Tigers kill two soldiers in Sri Lanka

COLOMBO, Sri Lanka - Two soldiers were killed Monday when Tiger Tamil rebels attacked an army bunker, while in a separate incident nine soldiers and a civilian were wounded in a landmine explosion, officials said.

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The separatist Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam attacked the bunker in the north-eastern Weli Oya sector, leaving the two soldiers dead. In a separate incident Monday the Tigers set off a powerful landmine in the heart of the northern town of Jaffna, wounding nine soldiers and a civilian, the defence ministry said. The soldiers were travelling in a military vehicle when it was caught in a mine attack, ministry spokesman Sanath Karunaratne said. He said four soldiers were critically wounded. Officials said the attack was the worst in Jaffna since rebel infiltrators tried to storm the main district secretariat in May last year. Tiger guerrillas are fighting for an independent state in north-east Sri Lanka for the island's Tamil minority. More than 60,000 people have been killed in three decades of fighting.

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