

Ref : TIC/UN/85/4.1
Date : 8th April 1985

TAMIL INFORMATION CENTRE

HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS AND TAMILS OF SRI LANKA INFORMATION RECEIVED SINCE LAST REPORT

1.0 JAFFNA

- 1.1 On 14.3.85, the security forces carried out an intensive search in Nainathivu and Punguduthivu (two islands). Several young persons were taken into custody.
- 1.2 On 14.3.85, a tractor driver was shot dead by the security forces in Jaffna.
- 1.3 On 16.3.85, the security forces carried out house to house search at Kokuvil and during this search two houses were destroyed by the security forces and an office of a school was also ransacked.
- 1.4 On 18.3.85, the security forces shot and killed one university student and arrested another.
- 1.5 On 19.3.85, a helicopter was attacked by the Tamil militants at Nagar Kovil and the security forces in retaliation fired indiscriminately at civilians injuring several persons.
- 1.6 On 20.3.85, the army shot and killed a person travelling on a motor cycle and arrested the other.
- 1.7 On 23.3.85, the security forces shot and killed 8 persons including -
 - a) Mrs Ponniah Thilagamma (age 50 years)
 - b) Velupillai Philomina (age 45 years)
 - c) Kandiah Navaratnam (age 45 years)
 - d) Sinnathamby Kanapathipillai (age 60 years)
- 1.8 On 23.3.85, 6 Red Cross Officials working in Valvettithurai were arrested by the security forces.
- 1.9 On 25.3.85, the security forces shot and killed one civilian at Point Pedro.

2.0 KILINOCHCHI

- 2.1 An army convoy while going past Iyakachchi opened fire indiscriminately injuring several bystanders and killing Muthiah Ganesh (age 21) son of an employee of District Development Council.

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3.0 MANNAR

- 3.1 On 10.3.85, 10 civilians were killed by the army and it is believed that this is in retaliation to an attack on the army camp the previous day.
- 3.2 Large number of livestock belonging to the civilians were robbed by the security forces.
- 3.3 Many schools in Mannar District have been closed down since large numbers of Tamil families have fled to India as refugees due to army atrocities.

4.0 VAVUNIYA

- 4.1 On 14.3.85, a private bus carrying Tamil passengers from Colombo was shot at between Anuradhapura and Vavuniya injuring several passengers. Several other private buses were stoned. It should be noted that on 11.9.84, a private bus was diverted to a lonely spot off Vavuniya and 16 passengers were shot and killed by men in kakhi (believed to be from the nearby army camp).

5.0 TRINCOMALEE

- 5.1 On 13.3.85, six girls from Silvester School in Trincomalee were arrested by the security forces.
- 5.2 The security forces have burnt 130 houses belonging to Tamils in Thennaimaravaddi. It is believed that this is in retaliation to the attack on the Kokilai army camp by the Tamil militants on 13.2.85.

6.0 BATTICALOA

- 6.1 On 8.3.85, 5 girls travelling from Muthur to Batticaloa by bus (public transport) were arrested by the police commandos.
- 6.2 On 8.3.85, a girl who went to pay her father's insurance at Vantharoomoolai was arrested by the police commandos and the whereabouts of the girl is not known to the parents.
- 6.3 On 10.3.85, the security forces set fire to the paddy stacks at Kadukkamunai.
- 6.4 On 10.3.85, at Kadukkamunai the security forces are reported to have raped a young girl and forced her to drink kerosene.
- 6.5 On the 11.3.85, the police commandos stopped the vehicles in Urani and took several girls into custody.

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- 6.6 On 11.3.85, a 15 year old girl was reported to have been raped by the security forces at Thavilangmunai during a house to house search.
- 6.7 On 12.3.85, the security forces arrested 7 persons in Thanthamalai.
- 6.8 On 13.3.85, 3 persons named Baskaran, Kanegarattam and Raja were arrested by the security forces in Batticaloa.
- 6.9 On 15.3.85, the security forces have shot and killed a person at Kathiraveli.
- 6.10 On 17.3.85, a person named Periyasundaram (age 30) was shot and killed by the security forces while fishing.
- 6.11 On 19.3.85, a person named Ellayathambi Varatharajah near Komari army camp was shot and killed by security forces.
- 6.12 On 20.3.85, the security forces opened fire at School boys and took several persons into custody.
- 6.13 On 27.3.85, person named Nythiananthan was arrested by the security forces.
- 6.14 At Vantharoomoolai the security forces have robbed livestock from the residents of that area.

7.0 REFUGEES

- 7.1 On 12.3.85, 63 families consisting of about 278 persons arrived at Rameswaram from Mannar.
- 7.2 On 16.3.85, 24 families consisting of 110 Tamil refugees have reached Rameswaram in India by boat from Sri Lanka.
- 7.3 Upto 23rd March 1985 since 5th February 1985 over 18,416 Tamil refugees have crossed over to India from Sri Lanka by boat.
- 7.4 Since July 1983, about 84,950 Tamils have taken refuge in India.

8.0 GENERAL

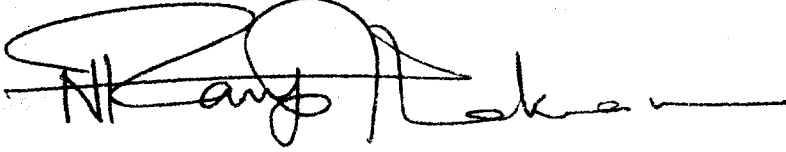
- 8.1 Singapore has supplied six new Bell 212 helicopters equipped with latest electronic devices and guns.

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8.2 Two Israilli experts are training the police commandos in Batticaloa.

8.3 Two Israilli experts are training navy personnel at Trincomalee and are assisting the navy in the use of missiles from navy vessels.



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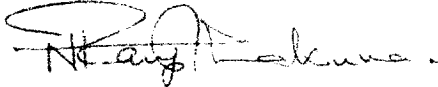
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TAMIL INFORMATION CENTRE
URGENT NOTE QUESTIONNAIRE

Dear Friends

Urgent Notes have been published since June 1983 and you have been receiving them for some time in the past. We are now in the process of updating the TIC Mailing List and would like to take the opportunity to assess our work and to ensure that you are receiving the Urgent Note regularly. we would be grateful if you could fill out this form (IN BLOCK CAPITALS) and return to London. We can only retain your name on our Mailing List if you return this form to us.

Thank you for your co-operation.



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- g) Other (Specify)

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Please use additional sheets, if necessary to continue with your answers and return the questionnaire to The Information Officer, Tamil Information Centre, 3rd Floor, 24-28 Clapham High Street, (Voltaire Road Entrance), London SW4 7UR, U K
