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## 20 Dead in Attack on Bus in Sri Lanka

By REUTERS

COLOMBO, [Sri Lanka](#) (Reuters) — A suspected [Tamil Tiger](#) roadside bomb attack on a civilian bus killed 20 people and wounded about 50 others in north-central Sri Lanka on Wednesday, officials said, as a six-year cease-fire between the state and rebels formally expired.

A military spokesman for the military, asking not to be identified because of the military's policy against it, said the bomb was "definitely" set by the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam.

The blast in the town of Buttala in the north-central district of Moneragala was the latest in a series of roadside bomb attacks blamed on the rebels, who are fighting to create an independent state in the north and east.

A spokesman for the rebels was not immediately available for comment, but they routinely deny involvement.

A cease-fire that broke down on the ground two years ago formally ends on Wednesday. President Mahinda Rajapaksa's government announced a two weeks ago that it was scrapping the pact, setting off fears that the fighting would deepen.

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