

DIARY OF EVENTS

and

Human Rights Violations & Ceasefire Violations

Events from March 27 — April 10 were carried in Issue No. 11 of Situation Report

APRIL 11

Keeping a steady volley of fire in all directions, more than hundred soldiers from Palaly army camp march up to Harbour View Hotel camp at Kankasanturai, while helicopters fly low providing aerial cover. There was no response from Tamil militants.

In the East, 2 soldiers killed and 6 injured in an LTTE attack on an army foot patrol at Kattaparichchan in Mutur district.

7 Buddhist priests abducted while fasting in Colombo yesterday found dropped at different places outside the city.

Residents living near temporary army camp at Omanthai vacate homes in fear.

2 small ships with predominant blue and yellow colours seen for 3rd day off the northern Kankasanturai coast.

In Colombo, Sinhala newspaper "Divayina" carries report quoting "official" sources that Jaffna's Palaly airport will be made an international airport with U.S. and British aid, and that the runways will be extended to the Myliddy coast to facilitate movement of all three forces - Air Force, Navy and Army. The eventual objective, according to the report, is to carve out the northern fringe of the peninsula into a "security operations zone"

Shops at Nelliady close - in memory of TELO commander Dhars and other TELO militants gunned down at Jaffna hospital premises on this day last month.

APRIL 12

Administrator of the Sankilian refugee centre in Jaffna Dr. Sasitharan reported to be arrested by Naval personnel while going on a boat with refugees, and produced at Trincomalee Police station.

Hindu temple at Punanai on the Batticaloa-Polonnaruwa road near the army camp is now used by STF as a check post.

In search operations by armed forces now camping at govt. school in Triyai, north of Trin-

comalee, one Tamil youth Subramaniam Rajaratnam was killed and another, Velu Selliah injured. Incidents occurred on April 10.

Timekeeper at Batticaloa railway station, Johnpulle, father of 5 children, shot dead at his home by an unknown youth.

Lt.Gen.Cyril Ranatunge, General Officer commanding the Joint Operations Command, tells Colombo newspaper "SUN" that because of the daily offensives by separatist guerrillas pounding government military camps in the north, his men were now awaiting orders to engage the guerrillas in battle. He says he had been "pulling in the reins on his troops due to the ongoing political process and what he referred to as "good people of Jaffna."

In an island-wide test held for selection as Police Sergeants, only three Tamils are selected as against 262 non-Tamils. The selected Tamils are N.T. Namasivayam, V. Pakianathan and Kulathilakarajah. (Ealamurasu)

APRIL 13

Men of the armed forces in civils surround a house yesterday at Thiruvaiyaru 2nd culvert in Kilinochchi district and take away nearly hundred bags of paddy to the army camp.

If the govt. was honest enough to arm the proposed Provincial Councils with sufficient powers, he was prepared to persuade Tamil leaders to accept them, says a former SLFP Education Minister Dr. Badiudin Mahmud, at a meeting of Muslim leaders in Colombo.

Abandoned houses of residents in Valalai, Thampalai close to Thondamanaru army camp are set on fire by black uniformed armed forces; at Palaly, where also residents had been forced to flee and abandon their homes, houses are destroyed and in some places produce-bearing trees are cut down to make way for temporary roads to facilitate movements of armoured cars and army vehicles.

A young Tamil woman Vanaja Varnakulanathan(21) of Mutur, who was allegedly tortured by men of the armed forces is sent to Jaffna hospital for emergency treatment by

Trincomalee Citizens Committee.

A gang of about 30 armed, masked men rob the house and business premises of trader T.A. Apputhurai at Kankasanturai, and get away with jewellery and items worth several lakhs. Apputhurai who was a victim of the anti-Tamil riots in Colombo in July '83, had thereafter set up business in Jaffna.

APRIL 14

Sinhala and Tamil New Year. The day passes without any major incidents being reported barring a half-hour helicopter strafing in Myliddy Palaly areas.

In Moratuwa, suburb of Colombo, Officer-in-charge of Police Station, Inspector Earl Peiris is shot dead by a Sergeant working under him.

APRIL 15

Farmer Sinniah Nandakumar (32) who went to Nilaveli from his home village Kumburupitiya to buy fertiliser on the 13th and reportedly "arrested" by armed forces on that day, found dead with gunshot injuries. His body was brought to Trincomalee hospital.

Decomposed body discovered in jungle area at Mankulam identified as that of Mathiaparanam Jegan (22), an employee of an eating house, who had been missing for the past three days following a "search" operation by army personnel.

Three soldiers killed and four others injured in a landmine explosion at Niyankulam in Batticaloa near the Polonnaruwa district border. Killed soldiers were Lance Corporal Anwerdeen, Lance Corporal Sahabandu and Pvt. J.L. Panditharatne.

Y.P. Arumainayagam of Poonakari "executed" as an army informer and his body tied to a lamp post.

Residents of Thunnalai form Vigilance Committee to prevent robberies and decide to set

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road blocks between 10 p.m. and 4. a.m.

Army men who had set up camp at Nainativu engage local civilian going on a boat to Kurikadduvan to buy food and provisions for them. At Kurikadduvan the money was robbed at gun-point, and on reporting back the civilians and the boat are detained by army personnel.

APRIL 16

For 27 days now - since March 21 - no poojas or religious rites held at the Sellasannathy Hindu temple. Smell of rotting corpses in temple vicinity. Temple priests, Citizens Committee complain to Jaffna G.A. and ask for shifting of army camp away from the temple.

Helicopter strafing again, in the north. Villages affected: Mallakam, Tellipallai, Kadduvan and Kurumbacitty. Several persons injured, a leading school, Union College and several houses damaged.

S. Ravindrarajah (23) of Point Pedro an LTTE fighter killed, hit by a shell from the Point Pedro army camp.

Homes of Selliah Balasubramaniam and Nalathambay Ratnasabapathy at Kachcheri-Nallur Road, Jaffna, robbed by armed gang, and over Rs. 4 lakhs worth jewellery and cash taken away.

In Trincomalee district, 60 Tamil families living near the 3rd Mile army check post at Nilaveli forced to abandon their homes. With refugee camps full, they are now become vagrants. Another 1,000 families, residents of Cheivanayakupuram Colony are under army orders to leave.

Jungle at Omanthai in the mainland north are being set on fire, and trees and vegetation destroyed by army men who have set up camp in the area.

Following a drunken brawl among army personnel at Abeyapura in Trincomalee district, four army men admitted to Trinco hospital with stab injuries.

APRIL 17

Six persons killed in Jaffna following army offensives from two army camps - the Dutch Fort and Navatkuli, and over a dozen injured.

The killed are, a 4-year old child and a youth, Arudpiragasam (23) both killed by army shells in their homes, at Navatkuli, 2 soldiers, Karunaratne (30) of Kurunegala and Abhayasiri (28) of Mirigama, and two LTTE militants, Lt. Gerry (S. Yogarasa) and Murali (N. Kamalanathan) both of Chavakachcheri, who were killed in action at Navatkuli. Three other soldiers, Cyril Perera (31) of Negombo, Weerasinghe (35) of Kelaniya and Gamini Appahamy of Polgahawela believed critically injured.

Earlier in the day Muslim Tamils of Jaffna stage a mass protest march condemning U.S. bombing of Libya and burn the American flag opposite the government secretariat. All shops close in sympathy.

An apparently drunken man, a Sinhalese, Wijeyaratne Douglas who walked with a gun into the Mudalikulam Tamil refugee camp in Trinco district, shouting that all Tamils should be killed and began firing at random and who was overpowered by his own wife who had rushed behind him, is produced before Trinco Additional magistrate M.K. Sellarajah. He is remanded until April 28.

Helicopter strafing of Kadduvan, Myliddy and Kurumbacitty areas, continue.

Unknown persons set fire to Poonakari Maha Vidyalayam. School records and part of the buildings destroyed.

APRIL 18

7 Air Force personnel and 2 civilians killed in landmine explosion on the Trincomalee-Anuradhapura road, and another two airmen seriously injured. The party was travelling in a truck and a jeep from the Morawewa Air Force camp to Anuradhapura for supplies. The dead were 4 leading aircraftsmen and 3 Corporals. The LTTE which set off the explosion estimates the death toll as 23. Elsewhere in the East, Sub Inspector of Police Kurunbalapitiya was killed at Pottuvil, when a hand grenade was flung at the jeep in which he was travelling.

Was a Tamil youth beaten to death by army personnel opposite the army camp at Navatkuli? Eyewitnesses say a youth estimated to be around 22 years old who was cycling from the direction of Kaithady towards Jaffna, wearing a blue shirt and white sarong, was stopped by army men, tied to a tree opposite the camp

and beaten repeatedly with rifle butts and kicked with booted feet. After some time when he seemed unconscious, they were seen sprinkling water on him and feeling his pulse. He was seen being untied and dragged inside the camp.

4 Tamil youths, Rasa, Maharasa, Periatthamby and Amalan, all of Chelvanayakupuram in Trinco district, taken away by armed forces.

Armed gang of 15 hold up 8 passing vehicles including a govt. bus, at Miyankulam in Batticaloa district and rob all passengers.

Govt. claims that a "terrorist" identified as Thevaranjan of TELO was captured in Colombo.

SLFP retains the Akmeemana seat in Parliament defeating the ruling UNP.

APRIL 19

The government's home Guards scheme introduced into Tamil-majority areas is reported to be collapsing slowly. Unemployed Sinhalese, and in some areas Muslims, were given a brief training, a shot gun each and ordered to keep a vigil for "terrorist activities", on a payment of Rs. 40/- per day. These "Home Guards" are now being found not only to be ineffective, but an additional menace to the civilian population. In many cases the guns have been taken back and payments stopped.

Three women and a man were killed and their bodies displayed opposite the Senaiyur refugee camp at Kaddaiparichchan in Mutur district. A placard near the bodies read: This is the fate that awaits those who give information about freedom fighters to the armed forces.

A Tamil militant group is believed to be responsible for the spiriting away of 400 Commando uniforms from a laundry at Arasady Junction, Batticaloa.

A Tamil fisherman, A. Joseph who was engaged in fishing near the Senthankulam coast in the north was caught by navy men, who deprived him of his catch and his net and released him after a severe beating.

Kandiah Rasadurai of Chettiar Madam, Araly, complains in a newspaper advertisement (Eelanadu) that an armed gang of youths had robbed his home and had taken away not only

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cash, jewellery and TV, but also air tickets, passports, identity cards of his four grown-up daughters whom he had planned to send to Malaysia. He appeals to the "good" militant groups to help him recover at least his daughters' documents, without which his daughters would face a bleak future.

Hotel Ashok in Jaffna and a restaurant in the bazaar area Amuthasurabi hotel, were both damaged partially by shelling from the Dutch Fort army camp. Over Rs. 1 lakh damage was caused to these two buildings as well as others.

Another Air Force man injured in the Morawewa landmine explosion succumbs to his injuries at the General Hospital, Colombo.

It is estimated that there are 55,000 Tamil refugee in the Jaffna peninsula, comprising 16,000 families, 5,000 of whom are in camps and others outside camps.

Govt. claims that two "terrorists" belonging to the EPRLF were killed in Thikkodi in Batticaloa by "security forces" who also recovered two grenades and EPRLF literature.

APRIL 20

Kantalai reservoir in the Eastern province burst its bund at dawn this morning, leaving at least 25 dead and rendering at least 30,000 persons homeless. Waters inundate vast areas including some 35 villages and 21,500 acres of paddy and sugarcane. Both road and rail links between Trinco and Colombo cut off. Minister of National Security Lalith Athulathmudali rules out sabotage. Emergency refugee camps set up.

At Point Pedro, four soldiers and 2 LTTE militants killed in an encounter. Heavy shelling from the sea follows, making people flee inwards.

In Vavuniya, shops close in protest against repeated robberies.

In Matale, in the plantation area, a former Mayor, a Tamil, S. Thambirajah is killed and his wife critically injured when hand grenades were flung at their home by unknown persons.

APRIL 21

A day of unmitigated terror and tragedy at northern coastal town of Thondamanaru. 8 sol-

diers killed and several others injured, the temple chariot and temple buildings destroyed by aerial fire, an officiating Brahmin priest and his assistant stripped by army men and killed, and several civilians feared dead or injured. The day of tragedy began at dawn around 5 a.m. when LTTE guerillas spotted an army unit from the Thondamanaru camp moving stealthily in the direction of the temple. LTTE guerillas mounted an offensive at the moving column, encircling them in 3 directions, killing at least 8, injuring several more and forcing them back into the army camp. A day-long reprisal followed. While a plane flew low over the area, and was challenged by rocket fire, a black helicopter from Palaly began strafing the temple vicinity, while the army men from the camp kept shelling continuously. In the evening around 6 p.m. 14 bombs were dropped in the temple area, destroying the chariot built recently at great expense with public donations. Other temple buildings also damaged. Elsewhere in nearby areas helicopters began strafing at all moving vehicles. A team of high-ranking army officials reported to have flown from Colombo late in the evening to investigate the day's happenings.

In the Kantalai bund burst disaster, it is now feared that those who lost their lives might be in the region of a few hundreds

At Kilinochchi, a large army convoy in 15 armoured cars and trucks move in a show of strength firing in the air, causing panic in several villages.

About 15 police commandos admitted to Valaichchenai hospital in the East, with minor injuries following a surprise attack on them by Tamil militants in a place called "Pulipainthakal". One Commando who sustained serious injuries was flown to Colombo.

Batticaloa-Amparai Citizens Committee to submit the names and details of 341 persons known to have "disappeared" after being arrested by armed forces, to the military Co-ordinating officer.

APRIL 22

Following the day-long incidents at Thondamanaru yesterday, the entire area seems denuded of human population. In Colombo government authorities accuse Tamil militants of having used the temple as a cover to attack

the armed forces and also accuse the militants of having set fire to the chariot! A lone helicopter flies low in the area today, and thereafter strafes every moving vehicle in the nearby villages. Meanwhile concern was expressed by military authorities in Colombo that the body of one soldier who was killed was not recovered.

Bodies of two Sinhalese civilians among the four who were kidnapped at Kinniya near Trinco, discovered with gunshot injuries.

The unknown youth who was beaten up by army men opposite the army camp at Navatkuli on the 18th has now been identified as 23-year old Vadivelu Sinnathurai of Madduvil. But the Navatkuli authorities deny knowledge of the youth.

APRIL 23

Colombo and Anuradhapura, 120 miles apart, rocked by two bombs. 9 persons killed in Anuradhapura, and in Colombo nine escape with injuries. A bomb suspected to have been concealed in a petrol bowser from Jaffna rips through the Ceylon Petroleum Corporation's oil storage facility at Anuradhapura and sets off a major fire, blowing up two more petrol bowsers and causing extensive damage to the complex. The bomb in Colombo was in an unclaimed travelling bag in a private bus and exploded when a hasty policeman meddles with it at the Wellawatte police station.

Following the Anuradhapura explosion, thugs set upon several lorries and buses plying between Jaffna and Colombo, causing a complete stoppage of road transport between north and south.

In the north, Brigadier Rupasinghe is persuaded to see for himself the massive destruction suffered by the venerated Hindu shrine of Sellasannathy. The Brigadier who came by helicopter to the army camp opposite, is met by G.A., Jaffna who had motored there with Citizens Committee members. Brigadier sees the temple's 40-foot wooden decorative chariot built with the help of Indian sculptors at a cost of Rs.45 lakhs now a large mound of ash; in the temple outer courtyard he sees two human skeletons; the large temple prayer bell fallen from the belfry and lying scattered in pieces. The temple area which used to throb with human activity is now a picture of desolation. Temple trustees and Citizens Commit-

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tee members hold the view that there was no point discussing re-opening the temple for public worship as long as the army was camped opposite it.

In yesterday's "search operation" at Visvadamu, armed forces kill Narayanasamy Ravindran (21) and Joseph Gunaseelan (20), both employed at a dairy outlet at Visvadamu junction, bomb and destroy a building on the main road near Chundikulam junction. A helicopter and plane provide aerial cover.

In a "search operation" involving over a thousand soldiers and over five villages in Amparai district, 58 Tamils were taken away on a "head nodding signal" by a masked person.

APRIL 24

Eelam Revolutionary Organisation (EROS) through its spokesman V. Balakumar claims responsibility for the blast at the State-owned Ceylon Petroleum Corporation storage facility at Anuradhapura yesterday, and warns that many more such operations would be undertaken to cripple the Sri Lanka economy, unless the govt. stops its acts of terrorism against Tamils. The damage to the Corporation is estimated at Rs. 3.5 million.

It is now known that apart from two petrol bowsters from the north which caught fire in yesterday's explosion, five other bowsters from Tamil areas parked in the yard outside had been deliberately set on fire by miscreants. A Tamil lawyer Thamu Kanagasigam and another Tamil who had come to board a train at Anuradhapura station were set upon by thugs in the station premises and were admitted to hospital in an unconscious state.

Protest procession in Jaffna against the kidnapping 20 days earlier and holding to ransom of Mascons Director Ganeshan by unidentified militant group.

In the course of a "search operation" in Mandur in Batticaloa district, armed forces rob two Hindu temples, one of them the ancient and celebrated Mandur Kandasamy Temple. Booted soldiers break open into the sanctum sanctorum into which even the Hindu worshippers are not admitted, rob several lakhs worth gold ornaments break open the temple till, assault the temple priests and terrorise the local population. Urgent protest telegrams sent to Minister of Hindu Affairs in the govt. Chelliah

Rajadurai.

A Hindu monitoring group, set up in Nallur, Jaffna, is now engaged in collecting all data relating to destruction of Hindu temples, robbing of temples and acts of sacrilege both by Sinhala mobs during the '77 riots as well as by armed forces since then.

APRIL 25

Prof. K. Sivathamby of the Valvettiturai Citizens Committee takes strong objection to a major subversion of truth in the Govt. T.V. - the Rupavahini, involving the incidents at Sellasannathy Temple. In a strongly worded statement made to the G.A. Jaffna, in whose presence Brigadier Rupasinghe had inspected the damage to temple property, Prof. Sivathamby expresses shock how the burnt chariot, the splintered temple bell, the burnt roof had all been suppressed in the film. Instead, an impression was sought to be created that the temple priest was **not** killed by showing Balendra Iyer when in fact it was the senior priest Sinniah Kurukkal and his assistant who were killed. The Rupavahini feature was a deliberate falsification of the truth, Mr. Sivathamby says. Many other TV viewers also express anger.

Enraged by the Rupavahini programme on the Sellasannathy temple on the 24th, Seenikutty Kathirgamanathan (48) of Pannalai, Jaffna, takes a home axe and breaks up his own TV set. Kathirgamanathan is reported to be a life-long devotee of the Sellasannathy temple.

16 Tamils and 4 Sinhalese have been taken into custody in connection with the bomb explosion at Anuradhapura.

Several fishing boats beached off Mathagal and Senthankulam on the northern coast are damaged by helicopter fire.

Four armed unknown persons rob the Bank of Ceylon, Vavuniya of Rs.1 lakh and nine thousand. Despite resistance offered by bank security and other staff, the robbers get away with the loot.

Thousands of rotting carcasses of animals in Kantalai are causing an unbearable stench and a health hazard. Medical teams rushed from Colombo to prevent outbreak of epidemics. International Red Cross survey says 2,500 persons are still missing.

Colombo newspaper "SUN" says 14 "terrorists" were killed in raids by armed forces in jungle hideouts in Batticaloa district.

APRIL 26

Thondamanaru areas again subject to helicopter attacks.

In Batticaloa, one of the main road bridges, the Paddiruppu road bridge, is blasted by a bomb. Explosion heard for 20 miles around, say reports. About 125 villages in Paddiruppu cut off from direct access as a result.

Kaththankudy Multi-purpose co-operative store robbed of Rs. 2 1/2 lakhs worth goods by armed gang. Kaththankudy is a Muslim majority area and it was only recently 75 Home Guards were appointed for this area from local residents.

The presence of soldiers at Maviddapuram junction causes stir among the public. They had apparently come to hire a lorry to offload goods from a ship at the KKS harbour, but had quickly gone back.

Continuous shelling from morning till noon from the Pt. Pedro army camp. No casualties. The objective appears to have been to destroy buildings in the neighbourhood.

Tamil constable Thurairajah attached to Alutgama police station dies of gunshot injuries at Alutgama. No details available.

Tellipallai residents angry over night robbery at the home of Cement Factory engineer S. Thevaratnam who lives next to the Post Office. Gang of about 20 armed youths force their way into house, assault the engineer, abuse his wife and engage in brutal behaviour before taking away cash and jewellery. Residents put up road blocks and stage a protest. Mr. Thevaratnam's neighbour's house also robbed at the same time.

Jaffna Municipal employees who went to investigate unauthorised tapping of electricity at Arasady Road, Nallur, set upon by unknown persons. Commissioner appeals to the youths and Citizens Committee to identify the offenders.