

**This is an example of a successful sample briefing that was used to obtain an interview with a political risk analysis company. The applicant was a Masters student at King's College War Studies department. The applicant was not a Sri Lankan expert and was given only a few days to prepare this briefing. Jeff Riley, King's College London, Careers Service July 2009**

## **Security Risk Profile Sri Lanka**

### ***External Conflict***

The risk of interstate conflict in Sri Lanka is low. The Sri Lankan army has regained full control over its territory as a result of defeating the armed separatist group – the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) in May 2009. This counter-insurgency operation has sparked international criticism in the West about the heavy loss of civilian life. It is however very unlikely that any foreign state will use this as a pretext to intervene militarily. India has historically played a pre-eminent role in Sri Lankan affairs, however the risk of a military intervention is very low given the unpopularity of the last intervention that culminated in the assassination of the former Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi by the LTTE.

### ***Internal conflict***

The threat of the Tamil Tiger insurgency has been removed. Military victory of the Sri Lankan army put an end to a long-standing separatist conflict between the Sri Lankan Tamil minority and the Sri Lankan Sinhalese majority. Yet, the belief in an independent Tamil homeland runs deep among the Tamil Diaspora and there remains the possibility that the insurgency will resume if no progress is made on the larger question of integrating the Tamil minority in the political process.

The army's military tactics of isolating the insurgents in the north of country have prompted a large-scale humanitarian crisis. Tens of thousands of civilians have become internally displaced and are now living in camps in Vavuiya, Jaffna and Trincomalee. There is a risk of sporadic violence between the Sinhala and Tamil community flaring up again, as it frequently has in the past, especially at a time of rising Sinhalese nationalism. These factors combined diminish the chances of long-term stability.

Another indication of the ongoing security threat is the Sri Lankan government's recent extension of its State of Emergency. Checkpoints and roadblocks continue to be used and security forces have expansive authority to search, arrest, detain and seize property throughout the country. This is very likely to obstruct travel throughout the country.

### ***Terrorism***

The terrorist threat from the LTTE in Sri Lanka has been greatly diminished since its defeat in May. The organisational structure of the LTTE and most of its conventional military capabilities, including its naval and air force, have been destroyed. There has been a crackdown on fundraising for the rebels (in Europe, Canada, US) and the Sri Lankan army and Indian navy have stepped up joint patrols resulting in a reduction of arms supplies to the LTTE.

Despite these actions, there remains the continued risk of sporadic terrorist attacks. LTTE arms, ammunition and insurgents remain, particularly in the Eastern province of Sri Lanka. Likely targets include attacks on the capital, Colombo, government and military facilities and attacks against civilians. The most likely tactics are likely to include roadside bombs, grenade throwing, explosive packages and suicide bombings.