

## **The story of 250 Sri Lankan Tamil asylum seekers currently stranded on a...**

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The story of 250 Sri Lankan Tamil asylum seekers currently stranded on a boat in west Java, Indonesia, has dominated headlines over the past week. The Sri Lankan Government defeated the Tamil Tigers and effectively ended the 25 year civil war earlier this year. This report looks at a secret plot by Sri Lankan Government officials to capture and kill rebel Tamil leaders. A Tamil leader called Selvarasa Pathmanathan, also known as KP, was abducted from a hotel in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, just over two months ago. KP ran money laundering services for the Tamil Tigers and was wanted by the Sri Lankan authorities for a long time. Professor Rohan Gunaratna runs the International Centre for Political Violence and Terrorism Research in Singapore. He is close with Sri Lanka's Defence Secretary Gotabhaya Rajapaksa, who allegedly masterminded KP's arrest. KP has not been seen since his arrest. Malaysian authorities cannot confirm his whereabouts. Human rights groups say KP will be tortured in Sri Lanka. Tamil community leaders in Australia have been accused of supporting the Tamil Tigers in Sri Lanka.

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Interviewee - Senaka Walgampaya, Sri Lankan High Commissioner, Australia.