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## TAMIL INFORMATION CENTRE

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

#### 1.0 JAFFNA

- 1.1 On 10.8.85, Jaffna Kachcheri (Government Agent's Office) building was damaged by unknown persons.
- 1.2 The Jaffna Magistrate returned a verdict of homicide at the inquest into the shooting of three persons by navy personnel on 22.7.85 at Karainagar.

#### 2.0 MANNAR

- 2.1 On 18.8.85, Mannar train was hijacked by unknown persons. The train was derailed later.

#### 3.0 VAVUNIYA

- 3.1 On 10.8.85 a land mine exploded in the morning killing 5 security personnel and injuring another. In a reprisal soon after, 10 Tamil civilians were killed and some shops were burnt by the security forces. In a second reprisal in the evening more shops and houses were burnt. Over 90 shops and several houses were burnt. During the rampage the residence of Mr Sivasithamparam, former Member of Parliament who is now a refugee in India, was burnt and the watchman of the residence was killed. The affected persons took refuge in temples and schools.
- 3.2 On 14.8.85, Thiagarajah, Sivapalan and Pathmarajah from Pavatkulam were burnt alive in their house by the army while a helicopter was flying over the area believed to be providing cover.
- 3.3 On 16.8.85, a land mine exploded near an army camp. Noone was injured. The army went on the rampage in the area killing several people including children. Two of them were Sutharsan (age 6) and Janarthanan (age 4). Some of the dead bodies were carried away by the army. It is estimated that the death toll would have been over two hundred.
- 3.4 About 200 Tamil families in Thetku Ilupaikulam were threatened by the armed forces and they have fled from their village. The villagers have moved to places north of Vavuniya.

#### 4.0 TRINCOMALEE

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- 4.1 On 10.8.85. at a Tamil refugee camp eight refugees were shot dead by persons believed to be security personnel. The dead persons are Mahadeva, a School Principal, Ehambaram, Thurainayagam, Narayanapillai (former Village Headman) Sanmugam, Sivanayagam, Yoganathan and Tharmarajah.
- 4.2 On 12.8.85, a lorry carrying 37 Sinhalese fishermen was hijacked by unknown persons believed to be Tamil militants.
- 4.3 On 15.8.85, near the 4th mile post on the Trincomalee. - Kandy Road 5 Tamil passengers were killed by unknown persons believed to be Sinhalese.
- 4.4 Sinhalese Home guards are threatening the Tamil residents in Trincomalee area. Several thousands of Tamils have fled their homes. There are at least 8 refugee camps in the Trincomalee town alone.
- 4.5 On 27.8.85, in a landmine explosion 10 miles from Trincomalee six navy personnel were killed.
- 5.0 BATTICALOA
- 5.1 On 10.8.85, in the Karidian Aru some farm buildings were blown up by unknown persons believed to be Tamil militants. A Special Task Force (Police Commandos) camp was to be set up in the farm.
- 5.2 On 12.8.85, 3 Tamils were arrested by security forces on the Colombo - Batticaloa train.
- 5.3 On 14.8.85, in Batticaloa a Sinhalese police officer was killed by unknown persons.
- 5.4 On 18.8.85, between Valaichenai and Vaharai 3 security personnel were injured in a landmine explosion. The security forces had opened fire in retaliation but no casualty is reported
- 5.5 On 23.8.85, at Vantharumoolai in a landmine explosion four police officers were injured. In a reprisal attack the security forces have killed 5 persons including a foreign tourist. Over 350 houses have been burnt. In the village of Mavadivembu over 200 houses were burnt.
- 5.6 On 24.8.85, at Akkaraipattu the police commandos shot dead 2 Tamils.
- 5.7 On 25.8.85, at Thirukkivil 26 Tamils were shot dead by the security forces. The persons killed were migrant labourers camped for seasonal cultivation.
- 5.8 On 25.8.85, security forces opened fire injuring several persons including a 10 year old child.
- 5.9 On 26.8.85, between Amparai and Pothuvil about 16 Tamils were shot dead by security personnel.

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- 5.10 Between 26th and 28th August the army shot many people in the villages of Thirukkivil, Panangkadu, Kolavil, Thethapuram and Vinayapuram. The number of persons killed is estimated to be over 100.
- 5.11 In an incident some army personnel ordered Karuppan and Nagarajah to load the goods in their shop into an army vehicle and shot them dead after they had finished loading.

#### 6.0 OTHER DISTRICTS

- 6.1 **Matara** : On 14.8.85, one Tamil detainee was killed by the security forces on their way to the Matara Hospital. It is alleged that the detainee attempted to escape.
- 6.2 **Nochchiyagama** : On 15.8.85, at Nochchiyagama 8 Tamil passengers were killed by unknown persons.
- 6.3 **Colombo** : Atleast 5 Tamil detainees at Welikada prison were fasting from 8.8.85 until 25.8.85. Some of them are in a critical condition. The detainees are held in prison for more than 18 months, the maximum permitted under the Prevention of Terrorism Act.
- 6.4 **Kurunegala** : On 23.8.85, some of the Tamil passengers on the Colombo-Jaffna train were robbed of their valuables at Kurunegala.

#### 7.0 GENERAL

- 7.1 Four Tamils have been deported from Sweden to Sri Lanka. They were accompanied by a Swedish immigration officer. The deportees are held by the Sri Lankan police and their names are Augustine Baskaran, Victor Vargakaran, Thillyampalam Ariyaratnam and Ramalingam Kanthasamy.
- 7.2 **Talks at Thimpu**
- 7.2.1 The Sri Lanka Freedom Party, Mahajana Eksath Peramuna and some Buddhist chief priests have jointly demanded that the peace talks at Thimpu be put off until terrorism is wiped out and all the Sinhalese persons displaced are resettled. A satyagraha was staged in Bambalapitiya on 15.8.85 from 8 - 10 AM to protest against the talks at Thimpu.
- 7.2.2 The Sri Lankan Government rejected the basic principles raised by the Tamils ie. recognition of Tamils as a nation, recognition of the territorial integrity of the Tamils, recognition of the right of self-determination of the Tamils, and the right of citizenship to all Tamils. The Sri Lanka Government offered local bodies in the nature of District councils which had been earlier rejected at the all party conference in December 1984.

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The representatives of the Tamils rejected the proposal and also stated that in view of the violations of the ceasefire and extensive killings by the security forces in Vavuniya no useful purpose would be served in continuing the talks. The Tamil representatives walked out of the talks.

7.2.3 The Indian Government is continuing to explore the possibility of a settlement. The Sri Lanka delegation went to Delhi for discussion with the Indian Government. The leaders of the Tamil militants and the Tamil political party too were invited. The leaders of the Tamil militants have not yet gone to Delhi.

7.2.4 On 20.8.85, A S Balasingham, spokesman for the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam, S C Chandrahasan Secretary of Organisation for the Protection of Tamils Against Genocide, N Satyendra, representative of Tamil Eelam Liberation Organisation at the Thimpu talks were to be deported from India. Balasingham and Chandrahasan were arrested and Balasingham was sent to the U K and Chandrahasan was sent to the USA. Satyendra was advised at the Bombay airport that he should leave the country by the earliest flight and the authorities made arrangements for his early departure. Chandrahasan was returned to India by the authorities in the USA and when he reached Delhi he was again served with a second deportation order, was arrested and taken to Bombay. However the deportation order was revoked on 29.8.85. The reason for the deportation order is not clear.

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