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TAMIL INFORMATION CENTRE

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

1.0 JAFFNA

- 1.1 On 2.5.85, two elderly Tamils were killed by the security forces in Jaffna.
- 1.2 On 4.5.85, the Naval Base at Karaingar and the Gurunagar army camp were attacked by the Tamil militants. According to official sources 3 navy personnel and 23 militants were killed and several others injured. In retaliation the navy personnel killed over 15 civilians in Karinagar and burnt over 1,000 houses in Palakuda, Cori and Velappiddy rendering 1000's of Tamils as refugees.
- 1.3 On 4.5.85, some Tamil passengers who had travelled from Colombo by a night bus called "SEKAR LUXURY" and reached Jaffna early morning, decided to remain inside the bus at the garage rather than to go out and risk navy reprisals. But the security forces went to the bus stop, ordered the passengers to line up, shot dead 3 of them and injured several others.
- 1.4 On 4.5.85, 14 Tamils were killed by the security forces on the Pannai causeway while travelling in a bus.
- 1.5 On 5.5.85, 15 Tamils were indiscriminately shot dead by the security forces at Nainathivu, presumably in retaliation for the attacks on their camp on the previous day.
- 1.6 On 8.5.85, army convoy ran over a landmine at Point-Pedro killing 4 security personnel.
- 1.7 On 9.5.85, the security forces surrounded a Tamil militant camp at Thikkam. The militants attacked back and a major and two other soliders were killed. In reprisal the army went on a rampage in Point-Pedro, Valvettithurai, Polikandy, Uddupiddy, Thikkam and Urani, killing 90 people and injuring several other civilians. Tamil women were also reported raped by the security forces in these areas. In one incident at Urani 12 school children of ages between 14 and 16 were lined up and shot dead at point blank range. In another incident at Uddupiddy the security forces herded 50 young Tamils of all ages including a father with a child in his arms into a small community centre and blew them up. Several houses and shops were looted and burnt in Uddupiddy, Polikandy, Thikkam and Urikkadu.
- 1.8 On 12.5.85, the Velvettithurai Citizens Committee sent a memorandum to the President of Sri Lanka about the rampages by the security forces in Valvettithurai, Polikandy, Thikkam and Urani.

- 1.9 On 11.5.85, an attempt to destroy the Jaffna Public Library was made, believed to be by the security forces. It will be recalled that a section of the Public Library which housed several 1000's of manuscripts was fully destroyed in June 1981, by the security forces and reconstruction is still underway.
- 1.10 On 12.5.85, at Vathiri over 300 people were rendered refugees consequently to the army rampage in that area.
- 1.11 On 12.5.85 an army truck ran over a landmine at Kodikamam killing 3 and injuring several others. After this incident army personnel burnt the nearby shops and killed a civilian.
- 1.12 On 12.5.85, security forces were seen transporting several loads of tyres into Jaffna. It is believed that it is for a mass destruction of shops and houses in the Jaffna District.
- 1.13 On 13.5.85, 500 army personnel carried out a "search operation" at Kalviankadu. 10 of them are reported to have raped a Tamil woman - a mother of 5 children - during this operation.
- 1.14 On 14.5.85, the security forces carried out a "search operation" in Chunnakam, Illavalai, Kangesanthurai, Maviddapuram, Keerimalai and Theellipalai. During this operation they killed 3 Tamils in Chunnakam.
- 1.15 On 15.5.85, a passenger boat from Delft was attacked by navy personnel killing at least 24 persons including a child of 4 years. About 40 persons were injured. This is believed to be in retaliation for an attack in Anuradhapura by unknown persons alleged to be Tamil militants.

2.0 KILINCHCHI

- 2.1 On 9.5.85, Tamil militants attacked an army post at Kokkavil posted at the Television relay station, killing several army personnel. Several of the militants were also killed.
- 2.2 On 11.5.85, the security forces burnt 175 houses at Irannaimadu.
- 2.3 On 11.5.85, the Tamil houses of Tamil refugees (Victims of violence of 1977, 1981 and 1983) were burnt down by the security forces between Kilinchchi and Murukandy.
- 2.4 On 12.5.85, at Iyakkachchi an army convoy was attacked by Tamil militants. The number of casualties is not known yet.

3.0 MANNAR

- 3.1 On 10.5.85, the Mannar police station was attacked by Tamil militants and according to official sources 6 policemen were killed and another six were missing, and the building was damaged.

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3.2 On 10.5.85, after the above attack the police personnel went on a rampage burning shops and houses in Mannar and several Tamils were rendered refugees.

3.3 On 11.5.85, 9 burnt bodies were found in the Town of Mannar. They were beyond identification.

4.0 MULLAITIVU

4.1 On 9.5.85, the army went on a rampage at Murikandy Hindu Temple, killing a priest and several other worshippers. 7 Tamils were also injured.

5.0 TRINCOMALEE

5.1 On 2.5.85, the security forces fired from a helicopter in Muthur stating that they were attacking a militant camp and killed several civilians.

5.2 On 9.5.85, A Thangathurai, former MP for Muthur was released.

5.3 On 12.5.85, the Tamil militants ambushed a police convoy. According to official sources 2 police personnel were killed and some others injured.

6.0 BATTICALOA

6.1 On 2.5.85, the security forces fired at Tamils at Navatkuda killing a man and injuring 2 girls and set fire to a few houses.

6.2 On 2.5.85, at Manchanthoduvai the security forces fired indiscriminately killing Sathasivam Chitra (Age 8) and Ponnambalam Chandrasegaram.

6.3 On 2.5.85, at Karaveddi the police commandos arrested Mrs Thankavadivel and set fire to her house.

6.4 On 2.5.85, a Tamil was shot dead at Neelavanai.

6.5 On 6.5.85, the Government Agent Batticaloa convened a peace meeting between the leading members of Tamils and Muslims. At this meeting, Mr Jawata Chairman MPCs Kathankudy, Mr Nilan and Mr Ahamed Lebbe, formed chairman of Kathankudy Town Council all Muslims have categorically denied that Tamil militants harassed the Muslims or were involved in the Muslim-Tamil riots.

6.6 On 7.5.85, 200 Tamils were arrested by the security forces at Kalavanchikudi.

6.7 On 7.5.85, at Pullumalai a Tamil businessman was pulled out of a bus and shot dead by the police commandos.

6.8 On 9.5.85, the police commandos burnt several Tamil houses at Muthalaikuda.

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- 6.9 On 10.5.85, 4 Tamils were shot dead by the police commandos at Kurinchamunai.
- 6.10 At Veloor colony in kallady 2 Tamils were shot dead by police commandos and 2 houses were also destroyed.
- 6.11 On 10.5.85, police commandos carried out arbitrary arrests and harassed the people in Batticaloa.
- 6.12 On 10.5.85, 3 Tamils were killed by police commandos at Kokkatticholai.
- 6.13 On 11.5.85, an anti-malaria campaign worker and 3 others were shot dead by the police commandos.
- 6.14 On 15.5.85, the Akkaraipathu police station was attacked by Tamil militants and according to official sources, 2 policemen were killed.
- 6.15 On 16.5.85, 18 Tamil civilians were killed by police commandos at Akkaripathu presumably in retaliation for the attack on the police station the previous day.

7.0 OTHER DISTRICTS :

- 7.1 ANURADHAPURA : On 14.5.85, some unknown persons, believed to be Tamil militants, carried out an attack in Anuradhapura near an ancient pilgrimage centre and at another point killing over 100 Sinhalese including three nuns and injuring several others. It is believed that this is in retaliation for the attack by the Sri Lanka security forces in Tamil villages in Jaffna on 9th May killing over 70 Tamils. After this incident the Tamil shops and houses in Anuradhapura were attacked by the 'Sinhalese' and about 17 Tamils were killed. Violence was also reported to be occurring Puttalam, chillaw and Kurunegala.
- 7.2 PUTTALAM : On 2.5.85, several Tamils were arrested at Uddappu.
- PUTTALAM : On 4.5.85, the private bus carrying Tamil passengers from Colombo to Jaffna was attacked by a Sinhalese mob near Puttalam and two Tamil women passengers are also reported raped. The valuable were also looted.
- 7.3 MADHAWACHIYA : On 15.5.85, the Tamil station master Selvarajah was killed by a Sinhalese mob.

8.0 GENERAL

- 8.1 On 15.5.85, violence was reported to be occurring at Puttalam Chilaw and Kurunagala.
- 8.2 On 7.4.85, Minister Thondaman said at a public meeting held in Ragala, "The Ceylon Workers Congress is supporting the government for a just and fair political solution to the Tamil ethnic issue and to win our rights of the up-country Tamils. But we are tend to presume that the

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8.2 government is deviating from the assurances given for a political solution to the Tamil problem."


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HUMAN RIGHTS GROUP

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NOW, EASTERN PROVINCE

IS BURNING

What the hell is happening in the Eastern Province?

This is what every Sri Lankan would like to know.

SEE PAGE 6

தமிழ்த் தேசிய ஆவணச் சுவடிகள்

The conflicting statements made by persons in responsible positions cannot but leave everyone bewildered.

That two communities, the Tamils and the Muslims, who have been living in amity for centuries, should be at each other's throat is a great tragedy.

That the people are not told how and why it happened is a greater tragedy.

We at the SATURDAY REVIEW do not for a moment subscribe to the glib theory that "Tamil Terrorists" are behind it all.

From all the information available to us, we tend to believe that "outside forces" are at work to foster and ferment trouble to achieve their own sinister objective.

Days before the trouble erupted in any serious magnitude, the people were treated to a televised show of Muslims demonstrating against "Tamil terrorist activity" in the Eastern Province. How the State television crews were on hand to record this "spontaneous demonstration" must have baffled many a viewer. We, for our part, regarded it as one more prong in a Grand Design being unfolded by an unseen hand.

In this context, the speech made by the ex-M.P. for Muthur, Mr. A. E. Majeed at the opening of a Muslim Cultural Centre at Kinniya on 12th April—several days before the trouble broke out—offers much food for thought.

Mr. Majeed said (according to report in the Colombo-based Virakesari of 16th April) that the Tamils and the Muslims in the Eastern Province had been living in harmony for hundreds of years.

"I wish to bring to your notice that certain sinister forces and self-interested parties are trying to bring about a violent clash between the Tamils and the Muslims. Therefore, Muslims should be vigilant."

"We learn that certain fake politicians are doing their damndest to provoke a violent ethnic conflict between the Tamils and the Muslims in the Eastern Province which will only result in the loss of life and property. Such a conflict will also further weaken the position of the Muslims. "We must see through the motives of these politicians instead of shifting the blame to the Tamils."

From the ex-M.P.'s speech, it is obvious that another "July 1983" was in the making for quite some time.

According to reports that have appeared in the Colombo media, Karattivu, Malikaikadu, Valachchenai and the outskirts of Batticaloa town have been the worst affected by the clashes between Tamils and Muslims.

Nearly 20,000 people of both communities have been displaced from their homes, adding to the number of Sri Lankans who have been reduced to the state of refugees in their own land of birth.

The number killed, from both communities, according to official figures, is around 50.

Four Ministers—Mr. K. Devanayagam (Home Affairs), Mr. A. C. S. Hameed (Foreign Affairs), Mr. S. Thondaman (Rural Industrial Development and Mr. C. Rajadurai (Regional Development and 1st M.P. for Batticaloa) reportedly briefed President Jayewardene on the development in the Eastern Province.

The poor President must be equally baffled by the conflicting versions conveyed to him by his own Ministers!

According to versions published in the Colombo media, Mr. Hameed was of the view that a "Tiger-vendetta" had undermined Tamil-Muslim unity in the Eastern Province.

Mr. Devanayagam and Mr. Thondaman were inclined to believe that "outside forces" were responsible for the eruption of violence.

At a conference held at the Batticaloa Kachcheri, Mr. Devanayagam is reported to have said that "Third Forces" had entered the Eastern Province and are bringing about clashes between the Tamils and the Muslims in order to gain their own ends". The Muslims should be careful not to fall into this trap.

The conference was halted midway and Mr. Devanayagam visited areas where there had been fresh outbursts of violence, before leaving for Colombo. He said he would brief the President on what he had seen at first hand. To a question whether he would resign from the Cabinet, as rumour had it, he replied that he could not say anything about this at the present time.

As usual, we must allow the irrepressible Minister for National Security, Mr. Lalith Athulathmudali to have the last word.

The State-controlled Daily News of 25th April said that Mr. Athulathmudali had told the Cabinet of Ministers the previous day that "the violence in the Eastern Province was a result of a Terrorist attempt to compel support for the Eelam demand by the traditional method of intimidation."

He should know, the all-knowing one, who sees "Tamil terrorists" behind most things that are happening in Sri Lanka.

Heaven help Sri Lanka!