

Nine Sri Lankan killings on weekend blamed on Sinhalese extremists. (1989, January 30). *The Ottawa citizen*.

## Nine Sri Lankan killings on weekend blamed on Sinhalese extremists

COLOMBO (AP) — Suspected Sinhalese extremists raided the house of a governing party official in a southern town and stabbed him to death, officials said Sunday, raising to nine the death toll in weekend violence.

P.G. Munasinghe, a 47-year-old town council chairman and member of the governing United National party, was killed in his house in Matale, 150 kilometres west of the capital, officials said.

Meanwhile, extremists fatally shot two policemen and a civilian in an ambush in two other southern towns and militants attacked three police stations in or near the capital, killing four policemen and a civilian, police said.

The killings were blamed on the People's Liberation Front, a militant Sinhalese group. A military official said the police station attacks were aimed at frightening voters away from the polls in next month's parliamentary election.

Ten candidates for the Feb. 15



— AP photo

Soldier stands guard

election already have been killed by radical groups opposed to the government. Eight have been blamed on Sinhalese extremists, who oppose the Sinhalese-dominant

government's offer of limited autonomy to the minority Tamil population that predominates in northern and eastern Sri Lanka.

Police say two of the killings were the work of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam, who have rejected the government's peace overtures made under a peace accord brokered by neighboring India, the region's military and political giant.

A government communiqué said 15 suspected militants were arrested Sunday during combined army and police searches after the overnight raids on police stations.

Government officials said two soldiers and a civilian, all Sinhalese, were fatally shot in Akuresa, 100 kilometres southwest of Colombo.

In the attacks on police stations, assailants wearing black uniforms hurled grenades and home-made bombs before opening fire with automatic rifles, an official said.