

Injured soldiers' bus bombed in Sri Lanka

by UPI

COLOMBO, Sri Lanka -- At least five people were killed and 23 injured Wednesday in a bombing aimed at a bus carrying injured Sri Lankan soldiers to a Colombo hospital. Seven of the victims were said to be hospitalized in critical condition, The Times of India reported. Colombo National Hospital Director Hector Weerasinghe said most of the victims were civilians while a few soldiers also were admitted with shrapnel injuries. The Sri Lankan military said in a news release there were at least three dead, including one soldier, and at least 25 injured. The morning blast near the Nippon Hotel was believed to be caused by a Claymore mine set off by the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam, the rebel group commonly called the Tamil Tigers. The government has been engaged recently in a push against the Tigers in areas in the north where the group is strong. Once the injured had been evacuated, security forces cordoned off the area around the blast site.

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