

# LTTE intelligence wing confirms Prabakaran's death

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**COLOMBO:** Thirty days after the Sri Lankan military announced the death of LTTE chief Velupillai Prabhakaran, self-styled “intelligence wing” of the Tigers confirmed the news on Thursday.

LTTE international head K. Pathmanathan had confirmed the news of Prabhakaran's death on May 24. However, within hours TamilNet had disassociated itself with the statement and said the news had not been confirmed either by the “intelligence wing” or “international affairs department” of the Tigers.

Curiously, the latest statement sent by e-mail by “head of intelligence wing” Kathirkamathamby Arivazhakan does not figure on the TamilNet website. It does not provide any details on the date and time of Prabhakaran's death.

It said the “leader's martyrdom” had been confirmed through sources including intelligence cadres in the know on the final incidents “con-

cerning attempts to move the National Leader to a safer location who have now reached safety, fighters of other departments and our informants with links to the High Command of the Sri Lankan armed forces”.

“We confirm emphatically that the National Leader did not surrender and was not arrested but fought attaining Martyrdom. At this critical juncture we have to carry forward our liberation struggle with the same steadfastness, discipline and coordination as done by our Great Leader. The task before is to get together for the ‘Provisional Transnational Government of Tamil Eelam’ that is to be formed as the next phase of our struggle,” it said.

The confirmation came even as Sri Lankan President Mahinda Rajapaksa reiterated that citizens of the country, irrespective of religion, race or ethnicity, should now come together to build the nation and recover the momentum lost due to the terrorist menace in the war.

He was speaking at a felicitation

ceremony at the sacred Jayasiri Maha Bodhi in Anuradhapura.

Mr. Rajapaksa was conferred with the title Sri Weera Wickrama Lakadeeshwara for the “bold and brave leadership he offered the security forces”, said a statement on the Information Department website.

He told the gathering that it was the responsibility of all Sri Lankans to ensure that the map of Sri Lanka would never again demarcate villages with tags such as “threatened” or “border”.

Separately, the Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ), a New York-based media watchdog, in a special report published on Wednesday, said Sri Lanka topped the list of countries that drove the largest number of journalists into exile.

“At least 11 Sri Lankan journalists were driven into exile in the past 12 months amid an intensive government crackdown on critical reporters and editors,” it said, adding the number worldwide totalled 39.