



## TAMILS TARGETED AS AN ETHNIC GROUP SAYS AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL

Amnesty International says in a report summarising human rights concerns in 1993, that thousands of Tamil people, including prisoners of conscience, were arbitrarily arrested and detained, solely on account of their ethnicity, especially in Colombo.

In both Batticaloa and Trincomalee Districts, hundreds of people were paraded before masked informants, according to Amnesty, to identify suspects and many were arrested for questioning. Others were detained for the sole reason that they were relatives of an alleged LTTE member and some were held in acknowledged detention for long periods.

Most in police custody were Tamils and of 1,092 in prisons, 889 were Tamil. Amnesty says the government has released no figures for those held in military custody. By August 1993, 464 Tamils had been held for over 32 months without trial in Kalutara prison alone.

Amnesty further says that 16 people "disappeared" in February 1993 after arrest by the army at Vannathi Aru in Batticaloa District. Three people also disappeared in Mannar after arrest by the police.

Bodies of at least three Tamils killed by 'death squads' were found in Colombo and Amnesty says no outcome of investigations into the killings was known by the end of the year. Amnesty has also highlighted the killing by security forces of civilians crossing the Jaffna lagoon at Kilali and in

airforce bombing raids on Jaffna.

The Amnesty report points out that security forces summarily executed some alleged LTTE members following capture even though they offered no resistance and could have been arrested.

Amnesty International also says that the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) hold an unknown number of political prisoners in unacknowledged detention, and there were fears for their safety. Executions were repeatedly carried out and an LTTE spokesman, according to Amnesty, admitted that "serious action" was taken against informants, but denied that as many as several thousand prisoners were held. LTTE acknowledged in November 1993 that around 30-40 people considered as political opponents were in detention.

In another report titled "Balancing Human Rights and Security: Abuse of Arrest and Detention powers in Colombo" released in February, Amnesty has provided details of arbitrary arrests and detention in Colombo. Some Tamil people have been arrested by groups of armed men in military or civilian dress, blindfolded and taken to secret places of detention where they have been held and tortured. The report says that some arrests may have been carried out by a unit of the Directorate of Military Intelligence (DMI) which has links with the National Intelligence Bureau (NIB). The government has denied any involvement in secret detention and claims that private Tamil groups

opposed to the LTTE have been responsible for illegal abductions.

Amnesty points out that under international law, particularly Article 4 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, although the government may take special measures to deal with a crisis, some human rights, including rights to freedom from torture and arbitrary deprivation of life, may never be suspended under any circumstance. Further, because a state of emergency should be an extension of the Rule of Law, not an abrogation of it, other rights may be suspended only to the extent strictly required by the exigencies of the situation. Amnesty says it believes that the indiscriminate nature of the large scale arrests, during which thousands of people have been arrested solely because of their ethnic origin, is unjustified and is in breach of the International Covenant.

The Sri Lankan government has not implemented the 42 recommendations by Amnesty International which it accepted in 1992. The government made several promises at the Fiftieth Session of the Human Rights Commission, as in the previous years, and took several measures to appease the members of the Commission.

Sri Lanka acceded, just days before the Fiftieth UNHRC sessions to the UN Convention against Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman and Degrading Treatment or Punishment, although the undertaking to accede was given by the Sri Lankan government at the

49th Session. On 31 January the day the UNHRC session began, the government announced its intention to set up a permanent Human Rights Commission composed of retired judges and to issue death certificates to the next-of-kin of persons reported missing after one year of such disappearances. The government also recently declared that the Presidential Commission of Inquiry into Disappearances would be empowered to conduct inquiries into disappearances.

Eleven NGOs drew the attention of the Commission to the tremendous losses of life and property in the North-East and displacement of over a million people caused by the military conflict. The NGOs pointed out that the civilian population of the North-East live without basic amenities under constant threat to their safety and security and are subjected to continued, widespread and indiscriminate aerial bombing. The government uses the conflict to prolong the state of emergency declared in May 1983 under which fundamental freedoms guaranteed under the Sri Lankan Constitution continue to be infringed with impunity. The NGOs urged the Commission to appoint a special

Rapporteur to make a thorough study of the violations of human rights in Sri Lanka.

London-based Article 19, the International Centre against Censorship, told the Commission that there was ample evidence that the hand of the government operates in virtually every sphere of society and outside the context of law to abridge the right of freedom of expression. The International Council of Voluntary Agencies (ICVA) said that Sri Lankan government actions relating to disappearances, torture and emergency legislation as assured to the Commission in 1993, do not amount to the radical policy changes needed to end the war. ICVA urged the Commission to press vigorously for an immediate cessation of hostilities and commencement of negotiations.

Acknowledging the Sri Lankan government statement the chairman of the Commission at the 49th sessions referred to government's programme of work to be implemented in 1993. These included,

1) taking appropriate measures to ascertain the whereabouts of alleged missing persons;

2) prosecution of those found responsible for disappearances and other human rights violations;  
3) a comprehensive review and revision of emergency legislation relating to arrest and detention;  
4) Compilation and publication of a consolidated version of all current emergency regulations;  
5) continued implementation of the UN Working Group on Disappearances.

Human rights NGOs say that major part of the recommendations of the comprehensive review of the emergency regulations by the Centre for the study of Human Rights of the University of Colombo and the Nadesan Centre have not been implemented. Instead the government introduced new emergency regulations in December 1993 on sedition and incitement. None of the other undertaking has been implemented. It is most likely that the government of Sri Lanka would make fresh assurances at the 50th session of UNCHR. As this continues year after year, it would not be too much for the battered people of Sri Lanka to expect the Human Rights Commission to take decisive action. But observers say this is most unlikely.

## SITUATION REPORT

### RELIEF TO BE STOPPED

The Rehabilitation Ministry announced on 25 February that relief for those who refuse to be resettled in areas in the North-East which the army has declared as "cleared", will be stopped from 31 March. In Batticaloa, Vavuniya, Trincomalee, Amparai and Mannar districts there are 233,000 refugees in camps and 342,000 outside camps receiving relief assistance.

### ESTATE WORKERS ARRESTED

Badulla MP T. V. Sennan said in Parliament on 23 February that the son of Sabragamuva Provincial Councillor A.M.D. Rajan was arrested and detained for several days despite producing his identity card. He also said that eight estate leaders who led trade union action when the management of an estate attempted to pay only half the wages due, were arrested by police.

### CONDITIONS TO RELEASE PRISONERS

'Voice of the Tigers' radio announced in Jaffna on 11 February that the LTTE would consider releasing the policemen held as prisoners if a ceasefire was announced by the government and the economic blockade of the North was removed.

## MORE RESTRICTIONS ON RICE FARMERS

Batticaloa military co-ordinator Brig Rohan Gunawardene has ordered that rice mill owners in the Paduvankarai area must obtain permits from the army to continue to function. Mill owners are required under the new order to submit all details of the mills to the nearest army camp. Farmers will be allowed to transport only 30 bags of rice for every acre cultivated. If more rice is produced per acre permission must be obtained from the army with the recommendation of the Agricultural Services Department.

Farmers are also required to have special identity cards when visiting their fields. The army has also decreed that special permits must be obtained to work in the fields at night. Special permission must also be sought from the Department to cultivate leased lands. The use of fertiliser has also been restricted by the army. Urea as fertiliser can be used only in fields within the area of one mile radius from an army camp. Furthermore a permit must be obtained from the army to store more than 50 bags of rice in a residential building.

## SEARCH OPERATION IN BATTICALOA

Puthur and Thimilaitivu villages in Batticaloa District were surrounded by police at dawn and searched on 12 February. All the villagers including old men and women were ordered to assemble near the Puthur Pillayar temple and inquiries conducted.

## ARRIVAL OF REFUGEES

Under the UNHCR-monitored repatriation programme, 508 Tamil refugees belonging to 144 families arrived in Talaimannar by ship from Tamil Nadu on 11 February.

## TIC ACCESSION LIST

A selection of documents received by TIC in February 1994

SHR 3226  
Titunavukkatacu, Mu  
Putiya carvateca olunkin kil  
Intiyavin Veliyutavuk kolkai  
Jaffna: Tamilaip Patippakam;  
October 1992  
40p. (Text in Tamil)  
**DESCRIPTORS:** Foreign Interest  
/ India / USA / International  
Relations / Sri Lankan Tamils

OHR 273  
Norwegian Refugee Council  
Norwegian government round table  
discussion on United Nations  
Human Rights protection for  
internally displaced persons.  
Switzerland: Norwegian Refugee  
Council; February 1993  
71p.  
**DESCRIPTORS:** Displaced  
persons / Resolution / UNHCR /  
Appeal

SHR 3294  
Towards a just peace in the island of  
Sri Lanka  
Surrey: International Federation of  
Tamil; March 1994  
49p.  
**DESCRIPTORS:** Statement /  
UNHCR / Appeal / Genocide /  
Economic Blockade / Sri Lankan  
Tamils / Bombing / NGOs

SHR 3292  
Ann, Adele  
Women Fighters of Liberation  
Tigers  
London: LTTE Interantional  
Secretariat; 19th January 1993  
140p  
**DESCRIPTORS:** Women /  
Liberation Fighters / LTTE /  
History / Attack on army camps /  
Photographs

SHR 3303  
Human Rights Task Force  
Annual Report 10 August 1992 to  
10 August 1993  
Colombo: Human Rights Task  
Force; 29th October 1993  
36p.  
**DESCRIPTORS:** Emergency  
Regulations / Arrest / Killing /  
Visit Report / Foreign Mission /  
Students / Trial / Disappearance /

Detention camp / Statistics /  
Rehabilitation /  
Recommendations / Amnesty  
International

SHR 3304  
Too Little, Too Late: TULF's  
dissent from PSC's  
Recommendation  
Sri Lanka: TULF; 23rd March 1993  
21p.  
**DESCRIPTORS:** Select  
Committee / Peace Initiative /  
TULF / Ethnic Problem / Sri  
Lankan Tamils / Political History  
/ Statistics / North - Eastern  
province / Colonisation

SHR 3306  
UNCHR 50th session: Joint  
statement  
Geneva: NGOs; February 1994  
3p.  
**DESCRIPTORS:** Statement /  
NGO's / UNCHR / Sri Lankan  
Tamils / Discrimination / Self-  
determination / Colonisation /  
Statistics

SHR 3313  
Profile: Sri Lanka  
Hong Kong: Asia Partnership for  
Human Development; November  
1993  
8p  
**DESCRIPTORS:** Sri Lanka /  
History / Statistics / Ethnic  
Problem / Economy

SHR 3314  
Question and Answer in Parliament  
London: Secretary of State for the  
Home Department; 23rd November  
1993  
**DESCRIPTORS:** Detention /  
Deportation / Sri Lankan Tamils /  
United Kingdom

SHR 3311  
Emergency Regulations on sedition  
and incitement  
Sri Lanka: Free Media Movement;  
23rd December 1993  
2p.  
**DESCRIPTORS:** Emergency  
Regulations / Freedom of  
Expression / Sri Lanka

## FEBRUARY DIARY

**FEBRUARY 1**

**ARMY SEARCH OPERATION:**

Vinayapuram, Kannankiramam and Peithalai villages in Batticaloa were surrounded by the army at 2.00 p.m. Around 600 residents were ordered to assemble and houses were searched.

**FEBRUARY 2**

**BRITISH ENVOY IN**

**VAVUNIYA:** British High Commissioner John Field visited Vavuniya and inspected the Thandikulam check point and refugee camps in the area.

**FEBRUARY 3**

**UNIVERSITY STUDENTS**

**DEMONSTRATE:** The Science and Agricultural faculties of the Eastern University in Batticaloa were closed after students began boycotting lectures from 1 February following the decision of the University authorities to suspend two students who argued with security officers.

**FEBRUARY 4**

**TAMIL REFUGEES SAVED:**

Thirty six Tamil refugees left afloat in rubber dinghys off the coast of Denmark were saved by the Danish Sea Rescue Service. Police said they were searching for the ship in which the Tamil refugees arrived.

**FEBRUARY 5**

**OUTBOARD MOTORS**

**ROBBED:** Outboard motors from 16 boats were robbed at Silavaturai in Mannar District by unidentified persons. Two boats were also robbed. Police say the LTTE carried out the robbery.

**FEBRUARY 6**

**THONDAMAN INVITED TO**

**CANADA:** Tourism Minister S. Thondaman said that he was examining an invitation by prominent Canadian lawyer Max Merger and the expatriate Tamil community, to visit Canada to explore ways, using the good offices of the Canadian

government, to solve the Sri Lankan conflict.

**FEBRUARY 7**

**BATTICALOA DETAINEES:**

The Batticaloa Peace Committee has displayed a list of persons arrested in the Batticaloa District and detained. According to the Peace Committee 308 persons arrested between 8.1.92 and 30.11.92 are in Kalutara prison and 332 persons arrested between 7.1.92 and 1.12.92 are held in the New Magazine prison, Colombo.

**FEBRUARY 8**

**TAMIL HUNT IN NEGEMBO:**

SLFP MP Jeyaraj Fernandopulle said in Parliament that Tamils were unable to visit their relatives in Negombo on important occasions such as weddings or funerals. A number of Tamil visitors to Negombo have been arrested on allegations of LTTE links.

**ARRESTS IN COLOMBO:**

Jampettah Street, Kotahena in the Colombo District was searched by the army and police from 8.00 p.m. to mid-night. Around 30 Tamils were arrested.

**FEBRUARY 9**

**TAMIL MURDERED BY**

**POLICE:** Police constables at the Peithalai Holiday Home police station were interrogated after Periyathamby Rajadurai (age 35) was hacked to death at Nasivanthivu village in Batticaloa District Rajadurai's brother was admitted to the hospital with serious injuries.

**FEBRUARY 10**

**SARVODAYA LEADER**

**MEETS PRESIDENT:** After visiting Jaffna, Sarvodaya leader A. T. Ariyaratne met President D. B. Wijetunge and conveyed the requests of the people of Jaffna. During his visit people expressed concerns about the economic blockade, aerial bombing and lack of security in travelling. Mr

Ariyaratne handed over a taped message from Tiger leader Karikalan to the President.

**FEBRUARY 11**

**SHORTAGE OF TEACHERS:**

North-East Province Additional Director of Education S. Mahalingam said that the province needed another 6,000 teachers.

**FEBRUARY 12**

**PRESIDENT TO END WAR IN**

**SIX MONTHS:** Speaking in Matale President Wijetunge said that the members of the minority had the opportunity to visit and live in any county, but the majority had to live only in Sri Lanka and therefore the majority must ensure that the country is not divided. He declared that he will end the war in the next six months and solve the North-East conflict.

**FEBRUARY 13**

**ARMY OCCUPIES HOUSES IN**

**MANNAR:** Reports said refugees in Mannar were unable to return to home areas in Mannar because their houses were within army camp perimeter. In Pesalai, Vankalai, Pallimunai, Panankattukottu and Talaimannar Pier West over 170 houses are occupied by the army.

**FEBRUARY 14**

**SHORTAGE OF DRUGS:**

Batticaloa MP Joseph Parajasingham sent a cable to Health Minister Renuka Herath requesting immediate supply of medicines to the Batticaloa hospital. Even pain-killers and anti-biotics were not available in the hospital.

**FEBRUARY 15**

**NAVY ATTACKS INDIAN**

**FISHERMAN:** Fishermen from Rameswaram in India, who were fishing near Kachchativu were attached by the Sri Lankan navy. A fisherman was injured and three others were arrested and released later.

## FEBRUARY DIARY

### LTTE CAMP IN MANNAR:

Police said a LTTE camp was discovered between Puthukudiruppu and Olathoduvaai when an army / police team searched the area for two Muslim fishermen who went missing on 13 February. One fisherman was released by the LTTE.

### AIR FORCES KILLS IN

**KILINCHCHI:** In air attacks at Nachchikudah in the Kilinochchi District three civilians were killed and nine others were seriously injured.

### FEBRUARY 16

**UNHCR TO RETURN:** Reports said UNHCR will resume operations in Madhu where there are over 35,000 Tamil refugees. A UNHCR team will visit Madhu later in the month before operations begin.

### FEBRUARY 17

**CHURCH BOMBED BY ERROR:** The new airforce Commander Air Vice Marshall Oliver Ranasinghe told reporters that the airforce targets only LTTE installations and that the attack on St. James' Church in Jaffna was an error.

### FEBRUARY 18

**BOMBING IN KILINCHCHI:** The airforce bombed the Nachchikudah sea. Reports said bodies of two fishermen were washed ashore and nine others were missing.

### THONDAMAN ON TAMIL

**RIGHTS:** CWC President and Rural Industrial Development Minister S. Thondaman said at a meeting in Colombo that the Tamils were not demanding special treatment but only claiming rights granted to other communities. Tamils will not accept anything less than those rights granted to others, he emphasized.

### NAVY KILLS INDIAN

**FISHERMEN:** The Sri Lankan Navy shot dead two Indian fishermen who were fishing near Kachchativu. Another person was

seriously injured.

### FEBRUARY 19

**TAMILS ARRESTED IN BATTICALOA:** In a search operation launched at mid-night the police arrested 103 Tamils at Kallady in Batticaloa District. Those arrested were taken to the Manjamthoduvaai army camp.

### FEBRUARY 20

**TAMIL PARTICULARS COMPILED:** Police are collecting particulars of Tamils living in the Munthal area of Puttalam District. Police officers are engaged in compiling particulars of Tamils in Udappu, Andimunai, Munthal, Karunkalicholai and Poonaipithy villages.

### FEBRUARY 21

**ARRESTS IN GALLE:** Three Tamils who came to Galle for employment were arrested by the Special Police Unit.

### FEBRUARY 22

**ACCIDENTAL FIRE IN CAMP:** The army / police camp at Vavunativu in Batticaloa District was gutted by fire. A large quantity of ammunition was destroyed.

### FEBRUARY 23

**TEACHERS DENIED WAGES:** According to reports teachers in the army- controlled islands west of the Jaffna peninsula have not received their wages for the past four months. Teachers in Nedunitivu, Analaitivu, Eluvaitivu, Kayts and Punkudutivu received their wages last in October 1993.

### ELEPHANTS HILLS

**REFUGEES:** Over fifty wild elephants entered the Urukamam Ramakrishna colony and killed six refugees including a child. Twenty-six houses were damaged.

### FEBRUARY 24

**LTTE ATTACK IN MANAL ARU:** Two soldiers were injured in an attack launched by the LTTE on

the security post in the Kalyanapura village at Manal Aru. Reports said around 100 Tigers were involved in the attack.

### FEBRUARY 25

**TIGERS RELEASE TWO POLICEMEN:** Two policemen held in custody by the LTTE were released following an appeal by Catholic Bishop Rev. Marcus Fernando. On arrival in Trincomalee the policemen said there are 59 other security force personnel in LTTE custody.

### MORE DEATHS OF DISEASE:

Rathika Jerald (age 35 days) of Panditharkudiyiruppu and Sivasubramaniam Indradevi (age 35) from Katkoyalam refugee camp died of disease in the Jaffna hospital.

### FEBRUARY 26

#### KILALI PASSENGERS

**ATTACKED:** Sixty-nine boats crossing the Jaffna lagoon at Kilali came under attack by the air force. Passengers waiting at Nallur in Kilinochchi District to cross into the peninsula were also attacked. One civilian was killed and ten others injured. A woman who hid in a bush was bitten by a snake and taken to the Kilinochchi hospital.

### FEBRUARY 27

**PLEA TO CONTINUE RELIEF:** Batticaloa MP Joseph Pararajasingham pointed out that in many areas of North and East normalcy had not been restored and urged President Wijetunge to continue relief to refugees.

### FEBRUARY 28

#### FOOD STAMPS DELAYED:

Reports said that food stamps for dry rations to refugees for March 1994 had not been received in the Jaffna peninsula. The Jaffna secretariat said the stamps had not been printed by Government Printers. In the Jaffna peninsula 60,000 families are dependant on dry rations.



## LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTIONS IN THE EAST AND VAVUNIYA, SRI LANKA

The local government elections in the East and Vavuniya town is scheduled for 1 March 1994. It is significant that no election had been held in the North-east since 1989.

Official figures of the Elections Commissioner show that 2,013 candidates are vying for 431 seats. No Tamil political party is contesting the elections in the Eastern province in spite of the fact that Tamils form the majority in the province. The ruling UNP, SLFP, SLMC and DUNF are the recognised political parties contesting. The Tamil parties, TULF, EPRLF and ACTC have decided to boycott on the grounds that there is no guarantee that the elections will be free and fair due to the prevailing security situation in these areas. The Tamil militant groups PLOTE and TELO are contesting only in Vauniya. Twelve other groups are also contesting the election as independents.

There have been many complaints of candidates being forced by security forces personnel and state employees to sign nomination papers under duress. Joseph Pararajasingam, MP in a communication to President Wijetunge has alleged that his constituents have been forcibly taken in state vehicles and produced before officers in charge of the elections in the East and asked to sign nomination papers against their wish as ruling UNP candidates. Responding to the MP's complaint the Elections Commissioner had announced that any person made to sign nomination papers under duress could immediately nullify it by making a complaint at a police station. He had also added that the matter had been referred to the Ministry of Defence for inquiry. It is important to note that the allegations had been made against these very persons to whom the

commissioner had referred it for inquiry. Presidential Secretary K.H.J. Wijedasa however, has dismissed the complaints as a fabrication by MPs to please the LTTE, and no inquiry has been conducted.

Speaking in parliament on 19 January K Karunakaran MP from TELO requested the government to send an elections observer team to the East. His speech had the following revelations:-

"I was in Batticaloa when nomination papers were prepared. I observed certain things and decided that such persons should not be allowed to win. Therefore I have come forward to support certain independent groups. In Batticaloa a political party and some independent groups have forcibly obtained the signature of a man on nomination papers. When he said that Tigers will shoot him, he was told "You can only bear six children, can't you stand at elections. Place your signature". They have also told the candidates from whom signatures were obtained forcibly, "you stay at home we will make you win". Another organiser told the people that they had the security forces in the area and if his party lost the elections security forces will be withdrawn and government officers will be dealt with".

A conference held for candidates by the Batticaloa Government Agent on 23 January confirmed the allegations of the two MPs referred to above. Cheliyan Perinpanayagam, leader of the second independent group presented the following proposals at this conference.

a) that no security personnel be allowed within the polling booths.

b) that polling agents be allowed to travel with the sealed ballot boxes in the vehicles after their being sealed.

c) that no security personnel be allowed to travel with the ballot boxes.

d) that no security forces personnel should campaign for candidates.

e) that an observer group consisting of political parties, NGOs and Human Rights organisations be appointed.

M.L.A.M. Hisbullah, MP from SLMC supported these proposals and alleged that a Senior Superintendent of Police was actively engaged in selecting candidates and campaigning for them.

The Government Agent agreed to forward these proposals to the Elections Commissioner.

The security situation in the East has led to the displacement of a large number of voters who cannot vote due to their being unable to get back to their homes. According to the Batticaloa Co-ordinator Brigadier Guneratne there are 110,033 displaced persons in the Batticaloa district alone. The enormity of the problem for voters could easily be gauged by the total number of voters which is 254,067 for this district.

Examples of incidents:-

- Two soldiers were injured on 24 January in a land mine explosion at Ambilanthurai.

- Jeevaratnam Kanakarathnam, candidate was killed on 5 January. Several other candidates have received threats and have left the province for Colombo.

- Verugal army camp was attacked by the LTTE on 12

December in which one soldier was killed and two others injured.

The view held by the Tamil political parties that the security situation does not allow for a free and fair election in the East has been amply proved by the coercion used in the recruitment for candidates, the role of the security forces engaging in campaigning and the insecurity of both the candidates and the voters.

Some Tamils from Batticaloa who have become members of the ruling UNP to safeguard their businesses and who have helped people in Batticaloa in such matters as obtaining release of their children detained by the security forces, obtaining business licences, travel permits, transfers etc. have been used by the UNP to exert pressure on those who have been helped before to become candidates.

New reserve police officers have been recruited to protect candidates. These are none but young Tamil militant group members. Around four or five such persons have been detailed to protect each candidate. Former UNP Minister K W Devanayagam's relatives were actively involved in the forcible recruitment of candidates. Jana, a member of the Tamil militant group Tamil Eelam Liberation Organisation (TELO) who is also a relative of Mr Devanayagam was in the forefront of recruiting candidates. It is also significant that most of the independent candidates in the East belong to TELO.

In the candidates list almost 75% are persons who were members of militant groups and have used arms and the other 25% have never participated in politics or elections but have become candidates because of intimidation. The candidates may be divided into the following categories.

a) Those who have been members of militant groups and

now required by security forces to report at police stations or army camps periodically.

b) Those militant group members who are actively involved in the war against the LTTE, along with the security forces.

c) Those who have been recruited specifically for the purpose of preventing some other person becoming a candidate.

In Vaharai a candidate nominated by the UNP has submitted two nomination papers. Another candidate who has filed nomination papers is currently living in a refugee camp in India. There are a number of people in and around Batticaloa and other towns in the East who visit their farms and fields in the areas controlled by the LTTE and are suspected by the Army of having links with the LTTE. These persons have been forced to become candidates. Those persons who depend on government departments for licences, quotas and the conduct of their businesses have also been forced to sign nomination papers.

In army-controlled areas schools and other public buildings have been turned into polling stations. In areas where there is contest for control between the army and the LTTE, the army has taken over schools, principal's quarters, laboratories and handicraft centres and soldiers are living in these buildings and class rooms are converted as polling booths. There is no doubt that army will interfere with the elections in most areas like how there was total interference by the Indian Peace Keeping Force during the general elections in 1989.

In Kurukkalmadam and Cheddipalayam additional police

stations have been established and mobile police stations are in use. The candidate for these areas is the father of Karunakaran MP. Karunakaran is a TELO member and at the last election when IPKF was present TELO won almost 100% of the votes in the area through sheer intimidation and threats. It is feared that people will similarly be forced to vote at this election also.

In Vaharai there were 15,000 Tamils. But 7,000 of them have fled the area because of violence. The government is settling Sinhalese in the area and surrounding jungles are being cleared for such colonisation. This election is also used by the government to colonise the Tamil areas.

The LTTE is in control of many areas and could easily move into army-controlled areas. It is also feared that the LTTE may target the candidates.

The forcible recruitment of candidates shows that the election is not free and fair. Intimidation of voters continues and it is clear that voting at the election will also not be free and fair. Tamils feel that the election is a futile exercise to hoodwink the international community and to keep them away from making efforts to address the Tamil National problem in Sri Lanka.

## UNCHR officers visit Vavuniya

UNHCR officers, including the Director for Asia, visited refugee camps in Sithamparapuram, Vepankulam, Adapankulam and Karambaimadu on 14th February.

## SITUATION REPORT

### Discrimination in Flood Relief

Families affected by the recent floods at Puthukudiruppu in the Valaichenai area have been provided only one kilo of rice as relief by the government. Although Rs. 4,000 has been paid in some areas as flood relief, people say Puthukudiruppu has been neglected. Most of the families affected are poor and are engaged in fishing or chena cultivation.

### Tamil Detained After Release Order

Ms Seethamby Selvarani is being held in detention even after she paid the fine imposed by the Colombo High Court. Selvarani was charged with failing to give information to the police regarding the assassination of navy commander Clancy Fernando. The High Court imposed a two-year suspended sentence and a fine of Rs. 8,500 on 4 January. The fine was immediately paid, whereupon she should have been released. But she is still being detained without any reason. The Legal Aid Centre of the Sri Lanka Bar Association has brought the issue to the notice of the Minister of Defence.

### Plantation workers Attacked

Three workers on Uduwara Estate in Badulla were attacked and seriously injured S. Thangaraj, R. Rajaratnam and D. Sabramaniam were admitted to the Badulla hospital. CWC officers said industrial dispute with the management may have been the reason for the attack.

### Aged Couple Detained

In a letter to the Human Rights Task Force (HRTF), Attorney-at-law A. Vinayagamurthy says that Nagandapody (age 80) and his wife Alagammah (age 70) were arrested on 23rd November and are being held in detention for the last three months without any reason.

The couple from Mahiladytivu in Batticaloa arrived in Colombo, after they heard that their son was detained at the Security Coordinating Division at Malalasekara Mawatha. But they were arrested on arrival at the Division. Currently Nagandapody is detained at the New Magazine prison and Alagammah is held at the Welikada prison.

### Miscarriages in Jaffna

According to a report published by the Jaffna Municipal Council, 107 women suffered miscarriages in the Jaffna peninsula in 1993 as a result of shock and malnutrition. Thirty seven children were stillborn and 41 other children died after birth.

### More troops to the North

A Senior army officer says 10,000 more troops will be sent to the North beginning from March. Currently there are 35,000 troops in the North.

### Epidemic in Jaffna

Septicaemia, malaria and pneumonia are spreading rapidly in the Jaffna peninsula, according to reports. On 8 February five persons including three children, died of diseases. Regionald Subani (age 2), Valerie Vincent (age 74) and S. Periyasamy (age 32) died of Septicaemia, N. Dharshink (age 2) died of malaria and V. Premadharshan (age 2) succumbed to pneumonia.

### Malaria in the Jaffna Peninsula

A report by the Malaria Prevention Division says 16,160 persons contracted malaria in 1993 in Jaffna District. Of these persons 1,221 persons suffered from malaria which led to brain fever. Most number of malaria patients were from the Point Pedro Health Division. In this division 6,063 patients were treated. In the Jaffna Municipal Council Health Division 4,783 persons had contracted malaria.

### Army search in Batticaloa

Santhiveli, Murakothanchenai, Thevapuram and Kaluvankerni villages were surrounded and the soldiers carried out a house-to-house search from 2.00 a.m. All the people were ordered to assemble in a public place and after inquiry four youths were arrested on 26th February.

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