An Appeal to The United Nations

Commission on Human Rights



Un appel à Nations Unies

Commission des droits de l'homme

Una llamada a Naciones Unidas

Comisiòn de Derechos Humanos

58 Session - Sesiones

18/03/2002 — 26/04/2002

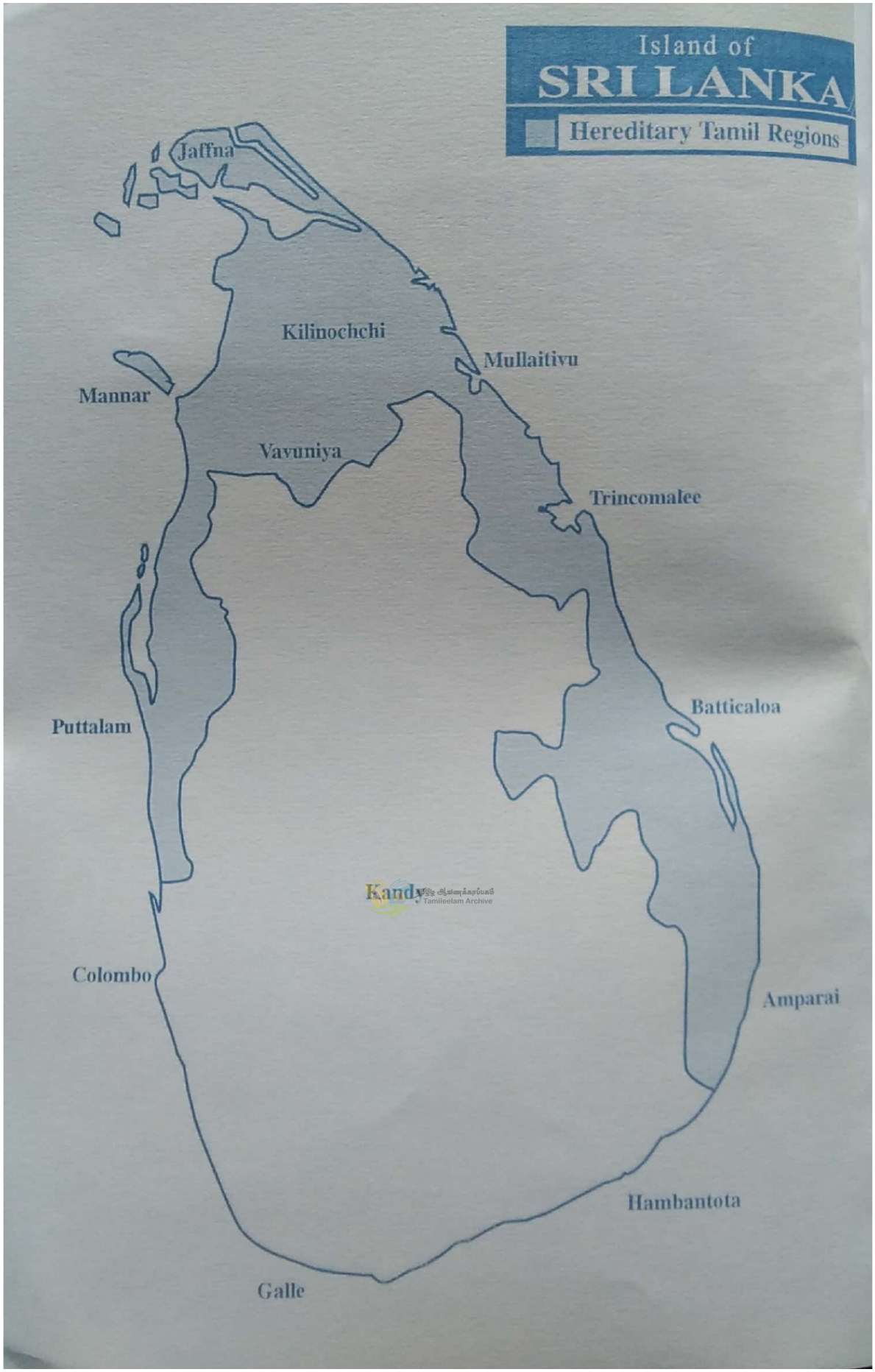
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Tamil Centre for Human Rights - TCHR

Centre Tamoul pour les Droits de l'Homme

Centro Tamil para los Derechos Humanos

(Established in 1990)


Island of
SRI LANKA
Hereditary Tamil Regions
Jaffna
Kilinochchi
Mullaitivu
Mannar
Vavuniya
Trincomalee
Batticaloa
Puttalam
Colombo
Amparai
Hambantota
Galle

Tamil Centre for Human Rights - TCHR

Centre Tamoul pour les Droits de l'Homme
Centro Tamil para los Derechos Humanos

(Established in 1990)

TCHR participation in United Nations World conferences

*The Tamil Centre for Human Rights (TCHR), officially participated in the NGO forum of the **UN World Conference Against Racism - WCAR** in Durban, South Africa, from 28 August to 1 September 2001. TCHR held an information stall including an exhibition at the forum. The TCHR representatives also attended the main WCAR conference held in Durban, 31 August to 7 September 2001.*

*In 1993, the TCHR held an information stall and a photo exhibition on human rights violations, in the **United Nations World Conference on Human Rights** held in Vienna, Austria, from 14-25 June.*

Head Office

9, rue des Peupliers
95140 - Garges les Gonesse
FRANCE

E-mail : tchrgs@hotmail.com
tchrdip@hotmail.com
Fax : + 33 - 1 - 40 38 28 74
+ 44 - 870 - 136 1061

Branches

Australia, Canada, Denmark, Norway, Switzerland, The Netherlands, United Kingdom

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தமிழ் ஆவணகம்
Tamil Archive

18 March 2002

The Chairperson
Members and Delegates
58th session of the
Commission on Human Rights
United Nations
1211 Geneva 10,
Switzerland

Dear Sirs / Mesdames,

We regularly report on the human rights violations taking place in the Island of Sri Lanka. Our reporting is based on indisputable facts, the authentic details of which are sent to us by our members directly from the spot where the incidents occur. The United Nations human rights monitoring bodies and other human rights institutions have appreciated the veracity of our reporting.

In our submission to the Commission on Human Rights this year, we will be taking stock of decades of human rights violations perpetrated against the Tamil people by successive governments that ruled the island. We have already documented most of the violations which took place during the recent years. In this submission we include those which have been inadvertently left out in our previous reporting.

Sirs / Mesdames, when we consider the history of the island, it is undeniable that three different kingdoms existed in distinctly separate areas, before the arrival of the first colonialists, the Portuguese, in 1505. One of these three kingdoms was the Tamil kingdom, and was known as the "Jaffna Kingdom". Researchers and scholars, including Sinhalese ones, in various international forums and media have consistently acknowledged the fact that this kingdom covered the areas of North and East of the island. From 1833 all three kingdoms were brought under one administration by the then colonial power, the British, for their administrative convenience.

There had been many negotiations between the Tamil and the Sinhala leaders even prior to Independence in 1948 on the question of the protection of civil and political rights of Tamil people. Anti-Tamil pogroms, unilateral abrogation of pacts (by Sinhala leaders), Sinhala colonisation in Tamil hereditary regions, pre-meditated killings, arrests and detentions of Tamils, rapes and gang-rapes of Tamil women and a systematic economic embargo on the North East since 1987 are also part of the island's sad history.

Sirs / Mesdames, the Sri Lanka representatives in the UN Commission on Human Rights and other institutions have denied these horrendous violations. This denial kept the truth away from the international community to a certain extent. So far more than 70,000 Tamils have been killed and more than 800,000 have been internally displaced. Another 400,000 or more Tamils have sought asylum in foreign countries for obvious reasons.

In the international human rights context, one of our observations regarding the actions of different Sri Lankan governments is that they have their own Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) to defend and shield them.

There are certain bogus human rights organisations, for instance the University Teachers for Human Rights – UTHR, which are concerned purely with their own self-interest and profit making. The ex-minister of Foreign Affairs Mr. Kathirgamar, who works for his own self-interest in order to obtain foreign funds, subtly promoted the activities of this organisation.

Civil society strongly believes that Mr. Kathigamar added fuel to the burning ethnic conflict, egotistically only to promote himself and enjoy a luxurious life-style.

Last year, the Norwegian mediation between the government and the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam – LTTE came to a stalemate solely because of the ex-Minister Kathigamar's egoistic attitude.

If the above-mentioned personality and local NGOs, were genuinely working for upholding human rights, would they allow JVP leader Somanwansa Amerasinghe to leave the island quietly after admitting the killing of at least 6000 innocent people in the South?

The massacre of Muslims during the recent election campaign, for which the ex-Minister of Defence had recently been arrested, is a typical example of what his security forces would have done to the Tamils in the Northeast!

The sons of the ex-minister of Defence Anurudha Ratwatte were allegedly involved in the assassination on 5 January 2000 of Lawyer and human rights defender, Mr. Kumar Ponnambalam. TCHR continues to demand for an independent inquiry into his murder.

The assassination of journalist Mr. Nirmalarajan and the killings of two others in Jaffna, during the last election campaign, by members of the EPDP, conclude that the Chandrika government never had any respect for human rights nor for peace in the island. ***(Refer annex on page 111)***

Sirs / Mesdames, all these facts have caused heavy human suffering and hardship in the NorthEast of the island, and the Tamil people still suffer the consequences thereof.

Our attached documents on State terrorism will give you a clear picture of how the Tamils in this island were subjected to systematic violations of human rights by oppressive Sinhala governments.

In the last parliamentary elections, even though 130,000 Tamils were prevented from voting, Tamil people overwhelmingly voted for the "Tamil National Alliance-TNA". The TNA consists of many Tamil political parties. Their manifesto states that the LTTE is the sole representative of the Tamils, the ban on the LTTE has to be lifted, the Sri Lanka government should negotiate only with the LTTE to resolve the island's longstanding ethnic conflict and the economic embargo on the North East should be lifted completely.

To seek a negotiated political solution to the island's ethnic conflict, the present government should work unstintingly to create normalcy in the NorthEast and should de-proscribe the LTTE.

These are meaningful ways to help stop human rights violations and human suffering in the island. Anything else will only pave the way for more violations and human suffering.

Over a thousand Tamil political detainees are still suffering in various prisons. They were arrested under the draconian law – the Prevention of Terrorism Act (PTA) and Emergency Regulations (ERs). The authorities should either institute legal action against them or release without any further undue delay.

Sirs / Mesdames, we welcome the historic agreement (Memorandum of Understanding-MOU) signed between the LTTE and the present Sri Lankan government on 22nd February 2002.

We appeal to the 58th Session of the UN Commission on Human Rights, delegates, participants and the civil society to seriously consider the gross and systematic human rights violations perpetrated against the Tamil people in the island of Sri Lanka, and to actively support the peace process initiated by Norway between the Sri Lankan government and the LTTE, for a durable and genuine solution to the conflict in the island.

The Commission on Human Rights and all other human rights institutions should continue to maintain a close watch on the human rights situation in the island of Sri Lanka.

Thanking you,

S. V. Kirubaharan
General Secretary – TCHR/CTDH

ASSASSINATION OF KUMAR PONNAMBALAM

Presidential guard organised murder of Kumar Ponnambalam

– Sunday Leader

November 11, 2001 - According to the "Sunday Leader" published in Colombo, Sri Lanka, a former member of Sri Lanka's Presidential Security Division found shot dead on 02 November was involved in orchestrating the assassination of human rights defender, Kumar Ponnambalam. The paper also named the assassin as a former Police constable.

The "Sunday Leader" further stated that Baddegana Sanjeewa, found dead in his car on Pagoda road, with six gunshot wounds on November 2, was the architect of the murder of Mr. Ponnambalam, a human rights lawyer and leader of the All Ceylon Tamil Congress. Mr. Ponnambalam was an outspoken critic of President Chandrika Kumaratunga and in the aftermath of his death, his family accused her of ordering the killing.

"On January 4, 2000, Kumar Ponnambalam was shot dead at Ramakrishna Road, Wellawatte. Mcratu Saman and a former police constable named Sunil Ranasinghe carried out the killing on the instructions of Baddegana Sanjeewa", the Sri Lankan broadsheet stated, quoting police sources.

Sanjeewa's career had included being a bodyguard for senior military personnel as well as being a member of Kumaratunga's elite presidential guard.

"Following Kumaratunga's win, Sanjeewa befriended Nihal Karunaratne. The only favour he sought for services rendered during Kumaratunga's election campaign was to be enlisted in the Sri Lanka Police Force. His request was granted and Sanjeewa was accepted as a Reserve Police Constable and assigned to the PSD", the broadsheet stated.

The paper suggested that Sanjeewa was one of Kumaratunga's trusted guards and a close confidante. "Despite his criminal record, President Chandrika Kumaratunga trusted Baddegana Sanjeewa implicitly and was comfortable in having him provide her body protection - confident of his loyalty to her, she felt reasonably safe under his purview," the weekly stated.

Tamil Eelam Archive

The broadsheet also accused the former PSD bodyguard of having links to organised crime rackets. "Backed by political masters, Sanjeewa became a ready and willing tool in a circle of systematic crime", the Sunday Leader said.

The paper alleged that there had been a cover up, protecting Sanjeewa from further investigation. "Even at this stage, the police made every effort to refrain from making public Baddegana Sanjeewa's name as being involved in this murder. Sanjeewa in fact shared a close friendship with SSP Bandula Wickremasinghe, so much so - that on one occasion, when a gang threw hand bombs at a club at Delkanda on September 29, 1999 the cops had captured the getaway car. The vehicle belonged to a friend of Baddegana Sanjeewa's and he personally visited the CDB headquarters on this occasion making a request that the car, be released", the paper stated.

Chandrika's 'bloody' secrets in the house of conspiracy

By The Insider

Among the dozens of political murders that have punctuated Kumaratunga's presidency, the most foul was arguably that of **Kumar Ponnambalam, leader of the All Ceylon Tamil Congress.**

A distinguished lawyer by profession, Ponnambalam was an outspoken champion of the rights of Tamils in Sri Lanka - often invoking the ire of Sinhala nationalists for his extreme views.

Tragically, early on the morning of January 5, 2000, Ponnambalam was lured out of his house by a young man called Shantha, who had befriended him of late. His bullet-riddled body was discovered less than an hour later in Wellawatte, still at the wheel of his Mercedes.

Among the first to condole with his family was Chandrika Bandaranaike Kumaratunga, who had known Ponnambalam well. She expressed shock and grief. She lied.

The 'show' begins

But that is not all, Chandrika Bandaranaike Kumaratunga has known for the past fourteen months. She knew who pulled the trigger of the gun that killed Ponnambalam. She knew who hired the assassin. She knew who masterminded the foul plot. The president has been privy to this information for more than a year now, and she has chosen to sweep it under the carpet.

Whether she did so in order to hide from the public the shameful fact that she hails from a family of murderers, or in order to blackmail the perpetrator, we are yet to find out.

Consider the evidence we provide below and decide for yourself whether Chandrika Kumaratunga is innocent or guilty. Then decide, as parliament soon must, whether she is a fit and proper person to hold the office of President of your motherland.

The damning evidence we publish below has to also be viewed from the backdrop of Kumaratunga's own utterances of crimes allegedly committed by various persons, whom she identifies only when she can no longer use such offences perceived or otherwise to blackmail the doer.

Into this pot of intrigue, throw in S. B. Dissanayake's own allegations that it was Kumaratunga herself who plotted the murder of newspaper editors and the burning of the presses of The Sunday Leader and Ravaya.

Unknown facts

Add to this scenario, Kumaratunga's Tissamaharama doctrine where she egged people on to murder stating there was no harm in murdering a murderer. Then consider the subsequent attempt on S. B. Dissanayake's life by PSD officers in Maturata.

Now, pause a while and read below the report on Kumar Ponnambalam's murder given to President Kumaratunga by then CDB Chief Bandula 'Show' Wickramasinghe at her own request after the top cop briefed her on the case. **A report she did nothing on.** Then consider whether Kumaratunga is fit to be the president of this country.

The Sunday Leader is in possession of **the letter dated September 7, 2000,** addressed to President Kumaratunga by Bandula 'Show' Wickramasinghe, Senior Superintendent of Police and (then) Director of the Colombo Crime Detective Bureau, in addition to other damning evidence, which will be forwarded to the relevant authorities, including the Hague. Here is what the Senior Superintendent wrote to his president:

Report of Senior Superintendent of Police to President Kumaratunga

Bandula Wickramasinghe,
Senior Superintendent of Police,
Director, Colombo Detective Bureau.
No. 50, Gregory's Road, Colombo 7, Sri Lanka.
September 7, 2000

Your Excellency,

Re: Report on Mr. Mahen Ratwatte and Mr. Lohan Ratwatte
Herewith I annex a report on the above subjects, as requested by Your Excellency

Chandrika Bandaranaike Kumaratunga,
Her Excellency the President,
The Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka,
Temple Trees,
Colombo 03.

Annexure

On July 28, 2000 a case of house breaking and theft was reported, the stolen goods were valued at Rs. 1.3 million. The Colombo Detective Bureau sleuths arrested the main suspect Mohammed Thahir and he confessed that he had given a brand new 'Hoover' vacuum cleaner valued at Rs. 20,000 to one Sudath Ranasinghe RPC 12559 attached to the Sri lanka Police Reserve Head Quarters. RFC Ranasinghe was arrested and he too confessed that the stolen vacuum cleaner was given as a gift to Mahen Ratwatte who is employed at George Steuarts. Mahen Ratwatte who is the son of the Honourable Minister of Power and Energy and Deputy Minister of Defence Anurudha Ratwatte. On the statement made by RPC Ranasinghe the vacuum cleaner was recovered from the house of Mahen Ratwatte at Link Homes housing scheme at Madiwela.

On May 21, 2000 the officer in charge of CDB, IP Nuwan Vedasinghe received a call from RPC Ranasinghe and he had stated that the president of the All Ceylon Tamil Congress, Kumar Ponnambalam (Attorney-at-law) was murdered by his henchmen, namely underworld activists Moratuwa Saman and Sujeewa, on the instigation of Mahen Ratwatte. Few weeks prior to the assassination of Ponnambalam, Mahen Ratwatte had told Moratuwa Saman and RPC Ranasinghe in Sinhalese ayi yakko sinhala minissu marannay, puluwannam ara Kumar Ponnambalam jathi wadi wagay thadi demelek marapanko. As per the instigations of Mahen Ratwatte, RPC Ranasinghe master planned the assassination and got friendly with Kumar Ponnambalam, posing as one 'Shantha.'

On January 5, 2000 'Shantha' personally went to the house of Kumar Ponnambalam's around 8.30 in the morning and lured him promising ..... As arranged, Moratuwa Saman and Sujeewa waited for the arrival of Ponnambalam, and the both of them fired five rounds from their pistol. Ponnambalam succumbed to his gunshot injuries. After the assassination, the RPC immediately informed Mahen Ratwatte about the killing.

On May 21, 2000 RPC Ranasinghe contacted OIC CDB, from telephone number 08-223993 which is at the guesthouse belonging to the Petroleum Corporation at No. 15, Dumindu Mawatha, Watapoluwa, Kandy. I too contacted RPC Ranasinghe on the above telephone number and he informed me that the most wanted underworld criminal Dhammika Perera is present at the above guesthouse. RPC Ranasinghe promised to surrender to the CDB, and informed me and the OIC CDB to make him a crown witness. But however, he was prevented from surrendering by Mahen Ratwatte. I contacted Mahen Ratwatte and spoke to him requesting from him to surrender RPC Ranasinghe, but Mahen Ratwatte prevented his appearance and told me 'why are you worried, all the top people know about the assassination.' Though several requests were made to Mahen Ratwatte by me and my OIC IP Nuwan Vedasinghe, RPC Ranasinghe surrendered to the Mount Lavinia courts.

Harbouring of under world criminal Dhammika Perera of Rajagiriya

Besides the information provided by RPC Ranasinghe, my private informants have brought to my notice that Ranasinghe had been harboured by Lohan Ratwatte and Mahen Ratwatte and at present Dhammika is being kept at his mothers home on top of a hill close to Mahiyawwa cemetery, Kandy. It is also common knowledge amongst Kandy residents that Dhammika Perera travels along with Lohan Ratwatte in a tinted four-wheel drive vehicle.

My private informants have also brought to my notice that during the Wayamba elections, Lohan and Mahen Ratwatte had been transporting Dhammika Perera in their Pajero vehicle for their protection.

Dhammika Perera is one of the most wanted under world criminals, wanted for 17 murders:
Bandula Wickramasinghe,
Senior Superintendent of Police, Director, Colombo Detective Bureau.

Astounding. This is an official report from the Director of the CDB to the president of Sri Lanka. He tells her succinctly (a) that Anurudha Ratwatte's son Mahen commissioned two underworld thugs, Sudath Ranasinghe and Moratuwa Saman, to murder Kumar Ponnambalam.

That a third assassin, one Sujeewa, also joined in the killing. That Mahen Ratwatte was harbouring Ranasinghe until he surrendered, in connection with another offence. That Mahen Ratwatte had the audacity to tell the Director of the CDB, **'Why are you worried?** All the top people know about the assassination.' That in addition to everything else, the Ratwatte family is harbouring and consorting with yet another criminal, Dhammika Perera, who is wanted in connection with no less than 17 other murders!

More lies!

Chandrika knew of these facts as long ago as September 2000, but chose to do nothing.

Bandula 'Show' Wickramasinghe came to know Chandrika Kumaratunga intimately in the aftermath of the infamous Mahanama Tillekeratne case. His wrongful arrest of that High Court judge drew a strong rebuke from the Appeal Court, and Wickramasinghe was ordered personally to pay damages of Rs 200,000. In August 2000, Kumaratunga sent for him, no doubt troubled by a rare pang of remorse, and offered to make good the Rs 200,000. This money was gratefully accepted by Wickramasinghe. At their meeting, Kumaratunga was informed of the investigations into the Ponnambalam killing, on being asked by the president who was anxious to know what the police knew. **She was surprised to learn that the police knew the whole story and had all the details.**

At their meeting, Kumaratunga also discussed the issue of Baddegana Sanjeeva, a notorious murderer who served as an elite member of the Presidential Security Division under its infamous head, Nihal Karunaratne.

Time to kill the eds

Karunaratne himself is on record as having, in the euphoric aftermath of the December 1999 presidential election, nonchalantly mentioned to Free Media Movement convenor and Reuters' correspondent in Sri Lanka, Waruna Karunatilake that the editor of **The Sunday Leader newspaper, Lasantha Wickrematunga, was number one on the PSD's hit list,** followed by the editor of the Ravaya newspaper, Victor Ivan. This fact has been widely published and remains uncontradicted by both Kumaratunga and Karunaratne.

Be that as it may, at their meeting at Temple Trees, Kumaratunga asked 'Show' Wickramasinghe what he knew of Sanjeeva's doings. Assuming that the president was ignorant of the facts, **the CDB Director went on to catalogue a list of assassinations the hired killer had undertaken in support of Kumaratunga's own administration,** including that of Satana Editor, Rohana Kumar. Wringing her hands in mock dismay, the president cried in Sinhala words to the effect, "Aiyo! Now I will have to send him also abroad!" Her despair however, was faked.

The CDB head, knowing that further procrastination was futile, prepared the report immediately and personally delivered it under 'Secret' cover to the president's private secretary, Sarath Gonagala. The report was typed by one Dulip Samarasekera and SSP Wickramasinghe went with IP Vedasinghe to hand over the report. It was just what she needed. The Sunday Leader is also in possession of documentary evidence that Wickramasinghe's report was in fact handed over to Kumaratunga.

An accessory

And for the past 14 months, Kumaratunga has known who killed Ponnambalam and chosen to keep the incriminating evidence in her pocket. Why? Because murder no longer horrifies her. It has become commonplace in her administration. In the run up to the December 5, general election, a team of assassins from Kumaratunga's own Presidential Security Division attempted to murder the defected former minister, S. B. Dissanayake. They failed, and several of the assailants were arrested. Not one word of condemnation from our worthy President. No call for an inquiry. Instead, she was to personally call the Maturata Police and call for the handing over of the assassins to PSD Chief Karunaratne.

There is ample evidence now to prove that Kumaratunga was an accessory (after the crime, at least) to the murder of Kumar Ponnambalam. In any event, there is no doubt that following her conversation with Wickramasinghe and receipt of his report, she knew who killed Kumar Ponnambalam and of the complicity of her cousin, Mahen Ratwatte.

Section 21(a) of the Code of Criminal Procedure is crystal clear on this subject: "Every person aware of the commission or the intention of any other person to commit any offence punishable under the following sections of the Penal Code, namely. 296 [murder and], 297 [culpable homicide]. shall in the absence of reasonable excuse-the burden of proving which shall lie upon the person so aware-forthwith give information to the nearest Magistrate's Court or to the officer in charge of the nearest police station." Kumaratunga manifestly failed to do this.

What is more, Section 199 of the Penal Code states, "Whoever knowing, or having reason to believe that an offence has been committed, intentionally omits to give any information which he is legally bound to give, shall be punished with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to six months, or with fine, or with both." Section 209 of the Penal Code goes further: "Whenever an offence has been committed, whoever harbours, conceals, assists, or maintains a person whom he knows or has reason to believe to be the offender, with the intention of screening him from legal punishment, shall, if the offence is punishable with death, be punished with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to five years, and shall also be liable to fine."

On the wrong side

What is more, Kumar Ponnambalam's cellular phone was found following information given by Ranasinghe from a marsh behind the BMICH and it was formally identified by Ponnambalam's son Gajendra who is today a MP. What is more, records of numerous telephone conversations between the assassins and the Ratwatte brothers are on file. **(excerpts – "The Sunday Leader" – 23 December 2001)**

Kumaratunga cornered in Ponnambalam murder

Evidence that President Chandrika Kumaratunga knew the identities of the murderers of All Ceylon Tamil Congress Leader Kumar Ponnambalam for the past several months mounted last week when an inspector of police, Nuwan Vedasinghe, swore on oath that he helped type the damning report that informed the president of the background of the killings as far back as September 2000.

By The Insider

Although Ponnambalam, despite several attempts, was never elected to office in any capacity, he continued to be a thorn in the flesh for the Kumaratunga establishment, the outspoken enfant terrible of the Tamil cause. The provocative outspokenness of this advocate of the Tamil cause however, was clearly too much for Kumaratunga."

Why it was her cousin, Anuruddha Ratwatte's son Mahen, who organised Ponnambalam's murder is a mystery. The ACTC leader could not possibly have wronged Ratwatte Junior. No doubt Ponnambalam's numerous provocative and belittling utterances critical of Kumaratunga served to irk the president. And even as **Kumaratunga is known glibly to use her license to kill,** as her Tissamaharama Doctrine exemplifies, it would surely be testing the public's credulity to think it possible that mere banter by Ponnambalam could have caused her to wish him dead. Or would it?

Just days prior to his murder, Kumaratunga no less was on national television launching a blistering attack on Ponnambalam by innuendo. Days before that verbal attack, Ponnambalam himself wrote an article, launching a scathing attack on the president. The president's television address was on January 2, 2000. Kumar was murdered three days later, on January 5.

An official report from the Director of the CDB to the President of Sri Lanka dated September 7, 2000 informs Her Excellency succinctly that **Anuruddha Ratwatte's son Mahen commissioned two underworld thugs, a reserve Police constable Sudath Ranasinghe and Moratu Saman, to murder Kumar Ponnambalam.** A third assassin, one Sujeewa, also joined in the killing. It went on to say that Mahen Ratwatte was harbouring Ranasinghe until he surrendered, in connection with another offence; that when questioned, Mahen Ratwatte had the audacity to tell the Director of the CDB, 'Why are you worried? All the top people know about the assassination'; and that in addition to everything else, the Ratwatte family is harbouring and consorting with yet another criminal, Dhammika Perera, who is wanted in connection with no less than 17 other murders!

As for the Murder of Rohana Kumara, and the two abortive attempts on the life of the editor of The Sunday Leader, the police and Kumaratunga have been aware at least since September 2000 that they were committed by the notorious underworld criminal, Baddegana Sanjeeva, whom Kumaratunga knowingly retained in her Security Division and upon whose murder she sent a wreath of flowers condoling his demise.

In fact, SSP Wickramasinghe in his affidavit reveals, upon the president being told of Baddegana Sanjeeva's involvement in Rohana Kumara's murder, she had allegedly said Sanjeeva must be sent abroad.

Despite Kumaratunga's denial, another police officer, Nuwan Vedasinghe, has now stated under oath that he helped type Bandula Wickramasinghe's report to the president dated September 7, 2000, and also that he and Wickramasinghe went jointly and handed it to Temple Trees. What is more, he has named a third person, a computer expert named Duleep Samarasinghe, who helped type the document. It is now Kumaratunga's word against that of three others, none of whom has an axe to grind in this affair. Furthermore, he corroborates SSP Wickramasinghe on the damning evidence contained in the September 7 report as well as Wickramasinghe's affidavit stating he himself as the officer investigating the murder passed on the information to the CDB Director. And the report of September 7 and the affidavits don't stand in isolation.

Apart from more evidence to follow, telephone records, computer records, diary entries, etc. will also show whether Wickramasinghe in fact prepared a report, visited Temple Trees, spoke with DIG T. V. Sumanasekera and Sarath Gonagala at the relevant time, just for starters.

While the constitution bestows immunity from legal action on the president, it does not give her immunity from investigation. The police must investigate the murders in which she has been implicated, albeit post facto, and the government must act on their findings. It simply will not do for Sri Lanka to have a president whose hands are stained with covering up murder at the best and plotting it at the worst.

Inspector of Police Jayantha Vedasinghe's affidavit

*I **Keerthi Nuwan Jayantha Vedasinghe, Inspector of Police,** Police station Ampara, being a Buddhist do hereby solemnly sincerely and truly declare and state as follows :*

1. *I am a the affirmant above named.*
2. *I am an Inspector of Police and currently function as the Personal Assistant to the Senior Superintendent of Police Ampara Division.*
3. *I was appointed as the officer-in-charge of the Colombo Detective Bureau in 1994. I functioned as the officer-in-charge until November 2000.*
4. *My superior officer from November 1998, while I was OIC of the Colombo Detective Bureau was Senior Superintendent of Police Mr. Bandula Wickramasinghe.*
5. *In late August 2000, Mr. Bandula Wickramasinghe my senior superintendent informed me that he was required to meet HE the President and was going to Temple Trees for that purpose.*
6. *I state that Mr. Bandula Wickramasinghe informed me that he could not meet HE the President that day and was required to meet her the next day at Temple Trees.*
7. *I state that after returning from Temple Trees on the second occasion Mr. Bandula Wickramasinghe informed me that he met HE the President and during the meeting **had informed HE the President information regarding the activities of Minister Anuruddha Ratwatte's sons, the Kumar Ponnambalam murder and doings of Baddegana Sanjeewa.** I state that Mr. Bandula Wickramasinghe informed me that after listening to him HE the President had required Mr. Bandula Wickramasinghe to forward a report on the information that had been given by him regarding Minister Ratwatte's sons to HE the President.*
8. *I state that later Mr. Bandula Wickramasinghe informed me to find a responsible and reliable person to type the said report since HE the President had wanted the report prepared secretly and confidentially.*
9. *I state that thereafter I contacted Mr. Duleep Samarasinghe whom I knew was an expert in computers as well as a reliable and confidential person and asked him to come to the CDB Headquarters.*
10. *I state that Mr. Duleep Samarasinghe came to my office and both of us assisted Mr. Bandula Wickramasinghe to prepare a report addressed to HE the President.*
11. *I state that I can identify the said report that was prepared by Mr. Bandula Wickramasinghe, Mr. Duleep Samarasinghe and myself and annex to this Affidavit a copy of the said report, which has been signed in every page by me by way of authentication (Annexure A). I state that annexure A is a copy of the very same report referred to above.*
12. ***I state that I accompanied Mr. Bandula Wickramasinghe to Temple Trees to hand over the said report prepared by us. I state that after calling one Mr. Gonagala on Mr. Wickramasinghe's mobile phone, Mr. Bandula Wickramasinghe went up to the gate of Temple Tress and handed over the report to a person. Thereafter, we returned to CDB Headquarters.***
13. *I state that matters stated by Mr. Bandula Wickramasinghe in his report are on facts reported to him by me consequent to investigations conducted under my supervision. Further state that the informant was instructed by me to give all information to Mr. Bandula Wickramasinghe. I knew that the informant had given all information to Mr. Bandula Wickramasinghe over the telephone in this regard.* ***(excerpts - The Sunday Leader – 30 December 2001)***

We suspect the PA government

Those who thought that the leader of the All Ceylon Tamil Congress (ACTC) Kumar Ponnambalam's legacy could be wiped out after his brutal assassination are in for a surprise. **Kumar Ponnambalam may not be living to name his killers, but his son Gajendrakumar Gangaser Ponnambalam is here to bring the culprits who killed his father to book.** Young and dynamic, Gajen, as he is known, has vowed to write to the Attorney General to intervene in this matter. Having contested the December 5 election, Gajen, 27, entered parliament. A criminal lawyer himself, Gajen says the report that was submitted to President Kumaratunga by the CDB Chief Bandula Wickramasinghe was politically motivated. He says his father's killing was a motivating factor for him to enter politics though he never wanted to do so. He is committed towards taking his father's policy forward.

Following are excerpts of Gajen's interview with The Sunday Leader.

Q: The murder of your father is once again in the news following the publication of a report submitted by the then Director of Crime Detective Bureau Bandula Wickramasinghe to President Chandrika Kumaratunga as far back as September 2000 in which details of the assassination as well as those responsible for your father's killing have all been highlighted. What action do you intend taking on this report?

A: Personally I am considering writing to the honourable Attorney General (AG) through my family lawyers. That is a step that I am quite sure of taking in the near future. As far as taking it up at a political level, the party of course has not decided. Therefore, I cannot say whether we will take this matter at a political level or not. I am not sure about this. But I will certainly be writing to the AG and asking him to intervene in this matter.

Q: It was also reported that you had identified your father's cellular phone discovered by the police in a marshland behind the BMICH. Is it correct?

A: It is correct. But the circumstances that surround the identification of the phone are suspicious. Bandula Wickramasinghe called me and told me the police had recovered this phone and asked me whether it belonged to my father. I was asked to come to the CDB (Crime Detective Bureau) to identify a phone, which they had recovered, which was supposedly recovered on the instructions given by a suspect in this case. But my understanding is that the phone was recovered before the suspect was taken into police custody. I was told that the information was received from a suspect who had called the CDB and confessed.

Personally my problems with regard to the CDB's actions is that I feel it is terribly politically motivated. Even Bandula Wickramasinghe was asked to take over the investigations, I think the day after my father's killing, he made it very clear to us. He asked us whom we suspected and the family stated that we suspected the government. He made it very clear to us that the president appointed him and that he will prove through his investigations that neither the president nor the government had any involvement in the killing of my father.

In fact, my association with Bandula Wickramasinghe in my father's killing has clearly shown me that his involvement was purely political and he was merely a political instrument. This report that he had purportedly given to the president does not mention a word about government members. He is only talking of the instruments that these people used in killing my father. Now the three suspects and the son of a former minister who have been mentioned in the letter are only instruments. You see, they only carried out the act. The people behind it have not been exposed. So it is only half the story or I would say it is less than half. There is yet more to come and it will come.

Q: What action have you all taken prior to this development relating to Bandula Wickramasinghe's report to bring the murderers to book and subsequent to the report being given to the president, did the president communicate with either you or your mother on what action is being taken?
A: Definitely not with me or any of my family members. And to the best of my knowledge not even with any of the members of the ACTC. As to what steps we took prior to this development, naturally the sole member of the ACTC who was in parliament last year, Vinayagamoorthy made several speeches in parliament that also included my father's assassination. Vinayagamoorthy had specifically made comments regarding my father's assassination. He even stated in parliament that it was a cover up. Even we (the family) think it is a cover up. The initial blame was placed on the LTTE. But when the government found that the people were not going to believe this, the government put the blame on some other militant groups. When the government realised that even this would not work, they put the blame on some of the underworld gang members saying that these individuals had been annoyed because my father had taken a pro-LTTE stand. Even now, all these reports indicate that Bandula Wickramasinghe has been instrumental or has been party with the president in trying to keep the blame away from the government. This is a report to basically show that the government is not directly involved, as opposed to the true picture. So my personal feeling is that this is just a cover up. **(excerpts, "The Sunday Leader" – 30 December 2001)**

ACTC wants debate on Kumar

The All Ceylon Tamil Congress will this week write to Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe requesting a parliamentary debate on the murder of former party leader Kumar Ponnambalam. Ponnambalam was murdered on January 5, 2000 and the family of the late Tamil Congress leader has accused the former Peoples Alliance government of masterminding the murder.

New evidence reveals that Mahen Ratwatte, son of former Deputy Defence Minister Anuruddha Ratwatte ordered the killing and that President Chandrika Kumaratunga was informed of the details in September 2000 by Crime Detective Bureau Chief, SSP Bandula Wickramasinghe but chose not to act on it.

Jaffna District MP, Gajan Ponnambalam, son of the former Tamil Congress leader confirmed to The Sunday Leader that his party would be requesting for the debate in parliament. "There are bigger people than Mahen Ratwatte involved and we want to get to the bottom of it," he said. **(The Sunday Leader – 13 January 2002)**

RIGHT TO SELF DETERMINAION

In a nutshell

(The history, negotiations, abrogation of pacts, military operations, etc)

Severe Aerial bombing, artillery shelling by various governments in the island of Sri Lanka have caused massive human disaster and property damage in the Tamil homeland)

Tamil Centre for Human Rights – TCHR **Email : tchrgs@hotmail.com / tchrdip@hotmail.com**

1505 The **Portuguese** arrived in Ceylon during the existence of three sovereign kingdoms, one Tamil Kingdom in Jaffna, and two Sinhala Kingdoms in Kotte and Kandy.

The island was divided into three kingdoms, a Tamil kingdom in the North East, the Kandy kingdom of the highlands and the Kotte kingdom situated in the South.

1619 Tamil sovereignty ended in June when the **Portuguese defeated the Tamil King**, and the Jaffna Kingdom became a Colony of the Portuguese.

1658 **The Dutch** arrived in Ceylon and the Jaffna Kingdom became a Dutch Colony.

1795 **The British** arrived in Ceylon and the Jaffna Kingdom became a British Colony.

1802 Ceylon became a British Crown Colony.

1833 For the first time in over 2,500 years of its recorded history, **the entire island of Ceylon was brought under a single administration** based on the recommendations of the **Colebrook-Cameron Report.**

1862 Tamils from Southern India were brought as labourers to work in the tea plantations in the hill country by the British. During the same period Tamil labourers from South India were taken to work in the sugar cane plantations in South Africa, Mauritius and in many other British colonies.

1885 Sir Ponnambalam Ramanathan – Tamil leader called for increased representation in Legislative council for Tamils.

1915 In June, Sinhala Buddhist-Muslim riots in Ceylon. Riots spread from the central province to the western and northwestern provinces.

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There were heavy casualties amongst the Muslims. According to available records, 36 Muslims were killed and 205 Muslims were injured and raped. Nearly 85 mosques were damaged and more than 4,075 Muslim-owned shops were looted by the Sinhala rioters.

1919 The Ceylon National Congress (CNC), the first full-fledged "Nationalist" political party was formed by a celebrated Tamil, Sir Ponnambalam Arunachalam.

1921 Sir Ponnambalam Arunachalam **quitted the CNC, denouncing it as a party** representing mainly a section of the Sinhalese.

1927-1931 Sir Ponnambalam Ramanathan and Sir Ponnambalam Arunachalam **had talks** with Sinhala leaders when the **Donoughmore Commission** announced its recommendations in 1927. The **talks ended in a failure** as the Sinhala leaders ignored the aspirations of the Tamils.

1944 The first Tamil political party, "All Ceylon Tamil Congress-ACTC" was founded by G. G. Ponnambalam to champion the cause of the Tamils against Sinhala Buddhist domination.

1947 The United National Party (UNP) was formed.

The first constitution of Ceylon was adopted by an Order in Council rather than by a Constituent Assembly. It was known as the (Lord) **"Soulbury Constitution"** which remained in force until 1972.

1948 The British left Ceylon – independence was granted to "Ceylon" and the power to govern Ceylon was handed over to the Sinhalese who were numerically superior.

After the stringent 15 November **1948 Citizenship Act** and the laws of disenfranchisement were enacted and adopted, the Tamils of Indian origin Tamils in the hill country (plantation Tamils) were deprived of selecting their representatives to the Parliament. **More than a million plantation Tamil workers were rendered stateless.**

1948-1950 The Government launched massive **Sinhala colonisation** schemes in the Eastern province. Gal oya in Batticaloa, Allai and Kathalai in Trincomalee were colonised under pretexts of development.

1949 Dissension with the "Tamil Congress" party led to the formation of the **"Tamil Federal Party" (FP)** under the leadership of S. J. V. Chelvanayagam.

1951 The first convention of the Federal Party was held and it was unanimously decided to campaign for a federal structure of governance with regional autonomy for Tamils living in North and East.

S.W.R.D. Bandaranaike broke away from UNP and forms the Sri Lanka Freedom Party (SLFP).

1956 The United National Party-UNP was ousted from power in the general elections by the Sri Lanka Freedom Party (SLFP), which swept the island with a wave of Sinhalese-Buddhist nationalism with strong anti-Tamil overtones.

On 14 June S. W. R. D. Bandaranayake **father of President Chandrika Kumaratunga** proclaimed the **"Sinhala Only Act"** which made the Sinhala language the only official language of Ceylon.

The peaceful Satyagraha campaign staged by the Tamils to protest against the "Sinhala Only Act" at the Galle Face Green, in front of the Parliament in Colombo was brutally savaged by Sinhalese thugs with the connivance of government. The outbreak of **first anti-Tamil riots** in the island. More than 150 Tamils were burnt or hacked to death and million rupees worth of properties belonging to Tamils were looted and destroyed.

1957 Soon after the "Sinhala Only Act" was passed in Parliament, **talks** were initiated between the Prime Minister S.W.R.D. Bandaranaike and the Federal Party leader S. J. V. Chelvanayagam.

On 26 July an agreement known as **"Banda Chelva" pact was signed** between Bandaranayake and Chevanayagam. This agreement was based on a quasi federal system devolving certain powers to the Tamils in the North East provinces.

Within a week of signing the **"Banda-Chelva" pact, it was unilaterally abrogated** by the Prime Minister Bandaranaike due to vehement protests staged by the UNP, Buddhist clergy and SLFP. J R Jeyawardena of United National Party-UNP undertook a march to Kandy in protest against this pact.

1958 **Anti-Tamil pogrom** broke out in the island. Many Tamils were massacred and million of rupees worth of properties belonging to the Tamils were looted and destroyed.

On 25 May, in the government sugar-cane plantation at Polonnaruwa and Hingurakgoda, the Sinhala thugs assaulted the Tamil labourers remorselessly. The Sinhala thugs set fire to the sugar canes and burnt or hacked to death 500 Tamils in Polonnaruwa and Hingurakgoda. Violence spread to the Southern part of the island wherever the Tamils live.

1959 The Prime Minister S. W. R. D. Bandaranaike **was assassinated by a Buddhist** monk.

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1960 Mrs. Srimavo Bandaranaike, widow of S.W.R.D. Bandaranaike and **mother of President Chandrika Kumaratunge,** swore in as the Prime Minister.

1961 A non-violent civil disobedience **campaign** was launched by the Federal Party.

The government reacted violently by sending Police and military forces to Jaffna to suppress the agitation. Anti-Tamil pogrom broke out in areas where Sinhalese were in a majority, killing hundreds of Tamils and rendering thousands homeless.

1964 The Srimavo-Shashtri pact was signed for the **repatriation of the Tamil people of Indian origin** to whom citizenship was denied and disenfranchised through the 1948 Citizenship Act. They lived in the island for over 115 years.

1965 Dudley Senanayake leader of the UNP formed the government with the **help of the Federal Party** and other parties.

Talks were held between the Prime Minister Dudley Senanayake and S. J. V. Chelvanayagam.

On 24 March, an **agreement** known as **"Dudley-Chelva"** Pact was signed between Dudley Senanayake and S. J. V. Chelvanayagam.

The agreement was abandoned without being implemented due to opposition from the SLFP, the Buddhist clergy, and UNP backbenchers.

1967 The Janata Vimukthi Peramuna (JVP-People's Liberation Front) was formed.

1970 Mrs Bandaranaike became the Prime Minister, as the United Front (a coalition of SLFP and other Sinhala leftist parties) gained a **two-third majority in the Parliament.**

1971 Armed revolution by the Janata Vimukthi Peramuna was suppressed by Srimavoa Bandaranayke. Thousands of Sinhala JVP youths were killed.

Talks were held between various Tamils leaders and Srimavo Bandaranayake on constitutional amendments. **No agreement was reached** but the Sinhala leaders went ahead undeterred with their republican constitution amending the minimum safeguards granted to Tamils by the earlier constitution.

1972 Ceylon became a "Republic" on 22 May and Ceylon was officially renamed as the **"Republic of SRI LANKA"**

The United Front government enacted a Sinhala-Supremacist **"Republican Constitution"** for the country, which made Buddhism the state religion.

Formation of Tamil United Front (TUF) comprising Federal Party led by, S. J. V. Chelvanayagam, Tamil Congress (TC) led by GG Ponnambalam, and Ceylon Workers Congress (CWC) led by Savariamoorthy Thondaman.

State discrimination against Tamil students' admission to Universities reached the peak with the introduction of **"Standardisation"**. University admission based on merit was abandoned deliberately to stop Tamil students entering Universities.

A youth group comprising self-sacrificing and disciplined youths named **Tamil New Tigers (TNT)** was formed by Mr. V. Pirabaharan to fight for the right to self-determination of the Tamils in the North East.

1974 On 10 January, Sinhalese Police unleashed an unprovoked violent attack on those attending the prestigious **"4th Tamil Research Conference"** in Jaffna, leaving **nine innocent civilians dead.**

1975 On 5 May the Tamil New Tigers -TNT was renamed as **Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam – LTTE.** Mr. V. Pirabaharan was named the Chairman and military commander of the LTTE.

1976 On 14 May, the Tamil United Front -TUF was renamed as Tamil United Liberation Front-TULF. The TULF passed the **"Vaddukkoddai resolution" (Page 27)** pledging to restore a free, sovereign, secular, socialist state of Tamil Eelam based on the right to self-determination, and also to safeguard the very existence of the Tamil nation in the island.

1977 In July, Tamil United Liberation Front-TULF, contested and won overwhelmingly at the Parliamentary election giving them a mandate to establish the "Right to Self-determination" of Tamil Eelam in the North East. J. R. Jeyewardena of UNP became the Prime Minister, with a five-sixth majority in the Parliament. The TULF became the major opposition party in the parliament.

Talks took place between Prime Minister J.R. Jayawardena and the Tamil United Liberation Front. No agreement was reached. **Anti-Tamil pogrom** occurred immediately after elections in the areas where Sinhalese were in the majority killing hundreds of Tamils.

1978 **A New Constitution** was enacted and J.R. Jeyawardena became **first Executive President** of the country. The phrase "Republic of Sri Lanka" was rephrased as **"Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka"**

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Sri Lankan security forces started perpetrating their dreadful atrocities against Tamil youths. Counter activities of Tamil militant organisations were also on the increase.

1979 The government enacted the draconian **Prevention of Terrorism Act (PTA),** banning the Tamil militant organisations. On 11 July, the Jaffna peninsula was brought effectively **under martial law** under Public Security ordinance. **Anti-Tamil pogrom** broke out in the island. Many Tamils were killed and properties belonging to Tamils were looted and destroyed.

1980 Several Tamil youths were arbitrarily killed by the Sri Lankan security forces, Police and Army.

1981 In June, another **anti-Tamil pogrom** was unleashed. Increased military repression in the North. **The Jaffna Public Library was burnt down** by the Sri Lankan armed forces, allegedly under the direction of two senior government ministers, Gamini Dissanayake and Cyril Matthew. **95,000 volumes** of books including numerous culturally important and irreplaceable manuscripts and the buildings were totally destroyed by arson. The Jaffna city market, the office of the Tamils daily newspaper "Eelanadu", the office of the political party TULF, etc were burnt down by the Sri Lanka security forces.

An anti-Tamil pogrom broke out in the island. Many Tamils were killed and looting of the Tamils properties were widespread.

1982 Government sponsored a **Sinhala settlement** in the Tamil populated Mullaitivu.

1983 **Major anti-Tamil pogrom** took place in July all over the island with the buoyed up support of the government. During the four days riots, more than **6,000 Tamils were killed and over 250,000 were rendered refugees.** Thousands of Tamils fled the country and went to India and to Western countries. Billions rupees worth of Tamils properties was looted and destroyed by the Sinhala rioters.

Between 27-28 July, **fifty-three Tamil political prisoners were massacred** inside the walls of the Welikadai prison in Colombo by the Sinhala inmates. The government masterminded this massacre and the Sinhala attackers were released from the prison and were rewarded with houses and properties in the Sinhala settlements in the Tamil homeland.

Hundreds of youths joined the LTTE movement and the TULF Members of Parliament sought asylum in India.

J. R. Jeyawardena's government enacts **the 6th amendment** to the constitution and rejected the right to self-determination of the Tamil people in the island **on 8th August.** This amendment outlawed the mandate voted by the Tamils in 1977 general election. The Sixth amendment and the Prevention of Terrorism Act in 1979 along with the Emergency Law provisions became the instruments through which repression was unleashed on the Tamil people.

1984 At the beginning of **EELAM WAR-I.** Tamils living in the North East were lynched, arrested, tortured and killed. Women and many men disappeared. Sri Lankan Air Force bombers dropped lethal **napalm bombs** in residential areas causing severe loss and damage to the Tamil people and to their properties.

1985 **Talks** mediated by India took place in Thimbu, the capital of Bhutan, between the LTTE including other Tamil parties and the J. R. Jeyawardena's government. Two rounds of direct negotiations were held in July-August and on 17th September.

All Tamil parties worked out four cardinal principles as the basis for the negotiation, which are today known as the **"Thimpu principles". (Page 26).** The Sri Lankan government's reluctance to devolve powers and its refusal to recognise the Thimbu principles as the basis for the talk resulted in the abrupt premature termination of the negotiation. **No agreement was reached.**

1985-1987 State repression and counter attacks intensified in the North East resulting in all-out war between the Sri Lankan state and the LTTE. LTTE effectively **took control of the Jaffna peninsula** and other Northern areas.

Thousands of Tamils were killed as fighting turned brutal. Non-combatants were systematically targeted by the Sri Lanka Police, Army, Navy, Air force and Special Task Force-STF.

1986 In November, **talks** between the LTTE representatives and President J. R. Jeyawardena took place through the mediation of the Indian Prime minister in Bangalore, India.

LTTE Leader Pirabaharan and advisor Dr. Anton Balasingham participated in the talk.

Talks ended in a failure. J. R. Jeyawardena refused to recognise the right to self-determination and the homeland of the Tamils.

1987 An economic embargo was imposed by the Sri Lankan government on the Jaffna peninsula. Sri Lankan government launched a military operation named "Operation Liberation" to recapture the Jaffna peninsula. Sri Lanka's two army brigades launched an offensive in the early hours on the 26th May in Vadamarachchi. The operation continued for five days.

தமிழீழ ஆவணகம்
Tamileelam Archive

On the 29th July 1987, a peace accord known as **"Indo-Lanka"** pact was signed between Sri Lanka and India. Even though this accord purported to bring an end to the island's ethnic crisis, it was signed by India and Sri Lanka without any consultation with LTTE and the Tamils of the North East of the Island.

Tens of thousands of Indian troops known as "Indian Peace Keeping Force" (IPKF) arrived in North East. Later this force was named by the Tamils and civil society as the "Innocent Public Killing Force" (IPKF).

The Sinhala nationalist Janatha Vimukthi Permuna (JVP) vigorously opposed the "Indo-Lanka" pact.

The LTTE's first public meeting was held in Suthumalai on 4 August 1987. The LTTE Leader Mr. Pirabaharan's speech in this meeting became known as the **"Suthumalai Declaration" (Page 25).**

On 5th August, the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam -LTTE and other militant groups **surrendered their arms to the Indian army.**

On 3rd October, seventeen LTTE members, including two leaders, were intercepted at sea near the coastal waters of Point Pedro, by the Sri Lankan Navy and were held at the Pallaly military base. This was a violation of the cease-fire as an amnesty had been given to the militant groups in the "Indo-Lanka" accord. When the Sri Lanka army attempted to forcibly transport them by air to Colombo, all seventeen simultaneously bit cyanide capsules. Twelve died on the spot and five survived.

On 10th October, the Indian Peace Keeping Force-IPKF which came to maintain peace in the North East, started attacking the Tamils in the North East killing more than six thousand (6000) civilians, torturing, raping innumerable women, looting billions of rupees worth of jewellery. Fighting started between the IPKF and the LTTE.

1988 The leader of the United Socialist Alliance (USA), Vijaya Kumaratunge, **husband of President Chandrika Kumaratunga,** was assassinated allegedly by the members of Janath Vimukthi Peramuna-JVP. Ironically JVP are present allies of President Chandrika. Ranasinghe Premadasa of the United National Party won the Presidential election.

1989 **Talks** between the LTTE the President Premadasa took place in Colombo. LTTE's chief negotiator Dr. Anton Balasingham, Mrs Adel Balasingham and many other LTTE high-level leaders took part in the talks.

While in negotiation with the LTTE, Sri Lanka President Premadasa demanded the Indian government to withdraw the Indian troops from Sri Lanka. The Up-rising of Janatha Vimukthi Perumuna (JVP) was suppressed by the government and the JVP leader, Rohana Wijeweera and many others were killed.

The LTTE formed a political party and named it as People Front of the Liberation Tigers (PFLT). The LTTE was preparing to participate in the Elections to demonstrate the peoples' support to the LTTE.

12 August, the PFLT representative attended the All Party Conference as an "Observer". Twenty six political parties participated in this conference in Colombo.

1990 **In March, the IPKF withdrew from the island of Sri Lanka.**

As soon as the Indian Army left the island, **President Premadasa started changing his tactics** and kept on dragging on the issues negotiated with the LTTE. For example LTTE participation in an election to demonstrate the support of the people was systematically avoided. Premadasa was preparing for a military victory over the LTTE. **Talks ended in a failure.**

At the beginning of **EELAM WAR – II.** Hostilities broke out again between the Sri Lankan forces and the LTTE. Economic blockade was imposed causing severe shortage of food and medicine in the North.

On the 10th September, 185 Tamil civilians were butchered by the Sri Lankan army at the Saththurukondan Army camp in the Batticaloa district. Tamils from Saththurukondan, Panichchaiyady, Kokkuvil, Pillaiyaraddy were the victims of the massacre.

1991 Tamils in the North East were subjected to arbitrary arrest, detention, torture, rape, summary executions and massacres. Properties of the Tamils worth million of rupees were destroyed in aerial bombardments and artillery shelling. Military operation **'JAYASHAKTI'** was launched to expand the Pallaly army camp and the airfield. In **September,** military operation code named **'SEA BREEZE'** was launched in Mullaithivu.

Military operation **'THRIVIDHA BALAYA'** was launched during the operation on the old Dutch Fort in the heart of Jaffna town. The military operation **'BALAVEGAYA - I'** was the largest military operation conducted at that time. **'AKUNUPAHARA'** was launched in the Niththikaikulam area and military operation **'BALAVEGAYA - II'** was launched in the Jaffna peninsula.
On 12th June, 82 Tamils were massacred in the village of Kokaddicholai, Mahiladi Theevu and Muthalai Kuddah in the Batticaloa district. More than 400 houses were looted and burnt by the Sri Lanka army

1992 On 9th August, 32 Tamils were killed in the village of Mailanthannai in Batticaloa district. Most of the victims were hacked to death by the Sri Lanka army.

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1993 President Premadasa was killed in a bomb explosion at a May Day rally in Colombo. The then Prime Minister D.B. Wijetunge assumed Presidency. The then cabinet minister Ranil Wickremasinghe became the Prime Minister.

1994 The People's Alliance led by Chandrika Kumaratunge won the Parliamentary elections with the pledge to "end the war and bring peace". **The LTTE unilaterally announced a temporary ceasefire** to welcome the change of government.

Talks between the LTTE and the PA government led by President Chandrika Kumaratunga commenced in Jaffna. Kumaratunge won the Presidential election. LTTE chief negotiator Dr. Anton Balasingham, and many other LTTE high-level leaders participated in the talks.

1995 On 5 January, the Government of Sri Lanka **(President Chandrika)** and the LTTE **(Leader V. Pirabahakaran) signed an agreement for cessation of hostilities.** The Government announced lifting of the economic embargo on some items **only on paper**, but the embargo continued. Later Chandrika government argued that there was no such thing as an economic embargo in the Tamil region. This was considered by civil society and the international humanitarian organisations as an "Utter lie with hidden agenda".

The PA was not at all interested in a negotiated political settlement to the bloody ethnic conflict. The PA government was preparing for a military assault on the LTTE. In order to buy time they were sending non-governmental officials for talks with LTTE and were dragging on the promise to lift the economic embargo.

The LTTE gave a two-week ultimatum in March to the government to implement what they had promised to the civilians. This ultimatum was later extended by another three weeks until April 19th. **Talks ended in failure.**
Government launched a major offensive in July in several parts of the Jaffna peninsula after imposing a press censorship. This was the beginning of **EELAM WAR-III.**

On the 9th July, military operation **'OPERATION LEAP FORWARD'** was launched from Pallaly, Tellipallai and Mathagal towards Alaveddy, Sandilipay and Vaddukoddai.

On the same day, St. Peters church at Navaly which was functioning as a temporary refugee camp for displaced people from the battle zone was bombed by Sri Lankan Air force killing 165 civilians, including many women and children.

On the 1st October, military operation **'THUNDER'** was launched in Vasavillan, Pathameni, Atchuveli and Puttur.

On the 22nd September, Sri Lankan Air force bombed a school at Nagarkovil in Vadamaradchi, killing 25 school children among the 71 killed on the spot.

On 17th October military operation **'RIVIRESA-I'** was launched in the Valikamam area of the Jaffna peninsula. Most of the people had fled Valikamam during this military operation. The Sri Lanka army captured Valigamam and Jaffna city and this resulted in more than 500,000 civilians fleeing to LTTE controlled Vadamaradchi, Thenmaradchi divisions of the peninsula and to Vanni. On the 30th October, Jaffna remained a "ghost town" sans people.

1995 On the morning of 15th November, the **NGO Forum took place at Bentota Beach Hotel,** in Bentota, in the South of Sri Lanka. Both foreign and local NGO representatives participated in this forum, which was designed to improve cooperation between local and international NGOs in the effort to promote equitable development. The forum meeting was disrupted by anti-NGO demonstrators.
Three journalists were nearly hammered to death by members of the crowd, which congregated outside the Bentota hotel! They smashed a car and attempted to throw a journalist into the river. The police authorities made no effort to prevent the assault or to rescue the victims. It was alleged that certain government politicians were behind the anti-NGO demonstration. The organisers of the NGO forum decided to shift the venue to the capital, Colombo.

On 16th November, the NGO Forum re-convened in the **morning** at a conference hall in **Ratmalana,** a suburb south of Colombo. The conference attendees, several of whom had been questioned by police officers at their hotel the previous night, once again became nervous. Just as the Forum was beginning its work, police officers arrived to "request" the Forum to suspend its proceedings, claiming that the meeting was illegal! The meeting was dissolved and all attendees dispersed.

In the **afternoon** of the 16th November, the Forum's international Core Group and the Sri Lanka Working Group convened an emergency meeting at an NGO's office in Colombo to discuss their concerns regarding the disrupting of the NGO Forum in two different locations. Unfortunately this meeting, too, was disrupted when an angry crowd, made aware of the venue by radio news broadcast, converged on the site. It was evident that the discussions could not continue there either.

1996 Human rights violations by the army, including rape and disappearances increased in the Jaffna peninsula. This fact was brought to light by the revelation made of the rape and murder of Krishanthy Kumaraswamy, a Tamil schoolgirl. The girl's mother, brother and a neighbour were also murdered when they went to the army camp, inquiring about the fate of the girl.

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The LTTE **released 16 Sinhala fishermen** captured earlier, as a gesture of good will for Christmas-New Year. During the month of April-May, the **2nd and 3rd Stages of Operation 'RIVIRESA'** were launched in Thenamarachchi and Vadamarachchi in the Jaffna peninsula. In September, the military operation **'SATHJAYA'** was launched in Kilinochchi and Paranthan areas.

1997 Sri Lankan forces began another major offensive in the Northern town of Vavuniya. In February, operation **'EDIBALA'** was launched in Mannar. In May, the longest and the largest military operation **"JAYSIKURU"** was launched in Vanni. Operation **"RIVIBALA"** was launched by the Army (53 and 55 Divisions) in Oddusudan town and along Nedunkerny – Oddusudan Road.

On the 25th September, 38 NGOs serving in several parts of Batticaloa district, were ordered by Government of Sri Lanka to cease all their humanitarian operations. This immediately followed a government order **banning NGOs** from assisting people in the areas of Batticaloa.

1998 Sri Lankan armed forces shelled the residential area Karuvakeni. Medical embargo to the North-East continued. Sri Lankan Kfir bombers bombarded the towns. The Jaffna Teaching Hospital was on the verge of shutting down its surgical wards owing to the short supply of items. Two Catholic priests were killed by bombs dropped by Sri Lankan Kfir planes. The Sri Lankan army shot and hacked to death many Tamil civilians.

On the 5th July, it was revealed in High Court, Colombo by the former Army Lance Corporal that that "hundreds of men and women arrested by the army in Jaffna were killed and **buried in Chemmani.**

1999 **OPERATION RANAGOSA**

Stage – I	Military operation commenced in early March in Mundumurippu, Iranai, Illuppaikkulam and Puwarasankulam areas.
Stage – II	The military operation was launched (53 and 55 Divisions) in mid March 1999 in Madu and Palamppiddi areas.
Stage – III	Military operation was launched in early May 1999 in Periyamadu and south west of Chiraddikulam.
Stage – IV	Military operation was launched on mid June 1999 in Papamodai, Vedithalathivu and Welimarandmadu areas.

OPERATION RIVIKIRANA 1 & II

Military operation **'RIVIKIRANA I & II'** were launched in Ariyalai, Thanakillppu and Kaithaddy. Military operation **'KINIHEERA – I'** was launched by 51,52,53 and 55 Divisions along the Thanakillappu-Chava Road. Military Operation **'KINIHEERA – II'** was launched in Kaithaddy, Nunavil, Thanakillappu and Ariyalai.

OPERATION KINIHEERA – III/IV

Military operation **'KINIHEERA – III and IV'** was launched in Sarasalai, Puthur, Maduvil South and Nunavil East.

2000 On the 5th January, Human Rights Defender **Mr. G. G. Ponnambalam was assassinated** allegedly the by the PA (Chandrika's) government's hirelings.

The Norwegian government came forward to facilitate peace talks between LTTE and the Chandrika government. The Norwegian chief facilitator Mr. Eric Solheim was shuttling between LTTE and the government. The Norwegian chief facilitator had meetings with LTTE Chief negotiator Dr. Anton Balasingham in London as well with LTTE Leader Mr. V. Pirabaharan in the Vanni. He also had meetings with other political leaders in Sri Lanka.

2001 Sinhala Muslims riots broke out on 2nd May in Mawanella, between Colombo and Kandy. Two Muslims were killed and Muslim- owned shops and houses were set on fire by the Sinhala rioters. On the following Friday Muslim worshippers at a Mosque in Colombo, demonstrated against the violence against Muslims in Mawanella.

There were also Sinhala-Muslim riots in Muttur in Trincomalee following the Mawanella incidents. Many shops in Muttur were razed to the ground.

The LTTE have announced unilateral **cease-fires many a time. One lasted for four months.** President Chandrika's government refused to reciprocate the cease-fire declared by the LTTE and opted to continue with its military agenda.

The Minister of foreign affairs Lakshman Kadirgamar accused the Norwegian peace envoy Mr. Eric Solheim of giving too much consolation to the Tamils and sidelined him, out of personal dislike for Eric Solheim. On the 7th June, Kadirgamar insisted that the Norwegian government must remove Mr. Eric Solheim from the peace mediation. This brought the mediation to a stalemate.

The Tamil political parties formed a front known as the "Tamil National Alliance (TNA)" and contested the Parliament elections in the North East on the 5th December 2001 and won in 16 electorates. **TNA's Election manifesto (Page 24)**

In December, the UNP government headed by the Prime Minister Ranil Wickremasinghe came into power with the mandate for peace and negotiations with LTTE. The LTTE declared a **one month cease-fire** and it was renewed. The government also declared one month cease-fire and renewed it.

2002 LTTE released 10 prisoners of war as a gesture of good will for peace.

The Norwegian government re-activated its peace role. The Norwegian delegation led by Deputy Foreign Minister Vidar Helgesenand and Mr. Eric Solheim met with the LTTE chief negotiator Dr. Anton Balasingham in London and the Prime Minister and other ministers in Sri Lanka.

On 21 February, an historic **agreement, a "Memorandum of Understanding" (Page 21)**was signed between Mr. V. Pirabaharan, the leader of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam – LTTE, and the Sri Lanka Prime Minister Mr. Ranil Wickremasinghe. This MOU was worked out under the facilitation of the Norwegian government.

Memorandum of Understanding – MOU

Statement by Mr. Jan Petersen, Foreign Minister of Norway
22 February 2002

Announcement of Sri Lanka ceasefire

As from 00:00 hours on 23 February 2002, a ceasefire agreement enters into force between the Government of Sri Lanka and the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE). The ceasefire document, signed by Sri Lankan Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe and LTTE leader Vellupilai Pirabaharan, has been deposited with the Norwegian Government and we have been asked to make the agreement public.

The overall objective of the parities is to find a negotiated solution to the ethnic conflict in Sri Lanka, which has cost 60,000 lives and caused widespread human suffering. The ceasefire will pave the way for further steps towards negotiations.

Through this formalized ceasefire the parties commit themselves to putting an end to the hostilities. They commit themselves to restoring normalcy for all the inhabitants of Sri Lanka, whether they are Sinhalese, Tamils, Muslims or others. And they commit themselves to accepting an international monitoring mission, led by Norway, which will conduct on-site monitoring.

Both sides have taken bold steps to conclude the ceasefire, and this agreement is a message that they are prepared to continue taking bold steps to achieve peace. They are embarking on a long road towards a political solution. It will not be easy. It will require determination and courage. The parties will face risks and uncertainties, and they will have to make hard choices. But no hardships are worse than those of conflict and bloodshed. No gains are greater than those of peace and prosperity.

On the journey to peace and prosperity, the inhabitants of Sri Lanka, and their leaders, will need the solidarity of the international community. It must mobilize political and financial support for peace and reconciliation. Norway will continue to accompany the parties in this demanding process.

I shall now provide some more detail about the ceasefire agreement.

First, it outlines the modalities of the ceasefire, including the total cessation of all offensive military operations, the separation of forces, and increased freedom of movement for unarmed troops on both sides.

Second, measures to restore normalcy for all the inhabitants of Sri Lanka – Sinhalese, Tamils, Muslims and others – putting an end to hostile acts against civilians, allowing the unimpeded flow of non-military goods, opening roads and railway lines, and a gradual easing of fishing restrictions.

Third, a small international monitoring mission led by Norway. The mission will conduct international on-site monitoring of the fulfilment of the commitments made by the Parties. Let me underline, however, that it is up to the parties to respect the agreement and to impose sanctions on those individuals on either side who act contrary to the agreement.

Agreement on a ceasefire between the Government of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka and the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam

Preamble

The overall objective of the Government of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka (hereinafter referred to as the GOSL) and the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (hereinafter referred to as the LTTE) is to find a negotiated solution to the ongoing ethnic conflict in Sri Lanka.

The GOSL and the LTTE (hereinafter referred to as the Parties) recognize the importance of bringing an end to the hostilities and improving the living conditions for all inhabitants affected by the conflict. Bringing an end to the hostilities is also seen by the Parties as a means of establishing a positive atmosphere in which further steps towards negotiations on a lasting solution can be taken.

The Parties further recognize that groups that are not directly party to the conflict are also suffering the consequences of it. This is particularly the case as regards the Muslim population. Therefore, the provisions of this Agreement regarding the security of civilians and their property apply to all inhabitants.

With reference to the above, the Parties have agreed to enter into a ceasefire, refrain from conduct that could undermine the good intentions or violate the spirit of this Agreement and implement confidence-building measures as indicated in the articles below.

Article 1: Modalities of a ceasefire

The Parties have agreed to implement a ceasefire between their armed forces as follows:

1.1 A jointly agreed ceasefire between the GOSL and the LTTE shall enter force on such date as is notified by the Norwegian Minister of Foreign Affairs in accordance with Article 4.2 hereinafter referred to as D-Day.

Military operations

1.2 Neither Party shall engage in any offensive military operation. This requires the total cessation of all military action and includes, but is not limited to, such acts as:

a) The firing of direct and indirect weapons, armed raids, ambushes, assassinations, abductions, destruction of civilian or military property, sabotage, suicide missions and activities by deep penetration units;
b) Aerial bombardment;
c) Offensive naval operations.

1.3 The Sri Lankan armed forces shall continue to perform their legitimate task of safeguarding the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Sri Lanka without engaging in offensive operations against the LTTE.

Separation of forces

1.4 Where forward defence localities have been established, the GOSL's armed forces and the LTTE's fighting formations shall hold their ground positions, maintaining a zone of separation of a minimum of six hundred (600) metres. However each Party reserves the right of movement within one hundred (100) metres of its own defence localities, keeping an absolute minimum distance of four hundred (400) metres between them. Where existing positions are closer than four hundred (400) metres, no such right of movement applies and the Parties agree to ensure the maximum possible distance between their personnel.

1.5 In areas where localities have not been clearly established, the status quo as regards the areas controlled by the GOSL, and the LTTE respectively, on 24 December 2001 shall continue to apply pending such demarcation as is provided in article 1.6.

1.6 The Parties shall provide information to the Sri Lanka Monitoring Mission (SLMM) regarding defence localities in all areas of contention, cf. Article 3. The monitoring mission shall assist the Parties in drawing up demarcation lines at the latest by D-Day + 30.

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1.7 The Parties shall not move munitions, explosives or military equipment into the area controlled by the other Party.

1.8 Tamil paramilitary groups shall be disarmed by the GOSL by D-Day + 30 at the latest. The GOSL shall offer to integrate individuals in these units under the command and disciplinary structure of the GOSL armed forces for service away from the Northern and Eastern Province.

Freedom of Movement

1.9 The Parties' forces shall initially stay in the areas under their respective control, as provided in Article 1.4 and Article 1.5.

1.10 Unarmed GOSL troops shall, as of D-day + 60, be permitted unlimited passage between Jaffna and Vavuniyua using the Jaffna-Kandy road (A9). The modalities are to be worked out by the Parties with the assistance of the SLMM.

1.11 The Parties agree that as of D-day individual combatants shall, on the recommendation of their area commander, be permitted, unarmed and in plain clothes, to visit family and friends residing in areas under the control of the other Party. Such visits shall be limited to six days every second month, not including the time of travel by the shortest applicable route. The LTTE shall facilitate the use of the Jaffa-Kandy road for this purpose. The Parties reserve the right to deny entry to specified military areas.

1.12 The Parties agree that as of D-day individual combants shall, notwithstanding the two–month restriction, be permitted, unarmed and in plain clothes, to visit immediate family (i.e. spouses, children, grandparents, parents and siblings) in connection with weddings or funerals. The right to deny entry to specified military areas applies.

1.13 Fifty (50) unarmed LTTE members shall as of D-day + 30, for the purpose of political work, be permitted freedom of movement in the areas of the North and the East dominated by the GOSL. Additional 100 unarmed LTTE members shall be permitted freedom of movement as of D-day + 60. As of D-Day + 90, all unarmed LTTE members shall be permitted freedom of movement in the North and East. The LTTE members shall carry identity papers. The rights of the GOSL to deny entry to specified military areas applies.

Article 2 : Measures to restore normalcy

The Parties shall undertake the following confidence-building measures with the aim of restoring normalcy for all inhabitants of Sri Lanka:

2.1 The Parties shall in accordance with international law abstain from hostile acts against the civilian population, including such acts as torture, intimidation, abduction, extortion and harassment.

2.2 The Parties shall refrain from engaging in activities or propagating ideas that could offend cultural or religious sensitivities. Places of worship (temples, churches, mosques and other holy sites, etc.) currently held by the forces of either of the Parties shall be vacated by D-day + 30 and made accessible to the public. Places of worship which are situated in "high security zones" shall be vacated by all armed personnel and maintained in good order by civilian workers, even when they are not made accessible to the public.

2.3 Beginning on the date on which this Agreement enters into force, school buildings occupied by either Party shall be vacated and returned to their intended use. This activity shall be completed by D-day + 160 at the latest.

2.4 A schedule indicating the return of all other public buildings to their intended use shall be drawn up by the Parties and published at the latest by D-day +30.

2.5 The Parties shall review the security measures and the set-up of checkpoints, particularly in densely populated cities and towns, in order to introduce systems that will prevent harassment of the civilian population. Such systems shall be in place from D-day +60.

2.6 The Parties agree to ensure the unimpeded flow of non-military goods to and from the LTTE-dominated areas with the exception of certain items as shown in Annex A. Quantities shall be determined by market demand. The GOSL shall regularly review the matter with the aim of gradually removing any remaining restrictions on non-military goods.

2.7 In order to facilitate the flow of goods and the movement of civilians, the Parties agree to establish checkpoints on their line of control at such locations as are specified in Annex B.

2.8 The Parties shall take steps to ensure that the Trincomalee Habarana road remains open on a 24-hour basis for passenger traffic with effect from D-day +10.

2.9 The Parties shall facilitate the extension of the rail service on the Batticaloa-line to Welikanda. Repairs and maintenance shall be carried out by the GOSL in order to extend the service up to Batticaloa.

2.10 The Parties shall open the Kandy-Jaffna road (A9) to non-military traffic of goods and passengers. Specific modalities shall be worked out by the Parties with the assistance of the Royal Norwegian Government by D-day + 30 at the latest.

2.11 A gradual easing of the fishing restrictions shall take place starting from D-day. As of D-day + 90, all restrictions on day and night fishing shall be removed, subject to the following exceptions : (i) fishing will not be permitted within an area of 1 nautical mile on either side along the coast and 2 nautical miles seawards from all security forces camps on the coast : (ii) fishing will not be permitted in harbours or approaches to harbours, bays and estuaries along the coast.

2.12 The Parties agree that search operations and arrests under the Prevention of Terrorism Act shall not take place. Arrests shall be conducted under due process of law in accordance with the Criminal Procedure Code.

2.13 The Parties agree to provide family members of detainees access to the detainees within D-day + 30.

Article 3: The Sri Lanka Monitoring Mission

The Parties have agreed to set up an international monitoring mission to enquire into any instance of violation of the terms and conditions of this Agreement. Both Parties shall fully cooperate to rectify any matter of conflict caused by their respective sides. The mission shall conduct international verification through on-site monitoring of the fulfilment of the commitments entered into in this Agreement as follows :

3.1 The name of the monitoring mission shall be the Sri Lanka Monitoring Mission (hereinafter referred to as the SLMM).

3.2 Subject to acceptance by the Parties, the Royal Norwegian Government (hereinafter referred to as the RNG) shall appoint the Head of the SLMM (hereinafter referred to as the HoM), who shall be the final authority regarging interpretation of this Agreement.

3.3 The SLMM shall liase with the Parties and report to the RNG.

3.4 The HoM shall decide the date for the commencement of the SLMM's operations.

3.5 The SLMM shall be composed of representatives from Nordic countries.

3.6 The SLMM shall establish a headquarters in such place as the HoM find appropriate. An office shall be established in Colombo and in Vanni in order to liase with the GOSL and the LTTE respectively. The SLMM will maintain a presence in the districts of Jaffna, Mannar, Vavuniya, Trincomalee, Batticaloa and Amparai

3.7 A local monitoring committee shall be established in Jaffna, Mannar, Vavuniya, Trincomalee, Batticaloa and Amparai. Each committee shall consist of five members, two appointed by the GOSL, two by the LTTE and one international monitor appointed by the HoM. The international monitor shall chair the committee. The GOSL and the LTTE appointees may be selected from among retired judges, public servants, religious leaders or similar leading citizens.

3.8 The committees shall serve the SLMM in an advisory capacity and discuss issues relating to the implementation of this Agreement in their respective districts, with a view to establishing a common understanding of such issues. In particular, they will seek to resolve any dispute concerning the implementation of this Agreement at the lowest possible level.

3.9 The Parties shall be responsible for the appropriate protection of and security arrangements for all SLMM members.

3.10 The Parties agree to ensure the freedom of movement of the SLMM members in performing their tasks. The members of the SLMM shall be given immediate access to areas where violations of the Agreeement are alleged to have taken place. The Parties also agree to facilitate the wsidest possible access to such areas for the local members of the six above-mentioned committees, cf Article 3.7.

3.11 It shall be the responsibility of the SLMM to take immediate action on any complaints made by either Party to the Agreement and to enquire into and assist the Parties in the settlement of any dispute that might arise in connection with such complaints.

3.12 With the aim of resolving disputes at the lowest possible level, communication shall be established between commanders of the GOSL armed forces and the LTTE area leaders to enable them to resolve problems in the conflict zones.

3.13 Guidelines for the operations of the SLMM shall be established in a separate document.

Article 4: Entry into force, amendments and termination of the Agreement

4.1 Each Party shall notify its consent to be bound by this Agreement through a letter to the Norwegian Minister of Foreign Affairs signed by Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe on behalf of the GOSL and by leader Velupillai Pirabaharan on behalf of the LTTE, respectively. The Agreement shall be initialled by each Party and enclosed in the above-mentioned letter.

4.2 The Agreement shall enter into force on such date as is notified by the Norwegian Minister of Foreign Affairs.

4.3 This Agreement may be amended and modified by mutual agreement of both Parties. Such amendments shall be notified in writing to the RNG.

4.4 This Agreement shall remain in force until notice of termination is given by either Party to the RNG. Such notice shall be given fourteen (14) days in advance of the effective date of termination.

Annexes
Annex A : List of goods **Annex B:** Checkpoints

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Election manifesto of Tamil National Alliance (TNA) – 2001

The Tamil National Alliance (TNA) comprising the Tamil United Liberation Front (TULF), the All Ceylon Tamil Congress (ACTC), the Tamil Eelam Liberation Organization (TELO) and the Eelam People's Revolutionary Liberation Front (EPRLF) released its manifesto in Colombo on 10 November 2001.

The immediate aims and objectives of the Tamil Alliance are the following: -

i) The immediate lifting of the economic embargo currently in force in parts of the northeast province
ii) The withdrawal of the residential and travel restrictions foisted on the Tamil nationality
iii) The immediate cessation of the war being currently waged in the northeast
iv) The immediate commencement of the process of negotiations with the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) with international third party involvement.

This Alliance also states that unless meaningful negotiations are held with the L.T.T.E. no just solution can be found to the Tamil national question and that such negotiations should be held immediately only with the LTTE. This Alliance further states that in order to ensure that the negotiations are properly focussed and are purposeful and successful, no parallel negotiations should take place with any other Tamil political formation.

v) That to facilitate the commencement of such negotiations, steps should be taken to lift the proscription imposed on the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) in Sri Lanka, and thereby ensure such proscription does not constitute an impediment to the free and full participation of the LTTE at such negotiations on behalf of the Tamil nationality.

The Alliance contests the forthcoming parliamentary elections in order to achieve the aims and objectives, outlines above, and will campaign both nationally and internationally for the achievement of the said aims and objectives.

This Alliance will mobilize the Tamil-speaking people of the northeast, in order to achieve the said aims and objectives.

The Tamil nationality is today at the crossroads, between despair as a result of their present pathetic plight, and hope for a better tomorrow.

We urge the Tamil speaking voters to repose faith in the hope for a better tomorrow, and extend their total support to the Tamil Alliance, by casting their votes for the rising sun, the common symbol of the Tamil Alliance.

Suthumalai Declaration (1987)

Leader of Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam – LTTE, Veluppillai Pirabaharan addressed the first public meeting in Suthumalai **on 4 August 1987**. His speech in this meeting is known as "Suthumalai declaration".

"My beloved and esteemed people of Tamil Eelam,

"Today there has taken place tremendous turn in the history of our liberation struggle. This turn has come suddenly, in a way that has stunned us, and as if it were beyond our power to influence events.

"Whether the consequences of this turn will be favourable to us, we shall have to wait and see.

"You are aware that this Agreement, concluded suddenly and with great speed between India and Sri Lanka, without consulting our people and without consulting us, our people's representatives, is being implemented with expedition and urgency. Until I went to Delhi, I did not know anything about this Agreement. Saying that the Indian Prime Minister desired to see me, they invited me and took me quickly to Delhi. This Agreement was show to us after I went there. There were several complications and several question marks in it. The doubt arose for us whether, as a result of this Agreement a permanent solution would be available to the problems of our people. Accordingly, we made it emphatically clear to the Indian Government that we were unable to accept this Agreement.

Primary concern

"But the Indian Government stood unbudging on the point that whether we accepted or did not accept the Agreement, it was determined to put it into effect. We were not taken by surprise by this stand of the India Government. This Agreement did not concern only the problem of the Tamils. This is primarily concerned with Indo-Sri Lanka relations. It also contains within itself the clauses for binding Sri Lanka within India's

super-power orbit. It works out a way for preventing disruptionist and hostile foreign forces from gaining footholds in Sri Lanka. That is why the Indian Government showed such an extraordinary keenness in concluding this Agreement. However, at the time, it happens to be an Agreement that determines the political future and fate of the people of Tamil Eelam. That is why we firmly objected to the conclusion of this Agreement without consultations with our people and without the seeking of our views. However, there is no point in our objecting to this. When a great power has decided to determine our political fate in a manner that is essentially beyond our control, what are we to do?

Difficult to Digest

This Agreement directly affects our moment and our political goals and objectives. It affects the form and shape of our struggle. It also puts a stop to our armed struggle. If the mode of our struggle, brought to this stage over a fifteen year period through shedding blood, through making sacrifices, through staking achievements and through offering a great many lives, is to be dissolved or disbanded within a few days, it is naturally something we are unable to digest. This Agreement disarms us suddenly, without giving us time, without getting the consent of our fighter, without working out a guarantee for our people's safety and protection. Therefore we refused to surrender arms.

India's assurances

Under such circumstances, India's Honourable Prime Minister, Mr. Rajiv Gandhi, invited me for a discussion, I opened my mind and spoke to him of our concerns and our problems. I pointed out to the Indian Prime Minister the fact that I did not repose the slightest faith in the Sinhala racist government and did not believe that they were going to fulfil the implementation of this Agreement. I spoke to him about the question of our people's safety and protection and about guarantees for this. This Indian Prime Minister offered me certain assurances. He offered a guarantee for the safety and protection of our people. I do have faith in the straightforwardness of the Indian Prime Minister and I do have faith in his assurances.

We do believe that India will not allow the racist Sri Lankan state to take once again to the road of genocide against the Tamils. It is only out of this faith that we decided to hand over our weapons to the Indian peace keeping force.

What ardent, immeasurable sacrifices we have made for the safety and protection of our people! There is no need here to elaborate on this theme. You, our beloved people, are fully aware of the character of our passion for our cause and our feelings of sacrifice. The weapons that we took up and deployed for your safety and protection, for your liberation, for your emancipation, we now entrust to the Indian Government.

Transfer of responsibility

In taking from us our weapons – the one means of protection for Eelam Tamils – the Indian Government takes over from us the big responsibility of protection our people. The handing over of arms only signifies the handing over the transfer of this responsibility.

Were we not to hand over our weapons, we would be put in the calamitous circumstance of clashing with the Indian Army. We do not want this. We love India. We love the people of India. There is no question of our deploying our arms against Indian soldiers. The soldiers of the Indian Army are taking up the responsibility of safeguarding and protecting us against our enemy. I wish very firmly to emphasise here that by virtue of our handing over our weapons to it the Indian Government should assume full responsibility for the life and security of every one of the Eelam Tamils.

We have no way other than to co-operate with this Indian endeavour. Let us offer them this opportunity. However, I do not think that as a result of this agreement, there will be a permanent solution to the problem of the Tamils. The time is not very far off when the monster of Sinhala racism will devour this Agreement. I have unrelenting faith in the proposition that only a separate state of Tamil Eelam can offer a permanent solution of the problem of the people of Tamil Eelam. Let me make it clear to you here, beyond the shadow of a doubt, that I will continue to fight for the objective of attaining Tamil Eelam. The forms of struggle may change, but the objective or goal of our struggle is not going to change. If our cause is to triumph, it is vitally necessary that the wholehearted, the totally unified support of you, our people should always be with us.

The circumstance may arise for the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) to take part in the interim administration or to contest elections, keeping in view the interests of the people of Tamil Eelam. But I wish firmly to declare here that under no circumstances and at no point of time will I contest elections or accept the office of the Chief Minister.

Tamileelam Archive

The Liberation Tigers yearn for the motherland of Tamil Eelam.

Thimpu Declaration – (1985)

JOINT STATEMENT MADE BY THE TAMIL DELEGATION CONSISTING OF EPRLF, EROS, PLOT, LTTE, TELO AND TULF ON THE CONCLUDING DAY OF PHASE I OF THE THIMPU TALKS ON THE 13th OF JULY 1985

It is our considered view that any meaningful solution to the Tamil national question must be based on the following four cardinal principles.

1. **Recognition of the Tamils of Sri Lanka as a nation.**
2. **Recognition of the existence of an identified homeland for the Tamils in Sri Lanka.**
3. **Recognition of the right of self determination of the Tamil nation.**
4. **Recognition of the right to citizenship and the fundamental rights of all Tamils who look upon the island as their country.**

Different countries have fashioned different systems of governments to ensure these principles.
We have demanded and struggled for an independent Tamil state as the answer to this problem arising out of the denial of these basic rights of our people.

The proposals put forward by the Sri Lankan government delegation as their solution to this problem is totally unacceptable. Therefore we have rejected them as stated by us in our statement of the 12th of July 1985.

However, in view of our earnest desire for peace, we are prepared to give consideration to any set of proposals, in keeping with the above mentioned principles, that the Sri Lankan government may place before.

Vaddukoddai Resolution – (1976)

The Resolution was adopted at the first National Convention of the Tamil United Liberation Front (TULF) **on 14 May 1976.** TULF's participation in the 1977 general elections was anchored in this Resolution. In this Resolution, the TULF declared its intent of forming a sovereign State of Tamil Eelam. S. J. V. Chelavanayakam presided over the Convention. The following is a translation of the Resolution, which was originally adopted in Tamil:

Whereas, throughout the centuries from the dawn of history, the Sinhalese and Tamil nations have divided between themselves the possession of Ceylon, the Sinhalese inhabiting the interior of the country in its Southern and Western parts from the river Walawe to that of Chilaw and the Tamils possessing the Northern and Eastern districts; And,

Whereas, the Tamil kingdom was overthrown in war and conquered by the Portuguese in 1619, and from them by the Dutch and the British in turn, independent of the Sinhalese Kingdoms; And,

Whereas, the British colonists, who ruled the territories of the Sinhalese and Tamil kingdoms separately, joined under compulsion the territories of the Sinhalese and the Tamil Kingdoms for purposes of administrative convenience on the recommendation of the Colebrook Commission in 1833; And,

Whereas, the Tamil leaders were in the forefront of the freedom movement to rid Ceylon of colonial bondage which ultimately led to the grant of independence to Ceylon in 1948; And,

Whereas, the foregoing facts of history were completely overlooked, and power over the entire country was transferred to the Sinhalese nation on the basis of a numerical majority, thereby reducing the Tamil nation to the position of subject people; And,

Whereas, successive Sinhalese governments since independence have always encouraged and fostered the aggressive nationalism of the Sinhalese people and have used their political power to the detriment of the Tamils by:

(a) Depriving one half of the Tamil people of their citizenship and franchise rights thereby reducing Tamil representation in Parliament,

(b) Making serious inroads into the territories of the former Tamil Kingdom by a system of planned and state-aided Sinhalese colonization and large scale regularization of recently encouraged Sinhalese encroachments, calculated to make the Tamils a minority in their own homeland,

(c) Making Sinhala the only official language throughout Ceylon thereby placing the stamp of inferiority on the Tamils and the Tamil language,

(d) Giving the foremost place to Buddhism under the Republican Constitution thereby reducing the Hindus, Christians, and Muslims to second class status in this country,

(e) Denying to the Tamils equality of opportunity in the spheres of employment, education, land alienation and economic life in general and starving Tamil areas of large scale industries and development schemes thereby seriously endangering their very existence in Ceylon,

(f) Systematically cutting them off from the main-stream of Tamil cultures in South India while denying them opportunities of developing their language and culture in Ceylon, thereby working inexorably towards the cultural genocide of the Tamils,

(g) Permitting and unleashing communal violence and intimidation against the Tamil speaking people as happened in Amparai and Colombo in 1956; all over the country in 1958; army reign of terror in the Northern and Eastern Provinces in 1961; police violence at the International Tamil Research Conference in 1974 resulting in the death of nine persons in Jaffna; police and communal violence against Tamil speaking Muslims at Puttalam and various other parts of Ceylon in 1976 —all these calculated to instil terror in the minds of the Tamil speaking people, thereby breaking their spirit and the will to resist injustices heaped on them,

(h) By terrorizing, torturing, and imprisoning Tamil youths without trial for long periods on the flimsiest grounds,

(i) Capping it all by imposing on the Tamil nation a Constitution drafted, under conditions of emergency without opportunities for free discussion, by a Constituent Assembly elected on the basis of the Soulbury Constitution distorted by the citizenship laws resulting in weight age in representation to the Sinhalese majority, thereby depriving the Tamils of even the remnants of safeguards they had under the earlier constitution; And,

Whereas, all attempts by the various Tamil political parties to win their rights, by co-operating with the governments, by parliamentary and extra-parliamentary agitations, by entering into pacts and understandings with successive Prime Ministers, in order to achieve the bare minimum of political rights consistent with the self-respect of the Tamil people have proved to be futile; And,

Whereas, the efforts of the All Ceylon Tamil Congress to ensure non-domination of the minorities by the majority by the adoption of a scheme of balanced representation in a Unitary Constitution have failed and even the meagre safeguards provided in article 29 of the Soulbury Constitution against discriminatory legislation have been removed by the Republican Constitution; And,

Whereas, the Tamil United Liberation Front, after rejecting the Republican Constitution adopted on the 22nd of May, 1972, presented a six point demand to the Prime Minister and the Government on 25th June, 1972, and gave three months time within which the Government was called upon to take meaningful steps to amend the Constitution so as to meet the aspirations of the Tamil Nation on the basis of the six points, and informed the Government that if it failed to do so the Tamil United Liberation Front would launch a non-violent direct action against the Government in order to win the freedom and the rights of the Tamil Nation on the basis of the right of self-determination; And,

This Convention further declares:

- That the State of Tamil Eelam shall consist of the people of the Northern and Eastern provinces and shall also ensure full and equal rights of citizenship of the State of Tamil Eelam to all Tamil speaking people living in any part of Ceylon and to Tamils of Eelam origin living in any part of the world who may opt for citizenship of Tamil Eelam.

- That the constitution of Tamil Eelam shall be based on the principle of democratic decentralization so as to ensure the non-domination of any religious or territorial community of Tamil Eelam by any other section.

தமிழீழ ஆவணக்காப்பகம்
Tamileelam Archive

- That in the state of Tamil Eelam caste shall be abolished and the observance of the pernicious practice of untouchability or inequality of any type based on birth shall be totally eradicated and its observance in any form punished by law.
- That Tamil Eelam shall be a secular state giving equal protection and assistance to all religions to which the people of the state may belong.

(Excerpts)

North-East Province Tamil homeland - Kumar Ponambalam Gajendran

Every Tamil wants the North East Province to be recognised as their traditional homeland. We are not prepared to have any truck with the Government that refuses to recognise our demands, United Tamil Alliance nominee Kumar Ponnambalam Gajendran (son of former ACTC leader, the late Kumar Ponnambalam) said.

He was speaking at the first election meeting held at Gurunagar Jaffna said:

"There is a big difference between the politics practised during the time of my grand father late G.G. Ponnambalam and the present era. Politicians of those days concentrated mainly on the needs of their electorate and their constituents but today the politicians have to fulfil the political aspirations of their race. The aspirations of the Tamils have already been made explicit. They assert that political self determination is an inalienable right of every Tamil and the LTTE should be recognised as the sole representative of the Tamils. We are not worried as to who would form the next Government. Whoever who comes to power should concede the foregoing demands of the Tamils.

He was speaking at the first election meeting held at Gurunagar Jaffna on the 100th birthday commemoration of late G.G. Ponnambalam the Tamil Congress Leader.

The meeting started with the garlanding of the statue of late G.G. Ponnambalam by the family members and ardent supporters of G.G. Ponnambalam.

Gajendran further said the reason why the Tamil United Alliance was formed to make the whole world aware that Tamils have united to win their demands and to show that the Tamil political parties have accepted the LTTE as the sole representatives of the Tamils and the Government that comes to power should have peace talks with the LTTE only and not with any other political party.

He said that so far the Tamil parties have not been successful in bringing the ethnic issue to the attention of the foreign countries. It was the LTTE that made the ethnic problem an issue that merited the mediation of the foreign countries. They have been sacrificing their lives to enable the Tamils to live with self respect in the land of their birth. The Tamil race is morally obliged to bow their heads to the LTTE for the great sacrifices made by them.

He pointed out that the Tamils must be aware of the freedom struggle taking place in different parts of the world. It is regrettable that the LTTE has been branded as terrorists.

The Tamils should unitedly let our Sinhalese brethren and the international community know the LTTE is not a terrorist organisation. The victory to the United Tamil Alliance would show that the LTTE has the full backing of the Tamils. Appathurai Vinayagamoorthy and C.V.K. Sivagnanam the Tamil Congress candidates also spoke. **(Daily News – 17 November 2001)**

RESULTS - 5 DECEMBER 2001
PARLIAMENT ELECTION IN THE ISLAND OF SRI LANKA

Party		
UNP/UNF	Rani Wickramasinghe (**Prime Minister**)	112*
PA	Chandrika Kumaratunga **(President)**	78
JVP	(Sinhalese Extremist-killed thousands of Singhalese civilians)	16
TNA	Tamil National Alliance**	15 *
SLMC	(Sinhala extremist)	02
EPDP	(Tamil mercenaries) (Voters denied access to polling stations by EPDP)	02
PLOTE	(ex Tamil militant)	01

* Voted for peace and negotiations with LTTE
** Election manifesto is given above (Page ??)

தமிழீழ ஆவணக்காப்பகம்
Tamileelam Archive

Tamil National leader Pirapaharan calls for Norwegian engagement

02 January 2002 - Tamil National leader Mr Velupillai Pirapaharan, has written to the Norwegian Prime Minister Mr Kjell Magne Bondevik, calling for Norway s continuous engagement as the facilitator between the LTTE and the new Sri Lanka government to find a peaceful settlement to the ethnic conflict. In a press release, the LTTE stated that Mr. Pirapaharan also complimented the Royal Norwegian Government for its impartial and neutral approach in the facilitatory process. The statement also said a Norwegian delegation headed by Mr Helgeson, the Deputy Foreign Minister, will meet Mr Anton Balasingham, the official spokesman and chief negotiator for the LTTE in London on 4 January.

Below is the text of the press release:
Mr Velupillai Pirapaharan, the leader of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) in a letter addressed to the Norwegian Prime Minister Mr Kjell Magne Bondevik, called for Norway s continuous engagement as the facilitator between the LTTE and the new Sri Lanka government to find a peaceful settlement to the ethnic conflict.

The Tamil Tiger leader also complimented the Royal Norwegian Government for its impartial and neutral approach in the facilitatory process. The following is the text of the letter addressed to Mr Bondevik on 1 January 2002:

"Dear Prime Minister,
"To begin with, allow me to express my sincere gratitude and appreciation of the indefatigable effort and valuable assistance provided by the Royal Norwegian Government over the past two and a half years to promote a negotiated political settlement to the Tamil national question in Sri Lanka. I also wish to commend the Norwegian government for its impartiality and objective neutrality shown in the delicate practice of facilitation. Such a noble approach is widely appreciated by the Tamils in Tamil Eelam as well as by the Tamils living throughout the world.

"I am writing this letter to you to seek your government s continuous engagement as the facilitator to help to find a stable peace and a permanent settlement to the ethnic conflict."

LTTE DECLARE MONTH-LONG CEASEFIRE: GOODWILL MEASURE TO FACILITATE PEACE

International Secretariat
Vanni - Tamil Eelam
19 December, 2001

The Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) in an official statement issued today from its headquarters in Vanni, northern Sri Lanka, announced the declaration of a month long unilateral cessation of hostilities as a goodwill measure during the festive season to facilitate and promote initiatives towards a peace process. The LTTE's observation of cease-fire begins at midnight on Christmas Eve, 24 December 2001.

"Mr. Velupillai Pirapaharan, the leader and military commander of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam, has issued orders to all units and combat formations of the Tamil liberation army to cease all hostile military actions against the Sri Lankan armed forced from midnight 24 December 2001 till midnight 24 January 2002," the LTTE's statement declared.

"Encouraged by the collective mandate for peace and ethnic harmony given by the Sinhala and Tamil masses at the general election, the LTTE leadership has decided to declare, unilaterally, a month long cessation of armed hostilities during the festive season of Christmas, New Year and 'Thai Pongal' (Hindu Harvest Festival) as a gesture of goodwill to facilitate the promotion of peace initiatives. We fervently hope that the new government of Sri Lanka will reciprocate positively to our goodwill gesture and instruct its armed forces to observe peace during this period. Our decision to cease armed hostilities and observe peace during the festive season should be viewed as a genuine expression of goodwill, demonstrating our sincere desire for peace and negotiated political settlement. We are confident that the new government will utilise this space of peace to implement goodwill measures to create congenial conditions of normalcy in the Tamil homeland by withdrawing the economic embargo and other restrictions and prohibitions imposed on our people," the statement said.

"If the Sri Lanka government reciprocates positively to our goodwill gesture and ceases armed hostilities against our forces and takes immediate steps to remove the economic embargo and other restrictions, the LTTE will favourably consider extending the period of cease-fire to create cordial conditions for a stable peace and de-escalation," the statement further said. (Press release)

LTTE LEADER MAKES SPECIAL PLEA TO THE SINHALESE-REJECT RACIST FORCES: OFFER JUSTICE TO THE TAMILS

International Secretariat Vanni - Tamil Eelam
27 November, 2001

In a special appeal made to the majority Sinhala people faced with crucial parliamentary election early next month in Sri Lanka, Mr. Velupillai Pirapaharan, the leader of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), urged them to reject racist forces committed to militarism and war and to offer justice to the Tamil people to bring about peace, ethnic reconciliation and economic prosperity to the island.

Tamileelam Archive

Enunciating the organisation's policy in his annual Heroes' Day speech today, the Tamil Tiger leader declared that the Tamil people wanted to live in their traditional lands with peace and dignity, determining their own political and economic life. "It is the basic political aspiration of the Tamil people. This is neither separatism nor terrorism. It does not constitute a threat to the Sinhala people," Mr. Pirapaharan said.

The LTTE leader said that the Sinhalese, Tamils and other communities in the island could co-exist in peace and harmony if a political settlement is reached through peaceful means. But he warned that the Tamils would be left with no alternative other than to secede and form an independent state if the Sinhala nation continued to refuse to resolve the conflict through peaceful means. "If racism continues to predominate as the determining force in Sri Lanka's politics, it would certainly create the objective conditions for the emergence of an independent Tamil state," Mr Pirapaharan said.

The Tiger leader declared that the LTTE is sincerely committed to a negotiated political settlement. Yet he insisted that lifting of the ban on his organisation is a necessary pre-requisite for the LTTE to participate in the peace talks as the legitimate, authentic representatives of the Tamil people.

The following are extracts from Mr Pirapaharan's statement:

"The Tamil national question, which has assumed the character of a civil war, is essentially a political issue. We still hold a firm belief that this issue can be resolved by peaceful means. If there is genuine will and determination on the part of the Sinhalese leadership there is a possibility for peace and settlement. Though fifty-three years have passed since the independence of this island, the Sinhalese political leadership is still buried in the swamp of racist ideology. That is why they have not developed the wisdom and understanding to deal with the Tamil question objectively and realistically. The belief that the Tamil ethnic conflict could be resolved by repressive military means still predominates the Sinhala political system. It is precisely for this reason that none of the major Sinhala political parties have any concrete projects or frameworks for the permanent resolution of the conflict. The international community is fully aware of this fact. These world governments, while insisting that the ethnic conflict should be resolved by peaceful means, have always supported Sri Lanka's political and military efforts to weaken the political struggle of the Tamils. This strange, ambiguous attitude of the world governments has also contributed to the prolongation of the conflict.

We are constantly knocking on the doors of peace but the Kumaratunga government has refused to open the doors. Following the meeting with the Norwegian peace envoys in Vanni in November last year, we declared a unilateral cease-fire for four months to help to facilitate the peace process. The Sri Lanka government responded by ridiculing and

rejecting our peace initiative and launched provocative military assaults on our positions. Finally, the government undertook a major offensive operation within hours of the termination of our cease-fire. Our fierce counter-attack repulsed the army's operation and made the government realise the fact that the LTTE is strong and invincible.

Though we are strong with considerable manpower and firepower we abstained from launching any major land based offensive operations this year to facilitate the peace process. We co-operated with Norway's peace efforts. It was under these circumstances that Kumaratunga's government downgraded and marginalised the accredited Norwegian peace envoy, Mr Erik Solheim, accusing him of being biased towards the LTTE. We registered a strong protest against this action. Following this incident the Norwegian peace effort reached a stalemate. Chandrika Kumaratunga is responsible for this issue.

Having assumed itself as the most crucial and cardinal issue in Sri Lankan politics, the Tamil national conflict has effectively polarised the political forces towards two contradictory positions: between war and peace. The elections have become a competitive arena between the forces that seek peace and the extremist forces that are opposed to peace. The general public is given the responsibility of choosing as to whether there will be peace in the future or if the war will continue. The Sinhala people should realise that there can be no peace, ethnic harmony and economic prosperity in the island as long as the Tamil people are denied justice and their political aspirations are not fulfilled.

We are not enemies of the Sinhala people, nor is our struggle against them. It is because of the oppressive policy of the racist Sinhala politicians that contradictions arose between the Sinhala and Tamil nations, resulting in a war. We are fighting this war against a state and its armed forces determined to subjugate our people through the force of arms. We are well aware that this war has not only affected the Tamils but also affects the Sinhala people deeply. Thousands of innocent Sinhala youth have perished as a consequence of the repressive policies of the war mongering ruling elites. We are also aware that it is the Sinhala masses who are bearing the economic burden of the war. Therefore, we call upon the Sinhala people to identify and renounce the racist forces committed to militarism and war and to offer justice to the Tamils in order to put an end to this bloody war and to bring about permanent peace.

The Tamil people want to maintain their national identity and to live in their own lands, in their historically given homeland with peace and dignity. They want to determine their own political and economic life; they want to be on their own. These are the basic political aspirations of the Tamil people. It is neither separatism nor terrorism. These demands do not constitute a threat to the Sinhala people. They do not in any way affect or undermine the political liberties or the social, economic and cultural life of the Sinhala people. The Tamil people favour a political solution that would enable them to live in their own lands with the right to rule themselves. This is what the Tamils mean when they emphasise that a political solution should be based on the right to self-determination.

Our organisation is prepared to negotiate with the Sri Lanka government on a political framework that would satisfy the basic political aspirations of the Tamil people. But for us to participate in political negotiations freely as equal partners, as the authentic political force with the status of legitimate representatives of our people, the ban imposed on our movement should be lifted. This is the collective aspiration of the Tamil people.

Tamileelam Archive

The use of violence in all modes of struggles to attain specific political goals is defined as terrorism by international governments. This narrow definition has erased the distinctions between genuine struggles for political independence and terrorist violence. This conception of terrorism has posed a challenge to the moral foundation of armed struggles waged by liberation movements for basic political rights and for the right to self-determination. This development is regrettable. As a consequence our liberation organisation is also being discredited in the international arena.

In our view, there are two dimensions in political violence. Firstly, there is the violence of the oppressor. Secondly, there is the violence of the oppressed. In most cases the oppressor belongs to the ruling elites, yields state authority and command the armed forces. The oppressed are always the ruled, the minority nationalities, the exploited and the poor. The violence of the first category can be designated as state violence. The second category can be termed as the violence against state violence. Since state violence is a form of repressive violence of the oppressor, it is unjust. The reactive violence of the oppressed is just since it is undertaken with the motive of obtaining justice. It is within the context of this distinction that the violent modes of political struggles of the oppressed find legitimacy.

Violent forms of struggles by people seeking political rights emerge only as reactive violence against state terror. This truth can be discerned if one can objectively analyse the historical origins of the world liberation organisations. The Tamil Eelam liberation struggle has similar historical origins. The state oppression against the Tamil people originated two decades before the birth of the Tamil Tigers. Fuelled by racist passion, the state repression gradually intensified over time and assumed genocidal proportions.

All forms of peaceful non-violent agitations undertaken by the Tamil people against Sinhala state oppression were brutally repressed by state terror. Since the non-violent political struggle became futile and meaningless and at the same time the state oppression intensified in the form of genocide the Tamil people were left with no alternative other than to confront the state violence with violence. In other words, the Tamil people were compelled to take arms to defend themselves against genocidal destruction. It was under these objective historical conditions the Liberation Tigers took birth and advanced the armed struggle against state terror. With the history of a sustained campaign extending to a period of twenty years our armed resistance has evolved and developed as the political mode of struggle of the Tamil people.

All the member countries of the United Nations have joined the alliance in the war against terrorism spearheaded by the Western powers. Some of the repressive states with a notorious history of racist oppression and gross human rights violations have joined this global alliance against terror. In this context we wish to confine our remarks only to the Sri

Lanka state. This government, holding one of the highest records of human rights violations amounting to genocide, has now joined the international alliance against terrorism. This is a dangerous trend in the emerging new world order. This new trend is also posing a threat to the legitimate political struggles of the oppressed humanity subjected to state terror. We fully understand the anger, apprehensions, and compulsions of the Western powers engaged in a war against international

terrorism. We welcome the counter-terrorist campaign of the international community to identify and punish the real terrorists. In this context it is crucial that the Western democratic nations should provide a clear and comprehensive definition of the concept of terrorism that would distinguish between freedom struggles based on the right to self-determination and blind terrorist acts based on fanaticism. The international community cannot ignore the phenomenon of state terror practiced internally by some repressive regimes. The world should seek to identify such terrorist states and penalise them.

We hold the position that unless the Sri Lanka government lifts the ban on our organisation and accepts us as the authentic, legitimate representatives of the Tamil people we will not participate in the peace negotiations. We are firmly committed to this position. We have also clearly stated our position to the Norwegian government. There is a possibility of peace in the island of Sri Lankan only when the LTTE is de-proscribed. Under these circumstances, proscribing the LTTE by Western governments giving into diplomatic pressures from Sri Lanka will not pave the way for the peaceful negotiated settlement of the conflict. Rather, it will further reinforce the collective demand of our people to lift the ban on the LTTE for the resumption of peace talks".

Comparison of Tamil homeland (Tamil Eelam) with some countries which are member states of United Nation

Tamil Centre for Human Rights – TCHR Email : tchrgs@hotmail.com / tchrdip@hotmail.com

Country	Population	Area (Square Miles)
Antigua & Barbuds	81,500	171
Bahmas	235,000	5,353
Bahrain	416,275	265
Barbados	253,055	166
Belize	171,000	22,963
Bhutan	1,30M	18,000
Botswana	1,13M	222,000
Brunei Darussalam	221,900	2,226
Cape Verde	350,000	1,557
Comoros	422,500	1,557
Cyprus	673,100	3,572
Djibouti	470,000	8,960
Dominica	94,191	290
Ecuador	384,000	10,631
Fiji	771,000	7,078
Gabon	1.22M	104,557
Gambia	698,817	4,180
Grenada	88,000	133
Guinea-Bissau	935,000	13,948
Guyana	812,000	83,000
Iceland	244,009	39,758
Kuwait	1,77M	6,880
Lesotho	1,63M	11,720
Liechtenstein	32,528	62
Luxembourg	369,500	998
Maldives	189,000	115
Malta	343,334	95
Mauritania	2,01M	398,000
Mauritius	1,04M	797
Monaco	29,972	0.7
Mongolia	1,97M	605,022
Oman	1,20M	105,000
Qatar	371,863	4,468
Saint Kitts and Nevis	47,000	104
Saint Lucia	143,600	238
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	138,000	150
San Marino	27,336	23.5
Sao Tome and Principe	113,000	387
Samoa	163,000	1,093
Seychelles	67,000	175
Singapore	4,300,419	239
Solomon Islands	270,000	10,640
Suriname	370,000	63,992
Swaziland	676,049	6,705
Trinidad and Tobago	1,22M	1,978
United Arab Emirates	1,77M	32,300
Vanuatu	141,400	5,700
TAMIL EELAM (Island of Sri Lanka)	**3,113,000****	**7,290**

* According to the United Nations statistics, there are 60 million Tamils in India (Tamil Nadu) and the Island of Sri Lanka (Tamil Eelam) alone, and Tamils rank the 17th largest linguistic group in the world.

** Census of 1991

ECONOMIC SOCIAL AND CULTURAL RIGHTS

SCHOOLS IN NORTHEAST

1,989 Schools in the North East

1,817	Schools are functioning at present	172	Schools are temporarily closed
622	Schools are very difficult schools	291	Schools are difficult schools

Schools functioning in the 8 districts are as follows : (1817)

Jaffna	402	Mannar	94	Kilinochchi	90	Mullaithivu	95
Vavuniya	181	Trincomalee	248	Batticaloa	307	Ampara	400

The student population exceeds 650,000

The schools closed temporarily are : (172)

Jaffna	85	Mannar	21	Kilinochchi	4	Mullaithivu	10
Vavuniya	12	Trincomalee	23	Batticaloa	13	Ampara	4

Very difficult schools are as follows: (622)

Vadamarachchi	20	Islands	15	Valikamam	1		
Vavuniya South	26	Vavuniya North	85	Mannar	15	Madhu	31
Kilinochchi	67	Mullaithivu	23	Thunukkai	46	Trincomalee	3
Kantale	46	Mutur	71	Batticaloa	26	Paddiruppu	46
Kalkudah	32	Samanthurai	8	Kalmunai	1	Akkaraipattu	7
Maha Oya	11	Dehiattakandiya	2	Ampara	40		

Difficult schools are as follows : (291)

Jaffna	3	Vadamarachchi	1	Islands	23	Valikamam	4
Thenmarachchi	9	Vavuniya South	19	Mannar	28	Madhu	2
Kilinochchi	19	Mullaithivu	12	Thunukkai	4	Trincomalee	10
Kantale	9	Mutur	25	Batticaloa	11	Paddiruppu	13
Kalkudah	23	Samanthruai	12	Kalmunai	2	Akkaraipattu	10
Maha Oya	6	Dehiattakandiya	23	Ampara	23		

1,949 Provincial schools
40 National schools
6 **Private schools in the Jaffna district**

51 Girls schools
28 Boys schools
1,910 Mixed schools (Boys and girls)
(Government source - damaged to school buildings and furniture not given)

948 religion teacher vacancies unfilled

There are 948 vacant religion teacher slots, in schools countrywide. A delegation from the Catholic church, including Archbishops Rev. Nicholas Marcus Fernando and Rev. Oswald Gomis reported to the Education Minister that these slots for Catholic teachers remain vacant.

There are 48 such vacancies in the North Central Province, 24 in Uva, 400 in the North-western, 197 in the Western, 26 in the Southern, 77 in the Northern, 28 in the Central, 50 in the Sabaragamuwa and 38 in the Eastern provinces. **(excerpt, "The Island" 14 February 2002)**

70 000 homeless due airfield expansion

Hundreds of families in Valikamam-north sector who had to vacate their houses (70,000) when the Army expanded its Pallaly base in the Jaffna peninsula have not received compensations from the government, according to the Consortium of Non Governmental Organisations (NGOs) in the northern town.

The Army has declared the Pallaly and its surrounding areas as high-security zone and more than 10,000 hectors of cultivation land are banned for civilians. All houses in the area have also been bulldozed by the army.

NGOs said only 20 percent of nearly 20,000 families who had to move from these areas due to war during the past decade have been allowed by the military authorities to re-settle in their own properties.

Rebuild 1,600 destroyed houses

The new Housing Development Minister P. G. Harrison who represents the Anuradhapura District told the Daily News that his first task would be to rebuild the 1,600 homes of his supporters destroyed by PA thugs during the election campaign.

He said there were 40 more houses of UNP supporters burnt on election eve alone throughout the district by gangs led by the PA heavyweight in the area and his son. **(excerpts, Daily News – 14 December 2001)**

Ps. No action was taken to rebuild the houses and schools destroyed and damaged in the North-East in Aerial bombing and artillery shelling of the Sri Lankan security forces.

Hospital in Tamil areas 'without medicine'

Doctors in the main hospital in rebel-controlled northern Sri Lanka say they still have not received supplies of essential medicines, a week after the government eased the economic embargo on Tamil Tiger-held territory.

The doctors say they desperately need basic drugs, such as anaesthetics and painkillers. The Sri Lankan Government imposed an embargo on the area, which is home to nearly 400,000 people, seven years ago. **(excerpts, BBC World Service – South Asia 23 January 2002)**

Staff shortage at Jaffna Teaching Hospital

The Jaffna Teaching Hospital is in the throes of a severe shortage of medical and paramedical staff, a critical evaluation by two Jaffna University lecturers reveal.

According to the study done by Doctors D. Ambalavaner and Sivaraj, only six specialist doctors from the total approved cadre of 32 and 63 medical officers from the total cadre of 87 are available. Of the nursing staff only one of five matrons and two sisters from 22 of the total cadre are available. The shortage of nursing officers is 138.

Among the paramedical staff only 11 laboratory technicians out of a total cadre of 20 and four radiographers of 15 in the total cadre are available. Only one physiotherapist of the 14 in the total cadre is available.

The researchers identified security clearances which the civilians in the peninsula should take for travelling out of Jaffna, difficulties in transport, lack of postgraduate training opportunities and a low standard of living are the causes for the shortages. **(Daily News – 29 January 2002)**

Shortage of medicine, staff and other supplies in Killinochchi hospital

Rebuilding costs more than 1.6 million US Dollars

30 January 2002 - The hospital was the largest government medical hospital in the Vanni area until it was bombed and destroyed by the Sri Lanka Air Force in early 1996. According to the hospital sources, rebuilding the Kilinochchi hospital would cost more than 1.6 million US Dollars (150 million rupees). The hospital is now functioning out of a small medical centre in the interior village of Akkarayan south of Kilinochchi.

The Kilinochchi hospital was bombed in early 1996 soon after the people of Jaffna peninsula moved into the Vanni. The hospital staff salvaged whatever equipment they could from the wrecked buildings and moved to Akkaryan, a village near to Killinochi.

The Kilinochchi hospital had more than 200 beds and treating more than three thousand out patients a day. Now they struggle to find drugs and qualified medical personnel to manage thousands of out patients. Even first aid medicines are not available.

The government says that it has lifted the ban on medicines and drugs. But the Ministry of Health is still demanding clearance from the Ministry of Defence to send the hospital supplies to Killinochi!

Small dispensaries and medical units in Akkarayan, Uruthirapuram, Jeyapuram and Pooneryan are also serving the patients in Vanni but there is a big shortage of medicines, medical staff and other supplies.

Easing of economic embargo is mere eyewash

- Vanni citizens committee

27 January 2002 – According to the Chairman of the Vanni Citizens Committee, Rev M X Karunaratnam, the Sri Lankan government's much publicized easing of its economic embargo on the region **was mere eyewash.** Rev Karunaratnam said the Vanni region's infrastructure was devastated and it was impossible to improve it by rebuilding, as the requisite materials were not being permitted.

In an interview to Jaffna based "Uthayan" newspaper, Rev. Karunaratnam said, "The so called lifting of the economic blockade on Tamil Tiger controlled areas of Vanni is mere eyewash; a political game of counting the numbers of lorries shuttling back and forth. Judging by the way this easing of the blockade is being implemented it does not appear to be able to realize its aim of creating a climate of goodwill".

Rev. Karunaratnam asked "What is the use in only lifting the economic embargo after razing much of Vanni to the ground over the past twelve years?"

"The people here have no buildings or structures to call home. There are no proper roads. Lakes haven't been maintained. Hospitals, schools and markets do not function out of proper buildings. There is no furniture, or equipment. Government departments haven t been allocated funds even to address these, he said.

In such a scenario, what's the point in playing number games with lorries after claiming to have lifted the blockade? This is the crop season. Yet there are no facilities to store fertilizers. Farmers haven't got the cash to buy the urea. Those who do buy have nowhere to store it.

The government hasn't sent Vanni's entitlement of development funds for two decades. But, the government has used its military machine and the embargo to destroy even the basic provisions of the people.

Without cash, without the basic tools, how can the people and organisations purchase the goods now being allowed through? The government should speed up the creation of a basic infrastructure here. It's only after that will the lifting of the embargo will be of real use.

Two-thirds of Sri Lanka's coastline belongs to the Tamil homelands. Yet the fishing community dependent on it has been left destitute. What are those fisher folk, thrust into begging after being denied their live hoods, to do? First let them fish. Only if they are allowed to earn their livelihoods will situation return to normal.

During its occupation the Sri Lanka army filled culverts and built long defensive bunds, destroying the natural balance of Vanni. The region has suffered from severe flood during the recent heavy rains. Yet the second largest tank here, Vavunikulam, is not even half full; a fate brought about by the army earth bunds. The Sri Lanka army has littered the paddy fields from Puliyankulam to Omanthai with landmines. Farmers have been unable to work in their fields and many have ended up on the street.

Preventing the transport of essential items such as cement that is required for reconstruction and sending lorries is nothing but an attempt to create an illusion. Approve funds for housing, secure settlements, irrigation tanks, dams, schools, hospitals, roads etc and send the relevant goods to create basic infrastructure in those lorries."

Embargo continues to Mutur

30 January 2002 – Even though the new government claimed that it has lifted the embargo to the North East, the embargo in reality continues on the supply of essential items including Kerosene, Fertilizer, Food and Sugar to Mutur in Trincomalee district.

According to the information received from Mutur, the Army at the Kattaiparichchan check point is allowing only a limited quantities of all essential goods.

In Mutur, the price of a kilo of Sugar is Rs. 45 and a litre of Kerosene is Rs. 50 which is three times more than the usual price.

The transport of fertilizer, especially Urea, is still not allowed inside Mutur. The farmers in the village of Sampur are having great difficulty managing without fertilizer for their crops.

Murders, thefts and atrocities increased in Jaffna after 1994

Jaffna University Students Union

The Jaffna University students Union has stated in a report that ever since President Chandrika took over the regime, government forces have encroached the Peninsula and since then murder, theft, rapes and killing and tortures have increased many fold .

Thousands of boys and young women were arrested and imprisoned for no reason. More than 600 innocent Tamils of all ages and sexes have been tortured and beaten or cut to death and buried. The atrocities of the security forces are murderous. The boot-legers of the govt must take the responsibility to these atrocities and must remember that history will not forgive them. **(Virakesari – 9 November, 2001)**

CIVIL AND POLITICAL RIGHTS

10 Muslims massacred by sons of ex-deputy minister of Defence
(Extra judicial killing - Case LKA 171201)

The International Secretariat of OMCT requests URGENT intervention in the following situation in Sri Lanka.

Brief description of the situation :

The International Secretariat of OMCT has been informed by the Asian Human Rights Commission of the killing of ten supporters of the Sri Lanka Muslim Congress (SLMC), in Sri Lanka's Katugastota district, following recent parliamentary elections.

According to the information received, at around 5:30pm on December 5th, 2001, ten SLMC supporters escorted election officials who were transporting a ballot box from the Madawala polls in the Katugastota district to the counting centre in Kandy. En route, a thug squad allegedly under control of Lohan Ratwatte, the son of the former Peoples Alliances (PA) Deputy Defence Minister Anurudda Ratwatte, ran the vehicle off the road, where it crashed into a lamppost. The perpetrators subsequently approached the vehicle, opened the doors, and shot the ten SLMC supporters at point blank range, before fleeing the scene. The names and ages of the ten supporters are:

1. T. M. Fisar (24)
2. F.M. Rizwan (27)
3. M.R.M. Nazir (25)
4. A.M.M. Mohideen (31)
5. A.M.Milsar (23)
6. Z.M. Nazar (19)
7. M.I.M. Ashwar (26)
8. M. Riswan (23)
9. I.M.I. Fasar Yahamed (25)
10. M. Mohamad (25)

According to the information received, high standing representatives within the SLMC, along with other civil society organizations, have also publicly alleged that **Lohan Ratwatte is responsible for these killings.** During the October 2000 General Election, Mr. Ratwatte was also accused of similar mass scale voter intimidation and ballot rigging.

The International Secretariat of OMCT is deeply concerned by these killings as they appear to have been conducted primarily for political reasons. More generally, OMCT is gravely concerned about the continuing trend of voter intimidation and murder during elections in Sri Lanka.

OMCT requested to send appeals to President Chandrika Bandaranaike Kumaratunga, Prime Minister Honourable Ranil Wickremasinghe, Inspector General of Police, Police Headquarters and the Ambassador, Permanent Mission and Consulate General of Sri Lanka, Geneva, Switzerland,

Sri Lanka troops remanded over killing of Muslims

COLOMBO, Dec 17 (AFP) - Five Sri Lankan soldiers, including an officer, were remanded in custody Monday in connection with the killings of 10 Muslim men in the worst post-election violence ever to hit the island, officials said. The security personnel surrendered to a magistrate in central Sri Lanka as police kept up an investigation into the December 5 massacre of the 10 Muslims.

"The five were remanded for nine days," a local police official said adding that the security personnel were members of a unit that provided protection to former junior defence minister Anuruddha Ratwatte.

President Kumaratunga visited murder suspects in Bogambara prison

Minister and Sri Lanka Muslim Congress(SLMC) leader Rauf Hakeem yesterday questioned the President's recent visit to Bogambara prisons where she visited suspects charged with election violence.

"What is the example she set to the country when the head of state goes to prison to speak to the very people who are **suspects not in petty election violence cases but murder and attempted murder cases,**" Mr. Hakeem asked addressing the Colombo District SLMC convention at the Public Library auditorium.

"I would say shame on the President," Mr. Hakeem said.

Commenting on the probe on the Pallethalawinna massacre where ten SLMC supporters were gunned down allegedly by supporters of a former minister, Mr. Hakeem asked: "What is happening to the investigations? **Is there one rule for powerful ministers in the past regime and another for innocent parents?"**

He said the whole country knew those responsible for the Pallethalawinna murders, but the police were silent, he charged, questioning the very credibility of the police force for ignoring incriminating evidence which have been unearthed.

"People are looking forward to some action. Action without any discrimination whatsoever. Action that would normally be taken by the police if those crimes were to be committed by a common citizen of this country," Mr. Hakeem said. Pic by J. Weerasekera (**"The Sunday Times"** 3 February 2002)

Kandy massacre appeal for impartial probe

Lawyers appearing for Abdul Azeez Mohamed and Thawfeek Mohamed Shifas who were gunned down by unknown gunmen on December 5 with eight other people in Udathalawinna appealed to the Magistrate's Court yesterday to order the Police to produce the suspects in the killing immediately.

Claiming that Kandy DIG Mahinda Balasuriya **had not taken any action to prevent General Anuruddha Ratwatte and his son Lohan Ratwatte from terrorising the people in the Kandy District,** the complainants appealed to the Court to prevent DIG Balasuriya from interfering in the investigation. They accused DIG Balasuriya of trying to release the two vehicles taken into custody after the massacre. (**"Daily News" – 12 December 2001)**

Lawyers of 10 dead youths of Kandy deplore 'lukewarm attitude' of IGP

Lawyers representing the ten SLMC members who were massacred at Udathalawinna, Kandy on December 5, allegedly by agents of a former minister have charged that police inaction led to lawlessness in the Kandy district.

Samararatne Associates who are also watching the interests of two of the survivors A. A. Mohammed Firdouse and T. Mohammed Shifas of Kandy have in a letter to the IGP Lucky Kodituwakku said that it was "Most unforgivable that the police department has adopted a lukewarm attitude towards the investigation."

Tamileelam Archive

The full text of the letter is as follows:
"I write on the instructions of my clients Abdul Azeez Mohamed Firdaus and Thawfeek Mohamed Shifas of Kandy, who are the survivors of the Udathalawinna massacre which resulted in ten (10) deaths while watching the interests of the deceased parties.

It is most unforgivable that the police department headed by you adopted a very lukewarm attitude towards this investigation. It is also alarming to note the manner in which your DIG put in charge of the Kandy region Mahinda Balasuriya acted in this heinous crime. This incident has also received the wrath from the all law abiding citizens of Sri Lanka and the international community.

It is a well known fact that from the beginning of the election campaign General Anuruddha Ratwatte Former Deputy Minister of Defence has deployed members of the armed forces, officers **of the Presidential Security Division (PSD) and officers of the Ministerial Security (MSD) to terrorize the Kandy District** in order to rig the Poll in Kandy. Your DIG Balasuriya took no action to prevent or control such activity. This situation was also brought to your notice from time to time and even you were oblivion to the said situation. As a result of your inaction lawlessness in the Kandy District became the rule.

"We have certain information that DIG Balasuriya has ordered the release of the said two vehicles to its registered owners namely the Petroleum Corporation an Institution that was under the purview of General Ratwatte. This we consider a further serious attempt to stifle the course of justice in connection with this massacre. In the circumstances we are compelled to request you to remove DIG Mahinda Balasuriya from the Kandy Division until a replacement is found.

It was only yesterday that we were informed that you have handed over the investigation to the CID headed by Asoka Wijetilake (SP). We understand that Mr. Wijetilake has visited the scene yesterday 48 hours after the incident. With all due respect to Mr. Wijetilake we would appreciate the nomination of a DIG to head this investigation with our concurrence. This would enable the restoration of the confidence of the people on the enforcement of the rule of law which has diminished in the recent past.
We would appreciate if you could take immediate action as suggested above as further delay on your part would hamper certain valuable evidence." **(The Sunday – 11 December 2001)**

Ministerial Massacre

By Frederica Jansz

Having earned a reputation for being the instigators of murder, fraud, corruption and mayhem -- **Anuruddha Ratwatte and his son Lohan have consistently** and effectively brought shame and disgrace to a family name that by all other standards should have been revered as being one of the most respected among Sri Lankans.

Instead, Anuruddha Ratwatte, described by his own niece and Head of State as being the most corrupt minister in her cabinet, has allegedly cold-bloodedly planned to rob the people's vote and eliminate those who stand in his way. It is in this manner that he allegedly planned and sanctioned a mass slaying of ten Muslim youth at Udathalwinna on December 5, 2001, investigations reveal.

The Sunday Leader has uncovered damning evidence which proves that both Anuruddha and his son Lohan were the alleged masterminds behind the dastardly and brutal murder of ten Muslim youth on election day. Shot dead at point blank range as they lay cowering in fear, facing the cold eyes of assailants who repeatedly pulled the trigger at 'live' targets -- these defenceless youth had nothing but their prayers to Allah as they gagged on their own blood -- dying in a ghastly and horrifying manner.

The killing was well planned. Days before the General Election on December 5, this year, Anuruddha Ratwatte in his capacity as Deputy Defence Minister ordered a contingent of a special-forces army squad from the Gajaba Regiment at the army camp in Panagoda to report to him in Kandy.

According to polls monitors attached to the Centre for Monitoring Election Violence at the Patha Dumbara Polling Division at Dematagolla Mahaweli Mahajavidyalaya at 6.40 a.m., it was alleged that goon squads belonging to Lohan Ratwatte were forcibly preventing the public from voting.

At Girakkaduwa Kanisha Vidyalaya, Polling Centre Nos 23& 24 at 8 a.m. reports alleged that Lohan Ratwatte's gang was again shooting and intimidating voters and that the polling centre had closed.

Polling centre No. 11 at the Polgolla Co-operative School in Kandy had already closed as a result of such intimidation by 7.58 a.m. on the 5th.

தமிழீழ ஆவணக்காப்பகம்
Tamileelam Archive

Two of the four Defender type vehicles also started their engines and raced after the two vans. Noor Hameed says Lohan Ratwatte was in one of the vehicles. That was the last Hameed saw his brother alive. He was later called to identify the bloodied body of his brother, Mohamed Mohideen who had over thirty bullet wounds in his body. Noor Hameed says that each of the bodies of the dead Muslim youth had between 30-to 55 bullet wounds.

The other Muslim youth massacred were M. M. Faizal (27), J. M. Fazeer (23), M. Rizwan (22), M. Safaar (25), M. Nazmi (26) and M. I. M. Hazwar (27).

The Sunday Leader learns that the investigation into this mass murder is being led by SSP Sisira Mendis of the Criminal Investigations Department.

All the Defender type vehicles used by the Army goon squad to wreak mayhem and murder in the Kandy district on December 5, 2001 belong to the Sri Lanka Army.

A senior police officer attached to the CID said that investigations have revealed that in addition to this killer squad from the Army, Gen. Anuruddha Ratwatte also enlisted 60 army deserters presently employed by the Watch Guard Security Firm to help create mayhem in the Kandy district this December. This security firm is owned by ex-Army Major Vijitha Welikala who remains a close friend of Lohan Ratwatte. **(excerpts "The Sunday Leader" – 16 December 2001)**

State terrorism continues in Sri Lanka

The new question is, can Sri Lanka show the world that it is genuine in combating terrorism of LTTE while the Sri Lanka's Deputy Minister of Defence is getting his son to shoot unarmed civilians in large numbers.

Terrorism is not only killing by LTTE it is also killing by state terror as per the new draft approved by the legal committee of the General Assembly chaired by a Sri Lankan which will be ratified by the General Assembly. As per the intense international campaign against terrorism the 12 international conventions against terrorism is coming into focus.

The definition of a terrorist has given rise to much difficulty in the international conventions because national liberation struggles are not classified as terrorists unless they target civilians. So for any member of an organisation that is classified as terrorist is taken as a terrorist and others who perform acts of terror still remain as criminals who violate the national laws against persons or property.

But where a criminal uses the political power to disable the law enforcement he is no longer a common criminal and his ability to drive fear to the civilians is an act that goes beyond criminality. Where there is a consistent pattern of such conduct and there is lack of effective law enforcement against the criminal which actions of him make civilians fearful of his conduct, he should be a terrorist not a common criminal. The recently adopted legal definition of the United Nations special legal committee chaired by a Sri Lankan covers the acts of terrorism committed by members of the government power once it is done for political purposes. This will go as a General Assembly Declaration of United Nations. **(excerpts - The Island – 9 December 2001)**

Former Deputy Defence minister arrested

Police in Sri Lanka have arrested former Deputy Defence Minister Anuraddha Ratwatte in connection with an investigation into the killing of 10 opposition supporters during last December's elections.

Mr Ratwatte, the uncle of President Chandrika Kumaratunga and one of the most powerful figures in the previous administration, was arrested at his house and flown to a court in the central town of Teldeniya.

He was remanded in custody until 4 March - but shortly after his appearance, he was admitted under guard to a government hospital. However, hospital officials would not disclose what was wrong with him.

The court also ordered the arrest of Mr Ratwatte's two sons, who have absconded. **(excerpts BBC South Asia - Wednesday, 20 February)**

Political prisoners of Kalutara plead

After the Bindinuwewa massacre the political prisoners in Kalutharai live every day in fear. They made the following appeal to the Prison authorities: "As the night falls we dread darkness, the nightmare of Bindinuwewa haunts us. In recent days our fears are aggravated by the attitude and the behaviour of the prison guards.

"Our prison companions are taken suddenly for inquiries and they are transferred to other cells in the same prison or to other prisons in the country. We are prisoners for no crime committed by us, we are neither produced before the courts nor are we charged. We have lost hope that we would be produced before courts leave alone our release.

"Today our plea to all people interested in us is to pressurise the government and the authorities to transfer us to prisons in the Tamil areas if not at least to Colombo city limits where we could be within the watch of the international human rights organisations. If at least this could not be done by those of you interested in our well being we see no option but to commit ourselves to non-violent protest and die within the prison cells. It is no use demanding justice over our dead mutilated bodies after that".

Chemmani mass graves

Missing Persons Guardian Association and Mother Front protest against inaction

On 5 November 2001, Parents and family members of the persons who were arrested by the Sri Lankan security forces and went missing in Jaffna in 1996-97, launched a protest against the inaction of the Sri Lanka Government over the disappearance of more than 600 persons in Jaffna who were believed to be murdered and buried by the Sri Lanka Army.

The Missing Persons Guardian Association (MPGA) and the Mothers' Front of Jaffna along with Politicians from Tamil National Alliance – TNA, University lectures and students, representative of the Human Development Centre (HUDEC) took part in the protest at Jaffna secretariat where more than 250 parents of the missing persons gathered.

In 1997, a group of Sri Lanka Army soldiers convicted in the rape and murder of a Jaffna school girl Krishanthi Kumarswamy and many others, revealed in court that hundreds of bodies of those killed by the security forces in Jaffna lay buried in Chemmani. Chemmani is near Ariyalai, a suburb of Jaffna.

Soon after mass graves in Chemmani was revealed in court, there is however enough evidence that the army removed evidence of buried bodies by burning what it could find before the exhumation began.

However, due to international pressure the government allowed the exhumation of the mass graves in Chemmani. Only 18 bodies could be exhumed in different sites in the area, though various locations were excavated in accordance with the instructions of the convicted soldiers.

The MPGA continued to protest that a comprehensive exhumation was not carried out at Chemmani, that the government had deliberately shelved efforts to find the missing after the 18 bodies were exhumed.

Despite court orders and forensic examination of human skeletal remains unearthed at the site, Police investigations have been stalled to protect the perpetrators in the security forces, parents of the missing persons say. In the past, TCHR has submitted special reports on Chemmani to the UN Commission on Human rights as well as to the UN Sub-Commission on Promotion and protection of Human Rights.

Rape of Hill Country Tamil women and detention without trial

In a letter to President Chandrika in mid-September, Hill Country MP P. Chandrasekaran demanded the appointment of a commission of enquiry into illegal arrests of Tamils and prolonged detention without trial.

According to the ICRC, there are some 2,700 Tamils in detention under the Prevention of Terrorism Act (PTA). Murugesu Valliammai, 70, has complained to the Sri Lankan Human Rights Commission (HRC) that her son M Mathiyalagan, who was arrested on 21 June 1990 in Batticaloa's Karaitivu refugee camp by the police Special Task Force, is currently held at Mullegama Army camp.

On 1 September, 18 young Tamils were taken into custody at Thillaiyady in Puttalam District. Fourteen Tamil men and women were arrested in Galle town on 29 September in a cordon and search operation. The security forces searched Kotahena, Pettah, Maradana and Slave Island suburbs in Colombo on the same day and rounded up 52 Tamils. Thirty three were detained.

Hill Country Tamils have expressed fear over the rape of young women. **In the last two months at least three women have been raped and murdered.** Umadevi of Imbulpitiya Estate in Nawalapitiya was abducted, raped and killed on 12 September. Thousands of plantation workers in Nawalapitiya staged a strike on 28 September protesting against inaction by the police.

Sixteen year-old Tamil student Sita was abducted by two men on 12 September and raped. The Asian Human Rights Commission says that when the case was heard on 28 September, the police appeared to support the perpetrators and failed to inform the court that she was a student from a poor family. **(excerpts from THE SRI LANKA MONITOR - British Refugee Council No.164 September 2001)**

Police abuse

A month after the government declared 22 May as Human Rights Day, police are accused of committing gang rape on a Tamil woman at a checkpoint in Maradana suburb of Sri Lanka's capital Colombo. Velu Harshadevi, from Badulla in the Hill Country, is a widow and has two children aged six and four. While she was returning from work at 11pm on 24 June, policemen at the checkpoint had obtained her address after examining her national identity card. Three security personnel had arrived at Ms Harshadevi's lodging at 3am and taken her away for questioning. She was forcibly taken to the checkpoint and gang raped.

Three police suspects were arrested on 25 June and the following day, three soldiers belonging to Operation Command Colombo (OCC) were taken into custody. The OCC is tasked with the security of the capital. Human rights NGOs say that the Prevention of Terrorism Act and Emergency regulations granting wide powers to the security forces are the main cause for human rights violations being committed with impunity.

In May, Amnesty International said that security force personnel were getting away with rape and called on the authorities to launch proper investigations.

Meanwhile, **the Bindunuwewa Commission,** chaired by Court of Appeal judge PHK Kulatilleke, began hearing evidence on 16 June, a day after the judge visited the scene of the crime. The Commission was appointed to investigate the massacre of 27 Tamil detainees in a rehabilitation centre at Bindunuwewa in Badulla District in October 2000. In the court case relating to the incident, 31 civilians and ten policemen face charges of murder and attempted murder. According to press reports, Attorney General KC Kamalasabaysan has recommended a trial-at-bar for the case, without a jury. **(excerpts THE SRI LANKA MONITOR - British Refugee Council No.164 September 2001)**

Appeal to new Prime Minister for a release of a University student

Krishnasamy Thiviyan, a final year student of the Science faculty of University of Jaffna University was arrested in Inuvil by the Sri Lankan Army on 2 July 2001. There are eyewitness reports that he was severely assaulted at the time of arrest. **Thereafter, he was taken to the Army camp at Kankesanthurai and then to Urelu military camp, where he was stripped and repeatedly beaten with batons. He also alleges that his pubic hair was pulled with a device.**

When a delegation of the Jaffna undergraduates led by Jaffna University Vice Chancellor Prof. Balasundarampillai met the Commanding officer for Jaffna Major General Susil Chandrapala on July 9, the latter categorically stated that Thiviyan did not have any weapons when arrested. General Chandrapala also told the delegation that no weapon had been recovered from Thiviyan's residence.

Jaffna University Students Union (JUSU) says that to everyone's surprise, Thiviyan was produced in the courts with false charges that he had links with LTTE!

JUSU has appealed to the new Sri Lankan Prime Minister Ranil Wickramasinghe to release Thiviyan from detention to continue his studies. JUSU says that Sri Lanka army in the peninsula continue to arrest students and deny their right to education.

The simplest thing in the North - East is to brand someone as "Tiger" and take action against that person with impunity. So, students express their solidarity with Thiviyan.

University student suffers torture in Jaffna - Prison conditions

The Committee of Inquiry into Undue Arrest and Harassment (CIUAH) summoned the Inspector General of Police to answer allegations of torture in police stations.

Tamil detainees in Kalutara prison say that they are being held in poor conditions and the situation is becoming worse. According to UNHCR's June 2001 Background Paper on refugees and asylum seekers from Sri Lanka, conditions in prisons and remand houses are extremely poor.

Tamileelam Archive

The prisoners allege that on 8 August, guards searched the prison wards and removed their belongings such as tooth brush, tooth paste, plastic cans and soap. Even their medicines were taken away.

The Sri Lankan Human Rights Commission earlier reported, after inspection of the prison, that detainees were not being provided adequate medicines and medical facilities. On 10 August, flowering plants outside the wards were uprooted to prevent the detainees using flowers for worship. sports activities have been suspended.

Accommodation is cramped and 50 prisoners are held in each ward 800 sq ft in extent. **The roofs leak** during rains and repairs have not been carried out. **Letters** to the detainees are given to them only on Sundays. They complain that they are provided **unclean water** for drinking and cooked rice supplied to them contains pebbles. Tea is not provided regularly.

Kalutara detainees also say that when taken for court cases to Anuradhapura, 125 miles north-east, they are not allowed **toilet time** during the journey of 10 to 12 hours. **Court cases** drag on for months and sometimes years. S Rasan, arrested at Batticaloa in October 1999 and held in Kalutara, has been produced before courts on eight occasions.

In a letter to President Chandrika in August, Trincomalee resident Chandra Mathiyalagan says her husband was arrested in 1995 and suffered **severe torture** at the hands of the security forces. He was later released. He was taken into custody again in October 1999 and has been produced before courts 12 times, but without any progress in the case.

Four Tamil youths have written to the Committee of Inquiry into Undue **Arrest and Harassment** (CIUAH) saying that cases against them have been filed in Anuradhapura and Vavuniya, although they were arrested and detained in Jaffna. Relatives spend large sums of money and undergo severe difficulties in obtaining travel permits, to attend the cases.

Over 500 Tamils were rounded-up on 12 August in Colombo. All were released after enquiry. Press reports say that a large number of Hill Country Tamil youths have not returned for work in Colombo fearing arrest, following the LTTE attack on Katunayake airport.

Arrests also continued in the Hill Country. Nagarasa Nagalingam was taken into custody on Queenstown Estate in Badulla District in mid-August. Amparai resident Velupillai Ganeshamurthy and his wife Devaki were arrested on 22 August at Badulla.

According to Colombo Tamil newspaper *Virakesari*, three Tamil women detained in Negombo prison under the Immigrants and Emigrants Act, were injured in an attack by Sinhalese prisoners on 29 August. The prison authorities have not taken any steps to hold an enquiry into the incident.

The CIUAH has summoned the Inspector General of Police (IGP) to answer allegations of torture in police stations. Press reports say that between January and August, 444 fundamental rights cases were filed in the Supreme Court, most from Tamils alleging torture in custody. According to the ICRC, 1,700 Tamils are currently held by the government as LTTE suspects.

In a fundamental rights application in early August, Jaffna University student Krishnasamy Thiviyan says when arrested by the Army on 2 July, he was not given any reason. His relatives and the Human Rights Commission were not informed. His hands were tied behind his back and he was beaten with guns. He was then taken to the Urelu military camp, where he was stripped and repeatedly beaten with batons. He also alleges that his pubic hair was pulled with a device.

Businessman M Shanker says in a fundamental rights application that he was arrested on 4 July and suffered torture at Urelu Army camp. He was repeatedly beaten and burned with cigarettes. In August, the Supreme Court awarded Rs 25,000 ($280) compensation to Mannar resident A Dilipkumar, who had suffered torture in police custody.

In 1994, the Convention Against Torture Act made torture a punishable offence. Since then the Supreme Court has awarded compensation in many cases and has urged the government to file cases against the perpetrators.

No one has so far been convicted in Sri Lanka for the crime of torture, although the government claims that cases have been filed against several security force members. (excerpts, THE SRI LANKA MONITOR - British Refugee Council No.163 August 2001)

Torture in detention - Amnesty International

Tamilealam Archive

The chairman of the Committee of Inquiry into Undue Arrest and Harassment (CIUAH), Justice minister Batty Weerakoon demanded a list of detainees in rehabilitation centres from the Defence Ministry within three weeks, indicating the reasons for detention. The demand follows complaints that many Tamil youths are held in rehabilitation centres without any reason.

The Emergency regulations (ER) empower the Defence Secretary to send a detainee under the regulations or the Prevention of Terrorism Act (PTA) to a rehabilitation centre under a Rehabilitation Order (ER20). ER also provide that members of the LTTE who surrender to the Sri Lankan authorities must be sent for rehabilitation.

According to Amnesty International, it is possible that people originally detained for preventive or investigative reasons to find themselves subject to lengthy Rehabilitation Orders. Amnesty says a peculiar provision in the regulations requires that people who surrender because of fear of attack by terrorists be detained for rehabilitation themselves. ER20 violates international standards, which require that arrested persons should be promptly be brought before a judge and be entitled to trial within a reasonable time or to release. In early May, the CIUAH examined the case of Batticaloa resident P Thamilvanan. His mother says that he escaped from the LTTE and is held in a rehabilitation centre at Thellippalai in the Jaffna peninsula for the last nine months.

CIUAH also directed the Attorney General (AG) to release S Piraiscody, who was arrested in Trincomalee in March 1996 and is held at Kalutara prison. Several cases were filed against him, all on the basis of a confession made in custody. The confession was rejected by the High Court. The AG has failed to withdraw the cases or take action for his release. Reports say that following the intervention of the CIUAH, 20 of the 46 Tamils held without trial in Badulla prison were released in mid-May. MP P Chandrasekaran says that the AG agreed before the CIUAH to release Tamil detainee S Napoleon, but has failed to take any action.

In a May letter to President Chandrika, Colombo's Maha Kaliamman temple priest Ragupathy Sharma says his wife who is a psychiatric patient and he are held without charge or trial for the last 15 months. Both were arrested in February 2000. Their children who are 6 and 8 years old have been sent to an orphanage in Batticaloa.

Mr Ragupathy alleges he suffered severe torture at the hands of the police. Being a Hindu priest, he is a vegetarian, but the police had forced him to eat meat. His head was covered with a plastic bag dipped in petrol. He was given electric shocks and his private organs were crushed. He was forced sign a confession, which was in the Sinhala language. In a letter to President Chandrika, The All Ceylon Hindu Congress say that the security forces continue to harass Hindu priests. On the night of 15 May, Colombo's Slave Island suburb Sivasubramaniam temple priests Shanmugananda Sharma and Ramachandra Sharma were taken into custody at their residence.

In a fundamental rights application to the Supreme Court, father of two children Subramaniam Kannan alleges that he was arrested at the Poonthottam refugee camp in Vavuniya in June 2000 and severely tortured at the 211 Brigade Army camp. He says he was hung naked by the legs and repeatedly beaten. He became unconscious because of electric shocks. He was handed over to the police Counter Subversive Unit (CSU), who continued to torture him for another 15 days. His head was covered with a plastic bag dipped in petrol and barbed wire was inserted into his rectum. He was also forced sign a confession in the Sinhala language which he does not understand.

Vanni MP Selvam Adaikalanathan says that N Mangayarkarasy was detained when she went to see her brother in Anuradhapura prison on 12 May. Her brother N Maheswararajah was arrested in Vavuniya in October last year. Ms Maheswary has been separated from her three year-old child.

In late May, six Hill Country Tamils held in Kalutara prison, 25 miles south of Colombo, threatened to commit suicide if their cases were not heard. They are in detention since 1998 and their cases are dragging on for months without any reason. They say that Hill Country political parties promised effective action, but have abandoned them.

Jaffna resident Jeyakumary Ravichandran has informed the Human Rights Commission that her husband who went to Colombo on 12 April to make arrangements to go abroad is missing. He stayed in a lodge in the capital. But on 13 May, Ms Jeyakumary received a cable informing that he is held at Matara prison, 62 miles southeast of Colombo. When enquiries were made on 17 May, the prison authorities said that Mr Ravichandran had been released the previous day. He has not returned to Colombo or his home in Jaffna.

Amnesty International says shop worker Murugesu Anandarasa, who went to a military post in Vavuniya on 23 April to renew his residence pass, has disappeared. **(30 May 2001)**

Detainees' grievances

The Tamil National Alliance -TNA's initiative in looking into the problems of Tamil detainees brought about a mass of revealing facts that usually lies concealed from view. Several grievances troubling the prisoners were:

* At Welikada prison there are 63 female prisoners, four of who have their children with them. The children were born while the women were in custody.

* There are families in prison where both husband and wife are being held on charges of terrorism and children have nowhere to go.

* The priest of Sri Maha Kaliyamman kovil, Chandra Aiyar Ragupathy Sharma and his wife Vasantha Ragupathy Sharma who were arrested in February 2000 on a charge of not providing information are still held in custody without trial. Ragupathy Sharma's body bears scars of torture. Their children are at the Ramakrishna Mission Orphan's Home.

* Pasupathipillai Yogendran from Kilinochchi was arrested on October 10, 1996. He was sentenced to seven years imprisonment by court on June 2, 1999. Since he had already been in detention from 1996, his seven-year sentence is scheduled to conclude in July 2002. However, he petitioned the Court of Appeal against his sentence. He fears that he might have to be in prison after his designated date of release because the appeal is expected to be taken up by court for the first time only in February 2000.

* Prisoners said they needed simple toiletries such as soap, toothpaste etc. When prisoners demand better conditions they are seen as 'troublemakers' and punished. **(The Sunday Leader – 13 January 2002)**

1800 Tamil detainees on hunger strike

01 February 2002 - According to the human rights lawyers in Sri Lanka, 1800 Tamil political prisoners who are held in many jails and illegal detention centres in Sri Lanka. Today they have started a hunger strike to protest their detention for many years without trial. The protesting detainees demanding that they be acquitted or be released as they are being held for extended periods without any legal proceedings being instituted against them in courts by the Attorney General's Department.

Tamil political prisoners are being held are Welikada in Colombo, Bogambara in Kandy, Boosa and Kalutara in the South, and in Anuradhapura. Many illegal detention centres are also in Jaffna and Vavuniya.

According to a human rights lawyer in Colombo, five members from one family are being held under the PTA in various jails in Sri Lanka.

The protesting detainees says that they are being held unjustly and the courts continue to accept confession obtained under torture. Hundreds of Tamil detainees are in the jail for years because the Police and their allies never conclude the investigations on the PTA detainees. The detainees complained that JMOs (Judicial Medical Officers) are deliberately delaying their medical reports. In some cases Police buy time to fabricate false cases against the detainees.

Human rights lawyers say that a large number of the Tamil political prisoners who were arrested under PTA are innocents and the Police and the Army widely and regularly abuse their powers.

Tamil human rights lawyers charge that the all Tamils living in the north and east are culpable in theory under this provision of the PTA which makes it an offence to withhold information about "terrorist" activity from the Sri Lankan security forces. They point out that there is absolutely no safeguard to prevent the Police from arbitrarily arresting any Tamil under this draconian law, particularly because the term "terrorist activity" is not defined in the PTA.

LAND MINES

Over 10,000 Landmines victims

Despite two-thirds of the world's nations agreeing to be bound by the Mine Ban Treaty (Ottawa Treaty), Sri Lanka has still not acceded to it. Landmines have claimed over 10,000 victims so far, a large number of them civilians.

The periods of heavy fighting in 2000 and 2001, had resulted in the increased use of antipersonnel mines by the government and LTTE with a consequent increase in military and civilian casualties.

The UNDP mine action and mine awareness programmes had also been terminated.

Though the project had put up more than 1, 000 warning signs in mine-affected areas in Jaffna, it is reported that the civilians failed to take the signs seriously, resulting in a high injury rate. UNICEF is in the process of taking over the programme.

Though Sri Lanka does not officially admit to having produced or exported antipersonnel mines, the United Nations had however reported finding Pakistani P4, Chinese Type 72 and Italian VS/50 antipersonnel mines laid by government troops.

Due to ongoing use, it was difficult to estimate the number of landmines laid, however the **government estimated to have laid 20,000 to 25,000 antipersonnel in May 1999 alone.** According to humanitarian aid workers, the number may have increased to several hundred thousand as a consequence of the escalation of the conflict since the latter part of 1999.

1763 people lost legs in Jaffna

International Day for the Disabled has been celebrated on the 3 December every year since 1993. During the initial years organisations gave out presents to the disabled to boost their morale and they were then forgotten. Now the situation has changed. The number of disabled people has grown rapidly due to war and land mines in the north and east.

In Jaffna itself there are 1763 people who have lost their legs due to land-mines. Apart from this there are those who have lost their limbs due to random bombing and shelling. There is a sizeable number of combatants who have lost their limbs while defending the Tamils.

The scars of Sri Lanka's war

Most buildings have been damaged by repeated aerial bombardment and shelling. What is left of the structures is marked with bullet holes. **The sandy roads of what was once a thriving centre for agricultural produce are pot-holed and empty of any kind of transport except bicycles.**

The district of Kilinochchi was once home to 150,000 people, the vast majority of whom are still displaced by the fighting. People are gradually coming back to the town. But it is the hidden legacy of war that is the main problem.

Mine workers killed

The area is heavily mined and clearing the devices is a painstaking and laborious process in a place where the search is done, not with metal detectors, but with metal spokes and bamboo sticks to prod the earth.

The Tamil Tiger rebels, who run a parallel administration here, with their own police force, legal system and welfare organisations, estimate there are up to two million land mines in the area under their control.

We were taken to one house which had been cleared where a pregnant woman had just had her leg blown off by a mine that surfaced in the garden after being buried deep under the soil. The mine was missed by the de-miners in their first inspection.

Returning families

But though mine clearance is the biggest hurdle to resettling the town's inhabitants, there is also the problem of reconstruction materials. **Iron, steel and cement are still restricted items which need special government permission.**

There is also an urgent need to boost agriculture in the region, with more supplies of fertiliser and equipment needed.

Every day there is a steady trickle of 10 to 15 families returning to what was once a bustling town, their belongings loaded onto the few available pick-up trucks, hoping the suffering of two decades of war might soon be over. **(excepts, BBC South Asia - 23 January, 2002)**

தமிழீழ ஆவணக்காப்பகம்
Tamileelam Archive

LTTE removes 132,328 APLMs, booby traps

01 January 2002 - The de-mining division of the Liberation Tigers has removed 132,328 anti-personnel land mines (APLM) and booby traps left behind by the Sri Lanka army in the villages and towns of the Vanni region in northern Sri Lanka according to the Voice of Tigers news broadcast 31 December 2001.

The 132,328 APLMS and booby traps left behind by the Sri Lanka Army were removed from 20 April 2000 to 31 December 2001, the Voice of Tigers said.

Among the mines and booby traps removed by the de-mining division of the Tigers were :

APLMs – 82000; 152 mm artillery shells-1956; 130 mm artillery shells- 2131; 122 mm howitzer shells – 4618; 81 mm mortar shells –11400; 82 mm mortar shells – 3740; Grenades – 8388; Jumping mines – 360; Claymore mines – 929.

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION

Government plan to destroy "RAVAYA" and "SUNDAY LEADER" offices

Former close associate of the President and now a candidate of the UNF S.B. Dissanayake (ex-minister) stated that, the President had a secret plan to destroy the "Ravaya" and "Sunday Leader" newspaper offices along with their printing presses, by getting "Baddegane Sanjeewa" to bomb those **with the help of some other PSD officers.**

He also said at a press conference that the President was so furious with the two editors of these newspapers and even discussed this plan with him. However, he also added that certain people in the Cabinet intervened and prevented it from taking place.

Just one day before S.B. Dissanayake made this statement, the President has said at a youth wing meeting that S.B. Dissanayake came to her saying that the government is very weak now and survival is very difficult and asked her to create a dictatorial rule in the country, while also volunteering to kill one or two leading newspaper men if necessary.

The press conference held by Mr. Dissanayake afterwards also had the "Sunday Leader" editor and when he was asked by Reuters what he feels about it, he said quite nonchalantly that what he heard is nothing new. **(Ravaya – 12 November 2001)**

Sri Lankan presidential statement suggests government killing of journalists

By Gene Mater

06/11/2001 - The Free Media Movement of Sri Lanka, which has accused the government of President Chandrika Kumaratunga of the murder, assault and intimidation of journalists, now offers what it calls proof in a statement by the president in which she told how a former minister had proposed to murder newspaper editors.

The FMM claim is based on the lead story yesterday in the state-owned Daily News, which reported that the president said at a public rally that former government minister and political party general secretary S.B. Dissanayake had made the offer to her.

According to the Daily News story, the president said Dissanayake had pleaded with her to become an absolute dictator. Dissanayake told Kumaratunga to gag the independent news media, which were critical of the government, and then made this statement:

"Madam, the government is very weak and it could collapse at any time. If necessary I will even kill an editor or two who is critical of the government."

The Daily News reported that the president told Dissanayake the government was not weak and that she would not become a dictator. "I am the head of a people's government. I will stay as long as the people want me and go when it is not so," the newspaper quoted her as saying.

தமிழீழ ஆவணக்காப்பகம்
Tamileelam Archive

But FMM said Dissanayake claims it was the president who sent an underworld killer to him with the suggestion to kill newspaper editors, and that four eyewitnesses heard this conversation take place.

The free-media group said "it is not interested in investigating who first came up with the idea for this despicable act," contending that "what is clear is that plans for political murders were discussed without any inhibition at the highest level of government."

FMM also claimed that the exchange about killing journalists "explains why no proper investigations have been carried out into the murder of two journalists, the attempted murder of a number of editors and the numerous assaults on journalists in the past seven years."

FMM had accused presidential security agents of the murder of **Rohana Kumara,** editor of the newspaper Satana, on Sept. 9, 1999.

The group also accused the Eelam People's Democratic Party of killing Jaffna-based journalist **Mayilvaganam Nimalarajan**. "The fact that the leader of the EPDP is a minister in President Kumaratunga's government becomes extremely relevant after yesterday's statement by the president," FMM said.

No arrests have been made in either murder. FMM said that "if the president is to clear her name of involvement in these incidents, an immediate impartial investigation must be carried out and those responsible arrested."

Sri Lanka is on the "watch list" of the Vienna-based International Press Institute, limited to "countries that appear to be moving towards restricting press freedom." The most recent Freedom House survey of press freedom reports that broadcast and print media in Sri Lanka are "not free." **(www.freedomforum.org)**

Killing of BBC journalist
arrest warrant served only after 14 months

The Jaffna Magistrate has ordered the arrest of two Eelam People Democratic Party (EPDP) members in connection with the killing of journalist Mailvaganam Nimalarajan in October last year. The magistrate's order came after fresh evidence was submitted by the CID who had questioned former EPDP employees and obtained statements which led them to the suspects.

Mr. Nimalarajan, a freelance journalist for the BBC and other agencies, was killed after last year's elections during which he had reported alleged malpractices by the EPDP. Reports said one of the suspects to be arrested was also allegedly involved in Wednesday's attack on TNA members in Kayts. Two people were killed and some top TNA candidates were injured. **(excerpts, The Sunday Times – 2 December 2001)**

Foreign Journalist Marie Colvin escapes
attempt on her life in SRI LANKA

Tamil Centre for Human Rights - TCHR, has called for un Urgent appeal on an attempt made on the life of a London based journalist Marie Catherine COLVIN. TCHR requested everyone to send an appeal to Mary Robinson, High Commissioner for human rights and President Chandrika Kumaratunga urging the Sri Lankan government to immediately lift the ban on journalists visiting Tamil hereditary regions, especially the Vanni. **The appeal dated 23 April 2001 - AE/53/01 reads as follows :**

"MARIE COLVIN of Britain's "Sunday Times" arrived in Sri Lanka on March 21. She had obtained her visa to Sri Lanka in the Sri Lanka High Commission, UK, where she had met the High Commissioner. He had arranged an interview for her with the Sri Lankan Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr. Kathirgamar, on April 4 at 1.00 p.m.

"In Sri Lanka, there is strict local press censorship and in the recent past Journalists, Lawyers and Human Rights activists who have brought attention to the desperate humanitarian situation of the people in the war-torn Tamil hereditary regions, have either been threatened or killed.

31 Journalists killed

"According to "Rapporteurs Sans Frontiers" (Reporters Without Borders-RSF), at least 31 journalists have been killed in Sri Lanka since 1988, practising their profession. In October last year the Sri Lanka government acknowledged that 29 journalists had been assaulted, threatened or harassed during Chandrika Kumaratunga's first mandate, and that 22 of these cases have never been solved.

"The visiting journalist MARIE COLVIN, is the first foreign journalist in six years to make a pathway into the war-torn Tamil hereditary regions, the Vanni in particular. During her visit there, she met with various people including the political leader of Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam-LTTE, Thamil Chelvan. The LTTE has been observing a unilateral cease-fire since Christmas for the fourth month.

On-the-spot account

"From Mallawi, in the Vanni, MARIE COLVIN reported to **'The Sunday Times' of April 15,** giving an on-the-spot account of what she had witnessed under the headline, "Fighting Tigers talk of peace deal". Here we give a few excerpts for analysis :

- ".....a government employee and a Tamil. His descriptions of his own radicalisation was the story of how oppression turns moderates to militants. "I don't want this war" he said. "But before the LTTE, the Tamils were slaughtered. My family was driven from Jaffna and we lost everything. I can't see any other way to win our rights. So I helped them".

- "Although the government claims the Tamils Tigers intimidate civilians, there is evidence of extensive popular support in the regions they control. "The Tamils would be all dead, shot up without these Tigers" said Father Xavier, a parish priest.

- "Ministers in Colombo deny there is an economic embargo on the Vanni, the Tamil area on the mainland, while checkpoints on the internal border enforce a ban on items ranging from fuel, cement and plastics sheeting to instant noodles and vegetable oil. Even sanitary towels are not allowed - presumably because they can be used to dress wounds.

- "Colombo prohibits international aid agencies from distributing food. International aid agencies estimate that 40% of the children in Vanni are undernourished or malnourished."

Totally contradicts

"Marie Colvin's article in the Sunday Times totally contradicts the Sri Lankan government's malicious international propaganda that has been carried out for years, and this obviously disappointed the government.

"**Firstly,** as MARIE COLVIN was in the Vanni, she could not attend the appointment with the Minister of Foreign Affairs on April 4. Presumably, Mr. Kathirgarmar was waiting in Colombo, expecting to supply her with gimmicks from his 'Lie Bank'! **Secondly** her article which appeared in the Sunday Times would have infuriated the government and also indicated clearly that she was actually in the Vanni. These facts alerted the Ministry of Defence and its allies!

"On Monday 17 April, after two weeks of visiting the Vanni, MARIE COLVIN returned to the northern town of Vavuniya, which is held by Sri Lankan army. The government had declared a temporary five-day cease-fire for the Tamil-Sinhala New Year. While MARIE COLVIN was crossing into Vavuniya - the government troops stationed at Parayanlankulam-Vavuniya opened fire on her. She sustained four shrapnel wounds to a shoulder, thigh, chest and eye. Her lung was bruised and her eye-injury was serious, requiring exploratory surgery in Sri Lanka.

"Immediately after the shooting, the **government went all out to justify the incident!** Even the Prime Minister of Sri Lanka did so in public meetings. There is ample evidence that, in fact, this was an attempt on Ms Colvin's life.

Government found a pretext

"Since she escaped from the shooting, the government found a pretext to justify the incident, stating that MARIE COLVIN was an overstayer in Sri Lanka! Does this mean that anyone who overstays in a country can be shot?

"Professional journalists have no barriers, frontiers nor limits. Journalists of integrity bring out true facts, unlike Sri Lankan propagandists who work under the cloak of being an academic, like Rohan Gunaratne or the cloak of being a journalist, like Dushy Ranetunga who both prepared a hit list of 63 Westerners and Tamils marking them out for assassination!

"Indeed, journalists should report to the world the true suffering caused by wars. MARIE COLVIN, while on her hospital bed in Sri Lanka said that "I was not there on some sort of sneaky spy mission. I went there because, although it is closed to journalists, talking to the Tamil Tigers and writing about a humanitarian crisis are important issues".

"From her Manhattan hospital bed, she reported to 'The Sunday Times' of 22 April, "The Sri Lankan government reacted with anger to my presence in the Tamil-held area of the Vanni. It made no apologies for what happened to me!" **(excerpts)**

ELECTION VIOLENCE – DECEMBER 2001

Uncleared area voters 'disenfranchised' - TNA

The Tamil National Alliance comprising four Tamil political parties - alleged that thousands of Tamil voters in the uncleared areas of the Wanni and Batticaloa districts had been prevented from voting.

The Tamil United Liberaton Front, All Ceylon Tamil Congress, Tamil Eelam Liberation Organisation and Eelam Peoples' Revolutionary Liberation Front has urged the Elections Commissioner to hold a fresh poll for voters from the uncleared areas.

TULF Secretary General R. Sampanthan has also urged the polls chief to ascertain from the Presiding Officers and the Returning Officers of the relevant electoral districts the true facts.

He alleged that the polling at cluster stations for voters from the uncleared areas in the Wanni and Batticaloa districts and in the Kayts electorate did not commence at the appointed hour and did not continue until the hour fixed for the closing of the poll.

The restricted voting hours prevented voters in the uncleared areas from reaching the cluster polling stations situated in the cleared areas while the entry points into the cleared areas were also closed.

He also accused an armed group contesting the elections in the Jaffna electoral district of preventing voters in the Kayts electorate from freely exercising their franchise at the polling stations throughout the whole period polling took place.

Of the 11 electorates in the Jaffna district the EPDP which allegedly had control over the islets had secured the highest number of votes-15,378-in Kayts electorate whereas the TULF obtained 4,304 and UNP 764 votes.

Alliance candidate Joseph Pararajasingham told The Sunday Times that thousands of voters in the uncleared areas of the Batticaloa district had been prevented from voting by the security forces who closed the entry points into the cleared area reportedly on a special directive from President Chandrika Kumaratunga.

He said as a result more than 40,000 voters were unable to cast their votes.

He alleged that the voters from the uncleared areas who came to cast their votes were turned away at the entry points at Black Bridge, Mankerni, Kiran Bridge and the Vavunitivu Bridge and voters were allowed at only two entry points at the Paddiruppu bridge and Ambilanthurai manned by police personnel.

He said that he made a complaint to Elections Commissioner Dayananda Dissanayake as well as to the Army Commander General Balagalle that this action was undemocratic.

He said the Elections Commissioner had assured him the matter would be referred to the Defence Secretary and said he was hopeful the voters would be able to cast their votes after 12 noon but he was dismayed that voters were not allowed entry even then.

According to reports, it is learnt that about 130,000 Tamil voters had been prevented from casting their votes freely as a result. (The Sunday Times – 9 December 2001)

130,000 Tamils kept from voting

COLOMBO - DECEMBER 05, 2001 - The army closed roads, preventing some 130,000 minority Tamil voters from reaching the polls, as Sri Lankans cast ballots for a new Parliament following one of the island's most violent election campaigns.

Tamileelam Archive

The army closed roads in eastern Batticaloa and northern Vavuniya because of fears the rebels from the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam would infiltrate to disrupt polling, said military spokesman Brig. Sanath Karunaratne.

The action blocked access to polling stations for 70,600 Tamils in Batticaloa, and 60,000 in Vavuniya, according to Election Secretariat documents, local candidates and election officials.

Tamil voters are considered likely to support opposition parties that the government accuses of favouring the rebels' cause.

"This decision will disenfranchise many thousands of voters, which I believe will have a significant impact on the outcome in these electoral districts," said John Cushnahan, head of a 48-member European Union observer team. "This is something we will have to take into account when we complete our final report" on Friday.

"This is daylight murder of democracy, not acceptable to any Tamils," said Joseph Pararajasingham, the chief candidate of the Tamil National Alliance in Batticaloa. If the roads aren't opened, he said the Election Commissioner should cancel the local voting. (AP)

2 killed and 21 injured in an EPDP attack in Naranthanai

November 28, 2001 - A group of Jaffna district Tamil National Alliance (TNA) candidates and supporters who had gone to Naranthanai in Jaffna for campaigning were attacked by armed cadres of the Eelam People's Democratic Party (EPDP), around 11a.m with knives and other weapons.

Two were killed and twenty others injured. The person who was killed was an employee of the Jaffna University. Many TNA candidates contesting the Jaffna district at the forthcoming parliamentary were admitted to the Jaffna hospital.

300,000 votes in Jaffna - list of 600,000 sent

During a media conference held at the Galadari Hotel, Director of PAFFREL Mr. Kingsley Rodrigo said that, the sending of a Voting list with 600,000 names to Jaffna district, when only 300,000 have been found eligible out of those living there at present to vote, is a serious blow to the effort to hold free and fair elections. He also added that this process is highly suspicious as these Voters lists are renewed and amended every year in all other districts, but an old one is being sent only to Jaffna district. **(excerpts, Lakbima, 9 November 2001)**

70,000 PA leaflets flown to Jaffna with army chief help

The Programme for Protection of Public Property in its fifth report has stated that 70,000 leaflets canvassing votes for the People's Alliance were airlifted to Jaffna an November 19, 2001 with the knowledge and direction of the Army Commander.

The statement added that these leaflets have been accompanied by a Captain of the Army Commando Unit attached to the President's Security Division. The leaflets in Sinhala which are critical of the UNP request the soldiers to vote for the PA in order to fight the war to victory. **(excerpts, The Island – 27 November 2001)**

EPDP on rampage in Komari

03 December 2001 - Two Tamil National Alliance (TNA) campaign offices were set on fire and three TNA supporters' houses were damaged by a group of heavily armed cadres of the Eelam People's Democratic Party (EPDP), a major coalition partner of Sri Lanka's ruling People's Alliance regime, in Komari, south of Batticaloa. Three TNA supporters were severely assaulted by the EPDP gang. "The Police have done nothing to stop the EPDP from attacking the people. The STF has stood by when the armed gang went on the rampage in Komari".

Violence murdering democracy in Sri Lanka

EU monitors

COLOMBO, November 30, 2001 (AFP) - The European Union Friday urged the Sri Lankan government to mobilise security forces ahead of next week's parliamentary elections to eliminate violence that it said was "murdering democracy". An EU election monitoring team accused both the ruling People's Alliance and the main opposition of resorting to violence, but held the government responsible for not maintaining law and order.

தமிழீழ ஆவணக்காப்பகம்
Tamileelam Archive

The head of the EU mission, John Cushnahan, said **he witnessed first hand the level of violence in the northern Jaffna district** where one man was killed and several wounded in a campaign-related attack on Wednesday.

"Those who carried out this murder and similar attacks elsewhere are murdering democracy itself," Cushnahan, an Irish member of the European Parliament, said in a statement.

He said the high level of violence was a challenge to the integrity of the election process and warned political parties that the outcome would be tainted.

"My experience in Jaffna and the experience of other members of my team elsewhere has highlighted the widespread concern that many things have already happened in this campaign so far which raise serious question marks about the integrity of this electoral contest.

EPDP fires on women's march

01 December, 2001 - Four supporters of the Tamil National Alliance were wounded when gunmen from the Eelam People's Democratic Party (EPDP) opened fire on a march by more than a thousand women at Vinayagapuram, south of Batticaloa, on the island's south-eastern coast. People in the villages of Thirukkovil, Thambiluvil, Vinayagapuram, angered by the attack, burnt tires across the main road and smashed an EPDP campaign auto rickshaw. The wounded persons were admitted to the Thirukkovil hospital. The march was organised by a women's group in support of the TNA.

The march began from Sinnamuhathuvaaram and was nearing the village of Vinayagapuram when a group of heavily armed EPDP cadres led by the party's chief candidate for the Amparai electoral district, Mr. Gunasekeram Shankar had attacked the women and opened fire on the procession. The EPDP cadres beat up many women at the head of the march.
Shankar had also shot at the correspondent of the Batticaloa Tamil daily, Thinakathir, Mr. Sellathamby Thushyanthan, who was covering the march.

French poll monitor attacked in Sri Lanka vote

COLOMBO, Dec 5 (AFP) - A French woman monitoring Sri Lanka's parliamentary election came under attack Wednesday in President Chandrika Kumaratunga's home constituency.
Vanessa Gosselin, who works for the Paris-based watchdog Reporters Sans Frontiers (Reporters Without Borders), was observing the vote as a member of a foreign election monitoring group.

She said her car was damaged and her interpreter assaulted while she was watching proceedings in Gampaha, where there have been several violent clashes between police and voters.

"I was unhurt but I am shaken," Gosselin said. "It is the first time I have experienced anything like this. It was incredibly violent."

She said members of the president's ruling People's Alliance were responsible for the attack.
The nine-hour voting period ended with allegations of intimidation and ballot stuffing.

No re-poll decision not fair by voters, say monitors

Local and foreign election monitors claim that it was unfair and unjust for the Elections Commissioner to have consulted party secretaries about holding re-polls in certain districts. They say that with the powers vested in the Elections Commissioner under the 17th Amendment, he should have been able to make the decision on re-polling without consulting them.

Chief Observer of the EU Election Observation Mission John Cushnahan said he too would have liked to see a re-poll in certain divisions which were declared null and void.

He went on to say that he was appalled at a statement made by the President, a senior UNP leader and exiled JVP leader Somawansa Amarasinghe that killing was acceptable.

The preliminary report issued by the EU Commission states that the government in power has a special responsibility to ensure that the election was conducted in an atmosphere of non-violence.

"It had a political and moral obligation to ensure that the entire security forces of the state were mobilized to eliminate violence from the political process. This it failed to do" the report said.

Polls monitors of the EU Mission said they had witnessed ballot boxes being stuffed and voters being intimidated at polling stations, especially in the Kandy District.

Meanwhile, PAFFREL Executive Director Kingsley Rodrigo said the election was definitely not free and fair. However, he said that the result was what was expected and reflected the will of the people.

A statement issued by PAFFREL states that the preliminary observations of the monitors indicate that the conditions for a free and fair election did not exist in the Kurunegala, Kandy, Matale and Gampaha Districts and the violations that occurred were of sufficient seriousness to merit a re-poll.

The letter states that the Elections Commissioner should take into consideration the interest of the voters and not be guided solely by the interest of the political parties and independent groups. **(excerpts "The Sunday Times" – 9 December 2001)**

EU monitors appalled by Sri Lankan President's revenge remarks

COLOMBO, Dec 7 (AFP) - A European Union poll observer team Friday expressed grave concern over election-related violence in Sri Lanka and said they were appalled that President Chandrika Kumaratunga had justified revenge attacks during the campaign.

The European Union election observer mission here said Kumaratunga's People's Alliance (PA) as well as the opposition United National Party which won Wednesday's parliamentary polls were responsible for the violence.

EU mission chief John Cushnahan criticised the president for a statement she made during the five-week election campaign in which she called on her supporters to avenge any attack on them because "it is alright to kill murderers."

"I was absolutely appalled at the remarks made by the president of the country who is also the commander-in-chief of the country," said Cushnahan, whose report will be circulated among EU governments.

He also said he deplored the increasing politicisation of the island's police force, saying police officers were being used by politicians to gain an advantage.

Cushnahan was critical of a decision by election chief Dayananda Dissanayake not to call for fresh polls in the areas affected by violence and allegations of ballot-rigging.

He said he would have preferred a re-poll in places where either violence or military action prevented people from voting: the northern district of Wanni, the central district of Kandy and the president's home constituency of Gampaha.

46 killed 2332 wounded

Election related violence escalated to 2332 including 46 killings Police Election Secretariat said yesterday. The UNP lodged 1197 complaints while the PA reported 753 complaints. The JVP made 88 and SLMC had lodged 78 respectively.

The highest number of complaints, 266, was reported from Chilaw. Anuradhapura 229, Ampara 168, Gampaha 106, Kegalle 113, Matara 105 and Tangalle 104 were the others. Kandy police said that special police teams had been deployed to combat violence in the area including Hanguranketa and Walapane. **(excerpts, The Island – 8 December2001)**

PRESIDENT SECURITY DIVISION-PSD

Advocates widespread killings and massacres

President Kumaratunga advocates blood for blood

President Chandrika Kumaratunga, addressing a PA rally in Tissamaharama in the deep south, **told her supporters to kill anyone who kills a PA supporter.** She was addressing a highly guarded meeting at the Debarawewa Maha Vidyalaya in support of the candidature of Minister Mahinda Rajapaksha.

தமிழீழ ஆவணக்காப்பகம்
Tamileelam Archive

The President said the PA could not tolerate anyone killing their supporters. **"If one of our supporters is killed, kill the killer,"** she said. Minister Mahinda Rajapaksha, who was visibly shaken after this remark, appealed to the media not to publish it. **(excerpts - Colombo Page News Desk - November 19, 2001)**

Letters of resignation from PA MPs?

Dec 10, Colombo - Sources say that some of the newly elected People's Alliance MPs have been summoned to the President's House and requested to sign letters of resignation from their Parliamentary seats.

They also say that only some of the MPs have been asked to sign the letters while others have not been asked. This has come in view that the President feels that some of her MPs might switch sides and as a safety measure has taken letters from those she feels will defect.

"Even some staunch loyal supporters of the President has been asked to sign the letter, so obviously she is not selective," sources said, adding that the MPs have been summoned district-wise and some districts did not seem to have been summoned. **(excerpts "Daily News" - December 2001)**

Murder of PSD's Al Capone

To be a 'Chandiya' was the sole aim and ambition of **Baddegana Sanjeewa**. Driving his Serena 31- 5940, that fateful Friday evening on November 2, Sanjeewa felt in full control. In the company of one of his closest **Mafia friends, Dhamikka Perera and Ulapane Mudiyansalage** Udaya Kumara alias Galay, Sanjeewa discussed his political future and survival. Recently dismissed from the Presidential Security Division, Sanjeewa was not worried. His dismissal was merely a face saving measure for the PSD Sanjeewa at the time of his death was still a close confidante of PSD Chief, ASP, Nihal Karunaratne.

In fact, when The Sunday Leader telephoned the presidential security division to find out if Baddegana Sanjeewa had indeed been interdicted from the PSD, a top cop said, "I do not know," before abruptly cutting short our telephone query.

Despite his 'official' interdiction from the ranks of the PSD, a police revolver together with a police identification card were found on the person of Baddegana Sanjeewa at the scene of his murder. Posters carrying his image after his death, portrayed him wearing a police tie. The police have once more proved their servility to the underworld by refusing to even make public the names of the suspected killers of Baddegana Sanjeewa. Afraid of violent reprisals and transfers to punishment stations, the cops have decided on a form of self-censorship and are keeping 'mum'.

Leading political personalities meanwhile paid their last respects to Baddegana Sanjeewa. President Chandrika Kumaratunge herself sent a wreath of flowers expressing deep sadness at Sanjeewa's sudden death. PA heavyweights, Jeevan Kumaratunga, Mervyn Silva, Sanath Gunatilleke and Nihal Karunaratne also attended the funeral and paid their last respects.

During the 1994 general election when the political scales were tipped heavily in favour of a win for Chandrika Kumaratunga, Sanjeewa was approached by the former Chief Minister for the Western Province, Morris Rajapakse to assist in providing additional security for Kumaratunga.

Organised crime

At the time, Sanjeewa was employed as a bodyguard to Morris Rajapakse. An army major by the name of Lankatileke who was a friend and associate of Morris Rajapakse also persuaded Sanjeewa to assist Kumaratunga in providing additional security.

Following Kumaratunga's win, Sanjeewa befriended Nihal Karunaratne. The only favour he sought for services rendered during Kumaratunga's election campaign was to be enlisted in the Sri Lanka Police Force. His request was granted and Sanjeewa was accepted as a Reserve Police Constable and assigned to the PSD.

Thereafter began Sanjeewa's entry into organised crime. Backed by political masters, Sanjeewa became a ready and willing tool in a circle of systematic crime. He quickly found favour with PSD Chief, Nihal Karunaratne as Sanjeewa's penchant for brutality and violence became his ticket to fame.

He quickly rose in the ranks of the PSD. From RPC he was promoted to PC and finally to Police Sergeant, by which time he served as personal bodyguard to Nihal Karunaratne.

Despite his criminal record, President Chandrika Kumaratunga trusted Baddegana Sanjeewa implicitly and was comfortable in having him provide her body protection - confident of his loyalty to her, she felt reasonably safe under his purview.

Born to a father who was a kassippu dealer, Baddegana Sanjeewa was no virgin to falling out with the long arm of the law. He readily used his police uniform, affinity to the PSD, police service identity card and gun to instil fear in unarmed civilians and police, resorting to acts of murder, assault, intimidation and mayhem like a duck taking to water.

Sanjeewa was no longer an ordinary man. He began to amass great wealth. His name brought shudders to the souls of ordinary folk, his misdeeds began to slowly unfold. Baddegana Sanjeewa revelled in the knowledge that he was finally a full-blown 'Chandiya', an identification he had sought long to achieve. In a show of newly acquired wealth, he built a luxurious three storey house at Baddegana.

Lasantha Wickrematunge, Editor, The Sunday Leader was among the first to officially make a police complaint against Baddegana Sanjeewa after his (Wickrematunge's) home at Nugegoda was pock marked with bullets shot by an unidentified gang at around 10 p.m. one night in June 1998.

Later, on September 7, 1999, Rohana Kumara, Editor of the Satana newspaper was making his way home at around 9 p.m. when he was shot dead at point blank range while inside the three wheeler he had been travelling in. The names of three suspects emerged. Thatta Asoka, Thara Ajit and one other figured as the killers.

Contract killings

Baddegana Sanjeewa's name meanwhile again figured three months later. **On January 4, 2000, Kumar Ponnambalam was shot dead at Ramakrishna Road, Wellawatte. Moratu Saman and a former police constable named Sunil Ranasinghe carried out the killing on the instructions of Baddegana Sanjeewa.** Top cops told The Sunday Leader that the killers, after murdering Ponnambalam, made their way to the office of a deputy minister who was shown as proof the mobile telephone of Ponnambalam and the weapon used in the killing, which belonged to 'C.....' the son of a VIP PA politico.

The Sunday Leader last year highlighted how according to information gathered by the police, Dhammika is looked after by both Lohan and his brother Mahen Ratwatte.
Earlier in 1997-1999, S. B. Dissanayake shielded Dhammika. Dhammika was introduced to S.B. by Sanjeewa. On one occasion, Dhammika together with another businessman reportedly met at S. B. Dissanayake's official residence in Colombo at 20, Stan more Crescent, Colombo 7. They allegedly detailed a plan to burn the printing press of a rival in Kandy. The job was duly carried out. The gory details have been revealed in a statement Galay made to the cops soon after.

Dhammika was also given an official ID from the Ministry of Sports during S. B. Dissanyake's tenure as minister. The police say that to this date Dhammika uses this ID to get through police barriers and enter high security zones. **(excerpts "Sunday Leader" - November 11th, 2001)**

Giving special increments to PSD

The UNP-led United National Front yesterday accused President Chandrika Kumaratunga of granting three special salary increments to her security division overlooking the rest of the police service.

UNF spokesman G. L. Peiris said yesterday that President Kumaratunga's government has acted in great unfairness to the rest of the police service.

He said that although the UNF does not oppose the President's decision to give increments to the PSD personnel who are working amidst high risk, there are police officers serving in the north-east under a much greater degree of risk. He raised concern about hurting the feelings of police officers in the operational areas through this unfair treatment. **(excerpt "The Island" – 15 November 2001)**

3000 to 4000 men in the PSD to safeguard one individual

Dr. Rajitha Senaratne, Minister of Lands, was interviewed in "The Sunday Leader" of 13 January 2002:

Q: The Director PSD, Nihal Karunaratne, has also involved himself in numerous acts of violence and is considered one of the most corrupt policemen, having even taken over several petrol stations through government patronage. Does your government have a secret deal with Karunaratne. If not, why not take action against him too?

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A: He has also got himself involved in criminal activities. You see, Nihal was in touch with me during the elections. It should not mean that he should not be investigated into. I think the criminal activities of the PSD should be probed into. Nobody knows how many members are there in the PSD. When I asked some of the former ministers, even they could not answer this question. I understand some 3,000 to 4,000 men are there in the PSD to safeguard one individual. And they were involved in attacking journalists. Three people were identified and photographs were given. Now this government must inquire into this. In fact, these are the men who were despatched to kill S.B. Dissanayake.

When 41 PSD members were sent to Anuradhapura I asked Nihal the reason. He said it was to improve the morale of the SLFPers. This was not to improve the morale of the organisers but to attack the opponents. The PA thought that the elections could be won through terror tactics. This was Ratwatte's technique. But now he is wondering how to get out of the arrest order.

Shocking details of plot to kill ex-minister

The courage and dedication to duty of a Sub Inspector of Police appears to have saved former People's Alliance stalwart and now United National Front campaigner S. B. Dissanayake from certain death.

He would have been killed, just three days before the elections, by a gang who allegedly planned to use a launcher to fire 40 mm grenades — a weapon used by security forces only in their war against Tiger guerrillas.

The launcher and ten grenades were among a small arsenal allegedly found in the possession of nine men — a Police Sergeant and Constable from the notorious Presidential Security Division (PSD), a Sergeant, Corporal and a Private from the Sri Lanka Army and four civilians — all Army deserters. **(The Sunday Times – 9 December 2001)**

PM's life under threat

23 November, Colombo- A missing sniper gun belonging to the Sri Lanka Navy could be used to kill UNP/UNF leaders in the run up to the election, former minister SB Dissanayake claimed Friday.

Dissanayake said the gun and 150 bullets have gone missing since 1999, and he has information that a top PA media official is to plan an operation to use the gun to assassinate UNP leaders by firing at a UNP rally from a long range.

The gun, Dissanayake alleged, was stolen by a former Naval officer who is a friend of the top PA media man. Dissanayake alleged that the government's last trump in order to win the election may be to assassinate the Prime Minister Ratnasiri Wickremanayake and blame it on the UNP.

"I shall write to the Prime Minister with details of this plot," Dissanayake said. Peiris charged that the presidential immunity is being used for election purposes by the PA. **[Colombo Page News Desk, Sri Lanka]**

Sri Lanka police arrest presidential guards

COLOMBO, Dec 3 (AFP) - Police have arrested three members of the elite Presidential Security Division for alleged involvement in election-related violence, local officials said Monday.

The three presidential bodyguards were arrested with six other men on Sunday. They were armed with four automatic assault rifles, a grenade launcher, five pistols and 10 grenades. All nine were due to appear before a magistrate Monday, a police official in the central town of Nuwara Eliya said.

"They have been unable to explain why they were in the area at a time when the president was not expected there at all," the police officer said.

CID questions cop who 'Did his duty'

The Criminal Investigations Department (CID) is questioning the officer who arrested nine Presidential Security Division officers in possession of hand grenades in addition to firearms at Padiyapelella in the Mathurata police division on December 2.

தமிழீழ ஆவணக்காப்பகம்
Tamileelam Archive

Police sources said that the questioning was taking place due to a complaint by a VVIP. The nine Presidential Security Division officers in possession of 11 firearms, 10 hand grenades and 606 live bullets were arrested by Mathurata Police at Padiyapelella town and produced before Kandy Additional Magistrate, Pradeep Hettihewa. **(excerpts "The Island" – 10 December2001)**

Court in Sri Lanka ordered arrest of Director of Presidential Security Division

A court in Sri Lanka has ordered the arrest of the head of President Chandrika Kumaratunga's bodyguard force, in connection with **a plot to kill one of the president's main political opponents**.

A magistrate in the central town of Kandy ordered that Nihal Karunaratne, the director of the elite Presidential Security Division, be brought before the court.

He is accused of involvement in the attempted assassination in November of SB Dissanayake, who had resigned from Ms Kumaratunga's government the month before.

The PSD has been accused of involvement in politically-motivated violence during Mrs Kumaratunga's rule, allegations she has denied. **(BBC World Service South Asia - 30 January, 2002)**

Plot to assassinate Ranil Wickremesinghe

"Six persons - two Muslims, a Sinhalese and three Tamils - all on army's payroll were arrested along with four thermo baric weapons, seven 10kg claymore mines, ten 1kg claymore mines, three T-56 Chinese manufactured assault rifles along with over 400 rounds of ammunition, ten anti-tank weapons, detonators, cyanide capsules, exploders, remote control devices and wire rolls. The raiding party also recovered 66 sets of new LTTE uniforms.

Controversy surrounds Wednesday's **(2 January 2002)** police raid on an army officer's house in Millennium City in the Aturugiriya police area with senior army sources claiming that police have raided one of their safe houses described as the 'home' for a covert operations unit engaged in missions in LTTE held areas.

However investigators said that they firmly believe the so called covert operations unit was involved in an abortive plot to assassinate UNP leader Ranil Wickremesinghe during run - up to the December 5 parliamentary elections. **A few weeks before the elections, the UNP leader claimed that he was aware of a plot to mount a claymore mine attack on the bus he used on the campaign trail.**

The then UNP Chairman Charitha Ratwatte and the Vice Chairman Daya Palpola wrote to Army Commander Lt. Gen. Lionel Balagalle claiming men under his command were planning to assassinate the UNP leader. Balagalle promptly denied the allegation.

Police said that they have information to suggest that the group arrested on Wednesday was involved in the earlier plot. However, following the UNP led United National Front's victory at the parliamentary elections, the group operating under the directions of the Military Intelligence and the Directorate of Military Intelligence (DMI) was apparently making plans to sabotage the ongoing peace process. Police expressed the belief that the group could have mounted a major attack in Colombo in a bid to sabotage the Norwegian facilitated bid to bring the two sides back to the negotiating table.

Wednesday's raid had been carried out by the Kandy Crimes and Operations division responsible for the ongoing inquiry into the Udathalawinna massacre where a platoon of Vijayabahu Infantry Regiment (VIR) had been detained in connection with their alleged involvement in the polls-day slaughter.

Police sources said that they believed at least one of the key suspects wanted in connection with the Udathalawinna massacre believed to be a son of the then Deputy Defence Minister Anuruddha Ratwatte was hiding there. However, police failed to find Ratwatte and instead came across the arms and so called intelligence operatives tasked with a major anti-government operation.

Police sources said that they believe the same group was responsible for trying to blow up a UNP parliamentary elections candidate contesting the Kandy district just before polls-day. Investigators were trying to establish whether the group had anything to do with planting two powerful claymore mines under a culvert along the Wattegama - Panwila road. **(excerpts, "The Island" 4 January 2002)**

How a 'top State secret' became public

But a more shocking blow came when Police conducted a raid last (2 January 2002) Wednesday night on a safe house at Athurugiriya, operated by the Directorate of Military Intelligence, to conduct counter terrorist operations. Assisting in the raid were men from the Army's Military Police (or CCMP –Corps Ceylon Military Police, as they are commonly referred to).

தமிழீழ ஆவணக்காப்பகம்
Tamilealam Archive

An SP in the Kandy Division, Mr. Udugampola, had obtained a Court Order to conduct a raid on a house at the Millennium City at Athurugiriya. Before the raid, he had got in touch with the Army's Provost Marshal, Major General Ivan Das-sanayake, and obtained the help of Military Police officials to accompany him.

Who are the five men now in custody of the Police under the Prevention of Terrorism Act ? They are a Captain and four regular soldiers assigned to the Directorate of Military Intelligence. The sixth is a former Tiger guerrilla cadre, who surrendered to the security forces and later enlisted as a soldier.

However, the Police in Kandy are learnt to have information from an informant that the Athurugiriya Safe House was linked to attempts at possible harm to Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe and to earlier claims of men being trained at Panaluwa.

Internal Army investigations have raised some intriguing questions. It was only on December 15 last year, the Athurugiriya Safe House had been obtained on rent by the Directorate of Military Intelligence for a period of six months. It has been standard practice for DMI to operate Safe Houses for secret operations. Some months ago, one in fact functioned in close proximity to the Kotte-Sri Jayawardhanapura Parliamentary complex. The address of the house was such a closely guarded secret that only one or two DMI officials knew it.

Yet, the Court Order Mr. Udugampola obtained contained the exact address of the house. Did a rival group within DMI surreptitiously obtain the address from an official in question and leak it ?

But, if the existing situation in the security forces and the Police are allowed to deteriorate, particularly due to no action of any sort being taken by the new Government, its priority will become peace talks on two fronts – one with the Tiger guerrillas and the other with those in the country's security establishment. **(Excerpts)**

Ex-deputy defence minister's son Chanuka visited safe house

Former Deputy Minister Defence Anuruddha Ratwatte's son Chanuka had allegedly visited the military intelligence Millennium City safe house during election time, where a large haul of arms was recovered by Police, a senior police officer probing the case told the Daily News yesterday.

"If this is a Military intelligence safe house **what had Chanuka Ratwatte got to do there ?** My informant told me that there is a private armoury at the Athurugiriya Millennium City and he told me that Chanuka had visited this place several times before the election," he said.

The UNP revealed during the election period that there was a conspiracy to attack the UNP propaganda bus and assassinate leader Ranil Wickremesinghe with the knowledge of Military intelligence officers. When the UNP wrote to Army Commander Lionel Balagalle, he denied that the Army was planning to kill the UNP leader,

Police also recovered three claymore mines placed in a culvert in a Panvila to kill UNP MP Keheliya Rambukwella. However, he escaped after recovering these three mines. Police also suspect that these three claymore mines have been released from this Private armoury, the Police officer said.

Police recovered 17 items from this house including 66 LTTE camouflage kits, a cyanide capsule, six large claymore mines, 10 anti-tank mines, eight small claymore mines, four light anti-tank rocket launchers, 20 fuses used for claymore mines, 17 detonators, two T 56 weapons, 12 magazines and 418 rounds of ammunition, protective plastic eye covers, nine wire rolls, three remote control antennas, etc.

"It is understandable if the Army keeps such armouries in places like Vavuniya, Batticaloa, Jaffna, Anuradhapura, Polonnaruwa, etc. **But why did the Army keep landmines, anti-tank rocket launchers, cyanide capsules, LTTE camouflage kits in a place like Colombo,**" he questioned. Police are investigating whether these Military officers were involved in the Udatalawinna massacre. **(excerpts, Daily News – 5 January 2002)**

Grounds for impeachment in President's speech

Former Cabinet Minister Prof. G. L. Peiris, on Monday said that a statement made by the President at a recent political rally, violated the law of the country and was possible grounds for impeachment. He was citing a portion of a speech made by the President at a rally in Tissamaharamaya, in the Hambantota district.

"What the President has said is crystal clear she says that: for seven years we have been patient, but patience has its limits. In direct and explicit terms she says that: we will kill the people who are killing us", he said at a press conference. "If people can take the law in to their own hands what is the point of having a court system?" he questioned, adding "This is making nonsense of a long civilisation".

The President has violated the criminal law of Sri Lanka and is guilty of abetment to murder under section 100 of the Penal Code. According to Section 101, even if a murder is not committed, the president is still guilty of instigation, he said. There is room for legal action against her once the Presidency concludes and terminates her legal immunity, Prof. Peiris further said. **(excerpt "The Island" – 21 November 2001)**

Abuse of the powers

Professor G. L. Peiris yesterday said that the hatred and animosity President Chandrika Kumaratunga harbours towards him was due to his refusal to grant textile quotas in an illegal manner as requested by President Kumaratunga.

He said that the President could be impeached for these illegal activities that constitutes misconduct involving the abuse of the powers of her office, under Article 38(2) of the constitution. **(The Island – 27 November 2001)**

30,000 Deadly army deserters

Weapon trained Army deserters are the main culprits behind a series of crimes that have rocked Colombo in the past few months, police charge.

The rapid recruitment of men into the army and large-scale desertion has resulted in army deserters being involved in most of the serious crimes committed in the country ranging from bank robberies to organized crimes and murder.

According to Police sources there are around 30,000 deserters. "All of them are weapon trained and have been involved in many serious crimes in recent months," a senior police official said. Deserters have been linked to the spate of bank robberies that have taken place across the country in the past few months as well as to the activities of the underworld gangs.

A Navy deserter is one of the suspects wanted in connection with the **killing of a 59 year old woman** in her home at Peliyagoda on Monday. On Wednesday, Kegalle Police recovered nearly **15 kilograms of robbed gold jewellery** from the home of an army deserter in Hingurakgoda and took into custody three suspects of whom two were deserters.

In connection with the latest attempted **robbery at the People's Bank** branch at Battaramulla, Police have arrested six people including three army deserters and a policeman. Police are looking for two others including another deserter.

According to Thalangama Police OIC Crimes Anura Perera, the same gang has **been involved in six bank heists,** all in different branches of the People's Bank. "The suspects confessed they only targeted state banks," he said.

In December, the Bank Manager and a security guard at the People's Bank branch at Padalangala in Embilipitiya **were killed during a bank robbery.** The gang that attempted the robbery at Battaramulla last week is believed to be the same gang behind the Embilipitiya incident. They have also been linked to bank robberies in Athurugiriya and Nittambuwa .

Nearly 99 per cent of the weapons being used in the recent spate of crimes are believed to be those that disappeared during the time of the JVP insurrection in the late 80's and which have not been accounted for, according to army spokesman. (excerpts, Sunday Times – 14 January 2001)

Security tightened in Sri Lanka

The AFP news agency reported that **three members of the elite presidential bodyguard were arrested** for alleged involvement in poll-related violence. Earlier, Sri Lanka's Defence Ministry said nearly 170 army deserters had been arrested over the weekend amid reports they'd been involved in election-related violence.

It said efforts would be made to round-up an estimated 30,000 deserters who have fled fighting with Tamil separatists in the island's northeast. **(BBC South East Asia – 3 December 2001)**

Army deserters gang- raped British tourist

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COLOMBO- (AFP) – 12 February 2002 - Four Sri Lankan army deserters were arrested on Tuesday in connection with the alleged gang rape of a British woman tourist eight days ago, police said.

The men were taken into custody at the eastern town of Polonnaruwa where the woman was allegedly raped, police said. A locally-made gun, cash and stolen goods were found with the suspects.

The attackers had allegedly threatened the woman, her male companion and their driver with weapons before the rape. They also allegedly robbed the British couple of their cash and wristwatches.

(Ps. Army deserters fleeing heavy fighting in the north and east have been blamed for sharp rise in violent crime in recent years)

JVP ADMITTED KILLING IN THOUSANDS

JVP leader Somawansa admitted to the killing of at least 6,000 people

Civil society was shocked to learn that Somawansa Amerasinghe has accepted that the Janatha Vimuke Peramuna (JVP) murdered 6000 people including hundreds of politicians and others, **including President Kumaratunga's husband Vijeya Kumaratunga!** Amerasinghe is the only member still alive of the JVP politburo of that time. Civil society expects that the international community will demand legal action after the revelation of such a vast number of brutal murders.

He has been in self-imposed exile in the United Kingdom for the past few years. The evidence against him has been well documented and there is a warrant in Sri Lanka for his arrest.

It is shameful that the Sri Lankan President Chandrika Kumaratunga to brought Somawansa from London as a State guest to address the election rally last year and then allowed him to go back to UK, instead of having him arrested. **Yet another outrageous act of President Chandrika!**

According to Human rights organisations and the Sri Lankan media, the JVP has killed or contributed to the killing of more than 60,000 people in 1980s.

Warrant on Somawansa

Legal action will be initiated to renew a warrant issued against JVP leader Somawansha Amerasinghe in connection with a conspiracy to murder case.

In the high court case numbered 214 of 1988, Amarasinghe is charged with conspiracy to murder former presidential security adviser Ravi Jayawardena. The others who were accused along with Amarasinghe were Jayantha Weerasekera, Dr Athula Sumathipala and Chamili Silva.

The warrant against Amarasinghe could not be executed as he had left the country following the bloody end of the 1988-90 JVP uprising. Lawyers will this week file a motion that the warrant be reissued as Amarasinghe has returned to the country. **(The Sunday Leader – 02 December 2001)**

A warm welcome for a murderer

November 27, 2001.
Mr K. C. Kamalasabayson, P.C.,
Attorney General, Attorney General's Department,
Colombo 12.

Dear Sir,

RE. MR SOMAWANSA AMARASINGHE

It has been widely reported in the print and electronic media during the past week that Somawansa Amarasinghe, a member of the politburo of the Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna, **a proscribed organisation in the period 1987-1991, returned to Sri Lanka on November 22, 2001.** He left Sri Lanka in 1991 and has since been a refugee in the United Kingdom. His return to Sri Lanka was pursuant to a temporary passport being issued to him by the Sri Lanka High Commission in London. According to newspaper reports, Amarasinghe is currently resident at the JAIC Hilton Hotel in Union Place, Colombo 2, as a state guest, and has a bodyguard comprising some 50 personnel from the police.

On November 23, 2001, Amarasinghe addressed a JVP rally at Kalutara. His speech was widely reported in the newspapers and also relayed almost in toto by the state television networks. In the course of this speech, Amarasinghe acknowledged the crimes committed by the JVP 'patriots' in the 1987-1991 period and justified these in the context of their being 'acts of war committed in a time of war'. He went on to state that the JVP would not 'kick aside' its glorious history.

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Sir, I am sure you are better aware than anyone else the heinous crimes committed by the JVP during the period under reference. With the blessings and under the guidance of their politburo, so-called JVP 'patriots' slaughtered thousands of innocent citizens of Sri Lanka including government ministers, public servants, professionals including doctors and lawyers, and innocent members of the public whose only 'crime' was to ignore the JVP's 'curfews' and orders not to watch television. It was commonplace for JVP 'patriots' to decapitate their perceived opponents. Among those who were massacred included **no less than 24 plantation managers** and numerous public officials including the **renowned journalist Themis Guruge and physician Dr. Gladys Jayewardene.** Some of the victims had their **heads displayed on parapet walls.** Even decent burials were denied to their victims, with orders going out to the families that the body could not be carried more than shoulder high.

President J. R. Jayewardene spoke for all Sri Lankans when he referred to the JVP's sadistic carnage as acts of **bestiality committed by animals.** The JVP went so far even as to murder in cold blood **Vijaya, the father of Yasodara and Vimukthi Kumaratunga and late husband of the present president of Sri Lanka.** In her statement made to the police immediately after that assassination, Kumaratunga clearly stated that **she suspected the JVP of carrying out the murder.**

Dozens of banks were robbed, their security guards being gunned down; hundreds of factories were burnt down because their owners and workers refused to obey JVP orders to strike; thousands of homes were torched, often with their occupants locked inside. JVP 'patriots' even raided the intensive care units of the nation's premier hospital in Colombo and unplugged life-saving devices alleging that these were 'capitalist tools,' committing the patients to death. And all the while the JVP's leader, Rohana Wijeweera, was living a **life of idle luxury in a plantation** at Ulapane purchased with his ill-gotten loot robbed from the people of Sri Lanka.

It is a telling indictment of the judicial process in Sri Lanka that not one person has been held accountable for these crimes and brought to justice. Now, Somawansa Amarasinghe has arrived in the country **and taken full responsibility for the JVP's violent, cowardly and murderous history.** He came here expecting to receive a hero's welcome from the public. Yet, within days of his arrival, he was condemned not only by the venerable mahanayaka theros of the Malwatta and Asgiriya chapters for denying that the **JVP attacked the Dalada Maligawa,** but also by the Diyawadana Nilame. Amarasinghe's continued denial of the JVP attack on the Dalada Maligawa tantamount to calling these most venerable mahanayakes liars.

Given the hostile reception he has received, it has now been reported that Amarasinghe intends once more to flee the country, and thereby justice. I am therefore addressing this letter to you to request you immediately to take action to investigate Amarasinghe's role and complicity in the horrible crimes committed by the JVP in the period 1987-1991. I also urge you to take action to ensure that he does not flee the country once again in order to evade justice.

Yours faithfully,

(Ravi Karunanayake)
cc. Mr. Rienzie Arsecularatne, P.C.
Additional Solicitor General
(Courtesy : "The Sunday Leader" – 02 December 2001)

JVP can't deny they attacked the Dalada Maligawa using firearms — Diyawadana Nilame

As the lay custodian of the sacred Tooth Relic, it can be assured that there is no politics involved in the office of the Diyawadana Nilame. The JVP leadership has absolute freedom to enter the portals of this venerated place but they are reluctant to do so because their conscience prevents them from doing so, Diyawadana Nilame Neranjan Wijeyeratne said.

Addressing a media conference to brief journalists about the JVP's denial of the attack on the Sri Dalada Maligawa during the insurgency, the Diyawadana Nilame said the JVP leadership can never deny the fact that it was responsible for the attack on the Maligawa using firearms on February 8, 1989.

தமிழீழ ஆவணக்காப்பகம்
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The JVP leadership has the freedom to visit this sacred place to pay homage to the Tooth Relic. They also have the freedom to confess and say 'sorry', instead of denying the offence. The JVP bullet marks are still found on the granite pillars of the Maligawa, Wijeyeratne said.

He said that politicians enter the Maligawa only to pay homage and not to talk politics with the officials. But they go to the Mahanayake Theras seeking their blessings for success, but talk politics.

'Accordingly, the JVP leadership may not meet me in the Maligawa because I have nothing to do with politics. But the JVP leaders should not try to hide facts known to the entire world', the Diyawadana Nilame said. **(excerpts, The Sunday Island – 25 November 2001)**

Residence of the Diyawadana Nilame attacked

On Wednesday November 28, 2001, the residence of the Diyawadana Nilame, Neranjan Wijeratne of the Sri Dalada Maligawa in Kandy came under attack. Devika Wijeratne the wife of the Diyawadana Nilame said her husband was overseas at the time of the attack and only their two children and herself were inside the house when a grenade was thrown at the house. A police and army guard were rushed to the scene of the attack. **Neranjan Wijeratne recently went public accusing the Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna (JVP) of attacking the Sri Dalada Maligawa on February 8, 1989.** He has challenged the JVP to prove that they did not attack the temple. The JVP in a subsequent media press release denied the charges. The UNF has accused the PA for the attack. **(The Sunday Leader – 02 December 2001)**

UNP used JVP to kill my husband, President Chandrika tells BBC

Saroj Pathirana in London, ***Monday 29/10/01 1500 GMT*** - President Kumaratunge is in London for a three day official visit during which she meets leading British ministers including Home Secretary David Blunkett. In an interview with BBC TV's high profile "Breakfast with Frost" programme yesterday, she said that part of the

UNP, that ruled the country used Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna (JVP) to assassinate her late husband Vijaya Kumaratunga. She termed her latest coalition partner JVP as Sinhala chauvinists.

Editor's Note :
Some of our readers have pointed out that President Kumaratunge did not term the JVP as "Sinhala chauvinists" in her interview with David Frost. **(excerpts - Courtesy Lanka Academic – 30 October 2001)**

Welcome back Somawansa, here's your charge sheet

Meeting old friends, relatives and political associates, would have been nice. In these days of high-tech communication, Somanawansa does not have to come to Sri Lanka to get updates of the political situation, the progress of the party, the configuration of political forces, the key issues etc.

The arrival aura, however, does not last forever. Even the most polished and most publicised exhibit loses its lustre after a while. With time the appearance becomes less important than efficacy. The problem of Somawansa's arrival, hero though he is for some, is that he is not just returning home, he is simultaneously revisiting a crime-scene.

In his maiden and lengthy campaign speech in Kalutara, Somawansa had dwelled long on the last JVP "insurrection". **For the first time, a JVP leader had admitted that the party had actually killed people. He admitted that the JVP and the DJV (Deshapremi Janatha Vyaparaya) were one and the same, although for the last ten years the party had maintained that they were innocent of all killings attributed to the latter organisation.** I am willing to ignore the fact that the JVP has lied to the people for the last ten years about the nature of its contribution to the bheeshanaya. What is important is that their leadership has had the courage to admit its mistakes. Better late than never, I suppose.

The accolades, however, stop there.

Somawansa has said that the JVP is responsible for 6000 deaths. He has argued that since there were a total of 60,000 deaths during that period, if he is sent to jail once, those responsible for all the other killings should serve ten jail sentences. This is skewed logic. If someone who kills sixty people is sentenced to sixty years in prison, would it follow that someone who killed a tenth of that number ought to be out and laughing in six years? No. Every life is precious and if you do not appreciate this you better not call yourself a revolutionary.

Somawansa has come up with a new theory to justify the brutality of his party's past: Let me explain.

I remember a day in December 1986 when members of the JVP's student wing abducted the leader of the Independent Students Union, **Daya Pathirana, took him to Kindelpitiya and slashed his throat.** Pathirana was not carrying a gun. He had not declared war on the JVP, he had not taken up arms. That was the beginning of the JVP's killing spree. It is called individual terrorism or pudgala thrasthavadaya. There were assassinations, yes. No war.

He might remember a much loved and humane individual by the name of Viyaja Kumaratunga. Come to think of it, even Chandrika Bandaranaike, a key figure in the JVP-PA parivasa government, might remember him. **When JVP hit squads unleashed a barrage of bullets at him, Vijaya was armed.** He was not a casualty in an exchange of fire typical in war situations. He was assassinated.

Deva Bandara Senanayake, ex-JVP and eloquent critic of the JVP was killed along with two others during a political rally. They were a law unto their own. Those in the kamkaru panthiya, bus drivers, conductors, workers, were threatened with death if they did not abide by the party dictates. They knew how to kill. They also knew how to humiliate. Many such people "disappeared". None of them had the money and the contacts to flee the country.

In some places they "led" by example in the mad rush to be the most ruthless butcher. Six thousand deaths. "Comrade", is nothing to brush aside. It amounts to genocide. These six thousand victims had 12,000 parents and probably several hundred thousand friends and relatives. Their grief would translate into several million tears. The empty spaces left in their lives would be larger than entire continents.

The JVP may have killed only 6000. They can't be charged for all the other killings, sure. But in the case of each and every other murder, each item or torture, they are at least accessories after the fact of mass human slaughter.

Somawansa especially, as the sole surviving members of the JVP leadership, has a lot to answer to. He was the financial secretary of the party beginning from the early eighties, according to an affidavit submitted by former JVP politburo member Vaas Tilakaratne.

During the Iran-Iraq war, the JVP received Rs. 2.8 million from the Baath Party of Iraq for supporting their cause. This support included the **blowing up of an Iranian ship in the Colombo harbour**. What Somawansa did with that money is anybody's guess, and I supposed that is none of our business, unless of course it was spent on guns and grenades.

I remember the JVP's rabidly anti-Indian stance after the Indo-Lanka Accord was signed in 1987. The **people were banned from eating Mysore Dhal.** When Somawansa fled the country, as he himself admits, India was his first port of disembarkation.

I know of at least two student leaders, Dassanayake of the Peradeniya Arts Faculty and Ranjithan Gunaratnam of the Engineering Faculty (former convenor of the Inter University Student Federation) who recognised the party's terrible, terrible faults but refused to leave the country on moral grounds. **They were tortured and killed. I wonder what Somawansa has to say to their parents.**

How and why did he escape in the middle of the aragalaya?
Who gave refuge to this gun-toting saranagathaya? These are some of the questions that Somawansa has to answer.

JVP supporters in the universities in the early nineties were fond of brushing aside demands for explanation thus: **"If we had ten people, five were killed, three are in prison and it is unfair to ask questions from the two who are free".** Nonsense! When a "revolutionary" party chooses a political path that contributes to the killing of 60,000 people, they are honour-bound to engage in self-criticism and to promise not to walk that tragic path again. The point is, those numbers are wrong. If one JVP supporter was killed, the other nine were innocent bystanders, their only crime being that they were born in the wrong decade.

In Kalutara, the "great leader" has promised that his party has not abandoned the idea of armed struggle.

He said that if the law of the land was being violated, the JVP would seek a UN resolution to take up arms. This is not a joke. The political subtext of that statement is that the JVP is now a pawn of the USA (a claim that the Old Left has maintained for a long time), for the United Nations is for all practical purposes a creature of the United States.

It is Somawansa Amarasinghe's JVP. The blood of 6000 people are on his hands and it is not easily washed away. Only a nation committed to self-destruction will give such a man a second chance. **(excerpts "The Sunday Island" – 25 November 2001)**

JVP members arrested with bomb ahead of election

COLOMBO, November 30, 2001 (AFP) - Five members of Sri Lanka's main Marxist party were arrested Friday for possessing explosives in the run-up to elections next week, the first such discovery since the group renounced violence and entered mainstream politics, police said.

"They had a home-made explosive device that was concealed inside a box of talcum powder," he said. "One of those arrested is the JVP's area organiser for the village of Kokmaduwa."

The arrest came two days after JVP leader Somawansa Amarasinghe denied the movement would rearm, despite newspaper reports attributing remarks to him claiming that the JVP may take up weapons again.

The JVP led two unsuccessful armed revolts to topple governments in 1971 and 1987.

The first rebellion was crushed with the loss of some 20,000 lives while the second dragged on until 1990 and was put down with the loss of some 17,000 lives by the official count, and up to 60,000 by unofficial estimates.

Police said the five men taken into custody had said they got the explosives from the military and that they carried the bomb for "self-defence."

The JVP has been accused of killing more than 6,000 supporters of mainstream political parties, members of the security forces and the police between 1987 and 1990.

Amarasinghe admitted that his cadres had attacked Sri Lanka's holiest Buddhist shrine in the central town of Kandy and the main airbase located next to the country's only international airport in Colombo in the late 1980s.

He returned to the island Thursday on a passport issued to him by the government of President Chandrika Kumaratunga last month.

JVPers force membership

JVP party membership is forcibly sold for Rs. 200 by its undergraduate student cadre who threaten their colleagues to buy it, an undergraduate organisation said yesterday.

"Members of the Socialist Students Union and other JVP supportive organisations threaten the undergraduates to buy membership tickets. A membership ticket is priced at Rs. 200 and there is another ticket of Rs. 10 to strengthen their party funds," said B. A. C. Basnayake, National Organiser of the National Universities Youth Front (NUYF).

The Rs. 200 membership ticket is sold in other universities where the JVP student organisations are powerful. These undergraduates are employed by the JVP to sell these tickets at JVP's public rallies and election meetings.

The NUYF condemned JVP's undemocratic exploitation of bursaries given to the undergraduates for their academic purposes by the government. **(excerpts "The Island" – 05 November 2001)**

Vasudeva points to "serious threat" of Somawansa

JVP leader Somawansa Amarasingha's declaration to arm all progressive forces against suppression is a serious threat and it endangers the Sri Lankan left movement, said the veteran leftist Vasudeva Nanayakkara yesterday.

Nanayakkara commenting on the declaration made by the JVP leader at JVP's public rally at Kalutara to get a resolution passed in the United Nations that the **JVP should take up arms,** said that the statement has caused a grave situation to the left activists in the country.

"Apart from that it is totally contrary to what his junior cadres had been preaching around the country during last decade," he said.

"Comrade Amarasingha's calling for arms against suppression is not democratic and it's not a preferred or prescribed alternative against suppression. The left movement would rely on mobilising people's voice against suppression, not arming them against suppressers."

The JVP leader in his first speech addressing the local public after 12 years admitted that the Desha Premi Janatha Vyaparaya and the **JVP are one organisation and it launched attacks on Katunayake Air Base, Dalada Maligawa police check points and apologised** to the kith and kin of those who died at their hands. **(excerpts, The Island –29 November 2001)**

ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE

International Bar Association finds Sri Lanka fails on three counts

*** Government attempts to act unconstitutionally**
*** Independence of judiciary undermined by Chief Justice**
*** Harassment and intimidation of Sri Lankan media**

Intimidation and summary dismissals are threatening the independence of the judiciary and media in Sri Lanka, according to a report released by the International Bar Association (IBA). "Institutions and offices which should be protecting the rule of law, including the President, government and chief Justice, are acting to undermine it" the report said.

The report, compiled by leading international lawyers of the IBA's Human Rights Institute (HRI) comes after a detailed investigative mission among senior Government ministers, judges, lawyers and academics in the country.

"Judges and magistrates have been removed by Chief Justice Sarath Silva and his Judicial Services Commission (JSC), without recourse to any inquiry or hearing. The JSC has just two other members, chosen by the President. Several dismissals have followed on from trials of members of Opposition parties, in which the accused have been acquitted".

"In June this year, an Opposition motion to impeach Mr. Silva in Parliament was met by a restraining order from the Supreme Court which he chairs. In 1999, Opposition complaints that Mr. Silva had committed acts of serious misconduct were dismissed, again by his Supreme Court".

The IBA mission led by Lord Brennan QC, former Chair of the Bar Council of England and Wales, Justice Malimath, former Chief Justice of Karnataka and Kerala, India, and Mah Weng Kwai, the President of the Malaysian Bar, goes on to report accusations of harassment and intimidation of the media by state bodies using police, surveillance and financial pressure.

It details the Government's attempt to act unconstitutionally in July this year by bypassing the legal process for constitutional change. President Kumaratunga's proposals, appealing to 'national importance and necessity' were dropped in September as Parliament reassembled after several weeks suspension.

Lord Brenan observed that a better future for Sri Lanka depends on a stable democracy' "This requires an independent judiciary, a free media and a constitutional framework that commands confidence. Constitutional reform must take place through constitutional means, our report recommends ways in which the leading institutions of Sri Lanka should be changed to strengthen and protect the rule of law. We are not satisfied either of the presence of sufficient safeguards or of the absence of interference" he said. **(The Island – 4 December 2001)**

Sri Lanka rebels release 10 war prisoners

(BBC World service - 21 January, 2002)

Liberation Tiger of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) has released 10 prisoners of war as a goodwill gesture to promote peace.

Of the released prisoners of war, three are soldiers from the Sri Lankan army and the remainder seamen from captured merchant vessels. They were released to a delegation of peace activists from the south of the country.

The leader of the Tigers political wing, Tamil Chelvan, told the prisoners they were being freed as a goodwill gesture towards promoting peace. Some of the prisoners had been in custody for more than eight years.

Ps: It is worth noting that there are hundreds of Tamil political prisoners in various prisons. None of them have been released either by the earlier government or by the present government. There are Tamil prisoners in the prison for more than four years without trial nor inquiry!

No law permits military to stipulate that the people of Jaffna must obtain a pass!

- HRC chairman

26 January 2002 - A delegation from Sri Lanka's National Human Rights Commission on a fact-finding mission to Jaffna met local journalists and representatives of the consortium of NGOs in the Jaffna peninsula. The journalists and NGO representatives told the HRC led by its chairman Mr. Faiz Mustapha that human rights violations by the Sri Lankan security forces continue in Jaffna largely because of the arbitrary controls imposed on civilian life.

The NGO consortium told the HRC that the Sri Lanka army should lift the night curfew in the peninsula and remove the military pass required of civilians to travel outside Jaffna.

"The adverse security environment in the peninsula which promotes persistent rights violations will change only if the Sri Lanka army's ban and restrictions on fishing and the free movement of the people are removed", the journalists and consortium representatives told Mr. Faiz Mustapha.

They also drew his attention to the fact that the Army is still blocking civilians displaced by the war from the Thenmaradchi division of the peninsula from resettling in the villages of Ketpali, Vidaththalpalai and Mirusuvil.

Some of the journalists at the meeting told the HRC's chairman that Army soldiers regularly assault school students passing by their sentry at the Catapult Junction in Thinnevely near Jaffna town. They told him that 197 prisoners, including 24 PTA detainees, are being held in the Jaffna prison although the jail has facilities to incarcerate only 80.

Mr. Faiz Mustapha observed that that there was no law of the land under which the military could stipulate that the people of Jaffna have to obtain a pass from the Army to travel outside the peninsula.

Human Rights Commission - HRC failure

THE Sri Lankan Human Rights Commission (HRC) has been accused of failing to use its powers under the law to eradicate torture and of being slow to make a significant impact on the human rights situation in the island. Amnesty International says that the HRC lacks transparency.

Although established in 1996, none of its annual reports, which by law should be submitted yearly to Parliament, have been made public.

HRC officers visit places of detention, but Amnesty has questioned whether such infrequent visits can act as an effective deterrent against torture. In relation to remedying incidents of torture, the HRC has not made any recommendation for compensation to the victims or recommended any action to be initiated against perpetrators.

Amnesty says the powers of the HRC to receive and investigate reports of torture have been rarely used. Many people, including detainees who were tortured in custody and subsequently complained to the HRC have not received any response.

Although the Torture Act was enacted in 1994, no one has been so far convicted for the crime of torture.

In a 26 June report titled **Sri Lanka's torture shame, the BBC** refers to the five year-old boy who was **tortured and murdered,** along with seven others, by soldiers at Mirusuvil in Jaffna. The bodies were buried in a mass grave in December 2000. The 14 soldiers arrested have yet to be put on trial and the case has been transferred out of the Jaffna peninsula, making it difficult for witnesses to travel to give evidence.

Colombo lawyers say that in 99% of the cases of Tamils detained by the Terrorist Investigation Division (TID) or the Criminal Investigation Division (CID), a confession is extracted under torture. The written confessions are often in the Sinhala language, which many Tamils do not understand. (excerpts, THE SRI LANKA MONITOR - British Refugee Council No.161 June 2001)

Truth Commission

The Presidential Truth Commission on Ethnic Violence is headed by former Chief Justice Suppiah Sharvananda and has two other members - SS Sahabandu and MM Zuhair. The Commission is mandated to enquire into the nature, causes and the extent of gross violations of human rights and destruction of property, in violence between January 1981 and December 1984.

The Jaffna library with 95,000 volumes and culturally important manuscripts was destroyed in 1981. **More than 2,000 Tamils were killed in the July 1983 violence,** which led to exodus of Tamils and the rise of the LTTE. Senior government officers and security forces are alleged to have been involved in both.

Apparently for this reason, both the UNP and PA governments refused hitherto to conduct an enquiry, despite repeated demands by Amnesty International.

Tamil observers suspect that the President has now appointed the Commission for the sole purpose of embarrassing the opposition UNP, which is spearheading the move for a no-confidence motion against the government in Parliament. The UNP was in power between 1981 and 1984.

Since July 1983, almost a million Tamils have fled abroad and currently 800,000 are internally displaced. Any evidence gathered by the Commission will not be the whole truth. Perhaps this is what the government wants. **(excerpts THE SRI LANKA MONITOR - British Refugee Council No.163 August 2001)**

Death certificates issued after 6 months

March 17, 2001 - The Muttur Magistrate issued certificates that the deaths of seven Tamil farmers in the Poomarathadihchenai massacre in Trincomalee district, were due to gunshot and cut injuries. Representatives of the International Committee of Red Cross went to Poonagar and handed over the death certificates to the families of the dead.

Magisterial inquests are not held for Tamils

Magisterial inquests are not held for Tamils who are killed in border villages. As a consequence, hundreds of Tamil families in border villages that have lost their sole breadwinners are denied poverty relief as they cannot produce death certificates for the diseased required by the authorities to accept and process their applications.

On 2 October 2000, Sinhala homeguards from Mahindapura in Seruwila hacked with machetes and shot dead seven Tamils, including a woman, who were threshing paddy in their field at Poomarathadichchenai.

The farmers, S.Nallathamby,55 , his son Arulanantham, 17), T.Kalirasa, 35, V.Somasuntharam ,56), T.Kanagaretnam ,57, S.Rasan, 37, and the woman, Krishnapillai Thayapathi, 32, were from the hamlet of Poonagar.

Sri Lanka on the Bandwagon

A Letter in the Washington Post regarding Chandrika's Op-Ed piece

President Chandrika Kumaratunga's Nov. 7 op-ed column is a prime example of how some governments are trying to jump on the antiterrorist bandwagon while whitewashing their own high-handedness and complicity in military atrocities.

The article by the Sri Lankan president sidesteps the charges of her own government's human rights violations against the minority Tamils raised by Human Rights Watch and the State Department. Ms. Kumaratunga gave the impression that 64,000 people were killed by the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam when in reality most of those who have died in the violence in Sri Lanka were killed by the military. Further, she leaves the distinct impression that her husband and father were killed by the Tamil Tigers, whereas, the latter was assassinated by an **extremist Sinhala Buddhist monk,** and the former apparently by the opposition political party.

(DEEPA M. OLLAPALLY - **a senior expert on South Asian security affairs at the U.S.Institute of Peace** – "Washington Post" - Page A22 - Saturday, November 24, 2001)

"Lying in state"

While in London last week President Chandrika Bandaranaike Kumaratunga was interviewed on CNN television by Zain Verjee. Completely in keeping with her usual form, the president spiced the interview with a variety of rich and colourful fibs.

Here are some of the classic gems she offered the world on behalf of Sri Lanka. Most of them are self evident. With regard to the lies she has uttered about her economic performance, we have provided the relevant data from the book, Socio-economic data: 2001 issued by the Central bank of Sri Lanka.

This proves yet again that Kumaratunga does not have the faintest clue about what is going on in the country and makes one wonder where it was that she studied for that elusive PhD in economics.

1. My government has been able to completely control human rights violations
2. I would love to go and sit back in parliament
3. The last government killed 50,000 Sinhalese democratic youths simply because they did not agree with them
4. They (the last government) killed 20,000 Tamil youth. They burnt them alive. They poured petrol on them and burnt them alive in pogroms against the Tamil people.
5. The LTTE has killed more Tamil civilians than all Tamils killed by all the Sri Lankan governments put together.
6. They (S. B. Dissanayake and G. L. Peiris) left because they are being investigated for corruption, and it has to be reported to the people very soon. Rather, it will be reported very soon.
7. No, the economy is not in ruins. I don't know what you mean by the word "ruins", whether you have a new definition for that word.

8. We were able to reduce the budget deficit by half since we came in[to office]. (According to the Central Bank, the budget deficit in 1995 was Rs 67.2 billion, and in 2000, Rs 124.5 billion. That, according to the president, is a reduction by half!)

9. We were able to reduce unemployment by more than 50 percent. (In the seven years of Kumaratunga's government, Sri Lanka's population has grown by 1.3 million people. Just to stay in the same place, she had to create 1.3 million new jobs! Does anyone think she even did this?).

10. We have increased the gross national product of the country by double, by 100 percent. (According to the Central Bank, the highest gross national product increase during Kumaratunga's six years was 6.3 percent in 1997. The total GNP growth from 1995 to 2000 has been 11.98 percent. Kumaratunga's claim of 100 percent shows she is in dreamland.)

11. We have been able to reduce bank interest rates by almost 100 percent; from 29 percent to 15 percent. (According to the Central Bank, the Commercial Banks' Prime Lending Rate for 1994 was 17.8 percent, and in 2000 it was 21.46 percent. This, according to our worthy Finance Minister, who has studied for a PhD in economics, is a reduction of 100 percent.)

12. We have been able to reduce inflation by about 50 percent.

    (According to the Central Bank, inflation in 1995 was 8% and in 2000 it was 6%. While this is hardly a reduction of 50%, if you believe the Central Bank's figure, you'll believe anything).

13. We have had six years of very good economic development. (It has certainly been an excellent six years for Mr Ronnie Peiris.) **(The Sunday Leader – 4 November 2001)**

New government gently gone to sleep

The UNF's victory in the December 5 general election was to many a sign of change. Months have passed since Ranil Wickremesinghe became prime minister and swore in his cabinet.

A new government has taken charge, and unnoticed by all, has gently gone to sleep.

They promised to undo the wrongs the PA government have done when one day they themselves came into government.

Look at some of the causes :

தமிழீழ ஆவணக்காப்பகம்
Tamileelam Archive

(1) The brutal murder in public of the Papua New Guinean rugby player, Joel Perra;
(2) The on-going construction of the presidential palace in Kotte;
(3) The Air Lanka privatisation;
(4) Numerous tender abuses, not least that of the
(5) Purchase of French railway locomotives.
(6) The corruption-ridden Katunayake expressway.
(7) The Chief Justice Sarath Silva, who was not only improperly appointed during PA government, but has been proved to be unsuited to the dignity of the office he holds.
The UNP actually submitted a motion to impeach him to the last parliament, but this lapsed with its prorogation. if the UNP had the courage of its convictions to impeach him in 2001, the people have a right to ask what has changed in 2002?
(8) The UNF must also face the challenge Kumaratunga poses. At the dissolution of parliament, it was poised to table an impeachment motion against Kumaratunga.
(9) The CDB Director Bandula 'Show' Wickramasinghe's damning revelations about Kumaratunga not only knowing of the circumstances **behind the murder of All Ceylon Tamil Congress Leader Kumar Ponnambalam,** but suppressing an investigation into it in the knowledge that he was murdered on the instructions of her nephew, Mahen Ratwatte. **(Excerpts)**

WOMEN AND CHILDREN

Rape of two women in Mannar

April 04, 2001- Sri Lanka's Deputy Minister for Defence, Gen. Anuruddha Ratwatte, flatly denied that the security forces had raped two women in detention in Mannar, interrupting the All Ceylon Tamil Congress MP for Jaffna, Mr. Vinayagamoorthy, who was on his feet in the Parliament speaking on the destruction of Tamil temples in the north and east and the rape of women in Mannar.

"The statement of the Deputy Minister of Defence is tantamount to a **gross intimidation of the judicial process**. It shows that the government is more eager to justify such atrocities by its security forces than it is to bring the perpetrators of such crimes to book" said Mr. Vinayagamoorthy.

Detainee tortured

31 May 2001 - Sri Lanka's Supreme Court granted leave to proceed with the fundamental rights petition of a girl from Kayts in Jaffna. Policemen tortured her in detention by repeatedly inserting a plantain flower soaked in chilli powder into her vagina.

The girl who is held in the Negombo remand prison states in her petition to the Supreme Court that she was hung on a pole inserted between her thighs and arms which had been tied together below the knee and that he body was made to swing in that position; that she was hung from the roof and battered with a cudgel; that Policemen tortured her by pricking under her finger and toe nails with paper pins until she bled; that she was mercilessly assaulted with poles and wires and trampled with boots.

The girl also states in her petition that although she had appealed to the Human Rights Commission and the Presidential Committee on Unlawful Arrests and Harassment, they had not taken any action regarding her predicament.

The following is the relevant excerpt from the fundamental rights application filed on behalf of the girl by her attorney's on 19 March:

1. The petitioner is a citizen of Sri Lanka aged 27 at the time of the arrest.

2. The petitioner is from Kayts whose family got displaced in 1990 and was living in Jaffna till she (sic) got displaced again in 1995 due to military operations and moved to Kilinochchi. The petitioner while in Jaffna was a student at Ramanathan college, Maruthanarmadam and had sat for GCE (O.L) examination".

3. The petitioner's mother had gone abroad for employment in 1989 and her father had deserted the family. The petitioner while in Kilinochchi worked as a volunteer Primary teacher at Sivapathakalalaiyam Government school for a short period in 1998.

4. While the petitioner was in Kilinochchi one of her aunts arranged a marriage for her and requested the petitioner to come to Negombo and she came on 23/01/2000 and was staying with the said aunt at her residence at No. 47 Sylvester Road, Negombo.

5. As arranged by her said aunt, on 9 February 2000 marriage was registered at Vavuniya between the petitioner and Thurairatnam Maheswaran alias Babu (8th respondent) and the petitioner was staying with her said aunt".

8. While in Trincomalee the 8th respondent was giving her (sic) telephone calls threatening her that unless she returns to Negombo and live with him, he will use his influence with the Negombo Police and have her arrested as a member of the suicide LTTE squad and have her tortured.

9. Thereafter, on the 21st of June 2000 while the petitioner was at the People's Bank, Trincomalee by about 11 a.m. a person called Sekar, whom the petitioner knows as a friend of the 8th respondent came tom the said bank and requested the petitioner to come out. As soon as she came out of the bank a group of Policemen, all males in civil (sic) headed by Wijesekara, R/Sub Inspector arrested her, handcuffed her and put her in a private Elf van that was parked there. One of the Policemen told her that they had come from Negombo Police station to arrest her in connection with an information lodged (sic) against the petitioner by the 8th respondent.

10. While in the van she saw her brother inside the van hand cuffed and the van was driven to the residence of the petitioner brother at Trincomalee and the Police searched every nook and corner of the house and ransacked it.

She was assaulted with a pole on her knees, chest, abdomen and on her back. After a short interval they assaulted her again and pressed her chest with the end of the pole as she was shouting in unbearable pain.

13. Thereafter, the petitioner was put in a Police cell at the Negombo Police station and was detained therein till 26.06.2000 under a detention order issued by Daya Jayasundera DIG Western Province (north) Range under Emergency Regulations 19 (2) for 90 days.

- Petitioner's ear studs were removed and she was slapped with force on the ears;
- Her face was covered with a shopping bag containing chilli powder mixed in petrol and tied to the neck and loosened by the Police depending on her state of suffocation;
- On occasion she was forced to remove all her clothes except the underwear and bra and her face was covered with a shopping bag containing petrol and chilli and she was experiencing burning sensation all over her body.
- She was asked to lie flat on a table and while four policemen were holding her pressed to the table four other policemen pricked paper pins under the nails of the fingers, toes and simultaneously moved the pin in and out and the Petitioner was experiencing unbearable pain and blood was oozing from the pricked places;

- She was assaulted with a pole and wires all over the body and when she fell down unable to bear the beating they trampled on her body with boots;

- When the Petitioner refused to sign she was asked to remove her blouse and cover eyes with it and was asked to lie on a table. While she was lying down on the table 4 policemen were pressing her hands and holding her legs apart and the **plantain flower brought by them was mercilessly inserted with force into her vagina and was pulled in and out for nearly 15 minutes.** She was experiencing burning sensation and pain.

  The Petitioner was unconscious for few minutes and she was asked to be on the table till about 9.30 p.m. After which some sheets of papers typed in Sinhala was brought by them and being unable to bear the torture the Petitioner signed them. The contents of the said document was neither read nor explained to her.

15. The torture, cruel and inhuman treatment meted out to the Petitioner had affected her physically and psychologically as well and she is unable to lead her normal life and her matrimonial prospects stands shattered.

The Petitioner suffers from continuous bleeding from vagina, pain in the lower abdomen and frequency of urine with pain and constant headache.

As a result of mental and physical trauma she underwent she suffers from depression, loss of sleep, loss of appetite, poor concentration, fear and nervousness.

The petitioner states she could identify the other perpetrators as well if an identification parade is held.

20. On 19/09/2000 when the petitioner was produced before Dr. Sivasubramaniam Assistant JMO of the Colombo National Hospital by the TID she complained to him about the torture and saw him writing in (sic) sheet of paper and got her to sign it.

21. Thereafter, on 21 July 2000 the petitioner was produced before the Colombo magistrate under Emergency Regulations 19 (1) and when the petitioner attempted to inform him about torture, Sergeant Wijayaratne of the TID who produced her and who was by the side of the accused box interrupted, disturbed and prevented the petitioner from speaking and (the petitioner) was quickly taken out of court telling her that the magistrate will listen to her in his chambers. The petitioner was never given an opportunity to speak to the magistrate in his chambers. The learned magistrate also did not inquire from the petitioner whether she has got to say anything.

28.The Petitioner states that she was subjected to torture, cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment by the said Police personnel and her rights guaranteed by Article 11 of the Constitution have been violated by the said Respondents.

29. The Petitioner states, that her arrest, and detention are both wrongful and illegal and that her fundamental rights guaranteed by Articles 13 (1) and 13 (2) of the Constitution have been violated by the said Respondents. **(Excerpts)**

Instead of ensuring the safety of the public Government is protecting the security forces

08 April 2001- The Government, instead of ensuring the safety of the public, is interested in protecting the security forces", the Mannar Women's Front said in a memorandum sent to the President Sunday.

The following is the excerpt text of the memorandum:

"We, of the Women's Front of Mannar comprising of all the women of Mannar, observing a fast in protest against the shameful and inhuman treatment and rape perpetrated on the two ladies, Nanthakumar Vijikala and Sinnathamby Sivamany after their arrest by the security forces on 19.03.2001 at Mannar, raise this earnest entreaty to you: We considered that a lady being the all-powerful President of this country would result in special protection for us, women.

"There are many laws and schemes for our protection. However they are only on paper and appear to have been enacted only to dupe the world. They are not being implemented and are observed only in the breach. Appropriate action is not taken against those flouting them.

"The Government, instead of ensuring the safety of the public, is interested in protecting the security forces. Our femininity is denied to us. We are being treated indecently. The body checks conducted on us under the canopy of security, though carried out by women, are shameful and cause much mental pain to us. Therefore we, numbering over five thousand, who are gathered together here today with heavy hearts, sorrowfully place before you our requests."

Copies of the memorandum were sent to diplomatic missions, NGOs and religious organisations. **(Excerpts)**

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL

Sri Lanka - Rape in custody must be stopped immediately

AI Index: ASA 37/002/2002 **Publish date: 28/01/2002**

Allegations of rape in custody by army, police and navy officials increased markedly in Sri Lanka last year, Amnesty International said in a new report published today. The organization has evidence of cases where women in custody were blindfolded, beaten, had their clothes forcibly removed and were raped.

The majority of incidents occurred in the context of the armed conflict between the security forces and the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) who are fighting for an autonomous state in the north and east of Sri Lanka. Many of the victims are internally displaced women.

"The fact that complaints of rape, like other complaints of torture, are often not effectively dealt with by police, magistrates or doctors challenges the government to tackle this problem. Deficiencies in the early stages of the criminal investigation process have repeatedly contributed to the ultimate collapse of the investigation of the rape and the prosecution of the perpetrators," Amnesty International said.

"The new government of Prime Minister Ranil Wickremasinghe must now do everything in its power to prevent this grave sexual abuse of detainees."

The organization is urging the new Prime Minister to:

-- send a clear public message to all security forces personnel that rape and other serious sexual violence in custody will not be tolerated and that perpetrators of such offences will be brought to justice and held accountable;

-- establish an independent investigative body with the necessary powers and expertise to open criminal investigations where human rights violations, including rape, are believed to have been committed. **(excerpts)**

SRI LANKA - Rape in custody

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL Index : ASA 37/002/2002 **Published date 28/01/2002**

Introduction

Sinnathamby Sivamany (aged 24) and Ehamparam Wijikala (aged 22), two Tamil women internally displaced by the ongoing armed conflict in the north and east of Sri Lanka, were arrested by members of the navy in the coastal city of Mannar on 19 March 2001. They were subsequently raped by navy personnel and members of the Special Investigation Unit (SIU) of the police at the office of the Counter-Subversive Unit (CSU) of the police along Pallimunai Road, approximately 500 metres outside Mannar town.

Ehamparam Wijikala's partner and the 6-year-old son of Sinnathamby Sivamany were also taken into custody. They were all taken to the CSU office in a white van. Ehamparam Wijikala, in a petition to the Supreme Court, alleges that she and her partner were taken inside the CSU office. Her partner was locked in a cell, she was taken into a separate room. The Officer-in-Charge (OIC) was also there in the room. He asked her to sit on the floor and she complied. The OIC then asked a male police officer named Rajah to bring a piece of cloth. Rajah blindfolded her with the piece of cloth. She was told to remove her clothes. When she refused she was beaten and her clothes were forcibly removed by them. Then, while some of them held her hands and legs one person got on top of her, soon afterwards followed by another one. She said they both raped her.

Sinnathamby Sivamany has testified that soon after Ehamparam Wijikala and her partner had been taken into the CSU office, a navy personnel came to the van and took away her son. Another navy officer then climbed into the van and blindfolded her with a sock aided by the driver of the van. Then this officer forcibly removed her clothes and raped her. After about 15 minutes he left the van. Some time after that she was taken inside the CSU office to the room in which Ehamparam Wijikala was being held and the security forces personnel present there beat her demanding that she remove her clothes. When she refused, Rajah ordered Ehamparam Wijikala to remove Sinnathamby Sivamany's clothes. Both women were made to parade naked in front of the men. They were then made to sit in a crouched position; their hands and legs were tied and attached to a pole which was then placed between two tables so they were left hanging. They were in this position for about 90 minutes and were pinched and beaten with a thick wire during that time.

The victims were threatened with further torture unless they signed a statement admitting they were members of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), the armed political group which for nearly two decades has been fighting for autonomy for the Tamil community living in the north and east of Sri Lanka. **Both women signed such statements.**

Below are some examples of how these issues have arisen over the last few years

Ida Carmelita was a former member of the LTTE who had surrendered to the police about a month before she was gang raped and killed by five soldiers at Pallimunai, Mannar district on 12 July 1999. She had been shot through her vagina. In his report, the DMO in Mannar documented evidence of rape and sexual violence, including bites on her breasts and lips. Two of the suspects had been recognized by a neighbour and another by the brother of the victim. A corporal and a soldier were identified at an identification parade by witnesses and taken into custody. However, after two key witnesses were threatened and subsequently fled to India, the case is no longer proceeding. The suspects have been released on bail.

The UN Special Rapporteur in March 2000 highlighted the case of **Sarathambal Saravanbavananthakurukal, a 29-year-old Tamil woman who had been reportedly gang raped and then killed by navy soldiers on 28 December 1999 in Pungudutivu, near Jaffna.** She observed that despite an order by the President of Sri Lanka to immediately investigate the events, it was reported that "very little [was] being done to pursue the matter". Sarathambal Saravanbavananthakurukal had been abducted from her home, situated at about 500m from a navy camp. Her father and brother were tied up by four security officers dressed in black. Her dead body was found on barren land about 100m away from their home the next day. After public protest, her body was sent to Colombo for post-mortem by a senior JMO who indicated that the cause of death was "asphyxia due to gagging"; that her underpants had been stuffed inside her mouth; and that "forcible sexual intercourse" had taken place. The father and brother were allegedly threatened not to reveal the identity of the four men who came to the house. According to the Director of the Criminal Investigation Department, who had been instructed by the President of Sri Lanka to investigate the rape and murder, the brother had "not been able to identify any of the four persons who came to the house".

The criminal investigations into the rape and murder of both Ida Carmelita and Sarathambal Saravanbavananthakurukal have not proceeded beyond the initial inquiry stage. No charges have been filed against the alleged perpetrators and it is unlikely that those responsible for the rape and murder of the two women will ever be brought to justice.

Seventy-year-old Poomani Saravanai, an internally displaced widow, was raped by two soldiers at Neervely, Jaffna district in front of her son on 31 May 2000. The next day, she courageously made a complaint at the Atchelu army camp. She was able to identify the two soldiers on that day. It is reported that they were sacked from the army. However, nothing further was done at this crucial initial stage. It was not until 5 and 6 June that Poomani Saravanai was taken to a DMO. By then no evidence of rape could be found. To Amnesty International's knowledge, the police did not initiate any action against the two soldiers.

Appendix 1- Some recent reports of rape in custody

1. Thambipillai Thanalakshmi (f)

Thambipillai Thanalakshmi, 42-year-old Tamil woman from Meesalai, Jaffna district was reportedly dragged from her home at around 8.30pm on 7 July 2001 by soldiers allegedly attached to the Kachchai army camp. They took her to a nearby rice field where she was raped by at least three of them.

Police from Kodikamam visited the scene and reportedly recovered parts of Thambipillai Thanalakshmi's clothing from the rice field. Even though they had gone to the army camp early in the morning, it was not until around 6.30pm on 8 July that Thambipillai Thanalakshmi was taken by police to the Mantikai hospital for medical examination. Medical personnel there reportedly confirmed evidence of rape.

Tamileelam Archive

2. Velu Arshadevi (f)

Velu Arshadevi, a Tamil woman of Indian origin, who was living in a boarding house in Colombo, was allegedly raped by three policemen on 24 June 2001.

She had been stopped at a checkpoint on the Maradana - Borella Road, Colombo on 23 June 2001 while she was returning from work with a friend. Her identity was checked by the security forces personnel on duty at the checkpoint. The next day, at around 3am, two police personnel without weapons and an armed soldier attached to that checkpoint came to the lodgings where the victim was staying. They said they had come for a "routine checking". After interrogating all the persons staying at that place, they returned to her room and told her that "since was a Tamil, she was not allowed to stay" there. She was told she had to go with them to the Maradana police station. The friend who had also been staying in the same place accompanied her for safety reasons.

While *en route* to the police station, they stopped at the Maradana - Borella Road checkpoint. Her friend was told to purchase some tea for the security forces and sent away. After he had gone, two police personnel took her to a staircase situated next to a bunker below road level. She was taken down there and made to lean against the wall and then raped.

Later that day, she made a complaint to the Maradana police station. The Officer-in-Charge produced her before the JMO on the same day. In his medical report, the JMO confirmed that rape had taken place.

After an identification parade was held by police, three police officers and three soldiers were arrested in connection with this crime.

They have since been released on bail. To Amnesty International's knowledge, no charges have been filed against the alleged perpetrators.

3. Mahendiran Nageswari (f)

Mahendiran Nageswari, 37-year-old female from Kaluthawalai, was sexually abused by personnel of the Special Task Force (STF, paramilitary police unit) attached to the STF camp at Kaluthawalai, and admitted to the Batticaloa teaching hospital.

According to the police post at the hospital, this matter was reported to the Kaluwanchikudy police station for further inquiries. It is alleged that the STF personnel went to her house and harassed her with the intention of molesting her.

4. Vijayaratnam Subashini (f)

Vijayaratnam Subashini, an 19-year-old Tamil woman, was reportedly sexually assaulted by more than ten navy personnel, on 20 April 2001.

According to the reports received by Amnesty International, Vijayaratnam Subashini was on an LTTE boat returning from the open sea when several Sri Lanka navy gunboats surrounded them. There was fierce fighting for several hours. Vijayaratnam Subashini and many others jumped in the sea, after their boats were damaged, and then she was taken into one of the navy gunboats.

Immediately after she got in the gunboat, all her clothes were removed, she was blindfolded and her hands were tied behind her back. More the ten navy personnel touched and squeezed her breasts, and her genital area. They allegedly also one by one put their fingers inside her vagina, while she was screaming. The whole

ordeal lasted about two hours. When the boat reached Trincomalee her clothes were given to her. She is currently held without charge or trial at Welikade women's prison, Colombo.

To Amnesty International's knowledge, **no investigation has been held into this allegation.**

5. Thangiah Vijayalalitha (f)

Thangiah Vijayalalitha, a 14-year-old Tamil girl, was sexually assaulted by more than ten navy personnel on 20 April 2001 when she was taken into custody during an LTTE operation in the open sea (see also the above case, no. 4, Vijayaratnam Subashini).

Thangiah Vijayalalitha was reportedly taken into a navy gunboat and her skirt and bra were removed. When the boat reached Trincomalee her clothes were returned to her. She is currently held without charge or trial at Welikade women's prison, Colombo.

6. and 7. Sinnathamby Sivamany (f) and Ehamparam Wijikala (f)
Sinnathamby Sivamany (aged 24) and Ehamparam Wijikala (aged 22) were arrested by members of the navy on 19 March 2001. They allege they were subsequently raped by navy and SIU personnel at the office of the CSU outside Mannar town.

தமிழீழ ஆவணக்காப்பகம்
Tamileelam Archive

8. Yogalingam Vijitha (f)

Yogalingam Vijitha is a 27-year-old Tamil woman from Kayts, Jaffna district. She was allegedly tortured, including raped with a plantain tree flower (hard cone-like, approximately 8-inch long) while in detention in the Negombo police station, between 21 and 27 June 2000.

According to the reports, she was beaten with poles on her knees, back, chest and the lower abdomen. She was trampled with boots on. She was forced to lie on a table and pins were inserted under the nails of her fingers and toes. She was slapped on her ears. On another occasion all her clothing, except her underwear, was removed and her face was covered with a polythene bag filled with chilli powder and petrol. Then she was asked to sign a statement written in Sinhalese, but when she refused, a plantain tree flower sprinkled with chilli powder was inserted into her vagina. After about 15 minutes, she fainted.

The victim claims she can identify at least one of the policemen who tortured her in the Negombo police station. She was produced in the Colombo Chief Magistrate Court, on 21 July 2000, and the magistrate ordered that she be examined by the JMO, Colombo North. The medical report confirmed that there had been vaginal penetration, that there "many scars on her limbs and torso" and that she was suffering from post traumatic stress disorder and depression, all of which could have resulted from the torture inflicted on her as alleged.

A fundamental rights petition was filed in March 2001 and is awaiting judgement at the time of writing. In the meantime, Yogalingam Vijitha was unconditionally released on 26 April 2001.

Appendix - Subjects of concern and recommendations of the Committee against Torture (extract from UN Document: CAT/C/SR.341 of 26 May 1998)

D. <u>Subjects of concern</u>
14. The Committee is gravely concerned by information on serious violations of the Convention, particularly regarding torture linked with disappearances.
15. The Committee regrets that there were few if any prosecutions or disciplinary proceedings despite continuous Supreme Court warnings and awards of damages to torture victims.
16. The Committee notes the absence, until recently, of independent and effective investigation of scores of allegations of disappearances linked with torture.
17. The Committee noted that, while the CAT Act 24/94 covers most of the provisions of the Convention, there were certain significant omissions.

18. The question of the admissibility under the emergency regulations of confessions is also a matter of concern as well as the absence of strict legislation governing detention consistent with international norms.

E. Recommendations

19. The Committee urges the State party to review the CAT Act 22/94 and other relevant laws in order to ensure complete compliance with the Convention, in particular in respect of: (a) the definition of torture; (b) acts that amount to torture and (c) extradition, return and expulsion.

20. Review the emergency regulations and the Prevention of Terrorism Act as well as rules of practice pertaining to detention to ensure that they conform with the provisions of the Convention.

21. Ensure that all allegations of torture, past, present and future, are promptly, independently and effectively investigated and the recommendations implemented without any delay.

22. While continuing to remedy, through compensation, the consequences of torture, due importance should be given to prompt criminal prosecutions and disciplinary proceedings against culprits.

23. Take the necessary measures to ensure that justice is not delayed especially in the cases of trials of people accused of torture.

24. Strengthen the Human Rights Commission and other mechanisms for dealing with torture prevention and investigation, and provide them with all the means that are necessary to ensure their impartiality and effectiveness.

25. Urges the State party to declare in favour of articles 21 and 22 of the Convention.

26. The Committee would be remiss if it did not acknowledge that the Sri Lankan delegation made every effort to make the dialogue with the Committee fruitful, so that thereby the State party would be helped to put an end to violations of this Convention.

(extracts)

UNITED NATIONS

COMMITTEE EXPERTS URGE SRI LANKA TO TAKE 'SPECIAL TEMPORARY MEASURES' TO ADVANCE DE FACTO EQUALITY BETWEEN WOMEN, MEN

Committee on Elimination of Discrimination against Women
28 January 2002 - Twenty-sixth Session
545th & 546th Meetings (AM & PM)

Concerns Expressed on Levels of Violence Suffered by Sri Lankan Women

There was a striking contrast between Sri Lanka's many well-educated and accomplished women and boats full of people who arrived every week in Europe "in practically slavery conditions" searching for work, the monitoring body of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women was told as it considered Sri Lanka's combined third and fourth periodic reports in two meetings today.

Economic difficulties and civil unrest, however, should not prevent Sri Lanka from eliminating all discriminatory legislation, the experts urged. One speaker described the apparent contradiction between Sri Lanka's obligations under the Convention and still-existing discriminatory legislation, including laws on land rights, inheritance, abortion, incest and rape. The fact that constitutional provisions forbidding discrimination against women did not extend to the private sector was also a matter of concern, especially regarding the status of women in the labour market.

Regarding violence against women, Sri Lanka has introduced several far-reaching legislative reforms to provide more effective remedies to deal with gender-based violence, the report adds. There is greater willingness to report violence. The number of cases of violence against women has increased. Major legislative changes were passed by the Parliament in 1995 and 1998. Apart from the issues of marital rape, an increase in the marriage age and the termination of pregnancy, the legislation was passed without opposition.

Regarding the increase in the age of statutory rape, earlier provisions identified 12 as the age below which sexual intercourse would amount to rape irrespective of the consent of the girl, the report says. The age had now been increased to 16 years. The amendment also prompted a revision of the marriage laws to increase the marriage age to 18 years. The amendments to the legislation dealing with non-Muslim marriages were passed simultaneously. No change, however, was made to the marriage age under Muslim law.

On the issue of employment, the report notes that constitutional guarantees against discrimination do not apply to the private sector and that private sector discrimination cannot be challenged in the Supreme Court. While the female unemployment rate dropped from 1992 to 1998, it is still double that of males. Most unemployed persons are between the ages of 15 and 24. In the industrial sector, some 70 per cent of factory workers are women. They work long hours in semi-skilled or unskilled jobs and are vulnerable to occupational health hazards and job insecurity. They are also subject to sexual abuse. The Women's Bureau has established counseling centres in a few places.

The report also says that the majority of foreign demand for Sri Lankan labour has been for unskilled workers, particularly housemaids, who account for some 86 per cent of total female workers abroad, mostly in countries in the Middle East. In 1998, some 60 per cent of Sri Lankans who left for employment abroad were women. While efforts have been made to protect women migrant workers, they are still vulnerable to sexual abuse and violence, harsh working conditions abroad and family dislocation at home.

Comments by Experts

Several experts, however, pointed out contradictions and discrepancies between the country's obligations under the Convention and still-existing discriminatory legislation which pre-dated Sri Lanka's Constitution, including the laws on land rights and inheritance. Certain laws on abortion, incest and rape also needed to be addressed. There seemed to be no participation by women in the political sphere.

Concern was also expressed over the situation of Muslim women and such practices as polygamy. In considering the matter, Sri Lanka could emulate the positive experience of several neighbouring Muslim countries.

Another speaker expressed hope that the Institute for the Development of Women had not been weakened by the recent merger of several ministries. She drew the delegation's attention to the fact that several questions posed by the pre-session working group regarding the situation of rural women had not been answered. According to the report, no budgetary allocations were being made for rural women's programmes. In that case, where did the Women's Bureau get the money to implement its micro-credit programmes? She also wanted to know about specific micro-credit programmes for women.

Regarding employment, the Constitution dealt with employment in the public sector, not the private, she said. Women were in lower paying jobs, working in family businesses, and accounted for most of the unemployed population. Women had to exercise their rights under article 11 of the Convention. Women's participation in the labour market was actually low when other factors were considered, including the fact that most of them worked as unpaid domestic workers. The employment situation was disturbing. In some jobs, women were entitled to very little protection. More attention should be given by the Government to the matter of child labour. Privatisation of the public sector had been detrimental to women's interests, exposing them to difficult circumstances. There was also the question of women working in the free trade zone areas.

Another expert said that coping simultaneously with civil strife and social development was a tremendous task. There was clearly the will to bring about personal status laws, and she was happy that they were being discussed. It was a matter of urgency. She underlined her concern about the lack of a minimum age of marriage for girls in the Muslim community. She was pleased to hear that the matter of under-representation of women was on the political agenda of the authorities in Sri Lanka. She hoped, however, that the demonstration of political will would come soon and that some action would be taken. The Government should consider the use of temporary special efforts to deal with the issue.

The extent of domestic violence would never be known until there was systematic statistical collection, she said. Wherever there was general violence in society, violence against women also increased. Law enforcement officials must be trained to cope with domestic violence.

On the issue of violence against women, despite various legal reforms to the penal codes the problem of marital rape remained. Were there plans to include marital rape in upcoming legal reform reviews? There was no specific legislation on domestic violence, but such legislation was needed. The police helpline did not seem to meet the needs of women. Gender training for all police officials was essential. **Another manifestation of violence against women was the violence perpetrated against ethnic-minority women. There were recurrent incidents of rape and sexual assault against Tamil women, especially at police checkpoints. Those incidents were not fully investigated or prosecuted.** How concerned was the Government about preventing violence against minority women, especially Tamil women?

Summarizing her colleagues' remarks, she singled out violence against women, the persistence of patriarchal stereotypes and the need to harmonize the Constitution of Sri Lanka with preceding domestic laws. Another cause of concern was the fact that, according to the report and the answers, it sometimes took several years for the authorities to bring cases of violence against women before the courts. It would also be worthwhile to review the Constitution in order to acknowledge that violence against women was a violation of human rights.

There was a striking contrast between Sri Lanka's many well-educated and accomplished women and boats full of people who arrived in Europe every week "in practically slavery conditions" in search of work. Despite the difficulties the country was experiencing, it was the duty of the State to ensure better conditions of work and life in the country. Special temporary measures and review of labour laws were needed in order to improve working opportunities for women.

On the issue of violence against ethnic women, another expert said she was glad to find out that the Government of Sri Lanka had prepared a series of measures and mechanisms to counter the problem of human rights violations. Were the mechanisms known to the women in need? Women living in conflict areas, without ability to move freely, might find it difficult to file complaints or to learn about the existence of such

mechanisms. How many convictions were brought to the Government's attention? Had grievance procedures been disseminated to women? Regarding the plight of migrant women workers, she said there had been many reports of fraud and corruption on the part of registration personnel. How effective were the protective measures? How many fraudulent registrations had been discovered?

Committee Vice-Chairperson R. MANALO said that she had not seen comprehensive policy regarding senior women in Sri Lanka. **(excerpts)**

Army soldier attempt to molest 7 year old girl

04 February 2002 – A Sri Lanka army soldier of Plantain Point army camp in Trincomalee was apprehended by the public when he attempted to molest a seven year old girl in Orr's Hill, in Trincomalee.

Three soldiers of Plantain Point army camp had forcibly taken a seven year girl to a Temple and attempted to molest her. The girl had cried out for help and people nearby rushed to the scene and rescued her. The public handed over the soldier they caught to Trincomalee police. The two other soldiers ran away.

The girl was admitted to the Trincomalee hospital with external injuries.

150 Tamils Raped in 1996

BY LINE: GASTON DE ROSAYRO in Colombo

Human rights activists claim more than 150 women, mostly minority Tamils, were raped by police and armed forces personnel last year. In the past few months the nation has been outraged by a series of sex offences, followed in some instances by the death or disappearance of victims. Security forces are allegedly behind the incidents, which are widespread in the war-ravaged north and east.

Rights groups and mainstream Tamil political parties are now up in arms over the alleged rape of five women by policemen in Colombo's suburbs. Politicians and rights agencies have made repeated demands for investigations of the large numbers of rapes allegedly committed by officials entrusted with enforcing law and order.

In one of the suburban rape cases, the victim, from the eastern Batticaloa district, had approached a reserve police constable for directions to a relative's home in Colombo.

The policeman accompanied the woman to her destination but then raped her in a lonely suburban thicket. At least 15 soldiers and policemen have been accused of rape since June last year.

In June, a 45-year-old woman, accused of pushing drugs, was gang-raped in a police cell. Her lawyers claimed the victim could not pick out her assailants as they were not in the identification parade.

An angry magistrate lambasted the policemen dealing with the case for being "inefficient, inactive and attempting to cover up for their bestial brother officers". In the same month, two navy officers were held for raping a woman. In August, a young police officer was sentenced to 17 years' jail for raping a 17-year-old female student. **("South China Morning Post" - January 11, 1997)**

Children dies of disease in the Vanni

Reports say that the areas between Pooneryn and Mannar in northern Vanni are severely affected by drought. There is an acute shortage of drinking water. In early September, 17 children were admitted to Mulangavil hospital in Kilinochchi District, suffering from diarrhoea. A two year-old child from Valaipadu in Pooneryn, died of the disease. A nine month-old child died in Muthayankaddu in Mullaitivu District on 11 September.

A number of children have also been admitted to Mallavi hospital. According to the Health Department, 12,660 people were treated at Mallavi hospital in August, including 248 for diarrhoea and 808 for malaria. But the hospitals in the Vanni have been seriously affected by government restrictions on medicines and medical equipment. Medicines for the third quarter of the year 2001 have not been received from Colombo. According to reports, there is a shortage of medicines for blood pressure, asthma, rabies and diabetes.

Kilinochchi Health services Director Sivamohan says that the Defence Ministry has cut 12 medicines recommended by the Health Ministry for supply to the Vanni by 75%. Vitamin B has been reduced from 1.5 million tablets to 250,000 and Vitamin C from 750,000 tablets to 30,000. **(excerpts, THE SRI LANKA MONITOR - British Refugee Council No.164 September 2001)**

Sri Lanka's orphans bear scars of war

Sri Lanka's two-decade long civil war has left thousands of children on all sides orphaned - facing a bleak future. Perhaps the worst affected are those who live in rebel-controlled areas.

They have had to live under an economic embargo, without proper medical attention and education, and have repeatedly been forced to flee the fighting.

The Sri Lankan Government has just eased the embargo and allowed journalists to visit the areas under Tamil Tiger control for the first time in years.

But at one of several homes, destitute children remain deeply traumatised by their experience of war. Nearly 200 children sit on the open ground in the twilight singing a nursery rhyme that every Tamil child in Sri Lanka knows. They sing of going to school - running with excitement, having combed their hair first, neatly dressed, a drink bottle in one hand and a packed lunch in the other.

No safety

But these children have never experienced this comfortingly safe vision of childhood. Balasingham Ushanithy, 15, remembers running for her life when the bombs rained down. We were terribly shocked. We didn't know where to run. We were living in the open under the trees for some time.

"It happened when I was in so many different places - we've been displaced five or six times by the fighting. "When I was small I was carried by my mother and she had to run with me, fleeing the shelling," she says.

Balansingham says it helps that all the children can talk to each other about their experiences and share them.

Her friend Shelvi told me: "Education and security are the most important things. "Only if we are safe can we learn anything. At the same time, through education we learn how to protect ourselves from the bombardment - like running into the bunkers and saving ourselves."

There is a sort of chorus of coughing going on - the orphanage has just moved back to the main town under rebel control and medicine is difficult to come by. Director Subramaniam Sabaratnam explained: "Because there is no medicine here, and because of the climate change, the children are suffering from the cough," he says. Living on top of one another, the children's wheezing coughs, which really need treatment with antibiotics, have spread like wildfire.

Mental scars

But it is the mental scars that are most shocking. Komala Mary Frances Xavier, 19, was born when the war began. As a small child, she was separated from her mother and brought up by her father until he was killed by the Sri Lankan army.

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She was looked after by her relatives, until she was separated from them during the fighting. She was then picked up off the road by some kind strangers. "I did not know those people," she says. "They said to me child why are you crying? It was at the start of the displacement and I've been here ever since."

'Endless war'

I asked Komala if she could imagine having children herself and what sort of life she would hope for them. Her answer was bleak: "If this war continues, our children will face the same plight," she says. "If we die during the war, our children will also be orphans and have to live in homes like this. "At least I was brought here by somebody, but what is the assurance that there will be people with humanity who will bring our children to homes like this."

The orphans in this home sing a Hindu devotional song, which talks about rebirth in a new life. For these children it is possibly the only way they can imagine breaking the cycle of war and grief they have grown up in. **(BBC World service – South Asia - 31 January, 2002)**

War takes 2123 children

An estimated 2123 children have been killed during the last three years of the northeast war say independent investigators.

The investigators pointed out that those children who have been killed due to the war were mostly in the ages ranging from one to three years. They were mostly from the areas such as Vavuniya, Mannar, Mullaitivu, Kilinochchi and Jaffna.

The majority of these deaths were due to abandonment in the ongoing war and also because they did not get proper treatment for injuries they received. The highest number of victims are reported from Killinochi (894), followed by 543 from Mullaitivu, 411 from Jaffna and 275 from Vavuniya.

Child abuse & trafficking on the increase

Most of the child trafficking in Sri Lanka takes place within the country, and children who live with their parents are taken for physical labour, National Child Protection Authority, Chairman, Professor Dr. Harendra de Silva said at the Launching of a project by the International Labour Organisation(ILO)- and the International Program for Eradication of Child Labour(IPEC)

These children are invariably prone to abuse of various forms. He said that children are taken from estate areas for domestic labour. "Children are taken to the beaches of Hikkaduwa. Negombo and other coastal areas not merely to serve foreign paedophiles but also to the locals as well," Dr. De Silva said. Children are brought from places like Madawachchiya, and Anuradhapura of the north central province to railway Stations and even to the Galle Face Green for this nefarious activities, he said.

"Child pornography is also a big issue in Sri Lanka, " the Professor said. " The new form of sexual abuse targeting children has come up. "Although children are not shown in the pictures the literature includes children," Dr. De Silva said. It promotes incest and seduction of children he added.

While the children in the north are orphaned, maimed and killed by the Sri Lankan forces, leave alone deprivation of education basic necessities of lives and childhood itself through economic blockade and war.

Displacement

Around 1.5 million made displaced

Almost 8 percent of the total Lankan population 1.5 million have been displaced, giving Sri Lanka a prominent spot in the global refugee map, while the country also received **30 asylum seekers** in the first quarter of 2001, according to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) in Colombo.

The renown UN refugee relief agency revealed this on Wednesday June 20 at a press conference in Colombo held to mark the first universally commemorated World Refugee Day which fell on the same day. The UNHCR said that during the last two decades Sri Lankan has experienced significant (people) displacement both inside and outside the country. It added : **"An estimated 1.5 million Sri Lankan out of a total population of 19 million are displaced. Of these some 800,000 persons are internally displaced** with remainder living as refugees or refugee like situation in India, Europe, Australia and Northern America. More than **250,000 Sri Lankan have sought asylum in Europe** alone in the past two decades. Up to **400,000 Sri Lankan mostly** Tamils are estimated to be currently residing in Canada.

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There are also significant number of Sri Lankan refugees in India where an estimated 66,000 refugees are accommodated in camps. They agency said that the displacement represents an enormous cost in terms of loss of human potential within Sri Lanka.

"In Europe, Sri Lankan asylum applications more than doubled from 4,000 applications a year during the period 1980-1983 to an average of 14,000 applications a year during the period 1984-1999. An estimated per cent of Sri Lankan asylum applications in Europe were lodged in Germany, France, the United Kingdom, Denmark, the Netherlands, Norway and Switzerland. In contrast to the thousands of Sri Lankans who are provided refuge around the globe, Sri Lankan receives only a small number of asylum seekers in need of international protection. At the beginning of 2001 a total of 30 refugees and asylum seekers were registered by UNHCR in Colombo" it added.

In Sri Lanka, it has been estimated that over 180,000 people have been displaced due to the ongoing conflict in the North East of the country. **(excerpt – "The Weekend Express" 23-24 June 2001)**

Sri Lankan displaced highest in Asia

Sri Lanka internally displaced person are much higher than in any other Asian country, former Presidential Secretary and UN Consultant Bradman Weerakoon said.

Addressing a press conference to mark the first ever Universal Refugee Day Mr. Weerakoon said that Sri Lanka' internally displaced person (IDPs) are 800,000 as against 19 million world wide. **(excerpts – "The Sunday Times" 24 June 2001)**

STATE TERRORISM CONTINUES AGAINST THE TAMILS

(Few noteworthy violations between 1956-1994)

Tamil Centre for Human Rights – TCHR Email : tchrgs@hotmail.com / tchrdip@hotmail.com

(Each Sri Lankan government has been responsible for the genocide of Tamils in the island. Perpetrators are neither properly investigated nor punished!)

- Not all arrests, torture, rapes, disappearances, lootings and damage to properties are included here.
- **IPKF** atrocities (arrests, torture, rape, arbitrary killings, disappearances, lootings, damage to properties) are not included here.
- In order to shorten the report the names of the victims and details of the incidents are not included but are available on request.

1994

11 January - Kodikamam Hospital was attacked by Sri Lanka Air Force helicopter in the Jaffna peninsula. Some houses in the area also were damaged.

11 January - Sri Lanka Puccaro planes bombed Nedunkerni in the Mullativu District. Many houses and tractors were damaged. A husband and wife, parents of four children were killed on the spot. Harvested crops of tobacco and chillies were destroyed.

07 January - Atchuvely Maha Vidyalayam attacked by a Sri Lankan helicopter. The school was in session at the time of the attack. Many of the school buildings were damaged. A bullet pierced the leg of a GCE (0/L) girl student.

07 January - Thondamanaru bombed by Sri Lankan Air Force helicopters. The Veerakathipllai school building was damaged.

05 January - Three women and an infant were killed in Thavady – Jaffna. Their bodies were torn and limbs and flesh were strewn all over by Sri Lanka Air Force aerial bombing. Three houses were completely destroyed. Several other houses were damaged. The Thavady Sub Post Office and the office of the Grama Sevaka were also badly damaged.

1993

28 September – Bunker Massacre in Chavakacheri, Jaffna. Aerial bombing on a bunker at Chankanthanai. **23 Ladies and children** were killed in this incident. Sri Lankan Air Force responsible for this killing

18 September – Aerial bombing **killed 13** and seriously injured 40 civilians in Mathalan, Mullaithiveu. The Sri Lankan Air Force deliberately bombed a public meeting in Mullaithivu.

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02 January - 65 civilians crossing Killali lagoon killed by a series of attacks launched on them by Sri Lankan Naval gunboats. Many more injured. The passengers were travelling in a flotilla of sixteen boats when they were fired upon in the glare of a spotlight.

1992

3 August – 18 disappeared and several injured. Sri Lankan army arrested 26 Tamil farmers working in their fields in the Karadiyanaru area. 9 were admitted to Batticaloa hospital with gunshot wounds, two escaped with minor injuries. The whereabouts of the other 18 are still not known.

31 May - 6 refugees killed and over 125 injured. A Sri Lankan air force plane mounted an attack on the Sri Durga Devi Temple in Tellippalai, Jaffna. Bomber aircraft and helicopters aimed grenades and barrel bombs at the Temple.

18 May - Vattrapalai Amman Temple shelled, 15 people killed in Mullaitivu. Vattrapalai Amman temple was shelled by the Sri Lankan army, the temple was packed with pilgrims for the annual Pongal festival.

29 April - 80 Tamil civilians were shot and hacked to death by Muslim Home Guards and other security forces in Karapola, Polonnaruwa District.

14 April - A family of 8 Tamil villagers were killed in Mandur, Batticaloa, by a group of army personnel.

1991

20 October - 15 people Killed in Kilali Lagoon. Sri Lankan helicopters bombed and strafed boats carrying civilians.

12 June - Kokaddicholai massacre, 82 Tamils were killed by the Sri Lankan security forces, in the villages of Kokaddicholai, Mahiladai Teevu and Muthalai Kuddah in the Batticaloa District. Nearly 450 houses were looted and burnt. Some were burnt alive by the rampaging armed forces. Many were barbarously clubbed and hacked to death.

30 March - 11 Tamil civilians killed, properties damaged in Iruthayapuram. Sri Lankan police officers went on the rampage in Iruthayapuram, burning shops and hacking to death 11 Tamil farmers.

1990

26 December - 4 Tamil villagers killed in Mandoor, Batticoloa. Sri Lankan army shot and killed 4 Tamils in Mandoor, Batticoloa.

25 December - 15 Tamil refugees were killed in Clappenberg, Trincomalee. The Tamil refugees from the Clappenberg refugee camp were taken away by the Sri Lankan army. Never seen again they are presumed dead!

21 December - Man shot dead in Pampaimadu, Vavuniya, by Sri Lankan army. He was a villager from Pampaimadu, Vavuniya.

17 December - 3 Tamils killed in Aladivembu, Amparai. Special Task Force personnel abducted these villagers and shot them dead.

17 December - 9 Tamils killed in Valaichenai, Batticoloa. The Muslim home guards armed by the government entered into the houses in Valaichenai, dragged out 9 Tamil civilians and hacked them to death.

17 December - 5 Tamil villagers killed by Sri Lankan army, as they were grazing their cattle, in Thanthamalai, Batticoloa.

14 December - 4 Tamil civilians killed in Valaichenai, Batticoloa. TELO members tortured 4 Tamil villagers and handed them over to Sri Lankan army in Valaichenai, Batticoloa. They are presumed dead!

10 December - 9 civilian killed, properties damaged in Kovilkulam, Vavuniya. The Sri Lankan Army rampaged the village, burnt houses and bodies of those killed.

10 December - 4 Tamils stabbed to death by Sinhala home guards in Palaiyadivetti, Batticaloa.

10 December - A man killed in Valichenai, Batticaloa. Sri Lankan army, accompanied by the Tamil group TELO, abducted a man named Seenithamby aged 32 and killed him.

09 December - A man killed in Batticaloa Town. Army and TELO members killed Letchumi Kanthan, an employee in Bank of Ceylon.

07 December - A young student was killed in Kaluthavalai, Batticoloa. M. Pakirathan aged 14 was taken by the army to camp in Kaluthavalai, Batticoloa. He is presumed dead.

06 December - 76 Tamil civilians were killed in Neelavanni, Batticoloa. The Sri Lankan army from Neelavanai army camp along with TELO members, rounded up residents of Neelavanni village. All of them taken to the army camp were tortured and killed. Tyres were put over the dead bodies and burnt. Some of those killed were students.

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06 December - An elderly man killed in Sarasalai, Jaffna, in aerial bombing by Sri Lanka air force plane. K.Tharumaiah aged 60 was blown into pieces. Several other people were injured.

06 December - 2 villagers killed in 33rd Village, Batticoloa. T. Krishnapillai and Y. Sivalingam were shot dead by the Sri Lankan Army when they went into the forests surrounding the village.

01 December - 2 fishermen killed in Mandaitivu, Jaffna. Pragasam Rajendram and Rajappu Francis were shot dead by the Sri Lankan navy while fishing in the sea.

01 December - 1 killed and 1 raped and killed in Batticaloa. Sri Lankan army soldiers rounded the villagers of Arayampathy and killed a youth named Sundaram Prabakaran aged 25. Several other people were taken to Kaluvanchikudy army camp. In another incident a girl named Nallathamby Anusia was raped and killed by the Tamil group (TELO) which collaborates with the Sri Lankan army. Her body was thrown into a river.

01 December - A young girl killed in Chavakachcheri, Jaffna, when Sri Lanka air force planes bombarded the area. She was named Meena aged 22. In two other aerial bombardments, a woman named Vijayaletsumi aged 55 was killed in Alaveddy and 8 others injured in Thirunelvely.

27 December - 9 killed in Oddisuddan. Several Sri Lanka Airforce bomber planes bombarded Oddisuddan killing civilians.

23 November - 4 killed, 3 disappeared in Batticaloa. Army arrested 15 villagers. One Tamil youth and a woman were killed on the spot. **The fate of 3 persons taken to army camp is not known.** In another incident in Athiyamalai, the Sri Lankan army entered into a church, forcibly took away 2 Tamil refugees and shot dead them.

12 November – 6 refugees killed in Analaitivu, Jaffna. A boat carrying 42 refugees to India was attacked by the Sri Lanka navy near Analaitivu. 4 refugees were killed inside the boat. The Sri Lanka Navy captured the boat and brought it to the shore. 2 more persons died, succumbing to their injuires.

30 October - Civilians killed in Kalladdy, Batticoloa. In the villages, Kallady, Aryampathy, Thalankuda, Kirankulam, Puthikutiyiruppu, the Sri Lanka Army and Muslim homeguards rounded up the villagers and took the Tamil men to Arayampathy army camp. The men were tortured and brutally murdered. Their bodies were burnt with the tyres put over them.

29 October - **3 killed in** Kokatticholai, Batticoloa. Sri Lanka army soldiers from Kathankudi army camp fired at a ferry carrying civilians from Kokattichcholai to Manmunai, killing two people. Three houses were also destroyed. On the same day another woman aged 65 of Kulakarai veethi was killed by aerial bombardment. 2 houses were destroyed.

25 October - **25 refugees brutally killed by army in** Clappenberg, Trincomalee. Sri Lankan army entered into the Clappenberg refugee camp in Trincomalee and brutally killed refugees.

20 October - **6 killed of whom one raped** in, Batticaloa district. Sri Lanka army soldiers rounded-up the village of Kirankulam and arrested more than 100 and shot dead 4 villagers. In another incident in Thalavai village, the Sri Lanka army rampaged the village. One woman Kalikutty Indra was raped and killed. A fisherman was also brutally murdered.

19 October - **A man shot dead by Sri Lankan security forces in** Chetipalayam, Amparai. The army entered into the village of Amparai and shot dead a villager, Sichchaipillai Natkunaraja aged 30.

16 October – **7 killed** in Semmalai, Mullaitivu. 7 boats carrying refugees set out from Thiriyai in Trincomalee to Mullaitivu. The boats were attacked by Naval gun boats. One boat capsized. 4 men, 2 women and a small boy died. One escaper swam to the shore. The fate of the other 6 boats is not known.

15 October - **A refugee woman was killed, 4 injured** in Kaluthavalai, Batticoloa. A boat carrying refugees going from Kaluthavalai to Palukamam was attacked by a artillery shell fired from Kaluthavalai army camp. A woman, named Kanapathippilai Puranam aged 45 from Chetipalayam died. 4 refugees injured.

14 October - **A woman killed and 10 others injured** in Thirunelvely, Jaffna. Sri Lanka air force planes dropped 2 bombs on a crowded market place. A woman called Rajeswary aged 31, died on the spot. 10 civilians were seriously injured

13 October - **3 people killed, 5 injured** in Uddupiddi, Jaffna. A Sri Lanka air force plane bombed Udupiddy junction.

13 October - **A civilian killed** in Naavaladi, Batticoloa. Sri Lanka Army rounded up the village of Naavaladi in Batticoloa, shot dead a civilian, put tyres on the body and burnt it.

12 October - **1 killed** in Kondavil, Jaffna. Two artillery shells fired from Palaly army camp fell on Kondavil. A man aged 35 from Innuvil was killed while riding a bicycle

11 October - **A man killed, 3 injured** in Valvettiturai, Jaffna. An artillery shell fired from Pallaly army camp fell in front of Ranjana Cinema theatre. Rasaiah Balasingam, age 60 died on the spot. 3 injured.

09 October - **10 killed in** Chavakechcheri, Jaffna. A Sri Lanka air force helicopter fired rockets on the Chavakechcheri market. Another 17 civilians were injured.

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08 October - **A fisherman killed in** Thirukovil, Amparai. The army fired on 3 fishermen who went to sea fishing. 2 escaped and one was killed in rifle fire.

07 October - **52 Tamil civilians killed in** Vantharumulai, Amparai. 52 Tamil civilians including several women and children were killed by Sri Lankan military personnel in Vantharumulai, Amparai. 40 dead bodies of men and women were found inside the wells in the area around Vantharumulai University refugee camp. Those who went to their villages from the refugee camp to see their houses and have a bath were killed and thrown into the wells. The bodies had deep wounds inflicted by knives. The bodies of young women showed they had been raped. After the refugees evacuated the Vandarumulai University refugee camp, 12 dead bodies of Tamil civilians were found inside the University premises.

07 October - **A man shot dead** in Thirukovil, Amparai. 4 Tamil men were taken away by the army. One was shot dead and the other 3 were kept in detention.

05 October - **A man killed in** Unnichchai, Batticoloa. Sri Lankan army shot dead an innocent civilian named Arunalsalam Selvaratnam.

01 October - **Body of a man washed ashore in** Thirukovil, Amparai. Later it was identified as a Tamil man from Thirukovil in the Amparai district.

30 September - **6 killed** in Akkaraipattu, Amparai. The army rounded up a village called Panankadu and shot dead 2 Tamil civilians on the spot and burnt the bodies. In another incident, on the beach near the 40th mile post army camp, 4 dead bodies of men were found. Because of mutilation their identities were not established.

29 September - **3 killed by Sri Lanka army** in Kurinchamunai, Batticoloa.

29 September - **2 hacked to dead** by Sri Lankan Army in Vinayagapuram, Amparai.

27 September - **2 killed by army** in Kurrinchamunai, Batticoloa. Two Tamil civilians Maanikkam Kanthakuddy aged 29, Sinnathamby Arumugam aged 53 both from Pillayar Kovilady, Kurrinchamunai, Batticoloa were shot dead by the army

26 September - **50 Tamil civilians arrested by Sri Lanka Army were disappeared** in Thambiluvil, Amparai. They are presumed dead!

26 September - 3 bodies of fishermen washed ashore in Vinnayakapuram, Amparai, with cut wounds. Another one person was shot dead by the army on the same day in Vinnayakapuram, Amparai.

24 September - 4 civilians arrested by Army in Ayyathimalai, Batticoloa. They are presumed dead!

24 September - 16 civilians hacked to death in Puthukudirupu, Batticoloa. 16 civilians including children and women were hacked to death by STF(Special Task Force) commandos and Muslim homeguards in Puthukudirupu, Batticoloa. Another 17 injured.

23 September - 2 people killed in aerial bombardment in Jaffna town.

23 September - A civilian was killed in Thirukkovil, Batticoloa. The Civilian named Manoharan from Thirukkovil, Batticoloa was taken by Sri Lankan Army to army camp and was shot dead.

22 September - 2 people killed and 5 injured in Naavalar Road, Jaffna. Two people were killed and another 5 civilians were injured by Sri Lanka air force aerial bombardment.

22 September - 35 villagers including women and children were hacked to death in Thallavai, Batticaloa by Sri Lankan Army and Muslim homeguards. Their bodies were burnt to ashes.

21 September - 25 civilians arrested by special Task Forces in Karaitheevu, Batticoloa.

17 September - 35 shot dead by Sri Lanka Army and Muslim homeguard in Sorikalmunai, Batticaloa. Sri Lankan Army and Muslim homeguards surrounded the village of Sorikalmunai and took away the Tamil youths to Savalakkaddi army camp. Later all of them were shot dead.

16 September - 28 killed and over 60 injured, in an aerial bombing over the entire Jaffna peninsula by Sri Lankan Airforce bomber planes. Several buildings and other properties were badly damaged.

15 September - 4 killed in Muthur. Tamil refugees were shot dead by the Sri Lankan army inside Pallikkuddiyiruppu refugee camp in Muthur.

14 September - A youth killed in Thopur, Muthur. Motor shell fired from the Trincomalee army camp fell inside the Pallikudiyiruppu refugee camp. Vairamuththu Malar, 12 year old girl was killed and 3 people were injured.

13 September - 28 killed in indiscriminate aerial bombing in Jaffna Peninsula by air force planes and helicopters. More than 60 were seriously injured and 28 killed. Several buildings and houses were also destroyed.

10 September - Massacre 184 Tamils in Saththurukondan. Over 180 Tamil Ladies, elders and children were butchered by the Sri Lanka army at the Saththurukondan Army Camp in the Batticaloa District. At an inquiry into the massacre, the Officer-in-Charge of the camp, Captain. Gamini Varnakula Sooriya said "On that day no search or arrest was conducted by us". The sole survivor of the massacre, Kanthasamy Krishnakumar aged 27, however recounted the chilling facts. A. M. W. Senivaratne of STF (Special Task Force) is responsible for this massacre

07 September – A civilian killed in Thalankodai. Chathrukan Akasthian was arrested and shot dead by the Army.

05 September - Vantharumualai University massacre in Batticaloa. 159 Ladies, elders and children were kidnapped and hacked to death in this incident. P. A. Karunatilaga is responsible for this massacre.

05 September – 3 killed and 5 girls raped and killed. Sri Lankan army arrested and shot dead three people in Thalankodi and raped and killed five girls in Pullumalai. The girls' bodies were later found in a well.

05 September - 10 killed in Kallaru. Sri Lankan Army rounded up the village of Kallaru and took 10 Tamil refugees from Pandiruppu, to the Neelavanai army camp and shot them dead.

04 September - 2 youths tortured and killed in Pallikudiyiruppu. Youths from Pallikudiyiruppu refugee camp were taken by Sri Lankan Army to Thoppur camp, tortured and killed. The youths were identified as Pathinikunjan, aged 18 and Kalirasa Sellan, aged 22.

02 September - 3 women shot dead in Vandaarumullai. The Sri Lankan Army shot dead 3 women inside the University refugee camp.

01 September - 3 civilians killed in Valvettiturai, in an aerial bombing in the village of Nediyakaadu.

27 August - 3 women killed by bombardment in Kopay, Jaffna.

24 August - 4 refugees killed in a boat in Keratheevu. Boat carrying refugees was attacked by the Sri Lankan Air force helicopter.

22 August - 10 refugees killed in Thambalaakamam, Trincomalee. Refugees who went out of refugee camp were brutally killed by the Sri Lankan army.

21 August - **25 killed** in Jaffna peninsula. In an aerial bombing by the Sri Lankan Airforce, civilians were killed and several buildings and properties were badly damaged.

21 August – **10 killed** in Eravur. The Sri Lankan Army and Muslim home guards have killed innocent civilians and University students.

20 August - **11 killed** in Atcuveli, Jaffna peninsula. 11 civilians killed and 10 injured in an aerial bombardment by Sri Lankan Air Force planes.

19 August - **3 killed by Sri Lankan** Army and Muslim homeguards in Kannakipuram.

18 August - **20 killed in Sorikalmunai.** Muslims home guards shot dead 20 civilians. Another 10 children below the age of 5 months were brutally killed. Their heads were smashed against a Temple wall.

18 August - **91 massacred** in Veeramunai. Sinhala homeguards supported by Sri Lankan soldiers entered into this village and massacred 91 Tamil civilians. This includes several children under the age of 15 and women. More than 125 people were injured in this brutal incident.

17 August - **3 killed and 7 injured** in Nallur, Jaffna by aerial bombardment.

17 August - **An American Jesuit Rev. E.J.Hebert killed** in Batticaloa. An American Jesuit Rev. E.J.Hebert was killed by Muslim homeguards for helping Tamil refugees at a place called Sithandy.

17 August - **14 killed** in Muthur. In the village of Muthur, 14 people were shot dead. 3 women among them were raped before being killed by the Sri Lankan army.

15 August - **90 killed in** Senkallady. 90 civilians were shot and hacked to death by Muslim homeguards supported by Sri Lankan army. The Muslim thugs went into the homes and massacred them. There were several children and women among the dead.

12 August - **95 hacked to death in Thuraineelavanai.** Tamil civilians including several children and women were hacked to death, at least 5 were burnt alive by Sri Lankan army and Muslim homeguards.

12 August – **8 killed in Amparai.** Muslim policemen and homeguards ran amok in a Tamil village, killing at least 8 civilians. Surviving residents of the "4th colony" village, Amparai district, fled the area. The 4th Colony has been sealed off by members of the Special Task Force, a police commando unit, which controls the area where the massacre took place.

09 August - **16 killed** in Mamadu Kovilkulam, 9th mile post and another **8 Tamil Civilians killed** by aerial bombardment near main railway station in Jaffna.

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08 August - **75 hacked to death in Trincomalee.** 75 refugees travelling on three boats were hacked to death by army and Muslim homeguards in the Trincomalee.

07 August - **47 killed in Erakanni.** Tamil civilians were hacked to death by Muslim home guards.

14 July - **10 Bodies found in Batticaloa town.**

"Hundreds of thousands of people fled their homes as fighting intensified. In early August there were over 300,000 refugees in Jaffna District alone, and fears of food shortages". **(AI Report, 10 July 1990)**

09 July - **19 killed in Batticaloa** – The bodies of civilians killed by STF were found dumped in public places in Batticaloa.
4 Bodies found in Kaluvanchikudiyiruppu.

06 July - **5 Bodies recovered in Batticaloa town.**

01 July - **1 woman killed, 6 people injured, in Chunnakkam, Jaffna,** in an aerial bombardment on a market.

July 1990 - **38 killed, 100s injured in Amparai.** Civilians were shot dead in Sinnawattai Malayarkathu in Fourth Colony and other colonies. Over a hundred others wounded.

Since 21 June Hundreds of people in north-eastern Sri Lanka reportedly **'disappeared'** after being detained by Sri Lankan security forces. Bodies, some of which had been identified as those of prisoners, were dumped in several places. In Kalmunai, **over 70 people** were reportedly detained and then **'disappeared'. Over 30 bodies** were dumped in a burnt out shop in Kalmunai.

13-14 June - Sri Lankan Army shot dead 15 civilians in Vavuniya.

<u>1989</u>

02 August - **Valvettitural Massacre by IPKF.** The Indian Peace Keeping Force deliberately killed over 50 Tamil civilians in Valvettitural in the Jaffna Peninsula. This massacre was described **as "India's Mylai".**

1988

28 February - Navy shot dead a refugee in Mannar – Sri Lankan navy opened fired on a group of Tamil refugees waiting at Mannar shore to flee to India. One woman was killed while another was severely injured. The following day the Sri Lankan Navy arrested 54 Tamil woman refugees waiting at Mannar Beach to flee to Tamil Nadu. The Navy rounded up the women and took them away. The refugees were fleeing to India to escape army atrocities in Tamil territories.

1987

28 January - Kokkaddichcholai massacres - over 150 Tamil civilians massacred in Kokkaddichcholai. Civilians were massacred at Kokkaddichcholai during a military operation by members of the Special Task Force armed with helicopter gunships and armoured cars. Several houses and other properties were also destroyed during this operation.

1987 - 680 Tamils disappeared - The police and armed forces continued to kill non-combatant Tamils. Of particular concern were reprisal killings by the security forces and reports that Tamil suspects taken into custody were shot or tortured to death and their bodies disposed of in secret. By the end of 1987, over **680** Tamils had reportedly '**disappeared**' since 1983 and no substantive attempts had been made by the government what had happened to them. **(AI Annual Report, January to December 1987)**

21 October - Massacre by IPKF at Jaffna General Hospital. So called Indian Peace Keeping Forces – IPKF entered the premises of the Jaffna General Hospital and massacred the patients, workers, medical staff in this hospital. Military offensive started by the IPKF on the 10th day of October 87 in the North East of the island

1986

11 November - 20 killed, 21 disappeared and 3 women raped in Batticaloa. Sri Lankan security forces went on a rampage in a village in the Eastern Batticaloa District. During the course of this rampage, three women were raped and killed.

11 November - Massacre in Periya Pullumumalai. 23 killed, 21 disappeared. Several houses and shops were also set on fire when security forces went on a rampage at Periya Pullumumalai, a village in the eastern Batticaloa district.

12 October - Adampan Massacre, 21 people killed in Adampan by Sri Lankan army soldiers.

19 September - 11 people killed in Batticaloa town. Police Commandos of the Special Task Force (STF) went on a rampage in the Batticaloa town killing civilians.

17 July - 10 killed in Mullaitivu by Sri Lankan air force helicopter. The passengers who were travelling in a State-Transport Board bus were killed in Thanduvan village in Mullaitivu district.

16 July - Refugee camp massacre - 44 refugees killed by the Sri Lanka army in Peruveli/ Manalchenai in Trincomalee.

Tamileelam Archive

13 July - Adampan massacre - 50 killed by the Sri Lankan army in Mannar. Many Muslims were also killed.

28 June – 10 farmers killed by the Sri Lankan army in a cordon and search operation in Paranthan, Kilinochchi.

28 June - Thampalakamam massacre - 34 killed in Thampalakamam in Trincomalee district. The victims were abducted and killed by the Home Guards.

26 June - Sambaltivu massacre - 15 killed in Sambaltivu, Trincomalee, by the Sri Lankan army in a search operation.

20 June – 32 Refugees massacred - In Nachchikudah, Mannar. Tamil refugees in a boat bound from Gurunagar, Jaffna to India were shot dead by Sri Lankan Navy. Two survivors of this massacre managed to swim to the shore, and related their pathetic story.

10 June – 31 Fishermen massacred in Mandaitivu, Jaffna. Fishermen from Gurunagar, Jaffna set out for fishing at about 5am in a boat named "Thuya Oli" (Holy Light) and were massacred in the sea by the Sri Lanka Navy.

17 May - 18 young Tamils killed in the Eastern province. Young men were taken into custody and shot dead by the STF.

20 May - Nedunkerny massacre - 16 killed. Women and old-age pensioners were killed by the Sri Lankan army in a search operation in Nedunkerny in Eeddimurichchan 26 miles from Vavuniya.

19 February - Udumpankulam massacre - 60 killed. STF commandos rounded up the workers in the paddy field at Udumpankulam, Amparai and shot dead the workers.

19 February - Akkaraipattu Massacre. More than 90 Tamil civilians killed by the STF in Akkaraipattu.

"Upto 80 people mainly Tamil farm workers are said to have been killed and their bodies burned in a massacre in eastern Sri Lanka. The killings happened on Wednesday (19 February 1986), but confirmation of the incident was made only yesterday after community leaders had visited the remote spot near the town of Akkaraipattu, where the farm workers were shot. The farm workers were taken back to the paddy fields and shot. Several empty cases of ammunition have been found in the field. The bodies were piled on top of the dry rice harvest and burned." **(reported by Humphrey Hawksley in the "Guardian" 22 February 1986)**

25 January - **Kilinochchi railway station massacre -** 12 killed by Sri Lankan army soldiers. 12 civilians were shot dead and several others injured in an indiscriminate fire by the army. The dead included four women and two children.

19 January - **Iruthayapuram Massacre.** 24 civilians killed by the Sri Lankan army in Iruthayapuram.

04 January – **14 killed by the Sri Lanka army** in Jaffna.

1985

05 January – **8 killed in** Mannar. Civilians outside of a Vankalar Catholic church were shot dead by the Sri Lankan army near the town of Mannar. Then, the soldiers broke into the chapel and shot dead two boys, ages 12 and 14, who had been living with the priest.

1985 Church massacre – 10 killed. Sinhala army murders Christian priests - 1984/85 – Church in Mannar under seige. A village priest was one of ten people killed by the army on church premises. **His body was never found.** The government claimed that no witnesses had come forward to testify to his death, **but this was contested by the Bishop of Mannar, Dr.Thomas Savundranayagam.**

1984

28 March – **8 killed** in Chunnakam market place. Air force officials based in Chunnakam opened fire at the civilians.

20 March - **7 killed and 24 injured** - In an aerial bombing by the Sri Lankan Airforce, many civilians were killed and injured in Jaffna and Vavuniya.

09 April - **50 killed in Jaffna** - The Government Agent for Jaffna estimated that 50 people were killed between April 9 and 12. Emergency regulations, which permitted police to bury casualties without post-mortem or inquest were in effect and the identity of those killed was never established.

11 August – **9 killed in Illupangadavai, Mannar.** The army attacked the town of Mannar and gasoline bombs were thrown at shops and houses. The main bazaar was set on fire. Adjoining villages of Adampan and Manthai were also attacked.

11 September - **16 killed and 10 injured in Vavuniya.** A long-distance coach was hijacked near Vavuniya, while on its way from Colombo to Jaffna, by Sri Lankan security armed forces. The coach was driven to a lonely spot on the Mannar Road, where the women and children were chased into the jungle, and the men were shot as they attempted to flee.

01 September - **At least 16 civilians were killed in Point Pedro**. Police killed 16 civilians in Point Pedro. Police also burned shops and several buildings in Hartley College. The National Security Minister accepted that 6 to 10 civilians were killed, and a few shops were burned.

04 December - **16 killed** in Ootuvayankulum, Mannar. They were working on a farm when they were shot dead by the Sri Lankan army. The army also attacked two state transport buses between Murungan and Vavuniya, **killing 37 more people.** In an Army rampage in Murungan near Post office **at least 90 were killed.**

02 December - **Cheddikulam massacres - 27 killed** in Vanni by the Army. This includes the area of Cheddikulam and Chemamadu in the Vanni area.

1983

23-29 July - **1983 Riots - more than 3000 Tamil civilians killed – in Colombo and its suburbs**. The Sinhalese thugs with the connivance of government forces killed and burnt Tamils and looted and burned Tamils' properties. The riots lasted for several days and thousands of Tamils were hacked to death. Millions of dollars worth of their property was destroyed.

Fifty three Tamil political prisoners were massacred in the Welikadai prison in Colombo by the Sinhala inmates. The government masterminded this massacre and the Sinhala attackers were released from the prison and rewarded with houses and properties in the Sinhala settlement in Tamil homeland.

18 May -**175 homes of Tamils burnt in Jaffna** by Sri Lankan armed forces. One killed, many wounded in Thineveley, Jaffna.

1982

1982 **Anti-Tamil, anti-Hindu offensive in Mullaitivu - 1982** Kuranthan Malai, Mullaitivu. According to plans drawn up by officials working under the Ministry of Industries and Scientific Affairs, a Buddhist vihare (temple) and a Sinhala settlement were established. Army personnel, an ex-Director of a Public Corporation under the Ministry, several leading members of the UNP Trade Union (The Jathika Sevaka Sangamaya), several Ceramics Corporation vehicles, and employees of the government Tile factory of Oddichuddan were involved in the implementation of this project! This is one of the latest Sinhala settlements!

1981

1981 **Continued attacks on Tamil civilians - July/August 1981** - Incidents of violence centred on three specific areas against the Tamils in the island of Sri Lanka. **(1)** The gem mining area of Ratnapura, **(2)** Negombo near the capital city of Colombo, **(3)** and the plantation towns in central Sri Lanka.

Before the violence was brought under control... at least 10 plantation Tamils had been killed, numerous Tamil shops and businesses burned, and more than 5000 Indian Tamils had fled to refugee camps...

31 May - 1 June - **Destruction of Jaffna Public Library -** A large group of police (estimated variously from 100-200) went on a rampage on the nights of May 31-June 1 (1981) and June 1-2 **burning the market area of Jaffna**, the office of the **Tamil Newspaper,** the home of the **member of Parliament for Jaffna** and the Jaffna Public Library.

The destruction of the Jaffna Public Library has cause intense distress to the Tamils. The 95,000 volumes of the Public Library destroyed by the fire included numerous culturally important and irreplaceable manuscripts.

1979

14 July - **Several Tamils were killed after emergency declared in Jaffna.** On the **11th of July 1979** President Jayawardene appointed his nephew Brigadier Weeratunga, as commander of the security forces in Jaffna... On the same day, a state of emergency was declared in Jaffna, and a Public Security Ordinance gave the police and armed forces the power to dispose of dead bodies without an inquest.

1977

1977 - **Organised pogrom against Tamils - 300 killed** in various parts of the island of Sri Lanka. The political conflict following the 1977 elections, turned into a racial massacre. It is estimated that between 250 and 300 Tamil citizens lost their lives and over 40,000 were made homeless.

1961

1961 **Sinhala army attacks Tamil Satyagrahis -** The military forces of Ceylon (Sri Lanka) under the command of Colonel Udugama, attacked the non-violent satyagrahis. Nearly 200 security personnel stationed at the Jaffna Kacheri kicked them and used belts, batons and rifle-butts to assault them. They arrested the leaders.

1958

25 May - 1958 **Genocide** - The most heinous crimes in the history of Ceylon were carried out against the Tamil nation. The Sinhalese thugs struck the Tamil labourers in the Government farms at Polonnaruwa and Hingurakgoda and Polonnaruwa sugar-cane plantation, remorselessly. The Tamil labourers fled the farms when they saw the Sinhalese approaching and hid in the sugar-cane bushes. The goondas set the sugar cane alight and flushed out the Tamils. As they came out screaming, men, women and children were cut down with swards, grass cutting knives and katties, or pulped under heavy clubs. **This was the beginning of the government sponsored Tamil genocide in the Island of Sri Lanka, then Ceylon.**

1956

தமிழீழ ஆவணக்காப்பகம்
Tamileelam Archive

The outbreak of first anti-Tamil riots in the island. The peaceful Satyagraha campaign staged by the Tamils to protest against the "Sinhala Only Act" at the Galle Face Green, in front of the Parliament in Colombo was brutally savaged by Sinhalese thugs with the connivance of government. **More than 150 Tamils were burnt or hacked to death and million rupees worth of properties belonging to Tamils were looted and destroyed.**

STATE TERRORISM CONTINUES AGAINST THE TAMILS

(Few noteworthy violations between 1995-1997)

Tamil Centre for Human Rights – TCHR Email : tchrgs@hotmail.com / tchrdip@hotmail.com

(Each Sri Lankan government has been responsible for the genocide of Tamils in the island. Perpetrators are neither properly investigated nor punished!)

- Not all arrests, torture, rapes, disappearances, lootings and damage to properties are included here.

1997

31 December - 3 civilians killed in a land mine buried by the Sri Lanka army. The three were travelling in a tractor when it ran over the pressure mine. Two people - Ponnaiah Saminathan (52) and Maialagan (40) - died on the spot while the tractor was totally destroyed. The other person - Iyathurai Thanchaiyan (45) - died in the Jaffna hospital.

31 December – A civilian shot dead by Sri Lanka army in Valaichchenai (Batticaloa). Sebamalai Jeevarayan (49) was walking along Sudalaiadi street when the Sri Lanka army manning a checkpoint fired at him.

31 December - Jayasukuru displaces a thousand families in the Vanni. 4481 people belonging to 1081 families displaced by the onslaught of the eight month old Operation Jayasikurui of the Sri Lankan army.

28 December – A youth in Madduvil in Jaffna district was shot dead by the Sri Lanka army.

27 December - Young Tamil man killed in police custody in Maharagama, suburb of Colombo. S. Krishnapillai (25) who was arrested on suspicion and detained by Maharagama police was believed to have been strangled to death by the Police. A knotted rope around his neck was found on his dead body.

25 December – A Young girl raped by Sri Lanka police. Kandhaiah Amudha of Vidathalthivu in Mannar was allegedly raped by a Sri Lankan Police intelligence operative in Vavuniya town.

23 December - A mother of three children was shot dead by Sri Lanka army in Varani in Jaffna. Her name was Nagan Jeyamany (43). Her eight year-old child, Nagan Janarthanan, was severely injured.

22 December – A 26-year old man was found hanged in detention in Vavuniya. He was believed to have been tortured and hanged by the Sri Lanka army.

14 December - Mentally ill Tamil 20-year-old, from Batticaloa mental hospital, **shot dead by Army in** Batticaloa.

12 December – 3 Tamil prisoners murdered in Kalutara prison. Three Tamil detainees were killed in prison custody at Kalutara prison, suburb of Colombo.

தமிழீழ ஆவணக்காப்பகம் Tamileelam Archive

10 December – A student killed by Sri Lanka army in Batticaloa. Kirupananthan Arulnathan (19) year old was shot dead in Jayanthipuram in Batticaloa.

10 December - Unborn babies of 2 pregnant women died due to Army harrassment in Batticaloa. 24-year old pregnant Tharmalingam Yasotha, suffered injuries in grenade attack was taken to a hospital, where her unborn baby was discovered to have died in the womb. In Valaichchenai, army opened fire at civilians, injuring pregnant Thayalini. Her unborn baby had to be removed from her womb after bullets went through her stomach, killing the baby.

06 December - A school teacher killed in Kaithady. S. Raveenthiran was shot dead by Army in Kaithady in Jaffna.

04 December - Land mines killed 2 in Neerveli in Jaffna. A landmine buried by the Sri Lankan army exploded killing two field workers.

30 November - 1 Child killed and 2 injured when Sri Lanka police opened fire indiscriminately in Kollady in Vairavapuliyankulam, suburb of Vavuniya town.

29 November - 1 shot dead by Army. A youth who was disembarking from the boat in Eruvil jetty at Eruvil –East was killed.

27 November - Over 220 Tamil prisoners suffering prolonged detention at Colombo's Magazine prison in Welikada launched a protest fast demanding "trial or immediate release".

24 November - Tamil mother of four killed in Army shelling Kilinochchi Sri Lankan forces fired artillery shelling from Kilinochchi town at the Tamil village of Unionkulam, killing Thayanadevi Saravanaperumal. Two children were severely injured. Sri Lankan armed forces at Kilinochchi regularly fire artillery at surrounding Tamil settlements.

20 November - 3 killed, 9 seriously wounded, in Sri Lankan air force attack. Sri Lankan Kfir warplanes mounted an indiscriminate aerial attack on civilian targets in Pooneryn.

16 November - 29 lorry loads of Food items to Mullaitivu destroyed by Army at Parayanalamkulam checkpoint in Vavuniya. When it was about to rain the Sri Lanka army in Vavuniya insisted on unloading those lorry loads of food items to examine it. The food stuff composed of flour, sugar and rice was soaked in the rain and could not be used.

15 November - **A church and several houses destroyed in air force bombing in Mankulam**. The Sri Lankan Air force Kfir jets had bombarded the areas of Mankulam badly destroying a church and several houses.

13 November - **University student found shot dead in Jaffna.** A student of the Jaffna University was found shot dead under mysterious circumstances at the Durga temple near the Kanakampuliyadi junction in the Thenmaradchi in Jaffna.

04 November - **A man died in police custody.** Seevarathnam Sivarasa was arrested in Vavuniya, detained at the Mt. Lavinia Police station in Colombo and died in the Colombo General hospital. He had been seriously tortured by the Police.

31 October - **2 killed in Kilinochchi,** by the army. Thiruchelavam (42) and Shanmugasundaram (45) were both taken by the Sri Lankan army to the 7th Channel area and shot dead. Later the army dumped both bodies in a toilet pit.

29 October - **Girl raped by the Army attempts suicide** in Jaffna. A girl who was abducted and raped by the Army was found near her house tied up and unconscious in Nayanmarkaddu in Jaffna. She attempted suicide by consuming a large quantity of kerosene.

28 October - **40 year old woman raped by Army** in Manthikai in Jaffna. The army had abducted and raped her. She was admitted to the Manthikai hospital with injuries.

27 October – **School girl maimed by exploded pressure mine.** Jaffna school girl Kalpana Kanagalingam was maimed when she stepped on an anti-personnel pressure mine, buried in the garden of her house by the Sri Lanka army.

26 October - **Student killed by Army in Batticaloa.** 'A' level student P. Santhirakumar (18) from Kiran's Maha Vidyalam in Batticaloa was shot dead by Army in Batticaloa.

19 October - **Body of a woman washed ashore with breasts cut off,** onto the shores of Kudarappu (Nakarkovil, Vadamaradchy East), Jaffna. The woman's breasts were found to have been completely cut off with knives. Believed to have been done by Sri Lankan army. The woman's body could not be identified and was cremated by local people.

19 October - 5 **civilians killed in** Killinochi by army soldiers, when they went to recover belongings from their homes in Sonthakarankulam Koyilkulam in Killinochi district were killed by the army soldiers. Another two civilians, Selvam and Kunchurasa, who went to Uruthirapuram on a bullock cart to recover belongings went missing, feared abducted by the occupying army. More than 90 civilians revisiting their homes have been killed in Killinochi area by the army.

17 October - **A civilian hacked to death by Army in** Chavakachcheri. The severely mutilated body of Kandiah Subramaniam was found on the roadside.

தமிழீழ ஆவணக்காப்பகம்
Tamileelam Archive

16 October - **Rape and murder by Police in** Amparai. A Tamil woman, Thankanayaki, was raped and murdered in Amparai by Police and homeguards. Her son said the Sinhalese security forces butchered her private parts after gang-raping her.

13 October - **7 civilians killed in an aerial bombing in Vanni.** Two Kfir warplanes of Sri Lanka air force bombed the residential areas in Oddusuddan-Peraru in Vanni, killing six women and a man.

11 October – **During anti-polio cease-fire a Hospital was bombed in Vanni by Sri Lanka airforce !** The Sri Lankan government broke its pledge to UNICEF to observe a cease-fire during the annual anti-polio drive for children.

10 October – **1 killed 3 injured in a Kfir bombing in Mankulam.** A man was killed in an aerial bombing on a passenger van by Sri Lanka Kfirs in Mankulam and Kanakarayankulam. Three others were critically injured in the incident.

09 October - **22 civilians missing within 7 days in Kilinochchi.** They went to recover belongings from their former homes in parts of Kilinochchi and were abducted by army soldiers. The victims were from Santhapuram, Selvapuram, Vasanthapuram and Murikandy.

08 October – **Sri Lankan soldiers break up Jaffna protest.** Sri Lankan army troops chased out members of the Jaffna mother's Front and the Organization for the Arrested and Missing in Jaffna when they attempted to stage a Satyagraha in front of the Buddhist temple at the Ariyakulam junction in the Jaffna town.

05 October - **13 civilians drowned after Navy open fire on boat** in **Karainagar.** A boatload of refugees crossing from coastal Mulankavil-Mannar district to their former Jaffna homes drowned after their boat, attacked by Navy, sunk in the waters off Karainagar. Six of the Tamil civilians killed were from Eevinai, two were from Kayts and five from Erlalai. Shortly afterwards, the Sri Lankan military claimed that 3 boats belonging to Tamil guerrillas had been sunk in the region.

05 October - **2 decomposed bodies discovered in Kilinochchi,** with unmentionable evidence of torture, while ten other civilians went missing (presumed dead). In the village of Parathipuram Muthiah Krishnasamy (27) and Nallasamy (52) were cut to pieces by Army soldiers and their body parts strewn on the bare ground in front of the house.

02 October – **8 Fishermen missing** - Sri Lanka Navy Fast-attack Craft (FACs) attacked fishermen of Mullaitivu's fishing village. In the incident, 8 fishermen have gone missing and 25 fishing boats were destroyed.

01 October –The **headless body** of a man who had gone looking for food in the Vanni jungles was discovered in Marampaikulam (Rampaikulam, Vavuniya district). Sinniah Selvarasa (26) of Marampaikulam was believed to have been ambushed and **killed by the army**. Sinniah had been missing for two days before he was found dead.

01 October - **Burnt body in Amparai not Identifiable** -The charred body of a young man was lying unclaimed in Amparai's 4th colony - where STF went on the rampage. One Mr. Suntharalingam (22) was known to be missing but relatives are not sure whether it was his body. 67 homes were burned by STF who ran amok in the town killing civilians. 1700 Tamils (347 families) of 4th colony fled the town in panic.

October 1997 –**60,000 Tamil Refugees in Mannar without adequate food and medicine - at least 6 die every month.** The refugees in five camps around the Madhu Church in Mannar District suffer without adequate food and medicine.

28 September - **Massacre of civilians in East.** Police of Amparai's Central Camp station together with some Muslim homeguards stormed the 4th Colony Tamil village randomly killing civilians and burning 50 homes. **7 dead bodies** were discovered - only 5 of which could be identified. 20 other civilians were critically injured in the police rampage.

28 September - **Relatives of Jaffna's 'disappeared' protest in Jaffna.** Parents and relatives of Tamil civilians who 'disappeared' in Sri Lankan army custody staged a protest in the premises of St. James Church, and vowed to continue their struggle for justice.

28 September - **Army actions lead to death of an infant in Vadamaradchy.** Infant Arul Gananaratnam Anastan (3) died because Army soldier of Nakarkoil coastal division in Vadamaradchy refused to let him be taken to the Manthikai hospital. The child was in need of urgent medical attention for viral fever.

26 September - **A youth killed in Chunnakam.** Manoharan Sayanthan was shot dead by the Army in Chunnakam, Jaffna.

25 September - **Government orders 38 NGOs out of Batticoloa.** In Batticoloa more than 38 NGOs serving in Batticaloa district were ordered by the Chandrika government to cease all humanitarian operations.

24 September - **A civilian shot dead by Army in** Pampaimadu. 45-year old resident of Pampaimadu, Vavuniya, a father of four, who went into the jungles in search of wild animals for food was shot dead by the army.

22 September - **500 Jaffna Tamil women stage symbolic fast.** The Women's Union of Jaffna - formed to trace the whereabouts of 750 Tamil civilians who disappeared after military arrest - have expressed grief and dismay that the Sri Lankan government does not intend carrying out legal proceedings against military offenders.

22 September – **A man shot dead by Army,** in his own compound, in Uduvil, while he was urinating.

20 September – **A man shot dead by Army,** in the island of Velanai. Nagarajah Anandarajah (22) was school gate-keeper at the Sir Vythialingam Duraisamy Maha Vidyalayam.

20 September – **Father and son stabbed to death in Kilinochchi by Sri Lanka army.** Variapillai Murukesu and Murukesu Palan who went to recover belongings from their former home in Kanakapuram in Kilinochchi 9th Farm division were attacked and killed by the army. Their bodies were discovered with knife wounds.

17 September - **Army shell killed 1 and injured 6 in Valaichchenai.** Indiscriminate army shelling of Valaichchenai killed Pakkiam Peter (72) and injured six other people.

16 September - **Headless body found near army camp in Siththandy.** The headless body of a father of two children S. Chinnadurai (26) was found 200 yards away from Siththandy army camp. He had been arrested earlier by Army during a routine round-up in Siththandy, Batticaloa.

14 September - **227 dwellings destroyed in 8 months by Sri Lanka army in Valaichchenai.** Between January and August - army has destroyed 227 homes and 27 grocery stores after misappropriating goods.

11 September - **Insult added to injury for Torture victim, Colombo.** 23-year old A. Sureshkumar who travelled to Colombo in order to go abroad for a job was arrested by Bambalapitiya police on 11 September. He was taken into custody where he was severely beaten with iron rods by three police officials -- Sergeant Tharmapala and constables Jegath and Veerakon. Mr. Sureshkumar then had his testicles crushed before the three officials hung him upside down in a remand room and beat the soles of his feet to tatters. The injured man was taken to court on a stretcher four days after this, where the **Sinhalese magistrate ordered him to be kept in jail** under the prevention of terrorism act. It was only after the supreme court heard Mr. Sureshkumar's fundamental rights appeal that he was released. **No order was made against the police or magistrate concerned**

09 September - **Killing of Reverend Arulpalan (42) in Konavil, Killinochchi.** Rev. Arulpalan was arrested by the Sri Lankan Army on 25 August 1997 after which he "disappeared". On 9 September his mutilated body was found in Kilinochchi. Documents of his identity were found by his side. Two people who accompanied him were also murdered. Rev. Arulpalan was a priest of the Church of South India and tirelessly served the displaced persons of Vanni.

06 September - **170 civilians killed in one village alone.** In the village of Karaithuraipattu, in Mullaithivu, over the period of the past 7 years the Sri Lankan army has killed - by shelling and aerial raids - 170 Tamil civilians living in the village.

05 September - **Body found in a drinking well** in Batticaloa. A man arrested by the army was found dead in a drinking well close to the Siththandy army camp in Batticaloa. His wife had regularly gone to the army camp to plead for his release, and had been told he would soon be released. Residents who discovered the body said they were alerted by the dreadful

smell that was coming from the well. When the man's body was taken out it was found to be headless, but his wife was able to identify it as him. The area's former army commander **Gerry de Silva once remarked that the army collects heads for the purpose of identification.**

05 September - 6 year old girl gang raped by Army soldiers in Jaffna – A six-year old girl was gang raped at an army checkpoint in Atchuveli, Jaffna. Six-year old Palanthi was stopped on her way to school by soldiers of the Kathiripai army checkpoint. She was then dragged into the confines of the checkpoint and raped by one soldier after another, leaving her with severe physical injuries. Not long before this incident, a **twelve-year old girl from the same area was raped** in a similar manner by Army soldiers. Parents of school children in Jaffna were compelled to accompany their children to school and back every day to avoid such happenings.

01 September - Father and a baby killed in an army shell fire. Vinasithamby Sathasivam (38) and his 2-year old daughter Sathasivam Kokila were killed by shell fire in Muthuaiyankaddu. The 3-year old son Sathasivam Ketheesvaran and a cousin Nallaiyah Thavachelvan (16), were admitted to the hospital in critical condition.

01 September – 2 killed in temple grounds in Suthumalai by Sri Lanka army. Army hiding inside the Suthumalai Amman temple shot dead two civilians on the temple's premises. Mahalingam Uthayakumar (24) of Suthumalai and A. Ramesh of Tellipallai were the victims.

30 August – 1 killed in a round-up in Trincomalee. Ledchumykanthan Thamayanthan (23) of Thirukadaloor, Trincomalee was shot dead by Army. Several others were also wounded in the unprovoked gunfire at the defenceless man.

28 August – 2 killed in Olumadu. A girl of five was one of two people killed in a shell fired by Army.

26 August - A woman killed in Manipay. The army shot dead Veerasingam Sellamuthu (56) of Sankuvely in Manipay during a round-up conducted by the security forces of the area.

25 August – A woman killed in an aerial bombing. Mrs. Kunasingam Sarojadevi (35), who was critically injured by a Sri Lankan Kfir bombing died in hospital, five days after the incident. She was a resident of Puthuvilankulam.

25 August - 2 farmers shot dead by Army in Kaithaddy in Jaffna. Two farmers who went to water their plants in Kaithady, Thenmaradchy in Jaffna were shot dead by Army soldiers as they fled in fear from an approaching army patrol. One of the dead was identified as Mailavaganam Thavapalan (37) of Kaithady north.

17 August - 2 killed and 3 critically injured in Army artillery shelling in Mannar, fired from the Army camp at Uyilankulam and Kaththankulam in Mannar.

15 August - 9 Killed and 21 critically wounded in Church Bombings, when Sri Lankan Kfir bombers bombed a Catholic Church and premises in Vavunikulam, Vanni.

13 August – One civilian shot dead in Vavuniya, by Army at Mathar Panikka Mahilankulam. Many civilians wounded.

11 August – Many civilians killed in "JAYA SIKURU" stated government representative (GA) of Mullaitivu in the Vanni. In Oddusuddan, 18 killed and 15 wounded. Nedunkerni 13 killed and 16 wounded. Mankulam 9 killed and 4 wounded. 56 others injured.

10 August - 14 houses were burned down in Mailankurichchi, Valaichchenai, Batticaloa. Tamil occupants were driven out of their homes at gunpoint. Unrest and panic prevailed in and around the area, with residents fearing more such attacks.

10 August - 5 disappeared - Five civilians who went to inspect their former homes in Murasumoddai, Kilinochchi (which they had fled when the Sri Lankan army captured the area) disappeared.

10 August – 1 killed in Army shelling. The army wreaked devastation on the town of Mankulam, pounding residential areas with mortars and artillery shells.

08 August - Pregnant woman died during curfew hours in Jaffna. Kanakaratnam Satheesvary (36) of Thenmaradchy, in urgent need of medical care, died at home during army curfew hours.

06 August – A baby and 3 shot dead by army. One of the Tamil mercenary groups shot dead 4 Tamil civilians including a small baby in Senkalady (Batticaloa). The two and a half year old baby, Sasitharan, and his mother, Kovinthamma (57), died together. The other victims were identified as Kanesan (38) and Sivaskathy (17).

05 August - Young mother torn apart by Army shells in Omanthai. A 22-year old mother of two children was killed in a artillery fire from Omanthai. Sothilingam Kalaichelvi was killed instantly, her body was completely torn apart.

04 August - School Burnt Out. The Kanakarayankulam Maha vidyalam was totally destroyed in an army shelling and aerial bombing.

01 August - Remains of school boy found. Residents in Vavunathivu found the dead body of a school boy still dressed in his school uniform, 300 yards from the office of the assistant government agent of Vavunathivu, Batticaloa. It was confirmed that the body belonged to a boy arrested with many other boys by the army and whose fate remains unknown.

31 July - 2 **abducted by Army in Kandawalai.** Two men who were living in Kandawalai "disappeared' after going to Kompady to cut sticks for building cottages. Balasingam Manoharan and Murugesu Nadarajah were presumed abducted by Army soldiers of the Elephant Pass army camp.

30 July - **Mutilated body found in Vavuniya.** The mutilated body of Nagamuthu Naguleswaran (19) was discovered after he went to Sonthakaran Kulam, Vavuniya to inspect his former home.

19 July - **Volunteer Teacher gang-raped by army soldiers in Jaffna.** 20-year old, Krishnapillai Santhirakala, was gang-raped by soldiers as she walked from her workplace to her home in Karanavai, Vadamaradchy.

17 July - **8 killed and 22 injured in an Army shelling in Nedunkerni.** Shelling from the army camp in Nedunkerni hit the towns of Thatchadampan, Karipattamurippu and Olumadu. The victims were: Periathamby Selvamalar (22); Selvarasa Janarthanan (13); Sinkaravelu Rakunathan (15); and Sithamparampillai Vanniasinkam (18) also from Periapuliyankulam.

17 July – **School girl raped** in Araly South by Army soldiers while she was on her way to her school.

17 July - **2 civilians knifed to death by army in Mannar,** when they went to Sonthakarankulam in Mannar to recover valuables they left behind.

16 July – **2 murdered by Army in** Valaichchenai. The dead bodies of two farmers earlier arrested by the army at Valaichchenai were discovered in nearby paddy fields. Their bodies were discovered with knife wounds by local residents.

15 July - **Mass protest in the Vanni: 75,000 Tamils hand letter to UN Secretary General.** Vanni Akkarayan (Kilinochchi) saw an eruption of mass anti-government demonstrations protesting against the Sinhala-dominated government's food-siege of Tamil Vanni.

15 July – **3 killed by Army** who went on a rampage at Puthukudyiruppu. Soldiers ran amok attacking people, killing three people and setting houses ablaze. Furniture was thrown out and burned on the roads.

15 July – **4 killed in Artillery attack on Hospital.** The Army attacked a hospital at Akkarayan, Kilinochchi, killing four members of one family. Artillery shells pierced through Akkarayan hospital's staff quarters killing a staff-member Antony Kanapathy (47), his father-in-law Raman (70), his wife Ketharny (43) and his son Umasankar(14).

14 July - **1 killed, another 3 critically ill** in Vaddakachchi. Sathianatham Sivakumar (22) died in a shell fired by the army in Vaddakachchi which also wounded several others.

12 July - **90,000 houses destroyed by military action in Batticoloa.** Over the years this estimated number of Tamil homes have been demolished by Sri Lanka's security forces.

12 July - **10 Killed in a Navy attack** off Mullaitivu coast. Fast Attack Craft (FACs) of the Sri Lankan Navy attacked a group of fishing boats off the Mullaitivu coast. The fishermen abandoned their boats and nets and attempted to swam back to the shore, but were killed in the Navy attack.

08 July – **A boy killed in Amparai by Sinhala homeguards.** 14-year old Rasalingam Sivakumar in Amparai was shot dead and his father A. Rasalingam, was also injured in the shooting.

07 July - **Milkman hacked to death by army.** 18-year old Selliah Karunanithy, was stabbed to death by Army soldiers on Mahilady Bridge, in Batticaloa. The unprovoked attack on took place on the bridge itself while he was delivering milk.

03 July – **A school bombed and two children critically injured** in an attack on civilians by Sri Lanka Kfir jets, in Munrumurippu Palapani, Mankulam.

02 July – **1 killed by Army.** A young man called Kumar was shot dead by Sri Lankan armed forces in Kilinochchci when his bullock cart carrying coconuts was ambushed in Uruthirapuram. Another man, Pathmanathan, was badly injured. The fate of three others who were on the same cart is not yet known.

July 1997 - 1 killed by Army in Kilinochchi. Markandu Kumar from Skanthapuram, who went to recover his belongings from the house he deserted was shot dead by the Army.

25 June - **A Hindu temple damaged - 6 children injured in Mankindimalai.** Six children were seriously injured when army shelled a Hindu temple. The artillery attack came while the children were engaged in devotions. The temple, Kumulamunai Kottukinattady Nagathambiran Temple, was badly damaged.

24 June – **5 killed in Puliyankulam.** Artillery fired by Army at Puliyankulam's civilian settlements killed five in Paranattakal. The victims are : Sinnathurai Ponnuthurai (47), Ponnuthurai Mohanathas (20), Ponnuthurai Kantharupan (16), Kopal Sasikumar (20), Kasinathan Kulanathan (33).

21 June – **4 killed in Jaffna by Army.**

16 June – **1 killed and 3 "disappeared" by police** in Batticaloa. Palipody Sundarmoorthy (18) was found murdered while Velmurugu Rajmohan (18), Sinnathamby Thadchanamoorthy (24) and Kandia Pavendirarajah (22) went missing after being arrested by the police in Santhiveli.

14 June - Fisherman killed in sea off Nagarkovil in Jaffna. Sri Lanka Navy fired at Kandiah Vijendran, killing him instantly.

11 June - A British Tamil couple was arrested near the President's "Temple Trees" residence on suspicion.

10 June - A civilian killed in a shell fire in Vanni. Artillery fired by the Army killed Andy Nadarasa (38). Shells were fired incessantly at the towns of Palamoddai, Panichankulam and Iluppaikulam.

08 June – 7 killed and 17 wounded in Mankulam town by the Sri Lankan army who shelled the town centre. Three of the dead were mutilated beyond recognition.

07 June - One woman killed and 3 others critically ill in a hospital in Sammanthurai after Sri Lanka's Special Task Forces (STF) force-fed poison to them while in custody. The STF had earlier arrested the 4 women from their homes in their village (15th Colony).

3 June – Arrests and torture of Tamils - Over 50 Tamils were taken into custody in the Pettah commercial district.

01 June - A girl killed and several others injured in an artillery shelling in Omanthai. Kanthappu Yasothathevi was killed and several others injured when the army fired artillery shells at Omanthai area.

02 June - Army shelled Puthukudyiruppu, killing a woman, injuring 18 others and damaging 50 houses.

June 1997 - 1 killed when Sri Lanka army shelled refugee camp in Batticaloa. A shell fired at the Peithlai refugee camp killed 15 year-old Nadarasa Premavathy. Indiscriminate shelling by security forces has caused many deaths.

26 May - A civilian killed in a Puccara bombing. Vaithilingam Selvarasa was killed in bombing by a Sri Lankan air force plane, in Nedunkerni.

24 May - Nearly 4000 Tamil civilians displaced from Nedunkerni. 3776 Tamil people lost their homes as a result of Sri Lanka's military operation in Nedunkerni. The town was literally flattened by Sri Lankan bombardments.

20 May - 80-year-old woman killed in Jaffna. Ms. Velupillai was shot dead by Sri Lankan soldiers at a checkpoint on the Chunnakam-Mallakam road in Jaffna. She was shot at point-blank range as she walked past the soldiers unable to hear the soldier's call to stop.

17 May - Mother of four children Raped and Killed in Batticoloa. Murugesupillai Koneswary was gang-raped then killed at her home in 11th Colony village by a grenade being thrown at her genitals. Her two-year-old child was present when the attackers entered her house. Her husband and three older children were not at home.

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15 May - 5 killed in a shell fire in Nedunkerni. The Sri Lankan army fired artillery shells into Nedunkerni town from its base in Manal Aru, killing five Tamil civilians.

13 May - 2 killed, 2 escape with injuries in Kilinochchi. Jeganathan (30) and Sasikumar (14) were killed while Munisamy (30) and Puvaneswary (10) escaped with serious injuries when Army soldiers attacked them. One soldier stood on Jeganathan's chest and hacked him to death, said the eyewitness to the army atrocity, who managed to escape.

13 May - At least 56,000 Tamil houses gutted when Jaffna was invaded. Tamil homes were wrecked by the Sinhala military when it captured Jaffna, according to Sri Lanka's government agent (GA) for the region.

13 May – 6 killed and 7 wounded in an Airforce bombings. Six fishermen were killed and another seven wounded when Sri Lankan Air Force Kfirs bombed fishing boats on Mullaitivu coast. Several boats were also destroyed in this attack. Two of the dead were a father and son. Four of the injured were critically injured.

13 May - 300,000 Tamils displaced in the Vanni, says ICRC. The Sri Lanka armed forces launched a large-scale military operation in Vanni. Ground troops, armoured vehicles, artillery and air support were employed in this operation.

11 May - Fisherman killed in Batticaloa Lagoon. A Tamil fisherman was shot dead by Army soldiers in Batticaloa. The victim, Velmurugu Muthucumaru (44) was fishing in the Kinnaiyady part of Batticaloa lagoon.

10 May - "Police made me drink my own blood" - Torture Victim in Colombo. Rajendran Mahendran (33) underwent excessive torture at various Police stations in Colombo. He was arrested in November while staying in Vavuniya. Local police beat him on the head with iron rods then kicked him in the face as he squirmed on the ground. He was then ordered to drink the blood that poured from his nose and mouth. A month later Rajendran Mahendran - who is 33 - was transferred to Borella police station in Colombo where the torture continued. Officers squeezed his testicles in an iron device and denied him treatment even as pus leaked from his ears. He was later taken to Colombo magistrates court where he was remanded for an indefinite period. Mahendran is a father of three from Karainagar. Not even the scant legal formalities relating to arrest and detention under the country's draconian emergency regulations were observed.

10 May – 4 killed in Refugee camp. The Sri Lanka army shell fired on a Tamil Refugee Camp killed four in Kalmadu refugee camp in Valaichchenai, Batticaloa. The sustained mortar fire also wounded several other Tamils, including a 5-month old baby. The mother of the baby died while still holding the child in her arms.

09 May – **3 killed in Puliyankulam Hospital Bombing** by Sri Lanka Airforce helicopters. Three civilians were killed and several others injured when two MI24 helicopter gunships targeted shops, homes and other residential buildings in Puliyankulam. The hospital was badly damaged.

08 May - **Hospital and houses ruined by Army shells in Vaddakachi.** Vaddakachi hospital and surrounding homes lay in ruins as a result of days of non-stop shelling by Sri Lanka army at Elephant Pass.

08 May – **One killed and 6 injured in army ambush in Mannar.** Ponniah Jesuthasan (29) from Nakathalvu was shot dead and 6 others were critically wounded when Sri Lankan army ambushed a group of civilians in Uyilankulam in Mannar.

May - 1997 Mass arrests & torture of Tamils in Colombo. In late May the Human Rights Task Force (HRTF) recorded over 810 Tamils detained in Colombo and Kalutara prisons and at the Police headquarters.

29 **April - 2 civilians killed in** Valaichchenai, Batticaloa by Army. Pakianathan Shankar (20) from Kannakipuram and Velupillai Suthakar (20) from Puthukudiyiruppu were shot dead by the Army.

29 **April – A fisherman killed by Navy**. Muthiah Krishnan (36) was shot dead by the Sri Lanka navy while fishing along the coast of Mannar.

20 **April – 3 killed and 7 wounded by STF in Valaichchenai.** Special Task Forces shot dead three and severely wounded another seven who were shopping in the market.

20 **April - "Disappearances" in North East continue.** Kandiah Sivakumar (20), Kanagasabai Ravichandran (20), two firewood sellers from Rukam village in Batticaloa, were reported 'disappeared' after they were taken into custody by the army near the Black Bridge, Chenkalady, Batticaloa district.

18 **April - 3 killed and 6 severely injured in** Nachchikuda by Sri Lankan Kfirs. Three fishermen were killed and 20 fishing boats demolished when two Sri Lankan Kfirs dropped bombs off the coast of Nachchikuda in the northwest of the island.

17 **April – 5 shot dead by Army in Kilinochchi.** They were returning to Uruthirapuram, Kilinochchi to salvage goods from their former homes. 16 year old youth, Maniyam Paramanathan, survived the attack, but sustained severe injuries and was admitted to Akkarayan hospital.

03 **April – 2 people including a 4 Year old child killed by STF in** Eravur. A child of four years old and a man of 45 were killed after Eravur police went on a rampage firing mortars and bullets at surrounding Tamil villages.

March 1997 – 1 killed in army shelling. Marimuthu Kandasamy (44) was killed by Sri Lankan army shells while he was tilling his plot of land in Vantharumoolai (Batticaloa). The artillery was fired from the Kommathurai army camp.

27 **March - Two boys killed by army** in the Kaluvankerni region of Batticaloa district. The boys were first stopped in the street by a Sri Lanka army soldier who started to beat the boys with their rifle butts and then shot them dead.

26 **March - Bullet-ridden body found on Jaffna Roadside.** A man's body torn apart with gunshot wounds has been handed over to Jaffna hospital after being discovered on the Chavakachcheri main road. The army had killed the man while in custody, dumped his body on the road, then retrieved it on a later patrol.

23 **March – A boy shot dead in public in Jaffna.** A 21 year old boy was gunned down by Army in Thenmaradchy, Jaffna peninsula, in front of others during a cordon-and-search operation.

22 **March - 370,000 Tamil people in Batticaloa's twelve divisions face starvation.** Since January 1997 no amount of food relief had reached these people because Sri Lankan military officials had blocked all access routes to the area.

17 **March – Two sisters raped by Sri Lanka army.** Velan Rasamma (34) a widow and her sister Velan Vasantha (28) were raped by four Army soldiers at their home in Mayilampaveli Colony, Batticaloa district.

15 **March – 1 killed and another wounded in Batticaloa.** Sri Lanka army launched motor fire from Valaichchenai police station killing a man and critically injuring a woman in the village of Karuvakerni. S. Pandaram (56) was killed while S. Ranjithamalar (36) was critically wounded.

15 **March - '650 Jaffna Disappearences' - Human Rights Task Force (HRTF)** admitted 650 Tamils were "disappeared' in Jaffna. HRTF is an official of the government's token body set up chiefly to assuage the international community.

14 **March – 2 young women killed.** Kumaraswamy Sujitha (24) from Neervelly, Jaffna and Mekanathan Jeyasutha (22) from Rampaikulam in Vavuniya were found dead on a Vavuniya roadside near an army camp. Both girls were inmates of the Vavuniya detention centres operated by the Sri Lankan military. Sujitha and Jeysutha had been on their way to Colombo, where their parents live, when they were detained. Soldiers had taken them away from the camp and the girls were only seen again as corpses dumped on the roadside.

13 **March - A boy was shot dead by army soldiers** at Barr Road in Batticaloa town. Antonyrasa Thavarasa Gomes was a devout Catholic who attended church regularly despite the risks of army harassment.

13 March – **Refugee camp shelled, 6 Refugees Killed**. Six refugees huddled inside the Valaichchenai refugee camp in Batticaloa were killed by shellfire from Valaichchenai police station. Another six were critically injured, including four children - Sivalingam Sarojinidevi (8), Nadarasa Sinnarasa (12), Uthayakpao (12) and J. Arichandran (16).

06 March - **1 killed in Army shelling** in Pooneryn. Shells fired from Elephant Pass army camp landed on a family home in Nallur, Pooneryn, killing a man and badly injuring another person.

February - **3 killed another 6 injured in Puttur.** Sri Lankan soldiers rounded up residents of Annamar Koilady, Puttur and assaulted them with iron rods and rifle butts then opened fire on nine of them, killing 3 and injuring 6.

23 February - **12,000 acres of paddy field in** the Vanni were totally destroyed by the Sri Lanka army in a military operation code name 'Edibala'. The army wiped out and burned, shelled and trampled 12,000 acres of paddy fields which were just ready for harvest. This military push was intended to cause as much damage to crops as possible.

18 February - Nearly 2.5 million trees **wiped out in North Eastern** area. The Sri Lankan military is carrying out a covert tree-demolition project in captured areas of the northeast.

17 February – **"Tamils should limit the number of children they have" said Sinhala female Doctor who refused to treat a Tamil pregnant woman in Colombo.** A female Sinhalese medical officer at a prominent Colombo maternity clinic has told a pregnant Tamil woman that she is not welcome at the clinic should she get pregnant in the future. The doctor elaborated, in front of witnesses, that Tamils should limit the number of children they have as Sri Lanka is hardly a big enough place for the Sinhalese. She even went as far as to tell the woman's husband to make sure his wife does not get pregnant again. The doctor responsible for the statements will face no penalties.

10 February - **Youth killed by army** in Pallikudiyiruppu, Mutur. Kanapathipillai Nithiananthan was shot dead by Sri Lanka army while on his way to work.

09 February – **3 killed in Valaichchenai East by the Army.** Sri Lankan soldiers shot dead three civilians.

06 February – **Youth tortured to death.** Vijayanar (29), was found beaten to death after torture at the hands of the Sri Lanka army in Thenmaradchy. His death caused deep anxiety and distress among the residents in Meesalai.

05 February – **2 killed and many injured in a shell attack**. Army artillery shells fired from Mavadivempu army camp in Batticaloa killed 11-year old boy, Karuppaiyah Sriskumar and a middle-aged man, Sadadcharam Perinparajan. Three others were critically injured.

03 February – **24 schools shelled in Killinochi by the Sri Lanka Army.**

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01 February - **Businessman killed by Army in Trincomalee.** Kanapathy Pechchimuthu (31), a businessman was shot dead in a Sri Lankan army ambush in Seruwila, Trincomalee.

01 February - **1 killed by army**. Tamil father of six children K. Velmurugu (56) was shot dead by Sri Lankan army in Kunchan Kulam in Batticaloa.

February 1997 - **Operation "Edibala" causes mass exodus in Vanni.** Sri Lanka army and airforces shell and aerial-bomb villages in Vanni causing mass exodus in Vanni.

31 January - **2 killed in a bakery in Mullaitivu by the Sri Lanka air force.**

29 January - **9 killed** in Jaffna peninsula when a bomb planted by Sri Lanka Navy in the town of Pannalai, Karainagar exploded.

24 January - **Decapitated body floats ashore in** Mullaitivu. A fisherman whose head was cut off by Sri Lanka naval personnel was washed ashore onto Ampalavan Pokkanai in Mullaitivu district.

22 January - **1 killed by Navy.** Elderly fisherman in Trincomalee was shot dead by the Sri Lankan navy.

15 January - **Mother of 8 children killed** in Batticaloa lagoon. A widow with 8 dependent children was shot dead by the Sri Lankan army while she was catching prawns in the Batticaloa lagoon.

13 January - **2 killed by Special Task Force-STF** in Wellaweli, Batticaloa. Father of five Chelliah (65) and Kanapathipillai Paghirathan (23) were shot dead.

12 January - **Village of Kandavalai destroyed.** Sri Lankan Air Force planes bombed and destroyed residential areas, Ganesh Hindu Temple in 2nd Mile Post and shops in Kandavalai.

09 January - **4 killed in an aerial bombardment** in Visuvamadu and Chundikulam, Vanni.

06 January - **2 killed and 1 Disappeared in Kithul, Batticaloa.** Sri Lanka army shot dead S. Muthulingam (14) and Thambirasa Kanthasamy (32) during its military operation 'Rivijaya'. Sabapathy Mylvaganam disappeared during the operation and is believed to have been killed by the Army soldiers.

04 January - **Couple and a child were killed in a shell fired by the Sri Lanka Army** in Samanthiaru, Batticaloa. The victims were Krishanapillai Pavalasingam (25), Pama (25) and Jeevitha (01).

04 January - **Woman raped by Special Task Force –STF in Batticaloa.** STF commandos of the Mansoor Tileworks army camp raped a woman carrying food to her husband who was working in their paddy field.

04 January - **Man killed in front of his wife and children in Meesalai in Jaffna peninsula.** Sri Lanka army in Meesalai, Thenmaradchy shot dead a man at his home, in front of his wife and six children. Victim Nagalingam Varapragasam's wife was also assaulted when she tried to save her husband.

02 January – **3 women were raped at gun-point including a mother and the daughter** in Thiyavattavan in Batticaloa by the STF. **2 other incidents of rape were reported in Mandoor.** The STF terrorise Tamil women in the East.

1997 - **150 Tamils died in refugee camps** in the Pooneryn area of Vanni, due to disease. About 16,000 displaced people from Jaffna live in these camps. Diseases wide spread due to lack of medicines.

1996

Fate of 656 Tamils who 'disappeared' in 1996 not yet known but Tamils continue to 'disappear' in North East.

26 December - **Woman found dead on roadside.** Kandasamy Vijayakumari (33), from Mankulam, was found dead on a drenched street in Vavuniya with her new-born baby crying by her side. While pregnant, she had been suffering from medical complications and was due in Colombo for treatment. The Sri Lanka army refused to permit her passage through Vavuniya to Colombo forcing her to remain in one of the notorious detention centres. She had three other children.

16 December - **400,000 displaced Tamils in Vanni says US Committee for Refugees.**

15 December – **4 killed in a school in** Batticaloa. Sri Lankan Airforce bombers bombed a school in Pavatkodichenai, Batticaloa, killing four and damaging the school badly.

December - **110 died in refugee camps in Vanni.** They had been admitted to the Mallavi and Puthukudyiruppu hospitals in Kilinochchi District, Vanni. Their deaths were caused due to lack of health facilities for refugees in the Vanni.

December - **3 bodies of school girls washed ashore in sea off Mullaitivu.** Three bodies of school girls, some in school uniforms, were found washed ashore in gunny bags on Mullaitivu coast. One of the bodies of a girl in school uniform was found with a neck tie of a leading girls school in Chundikuli. (Sunday Times - 15/12/96)

November - **Many women have been sexually abused** at the Poonthottam school camp by the police. A woman who was raped was admitted to the Vavuniya hospital. Pregnant women have been denied access to the hospital.

12 November – **Girl-child raped by Sri Lanka Army in** Atchuvely, Jaffna. Selverajah Theenuka (10) living in Pathmeni, Atchuvel, Jaffna Peninsula, was abducted by soldiers while she was on her way to school and taken to Puttur V.C. camp. There, she was stripped and raped repeatedly by many soldiers.

November – **Woman raped and killed in a detention centre in Vavuniya.** Eight Sri Lanka army soldiers gang-raped and killed a young woman detained in Vavuniya.

October - **3 killed in Chundikulam.** Sri Lanka Air Force attacked Chundikulam village killing 3 and injuring several others.

30 September - **A young woman raped and killed in Urumpirai North, Jaffna.** Velauthapillai Rajani (22), from Urumpirai North was arrested at Kondavil-Urumpirai Road check point by the Sri Lankan army. This arrest was seen by several people. She was dragged into a house where two elderly people were living. The soldiers chased the two occupants out of the house and Rajani was raped. Later her naked body was found in the compound.

27 September - **4 killed and 8 injured in Vanni.** Sri Lanka Air Force Kfirs attack Konavil, Kilinochchi area killing four and injuring eight others.

26 September - **4 killed and 12 wounded in Vavunikulam.** Sri Lanka Air Force Kfirs bombed Vavunikulam town, killing four and seriously wounding tweleve. Several houses were destroyed in this bombing.

10 September - **Woman gang-raped in Thirunelvely, Jaffna.** A 55-year-old woman employed in the Thirunelvely Co-operative Milk Board was gang-raped by Sri Lanka Army soldiers.

08 September - **Girl harassed by Sri Lanka army in Jaffna.** Four Sri Lankan soldiers in civil dress and two soldiers in army uniform went in to a house and tried to take a young girl away. The girl, Vasuki, and her neighbours raised cries and the soldiers fled with Ms. Vasuki's National Identity card.

07 September - **Krishanthy Kumaraswamy raped and killed, and 3 others killed.** Krishanthy Kumaraswamy (18) was returning home after sitting her GCE (A/L) examination at Chundikuli Girls High School. She was seen alive for the last time at 11.30am at Kaithady checkpoint in Jaffna. Never returned home. Her mother, brother (Pranavan -16) and family friend (Mr Kirupakaran - 35) went in search of her. They too disappeared. All were killed and the women were raped.

25 August - 10 killed, 35 injured in the Vanni. Sri Lanka Air Force aircraft continued to attack refugee camps at Puthumurippu, Poonithoduvai in Kilinochchi.

05 August - 2 killed in Murukandy by bombs dropped by Sri Lanka Air Force planes.

24 July - 9 killed and 24 injured in Mallavi, Vanni. Sri Lankan Air Force bombers bombed the heavily populated Mallavi junction in the Vanni, killing seven including a 3 year old child. Twenty others were injured.

27 May – Abducted 2 youths found killed. On 25th May Sivarasa Krishna and Palanivel Gunasingham, from Anbuvalipuram in Trincomalee were abducted in a white van belonging to military death squads. The bullet-ridden bodies of the two youths were found on 27th May at Selvanayagapuram in Trincomalee.

16 May – 6 killed in Jaffna peninsula, when Sri Lanka Air Force Kfirs attacked residential areas of Maruthankerni and Sempianpattu. Six were killed and many more injured.

15 May – 1 killed and 6 injured in Mullaiitivu, when Sri Lanka Air Force Kfirs launched attack in Mullaitivu.

20 April - 42 killed and 75 injured in Kilaly. Civilian who tried to cross over to the main land from the Jaffna peninsula have been bombed by Sri Lanka Airforce bomber planes.

20 April – 1 killed in Kfir attack in Muhammalai in Jaffna. Sri Lanka air force Kfir planes bombed Muhammalai in the Jaffna peninsula and killed one person.

24 February – 2 killed and 4 injured in Vanni. Sri Lanka Airforce bomber planes bombed the village of Thampirai, killing two and injuring four.

11 February – 24 Massacred in Kumarapuram by Sri Lanka army. Sri Lankan army from the 57th mile post near Kilivetti massacred 24 civilians and severely injured 28 others. One of those killed was a ten month pregnant woman. 17-year-old Ms. A. Thanalakshmi was gang raped and killed by the soldiers. Among those killed were many small children.

31 January - 2 killed and several wounded in an Airforce attack at Udayarkaddu, Mullaitivu.

21 January - 5 killed and 20 seriously injured in a Sri Lanka Airforce attack on a refugee camp in Mannar.

04 January – 30 killed in a human shield in Batticaloa. Eyewitness accounts of the incident indicated that the Sri Lankan security forces forced hundreds of civilians to remain inside buses, vans and cars using them as human shields. Thirty civilians were killed in the incident, in the eastern district of Batticaloa.

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1996 More than 600 Tamils disappeared in 18 months in Jaffna. An Amnesty International delegation which visited Sri Lanka concluded that of the 600-odd people who disappeared in the last 18 months, after their arrest by the security forces, nearly all have died as a result of torture or been deliberately killed in detention.

1996 More than 300 disappeared in 6 months - U.S. Department. Sri Lanka "Disappearances" at the hands of the security forces increased alarmingly, especially in the east and north, though some occurred in Colombo, says **U.S. Department of State, Sri Lanka Country Report on Human Rights Practices for 1996.**

1995

26 December – 1 shot dead and 3 seriously injured in Batticaloa in open fire by the Sri Lankan Army in Batticaloa.

16 December - 1 killed and another 1 injured in an artillery shell fired from the Palaly and Elephant pass camps in the Peninsula.

05 December – 19 killed in Puthukudiyiruppu in Batticaloa by the Sri Lanka Army.

19 November - 10 killed and 27 injured in Valikamam. In an Artillery Shelling by the Sri Lanka army ten killed and twenty seven seriously injured in the Valikamam area.

13 November - 1 killed, another one injured in an artillery shell fired by the army in Valvettiturai.

13 November - 10 killed and 14 seriously injured in an Aerial Bombing by Sri Lankan airforce bombers and Artillary shelling by the army in Thenmaratchi.

12 November - 6 killed, 21 seriously injured in Vadamaradchi in an Artillery shelling by the Army. More than 50 houses were also destroyed.

11 November - 2 killed and 11 seriously injured in Kaithady, in Artillery Shell fired from the army camps.

03 November - 2 killed and 5 seriously injured in Thenmaratchi in an Aerial Bombing. A vehicle marked with "Cross" sign, indicating medical relief, was also damaged.

October - (1) Mass Exodus from Jaffna. As a result of military operations in Valigammam, 104 people were killed. Waves of displacement across the villages of Mathagal, Illvalai, Vasavilan, and the islands of Mandaithivu, Kayts, Delft and Pooneryn displaced the people from those places to Manipay, Sandilipay, Chunnakan and Killinochchi.

30 October - **Historic exodus and military occupation of Jaffna.** On the night of Monday 30th October history witnessed an unprecedented exodus of people screaming and squeezing themselves out of the narrow roads and lanes of Jaffna. Half a million people in and around the town were literally on the roads in pouring rain inching their way out of the densely populated town into the sparsely populated and ill-equipped suburban villages of Chavakachcheri, Kodikaman and Palai. It was for everyone a flight for survival from the Sri Lanka security forces.

27 October - **25 killed and 23 injured in** Ariyalai in an aerial bombing by Sri Lankan airforce planes.

19 **October - 54 killed and many injured by aerial bombing** in Jaffna District fired by the Sri Lanka army and airforce.

13 **October - 2 killed by artillery shelling by the Sri Lanka army** in Vadamaratchi.

06 **October - 3 killed in an** artillery shell fired by the Sri Lanka army.

05 **October - 8 killed, in artillery shelling** during military operation "Thunder" by the Army in Thenmardchi area. Many houses were looted and destroyed.

04 **October - 16 killed and more than 60 injured in Jaffna district.** Eight civilians killed and thirty seriously injured by the artillery shell fired from the Army camp in Thenmaratchi. Another six killed in Valikamam and other two people killed and more than thirty wounded in Vadamaradchi by artillery shelling by the army.

03 **October - Sri Lanka Army launched a heavy attack on densely populated villages in the Jaffna peninsula**. The offensive was against Atchuveli, Vasavilan, Puthur, Pattaimeni, Avarangal and Vallai. Heavy shelling was directed into civilian centres from the Pallaly army base. Shells fell sporadically in Navatkuli, Kaithadi, Navakiri and Neerveli sometimes throughout the day.

02 **October - 6 killed by Artillery Shelling** fired by the Sri Lankan army in Valikamam area. Another 55 seriously wounded.

01 **October - 8 killed and 6 seriously wounded,** when the Air force planes bomb the Mannar area. Five houses were completely destroyed.

22 **September - 25 school children were among 71 Tamil civilians killed Nagerkoil School bombed.** Nagerkovil Central School in the Jaffna peninsula was bombed in an intensified aerial bombing and shelling by Sri Lanka airforce and the army. The bombing of the school happened at12.50 p.m. during the school's lunch break. Nearly 200 others were injured, most of them students in the same school. Elsewhere in the area, 15 other civilians were also killed in the course of the same bombing raids. Pieces of human flesh were strewn around the area including the tree branches, making identification impossible.

August - Woman raped in Trincomalee. Lakshmi Pillai was raped at her home in Trincomalee by two army informants in front of her two sons. She had been raped by the same people, before at Plantain Point army camp in August 1993.

9-13 **July - 180,000 displaced and 200 civilian killed** in Jaffna. In an aerial bombing and shelling by the Airforce and Army in the Jaffna peninsula, 180,000 have been displaced and 200 have killed between 9 July to 13 July.

09 **July – 165 killed in St.Peters Church in Navaly. The government** having asked the people to move to places of worship and ordered the Sri Lanka air force planes to attacked the places of worship where displaced people had sought refuge. In such an attack at Navaly St. Peters Church - 165 people were killed, many of whom were women and children. Rescue workers reported torn limbs and pieces of human flesh strewn over the area.

29 **June – 6 floating bodies in Welihinda Thotupola.** Six bodies of tortured and disfigured males were found floating near Welihinda Thotupola in the Maha Oya - Alawwa (North West Province). One of the bodies was identified as 24 year old Naresh Rajadadurai. On 26th June Naresh Rajadadurai left his work place, a video shop in Wellawatte, at 8.15pm and was on his way home at Sri Saranankara Road, Dehiwela within the Colombo city limits. He was stopped on the way, in front of a hotel, forced into a white van and taken away by military death saquad.

19 **June – 5 floating bodies in Panadura side of Bolgoda Lake.** Five bodies found in the lake had been starved as no traces of food was found in their stomachs. All five of the victims had both his arms and legs bound together with rope before being drowned. They were killed by the Sri Lanka military white van death squad.

June – 14 floating bodies in Modera & Negombo. Fourteen bodies were found had been starved, tied up, brutally tortured and their bodies mutilated and disfigured beyond identification. They were killed by the Sri Lanka military white van death squard.

23 **May - Extra judicial killings of 4** Tamils at the Jeyanthipuram camp, one of the most horrific camps where growing abuses are perpetrated by the Sri Lanka security forces against the people in the town and surrounding villages.

13 **May – 95 huts were burned in** Pottuvil by the Police. Inspector Etram Milakudiyetra was leading this attack.

06 **May – 5 killed in Pulmodai.** Five Muslim civilians including a 2 year old child, a 56 year old man and a 70 year old woman, were killed when members of the army stationed at Pulmodai fired at the civilians in Pulmodai.

30 **April - 7 killed, Thondamanaru Selvachannathy temple.** A shell fired by the army from Palaly killed seven civilians and badly damaged the Thondamanaru Selvachannathy temple.

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Documented cases of **ARBITRARY ARRESTS/DETENTION** – July 2001 – January 2002
(actual arrests higher than documented by TCHR)

No.	Date	Full Name	Sex	Age	Place of Arrest	District	Incident
001	02/07/01	Krishnaswamy Thivyan	M		Kokuvil	Jaffna	Secretary of Science Faculty, Student Union, Jaffna University, arbitrarily arrested by Sri Lankan army. Detained in Kankesanturai. See documented cases on torture.
002 003	02/07/01	Raju Mariyasiluvai T Sothi Cruz	M M	28 50	Off Silvathurai coast.	Mannar	Two fishermen disappeared, after going fishing. They were arbitrarily arrested and then detained in Vavuniya army camp detention centre.
004	05/07/01	Five youths	M		Valaichenai	Batticoloa	Villagers of Karuvakerny, Sunkarnkerny, Kinnaiyai, Kondaiayankarny and Meeravodai interrogated by Sri Lankan army in front of masked informers. Five youth arrested by Sri Lankan army.
005 006	27/07/01	Kandasamy Sivarasa Sivarasa Sasikaran	M M	31 05	Nittambuwa	Vavuniya	Father and infant arrested by police on pilgrimage to Hindu temple. Child also kept in high security prison.
007	28/07/01	Nagamani Ilankeswaaran	M	31	Kalutara	Kalutara	Tamil goldsmith employed in the South arrested.
008	29/07/01	Viswalingam Jegan	M	18	Galle	Galle	Tamil goldsmith employed in Galle arrested.
009	31/07/01	One hundred civilians			Colombo	Colombo	Tamil civilians arrested. Detained in Wennappuwa, Negombo and Katunayake.
010	09/08/01	Eighty-three civilians			Colombo	Colombo	Tamils originating from the hill-country arrested by Sri Lankan army and police during cordon and search operation in north of Colombo. Interrogated.
011	09/08/01	Fifty-seven civilians			Colombo	Colombo	Tamils originating from the north and east arrested by Sri Lankan army and police during cordon and search operation in north of Colombo. Interrogated.
012 013 014 015 016	09/08/01	Ganesh Rajenthiran Rajeswaran Sithravel Kugan Subramaniam Kandeepan Gunaratnam Sukenthiran	M M M M M	21 20 19 19 18	Sunkaankerny	Batticaloa	Arrested by Sri Lankan army and police as they were cleaning the grounds of the Pillayar Temple in preparation for the annual religious festival. Detained in Valaichenai police station.
017	12/08/01	Five hundred civilians			Dehiwala	Colombo	Arrested by Sri Lankan army and police in house to house search operation. Around one hundred detained and interrogated in the suburban police station.
018	10/09/01	One hundred civilians			Kaluwanchikudy	Mannar	Arrested in cordon and search operation by Special Task Force. Detained and interrogated in STF camp.
019	14/09/01	Five civilians			Batticaloa	Batticaloa	Arrested by Sri Lanka police for fishing at night in Batticaloa lagoon.

Tamilnadam Archive

No.	Date	Full Name	Sex	Age	Place of Arrest	District	Incident
020	18/09/01	Santhiraraj Niroshan	M	21	Kopay	Jaffna	Arrested by Sri Lanka police. Detained and interrogated.
021	29/09/01	Fifeteen civilians			Galle	Galle	Young Tamil jewel craftsmen, originating from North and East, working in Galle, arrested and detained.
022	30/09/01	Twenty five civilians			Kotahena and Cinnamon Gardens	Colombo	Tamils originating from North and East, arrested during Sri Lanka police search operations. Detained and interrogated.
023	04/10/01	Five hundred civilians			Vavuniya and suburbs	Vavuniya	Arrested during Sri Lanka police and army joint search operation. Taken to public area and interrogated, in front of masked informers. Twenty detained and interrogated further.
024	06/10/01	Tamil youth			Welikanda	Batticaloa	Arrested by Sri Lanka police while on his way to work as labourer. Detained and interrogated.
025 026 027	08/10/01	Woman civilian Rajeswaran Ramesh	F M M		Cheddikulam	Vavuniya	Mother and two sons arrested, detained and interrogated by Sri Lanka police. The mother was assaulted by the police, injuring her ankle.
028 029 030	11/10/01	Selvaratnam Kamalraj Sivagnanam Sivakumar Nadarajah Akilakumar	M M M	18 16	Jaffna	Jaffna	Schoolboys from Sri Parvathi Maha Vithiyalayam, Nayanmaarkattu arrested by Sri Lanka police. Parents informed the government funded Human Rights Commission.
031	11/10/01	Velayutham Vijayakumar	M	25	Murunkan	Mannar	Arrested by Sri Lanka police for possessing a mobile phone.
032 033 034 035	23/10/01	Alfred Jesudason Mahendran Shathini Malaiyappan Mylvaganam Yuvaraj Puvanesarajah	M F M M	54 28 55 22	Batticaloa	Batticaloa	Arrested by Sri Lanka police, TID (Terrorism Investigation Division). Taken to Colombo and detained and interrogated there. Last three are relatives of the phone booth owner the TID wanted to arrest but who was away at the time.
036 037 038	03/11/01	Murugupillai Mahathevan Shanmugam Sooriyakumar Pangaras Vijayakumar	M M M	27 16 22	Saththurukkondaan	Batticaloa	Arrested by the Sri Lankan army and detained and interrogated by the Sri Lanka police special Investigation Unit.
039 040 041 042 043	06/11/01	Kanapathipillai Thurairajah Kovindasamy Sivakumar Muruhappan Muralitharan Vijayasundaram Thushanthan Thangavadival	M M M M M		Outskirts of Batticaloa	Batticaloa	Five civilians arrested then detained by the Military Intelligence Unit of the Sri Lanka army in Batticaloa. Subsequently detained and interrogated by the Special Investigation Unit, Sri Lanka Police.
044	08/11/01	Eight civilians	M		Off coast near Pesalai	Mannar	Fishermen arrested by the Sri Lanka navy.
045	10/11/01	Arumugam Sutharsan	M		Tinnevely	Jaffna	Management Studies university student, arrested by Sri Lankan army. Detained in Tinnevely army camp.
046	18/12/01	Kirupairajah Paskar	M	14	Muttur	Trincomalee	Arrested by Sri Lanka police. Interrogated.
047 048 049	19/12/01	S Patkuman K. Theivarasa Sivalingam Indran	M M M	40 43 28	Valaichenai	Batticaloa	Three officials of a rural development organisation arrested by Sri Lanka army. They were transporting money for a road-building project, part of the North East Irrigation and Agriculture Project funded by the World Bank. Detained and interrogated.
***	Jan-July 2001	Sixty two Tamil civilians	M F		Diverse locations within district	Batticaloa	Sixty two persons arrested by Sri Lankan forces during this period, according to gov-funded, HR Commission. (Additional cases to those reported by TCHR in this and previous reports.)

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Documented cases of E.J. KILLINGS / SUMMARY EXECUTIONS – July 2001 – January 2002

(actual killings higher than documented by TCHR)

No.	Date	Full Name	Sex	Age	Place of Incident	District	Incident
001	02/07/01	Xavier Antony	M	24	Off coast near Gurunagar	Jaffna	Fisherman killed in deliberate shelling by Sri Lankan army. Three other fishermen seriously wounded in same incident.
002	12/07/01	Josephthaasan Cruz	M	36	Of coast near Silvathurai	Mannar	Fisherman, father of four children, deliberately shot and killed by Sri Lankan Navy, as he was fishing.
003 004	12/07/01	Abubakkar Riyas Mohammed Haniffa Nalim	M M	19 18	Kalmunai	Ampara	Two young Tamil muslims school pupils, shot dead deliberately by Sri Lankan Police, near bus stand.
005 006	19/07/01	Two civilians	M M		Colombo	Colombo	Shot dead by Sri Lanka police during anti-government demonstration. AI issued a press release.
007	20/07/01	Veerappan Kanapathapillai	M	35	Siththaandy	Batticaloa	Shot dead deliberately by Sri Lankan army, while on his way to rice mill. Wife was expecting second child.
008 009	28/07/01	Visuvalingam kulanthaivel Thinesh Murukupillai	M M	60 10	Kinnaiyadi	Batticaloa	Killed by shells deliberately fired by Sri Lankan army based at Kumburumoolai.
010	13/08/01	Tharmakulasingham Jegathas	M	22	Puthiya Punnaineeraavi	Kilinochi	This student was killed immediately when Sri Lanka Air Force Kfir bomber jets, deliberately bombed his village. His body was blown apart into pieces.
011	26/08/01	Kannuchchamy Ganesh	M	19	Murunkan	Mannar	Shot dead by STF(Special Task Force)personnel while working on Jeevothayam farm. Identified by father.
012	30/08/01	One civilian	M		Kalmunai	Batticaloa	Killed in explosion.
013	08/09/01	Vincent Roy	M	19	Murunkan	Mannar	Shot dead by Sri Lankan army, on Jeevothayam farm where he works. The farm is managed by the Methodist Church of Sri Lanka. Identified by uncle.
014	10/09/01	Two civilians			Jaffna	Jaffna	Two skulls of human skeletons discovered in grounds of Teaching hospital, occupied by Sri Lankan army since 1995 until two months previously.
015 016	13/09/01	Mohammed Irsaath Mohammed Niyaz	M M	17 20	Eravour	Batticaloa	Shot dead by Sri Lanka police as they were going to visit relatives. The first was studying for his A levels.
017 018 019 020 021 022	24/09/01	Kumarasamy Rajenthiram Rajenthiram Theivanayakai Rajenthiram Neerupa Ariyarathinam Kamalarethinam Kamalarethiram Rajeetha Kamalarathinam Priya	M F M M F F	55 45 18 26 22 01	Kattaithirai, Kopay	Jaffna	This displaced family, (parents with their son and daughter, and her husband and baby), were travelling by autorickshaw to the Sri Lanka army civil affairs office for permits required to travel to Colombo by plane. They were all killed when vehicle was hit by a Sri Lanka army land-mine. Sri Lanka army resettles people in this area despite their uncleared mines.
023	28/09/01	Kanagasuntheram Mohan	M	26	Thanganagar	Trincomalee	Shot dead by Sinhala Home guards while watching television with his friend at home. Friend seriously injured. The Home Guards are under the protection of the police and army, thereby ensuring impunity.

Tamilnadam Archive

No.	Date	Full Name	Sex	Age	Place of Arrest	District	Incident
024	30/09/01	S. Manohari	F	35	Vavunathivu	Batticaloa	Widow shot dead by Sri Lankan army as she tried to fish in the evening at lagoon-side, to make a living and support her two children. Her husband was killed by Sri Lanka air force, 1990.
025	03/10/01	Nagamani Nagalingam	M	25	Aalankulam	Batticaloa	Fisherman, father of one, killed by Sri Lankan army shelling of Aalankulam reservoir, while fishing.
026	17/10/01	Two civilians			Rampittiya	Batticaloa	Killed by Sri Lanka army.
027 028	23/10/01	Sathasivam Kamalanathan Thambimuttu Manmuniyan	M M	41 37	Ambilaanthurai	Batticaloa	Farmers killed, as arriving home from work in their paddy fields, when Special Task Force shelled two villages in the area. Their bodies were blown apart.
029	26/10/01	Two civilians			Mutur	Trincomalee	Killed by Sri Lanka army gunfire.
030	28/10/01	Four civilians			Navaladi	Batticaloa	These muslim people, including a two year old infant, were killed by the Sri Lankan army. Later their bodies were found near Sri Lanka army camp.
031	29/10/01	Two civilians			Narahenpita	Colombo	Killed in bomb explosion.
032	10/11/01	Two civilians			Munnampoddiveddai	Batticaloa	Killed by Sri lankan army gunfire.
033	13/11/01	Subramaniam	M	40	Vammiyadi	Batticaloa	Killed by indiscriminate firing by Sri Lanka police.
034	14/11/01	One civilian	M		Negombo	Colombo	Seriously injured when violence erupted at a UNP election meeting. Later succumbed to his injuries.
035	15/11/01	One civilian			Batticaloa	Batticaloa	Nut seller killed in bomb explosion.
036	17/11/01	Thambirajah Jeyakumar	M		Ondaatchi Madam	Batticaloa	UNP candidate shot dead by unidentified gunmen.
037 038 039 040	20/11/01	Civilian Civilian Sinnathamby Sellathamby Pathmanathan Suresh	M F M	 60 11	Eravur	Batticaloa	Four family members, including young child and both parents, killed by Sri Lanka police indiscriminate firing and shelling, using rifles and mortars.
041		Selvanayagam Yoganayaki	F	36	Eravur	Batticaloa	This person was blown to pieces as she was praying at the shrine in her own home when Sri Lankan police deliberately fired at and shelled her house, using rifles and mortar.
042	23/11/01	Mahesan Manaalan	M	24	Mailankarachchi	Batticaloa	Killed by Sri Lanka police. He had been arrested by Sri Lanka police as he returned from a visit to relatives, with a friend. His body was left near a local school.
043	25/11/01	One civilian	M		Balangoda	Ratnapura	Supporter of the UNP killed in election violence between PA and UNP supporters.
044	25/11/01	One civilian	M		Anuradhapura	Anuradapura	Supporter of the PA shot dead.
045	28/11/01	Two civilians	M		Naranthanai	Jaffna	Supporter of the Tamil National Alliance, a university employee, killed by armed EPDP. Another supporter died the next day, from injuries sustained in same attack.
046	28/11/01	Murugesu Kavitha	F	20	Mutur	Trincomalee	Killed by Sri Lanka army shells fired on her village.
047	01/12/01	Perinpanathan Sivanathan	M	14	Mutur	Trincomalee	Killed by Sri Lanka army shells fired on his village.
048	01/12/01	One civilian	M		Gokarella	Kurunegale	UNP supporter killed in election violence.
049	01/12/01	One civilian	M		Gokarella	Kurunegale	PA supporter shot dead by Sri Lanka police.
050	05/12/01	Ten civilians **(For names, refer to page – 36)**	M		Udawalathenne	Kandy	Muslim supporters of the SLMCkilled by gunmen who used the Defence Minister's vehicle, implicating his sons in the killing.

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Documented cases of ENFORCED OR INVOLUNTARY DISAPPEARANCES - July 2001 – January 2002

(actual disappearances higher than documented by TCHR)

No.	Date	Full Name	Sex	Age	Place of Incident	District	Incident
001 002 003	01/08/01	Three civilians			Batticaloa	Batticaloa	Relatives reported three persons missing to the government funded National Human Rights Commission. They had been arrested in Batticaloa and not seen since.
***	02/04/01 Left out by an oversight in a previous report	Five civilians			Kattumuivu Kulam	Batticaloa	Abducted by Sri Lankan army. Not seen since.

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Documented cases of RAPE / TORTURE and OTHERS – July 2001 – January 2002

(actual rape / torture etc. higher than documented by TCHR)

No.	Date	Full Name	Sex	Age	Place of Incident	District	Incident
001	02/07/01	Krishnasamy Thivyan	M		Inuvil	Jaffna	Secretary of Jaffna University Students Union arrested by Sri Lanka army, after having survived attempts on his life by security forces. Fearless campaigner against the arrests and murders of Tamils. **Severely tortured** in military custody. Widespread student and civil society protest at his arrest. Still in custody.
002 003 004	02/07/01	Antony Selvakumar Jacob Anandarajah Jacob Geethaponkalan	M M M	18 25 28	Coast off Gurunagar	Jaffna	Three fishermen **seriously wounded** by Sri Lankan army shelling, whilst fishing. Admitted to Jaffna hospital. Another was killed in the same incident.
005 006	05/07/01	Jeyakaran Thiyakarasa Janakan Vavathamby	M M	17 20	Naavalady	Batticaloa	**Seriously injured** when Sri Lanka police opened fire on worshippers at Kadalaachi Amman temple festival.
007	06/07/01	Twenty two civilians			Samanthurai	Batticaloa	**Injured** in election violence which broke out between supporters of National Unity Alliance ar[illegible] SLMC.
008 009 010 011	07/07/01	K.Raveendran I.Arumanayakam Jeevan Ramesh T.Kopalapillai	M M M M	49 46 23 34	Vaakarai	Batticaloa	Four civilians **injured** whilst travelling in tractor on Kathiraveli-Kattumurivu Kulam road, by mine set off by Sri Lanka army. They were taken to Valaichenai hospital, then Batticaloa hospital for treatment.
012	07/07/01	Thambuppillai Thanalakshmi	F	42	Meesalai	Jaffna	**Gang-raped** by Sri Lanka army soldiers, after they broke into her own home. Admitted to Mant[illegible]kai hospital in Jaffna. Neighbour complained to police.

Noolaham Foundation
Tamil Eelam Archive

No.	Date	Full Name	Sex	Age	Place of Arrest	District	Incident
013	07/07/01	Thambippillai Ponnamma	F	82	Meesalai	Jaffna	Mother of above victim **severely assaulted** by Sri Lanka army, as she attempted to protect her daughter.
014	12/07/01	Groups of students			Jaffna town	Jaffna	Protesting against arrest of K.Thivyan, (see 02 July) students were assaulted by the Sri Lankan army. Troops also forcibly entered a young women's hostel in Maruthanamadam, Jaffna, threatening the students and security guards, and tearing down protest posters.
015	16/07/01	Aiyathurai Nadesan	M		Batticaloa	Batticaloa	Prize-winning journalist and Vice-president of the SLTMA (Sri Lanka Tamil Media Alliance) **threatened** by Sri Lankan army, 23-3 Brigade.
016	17/07/01	Five civilians			Valaichenai	Batticaloa	**Assaulted** by Sri Lanka army
017	18/07/01	Velupillai Thavachelvan	M		Point Pedro	Jaffna	Journalist **assaulted** in court by Sri Lanka army soldier, suspect in Mirusuvil massacre.
018	19/07/01	Around seventy civilians			Colombo	Colombo	**Injured** in police attack on peaceful protesters.
019	22/07/01	Thirty civilians	M		Puthukudiyiruppu	Batticaloa	Fishermen subjected to **forced hard labour** by Special Task Force. Ordered to clear forest area. This is a regular abuse of human rights in this area.
020 021 022 023 024 025 026 027	28/07/01	Malini Murukupillai Sarikini Alakaiah Santhieswari Murukupillai Kiruthikan S. Gowikanth S. Jeeva Nakappan Parathithasan Balaratnam Suthakaran Arunakiri		07 16 17 04 06 05 23 10	Kinnaiyadi in Valaichenai.	Batticaloa	**Injured** by shells fired by Sri Lankan army based at Kumburumoolai. Admitted to Batticaloa hospital. Four in critical condition.
028 029 030	02/08/01	Anthonithas Pedropillai Sebastian Ivan Saminathan Gunaseelan	M M M	37 22 32	Navanthurai	Jaffna	**Severely injured** by Sri Lankan army soldiers who attacked them indiscriminately. Admitted to Jaffna teaching hospital.
031	02/08/01	Several civilians			Polykandy, Vadamaradchi	Jaffna	Youths **assaulted** by Sri Lankan army, when playing in public recreation ground. ID cards confiscated.
032	13/08/01	Sivagnanasundaran Thavamanithevi	F		Kilinochchi South	Vanni	This girl was **seriously injured** when Sri Lankan air force Kfir jets bombed residential area.
033	18/08/01	Six civilians			Seeduwa	Colombo	**Injured** when Sri Lanka Air Force aircraft crashed on a house on the Colombo-Negombo Road.
034	22/08/01	Eighteen civilians			Periyakulam	Trincomalee	**Injured** when mine exploded while travelling in bus on Uppuveli-Kuchchaveli road. Eight of the injured, including the driver admitted to Trincomalee hospital. Ten treated at Nilaveli hospital.
035	30/08/01	Seven civilians			Kalmunai	Batticaloa	**Injured** in explosion near Kalmunai police station. Admitted to Kalmunai base hospital.
036	24/09/01	One civilian	M		Kattaithirai, Kopay	Jaffna	**Seriously injured** when the vehicle he was driving was hit by a Sri Lanka army land-mine. Admitted to Jaffna hospital in critical condition. His passengers, six members of one family all killed.

Tamileelam Archive

No.	Date	Full Name	Sex	Age	Place of Arrest	District	Incident
037	28/09/01	Sinnappu Jeyarajah	M	26	Thanganagar	Trincomalee	**Seriously injured** when Sinhala Home guards shot at him while watching television at home. Admitted to Trincomalee hospital. Friend with him was shot dead.
038	29/09/01	Sinnathamby Kandaiah	M	53	Kodikamam	Jaffna	Displaced man, returning to see his home, **seriously injured** by Sri Lanka army soldiers who attacked him with knives. Admitted to Manthikai hospital.
039	17/10/01	Two civilians			Rampittiya	Batticaloa	**Injured** by Sri Lanka army. Admitted to Weliaknda hospital.
040	18/10/01	One civilian			Kadukkamunai	Batticaloa	**Injured** in Sri Lanka army mine explosion.
041	23/10/01	Three civilians	M		Point Pedro	Jaffna	Fishermen **injured** by Sri Lankan police. Fishemen protest against fishing restrictions.
042 043 044 045 046 047 048 049	23/10/01	K. Sivanesarajah S. Pathmanathan K. Seevaratnam A Punitharajan S. Gajan Kamaleswari Sivalingam Parameswari Sathasivam Vayatha	52 25 38 13 05 30 20 *	 F	Villages of Ambilaanthurai and Thumbankerni	Batticaloa	**Injured,** when Special Task Force shelled these two villages. Admitted to Kaluwanchikudi hospital and then transferred to Batticaloa hospital for further treatment. * This baby is eight months old.
050	26/10/01	Three civilians			Mutur	Trincomalee	**Injured** by Sri Lanka army gunfire.
051	29/10/01	Twenty civilians			Narahenpita	Colombo	**Injured** in bomb explosion.
052	01/11/01	Four civilians			Mutur	Trincomalee	**Injured** by Sri Lanka army gunfire. Admitted to Trincomalee hospital.
053	02/11/01	LakshmananTheva Athiran	M		Batticaloa	Batticaloa	Reporter from Tamil daily paper abused and **assaulted** by two government Education officials when he attempted to investigate misuse of scholarship funds.
054	10/11/01	One civilian	F		Mutur	Trincomalee	**Injured** by Sri Lanka army gunfire.
055	11/11/01	Three civilians	M		Pussellawa	Central Province	Supporters of Ceylon Workers Congress **injured** by gunshot fired by unidentified gunmen.
056	12/11/01	Three civilians	M		Matale	Central Province	**Injured** in election violence, at a UNP rally. Stage was set alight by suspected PA supporters.
057 058	13/11/01	Arasatnam Sasitharan Mrs Sasitharan	M F		Vammiyadi	Batticaloa	UNP candidate and his wife **injured** by PA candidate and armed men. Admitted to Batticaloa hospital.
059	14/11/01	Five civilians			Pottuvil	Batticaloa	Supporters of Tamil National Alliance **assaulted** and injured by EPDP armed men.
060	15/11/01	Eight civilians			Batticaloa	Batticaloa	**Injured** in bomb explosion.
061	20/11/01	One civilian	M		Poonaavai	Vavuniya	**Injured** by Sri Lanka police gunfire. Admitted to Anuradhapura hospital.
062	20/11/02	One civilian	F	04	Serunuwara	Trincomalee	Small girl-child **seriously injured** by Sri lanka army gunfire. Admitted to Trincomalee hospital.

Tamilnedam Archive

No.	Date	Full Name	Sex	Age	Place of Arrest	District	Incident
063	20/11/01	Four civilians			Eravur	Batticaloa	Eight civilians **injured** by Sri Lanka police indiscriminate firing and shelling, using rifles and mortars. The four named persons were admitted to Eravur hospital. The others could not reach hospital as they were not allowed by the police to leave the area.
064		Kumarasamy Sasikumar	M	22			
065		Sinnathamby Kaliammah	M	40			
066		Kathirkamathamby Mala	M	16			
067		Sellathamby Selve	M	20			
068	20/11/01	Five civilians			Serunuwara	Trincomalee	Assaulted by Sri Lanka Police Security assistants, or Homeguards as they are known. **Sustained injuries**.
069	20/11/01	Forty civilians			Serunuwara	Trincomalee	**Arrested and assaulted** by Sri Lankan army. They had sought safety in the Murugan Temple, from Police security assistants who were assaulting civilians. Some of the arrested, later released, had been **tortured** said MP.
070	25/11/01	Two civilians	M		Balangoda		**Injured** in election violence between PA and UNP supporters.
071	25/11/01	Three civilians	M		Anuradhapura	Anuradha-pura	**Injured** in election violence. Admitted to Anuradhapura hospital.
072	28/11/01	Suresh Premachandran	M		Naranthanai	Jaffna	Candidates for the Tamil National Alliance and sixteen supporters were **injured** in attack by armed members of the EPDP (group working with the PA ruling party). A TNA supporter was **killed**. Sri Lanka Navy personnel present, did nothing to stop the attack. Nobody arrested. Four TNA candidates admitted to hospital.
073		M. K. Sivajilingam	M				
074		Mavai Senathirajah	M				
075		N. Raviraj	M				
076		Sixteen civilians					
077	28/11/01	One civilian	M		Tinnevely	Jaffna	Student **injured** when grenades, thrown into undergraduate hostel accommodation by EPDP members, exploded.
078	30/11/01	Wickremabahu Karunaratna	M		Wellampitiya	Colombo	NSSP main candidate **injured** by unidentified attackers. Admitted to Colombo National hospital.
079	01/12/01	Two civilians			Mutur	Trincomalee	**Injured** by Sri Lanka army shells fired on their village.
080	01/12/01	Four civilians			Vinayagapuram	Batticaloa	**Injured** when EPDP opened fire on peaceful march and demonstration led by women, supporting the TNA. Injured were admitted to Thirukkovil hospital.
081	02/12/01	Three civilians			Komari	Ampara	TNA supporters **injured** when EPDP armed men attacked them.
082	05/12/01	Gnanamuttu Krishnapillai	M		Paddiruppu Bridge	Batticaloa	TNA candidate **assaulted**, injured and threatened by STF when on his way to inform election officials at Kaluwanchikudy, of STF assaults on Tamil civilians and threats to kill them.
083	05/12/01	Anton Edward Richard	M		Palam Road	Jaffna	University lecturer and a student were seriously **assaulted** by armed EPDP men. Both admitted to Jaffna Teaching hospital in critical condition.
084		One civilian	M				
085	16/12/01	Two civilians	M		Point Pedro	Jaffna	Secretary and Treasurer of the Munai Fisermen's Cooperative **injured** when **assaulted** by Sri lanka army soldiers.
086	26/12/01	D. Sivaram	M		Batticaloa	Batticaloa	Senior journalist and editor of the "Thinakathir" Tamil newspaper, were **attacked** by unidentified armed men at their office, inflicting head wounds to Mr Sivaram.
087		Wijetharan	M				
088	15/01/02	K. Sutharsan	M		Trincomalee	Trincomalee	Detained in Kalutara prison. **Severely tortured** in custody by Sri Lanka security forces - stated in court.

Tamilnadu Archive

No.	Date	Full Name	Sex	Age	Place of Arrest	District	Incident
089	15/01/02	Anputhasan Theepan	M		Trincomalee	Trincomalee	Detained in Kalutara prison. **Severely tortured** in custody by Sri Lanka security forces. Stated in court that his genitals had been tied with a rope and he had been dragged round room .
090	21/01/02	Thuraiappah Kalaichelvan	M		Trincomalee	Trincomalee	**Severely tortured** in police custody. Forced to sign statement. East high Court told he had fifteen injuries on his body .
091 092 093 094	27/01/02	Balachandran Subramanian Varatharaja Jeyachandra	M M M M	21 55 27 17	Coast off Pulmoddai	Trincomalee	Attacked in their boats by Sri Lankan Navy who **assaulted and tortured** them, destroyed their boats and took all the fish they had caught. Matter brought to the notice of local TNA MP.
095 096	29/01/02	Viknaraja Iyangaran T. Tharmu	M M	16 40	Munai village, Vadamaradchi	Jaffna	**Severely assaulted** by Sri Lankan army, who also took their fishing equipment and their day's catch of fish.
***	July 2000 (left out by an oversight)	Subramaniam Kannan	M		Vavuniya	Vavuniya	Arrested by Sri Lanka army. Detained in Vavuniya Sri Lanka army camp and **severely tortured** by security forces. Still in detention, December 2001, at Kalutara FR case established **torture.**
***	July 2000 (left out by an oversight)	Paramasivam Rajeevan	M		Colombo	Colombo	Arrested by Sri Lanka police who severely tortured him in detention. Fundamental Rights (FR) case in Supreme Court (SC) established he had been **severely tortured.**
***	13/07/00 (left out by an oversight)	Sivalingam Konesalingam	M		Vavuniya	Vavuniya	Arrested by Sri Lanka police and **severely tortured** in police custody in Vavuniya. Later he was transferred to Kalutara prison. Fundamental Rights case in Supreme Court (14/12/01) established he was tortured.
***	14/07/00 (left out by an oversight)	Maruthaiah Yogaraja	M	43	Kalmunai	Ampara	Driver arrested by Sri Lanka police. **Severely tortured** at CSU (counter subversive unit) at Ampara. Forced to eat vomit of another detainee and cow dung. Boiling water poured into his mouth. Severely beaten. Forced to sign statement.
***	18/07/00 (left out by an oversight in previous report)	Anthonipillai Reginald	M	34	Sammanthurai	Ampara	Bus conductor arrested by CSU police. No reason given. **Severely tortured** in police detention, including: Forced to drink sewage from drain, beaten with axe handle, burnt with cigarettes on hand, hip and penis. Handcuffed and beaten further all over body with guava pole and trodden on by police constable. Forced to sign papers, not shown contents.
***	18/07/00 (left out by an oversight)	Nadarajah Rasalingam	M	48	Kalmunai	Ampara	Arrested by CSU at his bakery in Manat Senai. Severely beaten by police constable, who trampled on his face. **Injuries** to left eye. Boiling water poured into his mouth. Plastic bag doused in petrol put over his head and forced. Forced to sign statement.
***	18/07/00 (left out by an oversight in previous report)	Muniyandi Selvarasa	M	35	Kalmunai	Ampara	Arrested by CSU and **severely tortured.** Cannot use fingers of either hand now. Body beaten with axe handle. Boiling water poured in mouth. Now cannot speak properly. ICRC registration card torn up by police constable, and stuffed into his mouth. Constable then urinated into his mouth.
***	Dec. 2000 (left out by an oversight)	Alagarsamy Dilipkumar	M		Jaffna	Jaffna	As requested by the Police, he went to report to the police station in December 2000. Arrested, detained and **severely tortured,** as evidenced by Medical report to SC where FR case was filed.

Tamileelam Archives

ANNEXES

TAMIL CENTRE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS - TCHR/CTDH
CENTRE TAMOUL POUR LES DROITS DE L'HOMME
(Established in 1990)

Ref: AC/22A/01 **PRESS RELEASE** 10 December 2001

President Chandrika's statement confirms that
Sri Lankan representatives in the United Nations have been lying since 1948

With reference to our press release today on "International Human Rights Day", we highlight below certain facts acknowledged by President Chandrika Kumaratunge in her interviews to BBC Hardtalk and CNN Q&A on 30 October 2001.

President Chandrika's interviews on these esteemed television programmes make it patently clear she accepts that human rights violations have been committed against the Tamils in the island and that their political rights have been denied since 1948.

Since 1983, human rights activists and organisations have compiled many reports and statements on violations against the Tamils, submitting them to the United Nations Commission on Human Rights, Sub-Commission on Human Rights and to the UN Centre for Human Rights.

However, the Sri Lankan representatives in the UN mission in Geneva and other institutions persistently denied all those charges and branded the activists and organisations as "fronts" and "terrorist entities"! ***(Refer to the Human Rights proceedings of the UN Commission and the Sub-Commission)***

Government-hired companies and individuals are putting out propaganda around the world conveying the blatant falsity that "Tamils have no political problems" and it is a problem of terrorism!

On 30 October 2001, the Sri Lanka President accepted that atrocities took place against the Tamils between independence in 1948 and 1994.

தமிழீழ ஆவணக்காப்பகம்
Tamileelam Archive

It is obvious that President Kumaratunga cannot admit to the atrocities taking place during her period, but we can be sure that one day another leader in power will acknowledge these.

Some analysts question whether Chandrika's acknowledgement of violations was a trick that she and her Minister of foreign affairs were playing on the international community!

Chandrika's theory is simple. Whoever criticises the government's human rights record is a Tiger front and whoever writes pro-government reports is an independent non-governmental organisation!

A few excerpts from President Chandrika's interviews :

"All I'm telling you is that -- when millions were being killed, well not millions, but tens of thousands being killed at a time before we came in, and we stopped all that and there are still..." **(BBC Hardtalk)**

Firstly the majority Sinhalese which constitutes about three fourths of the total population did not until we came into power accept that the Tamil people and the other minorities, especially the Tamil and Muslim minority in Sri Lanka, were discriminated against; they preferred to forget and sweep under the carpet that the minorities in Sri Lanka had problems, all Sri Lankan governments for the 53 years of independence did not accept that the Tamil people and other minorities had problems". **(BBC Hardtalk)**

"We have tried very hard to deliver that peace. We lifted the economic embargoes which were placed by the previous government. We stopped attacks on innocent Tamil people by government-organised mafia, which happened every year under the last government during their 17-year rule....." **(CNN – Q&A)**

".....that we are violating human rights, when my government has stopped -- the last government killed 50,000 Sinhalese democratic youths simply because they did not agree with them. They killed over 20,000 Tamil youth. They burnt them alive; they poured petrol on them, and burnt them alive in pogroms against the Tamil people" **(CNN – Q&A)**

- **President Chandrika's statements to the BBC Hardtalk and CNN have proved that since 1983 Sri Lankan representatives in the UN Mission in Geneva have been lying to the UN Human rights institutions.**
- **Her statement accepts the fact that since 1948, governments including those of her parents (her father S.W.R.D. Bandaranayake was the Prime Minister in 1956 and her mother Srimavo Bandaranayake was the Prime Minister in 1960 and 1970) have denied the fundamental rights of the Tamils and have organised violence against Tamils.**

UN Secretary General Koffi Annan said, "even in situations of armed conflict, the targeting of innocent civilians is illegal, as well as morally unacceptable. And yet, as I have stated in my two reports on the protection of civilians in armed conflict, civilian populations are more and more often deliberately targeted. Indeed, civilians have become the principal victims of conflict, accounting for an estimated 75 per cent of all casualties." **(SG/SM/7977 GA/9920 - 1 October 2001)**

- **There is hard evidence to prove that recently Sri Lanka has acquired Chemical weapons.** *(For further information refer to "The Guardian" London, United Kingdom – 23 November 2001)*

- **The president said at a public meeting in the southern town of Tissamaharama that there was "nothing wrong in killing murderers" and warned the opposition that her party men could not be restrained as they had been in previous years.** *(AFP - November 19, 2001)*

- **President Chandrika said in the BBC Hardtalk *"There is no economic blockade, that is nonsense"*** *(For further information refer to - The special gazette notification (No. 867/12) dated 20 April 1995, lists the items banned since Kumaratunga came to power)*

- **2000 Historic Hindu Temples and Churches have been destroyed by aerial bombing and shelling. This is more extensive than the TALIBAN bombing of Bamiyan Buddas in Afghanistan.** *(Refer to "Hindu Religious Priest Organisation" , Sri Lanka)*

- **30,000 military deserters have been reported in Sri Lanka. In a way, this is a world record! This proves that people in Sri Lanka are recruited forcefully into the security forces by the authority.** *(For further information refer to "The Sunday Times" – 14 January 2001)*

- **A member of the Presidential Security Division – PSD in Sri Lanka believed to be architect of the assassination of Human Rights Defender Mr. Kumar Ponnambalam. Mr. Ponnambalam made many oral interventions in the UN Commission on human rights as well as in the European Parliament and European council. It is now almost two years since his brutal killing and no proper investigation has been held by the authorities despite many clues.** *(For further information refer to "The Sunday Leader" - 11 November 2001)*

- **Veteran journalist Mr. Nimalarajan – contributor to BBC programmes was killed by so-called unknown gunmen! Now one year has passed and there has been no progress in the investigations despite many clues.** *(For further information refer to "The Committee to Protect Journalists – CPJ" – 18 October 2001 - www.cpj.org)* ***(excerpts)***

தமிழீழ ஆவணக்காப்பகம்
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TAMIL CENTRE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS - TCHR/CTDH
CENTRE TAMOUL POUR LES DROITS DE L'HOMME
(Established in 1990)

Ref: AC/22/01 **PRESS RELEASE** **10 December 2001**

Today, on International Human Rights Day, we would again like to express our sympathy to the families and friends of the victims in the crime wave in America on September 11, 2001. We strongly condemn this fanatic and terrorist assault.

The United Nations General Assembly adopted the Universal Declaration of Human Rights – UDHR - on 10 December 1948. It is stated in the Declaration that "all human beings are free and equal in dignity and rights – all have right to life, liberty and security".

Ever since 1948, "International Human Rights Day" has been celebrated all around the world. What meaning does it hold for the victims of human rights violations, and what does it mean for the perpetrators of those violations? Since the time when the UDHR was adopted, human rights violations have increased in the world. As part of their propaganda machine, aggressive states claim that the human rights situations in their countries have improved whereas in fact they have deteriorated.

Today, the world is experiencing new dimensions of problems in the context of human rights and terrorism. Opportunist states boldly categorise legitimate opposition as terrorism, taking advantage of the present climate. Certain states continue to carry out ethnic cleansing whilst impressing the world that they are convinced of the need to look into the root cause of the problems!

UN Secretary General Koffi Annan stated in a recent meeting "the fight against terrorism cannot be used as an excuse for slackening efforts to put an end to conflicts and defeat poverty and disease. Nor can it be an excuse for undermining the bases of the rule of law -- good governance, respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms". **(SG/SM/7999 - AFR/344 - 22 October 2001)**

The arms trade; dictatorship in the name of democracy; the influencing of international institutions via a "club" approach and the deliberate ignoring of ethnic freedom struggles, are some important phenomena causing severe violations in our present world.

Aggressive states use military might against struggling ethnic groups. The arms trade, especially the purchase of Chemical weapons points directly to the process of ethnic cleansing in conflict areas.

When the composition of membership of United Nations bodies is analysed, it is noticeable that Committees and Commissions on human rights are dominated by the member states, which have the worst human rights records. Can their membership of these committees help to improve the human rights situation in any country? On the contrary, these member states encourage more violations not only in their own countries but in other countries as well.

International law, including UN conventions, does not permit state parties to have illegal detention centres, to arrest and torture, carry out Mafia style killings and massacres of innocent civilians, to use food and rape as weapons of war and to acquire chemical weapons for the purpose of ethnic cleansing. States practising these illegal acts are considered by civil society to be practising "State terrorism".

Martin Luther King Jr. once said, "Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere".

Leaders of states should be honest and serious in what they say and do. Lies and deceptions will surely misguide the current and future generations.

Democracy in certain countries is manipulated by family monopoly. Countries may have a republican constitution, but practice a dictatorship under the cover of democracy.

So-called democratic leaders openly promote "Killings" and manipulate parliamentary democracy to suit their convenience. Such irresponsible acts encourage the perpetrators to continue committing human rights violations, producing more and more victims.

International institutions could adopt hundreds of conventions and covenants but as long as the "club mentality" continues to permeate and dominate International institutions, human rights violations will have no durable remedy.

UK dealers sell 'vacuum bombs' to Sri Lanka

1,000 fuel-air rockets sent to put down Tamil Tigers as delays in passing promised export bill leave deadly loophole in British law

(Jamie Wilson and Bob Crew - 23 November 2001 – The Guardian)

British arms dealers have used a loophole in British law secretly to sell fuel-air weapons for use against Tamil Tiger insurgents in Sri Lanka, the Guardian can reveal. **Human rights groups have called for such weapons, which are also known as vacuum bombs, to be banned.** The force of fuel-air blasts can burst eyeballs out of their sockets and crush other internal organs. The fuel-air Britain continues to be one of the arms dealing centres of the world.

Tamileelam Archive

In the recent past the British government has refused export licences for weapons to the Sri Lankan government. According to the latest Amnesty International report both sides in the conflict have bombed and shelled indiscriminately and taken too little care to avoid civilian casualties.

The nature of these weapons is so dreadful that they ought to be governed by an international convention such as the kind which outlawed the use of soft-nosed bullets and banned landmines."

The Sri Lankan military have received at least two secret shipments of the RPO-A Shmel Bumblebee rockets. The facts emerged only because parties to the latest shipment fell out over sharing the profits, amid allegations of bribery and sharp practice.

In documents supplied to the Sri Lankan government, the British arms firm calls itself Gladstone Industrial Holdings Ltd and has a London address. This title conceals an apparently derelict shop front in Catford, south London, occupied by Robert Kweku Hanson, who owns a small commodities company, Premier Distribution (UK and Europe) Ltd, and lives in a modest semi in Orpington, Kent. Mr Hanson, who is not willing to comment, appears to be little more than a front.

Nor is Gladstone a British company - it is registered in the Caribbean island of Grenada, a secretive offshore tax haven blacklisted by the intergovernmental Financial Action Task Force.

The trail of ownership goes back to two men. One is a director of a garment company which supplies Marks & Spencer, the other an arms dealer in north London with a selection of old Soviet and modern Russian military stock for sale.

His partner, whose connections clinched the deal with Sri Lanka, was a former army officer there, Lieutenant-Colonel Upali Gajanayake. He is a director of a company which assembles garments for Marks & Spencer. The consignment of fuel-air rocket launchers they obtained was old Ukrainian military stock, flown directly to Sri Lanka by cargo plane.

Documents seen by the Guardian show that the Sri Lankan army was originally promised up to date 1999 weapons from the manufacturers in Tula, Russia, and not the 1989-91 Ukrainian models they received. But the Sri Lankan government said this week the weapons had been "refurbished".

Sri Lankan army officers demanded bribes to authorise the deal, according to Mr Temour, who fell out with his colleague over money and was eventually thrown off the Gladstone board. Such bribery would be illegal under the anti-terrorism proposals announced but also not yet enacted by the British government.

The Sri Lanka government handed over $3.6m to Gladstone for the shipment of rockets, via the Bank of Ceylon in London, paid into a Liechtenstein account at Vervaltung bank, Liechtenstein, like Grenada, is a well known "black hole" for secretive funds.

Sarath de Silva, deputy chairman of Tristar Apparel, the Marks & Spencer sub-contractors in Sri Lanka, said the company was engaged in legal action to remove Col Gajanayake from his post on the Tristar board for bringing the firm into disrepute. The colonel denies any wrongdoing. **(excerpts, www.guardian.co.uk)**
For further information on ***"Thermobaric Warfare and Humanitarian Concerns"****,*
please refer to "Sunday Leader" of 19 August 2001,
http://www.lanka.net/sundayleader/2001/Aug/19/issues.html

UNITED NATIONS

Final report on the 59th session of
The Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (CERD)
Geneva, 30 July - 17 August 2001
Sri Lanka - (CERD/C/357/Add.3, 20 November 2000)

On Tuesday 7 and Wednesday 8 August 2001, CERD took under consideration the seventh, eight and ninth periodic reports, due on 20 March 1995, 1997, and 1999 respectively, submitted in one document.

The long lasting armed conflict in the country has resulted in thousands of persons killed and over half a million internally displaced. It is the view of this Committee that military means will not solve the conflict and that only a negotiated political solution, which includes the participation of all parties, will lead to peace and harmony among ethnic communities in the island.

CERD expressed its special concerns about the following:

- restrictions placed on civil and political rights under the Prevention of Terrorism Act and Emergency Regulations and its allegedly discriminatory application with regard to Tamils. While commending the recent amendments to the Emergency Regulations, and noting that the Emergency Regulations lapsed on 4 June 2001, the Committee reiterates its concern, as expressed in previous concluding observations, that the state of emergency has been intermittently in effect in different parts of the country since 1983. The Committee hopes that the situation in the country will improve so that the state of emergency can be lifted.
- the situation of civilians living in the north and east of the country, particularly persons who were internally displaced by the conflict; and it recommended that the State party continue to provide assistance to the civilian population in the northern and eastern provinces and to cooperate with humanitarian agencies.
- large number of Tamils of Indian origin and their descendants, particularly plantation workers, still had not been granted citizenship, many of them continuing to be stateless.
- Tamils without Sri Lankan citizenship were allegedly discriminated against and did not fully enjoy their economic, social and cultural rights; and the State party was recommended to take effective measures to solve this problem.
- the situation of the country's indigenous people, the Veddas, and the creation of a national park on their ancestral forestland is of concern. In this context attention is drawn to the Committee's **General Recommendation XXIII** calling upon States parties to recognise and protect the rights of indigenous peoples to own, develop, control and use their communal lands, territories and resources.
- Concerning allegations of violations of human rights, the Committee reminds the State party of its obligation to conduct exhaustive and impartial investigations into allegations of human rights violations involving racial discrimination and bring to justice those responsible. The Committee recommends that the State party continue to disseminate knowledge of human rights instruments as well as international humanitarian law among security forces and law enforcement officers.
- The State party is invited in its next report to provide updated information on the demographic composition of the population, including the north and east of the island, its breakdown by community, ethnic group and gender. The Committee further recommends the State party to review the categorisation of ethnic groups in Sri Lanka.
- The State party is further invited to provide information on the following issues;

a) the content of the devolution regime for regions;
b) the scope of restrictions on movement on Tamils living in the north and eastern provinces;
c) the situation of the Veddas;
d) measures taken to solve the problem of stateless persons in Sri Lanka;
e) measures taken to eliminate racial discrimination among Tamil and other minority groups
f) the application of the Prevention of Terrorism Act and Emergency Regulations, particularly its application to Tamils and other ethnic groups.

The NGOs who participated to the meeting were:

- International Movement Against All Forms of Discrimination and Racism (IMADR)
- Tamil Centre for Human Rights (TCHR)

The Concluding Observations of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination on Sri Lanka were adopted at its 1487th meeting held on 14 August 2001, and are available on Internet at the following web page:
http://www.unhchr.ch/tbs/doc.nsf/(Symbol)/CERD.C.59.Misc.20.Rev.3.En?Opendocument
(excerpts from - www.imadr.org/geneva/cerd2001.summer.reports/final-report.html)

LTTE may be doing what we are doing to maintain the forces at the present level

- Minister of Defence Tilak Marapan

(An excerpt from an interview given to "The Sunday Times" on 3 February 2002, by the Sri Lanka Minister of Defence Tilak Marapan)

Mr. Marapana said the Pahalatalawinne murders and other incidents in Kandy showed some politicians have been trying to use the armed forces to achieve their sinister purposes. "It is very unfortunate that there is this very small handful of people who lent themselves to this type of activity. I can assure you we will deal with them," he declared. He stressed that it was necessary in the greater interest of the Army to identify them. It would also be for the good of the country.

He noted that there was a very high degree of politicisation in the Police. During the last seven years, as a lawyer, I have had numerous occasions when people complained to me about the Police. When UNP supporters made complaints, they were not entertained. Police have been extremely partial. MPs have complained in Parliament about this.

Mr. Marapana's comments on the raid by Kandy Police on the Army's Safe House at Athurugiriya, during the same interview, appeared in these columns last week. Here are some of the other questions and the answers given by Mr. Marapana.

Q: Can you identify some of them ?
A: The military strategy over how we have tried to curb the terrorist movement. I am not only talking about the last few years but right from the beginning. It could have been nipped in the bud. It was allowed to grow and ultimately escalate into this present situation. Our strategies have all been ad hoc.

Secondly, I feel that even with regard to military procurements, we have spent unnecessary sums of money in buying very valuable and sophisticated weaponry. I don't think all that was necessary.

Q: You speak of strategies. Can you give an example of how it failed and how you hope to rectify them ?
A: In the first place, **I have no intention at all in waging war with the LTTE at the moment.** We have embarked on a peace mission and our target today, and my role as Defence Minister, is not to plan strategy to attack but merely to ready ourselves to defend. I would have to ensure important installations and territory in our control are protected. We are on a defensive posture than on an aggressive one. Most of the past operations failed because there was no proper application of the mind.

Q: How do you view the peace talks:
A: I sincerely believe that we are going to succeed in this. It is my belief that the LTTE, however and whatever others may say, are serious in their endeavours. We have approached the peace process with some degree of professionalism. Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe, has been constantly advocating a peaceful settlement. This is not something he has said just yesterday and the day before. He has been consistent.

Q: There has been complaints of LTTE recruitment, re-training and re-arming. What is your response ?
A: Our intelligence reports certainly do not show that they are training on such a large scale. They also must be training their cadres the same way we impart normal training. They may continue that. The recruitment may be because there are vacancies in their ranks. They may be doing what we are doing to maintain the forces at the present level. **(excerpt, "The Sunday Times" 3 February 2002)**

Human Rights Watch - 2002

Arbitrary detention and mistreatment of prisoners by police and security forces remained common. A report by human rights lawyer N. Kandasamy indicated that some 18,000 people may have been arrested under emergency regulations and the Prevention of Terrorism Act from January to November 2000. The vast majority were Tamil, some of whom were ordered detained without trial for more than two years. Often the only evidence against them was a confession extracted under torture. Although many such cases were thrown out by courts in 2001 and some torture victims won court-ordered compensation, cases continued to take years to make their way through the court system. Deaths in custody in 2001 included that of Kandaiah Uthayakumar, suspected of smuggling banned commodities in the northern town of Mannar, who died on February 28 after arrest by Navy personnel. His children, who witnessed the arrest, said he had been beaten and strangled by the arresting officers. In late March, a Mannar district judge ordered two naval personnel detained pending investigation.

Government efforts to stem custodial abuse included a new emergency regulation promulgated in May requiring detention centres to provide district courts with a list of all persons in custody every two weeks. Earlier, the government had established a police unit and special committee under the Justice Ministry to investigate complaints of illegal detention and harassment by police and armed forces, and to accelerate the release of victims.

Sexual violence against women by security forces attracted new attention in 2001. The premeditated gang-rape on June 24 of a twenty-eight year old Tamil woman in Colombo by police and army personnel at a security checkpoint sparked widespread protests by Tamil and Muslim political parties and women's rights organizations, and a general strike by shop owners in the north and east on July 6. In the media storm that followed, several other custodial rape cases received new scrutiny and at least one victim of grave sexual abuse was ordered released from custody. Prosecutions in older cases stalled because witnesses were afraid to testify, or, as in the case of Ida Carmelita, raped and murdered in Mannar in July 1999, proceeded extremely slowly.

Pressure on medical officials to cover up evidence of custodial mistreatment was suggested in another case of sexual abuse -- the March 19 gang rape and sexual torture by police and naval personnel of two women who had been arrested by anti-subversion police in Mannar. The initial report of the district medical officer

concluded there were no signs of mistreatment. After the women's complaints were made public, a second examination was ordered about a week later, the second doctor concluding that the women had been tortured and raped.

Police and military personnel were rarely punished for mistreatment of detainees or failing to abide by legally mandated procedures, such as notifying the HRC of arrests and notifying family members when individuals were detained under special security legislation.

No one had been convicted for the crime of torture since Sri Lanka ratified the U.N. Convention Against Torture in 1994 and introduced domestic legislation mandating a seven-year minimum sentence for torture. According to the Attorney General's Office, several prosecutions were pending.

Sri Lankan authorities appeared more willing than in past years to acknowledge official responsibility for atrocities. On January 31, Sri Lankan army personnel in Batticaloa publicly acknowledged their role in large-scale massacres of civilians in the east, mentioning notorious attacks in Kokkaddicholai, Sathurukkondaan, Vanthaarumoolai, and Batticaloa. In February, the attorney general reportedly issued indictments against more than six hundred police and armed forces personnel implicated in "disappearances" that occurred before 1994--many in connection with counterinsurgency operations against the Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna (JVP) organization. On June 28, two soldiers were sentenced to six years in prison and fined Rs. 2,500 (U.S. $27) each for their role in an abduction and murder in 1989.

On March 12, President Chandrika Kumaratunga appointed Justice P.H.K. Kulatilaka to investigate the October 2000 massacre of some twenty-seven youths in the Bindunuwewa Rehabilitation camp. The dead included individuals being held under the Prevention of Terrorism Act and LTTE members, some in their early teens, who had surrendered to authorities. On June 28, the attorney general reported that forty-three suspects had been arrested in connection with the killings. In July, President Kumaratunga announced the formation of a three-member "truth commission" to investigate incidents of ethnic violence between 1981 and 1984, including anti-Tamil riots in July 1983 that killed nearly six hundred people.

Progress was halting or nonexistent in many high profile cases. Some cases were slowed partly by defendants' petitions to move cases out of the north and east for security reasons, including the Mirusuvil massacre case, in which fourteen soldiers were accused of having tortured and murdered Tamil civilians in northern Jaffna in December 2000. In 2001, the case was transferred out of the district to the Anuradhapura District Court. Similarly, while proceedings continued in the trial of soldiers accused of the 1992 massacre of thirty-five Tamil civilians in the eastern village of Mailanthani, the case continued to move slowly following its transfer in 1996 to Colombo, far from key civilian witnesses. The case of five security personnel arrested in connection with the 1999 discovery of fifteen skeletons in Chemmani, thought to be those of persons "disappeared" by the army in 1996, also made little progress.

Official restrictions on war reporting, including provisions imposed in 2000, were relaxed in May 2001, but restrictions on access to areas under LTTE control remained a serious impediment to accurate reporting on the human rights situation in conflict areas. **In April, journalist Marie Colvin, writing for the London *Sunday Times* was shot and seriously injured when she defied a government ban on travel to LTTE controlled areas and crossed the line of fire.** Certain Sri Lankan journalists also faced arrest, intimidation, and physical threats. The risks were particularly acute for correspondents in the north and east and those covering political events. Between October 2000 and November 2001, one Jaffna-based journalist was killed and at least five others based in the northeast were arrested or threatened by the security forces.

Criminal extortion rings linked to political forces were blamed for increased communal tension in central and eastern Sri Lanka. In May, two people were killed and a large number of shops destroyed when Sinhalese mobs attacked Muslims demonstrators. The demonstrators had been protesting police inaction after thugs with alleged ruling party links publicly tortured a Muslim shopkeeper who had refused to pay protection money. Demonstrations--some violent--spread to Colombo. **(Excerpts - 18/01/2002 – Human Rights Watch)**

Statement from the President's Office

THE PRESIDENT'S OFFICE

The Prime Minister met with President Chandrika Bandaranaike Kumaratunga, yesterday - the 21st February evening, to brief her on the MOU between the Prime Minister and the LTTE. The Prime Minister has informed the President that the LTTE Leader, Mr. V. Prabhakaran has already signed the document and that the Prime Minister would be signing it on the morning of Friday, 22nd February 2002.

The President has expressed surprise and concern that she was being informed, for the first time, of the contents of the agreement, after it was signed by Mr. V. Prabhakaran and just a few hours before the Prime Minister proposed to put his signature to it.

The President has reminded the Prime Minister of the previous formal communication sent to him by her, wherein she had informed him of the Constitutional authority of the President as Executive Head of State, Government and the Cabinet, with regard to all matters of war and peace and those affecting the sovereignty, territorial integrity of the State and the security of all her citizens.

The President also wishes to reiterate her unwavering commitment to the Peace process, and to a negotiated settlement of the ethnic problem, leading to an early end to the military conflict, within a united, multi-ethnic and democratic State.

The President is of the opinion that the procedures followed with regard to concluding the MOU, ignoring Constitutional provisions to obtain Presidential approval, as well as not informing the Cabinet of Ministers and Parliament is considered improper and undemocratic and also violative of practices, required by the consensual politics of cohabitation.

The President, while being supportive of a ceasefire that leads to a negotiated settlement of the Tamil peoples problem, after a brief examination of the document, has expressed concern to the Prime Minister about certain specific clauses and aspects of the MOU.
A detailed response to the MOU will be released in a few days time by the office of the President, after careful study.

Sgd./- Secretary to the President, ***22 February 2002.***

Prime Minister briefed Cabinet on peace agreement

The Prime Minister briefed the Cabinet about the provisions of the government-LTTE agreement on two consecutive days. On Wednesday, February 20, at the regular meeting of the Cabinet of Ministers held at 6 pm, the Prime Minister informed the Cabinet of the contents of the proposed agreement, and the Cabinet approved of the conclusion of the agreement in accordance with the procedure explained and agreed upon. Unfortunately, the President was not present at this meeting of the Cabinet, Minister of Enterprise Dev-elopment, Industrial Policy, Investment Promotion and Constitutional Affairs, Prof. G. L. Peiris said yesterday.

The Minister said in a statement that it's entirely incorrect that 'the government concluded the cessation of hostilities agreement without informing the Cabinet of Ministers', as claimed in a press release by the President's Office last Friday.

Prof. Peiris said in view of the importance of the matter, the Prime Minister convened a special meeting of the Cabinet on the following day, Thursday, February 21, for the specific purpose of considering once again the substance of the proposed agreement. This meeting took place at 8 O'clock that evening. The Cabinet, after discussion, endorsed in unequivocal terms the provisions of the agreement as well as the modalities for its adoption, he said.

Moreover, the Prime Minister, together with several members of the Cabinet held discussions during the evening of Thursday, February 21 on the subject of the cessation of hostilities agreement with members of the Maha Sangha and editors of newspapers, Minister Peiris said in his statement.

He said the government has itself taken the initiative in providing the fullest opportunity for a debate in Parliament on the agreement. The Leader of the House stated categorically on the floor of Parliament on Thursday that the government would readily agree to any date convenient to the Opposition, he added. ***("The Island" 24 February 2002)***

Sri Lankan President threatens to cancel ceasefire

Reuters - COLOMBO, Feb. 26 Sri Lankan President Chandrika Kumaratunga has threatened to cancel a landmark ceasefire agreement signed with Tamil Tiger rebels if she disagrees with some of its clauses, a local newspaper reported on Tuesday.

Kumaratunga, who has sweeping powers to sack the government and suspend parliament, has already been highly critical of her archrival Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe, saying he kept her in the dark about the Norwegian-brokered truce.

"I can stop Ranil Wickremesinghe's agreement with one letter to the army commander," Kumaratunga was quoted by the Daily Mirror newspaper as saying about the agreement that was signed with the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) on Friday.

"There are several suspicious clauses in the agreement with the LTTE. I have appointed a committee to study the agreement and the report would be out in a day or two. Then I will take necessary action," she said.

Kumaratunga's spokesman was out of Colombo on Tuesday and could not be contacted. A presidential aide confirmed Kumaratunga spoke at a local government election rally on Monday.

The president has already issued a statement that criticised Wickremesinghe for not informing her that the agreement would be signed, something denied by government officials. The government has called for a parliamentary debate on the truce to start on Monday.

Kumaratunga belongs to the main opposition party and has in the past lampooned Wickremesinghe for his peace plans but says she supports Norway's efforts to end a war that has killed more than 64,000 people.

The presidential aide said a statement pointing out specific concerns would be released in a few days about the truce agreement that could pave the way for the first direct peace talks in seven years.

Parliamentary elections in December that Wickremesinghe won were fought on competing peace strategies with Kumaratunga taking a much tougher stance than Wickremesinghe on the LTTE. The rebels are fighting for a separate Tamil state for minority Tamils in the country's north and east.

Tamil Centre for Human Rights - TCHR

Centre Tamoul pour les Droits de l'Homme

Centro Tamil para los Derechos Humanos

(Established in 1990)

Head Office

9, rue des Peupliers
95140 - Garges les Gonesse
FRANCE

E-mail : tchrgs@hotmail.com
tchrdip@hotmail.com
Fax : + 33 - 1 - 40 38 28 74
+ 44 - 870 - 136 1061

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Branches

Tamil Centre for Human Rights - TCHR
P.O. Box : 182
Manchester M16 8ED
UNITED KINGDOM
Fax : + 44 - 161 - 860 46 09
+ 44 - 870 - 136 1413
Email : tchrdip@hotmail.com

Tamil Centrum voor Mensenrechten-TCHR
Steelingmolen 43
1703 TE Heerhugowaard
THE NETHERLANDS
Fax : + 31 - 72 - 57 15 801

Tamil Centre for Human Rights - TCHR
P.O. Box : 466
Nobel Park 3174
Victoria, **AUSTRALIA**
Fax : + 61 - 3 - 95 46 63 48

Tamil Centre for Human Rights - TCHR
422F, Moodie Drive
Nepean
Ontario - K2H 8A6
CANADA

Tamilen Zentrum für Menschenrechte - TCHR
P.O. Box : 319
8172 - Niederglatt
SWITZERLAND

President Kumaratunga "let the cat out of bag"

"UTHR" is a government sponsored organisation

In an interview with CNN (Q&A) on 30 October 2001, Sri Lanka President Kumaratunga categorically refused to accept the Human Rights Watch report for 2001, claiming, "It (Human Rights Watch) could be a Tiger organisation, I don't know what it is".

While the President accused Human Rights Watch of being a Tiger organisation, she wasted no time at all in recommending UTHR as an independent non-governmental organisation. She proudly said ".....but I would like to refer you to the reports of the Geneva Human Rights Conference to the University Teachers on Human Rights,.....They're a totally independent non-governmental organisation"!

Long ago, TCHR brought to the attention of human rights institutions and individuals the fact that the so-called "University Teachers for Human Rights UTHR" is a government-sponsored organisation. We submitted ample evidence in the past. Now this fact has been confirmed in the CNN interview, by the President herself quoting that UTHR is the only independent non-governmental organisation.

தமிழீழ ஆவணக்காப்பகம்
Tamileelam Archive

Chavakachcheri is like "Hiroshima"

-Minister Dr. Jayalath Jeyawardena

January 2002-

In an interview given to the Jaffna Tamil daily news paper "Uthayan", Minister of Rehabilitation, Resettlement and Refugees Dr. Jayalath Jayawardena described Chavakachcheri as the "Hiroshima" of Sri Lanka.

Recently Dr. Jayalath Jayawardena was on tour in Jaffna peninsula visiting various villages and cities which were bombed and destroyed by the Sri Lankan airforce, Army, Navy and Police.

Chavakachcheri was one of the cities completely destroyed by the Air forces bombers and Army artillery.