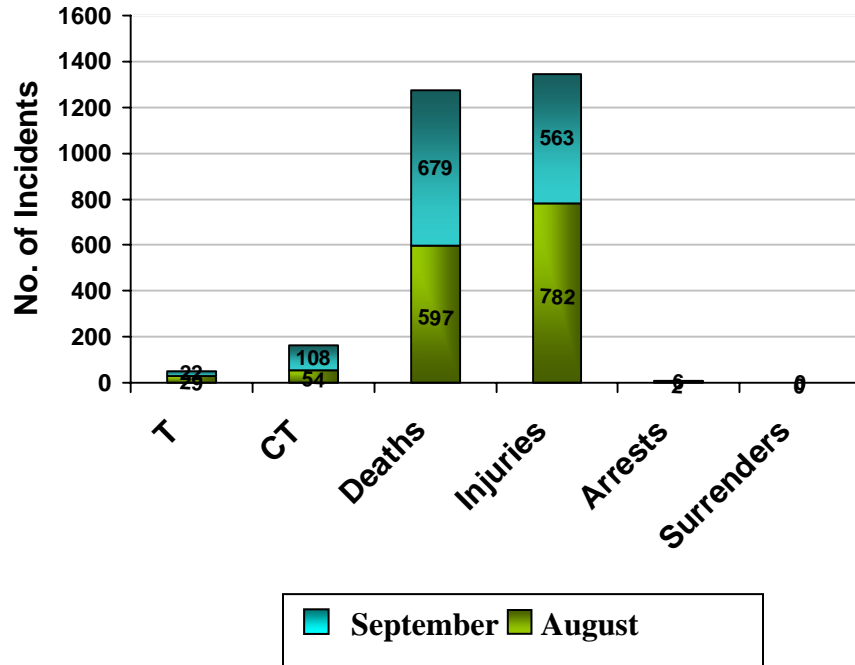
## Arrests and Surrenders



- September also saw the arrest of six civilians in connection with a cache of explosives recovered from a house in Negombo. One of the individuals was a bomb maker from the Wanni while the other five were from Negombo.
- There were no surrenders reported this month.

# Comparative Analysis

## Incidents for August & September



- The overall level violence had increased from the month of August as the number of deaths had risen from 597 to 679 while the number of injuries had risen from 563 to 782
- The number of CT incidents had also risen from 54 to 108 while the number of terrorist incidents had risen dropped from 29 to 22.