

The Abuse of the Sanctity of St. Philip Neri's Church, Pettah

On the 22nd August 2008 something most untoward occurred in a Catholic Religious Sanctuary in Sri Lanka. An 'unattended bag' was left behind at St. Philip Neri's Church, Pettah containing 19 detonators, 4 remote controllers and two relay switches with timers.

Some of these items which serve as components of a bomb, contained instructions in 'Thamil.' The perpetrators have acted in gross 'violation' of the sanctity of a place of religious worship that is internationally considered as a 'place of refuge.'



The Armed Forces and Police were most professional in their investigative methods, while being respectful of the fact that the investigations were being conducted in a place of worship. We thank them for their considerateness.

We are saddened that St. Philip Neri's Church, Pettah, which has been traditionally considered an 'oasis of prayer' has been so defiled. We consider this an act of cowardice.

We appeal to 'the perpetrators' to respect the sanctity of a place of religious worship.

Rev. Fr. Nilindra Gunsekera sss.,
Provincial Superior,
Blessed Sacrament Congregation, Sri Lanka.

A Bomb Explosion in Pettah; 45 wounded - Colombo



Forty-Five civilians suffered injuries due to an explosion occurred in Olcott Mawatha in Pettah, Colombo around 12.15 p.m today, 30 August.

The Director of the National hospital Colombo, Dr Hector Weerasinha said few of the victims who suffered severe injuries were already taken for immediate surgeries. Four females and two children were also among the victims suffered injuries, he added.

According to the available information, the bomb had been exploded near a watch selling outlet down Olcott Mawatha near the Bodirajaramaya in Pettah.

Earlier, security forces uncovered accessories of suicide jackets from a Catholic Church premises in Olcott Mawatha in Pettah on 22 August. Detonators, switches and few other items had been concealed inside the St. Phillip Nerish Church premises, defence sources said.

