

## History of Chemical Attacks in Sri Lanka: A Special Reference to East Kiran Attack

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A chemical attack can be described as an attack executed by individuals or groups — terrorists, terrorist affiliates, or state-sponsored, and/or organized crime — through the deliberate release of a toxic substance, such as a gas, liquid, or solid, in an attempt to cause, injury, public harm or loss of life. Only a limited number of chemical attacks has been reported in Sri Lanka, the East Kiran attack that took place in 1990 can be considered as the major chemical attack in the Sri Lankan history. The Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE or Tamil Tigers) carried out a crude chemical assault on a Sri Lankan Armed Forces (SLAF) encampment in East Kiran, in the Batticaloa district of Sri Lanka in 1990. This paper provides a brief introduction to chemical attacks and examines the incident considering the potential use of unconventional weapons such as chemical warfare agents. , It also discusses health effects endured by soldiers after the attack. It also examines the possible reasons for not preventing this attack by the Government of Sri Lanka and the precautions that can be taken by the Sri Lankan authorities to avoid any future chemical attacks in Sri Lanka. Data was gathered for this study through books, newspaper articles and interviews with participants who have hands-on experience of the incident in order to gain a deeper understanding of the incident. The main purpose of this study was to understand the historical context of the use of chemical weapons in Sri Lanka and discover the possible precautions that can be taken to avoid such attacks in the future.

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