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Sri Lanka lte attack 2008 oktober november army aircraft Power Station

In October and November 2008, the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) intensified their "Air Tigers" operations, conducting airstrikes against key military and infrastructure targets as the Sri Lankan Army (SLA) advanced on their northern strongholds.

October 28, 2008: Attack on Colombo Power Station and Mannar Army Base

- **Kelanitissa Power Station Strike:** On the night of October 28, 2008, LTTE aircraft dropped bombs on the Kelanitissa power station in Kelaniya, near Colombo, causing a fire and damaging turbines. The attack caused a minor fire and damaged at least one, possibly two, generators.
- **Mannar Army Base Attack:** Hours before the Colombo attack, LTTE aircraft dropped bombs on the Mannar Army headquarters in Thalladi, North-West Sri Lanka, causing minor damage and injuring soldiers.
- **Defense Reaction:** The Sri Lankan Air Force scrambled jets, activated anti-aircraft guns, and implemented a total blackout in Colombo during the raid.

Context: October/November 2008

- **The Targets:** The attacks were the 8th and 9th, and among the last, major aerial raids by the LTTE's small, propeller-driven aircraft wing.
- **Military Response:** The government responded by intensifying ground operations in the north, aiming to capture the de facto LTTE capital, Kilinochchi.
- **Significant Losses:** By November 2008, the army had captured strategic towns like Pooneryn (Nov 17), cutting off the LTTE from the northwestern coast, despite heavy fighting and high casualties on both sides.

Impact

- The October 28 attack caused a power station fire, injured at least one civilian who died the following day, and severely damaged electricity generation, forcing temporary shutdowns in the capital.
- The air raids, while causing limited physical damage compared to their potential, were significant psychological attacks intended to show that the LTTE could still reach the capital despite losing ground in the north.