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## **NEWS FLASH: Sri Lanka**

### ***Civilians must be protected after latest bombing in Colombo***

*Amnesty International condemns the indiscriminate killing of at least 12 civilians during an attack suspected to have been carried out by members of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) in Borella, Colombo.*

*The civilians were reportedly killed while members of the LTTE -- armed with rocket-propelled grenades -- shot indiscriminately through busy traffic. The LTTE members were fleeing after a failed attack thought to have been aimed at an as yet unidentified dignitary returning from parliament.*

*"Both the security forces and the LTTE must respect the lives of civilians in the area," Amnesty International said.*

*Hundreds of security force personnel are currently searching for the four LTTE members suspected of involvement in the attack and reported to be hiding in a large apartment complex in the area. To Amnesty International's knowledge, no civilians have been so far moved out of these apartments.*

*"Under international humanitarian standards all parties to a conflict must refrain from direct attacks on civilians or indiscriminate attacks and are obliged to take all necessary measures to prevent civilian casualties," Amnesty International said.*

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*For more information please call Amnesty International's press office in London,  
UK, on 44 171 413 5566 or visit our website at <http://www.amnesty.org>*