Army deployed in Sri Lanka

Associated Press

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The Sri Lankan government deployed military forces across the country yesterday in an effort to halt pre-election violence that has claimed more than 800 lives, including 13 candidates, since Jan. 1.

At least 24 people were reported killed during a 24-hour period by Sinhalese and Tamil militants, police said yesterday. They said 22 were victims of Sinhalese militants in the south of the island.

The military officials refused to say how many soldiers had been deployed, but they said the operation involves the whole country.

Both Sinhalese and Tamil extremist groups have vowed to disrupt the balloting in the election next Wednesday.