



Thursday, November 19, 2009



Islamabad, Pakistan (CNN)

-- A suicide bomber self-detonated Thursday morning outside the gates of a court compound in the heavily guarded administrative heart of the Pakistani city of Peshawar, the seventh deadly explosion there in less than two weeks.

At least 17 people were killed and 45 others wounded in the attack, which took place when the Judicial Complex is normally crowded with lawyers, administrative personnel and the public, authorities in the northwestern city said. The assailant had stepped out of a taxi at about 10 a.m., as as he walked toward the gates, officers on duty grew

suspicious, said Nisar Ali Murrawat, a senior officer of the Peshawar police.

When an officer tried to restrain the man by embracing him, the attacker self-detonated what police estimate were 15 kilograms (33 pounds) of explosives, Murrawat said.

The Judicial Complex is on Peshawar's Khyber Road, across the street from the Pearl Continental Hotel, which was targeted in a deadly bomb attack in June.

There are at least three police and military police checkpoints protecting Khyber Road, partly because the provincial Supreme Court, the provincial legislature and Pakistani military offices are nearby.

A wave of [suicide bombers](#) has targeted police checkpoints, police stations and the provincial headquarters of Pakistan's spy agency this month, killing dozens of people.

Taliban commanders have claimed responsibility for several of the attacks, including a strike on the intelligence headquarters in Peshawar and a car bombing that killed an area mayor who led an anti-Taliban militia.

Last weekend the spokesman for the [Pakistani Taliban](#) threatened to intensify attacks against [Pakistani](#) security forces in a video statement released over the Internet.

The Taliban appears to be retaliating for an ongoing Pakistani military offensive launched last month against militant strongholds in the mountainous region of South Waziristan, along Pakistan's border with Afghanistan.

As Pakistani troops and militants fight fierce battles in South Waziristan, drone attacks against suspected Taliban targets continue.

Over the past 24 hours, two deadly suspected drone strikes have hit targets in other parts of northwestern Pakistan's turbulent border region.

The U.S. military, which has a presence in neighboring Afghanistan, is the only force in the region able to launch missiles from drones, which are controlled remotely.

N.B.

Let us never forget that this is what Sri Lanka could have been, but was not.

We are saddened by the seven suicide bombings that have ripped through the heart of the Pakistani people.

We remember with gratitude the military assistance they rendered when the 'free world' or the so-called 'International Community' shunned us.

Ironically, the USA which was a haven for the 'LTTE fund raisers' of the likes of the billionaire business tycoon Raja Rajaratnam, who is now in US custody for 'insider trading,' is also at the receiving end of the war against the Taliban.

(a) Sri Lanka born billionaire Raja Rajaratnam arrested for insider trading frauds - (By Walter Jayawardhana)



SRI LANKA BORN BILLIONAIRE RAJA RATNAM ARRESTED BY FBI CHARGED WITH CRIMINAL OFFENSES OF INSIDER TRADING

The founder of Galleon Group Hedge Fund , Sri Lanka born Raja Rajaratnam was arrested charged with criminal offences of Insider trading securities frauds.

Galleon is a major hedge fund player known for its investments in technology stocks.

The FBI said Rajaratnam was charged with four counts of conspiracy and eight counts of securities fraud. He was arrested in his apartment during the night of October 15.

The Galleon group has nearly three billion dollars under its management.

The charges arose on stocks including Hilton Hotels, AMD, Clearwire, Google and Akamai.

The hedge funds named in the case are New Castle, Galleon Technology, and Intel Capital. Others charged criminally in the case include Rajiv Goel, director in strategic investments at Intel Corp.'s investment arm; Anil Kumar, a director at global management-consulting firm McKinsey & Co.; Danielle Chiesi and Mark Kurland of New Castle Partners LLC, the one-time equity hedge-fund group at Bear Stearns Asset Management Inc.; and Robert Moffat, a senior vice president at International Business Corp. (NYSE:IBM).

The insider trading case is said to be for about \$20 million, and involved the stocks of International Business Machines (NYSE:IBM), Advanced Micro Devices (NYSE:AMD), and Sun Microsystems (NYSE:SUN). Other companies included Google (Nasdaq:GOOG), Polycom (Nasdaq:PLCM), and Hilton Hotels.

The New York Daily News said after the arrest: "The defendants operated in a cozy world of you scratch my back, I'll scratch your back," Manhattan U.S. Attorney Preet Bharara said at a news conference announcing the arrests.

"Rajaratnam, who Forbes ranked as No. 559 on its 2009 list of the world's billionaires, was snared in a \$20 million insider-trading case touted by the authorities for its first-ever use of court-authorized wiretaps against Wall Street big wheels.

"They may have been privy to a lot of inside information, but there was one secret they did not know - and that was that we were listening," Bharara said.

The six suspects are accused of having enriched themselves by using non-public information about companies that included Google, Hilton Hotels and Sun Micro Systems.

Some of their conversations intercepted by investigators via wiretap are detailed in the federal criminal complaint.

"I'm dead if this leaks," Danielle Chiesi, who worked for the one-time equity hedge fund group of Bear Stearns Asset Management, is quoted as saying. "I'll be like Martha f----- Stewart."

Rajaratnam, whose fortune was pegged by Forbes as \$1.3 billion, is accused of being at the heart of several insider trades by leading Galleon Technology Funds to make dirty deals off privileged information.

Authorities said the Sri Lankan hedge fund guru used his high-level contacts at other Wall Street firms to engage others in the scheme.

"He is not a master of the universe," said Robert Khuzami director of enforcement for the Securities and Exchange Commission. "He is a master of the Rolodex."

The others charged include Mark Kurland, a top executive at New Castle Funds; Rajiv Goel, a director at Intel's investment arm; Anil Kumar, an executive with the consulting firm McKinsey and Company and Robert Moffat, a senior vice president at IBM.(EOM)

(b) Sri Lanka war victims sue billionaire Raja Rajaratnam in US Court – By Grant McCool

Thu Oct 22, 2009 1:58pm EDT



NEW YORK (Reuters) - Accused hedge fund billionaire Raja Rajaratnam and his family's foundation were sued in a U.S. court on Thursday over allegations that they provided \$5 million to Tamil Tigers militants in his native Sri Lanka's civil war.

The lawsuit in U.S. District Court in New Jersey on behalf of 30 people who were victims or survivors of attacks by the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam in the South Asian country's civil war said the money assisted "crimes against humanity."

Last Friday, Rajaratnam and five others were criminally charged by U.S. prosecutors and the FBI in New York in what they described as the biggest hedge fund insider trading case ever.

The Sri Lankan is known for his charitable donations and denies allegations that money found its way to the LTTE. Last month, the Sri Lankan government accepted his pledge of \$1 million to rehabilitate former LTTE fighters after the end of the 25-year-long war in May.

"The accusation that Mr. Rajaratnam supported the LTTE is flatly untrue and libelous, and we are confident that the court will dismiss these baseless charges," Rajaratnam's lawyer Jim Walden said in a statement.

"Mr. Rajaratnam has the greatest sympathy for all victims of violence in Sri Lanka and has a long history of helping Sri Lankans of all ethnic groups through substantial charitable donations over many years."

The lawsuit names Rajaratnam, his father J.M. Rajaratnam and the Tamil Rehabilitation Organization (TRO) foundation, which had a branch in New Jersey during the 2001 to 2007 period covered by the civil lawsuit. The foundation's funds have been frozen in both Sri Lanka and the United States.

It accuses them of "aiding and abetting, intentionally facilitating and/or disregarding crimes against humanity in violation of international law."

Rajaratnam gave at least \$5 million to the foundation in 2005, to help rebuild after the tsunami hit Sri Lanka in late 2004.

Two years later, U.S. authorities proved that the TRO was funneling money to the Tigers, which were on a U.S. list of banned terrorist groups. Rajaratnam is Tamil, but his supporters point out that his personal foundation donated millions to help all ethnic communities hit by the tsunami.

The lawsuit was filed under the U.S. Alien Tort Claims Act, which allows nonresidents to sue in U.S. courts for alleged violations of "the law of nations."

They "knowingly provided financial and material support to LTTE with the intent to advance the LTTE's terror campaign," the complaint said.

The case is Karunamunige Chamila Krishanthi et al v Rajakumara Rajaratnam et al, U.S. District Court in New Jersey (No. to be assigned)

(Reporting by Grant McCool, additional reporting by C. Bryson Hull in Colombo; editing by Andre Grenon and Gerald E. McCormick)

(c) Where is Raj Rajaratnam's donation to Tamil Tiger proxy TRO If no social projects done in Tiger-held territory?

Fri, 2009-10-23 05:47 – editor

- [USA - Daya Gamage – US National Correspondent Asian Tribune](#)
Washington, D.C. 23 October (Asiantribune.com):



Did Raj Rajaratnam know that the millions of funds he donated to the Tamil Rehabilitation Organization (TRO-US) during the post-Tsunami construction period in the maritime provinces in Sri Lanka were never used by the TRO to build schools, houses and roads in the Tamil Tiger held territories in the north and east of Sri Lanka?

Did Rajaratnam follow it up to ascertain how his massive donations were used for social projects in that part of the country where Sri Lanka government's writ was not present?

Did he know or did he have any inclination that the funds he provided to the TRO-USA in fact went into the coffers of the LTTE were used for other purposes?

Did not Mr. Rajaratnam maintain close rapport, dealings and connections with the TRO-US head Dr. Nagarathnam Ranjithan?

The Central Bank of Sri Lanka gives some glimpse in to this Raj Rajaratnam funding episode.

The Bank said that information has come to light that the TRO's post-tsunami construction activities in the former rebel held areas of the country were a hoax as the recent audit conducted by the Central Bank, based on TRO data, has found that no construction activity had taken place as stipulated by the TRO in these areas. According to CBSL estimates the TRO had received a sum of US\$3.5million to develop rebel held territories. The development projects included the reconstruction of schools, houses, water and sanitation projects and roads.

The Governor of the Central Bank Ajith N. Cabraal while speaking to the *Daily Mirror Financial Times* said that "currently we are engaged in our own investigations on the investment portfolio of Mr. Rajaratnam and we are also inquiring into his involvement with the Tamil Rehabilitation Organization (TRO)," while noting that Mr. Rajaratnam's total asset portfolio in Sri Lanka was valued at approximately Rs.12 billion. The Central Bank in the meantime said that it was estimated that out of the total monies received by the TRO, one third of the funding was provided by Mr. Rajaratnam.



Sri Lanka's Daily Mirror noted that Mr. Rajaratnam "backed Sri Lanka's main opposition United National Party while many in the present government suspect him of contributing to some of Washington's criticisms against Sri Lanka's conduct in the final phase of the war against the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE)."

Raj Rajaratnam maintained close contacts with the TRO-US head Dr. Nagaratnam Ranjithan whose house and office were inspected by the FBI before the U.S. Department of Treasury froze all assets of the TRO-US in November 2007.

In mid-February this year, the U.S. Treasury Department froze the assets of Ranjithan's Tamil Foundation, alleging that the money he has raised for Sri Lanka has actually gone to help the Tamil Tigers.

Dr. Nagaratnam Ranjithan has spent decades building a thriving medical practice in Maryland as a kidney specialist.

In February this year when the Treasury Department froze the assets of his Tamil Foundation Dr. Ranjithan told Washington Examiner that with his two charities now shuttered, there is no way to help people trapped in the Tamil war zone.

"Everybody is so focused on this Tamil Tiger business," Ranjithan said. "Nobody is focused on the plight of the civilians in Sri Lanka."

But according to the recent investigation and audit of the Sri Lanka Central Bank it said that information has come to light that the TRO's post-tsunami construction activities in the former rebel held areas of the country were a hoax as the recent audit conducted by the Central Bank, based on TRO data, has found that no construction activity had taken place as stipulated by the TRO in these areas.

Then where did the funds collected by Dr. Ranjithan and donated by Mr. Raja Rajaratnam go if, according to the Central Bank audit, they were not used for social and development projects in the north and east. The areas were under total Tamil Tiger control during the time Ranjithan and Rajaratnam's funds went.

Ranjithan's case isn't an isolated one in the Washington suburbs. D.C. officials are working hard to crack down on what they dub international terrorist financing.

They don't have to look far, experts say. "It's a very fertile ground for investigation," said Joseph DiGenova, former U.S. attorney for the District. "There are plenty of opportunities."

With its large diplomatic community, multinational character, vast network of nongovernmental and charitable groups and employees, and big-hearted, big-walletted residents, the Washington, D.C. area gives excellent cover, resources and opportunities for international terrorist fronts, some experts say.

"Washington fits the bill as a place where all kinds of information is exchanging hands. You have all sorts of nongovernmental organizations headquartered here ... and all sorts of international groups are chartered here," said Gary LaFree, director of the National Consortium for the Study of Terrorism and Responses to Terrorism at the University of Maryland.

So it became a very fertile ground for Ranjithans, Rajaratnams, Rudrakumarans and Jeyarajahs to operate, and most of them seem to have found how receptive officials like Mr. Blake and Mr. Boucher of the State Department to 'diplomatically terrorize' Sri Lanka which disappointed many American and other soothsayers who believed the indispensability of Prabhakaran's LTTE and its inevitable forward march toward establishing a separate independent state in the north and east of Sri Lanka.

This scenario was taking place when the LTTE is a designated Foreign Terrorist Organization (FTO) since 1997 in the U.S. and that terrorism law forbids US federal employees to have any contacts or connections with anyone suspected of having any rapport with a FTO or its declared agenda.

In the wake of Sri Lankan-born billionaire Raj Rajaratnam's arrest by FBI agents in the USA on charges of insider trading, the Central Bank of Sri Lanka said that Mr. Rajaratnam's local investment portfolio would remain unchanged and the CBSL would not seize his assets in Sri Lanka until he is proven guilty of financing terrorism.

However, in a letter released on Wednesday, Rajaratnam wrote that he was innocent and would fight the charges. He added that he expected to return the \$2.5 billion he now manages for outside investors by the end of the year. But he said he hoped to sell Galleon as a single unit so that his employees would not have to find new jobs individually.

Because most of Galleon's holdings are in heavily traded companies, unwinding the fund should cause no disruption to stock markets, a person close to Galleon said.

Nevertheless, in light of this development Sri Lanka Central Bank has confronted with a new issue as to how it should handle Mr. Rajaratnam's assets in Sri Lanka.

Mr. Rajaratnam holds large stakes in some of Sri Lanka's biggest blue chip stocks namely; John Keells Holdings and the National Development Bank (NDB) as part of his investment portfolio in Sri Lanka.

(d) Experts: D.C. 'fertile ground' for financing of terrorism

By: BILL MYERS

Examiner Staff Writer, March 3, 2009

Dr. Nagaratnam Ranjithan has spent decades building a thriving medical practice in Maryland as a kidney specialist.

Federal authorities say he has also helped finance Asian death squads.

Two weeks ago, the U.S. Treasury Department froze the assets of Ranjithan's Tamil Foundation, alleging that the money he has raised for Sri Lanka has actually gone to help the Tamil Tigers, a group that the State Department says is a terrorist organization. The Tigers have been blamed for thousands of civilian deaths.

Ranjithan says his group is suffering from guilt by association.

"Even the federal government hasn't accused me of directly supporting the Tigers," Ranjithan said in an interview with The Examiner. "They say that because I work in the Tiger area, I support the Tigers."

Case not isolated

Ranjithan's case isn't an isolated one in the Washington suburbs. D.C. officials are working hard to crack down on what they dub international terrorist financing.

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Philanthropist imprisoned

The government's crackdown on terror financing has shown Washingtonians a new side of their neighbors.

There was Falls Church Muslim philanthropist Aldurahman M. Alamoudi, who in 2004 went to prison for funneling money through the Libyan dictatorship so the Libyans could in turn assassinate one of Saudi Arabia's royals.

An Oxon Hill cul-de-sac called Barnaby Knolls was built with a \$1 million investment from Hamas. Investigators called the neighborhood "Hamas Heights."

Saubhe Jassim Al-Dellemy, owner of a Laurel shish kebab shop, went to prison last year for spying for Saddam Hussein.

There were the 39 people indicted from the United States, Canada, Spain and Belgium on charges of using two Snow Hill, Md., convenience stores to launder more than \$5.1 million through the hawala — the Islamic money-remittance system. Some of the defendants were charged with trying to bribe local immigration officials to obtain visas for their friends.

Sept. 11 attacks cost \$400K

In terrorism, every dollar counts, Maryland's LaFree said. The Sept. 11 attacks were a massive operation by terror standards. They cost about \$400,000.

"Can you imagine trying to trace that finite amount of money?" he asked.

Previous run-in with feds

This is the second time Ranjithan has collided with the government over his Sri Lankan work. Two years ago, the Treasury Department froze the assets of another relief group he headed.

With his two charities now shuttered, there is no way to help people trapped in the Tamil war zone, Ranjithan said. "Everybody is so focused on this Tamil Tiger business," Ranjithan said. "Nobody is focused on the plight of the civilians in Sri Lanka."