

Sri Lanka rebels appeal to UN for mediator. (1989, February 09).  
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## Sri Lanka rebels appeal to UN for mediator

COLOMBO (AP) — A militant Tamil-separatist group said it has appealed to the UN Commission on Human Rights to mediate an end to the five-year ethnic conflict that has claimed 8,500 lives in Sri Lanka.

The Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam, the most powerful Tamil guerrilla group, called for an immediate ceasefire and the withdrawal of the estimated 47,000 Indian soldiers on the Indian Ocean island.

The Tigers, in a letter to the United Nations, said: "Indian troops under the cover of 'peace-keeping' operations continue to engage themselves in a ruthless and brutal war against the innocent civilian masses, causing intolerable suffering to the Tamil people."

A copy of the Tigers' appeal to the UN was sent by Telex to news offices in Colombo from the guerrillas' information office in London.

Also Wednesday, Sinhalese extremists attacked a military post outside Sri Lanka's most-sacred Buddhist shrine and killed at least two soldiers, authorities said.