



TAMIL INFORMATION

NEWS BULLETIN OF
THE TAMIL INFORMATION CENTRE

OCTOBER/NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 1995

SriLankan Government imposes restrictions on Tamil refugees

The capture of the Jaffna city by the Sri Lankan army in December in Operation *Sunray* has caused an unprecedented exodus of Tamil refugees into Thenmaratchy and the Vanni.

As the army approached the Jaffna town, the people began to move east towards Chavakachcheri even before the LTTE asked them to leave. The town was captured without much opposition, but the army earlier faced stiff resistance before Neerveli, north of Jaffna, was taken. Reports suggest that the LTTE put up the resistance to gain time to shift the large quantity of arms stored at Neerveli to other locations.

The victory was celebrated by the Government with much fanfare by raising the Sinhalese Lion flag (the adoption of which was opposed by the minorities four decades ago) over Jaffna. Deputy Defence Minister Anuruddha Ratwatte presented the President with a victory message in a public ceremony, as though a foreign country had been captured.

Some reports say that the government does not know what to do next. It is not possible to anticipate negotiations while the city remains occupied by the army and almost half a million Tamils have been driven out of their homes. It is hard to believe that the government did not anticipate the consequences of the massive military operation such as Operation *Sunray*. It is more likely that the government expected such a situation all along but had succumbed to pressure from hardliners. As early as September, NGOs urged that the government should have emergency-prepared plans or pre-positioned food or medical buffer stocks

in the event of a major military offensive. Sources say some NGOs wrote to President Chandrika Kumaratunge warning of the humanitarian crisis that will result from such an operation. Subsequent attacks on NGOs seem to stem from such a warning. This is not the first time the government has acted being fully aware of the consequences. President Chandrika met Indian Prime Minister Narasimha Rao in March 1995 and discussed the extradition of Tiger Leader V.Prabhakaran knowing well that it will lead to the breakdown of the peace talks between the government and the LTTE.

The government says that the war is not against the Tamils but against the LTTE. The government seems to forget that the war on Tamils launched by successive governments since independence gave rise to a militant organisation like the LTTE. The number of Tamil civilian deaths in the military operations since September belie the government assertion. The government also claimed that Operation *Sunray* was launched to free the "Tamils from the clutches" of the LTTE. But the operation drove 400,000 Tamils from their homes into the monsoon rain. When the army moved towards Jaffna heavy Chinese artillery was used with airforce bombardment. Civilians would not wait for such an advancing army which is well known for its atrocities. But the government has used the LTTE call to the people to vacate Jaffna to its advantage, by shifting the entire blame on the LTTE.

People in Jaffna city and Valikamam first fled to Chavakachcheri and then to Kilinochchi, Mullaitivu and Vavuniya across the Jaffna lagoon at Kilali. The ICRC and NGOs operating in Jaffna and

the Vanni have estimated that around 470,000 Tamils were displaced in the offensive. The Government Agents (GA) in the Vanni have registered over 324,000 names. The government disputes this figure and says only around 100,000 have become refugees. Jaffna GA was sacked by the government for publicising the fact that over 400,000 have been displaced.

The government intention in disputing the figures is clear. The government is sending food only for 100,000 people into Vanni which has to be shared by 400,000 people. The food is sent after delays by bureaucrats and the army. In December the government also imposed a restriction on the number of national and international NGOs assisting refugees in the north. NGOs operating in the North say, the restriction would adversely affect refugee work.

The government has also restricted medicines. A number of deaths have occurred among refugees because of lack of medicine and medical facilities. Point Pedro where the Jaffna hospital has been relocated is coming under intense shelling from the Palaly military camp. The government has taken further steps to completely cut off money supply to the North. Without money supply, buying food or other essential items and trading become impossible. As if these were not enough, the government-imposed ban on 42 essential items to the North, including medicine, fertiliser and fuel remain in force.

The government has said that no assistance would be given for constructing shelters for the refugees in the Vanni. All these measures are aimed at bringing

pressure on the people in the hope that the people would turn against the LTTE. The government is not pleased that the army was able to take only an empty Jaffna city. Without the population, the occupation becomes meaningless. Therefore the government intends to take whatever measures that are necessary to force the people to return to Jaffna. Refugees have expressed their wish to return to their homes as soon as possible but say that they would not be safe with the army which had massacred over 50,000 Tamils. The killing of civilians in the east still continues.

The government has launched a massive international campaign that the LTTE is preventing the people from returning to Jaffna from the Vanni. But during *Operation Sunray* it imposed censorship on military news thus ensuring the blackout of news of the sufferings of the Tamil people resulting from the operation. The press was directly attacked by the government, including physical attacks on journalists, to stifle independent reporting.

No journalists or independent observers are allowed into the North. Therefore the news that is reported in the international press is only the distorted news provided by the government. International agencies and other governments have not even tried to send observers into the North so that the truth can be told to the outside world.

The government has begun issuing special identity cards to Tamil people who are remaining in the Jaffna peninsula. A large number of public officers have arrived in Jaffna, reportedly to restore civil administration. Police stations in the Jaffna city have been reopened. Tamil organisations say the issue of identity cards in addition to National Identity Cards has sinister motives and is illegal. The government hopes to identify those who are not prepared to return to army-controlled areas.

Immediately after the capture of Jaffna, President Chandrika announced that the LTTE must lay down arms and accept an amnesty. The LTTE has re-

jected its offer and has vowed to continue fighting. The government says it will continue its strategy of "peace through war" and at the same time offer devolution to the regions. The government's devolution proposals have been watered-down so much that it has become impossible even for those Tamil parties on the side of the government to accept them.

The new proposals say that the President would have power to dissolve a regional councils. Tamils with over 40-year experience in the Sri Lankan political field say that there is no safeguard if a government fully controlled by the majority Sinhalese community misuses these provisions. Equality of people has been ignored in the proposals. Buddhism has once again been given the supreme place.

FLOATING BODIES MOUNTING EVIDENCE THAT VICTIMS ARE TAMILS

The spate of unidentified dead bodies found floating in lakes near Colombo and under culverts in towns away from the capital has led to the arrest of 35 soldiers and six Special Task Force members attached to the Military Intelligence's office at Buller's Road in Colombo. Some civilians as accomplices have also been charged.

A few of the bodies recovered from the watery graves have been positively identified as those of Tamils. In a new development as regards the identification of some of the bodies, the police has sought assistance from the public giving some specific information that could lead to firm identification.

On 17 October police released photographs of marks found on some bodies and those of articles recovered. A bunch of keys found in a trouser pocket had a replica of a Hindu God's image

imprinted on a disc. A tattoo mark found on the left side of the chest of one of the bodies displayed a trident, religiously associated with Hindu God Shiva. Adjacent to the trident depicted were words in Tamil.

The Crime Detection Bureau (CDB) is also in possession of the clothing found on the bodies. Members of the public and relatives of those who disappeared between 15 May and 15 August this year have been requested by the Director, CDB to contact the Bureau office in capital Colombo.

Police say the tattoo marks are evidence that Tamils could have been the victims of the ghastly murders. The Magistrate who held the inquests on the bodies recovered from Bolgoda lake held that all had been murdered.

Observers believe that the inclusion

of Captain Martyn and Inspector Madakumbura among those arrested indicates that murder in custody those had been carried out done not for the first time. Captain Martyn's role in the disappearances of many Tamils in the Batticaloa area is well documented in the reports of the previous Human Rights Task Force. The HRTF held that Captain Martyn masqueraded as *Captain Munas* and was responsible for many of the disappearances. A senior officer of the Special Task Force has described Inspector Madakumbura who joined in 1986 as a member of a "small group" that was engaged in liquidating those identified by persons in the higher echelons of power.

The fact that these officers continued for a long time acting as judge and executioner demonstrates the impunity that law enforcement agencies of the government enjoy in Sri Lanka.

NGO Forum on Sri Lanka on Human Rights

The NGO Forum on Sri Lanka which consists of over 140 international and local agencies involved in human rights and development has highlighted the human rights violations that still continue and has made several recommendations some of the issues dealt with are as follows.

Repressive Legislation

Emergency Regulations continue to prevail in the Northern & Eastern Provinces, Colombo Municipal Council area, Gampaha District and parts of the Districts of Moneragala, Puttalam, Anuradhapura and Polonnaruwa. Under these regulations, legal safeguards with regard to arrest and detention remain suspended. The Prevention of Terrorism Act (PTA) which also gives wide powers of arrest and detention to the Security Forces as well enabling prolonged detention and submission of confessions as evidence remains in force.

Recommendation:

The Government of Sri Lanka (GOSL) should amend existing Security Legislation to include operational safeguards such as those recommended by the UN Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances.

The Human Rights Task Force (HRTF)

The HRTF was set up to monitor detention under the Emergency Regulations. It has an office in Colombo as well as regional offices, and from 1995 Advisory Councils which include members of the public and representatives of Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs). However, the scope of the HRTF's mandate remains narrow and it cannot, as presently resourced, monitor the broad range of human rights violations in Sri Lanka.

Recommendation:

The powers and scope of the HRTF should be expanded and adequately resourced to enable the organisation to effectively monitor human rights violations in Sri Lanka.

Presidential Commission On Disappearances

Three Special Presidential Commissions of Inquiry have been working since Janu-

ary 1995, investigating disappearances that took place after 1 January 1988. As of September 1995, the Commissions reported receiving 15,000 complaints from the North & East, 16,000 from the Western, Sabaragamuwa and Southern provinces. Commissions are empowered only to submit reports of their investigations to the President. The reports must then be forwarded to Parliament and tabled as sessional papers. However, none of the reports submitted by the Commissions to the president has been sent to Parliament.

Recommendation:

The Mandate of the Commissions on Disappearances should be widened to include incidents prior to January 1988. The powers of the Commissions should also be increased to enable them to suspend state officials implicated by their investigations and to recommend prosecutions. All reports currently with the President should be forwarded to Parliament without further delay.

Impunity

The issue of impunity of members of the Security Forces who have been implicated in cases of human rights violations remains critical. Many of the cases outstanding stem from allegations of disappearances in 1988-89. Several of the members of Security Forces facing allegations of human rights abuses remain on active duty and proceedings consistently postponed on the basis that the accused remain on active service on war front.

Recommendation:

Security Personnel implicated in human rights violations should be suspended from duty and the GOSL should act expeditiously to resolve cases pending since 1988-89.

Proposed Human Rights Commission

A bill for the establishment of a National Human rights Commission was presented to Parliament in August 1995 but is yet to be debated despite the critical need for comprehensive scrutiny of human rights in Sri Lanka.

Recommendation:

The GOSL should make enacting the Human Rights Commission bill a prior-

ity at the next sitting of Parliament or expand the present powers of the HRTF prior to the passage of the new bill.

Freedom of Expression

The commitment of the state to safeguard the Freedom of Expression has suffered many setbacks in 1995. State Control of key sectors of the press, television and radio broadcasting remains unrevised despite the election pledges of the PA Government.

Matters of continuing concern include:-

- The imposition of military censorship on 21 September 1995 which severely restricted reporting on the ethnic conflict, especially the movement of journalists and news pertaining to the condition of the civilian population.
- The arbitrary closure of the New Education Service of the Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation with no provision for a public scrutiny of the decision.
- The failure of the GOSL to investigate three violent attacks on journalists in 1995.

Recommendation:

The GOSL should honour its election pledges to reform the State Media sector and enact safeguards to ensure Freedom of Information.

Investigations of Mass Graves & Alleged Extra judicial Executions

In 1994 public discovery of Mass graves at Suriyakanda and Hokandara prompted government exhumations of the sites, however, no attempt was made by the state to obtain the assistance of international forensic experts in these proceedings. In addition to the inadequate investigation of the mass graves the government has not appeared to proceed with the investigation of Police and Special Task Force (STF) members arrested in September 1995 for alleged involvement in the discovery of 11 bodies in Bolgada Lake, outside Colombo.

Recommendation:

The GOSL should request assistance from the UN Centre for Human Rights

in obtaining the services of competent Forensic Experts in investigation of the Mass Graves discovered in 1994. The GOSL should also act promptly to ensure proper investigation of the Bolgoda Lake killings.

The GOSL has continued to display a vacillating position with regard to the activities of NGOs. The government has severely criticised the activities of various international organisations in 1995

including the International Committee of the Red Cross and Medicins Sans Frontiere, alleging their work amounted to "interference in the internal affairs of the country. GOSL's failure to prevent the harassment and disruption by pro-war and anti-Tamil groups of the NGO Forum on Sri Lanka meeting in November 1995 encouraged nationalists and elements within the state structure to deny other citizens their rights to associate and express their views.

Recommendation:

The 1996 session of UN Commission on Human Rights should make a statement on Sri Lanka which highlights the contradiction of the GOSL's recognition of International Human Rights Instruments and its assertion of interference in its internal affairs by international agencies which assist Sri Lankan NGOs in monitoring human rights in the country.

Tamil Association responds to US Congress resolution

The Ilankai Tamil Sangam, USA, Inc. recently responded to a resolution on Sri Lanka in the US Congress. The text of the letter addressed to several US Congressmen is reproduced below.

"It is with deep regret that we are writing to you, re. the resolution on Sri Lanka (H.RES.181), introduced in the US Congress.

"This resolution has not only unjustly and unfairly criticized the Tamils, who are the real victims of the civil war in Sri Lanka, but has also sought to applaud the persecutors, who are in reality primarily responsible for the present catastrophe in that island. The authors of this resolution are either unacquainted with the real situation in Sri Lanka, or worse, have fallen victim to the false propaganda and deceitful lobbying of the Sri Lankan government. Most of the assertions in the resolution are clearly erroneous.

"The statement that Sri Lanka is a "vibrant democracy", committed to "Political pluralism" and "respect for human rights." is probably the most specious. The stockpile of reports on Sri

Lanka's atrocious human rights records are too numerous to be listed here, but we wish to quote The UN Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances, which determined that the "killings in Sri Lanka are by far the highest number ever recorded by the working group for any single country" - A singular distinction for such a small country. Year after year volumes are published on the massive slaughter that goes on in that island; Death squads function with impunity, bodies float down rivers and show up in paddy fields; mass graves are being discovered; the variety and details of the abuses are endless.

"We are at a loss trying to understand how the United State Congress could have come up with such a resolution, just days after the Sri Lankan armed forces bombed a church, where it had asked refugees to take shelter. This is at total variance to the concerned response to this carnage of most civilized nations, including that of the Pope. The timing, let alone the contents, is a total affront, and an indignity, to the one hundred and twenty innocent civilians (including 12 babies) who died in that bombing.

"We are also bewildered and astounded by the partisan nature of the assertions in this resolution. The criticisms against the LTTE would have been permissible, if the resolution had also condemned the Sri Lankan government for its role in the bloodshed. Instead, it highlights the actions of the LTTE, most of which are not even proven (rightly characterized in the resolution, however, as "widely believed"), but without any com-

ment at all about the well documented, hideous conduct of the Sri Lankan government and its armed forces. The Sri Lankan government could not have written this resolution any better!

"The comments about the peace process are also inaccurate. It states that the "government of President Kumaratunga initiated a dialogue with the LTTE..." , whereas in reality it was the LTTE that has been calling for talks for a number of years. The previous governments had ignored these solicitations, preferring the military option. President Kumaratunga, having won the election on a mandate for peace, was the first to respond. It is also noteworthy that the cease-fire was declared first by the LTTE unilaterally, and the resulting cessation of hostilities was just a reciprocation on the part of the government.

"The Resolution's interpretation on the breakdown of the peace process is too simplistic, and only serves to inequitably blame the LTTE. Many independent observers have commented that, the greater blame for this collapse rests on the shoulders of the Sri Lankan government. The LTTE also has explained the reasons for its withdrawal from the talks, which regrettably has fallen on deaf ears.

"One has to realize the fact the civil war in that country has to be eventually resolved by both parties returning to the negotiating table. Insulting the LTTE in this manner will only make this harder.

"We appreciate the interest and concern on the part of the US Congress toward the tragedy being enacted in the island of Sri Lanka. We are however, deeply hurt by this biased resolution that persecutes the victims further, and praises the perpetrator."

TIC ACCESSION LIST

A selection of documents received by the Centre in October/November/December 1995

SHR 3634

Special dossier on devolution package
Sri Lanka: INFORM; 4 August 1995

37p.

DESCRIPTORS: Peace Proposal/ Peace Initiative / Sri Lankan Government / Statement / Ethnic Problem

SHR 3638

Devolution Package

Sri Lanka: Devolution Package; 9 August 1995

34p.

DESCRIPTORS: Peace Proposal / Statement / Sri Lankan Government

SHR 3641

An appeal to the International Community: recognise the de facto state of Tamil Eelam

Canada: FACT; 17 October 1995

DESCRIPTORS: Appeal / History / Ethnic Problem / Negotiation / Peace Initiative

SHR 3642

Correspondence with the Liberation Tiger of Tamil Eelam on human rights abuses

London: Amnesty International; October 1995

4p.

DESCRIPTORS: Killing / Sinhalese / Tricomalee District / Attack on Sinhalese / Colonisation / Statement / LTTE

SHR 3645

Why Tamil Eelam?

Kuala Lumpur: Tamil Support Group; November 1995

29p.

DESCRIPTORS: Statement / LTTE / Interview / Appeal / History / Tamil Eelam / Situation Report

SHR 3850

The Civil war in Sri Lanka: briefing paper for the Foreign Office presented by representative of the British Tamil Community on 27 September 1995

London: 27 September 1995

5p.

DESCRIPTORS: War / Appeal / Ethnic Problem / Peace Initiative / United Kingdom

SHR 3851

Give peace a chance in the island of Sri Lanka: An appeal to the United Nations

Sub-commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of minorities, 47th sessions, Geneva, August 1995

London: 8 August 1995

DESCRIPTORS: Peace Initiative / Peace Talks / Air Attack / Shelling / Torture / Killing / Colombo / Statement / Interview / LTTE / Bombing / Displacement / Displaced Persons / Attack on Temple / Colonisation

SHR 3853

Sri Lanka: Amnesty International welcomes government action to stop sward activities

London: Amnesty International; 11 September 1995

1p.

DESCRIPTORS: STF / Killing / Disappearance / Arrest / Torture / Sri Lankan Tamils / Colombo

SHR 3854

Sri Lanka: Amnesty International appeals for civilian protection

London: Amnesty International; 26 September 1995

1p.

DESCRIPTORS: War / Appeal / LTTE / Sri Lankan Government / Amnesty International

SHR 3855

Urgent Action: "Disappearance" / Fear of Extrajudicial Execution

London: Amnesty International; 14 September 1995

1p.

DESCRIPTORS: Disappearance / Arrest / Killing / Colombo / STF / Sri Lankan Tamils / Torture

SHR 3596

Appeal from University Students Union: University of Jaffna to president

Jaffna: University of Jaffna; 13 July 1995

2p.

DESCRIPTORS: Appeal / Medical Facilities / Basic Needs / Jaffna District / Killing / Student / Bombing

SHR 3608

Ulanalattittal Katuttatanku

Jaffna: The Refugees Rehabilitation Organisation; July 1995

21p.

DESCRIPTORS: Medical Facilities / Statistics / Jaffna District / Torture / Trauma / Injuries

SHR 3868

International Educational Development grieved, and shocked by Sri Lanka's bombing of Tamil school children

California: International Educational Development Inc.; 24 September 1995

1p.

DESCRIPTORS: Bombing / Attack on Church / Killing / Civilians / Statistics / Jaffna District

OHR 325

Nearest place of safety: the erosion of the right of asylum and the response of the voluntary sector by Ruth Mason and David Forbies

Brussels: Quaker Council For European For European Affairs; August 1994

66p.

DESCRIPTORS: Asylum / Switzerland / Germany / Netheland / Belgium / United Kingdom / Sweden / Italy

OHR 326

Government proposals on Immigration

London: The Refugee Council; August 1995

4p.

DESCRIPTORS: Immigration / Asylum / Refugees / Social Benefits

PC 4843

Collection of articles relating Peace Initiative and statement

Sri Lanka: Island; 10 September 1995

9p.

DESCRIPTORS: JVP / LTTE / Tamil Nadu / Peace Proposal / Statement / Sri Lankan Government

OCTOBER DIARY

OCTOBER 01

BUDDHIST CLERGY IN WAR EFFORT: Contributing Rs.125,000 to the Defence Fund, High Priest of the Malwatte Chapter of the Buddhist clergy exhorted the government to first achieve victory in war before implementing any proposals on the devolution of powers.

ANOTHER MILITARY OFFENSIVE: The Defence Ministry reported that several areas around Palaly air base in Jaffna District were captured in "Operation *Thunderstrike*" which claimed the lives of 19 soldiers. Bodies of 19 LTTE members were recovered in the confrontation around Palaly and another body was found near Elephant Pass army camp in Kilinochchi according to the report.

OCTOBER 02

TAMIL ARRESTS ON COLOMBO STREETS: Police arrested eight Tamils on suspicion at roadblocks in the Fort and Pettah areas in Colombo.

TROOP SHIP ATTACKED: A ship ferrying troops from Trincomalee to Kankesanthurai came under LTTE attack off the Mullaitivu coast and 15 sailors were killed. Operational headquarters of the Defence Ministry claimed that five LTTE cadres were killed in the attack.

OCTOBER 03

HEAVY LTTE CASUALTIES: The Defence Ministry reported the killing of at least 144 LTTE cadres whose bodies were recovered in a counter offensive mounted by the LTTE in meeting the troops advancing from the Palaly army camp. Troops handed over 118 bodies to the ICRC at Mathagal. Nine soldiers were killed and 18 were injured in repulsing the LTTE, the report added.

CIVILIANS FLEE TROOPS: Over 50,000 Tamils fled from Avarankal, Atchuvvely, Puththur, Idaikkadu, Valalai and Vallai in Jaffna District to Thenmaradchy fearing Sri Lankan troops advancing from Palaly.

OCTOBER 04

EXTRA-JUDICIAL KILLINGS: The

body of K.Thangavadivel (32 yrs), a former member of TELO was discovered with gunshot wounds at Siththandy in Batticaloa District. K.Govindarajah (30 yrs) was shot dead at Santhively and A.Sabanayagam was injured in the incident.

TAMILS ARRESTED: Over 100 Tamils were arrested in a police roundup in Pettah. Similar arrests in large numbers were made at Grandpass, Kotahena, Maradana, Wellawatte and Borella.

OCTOBER 05

MASS ARREST OF TAMILS: Police from Maradana police station arrested forty five Tamil youths at several roadblocks in central Colombo.

EXTENSION OF EMERGENCY: The state of emergency was extended in Parliament by 114 to 76 votes. PLOTE MPs voted in favour and no MP representing Tamil districts voted against the extension.

OCTOBER 06

FURTHER ARRESTS IN COLOMBO: Police and army personnel arrested forty six Tamils in a joint search of the Fort and Pettah areas of Colombo.

TROOPS AMBUSHED: Eight soldiers were killed and four injured when a troop patrol was ambushed by the LTTE at Sinhapura in Polonnaruwa District.

TROOP CASUALTIES: The military spokesman revealed that 52 soldiers were killed and 115 injured upto 3 October in operation "*Thunderstrike*" launched to capture territory around Palaly base in Jaffna District.

OCTOBER 07

ARMY FOOT PATROL UNDER ATTACK: An army foot patrol came under LTTE attack at Mullaitivu. Five soldiers were killed and eight injured.

OCTOBER 08

FISHERMEN KILLED: The bodies of C.Jeyaseelan and S.Nadarajah who had gone fishing were washed ashore at Gurunagar in Jaffna District. Patrick Francis who accompanied them was missing.

OCTOBER 09

STF SUFFER: A foot patrol of the STF came under LTTE attack at Pudukkunawa in Batticaloa District and eight STF personnel were killed.

EPDP MEMBERS KILLED: Four members of the EPDP were killed when grenades and guns were used in an attack on the residence of EPDP leader Douglas Devananda MP in Colombo.

OCTOBER 10

SKIRMISH IN ANURADHAPURA: Four soldiers were killed in a confrontation with the LTTE at Gonamariyawa in Anuradhapura District.

OCTOBER 11

MASS DISPLACEMENT OF TAMILS: Schools in Thenmaradchy became refugee centres to house those displaced due to operation "*Thunderstrike*". Fourteen schools housed 1,609 families. A one-mile stretch of road near a temple was crammed with refugees.

OCTOBER 12

FOOD SHORTAGE CONFIRMED: Government Agent for Jaffna confirmed in Colombo that there was an acute shortage of food in the Jaffna district.

OCTOBER 13

WITNESS THREATENED: Sharmain Perera, Co-ordinating Secretary to the late Lalith Athulathmudali giving evidence before the commission probing his killing revealed that she had been threatened in connection with her evidence.

OCTOBER 14

JAFFNA DENIED FOOD AND FUEL: Essential goods including flour, kerosene and currency notes loaded on the ship "*Habarana*" bound for Jaffna were denied clearance by the military in Colombo harbour.

OCTOBER 15

MINE VICTIMS: A tractor used by troops hit a claymore mine between Siththandy and Kiran in Batticaloa District killing three soldiers and injuring two.

OCTOBER DIARY

OCTOBER 16

CONFRONTATION AT BATTICALOA:

Security forces clashed with LTTE at dawn near Chenkalady in Batticaloa District. Fifteen soldiers were killed and 23 injured in the incident. The Defence Ministry claimed that 18 LTTE cadres were killed.

OCTOBER 17

LAND ENCOUNTER: Troops engaged in a new offensive, "Operation Sunray" in Jaffna District lost 39 soldiers in encounters at Kuppilan and Atchelu. Over 150 were injured. Troops recovered 11 bodies of LTTE cadres in the area.

OCTOBER 18

TROOP ADVANCE: On the third day of "Operation Riviresa" troops made steady progress towards Jaffna from Palaly losing 14 soldiers. The military claimed that 70 LTTE members were also killed.

OCTOBER 19

TERRITORY GAINED : Continuing their military offensive "Operation Riviresa" troops captured more territory losing nine soldiers. The military claimed that 20 LTTE cadres were also killed.

OCTOBER 20

THE BIG BLAZE: Oil storage tanks at Kolonnawa and Orugodawatte near Colombo were set ablaze by suspected LTTE cadres. The Petroleum Corporation disclosed that 40,000 MT of diesel oil and 15,000 MT of kerosene were lost in the fire.

TAMILS KILLED IN REVENGE:

Hill country Tamils S.Srikanth (19 yrs) and S.Jayakanth (23 yrs) were set upon by Sinhalese mobs at Wanathamulla in Colombo and beaten to death after being tortured on the streets for four hours.

OCTOBER 21

TAMILS TARGETED: T.Karunan (22 yrs), an employee in a retail shop for over five years was hacked to death by a Sinhalese mob at Thotalanga in Colombo. Seventeen cut injuries were

found on his body according to the coroner's report.

TAMIL RESIDENCES LOOTED:

Over 125 houses occupied by Tamils at the Sri Wickremasinghe Housing Scheme in Colombo were searched and looted by Sinhalese vigilante groups.

OCTOBER 22

MASS ARREST OF TAMILS: Police reported the arrest of Tamils in large numbers in and around Colombo. There were 140 arrests at Grandpass, 160 at Dematagoda, 90 at Maradana, 20 at Kotahena, 50 at Borella, 50 at Welikade, 40 at Fort and three at Panadura.

SINHALESE MASSACRED: Security sources reported the killing of Sinhalese civilians by suspected LTTE cadres in three districts. At Mangalagama in Amparai District 16 were killed, at Kolakanawadiye in Polonnaruwa District 31 were killed and at Padaviya in Anuradhapura District 19 were killed according to the report.

LOOTERS TARGET TAMILS: Residences of six Tamils at Kathiranaawatte in Colombo were looted by a Sinhalese mob.

OCTOBER 23

SHELLFIRE VICTIMS: J.Thiruvan (7 yrs) and Mrs. V.Rasammah (45 yrs) were killed when a shell fired by soldiers hit Murakkottanchenai in Batticaloa District.

OCTOBER 24

DISPLACEMENT CONFIRMED: The Government Agent, Jaffna confirmed in Colombo that all residents of Valikamam East, Kopy and Nallur had fled the area.

TAMIL ARRESTS IN MATALE:

Seven Tamils were arrested in Matale on suspicion despite possessing identity documents. A Sinhalese was also arrested accused of being the fiance of one of the seven Tamils.

OCTOBER 25

POLICE KILL CIVILIANS: Police-

men at the BMC building checkpoint at Mannar opened fire on a passenger bus halted for clearance killing three Tamils and injuring seventeen.

OCTOBER 26

SINHALESE CIVILIANS KILLED:

Security sources reported the killing of 41 persons and injury to 17 in a dawn attack by suspected LTTE cadres on three villages of Kebbetigollawa in Anuradhapura District.

VICTIMS OF LOOTING: Plantation workers occupying 26 dwellings at Anguruwatota Estate in Kalutara District were chased out by a mob that engaged in looting.

OCTOBER 27

TAMIL ARRESTS IN KANDY:

Twenty one Tamils including six female undergraduates were arrested by police in a search of Kandy and its suburbs.

OCTOBER 28

TROOPS KILL REFUGEES: P.Joseph MP speaking in parliament said that ten persons at Nunavil and 30 persons at Manipay and Anaikottai refugee centres in Jaffna District had been killed by troops engaged in "Operation Riviresa".

OCTOBER 29

COSTLY TROOP ADVANCE: Thirty soldiers were killed and 36 injured in fighting around Neervely in Jaffna District.

OCTOBER 30

ROUNDUP OF TAMILS: A police spokesman confirmed the arrest of nearly 1,000 Tamils in a night raid in Colombo.

POLICEMAN KILLS CIVILIANS:

Police constable Jayaseelan of Kalmunai police station gunned down two occupants at the EPRLF office and injured two others.

OCTOBER 31

OFFENSIVE CONTINUES IN THE NORTH: Security sources reported the killing of 13 soldiers and injury to nine in the northern offensive.

NOVEMBER DIARY

NOVEMBER 01

TAMIL ARRESTED IN MATALE: K. Kanagalingam (44 yrs) from Chenkalady in Batticaloa District was arrested while travelling in a bus at Yatawatte in Matala.

NOVEMBER 02

CIVILIANS MASSACRED: Five Sinhalese civilians were hacked to death by unidentified persons at Kandahelagama in Moneragala District.

NOVEMBER 03

UN CONCERNED: UN Secretary General Boutros Boutros Ghali expressed concern at the refugee flight from Jaffna and indicated that a massive humanitarian assistance programme was needed to minimise suffering.

NOVEMBER 04

HILL COUNTRY ARRESTS: Over one hundred and fifty Tamils were arrested by police in a search operation at Kandapola Tea Estate in Nuwara Eliya District.

NOVEMBER 05

FOOD EMBARGO ENFORCED BY THE MILITARY: Government Agents of Vavuniya, Kilinochchi, Mannar and Mullaitivu in a joint appeal to the Defence Secretary urged the waiving of restrictions at Vavuniya on the food lorries destined to their areas on humanitarian grounds.

TAMIL ARRESTS CONTINUE: Fifteen Tamils were arrested in a joint search operation by troops and police at the Gotledge Estate in Nuwara Eliya District.

NOVEMBER 06

TAMIL LODGERS THROWN ON THE STREETS: Policemen sealed a four storeyed lodging house at Kathiresan Street in Colombo after evicting over a hundred Tamil lodgers including mothers with babies in their arms. The Officer-in-Charge of the Kotahena police Ekanayake indicated that he was carrying out orders from the top.

TROOPS UNDER ATTACK: A troop patrol came under LTTE attack at Welikande in Batticaloa District leading to the death of twelve soldiers and a LTTE cadre.

NOVEMBER 07

OVER THREE THOUSAND ARRESTS: Yogarajan MP from the Ceylon Workers Congress, a constituent of the governing People's Alliance, speaking in Parliament disclosed that over three thousand Tamils were arrested and finger printed in Colombo the previous night.

NOVEMBER 08

STATE OF EMERGENCY NOT ANATHEMA: The State of Emergency was extended in Parliament with 117 approving and only the single member of the Sri Lanka People's Front opposing it. MP s from the EPDP and PLOTE voted in favour while the UNP abstained and the TULF kept away.

NOVEMBER 09

ARRESTED FOR BEING TAMILS: P Kathiresan (27 yrs), K Lingeswaran (27 yrs) and A. Fonseka (22 yrs) from Ragala in Nuwara Eliya District were arrested at Ganahinne Estate in Kandy District where they were visiting relatives. Three Tamil youths passing through Ambalantota in Hambantota District were also arrested by police for being Tamils.

NOVEMBER 10

EXODUS TO MANNAR: The figures of Tamils arriving in the Madhu area in Mannar District from Jaffna stood at 6,004 persons from 1,504 families.

NOVEMBER 11

EXPLOSIONS IN COLOMBO: Two explosions near the army headquarters at Galle Face and the rail station at Slave Island claimed seventeen lives and left thirty eight injured. Police blamed two suicide bombers for the explosions.

NOVEMBER 12

EXPLOSION IN EAST: Two members from TELO were killed in an explosion at Araipattra in Batticaloa District. Security sources disclosed that they were

examining a device when it exploded.
MORE ARRESTS IN HILL COUNTRY: Police arrested ten Tamils from the Poonagala Estate in Badulla District.

NOVEMBER 13

POLICEMAN ABDUCTED: Police constable Jesudasan from the Thalaimannar police station was abducted from beside the police station at 1 pm. by unidentified armed persons.

CIVILIAN KILLED BY

HOMEGUARD: Janakakumar (22 yrs) collecting firewood at Aasikulam in Vavuniya District was killed when a Homeguard fired on him mistaking him for a LTTE member.

ARRESTED FOR BEING TAMILS:

Six young Jesuit members were arrested by police at Kandy for being Tamils according to Jesuit Priest Harry Miller.

NOVEMBER 14

ORCHESTRATED DEMONSTRATIONS: Protesters held sway at Bentota Hotel where participants for the Sri Lanka NGO forum meeting were gathered. The hotel management cancelled the booking in view of the demonstrations and the non-intervention of the police.

MORE ARRESTS IN HILL COUNTRY:

K. Mahendran (20 yrs) from Kandanuwara Estate in Bandarawela and K. Wimalaswaran (24 yrs) from Sarpola in Polonnaruwa were arrested at Matala by police in spite of being in possession of identity cards.

ICRC EVACUATES JAFFNA:

The Jaffna Teaching Hospital moved its operations to the Base Hospital at Point Pedro in view of the civilian exodus from the town following the military advance towards it. The ICRC too moved over to the new site abandoning the safe zone declared around the hospital.

NOVEMBER 15

CATHOLIC CHURCH REFUTES POLICE ASPERSIONS: Auxiliary Bishop of Colombo Rev. Malcolm Ranjith rejected claims made by the po-

NOVEMBER DIARY

lice in connection with the arrest of two priests in Vavuniya that the Church covertly assisted the LTTE.

ABDUCTED AND KILLED: The body of Police constable Jesudasan abducted on 13 November was recovered at Thalaimannar.

HINDU PRIESTS ARRESTED: Hindu priests Sri Ananda Kumara Sarma, Sri Gobi Sarma with his wife Sri Rajarajeswari were arrested at the Sri Ponnambalawaneswara temple in Colombo by police who forced them to remove their sacred Poonool thread of three strands worn across the shoulder.

TAMIL ARRESTS IN KANDY: In a night search of the areas around the market, post office and bus station in Kandy town police arrested 20 Tamils.

NOVEMBER 16

MORE TAMIL ARRESTS: In a search of the Nuwara Eliya and Hawa Eliya areas between 3.00am and 8.00am police arrested 29 Tamils on suspicion.

NOVEMBER 17

RIVIRESA CAMPAIGN TOLL: In the month-long military campaign to capture Jaffna the security forces lost 320 soldiers according to the Defence Ministry. The death toll for the LTTE was put at 1,400 by them.

NOVEMBER 18

PRICE ESCALATION: The government raised the price of a kilogram of wheat flour by Rs. 2.25 from Rs. 9.70 and that of a loaf of bread by Rs. 0.75 from Rs. 4.25.

NOVEMBER 19

CIVILIANS KILLED IN REPRISAL: J.Lakshmi, S.Nagammah and I. Mayilan were shot dead by troops who also set fire to houses in the vicinity of Santhiveli where they earlier lost 38 men.

HILL COUNTRY ARRESTS: Eighteen Tamils including two females were arrested by police in a search of Hatton town in Nuwara Eliya District.

NOVEMBER 20

ARREST AND DETENTION ROUTINE: Eight Tamils arrested by Kalutara police and held in remand custody for 12 days were released by Magistrate U.M.N.Borhan who ordered that the state pay each of them Rs.250.

CONTINUING MILITARY CAMPAIGN: Security forces lost five soldiers and 40 were injured in fighting around Nallur in Jaffna District. Around 40 LTTE men were also killed according to the report of the Defence Ministry.

NOVEMBER 21

DISAPPEARANCE AND RETURN: K.Selvarajah (20 yrs) reported missing after arrest on 20 October at Maradana in Colombo was traced by his parents to be held in detention at the police station in Ragama.

NOVEMBER 22

LTTE HIT: A vehicle carrying LTTE cadres was hit by army fire in which four were killed at Kaithady in Jaffna District. A stock of arms and ammunition was also recovered from the vicinity said a security service report.

DISCRIMINATION IN EDUCATION:

The Commissioner of Examinations cancelled the GCE (Ordinary Level) examinations in the Jaffna, Mullaitivu and Kilinochchi districts and in the areas not under government control in the districts of Vavuniya and Mannar.

AIRCRAFT LOST: An Antonov 32 type plane carrying 68 troops to Palaly airbase in Jaffna District plunged into the sea before landing, killing all on board.

NOVEMBER 23

CALL TO ASSIST THE DISPLACED: In a memorandum to foreign diplomats based in Colombo the Nava Sama Samaja Party urged the international community to bring pressure on the Government to sanction relief for the displaced Tamils.

TAMIL ARRESTS IN HILL COUNTRY: Twenty Tamils including females were arrested by police in a dawn search of Teldeniya in Kandy District

LAGOON CROSSING PROHIBITED:

The government said that the ban on civilian traffic over Kilali will be strictly observed thus prohibiting the only exit for the Tamils fleeing the Jaffna peninsula.

NOVEMBER 24

CLASHES IN NORTH-EAST: Four soldiers were killed and 33 injured in the military advance towards Jaffna and eleven soldiers were killed at Ponanai in Batticaloa District.

NOVEMBER 25

BEEFING UP THE ARMY: The government decided to recruit 10,000 new men for the army primarily to hold on to newly occupied areas in Jaffna.

NOVEMBER 26

CIVILIANS KILLED: Operations Headquarters of the Defence Ministry announced the killing of three Tamil civilians at Pavatkodichchenai in Batticaloa District from LTTE shellfire.

NOVEMBER 27

JAFFNA BATTLE: Two soldiers were killed and 27 were injured in the battle around Jaffna town.

NOVEMBER 28

HEAD HUNT: The police announced rewards amounting to Rs.3 million for the arrest of ten top LTTE men including leader V. Prabhakaran.

NOVEMBER 29

PRISONER EXCHANGE: The government and LTTE exchanged prisoners of war through ICRC mediation. Six soldiers were swapped for eight Tamil youths held in detention at Palaly in Jaffna District.

NOVEMBER 30

SHUT DOWN IN SOLIDARITY: A complete shutdown of activities in Tamil Nadu urged by all political parties, including the ruling AIADMK was effected to show solidarity with the displaced Tamils in Sri Lanka.

TULF WAKES UP: The TULF voted against the government when the Defence Ministry expenditure was taken up in parliament.

DECEMBER DIARY

DECEMBER 01

HINDU SANCTUM DESECRATED: A group of security force personnel entered the prayer hall of the Ramakrishna Mission at Wellawatte in Colombo with their shoes despite protests from the religious head of the Mission.

CIVILIAN KILLED: The body of T.Ariaratnam (19 yrs) from Mavadvembu in Batticaloa was discovered with gunshot wounds at Vantharumoolai.

DECEMBER 02

LANDMINE VICTIMS: Six soldiers were killed and 20 injured when an agricultural tractor they were travelling in hit a landmine near Jaffna town.

DECEMBER 03

CIVILIAN SHOT DEAD: The body of S.Sothinathan (21 yrs) from Iyankerni in Batticaloa was discovered with gunshot wounds after his abduction the previous night at 10.30 pm.

MALARIA EPIDEMIC: Reports said over 3,000 people were affected by malaria in Thenmaradchy and the disease was fast spreading.

DECEMBER 04

BOMB IN KACHCHERI: A bomb exploded at the Jaffna Kachcheri at 11.45 am at Chundikuli, damaging a section of the building.

DECEMBER 05

FLAG HOISTING: The national flag was hoisted in Jaffna by the Deputy Defence Minister Col.A.Ratwatte marking the occupation of the city after a 49-day military campaign conducted under the code-name "Sunray".

TROOPS CASUALTIES: In an LTTE attack on the Puthukkudiyiruppu STF camp, 34 STF personnel were killed and 29 injured. The security forces claimed that 23 LTTE cadres were killed in the encounter.

DECEMBER 06

STF KILLS TAMIL CIVILIANS: Thirty Tamils travelling in a bus near Puthukkudiyiruppu were killed by the STF following an LTTE attack on their camp.

ATTACK ON ESTATE: A gang entered Millakanda Estate in Kalutara District and damaged workers' line room houses. A disabled man was seriously injured.

DECEMBER 07

TULF VOTES AGAINST EMERGENCY: The TULF voted against the government in Parliament on the extension of the State of Emergency. The Sri Lanka People's Front joined the TULF in the voting while the UNP abstained.

DECEMBER 08

SOLDIERS INJURED IN ATTACK: The LTTE attacked the army from St. Patrick's College at 4.30 pm. Two soldiers were injured. The Defence Ministry says two Tigers took cyanide after the incident and committed suicide.

DECEMBER 09

PALALY PRISONERS: Twenty three Tamil civilians arrested and held by troops at the Palaly military camp in Jaffna District were released to the ICRC officials.

DECEMBER 10

SKIRMISH IN THE NORTH: Security sources reported the killing of three LTTE cadres when they were fired upon at Vallai in the Jaffna District.

DECEMBER 11

REFUGEE CHILDREN: UNICEF representative in Colombo Britta Oxtberg reported that the conflict in Sri Lanka had left 300,000 children as refugees.

LTTE QUOTED: The Defence Ministry quoted the LTTE radio to confirm the destruction of a LTTE boat with its occupants off Kalmunai Point in Kilinochchi District.

DECEMBER 12

PLIGHT OF STUDENTS: According to the Northern Principal's Association there were 160,218 students in the north in 454 schools. After the military operation 106,206 were unable to attend school.

DECEMBER 13

CIVILIAN KILLING: The body of S.Kandasamy was recovered with gunshot wounds within Batticaloa town limits. He had earlier left coast for fishing.

DECEMBER 14

CONTRABAND IN TROOP BUNKER: Items banned to the north valued at over Rs.150,000 were recovered by Assistant Superintendent of Police M.Ekanayake from a bunker used earlier by troops at Salampaikkulam in Vavuniya District.

DECEMBER 15

NORWEGIAN ASSISTANCE: In an agreement signed in Colombo the Norwegian government pledged a grant of Rs.7.5 million for providing relief to those displaced from the north.

DECEMBER 16

CONFLICT IN THE EAST: The Defence Ministry reported the killing of an LTTE cadre at Sithandy in Batticaloa District.

DECEMBER 17

HOMEGUARDS ABDUCT TAMILS: Homeguards from the Mangala Oya security forces camp in Batticaloa District abducted M.Santhakumar (29 yrs), T.Kirupairajah (22 yrs), S.Linganayagam (22 yrs), A.Sinnapodiyam (19 yrs), M.Vellaikutty (53 yrs) and K.Kovindan (62 yrs) while grazing their cattle at Unnichchai.

DECEMBER 18

HILL COUNTRY ARREST: S.Yogaratnam (25 yrs) from Kaludawela in Matale District was arrested by police in a night search.

DECEMBER 19

SKIRMISH IN THE NORTH: In a clash at Valigamam West in Jaffna District, one soldier and one LTTE member were killed.

FORCES IMPEDE KEROSENE SUPPLY: Thirty lorries with kerosene for areas north of Vavuniya were detained at Mcdawachchiya in spite of valid permits issued in Colombo for their transport.

DECEMBER 20

INCIDENT IN JAFFNA: One soldier was killed and two injured when the LTTE infiltrated Mathagal area in Jaffna District.

DECEMBER DIARY

JOURNALISTS DEBARRED FROM THE NORTH: The government lifted the ban on the local media in reporting on the war in the north but permitted no visit by journalists both local and foreign.

DECEMBER 21

CORDON AND SEARCH: Security forces mounted a cordon and search operation at dawn in the coastal villages from Eravur to Kaluwankerny in Batticaloa District.

MASKED INFORMANT: Tamil residents of Madaththady in Trincomalee District were led off by troops clad in black uniforms and paraded before a masked informant while the houses were searched.

DECEMBER 22

TAMILS DETAINED AT VAVUNIYA: Passengers from the north arriving at Vavuniya on their way to the south were detained by police at a special camp near the rail station.

HOSPITAL EMPLOYEE ARRESTED: S.Balachandran a Vavuniya hospital employee accompanying patients in the ambulance to Anuradhapura hospital was arrested by the police at Anuradhapura.

MILITANT MEMBERS KILLED: Sri Kantha of TELO and Muralitharan of PLOTE were gunned down by unidentified men at Pandiruppu in Batticaloa and Mannar respectively.

RELIEF ASSISTANCE DEBARRED BY TROOPS: Mayor of Batticaloa abandoned collection of relief materials for those displaced from Jaffna following the intervention of the security officials.

DECEMBER 23

TROOP CASUALTIES: A troop patrol came under LTTE attack at Santhively in Batticaloa District and resulted in the death of 32 soldiers and injury to 34. Security sources claimed that over 50 LTTE cadres were also killed in the counter attack.

CIVILIAN KILLED: Troops killed S.Rajalingam (23 yrs) and injured Mrs.K.Nesammah (33 yrs), Miss A.Parthini (16 yrs) and K.Ravichandran, a driver of the Red Cross at Santhively in Batticaloa District immediately after they came under LTTE attack.

DECEMBER 24

CIVILIANS KILLED IN SHELL-FIRE: Mrs.V.Ambika (26 yrs), M.Sasitharan (3 yrs), Mrs.K.Ponnammah (32 yrs) and V.Soundararajah (35 yrs) were killed and Mrs. S.Sellammah (39 yrs) was injured when a shell fired from a military camp exploded at Thandiyady in Batticaloa District.

DECEMBER 25

EXTRA-JUDICIAL KILLING: S.Sudakaran of TELO was shot dead by unidentified persons at Chenkalady in Batticaloa District. Police blamed the LTTE for this killing.

LTTE INFILTRATION: One soldier was killed when the troop sentry at Mathagal in Jaffna District came under LTTE attack.

DECEMBER 26

SHELLFIRE VICTIMS: V.Kandalangam (55 yrs) was killed when a shell exploded in front of his residence at Mavadvembu in Batticaloa District. K.Thangamani (25 yrs), Miss K.Ranjithamalar (13 yrs), M. Kana-pathypillai (48 yrs) and K.Rasaratnam (36 yrs) were seriously injured.

CIVILIAN KILLING: S. Rajeswararajah was shot dead by unidentified persons in Trincomalee town centre.

DECEMBER 27

TAMIL ARRESTS: Twelve Tamils including five women were arrested in a dawn search by troops and police at Sangaraja Mawatha in Colombo.

CLASH IN JAFFNA: Troops recovered the bodies of seven LTTE cadres including five women after a confrontation at Puttur in Jaffna District. Another person was killed in the Navanthurai area. Another LTTE cadre was killed in an

encounter at Meeravodai in Batticaloa District.

TELO MEMBER KILLED: S.Suthakar (25 yrs) of the TELO was gunned down beside the market at Senkalady in Batticaloa District.

DECEMBER 28

POLICE STATION IN THE NORTH: The highest ranking police officer, the Inspector General of Police opened the first police station in Jaffna after a decade.

DECEMBER 29

DAWN SEARCH: Troops surrounded Puliyanthivu in Batticaloa District in the early hours and all males over the age of thirteen were marched off to the St.Mary's Church grounds for interrogation.

LTTE LOSE MEN: Operational Headquarters of the Defence Ministry reported the killing of three LTTE members and the recovery of a body in a confrontation at Yakawcwa in Anuradhapura District.

DECEMBER 30

BLOCKADING CURRENCY: Chief of Rehabilitation in the north S.M.J.Senaratne and Bank of Ceylon Chairman R.Asirwatham confirmed that the Ministry of Defence had directed that no bank notes be sent to areas not under the control of the troops.

UNCLAIMED BODY: A body recovered near the police post at Valaichchenai in Batticaloa District alleged to be that of a LTTE cadre was handed over to the ICRC by the security forces. The LTTE did not accept the body as their member was not involved and the ICRC arranged for a burial at state expense.

DECEMBER 31

BUS HIJACKED: A Sri Lanka Transport Board bus was hijacked by gunmen at 4 pm. The bus travelling from Valaichchenai to Nasivanthivu was taken away after the passengers were asked to get down.

PROBLEMS AND PROSPECTS OF UN AND INTERNATIONAL AGENCIES WORKING IN SRI LANKA.

The UN and other Inter-Governmental agencies involved in Humanitarian assistance in Sri Lanka include UNDP, UNHCR, UNICEF, WFP, ICRC and IOM (International Organisation for Migration). The two principal UN agencies active in the North are UNICEF and UNHCR and it is UNICEF that is responsible for the Jaffna peninsula.

UN agencies have established an Emergency Task Force for in-country co-ordination arrangement. Though the relationship between the government and UN agencies is strained following the statement of the UN Secretary Mr. Boutros Boutros Ghali, expressing concern over humanitarian assistance needed on a significant scale to minimise the suffering of the affected Tamil population in Sri Lanka, observers say the situation has now improved and there is adequate co-operation from the government. It is also the general view of the IGOs that the situation, compared to what it was in October has changed considerably and there is a need to review plans in order to address the most urgent issues, including access to the displaced population throughout the country. It is believed that IGO activities will be restrictive and proceeded with caution. Mr. A. Ofstad, UN Residential Co-ordinator in Sri Lanka has forged a good working relationship with Mr. Senaratne's office.

UNDP has offered assistance to deploy two doctors to Kilinochchi hospital provided their safety is guaranteed. The World Food Programme (WFP) will be

monitoring the food situation. Meanwhile, Boutros Boutros Ghali is reported to have instructed Mr. Peter Hansen, under Secretary General for Humanitarian Affairs to closely monitor developments in Sri Lanka.

The role of ICRC and UNHCR

The ICRC's mandate is to provide protection and assistance to victims of armed conflict, whether international or otherwise. This mandate includes assistance in the medical field, protection of prisoners of war and security of detainees and provision of food and other relief supplies to victims in times of conflict.

In addition, the ICRC has maintained a tracing agency service. The ICRC also contributes to the implementation and development of international humanitarian law and is involved in large-scale effort to spread knowledge of the rules it contains, as means of preventing violations.

The ICRC was permitted to Sri Lanka in October 1989. In addition to providing support to the Jaffna hospital and escorting supply ships, it has been involved in other activities within its mandate. It shifted some of its operations from Jaffna to Point Pedro in November. ICRC has strengthened its field staff and representatives which include public health workers and a water sanitation engineer. It is believed that ICRC will be concentrating more on medical support and improving water and sanitation conditions in welfare centres. It is possible that ICRC may carry out a nutritional survey among the displaced.

The ICRC has been accused of supporting the LTTE by the government on many occasions. The ICRC was under severe attack by the government in July following its reporting of the Navali church bombing. Some of the inexperienced field staff of the ICRC have been blamed for causing confusion and conflict in the role of the ICRC.

The protection of refugees and the seeking of durable solutions to their problems are the two main functions of UNHCR. UNHCR also seeks to promote the adoption of international standards such as freedom of movement and protection against being returned to a country where a refugee may have reasons to fear persecution. In addition, UNHCR seeks to facilitate the voluntary repatriation of refugees and reintegration into their country of origin or where that is not feasible, to facilitate their intergration in the country of asylum or their resettlement in third countries. UNHCR also plays a major role in co-ordinating aid to refugees, returnees and displaced people.

The role of UNHCR in Sri Lanka in relation to repatriation of Tamil and settlement programmes has been heavily criticised by international NGOs and the Tamil community. However, its work during emergencies is highly valued. Recently, UNHCR has issued a statement that it is ready and willing to provide relief assistance, but the government is yet to respond to its call.

Meanwhile, UNHCR has taken steps to strengthen its ground staff by sending Mr. Bernard Doyle from Geneva. The ICRC also has brought in a water and sanitation engineer to assist in their operations. Mr. Joe Backer and Bernard Doyle the two UNHCR representatives were refused travel permits to Vanni by the security forces recently.

NGO CAPACITY AND ACTIVITIES

The main International NGOs active in the north-east are MSF (France/Holland), CARE International, FORUT, Save the Children (UK), Redd Barna and Oxfam. Like the UN agencies they also have formed an Emergencies Group to deal with the current emergency. In addition they also have set up a number of sub-committees for health, water, sanitation, food, nutrition, shelter, household, income, child-care and psycho-social,

logistic and security, co-ordination, communication and information.

Funding is a problem for most of the NGOs. The UK government has contributed funds to the SCF and CARE International. The ICRC had received £250,000 from the UK Overseas Development Agency. It also has received funds from the German Government.

FORUT, the Norwegian organisation has been involved in relief work in Jaffna for a long time. It has an office in Point Pedro and is setting up an office in Chavakachcheri. It has provided cooked meals for two weeks for about 1,300 families up to the middle of November. It is unlikely that FORUT will be undertaking any major relief operation.

MSF (France) has a small office in Point Pedro and runs an operating room with a small surgical team consisting of a surgeon, anaesthetic nurse and an operating nurse. MSF is interested in carrying out a health assessment survey and is also expecting a public health nurse to join its team. MSF also has an interest in establishing health teams for the welfare centres which would monitor health conditions. In case of people returning to Jaffna, MSF will be one of the first to gain access to Jaffna.

MSF France and Holland are also assisting Kilinochchi and Madhu hospitals in the Vanni area.

CARE INTERNATIONAL had an office in Point Pedro has moved to Chavakachcheri. It has four relief officers working to distribute non-food items for about 3,000 people. It was also involved in providing cooked meals to about 600 families for two weeks. CARE is expecting an expatriate staff to join them. TRO has confirmed that CARE had agreed to support them with funds to provide latrines in welfare centres. CARE is also planning to get squatting pans for the welfare centres.

SAVE THE CHILDREN (UK) was working in Jaffna for some time. It has now moved to Point Pedro and Kodikamam. SCF has one expatriate and 13 local staff operating from Point Pedro. It effectively uses TRO for dis-

tribution of non-food items. It has assisted TRO in establishing a new welfare centre in Palai by providing plastic sheeting. SCF is now active in Chavakachcheri. Initially it was involved in small-scale settlement service of few hundred people basically to release the pressure on the overcrowded welfare centres. SCF is expected to continue relief work in the area.

REDD BARNNA was also operating in Jaffna for sometime and has no immediate plans for any extensive relief operations.

OXFAM has limited access to the Jaffna peninsula. Oxfam is involved in assisting relief work in Kilinochchi. Among relief workers there is great expectation for Oxfam to undertake major relief work in the Jaffna peninsula if the government permits its activities. However, the role of Oxfam in the peninsula will heavily depend on people returning back to their homes. At present there is no sign of people returning to Jaffna.

TAMILS REHABILITATION ORGANISATION (TRO) is a local organisation involved in relief. It has gained extensive knowledge and skills in relief work by working with Tamil refugees in India. TRO's main strength rests on the commitment of volunteers. It has a large number of volunteers posted to welfare centres working full-time. They are currently organising welfare centre committees to deal with the day to day problems of the inmates. TRO is distributing food for over 275 welfare centres in the peninsula, including the one in Palai. Most supplies come from the Sri Lankan government. It is also supplying limited amount of vegetables to welfare centres. TRO is encouraging people to set up their own settlements in unsettled lands in which would release the pressure on welfare centres. It is encouraging communal cooking to save on fuel. But, there is a shortage of cooking utensils.

According to many NGOs and relief workers, their political agenda apart, TRO is the only organisation making a significant impact on conditions in the welfare centres.

WAR REPORTS

The Sri Lankan Navy reported attacking and destroying a number of LTTE fibre glass dinghies on 29 November, 11th, 14th, 15th and 19th December. Reports also suggest Sea Tiger activity around Kalmunai, at the entrance of the Jaffna lagoon. Apparently troops from Pooneryn had launched attacks on Kalmunai. Army also had claimed that several LTTE militants were killed on 27 December when probing the defenses of Puttur. LTTE had reported that five soldiers were killed in a landmine in Kopay on 31 December.

Meanwhile, in Jaffna army was seen busy with clearing boby traps and mines. According to a military spokesman, Jaffna town is full of bobby traps and mines. Army engineers are also started rebuilding the causeway between Mandaithivu island and Jaffna Town. The army was also reported to have secured control over the northern causeway two land-routes from Palaly to Jaffna town - one across the western peninsula and one across the islands. Field reports also suggest that search-and-destroy operations are underway in the Valigamam west area, on the western coast of the Jaffna peninsula.

TAMIL ARRESTS

Three female teachers from Nawalapitiya travelling to Colombo by train were arrested when the train was halted at Gampola rail station in Kandy District. Thirty two Tamils including three feeding mothers attending a social function at Mawatura Estate in Kandy District were arrested by police. Kandiah Thangarajah (19 yrs) from Emalpotte in Kurunegala was arrested by Matale police while proceeding on foot to his father's house. Two Tamil youths including a female residing for over four months at Alawatugoda in Kandy District were arrested for being from Kilinochchi and Vavuniya.

POLICE TARGET TAMIL BUSINESSMEN

Nine merchants in established trading for many years in Pettah, the hub of wholesale trade were arrested by police on 10 August. All nine were Tamils and according to the police they were suspected of being bankrollers for the LTTE. The nine businessmen were being detained at the Slave Island police station.

Observers say the police have not produced evidence to suggest that they were linked to the LTTE and the arrests more likely are connected with, what is rivalry in the wholesale business at Pettah. Many Tamils who are in employment, particularly in the private sector have lost their jobs on account of single unsubstantiated anonymous petitions. The fate of the Pettah businessmen arrested is also not different from the individual Tamils who have lost their jobs.

TAMIL POLICE IN- SPECTOR ARRESTED BY SUB-INSPECTOR

A fundamental rights application filed in the Court of Appeal in respect of Police Inspector S.Manickarajah who was serving at Vavuniya as secretary to the Deputy Inspector General of Police.

According to the application, filed by his wife, Inspector Manickarajah (54 yrs), had been arrested on 20 April by Sub-Inspector Wijekoon of the Vavuniya Detection Bureau and is held at Kalutara prisons on a detention order without charge or being produced before courts.

The Attorney General, Director Kalutara Prisons, Secretary-Ministry of Defence, Inspector General of Police, Director-CID and Officer -in-Charge of the Vavuniya police station have been cited as respondents to this application.

EXPLOSION AT RAIL STATION

Fuel tankers in a freight train at Batticaloa were blown up in explosions and police blamed the LTTE for this sabotage.

MILITARY EXPENDI- TURE AND COST OF LIVING

The cost of living index published for the month of October indicated an increase of 29.6 points from September. The figure for December indicates 1741.6 which is an increase of 21.2 on the November figure. This COL figure, which is a barometer of the spending potential of the average person, therefore mirrors the prices which are soaring out of reach. The vast amounts spent unproductively on the military campaign is undoubtedly the main cause for the steep rise in the cost of living, although not acknowledged by economists who do not want to displease the government.

Though essential items are becoming dearer there is no paucity in the foreign aid received by Sri Lanka which again adds to mounting debt service payments under which the country is already reeling.

British Minister for Overseas Development Baroness Chalker replying a parliamentary question in the British Parliament stated on 18 October that total UK bilateral aid to Sri Lanka amounted to £11.48 million in 1994/95. Of this amount £1.16 million was financial (capital) aid, £0.52 million emergency aid, and £0.75 million was provided for relief and rehabilitation programmes. The £0.75 million meant to benefit families affected by the conflict, according to Baroness Chalker. The remainder was spent on technical co-operation, Aid and Trade Provision and CDC investments.

VOTING IN NORTH- EAST POSTPONED

A communique issued by the Presidential Secretariat postponed the referendum scheduled for the Eastern Province from 16/11/95 to 16/11/96 and that for the Northern Province from 15/02/96 to 01/12/96.

IMPRISONED WITH- OUT TRIAL

Veeraiah Shanmuganathan (28 yrs) of Sitharawatte Estate in Hatton had been arrested on 4 January at Good Oya junction by Inspector Bowela of the Nuwara Eliya police station. A fundamental rights application for his trial or release has been filed by his brother Veeriah Mookan before the court of Appeal.

The Court allowed time till 28 October for the respondents to file answer.

MILITARY TIGHTENS ECONOMIC BLOCKADE

The military completely forbade the transport of kerosene to areas beyond Vavuniya has under LTTE their control in spite of several official reports that claimed kerosene was being allowed in terms of government directives. Twenty eight lorries with kerosene were held up at Eeraperiyakulam army camp in Vavuniya District during the third week of October.

Even the ship *Maho* with a consignment of 3,900 barrels of kerosene destined for the north was denied clearance by the military and was lying at anchor for two weeks in Colombo harbour.

INDUSTRIAL STRIFE

Plantation workers numbering 1,600 at the Pitakande Tea Estate in Matale District resorted to industrial action following the removal of factory machinery that threatened output and wages.

TURMOIL IN PLANTATIONS

Over 10,000 plantation workers in the Kalutara and Matugama areas took industrial action over denial of a share in profits against earlier undertakings.

COUNCILLOR KILLED

Deputy Mayor of Batticaloa, T. Anthony was shot dead by an unidentified person at Vipulananda Vidyalayam sports ground.

Call for Assistance on Humanitarian Grounds

Jaffna District Peace and Justice Commission President Rev. Christopher Jeyakumar called on the government to send a delegation of international journalists to monitor the present situation in Jaffna.

Rev. Jeyakumar was addressing journalists at a press conference in Colombo arranged by the Colombo Jaffna Tamils Forum in the last week of October to publicise the current situation in Jaffna. According to Rev. Jeyakumar Jaffna resembles a field cleared for cultivation. The average death toll per day as a result of the military operations is seven and the number injured is between fifteen and twenty. The total number injured and in need of medical care was around three thousand.

There is a severe shortage of medicines in the Jaffna hospital which is short of staff too. There is a shortage of currency in the local banks. Food and other

essential items are not available. Schools are full of refugees and the rains add to their misery. Five to six families share a residence.

The cries of the infants are drowned by the resonance of the flights of "Puckara" and other supersonic attack planes. Places of worship in areas under the control of the troops are not accessible to the worshippers.

No leaflets advising people to proceed to public places were ever distributed as is claimed by the government. Hospital wards no. 1 and 2 at the Jaffna hospital have been damaged as a result of shell-fire. Not a single national news agency is aware of the situation in Jaffna and they have not been permitted to do this by the government. We work closely with the public and are not enemies of either the government or the LTTE. We have taken up the problems of the public with the LTTE leadership that included Anton Balasingam and Thamilchelvan and re-

ceived favourable action consequent to them. Vaddukottai and Sandilipay are completely deserted by the residents.

Collection of funds, forcible enlistment, enlistment of those under the age of sixteen and the resettlement of Muslims were discussed with the LTTE. Muslim resettlement was not possible now for their own security and this would be done at the opportune time was the stand taken by the LTTE.

Answering questions posed by journalists as to the deaths of 29 persons at the hands of the LTTE, Rev. Jeyakumar disclosed that this too was discussed with the LTTE and according to them adequate charges were proved against them which led to their deaths.

In conclusion, Rev. Fr. Jeyakumar appealed to the government to assist the public in the north on humanitarian grounds.

Article 19 condemns government censorship

"ARTICLE 19, the International Centre Against Censorship, is greatly concerned by your government's decision to invoke Emergency Regulations in order to impose censorship on all media reporting of military and security matters in Sri Lanka. We believe this to be a gross violation of the freedom of expression of the media and of the public's right of access to information, including about critical matters affecting human rights and security in Sri Lanka. We also deplore recent police raids on several newspaper offices after they had printed articles critical of the authorities.

"We particularly welcomed the commitment to reform contained in the manifesto adopted by the People's Alliance prior to its election victory in 1994. This, as you will recall, attached "the greatest importance to strengthening the media and providing a framework within which

the media can function independently and other attacks on the media in Sri Lanka, runs directly counter to that commitment and represents an ominous reminder of the past, when such censorship was used by former governments to conceal or cover up thousands of "disappearances", political killings and other grave human rights violations as well as other official misuse of power.

"ARTICLE 19 recognises the threat to peace and stability which currently confronts your government and fully acknowledges the government's responsibility to uphold public order and the rule of law. We do not believe, however, that censorship will contribute in any way to the achievement of such legitimate objectives, objectives, nor that it can reasonably be justified on national security grounds. On the contrary, its effect will be to deny to the public information about the nature and course of the conflict in

Sri Lanka, to which it has a fundamental right, and to stifle comment and debate about this vital issue of public concern. We fear too that it will have a more general, chilling effect on the media as a whole and seriously put into question your government's stated commitment to the restoration of freedom of expression and other basic human rights in Sri Lanka. The past has amply demonstrated, we believe, that censorship contributed in no small way to the political and social divisions which continue to beset Sri Lanka, and that these can only be resolved through the creation of a political climate in which freedom of expression and of the public' right to information are fully assured.

"We urge you, therefore, to take action to revoke the current censorship powers and to halt police harassment of journalists on account of their legitimate pursuit of their profession."

Tamil Refugees in Tamil Nadu

A Tamil doctor from Britain who visited Sri Lanka refugee camps in Tamil Nadu in September says that many refugees opt to return to Sri Lanka as a result of various forms of humiliation by police and camp officials.

In his report following the visit Dr. V. Satkunanayagam points out that UN refugee agency UNHCR is unable to prevent coercion and refugee camp conditions remain poor. There are at present around 55,000 Sri Lankan Tamil refugees in 109 camps situated throughout Tamil Nadu. There were 115,000 refugees in 180 camps in 1992. Since then refugees have been returned to Sri Lanka, assisted by UNHCR, under a repatriation agreement between the Indian and Sri Lankan governments.

The refugee camps have been provided by the Tamil Nadu government. Each camp has a police post and daily roll calls are made. The huts and other dwellings constructed in 1990 remain unrepaired. Toilet facilities are poor and lack privacy. Drinking water is not available in some camps. Basic health-care services are scarce and nutrition levels are low. The Tamil Nadu government

provides a monthly allowance to the refugees. The head of the family receives Rs. 150 (£3), family member over 12 years of age Rs. 120 and those under 12 years Rs. 70. Rice, sugar and kerosene (paraffin) are sold to refugees at subsidised prices.

Some refugees are able to find daily-paid unskilled work, while a few are employed as masons and carpenters. The morning roll call at 8am prevents refugees from leaving early to find work. At times refugees are confined to the camps. Such occasions arise when there is a jail-break by Sri Lankan Tamils or if the Prime Minister visits the area.

Following the Rajiv Gandhi murder in May 1991, all educational facilities to May 1991, all educational facilities to refugee camps were stopped. In 1993 schooling up to the 12th Standard was allowed after an NGO campaign. The ban on Sri Lankan Tamils entering Colleges and Universities remained and has been reiterated by new Tamil Nadu government order.

The ban on NGOs and UNHCR entering refugee camps also continues.

However, some NGOs are able to provide assistance from outside. The Organisation for Eelam Refugees Rehabilitation (OFERR) which is a major refugee organisation in Tamil Nadu assisting Sri Lankan refugees provides school books, newspapers, recreational and sports material, kitchen utensils. OFERR also provides assistance for repair of wells, construction of toilets and expenses for refugees to travel to government offices and to hospitals financial assistance to students.

Cultural and vocational training programmes in camps are encouraged. Over 130 Health-Care Workers accredited by doctors from the USA-based TRRO are involved in health and nutritional education and nutritional enhancement programmes sponsored by the Dutch agency INTERCHURCHAID. These programmes concentrate on pregnant and lactating mothers, infants and children up to the age of five years. According to a survey by Dr. Karunian Arulananthan and other consultants in 1993 the major cause of death in camps was suicide. Currently a training programme is underway for health workers.

IMPRISONED FOR TEN MONTHS WITHOUT TRIAL

Vecraiah Shanmuganathan (28 yrs) of Sitharawatte Estate in Hatton had been arrested on 4 January at Good Oya junction by Inspector Bowela of the Nuwara Eliya police station. A fundamental rights application for his trial or release has been filed by his brother Veeriah Mookan before the court of Appeal. The Court allowed time till 28 October for the respondents to file answer.

NAVAL ENCOUNTER

A naval support ship of A 512 class lying at anchor in Trincomalee harbour was sunk in an attack by the LTTE. Seven sailors two LTTE cadres and two civilians were killed and six sailors were injured

STF PATROL AMBUSHED

A foot patrol was ambushed by the LTTE at Thikkodai in Batticaloa District resulting in the death of three STF personnel and injuries to seven.

TROOPS KILLED

Operational Headquarters of the Defence Ministry reported the killing of eleven soldiers and injury to 36 in continuing fighting in Jaffna District.

SKIRMISH IN EAST

Security sources reported the killing of five LTTE cadres in a confrontation at Siththandy in Batticaloa District.

DECLARATION OF SAFE HAVENS

A grouping of local and foreign NGOs working in Jaffna sent an appeal to ICRC and UNHCR to declare Thenmaradchy where over 50,000 persons had sought refuge, a safe haven.

TROOP CASUALTIES

Military spokesman Brig. S. Munasinghe reported the loss of 76 soldiers in the on-going military offensive in Jaffna District. The recovery of bodies of 47 LTTE cadres was also reported.

World Tamil Organisation urge Indian PM for Humanitarian Assistance

(INDIA CHAPTER)

201, Lakshmi Ammal Street, Ayyavu Naidu Colony, Arumbakkam, Madras-600 029, India

THE HONOURABLE PRIME MINISTER
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

16 November 1995

As a scholarly and intellectual Prime Minister of India, known for your prudence, foresight and quiet diplomacy and determination, we the undersigned people, representing the cream of Tamil society appeal to your merciful consideration the plight of the hundreds and thousands of Eelam Tamils.

Six crores of Tamils living in Tamil Nadu would never forget if you could act at once, despite the dangerous delay that has already caused untold suffering to lakhs of Tamils. Four hundred thousand Tamils have been displaced. Press censorship is total. Humanitarian aid directly to the victims has been stifled due to the intransigent attitude of the Sri Lankan Government. The international media has described this tragedy as 'civil war. How long the people of this part of India are expected to remain as mute witnesses and silent spectators. Failure to respond in this hour of distress would be construed by the Tamils living the world over as a betrayal on the part of the Indian Government. The Tamils would never comprehend Indian apathetic attitude and the continued silence of the Indian leadership towards the plight of the battered Tamil brethren in Eelam.

Under these circumstances we wish to refresh your memory through the following facts of contemporary history.

1. India has been the champion of the oppressed people on several occasions. Bangladesh events and the protection to the Tibetan Buddhists are the shining examples.
2. World Muslim support ultimately forced Israel to make peace with Palestinians.
3. The western conscience was awakened to the plight of the Tibetan Buddhists.
4. The oppressed Christians in East Timor, in South Yemen, in Somalia, the fighting Muslims in Philipphines, in Bosnia, the Catholics in North Ireland, in Croatia, the Turks in Cyprus all have their fraternal sympathizers in their neighbourhoods extending relentless moral and material support. While this being the case all over the world, why not the Tamils expect the same to stop the genocide in Eelam.

Dear Sir, you had the courage and conviction of introducing economic liberalism in India. We believe and hope that under your continued leadership there will be the realisation of political federalism, cultural and linguistic pluralism, social liberalism, religious rationalism and the practice of humanism in intranational and international relations. We request you Sir, to act immediately to rescue the harassed Tamils of Eelam from the clutches of oppression, starvation, diseases and deaths. Tamils would remain ever grateful to your courageous initiatives at this hour of distress, danger and disaster.

Signatories are:

PROF.DR.JAGADEESAN
GENERAL SECRETARY - WTO
DR.R.PONNUSAMY PH.D - WTO
V.P.RAJA WTO
A.J.EVARIUS -WTO
PROF.T.SIVALINGAN
REV.T.SIVALINGAM
REV.FR. ALPHONSE
LOYOLA COLLEGE
DR.M.G.RAGUNATHAN,
DR.K.P.ARAVANAN,
PONDICHERY UNIVERSITY
REV.DANIEL S.CHELLADURAI,

PROF.K.C.MANOHARN
PROF.U.MUNUSSAMY
TREASURER-WTO
DR.M.PERIAKARUPPU
DR.S.VIJAYAN
MARUTHA PANDIAR -
MANANDRAM
PROF.V.KARUPPANI
UNIVERSITY OF MADRAS
DR.R.GOPALA KRISHNAN
PRESIDENT, INTELLECTUALS'
FORUM FOR PEACE

LANDMINE VICTIMS

A vehicle carrying troops went over a mine killing three soldiers and injuring two at Mylampaveli in Batticaloa District.

TAMIL ARRESTS

Two Tamils including a female were arrested by police at Kaluwella in Galle District.

CASUALTIES IN JAFFNA

Eighteen soldiers were killed and 42 injured in the clashes with LTTE cadres. Bodies of nine LTTE cadres were recovered by troops.

POLICE ARREST TAMILS

Seven Tamils working in a quarry were arrested by police at Weeraketiya in Matara District. All seven are from the districts of Amparai and Batticaloa.

PRICE INCREASE

The government raised the price of a loaf of bread by 45 cents and a kilogram of wheat flour by Rs.1.35. This followed an increase of 30 cents and 90 cents respectively effected on 22 September.

SANTHIVELI ATTACK

Thirty eight soldiers were killed at 10.30 am when troops came under LTTE attack at Santhiveli in Batticaloa District. Security sources claimed that 50 LTTE cadre also died in the attack.

EXODUS OF TAMILS FROM JAFFNA: The displacement crisis

The mass displacement from Jaffna is an event of major significance in the political history of the Tamils of Srilanka. It has not only altered the political geography of the de-facto Tamil state in the north-east, but also has created new challenges and opportunities for the government of Srilanka, the Tamil people and the international community.

Northern Srilanka was substantially under the control of the Liberation Tiger of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) since 1990, with the Sri Lankan security forces controlling a strip of coastal area of the Jaffna Peninsula. The Mannar Island remains in the hands of the government whereas Mannar District on the mainland is controlled by the LTTE. In the Vavuniya District, the Vavuniya South Sinhalese Division, part of Vavuniya South Tamil Division and Cheddikulam are under the control of the government and the rest is controlled by the LTTE. The entire district of Kilinochchi however, is under the LTTE. The LTTE also controls the Mullaitivu District. However, the government has now taken control of the Jaffna town and parts of the Valikamam Assistant Government Agent's Division.

The civilian traffic from the peninsula is by small boats across the Jaffna Lagoon from Kilali to Nallur. Around 200 boats have been deployed by the LTTE to transport the people. Earlier, passengers paid SLR 200 per head for the journey, but this charge is not levied currently.

SITUATION ASSESSMENT

FOOD AND NUTRITION; Ever since the Jaffna Government Agent quoted a figure of 500,000 for the displaced, food has become a controversial subject. So far food supply rests solely on the government. IGOs and NGOs are not involved in food aid. They only have supplementary feeding programmes. Reports say that there are problems of access to food, but food transfers and the situation

are expected to become worse. The government has confirmed that all those who are registered with welfare centres will be eligible for free rations. However, there is a serious logistical problem in getting food across to the displaced population by sea via Point Pedro. There is also shortage of fresh food supplies. Vegetables and fish are scarce. TRO has transferred lorry loads of food for distribution. Health workers say that there is no evidence of malnutrition and for many, nutritional surveillance is not the main issue. However, according to a different view, there should be some form of nutritional survey in order to measure impacts on latest displacements. Health workers confirm that they need to set up mechanisms to ensure that nutritional requirement of pregnant mothers and weaning children are met adequately. Meanwhile, health workers feel that food intake by the inmates in the welfare centres is also not very satisfactory. They indicate insufficient calorie intake per day. In the morning plain tea is provided, for lunch rice and dhal, and for dinner they are provided with quarter pound of bread with tea or rice-based porridge with tea.

Health workers have argued that health conditions in welfare centres and generally among the displaced are under control because of the unusual weather conditions. According to them lack of antibiotics and vitamins for children are the main problem.

INCOME GENERATION AND CASH;

There is no definite assessment of loss of income due to displacement, but it is generally assumed that the vast majority of people have lost their sources of income and their purchasing power. Around, 10-15% of food requirement of the Jaffna Peninsula was produced locally and this has been disrupted.

It is the opinion of many NGOs and relief workers that wherever possible local food production must be encouraged.

Reports suggest that some areas around Chavakachcheri and Point Pedro are suitable for cultivation and people are being motivated to begin cultivation.

Most of the displaced took whatever cash and jewels in their possession when they fled their homes. Most of them have spent their money and are not able to get any money as the banks are not in a position to deal with encashments. The relatives and friends living in Colombo and overseas are also unable to send money as the government is not allowing money to be taken into the LTTE-controlled areas. A sudden increase in the number of pawn brokers has been reported. However, government sources say that some NGOs have been granted permission to take limited amount of monies for their projects in the Vanni areas. Loan applications from farmers in the Vanni for cultivation in 1996 have been turned down by the banks despite the fact that 85% of loans were repaid in 1995.

HEALTH; Health workers say the overall health situation is not critical. The main problems seem to be congestion in Chavakachcheri hospital and stray dogs in the streets. There is lack of anti-rabies vaccines. There are also reports of medicine shortage in the Vanni areas, particularly at Kilinochchi and Madhu hospitals. The shortage is caused by the delay in obtaining permits to take medicine into Vanni. This will create problems as the number of people moving into Vanni increases.

ICRC has brought spraying equipments and chemicals for mosquito control to Point Pedro. It is expected to begin a mosquito control programme soon.

There are about 10 Public Health Inspectors and 30 Rural Health Assistants working in Kilinochchi. Though there is a shortage of management staff, the Medical Officer of Health (MOH) claims that he could manage the situation with the help of additional skilled personnel

from Jaffna who have been displaced. The MOH has also confirmed that there is no systematic mortality and morbidity monitoring. It is believed that ICRC and MSF may deploy some of their staff for this work.

The most common complaints according to the MOH are fever, eye infections, skin infections and diarrhoea. There is also slight increase of malaria which according to health workers is within the normal seasonal trends.

Point Pedro hospital has now become the referral point for the displaced Jaffna population in the peninsula. There are plans to expand the hospital. Much of the equipment from the Jaffna Teaching Hospital have been taken over to Point Pedro. The houses near the hospital have been taken over to provide additional space. A local school has been converted into medical wards and the hospital is used only for surgical, obstetrics and gynaecological wards. The hospital is now treating more than 1,500 out-patients every day. Some nurses who earlier worked in the Jaffna Teaching Hospital have gone to Point Pedro. The doctors from the Jaffna Teaching Hospital however have moved to LTTE-controlled areas.

WATER; Availability of water is not seen as a problem for the displaced. There are numerous wells and ponds in the areas where the displaced are settled. There is also ample water available because of the rains. Most of the welfare centres are reported to have protected wells. The potential problem is the availability of continuous supply of chlorine is available, say the health workers. Oxfam is providing chlorine tablets to the Medical Officer of Health in Chavakachcheri along with chlorine residual testers and instructions on how to use them. NGOs are considering erecting water tanks in some areas.

Though the people are encouraged to boil water, reports suggest that unlike in Kilinochchi, the boiling task is not undertaken properly in Chavakachcheri because of lack of firewood and high costs.

SANITATION; Sanitation is the major problem and the biggest risk in the set-

tlement areas, particularly in the towns where large numbers are occupying public places. It is estimated that over 3,000 latrines are required for Chavakachcheri.

There are also technical problems in building latrines in the area due to lack of barrels which were often used in emergencies in Jaffna. Health workers are expecting kerosene barrels to reach Jaffna and this, according to them may solve some of the problem. There are also problems in building trench latrines because of the sandy soil. The ICRC expert is working with the municipality in the construction of latrines.

Discussions are taking place among relief organisations and relief workers on latrine options due to attitude differences of the people from Jaffna.

Meanwhile, the problems of excreta disposal has largely improved, say the health workers. The use of open land during the initial exodus in close proximity to water resources and shelter, has now significantly changed. This was mainly due to planned cleaning operations and erection of latrines and people have been advised to use fields afar for open defecation and cover defecation with soil.

Most welfare centres are kept clean. There is lack of soap for general and medical use. Oxfam has distributed 2,000 bars of soap through Medical Officer of Health, Chavakachcheri for medical use.

SHELTER; There were substantial number of people without any shelter during the initial period of displacement. This number has reduced significantly, but still there are people living in open places in Thenmaradchi. The unusual dry weather condition and continuous movement of people going out of welfare centres is said to have released the pressure. In addition plastic sheeting sent by UNHCR has assisted largely in solving the shelter problem in Thenmaradchi. But, as the influx of people increases in the Vanni areas, shelter has become a major problem. Relief workers say that people prefer cadjans to plastic sheeting.

The TRO is also encouraging people to build their own shelters using coconut cadjans which are available in plenty in the region. It is said that timber and

cadjan supplies are controlled by the LTTE. SEDEC officers say that they and FORUT are transporting cadjans from Kurunagela.

DISPLACEMENT INTO VANNI AREAS

The LTTE is currently urging people to move into Vanni areas. The people are provided free travel by boats by the LTTE. They are given free food and transport to Kilinochchi. TRO is also running transit camps for new arrivals into the Vanni. The new arrivals are given two cooked meals per day. Over 3,000 people have moved into the Madhu camp run by UNHCR in the Mannar District.

TRO has announced that 80,000 tenements will be built in the Vanni for the displaced people, in co-operation with TEEDOR, and lands for the project have already been allocated. Work has begun to erect in the first lot of 5,000 tenements in Kilinochchi, 3,500 in Mullaitivu, 750 in Mannar and 750 in Vavuniya. The Palmyrah and Coconut Board in Valikamam and Vadamardchy in Jaffna peninsula are said to have shifted operations to the Vanni. The Kandavalai sugar factory which displaced people are employed.

There is no assessment of water, health and sanitation needs available in Vanni areas.

IDENTIFICATION AT FRONT DOORS

At a vigilance committee meeting held at the police office in Bandarawela on 5 November the Assistant Superintendent of Police instructed that a list of all occupants should be displayed on the front door of every residence in the plantations where Tamils reside.

Displacement of Tamils from Jaffna

NEWLW DISPLACED PERSONS AS ON 12 DECEMBER 1995							
DISTRICTS	NO OF WELFARE CENTRES	LIVING IN WELFARE CENTRES FAMILIES	PERSONS	LIVING OUTSIDE WELFARE CENTRES FAMILIES	PERSONS	TOTAL FAMILIES	PERSONS
KILINOCHCHI	56	4634	18827	30185	119154	34819	137981
MULLAITIVU	18	1666	6752	12782	54825	14448	61577
MANNAR	12	2236	7494	2195	9147	4431	16641
VAVUNIYA	6	471	1508	4916	19812	5387	21320
CHEDDIKULAM	NILL	NILL	NILL	613	2669	613	2669
TOTAL	92	9007	34581	50691	205607	59698	240188
DISPLACEMENT IN JAFFNA DISTRICT AS ON 11 DECEMBER 1995							
			FAMILIES	PERSONS			
Total population			206000	722593			
Number remaining in Chavakachcheri, Karaveddy, Point Pedro and Maruthankerny division			51750	253856			
Total displaced			257750	976449			
RECORDED MOVEMENT OF THE DISPLACED							
			FAMILIES	PERSONS			
Total displacement			152000	453337			
Moved to Vanri areas			57526	232127			
Displaced still in Jaffna			94474	221210			

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