



வடகிழக்கு மனித உரிமைகள் செயலகம்

North East Secretariat on Human Rights - NESOHR

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## NESOHR Human Rights Report for April 2008

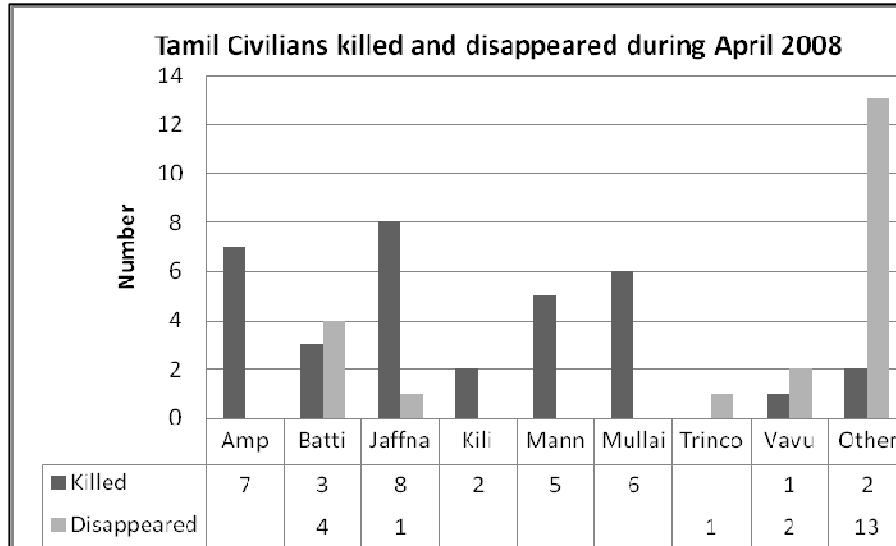


### We have lost our respected chairperson:

Our founder member and chairperson since NESOHR's inception, Fr M X Karunaratnam, was killed on 20 April by a targeted claymore attack near the church where he regularly performs his priestly services. Another dedicated human rights voice has been silenced.

The depressing statistics of Tamil civilians killed, disappeared, injured and arrested persisted throughout the month of April keeping the Tamil people in the state of fear. The depressing statistics are: civilians killed-34, disappeared-21, injured-28, sought protection at the Jaffna human rights commission-7, and arrested-131.

Some of the causes behind these statistics include, aerial bombing, claymore attacks, and artillery fire into Vanni by the Sri Lankan military. The effects of these Sri Lanka military activities such as aerial bombing, artillery fire and claymore attacks inside Vanni effect civilian life in a far more pervasive manner as described below. However the majority of the people was killed by gunfire or disappeared in the Sri Lankan Government controlled areas.



**Coastal areas of Mullaithivu** came under frequent aerial bombings destroying the fishing equipment and shelters belonging to the fishermen. The Mullaithivu fishermen like many other fishermen living along the coast of the northeast are restricted to only coastal fishing due to the fishing bans and threats posed by the Sri Lankan Navy in the deep seas. The frequent bombings along the coastal areas are destroying even the equipment fishermen use for coastal fishing. Many of the newly built tsunami homes with aid from international agencies were also destroyed in these bombings.

**Shelling from Manalru Sri Lanka military camp** caused very poor attendance at four schools in the area. Farming and fishing of the people of Kumulamunai was also badly affected. Farmers had to take cover as shells exploded in their fields. The same fate fell on the fishermen as shells exploded along the coastal areas. Two people were killed by shelling from Manaluru camp.

**Ban on taking items into Vanni** is affecting life in many ways. The Government Agent (GA) of the Kilinochchi District Secretariat, in a public meeting described the problems faced by offices due to ban on computer related equipment. These also severely affect the students.

**People of Mannar face restrictions** on fishing, on taking items into Mannar and on travel into Mannar. The exclusive use of road for the military convoys, similar to the practice in Jaffna is also implemented for the Vavuniya-Mannar greatly inconveniencing the people of Mannar. The water in the Kattukarai water reservoir in Mannar has been allowed to run waste by the military wasting the much needed water for irrigation. The military's action apparently is for its own security. This water reservoir irrigates more than 7000 acres of paddy fields. Since the military began its offensive on Mannar a year ago, more than 7500 livestock has been killed by the military's artillery fire.

### **Summary of other human rights news during April**

On, 6<sup>th</sup> more than thirty two families in Mannar displaced out of fear due to shelling from the Sri Lanka military stationed in Mannar.

On 8<sup>th</sup> in the early hours of 2.30am, the home of the TNA Member of Parliament Suresh Premachandran in Wattala in Colombo was searched by armed unidentified men.

On 10<sup>th</sup> a young man sought protection at the Jaffna branch of the Human Rights Commission. He was taken away from the police by the Sri Lankan military and he is being allegedly tortured at the military camp.

On 11<sup>th</sup>, a mother and daughter from Thamothampillai Road in Chavakachcheri sought protection at the Jaffna branch of the Human rights Commission.

On 15<sup>th</sup>, artillery fire from the Kilalai Sri Lanka military camp fell in the civilian areas in Poonahari. Some fell on the Poonahari-Mannar Road causing hundreds of travelers in buses to scatter in fear.

On 20<sup>th</sup>, the principal and the deputy principal of the Hatton Thomson Tamil School in Nuwereliya were arrested in Colombo.

On 28<sup>th</sup>, A Tamil woman in the custody of the Sri Lankan military Intelligence Wing died in mysterious circumstances.

**Names of those killed and disappeared during April 2008**

No	Name	Age	Gen	Date	Violation type	Offender	Location	District
1	Maheswaran	46	M	6-Apr-08	Killed by shooting	Paramilitary	Addalaichenai	Amparai
2	One civilian		M	6-Apr-08	Killed by shooting	Sri Lankan Armed Forces	Pothuvil	
3	One civilian		M	8-Apr-08	Killed by shooting	Sri Lankan Armed Forces	Pothuvil	
4	Thevanayagam Ithyaharan	27	M	14-Apr-08	Killed by shooting	Paramilitary	Pandiruppu	
5	Kandaih Naharasa	47	M	21-Apr-08	Killed by shooting	Paramilitary	Kalmunai	
6	Kanaratnam Ananthi	37	F	21-Apr-08	Killed by shooting	Paramilitary	Kalmunai	
7	Kanapathy Chandrakanthan	37	M	24-Apr-08	Killed by shooting	Sri Lankan Armed Forces		
8	Arumuham Kandaih	48	M	Apr 3rd Wk	Disappeared	Unidentified gunmen	Urikamam	Batticaloa
9	Samboo Kanthasamy	40	M	Apr 3rd Wk	Disappeared	Unidentified gunmen	Urukamam	
10	One civilian	45	M	Apr 3rd Wk	Disappeared	Unidentified gunmen	Urukamam	
11	Ilayathambi Vijayakumar	27	M	Apr 3rd Wk	Disappeared	Unidentified gunmen	Urukamam	
12	Sivanathan Uthayakumar	38	M	7-Apr-08	Killed by shooting	Sri Lankan Armed Forces	Plaichenai	
13	Sinnavan Masilamani	32	M	7-Apr-08	Killed by shooting	Sri Lankan Armed Forces	Palaichenai	
14	Two civilians		M	Apr 3rd Wk	Killed by shooting	Sri Lankan Armed Forces	Thandiyadi	
16	One civilian		M	25-Apr-08	Body found	Unidentified gunmen	Analaithivu	Jaffna
17	Annalingam Anitha	24	F	27-4-08	Body found	Unidentified gunmen	Navanthurai	
18	Gunaratnam Sivapatham	32	M	27-Apr-08	Disappeared	Unidentified gunmen	52nd military camp	
19	Tharmalingam Sivanesan	33	M	28-Apr-08	Killed by shooting	Unidentified gunmen	Urumpirai	
20	Vinayagamoorthy Rajeswari	44	F	17-Apr-08	Killed by shelling	Unidentified gunmen	Mirusuvil	
21	Bandari Paramanathan	34	M	11-Apr-08	Killed by shooting	Unidentified gunmen	Kaithady	
22	Gunasingam Sureshkumar	27	M	11-Apr-08	Killed by shooting	Unidentified gunmen	Sirupiddy	
23	Sinnathurai Sivanesan		M	17-Apr-08	Killed by shooting	Unidentified gunmen	Kurunagar	Kilinochchi
24	Loganathan Vasanthakumar	22	M	17-Apr-08	Killed by shooting	Unidentified gunmen	Kurunagar	
25	Arulanantham Leelavathy		F	9-Apr-08	Killed by bombing	Sri Lankan Armed Forces	Vavuniya hospital	
26	Thuraiappa Nadarasa	50	M	11-Apr-08	Killed by shelling	Sri Lankan Armed Forces	Aththai	

27	One civilian		M	7-Apr-08	Body found	Unidentified gunmen	Navanthurai	
28	Iyamperumal Sathyaseelan	35	M	8-Apr-08	Killed by shooting	Unidentified gunmen	Andimunai	Mannar
29	Rangalingam	18	M	19-Apr-08	Killed by shooting	Unidentified gunmen	Nanaddna	
30	Sutharson	21	M	19-Apr-08	Killed by shooting	Unidentified gunmen	Nanaddna	
31	One civilian		M	26-Apr-08	Killed by shooting	Unidentified gunmen	Uppukulam	
32	Ann Sebastian Dilaxana	15	F	17-Apr-08	Killed by bombing	Sri Lankan Armed Forces	Visuvamadhu	Mullaithivu
33	Koneswaran	35	M	19-Apr-08	Killed by bombing	Sri Lankan Armed Forces	Silavaththai	
34	One civilian		M	19-Apr-08	Killed by bombing	Sri Lankan Armed Forces	Silavaththai	
35	Fr M X Karunaratnam	57	M	20-Apr-08	Killed by bombing	Sri Lankan Armed Forces	Ambankulam	
36	Uhanthan	18	M	21-Apr-08	Killed by bombing	Sri Lankan Armed Forces		
37	Yoharasa Modchananthluxmi	57	F	26-Apr-08	Killed by shelling	Sri Lankan Armed Forces	Kumulamunai	
38	Rasathurai Thavaparan	26	M	19-Apr-08	Disappeared	Unidentified gunmen	Thambalakamam	Trincomalee
39	Marithaih Yogarasa	51	M	11-Apr-08	Disappeared	Unidentified gunmen	Thandikulam	Vavuniya
40	Selvarasa Manivannan	17	M	21-Apr-08	Disappeared	Unidentified gunmen	Soosai pillaikovil ady	
41	Nathalingam Shanmuharasa	52	M	30-Apr-08	Killed by shelling	Sri Lankan Armed Forces	Nedunkerni	
42	Subramaniam Sathyakumar	27	M	4/9/2008	Disappeared	Paramilitary	Karadipoval	Puttalam
43	Govinthan Naharasa	27	M	4/9/2008	Disappeared	Paramilitary	Karadipoval	
44	Imanual Anthiths	57	M	4/12/2008	Disappeared	Unidentified gunmen	Koddanchenai	Colombo
45	Rabel Bernard	47	M	4/12/2008	Disappeared	Unidentified gunmen	Koddanchenai	
46	Govinthasamy Nahanathan	57	M	4/16/2008	Disappeared	Unidentified gunmen	Koddanchenai	
47	Thambirasa Kartheban	26	M	4/19/2008	Disappeared	Unidentified gunmen	Puthicheditheri	
48	Thamburasa		M	4/19/2008	Disappeared	Unidentified gunmen	Koddehena	
49	Mohanathas Vijavarancee		F	4/19/2008	Disappeared	Unidentified gunmen	Negambo	
50	One civilian		M	4/19/2008	Disappeared	Unidentified gunmen	Pelitagoda	
51	Selvachandran Nishanthan	23	M	April Wk 5 08	Disappeared	Unidentified gunmen	Muhathuvaram	
52	Karunaharan	29	M	April Wk 5 08	Disappeared	Unidentified gunmen	Muhathuvaram	
53	Ranee		F	4/28/2008	Killed in prison	Sri Lanka military	Colombo prison	
54	Anthony Jackson	41	M	4/17/2008	Disappeared	Not known	Colombo	Themaddagoda
55	Nagalingam Ratheeskumar	34	M	4/12/2008	Disappeared	Unidentified gunmen	Moneragala	Monaragala
56	K Ganesamoorthy	35	M	4/23/2008	Killed by shooting	Unidentified gunmen	Wewawa 7 MP	Wewawa